



Volunteer Water Monitors needed to help state track water quality in Oklee area

As spring arrives in Minnesota, it's time for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to kick off its popular program that relies on Minnesota residents to help monitor the state's 12,000+ lakes and 92,000+ miles of streams. The MPCA is now recruiting volunteers to measure water clarity in numerous lakes and streams – including several high-priority sites along the Lost River in the Oklee area – and then report back to the agency. This is the perfect opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts and those interested in helping protect our state's natural resources!

Through the Volunteer Water Monitoring Program, volunteers do a simple water clarity test in a body of water twice a month during the summer. Lake monitors boat or paddle to a designated spot in the lake to check the clarity, while stream monitors record data from the streambank or a bridge over it. We provide all the equipment and training, so no experience is needed.

The MPCA uses the data to help determine whether lakes and streams are meeting water quality standards designed to protect aquatic life and recreational activities like fishing and swimming. In some cases, the information gathered by

volunteers is the only monitoring done on a particular lake or stream.

Program volunteers come from all walks of life; from retirees and families to teachers with their classrooms and entire community groups, anyone can be a volunteer:

- Beth LaVigne, a long-time volunteer stream monitor in Duluth, provides important data about Tischer Creek. She also incorporates her monitoring work into her classroom as a professor of education.

- Joan Redig's interest in conservation is reflected in her rural Houston County property. Now she monitors Paradise Valley Stream for the Volunteer Water Monitoring program.

- Volunteer water monitoring runs deep for the Berg family in Becker County; they've been involved for more than three decades.

We'd like to offer you an interview with a program expert who can discuss the importance of our volunteers' work to help protect water quality and how anyone can get involved. We also may be able to connect you with an existing volunteer in the area to learn more about their experiences in the program or provide you with volunteer quotes, photos, stories, etc.

Essentia Health launches season 2 of "Dare to Ask" podcast

Essentia Health is proud to announce the premiere of the second season of the "Dare to Ask" podcast, hosted by popular Fargo-area radio personality Cori Jensen. In each podcast episode, Jensen is joined by a different Essentia Health provider to discuss various elements of women's health.

The first episode of season 2 airs this week and will feature Essentia Health OB-GYN Stefanie Gefroh Ellison, MD.

"There are certain topics surrounding women's health that some might find embarrassing or difficult to discuss, so it's important that we as health care providers have open and

candid conversations about these topics," said Dr. Gefroh Ellison. "We need to empower women to share, which is why it is such an honor to help kick off the second season of the 'Dare to Ask' podcast, a platform where my colleagues and I shine a spotlight on all aspects of women's health."

New episodes will be shared each Tuesday. Go to <https://www.spreaker.com/show/dare-to-ask> to stream all available episodes.

This season covers topics like behavioral health, genetic counseling, fertility, pediatric cardiology, orthopedics, maternal fetal medicine and more.

RLC High School Presents "Murder's in the Heir"

RLCC High School will be presenting Murder's in the Heir an interactive murder mystery by Billy St. John on Friday, May 6th at 7 pm. Saturday, May 7th at 7 pm and Sunday, May 8th at 2 pm. in the gymnasium.

Admission is \$5 Pre-K and up.

Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire Simon Starkweather has the means and the motive to do away with him. Starkweather gathers his family and employees to announce the contents of his will. His lawyer, Lois van Zandt, reveals that he has bequeathed vast fortunes to his befuddled niece Fiona, her playboy son Jordan, his great-niece Paula (a Southern belle) and his grandson Simon III, as

well as to his many servants. Then Lois delivers the bombshell! Within hours this will becomes invalid. Of course, the rejected heirs are not pleased, so it's not surprising when they roam the old mansion carrying such items as an ax, a gun and poison. Predictably, the lights go out, and Simon is discovered murdered. Simon III (played by the same actor who plays the elderly Simon) is determined to find his grandfather's killer, with the help of detective Mike Davis. The play's unique ending, utilizing secret ballots gathered at intermission from the audience, determines the killer in this Billy St. John maze of murder.

The cast members are: Simon Starkweather and Simon Starkweather III - Remi Rathack, Fiona Starkweather - Hannah Dudycha, Jordan Starkweather - Guy Bergeson, Paula Thompson - Luci Svendsen, Bensonhurst - Oliver Russillo, Mrs. Trent - Haile Thompson, Minerva Walker - Lillie Lundeen, Nancy Pollard - McKenzie Hamm, Rufus Jones - Hunter Dudycha, Lois Van Zandt - Peyton Williams, Miss Withers - Hailey Hanson. Kathy Collins - Lexus Waldal. Mike Davis - Jon Roue. Lights/Sound - McKenzie Tofstad. The play is being directed by Tyrell Hamrum.

Women of the ELCA to gather

The Conference Two Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held Saturday May 7th, 2022 at the Grace Lutheran Church, Grygla, Minnesota.



Cenex C-Store in Oklee is getting a new outside. They started last week tearing off all the old siding. Next week pictures of the new outside.



Immanuel Quilters donating 124 Quilts



Everyone is welcome. Registration will be held from 8:30 to 9 a.m. with morning coffee. The program begins at 9 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person,

which includes morning coffee and noon lunch. A morning fellowship and inspiration has been planned. Connie Moe from Grygla, a retired teacher, and

her husband, Tony, adopted two Korean children as infants. When they were older, their parents took them on a trip to Korea so they could learn about

their heritage. We also will be entertained with some special music. We hope you can join us for a fun morning

Calendar of Events

Wed, May 4:

-11:30 a.m. Senior Meals delivered - Call to order.

-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.

Thu, May 5:

-11:30 a.m. Senior Meals delivered - Call to order.

Fri, May 6:

-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news

Sat, May 7:

-Support your local business - Shop Locally!

Sun, May 8:

-Worship at the church - check inside for church times and places.

Mon, May 9:

-11:30 a.m. Senior Meals delivered - Call to order.

Tue, May 10:

-11:30 a.m. Senior Meals delivered - Call to order.

Wed, May 11:

-11:30 a.m. Senior Meals delivered - Call to order.

-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.

Church news

OKLEE LUTHERAN PARISH
Zion and Salem
Pastor Linda Molitor
Wed, May 4: 6:00 p.m.
Confirmation Pictures.
Sun, May 8: Confirmation: 9:00 a.m. Zion. 9:00 a.m. SS at Salem. 10:00 a.m. SS at Zion. 10:30 a.m. Salem.
Tue, May 10: 7:00 p.m. Parish Board meeting.
Sermons are on GVTEL Channel 35 (10 am Sunday & 2 pm Tuesday), also on Facebook or YouTube.

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF OKLEE, GRYGLA & GOODRIDGE
Fr. Adam Hamness
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. St. Francis - Oklee. 11:45 a.m. - Grygla. 10:00 p.m. - Goodridge.
Go to: <http://www.oggcatholic.org/> for service times.

BROOKS - RED LAKE FALLS CATHOLIC PARISH
Fr. Bob Schreiner
Brooks - Red Lake Falls Catholic Parish
Fr. Bob Schreiner
Saturday: St. Joseph RLF 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Brooks Sunday 8:00 a.m. St. Joseph 10:00 a.m.

IMMANUEL-EBENEZER LUTHERAN PARISH ELCA
Pastor Jonathan Dodson
Sun, May 8: 9:00 a.m. Worship at Ebenezer. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Immanuel. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel.

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH
Bethany-Ekelund-Faith
Pastor Kristen Ostercamp
Wed, May 4: 9:00 a.m. Faith WELCA Board.
Sun, May 8: 8:00 a.m. Bethany Worship. 9:30 a.m. Ekelund Worship. 11:00 a.m. Faith Worship.
Tue, May 10: 9:30 a.m. Shalom Circle at Faith.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
Mt. Olive - Nazareth Oak Park - St. Petri
Pastor Jeff Merseeth
Wed, May 4: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday School.
Sat, May 7: Mt Olive: 9:00 a.m.
Sun, May 8: St. Petri: 8:00 a.m. Worship, 9:15 a.m. SS. Nazareth: 9:45 a.m. Oak Park: 11:00 a.m. Worship. 9:45 a.m. SS.
Wed, May 11: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday School (last day). 7:00 p.m. Ladies Aid.
Find services and past sermons at www.facebook.com/clearwaterlutheranparish

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH
Jarred LeBon, Pastor
Tyler Stynsberg, Assoc. Pastor
www.newjourneyfosston.com
Wed, May 4: 6:30 p.m. Youth Group.
Sun, May 8: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School. 10:00 a.m. Worship.
Tue, May 10: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Devotions.
Wed, May 11: 6:30 p.m. Youth Group.

GULLY-TRAIL PARISH
Bethany * Lund
Sand Valley
Dawn Hanson, Lay Minister
Sun, May 8: 9:00 a.m. Lund. 10:30 a.m. Sand Valley. No Confirmation.
CDC safety guidelines for COVID-19 will be followed.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY
Fosston
Seth Johnson, Head Pastor
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.
Wednesday Evening: 6:30 p.m. Kids, High School & Adult programs.
Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/bethelfosston>) as an alternative to attending in person.

WIC Support Aid

Quin County Community Health Services WIC is accepting applications for a part-time WIC Support Aid. Position will include greeting participants, scheduling, answering phones and various clinic duties. Looking for a kind and caring individual with good communication and computer skills, must have the ability to lift up to 50 lbs., travel to clinic locations in Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake and Roseau Counties, and work varied hours. Experience working with pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children preferred. Wage based on experience. Send resume to PO Box 248, Newfolden, MN, 56738 or e-mail quinchs@wiktel.com. Phone (218) 874-7845 for more information. Position open until filled. 07-8C

Oklee Senior Site Dining

May 9- 13
No congregate meals served. If you are over the age of 60 and you want a meal delivered to your home, call the Oklee Cafe 796-5666. Please call by Friday to order your meals from the menu below. If the cafe runs short, it will be Cook's Choice. A \$5.00 per meal donation is suggested.
Mon: Chicken alfredo dinner, vegetable, bread, milk, and dessert.
Tue: Pork chop, mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread, milk, and dessert.
Wed: Cream of potato soup, ham sandwich, fruit, bread, milk, and dessert.
Thu: Chef's Choice, bread, milk, and dessert.
Fri: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, bread, milk, and dessert.

OPEN HOUSE

Celebrating the 90th Birthday of Jeannette Carriere
Please join us for coffee and cake!

Saturday, May 7, 2022
2 pm - 4 pm
At the home of: Bob & Sue Carriere
614 Bourden St
Oklee, MN
No Gifts, please!

06-7C

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Weekly COVID-19 Case Update for April 23rd - 29th:
Pennington County case ages: 2 teens, 23 in their 20's - 50's & 5 in their 60's - 80's.
Red Lake County case ages: 1 child under 5, 30's, 50's & 60's.
*This case data does not reflect positive results from non-laboratory tests (example: antigen rapid home tests).

Please take precautions whether you are vaccinated or not. Wear a mask in indoor public spaces, social distance, stay away from crowds, stay home if you are sick, wash your hands frequently and get vaccinated.

	Pennington	Red Lake
• New confirmed cases since last report	30	7
• Total # of confirmed cases	3624	945
• # of Active Cases in Isolation	49	8
• Total # of Hospitalizations	161	39
• # Currently in Hospital	0	0
• Deaths	41	13

Thank you to all of those who came to my 94th Birthday Party and gave cards and money. It was a very special day. I want to thank all of you.
Wallace Nelson 07C

Oklee American Legion Auxiliary Meeting

There will be an Oklee American Legion Auxiliary meeting on May 10th at Noon at the Oklee Cafe.



City of Oklee Notice

City of Oklee will be flushing the hydrants on May 18th or May 19th.



City of Oklee Notice

Garbage will be picked up in the alley starting on May 9th.



Oklee Centennial Cookbook Recipe Corner - Page 20

Spicy Pinwheels Denise (Grimm) Zentner

3 (8 oz) pkgs cream cheese
1 pkg Hidden Valley Ranch, powder
1 can chopped black olives
1 can chopped Jalapeno Peppers
more or less depending on how hot and spicy you want them
1 (12 oz) pkg shredded cheese
1 pkg soft shell tortillas

Mix all ingredients in bowl and spread onto tortilla, roll up and cut into slices

Salsa Pinwheels Tracy Hamm

1 (8 oz) cream cheese softened
1 (8 oz) sour cream
1/2 packet of taco seasoning
Small jar of chunky salsa

Mix all ingredients together and spread evenly onto flour tortillas, roll tortilla tightly and wrap in saran wrap for a few hours, refrigerate, cut into slices before serving.



CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to exercise. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13 = E)

A. 14 1 21 5 13 15 15
Clue: Being healthy

B. 10 13 1 7 9 21 15
Clue: Heavy exercise tools

C. 7 18 17
Clue: Fitness location

D. 13 3 13 24 19 1 15 13
Clue: Physical activity

Answers: A. fitness B. weights C. gym D. exercise

Guess Who?

I am an actor and wrestler born in California on May 2, 1972. I played football in college and later in the Canadian Football League. After becoming a professional wrestler, I became a wildly popular actor in several action films and franchises.

Answer: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to exercise.

T S U A Q

--	--	--	--

Answer: Squat

Red Lake Falls Library

On display now in the RLF Library are patriotic quilts done in red, white & blue, made by members of the Snip 'N Stitch Quilters. The quilts will be on display up until Memorial Day.



New adult non-fiction includes "Inside Your Japanese Garden" by Sadao Yasumoro and Joseph Cali: a guide to creating a unique Japanese garden for your home; "The Life of Mark Twain: The Final Years 1891-1910" by Gary Scharnhorst;

the last installment of Gary Scharnhorst's three volume biography chronicling the life of Samuel Clemens between his family's extended trip to Europe in 1891 and his death in 1910 at age 74; and "You Are the Happiness You Seek: Uncovering the Awareness of Being" by Rupert Spira.

Deadline: Fridays at noon!

Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial Update

Recently a donation was received for the Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial. The Dahlen family, Goodridge, presented the Oklee Memorial with a contribution in memory of Kevin Dahlen, who served in the US Navy from 1977-1978. Kevin was a proud veteran and was supportive of the Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial as well as being a friend to several in the Oklee community.

Donations to the Veterans' Memorial are used for perpetual care including flag replacement and beautification and improvements at the site. Contributions may be sent to Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial, c/o Security State Bank, Box 69, Oklee, MN 56742, attn: Lori Melby.

Sudoku Solution

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

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Oklee Herald

Corner 2nd Ave. & Main
218-796-5181
ESTABLISHED IN 1914
Published by Richards Publishing Co.
Bonny Cote,
Editor & Office Manager
okleeherald@gmail.com

\$30 subscription in Local Trade Area
\$40 subscription Out of Trade Area
\$25 Online Subscriptions

MEMBER MNA & NNA
PUBLICATION NUMBER 407240

**Winner of National Editorial Ass'n. first prize for Best News Story, 1959.

**Winner of Honorable Mention for General Excellence, Minnesota Newspaper Ass'n., 1962.

**Winner 1st place Typography Excellence, Minnesota Newspaper Association, 1971.

**Winner 1st place Best Feature Story, Minnesota Newspaper Association, 1981.

**Winner 1st place Best Single News or Feature Story, Minnesota Medical Association, 1992.

"The Oklee Herald" is published weekly by Richards Publishing Co., Inc., Box 159, Gonvick, MN 56644-0159.

Periodical postage paid at Oklee, MN 56742-0009.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Oklee Herald, PO Box 9, Oklee, MN 56742-0009.

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MUSTANG STAMPEDE

RLCC Preschool Registration

On May 6th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Red Lake County Central Plummer Elementary will be holding Preschool Registration.

Come in and sign up your child(ren) and also register for prize drawings.

Hope to see you there!



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

RLCC Sports Schedules

Schedules subject to changes - please check the school web site at <https://www.rlcc2906.org/>

Boys Baseball

Thu, May 5:

4:30PM JH Only

Red Lake County Coop vs. Thief River Falls @ L.E. Drechsel Field

4:30 p.m. Red Lake

County Coop vs. EGF Green Wave at EGF High School.

Fri, May 6:

4:30 p.m. V only - Red

Lake County Coop vs. NCE/UH at Ulen-Hitterdahl High School.

Sat, May 7:

11:00AM Red Lake County Coop vs. BGMR @ Greenbush Field.

Mon, May 9:

4:30PM Red Lake County Coop vs. Northern Freeze @ L.E. Drechsel Field. JH 4:30/6:30

4:30PM Red Lake County Coop vs. Northern Freeze @ Karlstad.

JV after Varsity

RLCC Girls Varsity

Softball

Thu, May 5:

4:30 p.m.

Away vs. East Polk at WEM High School.

Fri, May 6:

4:30 p.m.

Away vs. West Marshall.

Tue, May 10:

4:30 p.m.

Lake Park Audubon @ Oklee.

Thu, May 12:

3:00 p.m.

Ada-Borup @ Oklee

5:00 p.m.

Crookston @ Oklee.

Fri, May 13:

4:30 p.m.

Nelliher/Northome at Oklee.

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RLCC Menus

NOTICE: Food shortages are nationwide, and our school district is also experiencing unavailable items or last-minute food replacements from our food distributors. Menus are subject to change, but we will do our best to notify you via social media/bulletin if/when there are menu changes. We appreciate your patience and understanding! We look forward to serving all of our students nutritious meals.

RLCC School District.

May 9- 13

Oklee

Monday: Breakfast: Ham & cheese croissant, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger or pizza patty w/ bun, fries, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Muffins, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken patty w/bun, fried rice or rice pilaf, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Toast, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Taco in a bag or soft shell, refried beans, fruit, and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Pancake on a stick, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Ham patty w/bun, fries, baked beans, chips, fruit, and milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Pizza, lettuce salad, fresh vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Plummer

Monday: Breakfast: Waffles, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken alfredo, garlic bread, green beans, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Eggs & sausage, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Corn dog, fries, cucumber cup, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Toast w/cinnamon sugar, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger w/bun, cheese & pickles, beans, chips, fruit, and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** To Go Bags: sandwich, veggies & fruit, Ritz Bitz, and milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Donuts, cereal, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch:** Pizza, salad w/ veggies, fruit, and milk.

RLCC High School Students of the Month



Mrs. Musker and Owen Chervestad



Cari Bachand with Mr. Paskvan

RLCC HS announces March Student of the Month

By Noah Hanson, Nolan Magnell, and Lily Hager

Cari Bachand is the Senior High Student of the Month for March. Cari's parents are Jeff and Jodi Bachand. Cari has two siblings, Cade who works in the oil fields as a rig operator, and Kia is attending SDSU and will transfer to NDSU this fall to become a Physical Therapist. Cari's favorite teacher is Mr. P. and her favorite coach is Coach Baageson. One of her favorite memories was when she scored her 1000th point during a home game. Cari has been active in the student council, Minnesota Honor Society, Mustang Volleyball, and Basketball. Outside of school, Cari is active in the Hope Evangelical Free Youth Group in Fertile,

MN. This fall, Cari will attend North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Mr. Paskvan nominated Cari because of her strong work ethic and great attitude in the classroom. "She is always willing to go the extra mile to do a good job and help anyone out," he added. All of Cari's teachers agreed that Cari always puts 100% into everything and does a great job in all of her subjects as well as her athletics and work in all of the organizations she is involved.

Owen Chervestad is the Junior High Student of the Month for March. Owen's parents are Aaron and Jill Chervestad. He has a little sister, Alexa who is in seventh grade. Owen is active in Rebel Basketball,

Baseball, and Football. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Musker and his favorite coach is Mr. Philion. Owen's favorite school lunches are corn dogs with mac and cheese, cheesy bread, and soup day!

Mrs. Musker nominated Owen for the student of the month because not only is he a great athlete and student, he gets along with everyone in the classroom. "He is going to do amazing things in the years to come." Mrs. Musker added. All of Owen's teachers agree. "I've always looked forward to the work Owen hands in, and enjoy his unique creativity," Mr. Baril laughed.

Congratulations to both Owen and Cari!



Red Lake County Rebels Track & Field Boys & Girls compete at United Clay-Becker Booster Meet

On Thursday, April 28th, The Red Lake County Rebels Track and Field Boys and Girls Track and Field Teams attended the United Clay-Becker Booster Meet in Hawley, MN.

The Rebel Girls' Team finished in tenth place with Kiara Suave finishing in seventh place in the 100 Meter Hurdles with a time of 18.90 and eighth place in the 300 Meter Hurdles with a time of 53.05.

The Rebels' Boys' team tied for eleventh place. Carson Lambert finished in fourth place in the 110 Meter Hurdles with a time of 19.61. In fifth place, the 4x200 Meter Relay race were Carson Lambert, Keyan Derosier, Gerald Melin, and Thomas Benson with a time of 1:57.03. In seventh place for the 4x100 Meter Relay were Keyan Derosier, Peyton O'Neill, Hayz Hanson, and Caden Lee with a time of 54.82. Tying for fifth place in the high jump with 5'8" was Gerald Melin.

The Rebels Track and Field teams are coached by Head Coach Mr. Randy Huie, and assisted by Mrs. Cheryl Matzke, Mr. Kory Baril, and Mr. Devin Lambert.

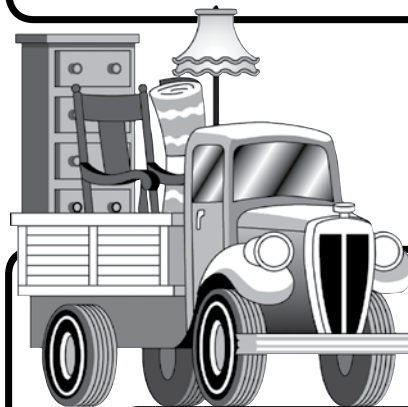
Girls Softball Update

After nine postponed games of the season, the RLCC Mustangs Softball team had their first win of the season with a score of 19-22 against the Laporte Wildcats



Head Coach Aaron Moll encourage the RLCC Mustangs in their game against the Mahnomen-Waubun Thunderbirds. The Mustangs would lose 15-0. Coach Moll is assisted by Kari Rath. Photos courtesy of Sarah Wahlen.

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that old furniture...



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Carlee Whalen in the outfield and Shawna Majeres pitching against the Wildcats. Photos courtesy of Sarah Wahlen.



Carley Vettleson makes it home. Photos courtesy of Sarah Wahlen.



Marissa Thomas slides into the home plate. Photos courtesy of Sarah Wahlen.

RLC Rebel Golf have been practicing inside due to weather

The Red Lake County Rebel Golf Team hasn't had much time on the course due to the extreme weather conditions of the season. Here they are



Guy Bergeson practices in the Community Hall as Gavin Thomas and Ryan Tvedt help him perfect his swing.

practicing in the RLC Community Hall The Golf team is coached by Head Coach Karl Kleven and assisted by Peter Tydlacka.



Hunter Dudycha, Kane Nelson, and Gavin Thomas practice their strokes as Landon Klasen looks on.



Congratulations To RLCC April Student of the Month Winners were: 5th & 6th: Lynessa Castaneda and 3rd & 4th: Maci Magnell.

Red Lake County Commissioners Minutes

RED LAKE COUNTY Regular Meeting Held April 12, 2022

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on April 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Weiss called the meeting to order. All County Commissioner were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Flage moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Gerardy and carried unanimously with the addition of County Attorney Lacoursiere.

County Engineer Erik Hove met with the board to present some Highway Department items.

Agenda Item 1:

Hove conducted a bid opening for the Mill and Overlay Project (SAP 063-611-008 & SAP 063-633-002). There were five contractors that submitted bids for the project. The low bid of \$1,493,676.50 was submitted by Anderson Brothers Construction Company of Brainerd, MN. Hove recommended the low bid contingent upon no errors, and if any errors discovered Hove would bring back to the board at the next meeting. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried by unanimous vote to accept the low bid as recommended by the County Engineer contingent upon no errors discovered upon final review of the submitted bid document.

Agenda Item 2:

Hove presented gravel reclaim quotes to process millings into both CAR (County Aid Road) 112 & CAR 108. The total road reclaiming project would be approximately 5-miles long and utilize a stabilization chemical on three of the miles. A quote of \$25,977.60 was received from Industrial Builders and \$22,704.00 from All States Pavement Recycling and Stabilization. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Gerardy and carried by unanimous vote to approve the low quote received from All States Pavement Recycling as recommended by the County Engineer.

Agenda Item 3:

Hove conducted bid opening for the annual equipment rental rates. The solicitation of these quotes is intended to provide Red Lake County with a readily available source of equipment. Six contractors submitted equipment rental bids. Hove recommended that the County accept all bids for equipment rentals, provided that any bidder utilized by the county meets the requirements stated in a project proposal. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Gerardy and carried by unanimous vote to accept all bids as recommended by the County Engineer.

Agenda Item 4:

Hove requested approval of a Construction Materials Testing contract for the City of Plummer project. The State Aid construction project requires that all materials meet MnDOT specifications. American Engineering Testing of Grand Forks has provided an estimated project fee of \$27,550.00 to provide all required material testing for the project; all costs are to be billed based on the unit rates. The fees will be split 71.77% County/28.23% City, which is based on each agency's share of the project. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried unanimously to approve the

request as presented. Hove informed that Highway Department Mechanic Steve Hauert will be retiring after 27 years of service. Hauert's last day will be July 5th. Hove mentioned that the position will be posted internally, and if there are no applicants the county will begin advertising externally with the first review of applications beginning April 25th.

Penny Grove, Fiscal Supervisor at Social Services appeared before the County Board. County Social Services have received a request to approve a settlement for a current estate in probate which has an MA claim against it, identified as Case Number 63-PR-20-158. The issues that have bearing on the situation were reviewed by Ms. Grove. The attorney for the estate, Nathan Haase, was also in attendance to present the opinion of the estate and heirs of the estate in this matter. After hearing the information presented and asking questions of Mr. Haase and Ms. Grove, the board decided to take some time to review the information and to make the final decision as the board meeting at social services on April 20, 2022. No further action was taken.

James and Mary Nephew appeared before the County Board to make a request to repurchase their Red Lake Falls residence that was tax forfeited to the state in February, 2022 due to the non-payment of property taxes. Auditor Schmitz explained that state statute authorizes County Boards to approve these requests on a case-by-case basis. However, individuals requesting to repurchase their former property must pay all costs incurred by the county in addition to the delinquent property taxes. A letter from a financial institution was read informing that a loan was approved for Nephew's. Auditor Schmitz recommended that the County Board approve the request. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried by unanimous vote to allow James and Mary Nephew to repurchase their tax forfeited property contingent upon \$6,193.92 in full payment to the county for delinquent taxes and costs.

Virgil Benoit met with the County Board to explain his plans to develop the former Pierre Bottineau historical homestead into a County Learning Center. The historical homestead is located on the southeast edge of Red Lake Falls. Benoit distributed information and explained that his intentions are to have the site available to individuals, groups, schools and business organizations to promote learning and county history. His organization is currently scheduling a public forum to gather feedback and ideas from residents on how to best utilize the area. Surveys are being distributed to collect information and Benoit asked that the County Commissioners also participate in the survey and attend the public meeting.

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan met with the board to update them on the options available for the two county demolition landfills. Casavan submitted the following written statement for the record:

Kurt informed that he had a meeting with the MPCA on March 21, 2022 at the MN Wheat Growers building with three MPCA staff in person and five joined virtually. The MPCA continues to pressure the county into closure of our two demolition landfill sites, which are lo-

Photo below: Caught Being Good Winners were: (L-R) Loryn Vettleson, Ppyer Kahlstorf, Fern Wichterman, Alyssa Morinville, Brynley Kvasager, Reese Lambert.



cated near Oklee (SW-438) and Red Lake Falls (SW-331). The MPCA has stated we could operate as a Permit-By-Rule (PBR) facility which they said was a much less restrictive permit to work under than a regular landfill permit. The MPCA would like us to close both landfills and haul our demolition to the Polk County Demolition Landfill, east of Gentilly, MN. This option would require us to buy an estimated four, 40-yard roll-off containers, a lift-hook truck and a machine to load the containers. The roll-offs are estimated at \$10K each and a lift-hook truck could be \$100K. The old highway department truck with a lift hook purchased would be around \$50K, and a track excavator with grapple hook or thumb could be \$100K. So, with these estimates a total cost would easily be around \$200k, maybe more.

The MPCA stated that both of our demolition landfills are still operating under our old permits, which have been expired for several years, and that if we close the landfills now, we will not be required to put in monitoring wells. Currently, each landfill would have to have a minimum of three monitoring wells installed at a cost per well from \$4k-\$10K, depending on if we can get by with a 20, 30, 40, or 50 ft. deep well. A question was directed to the MPCA about future changes to Minnesota Rules on solid waste/landfill monitoring well requirements; if those rules changed in five years to require all landfills to have monitoring wells would the MPCA honor the arrangement agreed to with our landfills, or would we have to put in wells anyway? The MPCA answer was that it could happen, and we would then have to put wells in regardless.

Kurt stated that we might be better off putting wells in RLF and operating as we are now, as the RLF site should have a minimum of 20 years of life left; of course, depending on the demolition yardage remaining at the current levels. The Oklee location could possibly be closed, with no monitoring wells installed as this location takes in less yardage than the RLF site, generally less than half that of RLF site. And, to provide service to the east end of the county we would still need to buy two roll-offs and have a lift truck as well as something to load the roll-offs with. So, the cost is still there, what are you gaining?

Kurt told the board he thought we needed to hire an engineering firm to complete an Engineers Report on both landfills, and if we decide to re-permit the landfills, have the Engineering Firm assist with the re-permitting. End of Casavan's written statement.

There was additional discussion. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Flage and carried by unanimous vote to allow Kurt Casavan to seek quotes for the Engineers Report on the county landfills and report back to the board a recommendation.

SWCD Administrator Tanya Hanson was present to discuss an application for a Shoreland Permit. Daniel Stephens is proposing to purchase the Barbot property by the Softball Complex for a food service and a multi-entertainment facility. Hanson stated that approval of the permit application is based upon a final site location as determined by the County Environmental Officer, the MPCA and the local SWCD board. Commissioner Remick moved, sec-



Eighth Grade English Ends the Year with The Pigman

By Mustang Stampede Staff Many graduates of Oklee High School will remember reading The Pigman by Paul Zindel with Mr. James Baron who taught at OHS/RLCC HS until the spring of 2012. Mr. Baron included The Pigman in his curriculum for years. Eighth-graders at RLCC HS have enjoyed reading The Pigman with Mrs. Aakhus too. In 2002, Paul Zindel won the American Library Association's Margaret A. Edwards Award because "The Pigman is widely recognized as one of the first authentic young adult novels... Zindel's teen characters search for a sense of self, a way to connect with others and an understanding of the adult world into which they are moving" (ALA.org). The main characters are relatable and make mistakes typical of teens and suffer the unintended consequences of their own actions. "I like the way the characters are real, and we have tough conversations about responsibility and respect," Mrs. Aakhus pointed out. "Because Zindel uses the R-Word in this book, we discuss how that word has become disrespectful since 1968 as pointed out by the Special Olympics," Mrs. Aakhus added. The book's main message is important. John and Lorraine befriend a lonely elderly man, and they learn a lot of wise lessons from their new friend. Reading books is a great way for students to learn about others' struggles and apply those lessons to their own lives.

SPREAD THE WORD INCLUSION

Seventh Graders End the Year With The Giver

By Mustang Stampede Students at Red Lake County Central High School have been reading The Giver by Lois Lowry since 2012. Lois Lowry's bestseller has been taught in schools throughout the world since its first publication in 1993. Lowry wrote the book during the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia when Serbian forces tried to rid the country of all of its Muslims. Lowry thought about this genocide and the Holocaust and imagined if those atrocities had been successful and the concept of "Sameness" inspired her to write her dystopian novel The Giver. Mrs. Aakhus was drawn to teaching the book when she read it while student teaching in Mrs. Diane Paulson's classroom at Franklin Middle School. Mrs. Aakhus noticed that as students read the book, they question the idea of a perfect world and become frustrated with the elders and society they created. Sometimes students will come to Mrs. Aakhus and tell them that they hate the book, "Why do they think they can mess with everyone's life?" They ask her. She answers, "That's the point. You're supposed to be mad at this society." It's at that point, that they really get into the book. While reading The Giver, Mrs. Aakhus introduces some historical background from the Holocaust and some of her grandfather's (Myles Efteland of Thief River Falls) history of being a WWII POW in Germany and his escape. While reading The Giver students realize the importance of their own families, traditions, and freedoms and understand that perfection comes with a dark side.

Counties Providing Technology	4,421.00
Environmental Systems Research	2,470.00
H7L Mesabi	7,432.30
Mactek Systems	2,802.00
MN Public Employees Ins.	32,697.72
Pathfinders	5,425.00
Polk County Highway	30,434.58
RDO Equipment Co.	3,090.37
ReadiTech IT	12,800.60
Red Lake County Co-op	37,189.03
Red Lake County Treasurer	3,186.30
Safety Compliance Services, LLC	5,100.00
Team Laboratory Chemical, LLC	6,600.00
Thibert Chev-Buick	43,693.40
Triangle Tire Sales	2,176.13
University of North Dakota	2,426.82
48 Vendors less than \$2,000	16,416.06
Final Total	\$247,327.75
The motion included two added bills: \$151.07 Ecolab; \$74.76 Marco; \$926.75 MNIT; \$10,328.21 Pathfinders; \$73.71 expenses and \$350.00 per diem to Ron Weiss.	
Andrew Larson, Director of Tri-County Corrections submitted a request for consideration. Larson mentions that Tri-County has experienced a variety of additional costs and lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided funding to governments to offset these economic hardships. The Corrections Board is requesting an allocation of \$5,715.00 of ARPA funding based upon Red Lake County's cost	

share of 3.83% for FY 2022. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to approve the request for \$5,715.00 of ARPA funding to Tri-County Corrections. The following Commissioner/Committee reports were shared: Commissioner Reports Dudycha: Tri County Corrections. Flage: MRC-discussed transportation, broadband, drainage, County Based Purchasing. RTCC Planning Meeting-volunteers are down due to COVID. Gerardy: None. Remick: SWCDC-discussing the tree program and new Program Technician hire, also meetings of Red Lake County Affordable Housing and RRWMB. Weiss: NWRDC-discussed a grant to promote vaccinations and approved a salary study. Other meetings of Tri County Corrections, Clearwater River 1W1P, and County Personnel. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held March 22, 2022 as presented. There being no further business the regular board meeting adjourned to April 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Attest: Robert Schmitz, County Auditor

Ron Weiss, Chairman, Board of Commissioners 07C



ATTENTION

RED LAKE COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS AND POTENTIAL STARTUP ENTERPRISES

The Red Lake County Economic Development Corporation can help you start your own business or expand an existing one. We are here to assist with a five (5) year loan for an amount up to \$20,000 at 2% APR. The business must be located in Red Lake County.

For more information, contact the Red lake County Economic Development home office at 1-218-253-2897. Allen Bertilrud 218-684-1315, Dave Ste. Marie 218-686-4019 or Kelsey Gervais 218-686-5114.

O43-43C (2xmo.)

2 X 3

Sounds like multiplication?

Guess again. It's newspaper talk for a two column by 3 inch ad. Too small to be effective?

You're reading this one!!!

Oklee Herald • 796-5181 • okleeherald@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Erosion Site Inventory – Red Lake County

Red Lake County SWCD is conducting an Erosion Site Inventory in Red Lake County to collect information about potential erosion sites, their locations, funding needed, etc. There are various federal and state grants that are now available to assist with providing cost-share funding to fix these erosion problems.

What we are asking you to do is if you have any of these erosion problems on your property, there are three ways you can provide this information to Red Lake County SWCD.

- You can go online to the Red Lake County SWCD website: www.redlakecountyswcd.org. Towards the bottom of the first page, you can fill out the Erosion Site Inventory and hit the submit button.
- You can cut out this newspaper ad and fill out the information and mail it back to our office at Red Lake County SWCD – 2602 Wheat Drive – Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
- You can contact the SWCD Office at (218) 253-2593. SWCD staff will ask project location (township and section), estimated dimensions of the project, is the project located next to a stream or river, etc.

Landowner Name: _____

Phone: _____

Landowner Address: _____

City: _____

There are various types of erosion projects in Red Lake County: Streambank and Shoreland Protection, Grade Stabilization, Side Water Inlet Structures, Diversions, Grassed Waterways, Critical Area Seeding, Water & Sediment Basins, etc.

- Type of Erosion Project: _____
Location of Site: Township: _____ Section: _____
Qtr. Sect: (NE, NW, SE, SW): _____
Project Dimension: Length _____ Width _____
Height _____
Are you willing to provide funding for this project? _____
Is this project located on a river/stream? _____
If so, which river/stream? _____

Inventory Deadline: May 31, 2022.

O6-8C

Writers & Writing
by Michael Tidemann

Tidemann started his journalism career at the Bismarck Tribune in 1978 and began college teaching career as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in 1977. He has worked at newspapers in Iowa and the Dakotas and his work has appeared in Over-drive, Writer's Journal, the San Diego Union-Tribune and Snowmobile. (Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His author page is amazon.com/author/michaeltidemann.)



Collective Illusion offers solution to current political divide

Everyone once in a great while, a self-help book comes along that can reshape our thinking of ourselves and each other.

A great example is Collective Illusions by Todd Rose, former Harvard professor and founder of Populace, a think tank geared toward self-betterment.

Rose begins his book by taking the gloves off against contemporary wisdom, instead embracing an attack against what he calls "collective illusions".

"Simply put, collective illusions are social lies. They occur in situations where a majority of individuals in a group privately reject a popular opinion, but they go along with it because they (incorrectly) assume that most other people accept it. When individuals conform to what they think the group wants, they can end up doing what nobody wants. That is the collective illusion's dark magic."

Rose takes to task collective illusions from politics to business to society, exposing the fallacies that we embrace in order to fit in. The actual reality, says Rose, is what we

truly believe, not what we think others believe.

However, as Rose tells us, "sometimes all it takes to shatter an illusion, prevent the creation of new ones, and ensure an accurate shared reality is a single person speaking the truth."

Rose targets social media algorithms as a prime culprit in cultivating the collective

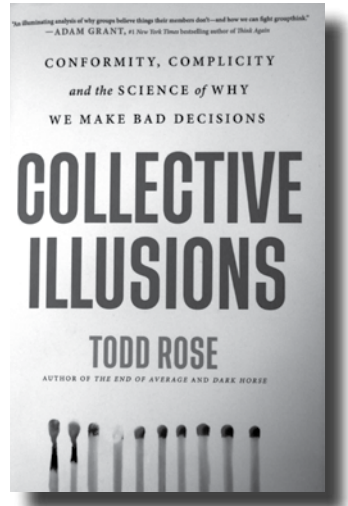
illusions of today's society when he tells us, "we have now become a world where most of the information directed at us has been tailored, personalized by us or by algorithms. In other words, we now only see the information that we want to see."

Rose's solution is simple, what he calls "positive deviance."

"Positive deviance is the single most powerful method I know for addressing social problems. Its greatest lesson is that change always lies hidden in the hands of everyday individuals."

Rose uses himself as an example as he climbed from dire poverty to receiving a doctorate and becoming a university professor and later founder of his own company.

This is an inspiring book in many ways. Anyone in the fields of media, social work, education, politics or business can benefit mightily from Rose's ideas. Beyond that, Rose offers a solution to the current "us versus them" attitude that stifles real dialogue in our society. Rose opens a window to great possibilities, rather than a world of hurtful distrust.



Collective Illusions
Todd Rose
Hachette Books
ISBN 978-0-306-92568-9
\$29

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED FOR KIDS
May is National Foster Care Month

(April 29, 2022) – Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is seeking foster parents to partner in caring for children and youth in need. If you are interested in making a difference in children's lives, consider becoming a foster parent.

On an average day, there were approximately 8,600 children and young adults in care in 2020, according to the most recent information available through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Jodi Raidt, statewide program manager with LSS Therapeutic Foster Care, said that the need for foster parents remains great.

"We are in the process of recruiting foster parents statewide," Raidt said. "We hope that individuals and families who have been considering this opportunity will take this time to learn more. Fostering is a rewarding experience and to have someone step forward and provide a safe and caring environment can be life-changing."

LSS Therapeutic Foster Care provides a spectrum of services based on the unique needs of each child, ensuring that all children in our care have the individual supports to build healthy relationships and skills to meet their specific needs. Foster parents receive ongoing education to care for children and trained professionals are available to answer questions or offer support 24/7. LSS can provide weekly support from a mental health practitioner. As a foster parent, you can help children and families as they build resilience and stabilize.

"Supporting teenagers in foster care is about giving them the opportunities they need to thrive," said Cassandra Carpenter, who worked with LSS Therapeutic Foster Care to gain her foster care license. "Things aren't always perfect but getting to celebrate their successes with them is an amazing feeling."

Families and individuals

who provide foster care can have different household structures and come from diverse backgrounds. LSS is seeking prospective foster parents who are willing to listen, support and create positive relationships in their families and communities. Flexibility, patience and a healthy sense of humor are also ideal characteristics for foster parents.

Lutheran Social Service invites anyone interested in becoming a foster parent to attend the organization's online information session on Monday, May 16 at 5 p.m. The session will offer information about LSS' Foster Care services, the licensing process and how you can foster Minnesota children.

Registration is available through a link at lssmn.org/events or fostercaremn.org/training.

You can also learn more by contacting Jodi Raidt at fostercare@lssmn.org or 612.499.5990, or by visiting fostercaremn.org.

NOTICE OF FILING FOR THE 2022 STATE GENERAL ELECTION
RED LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 2022

Notice is hereby given that a general election will be held in Red Lake County on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing candidates for the offices listed below. The filing period for these offices begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. **Note:** Filing offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2022 in observance of Memorial Day. Candidates may file in person or by mail, if the filing is received during the filing period. Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period and meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 204B.09 Subd. 1A, may arrange to file during the seven days immediately preceding the candidate's absence from the state. This notice is provided pursuant to current law. Be aware that the Legislature and/or the Governor may take actions that could affect some of these processes.

Candidates filing for federal offices must file with the Office of the Secretary of State, State Office Building, Room 180, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155-1299. Candidates filing for state and judicial offices file with the Secretary of State or with the County Auditor of the county in which the candidate resides. The local County Auditor office location is: 124 Langevin Avenue, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

FEDERAL OFFICES

One United States Representative for District 7

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

One State Senator for District 1

One State Representative for District 1B

STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

One Governor and Lieutenant Governor
One State Auditor

One Secretary of State
One Attorney General

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Candidates for judicial office may file either with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State or with the County Auditor in the county where the candidate resides. A candidate filing for one of the Minnesota Court of Appeals seats that has been designated for one of the congressional districts must be a resident of that congressional district.

One Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for Seat 3 (Incumbent: Moore III)
One Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for Seat 6 (Incumbent: Hudson)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 1 (Incumbent: Gaitas)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 5 (Incumbent: Bjorkman)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 7 (5th Congressional District) (Incumbent: Segal)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 8 (Incumbent: Reilly)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 10 (4th Congressional District) (Incumbent: Frisch)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 11 (Incumbent: Larkin)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 16 (Incumbent: Reyes, Jr.)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 17 (Incumbent: Johnson)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 18 (Incumbent: Bryan)
One Judge of the Court of Appeals for Seat 19 (Incumbent: Connolly)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 6 (Incumbent: Shermoen)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 8 (Incumbent: Schieferdecker)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 16 (Incumbent: Brand)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 17 (Incumbent: Harbott)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 20 (Incumbent: Dixon)
One Judge Ninth District Court for Seat 23 (Incumbent: DeMay)

COUNTY OFFICES

Candidates for the following offices file with the Red Lake County Auditor, 124 Langevin Avenue, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

One County Commissioner for District 1
One County Commissioner for District 3
One County Commissioner for District 5
One County Attorney
One County Sheriff
One County Treasurer

One Soil and Water Supervisor for District 1
One Soil and Water Supervisor for District 2
One Soil and Water Supervisor for District 5

Witness my hand and official seal this 28th day of April, 2022, at Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

Robert Schmitz
Red Lake County Auditor

(Seal)

Following Earth Day, USDA Invests Nearly
\$39.5 Million in Critical Infrastructure to
Combat Climate Change Across Rural MN

Following Earth Day 2022, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director for Minnesota Colleen Landkamer announced \$39.5 million in climate-smart infrastructure to strengthen the health and livelihoods of people across rural Minnesota.

"Climate change affects rural areas in significant ways, whether that's an ag producer with damaged crops resulting from life-threatening storms and severe weather or a community in need of a warning siren for the safety of its residents during these same conditions," Landkamer said. "Throughout the entire month of April, USDA has been celebrating the spirit of Earth Day through events and announcements, like this one today, that highlight the importance and impact climate-smart infrastructure investments. We couldn't be prouder of the ways that Minnesota's businesses, ag producers and communities are doing their part to reduce our human impact on climate."

• Ag producer Nathan Gibbs will use a \$17,500 Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant to purchase and install a 40 kilowatt (kW) solar array in near Rollingstone, Minn. This renewable energy infrastructure will help save the farmer more than \$8,200 in annual electrical costs and replace approximately 72,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) in annual energy production, which is enough electricity to power six homes.

• Peter Simones, owner of a skid loader refurbishment and sales business, will use a \$10,313 Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant to purchase and install an 18-kW solar array that will save the business nearly \$2,800 in annual electrical costs and replace approximately 25,500 kWh of energy production, which is enough to power two homes.

• Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Minnesota will use a \$10.2 million Electric Infrastructure Loan to build or improve 44 miles of line, connect 29 rural consumers, and construct a new headquarters facility. These improvements include \$435,000 in smart grid technologies.

• Crow Wing Power will use a \$29.3 million Electric Infrastructure Loan to build

232 miles of line and connect 2,658 rural consumers. These improvements include nearly \$4 million in smart grid technologies.

• The city of Graceville, Minnesota, will use an \$11,000 Community Facilities Disaster Grant to purchase and install an emergency storm siren. The siren will alert community residents of potential severe weather.

Today's investments are in coordination with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recent nationwide announcement that the department is investing nearly \$800 million in climate-smart infrastructure in: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Wyoming, Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico.

USDA Rural Development is taking several actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change in rural communities nationwide.

Advancing Equity in Rural Communities

USDA Rural Development is prioritizing projects that advance the Biden-Harris Administration's key priorities of investing in rural communities to ensure people have equitable access to critical resources and to combat the climate crisis. Investments in these communities will make an impact for generations to come.

Clean Energy Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Improvements

Through REAP, the Department helps rural businesses and agricultural producers get access to clean energy, while reducing their carbon footprint to make their business operations more cost-effective.

The Electric Program includes funding for smart grid technologies that improve system operations and monitor grid security.

Infrastructure Improvements for Communities Hit by Severe Weather

Through the Community Facilities Disaster Grants program, funds help rural communities purchase emergency response equipment and be better prepared and more resilient in the face of disaster.

Background: Building a Better America Rural Infrastructure Tour

Today's announcement is also part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Building a Better America Rural Infrastructure Tour, during which Biden Administration officials are traveling to dozens of rural communities to talk about the impact of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments, as well as President Biden's broader commitment to ensure federal resources reach all communities in rural America. This announcement also furthers the President's Justice40 Initiative, which commits to delivering at least 40 percent of the benefits from federal climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities.

Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA and its federal partners in the Infrastructure Implementation Task Force are working with rural communities to deliver on the promise of support for rural America.

The Building a Better America Rural Infrastructure Tour is a multi-faceted outreach effort involving cabinet and sub-cabinet officials across federal agencies as they travel to and learn from key rural communities. These visits will highlight new federal funding and investments already underway through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a once-in-a-generation investment that will support rural communities and their infrastructure needs.

Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/mn.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Visit us online and click on **Image Galleries** to view photos of events in the area.



Tri County Canary

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

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www.TriCoCanary.com

