



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:
Leader-Record * Oklee Herald * McIntosh Times * Grygla Eagle

Letter from Director of Outreach and Engagement Michelle Christopherson



**Michelle Christopherson,
Director of Outreach and Engagement**

Greetings from the University of Minnesota Crookston!

Last week, some of our students departed campus, returning home for Thanksgiving. All students will wrap up their fall semester entirely online. Classes will resume in early January in a hybrid/hyflex modality, including campus classes as we did this fall. Basketball practice is just getting started and our hockey team will lace up their skates in preparation for an early January puck drop. These certainly are things we can all look forward to.

The UMN Crookston campus United Way campaign concluded in early November. We reached our goal and raised approximately \$6,050, funds that will support families throughout Polk County.

While COVID remains and presents a variety of challenges for many, everyone is experiencing fatigue of this global pandemic, and we continue to persevere in finding ways to be

creative with our time, finances and relationships. Over the last few months I have interviewed more than 150 businesses in northwest Minnesota regarding business resiliency, part of the mission of our campus' Economic Development Administration (EDA) Center. Responses, while varying, are similar in many ways and there are some positive messages gleaned from my visits with local businesses and organizations. A common theme stated by many business owners and representatives? "It's the people." Business owners and managers tell me that their employees are their top priority, and that the health and well-being of their employees and their families remains a constant top priority.

Finding creative ways to keep businesses open and their staff employed remains a priority. The University, too, continues to explore ways to become more efficient and yet offering exceptional services to students. Our campus budget remains a priority, right up there with maintaining quality academics and student services. At the beginning of this fiscal year, we implemented a flexible budget framework designed to address anticipated financial shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 adjusted budget relied on assumptions that represented our best forecast, given the uncertainty about the trajectory of the virus and its impact on the University.

UMN Crookston has always been nimble, as I reflect on my 20 years with the campus. From Don Sargeant to Chuck Casey and now Chancellor Mary Holz-

Clause, we continue to be entrepreneurial in ways to champion our roots, expand our reach through online degrees and focus on exceptional student experiences. You will remember in the early 2000s we, the Crookston campus, became the Digital Campus Calling Center for the entire U of M System.

The University offered an early retirement incentive option (RIO). Twenty faculty and staff recently took advantage of this. While these faculty and staff have made tremendous contributions to our campus community, they, too, made an impact on thousands of students and hundreds of colleagues over their years. Their departures will impact the campus and our community and while the makeup and number of employees will be reduced their contributions over the years will be treasured. Thank you.

Things are fluid, changing daily and I think we all need to be reminded to think about ourselves every now and then; self-care is important for each of us to stay focused, persevere and forge ahead. So eat more cake, get outside, go for a walk, play a card game, checkers/chess or put a puzzle together. If you need a puzzle, Tricia Sanders can set you up, and don't forget to check in on one another; something as simple as a text or quick call can be a game-changer.

I look forward to 2021 and the creativity the University of Minnesota Crookston will champion as a strong community partner within Crookston and the surrounding communities and state.



Angle Inlet, MN. (11-30-20).

NW Angle Businesses Unite to Save Ice Fishing Season

There is a very special area of the United States that as a result of the U.S. / Canada border closure, has been basically cut off from civilization and their customers since March. In order to travel there, one has to drive through Canada about 40 miles before entering back into the U.S.

It is the northernmost point in the contiguous United States. It is where the 14,552 islands of Lake of the Woods begin. It is home to about a dozen resorts and the area boasts some of the best fishing in the Midwest. It is Minnesota's NW Angle.

Most never imagined back in March when the U.S. / Canada border was shut down that things would last this long. So far, local fishing resorts have been cut off from customers since the last two weeks of March with no end in sight.

There is a way to travel to the Angle and stay out of Canada. It consists of crossing big Lake of the Woods which is the size of a great lake, about 40 miles to the resorts with the

majority of it big open water, or in the case of this winter, ice.

There is a well groomed snowmobile trail across the lake which is a great option if you snowmobile. One could fly up but with no airport, landing on the ice isn't realistic for most visitors.

Facing another season of virtually no revenue, the community has pulled together and come up with a solution, the NW Angle Guest Ice Road. There have been ice roads on Lake of the Woods for many years allowing anglers access to good fishing areas, but never an ice road that extended from the south shore of Lake of the Woods all of the way up to the NW Angle. That is about to change.

When the ice is thick enough to accommodate vehicles, most likely in early January through March, visiting ice anglers will have the opportunity to purchase a pass and drive the road both over ice and then through a forest up to the NW Angle.

"This is a monumental task and it is amazing to see the

NW Angle area pull together to save their ice fishing season," explains Joe Henry, Executive Director, Lake of the Woods Tourism. "This project is absolutely necessary to save some resorts who have had little to no revenue since March. Small business owners bringing to the table their entrepreneurial spirit, can-do attitudes, and decades of wisdom to make this happen. The NW Angle is special and this is community and teamwork at its finest."

The NW Angle Guest Ice Road will begin at Springsteel Resort just south of the Canadian border on the SW corner of Lake of the Woods. The ice road will make its way north staying on U.S. ice up to the border cut trail, a road through a forest where it will end up connecting to one of the main roads up at the Angle. From this road, NW Angle resorts and the incredible ice fishing experiences they provide will be accessible. Details and updates can be found on the NW Angle Guest Ice Road's Facebook page @nwaiceroad.

Strategic Farming 2021: Let's Talk Crops!

WORTHINGTON, Minn. (11/24/2020)—Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. Whatever works best for you, we hope you will join us this winter to discuss some of the key issues and questions around crop production facing Minnesota corn and soybean farmers today. Sessions will be held over Zoom, which can be accessed via your computer, phone or other mobile device, and run from 8:30 to 9:00 am on Wednesdays, January 6 through March 24.

These online sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation (about 10 minutes) by the discussion leaders for the day, followed by 20 minutes of discussion, framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic.

Speakers will include researchers and educators from the University of MN and North Central region, as well as area agency personnel. Topics and speakers include:

- January 6: Corn hybrid selection. Jeff Coulter, Extension Corn Agronomist, Dean Malvick, Extension Plant Pathologist and Tom Hoverstad, Researcher
- January 13: Soybean variety selection. Seth Naeve, Extension Soybean Agronomist and Dean Malvick, Extension Plant Pathologist
- January 20: Herbicide Technology traits: What to use where, when, and how? Debalin Sarangi, Extension Weed Specialist and Tom Peters, Extension Sugarbeet Agronomist
- January 27: Broadcasting versus Banding P & K. Jeff Vetsch, Researcher and Dean Kaiser, Extension Nutrient Management Specialist
- February 3: Third crops ready to work for you. Jochum Wiersma, Extension Small Grains Specialist and Craig Sheaffer, Forage Specialist
- February 10: We've got you covered: The latest on cover crop research and tools you can use. Axel Garcia y Garcia, Sustainable Cropping Systems, Anna Cates, Extension State Soil Health Specialist and Gregg Johnson, Biomass Cropping Systems
- February 17: Adjusting Soil pH to Maximize Crop Production. Dan Kaiser, Extension Nutrient Management Specialist and Jeff Vetsch, Researcher
- February 24: The Nuts'n

Bolts of On-Farm Research - Doin' it right. R.L. (Bob) Nielsen, Extension Corn Specialist, Purdue University and Seth Naeve, Extension Soybean Specialist

• March 3: Making every acre pay, Naeem Kalwar, Extension Soil Health Specialist, North Dakota State University, Tanner Bruse, MN Ag & Conservation Programs Manager, Pheasants Forever and Alan Lepp, NRCS

• March 10: What insects are bugging your corn this year? Ken Ostlie, Extension Entomologist and Bruce Potter, Extension Integrated Pest Management Specialist

• March 17: SCN: So tough a threat, it warrants a coalition. Greg Tylka, Nematologist, Iowa State University, Seth Naeve, Extension Soybean Agronomist and Samuel Markell, Extension Broadleaf Plant Pathologist, North Dakota State University

• March 24: Stand Establishment for corn and soybean.

Essentia Health offering heart screen

Essentia Health in Fargo is now offering a heart screen, which can identify signs of heart conditions before symptoms appear. The screening is an affordable, painless and non-invasive way to detect heart disease in its early stages. You can trust the experienced experts at Essentia Health for a safe, accurate and comprehensive screening to keep your heart strong for a lifetime.

The heart screen costs \$50 and includes the following:

- Lipid profile - lab test to measure cholesterol and heart disease risk factor
- Calcium scoring – a CT scan to check for deposits of calcium (hardened plaque) within the walls of your heart's arteries
- EKG – an electrocardiogram

Christmas Offerings at Erskine Community Center

Do you need help providing a Christmas meal for yourself and/or your family this year? If you are a family or individual in need please sign up for the free Christmas dinner served out of the Erskine community center on Christmas day starting at 5 PM. This year we are only offering takeout and delivery services, no dine in. If you would like to receive a Christmas dinner please call to get on either take out or delivery list by December 18. We're going to do

Seth Naeve, Extension Soybean Agronomist, Jeff Coulter, Extension Corn Agronomist and Dean Malvick, Extension Plant Pathologist

For more details on each session and to register, go to: <https://z.umn.edu/strategic-farming>. You need only register once for the whole program series. At registration, please take a moment to let us know what questions you would like highlighted during the discussions. There is no charge to participate, and sessions will be recorded and posted for viewing later at your convenience.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, details will be included at registration on how to access the sessions on your computer (all you need is the link) or mobile device.

We hope you will take this opportunity to join with U of MN Extension in discussing crop topics at our "Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops!" program!

(EKG) shows your heart's electrical activity and heart rhythm

• Consult with a cardiology provider – assess your risk factors based on history and physical findings

The heart screen is suggested for men over age 40 and women over age 50 who have risk factors for heart disease and/or family history of early heart disease. The testing and consult with a provider take about two hours to complete. The provider will explain the results of your CT scan, EKG and lipid profile at the time of your consult and determine next steps in your care or treatment.

The heart screen is available to current Essentia Health patients and those who are not.

times will be arranged.

Also new this year is a Christmas food box distribution. Perhaps you need help putting together a Christmas meal but you still want to cook it yourself. I can help with that too. This year a limited number of pre-packed Christmas food bundles will be available for those in need. It might not be everything you need but it will help towards your dinner. Boxes will be available on December 21.

by Stephen P. Astrup, JD

Estate planning helps you manage and document many important decisions to ensure they are carried out after your death, including wishes for your finances, health care and property. It may seem daunting, but it's a worthwhile process that can make life easier for you and your loved ones.

Research suggests approximately 60 percent of adults in the US have no estate plan because factors, such as age and socioeconomic status, often influence the perception of estate planning. However, estate planning isn't just for older adults or the wealthy.

Estate plans are meant to act as a road map, charting the course for your wishes — both health care and personal possessions. They are tailored to each person's individual goals, requirements, financial situation and specific circumstances. No two plans are alike. Plans can, and should, be modified as you age and your life circumstances change.

You MUST call and sign up to get a box before December 18th.

Remember to call and either sign up for a box or to get on a delivery/takeout list by December 18!

Call 218-687-2157 or call/text 218-280-2992.



Some common misconceptions about estate planning include:

- Assuming it will "all work out." Many people believe they know what will happen with their property at death. Unfortunately, expectations are often far from reality.
 - Fear of upsetting family harmony. It's nearly impossible to please everyone, but doing nothing has the most potential for creating fractured relationships among family members, especially siblings. Creating an estate plan and offering transparency to your decision-making process is the best way to mitigate family conflict.
 - Cost and time. It's a misconception that estate planning is a time-consuming and expensive endeavor. By not planning, you will likely increase the cost and time in the future your family will spend with an estate planning attorney to make decisions for you if you are unable to or have passed away.
- All adults should have the following documents in place in the event you are unable to communicate your wishes or you die:
- A will makes sure your assets go to the people you want, and that any underage children or other dependents are cared for by the appropriate people. In addition, your will indicates a personal representa-

tive who has agreed to carry out your wishes. It's best to have a conversation with this person before naming them as representative. A will can also ease disputes that may arise among your beneficiaries (e.g., spouse, children, relatives, etc.). It's beneficial to sit down with your family to discuss the contents of your will, but making decisions about how to distribute your property in your will is your choice.

- Durable power of attorney (finances and real property). The durable power of attorney designates one or more individuals (called an attorney-in-fact) to either make or help you make decisions related to your finances if you are unable. You should provide an original durable power of attorney to your attorney(s)-in-fact.
- Health care directive (health). The health care directive designates one or more individuals (called health care agents) to either make or help you make decisions related to your health if you are unable to communicate your wishes. It's usually helpful to consult with your personal physician when outlining your directives, as they can often provide thoughtful insight to guide your decision making. Provide a copy of your health care directive to your health care agent(s) and your physician. While it can be a stressful thing to consider, it can be much harder on your family if they have to guess how you would want to be cared for or the health care decisions you would make in a medical crisis.

Documenting your wishes is one of the greatest gifts you can give to those who love you. The time and energy spent on making estate-planning decisions today will help ease the burden of your loved ones while giving you peace of mind.

Contact an estate attorney to help document your wishes.

Stephen Astrup, JD, is regulatory and project counsel with Hospice of the Red River Valley.



Identify winter birds in backyards

Birds flitting around the neighborhood are a common sight during spring and summer, and these welcome guests can be enjoyable to observe as they nest, feed and interact. When the weather cools in fall and winter, many birds seek out warmer climates, but a good number of these feathered friends stick around.

Certain birds can be found all winter long across regions of North America. The Great American Bird Count is a program that is run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to seek the help of volunteer birdwatchers across North America to observe and count all the birds seen in a 15-minute interval during a four-day data collection period. This program helps identify birds that are most commonly seen in cold temperatures and study the composition and distribution of the winter bird populations across North America. Birds seen during this time

may change from year to year, though certain species are more likely to be around in the winter months.

• Northern cardinals: One of the more iconic winter birds, the bright red cardinals are around much of the year but perhaps most noticeable against the snowy, stark landscape of a winter's day. Cardinals use their bright, powerful bills to crack open seeds and cut through sugary fruits to help them survive the winter.

• Tree sparrows: Tree sparrows are large-bodied and long-tailed sparrows with gray and reddish-brown streaking along the edges of their feathers. They also wear a bright chestnut colored cap. Despite their name, tree sparrows spend much of their time on the ground feeding. The bird count has unveiled a greater number of tree sparrows in recent years. These birds are insectivorous, so milder winters may be contributing to their increased presence.

• Tufted titmice: Tufted titmice resemble cardinals in body and head shape, albeit on a smaller scale, but they are pale gray in coloring. These are bold birds who defend territory with scolding calls.

• Blue jays: These common, vibrant birds are well known to many people. They are large-crested songbirds with broad, round tails. They have white or light gray feathering on the underside of their bodies with various shades of blue, black and white on the top. A favorite food is acorns, and these birds are often found on forest edges. Their calls are loud and carry long distances.

• Mourning doves: Many people hear mourning doves before they actually see them, as their soft cooing often comes from roof rafters and tree branches. These birds have plump bodies and long, tapered necks, with a head that looks particularly small in comparison. They tend to be brown to buff color. When the birds take off for flight, their wings make sharp whistling or whinnying sounds.

• American goldfinches: These birds are sometimes called the "wild canary" of the Americas. They have distinctive yellow plumage that fades in winter to a palette of buff, brown and gray. They're small seed-eating birds that often travel in flocks.

Birds may need a little help surviving in the winter. Keep fresh, unfrozen water around and supplement food scavenged with peanut butter, suet and nuts. Brush piles, roost boxes or birdhouses can provide needed shelter.

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Polk County Sheriff

Chimney Fire

On 11/28/2020 at 0234 the Polk County Sheriff's Office along with the Mentor Fire Department were dispatched to 16233 340th ST SE rural Mentor for a chimney fire. Mentor Fire along with Deputies arrived on scene and the house had large flames coming from the Chimney with heavy smoke coming from the house. The occupants of the house were checked out by Fertile EMS and released without injury's.

Assisting agencies Erskine Fire, Fertile Fire and MN State Fire Marshall.

No further information will be released



Did you know?

Consumers who want to support local businesses should know that positive product reviews can be a great and effective way to do just that. According to Business2Community.com, 88 percent of consumers trust online reviews as much as personal recommendations. In addition, customers are likely to spend 31 percent more on a business with "excellent" reviews, while 72 percent of consumers say that positive reviews make them trust local businesses more. The 2018 ReviewTrackers Online Reviews Stats report found that star ratings affect consumer behavior, as 80 percent of consumers say they trust 4-, 4.5- and 5-star ratings the most. The good news for consumers is that product reviews need not be long to be effective. ReviewTrackers notes that the average review is now roughly the size of a tweet and has gotten 65 percent shorter since 2010. That means it's simple, quick and effective to support local businesses via online reviews of their products.

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Minnesota State High School Clay Target League Completes Fall Season

St Paul, Minnesota –The Minnesota State High School Clay Target League completed its 2020 Fall Season on November 22nd with the release of the season's final standings and awards list. This fall over 3900 athletes from 139 teams registered to compete in the annual fall program.

"The League congratulates the top student athletes this season, and thanks all of the coaches and parents that worked hard to ensure that students had the opportunity to participate this fall," said John Nelson, President of the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League. "It shows the dedication and determination of the thousands of coaches and volunteers that donate their time and experience into setting up and managing their local schools' teams during these remarkable times"

The full list of awards along with final standings can be found at: <http://mnclaytarget.com/2020/11/17/2020-fall-season-conferences-awards/>

The Minnesota State High School Clay Target League is a member of the USA Clay Target League, the nation's largest youth clay target shooting sport program with over 35,000 athletes in 2019. The League offers Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, and 5-Stand leagues to secondary and postsecondary schools across the country. The League is the only 100% school-approved clay target shooting sport program in America.

The League's co-ed and adaptive nature are key attractions to schools nationwide. The League is fully Title IX compliant with both male and female athletes competing on the same team. Additionally, it's an 'adaptive' sport, which allows students with physical disabilities to take part. The

League is also the safest sport in high school and college with no reported injuries since the inception of the League in 2001. Each athlete must complete firearm safety certification before participation.

"We take pride in that athletes of all types are able to participate," Nelson said. "Clay target shooting sports are a safe and fun activity that anyone can enjoy."

The League attracts student athletes to participate in shooting sports while creating a 'virtual' competition among teams. Travel is minimal because practice and competition are conducted at a shooting range near the school's location. Conferences are determined by team size rather than geographic location for fair competition.

Athletes earn True Team® scoring points as determined by their performance and ranking against all athlete scores within their team's conference. The team score and overall standing are calculated by adding the earned points from qualifying athletes and posted on the League's website. Athletes and their families track their individual and team performance on their phone, tablet or computer via the Shooter Performance Tracker®.

The USA Clay Target League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the independent provider of clay target shooting sports for secondary and post-secondary schools. The League's priorities are safety, fun, and marksmanship – in that order.

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Head Start Positions Available

Inter-County Community Council is accepting applications for openings in our Head Start department:

Health Coordinator: 40 hours a week, year round, office in Thief River Falls, MN with travel to satellite offices, the first 4 weeks will be located in Oklee for training. Position supports staff serving families of children ages birth to 5 years to meet Head Start health requirements focusing on data monitoring, referrals, and staff training; minimum of Bachelor Degree in health/related field; experience in health field and with young children preferred. Additional training will be provided. Must be able to pass a background check.

Lead Teacher: 40 hours a week, 10 month position, classroom located in Bagley, MN. Work with a team to provide care and education to 4 years olds in a classroom setting; primary duties include writing lesson plans, leading group activities, supervising children, documenting child progress, as well as providing guidance and supervision to 2 team members. Must be able to pass a background check. Position requires a 2 year degree in early childhood education or related degree with experience. Experience with children preferred, additional training will be provided.

Application and position specific information, including job duties, salary and educational requirements are available on our website at www.intercountycouncil.org. Send completed application and resume to **Inter-County Community Council, Human Resources, PO Box 189, Oklee, MN 56742** or hr@intercountycouncil.org. **Applications must be received by 4:30PM on Monday, December 14th.** Call 218-796-5144 x1028 for more information. ICC is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

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This position will be assigned a primary location, however, will be required to work at multiple facility locations as needed and assigned, including the jail. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Previous custodial experience is preferred but not required. A valid driver's license is required for this position. Wage range for this position is \$15.54 - \$19.75/hour DOE and qualifications. An application and full job description can be found on Polk County's website: www.co.polk.mn.us - click on Careers or contact the Polk County Administrator's Office at (218) 281-5408. Please send your completed application and resume to the Polk County Administrator's Office, 612 N. Broadway, Room 211, Crookston, MN 56716, or e-mail directly to alecia.helms@co.polk.mn.us. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment. This position will remain open until filled. EEO.

SUBMIT YOUR EMPLOYMENT ADS to richards@gvtel.com

FACILITY YARD OPERATOR

The Polk County Incinerator, Fosston, MN has an opening for a full-time Facility Yard Operator position. Duties include but are not limited to: Screening incoming material loads, directing and assisting the public with proper waste disposition, aggregating materials, maintaining material receiving areas and containers, processing incoming material loads, loading/unloading material transfer containers/trailers, performing basic cleaning/maintenance of equipment, facilities and grounds, and completing basic tracking/reporting functions. High school diploma or GED and a minimum 3 years of experience operating various types of heavy equipment, or equivalent combination of education and experience. A valid driver's license is required. Wage range for this position is \$15.54 - \$19.75/hour, DOE and qualifications. Interested individuals may contact the Fosston Incinerator at 218-435-6501 or the Polk Administrator's Office at 218-281-5408. To obtain an application and full job description go to: www.co.polk.mn.us and click on Careers. Please submit your application and resume to the Polk County Administrator's Office, Polk County Government Center, 612 N. Broadway, Room 211, Crookston, MN 56716 or to the Polk County/Fosston Incinerator, 708 8th Street NW, Fosston, MN 56542. Applications may also be emailed directly to jon.steiner@co.polk.mn.us or alecia.helms@co.polk.mn.us. This position will remain open until filled. EOE.

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The Clearbrook-Gonvick School has an opening for a full-time para professional. This position will be working directly with students. Applicants must have passed or be able to pass a para pro test and pass a background check. Please submit letter of interest, resume, and two references to: Clearbrook-Gonvick School 16770 Clearwater Lake Rd Clearbrook, MN 56634 Attn: Carl Dugstad Email: cdugstad@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

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Answers on page 5

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OBITUARIES



Obituary for Beverly Charles

Beverly Bonnie Charles, of Clearbrook MN, passed away on November 20th, 2020 at Sanford Hospital in Bemidji, MN. Due to Covid restrictions a private burial will be held for immediate family only with a Celebration of Life to follow at a later date when restrictions are lifted.

Beverly Bonnie Bunes was born March 19th, 1934 in Clover Township to parents Karl & Anna Bunes. As a young girl she and her family moved to Sinclair Township. She attended school in Clover, Sinclair, and Clearbrook High School where she received her GED.

Beverly married the love of her life Mayhlon Charles on August 11th, 1951. From this union 9 children were born. Mitchell (Rhonda) Charles of Bordulac, ND, Cheryl Olson of Bemidji, MN, Shawn Charles,

Chris (Shirley) Charles of Carrington, ND, Sue Charles (Randy Olson) of Goodridge, MN, Brian (Barb) Charles of Arcadia, NE, Scott Charles of Spring Valley, WI, Merry Charles of Bagley, MN, Kim Charles (Rick Battles) of Red Lake Falls, MN. She was blessed with 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Beverly was very busy when her children were growing up. Much canning, gardening, berry picking, and everyday duties.

Beverly was active in many volunteer duties in Clearwater County: Sheriff Reserve, Hospice, the local Senior Center, Good Samaritan Center, and also taught Fire-arm Safety. Beverly was one of many who helped restore the Seljord Church. She organized a program each summer to raise money for restoration of the church. Restoration was completed after 30 years.

Beverly enjoyed deer and bear hunting. In her lifetime of hunting she shot 88 deer and 8 bears.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, infant son (Shawn), 2 half-brothers, 4 half-sisters, 2 brothers-in-law, 1 sister-in-law, and a sister.

She is survived by 2 sisters Jan Dreyer (Bemidji), Marilyn (Ron) Vieter (Bemidji), 1 brother Duane Bunes (East Grand Forks), 8 of her children, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many friends whom she held dear to her heart.



Obituary for Bonnie Crudup

Bonnie Espirito Crudup was born October 3rd, 1949 in Thief River Falls, MN. She was the daughter of Carl and Edith Holthusen. Bonnie was the middle child of 11 children, always having older and younger siblings to enjoy life with while growing up on a farm near Grygla, MN.

She attended worship and Sunday School at a church in Thorhult, MN which was once a country schoolhouse where her mother Edith taught all 8 grades. Elementary school included a country school in Spruce Grove township and Grygla Elementary School. Bonnie graduated from Goodridge High School in 1967.

In 1968, Bonnie and two older sisters moved to Seattle, WA. Her two sisters later returned to Minnesota but Bonnie chose to stay and make her life in Washington. Bonnie worked for an insurance company in Seattle and met her first husband Edward Espirito. They had 2 children, Keith and Kevin Espirito. She started a new journey and relocated to Spokane, WA where she attended Spokane Falls Community College and received an Associates of Arts degree. She met her current husband, James Crudup in 1980. They had two children, Eric and

Amie. James also had a son, James Jr., from a previous marriage. Bonnie and James enjoyed raising family together. Bonnie worked at the Audobon Elementary School, Spokane Police Department and the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department until her retirement.

Bonnie and James lived a beautiful life of 41 years until her death from esophageal cancer. She passed away peacefully at her home with family at her side on November 5th, 2020. She was 71 years old.

Bonnie will be remembered for her kindness, as she was always helping and thinking of others. Her great sense of humor made everyone smile or laugh.

A Celebration of Life service was held in Spokane, WA on November 13, 2020. May her memory be blessed.

Bonnie is survived by her husband James Crudup, Spokane, WA, children Keith (Janet) Espirito, Edgewood, WA, Kevin (Beth) Espirito, Indianapolis, IN, James Crudup, Jr, Spokane, WA, Eric Crudup, Portland, OR, Amie Crudup (Jeremy Warden), Spokane, WA, grandchildren Allison (J.D.) Hartman, Cierra Jones, Avery Hobert, Maya and Alex Espirito, great grandchildren Atticus and Annabelle Hartman, sisters and brothers Dian (Andy) Lopez, Alexandria, MN, Gail (Roger) Holbeck, Sioux Falls, SD, Linda Vettel (friend Ron Cluff), Bemidji, MN, Donna (Richard) Jones, Moorhead, MN, Dale (Connie) Holthusen, Mount Horeb, WI, Roy (Teresa) Holthusen, Thief River Falls, MN, Connie (Tony) Moe, Grygla, MN, Terri (Henry) Klasen, Roseau, MN and a number of nieces and nephews. Bonnie is preceded in death by her parents, Edith and Carl Holthusen, sister, Jean Holthusen, brother, Glen Holthusen, and nephew, Andrew Klasen.



Obituary for Eileen Olson

Eileen Olson passed away on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at her rural Oklee home surrounded by her loving family.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 2:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church in Oklee, MN with Reverend Linda Molitor Officiating. Burial will be held at Zion Lutheran Cemetery near Oklee, MN. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the Zion Lutheran Church.

Eileen Ethel (Johnson) Olson was born on November 14, 1936 daughter of Lloyd and Lillian (Farrington) Johnson in Lambert Township, Red Lake County, MN. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church. She attended school in Oklee graduating in 1954. She worked at Arctic Cat, and was head cook at the Oklee Senior Site and was there until her retirement.

On October 27, 1962 she

was united in marriage to Goodwin Olson at Clearwater Lutheran Church near Oklee, MN. To this union 3 children were born Debbie, Shelley and Steven. The couple made their home in Oklee for a few years and in 1972 purchased a farm where she has since resided.

Eileen enjoyed cooking, and baking cookies for her grandchildren, gardening, feeding humming birds, watching Christmas movies on the Hallmark channel, and visiting with family and friends.

Eileen is survived by her children Debbie (Dennis) Salenty of rural Red Lake Falls, MN, Shelley (Chip Aas-and) Thompson of Erskine, MN and Steven (Karen) Olson of Brooks, MN; grandchildren Deonne (Brandon) Maygra, Benjamin (Heather) Salenty, Angela (Joel) Salenty, Joshua (Sarah) Willett, Jeremiah (Marni) Willett, Kyle Willett, Madison (Sam) Pautzke, Linsey Thompson, Corey Olson, Andrea (Joe) Larson, Nick (Amanda) Olson, Katie Olson, and Jacob Olson; great-grandchildren Mandy, Justin, Gregory, Theodore, Lillian, Madison, Hunter, Paisley, Ava, Lila, Bailey, Kinslee, Reilynn, Niah, Sawyer, and William; one great-great grandchild Carter. Brothers and sisters-in-law Edwin (Ione) Olson, Milan Olson, Darlene (Norman) Blackstad, and Bernice Johnson Klenk along with several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband Goodwin, parents, infant sister Evelyn, brothers Luaine Johnson, Marlyn Johnson and Floyd Johnson; sister-in-law Patricia Johnson, and one niece Susan Torkelson.

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Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

Input = Output

Input equals output. You've heard it said...but what, exactly, does it mean?

Let's take a recipe for an example. When you follow a recipe, ingredients are important. Let's say you are hoping to bake a pan of brownies. However, instead of using the ingredients listed, you simply plop an orange onto the pan and into the oven it goes. What will you get? You'll get exactly what you put into it and upon opening the oven door, a piece of fruit morphed into mush will no doubt greet you.

Another example might be when you hope to paint your house barn red, yet you choose to purchase sky blue. A sky blue house is what you will get. What goes into the can will equal what comes out.

Is what's poured in to any given mixture important for the finished product? Yes. What you pour in matters greatly.

But, what happens when you make a mistake and put something in you hadn't necessarily planned on? Can those unintended detours you encounter be corrected? Can the wrong be made right?

What can be done when unintended input equates to an output you now desire to change? What happens when you dreamed of things being one way, but they turned out to be something else altogether? What input can now be given in order for the outcome to be transformed?

Let's go back to the brown-

ies. In order to transform that messy orange blob into an actual brownie, I will need to clean out the pan, and begin to utilize the sure proof recipe from a source that can secure the outcome. Turning from the mess I made and turning towards the words from the recipe, I will get the result I want. It will be transformative, and it will restore the old into the new.

Same with the paint. I will need to go back to the expert to help get the desired outcome. The experts know what is needed. In order for the house to be transformed into that which was desired, I have to begin anew by putting in the right color formula to get what I desired.

So what about us? Is it true that what goes in us impacts what comes out of us? Is the process of restoration possible once things were put in that we wish hadn't been? Is restorative transformation possible?

According to the expert on transformation, Jesus Christ, the answer would be yes. It begins with confession. He takes away that which we confess. He takes it and makes all things new. The old passes away as He carries it away because He takes away the sins of the world.

What got me to thinking about all this? To be honest, it was the quiet.

The grands had just departed and the rain came down as I sat upon the porch when flashbacks of my own childhood upon grandpa's farm came crashing

in. His blue Ford pick-up held fast in my memory as we drove to close the barbed wire gates. Filling the buckets with feed from the grain bins was another memory made.

However, accidents happened from time to time. A gate left open, the grain flowing a bit too quickly with extra feed now lying upon the ground. No amount of admonishing could reckon with the force of grain flowing rapid like as it landed in areas not meant to be.

Was it grandpa's steady input into our lives, his presence, his stability which helped ground us? Knowing he would extend his hand in forgiveness for any wrongs committed... made it safe.

Perhaps it was grandma's constant beaded prayer line which anchored the transformation journey of trusting in Him.

What I do know is...when we are privileged enough to receive input from others...the output from it must be input into others. Helping to equip saints is what it's about. As little footsteps pattern their steps after ours, may all who come behind us find us faithful and faith-filled.

What will the output look like once input has been received? 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is a new creation, the old has passed away; behold the new has come." May we welcome His input so the output may be all about Him as we are made new. Amen.

Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol



**Q u e s -
tion:** Did I
hear there
is extra DWI
enforcement
going on over the holidays?

Answer: Yes, here is some information that we shared on the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's blog. "The holidays are going to be different this year, that's for sure. With Minnesota's pandemic restrictions in place for now, friends and family likely aren't coming into town to celebrate, and even if they do, you won't be going out to a bar or restaurant with them to catch up. But no matter where you're drinking, you still need to plan ahead for a sober ride.

The consequences of a DWI are unpleasant at best. You can lose your license for up to a year, and even possibly serve jail time. And that's not to mention the cost to a first-time DWI offender: about \$10,000. Do you have 10 grand just lying around? Better to drive smart. Driving smart involves not only driving sober, but buckling up, driving the speed limit, and putting distractions away. If you don't drive smart, your chances of causing a crash are much greater - and then what? You and anyone else involved will likely need medical attention, meaning you'd be taking up valuable resources in the midst

of a pandemic. Those hospital beds and medical supplies - not to mention the time and energy of already overworked medical professionals - need to be available for COVID-19 patients and other people who need care, not taken up because of careless decisions on the road.

If keeping yourself and others safe on the road or conserving valuable resources doesn't make you drive safely, perhaps this will: Starting today, there is extra DWI enforcement on Minnesota roads. The campaign runs every weekend through Dec. 31. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state are working overtime to get drunk drivers off the road.

But really, the legal and financial penalties of a DWI shouldn't be the reason you avoid drinking and driving. You should avoid it because protecting your friends, yourself and other people on the road is the right thing to do. Do you really want to be the person who deprives a family of a beloved parent, sibling or child this holiday season? Traffic deaths in Minnesota are already at 361 so far this year compared with 332 fatalities reported this time last year. In general, impaired driving contributes to about a quarter of fatalities on the road. All those affected families are dreading spending the holidays



without their loved one.

If you buckle up, find a sober ride, obey the speed limit and avoid distractions, you'll not only arrive home safely to your family. You'll help others on the road do the same, so that they can live to celebrate the holidays too." https://dps.mn.gov/blog/Pages/20201125-holiday-dwi-extra-enforcement.aspx

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a word to the wise

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