



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:
• Leader-Record • McIntosh Times • Grygla Eagle
• Red Lake County Herald (Oklee, Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls)



Essentia Health receives \$1,000 donation from First Care Medical Services Foundation

Just in time for National Reading Month, Essentia Health clinics in Fosston, Bagley and Oklee now offer their youngest patients a chance to take home a new book – for free.

These Essentia clinics were collectively awarded a \$1,000 donation from the First Care Medical Services Foundation, a local organization that supports hospital projects and community initiatives, to purchase children's books.

Katelyn Sander, a registered nurse at Essentia, submitted the original request to the Foundation after learning about a program through the State of Minnesota called, "Reach Out and Read."

"We serve pediatric patients at all three locations," explained Sander. "I thought, 'What a neat program to be part of and to offer something of value to children when they're coming into and leaving the clinics.'"

Reach Out and Read is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read together. Through the program, provider sites can purchase books at affordable rates.

Using some of the donated funds, Sander has already purchased 500 books, which are distributed across the three sites. Books are currently available for newborns through age 10.

Young patients who come into these clinics, whether for a regular wellness check or a procedure to place a cast, can pick out a book to take home.

"We want to offer them something that they can take with them and help lighten the situation," explained Sander. "Visits can sometimes be stressful, and we want to offer kids something of a reward for being brave, so we've replaced previous handouts like stickers



and suckers with books.

"Not every kid may get the gift of a book, reading or being read to," said Sander. "We wanted to give kids something tangible that would be impactful, that they could take with them."

As part of this initiative, Sander approached "semi-retired" and long-time Essentia Health family medicine practitioner Dr. Wesley Ofstedal about helping to build something to display the books in the Fosston clinic.

Practicing family medicine in Fosston since 1981, Dr. Ofstedal has also dedicated his time and talent to the art of woodworking for the past 20 years.

"I do it for fun and have made a lot of different things," stated Dr. Ofstedal. "Kate approached me about making some shelves, and while

I hadn't made some like that before, we knew they would be in a hallway and couldn't stick out too far and needed rounded edges."

Donating time and supplies, he constructed three oak shelves over a few days, which now hold a variety of titles and authors.

"Offering books is a great thing to do," said Dr. Ofstedal. "While suckers can be fun, kids can't get much benefit from them in the long term, and books can stimulate reading and help kids get a message from it."

Sander, who has three children of her own, also emphasizes this "healthier option" for kids.

"This project is near and dear to my heart," she said. "From what I see and from my kids' perspective, too, I think reading is such a gift in itself."

Historical Society receives AED donation from Sheriff's Office

Beltrami County Historical Society received the donation of an automated external defibrillator at its Board of Directors meeting in February from the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office. The donation was made possible as a result of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Trust grant awarded to the University of Minnesota Medical School to help fund the purchase of 41 automated external defibrillators for the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office earlier in February.

An automated external defibrillator, or AED, is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart to treat cardiac arrest. Studies suggest that survival from cardiac arrest greatly increases when bystanders use an AED. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, almost 17% of all deaths in Minnesota are due to heart disease.

Prior to the donation from the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, the Historical Society did not have an AED on the premises. "While we recognized the importance of making a defibrillator available at the History Center in case of emergencies, they are cost prohibitive" shares Emily Thabes Executive Director. "We are



grateful for the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office partnership ensuring the ongoing safety of our volunteers and visitors."

As part of their agreement with the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office to assume responsibility for the AED, Historical Society staff, board members, and volunteers completed AED training with Holly Bannor, American Heart Association Instructor with Bemidji State University at the March board meeting. Participants learned how an automated external defibrillator operates

and watched a demonstration of the device in action on a training mannequin.

For more information about the complete Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Course for persons who want to be prepared for an emergency in any setting, please check out the schedule and fees on the Bemidji Parks/ Recreation website: <https://bemidjimn.recdesk.com/Community/Program?category=2>.

Thank you again to the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office for supporting life-saving technology in our community!

Chief Justice Gildea Urges Awareness of Jury Duty Scams

"Counties and district courts are hearing, again, that scammers are preying on Minnesotans with fake jury duty phone calls," said Chief Justice Gildea. "Jury duty is an important civic duty. I commend citizens who report for jury service and urge Minnesotans to learn about and protect themselves from the potentially devastating consequences of these scams."

Jury duty scams can take many forms. Recently, scammers are calling people and pretending to be from Minnesota courts. In some cases, they "spoof" the court telephone number so it looks like

the call is originating from the court or from a law enforcement agency.

In these calls, the scammer says people must pay a fine for missing jury service. The scammer might ask for a credit card number or suggest some other way to pay the fine and avoid jail time. The scammers may demand that people provide payment or divulge private information that the scammer can use for identity theft purposes.

Chief Justice Gildea reminds all Minnesotans that if they are summoned for state jury duty, initial contact will always be made by U.S. Mail

in the form of a juror summons from a Minnesota district court. Minnesota courts will never contact a person by phone or e-mail and seek payment of fines, Social Security numbers, credit card information, or any other sensitive information in response to missed jury duty.

Any person who receives a suspicious call seeking payment or private data related to missed jury duty is urged to contact their local county sheriff's office. People with questions about jury duty service should contact their local district court or The Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Northwest Continuum of Care Awarded Nearly \$1.5 Million for Projects Addressing Homelessness and Housing

March 29, 2022 (Bemidji, MN) – The Northwest Continuum of Care has been awarded nearly \$1.5 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through its FY2022 funding opportunity.

The NWCoC is a regional planning body comprised of stakeholders throughout Northwest Minnesota who share a commitment to ending homelessness in our region. The Northwest Minnesota Foundation serves as the "collaborative applicant" for the NWCoC, though its strategic thrusts and decisions are made by its own, separate NWCoC board.

The funding awarded by HUD to the NWCoC will support numerous projects throughout Northwest Minnesota, including:

- \$240,810 to Bi-County Community Action Program (BiCAP) to provide supportive housing to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including a project dedicated to serving indigenous populations.

- \$107,034 to Evergreen Youth and Family Services to provide supportive housing for Youth (ages 16 to 24).
- \$24,287 to support the Minnesota Homeless Management Information System to collect information to evaluate key system performance measures and monitor overall homeless response system improvements.
- \$442,892 to Inter County Community Council (ICCC) to provide supportive housing; of this, \$396,175 is dedicated to serving youth aged 16 to 24 across 11 of the 12 counties in Northwest Minnesota.
- \$300,571 for the Northwest Indian Community Development Center to provide a culturally informed supportive housing program for youth aged 16 to 24.
- \$43,661 to Northwest Minnesota Foundation, for NWCoC planning
- \$216,143 to Tri-Valley Opportunity Council to provide supportive housing, including a project dedicated to serving people fleeing intimate partner violence

- \$123,625 to Violence Intervention Project to provide supportive housing to people feeling intimate partner violence.

The funds were awarded through HUD's 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity. The NWCoC received funding for all of its requested projects.

"This is excellent news for our region and for our NWCoC partners working to support those living through homelessness," said Barbara Johnson, a program officer who serves as the coordinator for the NWCoC. "The NWCoC is committed to its ultimate goal of ending homelessness in our region by quickly rehousing homeless individuals and families, promoting access to resources and benefits, and fostering stability and self-sufficiency for individuals and families. These funds will support us in carrying out this mission."

To learn more about the NWCoC, visit its website at www.nwmf.org/resources/strategic-partnerships/nwco/

M State announces vision for growth and sustainability

Campus offerings to be further aligned with community, workforce needs

M State announces a bold and innovative vision for the college's future – a vision that gives rise to imminent change across the college's four campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena.

M State leaders have been meeting since the beginning of the school year with employees, advisory council members, and regional business and community leaders to engage in conversations about the college, its academic offerings, and how it can best support the communities it serves. The college reviewed student enrollment patterns and facility needs as well as the economies of its local communities, population growth and housing realities.

"We look for new program opportunities every year, and programs change over time, but the pandemic caused us to take a deeper dive this year, to examine M State's program offerings and how they align with the projections and needs of our communities," said M State President Carrie Brimhall. "We wanted to determine a specific educational 'niche' for each of our four campuses. The planning process was very intentional and comprehensive."

The outcome of that process is a broad academic plan that calls for new or reimagined programming, along with targeted investments in the most in-demand programs and initiatives, to best meet student, community and workforce needs and ensure M State's growth and sustainability well into the future.

The plan is expected to be rolled out over the next two to three years. It entails facility upgrades and academic program adjustments, such as the introduction of new programs and/or relocation of programs

from one campus to another, across all four M State campuses.

- **Detroit Lakes:** This campus will have a stronger focus on manufacturing, healthcare and workforce training. Program and facility use adjustments, including the relocation of some programs to other M State campuses, will aid in this evolution.
- **Fergus Falls:** This campus will sharpen its focus on the student experience, particularly for student athletes, and will adjust its academic offerings to further align with local workforce needs. Programs such as Business, Early Childhood and Echocardiography will be newly offered in Fergus Falls, and some student housing facility upgrades are planned.
- **Moorhead:** As M State's most populous and diverse campus, the Moorhead campus will maintain its focus on non-traditional students, transfer education, and careers related to engineering, public safety, healthcare, transportation, business and construction. The campus will work to increase its presence in IT, healthcare and workforce development.
- **Wadena:** The Wadena campus will continue to specialize in spa services, energy careers and construction trades, with expanded programming and community partnerships to support further growth in those areas.

"We are excited to re-imagine our presence in our campus communities," said Brimhall. "We see the changes at M State as an opportunity to adapt and better support our regional economy, which we believe will propel us into an even stronger future."

M State's plans for college-wide growth and investment include a bold expansion of

the college's connections with area high schools, additional workforce training opportunities through M State's Workforce Development Solutions division, and re-honed and expanded healthcare programming at all four campuses.

"We understand there is great demand in healthcare, and it will only increase. We will continue to build and develop healthcare simulation labs on our four campuses and work with our industry partners to adjust and enhance the way we offer our healthcare programs," said Brimhall. "We want to ensure a steady pipeline of students can enter the healthcare field."

Many of M State's plans are still developing, and the college will continue to seek out and collect community input as more details are determined. The college will work with existing students as needed to ensure program changes have little to no impact on their individual academic plans.

"We continue to be committed to hiring the best people, focusing on quality academics and meeting the needs of our students at our four campus locations and online," said Brimhall. "We know the students we serve today will continue to need us to serve them as a whole person. Our focus will continue to be, 'A success story for every student.'"

A member of the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities, M State serves more than 6,500 students in credit courses each year in over 70 career and liberal arts programs online and in-person. The college also partners with communities to provide workforce development services and other responsive training programs to 500 businesses and 9,000 participants.

Climate Change Effects on Gardening

Last year, I wrote several articles about the priorities of the University of Minnesota Master Gardener Volunteer Program. The seven priorities include plant biodiversity, nearby nature, pollinator health, clean water, local food, horticultural skills, and climate responsiveness. This article will focus on climate responsiveness.

As master gardeners we incorporate effective practices to help mitigate the effects of climate change. These effects can include more severe weather, heavier rainfall or prolonged dry periods, warmer temperatures, and high winds. Other climate change effects are longer frost-free periods which creates longer growing seasons.

I listened to a webinar recently where the host interviewed three commercial growers from different areas of the country; the northeast, south and northwest. While each grower deals with varying weather conditions depending on their location, they have implemented similar strategies to help combat climate change. One grower dug water catchment ponds to stem runoff from heavy rains. They re-use the water for irrigation purposes. They also use organic mulch which helps build their soil health, making the soil better able to absorb and retain the moisture. They have planted shelter belts, several rows of trees on the windward side of their growing area, to protect their crops from high winds.

Another grower has diversified the crops they grow, using crop rotation and best management practices to ensure their crops survive unexpected weather events. They have invested in high tunnels for a more stable growing environment. They also have several growing areas so if growing area is damaged, the season isn't a total loss.

These growers have part-

nered with seed companies to assist with research for more resilient plants. They have found that by using the above practices, their companies have survived some of the effects of our changing climate.

What can you do in your garden to increase your success in a changing climate growing either a vegetable or flower garden?

One way to lessen the impacts of heavier rainfall is to place mulch around your plants. This has multifaceted benefits. Not only does it prevent erosion from heavy rains, but during dry periods, the mulch helps retain moisture and prevents weed growth. Mulch comes from a variety of sources including wood chips, straw, hay, grass clippings, newspapers, cardboard, and commercially available mulch. One recommendation is to use commercially available mulch in flower beds, as much of it has color added to it, to make it look pretty. Depending on what coloring is used, it may be detrimental to vegetable gardens.

Another way to help protect your crops is to use a high tunnel or other type of cover to protect your plants from downpours, hail, and high winds. Although the initial expense is high, having more control over your growing environment helps ensure crop success.

Instead of having a well-manicured lawn, consider converting a sloped area to a pollinator garden, with native grasses and flowers. This not only adds beauty but will help with erosion from heavy rains. Native grasses grow their roots deep and stabilize the area.

Other ways to help combat climate change in your garden is to research vegetable varieties that need less water for drought conditions, add organic matter to the soil to make it more able to absorb excessive rain and apply no till gardening practices in your garden. One no till gardening method

is "Back to Eden". You can do a google search to find the documentary about how to start using the Back to Eden method. There are other no till methods available for you to research on line as well. My husband and I will start our second year this year with this method. I hope to report on our success or failure in an article later this year. Stay tuned for that article later this year.

If you want to research garden answers on your own, please use the following website: Yard and garden | UMN Extension, or you can call the hotline below.

The Beltrami County Master Gardeners operate a "Hotline" for gardeners who have questions from April 1 through October 31. Please call 218-444-7916 and leave a message with your name phone number and a short description of your question or problem. Your call will be returned within 2 days.



Joyce Rairdon works as an Administrative Operations Specialist and enjoys growing vegetables, especially peppers, squash, and tomatoes. She also plants many flowers around her garden to help attract pollinators.

LIFE MATTERS. All Stages. All Ages.

Families, teens, adults and youth groups are invited to a LIFE MATTERS event on Wednesday, April 19, at the McIntosh Community Center. It starts at 6:00 p.m. with a Taco in a Bag supper for a free will donation. There will be a coloring contest and storytime for younger children. Three lucky winners will take home a combo Pro-Life Kids story/activity book set.

At 7:00 p.m. Beth Burris of Apple Valley, MN, will tell her captivating story of hope. As a high school student, she found herself in life-altering circumstances which shaped the woman she is today. As she shares her story, be prepared to have your life altered, too.

Sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, Chapter No. 45.

TAXES ARE DUE APRIL 18!

Contributing to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) could reduce your taxable income.*

We can help you open an HSA and an IRA. Call us for more information.

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*Consult your financial advisor for eligibility and tax advice.

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R3C Member FDIC

I want to thank everyone who came to my 90th Birthday Party! Also for those who sent cards and good wishes. Also special thanks to my family who planned it and did all the work. It was a great time! Florence Danielson

Dr. Michael Herbert WWII NELL program April 12th

Professor Michael Herbert from Bemidji State University will present:

"Twenty College Students who Enlisted in WWII" for NELL on Wednesday April 12, at 9:30am at the American Legion Post 16 in Bagley. Doors open at 9:00 am. There is no charge to attend.

Dr. Michael Herbert will be presenting on his book that speaks to life as a student at the Bemidji State Teachers College and the twenty students out of many who left the college during WWII for military service and were later killed in action.

Dr. Herbert is a professor of criminal justice at Bemidji State and is currently working on a second book. The second book will examine the lives of the ladies who were from Bemidji and went into military service during WWII.



Dr. Michael Herbert.



DINING & entertainment

Easter Buffet

Sunday, April 9th, 2023
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Menu:
Ham, Swedish Meatballs, Scaloped Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Dinner Roll, Salad Bar and Dessert

\$14.99 Beverage extra

Kandi's Kitchen

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Reservations Welcome

BINGO Starting at 5:30 p.m. Progressive Blackout 6pm, Saturday, April 8, 2023

WING NIGHT WEDNESDAY

Fri. & Sat., April 7 & 8, 2023 - Meatballs

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COMING SOON
Honky Tonk Troubadours
Saturday, April 22nd
8:00 p.m. to Midnight

Kitchen Hours 8am-9pm Mon.-Sat. & 11am-9pm SUN.

BAR BINGO! AND PADDLE WHEEL

TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2023 - 6:30 PM

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Saturday, April 8th, 2023

Serving 5:00-7:00 pm

Walleye pike the way you like them!!

On a trial basis, we will deliver to Gonvick City residents. Call 487-5214

GONVICK AMERICAN LEGION

EASTER Sunday, April 9th
10 am - 2 pm

at Ness Cafe

Easter Breakfast Buffet
served from 8 am - 1 pm — \$10.99

Baked Ham, Turkey, Meatballs & Deep Fried Shrimp, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Stuffing, Mac N' Cheese, Glazed Carrots, Corn, Full Salad Bar & Dessert

• Adults - \$19.99 • Kids 10 & under \$10.99

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CLASSIFIED ADS

POSITIONS AVAILABLE



Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach position. Bagley High School has an opening for the Head Varsity Basketball Coach. Candidates must meet the Minnesota Statute for Head Coaching requirements before beginning coaching responsibilities. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume of coaching and playing experiences and three references to nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us

Dance Coach positions. Bagley High School has two openings for Dance Coaches. Candidates must meet the Minnesota Statute for Head Coaching requirements before beginning coaching responsibilities. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume of coaching and experiences and three references to nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us

R3-C

AIS Tech – Temp/Seasonal Polk County, MN

Polk County Environmental Services has an opening for up to two (2) temporary AIS Tech positions, working at public water access sites doing watercraft monitoring and education on Aquatic Invasive Species as well as assisting the department with other AIS projects. Eligible candidates will either be enrolled or seeking enrollment in a related post-secondary degree program or have a Bachelor's Degree in natural resources, biology, environmental science or a related field. Polk County will work with the candidate and college to accommodate internship credits if needed for a post-secondary degree program. A valid driver's license is required. Wage for this position is \$17.18/hour. Interested individuals may contact the Polk County Environmental Services Office at 218-281-5700 or go online to <http://www.co.polk.mn.us> to view this job description and application. Please mail or drop of your completed application and resume to Polk County Environmental Services, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, MN, 56716 or email them to environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us. Applications for this position will be received until the positions are filled.

R3-C

RED LAKE COUNTY LANDFILL OPERATOR I

O3-4C

The position mainly works out of the Oklee location but may assist with the Red Lake Falls site as needed.

The duties include: monitor loads delivered to landfill, maintain landfill property, assist patrons, work with Household Hazardous Waste, operate and maintain equipment as needed, and work outdoors in varying weather conditions.

This is a part-time position. The general work schedule is as follows: May 1st - Oct. 31st: 24 hrs. per month; Wednesdays, and 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Candidates must be 18 years of age, able to lift 50 lbs., and have a valid MN driver's license. Wage starts at \$18.72 per hour.

Applications are available at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/employment Questions call the HR office at 218-253-2590 or email hr@co.red-lake.mn.us. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

CUSTODIAL POSITION AVAILABLE

Clearbrook-Gonvick School has an opening for a custodial position. This is a full-time, 12 month position, with benefits. Pay is negotiable dependent on experience. Job requirements include the ability to thoroughly clean while paying attention to detail with some lifting and bending required. Boiler's license is helpful but not required for the position. Applications can be found on our school website or call Melissa Weems at 218-776-3112 Ext. 105 with any questions.

Please submit resume, letter of interest, and application to:

Clearbrook-Gonvick School
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd.
Clearbrook, MN 56634
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us
Attn: Melissa Weems, HR

R2-3C

NOW HIRING

Richards Publishing has an Opening for a Full Time position in Gonvick. This position will be an all around job helping with various duties:

- Newspaper
- Commercial Printing
- Production
- Marketing & Sales

Contact Dick at 218-487-5225 if interested.



R4-10C

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

TEACHING POSITIONS

Secondary Science Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure in Physical Science/Physics and Earth Science is required.

Secondary Special Ed./SLD Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure in SLD is required.

Secondary CTE Business Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure is required. Possible courses include but are not limited to HS Accounting, Marketing, Personal Finance, Computer Graphics and Web Design, in addition to Jr. High Computers.

Secondary .4FTE Spanish Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure is required.

Elementary Special Ed./EBD Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure in EBD is required.

Elementary Special Ed./SLD Teacher position starting Fall of 2023. Proper Minnesota licensure in SLD is required.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, teaching licensure, transcripts and three letters of reference to Nichole M. Ekre at 202 Bagley Ave. NW, Bagley, MN 56621 or nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us

Substitute Teacher opportunities are available. Applicants should submit their teaching license (or substitute licensure with a 4-year degree) and resume.

OPENINGS

Paraeducator position openings in the Elementary and High School, candidates must be highly qualified, which includes either 2 or more years of college, an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the Para Pro Exam.

Substitute Para opportunities are available. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Native American Home School Liaison Positions - Full-time positions open for 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024 school year. Candidates must be highly qualified, which includes either two or more years of college, an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the Para Pro Exam.

Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required.

Substitute Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required.

Full-Time Route Bus Drivers and Substitute Bus Drivers positions. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a school bus driver's license endorsement. The District is willing to help applicants obtain their school bus endorsement. New drivers will receive a \$200 stipend after six months of driving to help defray the cost of certification. Application forms may be downloaded, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Stuart Dukek at 694-6122.

Cleaner-Sweeper/Custodian position. Bagley Independent School District #162 is accepting applications for a cleaner-sweeper/Custodian position. Applications can be downloaded, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For questions about the position, contact Nichole at 218-694-6184 or Ron at 218-368-8314

Application forms may be downloaded, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Nichole Ekre at 694-6184.

R52-7C

Polk County Full-Time Employment Opportunities:

Loader Operator I/Fosston:
\$20.65 - \$26.97/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Public Safety Telecommunicator:
\$24.13 - \$31.52 /hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Mechanical Maintenance Technician I/Fosston:
\$22.77 - \$29.73/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Assistant County Attorney:
\$37.74 - \$53.24/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Sort Line Operator I or II/Fosston:
\$17.18 - \$23.56/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Polk County offers a highly competitive benefits package including but not limited to affordable family healthcare plans and PERA retirement.

For an application, full job description and general job opening information go to www.co.polk.mn.us and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408 Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

R4-10C

EXTRA-CURRICULAR BUS DRIVERS POSITIONS

Clearbrook-Gonvick School District is hiring for Extra-Curricular bus drivers. The District will pay for the cost of training, health card, and one road test as well as allow qualified candidates to use the District's buses for testing. Rate of pay is \$22.00 to \$25.00 per hour, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Interested candidates should submit an application to:

Melissa Weems, HR
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd.
Clearbrook, MN 56634
218-776-3112 Ext. 105
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

R3-6C

ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING POSITION

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School District has an Elementary Special Education teaching position open for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Applicants must hold, or be eligible to acquire a Minnesota special education license. Preference will be given to applicants with additional licensure in special education areas including EBD, LD, ASD, or DCD. Individuals interested in extra-curricular coaching activities are encouraged to apply. Position is open until filled.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, credentials, and three letters of recommendation to:

Clearbrook-Gonvick School
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd
Clearbrook, MN 56634
Attn: Melissa Weems, Human Resources
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

R3-6C

CROSS-COUNTRY COACH FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School District is seeking a cross-country coach for the 2023-2024 season. Requirements of the position include being present for all practices and cross-country meets beginning on August 14th, teaching the fundamentals of running, and being a positive role model for our athletes. Must be able to pass a background check.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Melissa Weems, HR
16770 Clearwater Lk Rd.
Clearbrook, MN 56634
218-776-3112 Ext. 105
Email: mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

R3-6C

Household

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The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is hiring temp Forest Pest Surveyors for the 2023 Spongy Moth Trapping Survey in NW MN: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau Counties. \$16.25/hr. Start: 5/30/23; End: 10/13/23. MDA is an equal opportunity employer & provider. Contact Natasha Northrop: 651/201-6692, natasha.northrop@state.mn.us

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Firefly Center For Art & Wellbeing Awarded Grant

March 31, 2023 (Bemidji, MN) – The Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing has been awarded \$200,000 by the Otto Bremer Trust in St. Paul.

The Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing, in Fosston, will boost rural access to critically needed mental health services in an unbiased, creative, and welcoming environment that fosters community, inclusion, and equality.

The Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing, a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, is a mixed-use center that will provide mental health services, art therapy, space for creatives and community groups, and offer three residential units in response to a rural housing shortage. The grant funding from the OBT will be used to assist in the physical buildout and renovation of the Center.

An integral part of the project is the Center's partnership with Alluma. Alluma is committed to partnering with the Firefly Center to expand access to mental health services in Fosston and east Polk County. This partnership utilizes a

new model for mental health service delivery that combines the arts with mental wellbeing to create a more inclusive and destigmatized environment for all those seeking care and boosting rural access to critically needed mental health services in a creative and comprehensive environment.

The Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing will be a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. The 12-member board of directors includes volunteers who represent, in part, the following: the arts, mental health services, financial, housing, and those who have had lived experience with regard to mental health.

The Center will continue to seek grant funding for this important community project. Funding from individuals, businesses or corporate donors is also welcomed. Local funding will provide the Center with support to meet and expand the services in the community.

Questions about the Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing may be directed to Heidi Danos, 818-325-5053; Bonnie Stewart, 218-280-9176; or Barbara Johnson, 218-230-4119.

Beef Quality Assurance Online Training to be held April 25

Long Prairie, Minn. (3/27/2023) — University of Minnesota Extension, along with Minnesota Beef Council, will host an online Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training opportunity on Tuesday, April 25 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. CST. Producers attending the free training will receive their three-year BQA certification.

In recent years, cattlemen and women have been asked to complete the BQA program in order to market their cattle to certain processors. However, BQA certification is still voluntary. A BQA certification is being required by many major industry buyers and processors who have chosen to extend their own quality assurance protocol requirements to the cattlemen who are part of their supply chain. When a producer does not have a current BQA certification, the resulting consequence is that many packers and feedlots simply cannot

purchase those cattle because their company cannot source cattle from a producer who does not meet their certification requirements.

The upcoming online BQA training that will be offered in spring 2023 includes:

- Online Zoom training: Tuesday, April 25 beginning at 7 p.m.
- Register at z.umn.edu/BQAApril25

Attendees who'd like to join online via Zoom must pre-register online at: z.umn.edu/BQAApril25. You will not be able to access the Zoom meeting room without pre-registering and receiving the secure Zoom link emailed to you from Extension staff. Only one person from each operation is required to be certified to ensure the entire operation follows the BQA standards. However, everyone who handles and manages the operation's cattle is encouraged to become BQA



Farmers to D.C. attendees (L to R): Amanda Revier (Olivia, MN - Renville County); Shayne Isane (Badger, MN - Roseau County); Jeff Pagel (Eyota, MN - Olmsted County); Carolyn Olson (Cottonwood, MN - Lyon County); Ashle and Trent Benson (Brownton, MN - McLeod County); Dan Glessing (Waverly, MN - Wright County).

Minnesota Farm Bureau Members Travel to D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members and leadership from the Minnesota Farm Bureau traveled to Washington, D.C. March 27-30 to share agriculture's story with our state legislators in the nation's capital.

The group had the opportunity to meet with elected officials and other agriculture and government leaders to share their experiences, providing insight on both opportunities and

challenges facing the next generation of farmers and ranchers. A primary focus was the 2023 Farm Bill including what programs currently work, and where there is opportunity for updates or improvements.

Participants met with Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, Representatives Angie Craig, Brad Finstad, Michelle Fischbach, Dean Phillips, and Pete Stauber, and staff from

the offices of Representatives Tom Emmer and Betty McCollum over the two-day trip.

They also received a nighttime Capitol tour led by Congressman Finstad, met with agriculture leaders from the EPA and visited the United Kingdom embassy to learn from its agriculture attaché.

The Farmers to D.C. trip is held twice a year and open to all MFBF members. The next

trip will take place Sept. 11-14.

About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation: To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about their efforts as an advocate for their nearly 30,000 members and 78 county Farm Bureaus at fbmn.org.

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certified. Families are able to view the training on the same computer/mobile device, and all viewers will receive credit for certification if pre-registered. You only need to attend one of the training options to complete BQA certification.

Anyone can complete the online BQA training at www.bqa.org at any time.

To keep up to date on both online and in-person BQA trainings that will be offered throughout Minnesota in 2023, you can go to the UMN Extension BQA events site: <https://extension.umn.edu/courses-and-events/beef-quality-assurance>. As more training ses-

sions are scheduled, they will be added to this page so that you can see a complete list of options, both online (webinar) and in person locations.

If you have any questions about accessing the online BQA training session, or have questions regarding your BQA status expiration, please contact Brenda Miller at: nels4220@umn.edu or 320-533-4655.

Any use of this article must include the byline or following credit line:

Brenda Miller is an Extension Educator-Livestock Production Systems with University of Minnesota Extension in Todd County.



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Word Search Answers for this week

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R T P V E V L P I N E G S T N G R V F Y
S A S S E R D D A P E L W E F T L S P A



Pictured: Wayne Olson (Polk County Soybean – Corn Growers Board member), Stephanie McNight, Austyn Well, Shannon Netland, Mandy Wiering.

Next steps: Polk County continues walking the walk Area farmers donating soy-based shoes to Fosston health clinic

FOSSSTON – With the successful Stepping Up: From Farm to Frontline campaign having completed its first leg, the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) was left with big shoes to fill. The Council decided the best way to take the next steps and make a bigger impact on communities through promoting the “miracle bean” was to dedicate more checkoff resources to the campaign, but with a twist.

This year, Stepping Up is dedicated toward giving back to any organization or entity in Minnesota where the local county boards see a need. Minnesota’s organized county soybean boards are donating to schools, homeless shelters, fire departments, students in need and organizations that impact their communities.

Polk County, in partnership with MSR&PC, which directs the state’s soybean checkoff resources, continues the Stepping Up campaign to promote the value-added uses of soybeans and make community connections. This spring, the Polk County Soybean and Corn Growers Association donated 15 pair to Fosston Essentia Health. The clinic also received shoes from Polk County soybean farmers in 2022.

“We chose Essentia Health in Fosston because we wanted to give more of their employees a chance to have a pair of Skechers as a ‘thank you’ for all they do,” Board Director Wayne Olson said.

The continuation of the Stepping Up campaign aims to inform more consumers on

the value that soybeans bring to the market as well as how versatile the crop is. Minnesota farmers also want to honor groups in their communities that are making a difference, no matter what career they have.

“I would like to thank the Polk County Soybean and Corn Growers Board for the generous donation to Essentia Health Fosston’s front line health care workers,” Director of Nursing Stephanie McNight said. “It means a lot to be recognized for the hard work and sacrifice health care workers have made over the past few years. It is fascinating to think that these shoes could have come from soybeans grown on a local farm.”

In summer 2022, more than 53 counties around Minnesota participated in the first Stepping Up campaign. In 2022 alone, Minnesota farmers and the soybean checkoff donated nearly 3,000 pairs of Skechers soy-based shoes across 120 Minnesota health care facilities.

“The Council felt the drive to provide more funds to continue Stepping Up after seeing the impact on the recipients,” MSR&PC Chair Joe Serbus said. “Health care workers were thankful and appreciative of the gesture last summer, so we chose to continue to spread our message on soybean versatility and the joy the shoes bring to the recipients.”

Big value
In 2020, Skechers released its GO line of footwear, which uses soybean oil to improve grip, stability, and durability.

Skechers is using the same checkoff-supported technology featured in Goodyear Tire Company’s line of sustainable soy-based tires, which incorporated soy into its rubber technology.

By using soybean oil in Skechers’ GO line, Goodyear’s tire compound reduces petroleum-based use, ultimately cutting energy consumption, weight and promoting sustainability while increasing efficiency.

For each dollar soybean farmers pay toward checkoff resources, growers receive an estimated \$12.34 in return value. More than 1,000 commercially available products – ranging from shoes to machinery lubricants to asphalt – use commodity and high oleic soybean oil.

Learn more about Stepping Up by visiting mnsoybean.org/stepping-up.

About the Polk County Soybean and Corn Growers Board

Polk County is affiliated with the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, a 15-person, farmer-led board that oversees the investment of checkoff dollars on behalf of the nearly 28,000 soybean farmers in Minnesota. The Council is governed by the rules of a federally mandated checkoff program requiring all soybean producers to pay a fee on the soybeans they sell. This money is used to promote, educate and develop market opportunities for soybeans.

For more information or to interview a county director, contact Wayne Olson at dandpolson@gmail.com

Learn to camp, paddle, fish and mountain bike with DNR’s I Can! programs

Registration for the 2023 I Can! programs begins Monday, April 3.

I Can! is an award-winning series of outdoor programs that helps beginners of all ages and backgrounds learn new outdoor skills in a beautiful state park or recreation area setting. Programs begin the first weekend in June and continue through the end of August. They include:

• **I Can Camp!** – These programs provide hands-on instruction on setting up camp, starting a campfire, camp cooking and fun outdoor activities. All gear is provided, including the tent, air mattresses, cooking gear and other basic camping equipment. One-night, two-night, and backpacking sessions are offered.

• **I Can Paddle!** – These programs teach the basics of canoeing or kayaking, including launching, paddling efficiently, and planning a safe outing. These programs are designed for first-time paddlers and equipment is provided. Two-hour canoe or kayak

programs, river day trips, sea kayaking, and overnight canoe camping programs are available.

• **I Can Mountain Bike!** – This program teaches mountain bike riding techniques at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, Minnesota’s world class mountain bike park.

• **I Can Fish!** – These hands-on programs teach all of the basics, from fish identification to casting.

“We provide all the gear along with friendly and knowledgeable instructors,” said Ann Pierce, director of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ Parks and Trails Division. “Not everyone grows up learning outdoor skills, and for some, lack of experience, equipment or skills can be a barrier to trying new outdoor activities. Our goal is to remove that barrier and make it easy for all Minnesotans to connect to the outdoors, feeling prepared and safe.”

Registration and more information

For more information about

any of the programs—including program dates, times, locations, and minimum age requirements—visit the I Can! page (mndnr.gov/ican) or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

To register for I Can! programs, visit the DNR’s reservation page (mndnr.gov/reservations) or register by phone at 866-857-2757 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily, except holidays).

Since 2010, more than 100,000 people have participated in I Can! programs. The DNR’s I Can! program series is made possible with funding from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the Legacy Amendment’s three-eighths percent sales tax, and revenue to the Fund may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.



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"Kickoff to Summer at the Fair" Returns to the Fairgrounds and Tickets Go on Sale April 6

St. Paul, Minn. – Kickoff to Summer at the Fair, the popular slice-of-the-fair and spring-into-summer event running May 25-28, will return for the third year. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 6. This four-day event includes food, brews, music, shopping, free parking and family fun at the beautiful and iconic Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/ for all the event details.

Kickoff to Summer at the Fair features more than 30 popular State Fair food and beverage vendors, an eclectic lineup of music and entertainment on three stages, mini golf *, pickleball, Trivia Mafia, the Giant Slide*, the Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together collection of food donations in partnership with Cub in support of Second Harvest Heartland, guided historical walking tours, roving entertainment, skateboard lessons* & demos by 3rd Lair, board and yard games, door prizes, State Fair mascot appearances, photo ops, specialty Minnesota merchandise shopping* at more than 20 vendors, free parking and more. (*Additional cost)

Admission: Tickets are \$12.50 each in advance online (fees and tax included); children 4 and under are free and do not require a ticket. Save \$3 when you buy in advance. Tickets at the gate will be \$15.50 each (via QR code; credit/debit only; fees and tax included). Each ticket is valid for a specific day. Choose the day when purchasing tickets. Attendance is limited per day. This event is rain or shine. Tickets are non-refundable.

Thursday, May 25, 4-9 p.m.
Friday, May 26, 4-9 p.m.
Saturday, May 27, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 28, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets are available through Etix at etix.com (use this URL for the hyperlink – https://event.etix.com/ticket/v/16820?partner_id=4587), by calling 800-514-3849, or can be purchased at



event entrances on the day of the event (via QR code, credit/debit only) until attendance capacity is reached. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4467.

Free parking is available. For map and directions, visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/.

Participating food vendors serving fair food favorites and refreshing summer brews will include: Al's Subs & Malt Shop, Andy's Grille, Auntie M's Gluten Free, Baba's, Ball Park Cafe, Bayou Bob's, Big Fat Bacon, Blue Moon Dine-In Theater, Café Caribe, Cheese-on-a-Stick and Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, Chimborazo, Coasters, Dino's Gyros, Duke's Poutine, El Sol Mexican Foods, Fresh French Fries, Giggles' Campfire Grill (two locations), Hansen's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, Minnesnowii Shave Ice, Mouth Trap Cheese Curds, Nelson's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, The Perfect Pickle, Produce Exchange, Pronto Pups (two locations), Que Viet Concessions, RC's BBQ, Richie's Cheese Curd Tacos, Sambusa Express, Summer Lakes Beverage, Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar, Sweets & Treats, Tiny Tim Donuts, Tot Boss, and West Indies Soul Food. To view menus and vendor offerings visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/vendors/.

Three stages of free entertainment will include performances by: Atahualpa, The Art of Dance Studio, The Bad Companions, Dance & Entertainment Studios, David Malmberg, Gen X Jukebox, George of the Juggle, Heartless, Jacuzzi Puma, Jaybee and The Routine, Mary Cutrufello, Miss Shannon's Sock Hop, O'Shea Irish Dance, Sarah Morris, The String Showdown, Sweet Colleens and Zumba® Fitness. In addition to the stages, DJ entertainment will be provided by Adagio Djay Entertainment, and select food and beverage vendors will also offer entertainment.

Specialty shopping with unique finds from local arti-

sans and merchants will include: 3rd Lair, Angry Minnow Vintage, Beisswenger's Hardware, Bulljive, Crystal Visions, Ecofun Motorsports, Every Third Saturday, Glitter Glamper, GoodThings, Hagen and Oats, Holly House Boutique, LeafFilter Gutter Protection, Lucky Shots Pickleball Club, Mattress Firm, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Minnesota Rusco, Must be Ruff, Paddle North, Paul's Porch Pots, Rainbow Midwest Inc., Sota Clothing, State Fair Wear, T-Mobile and Whatnot Boutique.

The Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together in partnership with Cub, will be accepting food donations to support Second Harvest Heartland at the Kickoff event. Most needed items include canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat (chicken, tuna and salmon), peanut butter, instant potatoes and rice, cereal and oatmeal, and low-sugar, low-sodium and gluten-free items. To find out more visit mnstatefair.org/community-gives-together/.

Sponsors for Kickoff to Summer at the Fair include: Mattress Firm (Mascots), Adagio Djay Entertainment (DJ Entertainment), Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Visitors Plaza Stage and Trolley), Minnesota Rusco (Door Prizes), Humana (Event Program and Information Booths), T-Mobile (Grandstand Building), Cal Spas (Family Fun Stage), and DragN'Fly Wireless (Wi-Fi Hot Spot).

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round Minnesota State Fair updates. The 2023 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 24 through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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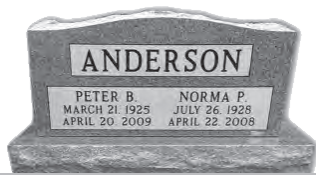
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OBITUARIES



Services for Melvin Renna

Melvin Renna, age 85, of McIntosh, MN, formerly Fertile, MN, died on Friday, March 17, 2023, at McIntosh Manor Senior Living Center in McIntosh.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, 2023, with a Time of Gathering beginning at 1:00 p.m. all at the Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahanomen, MN.

Please feel free to sign the guestbook, send condolences and view other opportunities which may be available on the website.



Obituary for June Hoon

June Irene Mable (Olness) Hoon, age 70, Palmdale CA, passed away on 10 March 2023 after losing a fight with uterine serous carcinoma cancer. June was born on 30 January 1953 to Gorde and Viola Olness in Bagley, Minnesota. She graduated from Fosston High School in 1972. June grew up in Minnesota and moved to southern California after some 30 plus years of snow.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her loving, caring and thoughtful soul and will be missed and remembered by the many lives she touched. She was known for her outgoingness, friendly personality, seemingly endless energy and incredible cooking. She always

said no one goes home hungry from her house. June was always busy with gardening, yard work, home improvement projects and baking. She won a number of baking contests and was known for the best desserts and cakes. June loved live country music, karaoke, traveling, getting outdoors, walks and garage sales. Her beautiful sparkling eyes, bright smile and happiness brightened the room wherever she went. She will be missed; she left this world too early.

June is survived by her husband Carl Hoon; her children Larry Rinkenberger Jr. (wife Jannette), Jenny Maxwell (husband Adrian), and Dennis Rinkenberger (husband Jeffrey); brothers and sisters, John Olness (wife Sheryll), Gorde Olness (wife Rita), Lueman Olness (wife Rosalie), Shirley Delage, Josephine Kelly, Viola Myklejord, and Mary Lou Slininger; grandchildren Christopher, Tattiana, Corina, Shay and Brody (Chad); and great grandchildren Xavier and Emberlyn.

June was predeceased by parents Gorde and Viola Olness, brother Gary Olness (infant) and sister Gloria Olness.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Cascades - Rancho Vista Golf Club, 3905 Club Rancho Dr, Palmdale CA 93551 on 20 April 2023 at 4:30 PM.



Obituary for Mervin Bakke

Mervin (Merv) Bakke, age 82, of Fosston, MN, formerly of Gonvick, passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the Essentia Health Medical Center in Fargo, ND, surrounded by his family.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Elim Lutheran Brethren Church in Clearbrook, Minnesota with a visitation an hour prior. An evening of visitation was held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Cease Family Funeral Home in Bagley, MN. Interment will be held in the spring at Elim Lutheran Cemetery. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Mervin Bakke was born on February 11, 1941, in Bagley, Minnesota, to Melvin and Helen (Eck) Bakke of Gonvick, Minnesota. He grew up on a farm in Gonvick with two sisters and five brothers. He married Lynette Satran on September 3, 1966, at Elim Lutheran Brethren Church in Clearbrook. He was the loving father of three children, Cheryl, Brian and Colleen. Mervin and Lynette lived in Chaska for five years before returning to Gonvick in

1971. After moving back, he worked for various pipeline companies and retired after thirty plus years to enjoy his family.

He was a member of Elim Lutheran Brethren Church in Clearbrook, MN, and also served as a trustee. He enjoyed volunteering at the Clearwater County Food Shelf, and being a member of Sons of Norway in Fosston, MN. In the summer of 2011, Mervin and Lynette enjoyed their long-awaited trip to Norway, which became a highlight of all their travels.

Anybody that knew Merv, knew his amazing strength, sweet disposition and his sincerity. For Merv, life was always in fast-forward, he drove fast and liked things done now! His interests included hunting, fishing, woodworking and watching his grandchildren's sporting events. He especially loved spending time with his wife and grandchildren and telling stories during a cup of coffee with neighbors and friends. Merv was never too busy to share time with his loved ones!

Merv is survived by his loving wife, Lynette, of 56 years, daughter, Cheryl (Tom) Stenzel, son, Brian (Jenny) Bakke, and son-in-law, Michael Knoop (Melissa). Grandchildren, Madison (Joe Woods), Tristan, Damen, Danae, William and Hanna; siblings, Wayne (Kathy), Bruce (Judy), David (Reneae), Norman and Brenda (Rick) Skarison, and many other loved family and friends. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Colleen (Bakke) Knoop; parents, Melvin and Helen; sister, Judy; brother, Randy; brother-in-law, Donny Haugen; father and mother-in-law, Albert and Emma Satran; and nephew, Jesse Hendrickson.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneral-home.com



Obituary for Patty Carlson

Patty Carlson, age 76, of Gully, MN, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 28th, at her daughter's

home in Sartell, MN. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 15th, at Lund Lutheran Church in Gully with Dawn Hanson officiating. Interment will be in Lund Lutheran Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service on Friday, April 14th, at the Carlin Funeral Home in Fosston. There will also be reviewal for one hour prior to the service on Saturday (15th) at the church in Gully. The service will be recorded and available to view on the Carlin website later in the day Saturday. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.



Obituary for Wesley Wilmo

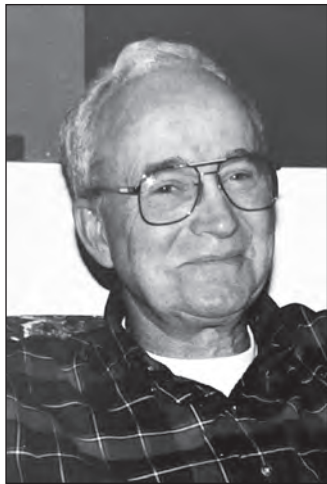
Wesley Stevens Wilmo, 85, of Farm Island/Aitkin, passed away unexpectedly, Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at his home, 1 day after his 85th birthday. He was born March 27, 1938 in Berner to Elmer and Thoma (Hofstad) Wilmo. Wesley graduated from Gonvick High School in 1956. Wesley was united in marriage to Sylvia Steenerson on December 1, 1962 in Clearbrook. Wesley worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator for the City of Crystal from 1967 until retiring and moving to Farm

Island with Sylvia in 1998. He enjoyed ice fishing/spearfishing, riding side x side, plowing snow, guns, collecting ice fishing decoys. Wesley was a real "people person" and loved visiting and telling stories. Wesley will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Wesley is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Warren (who also passed away 1 day after his birthday); sister, Durly.

Wesley is survived by his loving wife, Sylvia; children, Kimberly Wilmo, Kevin (Dori) Wilmo and Keith Wilmo; brother-in-law, Darrell (Lyla) Steenerson; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Services will be Saturday, April 15th at 12 PM in First Lutheran Church, Aitkin with Pastor Reggie Denton officiating. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are preferred to the Community Food Shelf at First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, MN. To sign the guestbook online, go to: www.srtfuneral.com. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Aitkin.



Obituary for Blake Peterson

Blake Donald Peterson, 86, died peacefully on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at home with family in Montrose, MN.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cease Family Funeral Home in Bemidji, MN with a visitation one hour prior.

Blake was born on December 10, 1936, in Clearbrook to Donald and Olga (Hulteen) Peterson. He graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1954 and enlisted in the Navy, serving in Korea on the U.S.S. Murlet. He married Janice Diane Lewis on October 6, 1956. They were married 62 years until her death in 2019. After his discharge from service in 1957, Blake and Jan moved to Gilby, ND, and then to Red Lake Falls, Roseau, Mankato, and Andover before moving back to Clearbrook. They lived on their farm for many years, where the grandkids have their best memories with Grandpa and Grandma. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren. Blake graduated from NDSU in 1963 and completed a Master's in Education from the University of Minnesota in 1986. He worked at the college farm at NDSU, then as a teacher at Midway High school in Gilby, before working 30 years in Extension Service for the University of Minnesota as an agricultural instructor. He had the opportunity to travel to Grenada, St. Thomas, St. Lucia and

Poland to work with local farmers. Blake received the National Achievement Award for Agricultural Extension Agent in the 1980s.

Blake and Jan were longtime members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Clearbrook. Blake always enjoyed being outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and gardening. He often volunteered his knowledge and expertise to help local gardeners and farmers of all levels. He also loved reading, spending time with his family and was an avid sports fan. An engaging storyteller, Blake loved sharing stories with family and friends as well as telling jokes to make others laugh. He charmed everyone he met with his sharp wit and sense of humor. A strong supporter of all veterans, he was quick to engage and visit with other veterans he encountered, always grateful for their service.

Blake is survived by his brother Duane (Marjorie) Peterson of Minneapolis; his children: Deb (Mark) Nelson of Palouse, WA, Jeffrey Peterson Lewis of Barcelona, Spain, Natalee (Paul) Dwyer of Hibbing, and Suzie (Rick) Alsen of Montrose; grandchildren: Matthew Dwyer of Hibbing, Natasha (Jud) Meyer of Watertown, Becky (Jason) Lunger of Spokane, WA, Rachel (Glen) Nelson of Pullman, WA, Nick (Bethany) Dwyer of Eveleth, Blake (Julia) Alsen of Clearwater, Joe (Makayla) Dwyer of Collegeville, Amelia Alsen of Monticello, Lara Dwyer of Hibbing, Gauge Alsen, Chase Alsen, and Nikiya Alsen of Montrose; and great-grandchildren Addy and Finn Meyer of Watertown.

Blake was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Olga Peterson, his wife Jan Peterson, and his sister Yvonne Ingalls and brother-in-law George Ingalls.

The family would like to thank the staff of Sanford Health Windsong Bemidji for their care while Blake lived there and his hospice team for their compassion and care during his final days. He will be greatly missed.

Messages of condolence may be left at www.ceasefuneralhome.com



Obituary for James Paulson

James Paulson, of Trail, MN, passed away on Friday, March 24th, at Essentia Living Center in Fosston at the age of 85 years and 9 months.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th, at New Journey Church in Fosston with Pastors Jarred LeBon and Tyler Stynsberg officiating.

Interment will be in Rosehill Cemetery, Fosston, at a later date. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service on Thursday at the church. Military honors will be conducted by the Army Honors Team. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston. Live-stream of the service may be viewed and messages of condolence shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

James Allen Paulson was born June 17th, 1937 to parents Alvin and Catherine (Schmit) Paulson. He was born in the house on the farm, where he lived the majority of his life. He attended grade school at District 242, a country school about a mile from home. He often told stories about the adventures of walking, and skiing in the winter months, to school. He attended Fosston High School and then attended the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston MN for his final three years of high school education, graduating in 1955. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1957 thru 1959 at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

After that he returned home to farm in partnership with his father.

He was married to the girl across the road, Janice Anderson, on September 10th 1966. To this union two sons were born, Daniel James and Darald Allen Paulson.

Later in years he farmed in partnership with his son Darald. He loved the soil and animals. He was in the dairy business, had a herd of beef cows and raised many hogs along with crops during his lifetime of farming. Farming was not only his occupation, but his passion. It was his favorite thing to do and he did it for over 60 years.

He had few hobbies, as farming was his hobby as

well. However, deer hunting was an important part of the year to him. He was proud that he used the same deer rifle, a 30-40 Krag, for 55 years. Spearing fish in the winter was also a must do thing for him. He provided many neighbors with fish over the years.

He was active in the area community. He served on the board of directors for the Gully Cooperatives for 27 years, many of those years as President. He was on the Land O' Lakes board, the Eden township board, and the Fosston School Board for 12 years. In 1974 he was selected as East Polk County King Agassiz candidate and fulfilled that position at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in Crookston. He was a member of the Fosston Baptist Church, now known as New Journey Church, where he held many positions.

He also enjoyed performing for audiences as his character, Lars Peterson. For many years he entertained crowds at functions in the area telling stories and jokes, having the crowd rolling in laughter. He was sort of a Scandinavian stand-up comic. He loved his Ole and Lena jokes. If you knew him you have heard many of them. Recently at a Gully, MN days celebration he was awarded a "Gully Oscar" for his years of entertainment. This meant a lot to him. For many years he wrote a Christmas letter that incorporated his sense of humor, poking fun at the relatives and neighbors that he loved dearly.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janice; his son Daniel Paulson and his wife Tina of Gully, MN; his grandson Ryan Paulson and his wife Hillary of Trail, MN along with their expected child, whom James was very excited to learn about recently; his granddaughter Nicole (Paulson) Halbur and her husband Jonathan of Fosston, MN and their daughter's Brynlee and Blakely Halbur, whom he loved every minute with; and his granddaughter Hannah Paulson of Sun Lakes, AZ. He is also survived by his two sisters Kathleen Spears of Cottage Grove, MN and Shirley Graftaas of Fosston MN. Brothers-in-law Neal, Larry, Alan, Peter (Beverly), Dale (Cheryl), David (Becky) Anderson and sister-in-law Marilyn (Bob) Benjamin. His in-laws were just like siblings to him. He is also survived by many cousins, nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his son Darald Paulson, his brothers-in-law James Spears and Albert Graftaas, his sisters-in-law Sandra Anderson and Jolene Anderson, his father and mother-in-law Leo and Doris Anderson, his parents Alvin and Catherine Paulson, and nieces, Carla Graftaas and Lisa and Amy Anderson.



Obituary for Howard Hopke

Howard Hopke, age 75, of McIntosh, MN, passed away on Thursday, March 16th, at his home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13th, at the McIntosh Community Center with the Rev. Timothy Lundeen officiating. Interment will be in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, McIntosh. Family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service on Thursday (13th) at the community center. Military honors will be conducted by the Army Honors Team. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of McIntosh and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Howard Henry Hopke was

born on September 16, 1937, in Fosston, Minnesota to parents John and Cora (Berge) Hopke. He grew up on the family farm, attended Willow Grove country school and Fosston High School.

Howard served in the United States Army in Germany from 1961 to 1963.

After returning home, he decided to try Alaska for work and found steady employment in the construction trade running heavy equipment until the early 1980's, then worked for contractors close to home.

He was married to Charlotte Yergens on December 1, 1970. A former hunter, he later became a defender of wildlife and was passionate about pets.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte; nieces, Melissa Benson Fredericks (Jim), Janelle Benson Shaver (Randy), Sandra Lee Larson (Keith), Sharon Lee Johnson, Susan Lee Anderson (Gerald), and Shelley Lee Boyce; nephews, Perry Benson, Jeffrey Benson (Robin), Bryan Benson (Shanel), and Scott Lee; sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Willard Benson; and grand nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, John; sister, Joyce Hopke Lee; and his mother and father-in-law, Leslie and Myra Yergens.

OBITUARIES



Obituary for Lyle Watne

Lyle Curtis Watne, age 73, of Alexandria, MN, passed away on March 17, 2023, at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND.

He was born on October 2, 1949, to Lloyd and Lorraine (Lunden) Watne in Fosston, MN. He was baptized and confirmed at Ekelund Lutheran Church and raised on the family farm in Goodridge, MN.

After high school, Lyle worked at Pacific Pumps in Seattle, WA. He enlisted in the army in November 1968 and was deployed to the Central Highlands of Vietnam. He was stationed at Hue, fire bases Nancy, Barbara, Tomahawk 1, Tomahawk 2, and Sally during his 16-month deployment. After being injured, he received the Purple Heart medal while in the hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam. He returned home in 1970 and attended the Thief River Falls, MN, Vocational School before working for local businesses.

Lyle was married in March 1971, and together they had a daughter*. He worked various jobs, including in the wild rice fields, repairing equipment for Furseth Nelson Implement, and at the missile base in Nekoma, ND. In 1975, he settled into his forever home next to his brother Larry in Alexandria, MN. Lyle worked in construction for a few years and temporarily traveled to Warroad, MN, to work at Marvin Windows. Prior to

retirement, he was a welder for a company that fabricated airport baggage components. This job took him from coast to coast and even to Hawaii. He was also honored at the 2019 Goodridge Freedom Fest for his service in Vietnam.

Lyle paid great attention to detail and took immense pride in caring for his cars, tending to his yard, and maintaining his tractors. His hobbies included visiting with family and friends, tinkering with his tractors, watching NAS-CAR, and being on the lake. He lost his long-term partner, Charlotte, in January 2023. He was always there for her, even caring for her during her illness, providing support and comfort when she needed it most. His unwavering commitment to her well-being was a testament to his kind and compassionate nature. He always had a soft spot for animals and had taken in her beloved cats as his own.

Lyle is survived by his sister, Linda (Howard) Hanson of Trail, MN; brothers, Lonnie Watne of Goodridge, MN, and Lowell (Sherrlene) Watne of East Grand Forks, MN; nieces and nephews, Joanne Olson, Tammy (Lynn) Schmeling, Loren (Lori) Watne, Jimmy (Melissa) Watne, Dean (Naomi) Hanson, Shannon (Jessie) Watne, Jaclyn (Jamie) Lunsetter, David (Jennifer) Watne, and Brittany (Steven) Herve; his daughter*, granddaughters*, many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Lorraine Watne; brother, Larry Watne; nieces, Wendy Thrane, Laurie Bentley, and Paige Watne; nephew, Luanne Hanson; and his special friend, Charlotte Kroska.

Lyle will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His commitment to serving his country and his sense of humor will always be remembered. Arrangements for a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

*Per the daughter's request, these names have been withheld.

Essentia Health moving to voluntary masking in most situations

After careful consideration of the state of COVID-19, Essentia Health will move to a voluntary masking policy for most staff, patients and visitors. This change goes into effect Monday, April 3, and applies to our hospitals, clinics and home health care.

Voluntary masking does not apply to Essentia's long-term care/nursing home facilities or assisted living facilities, which will continue to evaluate masking protocols separately. Hospice staff will follow the policies of the facilities they enter.

As the disease has evolved, we are seeing fewer deaths and hospitalizations related to the virus. Additionally, the current availability of COVID-19 vaccines and effective treatments has improved.

We will still encourage masks for anyone who has symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection, a COVID-19 exposure or other infectious respiratory illnesses.

Masks will remain available at our facility entrances. We will continue following appropriate transmission-based precautions. Staff members caring for COVID-19 patients or suspected COVID-19 patients must still wear full personal protective equipment, and those visiting COVID-19 patients must mask according to our visitor guidelines.

Patients can request that their provider or others on their care team wear a mask.

The move to voluntary masking is another step in our efforts to transition to living with COVID-19 while still encouraging people to



Left to right: Joe Newton, EMS senior director; Sue Halls, EMS supervisor and Star of Life recipient; David Halls, Sue's husband and former Essentia EMS paramedic and current RN at Essentia Health-Ada; Mitch Johnson, EMS manager

Essentia Health's Sue Halls earns Minnesota EMS 2023 Star of Life award

Sue Halls, EMS supervisor for Essentia Health-Ada, was recently recognized with a 2023 Star of Life award at an event hosted by the Minnesota Ambulance Association in St. Paul. In addition, Halls received a Certificate of Recognition for her dedicated service and status as a Stars of Life honoree by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Halls. "It means a great deal that those I most respect in this field thought of me."

Minnesota paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers and other EMS professionals who have gone above and beyond can be nominated as Stars of Life.

Stars of Life is a special program – its sole purpose is to publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements of people working in the selfless and heroic ambulance industry. The program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for their service and sacrifice, and the inspiration they bring to all of us.

"We are proud of the exceptional professionals receiving Stars of Life recognition," said Joe Newton, EMS senior director for Essentia. "Our Stars

represent the best of the best as their stories speak to our mission of providing care to the world at a moment's notice. Congratulations to Sue!"

Halls has served as the EMS Leader for our Ada operations for 22 years. She has been instrumental in maintaining a great working relationship within the hospital and as a role model for the many front line team members. Most recently, Halls has added the additional role of overseeing our Fosston EMS location.

"This is a well-deserved award and recognition for Sue," said Erin Stoltman, administrator at Essentia Health-Ada. "For over 20 years, Sue has been a leader in our community emergency response and has collaborated with our law enforcement, fire and county partners. In 2019, she and her husband Dave were recognized by the Ada Chamber of Commerce with the Community Service Award."

"It is wonderful to see her recognized for her commitment and work by her colleagues in the ambulance association across the state as well."

Halls has dedicated much of her adult life to rural EMS, especially in Norman County, where she and her husband reside. She started her EMS career in 1979 as an EMT in North Dakota before moving



in 1997 with her paramedic husband Dave to Ada – a place where the couple could work together. Four short years later, Halls found herself in a management role and hasn't looked back.

Read more about Halls' story from the Minnesota Ambulance Association.

Minnesota's EMS providers continue to offer excellent service even as they confront serious challenges related to staff and volunteer shortages and increased demand for emergency medical services.

Each year ambulance service providers throughout the state respond to nearly 715,000 calls for service, using 804 individual ambulances. All Minnesotans count on EMTs, paramedics and EMS professionals to provide not only transportation, but high-quality out-of-hospital care to keep Minnesotans safe and healthy.

2023 Free Park Days announced for Minnesota state parks, recreation areas

Minnesotans encouraged to explore outdoors with friends, family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on four dates in 2023. The Free Park Days will be Saturday, April 22; Saturday, June 10; Saturday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Nov. 24.

With the support of the state legislature, the DNR offers Free Park Days to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are open year-round, and there's plenty of fun to be had in the outdoors in every season," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "We hope offering a series of free entrance days will encourage Minnesotans to visit these special places to spend time enjoying the outstanding natural resources our state has to offer and recharge from the stresses of everyday life."

Getting outdoors makes exercise more fun and can boost

mood and immunity. According to the American Psychological Association, exposure to nature is linked to benefits like improved attention and lower stress.

There's a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans. In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, skiing and birding, a variety of state park programs are open to all visitors. Programs are free, but some require pre-registration. Find state park programs online at the state parks and trails events calendar (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

The entrance fee waiver on Free Park Days does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours.

For more information, visit the DNR's Free Park Days page (mndnr.gov/freeparkdays) or contact the DNR Information Center by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or by calling 888-646-6367 between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

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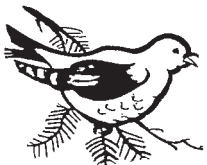
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