

Lakes Area Review

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

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GYMNAST TRIO PERFORM WELL AT STATE
see page 13



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VOL. 139, NO. 9

75¢

AROUND THE LAKES

Tuesday's Table

SPICER-Tuesday's Table, a free community meal co-sponsored by The Link, will be held at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church on March 3, starting at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. The church is located at 6680 153 Ave NE.

SAIL class

NLS AREA - S.A.I.L. (Stay Active and Independent for Life) exercise classes open to seniors 65+ in the New London-Spicer community. The free class focuses on strength, balance and fitness. Classes each Monday and Thursday, starting at 9:30 a.m. Glen Oaks Village Apartments in New London, and Each Tuesday and Thursday starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Dethlef Community Center in Spicer. Everyone welcome.

Food drive

WILLMAR- Hope For Our City grocery distribution, each Wednesday starting at 5:30 p.m. Hope For Our City is located at 1020 Hwy. 71 NE, across from the Flags of Honor memorial. Suggested donation \$1. Everyone welcome.

ArtLuck gathering

NEW LONDON - An ArtLuck Community Gathering takes place at Goat Ridge Brewery on March 5 starting at 6 p.m. Artists, art lovers and/or people curious about local arts and cultural events encouraged to attend. Presented by the New London Arts and Culture Alliance.

Live role play

WILLMAR - Crescent Valley is a live action role play group based in Willmar. The group meets on Sunday afternoons at the Willmar Community Center starting at 1 p.m. The setting is Amtgard, a shire in the Kingdom of Polaris set in Medieval times. Part of the role play includes using foam padded replicas of Medieval era weaponry to create a sword and sorcery type of combat. Attendees encouraged to make their own Medieval garb and weapons.

Youth Basketball Tournament

NEW LONDON - The annual Wildcat Classic Youth Basketball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th for the 3-6 grade girls; Sunday, March 1st for the 3-6 grade boys; and Sunday, March 8th for the 7-8 grade boys and girls. The tournament takes place at the NLS High School and Prairie Woods Elementary. The tournament is a fundraiser for NLS youth basketball.

INSERTS

Teal's

Inserts may cover all or some of the total Review circulation as requested by the business placing the insert.

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Unseasonably warm weather foils some Cabin Fever plans

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

This year's Cabin Fever weekend, sponsored by the New London Area Chamber of Commerce, felt quite a bit different from years past. While the event itself is timed to take place during what is often one of the colder months of the year, the 50 degree weather created some challenges to the original plans.

What began as a winter sales event for Main Street boutiques has evolved into something much more ambitious. "I think it started way back when, maybe 15 years ago or more, and it was basically kind of a winter sale," says Josh Reed, president of the New London Area Chamber of Commerce. "Over the last few years we've tried to kind of expand on it and make it bigger and try to get different things happening with it."

This year's expansion plans included skating on the pond, kick sleds from Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, and luminaries placed around town. "We were going to build luminaries and put those around town and kind of have a space for the beach over there so people could skate," Reed explains. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas. "But then it was super warm for a week or so. And everything got slushy, and then they were kind of worried about doing the stuff on the pond and all

that. So unfortunately, we had to kind of cut the new cool winter activities."

However, the popular sauna and cold plunge still took place, remaining largely unaffected by the warmer than expected temperatures. "Next year, we'd like to bring that back and then try to do some other things and get other people involved," Reed said of the canceled activities.

The Sauna and Cold Plunge: A Nordic Wellness Ritual on the Crow River

Of all the planned events for Cabin Fever, perhaps none captures the spirit of the event quite as vividly as the riverside sauna experience. For \$15 per person (including a 16-ounce can of hop water from Goat Ridge Brewing) guests could reserve a 45-minute session in a sauna followed by a cold plunge in a plunge tank, or, for the especially brave, directly into the Crow River.

"It [the sauna] had like two rows of benches and big windows also," Reed said, noting that the view out on the river was perfect. The event was nearly a complete sellout. "We didn't totally sell out. I think there were two spots left. Overall, it went really well."

To the uninitiated, the idea of voluntarily jumping into a Minnesota river in

Cabin Fever

Continued on page 3

Cabin Fever's central event features the Nordic Cycle, a sauna session followed by a cold plunge. Some chose to plunge in the nearby Crow River over a plunge tank.

Photo by Brady Lindquist



Photo submitted

Volunteers are central to Kandiyohi County Food Shelf's mission. Dollar donations can purchase fresh produce like this, and in March, those dollars can be matched by grants.

The new face of hunger in Kandiyohi County

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

Some of the people seeking help with food security in Kandiyohi County today may never have expected they would need it. It's not just seniors on fixed incomes or families between jobs. Increasingly, it's households that look — on paper — stable.

"We are seeing a lot of middle-class families coming to us due to the rising price of everything," said Alana Ziehl, Executive Director of the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf.

Groceries. Utilities. Rent. Gas. Even families with steady employment are finding that paychecks don't

stretch as far as they once did. "The demand is trending upward," Ziehl said. In 2025, the food shelf averaged 625 families per month. In January 2026, that number climbed to 715 families.

Each month, more than 50 of those families are new.

Statewide data reflects the same pattern. Minnesota food shelves have reported record-high visits in recent years, with families seeking help amid rising housing, grocery and utility costs. Advocates say the need has

New face of hunger

Continued on page 14

County board adopts new tax-forfeit land sale rules in wake of Tyler versus Hennepin US Supreme Court ruling

By Ralph Dickerson
Editor

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners approved two resolutions detailing the process for selling tax-forfeited property at auction at the Feb. 17 county board meeting. The county needed to draft new procedures due to the 2023 case Tyler versus Hennepin County, in which the United States Supreme Court said a municipality keeping the profit from a tax-forfeited property auction violated the US Constitution's Fifth Amendment takings clause.

The case arose when Hennepin County seized a woman's condominium for nonpayment of property tax. The woman owned approximately \$15,000 in taxes, fees and interest. The county sold the condo for \$40,000 and kept all of the proceeds from the sale.

The woman sued, and eventually won. In turn, the win invalidated Minnesota's existing requirements regarding tax-forfeited property, meaning the state, and also counties, needed to rewrite existing tax-forfeited property regulations and procedures.

Kandiyohi County created two new resolutions to address this issue. The first resolution, 2026-13, covers what Kandiyohi County Deputy Auditor Michelle Hanson called "good faith" tax-forfeited parcels. These forfeited parcel seizures occurred between June 23, 2016, and December 31, 2023.

Hanson said a two-step process applies to these "good faith" seized properties, and covers only residential parcels of four units or fewer. Hanson said the county intends to hold the first property auction on March 30, 2026, starting at 9 a.m.

"Any parcels that were residential,

four units or less, must be offered for the first 30 days to someone that will own, occupy (and) use those properties for non-commercial, residential use," said Hanson. "So, these can't be turned into rentals...can't be purchased by folks that will turn them into rentals."

The resolution allows the county to add necessary fees and expenses to the auction price. If the parcels do not sell at auction, for the following 30 days after the March 30 auction, the resolution allows county residents to purchase one of the tax-forfeited properties "over the counter" from the county office at the auction price. During this time, the rules forbid someone from purchasing the property as a rental unit; the owner-occupied residential rule continues to apply.

Any "good faith" tax-seized properties not purchased over the counter during this time then goes to a second auction scheduled tentatively for April 29, 2026. For this auction the owner-occupied residential requirement no longer applies; it allows people to purchase these units to serve as rentals. Again, if these properties do not sell at auction on April 29, they go on sale over the counter at the county office.

Requirements for the sales include cash-only purchases; contract for deed sales forbidden. Also, only people that do not owe delinquent county tax eligible.

After the second 30-day window, if property remains, the old rules then apply to the sale of the parcels. The rules allow a contract for deed payment arrangement, and local units of government now become eligible to

New tax-forfeit land sale rules

Continued on page 4

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ARTS & CULTURE

Koselig Fest Returns But what is a Koselig, anyway?

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

Bundle up. The fire is lit, the stew is on, the river is cold, and the beer is about to get poked. For the fifth consecutive year on February 14th, Goat Ridge Brewing opened its doors --- and its riverside --- to the chill of winter for Koselig Fest, a celebration rooted in the Norwegian philosophy of embracing the cold rather than enduring it. Part of New London's annual Cabin Fever weekend, the festival has become one of the community's most distinctive cold-weather traditions, drawing locals and visitors into a day full of craft beer, honest food, and live music.

What Is 'Koselig'?

The word "koselig" (pronounced roughly "koosh-lee") is a Norwegian concept that resists easy translation. At its most literal, it means cozy --- but that barely scratches the surface. Josh Reed, owner of Goat Ridge Brewing, explained, "Koselig basically means cozy, but it's more than that --- it's that wintertime, warming feeling."

And that's about as close as it gets. It's a feeling, a mindset, and a way of moving through a long, dark winter without surrendering to it. Reed added, "It's really fun. Everybody's in a good mood. There are so many people who just want to be outside."

Many non-Norwegians are more familiar with the Danish concept of hygge, the Scandinavian art of coziness. Koselig is its Norwegian counterpart and close cousin, but with two meaningful distinctions: where hygge leans inward --- a warm bath, a good book, solitude by candlelight --- koselig leans outward. It is collective rather than solitary, and it is fundamentally tied to nature and the outdoors. A Norwegian who faces winters that can last seven months (ahem, sounds familiar) is just as likely to find koselig standing around an open fire in a snowstorm with friends as they are sitting inside by a hearth.

Koselig is built around simple ingredients: fire, company, good food, a warm drink, and a willingness to be present in the moment. It is, at its heart, the antidote to seasonal dread --- and for a small Minnesota waterside town in February, it

fits like a well-worn sweater.

The beer: new releases and a timeless ritual

Goat Ridge Brewing rang in this year's Koselig Fest with two new releases: a Nordic Raw Ale and a Barrel-Aged Sour Ale, both giving guests the chance to warm their hands by the flames while sampling the fruits of Reed's cold-season creativity.

The Nordic Raw Ale is particularly unique. "I go out and I cut cedar branches down at the Goat Ridge Farm, and then we strip the cedar tips off them," explains Reed. "We kind of create a tea with the tips, and that's what we use to mash and sparge our wort for our beer." The result is a cedar-infused ale made with two-row malt, Norwegian yeast, and minimal hops. "Through that technique, it's a no boil," Reed continues. "And then we use this Norwegian yeast that prefers really high temperatures, and it ferments in like two days."

Also returning for another year was the Krampus Doppelbock. At Koselig Fest, the Krampus was served 'beer-poked,' a centuries-old technique that transforms a cold pint into something altogether different.

What the heck is beer poking?

Beer poking, which is native to Germany, is a tradition dating back more than 400 years. The practice was reportedly born from practicality: blacksmiths, who always had hot metal rods on hand, would plunge a glowing poker into their after-work beer when it was too cold to drink comfortably. In doing so, they accidentally discovered something remarkable.

"We have fires going. We put these metal skewers in the fire, and then we use a big, rich doppelbock, a German dark malty beer," Reed describes. "And then you fill the glass, like half full, and you put the red hot poker in there, and just stir it, and then it caramelizes the residual sugars in there. So it just totally changes the flavor of this beer. And the foam is just super, super sweet and malty."

When a red-hot poker is plunged into a malty beer for four to five seconds, the residual sugars left over from fermentation undergo rapid



Photo by Brady Lindquist

Goat Ridge Brewing served its Krampus Doppelbock 'beer poked', which is a method of plunging a hot metal rod into the beer that causes the residual sugars to caramelize and the beer to foam. Food writers describe it as, "the beer equivalent of s'mores".

caramelization. The result is a sudden eruption of foam and flavor: a creamy, toasty foam cap forms on top of an otherwise still-cold beer. Drinkers experience a warm, caramelized sweetness on first sip that gives way to the cool, malty body of the beer beneath. Food writers have described it as "the beer equivalent of s'mores."

The technique works best

with malt-forward styles --- bocks, doppelbocks, dark ales, Baltic porters --- where higher residual sugar content creates the most dramatic caramelization. A Doppelbock, like Goat Ridge's Krampus, is about as ideal a candidate as there is.

Lapskaus: A Stew That Tells a Story

No Koselig Fest would be complete without Lapskaus --- and by popular demand,

the beloved Norwegian stew returned for another year. To eat lapskaus on a cold February afternoon beside a fire is to taste something with centuries of history behind it.

Lapskaus is a hearty stew of beef and root vegetables, often made of potatoes, carrots, rutabaga, celery, and leeks, that is slow-cooked. Recipes vary considerably from region to region and family to family, with each household adding its own touch --- much like chili in America. "We look at different recipes and traditional recipes and tweak them a little bit for what we're using," says Reed. "Kind of the same way with that beer. I take traditional farmhouse brewing --- and take ideas and tweak them."

A Gathering Place in the Heart of Winter

This year's event drew re-

cord crowds. "Yeah, our attendance was huge," Reed recalls. "It was sunny all afternoon, 50 degrees. By one o'clock, everybody was on the picnic tables, which were dry after a few hours." With music from 1:00 p.m. and into the evening, "the whole backyard, all the tables were full for a few hours. There were 390 [sauna] tickets. So I'm sure there were over 700 people that came through for the day."

In many ways, Goat Ridge Brewing's Koselig Fest embodies what the Norwegian concept it is named for actually means in practice: a community choosing to come together rather than retreat, to celebrate the season rather than tolerate it.

So try it. Bundle up. Grab a pint. Get poked. And get a little koselig.

Prairie Public to premiere new season of Prairie Musicians

The series features performances of original music from regional artists

Press Release

February 25, 2026 (FARGO, ND) — Prairie Public is debuting a new season of their original production Prairie Musicians to focus the spotlight on regional talent—seven singer-songwriters and bands recorded live in Prairie Public's downtown Fargo studio. Thirty-minute sets premiere at 9 p.m. on Thursdays beginning March 19. Each episode will be available to stream on the PBS app and on Prairie Public's YouTube channel.

March 19 – Folk trio MoonCats of Pick City, N.D.

March 26 – Singer/songwriter Emma Josephine of Ham Lake, Minn.

April 2 – Blues, rock, and folk band Darren Quam & Friends of Battle Lake, Minn.

April 9 – Americana musician Ben Stoeck of Alexandria, Minn.

April 16 – Alternative rock group The Winter Sloths of Fergus Falls, Minn.

April 23 – Mother-and-son duo Katy Tessman & Sweet Lou of Hopkins, Minn.

April 30 – Pop and soul singer Alma Cook of Williston, N.D.

Prairie Musicians is made possible with funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and members of Prairie Public.

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About Prairie Public:

Prairie Public, a nonprofit public media organization and member station of PBS and NPR, provides content and services utilizing television, radio, and digital platforms. Prairie Public is headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota, and serves the state of North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, and southern Manitoba. For more information, visit prairiepublic.org.



Photo submitted

Local New London artists Brooke & Jonny performed with "Darren Quam and Friends" on Prairie Musicians, which can be streamed on April 2nd. The band was also recently confirmed for "Fargo Blues Festival" which takes place July 24-25 at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo, ND.

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March 13
March 20
March 27
Finals- April 10

Time: 8:00 PM

Where: 155 Lake Ave. South, Spicer, MN

SPICER AMERICAN LEGION POST 545

Must be 18 by July 1, 2026 to enter. No purchase necessary. WE Fest reserves final judging decisions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New ambulance sidelined by engine failure

City's newest emergency vehicle under warranty repair after weekend breakdown

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

New London's newest ambulance sits idle this week after its engine failed over the weekend—a breakdown that city officials say is covered under warranty but highlights ongoing reliability issues with certain Ford engines.

The engine failure was announced during the February 18th City Council meeting, with City Clerk-Treasurer Emily Thielen noting the ambulance would be out of service for approximately one week while repairs are completed.

"Over the weekend, the engine in our new ambulance rig blew up," she told council members, adding quickly, "On the upside, it will be replaced within about a week, fully covered under warranty."

The vehicle will be repaired at Yarmon Ford, as warranty work must be completed at an authorized Ford service center.

According to Thielen, maintenance supervisor Sig Holme researched the issue and discovered that engine failure is "common in that engine"—a revelation that prompted brief discussion among council

members about vehicle manufacturer choices.

"I can't believe we blew up the engine," said Mayor John Dahl upon hearing the news.

The breakdown comes as a particular concern given the ambulance's role in emergency medical response, but city officials emphasized that New London maintains a backup ambulance that remains in service during the repairs.

"That is the other part that's there," Dahl noted, referring to the importance of having back up emergency vehicles.

The city did not disclose the cost of the engine replace-

ment, as it falls entirely under the manufacturer's warranty.

It was not specified how many miles were on the vehicle at the time of failure, though council discussion suggested relatively low mileage for such a catastrophic mechanical issue.

Ford has not issued any formal recall on the engines in question, though the "common" nature of the failure may indicate a broader pattern affecting similar vehicles in other municipalities.

The ambulance is expected to return to service by the end of next week.

Kandiyohi County resident honored for dedicated volunteer service to Senior Living Community

Bethesda press release

Each year, LeadingAge Minnesota's Volunteer of the Year award recognizes individuals whose commitment and dedication enhance the quality of life for seniors and their communities. This year's award winner is Peggy Sampson of Willmar. Peggy Sampson's commitment to older adults at Bethesda reflects the very heart of volunteerism—faithful, selfless, and rooted in love for those she serves.

Since 2024, Peggy has been the steady, joy-filled center of the Current Trends Christian Gift Shop, volunteering five days a week to welcome residents, team members, and visitors with warmth and care. In addition to creating a welcoming space for meaningful connection, the gift shop's proceeds benefit the Bethesda

Foundation, helping support programs and services that enrich the lives of residents throughout the community.

"Peggy brings joy, compassion, and steadfast dedication to everyone she meets," said Michelle Haefner, CEO of Bethesda. "Her presence in our gift shop not only makes it a special place for residents and visitors alike, but every bit of that effort also supports the Bethesda Foundation. The foundation's work helps enhance life at Bethesda in countless ways—from meaningful activities and resident programs to services that bring comfort and community. We are truly grateful for Peggy's heart for service and the impact she has on all of us."

Join us in congratulating Peggy for being recognized with this award.



On Feb. 10 LeadingAge Minnesota's Starts Among Us program honored Bethesda volunteer Peggy Sampson with its Volunteer of the Year Award at the St. Paul Hotel. Pictured from left, Kari Thuriow, president and CEO of LeadingAge Minnesota, Sampson and LeadingAge board chair Natan Johnson.



Photo submitted

2025 Peace Poster Contest winners

The Spicer Sunrise Lions Club recently recognized its 2025 Peace Poster Contest winners. Olivia Westby, left, earned first place honors, and Manny Contreras placed second.

Cabin Fever Continued from page 1

February might sound foolish. But the pairing of hot sauna and cold plunge, sometimes called the Nordic Cycle, has deep roots in Scandinavian culture. Originating with the Vikings who considered saunas sacred spaces for physical and spiritual purification, they believed that following up with plunges into icy waters enhanced vitality and mental

clarity.

And the science backs up what Nordic cultures have known for generations. Alternating hot and cold exposure creates a contrast therapy effect: heat dilates blood vessels, relaxes muscles and releases endorphins, while the cold plunge causes them to constrict, reducing inflammation and triggering an adrenaline

response. Regular practitioners report improved circulation, reduced stress, better sleep, and a stronger immune system.

Doing it riverside, in the snow, with a craft beer or hop water nearby, is about as Nordic as it gets.

Looking ahead, Reed remains optimistic about the future of Cabin Fever. "You

know, we like to be able to do those winter activities. Hopefully expand on that and get some more businesses doing things other than sales, if we can. Some more fun, unique things to do. I guess we're always open to new ideas. It's nice in the wintertime to have another thing for people to come to town for and connect and enjoy themselves."

THIS WEEK IN LAKES HISTORY

Compiled by Ralph Dickerson

100 Years Ago

New London Times, Feb. 25, 1926

NELSON-NELSON

"Art" Nelson, the popular mail carrier on Route 3, out of New London, sprung a great surprise on his friends last week, by taking unto himself a wife. And the young lady of choice is none other than Miss Lucile Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K.H. Nelson of

Lake Andrew Township, and well known throughout this part of the county. The nuptial knot was tied on Thursday, at the Swedish Mission church parsonage in Willmar, and Rev. J.J. Daniels, pastor of the church officiated. The groom was attended by Mr. Einar Brogren of Willmar, ...

75 Years Ago

New London Times, Feb. 22, 1951

Bob's Broadcast

A new magazine, "Mark Trail," appeared on the newstands Feb. 16. This outdoor magazine is named after the well-known newspaper and radio hero, created by Ed. Dodd. It is being published to encourage our youth to enjoy and conserve the outdoors and to impress the advantages of the American way of life.

The greatest effort in medical history is underway

50 Years Ago

New London-Spicer Times, Feb. 26, 1976

Joe's Cafe broken into

Burglars broke into Joe's Cafe on Highway 23 near New London late Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

They gained entrance by cutting a screen and breaking a window and found money (between \$50 and \$80), which has been hidden in the building. The money was to be used for opening the cafe the next day.

Joe's Cafe is now owned by Wellington Nelson of New London.

The burglary was investigated by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Department.

Historical society to hold annual meeting

We have enjoyed nearly a week of mild weather, although not considered fair weather. Temperatures held near freezing mark and above over the weekend, causing large snow banks to shrink in size...

The Monongalia Historical Society will hold its annual meeting Thursday evening, February 26th at 8 p.m. at their Historical Society Building.

Ervin Kalevik has an interesting set of slides of the progress and activities of the Society 1974-75. They consist of moving the log cabin to the site, building displays, converting the old church building into a museum, painting the exterior of the building, steeple, etc.

Also, activities such as the Norwegian worship service, plus others.

Lunch and social hour follows the program...

25 Years Ago

Kandiyohi County Times, Feb. 26, 2001

Spicer CC debates

constructing road

To build, or not to build, the frontage road in Spicer was debated at the Feb. 21 city council meeting...again.

This discussion followed the presentation of a proposed capital improvement plan by financial consultant David Drown.

Drown said the city is in "excellent" financial condition. The several improvements proposed in the city should be able to be done without much adverse impact.

Included in the future plans is a frontage road from Manitoba Street to Woodcock Drive, something Spicer has been considering to build in conjunction with the expanded Highway 23 project.

After hearing specifics, such as estimated costs and whether any or part of these costs may be assessed, a definite decision on building the road has yet to be made.

Another problem is one landowner in the area has

flatly refused to pay any assessments on the improvements. This person said the land is not developable due to the presence of wetlands.

Council member Gene Wenzel said, "The future of the frontage road is, in my opinion, pretty dim."

He asked whether the road could be built from Medayto Drive to Woodcock instead, to save the city some of the estimated \$200,000 cost.

City engineer Randy Sabart said it could. However, if this were done, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) "might not participate in cost sharing for the road because its main benefit would be lost."

The benefit is the diverting of local traffic off the highway, he said. Routing the frontage road to Medayto would mean motorists would still need to drive on the highway to get downtown.

Drown suggested that, instead, the city build a street about 300 feet west of the proposed frontage road...

10 Years Ago

Lakes Area Review, Feb. 27, 2016

Fish cleaning station, docking facility may be added to GL access

On behalf of Little Crow Anglers, Jerome Jakobson spoke to the Spicer city council during its regular meeting last Friday to gauge its level of support for a fish cleaning station at the DNR's Green Lake access north of Saultsbury Beach.

"A lot of major (lake) accesses have fish cleaning stations," he said. "With invasive species, you used to put your fish in a live well, but now you drain everything."

Because the DNR plans on expanding the Spicer access in 2016, this would be an ideal time to add a fish cleaning station, Jakobson said. He said Little Crow Anglers would be willing to build the station if the city would take over the on-going costs and maintenance.

The fish cleaning station would have a waste holding tank, a water supply, electrical supply, roof and shelter.

"It also would have what's like a super-duper garbage disposal, and as you clean your fish, the waste would go into the garbage disposal and tank," he said.

The tank would need to be emptied with a waste pump-truck. The nature of the waste—fish scales and bones, etc.—would be too much for the sanitary sewer to handle, Jakobson said.

The fish cleaning station at a busy lake he visits in South Dakota is pumped out monthly. Having a waste holding pumped out costs about \$180 at a time, he said.

If the fish cleaning station is approved by the city and the DNR, Spicer's would be the first in the state at a DNR access, Jakobson said...

KANDIYOHI COUNTY FOOD SHELF

624 Pacific Ave SW,
Willmar, MN
320-235-2641

Hours of operation:

Monday

Curbside: 8am - 3:30pm
In person: 10am - 3pm

Tuesday

Curbside: 8am - 5pm
In person: 10am - 3pm

Wednesday

Curbside: 8am - 3:30pm
In person: 10am - 3pm

Thursday

Curbside: 8am - 1pm
In person: 10am - Noon

Friday

Closed

Curbside: when you get here, stop by the stop sign by our front door. Give us a call, there's a sign on the wall with our number, and we will get you registered

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New London American Legion

Sat, Feb 28
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BAR IS OPEN
Gig Noonan • 6-10pm

Monday, Mar 2 • 6:30pm
SAL Meeting

Sat, Mar 7 • 6-10pm
Roy Golden

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TUESDAY \$12
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WEDNESDAY \$12
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CIVIC NEWS

Spicer council reviews strong year-end financials, discusses council vacancy, fills several key roles and okays grant

By Ralph Dickerson
Editor

At the Feb. 17 Spicer City Council meeting, the body heard an update on the city's fourth quarter 2025 finances from Mandy Robinson of ABDO. Though Robinson stressed she presented the preliminary figures to the council, she said "everything looks great, and remain in line with prior years.

Robinson said cash and investments in 2025 totaled a little over \$8.1 million, with

investments amounting to approximately \$3.6 million divided between CDs and money market accounts. While overall General Fund revenues fared well, with license and permit fees bringing in more than budgeted, interest earnings brought in less due to rates not as high as projected. Robinson said ABDO intends to adjust interest projections going forward.

"Here we're looking at your year-to-date actuals versus the budget," said Robinson. "Ev-

erything looks great."

In 2025 city spending came in under budget in several key areas including Finance and Administration, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the library. The city undertook to major park renovation projects in 2025: installing bathrooms at Pirrotta Park, and renovating West Side Park and also installing a bathroom. The city used its Local Option Sales Tax revenue for these projects, meaning the spending did not go on the city tax levy. In addi-

tion, public works did not need to perform some budgeted capital repairs in the city.

Robinson said the water and sewer funds remain stable, with revenues trending similar to past years. After hearing the report from Robinson, the council approved it.

In other action, City Administrator Jen Beckler provided the Public Works update due to supervisor Chad Lien out briefly on medical leave. Beckler said the new garbage cans already arrived for Pirrotta and West Side Parks, with the new benches in transit.

Beckler said she received the renewal contract for street sweeping, and also estimates for curb and parking lot painting. Beckler said she placed both items in Lien's work basket for him to review.

Beckler also broached the topic of lighted displays for the parks. She provided several printed out catalog pages for council members to review prior to making a decision.

Also, Beckler suggested the city create a walk-through lighted Christmas display at West Side Park, and lighted Christmas/winter trees in front of city hall to illuminate the front of the building due to the poor lighting.

At the Feb. 3 meeting council member Ted Kroll turned in his resignation due to moving to Florida. The city posted the council vacancy, and received three applications to fill Kroll's unexpired term. Beckler said she intends to include all applications in the March 17 council meeting packet for members to review and select someone to take the seat.

Kroll's resignation means the city needs to replace his seat as one of the city's representatives on the sewer board. Until the city picks a replacement for Kroll, the council appointed Lien and Beckler to the board on a temporary basis, with the plan to seat Kroll's replacement on the sewer board.

Beckler said she approved two Spicer Legion auxiliary bingo events for this year. One event occurs on March 28, and the other on Nov. 21.

Beckler said the February planning and zoning meeting did not take place due to the party in question not paying the fee on time. Beckler said the body intends to discuss the issue at the March meeting.

The city's Economic Development Administration approved Kevin Lindquist to fill a seat on the EDA board, and approved a \$20,000 grant for SNAP Fitness. The business recently moved from the shopping mall to the old Bell Tower building, and incurred significant costs renovating the space for the gym. The grant helps to cover the costs.

CORRECTION

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

In the Bridging divides article that ran in the February 7th issue, the Citizen's League Executive Director is Jake Loesch, not Tesch. Additionally, The Legislative Exchange is a program that is organized by Citizen's League. It partners with the Center for Rural Policy and Development on the Interconnected webinar series, but not the overall management of the program.



Photo by Carlotta Eischens

PWELC Executive Director Jennifer Swenson says if awarded, the grant funds would be used to conduct appropriate assessments prior to any potential construction work.

Prairie Woods receives approval for possible \$50,000 environmental review grant for improvements at the park

By Ralph Dickerson
Editor

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners gave permission for Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to apply for an Environmental and Archeological grant in an amount of up to \$50,000 to help fund early planning and review work needed for Phase One improvement projects at the park. Prairie Woods Executive Director Jennifer Swenson said the organization needs to submit the finished application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Swenson said later this year, sometime in July, PWELC then needs to submit a legacy funding application to the state asking for funds for the Phase One construction. The commissioners approved the environmental and archeological grant application at the Feb. 17 county board meeting.

"Before we can apply for funding for construction, we want to first complete the appropriate environmental and archeological reviews and assessments, and so we're planning responsibly from the start, and so we're planning to apply for this environmental and archeological grant in an amount not

to exceed \$50,000 to help cover those early planning and assessment costs," said Swenson. "It would cover determining the area is developable based on different permitting history, rare plant species, just to identify whether the area is okay to develop, artifacts...archeology, things like that. That would be reviewed and assessed and kind of checked off on, and that process takes several months."

The Phase One improvement plan contains three key projects. The main improvement occurs at the Welcome Center. Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center intends to construct an addition to the front of the Welcome Center to make it much more accessible. As part of the addition, Swenson said PWELC also intends to improve parking for the building.

Other Phase One improvement include projects at the outdoor canoe and kayak dock, and improvements at the yurt area. Swenson said the timeline for the preplanning of the projects to finish takes up to three years. In addition to applying for funding, PWELC intends to form a project team, which includes an architect, to scope out the Welcome Center addition and the other Phase One improvement projects.

New tax-forfeit land sale rules

Continued from page 1

purchase these properties. Tax-forfeited properties seized after December 31, 2023, fall under the rules created by Resolution 2026-14. This resolution also creates a two-stage auction process to sell these particular units. The first auction occurs on March 1, 2026, starting at 9 a.m.

Pricing for these homes differ from the "good faith" parcels. The price for these units started at the estimated market value at the time of forfeiture, plus fees, costs and any special assessments levied after property forfeiture.

If unsold at auction, the county then offers these parcels for sale over the counter at the county office on the market value pricing structure. The over the counter sales last for 30 days.

If any parcels remain after this 30 day period, the next sale stage starts. The second stage includes a minimum bid sale structure, which consists of any delinquent taxes, assessments, fees and any special assessments levied after forfeiture, or any special assessments scheduled. This minimum bid sale price holds for the following 30 days. These

sales follow a cash-only basis and for any resident not owing delinquent property taxes.

Board chair Steve Gardner clarified that anyone interested in the parcels needed to attend the auctions in-person. He also said if anyone wanted to inspect the properties, they simply needed to contact Hanson's office and make arrangements to view the properties.

Commissioner Roger Indieke asked Hanson how the county intended to monitor and enforce the rules regarding the good faith sales which require residential occupation buyers only. He wanted to know how the county intended to handle a situation where a person claimed to purchase the property for a child to live in, fix up the property and then flip it?

"That's one thing we haven't talked about," said Hanson. "That would be one thing that we would have to figure out in that 30 days prior to the auction."

Hanson said a possibility existed of County Attorney Shane Baker crafting an agreement between the buyer and the county prohibiting such actions.

Prairie Lakes Youth Program secures lease through 2027 with option for six month extensions

By Ralph Dickerson
Editor

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement between the county and the Prairie Lakes Youth Program in Willmar. The lease concerned the secure building located at 1808 Civic Center Drive NE.

County Administrator Kelsey Baker said the current lease expires on March 13 of this year, and the new agreement extends the lease until March 31, 2027. After that time, the lease possesses the option for renewal in six month increments. The annual rent paid on the building by PLYP totals \$43,790.40, paid in monthly installments.

"I spoke with Commissioner (Corky) Berg who sits on that Joint Powers (Board)," said Baker. "Prai-

rie Lakes has been looking at building options and what will be their best option moving forward long term. And so, I did not raise their rent because they're in the process of looking at structures and where that best use will be."

Baker said if PLYP eventually concludes the current secure building meets its needs, then the county intends to broach the topic of increased rent for the structure. Baker said this agreement gives PLYP time to examine its options before moving forward.

Part of the new agreement covered the responsibilities for each party. For example the county maintains responsibility for outdoor maintenance including exterior maintenance of the building and snow removal.

Prairie Lakes handles indoor responsibilities. Currently the two sides continue to discuss the responsibility for window replacement for the structure.

Commissioner Berg said he did not see any problem with the lease, and said the facility remained a critical asset to the county on several different levels. He said it not only brings the county economic benefits due to the number of staff employed at the facility, but it provides a great facility for troubled youth. It also benefits the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office, said Berg.

"It's very important for the Sheriff's Office to be able to take children there that need detention," said Berg.

Do you want to comment on this story? Email ralph@nslakesareareview.com.



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City to host public forum on 2026 construction projects

Open house scheduled for March 17 will give residents chance to review infrastructure plans

By Shannon Urban
Staff Writer

New London residents will have an opportunity to learn about planned infrastructure improvements and ask questions about how construction will affect their neighborhoods during a public open house scheduled for March 17.

The 2026 Project Open House will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at City Hall, with engineering firm Bolton & Menk on hand to present plans and answer technical questions about the work ahead.

The event was announced during the February 18th City Council meeting, with City Clerk-Treasurer Emily Thielens confirming the date for both council members and the engi-

neering consultants.

"Bolton & Menk is going to be here to answer questions," she told council members, adding that their attendance is encouraged but not required.

The open house format allows residents to drop in at their convenience during the two-hour window, review project maps and specifications, and speak directly with engineers and city officials about specific concerns or questions.

While the city has not yet publicly released a detailed list of which streets or utilities will be addressed in 2026, such open houses typically cover planned water and sewer line replacements, street reconstruction, storm sewer

improvements and other infrastructure work that may affect traffic patterns, parking and property access during construction season.

The timing of the announcement—nearly a month in advance—gives residents time to mark their calendars and prepare questions about projects that may affect their properties or daily routines.

Mayor John Dahl noted the open house falls on St. Patrick's Day.

Bolton & Menk has served as the city's engineering consultant on multiple infrastructure projects over the years, providing design work, cost estimates and construction oversight. Having their representatives available allows

residents to get technical answers about engineering decisions, construction timelines and how specific challenges will be addressed.

The open house provides an informal setting where residents can have one-on-one conversations, review detailed plans and gain a clearer understanding of what to expect during the construction season.

The March 17 open house will be held at New London City Hall. No RSVP is required, and residents may attend at any point during the 4 to 6 p.m. window.

Those unable to attend but seeking information about 2026 projects may contact City Hall for project details and timelines.

Surviving ICE: How to build from the ashes

By Roger Imdieke, District 4
Kandiyohi County Commissioner

I have the distinct privilege of meeting regularly with a group of county colleagues from around the state. When we get together, we tackle tough issues, most recently sharing with each other how the federal "Metro Surge" has affected our communities.

The gripping and emotional experiences of my colleagues were—quite frankly—more than I was prepared for at that moment. While not all in the room had stories that related to the "Metro Surge," most did.

Stories of the impact, and how it affected their communities, were shared around the room. Clearly, Hennepin County was the epicenter of the focus of ICE.

However, many, many of the eighty-seven counties in MN have been affected. Ramsey County, the suburban ring counties, and counties from across the state, especially counties that have, within their boundaries, significant immigrant communities. Nobles, Stearns, Olm-

sted, Freeborn, and yes, my county of Kandiyohi, have felt the impact.

I shared the widely disseminated knowledge of the actions of ICE in Kandiyohi County; a high school student pulled from her car, and then later turned out on the sidewalk in front of the Whipple Building with no ride back to Willmar, a family that refused to come to the door when a law enforcement officer attempted a welfare check after one of the parents was detained at the nearby school bus stop, four thousand students absent in one week alone from the Willmar School District....

Few, if any of these communities will be spared the economic and social impact. And lest readers think the folks in the room having this difficult conversation are bleeding-hearts, they were not.

No one disagreed with the goal of removing the "worst of the worst." But nearly all disagreed with tactics used by ICE.

The casual disregard for human rights, resulting in the collateral "netting" of citizens

and residents in our communities with legal status, was largely viewed as unacceptable. I try to counsel those that have endured hardships and setbacks, with the view that, someday we will look back and say, "as tough as that was, some good has come of it."

Sometimes that look back is far down the road. However, sometimes it happens sooner.

The public perception of trust of our public safety community in MN has justifiably raised. Put in an extremely difficult positions, they have demonstrated over and over, that residents in our communities can be confident that these men and women have our backs.

As we restore our communities, we will show the world that Minnesota will endure. We will support the businesses impacted by the ICE.

We will rebuild the trust of our migrant communities. And, we will no longer take our democracy for granted.

From the lyrics of a seventies era song by the Moody Blues.... "From the Ashes, We Will build a Better Day!"

CDC terminates grant for Minnesota meant to strengthen public health infrastructure

Minnesota Department of Health press release

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that they have cancelled about \$38 million in public health investments for Minnesota, effective as of Feb. 11. The terminated funding is from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), and is the latest development in the federal government's ongoing campaign of retribution against Minnesota.

This five-year grant began in 2022 and was set to expire in 2027. Nationwide, 107 health departments across all 50 states received this funding, but only Minnesota and three other states are having these funds cancelled.

"There is simply no need or valid justification for these targeted cuts that put Minnesotans at risk. These cuts by the federal government, and other cuts to public health funding over the past year, highlight a total disregard for promoting health and wellbeing. The ongoing cuts create an environment of chaos and confusion for communities," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dr. Brooke Cunningham. "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' actions directly contradict their claims that they are working to make Americans healthier. They are making us less healthy, less safe and less prepared to respond to emergencies."

CDC's own website states that the Public Health Infrastructure Grant "is a groundbreaking investment supporting critical public health infrastructure needs across the United States." Yet, the funds are abruptly being taken away. CDC's stated reason for terminating Minnesota's grant was, "inconsistent with agency priorities." The CDC's assertion that Minnesota's use of funds is inconsistent with their agency priorities is at odds with their CDC priorities statement which calls for "modernizing public health infrastructure."

As intended, Minnesota has been using the Public Health Infrastructure Grant to support critical public health infrastructure needs. The abrupt termination of these awards will directly and immediately impact the work of multiple programs within MDH as well as the work of local health agencies, Tribal public health and community partners who receive funds from these awards through MDH. The funds were being used to strengthen Minnesota's public health workforce; modernize our data systems; support emergency planning and response work; build public health services and capacity at the local level, especially in Greater Minnesota; enhance efficiencies and effectiveness of public health programs; and much more.

To be ready for the next

health threat, there has to be an investment in public health infrastructure. The federal government is making that harder by stripping away these funds.

"This is not normal. Assaults like this hurt our state and make it harder for us to do our work to protect, maintain and improve the health of Minnesotans," said Commissioner Cunningham.

Attorney General Ellison joined the attorneys general from the other targeted states (California, Colorado and Illinois) in filing a lawsuit. The lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order to maintain the funding while the lawsuit proceeds.

MDH was also notified that the CDC cut about \$250,000 in funds for the Core State Injury Prevention Program (SIPP), which supports public health infrastructure, data and partnerships to identify and respond to existing and emerging injury threats with data-driven public health actions.

Additionally, MDH is aware that CDC has notified Congress that they plan to cut additional grants starting next week. Those grants are the Preventive Services Block Grant (PBG) as well as the HIV Surveillance and Prevention-Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments grant. All of these actions further erode Minnesota's ability to prevent and respond to myriad public health challenges.

City of Willmar launches zoning code update

City of Willmar press release

The City of Willmar has officially launched its Zoning Code Update following a Joint Work Session with the City Council and Planning Commission on February 12. This marks the beginning of a comprehensive effort to modernize the City's zoning regulations and align them with the vision established in the WITH Willmar Comprehensive Plan.

WHAT IS A ZONING CODE UPDATE?

A zoning code update is a full review and rewrite of the rules that guide how land can be used and developed within the city. Willmar's current zoning code was adopted in 1994, and since then, development patterns, community needs, and best practices in planning have evolved significantly.

Updating the zoning code will:

- Support high-quality, well-planned development;
- Encourage housing options that meet community needs;
- Strengthen local business and economic development opportunities;
- Improve clarity and usability for residents, developers, and staff;
- Ensure regulations reflect Willmar's long-term vision for growth.

The result will be a modern, user-friendly zoning code that supports future development, enhances community character, and provides clear guidance for property owners and investors.

TAKE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Community input is essential to shaping the updated zoning code. Residents, business owners, and stakeholders are encouraged to complete the online survey available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a5ab05776ad-646b6a61640bf7f2c485b> (The survey will be linked to willmarmn.gov)

Hard-copy surveys are also available at City Hall and can be completed onsite or returned to staff. The survey will go live on tomorrow, February 20th and remain open until March 20, 2026.

The City will continue to share updates throughout the process. Follow along on all City of Willmar social media platforms and sign up for the Planning & Zoning Newsletter at:

https://www.willmarmn.gov/departments/planning_and_development/planning___zoning_newsletter_sign-up.php.

Two months in: Listening to local employers on paid family and medical leave

From the office of Minnesota State Representative Dave Baker

Minnesota's new Family & Medical Leave law went into effect on January 1, and now that we're two months into implementation, the feedback from businesses across our state has been incredibly important.

While many employers understand the intent behind the program, what we continue to hear is that the rollout felt rushed and the policy was presented as a one-size-fits-all solution. The challenge is clear: what may be manageable for a Fortune 500 company like Target, with more

than 440,000 employees worldwide, looks very different for a small business with 15 employees trying to cover shifts and keep the doors open. Those differing realities matter.

That's why it was so valuable to host the Lakeville Chamber of Commerce alongside Representative Jeff Witte (R-Lakeville) and hear directly from local business leaders about their experiences with the rollout. These are the voices we need at the table—employers who are navigating these policies in real time and working hard to support their employees while keeping their businesses strong.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS

March 2, 2026

- Kandiyohi City Council meeting, Kandiyohi City Hall/Civic Center, 432 Atlantic Ave. 7 p.m.
- Dovre Township meeting, 7 p.m. in the town hall, 3077 County Road 27 NW, Willmar.
- Colfax Township meeting, 7 p.m. 26490 5th St. NW, New London.

March 3, 2026

- Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners meeting, 9 a.m. Health and Human Services building second floor meeting room, 2200 23rd St. NE, Willmar.
- Spicer City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. Dethlefs Community Center, 217 Hillcrest Ave. Spicer.
- Pennock City Council meeting, Pennock Community Center, 305 Dakota Ave. 7 p.m.
- Regal City Council meeting, 7 p.m. 14451 Hwy. 55 NE, Belgrade, MN.

March 4, 2026

- New London City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. 10 Ash Street SE, New London.

March 9, 2026

- Kandiyohi County Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m. Health and Human Services building second floor meeting room, 2200 23rd St. NE, Willmar.
- Kandiyohi County Board of Adjustments meeting, 6 p.m. Health and Human Services building second floor meeting room, 2200 23rd St. NE, Willmar.
- New London-Spicer Board of Education meeting, 4:30 p.m. District Conference Room.
- League of Women Voters meeting, 6 p.m. at Willmar Public Library Multipurpose Room.

March 10, 2026

- Sunburg City Council meeting, Sunburg Fire Department, 211 Isola Street, 7 p.m.
- Burbank Township meeting, 7 p.m. in the meeting hall at 5201 28th Ave NE, Belgrade.
- Arctander Township meeting at East Norway Lake Church, 16720 68th Street NW, New London

March 12, 2026

- Roseville Township meeting, 7 p.m. 15768 232nd Ave NE, Hawick.

PET OF THE WEEK:

ZOOTS

Have you been wanting a calm and relaxing companion to cuddle with after a long day? Meet Zoots, a 1-year-old female black and white tuxedo cat. Zoots is a very sweet girl and though she may seem shy at first, she very quickly warms up to you and loves to be curious about her surroundings, sniffing everything in sight. She loves to head butt you to get your attention and curl up on your lap for all the scratches she can get. She did previously live with a small dog in a home and multiple cats and did good. Zoots would love a calm and comfortable home where she can relax and enjoy her day lying on a nice cozy bed. So, if you're ready for someone to enjoy cozying up at home with, Zoots is your girl!

Hawk Creek Animal Shelter
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OPINION

Ted Here..... by Ted Almen

For once, I am not going to mention the name of Donald Trump in my column. Oh no, I just mentioned Donald Trump. And now I did it again, I said Donald Trump...

And so goes the bit from 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail,' a classic movie from 1975 which I first saw at one of the two downtown movie theaters formerly in Willmar, and have subsequently watched over and over again. Parts of the movie, as I've mentioned in a previous column, are famously quotable, if not always 100 percent accurately. "English pig-dog, I fart in your general direction, you wiper of other people's bottoms. Your father was a hamster and your mother smelled of elderberries," for example. And did you know you can purchase elderberry extract from the Potpourri Health Foods store in Willmar? I have no idea what elderberries smell like, nor what they can do for you.

(The lede sentence is a take-off from the Knights Who Say Ni, in case you're wondering. Check out Monty Python if you are in the mood for a flick that is so dumb it's hilarious.)

Anyway, back to not mentioning Donald Trump in this week's column -- drat, I did it again. What I actually wanted to write about was a something seriously dumb -- as opposed to fun-dumb -- which was posted as a letter to the editor in a regional newspaper about the time when Alex Pretti had been gunned down in cold blood on a street in Minneapolis by incompetent and criminally culpable ICE agents. The letter writer, believe it or not, was attempting to justify this homicide by quoting the Bible:

"The apostle Paul in Romans 13:2, of the Holy Bible, states: "Whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do will bring judgement on themselves."

And my first reaction to this was: "So Hitler was right after all?"

Of course not, but as ludicrous as that statement is,

the simple-mindedness of a supposed Christian in skewing words of the Good Book to cover evil-doing is more likely to cause people to reject religion than to accept such a misinterpretation of scripture. While I will be the first to admit that I am far from being any kind of a Biblical scholar, even such a poor student as myself can understand that in no way does the Bible -- and especially not the New Testament -- condone the shooting of a man 10 times in the back as he was being restrained on the ground by a half dozen men. It just does not calculate.

While researching this subject some words of wisdom appeared on my computer screen from a place called Bayside Church which addressed Romans 13:1-7. Not inconsequently, the author of said insight also pointed to my knee-jerk reaction about Adolph Hitler's lack of Godly authority, and noted that besides the six million Jews who everyone knows were exterminated by the Nazis during WWII, there were another five million non-Jewish people murdered (not even mentioning the 15 million military deaths and millions more civilian deaths due to that brutal war).

"Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, blacks, the physically and mentally disabled, political opponents of the Nazis, dissenting clergy, resistance fighters, prisoners of war, Slavic peoples, and many individuals from the artistic communities whose opinions

and works Hitler condemned." All were in Hitler's sights as poisoning the blood of his ideal Aryan Nation.

A few years ago I was loaned a book on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany. This man railed against the atrocities he and every other minister and priest and civilian in that nation were seeing unfold before their eyes. Unlike the courageous and devoted Bonhoeffer, most people remained silent, or in the realm of thinking by the aforementioned letter writer, they just accepted the infallibility and sanctity of authority. By their compliance, the German citizenry which included most of the so-called reverends (some who rationalized the Third Reich in their services), had a hand in the horrors. Bonhoeffer was martyred for his outspoken beliefs just weeks before the fall of Hitler.

People like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and more recently the late Congressman John Lewis ("Get in good trouble"), Arizona Senator Mark Kelly and others (service members should not obey "illegal orders") and Alex Pretti who stepped in between a woman and the ICE agents who were assaulting her are reminders that, if anything, authority by itself is no promise of righteousness. Blind faith and unwavering loyalty are great attributes for a dog, but God gave man a brain to discern right from wrong. People honor their Maker when they actually use it.

Coordinator's Corner: spotlight on treatment courts

By Babeth Hammerschmidt
8th Judicial District Treatment Court Coordinator

Question: I know drug testing is important for Treatment Courts; can you explain more about the different types of testing and the pros and cons of each?

Answer: Drug testing in Treatment Courts is conducted frequently and randomly, following specific protocols, to obtain accurate and timely information about participants' substance use. This practice drives accountability for the participants in that they know they are going to be tested but they do not know when and they do not always know how often.

It also provides accountability to the program so that unauthorized substance use is detected quickly and can be addressed. Additionally, by tracking test results, the program can assess participants' progress towards achieving abstinence.

There are various methods for testing. Our bodies reveal the use of substances in a number of ways and each one differently. Chemicals show up in our urine, breath, saliva, blood, sweat, and hair.

One type of test is the urine test. This is the gold star method of testing in Treatment Courts. This type of test has established forensic standards; is relatively inexpensive; can be conducted on-site; can provide larger sample amounts; and rapidly identifies multiple drugs and metabolites with a detection window from a matter of hours to several days. Having a detection window with this kind of range is valuable because drugs metabolize at different rates depending on body weight, amount and frequency of use, liver functions, and hydration levels.

The disadvantages of urine tests are that they should be observed, which can be inhibiting; they can be difficult to obtain; they can be adulterated; and, if improperly done or handled, the specimen could be ruined.

Another type of test is the breath test. Breath tests are also relatively inexpensive and can be used when recent use is suspected. They also are easy to administer and can be collected anywhere, and they deliver a quick result.

However, they are limited in what they detect—usually only alcohol—and the detection window is short (from 8 to 12 hours). They also do not accurately measure how much alcohol is in a person's system and can deliver a false positive or a high reading as a result of the person's breath chemistry.

Saliva tests, or oral fluid tests, are also sometimes used. These are inexpensive; easy to collect; can be administered anywhere; and detect more than just alcohol. However, they have a short detection window; identify only

a limited number of drugs or metabolites; can be time consuming; and difficult to get a large enough sample.

A blood test is another option. There is no risk of tampering with this test, and it is known for superior accuracy and the ability to detect a number of drugs with an exact concentration at the time the blood is drawn. Despite this, blood tests are not the go-to test for Treatment Courts because they are expensive; invasive; have a short detection window (from 8 to 12 hours); and there is a higher risk of infection when obtaining the sample.

Sweat also can be assessed for drugs by using a sweat patch. This type of test is non-invasive and can monitor for longer periods of time. The problem with this test is that it identifies only a limited number of drugs and doesn't do a good job of showing prior or current use.

Sweat patches also must be applied and removed by a professional, and there are limited testing laboratories to analyze the data. Not only that, external and internal contaminations can affect the test results.

Lastly, there are hair follicle tests. These tests are rarely used in Treatment Courts.

Although they have an extended detection period, are non-invasive and have minimal risk of specimen tampering, they have several limitations.

Hair follicle tests are unable to detect recent drug use—sometimes taking up to two weeks depending on hair growth rates—and the date of the last use is difficult to assess; the tests are susceptible to environmental contamination; there are a limited number of hair follicle testing facilities; processing times take longer; and the costs are higher.

Because there is the possibility of false positives, contamination, or adulteration, all positive drug test samples are sent to an accredited lab for further testing if the participant denies use. This additional testing uses sophisticated scientific analysis to determine a true positive or negative test.

That result is then discussed with the Treatment Court team. One of the main goals of Treatment Courts is to instill long-term recovery.

This includes abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol and accountability. One of the most effective tools we have to help people achieve abstinence and accountability is drug testing that is frequent, random, accurate, and timely.

Stay tuned for more information to be shared about Treatment Courts in Coordinator's Corner: Spotlight on Treatment Courts.

Babeth Hammerschmidt is the Treatment Court Coordinator for the 8th Judicial District. She welcomes your questions at babeth.hammerschmidt@courts.state.mn.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigration Deja vu

To the editor:

In 1986 Ronald Reagan oversaw granting amnesty to the illegals living in America who had shown themselves to be candidates for good citizens, mostly, by not getting in trouble.

At that point in time there was an opportunity to craft immigration policy, without looming pressure, that would

have avoided all of the trouble we see today.

Instead, both parties kicked the can down the road.

The only reason I've ever heard for why - are claims that some powerful factions in America thrive on the chaos.

Maybe it's time to put them on a diet.

Forty years later, here we are again with tens of millions of undocumented aliens living in America. Many are

working. Many are not.

The same amnesty will be eventually the law of the land again. I say eventually because the last stampede brought a number of undesirables that need to be removed first.

Shifting gears...In my opinion, anyone against voter ID plans to win by cheating.

The excuses for not aren't worthy of Americans.

Signed,
Mike Berg
Spicer

Vote Fischbach out

To the editor:

I would like to remind the people of Kandiyohi country and western Minnesota, who are ostensibly represented by Michelle Fischbach, that she has never held a town hall meeting that was open to the public. She recently voted against continuing the subsidies for the Affordable Care Act to help keep health care costs down for average Americans. If you are happy with what you are paying for health insurance, perfect. If you are not happy with the cost health insurance, if you are thinking about going without health insurance so you can put food on your table to feed your family, vote Michelle Fischbach out of office in November.

There are two Democrats running to represent our district. Heather Keeler and Erik Osberg. They hold town hall meetings and actually listen to the concerns of the citizens of District 7. They will fight for you instead of billionaires and corporations..

Signed,
Julie Taylor
New London

Baker appreciated

To the editor:

Thanks to Representative Baker for his willingness to share his experiences while

trying to "bridge divides" as reported in Shannon Urban's article in the February 7 edition of the Lakes Area Review.

It revealed to me his ability to communicate with the public and his desire for transparency and resisting party pressure and "restoring trust", not just "going in our corners and being told how to vote".

Thank you Shannon for this well written article.

Signed,
Kay Westlie
Willmar

ICE agents not patriots

To the editor:

I would like to respond not only to the letter by Emmet Kirby printed in last week's Lakes Area Review, but to all who think all ICE agents are patriots and doing a good job. First, let's define patriot.

To me, a patriot is someone who loves and protects their country. My country, the United States of America, is not just a piece of real estate.

It is a set of ideals embodied in the Constitution, set up to protect the rights of every person. When I see ICE agents bullying people in the street, detaining people without probable cause except the color of their skin—many of them American citizens and murdering American citizens in the streets of an American city, I can't agree this is patriotic behavior.

By the way, ICE actually went to court to defend their position that simply having brown skin or speaking with an accent is probable cause for arrest. Look it up.

Your contention that many ICE agents are also persons of color is true. That alone does not make their behavior constitutionally or morally correct.

I dispute your contention that we who oppose the actions of ICE hate them. In fact, Renee Good told the officer who shot her "I'm not mad at you".

Then he shot her in the head. Watch the video.

Where do you even get the idea that we are looking to hate anybody? What narrative are YOU listening to?

I contend that everyone should step away from partisan rhetoric and look at the facts. One fact that can't be denied is the fact that the official narrative of what happened to Renee Good and Alex Pretti differs from the video evidence.

I say, question everything. Talk to people who were there.

Watch the videos. How does what you see correlate to what you have been told?

Question motives. For example, why would Steve Bannon say we should have ICE agents at every polling place in America? Look it up.

From my perspective, demonstrators have made a point of being nonviolent. Think about demonstrations you have seen in the past.

I think this demonstrates that we do NOT want violence. I would think that if, as you say, our objective was to beat up or kill ICE agents, that would have already happened.

I would think that if violence was the intent, Alex Pretti's gun would have been in his hand and not in his holster. A Second Amendment debate is beyond the scope of this letter.

Suffice to say that he had every legal right to be in possession of that gun and it's possession alone should not be the excuse to be murdered in cold blood. He was in fact, murdered after he was disarmed and subdued. Watch the many videos.

So, in conclusion, no, I do not think the ICE agents are patriots. The only good job they are doing is terrorizing our communities.

If you support that, Mr. Kirby, I don't hate you, I pity you.

Signed,
Gary Green
New London

AN ECLECTIC STATE of MIND

Pain by any other name hurts the same!

By Ralph Dickerson
Editor

Last Tuesday, Feb. 17, started like any other day for me; I awoke early to get ready for the Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners meeting, attended the meeting, ate lunch at Panda Garden, picked up a prescription from Walgreens and headed back to work. At work I started writing my stories for the week.

Sometime around mid-afternoon I felt a weird sensation on my right side, just under my ribcage. Not a pain, just an unusual feeling that I ignored.

I went about the rest of my day, covered the Spicer City Council meeting that evening at 5:30 p.m. and then went home. When I arrived home I plopped down in my favorite chair and turned on the television.

A couple of hours later, around 9 p.m., I got up to use the bathroom, and noticed the

weird sensation again, which I ignored. At bedtime I went to get up, and it felt like that red-headed demon Chucky started stabbing me in the side with a gigantic knife!

I stumbled into my bedroom, hoping to take care of the problem with a good night's rest. Chucky planned otherwise!

I tried to lie down, but the pain in my side literally took my breath away. Eventually I managed to roll over on my left side, albeit in extreme pain, to see if that position helped ease the pain.

It did, but after a while my left side started to hurt, which meant rolling onto my back for a few minutes, which brought Chucky back with a vengeance. I spent the rest of the night alternating positions to relieve the pain.

Wednesday morning I awoke, ate breakfast, showered and headed to work. I needed

An eclectic state of mind
Continued on page 14

REVIEW PERSONNEL

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Rathionalizing

By Ashley Rath



The mouse in the basement

For the past two weeks, we've had some unexpected house guests. The furry kind.

It started with scratching in the walls at night. The kind of sound that jolts you awake at 2:17 a.m. and instantly puts you on edge. I don't typically get too skittish about mice. Farm life has a way of desensitizing you to certain critters. But that doesn't mean I want them living in my walls.

We set out plastic snap traps with peanut butter, and within 24 hours, we caught one. Victory. Or so I thought. There was clearly another one—smarter, sneakier, and apparently less interested in my trap placement strategy. We moved traps to different locations. Nothing. Then, finally, this weekend, we caught it.

I went downstairs to the old basement to grab the trap and toss it outside, assuming it was dead. I picked it up confidently... and it moved.

I dropped it immediately. I am not exaggerating when

I say it scared the daylight out of me. I jumped back with a mini scream, dropped it again, and stood there staring at it, realizing this was no longer a simple "grab and toss" situation.

Of course, Tyler was out west snowmobiling. Normally, this would have been his department. And there I was, in the basement, negotiating with a mouse that apparently still had some life left in it.

I could have handled it. Eventually. But at that moment, I didn't want to. And I didn't have to. My father-in-law was coming over anyway to check the cows since we're in calving season and Tyler was gone. So I left the trap where it was—out of sight—and waited for backup.

And here's the lesson that struck me afterward:

Just because you can handle something doesn't mean you always have to.

We live in a culture that glorifies independence and self-sufficiency. We pride ourselves on "I've got this" energy.

And most of the time, that's a

great trait. But there's also wisdom in recognizing when you don't need to muscle through something alone.

There's a difference between capability and capacity.

I was capable of dealing with that mouse. But in that moment, my capacity—emotionally and mentally—was tapped. And instead of forcing myself into unnecessary stress, I chose to accept help that was already on its way.

That mouse in the basement became a small reminder that strength isn't always about doing everything yourself. Sometimes it's about knowing when to wait for support and ask for help. Knowing when to conserve your energy for the things that matter more.

We all have "mice in the basement"—little stressors scratching at the walls of our lives. Some we tackle head-on. Others we can delegate or accept help with.

And that's not weakness. That's wisdom.

THREE BUNS and a HURRICANE®

BY ALISON NELSON



This time of year always makes me think about the arrival of our triplets, as I did last week before their birthday. Here's a follow-up from my journaling a couple weeks after they were born, from March 2011.

We carry on living two different lives: the one at home in Kerkhoven that we've had for three years with Axel, and the one that started two weeks ago in Minneapolis when we added three more little boys to our family. It's hard to know where is the right place to be.

We arrived at the hospital to find Eero and Rex actually wearing little sleepers - they look so grown-up! Magnus was back under the blue lights that day, so he was still in just a diaper, but still adorable. And by the way, that kid has got some hair. The highlight of the evening was that Axel got to meet his brothers. The nurses let us sneak him in, but he had to be very quiet because there was a couple in the nursery who were upset that their nieces and nephews couldn't meet their newborn. That seemed like a non-issue to us, because they should have been able to understand a sibling beats nieces and nephews, but whatever. There are some interesting people in the NICU. I don't think I've mentioned the woman who didn't know she was pregnant and gave birth in her bathroom at home (and yes, she has been in contact with the show "I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant"). There was also someone whose friend Xavier could now visit because he just got out of jail.

Back to the point, Axel got to see his brothers, based on the fact that he was current on his vaccinations and had never been in daycare. He peeked through the isolettes in awe at

each one, and was visibly concerned about Magnus's blue lights and protective eyewear. We took him back to our room after a few minutes, where he hid in the closet and started to cry. When we asked him what the problem was, he said he didn't want to be in this room. Why not? we asked. "I want to see my brothers!" he cried. There were tears streaming down his face, not his occasional tantrum tears, but tears of real sadness. This of course got my tears flowing, because he was so genuinely sad. "I won't make them sick!" he sobbed. It was a hard few minutes, but reassuring to us - at least he likes them.

When Axel is asked about his brothers, he holds up his fingers and says he has three brothers. When asked their names, he says, "There's Rex, and Mag-uh-nus (he's turned it into a three-syllable word), and... what's the other one?" Eero! we say. Eero! he repeats. Grandma Mary picked up Axel on Friday morning, and then we were able to spend lots of quality time with our three littler boys. They're able to come out of their isolettes for longer periods of time now, and although holding them is 95% of what we can do for them right now, it's wonderful to be able to do that. We are also welcome to change their diapers and take their temperatures.

When I called Monday night I was told the boys had all graduated to the next level of nursery. They're not the smallest or the sickest, not that they ever were sick exactly. But it is progress. And Eero and Rex are no longer in isolettes; they've moved on to cribs! At that point they were doing well maintaining their own temperature, which they need to keep doing as

well as gaining weight, both of which take a lot of calories. The nurse said they've still got some growing to do before they're allowed to come home, but it's a step in the right direction.

Magnus may be there for awhile longer - he's just so little. This weekend I held him for the first time without crying. Something about him just makes me cry... I think it's just that he's so small and had to fight so hard inside me to get as big as he did. They had to change his feeding schedule - instead of getting a large amount of milk every three hours, he gets a small amount every hour, a continuous drip. His tummy wasn't digesting the larger quantity as well as they'd like him to, but this seems to be going much better.

I am going to close with a few random tidbits. My wedding ring has made it back onto my previously fat, sausage-like fingers - hooray! Rex projectile pooped on Jesse when he was changing his diaper, but we shouldn't be surprised... he also peed on the doctor as she removed him from my stomach (remember, I said Baby B would be naughty). We got the bill for my helicopter ride - without insurance, \$26,000. Luckily we have insurance and our final cost is significantly less. Finally, the one thing I can do regularly for my little boys is hook myself up to a breast pump and bring the milk to the hospital. Axel came upon this one day, and very plainly told me, "Your bigs are boob." Of course I am blessed when I am not pregnant or breastfeeding, but he is right. My bigs are boob.

ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Jesse Grabow



Question: Can you write about the laws on headlights on when they are to be used? It would probably be a good idea to mention the rules of dimming one's bright lights. Thanks.

Answer: When you are within 1,000 feet of an oncoming vehicle or following another vehicle at a distance of 200 feet or less, your headlights must remain on low beam.

Your headlights must be turned on at sunset and used until sunrise. Use them during weather conditions that include rain, snow, hail, sleet or fog, and any time you cannot clearly see the

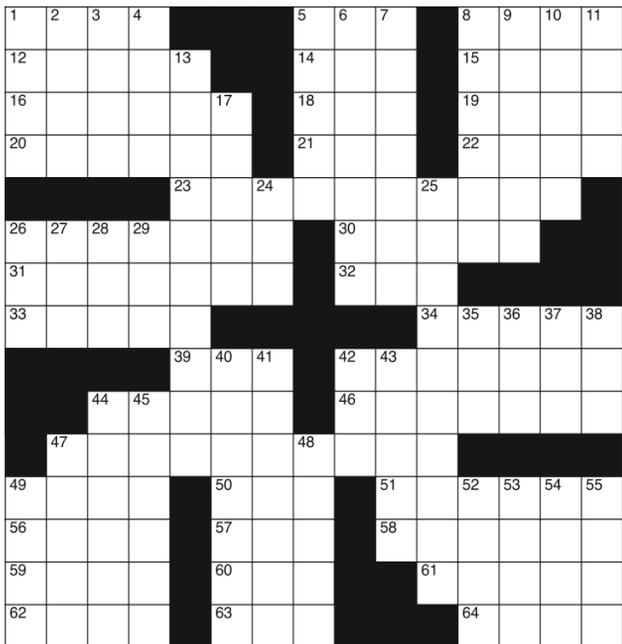
road ahead for at least 500 feet. You should be able to stop within the distance your headlights illuminate the road. For most vehicles, this distance is no more than 350 feet on high beam.

When driving in the dark, you may encounter glare from oncoming headlights or from the reflection of headlights in your rearview mirror. If you are blinded by the glare, use the white line along the edge of the road as a reference.

For glare caused by headlights from behind you, use a "day-night" mirror or adjust your regular mirror.

CLUES ACROSS

1. What travelers must do
5. Calendar month
8. Hopefully quickly
12. Once more
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
16. Astronomy unit
18. Savings vehicle
19. Get your ducks in this
20. Right away
21. Popular sports league
22. Containers
23. Entireties
26. One who wassails
30. Turned-up position
31. Extreme modesty
32. Writing utensil
33. Rewards (archaic)
34. Ancient capital
39. S. American wood sorrel
42. General discomfort
44. Philippine island
46. A witty saying
47. One who summarizes
49. Covered in
50. Mimic
51. Henry was a notable one
56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
57. Retired NFLer Newton
58. Playground equipment
59. Concept
60. Satisfaction
61. Fishing net
62. Hammer end
63. A father's male child
64. Japanese drink



6. Part of a hat
7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
8. Semitic language
9. Utter a shrill cry
10. Long times
11. Animal parts
13. Causing annoyance
17. Amorous talker
24. Attempt
25. Harmonic effects
26. Cost per mile
27. They ___
28. Bitterly regret
29. Not even
35. A way to drop
36. Title of respect
37. World leader

38. Georgia rockers
40. National capital
41. Great Plains people
42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
43. Architectural recesses
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. Mountainous
47. Kite bird
48. Sweetheart (archaic)
49. Popular snack made of potato
52. 70s songsters The Bee ___
53. SE China port ___men
54. Something to fill up
55. League of Legends character

CLUES DOWN

1. Off-Broadway figure
2. Gelatinous substance
3. Concern
4. "Lick It Up" rockers
5. Serbian river

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| | 3 | | | 9 | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | | 8 | | |
| 4 | | | 1 | | | | | 8 |
| | | | | | 4 | 1 | | 2 |
| | | 8 | | 7 | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | 6 |
| 7 | | | | | 5 | | | |
| 1 | 8 | | | 4 | 3 | 5 | | |

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CANNED GOODS WORD SEARCH

L T F T T F B H S E V H N S U U B K O V
 O L V F O Y N L L H L R Z O R T I N F N
 R N A Y N B Y A E H E I M U U C A V P E
 I R L E S K I E E G T O Z U L L P B T C T Y P A P
 E L E N O I B E I T O U L I N F K G T I P E C Z
 T L H H L R P R N A E R V T C B T U K U
 C L C N Y S L R O R U K U N M O I T I G
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 Y L D R E N I A T A U S I H R E A M O V
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 S I L Y C S H G Z U S P K D O A S D S R
 K E A Y U B U V E P Y M S T O R A G E B

WORDS

- BRINE
- CAN
- CANISTER
- FERMENTATION
- FILLED
- LABEL
- LID
- LINING
- OPENER
- PACKING
- PASTEURIZE
- PICKLING
- PRESERVE
- PROCESSING
- REHYDRATE
- ROTATION
- SEALING
- SHELF
- STERILE
- STOCKPILE
- STORAGE
- SYRUP
- TIN
- VACUUM

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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 Pastor J. Christian Strickland
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 Please check our website for more information about our church, various activities, and past worship service videos.
Please join us in worship and fellowship



Photo by Dan Leite

Bringing the Word to life through art.

Paul Oman, a Wisconsin based pastor and artist, stands with his completed acrylic painting following a service presentation at Peace Lutheran Church last Sunday. Through his “Drawn to the Word” ministry, Oman uses art to bring biblical messages to life.

OBITUARIES

Sheryl Lynn Nelson, 61



Sheryl Nelson

Sheryl Lynn Nelson, 61, of Spicer, died Tuesday, February 24 at Cura of Willmar. Her memorial service occurred at 11:00 am, Saturday, February 28 at Crossroads Community Church in Spicer. Visitation took place from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Friday at the church and continued one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at a later date in Calvary Lutheran Cemetery in Willmar.
 Sheryl Lynn Nelson was born on January 4, 1965, in Willmar to Kallman and Sandra (Hubin) Kallevig. She grew up in the Willmar area, attended Kandiyohi School through the seventh grade and graduated from Willmar High School in 1983. She continued her education at Ridgewater College, where she earned her degree in cosmetology.
 On October 8, 1994, Sheryl was united in marriage to Brian Nelson at Calvary Lutheran Church. Together they were blessed with three children: Whitnee, Lindzy, and Jaden.
 They made their home in Spicer, where Sheryl’s greatest joy was creating a warm and welcoming home

daycare provider, a role that perfectly reflected her nurturing heart. Caring for children was not just her work, it was her calling.
 She took immense pride in providing a safe, loving environment for the many children who came through her doors. Just as importantly, her daycare allowed her to be present for her own children as they grew, something she deeply valued. The children she cared for became an extension of her family, and the impact of her kindness and steady presence will be felt for years to come.
 Sheryl is survived by her loving husband, Brian; her children: Whitnee (fiancé, Sam Voz) Nelson; Lindzy (Thomas) MacGregor; and Jaden (fiancé, Robby Pettit) Nelson; her mother, Sandra Kallevig; her brothers, Craig (Crystal) Kallevig and Kevin (Robin) Kallevig; and many cherished nieces and nephews.
 She was preceded in death by her father, Kallman Kallevig; her sister, Tami Kallevig; and her sister-in-law, Valery Kallevig.

J. Swart EXCAVATING LLC
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 320-354-0324
 Jared Swart, Owner • New London

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
John R. Spaulding, Agent
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SENIOR MENU

- Mon. Mar. 2**
 Country Fried Chicken
 Cream Gravy
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Peas
 Wheat Bread & Marg.
 1% Milk
- Tues. Mar. 3**
 Beef Stew
 Sliced Carrots
 Apple Dump Cake
 Margarine
 Biscuit
 1% Milk
- Wed. Mar. 4**
 Oven Roasted Turkey
 Turkey Gravy
 Mashed Potatoes
 Mixed Vegetables
 Wheat Bread & Marg.
 1% Milk
- Thur. Mar. 5**
 Beef Goulash
 Mixed Vegetables
 Pumpkin Bar
 Dinner Roll & Marg.
 1% Milk
- Fri. Mar. 6**
 Tuna Noodle Casserole
 Green Beans
 Hot Spiced Peaches
 Dinner Roll & Marg.
 Vanilla Pudding/topping
 1% Milk

HAPPY HAUGE DAY—HAUGE HOLIDAY (at the end of the month)

As you read from the stories of the Old Testament, Israel waxed and waned in its faithfulness to the Lord. In the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, there were few seasons when the chosen people were faithful to the God who had led them out of slavery in Egypt. The response of their fidelity ranged from simply going through the motions of worship as the prophet Amos decried to an outright abandonment by worshipping the foreign deities of their neighbors.
 In the times of the church since the Reformation in the 1500’s, the Christian church has also exhibited the same fluctuation from a relative faithfulness to the Gospel to a embarrassing lack of belief. One low point among many was 18 th century Norway. Much of the church had fallen victim to a phenomenon called rationalism. A significant number of clergy and a few laity no longer

believed that God performs miracles. Yet in spite of the denial of supernatural activity, pastors and church members also retained the outer form of religion but denied the power of the faith. It is said that conditions deteriorated to the point that on Christmas Eve, one pastor made no mention of Jesus’ incarnation but upon reflecting on the manger bed, only offered agricultural advice on an improved production of haymaking.
 One man emerged from this vacuum of Gospel preaching. His name was Hans Nielsen Hauge.
 This lay preacher travelled all around Norway encouraging Christian believers to continue trusting in Christ for the salvation of their souls. Hauge turned the country inside-out. As faith produced fruit, Hauge also inspired social reforms that propelled Norway into the modern age by his talent with business entrepreneurship and empowering the people to advocate for democracy.
 Below is a prayer for awakening inspired by the life of Hans Nielsen

PASTOR’S CORNER

By Carl Fiskness
 Green Lake Free Lutheran

Hauge who is commemorated by the church each 29 th of March:
 “Gracious Father, we praise you because, when the zeal and love of your Church has grown cold, you stir up the hearts of your people, by sending to them men and women of faith, as you sent your servant Hans Nielsen Hauge, to preach repentance and renewal; and we pray that your Church may never be destitute of such preaching, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSUMED NAME

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Big Kahuna**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **190 PROGRESS WAY SPICER MN 56288 USA**

APPLICANT(S):
Name: **Avery Rich, LLC**
Address: **190 PROGRESS WAY SPICER MN 56288 USA**

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Bradley J Schmidt**
MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
averyrich@cloud.com

Work Item **1631914900022**
Original File Number
1631914900022

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
02/20/2026 11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Godfather's**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **190 PROGRESS WAY SPICER MN 56288 USA**

APPLICANT(S):
Name: **Avery Rich, LLC**
Address: **190 PROGRESS WAY SPICER MN 56288 USA**

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Bradley J Schmidt**
MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
averyrich@cloud.com

Work Item **1631915900023**
Original File Number
1631915900023

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
02/20/2026 11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

NOTICE

COLFAX TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND SUPERVISOR ELECTION

On Tuesday, March 10, 2026, the Colfax Town Hall, 25490 5th St NW, New London, MN will be open from 5 PM to 8 PM for the qualified voters to vote for one

supervisor for a three-year term. Immediately after the election there will be a Board of Canvass meeting to verify results. The annual meeting will follow the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be held on the third Tuesday, March 17th, at the same time and place.

Krista Lautenschlager
Clerk/Treasurer
Colfax Township
(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

MAMRE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Mamre Township of Kandiyohi County that on Tuesday March 10, 2026 the Annual Election of one (1) Supervisor and one (1) Clerk will be from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Annual Meeting will follow approx. at 8:15 pm. Board of Canvas will meet following Annual Meeting. The Election and both Meetings will be held at the Mamre Town Hall, 12811 90 th AVE NW, PENNOCK, MN 56279. In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be one week later, on March 17, 2026, same time and place.

Amber Carlson
Mamre Township Clerk

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

LAKE ANDREW TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD OF CANVASS

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Lake Andrew Township that the Annual Election of town officers and Annual Meeting will be held at the town hall located at 3453 150th Ave NW, Spicer, MN (the intersection of County Road 5 and County Road 29) on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026.

The voting polls will be open from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the voters to elect two Supervisors, each for a three-year term, and a Clerk for a two-year term.

The Annual Town Meeting begin at 8:05 PM, following closing of the polls, to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Board of Canvass will meet following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting to certify the election results at about 9:00 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the Election and Meeting will be postponed and held on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026.

Bonnie Watson, Clerk

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

LAKE ANDREW TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ABSENTEE BALLOT SUBMISSION

The Lake Andrew Town Hall will be open for the submission, acceptance of Absentee Ballot applications and casting of Absentee Ballots to the Clerk for the Township Annual Election, between the hours of 10:00 AM and Noon, on Saturday, March 7 th , 2026. The town hall is located at 3453 150 th Ave NW, Spicer, MN 56288.

Bonnie Watson, Clerk

(Published on
February 28, 2026)

NEW LONDON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of New London Township, County of Kandiyohi, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March. The Election Poll hours will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time the voters will elect one supervisor for a term of three years, and elect a treasurer for a term of two years.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Immediately following the business meeting; the Board of Canvass will meet to certify the election results.

The Annual Election and Board of Canvass will be held at the following location: New London Town Hall, 16151 County Road 9 NE, New London, MN.

Ronelle Jeseritz Clerk,

New London Township
(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

*****This May Affect Your 2027 Property Taxes*****

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for the Township of Green Lake in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, will meet from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at the Prairie Meadows Learning Center. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Debbie Ardoff, Clerk

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

CITY OF KANDIYOHI NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE AMENDING SNOW EMERGENCY AND WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Kandiyohi intends to consider adoption of an ordinance amending City Ordinance § 71.04 relating to Snow Emergencies, Snow Events, and Winter Parking Restrictions at its regular meeting on March 2, 2026, at 7 p.m., at Kandiyohi City Hall, located at 432 Atlantic Ave, Kandiyohi, MN 56251.

The proposed ordinance authorizes the declaration of Snow Emergencies, establishes parking prohibitions during declared emergencies and snow events involving two inches or more of snowfall, implements seasonal overnight winter parking restrictions during snow events, and authorizes the removal of vehicles parked in violation.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall during regular business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Kandiyohi

(Published on
February 21, 2026)

Call for Road Maintenance Estimates for Green Lake Township

Green Lake Township will be opening estimates for road maintenance needs at their monthly township meeting on March 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All submissions MUST include a Certificate of Insurance. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions. They may be brought to the meeting or sent to the clerk at: Green Lake Township, PO Box 24, Spicer, MN 56288.

1. Gravel – Bid price PER YARD should be for class 1 and class 5 gravel to be applied as soon as possible after road restrictions are off and the annual road tour has been completed by the board. The Township will provide road maps for application instructions. A sieve test should also be included.

2. Chloride - Bids should be for calcium chloride and magnesium chloride on a PER FOOT application. Application will occur after approval is granted by the township. The Township will provide road maps for application instructions.

3. Blading - Bids PER HOUR should be for both summer maintenance of gravel roads, and for winter snow removal and salt application as needed in the winter.

4. Ditch Mowing - Bids PER MOWING should be for at least a 9-foot swath cut. Ditches should be cut initially by July 1, and again at least once more during the summer and perhaps again a third time depending on the season.

5. Ditch Discing – Bids PER HOUR to be done as needed in conjunction with the board's findings on the road tour. A map will be provided.

6. Ditch Spraying – Bid is for all of Green Lake Township and to be done as needed in conjunction with board's findings

on their road tour. A map will be provided.

7. Tree and Brush Trimming in Ditches - Bids PER HOUR to be done in conjunction with board's findings on the road tour. A map will be provided.

Debbie Ardoff,
Green Lake Township Clerk
greenlaketownshipmn@gmail.com
(Published on
February 21 & 28, 2026)

NORWAY LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION, & CANVAS BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Norway Lake Township that the Election of Town Officers and Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Sunburg Community Center.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 4-5:00 pm for the purpose of setting the levy for 2027 and to conduct any other business which should properly come before the meeting.

The Election will be from 5-8:00 pm for the purpose of electing one Supervisor for a three-year term, and a Clerk/Treasurer for a two-year term. The Board of Canvass will meet after the ballots have been counted for the purpose of certifying the election results.

In case of inclement weather, the annual meeting and elections will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the same times.

Margie Rock,
Clerk/Treasurer
320-894-2078

(Published on
February 21 & 28, 2026)

NOTICE OF IRVING TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING AND SUPERVISOR ELECTION

The annual meeting and election will be held on Tuesday, March 10th 2026. The meeting will commence at 3:30p.m., to conduct all necessary business.

The poll hours will be open from close of meeting or 5-8p.m.(whichever is first) to elect one Supervisor for a three-year term. Immediately after the election there will be a Board of Canvass meeting to verify election results. The meeting and election will be held at Irving Township Hall, 15282 195th Ave NE Hawick, MN. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday of March same time and place.

Donnel C. Williamson
Irving Township Clerk

(Published on
February 21 & 28, 2026)

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF KANDIYOHI DISTRICT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 34-PR-26-13

In Re: Estate of Ardis L. Westhoff, Decedent.

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF LOST WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 8, 2026 at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 505 Becker Avenue SW, Willmar, MN 56201, on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's Will dated March 20, 2015, and for the appointment of Nancy Loge, whose address is 3383 30th Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201 as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: Feb. 17, 2026
BY THE COURT
/s/ Amy Doll
Judge of District Court
Kristal Dahlager (MN#0393602)
Anderson Larson Saunders
Klaassen Dahlager & Leitch, PLLP
331 SW Third Street
Willmar Minnesota 56201
Telephone: (320) 235-4313
Facsimile: (320) 235-8180

(Published on
February 28 & March 7, 2026)

SUMMONS

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF KANDIYOHI

IN DISTRICT COURT EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Quiet Title

Estate of Jon W. Swanson, a/k/a Jon Swanson,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Estate of John T. Swanson, John T. Swanson Trust, and all other persons unknown claiming any rights, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described herein,

Defendants.

Court File No. 34-CV-25-627

SUMMONS INVOLVING REAL PROPERTY

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO EACH OF THE ABOVE NAMES DEFENDANTS:

1. **SUMMONS.** You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the Plaintiffs' attorney an Answer to the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint within 21 days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint.

2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 21 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the undersigned a written response called an Answer within 21 days of the date on which you receive this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the undersigned, located at: ANDERSON LARSON SAUNDERS KLAASSEN DAHLAGER & LEITCH, P.L.L.P., 331 Southwest Third Street, Post Office Box 130, Willmar, Minnesota 56201.

3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint. If you believe 34-CV-25-627 Filed in District Court State of Minnesota 9/30/2025 9:34 AM the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint, you must make this known in your Answer.

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND**

A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE UNDERSIGNED. You are required to serve upon the undersigned an Answer to the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint within 21 days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to obtain assistance from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places you may obtain legal assistance. Even if you cannot obtain legal assistance, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your legal rights or you may lose this case.

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of General Practice. You must still send your written response to the Quiet Title/Adverse Claim Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means for resolving this dispute.

7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY.** This action involves, affects, or brings into question, real estate situated in the County of Renville, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

The West Half of the Southeast Quarter except platted parts and right-of-way and the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3, and the West Half of the Northwest Quarter and the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, all in Township 119, Range 36, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

hereinafter called "Swanson Property").

The object of this action is to determine title, the correct legal description, and adverse claims to the above-described Swanson Property, as well as to determine that the above-named Defendants have no right, title, estate, lien or interest in the above-described Swanson Property. The Plaintiff is seeking a determination and declaration that the Plaintiff is the owner in fee of the Swanson Property. No personal claims are made against any of the Defendants.

Dated: September 28, 2025

ANDERSON, LARSON, SAUNDERS, KLAASSEN DAHLAGER & LEITCH, P.L.L.P.

By /s/ Kristal Dahlager
Kristal Dahlager,
Atty. No. 393602
Post Office Box 130
Willmar, Minnesota 56201
Telephone: (320) 235-4313
kristal@willmarlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs

(Published on
February 21, 28
& March 7, 2026)

SIBLEY STATE PARK PROGRAMS

(800 Sibley Park Rd NE, NEW LONDON, MN 56273)



Whose tracks are these?

Saturday, March 21
1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Come explore the exciting world of tracks and other signs animals leave behind. The park is home to a variety of wildlife and many of them have unique feet that help us figure out how they live their lives.

We'll make an air-dry clay model of a track to take home. While they dry, we'll explore the unique qualities of the animals in the park by looking at their furs, skulls, and, of course, their feet!

We'll be meeting at the Interpretive Classroom located in the downstairs area of the Interpretive Center - Also known as the Trail Center.

Afternoon Hike

Saturday, February 7
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



The park is home to unique environments and the plants and animals that call them home. Come explore these environments and what makes them special as we hike the Pondview Interpretive Trail.

We will be meeting at the Sibley Interpretive Center. The trail is a 0.7-mile loop with a maximum grade of 7 percent over 190ft.

For more events and details search for Sibley State Park at
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Trudie Lieser Agent

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I see more than a bundle.

Melissa Radel, Agent
New London, MN 56273
Paynesville, MN 56362
Bus: 320-354-2266
melissa@melissaradel.com

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NEXT WEEK DEADLINE:
NOON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH

(ADS, STORIES, LEGAL NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS)

LAR LAKES AREA REVIEW

KENNEL

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Mark and Ann Ranney
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SPORTS



Photos by Ralph Dickerson

Above, NLS head coach Mike Dreier provides instruction to Taylor Munch during the section match against Morris Area, as assistant coach Joey Dreier draws up a play. Below left, Ayla Caskey tries to block the shot of MACA player Ryla Koehler. Right, NLS' Roxanne Klein battles MACA's Mylie Fehr in the second half. Fehr proved quite a handful, scoring 20 points in the game, and helping MACA basically stay even on the boards.

NLS tops Litchfield Dragons, MACA Tigers to advance in section

GIRLS BASKETBALL

By Bruce Strand Sports Reporter

It's crunch time for the New London-Spicer girls in their quest to reach the state tournament.

After beating Litchfield 96-37 at home Friday and Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta 66-51 in Willmar on Tuesday, the Wildcats (27-1) went up against a formidable Minnewaska Area

team on Thursday evening in the North sub 3AA finals.

The winner advances to the section title game against Fairmont or St. James at Southwest State this coming Thursday.

NLS 96, Litchfield 37

Fifteen players scored as NLS posted a season-high 96 points. The Wildcats had a 61-18 halftime lead. Korbin Tanner had 16 points, Taylor Munsch 14 and Ayla Caskey 10.

Litch 18 19 — 37
NLS 61 35 — 96

Litchfield — 10-35 FG (5-16 3FG), 12-20 FT, 23 rebounds, 28 turnovers, 10 fouls ... **Scoring leaders:** Mila Bjorkman 15, Isla Dilley 11.

New London-Spicer — 39-74 FG (10-25 3FG), 8-14 FT, 37 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 15 fouls ... **Scoring:** Mya Schoumaker 6, Brooke Barney 6 (4r, 2s, 2a), Taylor Munsch 14 (2r, 5a, 6s), Ayla Caskey 10 (1r, 1a, 1s), Kyla Vick 7 (3a, 2s), Macey Schoumaker 0 (1a), Sydney Thorstad 3 (2r), Ezri Boelter 2 (3r, 5a, 2s), Sydney Peltier 3, Paycen Rutgers 8 (3s), Korbin Tanner 16 (6r, 1a, 1s), Katelyn Delzer 4 (2s),

Evalyn Swenson 2, Harper Olness 2 (4r, 1a, 1s), Addison Peltier 5 (3r), Roxanne Klein 8 (10r, 2b, 2s) ... **3-pointers:** M. Schoumaker 2, Munsch 2, Caskey 2, Vick 2, Thorstad 1, S. Peltier 1.

NLS 66, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta 51

NLS led by just 26-22 at the half. With a 14-0 run, they opened a 53-37 lead. The Tigers (13-12) made another run to close the gap but NLS held them off.

Eighth-grader Paycen Rutgers sank four 3-pointers and led NLS with 17 points, while

freshman Korbin Tanner tallied 15 points. Seniors Ayla Caskey and Taylor Munsch had 13 and 12, respectively.

Against a tall Tiger lineup, NLS had just a 37-35 edge in rebounds, while not shooting well, including 9-for-33 on three's. But 19 steals helped keep them in front.

The Tigers (13-12) got 20 points from Mylie Fehr and 13 from Chris Fehr.

MA/CA 22 29 — 51
NLS 26 40 — 66

Morris Area/Chokio-Alber-

ta — 22 FG (2 3FG), 5-7 FT, 35 rebounds, 34 turnovers, 15 fouls ... **Scoring leaders:** Mylie Fehr 20, Chloe Fehr 13, Samantha Konz 1.

New London-Spicer — 26-70 FG (9-33 3FG), 5-10 FT, 37 rebounds, 24 turnovers, 12 fouls ... **Scoring:** Paycen Rutgers 17 (2r, 1a, 3s), Korbin Tanner 15 (5r, 4s, 2b), Taylor Munsch 11 (6r, 3a, 4s), Ayla Caskey 12 (4a, 4s, 1b), Roxanne Klein 6 (11r, 3a, 2b), Kyla Vick 3 (2r, 1a), Katelyn Delzer 2 (4r, 1a, 3s)... **3-pointers:** Rutgers 4, Caskey 3, Munsch 1, Vick 1

*Box score key: r, rebounds; a, assists; s, steals; b, blocks.



NLS loses to NYA, beat KMS; playoffs next

BOYS BASKETBALL

By Bruce Strand Sports Reporter

New London-Spicer closed the regular season with an 82-62 win at Kerkhoven-Murdock Sunburg on Tuesday evening, giving them a 12-14 record heading into playoffs.

The Wildcats lost their conference final to Norwood Young America 74-55 on Thursday, finishing 7-9 in the Wright County West for fourth place among nine teams. The champion was Annandale at 14-0.

NLS is the No. 4 seed in North sub of Section 3AA and will host No. 5 Paynesville on Friday, 7 p.m. The winner plays Tuesday against Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta or ACGC at Willmar, 5:45 p.m.

NYA 34 40 — 75
NLS 24 42 — 66

Norwood-Young America — 27-52 FG (5-19 3FG), 15-19 FT, 26 rebounds, 23 turnovers, 20 fouls ... **Scoring leaders:** Micah Fenney 19, Taylor Hackbarth 18, Kyson Evenski 12, Brayden Dent 11.

New London-Spicer — 22-52 FG (5-17 3FG), 17-22 FT, 22 rebounds, 19 turnovers, 17 fouls ... **Scoring:** Grant Henjum 12 (5r, 2a, 1s), Loudon Johnson 4 (2r, 1a, 2s), Zach Lageson 17 (2r, 5a, 2s), Deagan Lindahl 2, Ethan Nelson 9

(5r, 1a), Kaden Shimek 3 (3s), Boden Spears 2 (2r, 3s), Griffin Thompson 7 (1r), Gavin Vick 10 (4r, 3s)... **3-pointers:** Nelson 2, Henjum 1, Shimek 1, Thompson 1.

NLS 82, KMS 62

The Wildcats shot a season-high 60 percent at 33-for-55, including 6-for-11 on three-pointers. Grant Henjum netted 15 points (shooting 7-for-9), Ethan Nelson 14, Zach Lageson 12, Gavin Vick 11 and Loudon Johnson and Griffin Thompson eight apiece. Nelson nabbed nine rebounds. For KMS (17-9), Gavin Mulder tallied 20 points and Teagen Diedrich 16.

NLS 44 38 — 82
KMS 25 37 — 62

New London-Spicer — 33-55 FG (6-11 3FG), 10-15 FT, 33 rebounds, 7 turnovers, 14 fouls ... **Scoring:** Grant Henjum 15 (3r, 1a, 1b), Loudon Johnson 8 (1r), Zach Lageson 12 (1r, 4a, 1s), Deagan Lindahl 2, Liam Macic 2 (1r, 1a), Ethan Nelson



Photo by Shannon Urban

NLS' Gavin Vick, #15 black, soars high to snag this rebound against Central at home last week. He scored a total of 21 points against Norwood-Young America and KMS.

14 (9r,1a, 1s), Kaden Shimek 8 (5r, 3a, 2s), Boden Spears 2 (2r, 1a), Griffin Thompson 8 (4r, 2a, 1s), Gavin Vick 11 (5r, 1s, 1b), Becken Westby 0 (2r) ... **3-pointers:** Nelson 2, Hen-

jum 1, Johnson 1, Lageson 1, Shimek 1.

Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg — 23-56 FG (9-23 3FG), 7-13 FT, 21 rebounds,

9 turnovers, 13 fouls ... **Scoring leaders:** Gavin Mulder 20, Teagen Diedrich 16, Hunter Engelke 12.

*Box score key: r, rebounds; a, assists; s, steals; b, blocks.



Photo by Bruce Strand

NLS freshman Kennedy Goracke, left, and seniors Delany Barber, middle, and Rylie Harrier competed in the Class 1A gymnastics meet last Saturday evening. The trio represented New London-Spicer well at the state meet. Goracke placed 36th on the balance beam, while Barber earned 15th place on the floor exercise. Harrier placed 25th on floor, 30th on vault and 33rd on beam to earn 20th place on the all-around.

Barber, Harrier, Goracke perform well at state gymnastics

GYMNASTICS

By Bruce Strand
Sports Reporter

Three New London-Spicer gymnasts competed in the state

Class 1A meet Saturday evening, having qualified at sectionals a week before.

Delany Barber, senior, placed 15th of 45 state entrants in floor exercise with a 9.275 score. She executed a fly spring into a front full twist, a back

one-and-a-half twist, and a closing full twist.

“Not too many people do the fly spring,” coach Cindy Jacobson noted. “Delany had a great routine at state. She has worked hard to clean up her routine and it has really paid off.”

Riley Harrier, senior, placed 25th of 45 entrants on floor exercise with a 9.1250 score, 30th of 45 entrants on vault with 8.8375, 33rd of 47 on balance beam with 8.80, and 20th of 24 all-around with 34.55.

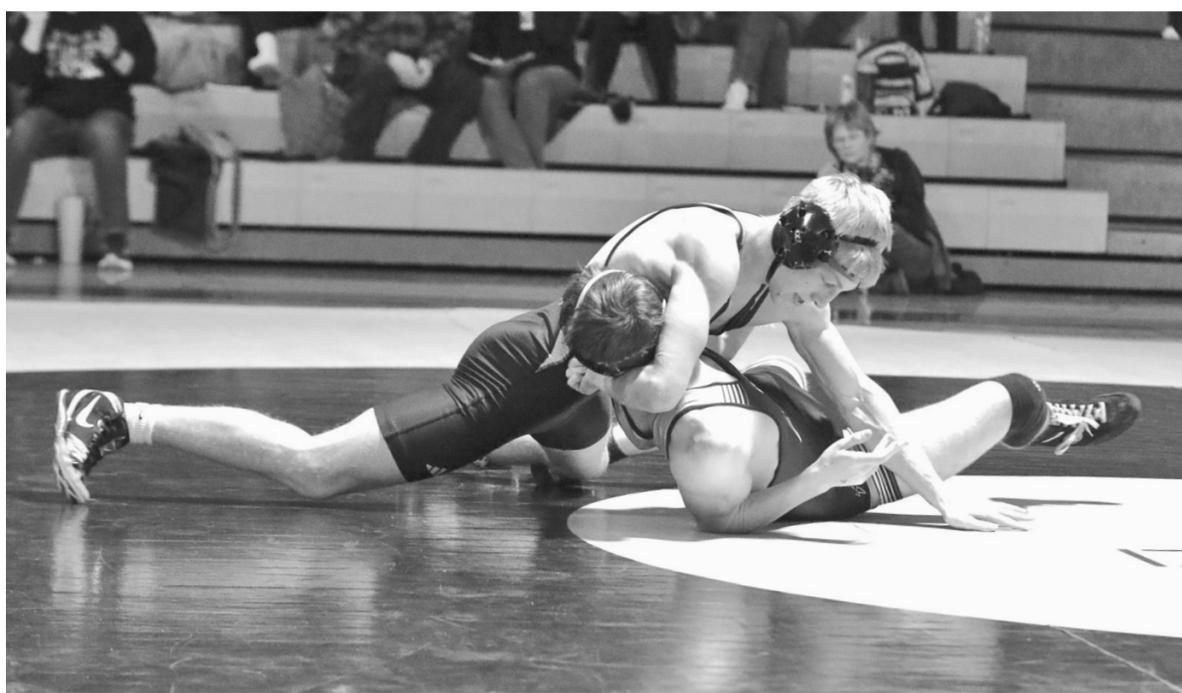
“Obviously scoring is a little

tougher at the state meet, when you have four judges to see everything, but Rylie still ended with some great scores,” Jacobson said. “We were so pleased how she went out there and ended her gymnastic career.”

Kennedy Goracke, fresh-

man, placed 36th of 47 state entrants on balance beam with 8.500.

“She stuck her beam routine (no falls) and was so composed up there,” Jacobson said. “Proud of her and can’t wait to see what the future holds for her.”



File photo by Ralph Dickerson

Holton Hanson, pictured here against Annandale earlier this year, secured NLS’ only entry into the state wrestling meet by placing second in Section 3AA Saturday.

NLS’ Holton Hanson qualifies for state wrestling by placing second at 3AA section

WRESTLING

By Bruce Strand
Sports Reporter

Holton Hanson will be New London-Spicer’s lone entrant in the state wrestling tournament after the 152-pound senior placed second in Section 3AA on Saturday.

Hanson, a senior, lost in the semifinals to the champion,

won the third place match by pin over Noel Davily of St. James/Madelia in 3:19, then won a true-second match over Braxton Kiecker of New Ulm 6-2.

He will take a 29-6 record into the state competition starting Thursday and has 150 career wins. This is his first state trip. The top two advance to state. Three Wildcats placed third.

Caleb Nelson placed third at 172 and was 28-13. Nelson lost in the semifinals to the

champion, won the third place match over Damien Davison of Windom/Mountain Lake 11-2 to earn a true-second match, and lost to Marshall’s Tyson Louwagie 14-8.

Kellon Hanson, sophomore, at 121 pounds, and Garret Leenstra, senior, at 285 each lost in the semifinals and each won a third-place match — Hanson (33-7) over Worthington’s Jace Riemersma-Feit 12-5 and Leenstra (31-10) by pin in 2:16 against Marshall’s Felix

Kelsey. They didn’t get true-second matches because their semifinals loss was against the runner-up.

Also earning podium finishes were senior Matthew Gehrke, placing fourth at 215; junior Luke Hannig, fifth at 189; sophomore Jeremiah Nelson, sixth at 145; and senior Rylan Plumley Champagne, sixth at 160.

The state individuals starts Thursday at Grand Casino Arena.

UPCOMING VARSITY MEETS

Tuesday, March 3

- Basketball, boys — Section play at Willmar High School, 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 5

- Basketball, girls — Varsity section at Southwest Minnesota State University, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 7

- Basketball, boys — Boys varsity section at Southwest Minnesota State University, 12:30



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New face of hunger Continued from page 1

remained elevated well beyond the pandemic surge.

In our area, the communities with the highest usage are Willmar, New London and Raymond — a reminder that food insecurity isn't isolated to one pocket of the county.

Ziehl has also noticed a quiet shift in how some families access help. "What would surprise people most about food shelf use right now?" Ziehl said. "A lot of people are assigning proxies to their accounts."

What that means is that more people are authorizing trusted friends, relatives or co-workers to pick up groceries on their behalf — a simple process that Ziehl says requires only a phone call to add a proxy to an account.

"A lot of people are assigning proxies," Ziehl said. "All they need to do is give us a call and add someone to their account."

For some families, that flexibility helps balance work schedules. For others, it may simply make asking for help feel easier. Either way, the shelves are moving food into homes that need it, and that has always been the mission at the heart of the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf.

And even though a \$20 bill doesn't stretch very far at the grocery store anymore, in March, at least in Minnesota, that same \$20 can multiply.

Across the state, March marks Minnesota FoodShare Month, the annual campaign coordinated by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches that determines how much additional grant funding local food shelves will receive for the year. The more a food shelf raises in March, the larger its share of incentive-based grant dollars.

For the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf, that makes the next few weeks critical.

"March is our biggest fundraising month of the year as well as promoting awareness for food shelves," Ziehl said. "The more we raise in March, the bigger our grant."

The timing is significant. Post-holiday donations typically slow. Winter utility bills rise. And while February and March have historically been slightly lower-use months locally — something Ziehl attributes in part to tax refunds — summer brings another predictable surge.

"The summer months do have a history of increasing due to the kids being home from school," she said.

That makes March fundraising essential preparation for what's ahead, and cash donations stretch especially far.

"A \$20 donation to us can be turned into \$200 worth of buying

power at our food bank," Ziehl said. "Just think of what your \$20 could buy at your favorite grocery store. If you give us your \$20, we can buy almost 10 times that amount."

Second Harvest Heartland, the region's food bank supplier, says money is the most efficient way to provide food, noting that "every \$1 you donate can provide three meals." So the preference for monetary donations isn't just about efficiency. "We also prefer cash rather than food, so we have better control on our inventory," Ziehl said.

But the food shelf's reach goes well beyond its main distribution days. Year-round programs include monthly senior food boxes through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Cardinal Snack Pack Program that sends weekend food home with Willmar elementary students, weekly summer produce distributions and large seasonal produce events.

To build momentum during FoodShare Month, the food shelf has planned two community-focused fundraisers.

The first is a pint-night partnership with Goat Ridge Brewery in New London. From 4-8 p.m. Thursday, March 19, the brewery plans to donate \$1 from each pint sold to the food shelf, according to the food shelf's fundraiser list and its website.

A week later comes the food shelf's biggest radio drive of the year: the 21st annual Radio for Relief, scheduled for 7-10 a.m. Thursday, March 26. The fundraiser is promoted in partnership with Lakeland Broadcasting, with on-air updates and interviews planned during the broadcast window. Since its inception 21 years ago, Radio for Relief has helped generate nearly \$1 million in combined cash and food donations.

The food shelf is also advertising matching donations during the event from Quist Wealth Management, Heritage Bank and Lake Region Bank, and encouraging online gifts through the food shelf's website. Checks mailed to the food shelf can be counted toward the total if "Radio for Relief" is included in the memo line, Ziehl said.

But the impact of March extends beyond a single day or dollar amount.

It determines how full the shelves will be in June. Whether a senior can supplement a fixed income with a monthly box of groceries. Whether a child has food over the weekend. Whether a parent has to decide between paying a heating bill and buying milk.

In March, that \$20 can travel further than most people think.



The food shelf purchases food through a supplier that offers over double the value per dollar. For this reason, Ziehl says that dollar donations make the biggest impact. What \$20 can buy in the local grocery store can purchase 10 times the food through Second Harvest Heartland. And with March being Minnesota Foodshare month, each dollar goes even further because it is matched by a grant through the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

An eclectic state of mind Continued from page 6

to finish one story, and write one more for the paper.

When Jon Hunter arrived at work, I told him I intended to go to urgent care for the pain in my side. I finished my last story, coordinated with Jon on a few more things for the paper that week, and headed to Willmar.

I fully expected to simply go to Willmar, probably receive some pain medication and come back to work. Things did not turn out that way.

The medical professional that examined me ordered an Ultrasound test to check my gall bladder as the pain erupted exactly where this organ sits in the body. This test proved quite interesting.

Remember how I said ly-

ing flat on my back caused intense pain? Guess how I needed to lie for the test: flat on my back for most of it!

In addition, the technician needed to press the wand into my side, exactly where my side hurt. I remember she told me not to struggle against her as I tensed up during the test. I told her I did not intend to struggle, but that lying on my back caused extreme pain, and made it difficult to breathe.

Eventually I managed to relax a little, though the pain continued, and she finished the test. The results of the test: not a thing wrong with my gall bladder, so the examining medical professional then ordered a CT scan.

Again I needed to lie flat

on my back, but they gave me some pillows to prop me up just a little, and it helped relieve the pain. Luckily, the CT scan lasted only around five minutes, much shorter than the Ultrasound, and it did not involve poking and prodding with a wand on my side.

After reviewing the CT scan results, they determined a partial blockage existed in my bowels (I texted a good friend of mine down south, and she told me she always knew I was full of crap!). Interestingly, when I arrived at Urgent Care in Willmar and checked in, I joked with the admitting staff, "wouldn't it be funny if I am just backed up!" Turns out I literally was!

So, after determining a

partial bowel blockage existed, medical staff decided I needed to stay in the hospital overnight for observation. The staff at Rice Memorial Hospital took really good care of me.

Interestingly, when they took me to my room, the hospital staff member assigned to my room looked vaguely familiar, and I told her so. Found out she graduated from New London High School in 2022, and played softball.

The rest of Wednesday consisted of me texting staff back here at the Lakes Area Review letting them know of my overnight hospital stay, and thinking of anything else I needed to tell them in regard to items needed for the paper. I really did not need to worry about it as they did an excellent job getting the paper out.

The hospital released me just before noon Thursday, and I immediately went shopping for recommended food items. The doctors wanted me to follow a liquid diet through the weekend, and slowly transition to solid foods.

To prevent a blockage in the future, I need to change my diet to low residue foods. Think jello, applesauce, soups such as chicken noodle, cream soups and easy to digest meats such as chicken and turkey. I refer to it as a "nursing home" diet.

Right now, I continue to wait on the obstruction to fully pass, but I really want a hamburger right now! The last solid food I ate happened Wednesday morning when I ate a bowl of cereal.



Photo by Jeffrey Taylor

While out walking on his property in January, local photographer caught a picture of these dogs, sun dogs that is. If you have a photo you want to share with the Lakes Area Review, email them to ralph@nslakesareareview.com

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