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# Ivanhoe Times

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**TIMELY IVANHOE TIMES NEWS EVERY WEEK**

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010 VOLUME ONE HUNDRED TEN NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT 271-240



## Jason Markkula opens Bank Inn in Hendricks . . .

Bank Inn recently opened in Hendricks, MN featuring one main beer called Rooster Lager (which is now available) and Walleye Chop beer which will be coming to stores in April. Bank Inn in Hendricks is a place for hunters to stay in the fall or anyone to stay during any time of the year. It was recently renovated by Jason Markkula with help from Hendricks Farmers Lumber Yard. The Bank Inn used to be the building for the bank in Hendricks. His friend Keith Johnson gave him the idea of renovating the Bank building and he did. The two businesses he is branching out with are the Bank Inn and also brewing of beers. He is pictured above at the Cold Spring Brewery in Cold Spring, MN where he currently brews the beer. He has 14 distributors currently distributing the beer in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Places that sell the beer are liquor stores, gas stations and grocery stores in all of the above states. Profits from the sale of the beer are being used to fund the Pheasants Forever Wildlife Areas in several states, "Build a Wildlife Area" (BWA) program. He is helping to establish a BWA in the Hendricks area for pheasant hunters. Markkula started home brewing beer last year and came up with a recipe for Rooster Lager that way.

## Plan, prepare for spring flood uncertainties- From the Ag News Wire

by Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A combination of climate features—including a wet fall season and heavy, wet snowfalls all winter—have elevated the risk of spring flooding on many Minnesota watersheds. One obvious consequence of spring flooding in western and southern Minnesota counties would be delayed field working conditions in the agricultural landscape.

Saturated soils combined with a slower than normal onset to spring will likely delay suitable field working conditions in some areas. In addition, flooded roads and highways may present some problems in transporting seed and fertilizer as well as large farm implements. Expecting, and planning ahead for, these possibilities will help farmers cope with such problems.

On the plus side, stored soil moisture should be adequate to maintain crop health throughout any drier than normal periods that occur early in the growing season.

In the forecasts provided by the National Weather Service on February 19, virtually all points along the main stem of the Red River between North Dakota and Minnesota have more than a 50-percent chance of reaching major flood stage in March or April. Many of the Minnesota and North Dakota tributaries to the Red River have more than a 60-percent probability of at least reaching moderate flood stage. Many southern Minnesota communities along the Minnesota River Valley have more than a 50-percent probability for moderate flooding, including Montevideo, Granite Falls and Henderson. Many other smaller watersheds are likely to have minor or moderate spring flooding, including the Cottonwood River at New Ulm and the Redwood River at Redwood Falls.

The biggest uncertainties are the forecasts for March and April temperature and precipitation. Fortunately, early March looks to be somewhat warmer and drier than normal. For the balance of spring, there is no forecast consensus. A higher flood risk would result from a dramatic warm-up, which would accelerate the melting and runoff of the snow pack over the top of frozen soil. If combined with significant rainfall, such a weather pattern would produce rapid rises in watershed flows.

Conversely, periodic freeze/thaw cycles combined with persistent dry weather would help alleviate the flood threat. Realistically, there is not a high probability that such a pattern will emerge, and as a consequence many communities are justifiably preparing to cope with spring floods.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Offices of the National Weather Service, along with the North-Center River Forecast Center (in Chanhassen) are providing daily updates and periodic summaries of the hydrologic outlooks.

Farmers can find climatology updates on the website of the Minnesota Climatology Working Group at <http://climate.umn.edu/> and useful flood planning information on University of Minnesota Extension's flood website at [www.extension.umn.edu/flood](http://www.extension.umn.edu/flood).

Mark Seeley is a climatologist with University of Minnesota Extension.

## City of Hendricks is featured on label of new beer, Rooster Lager Proceeds from sales of beer will benefit pheasant hunting

by Brent Beck

Jason Markkula has been able to benefit his enjoyment of wildlife and rural America through a business he recently started.

Markkula who is from Wayzata, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul, came up with a fundraising idea that benefits wildlife and pheasants in this area.

His fundraising idea is Rooster Lager beer. "I started home-brewing beer last year and came up with a recipe for Rooster Lager. I just started to experiment with different ingredients and came up with a recipe. I'm currently having it brewed at Cold Spring Brewery Company in Cold Spring, one of the oldest breweries in Minnesota."

Rooster Lager is a darker beer and Markkula said he's having another brand of beer called Walleye Chop that will be coming out next month in stores during the third week of April.

"Walleye Chop will be lighter in color than Rooster Lager and will be made with different hops with different aromas," Markkula said.

"I'm generating revenue for wildlife through my company Bank Beer," Markkula added. "And the featured brand of Bank Beer is Rooster Lager. All sales of Rooster Lager are devoted to Pheasants Forever's Build a Wildlife Area (BWA) campaign."

Markkula said 100 percent of the profits from all sales of Rooster Lager go towards wildlife conservation in the BWA campaign. In 2003 Pheasants Forever started BWA and since then, has purchased over 4,300 acres of land through the BWA program.

Last year in 2009, a group of wildlife enthusiasts, hunters, non-hunters, landowners, farmers and business owners from the Hendricks area, led by Markkula formed a Pheasants Forever Chapter in Hendricks and two-weekends-ago on Saturday, March 6th, the Hendricks Pheasants Forever Chapter held its first annual Pheasants Forever Banquet, where 200 people from the area attended at the Hendricks Fire Hall.

Markkula became interested in the community of Hendricks when he worked as a former salesman for DeWalt Tool Company, a company that manufactures power tools, based out of Baltimore, Maryland. He said he started making sales calls at Hendricks Farmers Lumber Company and since that time he's wanted to help out the area.

"I'm an avid outdoorsmen and an avid hunter

and I just felt that I needed to give something back, so I started my company and started brewing Rooster Lager . . . I started generating revenue for wildlife," Markkula added.

Through a close friend, Keith Johnson of Hendricks who works for Hendricks Farmers Lumber Company, Johnson asked Markkula if he would be interested in making an investment in the community of Hendricks through renovating and remodeling the former Irene's Cafe and Bank Building that has been vacant for many years.

"Keith purchased one of the buildings on main street in Hendricks and rehabbed it and turned it into a fitness center, so when he told me that I should buy the bank building and renovate it, I took him up on the idea," Markkula said.

Markkula took up his friend Keith's idea and ran with it and converted the old Hendricks Bank Building into the 'Bank Inn Hunting Lodge,' and is open for out-of-town and out-of-state hunters to stay during hunting season. 'The Bank Inn Hunting Lodge' is also open for the general public who want an off the beaten path and off the main Interstate Highway place to stay.

"We've had football fantasy drafts, card parties and wedding receptions at the Bank Inn, and its also open for hunters who want to have a place to stay when they're in the area on a hunting trip," continued Markkula.

Rooster Lager is Bank Beer's first product. Markkula, who is the owner of Bank Beer hopes to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars from sales of this special lager beer to a campaign that purchases tracts of land and turns them into wildlife areas that everyone [all citizens] can use and enjoy.

Through Pheasants Forever's Build a Wildlife Area program, Pheasants Forever Clubs receive matching grants from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

"When you purchase a 12-pack of Rooster Lager, the profits are donated to BWA and that money is matched by state and federal agencies," Markkula said. "This way dollars from Bank Beer are tripled and used for the purchase of wildlife habitat and wildlife areas that you can use and enjoy."

Markkula said he urges everyone who is the legal age to drink [age 21 in Minnesota] to, "Join us today and drink a great beer for wildlife. We are set to build a company that devotes 100 percent of its profits to land acquisition by working through the Build a Wildlife Area campaign from the Pheasants Forever organization."

"Every time you purchase a product ask yourself, 'is this a company I want to support or: Rooster Lager, See page 2

## Minnesota Schools Okayed To Start Early

ST. PAUL, MN - Minnesota Education Commissioner Alice Seagren has approved a plan that will let 25 school districts in southwestern Minnesota start the next academic year on Aug. 23.

State law currently forbids starting school before Labor Day, but the districts say the early start could help improve test scores.

Redwood Area Superintendent Rick Ellingworth says districts sometimes have to buck tradition if doing so improves achievement.

Minnesota Public Radio says the districts can bypass the legal ban because they're using a different state law that allows for "flexible learning year" programs.

Some critics say the move could prevent students in 4-H from presenting at the State Fair. But participating superintendents say they'll work to still give students the State Fair experience.

The districts that will start school Aug. 23 are: Adrian, Brewster, Canby, Comfrey, Edgerton, Hendricks, Hills-Beaver Creek, Ivanhoe, Jackson County Central, Lakeview, Luverne, Lynd, Marshall, Milroy, Minneota, Mountain Lake, Redwood Area, Round Lake, RTR, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Tracy Area (Tracy & Balaton), Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Windom and Worthington.