

Bands Gear Up For Ribs, Rods and Rock'n Roll

BY SARAH WETZEL
For The Plain Talk

It's hard to tell who is more excited for the live music at the annual Ribs Rods and Rock & Roll in Vermillion this weekend, the bands or the adoring public.

"Playing at Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll is one of the highlights of the year for us," said Mary Begley of Mrs. Begley and the Boys scheduled to play at 5 p.m. on Friday. "We love the open, festive layout of the Platz with its smoky-meat aroma and all the smiling faces soaking up the sunshine and music. We will rock the street through one of the best sound systems in the area, playing variety of favorites from the 60s to today. Get ready for rich vocal harmonies, screamin' guitar leads and rhythms that will get you up on your feet."

Described as a favorite of South Dakota and a "crowd pleaser" by advertising and entertainment organizer Randy Hammer, Mrs. Begley and the Boys is only one of the amazingly talented musical groups set to perform.

"I go out and search for good rock and roll and good country to satisfy a variety of people and I just want some good, wholesome music that appeals to a wide audience," Hammer said. "It's good music for families."

Set to perform after Mrs. Begley and the Boys is one of the highlights of the weekend, Maiden Dixie.

"They're from the Minneapolis area," Hammer said. "This is more of a country rock original band. They're recording artists as well so they're pretty big stuff and they're going to put on a show. It's a six piece band and they are absolutely entertaining and exciting to watch as well as they'll get you dancing. They play all kinds of good country rock, original music. They may cover some music as well but they're mostly going to do their original stuff and it is fantastic."

Jesse Becker, lead singer of Maiden Dixie, actually has some personal ties to Vermillion.



PLAIN TALK FILE PHOTO

As this photo shows, 2014 was a great year for Ribs, Rods and Rock'n Roll yet organizers expect this weekend's turnout to be even stronger.

"I'm from Minneapolis originally but I was recruited to play basketball at USD and I went down there for five years and just loved it," he said. "I'm back in Minneapolis now, definitely a lot of strong ties to Vermillion still."

Becker plans on connecting with some old friends on his visit to play at Ribs Rods and Rock & Roll.

"I have a couple of close folks on USD faculty still from teachers to coaches to people in the community that supported coyote athletics and things like that but are still in Vermillion," he said. "I'm excited to see a lot of people that I haven't seen in a long time. A lot of people have helped promote too. I'm super excited. It's been awhile since I've been back. We did perform in Yankton at an acoustic thing by chance one time so I took a couple of members that were with us to the Dakota Dome in Vermillion to kind of relive some old memories and show them around the Dome and things like that."

Becker went on to say how excited he is to relive not just the Vermillion experience but Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll itself.

"I used to attend this event back in the

day," he said. "I just remember it was my second or third year of school, we would go downtown and join in the festivities. There were always great bands I remember and now I have the chance. I never thought I would, to play. I just remember a lot of people, a great time, a great atmosphere, great food obviously. I'm excited to get down there and perform."

Maiden Dixie, which has just released their second album entitled 'Unsafe and Sound', is looking forward to sharing their unique sound with the event attendees.

"I think Friday night you're definitely going to see a group of people," Becker said. "We all sing, we all play. It's going to be high energy. You're going to see a lot of our original music, you're going to see some covers that hopefully you'll recognize. We're very eclectic. We have a base player that grew up listening to Pink Floyd, our guitar player started in a punk band a long time ago. When we come together our sound is definitely country music, we can have a lot of influences in our original music when we come together to make our sound."

The band members' backgrounds contributes to the way they perform as well.

"It's funny because I'm probably the only one that really grew up listening to country music because my dad performed it," Becker said. "Then I got into hip hop and punk. My fiddle player is actually a violin major. He's a classical guy but now he plays banjo and mandolin so we've all just kind of come together to form this sound that comes out is country music, it's just a lot of influences."

"We have a great time performing because we play songs we've created together and we have a ball performing it. We'll definitely be performing all the songs off our second album and a couple off our first album as well. I'm excited and I think people will definitely dig it."

The entertainment will continue through Saturday.

"On Saturday at 5 we have Ledfoot and they're a fun band to watch," Hammer said. "They'll get you dancing as well. I think it's a five piece band and they play rock and roll. Good music, good band. We had them a few years back but they've changed somewhat with their members. Then we have my favorite band, Guilty Pleasures Orchestra (GPO)."

According to Hammer, GPO formed when two bands combined in the late 70's or early 80's.

"They're a classic rock band," he said. "They play songs that you don't hear other cover bands play. They just do a fantastic job. There's no better band locally that anybody could hire than the Guilty Pleasures Orchestra and we have them on Saturday night at Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll. It's a great lineup of music and I promise entertaining. I promise that you will want to get up and dance."

Other activities include various BBQ competitions, street vendors, Family Fun area, poker run and classic car show.

"They'll enjoy it," Hammer said. "There will be a lot of good finger-licking ribs, beer, rock and roll, and country."

For more information on Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll visit www.sdbbq.us.

Eagle Riders Annual Poker Run Ready To Roll

BY SARAH WETZEL
For The Plain Talk

In coordination with this weekend's Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll comes an event that motorcycle and hot-rod enthusiasts look forward to.

"It's a charity poker run," said Eagle Riders President Reda Brewer. "Everything from the ride goes back to a charitable organization."

The Poker run begins with breakfast and registration at 8:30 am on Saturday and kickstands up at 10:30 a.m.

Participants should be back by 4 p.m. to draw hands and receive prizes plus enjoy the festivities of Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll. Fees to participate are \$25 per driver which includes a t-shirt.

Motorcycle riders are \$15 plus \$10 for a t-shirt. The Eagle Riders, an extension of the Vermillion Eagles Club, is a nonprofit organization that gives to several different charities every year. Proceeds from the Poker Run go into the pot to benefit multiple groups in the Vermillion and surrounding communities.

The run, in its eighth year, attracts participants from several different states.

"People come from up in Minnesota, Rapid City, we've had a couple people come in from Wisconsin," Brewer said. "I know there's some that come in from Nebraska. They know the money's going to good causes. It's their way of giving back to the community



Eagle Riders Poker Run

as well."

Riders have a chance to get a little payback as well according to Brewer.

"Usually first place gets a cash payout depending on how many people register," she said. "Usually we do a first and second cash. We give out door prizes. Usually with our poker run we do a silent auction. We get things that have been donated and we set them out. We call it a not-so-silent auction because silent auctions you usually don't know who's bidding. We've got a leather coat so we'll have that hanging up and people can write their name and how much they're bidding."

As far as the run itself, Brewer said all vehicles are welcome whether it's motorcycle, classic car or an everyday vehicle.

"We have motorcycles, classic cars, we've got people that bring their every-

day car and drive it because they don't have a motorcycle to participate," she said. "The age spans anywhere from 20's to pushing 70."

The event has proved to be quite popular in the past according to Brewer.

"Usually we are around 76 I think we had last year," she said. "We're usually in the mid to upper 70's. We're very lucky that we've had good weather each year. If it's raining we don't get as much participation."

With that many riders there are always plenty of new faces in the crowd.

"My favorite part is just meeting new people and then people who have come every year," Brewer said. "We've got some that have come for the seven years we did before. Some aren't part of the Eagles but they still come out because they know it's towards a good cause."

Many participants enjoy simply hanging out with people with the same interests along the road according to Brewer.

"It's 110 miles and we have about 6 hours to do it in," she said. "So it just gives everybody a little bit of a ride then they stop to talk. It's mostly motorcycles so it's always nice to see the different motorcycles that come. You get to talk to people about different stuff they've done to their motorcycle, different things like that."

While some poker runs have participants draw a card at each stop, this run is slightly different.

"We do have specific stops but we'll draw all the cards back at the club at the end of the ride," Brewer said. "Some of the businesses are smaller and it's hard for them to bring in a staff for everybody to draw cards and then to record it. We just have them all draw when they get back and they sign on a paper that they made their stop there."

"Usually there's always five stops," Brewer continued. "This year we are starting at the club here in town and then we're going to Akron and then we're going to the Eagles club in Le Mars. Then we're going to the filling station in Sioux City. Then we're going to Casey's in Elk Point and then back to the club."

For more information on the Poker Run, call the Eagle Club phone at 605-624-9934.

New Program Encourages Teens To Lounge At The Library

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

As part of their continuous effort to cater to the youth of the community, the Vermillion Public Library is instituting the Teen Lounge to encourage teens and preteens to spend more time there.

The Teen Lounge will take place Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Teen Room at the library.

Epiphany Knedler is the coordinator. "It's time for the teens to do activities and I am there to show them how to do them or help them along the way," she said. "I bring them together and plan the activities but it is a relaxed environment. Any kids in 6th-12th grades are able to join. All activities will be based on the maturity of the group"

The idea for the program came from a desire to help the library become more attractive to our youth.

"When I was hired, part of my job was to try to get more teens into the library," Knedler said.

"There are a few teens who come in to check out books but they rarely stay for any activities. We decided to dedicate time for preteens/teens."

Knedler has high hopes for the program based on the moderate success the library has had with teen programs in the past.

"We had a program similar to this in the summer which was relatively successful," she said. "Not as many teens showed up as we had hoped, but the few who did were dedicated. I know there are always activities and homework going on in the teens' lives, but I think this will be a good outlet for them to hang out with each other, engage in with each other on books and movies, and have free snacks."

Though Knedler has some ideas of activities for the Teen Lounge, she said she is making the program flexible and open to suggestions from participants as well.

"We are thinking of having a book for the teens read and discuss as they go," she said. "Along with that, we will have a movie night once a month. I am also looking at a few different art projects to do, such as decorating the teen room and printmaking articles of clothing. We are open to many different ideas."

Knedler has personally seen a difference in teens who attend library activities and events and is excited to spread the influence through this program.

"I have worked with teens at the library since last summer (2014) and I have seen a change in those teens that do come in to the activities every week," she said. "They get excited about reading and bonding with those in the group, it is fun to watch and help them grow through these impressionable years."

According to Knedler no additional volunteer help is needed for the Teen Lounge but help will be sought if a big project comes along.

Registration is not necessary to participate but some form of communication would be helpful.

Any questions may be presented in person at the library or directed to Epiphany Knedler at Epiphany.Knedler@coyotes.usd.edu.

Fire

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The relationship between Nygaard and Full Throttle began several years ago, after Nygaard's Valiant Vineyards, located in Vermillion, was selected to produce the official "Sturgis" wine for the annual Motorcycle Rally held each August. Seven years ago, the partnership with Full Throttle was created when Ballard approached Nygaard about opening a wine bar on the premises of the Full Throttle Saloon.

The partnership was furthered when Nygaard created the "Full Throttle" Cabernet, a more potent wine with a higher alcohol content due to the fortifying of South Dakota Grape Brandy with the Cabernet. The wine won a gold medal from the Tasters Guild of America.

Nygaard said that he was working on a distribution agreement with Ballard's Full Throttle marketing arm,

as well.

Nygaard said that filming for the "Full Throttle Saloon" reality television show was completed during the Sturgis Bike Rally and scheduled to air in October and November, but he wouldn't be surprised if the show's producers didn't return to film about the fire.

"I am not sure what Mike will do," he said. "At this point I know the wine bar is a total loss, but if Mike wants to rebuild, we will rebuild. No one was hurt, which is the most important thing."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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