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Wednesday, November 18, 2020

WE'RE ONLINE www.tricocanary.com

Vol. 46 Number 21

A look at next week ... Charger Athletics: Senior volleyball and football players recognized with their parents for Parent's Night!

In honor of National Adoption Month: one family's story filled with multiple adoptions and a whole lot of love



Brent and Karla King, along with their children, L-R: Grayson, Annie and Harrison. Photo courtesy of Karla King

Written by Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

Karla (Lusignan) King is all smiles when sharing stories about her three kids. This month is especially important to her and her family as it's National Adoption Month, which is something that they feel very passionate about.

"To be honest, I don't talk about our infertility much because adoption has been such a great thing for us. There's just so many ways to have a baby," Karla openly shared.

Brent and Karla King have been married for 24 years. After three years of marriage, the couple decided to start trying for a baby, but struggled with infertility issues. They had kept trying off and on, but it was emotionally and financially challenging, eventually leading to stopping all together in 2005. Karla says she'd occasionally bring up the topic of adoption to her husband, but they'd only discuss it every now and then. "Adoption just wasn't a part of Brent's life; he didn't know anyone who was adopted and just wasn't quite on board with it," says Karla, who grew up with adoption being around her in various ways.

The Kings were living up in Alaska when their journey with adoption officially started. Brent's job as a civilian doing base maintenance had brought them to the very rural area of Delta Junction, which is about 100 miles south of Fairbanks. It was the spring of 2009 when Karla received a Facebook message from an old coworker who knew a high school teenager who was pregnant and asked if they'd consider adopting the baby. "I was doing the dishes, holding a bowl and told Brent about it. He said SURE!" Karla recalls with a laugh. The couple had started the licensing process, but unfortunately, the North Carolina teen had lost the baby. However, they decided to finish getting licensed through an agency and pursue this new path of adoption. That path brought hope, but also some disappointment, as a couple of potential birth mothers chose other families. Remaining in close contact with their adoption agency, the Kings remained hopeful for the news that would grow their family.

That call came a couple of years later when Karla was driving home from work. "She said that a birth mom had chosen us to be the parents of her baby...but I don't think I really heard what she was saying as I had gotten used to blowing it off so we wouldn't lose hope," admitted Karla. "But then I heard her, pulled over and just started jumping up and down!" It was then that Karla received the details that would change

everything. After 16 years of being married, Brent and Karla would be bringing home their first child.

There was a young woman in North Pole, Alaska, who would give birth to a baby boy in 6 weeks. She knew she couldn't parent another child, as she had two already, and after seeing the King's profile, she choose them to adopt her son.

Karla got home, shared the news with a shocked Brent, who was in disbelief, and a few days later, met the birth mother as they moved forward with an open adoption. "I was so nervous, until I met her. She is the single best person I know," says Karla, of the birth mom who was 21 years old at the time and pregnant with her 3rd child. Through the adoption counselor, both sides discussed what an open adoption could look like. Karla said it's rare to be counseled through that, but they went to lunch and openly talked about options. Both mothers agreed that sending photos and staying connected, along with open communication would work best. "It was clear that I trust her infinitely and she trusted me," said Karla. Moving forward, that trust led to a strong bond, which united the two mothers.

Grayson was born at the hospital with his birth mom's entire family there for support, along with Brent and Karla, who had a private room, and were able to be there the entire time, as well. The King's took their first child home with a lot of love in their heart. Not only for their new baby, but for his birth mother also. "She was strong and handled the whole thing beautifully. She came over to visit with the adoption counselor and even came to Grayson's baptism with her youngest son," Karla said. "My only regret through the entire experience is having to leave Alaska and move so far away from her."

Brent's job took the family down to Texas a few months later (in January of 2013). They only lived there for 8 months before deciding they wanted to be closer to their family. Brent then applied for a job in utilities, through Excel Energy, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, which is where the Kings still live today.

Grayson is now 8 years old. Throughout his life, Karla says they've been very open with him about everything. Brent took Grayson to Alaska last summer to meet his birth mom, which it had been since he was 6 months old since having seen her in person. "His birth mom is now married and a stepmom with a lot of kids in her life now. She hasn't told

her boys about Grayson and that's her private information; we respect that," Karla explained. "But on our end, we talk about her and to her all the time. Grayson is very curious about it all."

As time moved on, there were more adoption plans in the family's future, but that also included a failed adoption, which was really hard on them. "I knew there were more kids out there, but we just had to step back for a while," shared Karla. At the time, she was working for Health and Human Services for Itasca County. So many people brought up Foster Adoption, and though the Kings had friends who had adopted through Foster Care, they didn't feel like it was right for them. "I felt like I'd love them too much and have to give them back," confessed Karla.

Well, as fate would have it, an investigator for the county said they had nine babies coming in the next few months and suggested Brent and Karla get licensed for Foster to Adopt, which they'd have to do outside of the county because of Karla's current job.

With everything in place, they received word of a 2-year old boy who was eligible for adoption, but still had some visitation with his birth mom. Karla said point blank, "They send you the picture and you're just done. You know he's yours – you just know. He was the cutest little thing."

Harrison had just turned two at the time. It was April 2016 when he came home. Karla said her mindset was no. They wouldn't do open adoption this time as Harrison had been hurt by his birth mother, but visitation rights were still in place for him to see her. "At that time, my mindset was no. We'd take Harrison to the visitation and eventually his birth mom asked to meet me. I was so hesitant," she explained. Eventually Karla agreed, though she was fearful and didn't know what to expect. She explained that Harrison's birth mom was only 20 at the time with no other children and was very broken. She describes the experience as heart-wrenching. "You could see how much she had given up. She was at home, trying to recover, but the emotional toll and shame was just too much for her and she didn't have a lot of support. I wasn't even supporting her at that point." When the parental rights were terminated, Brent took Harrison for his final visit with his birth mom. It was all very emotional with Brent suggesting in the end that they not cut her out of his life, even though they were unsure of how to move forward with things. Eventually, Karla

asked their case worker for the birth mom's information. They started out slow, getting to know one another and going out for lunch and having conversations. With Harrison now 6 years old, Karla describes the relationship today as a work in progress. With her also living nearby, they want to keep the relationship with her open, but they've had to take a break from it when things get unhealthy, as she has relapsed a few times. "She wants to see Harrison, but will admit when she doesn't think she should. To us, she's almost like another child. We love her so much and just try to support her. In return, she's been understanding and respectful of us, too," Karla shared.

With their two boys home and Karla now being a stay at home mom with the family in full swing, April 2017 would bring more news. It should be noted that April is a HUGE month for the Kings. With hearing about Grayson and Harrison both in the months of April – April of 2017 came around and brought another call. A 2-year old little girl had been in the system for a while and was moving towards TPR (Termination of Parental Rights). Brent and Karla received a picture and instantly knew that she was theirs. "Brent was head over heels. He had never verbalized before that he wanted a daughter, but yeah, we had to snatch her right up," she laughed.

Enter the beautiful little girl named Anniston "Annie", who is now just about 6 years old. Getting their little girl wasn't an easy road, though. In fact, it came with a lot of pain and heartache. Annie came home to the King family on May 1st in a snow storm. It took 1.5 years and so much pain, Karla shared. "She was with us from May until August 21st and ended up leaving us. We fell head over heels in love with her and she was a perfect part of our family, but her birth mom was doing her part and she got to have her back. We were all in so much pain, but Harrison mourned her and missed her more than anyone." In this situation, Karla explained that Annie's birth mother has cognitive delays. She never hurt Annie, but left her in situations where she would get hurt. She went on, "Not only was she loved so deeply by her mom, but Annie loved her mom so deeply, but she messed up and we got Annie back. That bond is still there between the two of them, though. It's a beautiful relationship still to this day."

Annie's birth mom is 26 years old now. Karla describes their relationship as a really hard situation. "Cynthia is her name. She has moved away now, but she fought hard for Annie. She loved her well, but it was just too hard. Part of our agreement to save her the heartache of going through a trial, was promising her visitation for a longer period of time, helping her transition through the TPR. Today, she's working and checks in with us all the time. She calls Annie on important days and we've gotten together with that side of the family, meeting aunts and cousins – it goes good. She acts more natural with Cynthia than she does with me, even today, but I think it's beautiful and that bond is only natural. It's really come full circle with Cynthia, who is now so respectful of everything."

As for the open adoptions with all three of their children, Brent and Karla talk about it a lot and encourage their kids to ask questions, which come

King family...
Continued on back



Order your Charger apparel today - the new Goodridge/ Grygla Charger Apparel is now available to order through Salo Signs. Orders are due by November 25th to ensure you receive them before Christmas. Order directly online at salo-signs-more.mysshopify.com

Grygla School resumes in-person learning

The Grygla School will be turning to face to face learning effective this week, Monday, November 16th. According to school officials, they have discussed the plan with their county nurse, who feels confident that the school is doing the right thing in terms of mitigation and planning. Update as school resumes in-person:

- Bus routes will return to their regular times and drivers.
- Meals will be available on a "grab and go" basis. If you would like a grab and go meal prepared for you, please let Mr. Lunsetter know.
- If your child is in grades 6-12 and planning on going distance learning, please let Mr.

Gieseke know.

- Doors will continue to open on the school at 8:05 a.m. Parent drop offs should happen at the HS doors, and the preschool door.
- Please make sure your students have proper clothing at school for winter (Jacket, snow-pants, gloves, hats, etc..)
- Governor Walz has mandated that schools provide an additional half hour of prep time per day for distance learners. Because of this, Grygla School will be conducting "early outs" on Wednesdays moving forward. Dismissal will happen at 12:30pm, with buses leave at 12:40, beginning Wednesday, November 18th.

Goodridge School transitions to distance learning

This letter was written and sent out by Tomas Loberg, Goodridge School Superintendent and Becky Carlson, Goodridge School Principal, on Friday, November 13th, 2020.

Good morning, We appreciate everyone's flexibility and cooperation over the last few weeks. The support for our students, staff, and our school community as a whole has been overwhelmingly positive. These have been extremely trying times. It is always our goal to provide in-person learning as much as we possibly and safely can, but this week has proved that to be extremely challenging. Due to the amount of staff and students on quarantine and the lack of improvement of our county numbers, we are going to be shifting learning models for grades K-12 soon. We feel like students and staff will respond better to a more consistent learning schedule at this time. Grades K-12 will transition to distance learning, but preschool will remain open for in-person learning at their normal schedule until further notice. Transportation will continue to be provided for our preschool students. A modified bus pick-up schedule for days when K-12 is in distance learning will be provided to preschool families soon. High school sports will continue with their normal schedule at this time pending quarantine requirements, county numbers, and MSHSL/MDH/MDE guidelines.

Here is how we will transition to distance learning for grades K-12:

We will be open for in-person learning for all students November 16th-20th and on

November 23rd. Students who are on quarantine and those who have chosen distance learning will continue distance learning. Wednesday, November 18th will be a half day for all students PK-12, with school and buses dismissing at 12:30. We will be closed for all students in grades PK-12 on November 24th and 25th for planning days for our

teachers. We will begin distance learning for grades K-12 on Monday, November 30th (preschool will remain in-person for their normal schedule). Materials will be sent home with students on November 23rd, and we will make a materials delivery on Wednesday, November 25th if needed. Teachers will communicate with families if students will be receiving materials via delivery. During distance learning, Monday's will serve as our distance days where teachers will not provide instruction. They will use distance days to connect with students/parents, provide support, and prep for the week.

Distance learning for grades K-12 will last for at least 2 weeks. It is our intention for students in grades K-12 to return to in-person learning on Monday, December 14th. This will require approval from Public Health and our Regional Support Team (which includes reps from MDE and MDH). We would also like to see cases in our community decrease. Please do your part to follow the guidelines, mask-up, and help keep our students in school. We will evaluate the decision and inform families if we are able to return to in-person learning by noon on Friday, December 11th at the latest.

For days when we are in distance learning, Goodridge Public School families whose parents are both Tier 1 workers have access to childcare for school age students age 12 and under. A sign-up form with more information will be available on our website and Facebook page on Monday. In the meantime, for more information about who qualifies as a Tier 1 worker, please visit this link. Meals will also be available during distance learning for free via delivery. All meals will be grab and go style (cold meals). A sign-up form to request meals will be available

Distance Ed...
Continued on page 2

CHURCH CALENDARS

GRYGLA LUTHERAN PARISH
Grace and Our Savior's, Grygla
Pastor Ken Bowman
Wednesday, November 18
6:30pm Confirmation for 7/8 grade students.
Sunday, November 22
Grace: Worship at 9am, No SS OS: 9:30am SS w/ 10:30am Worship
Masks and social distancing are required, following CDC guidelines.

Pastor Ken's service will continue to air on GV channel 36 at 9am Sunday and 7pm Sunday, as well as be posted on the Grace Lutheran website.

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA
Bethany, Ekelund, Faith
Pastor Kristin Dahlen Ostercamp
Wednesday, November 18
Ekelund 6:30pm Worship, Grade 8 Confirmation 7:30pm
Sunday, November 22
Faith 8:30am Worship, Faith Formation 10am

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
St. Clement's - Grygla; St. Ann's - Goodridge
Fr. Adam Hammess
Sunday:
St. Clement's: 10:15am Wor-

ship in church
St. Ann's: 12pm Worship in church

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Skime
Pastor Steve Bliss
Sunday:
8am Worship w/ 11am Face-book Live Broadcast

LIBERTY CHAPEL
Grygla
Congregation-Led
Calendar/information not available at this time.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
St. Petri - Grygla; Mt. Olive, Nazareth - Trail; Oak Park - Oklee
Pastor Jeff Merseth
Wednesdays
5-7pm Wed. School
Saturdays
9am Worship at Mt. Olive
Sundays
St. Petri: 8am Worship, 9:15am SS
OP: 8:30am SS, 9:45am Worship
Nazareth: 10am SS, 11am Worship

UNITED LUTHERAN PARISH
Gatzke
8:30am Worship with 9:45am SS.

LSS Meals available for community members

LSS Meals, a service of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, will be handing out meals on **Monday, November 23rd, in Goodridge from 11am-12:30pm. The truck will park in the lot behind Faith Church. Please enter the alley on the west side for pick-up.**

LSS Meals were handed out in Grygla on November 12th with all 100 bundles of 5 meals being given away. Helping LSS on site in Grygla were Rose Aune, Marshelle Benson and Cheryl Sistas. About 20 people came to pick up meals at the Community Center. The three Grygla volunteers delivered the remaining meals to folks around the Grygla area.

These meals are not limited to low-income or in-needs individuals or families - they are for anyone to pick up, with each person being allowed to take a bundle of 5 meals with them. All meals are already home-cooked and prepared.

During this unprecedented time, LSS can provide these meals to community members at no charge. This is made possible by a COVID-19 relief

grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. It allows LSS to provide meals from October 1-December 31, 2020.

What are the meals and who is eligible?

Recipes for the home-style meals are developed by a registered dietician. They are individually portioned with a balance of proteins, carbohydrates and spices to meet dietary needs and taste great. Meals will be sealed and packaged in easy to carry reusable bags provided by LSS Meals. Anyone in need of nutrition is eligible. Each person can receive up to five meals, plus snacks, at each pick-up event at NO COST. Individuals can also pick up meals for others in their household.

How are meals produced and distributed?

LSS Meals will produce meals at one of their Minnesota kitchens and transport them with refrigerated trucks. Representatives will hand out meals using proper PPE (masks and gloves) and follow state social distancing guidelines.

Distance Ed... Continued from front

on our website and Facebook page on Monday. If your family does not have an adequate internet connection, please contact the school and we will provide assistance.

Summary of the Transition to Distance Learning

- November 16-20 in-person learning for all grades (except for those on quarantine and distance learners)
- November 18th early out dismissal at 12:30
- November 23 in-person learning for all grades (except for those on quarantine and distance learners)
- November 24-25 No School for grades K-12

LISTEN-LIVE! KKDQ/ KTRF

Thursday, November 19th

7:05PM ON KTRF **Chargers Volleyball** vs. Northern Freeze in Goodridge

THIEF RIVER FALLS RADIO

KTRF AM 1230 KKAO AM 1460 KKDQ FM 99.3

G35C (SWAP)

Fall Gun Raffle

This Saturday, the Fourtown/Grygla Sportsman's Club will be holding their Fall Gun Raffle drawing at Fourtown Store & Tavern. Due to the new COVID-19 rules being put in place on restaurant/bars, the drawing will be bumped up to

7pm. For anyone who has sold tickets, please turn them in ahead of time to help streamline the process. You can do so with any active sportsman's club member or at any bar that is also selling. For tickets turned in the day of, all are due to Fourtown by 6pm. Masks will be required at the event - you are also advised to arrive early due to capacity constraints.

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Serving Eastern Marshall & Northern Beltrami Counties

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Karl Sundberg- EDITOR

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GERMAN: Hamburger

Northern Lights fishing report

Written by Ben Kucera

The 2 week deer season has come and gone. The 100 zone still has the third week coming up for the last chance to get your deer. Then if you are like me, you have your eyes set on muzzleloader season.

My deer season was too short and it's hard to see all the guys leave deer camp another year and to look forward to next year's camp. The guys we have at camp for the most part are the same guys that we get together with for Father's Day weekend at Minaki. Our camp was successful and it seemed like the deer finally started to move Thursday through the weekend.

I went out with my dad Friday night and took my muzzleloader for a walk. My plan was to push a swamp back towards my dad to try and get him a deer. I was walking through a little meadow when I heard a twig snap and looked over to see a deer going around me. I took the shot and hit my mark low. It took off falling all over so I dug to reload. I pulled out my primers and bullets but could not find my powder. I told dad I had a deer down and went to get his gun to chase the deer. After I got his gun, I got turned around in the marsh and had to give up for the night.

As dad came back, the grief started. He had 2 deer at 50 yards with an empty muzzleloader. The grief continued

through the night and we had to find that deer in the morning or else. Come morning, I did find and chase the deer for another 1/3 mile or so through thick brush before I caught up to it and finished it off. How the deer was able to move that fast with 2 broken legs, let alone still alive with its heart cut in half...

Moral of the story when you go muzzleloader hunting this year don't forget your powder. If you have a 3rd weekend good luck.

Duck and goose season has pretty much come to a screeching halt as most of the sloughs have froze up along with bats and small lakes. With that, my lake report for this week is pretty short. The fish are still there, but the weather is not and has not been cooperative with high winds and weather patterns changing by the day so the hard water season will be upon us shortly. If you are hitting the woods or water, good luck and please be safe.

Ben Kucera is the owner and creator of Northern Lights Tackle & Custom Rods. He is also a Marshall County Sheriff's Deputy residing in Grygla with his wife and children. Ben is an avid fisherman who will be writing and submitting a fishing report weekly. You can follow his Facebook page at Northern Lights Tackle and/or contact him at 218-684-0588.

COVID-19 testing: mail order program now available statewide

The COVID-19 Test at Home program is now available to all Minnesotans across the state. This is an expansion from the pilot, which was previously made available in 23 counties and the Red Lake Nation.

"Minnesota is entering the most difficult phase of the pandemic yet," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm. "We have record levels of new cases, high hospitalization numbers, and increased community spread. At the same time, we know promising vaccines are entering new stages of development."

"Right now, our job is to build a bridge to that day when safe and effective vaccines are widely available. We do that by working together to limit the impacts of COVID-19 on our families and communities through the simple steps we know make a difference. That includes social distancing, masking, avoiding crowds, staying home when sick, and getting tested when appropriate. This latest expansion of testing makes that last part easier by providing Minnesotans with an unprecedented level of access to COVID-19 tests, putting nearly every Minnesotan just three days from a test result," continued Malcolm.

All of the testing sites, as well as the mail order program, offer COVID-19 testing to any Minnesotan who wants to be tested, whether they have symptoms or not, and does not

require insurance. Some sites will offer nasal swab testing, others will offer saliva testing. They will stay in operation until at least the end of the year to provide sustained testing capacity across the state.

"Our mail order at-home test program is another way we are helping Minnesotans stay safe, which also includes the 10 on-site testing facilities across the state, and the Oakdale COVID-19 lab," said Vault Health Founder and CEO Jason Feldman. "Now, residents can access our tests from the safety of their own home under the digital supervision of a practitioner with results in the same amount of time."

Through the COVID-19 Test at Home program, any person in Minnesota can order a saliva test to be delivered at their home with expedited shipping. The test is then sent to the new lab in Oakdale, Minnesota, for processing.

"The pilot program provided valuable insight and important information about how the program works in practice, not just in our more populated areas of the state, but in our smaller communities as well. Using what we've learned, we've made the Test at Home program easier to use, more accessible, and more user-friendly," continued Huff.

Find more information about the Test at Home program and find the link to order a test at "COVID-19 Test at Home."

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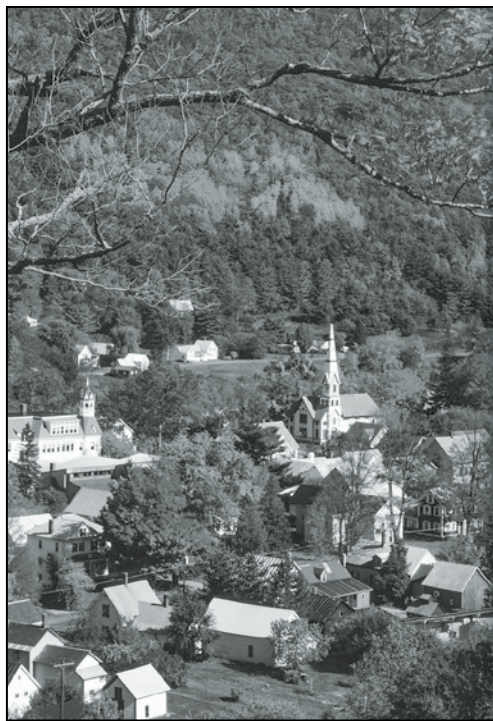
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G18thnc

Counting Our Blessings This Thanksgiving



In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims invited their Indian friends to join them in a three day festival. It was a time to give thanks to God for the year's blessings and for a successful harvest.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." - Psalm 33:12

We hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

We will not be open Wednesday evening hours on November 25th. We will also be closed all day Thursday, November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

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ANSWER: HAMBURGER

Only in Minnesota: a weekly feature in the Eagle

Minnesota's roadside attractions are larger than life

When driving through Minnesota, don't be surprised if you come across something claiming to be the "world's largest" of its kind. From animals to mythological creatures to the infamous ball of twine, roadside attractions are almost as common as the state bird. Seek out these one-of-a-kind sights on your next road trip.

Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox

Before Paul Bunyan and his trusty sidekick, Babe the Blue Ox, loomed large in the city of Bemidji, they were lumber company characters in stories regaling their amazing, forest-clearing abilities.

But until Paul and Babe were given physical form, no Minnesota town had seen the likes of such storybook statues. Debuting in 1937 for a winter carnival, the 18-foot-high Paul Bunyan, painted in signature red and black plaid, and the stocky blue ox, were an instant sensation. It has been a rite of passage for thousands of visitors, young and old, to get a photo with these figures.

And there's more Paul Bunyan to go around. A talking Paul (from 1954) and Babe (1964) are located at Paul Bunyan Land, 6 miles east of Brainerd. In Akeley, also in northwest Minnesota, visitors can crawl into a tall Paul Bunyan's extended hand and visit the nearby Paul Bunyan Historical Museum. Paul's girlfriend, Lucette, has been a towering centerpiece in Hackensack since

1950. The town of Ortonville claims Paul Bunyan's boat anchor, and Kelliher displays his gravestone. It reads: "Here lies Paul, and that's all."

Other Legendary Figures
Other statuesque figures ranging from historic warriors to workmen stand tall over towns across the state. Perhaps the tallest roadside legend in Minnesota is the 55-foot-tall, toga-wearing Jolly Green Giant, which welcomes visitors to Blue Earth and the new Giant Museum.

In southern Minnesota, New Ulm's Hermann the German has been the town's symbol of Teutonic heritage since 1897. The 27-foot-tall, sword-wielding chieftain stands atop a monument you can climb in Hermann Heights Park. Iron Range heroes are memorialized in the town of Chisholm in northeast Minnesota, where a large sculpture of a brass-colored miner stands 36 feet tall.

In central Minnesota's Battle Lake, Ojibwe legend Chief Wenonga is represented by a large statue and celebrated each July at Wenonga Days. Alexandria's Big Ole, a 28-foot-tall, helmeted Viking warrior, is an artifact of the 1965 New York World's Fair. Today, he symbolizes early Norse exploration in the area.

Colossal Creatures
Fantastic fish are well-represented. Minnesota's state fish, the walleye, is especially popular, with magnificent renditions in Baudette, Garrison, Isle, Rush City and near Lake Kabetogama. Fishing fans should also look for the tiger

muskie in Nevis, lutefisk in Madison, northern pike in Deer River and trout in Preston. A 65-foot muskie next to the Big Fish Supper Club in Bena stands in a category of its own.

In Crosby, a legendary serpent named Kanabec assumes a fierce pose next to the comparatively serene Serpent Lake. Fergus Falls is flanked on one end of town by a giant otter in Adams Park and on the other by a goose in flight, located at the Otter Tail County Historical Museum.

Other big birds include the Rothsay prairie chicken, Ashby coot, Frazee turkey, Wheaton mallard and the World's Largest Pelican in Pelican Rapids. (The big pelican that stands alongside the Mill Pond dam in Pelican Rapids is quite a sight to see. It's not the tallest statue on this list - about 15 feet tall - but it does have quite an impact against the rush of water falling through the dam. This is a popular fishing spot in the town, too!) The World's Largest Loon is located in Vergas, MN. Just 15 miles from Pelican Rapids, the loon is 20 feet tall!

World's Largest Crow - Belgrade: Starting off in the small town of Belgrade, you'll find a massive crow watching over the area. The statue rises over 40 feet from the base to the top of its head. You'll find it along Highway 71 south of Highway 55.

Otto the Otter - Fergus Falls: Every small town has to have a big something to draw in curious visitors. In Fergus Falls, that thing is Otto the Otter. He's been sitting in Adams

Park since 1972, after he was built by a group of high school students. At 40 feet long, he's the biggest otter in the world.

Other Man-Made Marvels
The tiny central Minnesota town of Vining has been transformed by the industrious creativity of one man. Ken Nyberg, a town resident in his 70s, built and installed over two-dozen large sculptures in and near Nyberg Park. Nyberg welds scrap metal to create objects that range from realistic elephants and rhinos to surreal depictions such as a bug scaling a pair of giant pliers.

The small town of Darwin, west of the Twin Cities, preserves and celebrates Francis A. Johnson's 29-year project, the world's largest ball of twine made by one man. See the 9-ton, 12-foot-wide twine ball in its glass-walled enclosure and take part in Twine Ball Day in August.

Artists and commercial businesses have also produced roadside odes to food, including corn (Rochester and Olivia), ice cream (Wadena), the Culvert Man (just off I-90 north of La Crescent) and a famously giant boot (in Red Wing, home of Red Wing Shoes).

Many of Minnesota's roadside attractions claim to be the "world's largest," and perhaps some of those claims are true. What is undisputed is the state abounds with quirky, larger-than-life objects that inspire local pride and draw travelers to discover or re-experience legends, marvels and wonder.

Word of the Week
...enhancing vocabularies
one Grygla Eagle at a time.

Triclinium
Noun
A dining room, especially one containing a couch extending along three sides of a table, for reclining on at meals.

Hunters encouraged to help protect the wild deer herd

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is reminding deer hunters to participate in chronic wasting disease testing in designated areas, following lower than anticipated harvest numbers and hunter sample submissions during the opening of the firearms deer season last weekend.

"We saw lower than normal harvest numbers during opening weekend, and the number of samples we've collected so far is not as high as we'd anticipated," said Michelle Carstensen, DNR's wildlife health program supervisor. "We are encouraging hunters to do their part to protect Minnesota's wild deer herd by bringing their deer in for testing. Submitting samples gives us crucial data needed to make informed decisions on how we manage chronic wasting disease."

The DNR shifted to voluntary sampling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the DNR is using unstaffed sampling stations to facilitate social distancing. Hunters in CWD management zones, control zones or surveillance areas are urged to drop off the head of deer 1 year of age or older at these stations. Hunters who have heads from deer harvested opening weekend can still drop those heads off at sampling stations.

"Every test result, whether CWD is detected or not, is important because it shows us

where the disease is," said Barbara Keller, DNR's big game program leader. "We use this information to help us determine where we should target our management, keeping our efforts focused where the disease is most prevalent. It's important for hunters to remember that even deer that look healthy can be positive for the disease."

Hunters can prepare for sample drop-off by watching a CWD sampling demonstration video or following the steps outlined online.

"It's as easy as filling out a tag and placing your deer's head in our collection barrel, but it makes a big difference in protecting and keeping our wild deer as healthy as possible," Carstensen said. "We need help from all hunters."

The DNR website also includes options for sampling deer that allow hunters to keep the antlers or have the deer mounted.

More information
For more information on CWD, the DNR's continued efforts to manage the disease and how to help, visit the DNR's chronic wasting disease management page. Hunters can also find hunting regulations and information about chronic wasting disease regulations and sampling in the 2020 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations page.

Simply Delicious

By Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor
Chocolate Rice Krispie Balls

This sweet recipe caught my attention because 1) it's chocolate Rice Krispies - HELLO. Yum. And 2) it's a no bake recipe and 3) I'm looking for new treats to bake for the holidays.

- Ingredients**
½ cup peanut butter
3 tbsp butter, softened
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup of Rice Krispies
½ cup chopped pecans (I'm leaving these out.)
1 cup of shredded coconut
1 package of chocolate chips
1 square of sweet chocolate (You have options. Ha.)

Instructions
In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients (except the chocolate) together and put in the fridge for 30 minutes - just set the whole bowl in there. After the half hour is up, form the balls and set on parchment paper. Once all are made, put in the fridge for another hour. You want these to set nicely and firm up before dipping them. Once those steps are done, you can melt your chocolate. Now this is where you have options. I figure you can't go wrong with chocolate so that "1 square of sweet chocolate" is open to interpretation. You want to use the Baker's Square of semi-sweet chocolate? Sure. I bet it'll be fine. You want to use

a couple squares of the Ghiradelli chocolate? Even better. Get that chocolate all melted, then drop the Rice Krispie balls in one at a time to coat. Use a fork to make this job easier. Then arrange them back on the parchment paper and pop in the freezer for a final set.

Just to make these a little prettier, maybe I'd sprinkle some coconut or Rice Krispies on top. Maybe even drizzle some white chocolate over them later - I like to make them look as good as they taste. And to accomplish all of that, I'm also going to leave out the pecans. Nothing ruins a good treat like peanuts (or any kind of nuts), in my opinion. Kind of like when people always have to add corn to a hotdish...WHY. Can't we all just add cheese instead of corn? Or more chocolate chips instead of peanuts? Now that sounds like a perfect world...



Grygla Library Link

Written by Kari Sundberg, Grygla Librarian

Hey strangers ~ yes, I say "strangers" because it's been since October 28th since I've seen any of you in the library as we've been closed the last couple of Wednesdays.

November 4th I had to close last minute for personal reasons - my apologies. My grandpa on my mom's side passed away that evening so I headed out of town to gather with family members so we could be with him during his final moments. And last Wednesday was Veterans Day with all Northwest Regional Libraries being closed for the holiday.

Being closed here and there isn't normally a big issue, but since we're only open one day a week in Grygla, it's a bummer when we're locked up and out of service. I know many of you love coming in and getting your books and movies, and you do so very faithfully! I'll look forward to seeing you guys this Wednesday from 2-6pm.

In other news, I dug out some Christmas movies and books, which are ready on a shelf, just waiting to be checked out by some holly, jolly patrons. 'Tis the season! I've also got a new tote of some Large Print books, which I'll have sitting out on a table so it's easier to grab -n- go.

As for book suggestions, I haven't done much reading lately. I've actually been

hooked on a couple of TV series. Grey's Anatomy is a favorite of mine - not only do I love the new episodes, but I like to re-watch some of the older seasons, too. If you don't have access to Netflix or another provider, we have lots of TV series (including Grey's Anatomy) available for check-out. We've got a good selection in the Grygla Library, but can order in something for you, too.

Another show I've gotten hooked on is Manifest. Anyone else into that? I've only watched Season 1 so far, but am going to order Season 2 through the library because then I can watch it "ad-free." The only way I can watch Manifest at home is through YouTube TV and there's ads every few minutes; it's super annoying. Talk about first-world problems, huh...

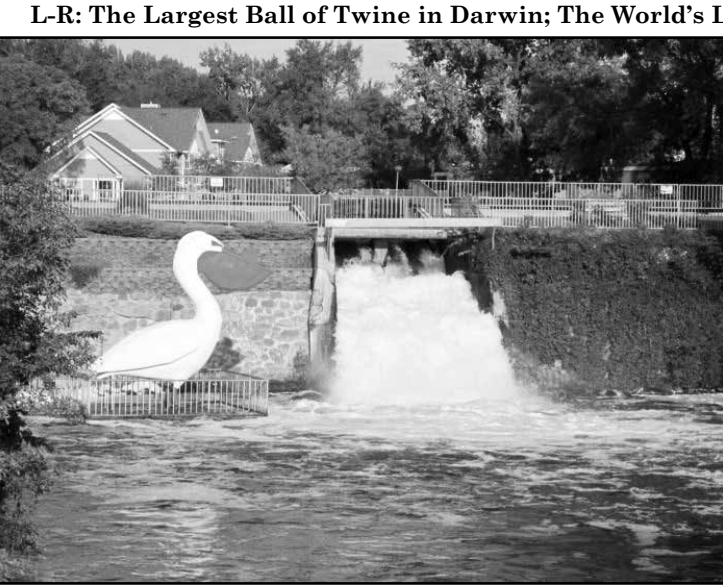
But yeah, we've got so many TV series available for check-out...old AND new - so let me know if there's a certain one you're interested in. My sister-in-laws both love Criminal Minds so I ordered a couple of the newer seasons in for them - they were so happy to not have to buy them for \$30-\$35! What a waste of money that is. Uff.

Another TV series I absolutely love is Parenthood. Oh

Library Link...
Continued on back



L-R: Paul Bunyan and Babe in Bemidji; Jolly Green Giant in Blue Earth; The Giant Boot in Red Wing.



L-R: The World's Largest Pelican in Pelican Rapids; Otto the Otter in Fergus Falls.



GG Chargers over WAO Ponies



The Chargers defeated the Ponies last Thursday night in Warren! As you can see, not many WAO fans were in the stands due to the current COVID-19 situation in the county, along with cold temps! Photo by Grygla Eagle Newspaper



King family...
Continued from front

more frequently as they get older in age. Karla said that has now brought up the topic of their birth fathers. Though they have the information on Grayson's birth father, he has requested a closed adoption. Harrison knows his biological father now and met him for the very first time at his birthday party. "His birth dad came with his birth mom to the party and it was just really cool – a cool interaction to see with my husband and just everyone," Karla said. Since then, they've had that side of the family out for a BBQ and they'll join them for the holidays. Karla says she remembers being so scared of this type of thing, but now just lets it go, saying it can be so beautiful.

As for Annie's birth father, Karla shared a heartwarming story. "Annie wanted to know what her birth father looked like, so I texted her birth mom for a picture. Annie is very light-skinned. She was listed on all of our paper work as white and she is my whitest, lightest child with blue eyes," Karla laughed. "Her birth mom told me she was biracial, which we didn't necessarily believe, but we got a picture of a man with very dark skin. We decided to do an Ancestry kit because we just didn't believe that this was her birth father. Come to find out, Annie is, indeed, biracial with some Nigerian/Congo results showing up on the test. At that point, we showed Annie the photo of her birth father and it was the sweetest thing ever. She looked at the picture and said, "He looks just like me!"

Annie hasn't met her birth father yet. He currently lives in Chicago. Any contact will be initiated through the birth mom, but not until Annie is older.

Right now, the King children are 8, 6 and just about 6 years old. All three are officially adopted with a 1-year old half-sister of Harrison's being a part of the family through Foster Respite Care. Karla said the baby first came into their care with plans for adoption and was with them for 3 months last summer, but is now on Respite Care, which is short-term care, as needed. The little girl lives with her and Harrison's birth mother right now. "Harrison asks great questions about it all and we answer them as honestly and candidly as we can. He enjoys the relationship and gets excited to see her when

she comes," said Karla.

Those candid and open conversations will stay a part of their life. "Adoption, Foster Care, trauma...it looks different for every child. Everyone's situation is different and it's important to us that we talk about it," Karla stated.

She concluded, "For us, this experience has enriched our lives in so many ways. All anyone wants to be is loved. And seeing our kids be loved from all areas of their life – it's just so beautiful."

Brent is still working in the utilities field and Karla now works at home for NACAC (North American Council on Adoption Children.) She also writes for adoption.com

Having started an Adoption Support Group in Grand Rapids, Karla now made a career out of it, representing the northwest corner of Minnesota as a Parent Support Specialist. She works around her kids' schedules, feels passionate and fulfilled and supports other parents in the process of adoption. She welcomes a visit with anyone interested in learning more about this path, or those currently on it. You can email karlaking@nacac.org or call 651-350-3606.

Minnesota Foster to Adopt

Last year, Minnesotans adopted 1,221 children from the foster care system. Currently, of the 733 children still without permanent homes:

- 65% have special needs, including physical, mental, emotional or behavioral disabilities
- 57% are siblings who need to be adopted together
- 46% are 12 to 18 years old, 28% are 6 to 11 and 26% are under 6
- 36% are white, 31% are Black/African American, 6% are American Indian, 1% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 25% are two or more races and 1% are unknown/declined to identify.

"All children need safe, nurturing, permanent families to thrive," said MN Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. "With November being National Adoption Month, we celebrate families created through adoption and encourage others to consider adopting children from the foster care system. We always need more loving families to nurture, care for and welcome children into their forever homes."

The Minnesota Department of Human Services and MN Adopt has more information available at www.mnadopt.org or mn.gov/dhs.

Library Link...

Continued from page 3

my gosh. My FAVORITE. We have those seasons available to order in for you if you've never seen it. Parenthood is a series from a few years ago that revolves around three generations of the Braverman family. There's six seasons total and

it'll pull you ALL in. Trust me.

Alrighty, well, now that we've talked a little TV and confirmed that we'll definitely be open this week, I hope you swing in. There's always something good to grab off the shelves. Trust me on that, too.

Stay healthy, be happy, friends.

Chargers get a 31-7 win over the Ponies

Head Coach for the Varsity Football team, John Wilebski, says, "It was very exciting for our Charger football team to get back on the field after a 3 week layoff from Coronavirus protocol. The Charger men were hungry and it showed on the field. Yes, timing was off and tackling was sloppy, but the intensity and "great line play" on both sides of the ball

showed the dominance of the Chargers." He added, "The Chargers are going to need to keep playing like this and try to sharpen up quickly as the #2 seed Chargers start play-off football with hosting the Northern Freeze in Goodridge on Tuesday, November 17th. If they advance, they will host in Grygla vs. BGMR or KCC on Saturday, November 21st.

Game results from Thursday, November 12th, in Warren GG: 12 12 0 7 = 31 WAO: 0 7 0 0 = 7 Manderud 2 yard TD run, run failed; Loken 14 yard TD run, run failed; Loken 67 yard TD run, run failed; Gullickson 3 yard TD run, Merckens kick good; Anderson 3 yard TD run, pass failed; Loken 10 yard TD run, Haugen kick good.

Loken 28 carries 232 yards 3 TD's; Busse 7 carries for 30 yards; Anderson 11 carries for 37 yards 1 TD; Manderud 2 carries for 14 yards 1 TD. Passing 0 for 1 Defense: Kiesow 9 tackles 1 fumble rec; Haack 6 tackles; Loken 7 tackles; Manderud 7 tackles, 1 fumble rec; Coan 5 tackles; Verbout 4 tackles 1 fumble rec.



Charger Volleyball action shots vs. KCC



Sadie Anderson (left) and Caitlyn Jacobson (right) both go up at the net in the Varsity game against KCC last Friday night in Grygla. Senior volleyball/football players & parents were recognized this night in honor of Parent's Night. We'll share those photos in next week's Eagle. *Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper*



Left: Maddy Cullen and Vivian Coan in the Varsity game. Right: Libero Jorja Salo with a nice pass in the JV game. *Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper*



KCC over GG Volleyball

Last Friday night, the Chargers hosted the KCC Bearcats on the home court in Grygla. The Varsity team lost in four (15-25, 26-24, 12-25, 12-25).

GG stats
Chloe Kuznia- assists-33, digs-11, kills-2; Vivian Coan- ace-1, digs-22, kills-14; Caitlyn Jacobson- ace-1, digs-10,

kills-12, blocks-1; Madison Cullen- digs-18; Madison Paulson- kills-5

KCC stats
McKenna Peterson- kills-14, ace-3; Cheyenne Scalese- kills-13, blocks-2, ace-2; Gracie Whitlock- kills-9, blocks-2, ace-2, assists-34



Katelyn Larson goes up for the kill as Riley Saurdiffe looks on in the JV game against KCC.



Left: Setter Chloe Kuznia gets one ready for the middle hitter. Right: Hailey Knutson and Caitlyn Jacobson attempt a block against a Bearcat hitter. *Photos by Grygla Eagle Newspaper*

