



Ripon seeks community input for park plan, p. 5



GL holds prom in Town Square ballroom, p. 13



Lopez leaps to Ripon's 1st state title since '09, p. 16

# Last day of school brings summer fun to Ripon's elementary schools



**RIPON AREA FIRE** District firefighter Kyler Lotspeich hoses down students at Barlow Park/Journey trying to beat the heat as part of the school's carnival on the last day of classes. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

## Barlow hosts carnival, Murray Park hosts field day

Barlow Park/Journey and Murray Park/Quest elementary schools hosted activities last week to give students a little bit of fun before the end of the school year.

Barlow Park/Journey Elementary School hosted its annual end-of-the-year carnival last week Friday on the final day of classes.

Both in the morning and the afternoon, students were able to wander over to various outside stations.

They also were able to get hosed down by the

Ripon Area Fire District in the afternoon, which is one of the staples of the annual event.

Meanwhile, Murray Park/Quest Elementary School celebrated the last day of school last week Friday morning with a Field Day.

Students were able to test their strength with tug-of-war, their agility with dodgeball, their accuracy with cornhole, their athletic ability with kickball, their singing with karaoke and much more.

For more photos from the events, see pages 10 and 11 and visit [www.RiponPress.com](http://www.RiponPress.com).



**MURRAY PARK/QUEST** students play tug-of-war as part of the school's Field Day on the last day of classes. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

# Alcohol at Riponfest sparks debate among Ripon Council

By Joe Schulz

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The boundaries for alcohol consumption at the upcoming Riponfest event recently became a hot topic of discussion among the Ripon Common Council and event organizers.

While the Common Council ended up approving Riponfest's application for a temporary alcohol license and open container permit, it wasn't without modifications. Riponfest is slated for Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10 at Barlow Park.

The open container permit was amended by the Common Council to have more clear boundaries for alcohol consumption and open intoxicants, to have signage posted where the perimeter ends, to serve alcohol in clear cups, to require



**THEVAL SIGAL** Duo entertains at Barlow Park as the first of four bands to perform at Riponfest 2.0 last year. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

wristbands for those consuming alcohol, to serve non-alcoholic beverages in cans or bottles and to sell only one drink per person with a wristband at a time.

The amendments came after a lengthy discussion surrounding concerns that people could move through areas where alcohol was being served to other activity spac-

es, potentially bringing alcohol to kids areas or accidentally serving alcohol to an underage person.

Riponfest organizers wanted to eliminate the fencing that was used last year to signify the borders for alcohol consumption and to use signage to show the boundaries, Riponfest 2.0 President Jackie Perkins told the Common Council.

"We do plan on having signs that say, 'No drinking in the children area,' pretty much around the same border," she said, noting the event has hired four law enforcement officers to monitor that area to enforce it.

Ald. Ellen Sorensen took issue with Riponfest organizers' initial proposal, noting food service was within the alcohol area.

"That's not best practice," she said. "... You could have teenagers, who are not really accompanied by their parents, coming in to get food."

She also raised concerns about how many cups of alcohol would be served per person with a wrist-

band.

Perkins replied that the plan was to serve one cup per person at a time.

She said the issue Riponfest ran into last year was parents wanted to have a good time and weren't going to the event to get drunk.

By roughly 6 p.m. last year, she said there were almost no children at the event.

"There were a lot of complaints about being able to grab a beer and go grab some food," she said. "Obviously, we're not going to allow alcohol in the actual children's carnival area."

**“They need to understand, whatever is approved here tonight is what they will abide by.”**

Ripon Police Chief Bill Wallner

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