

# Moonlight Madness perseveres through inclement weather

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**M**oonlight Madness Mardi Gras style brought strange sights and sounds to the rain soaked streets of Larned Saturday evening despite inclement weather.

The downtown celebration got off to a dubious start as overcast skies and steady rains threatened to wash out the Mardi Gras celebration and wacky competitions of the Summer Olympic games.

Vendors huddled under tents and a few shoppers braved the inclement weather at the start of the celebration. A few resilient young people ventured out to hand out beads, but for a short time, it looked as if Mother Nature would flush out the Toilet Bowl race and Olympic competitions.

As Chamber members monitored the radar sweeps on the office computer, the steady rain turned to lighter showers, and some colorful and freaky sights started trickling onto Broadway.

Less than an hour before the scheduled start of the parade, downtown started to become populated with shoppers looking for bargains. Retailers dressed for a night in the French Quarter, operating cash registers and two 'women' that had to sneak up on a clock to tell time kept people wary as they passed by the front of Pawnee Pest Control.

Jamie Walker and Troy Smith were not receiving many beads, but their costumes of big breasted and hairy-legged women had traffic slowing down and motorists doing a double take as they drove along Broadway.

"I think our chances of winning the Toilet Bowl are pretty good," Walker said. "I haven't seen the Tabler's yet, they usually dress up pretty good, but I think we have a good chance of winning."

Retailers had a chance to win best costumes in a shoppers' vote, and competitors in the Olympic games were eligible for medals and a traveling trophy in games of outlandish competitions.

The younger members of the Pest Control team joined the festivities, dressed as Raggedy Ann or wearing spotted dog outfits.

Erin and Hannah Smith spent part of the day testing the team's Toilet Bowl entry - a red rickshaw - pulling themselves and the other junior members, Jaicee and Brady Walker, up and down the rain-slicked sidewalks.

The Pest Control company didn't win the overall prize, however; it went to a group of USD 495 employees called the Teachers. Employees from Ritzman's won the top honors in the employee costume contest vote.

The break in the weather came a little too late for the scheduled entertainment of Audio Spaghetti as a concern about electric powered amplifiers and rain puddles caused it to be canceled.

By 7 p.m. the skies were clearing and the parade of Mardi Gras and toilet bowl contestants ambled their way north, tossing beads and candy to the crowd.

The wacky Summer Olympic Games started following the parade with contestants competing in a variety of solo events and the team competition of the Toilet Bowl race.

The first competition of the evening was a frozen pizza throw, with one contestant from each team tossing a frozen pizza down the street. Team KDOC won the competition, although many of the



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Left: The adults were not to be outdone by the kids in the crowd, and the junior members of Pawnee Pest Control's team decked out in colorful costumes for Moonlight Madness activities.

Above: Jamie Walker, left, and Troy Smith deck out in drag for the Moonlight Madness day fun. Walker worked the streets, stopping traffic as motorists did a double-take. Smith kept to the sidewalk, giving shoppers a reason to take a wide berth.



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Above: Competitors in the cherry in the pie contest had to dig three cherries out of the whipped cream pie without using their hands. Win or lose all the competitors came up with a white face. Below: The Mardi Gras spirit filled the streets of Larned during Moonlight Madness on Saturday. Once the rain passed by, more colorful costumes and beads galore filled the business district along Broadway.

throws resembled a pizza delivery boy with an attitude as they landed in the laps of spectators instead of down the course as planned.

The second event was an egg toss where two members of each team played catch with a raw egg, backing further away with each throw. The Teachers and KDOC tied on the event, both dropping their eggs after a distance of about 20 to 25 feet.

The no-hands contest of picking cherries out of a pie pan full of whipped cream was won by KDOC, and the hands-free eating of marshmallows on a string went to Superfriends.

The main event of the toilet bowl race consisted of several heats of the six person teams pushing, pulling and sometimes redirecting contraptions that included a toilet bowl for one member to ride on while the other five team member moved their entry along the half-block course.

Entrants concocted a variety of rolling toilets from the OPI sponsored Superfriends' Pot of Justice, to the elaborate welded steel stand of the State Hospital. However USD 495's Teachers had a secret



weapon with their hospital gurney, and a simple plastic toddler's toilet sitting in the center.

After three qualifying heats and a final flush off, the Teachers' secret weapon paid off, giving them the win.

The wacky obstacle course had contestants don a dress, carry a stuff animal between their knees perform a wacky dance, and crawl through a

hula-hoop. It was won by USD 495's Teachers.

The final and messiest event of the evening, a slime relay, required the entire team to pass handfuls of green slime down a team chain-gang and fill a small plastic cup. KDOC won the fastest time on the event, with the Teachers winning the judges' vote for style points.

## LARNED HAPPENINGS

### Wednesday

**Welcome Reception for New Hospital Administrator** - 5 to 6 p.m. St. Joseph Memorial Hospital's Jo Brenner Room. The public is invited to attend this meet and greet for new hospital administration Sheila Toon. Refreshments will be provided.

### Thursday

**Chamber Coffee Hour** hosted at Zebulon Pike Plaza at Schnack Park, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. members of the Wet/Dry Route Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association will take this opportunity to recognize businesses and individuals that have contributed to the construction of the plaza

### Friday

**Larned Sport Booster Membership drive** - 6 to 8:30 p.m. Volleyball scrimmage from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Larned Middle School. 7 - 7:30 p.m., meet all the coaches of USD 495 at the north end of the football field. Football scrimmage to follow. Free hamburgers and hotdog feed courtesy of the Larned Sports Boosters.

### Sunday

**Welcome Inn fund-raiser** - noon Sunday at the Larned Senior Center, salad bar with two meats, salad, drink, ice cream and dessert. Cost is \$5 per plate.

### August 31

**Chamber Coffee Hour** hosted by Pawnee County Health Department - 9:30 a.m., Pawnee County Courthouse Lounge

## SCHOOL MENUS

High School Menu	Funnel Cake
<b>Breakfast Today</b>	Bacon
Muffin	Fruit
Fruit	Cereal
Milk	Milk
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Cheese/egg biscuit	Sausage gravy on biscuit
Fruit	Fruit
Milk	Cereal
<b>Thursday</b>	Milk
Cinnamon pastries	<b>Thursday</b>
Fruit	Mini muffins
Milk	Fruit
<b>Friday</b>	Cereal
Breakfast burrito	Milk
Juice	<b>Friday</b>
Milk	Pancake/sausage on a stick
<b>Lunch Today</b>	Fruit
Deli sandwich	Cereal
Tater wedge	Milk
Veggie	<b>Lunch Today</b>
Salad Bar	Burrito with chili & cheese
Milk	Fruit
<b>Wednesday</b>	Salad bar
Frito pie	Milk
Veggie	<b>Wednesday</b>
Salad Bar	Chicken nuggets
Milk	Smilies
<b>Thursday</b>	Fruit
Pig in a Blanket	Salad bar
French fries	Milk
Veggie	<b>Thursday</b>
Salad Bar	Salisbury steak
Milk	Mashed potato
<b>Friday</b>	Gravy/corn
Hamburger on a bun	Fruit
Veggie	Salad bar
Cookie	Milk
Salad Bar	<b>Friday</b>
Milk	Hot dog/buns
<b>Middle School Menu</b>	Potato Salad
<b>Breakfast Today</b>	Baked beans
	Fruit
	Salad bar
	Milk

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