

Rothsay

Enterprise

Keeping an eye on your hometown.

Volume 2, Issue 2 | June 2025

Join us for Prairie Days 2025

Stephanie Curtis
President, RAEDA

The Rothsay Areawide EDA is excited to host Prairie Days weekend June 20–22. While many of the traditional events will be offered, a couple of new ones have been added including a free watermelon feed, music in the park, and a children’s play.

The Rothsay Lions club will kick off the weekend with a community picnic at the Rothsay School commons from 5–7 p.m. During this time, free vision screenings will be offered for children. The children’s theatre production will be held at 7 pm in the school auditorium. Free will donations will be accepted for admission with proceeds going towards Rothsay School’s fine arts programs. To complete the night, fireworks will take place at dusk at the old football field/baseball field. A big thank you to the Rothsay Fire Department for their generous donation toward the fireworks.

The Rothsay Booster Club is holding a 5K run/walk bright and early Saturday morning. Registration starts at 7:30 on the east side of the school. New Life Lutheran Church will be serving breakfast from 8–9:30 am. Eat in, or grab it to go, and catch the

Kiddie Pedal Pull happening in the south parking lot of the church from 8:30–10. The parade will begin at the fire hall at 10 am followed by fun at the American Legion Park at 11:00. Enjoy craft vendors, food, kids activities, live music from 1–3 by Nate Fronning, and make sure you grab some free watermelon sponsored by Ole and Lena’s Pizza! After things wrap up at the park, you can head over to the Rothsay Event Center for bingo from 3–4:30.

For the classic car enthusiast, a car show will be happening at OK Tire from 12–4. Vote on your favorite and check out the burn out contest!

The evening festivities will begin at the Powerhouse with “Kinda like Olympics” from 6–7, just prior to the 50th Annual TC’s Street Dance. We are excited to have “The Willing Band” play. Rothsay natives Sean Brandt and Eric Rudh will take the stage and offer a great night of entertainment.

To wrap up the weekend, a community worship service will be Sunday morning at 10 am at American Legion Park.

The Prairie Days Committee has been working hard to offer a variety of fun activities and events. We hope to see you June 20–22! ♦

Faces of Rothsay

Hudson Marquardt
Parents: Tim and Kari Marquardt

Shaine Olson
RHS employee since 2022

Inside

- 2 Prairie Days schedule
- Free Youth Vision Screening
- 3 Watermelon Feed
- 4 Rothsay Organizations
- 6 Business Spotlight: Lightspeed Electric
- 7 New Rothsay Cookbook
- 8 Yard of the Week



Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date details
facebook.com/RothsayEDA



June 20–22, 2025

See page 2 for this year’s schedule

PRAIRIE DAYS '25

ROTHSAY, MINNESOTA

June 20-22, 2025

FRIDAY

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Lions Club Community Picnic <i>Kids' sight vision screenings available</i>	Rothsay School	5-7pm
Children's Theater (<i>freewill donation</i>)	Rothsay School	7pm
Fireworks	Baseball field (<i>old football field</i>)	Dusk

SATURDAY

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
5K Run/Walk	Rothsay School	7:30am
Breakfast	New Life Lutheran Church	8-9:30am
Pedal Pull	New Life South Parking Lot	8:30-10am
Parade	Line up by Fire Hall	10am
Fun at the Park <i>Vendor Food and Craft Fair</i> <i>Watermelon Feed</i> <i>Live music by Nate Fronning</i> <i>Kids Activities</i>	American Legion Park	11am-3pm 11am-3pm 1-3pm 1-3pm 12:30-2:30pm
Car Show	OK Tire	12-4pm
BINGO	Rothsay Event Center	3-4:30pm
Kinda Like Olympics	Powerhouse	6-7pm
50th Annual TC's Street Dance <i>Featuring "The Willing"</i>	Powerhouse	8pm-midnight

SUNDAY

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Community Church Service	American Legion Park	10am

EVENT LOCATION ADDRESSES

American Legion Park 2nd St SE	Baseball field (<i>old football field</i>) 113 3rd St SW	New Life Lutheran Church 102 Main Ave W	OK Tire 542 1st St NW	Powerhouse 436 Center St N	Rothsay Event Center 124 1st St NW	Rothsay City Fire Hall 455 County Road 11	Rothsay Public School 2040 County Rd 52
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**Thank you to
all our sponsors
and volunteers!**



For details and updates, check the Rothsay Areawide EDA Facebook page!

From the Lion's Den:

Rothsay Lions to Offer Free Youth Vision Screenings

Heather Weber

Council member, City of Rothsay

The Rothsay Lions are celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year, and to celebrate, we are going bigger with our Community Picnic during Prairie Days. The free will community meal will take place on June 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Rothsay School so everyone can grab a bite to eat before the youth musical at 7 p.m.

To thank the Rothsay Community for their support over the last 10 years, the Rothsay Lions will also be offering free KidSight Vision screenings during this same time for youth, age 6 months to 18 years. Lions KidSight is a program designed to provide vision screenings to detect correctable vision problems in youth before they become permanent. The screening, done in less than

3 minutes and without physical contact, can detect conditions such as near-sightedness, far-sightedness, astigmatism, and pupil size deviations. In addition, it will detect unequal refractive power and eye misalignment, which can result in amblyopia, commonly known as "lazy eye." Approximately 7-15% of youth screened are referred for a follow-up exam by an eye-care professional of the family's choice. While KidSight focuses on youth age 6 and under, we are happy to screen anyone under the age of 18.

Please also consider bringing a donation of non-perishable goods to support the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry to the Community Picnic, just look for the truck to place your donations into at the school. You can also bring donations to the Lions booth at East Park (American Legion Park) on Saturday, June 21. ♦

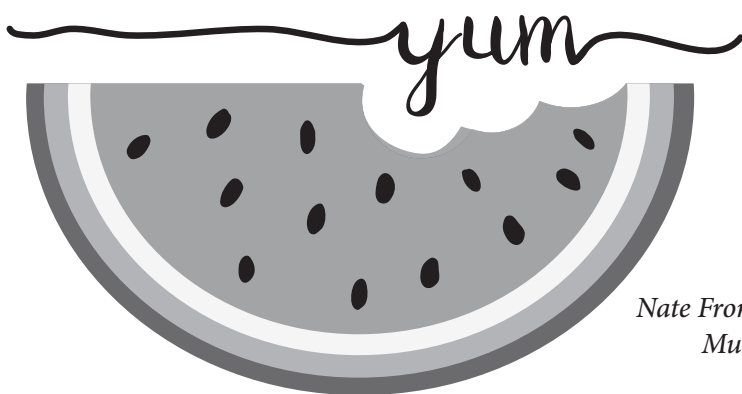


Faces of Rothsay

Owen Green
Son of Steve and Lindsey Green

New to Prairie Days: Watermelon feed and music at the park

New to this year's Prairie Days celebration is the free watermelon feed at the American Legion east park and music by Nate Fronning. Stop by the park shelter from 1-3 p.m. for delicious slices of watermelon and listen to live music throughout the afternoon. Nate Fronning, a Battle Lake native, will be playing traditional country music and bring a positive vibe to the Rothsay community! The watermelon feed is sponsored by Ole & Lena's Pizzeria. ♦



*Nate Fronning,
Musician*



June 2025

3

Want to get involved but don't know where to start?

A Rothsay organization might be just what you need

Oscar-Trondhjem 4-H Club

Check them out on Facebook: Oscar/Trondhjem 4H

Other 4-H clubs are also available in Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties. For more information on 4-H Clubs in the area contact: Wilkin County Extension Office at 218-643-5481 or West Otter Tail County Extension Office at 218-998-8760

PARTNERS

PARTNERS is a living at home/block nurse program from seniors with the stated goal, "To assist our 60+ neighbors to remain in their homes while living as independently and safely as possible." Services they provide include foot care clinics, medical appointment transportation, exercise programs, social activities and a community loan closet. Contact 218-867-1234 for more information on how to volunteer.

PARTNERS is funded, in part, by proceeds from The Attic Thrift Store in Rothsay, which is open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5pm and Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Prairie Chix

The Rothsay Prairie Chix is a women's club that tires to focus on the 'little tigers' in the community, however, the club is always wanting to help/better the community as a whole...keeping our 'roots' here in Rothsay.

Each year the club takes care of the community birthday calendar with the help of the school and the Oscar-Trondhjem 4-H Club. They also award scholarships to graduating seniors and provide honor cords to qualifying seniors for graduation.

The Prairie Chix also hosts Santa every December and help with other events in the community.

Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of every month at the Community room in the REC Center at 6:30pm.

Contact Jennie Motz at 218-329-1081 for more information on how to join. Check them out on Facebook: Rothsay Prairie Chix

Rothsay Baseball Initiative

Rothsay Baseball Initiative (RBI Club) was started in 2020 with the goal of creating, promoting and supporting a strong youth baseball program in Rothsay. RBI works in conjunction with Rothsay Community Education to provide baseball opportunities

Rothsay Organizations continued on page 5

Faces of Rothsay

Levi Kuntz
Son of Scott and
Judy Kuntz



Rothsay
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for Rothsay youth. Major fundraisers each year
Rothsay Organizations continued from page 4

include the Calendar Raffle.

Contact Robbie Steiner at 218-867-2222 or rothsaybaseballinitiative@outlook.com for more information.

Rothsay Booster Club

The Rothsay Booster Club was created to promote school spirit throughout the community and school and support students to achieve excellence in academics, arts, athletics and sportsmanship.

Major fundraisers include Sportsman's raffles and Golf Tournaments and are completed to support facility maintenance, equipment, capital improvement and other items not covered by school funds to enhance and expand the school's MSHSL programs and ensure the safety of all students involved in those programs.

Contact John Reber at 218-770-8145 to find out how to become involved.

Rothsay Lions

The Rothsay Lions is a service organization focusing on community service projects and global causes. We provide scholarships to graduating seniors, host blood drives, community picnics, manage the local plastic

bag and film recycling program, support the local area food pantries and Feed My Starving Children events, assist the City of Rothsay with the maintenance of City Parks, provide financial support to local, state and national organizations and assist with other local events as requested.

Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of every month at New Life Lutheran Church at 6:30 pm. Contact John Kunze for more information at 218-517-0093.

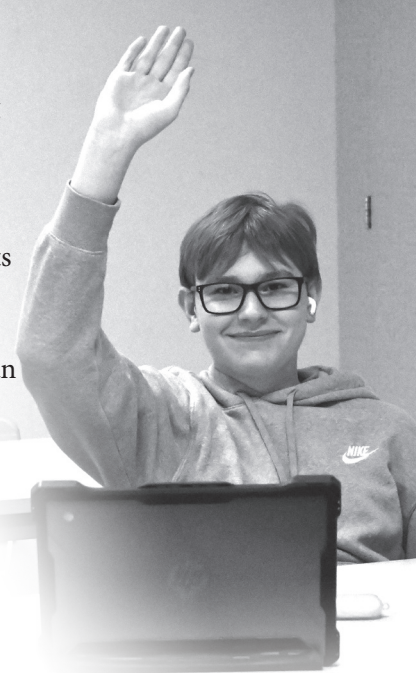
TC Club

The TC Club is a men's club in the community. If you are looking to meet new people and do good in the community the TC's would love to have you join. TC Club awards scholarships every year along with doing projects around the Rothsay community. TC Club also joins in on the parades around the area in the summer.

Events held include Winter Mixer (Sportsman's Banquet), Gun Raffle and the Prairie Days Street Dance

Monthly meetings are typically on the first Thursday of every month at J.S. Service at 7:00pm.

For more information contact Patrick Lee at rothsaytcs@gmail.com. Follow and message on Facebook-Rothsay TC Club ♦



Faces of Rothsay

Kody Leininger
Son of Aaron and Nicole Leininger

Help the Rothsay area grow and improve

Rothsay Areawide Economic Development Authority recently partnered with West Central Initiative to open a component fund for the purpose of raising funds to improve the community of Rothsay and the surrounding area. The Rothsay Area Community Fund is a 501(c)(3), with donations to the fund being tax deductible. Funds donated to the Rothsay Area Community Fund will be used for economic

development, housing initiatives, community initiatives as well as our annual Prairie Days celebration. Donations can be sent via check, made out to WCI, with a memo indicating Rothsay Area Community Fund, to PO Box 318, Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0318, or donate online at wcif.org. The QR code at right will take you to our donation page directly. Please consider donating to help Rothsay and the surrounding area to thrive! ♦





DJ (Dana) Holland, Realtor

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Business Spotlight:

Steiner's commitment to Rothsay is electrifying

Shane Balken

Mayor, City of Rothsay

Faces of Rothsay

Noah Green

Son of Gary and Hanna Green

Jocelyn Fankhanel

Daughter of Justin and Cassie Fankhanel

There's an old adage about the difference between involvement and commitment. Think of it like eating ham and eggs for breakfast: the chicken is involved, but the pig is committed. You don't need to look very hard to see Robbie Steiner's commitment to Rothsay—it's tattooed on his arm. Or at least the image of the town's famous prairie chicken statue is prominently displayed on Robbie's left shoulder.

Steiner, a 2000 Rothsay High School graduate, is married to Traci and has three children: Duke, Poppy, and Rocco. Steiner owns Lightspeed Electric in town and has been sparking wires together since 2015 when he first stepped out on his own to start his business. "Staying true to my roots is important to me," said Steiner. Lightspeed has grown significantly during the past decade as Steiner has added several employees over the years. He currently employs six full-time employees and two part-time high school students, and just recently finished a remodel on his shop at 125 Center Street in town.

Steiner said he's conscious of trying to grow "carefully" and taking on larger jobs while still maintaining a consistent level of customer service the local area has come to



Prairie chicken commitment



Robbie Steiner, owner of Lightspeed Electric

expect. Steiner's commitment to Rothsay isn't just through his business but he also was instrumental in bringing baseball back to town. Steiner, along with Jason Gruenwald, Kyle Blanchard, Joel Meyer, DJ Holland, and Dana Holland started the youth baseball program in Rothsay, known as the Rothsay Baseball Initiative or "RBI". Rothsay Baseball Initiative was a feeder program for what is now the varsity baseball team for the high school. Steiner is an assistant varsity coach and said he loves being involved with the sports program. "It has been very exciting to see our program grow from the start. The first couple years have been challenging with the lower number of boys on the varsity. But I really think our program is looking strong in the next few years," said Steiner.

Owning a business is challenging, no matter what the size of the community you live in. But despite any obstacles, Steiner said he wouldn't have it any other way. "I wish more people would take a chance to do it. It takes businesses to make a community survive," said Steiner. "It also takes a lot of contributions from people to make it thrive." ♦

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robbiesteiner1981@hotmail.com

New Rothsay Cookbooks are in the works!

Preserve your family favorites in this upcoming keepsake cookbook

Calling for recipes, old and new!

The Cookbook Committee wants your recipes for the upcoming Rothsay Cookbook, due out in time for Christmas 2025. Our hope is to make this a cookbook of newly submitted recipes along with the community favorites from previous Rothsay cookbooks. Recipes of all types are welcome; traditional, heritage, quick & easy, canning, kid friendly, crockpot, microwave, etc. You are encouraged to use the recipe

submission form (available at drop-off sites) but any paper or recipe card will be accepted. Please print or type your recipes if possible.

Tell us your favorites from previous Rothsay Cookbooks

Make sure your favorite recipe from the previous cookbooks isn't left out. Include a note along with your recipe submission that lists the section, the recipe, and the person who originally submitted it.

There are 3 ways to submit your recipes

- 1. Drop-off recipes at Rothsay City Hall.**
- 2. Mail your recipes** to: Shane Balken at: 208 2nd Ave. SE, Rothsay.
- 3. Email your recipes** to the Rothsay Area EDA at: RAEDA@rothsay.org.
To ensure there are no computer program conflicts, type your recipes into the body of your message.

Your recipes will help make this a cookbook that will be treasured for generations to come!

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1

Ole & Lena's
pizzeria

FROZEN PIZZAS—a delicious way to raise funds for your organization!

Contact Shane at 701-318-1645



Contact James Boots @ 320-805-0416



Faces of Rothsay

Owen Erickson
Son of Gary and
Gina Erickson

Jett Johnson
Son of Adam and
Ingrid Johnson

Easton Green
Son of Gary and
Hanna Green

Rothsay Enterprise

Rothsay Areawide Economic Development Authority
115 2nd St. SW
Rothsay, MN 56579

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Rothsay Enterprise is a publication prepared and issued through a cooperative effort of the City of Rothsay and the Rothsay Areawide Economic Development Authority.

For more information: 218-867-2254
Email: ole.lenas@rothsay.us

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Advertise your business in the Enterprise and help spread the word! For more information, contact the Rothsay Area Economic Development office at: RAEDA@rothsay.org.

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We need your help!

The Rothsay Area Economic Development Authority committee is currently assembling a mailing list of all Rothsay High School graduates. Please send us your name, address, and year of graduation. We will add you to our mailing list for future correspondence and Enterprise newsletters. Please send your information to one of the following:

Shane Balken
ole.lenas@rothsay.us

Stephanie Curtis
RAEDA@rothsay.org

Heather Weber
heather.weber@rothsay.org

Jim Boyce
jim.boyce@live.com

Rothsay's Yard of the Week to be introduced in June

Starting in June, Rothsay residents will have a weekly opportunity to show-off their "green thumbs" throughout the summer for the yard of the week contest. Four impartial judges will look at residents' yards within the community every Sunday and determine a weekly winner. The triumphant yard owner will have the privilege of placing the "Yard of the Week" sign in their yard for the entire week until the next winner is chosen. There is no monetary value with the contest—only immense feelings of pride and happiness that come with the vaunted sign that declares each resident victorious for the week. The contest is sponsored by the Rothsay Area Economic Development Authority and weekly winners will be published on the RAEDA Facebook page. ♦

