



Tri County Canary

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

Late-life rower has had success

By Steve Korby in the Pine Knot nNews from Cloquet, MN.
"The Boys in the Boat," this was not an Olympic rowing competition conducted in Nazi Germany under the watchful eye of Adolf Hitler. It was a regatta, but hosted by present-day Germany, near Berlin, with representatives from more than 50 countries. Rowing remains a very popular sport in the world, especially in Europe.

It was once popular in Duluth as well, with powerful teams a century ago.

Brekke grew up in north-western Minnesota in Gonvick, which lies between Bemidji and Thief River Falls. He moved to Cloquet when his mother accepted a teaching job at Churchill Elementary School. Arvid spent four years in the Navy after high school and later graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a degree in industrial education.

He married Nancy after they met at a Halloween party. They've been married for 51 years. His working career was mostly at Duluth's Modern Constructors, as a welder. Brekke is also an accomplished carpenter.

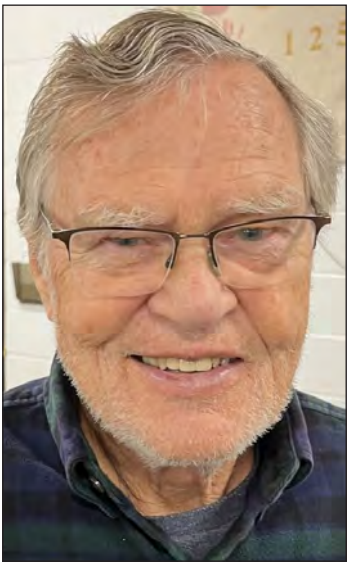
He retired from full-time employment about 15 years ago.

Brekke has been a cross country skier for many years, starting the sport in his 30s.

He is a full-blooded Norwegian, so skiing is part of his proud heritage. He skis on trails in Jay Cooke State Park, near his home.

Soon after his retirement, Brekke said he had an interesting conversation with the girls skiing coach at Duluth East High School. He was asked if he'd ever had an interest in crew or rowing. She sold the virtues of full-time, year-round physical training and alerted him of an opportunity with the Duluth Rowing Club. Brekke followed up on the idea and soon found himself immersed in and a proud member of the Duluth Rowing Club.

Brekke offered me a book, "Invincible," which chronicles the history of the Duluth Boat



Arvid Brekke

Club. It was initiated in 1886 near where the Great Lakes Aquarium is now located on Duluth Harbor. The club evolved and with the guidance of James E. Ten Eyck, a coach who transferred from Syracuse University in New York, the Duluth Boat Club became national champions and world renowned.

In 1909, the Duluth and the Boat Club touted itself as "the greatest water sports organization in the world." The book title is derived from the "four Duluth oarsmen who were never defeated in 22 elite races and were named the invincible four." It was front page news in the New York Times and other national newspapers in the 1920s.

It was more than a boat club. It was a social club, too. The founders built a new large building on Park Point along with a swimming pool, tennis courts, dance hall, locker rooms, tenant rooms. Times changed and with world wars and the Great Depression the facility closed.

Years later, the club reopened farther down Park Point to its current location and name: the Duluth Rowing Club.

Brekke, with his industrial skills, has volunteered many hours at the club and welded together big racks used for storing the long rowing boats. He's currently working on a fallen

tree to be shaped and used as an outdoor seating bench.

Even after 15 years, Brekke does not consider himself an accomplished rower.

"It's a complicated sport and difficult to get all rowers performing in unison," he said.

He usually trains with three others together in their boat: All of them are over age 69, but he is the oldest at 81. Depending on weather conditions, they usually row towards Hearing Island off Park Point in the St. Louis River Bay. Occasionally, they'll row toward the Superior entry to Duluth Harbor or even venture onto Lake Superior.

The group traveled to Germany.

"Even though we performed admirably, and it was exhausting, I won the medal because of my age," Brekke said quietly but proudly.

While in Germany, the rowing partners toured Berlin and visited Frankfurt and Nuremberg and many historically significant sights.

"It's still obvious the destruction from World War II, but there are many sights that are beautiful and unique," Brekke said.

This was not Brekke's first international sports competition. He and his two kids, Erika and Chris, went to Finland for a cross country skiing event a few years back - a border-to-border race from Russia to Sweden near the Arctic Circle in Finland. The race is very popular with skiers and often on their bucket lists.

"It would be like skiing from Duluth to Fargo in a week-long event. My kids finished, but I fell a little short," Brekke said. I say "bravo" to Arvid Brekke for remaining such an elite athlete.

Steve Korby's interest in writing goes back to when he was in fourth grade and editor of the Scan-Satellite school newspaper in Scanlon. He welcomes ideas for human interest stories and tales regarding Carlton County residents, projects, history, and plans c/o news@PineKnotNews.com.



Gonvick had the lighting of the Christmas tree on Friday, December 6. A large crowd gathered around for the lighting and singing of carols. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their arrival on a sleigh driven by Mark Strandberg with his team of horses with Norsk Farms, LLC.



Kathy Kjolhaug took these pictures at the tree lighting in Gonvick of Mike Johnson and Kathy Bergman with their grandchildren.



Alyssa Raverty from Fosston at left, one of the many crafters in Clearbrook and Janice Anderson registering the many who attended the event.



Santa Claus Day was held in Gully and Sandie Husby took pictures. Leif Sather was up on the Norsk Farms, LLC wagon in Clearbrook for this picture.



Clearbrook held their annual Santa Claus Day with over 40 exhibitors at the large gym in Clearbrook on Saturday, December 7.

Many activities were in store with the smell of fresh lefse hitting people as they came in the building.

\$1,200 in trade bucks was given away and of course Santa made his appearance. To the right is Terry Vorderbruggen and Karla Steinbrink from North Haven Farm from St. Hilaire They raise alpaca and make products.

Below the Clearwater Quilters Guild had their booth set up with Virginia Grenier, Diane Jackson, Carol Peterson and Karen Oftelie.



NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH NUGGETS

(Clearwater, Hubbard and Lake of the Woods Counties)

Here in Minnesota, where winters can be long, dark, and cold, seasonal depression or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is relatively common.

The specific onset of seasonal depression in Minnesota usually starts in October and November, when there's less natural sunlight, and peaks in December, January, and February. However, everyone is different, and this doesn't represent everyone's experience.

According to the University of Minnesota, common SAD symptoms include:

- Low energy
- Changes in sleep patterns, including disturbed sleep and oversleeping
- Irritability and a preference to avoid socializing
- Apathy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Appetite changes, including carbohydrate cravings and increased appetite
- General sadness or hopelessness
- Loss of self-esteem
- Anxiety

- Mood changes
 - Decreased libido
- Working through seasonal depression in Minnesota, or any region with long, cold winters and reduced sunlight, requires a proactive, holistic approach. Here are some strategies we've found to be helpful:

1. Maintain a Routine. Establish and stick to a daily routine for a sense of structure and predictability.

2. Spend Time Outdoors. Even in the cold, try to spend some time outdoors during daylight hours. Exposure to natural light, even on overcast days, can positively impact your mood and energy levels.

3. Get Active. Speaking of being outdoors, regular exercise is a powerful tool for managing depression. Engage in activities you enjoy, whether indoor workouts, winter sports, or taking a brisk walk. Exercise releases endorphins, which can improve mood.

4. Spend Time With Others. Social support is crucial during the winter months. Maintain

connections with friends and family and consider joining social groups, clubs, organizations, or classes to get out of the house.

5. Use Light Therapy. Use a lightbox that emits bright, full-spectrum light for about 20-30 minutes each morning to help regulate your circadian rhythm and improve your mood.

6. Work in Mindfulness and Relaxation Techniques. Meditation, deep breathing, and yoga can help manage stress and improve your overall well-being.

7. Optimize Your Environment. Make your living space as comfortable and well-lit as possible. Decorate with colors you love, open curtains during the day, and consider using light bulbs that mimic natural sunlight.

8. Try Vitamin D Supplementation. When skin is exposed to sunlight, it produces Vitamin D, which boosts serotonin—a brain chemical that affects mood (Mayo Clinic). Without enough sunlight, you might not be getting enough of the vitamin. Vitamin D supplements can help with that.

Before you begin taking any supplements, always consult with a healthcare professional.

9. Seek Professional Help. A licensed therapist can help you explore options and address negative thought patterns and develop ongoing coping strategies.

Remember that everyone's experience with seasonal depression is unique, and it may take time to find the combination of strategies that works best for you

Join us at our
Christmas Open House

Thursday, Dec. 19th
8:30 – 4:00
for Coffee, Cider & Cookies
in the lobby of any of our branches

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R39C

ANTIQUES

By John Eggers

JohnRogerEggers.com, envision@paulbunyan.net, 20269 Irvine Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601, 218-766-9009

Coca-Cola

Have a Coke

If you were in the Army during World War II, chances were good that you would have a pin-up in your locker or wallet. You might even have one on the side of a tank or an airplane. The Memphis Bell, the first B-17 to complete 25 missions, had a pin-up of a "belle" in a bathing suit on both sides of the plane. After their 25th mission, one of the crew members was hoisted up so he could kiss the pinup on her cheek—I'm not saying which one.

America's entrance into World War II in 1941 was the beginning of the golden age of pin-ups. The American military commissioned pin-up artists to raise soldiers' morale with exotic, erotic images. Soldiers during World War II were exposed to pin-up art daily. Pin-ups were most popular on calendars, arcade cards, postcards, matchbook covers, and playing cards. They were also on cigarette lighters and steering wheel knobs—remember those?

Movie star Betty Grable was the most popular pin-up during the World War II era. It is rumored that her legs were insured for a million dollars.

I remember visiting gas stations during the 1950s and seeing pin-up calendars adorning the walls. I doubt if there was a gas station that didn't have at least one or two calendars.

The Gibson Girl is now widely accepted as the first pin-up. It was created in 1887 by Charles Gibson. Drawn lasciviously, she had sizeable breasts but a tiny waist. A swan-like neck and masses of dark hair piled atop her head.

There is a market for pin-up items, in fact, pin-ups can be very lucrative. Risque postcards, especially those made in France, are some of the most common pin-ups and can range in value from just a few dollars to close to a hundred dollars. Collectors also seek many comical pinup-type postcards.

I didn't have a true pin-up in my collection but the 1950s Coca-Cola tray shown gives you an idea that good looking women were good advertisers for almost any product. Coca Cola did have some bathing beauties that adorned their trays. Coca Cola trays are valued at \$50 and up.

Esquire magazines became well known for their pinup artwork. Probably the most popular pin-up artist was Alberto Vargas. His originals can sell for \$100,000. An Esquire Vargas calendar from the 40s sells for around \$200. Also, be on the lookout for Gil Elvgren and George Petty art work.

Although pin-up art depicts women in compromising and disparaging poses, the history of pin-up art has become part of the American scene. It will continue to be part of the antique and collectible market.

FAX SERVICE
at Richards
Publishing
Gonvick

Finseth Christmas Open House

December 14th • 4:00-6:30 pm
Rudy & Kathy Finseth
30146 320th Ave SE, McIntosh, MN 56556
Just south of Vernes Church

Tis the season! The lights will be bright, the house will be filled with cheer! Come over to see the lights, drink hot chocolate and cider, eat some treats, visit. Bring the whole family and friends.

The village is getting bigger!

R39C

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McIntosh, MN 56556

Merry Christmas

M38-39C

Fosston Public Library's Book Club to Discuss The Best Christmas Pageant Ever on Dec. 17

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA - The Fosston Public Library invites community members to join the library's Book Club for discussions of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson. This heartwarming Christmas classic follows the outrageous shenanigans of the

Herdman siblings as they take over the annual Christmas pageant.

The group will meet on Tuesday, December 17 at 2 p.m. The library's Book Club meets monthly to discuss great books and meet fellow readers. All are welcome.

DINING & entertainment

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R39C

BINGO Starting at 59¢ Progressive Blackout 6pm, Saturday, Dec. 14th, 2024

WING NIGHT WEDNESDAY

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 13th & 14th - Salmon

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R39C

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Red Lake County Heavy Equipment Operator

Position is based at the Oklee shop. Duties include, but not limited to, to grading and snowplowing assigned roadways with motor grader, repair and maintain all operating equipment, and keep roadway systems safe for traveling public all year round. Pay range \$21.77-\$28.31/hr. depending on experience includes a benefits package. This is a Union position with the I.U.O.E. Local No. 49.

Applicants must have a valid Minnesota CDL, Class A combination, be able to hear audio alarms and warning devices, lift 50 lbs., and be available for overtime in winter months with long hours and a short notice for reporting to work.

More information and applications are available at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/employment, email: hr@co.red-lake.mn.us, or at the Highway Department, 204 7th St SE Red Lake Falls, MN. For more information call (218) 253-2697. Deadline for initial applications is December 20, 2024.

EOE

O39-40C

COACHING POSITIONS

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School has the following Extra-Curricular Coaching Positions Available for the 2025 Spring Season:

Head Coach Positions:

Pay for these positions is \$4,320 for the season

- Varsity Head Baseball Coach
- Varsity Head Softball Coach

Assistant Coach Positions:

Pay for these positions is \$2,880 for the season

- Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach
- Varsity Assistant Softball Coach

Junior High Coach Position:

Pay for this position is \$1,800 for the season

- Junior High softball coach

Coaching requirements and expectations for our District include: Teaching young players the fundamentals of the sport you are applying for, being present at all games and practices, and being a positive role model to young student athletes. It is preferred that an applicant have experience coaching or playing in the sport they are applying for. Must be able to pass a background check. Positions are available until filled.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

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

R39-43C

Customer Service Representative American State Bank- Erskine Location

201 Vance Ave S, Erskine, MN 56535 • 218-687-2865

Full Time – Pay \$16-\$20, based on experience
American State Bank in Erskine, MN will be taking applications for a Customer Service Representative. We will accept a resume and cover letter indicating interest in the position. The position includes but is not limited to providing account services to customers by processing deposits, withdrawals, loan payments, and opening new deposit accounts.

Monday-Friday with shifts ranging from 8:00am-5:00pm. 40 hrs/wk. This position requires a detail-oriented person, with a professional manner and provides prompt, efficient, and accurate service in accordance with established policies and procedures.

If you want to work for an established, growing organization, this is the place for you. Let American State Bank be your destination workplace. Please contact Kristopher Munter at kristopher.munter@asbgrygla.com or Jackie Huschle at jackie.huschle@asbgrygla.com with any questions or interest in the position.



M37-42C

Hiring! Bagley Co-op Elevator Manager

The Bagley Co-op Elevator is seeking a highly motivated and experienced Manager to join our team. The ideal candidate will have a background in livestock or agriculture and a strong passion for serving the local farming community.

Position: Manager

Location: Bagley Co-op Elevator

Responsibilities:

- Oversee daily operations of the Co-op Elevator.
- Manage staff, scheduling, and workflow.
- Ensure smooth coordination of inventory
- Develop and maintain relationships with local farmers and suppliers.
- Implement safety protocols and company policies.
- Provide excellent customer service to all clients.

Qualifications:

- Experience with Livestock or Agriculture preferred.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal abilities.

Compensation:

Wage is based on experience.

How to Apply:

Applications can be picked up at any Bagley Cenex location or directly at the Bagley Co-op Elevator. We look forward to reviewing your application!

M38-40C

Clearwater County Department of Human Services

Clearwater County Department of Human Service is looking to fill a full time (40 hours per week) position with a skilled, caring, and empathetic team player whose talents will contribute to and promote the mission, vision, and values of the agency. Clearwater County DHS offers a comprehensive benefit package.

Agency Social Worker: This position will work with the aging and physically and cognitively impaired populations to assess needs and arrange services so individuals can remain safely in their home and community.

Go to <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem> to review the qualification requirements, position description, and to apply. The application must be submitted by 4:30 P.M. 12/31/2024.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



R39-41C

CHARPS Mechanic

Charps, headquartered in Clearbrook, MN, maintains a solid reputation as a preferred contractor in the energy industry and we are looking for an experienced Mechanic to join our team.

Expectations:

This role requires you to have the diagnostic and troubleshooting skills and experience necessary to maintain and repair a wide range of equipment. Your desire to complete quality work, accept challenges and a willingness to do what needs to be done will be vital to the position.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 4 years' experience on a wide range of equipment
- Applicants must have prior experience working with the following
 - o Electrical systems
 - o Air brake systems
 - o Hydraulics
 - o Air Compressors
 - o Tier 3 & 4 diesel engines
- Capable of performing DOT inspections
- Possess or can obtain a CDL
- Welding/Fabrication
- Basic computer skills

This position will be based at our Clearbrook, MN location, periodic travel may be required.

If you fit the expectations and qualifications above and want to join the Charps team as a Mechanic, please submit a cover letter and resume to HR@charps.com.

R39C

Polk County Full-Time Employment Opportunities:

Jury Attendant (Part-Time) – Sheriff's Office:

\$18.57 – \$23.52/hr. Position
Closes on Friday, December 27, 2024

Custodian I – Facilities:

\$19.50 – \$24.70/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II – Sheriff's Office:

\$30.48 – \$40.93/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Engineering Technician – Highway:

\$26.08 – \$36.78/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Environmental Technician – Environmental Services:

\$26.08 – \$33.04/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Landfill Technician – Landfill:

\$23.44 – \$29.69/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Mechanical Maintenance Technician I - II – Fosston:

\$24.61 – \$33.04/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Public Safety Telecommunicator – Sheriff's Office:

\$26.08 – \$33.04/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Sort Line Operator I - II – Fosston:

\$18.57 – \$24.70/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

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

R40C

LSS Caregiver Support & Respite services offers PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives) training classes for people, age 60 or older, who are experiencing depression due to the losses they endure as they age. Learn skills to manage unpleasant feelings and improve quality of life.
Call 866.787.9802 to learn more.

R31-42C

FOR SALE

2005 Challenger 5th Wheel Camper, 34ft, w/3 slide-outs. Needs some TLC. Further details call 218-487-5284. \$3000 OBO. R21tfc-nc

Household

FLOORING SALE: In-stock as low as 67¢ sq. ft.; In-stock vinyls as low as 78¢ sq. ft.; In-stock laminates as low as \$1.69 sq. ft. FREE estimates. Installation available. Mireault's Home Furnishings, Fosston, MN, 218-435-6171 or 800-545-6171

M36C-C

FOR SALE

Parts for snowmobiles, motorcycles, 3 & 4 wheelers for sale. Lots of vintage sleds. Also buying parts/machines.
Call Tom's Recycling
218-686-7515

M34-46C

Richards Publishing

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EDITOR POSITION

The Oklee Herald is looking to fill the position of Editor. This position is Full-time and includes benefits and 401K. Various duties include, but not limited to:

- Page layout
- Writing articles
- Attending community events: day, evening or weekends
- Photography
- Some inter-office duties (updating subscriptions, customer service, ad sales)

Knowledge in Adobe InDesign, Acrobat, Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel helpful.

Will train. Applications are available upon request, or submit application and resume to the Richards Publishing, PO Box 159, Gonvick, MN 56644. Contact Corrine at 218-487-5225 or email richards@gvtel.com for questions.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS SEEKING THE TRUTH

Searching for the King

Searching for the King, a dramatic Christmas musical, will be presented at Open Arms Christian Fellowship, 401 St. Paul Ave. South, Thief River Falls on Friday, Dec. 13, 7:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will be accepted. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Searching for the King was arranged and orchestrated by David T. Clydesdale; the dramatic script was created by Walter L. Black. Black's exciting script juxtaposes one of the Magi, Mordecai (Dan Saylor), as he follows the Star of Bethlehem, with Benjamin (Ben Saylor, Jr.), a soldier stationed in the Middle East 2,000 years later who is looking up at the same stars. They are both searching for the truth, and they both find it at the foot of the manger. The stories of the travelers are connected through thoughtful narration, spoken by Mark Stromsodt.

Full of questions following his sighting of an unusual star, young Mordecai is guided by his older tutor, Melchior (Joe Efta) and together they join another Magi, Balthasar (narrator Marc Schimek), on an epic journey.

Benjamin, who has witnessed some of the horrors of modern-day warfare, shares his feelings of confusion and deep questioning with a soldier friend, Lisa (Lisa Molstad) and later with Mrs. Carlyle (Linda Johnston), the mother of his fallen buddy, Kenny. Mrs. Carlyle gently help Benjamin discover the answers to several of his questions, including how he can give meaning and worth to the life of his slain comrade.

Searching for the King features a thrilling mix of new songs and beloved carols sung by a community choir directed

by Kari Lindemoen. Choir members are listed according to section; soloists are identified with *. (Soprano) Cindy Arlt, JoAnn Eisele, Sherrie Engen, Corie Erickson, Jill Hall, Eunice Jahn, Connie Moe*, Wanda Nelson, Deb Rewertz, Rylie Weesner*. (Alto) Kelly Dodson, Darcy Hestekind, Pam Kjensrud, Beth Nelson, Sheryl Northup, Marilyne Saylor, Kitt Whattenphul, Leah Whattenphul. (Tenor) David Jahn, Ben Saylor*, Dan Saylor*, Travis Weesner. (Bass) Wes Largis, Scott Pream, Myron Whattenphul.

The musical also includes an engaging and musical children's nativity scene, directed by Kari Lindemoen, which includes Aria Joseph, Lyla Dodson, Elijah Jahn, Selah Jahn, Adley Konickson and Alana Weesner.

Support staff includes: Renae Franke (lights), Ben Saylor, (sound), Rolf Bredeson (stage manager), Lisa LeClaire (prompter, costuming), Cindy Arlt (Veterans' recognition), Marilyne Saylor (drama coach), Sherman McCormick (Starry Tribune contributor) and Debbie Brothers (refreshments).

All veterans and active service members are extended a special invitation to *Searching for the King*, and, if desired, they are invited to represent their branch of the military or American Legion/VFW in uniform, fatigues, hat, etc.... Several responding interested individuals may also choose to assist in the processional. Please contact Cindy (218) 686-4681 with any questions or to help in this rewarding aspect of the program.

For more information, please email: OpenArmsChristianFellowship@gmail.com or call/text, Cindy Arlt(218) 686-4681, Kari (218) 689-1315, or Marilyne (218) 689-3276.



Dressed in angel costumes, Alana Weesner, Aria Joseph and Adley Konickson are three of the children who will appear in a live nativity scene during performances of the dramatic Christmas musical *Searching for the King*,



Benjamin (Ben Saylor, Jr.), a soldier recently returned from deployment to the Middle East, visits with Mrs. Carlyle (Linda Johnston), the mother of his buddy, a fellow soldier who was killed in action during their deployment.



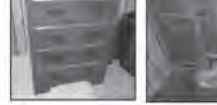
Lisa (Lisa Molstad), a member of a squadron deployed to the Middle East, tries to console Benjamin (Ben Saylor, Jr.) whose buddy lost his life while on deployment. Molstad and Saylor are two of the actors who will be appearing in *Searching for the King*, a dramatic Christmas musical which features a soldier struggling to come to terms with the difficult issues of life and death and God's sovereignty. *Searching for the King* will be performed Friday, Dec. 13, 7:00p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00 pm at Open Arms Christian Fellowship, 401 St. Paul Ave. South, Thief River Falls. There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will be accepted.

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Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

Q u e s -
tion: Hello, I am looking at getting my kids an e-scooter for Christmas. I was just curious before making the purchase what are the laws and rules for these things.

A n s w e r: Motorized foot scooters (also termed "electric scooters" or "e-scooters") have seen a marked increase in use recently, primarily due to their introduction in fleets of shared rental offerings in cities throughout the country. A motorized foot scooter is defined in state statute as a device that:

- has handlebars;
- can be stood or sat on by the operator (so that a seat or saddle is optional);
- is powered by an internal combustion engine or an electric motor;
- has up to two wheels that are no more than 12 inches in diameter; and
- uses a motor capable of a maximum speed of not more than 15 miles per hour on a flat surface

Minnesota law largely treats motorized foot scooters like bicycles, so that operators have the same rights as bicyclists and must generally follow the same laws. However, there are some regulatory differences.

Registration. The owner of a motorized foot scooter does not need to register it or pay registration taxes, and a certificate of title is not necessary.

Operator licensing. A driver's license or permit is not required for operation. The minimum operator age is 12 years old.

Insurance. The device does not need to be insured.

Use. A motorized foot scooter may not be operated on a sidewalk, except to cross it. The device can be operated on a bicycle path, bicycle trail, bicycle lane, or bikeway unless (1) the



pathway is reserved for nonmotorized use, or (2) operation is restricted by local government.

Motorized foot scooter operators must follow the same traffic laws as bicyclists, except that when making a left turn, the rider must dismount and cross the roadway on foot (and the person is then subject to any restrictions applicable to a pedestrian). Operators must ride as close as is practical to the right-hand side of the road.

No passengers besides the operator can be carried.

Safety equipment. Any person under age 18 must wear a helmet. The device can be operated when it is dark out, but under current Department of Public Safety regulations it must meet the same lighting requirements that apply to a bicycle: a headlight that is visible at least 500 feet ahead and a red reflector that can be seen from 600 feet behind when in the path of a motor vehicle's headlight.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on X @MSP-PIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).



Driving down the Road....On a Tractor

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

In my lifetime I have taken many tractor drives. Very often when we bought a piece of machinery I was the one who got to drive it home. It was not a bad thing, or a punishment, I thoroughly enjoyed it. When you drive a tractor down the road at 12 or 13 MPH (or sometimes less) you get a great view of the countryside. I love it!

For example I remember driving a 90 Special Massey Harris Combine home from north of Thief River Falls. It was a good 30 mile trip at probably 7 or 8 MPH! I drove an 1805 Massey Ferguson Tractor home from the Mentor area. I also drove a 4020 home from St. Hilaire with the help of my son Heath, as well as a 1650 Oliver home from Thief River Falls. I was impressed with the Oliver's speed-not a bad trip. I guess the longest was a 4020 John Deere home from Warroad. I left home at about 70 or so degrees and sunshine. When we got to Warroad it was 56 degrees and sprinkling.....and I didn't bring a jacket, after all it was warm at home! I did find a sweatshirt in the car, but it was a cold 6 1/2 hour drive!

This week end I took a short but chilly ride again! It was just 6 or so miles but the temperature was about 32 degrees and raining! I was on a G John Deere that I was lucky enough to purchase from a friend and neighbor, Jon Smith. I was a little damp and chilly when I got to the yard, but the first thing I told my wife when I got home was that was a fun ride! The G is now resting in the shed and may not be needed until warmer weather until then I am grinning from ear to ear!

My cool trip in the snow and rain reminded me of a story my dad would tell. I asked dad to give me a rundown of a day after they had moved to Oklee. Often my grandfather, Ames Mickelson, would go work in the

woods for a few months in the winter. That would leave dad and grandma at home. Over the summer they had done some haying north of the Trail/Gully area. I believe dad said they got some hay ground from Ted Ness. So that winter this was what a day was frequently like.....

Get up early, milk the cows and clean the barn, probably before breakfast. After breakfast start the 1949 B John Deere and hook it to two hayracks and head to Oklee. Once in Oklee put on a couple dollars of gas on the tractor. Then off to the loose hay stack north of Trail. There he would meet his brother-in-law, Alvin Stroh, at the field. Alvin was driving a U Minneapolis Moline and came from his farm between Oklee and Trail. At the time he lived on what I grew up knowing

as the Orville Peterson farm. There they would each load a couple racks full of loose hay by hand. When they were done loading dad said often the school bus would be coming by. Then back home again. Dad was a bit jealous of Alvin. His U MM could really cruise in road gear and he also had a canvas Heat-Houser on the Moline. Dad would head back through Oklee where he said it was about getting dark. Finally back home again it was once again milking time. Probably some of the hay would be needed to be unloaded for the evening feeding!

My little cool ride in the rain seemed like nothing when I think of dad and Alvin, and all the other livestock farmers of the past who stacked hay in the heat hauled it home in the cold. My hat goes off to dad and Alvin and all of the rest of you!



Jon Smith and I before embarking on a winter's tractor ride.

- ### How about a little tractor trivia!
1. What year did the model B John Deere come out?
A) 1935 B) 1938 C) 1939 D) 1941
 2. What Farmall model was the model B John Deere somewhat in competition with, when it was released?
A) F-20 B) F-30 C) F-12 D) Model H
 3. T or F More John Deere B's were produced than any other John Deere model.
 4. The BR and BO were standard tread versions of the model B. What did BO stand for?
 5. What is the official name of the "yellow paint" color used on MM tractors?
- Answers:** 1. A) 1935 2. C) F-12 3. True 4. Model B Orchard 5. Prairie Gold

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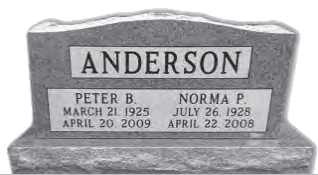
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Obituary for
Robert Jasinski

Robert John Jasinski (Bob), 70, died peacefully October 30, 2024, at Knife River Care Center, Beulah, ND. A memorial service will be held December 14, 2024, at 1:00 pm at Vernes Lutheran Church, Where Bob was a member, with Pastor Lee Laaev officiating.

Bob was born February 25, 1954, in St Paul, MN to parents Anthony and Luella (Schueler) Jasinski. The oldest of five children. Bob graduated in 1972, from Fargo North High School. After high school Bob attended trade school and earned a degree in auto body repair.

In 1977 Bob married Cherre Horst. Together they raised three daughters, Valerie, Jeanie, and Christine, in the Hazen-Beulah area. Bob worked for Paul-Mark Jelly Factory in Fargo, Liebelt's auto body in Beulah, and at Mel Roth Oil in Hazen. In

1992 the family moved to Bismarck where Bob worked at the Coca-Cola plant until he retired. In 2014 Bob moved back to Beulah to enjoy his retirement.

Bob's passion was riding his Harley and especially loved going to the Sturgis rally whenever he could. He loved to play chess and taught as many kids as he could how to play. Bob and his dad built a model train growing up, he decided to carry on tradition and built one in his basement. Bob and his daughter Jeanie spent many hours planning and building their n-scale train town. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He liked taking them on his golf cart for ice cream or slushies and he always had M&M's for them. Bob will be remembered for his sarcastic sense of humor and the many memes he would send to everyone.

Bob is survived by his daughters Valerie (Sam) Paret, Amilly, France; Jeanie (Chris) Waller, Beulah, ND; and Christine McLaughlin, Bismarck, ND. His grandchildren Timothy, Jordan, Ashley, Samantha, Brandon, Austin, Mason, Logan, Alex; eight great grandchildren; sisters, Kathy (Rudy) Finseth, McIntosh MN; Marci Jasinski, Bellevue WA; numerous nieces and nephews and special kitty Mittens, Beulah, ND.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Kevin and Mark.

Blessed be his memory



Obituary for
Judith Gieseke

Judith Faye (Carlson) Gieseke age 69 passed away peacefully December 4th, 2024, with her loving husband Lonny and daughters Lisa and KariAnn by her side. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13th, at Thriving Life Church in Erskine with Pastor Jim Binder officiating. Interment will be at a later date in Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Winger. Family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Judith was born to Milton and Fern (Johnson) Carlson of Winger May 7th, 1955. She was the youngest of three joining big brother Paul and sister Wanda. She often shared memories of riding horse down on the river bottom, showing animals for 4-H and working at the Gorilla Café where she met the love of her life Lonny Gieseke. They would marry July 28th, 1973, and start their life together in rural Bejou where they farmed.

Their first child Ryon Dale was born July 13th, 1974, and due to a heart defect passed away the next day. Jill Michelle was born October 31st, 1975, and Lisa Dawn joined December 12th, 1977. Jill passed away September 8th, 1979, in a farm accident one-week later September 15th KariAnn Marie was born. The family moved to Thief River Falls while Lonny went to the Tech college and eventually settled 3 miles north of Winger where they still live today. Jude worked odd and end jobs as needed finding herself in

the caregiver position many times. Daycare would be one of her "favorite" jobs and was called Grandma Jude by many children throughout the years. Judith loved her family, she supported her girls Lisa and Kari in all they did. The grandkids Ryan Alexander, Terry Alonzo and Oliviyah Ann, they all gave her so much joy she often told them that their hugs healed her and gave her strength. Her Sons in "love" Roy Schaumburg and Michael Keller who she claimed as her boys kept her on her toes teasing and joking with her and of course she made sure to offer "ham sandwich?" to them at every visit.

Judith had an unshaken faith in the Lord – she was sure to let people know that "Jesus loves you, and don't you ever forget it" she was a prayer warrior for many and always kept her family and extended family in prayer. TLC Church members were her second family – she loved the fellowship and friendships she made there. So many lives touched by her strength to keep going, her prayers and ability to smile, love, give guidance even when her heart was hurting. To just be her true self at all times wither you like it or not. To be brave and know her time was coming to make sure we all knew how much she loved us and the Lord "had her covered" What a amazing faith.

Judith is survived by her loving husband Lonny Gieseke, Children Lisa (Roy) Schaumburg, KariAnn (Michael) Keller Grandchildren Ryan Schaumburg, Terry Keller, Oliviyah Keller – Siblings Paul and Donna Carlson, Wanda and Richard Donovan – Sibling In-laws Lynnel (Don) Laport, Gail (Dennis) Behm, Patty (Jim) Paul, Mike (Kathy) Gieseke, Susie (Terry) Lee, Randy (Pam) Gieseke, Loren Gieseke, Gerri (Joe) Swiers, Jeannie (Steve) Kresbach. Uncle and Aunt Merlin and Marilyn Carlson, Cousins and many, many Many nieces and nephews that she loved dearly.

Judith Faye was preceded in death by Ryon Dale (son), Jill Michelle (daughter), Parents Milton and Fern Carlson, In Laws Marlin and June Gieseke. Nephew Joey Gieseke. Along with Aunts and Uncles on both Carlson and Gieseke sides.



Obituary for
Bertine Swanson

Bertine Swanson, 104, of rural Thief River Falls, passed away on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at her residence.

Visitation was one hour before the service at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Rural Oklee, MN.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 1:00 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Rural Oklee, MN, with Reverend Jonathan Dodson officiating.

Burial at Ebenezer Lutheran Cemetery, rural Plummer, MN.

Bertine Larson was born November 11, 1920, in Equality Township, Oklee, MN, the daughter of Thor and Engeborg (Nereson) Larson. She was baptized at Salem Lutheran Church located north of Oklee, MN. She attended

Sunnyside Country School. Bertine worked on the family farm and later worked in Grand Forks, ND, at the Ryan Hotel and Golden Hour Café.

On November 25, 1954, Bertine was united in marriage to Myles Swanson. The couple made their home on a farm in Mayfield Township, Pennington County, where they continued to live. They retired from farming in 1980. Myles died in 2008, and Bertine continued to live on the farm. She was a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Plummer, and the Ladies Aid. She enjoyed quilting, embroidery, flowers, gardening and most of all spending time with family.

Bertine is survived by sons: David (Esther) Swanson, Leslie, AR, and Duane (Vickie) Swanson, St. Hilaire, MN; 4 grandchildren: Sam, Sarah, Justin, and Lindsay; nieces and nephews: Myron (Marie) Wardner, Helen (Dennis) Sullivan, Dennis Linder, Elaine (Dennis) McGeary, Sandra (Patrick) Halligan, Bonnie Howe, and Linda (Lloyd) Wallace

She was preceded in death by husband Myles; parents; brothers and sisters: Lars Larson, Tarjei Larson, Henry Larson, Mabel Moe, Elmer Larson, Thea Howe, Clara Wardner and Hilda Linder; and an infant sister.

Family condolences may be sent to www.johnsonfuneralservice.com



Obituary for
Kenneth Ask

Kenneth V. Ask, 93, longtime resident of Richfield, Minnesota, passed away on Friday morning November 29, 2024, after a full life followed by a 2023 illness.

Memorial service was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Richfield Lutheran Church (8 West 60th Street) in Minneapolis. Visitation one hour prior and luncheon followed the service. Burial at Fort Snelling at later date.

Kenneth was born May 31, 1931, to Oscar and Cora (Hanson) Ask. He grew up on the family farm near Gonvick, Minnesota. Ken joined the U.S. Navy in 1948, where

he was stationed on the USS Iowa in Hawaii during the Korean War and was discharged in 1952. Upon his return to Minnesota, Kenny married Helen Eddy and they moved to Minneapolis, where he worked for ADM milling on Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis. Upon retiring, Ken spent time taking care of his family and spending summers at the cabin on Clearwater Lake in northern Minnesota. Ken loved fishing, hunting, cooking and telling stories. He was loved by all as he was a kind, jolly and wonderful person, his lovely soul was exposed to everyone he encountered. His laughter and smile were enduring. Kenneth Ask was married to the love of his life Helen for 64 years until her death in 2017. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Kristi, parents, brother Stanley and sister Lorraine, as well as many other family members.

Kenneth is survived by loving daughters Karen (Brian von Ahlsen) Ask and Kim (Pat) Ritchie, and grandchildren, Kelly Ritchie, Katie (Geoff) Lemke, Kirsten Ritchie and Eddy Ask and by great grandchildren Vanessa Ritchie, Ashley Ritchie, Emma Lemke and Ellis Lemke. He is also survived by sister-in-law Laurene Aasen and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Obituary for
JoAnn Hamm

JoAnn Hamm of Oklee, MN passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at McIntosh Senior Living.

Service of the Word will be held 2:00 PM Saturday, December 14, 2024 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Oklee with Father Bryan Kujawa presiding. Burial will be held at a later date at St. Bernard's Catholic Cemetery in Thief River Falls, MN.

JoAnn Alice Zavoral was born on January 12, 1944 daughter of James and Josephine (Cote) Zavoral in Thief River Falls, MN. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Bernard's Catholic Church. She attended St. Bernard's Catholic through 8th grade, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1962.

In 1966 JoAnn was united in marriage to Theodore Hamm. The couple made

their home in Oklee. She was employed at Northern Pride Turkey plant in Thief River Falls for many years and later employed at Seven Clans Casino for many years.

JoAnn enjoyed bird watching, her dogs, raking the grass, going for coffee at the Oklee Café with her friends but most of all she loved the time spent with her grandchildren.

JoAnn is survived by her children John Zavoral of Morristown, MN, David Hamm of Brooks, MN, Jeffery (Brenda) Hamm of Roseau, MN, Ronald (Tracy) Hamm of Oklee, MN; grandchildren Christopher (Ashley) Hamm, Kayla (Lee) Knutson, Conway (Lexi Olson) Hamm, Jorden (Alison) Hamm, Jarvis (Sierra) Hamm, Jenna Hamm, McKenzie Hamm, Malayna Hamm, Cory (Carla) Zavoral and Sara (Jay) Zavoral ; great-grandchildren Autumn Kert, Alaina Hamm, Brianna Hamm, Runa Hamm, Theo Knutson, Gemma Knutson, Bodin Knutson, Millie Hamm, Taylor Jensen, Keon Zavoral, Abbygael Zavoral, Ethan Zavoral and Jordan Zavoral; sisters Phyllis DeFoe of Pembina, ND and Sharon Borgen of Maple Grove, MN along with several nieces and nephews.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her parents Josephine and James Zavoral, brothers Dale and James Zavoral and sister Marge Field.

Condolences may be sent at johnsonfuneralservice.com



Obituary for
Joy May Parker

Our mom, Joy Mae Parker, passed away peacefully on November 27, 2024, at the age of 86. Born on April 3, 1938, to Bernice and Oswald Berg of Clearwater County, Minnesota. Born number 2 of 9 children.

Joy was a very talented lady, she had over 40 years of 'Joy of Birch' making birch bark baskets, ornaments and many other creative things with birch bark. She taught birch bark classes, ornament and upholstery classes. She also rosemaled, painted, and made jewelry, pottery and wood burnings.

She was an excellent cook; she made many award-winning recipes featuring wild rice. One of our favorite dishes she made was snapping turtle. Lefse and potato Klub were favorites of hers to make. She was very gifted as a musician as well, playing guitar, accordion and piano by ear. We sang as a family growing up. Her daughter Mimi had a beautiful voice singing with her husband in the band LOW for over 25 years.

She worked at Arctic Cat in Clearbrook, MN and was a cook for many years at Greensview in Bagley, MN. She went to school in her later years to become a chef.

Joy is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Bernie, Orvie and Dan; sister, Mary; and daughter Mimi.

She is survived by her daughters, Cindy (Don) Elam, and Wanda (Tom) Larson; son-in-law, Alan Sparhawk; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson; sisters, Jean Bergstrom, Karen (Bill) Kolosso; brothers, John (Connie) Berg, and Trygve Berg.

No services will be held at this time.

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



Obituary for
Robert Prestebak

Robert "Bob" Prestebak, 97, of Thief River Falls, MN formerly of Goodridge, MN passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at Minnesota Greenleaf in Thief River Falls, with his loving family by his side.

The service to celebrate Robert's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge, with Rev. Kris Snyder officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Burial will be held at Goodridge Cemetery, Goodridge.

Robert Keith Prestebak was born on January 29, 1927 to Laurencia and Ole Prestebak in Thief River Falls Minnesota. When he was nine years old, the family moved to a farm north of Goodridge where Robert grew up and learned to love the farming life. Bob graduated from Goodridge High School in 1945. A friend arranged a blind date with Arlene Johnson from Middle River and he surprised her with an engagement ring on Valentine's Day. They were married on June 14, 1953. They were married for 71 years.

Bob was unexpectedly drafted into the United States Army in 1954 when he was 29 years old. He was newly married and had an infant son. This unwanted surprise turned out to be the adventure of a lifetime. He was sent to Chinon France where Arlene and baby joined him. A second son was born there. They made lifelong friends with Americans from across the U.S. and learned to

love their French community.

After the service, Bob and Arlene and two sons returned to the farm near Goodridge. They expanded the farm operation and their family. A daughter was born. 15 years later, another girl surprised them. They also hosted exchange students from Ecuador, Brazil and France.

Bob suffered health problems in mid-life and went to the Bemidji area to recuperate—thus began another lifelong adventure. Bob made friends with the Dickinson family who owned the Buena Vista Ski area and eventually joined them as a jack-of-all-trades, participating in everything from working on lifts to making snow. He would hitch up a team of horses for sleigh rides and assist with special events. Eventually, Bob and Arlene bought a lake lot on Lake Julia. This became a winter and summer retreat for the whole family.

Bob was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge. He also participated in the Bit and Bridle Saddle Club and the Grygla Lions Club. He was devoted to his family, parents, sister, cousins and many friends.

He is survived by his wife Arlene, his son Tim Prestebak, daughter Jane Prestebak (Sam Storino) and daughter Dena Halsa (Mike), exchange daughter, Katia Sakoschek. His grandchildren, Lorentza Ruud (Etienne Daly), Anna (Alex) Burton, Adelle (Tyler) Christianson, Adrian Prestebak, Alan (Ariana) Prestebak, Nathaniel Halsa, Aaron Halsa, and Molly Halsa. His great-grandchildren, Jack Christianson, Cheslie Burton, Thomas Burton, Gus Christianson, Jordy Burton, Bjorn Christianson, Bianka Burton, Eugenie Ruud Daly, and Theo Prestebak.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Ole and Laurencia Prestebak and his son J.O. (James Ole) Prestebak, daughter-in-law, Michelle Prestebak, his sister, Phyllis (Al) Sollom and infant sister Dorothy Prestebak. His in-laws, Wayne and Evelyn Johnson and brothers-in-law, Jerry (LaRue) Johnson, Dennis (Cheri) Johnson, and Richard (Gail) Johnson.

Condolences may be sent at johnsonfuneralservice.com

Submit obituaries to
richards@gvtel.com

Word Search Answers for this week

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

OBITUARIES



Obituary for Vance Wiseth

Vance Robert Wiseth was born December 12, 1953 to Robert and Ethel (Evenson) Wiseth. He attended Goodridge Public School graduating in 1972. He was a member of the FFA, Student Council, basketball team, and captain of the football team. Later he attended Northland College in TRF receiving an associate degree in Farm Management. Vance met Lori Patricia Manderud while attending school. Vance and Lori were joined in marriage on July 22, 1978 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge. They moved into their first home in which they remodeled together north of Goodridge and began farming 480 acres in partnership with Vance's father Robert. On August 20th 1978, at age of 25, Vance was involved in a farm accident which later proved to be a minor bump in the road. He lost his right arm in a combine accident. In September of that year, the community demonstrated what the 'Good Old Pioneer Spirit' is all about, a Working Bee was formed. Friends, neighbors, and relatives not only harvested the crops, but lifted the spirits of the entire family. Wiseth Farms prevailed. In 1978 Vance and Lori welcomed their first born child, Dallas. They took over the family farm in 1981. Vance had a special knack for thinking outside the box, one year when he was not able to harvest his barley crop, he purchased 1000 head of sheep and let them free roam the field. This was unheard of and fortunately turned out to be a success. He was later asked to present his technique at Sheep Days. In the 90's, Wiseth Farms continued as a family operation with the production of alfalfa and the selling of large square bales. During the years of 2000 to 2008, Wiseth Farms was a certified organic farm raising blue corn, soybeans and wheat. In the later years, he continued to farm small grains and soybeans.

Vance was the third generation of the Wiseth Family active in the Minnesota Farmer's Union. His grandfather Roy was Minnesota Farmer's Union President in 1950, Vance's father Robert was on the State Executive Board, and Vance ran for State Vice President in 1986. In addition to operating and managing Wiseth Farms, Vance was involved in many community and political activities. He was delegated to the Farmers

Union Convention in Spokane Washington. In the 1980's Governor Perpich appointed Vance as chairman to the Northern Area Fact Finding Committee of Hazardous Waste. He was chairman of the Political Action Committee of the Northwest Minnesota Coalition for Rural America. He served on the National Committee for Save the Family Farm Act. Vance was chairman for Commissioner Jim Nichols when he ran for senator for Minnesota and he also worked closely with his office to write and craft the MN Omnibus Farm Bill which was passed during the 1980's farm crisis. Vance served as Federal Legislature Director of East Marshall County Farmers Union and served on the National Policy Reform Act Committee which helped revitalize the 1950's soil bank program; eventually became known as CRP (Conservation Reserve Program). Vance was also chairman of the Northwest Legislative Agriculture Action Committee. In 1985, Vance helped organize a tractorcade leaving Centennial Park in TRF to the State's capital. Vance and Lori were among the 40 tractors involved. Together the members of the tractorcade fought hard to maintain the integrity of family farms. Vance's tractor, which was parked on the front steps of the state capital, made front page of the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Vance was also involved in organizing the tractor blockade of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) in TRF in the mid 80's. During this blockade, he represented the farmers in Washington D.C. where he met with Secretary of Ag and State Senator Ruby Boschwitz. Vance helped negotiate changes in FHA policies and some changes in the upcoming Farm Bill. The farmers' voices were heard, about 60 million dollars was allocated for Northwestern MN which helped facilitate some needed changes and emergency loan funding due to the 1980's farm crisis.

From 2000-2008 Vance served on the Board of directors for the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) where he represented MN as an international delegate at the OCIA international convention in Costa Rica. In addition, Vance was a past member of the Lions Club and past president of the Goodridge Jaycees where he organized a community softball league. He helped develop and was president of the Farmer Merchant Bowling League in TRF.

Throughout the journey of the Wiseth Farms, Vance and Lori welcomed two more children, Dana and DaNae. In 1991, the family moved to the homestead in which Ethel and Robert established north of Goodridge. This is when Vance's alfalfa operation turned into a full fledged family affair. Many memories were in the making. There were countless summer days, if one were to drive by Vance's fields, he/she would see all 5 family members working together. Dana and DaNae would be cutting alfalfa, Dallas raking hay or picking bales, and Lori baling. Vance would be at the helm of the operation assuring everything was running smoothly. In 2005, Vance, Lori, and family remodeled the original house of the homestead,

which was built in the 1930's. Dallas and grandson Trustin will honorably help Lori with the farming operations, allowing opportunity for the next generations to continue on the Wiseth Family Farm.

In his later years Vance and Lori spent their winters in Arizona, and enjoyed their time watching their grandchildren excel in playing sports. Coaching the kids every chance he could get. Vance's passion for sports was undeniable, he loved watching the Twins and Vikings.

Vance was diagnosed with Stage 4 liver cancer in 2021 and fought a long hard battle traveling to Mayo Rochester every 3 weeks for Immunotherapy treatments. He was initially given 12 months and survived 30 months. Vance mastered his trade in farming and sure tried hard to maneuver the medical system. He was beating the odds while at the rehabilitation center, the athlete in Vance sure shined through, he would stay up at night completing his exercises impressing the therapy staff every day with his tenacity. Unfortunately, a sudden internal bleed took him home to the Lord. God must have delegated him to heaven at the perfect moment to help pass current Farm Bill. Vance, we trust you will continue to fight to get the job done as you always have. You will be missed!!

Vance in survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Lori of Goodridge; children Dallas of Goodridge, Dana (Rich) Dean of Maple Grove, DaNae (Dustin) Voges of Mankato; grandchildren Trustin, Cameron, Dylan, Brayden, Danica, Isaiah, and Isaac; sisters Victoria Hughes, Twin Valarie (Wesly) Brekke, Kurt (Judy) Wiseth; godchildren Gena Merrill, Brent Nelson, Brittany Wiseth; several nieces, nephews, and cousins, other relatives and friends.

Vance is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Ethel Wiseth; Grandparents, Roy and Theresa Wiseth and Knute and Signa Evenson; In-law, Gilmer and Mae Manderud; aunts and uncles, Betty and Bud Olson, Lloyd and Elaine Wiseth (Sylvia), Kenneth and Marilyn Wiseth, Sherman Groven, Helen and Orlando Chervestad, Cousins; Mark Olson, Joanne Hagen, Ricky Olson, Korydon Chervestad (beloved friend); extended relatives, Adriane Wiseth and Adeline Chervestad

Vance Wiseth, 70, of Goodridge, MN passed away Friday, November 29, 2024, at Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, ND.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM with a 6:30 PM prayer service on Monday, December 16, 2024 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls, MN. Visitation will also begin at 10:00 AM with the service to celebrate Vance's life at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church in Goodridge, MN with Rev. Kris Snyder officiating. Burial will follow at Goodridge Cemetery, Goodridge, MN.

How well do you know the Symbols of the Great State of Minnesota!

By Eric Mickelson

I had a great idea, I thought! I'm going to make a crossword puzzle about Minnesota! I then had nothing but trouble with a couple on line puzzle generators! You know the saying about technology, it is great when it works! Anyhow, I had to change. How about a little quiz on Minnesota Symbols!

1. Tan, Brown, and Gray are the colors of the Minnesota State Mushroom.
2. Stizostedion Vitreum is the scientific name of the Minnesota State Fish.

3. Not oats or wheat this is our state grain.
4. The State Tree reminds me of my heritage. It is the Pine.
5. In 1961, this became our State Bird.
6. Can you name our state song? The University of Minnesota Alumni Assn. holds the copyright to this song.
7. Our state flower can live for as long as 50 years. What is our State Flower?
8. Five states have a state muffin. What is Minnesota's?
9. What is Minnesota's state



butterfly?

10. Minnesota produces around 10 billion pounds of this per year. What is the Minnesota state beverage?

Answers: 1. Morel 2. Wall-eye 3. Wild Rice 4. Norway (Or Red Pine) 5. Loon 6. Hail Minnesota 7. The Pink and White Lady Slipper 8. Blueberry 9. Monarch 10. Milk

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Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

Let Us Speak of Mary



Tis the season of Advent—a time of waiting—waiting for the coming of the Christ child. Might now be a good time to talk about His mama? After all, we can't exactly be pondering Christmas without noting that Mary and Joseph are in the mix.

For today, let us speak of Mary, the one God chose to be the mother of His only begotten Son. He could have entered this world any number of ways. Yet, God chose to have the Babe come through woman, and in so doing, validated the gift given to all women. What gift is that? The gift given is that of nurturer. Whether one nurtures spiritually or physically—tis a gift.

Let's take a look back and see what those who've gone before us had to say about Mary.

According to author Rev. F. J. Hoffman, the early Christians found it impossible to tell the story of salvation without also telling the glories of Mary. He notes that as we move through history from the Apostles to the next generations, "we find a seamless continuity in the way Christians speak about Our Lady and that she was not merely an instrument God used and set aside."

As we speak of Mary, her fiat never fails to deeply touch. Fiat—what's that? Her fiat was her decree, her response, to what the angel was asking of her. This response continues to resonate within as we, like Mary, must respond to what is being asked of us. What was her response? It was, "Yes, be it done unto me according to Thy Word" (Luke 1:38).

We ponder her "yes" and where it led along her journey of faith. As it didn't stop at the manger, Mary's "yes" carried her all the way to the cross and beyond—illuminating the mysteries of faith. Of what mysteries do we speak?

For starters, the joyful mys-

teries find Mary before the angel Gabriel saying "yes" to her Lord. Joy filled Mary when Elizabeth announced the words "blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). His birth brought joy as did the presentation of Him in the temple. Finding Jesus after he'd gone missing for a few days was also a joyous moment in her life.

Through luminous mysteries, mysteries of Light, she walked her walk. There was the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and the wedding at Cana where, by Mary's request, He performed his first miracle. Then there was the proclamation of, "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe" (Mark 1:15). And who can forget "The Transfiguration" where Jesus was literally illumined. The mystery of faith which took place by the institution of the bread and wine at the Last Supper is one I ponder more oft than not.

We have yet to touch on the sorrowful mysteries of our faith such as His agony in the garden, His scourging, His crown of thorns, His carrying the cross, and His crucifixion. The words gifted, "Mary, full of grace" (Luke 1:28) foreshadowed her need of it—grace, that is. How could one carry this weight as a

mama without grace? She had to be grace filled or the mere weight would not have only pierced her Immaculate Heart, but crushed it.

Then came the glorious mysteries to ponder—His rising after three days, His ascent into Heaven, followed by the glorious descent of the Holy Spirit, and on it goes.

Mary pondered these things in her heart and my guess is, most of us do, too. Sometimes you will see people holding beads in their hands as a form of prayer. What are they doing? They are pondering all of these things in their hearts. Those who pray as such are not worshipping Mary. No, they cannot, for that would be heresy within any church. Drawing nigh to the mysteries of His life draws one closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus—the Babe—lying in the manger. Amen.

(I suppose some of you ponder my words and wonder. You wonder because you may not have heard of this form of prayer before, or you may have been taught someone's misperception about this form of prayer. Please know that a variety of people across many denominations do so as this points us always—always to the only One, the Holy One, Jesus Christ our Lord.)

Recycling wind turbine blades: A farmer's ingenuity

By Tod Bowman

Wind turbine blades play a crucial part in clean energy generation, but their disposal poses a growing challenge. Luckily, innovative solutions provide new ways to keep them out of landfills.

As the wind industry grows, there is an increasing need for replacement of older wind turbine blades with larger, more efficient ones. With a lifespan of approximately 25 years, the sheer number of blades and other components that will eventually need to be decommissioned will strain current repurposing and recycling capabilities, leading to increased landfill waste if new solutions are not developed.

To address the challenge, developers and rural communities have explored various recycling initiatives. One approach, mechanical recycling, typically uses a shredding facility to break down turbine parts. Companies, like REGEN Fiber in Iowa, use the resulting product to create construction materials such as concrete by mixing fiberglass with rock or plastic.

Greg Birkhofer, an Iowan with a passion for conservation, has taken blade recycling a step further by repurposing the most challenging section—the eight-foot base—into fence posts for agricultural use.

According to Greg, the recycled posts are stronger and more durable than traditional fence posts, and they are fully insulated. His innovation eliminates the need for constant maintenance, including replacing insulators.

If they can be mass produced, Greg believes the blades will prove less expensive than current fencing materials. His vision extends beyond fence posts alone; he believes recycled blades have the potential to be used for a wider range of products, such as dock posts.

Pioneers like Greg lead the way in finding new life for decommissioned wind turbine blades. Distinctive vision and creativity will be crucial in shaping the future of wind energy and responsible waste management.

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