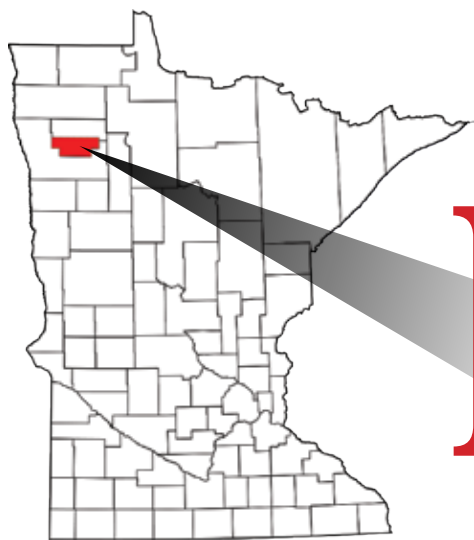




Red Lake County HERALD



Serving Oklee - Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls

Vol. 112, Number 15

www.TriCoCanary.com

Wednesday, November 22, 2023



Veteran's Day Program held on November 13th at the RLCC Elementary in Plummer



The Color Guard from the American Legion Post #623 presented the Colors at the beginning of the program held at RLCC Elementary School in Plummer on Monday, November 13th.



The students participated by singing "America The Beautiful." Pictures courtesy of RLCC Elementary.

Spoken Word Artists to Visit RLCC High



Desdamona (above) and See More Perspective (below) will be at RLCC High School the week of November 27 – December 1.

Both artists will be returning to RLCC after visiting last school year.



High school English students at Red Lake County Central will have the opportunity to write Spoken Word with artists, Desdamona and See More Perspective the week of November 27 – December 1. Both artists will be returning to RLCC after visiting last school year. This repeat residency gives the artists and students the chance to expand on their prior knowledge and continue to look into themselves to write about their experiences and feelings.

Desdamona is a writer and an engaging performer who works in the realm of Spoken Word and Hip-Hop. She stumbled upon the art of spoken word as an outlet for her lyrical expression. As a student, the opportunity to experiment and create helped to develop her identity and self-esteem. When she struggled in some areas of school, art led her through and gave her something that made her feel powerful. "It taught me to adapt and change and this ability is one that has benefited me greatly in life." She loves to share her work and learn about students and what they are interested in so that together they can create something that makes them feel powerful.

In the classroom, Desdamona's process is one of learning where students are at and beginning there, providing inspiration, guidance and scaffolding in the art form of Spoken Word and Hip-Hop. Des has worked in over 300 schools throughout the Midwest and France.

Desdamona is an international award winning artist who has

received five MN Music Awards for her music and poetry. She is a co-founder of B-Girl Be, a celebration of women in Hip-Hop that brought women from across the globe to the Twin Cities. She continues to create spaces for women to express and create. Des has toured the US and abroad.

See More Perspective (aka Adam) received a 2013 VERVE Grant from Intermedia Arts for an imaginative and ambitious spoken word album entitled *The Cosmos According to Your Closed Eyes*. He was a semi-finalist for the Million Dollar Saint Paul Challenge, and currently teaches Hip-Hop courses at the West Bank School of Music.

See has done years of youth work through hip hop and spoken word—dealing with social justice, identity and community engagement issues; has performed at countless venues and festivals; and has spoken at and facilitated workshops at various social justice conferences and retreats. He aims to inspire, uplift and open doors to possibility and imagination with an invitation to self-discovery through meditations on community, history and the expression of pure imagination.

See has shared stages with the likes of Brother Ali, Umar Bin Hassan of The Last Poets, Dead Prez, Sage Francis, Michal Franti, Atmosphere, De La Soul, The White Stripes and many more.

The residency is arranged with COMPAS. COMPAS programs are made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. We look forward to this exciting learning opportunity.



Santa is coming to towns - Oklee, Brooks & Plummer & RLF



In Oklee: Santa and Mrs Claus will be stopping in Oklee on Saturday, December 2nd. The day begins with the Salem WELCA Christmas Cookie Sale starting at 9 am at the Oklee Community Hall in Oklee, so be sure to stop in and pick up some cookies and other homemade goodies.

There will be a Sing-Along with Sydney Melby at 10:00 am at Oklee Community Hall. Be sure to bring the kids in to join her and get in the Christmas Spirit - Adults are encouraged to participate and sing along too!

Santa and Mrs Claus are expected to arrive at the Oklee Community Hall at 10:30 am. After visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus, treat bags and stockings will be handed out and there will be Arts & Crafts for the children to do with Joni Bjerkle.

There will be a coloring contest once again. Pages are being sent home with the children so look for those in the school bags. Prizes for the 1st & 2nd places of 4 different age groups will be awarded that day. Kids be sure to turn in your colored pages at school before Friday, Dec 1 or bring along on Saturday Morning and turn it in. Goodies, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and Cider will be served to all.

In Brooks: Santa is coming to the Community Center on December 10th starting at 4:30 p.m. A meal will be served at 5 p.m., Door Prizes at 5:30 and Santa & Mrs. Clause

In Plummer: The Holiday Train is coming on December 14th. This yearly event is a must go to - for the entertainment on the train, Santa is there, Carolers are singing, the Tri River Pioneer Museum is open and there is food. This event usually starts around 4 p.m. and the train comes in at 6:00 p.m. with the show starting between 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Plummer, Minn. Main railway crossing on Central Avenue.

In Red Lake Falls: On Saturday, November 25th, the first appearance of Santa & Mrs. Claus occurs on Small Business Saturday. Klondike Carving has an open display from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus are seeing children from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and there is a Craft & Vendor Sale at City Hall from 10 am. to 4 p.m. Holly Dazzle/Santa at City Hall on December 16th starting at 3:00 p.m. Watch for more details later on the Holly Dazzle/Santa Day.



Aaliyah and Fayth read poems in memory of our Veterans.



Clarence Gagner welcomed everyone to the Veteran Day Program.

What Veterans Day Means to Us

By the Mustang Stampede featuring Oliver Russillo, Ruben Osborn, and Ciara Mitzner

On Friday, November 10th, Red Lake County Central High School and the community celebrated Veterans Day. Mr. Brian Bjerkle led the ceremony, and Father Bryan Kujawa led the audience in heartfelt prayer. Dr. Micheal Mortenson impressed students, staff, community, and the RLCCHS Mustang Stampede newspaper class with his direct and honest speech. Dr. Mortenson is a doctor at the Fargo VA Hospital. During the program, he told many stories from the hospital and his patients. As a class, we thought about the importance of our veterans and what we treasure from this Veterans Day and all Veterans Days.

Ruben Osborn noted that The importance of Veterans Day is to honor our veterans. We all know veterans in our life that we may know. The RLCC Veterans Day program was one to remember.

If we look at one of the stories that Dr. Michael Mortenson told, this guy came into his place, and he did not see any physical injuries. So he knew this would be a different person than he was used to. He asked some questions, and the veteran said, "It can be hard to sleep or think sometimes, I have many things that run through my head. This guy had many mental injuries on the inside. The veteran said he just needed him to be there for him, and Dr. Michael Mortenson was someone that he could talk to in these challenging times. Ethan Johnson, a sophomore at Red Lake County Central High School, added that "The doctor was on his feet after hearing about the struggles of the man and hugged him 'harder than he has ever hugged anyone ever before.' This shows how good at his job Doctor Mortenson is since it shows how comfortable he is and the trust he has with his patients."

Oliver Russillo pondered, "The thing I got out of the Veterans Day program was understanding what the veterans did, the things that happened to them, and the sacrifice they made for the freedom of this country." He added, "The speeches did indeed inspire me. They showed me that you can do anything when you are fighting for something that you love. And you can do anything when you put your mind to it. Another thing that inspired me was seeing the veterans still around today and how crazy that they are still standing after the sacrifice that was given to the United States of America."

Masen Pahlen added, "This presentation brought out and

put into perspective what being in the armed forces is about their motivations, how they feel about their country, and what they are doing to represent and fight for it. I have a lot of respect for Dr. Michael Mortenson for going up in front of a school of young men and women and explaining the stories of these past soldiers who gave everything for our country." Daniel May, Junior, emphasized Dr. Mortenson's honor and respect, "The importance of listening to the moral stories of the respected veterans who served for our nation was remarkable."

Connor Duden thought about Dr. Mortenson's patients, "The thing that I got out of the Veterans Day program was that like the wounds of war and the patients that the doctor had. I also learned that the doctor has had a lot of veterans that he has seen and that they are American Heroes. Most of the veterans that he's worked with say they don't regret one thing that they did and that they would do it again every single time. Those people must care about their country. They are true American heroes." Will Gieseke added, "Dr. Michael Mortenson did a great job of presenting personal experiences passionately. Mr. Mortenson is an accomplished man who does chiropractic at the Fargo VA hospital. He gave everyone a vivid image of the bravery, honor, and courage veterans give to this country. When you do this, you realize you are not perfect. This is the greatest observation one can make in their lives." Rylee Gerardy and Brody Hammer commented that never realized how many injuries veterans face, and Dr. Mortenson opened their eyes.

Jacob Cater concluded: "The speech by Dr. Michael Mortenson at Oklee High School on Veterans Day described the sacrifices of veterans that have protected our country. He described the injuries and wounds and the stories of how they got them and how the veterans are still affected by those injuries to this day. He described the challenges of their daily life because of those physical and mental struggles but yet how they didn't have regrets about their service. It showed us how much they cared for our country and what they were willing to sacrifice for it."

Ciara Mitzner agreed with her classmates: "I believe that it is vital to respect veterans. They fought for our country, and they deserve our respect since they risked their own lives so we would have better lives."

Church News

OKLEE LUTHERAN PARISH
Zion and Salem
Pastor Linda Molitor
Wed, Nov. 22: No Confirmation.
Sun, Nov. 26: 10:00 a.m. Joint Services at Zion. No Sunday School.
Wed, Nov. 29: 7:00 p.m. Confirmation.
Sermons are on GVTEL Channel 35 (10 a.m. Sunday & 1 pm Wednesday), also on Facebook or YouTube.

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF OKLEE, GRYGLA & GOODRIDGE
Fr. Bryan Kujawa
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. St. Francis – Oklee. 10:15 a.m. – Grygla. 12:00 p.m. – Goodridge.
Go to: <http://www.oggcatholic.org/> for service times.

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–BETHANY RLF LUTHERAN PARISH
Pastor Jonathan Dodson
Nov. 26: 9 a.m. Worship at Ebenezer. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Bethany (SAM Allen). 10:30 a.m. Worship at Ebenezer (Pr. Jonathan).

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH
Bethany–Ekelund–Faith
Wed, Nov. 22: No Wed School. No Confirmation.
Sun, Nov. 26: No Sunday School at all churches: Bethany: 8:00 a.m. Worship; Faith: 9:30 a.m. Worship; Ekelund: 11:00 a.m. Worship.
Nov. 29: Wednesday School; 6:30 Confirmation meeting at Faith. 7:00 p.m. Class.

Tri-Valley Public Transportation

T.H.E. Bus is available for anyone. There are no age or income guidelines. However, children under the age of four must be accompanied by an adult and children under the age of one must be secured in an infant seat.

Curb-to-curb services is available. Allowing for a safe and convenient method of transportation. All of our buses are handicapped accessible and lift-equipped. All of our drivers are trained and certified.

To reserve a seat, please call one business day prior to the scheduled trip - 1-800-201-3432.

For Polk, Red Lake and Clearwater County stops: Every Monday – Grand Forks.

Every 2nd Tuesday – Mahanomen.

Every 4th Tuesday – Thief River Falls

Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday – Fargo/Moorhead.

Every 2nd & 4th Friday – Bemidji.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
Mt. Olive – Nazareth Oak Park – St. Petri
Pastor Jeff Merseeth
Wed, Nov. 22: 5:00 p.m. Mt. Olive Worship. 7:00 p.m. Oak Park Worship.
Thu, Nov. 23: 8:00 a.m. St. Petri. 9:45 a.m. Nazareth.
Sat, Nov. 25: 9:00 a.m. Mt. Olive.
Sun, Nov. 26: St. Petri: 8:00 a.m. Nazareth: 8:45 a.m. SS. 9:45 a.m. Worship. Oak Park: 10 a.m. SS, 11 a.m. Worship.
Wed, Nov. 29: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday School. 6:30 p.m. Vespers. 7:00 p.m. LYS.
Find services and past sermons at www.facebook.com/clearwaterlutheranparish

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH
Jarred LeBon, Pastor
Tyler Stynsberg, Assoc. Pastor
www.newjourneyfosston.com
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School. 10:00 a.m. Worship.
Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Devotions.
Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Youth Group.

GULLY-TRAIL PARISH
Bethany * Lund Sand Valley
Dawn Hanson, Lay Minister
Wed, Nov. 22: No Confirmation.
Sun, Nov. 26: 9:00 a.m. Services at Lund. 9:00 a.m. SS at Sand Valley.
Wed, Nov. 29: 5 p.m. 7th Grade Confirmation. 6:30 p.m. 8th Grade Confirmation.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY Fosston
Seth Johnson,
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.

Oklee Office Hours

This coming week, the office will be closed on Thursday, for Thanksgiving. I might be in the office on Friday, but not sure yet, but will be in the office on Monday, November 27 from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

If you need get a hold of me when I'm not in the office, please call 612-840-9401 or email me at: okleeherald@gmail.com.

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We Wish You A Happy Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving in America was observed by the pilgrims in the autumn of 1621.

After surviving the bitter winter and having a successful harvest, Governor William Bradford decreed that a three-day feast be held to give thanks to God.

Bank Closed for Thanksgiving on Thur, November 23rd

As you and your family enjoy this special holiday, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Phone 218-796-5157

Happy Retirement

Please join us for a Retirement Open House for Mary Jo Schmitz

Wednesday, November 29th ~ 2pm-4pm
Red Lake County Courthouse boardroom
Mary Jo is retiring from the Red Lake County Social Services Department after 20 years of service. Come and wish Mary Jo a Happy Retirement with us.

Cake and beverage will be served.



Santa & Mrs. Claus are coming to the Oklee Community Hall Saturday, December 2nd!

9:00 a.m. Salem WELCA Cookie Sale
10:00 a.m. Sing-a-Long with Sidney Melby
10:30 a.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive

• Treat Bags
• Arts & Crafts with Joni Bjerklie
• Coloring Contest for kids-prizes given for 1st & 2nd place in 3 different age groups.

Coffee, apple cider, hot chocolate & goodies.

Christmas Cookie Sale

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL Salem Church Christmas Cookie Sale Fundraiser
Cookies, felfe, doughnuts & other treats are available

Sat., December 2nd
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Oklee Community Hall during Santa Claus Day

OKLEE SANTA DAY BINGO!
DECEMBER 2ND AT 12PM
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
BINGO FOR TURKEYS, HAMS, GIFT BASKETS AND \$100 CASH BLACKOUT PRIZE!
Lunch Concessions Starting at Noon!
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO FUND THE OKLEE LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUPS TRIP TO THE ELCA GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS NEXT SUMMER!

KURTIS ELLEFSON
RED LAKE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER
218-689-8587
1-888-LINKVET
Email: kellefsoncvso@hotmail.com

Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial Update

Recently a helicopter carrying 5 service members from across the United States went down in the Mediterranean during a training exercise. One of those 5 service members killed is a young man from Mankato, MN. Governor Tim Walz has ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Sgt. Cade Wolfe. The Student Senate members under the direction of Mr. Randy Huie have lowered the flags at the Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial to half-staff until Monday, November 20.

Governor Tim Walz has ordered all United States and Minnesota flags to fly at half-staff at all state buildings in the State of Minnesota effective immediately until sunset on Monday, November 20, in honor and remembrance of Sergeant Cade Michael Wolfe. Sgt. Wolfe, a Minnesotan from Mankato, and four other American service members were killed in an aircraft crash

during a training exercise over the Mediterranean Sea.

"Minnesota is deeply saddened by the loss of Sgt. Cade Michael Wolfe, a Minnesotan who dedicated himself to selflessly serving our nation and keeping our country safe," said Governor Walz. "With deep gratitude, Minnesota recognizes Sgt. Cade Michael Wolfe for his dedicated service to, and sacrifice for, his state and country. His family, loved ones, and community are in our prayers."

Crossword Solution

KISS BAR EDUCE
ONTO ARCO YEESES
IKON HART ELECT
YANKOVIC FORA
EARED BUR
CACTUS PILESUP
AGA RESULT ANNA
PARSI ERA GNAWS
EMIT RENTAL FEE
DABHAND MENUDDO
ETA BRUNO
COLT GLASNOST
PAYEE NAME DAIS
OPENS AMID LIEU
WORST WEE ELSE

Oklee Centennial Cookbook Recipe Corner - Page 249

Sweet Potato Casserole Clifford and Mary Olson

This is almost like a dessert.

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes
1 cup sugar
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 to 1/2 cup milk
1/3 stick margarine
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 stick margarine, softened
1/3 cup flour
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix the first 6 ingredients together. Put in a buttered 9 x 13 baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients and place on top. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes.

Happy THANKSGIVING

Red Lake County Commissioner's Minutes

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 October 24, 2023, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Remick called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Al Remick, Eric Mickelson, Tony Gerardy, and Ron Weiss. Chuck Flage was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

NW MN MULTI-COUNTY HRA

NW MN Multi-County HRA Executive Director Charity Brault met with the board to discuss the 2024 levy. Brault also informed the board of the beneficial services they provide to the residents of Red Lake County, as well as some of the upcoming funding opportunities.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Highway engineer, Taylor Amiot Re: CSAH 5 Easement was closed pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd. (3) (c) (3) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

Members present: Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor Kyle Thibert, Deputy County Auditor

Taylor Amiot, County Engineer Tanner Holten, County Attorney Angie Lundeen, HR Director Commissioners present:

Allen Remick
Tony Gerardy
Eric Mickelson
Ron Weiss

SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Services Director Kristi Nelson informed the board that she would like to make an offer to an applicant for the vacant child support position. Nelson requested the board approve starting the candidate at step 10 of the pay scale based off her previous experience. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve offering the applicant the child support position at step 10.

HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

HR Manager Angie Lundeen met with the board to request approval for Auditor Kelsey Gervais's annual step increase. Commissioner Mickelson

moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the step increase.

Lundeen informed the board that the deductibles for 2024 county health insurance plans will be increasing and suggested the county increase the HSA/VEBA contributions for employees. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve increasing the county's HSA/VEBA contributions from \$290 per month to \$325.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 10, 2023.

EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve expenditures totaling \$42,559.16. A detailed list is available in the auditor's office or on the county's website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissioner/committee reports were shared:

Commissioner Report

Weiss: One Watershed One Plan, NW Regional Development, Quin Community Health

Gerardy: Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Red Lake County Economic Development, annual township meeting

Mickelson: Social Services board meeting

Remick: Annual township meeting, Red Lake County Affordable Housing, Alluma, Association of Minnesota Counties regional meeting

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the board to request a credit card for Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot for use in making purchases for the highway department. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the issuance of a credit card for Taylor Amiot with a limit of \$15,000.

Discussion was held regarding the Bottineau Trail and the grant the county received from the DNR for replacing the bridge over the Red Lake River. The City of Red Lake Falls and the county were both awarded grants for the project, but the remaining cost of replacing the bridge is substantial. No decisions were made at this time.

Chief Deputy Auditor Kyle Thibert presented the board with the 3rd quarter budget review for 2023. The report showed the county had used approximately 75% of its budget at the end of September.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

O36C



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Oklee Senior Site Dining

Oklee Senior Meals (LSS Meals) are available for Home Delivery, Monday-Friday. Please call Cathy or Carolyn at the RLF LSS Kitchen the day before, by 12 noon at 218-253-4454.

Tuesday's meal is an evening meal. If you want to go to RLF to eat, let them know.

Nov. 27 - Dec. 1

Oklee Senior Meals (LSS Meals) are available for Home Delivery, Monday-Friday. Please call the Cathy or Carolyn at the RLF LSS Kitchen the day before, by 12 noon at 218-253-4454.

Mon: Nov. 27: Parmesan Chicken/Noodles, Green Beans, Warm Apple Slices, Low Fat Milk.

Tue: Nov. 28: Evening Meal: Boiled Diced Potatoes, Baked Cabbage, Bread/Margarin, Dessert, Low Fat Milk.

Wed: Nov. 29: Tater Tot Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Warm Peaches, Dinner Roll, Low Fat Milk.

Thu: Nov. 30: Beef Chili w/Beans, Corn, Biscuit, Apple Sauce, Low Fat Milk.

Fri: Dec. 1: Sloppy Joe/Bun, Cheesy Hash Browns, Baked Beans, Cookie, Low Fat Milk.

Sudoku Solution

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

(U.S.P.S. 407-240)

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**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.

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PUBLISHER'S LIABILITY FOR ERROR: The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.





MUSTANG STAMPEDE

RLCC Menus

Nov. 27 - Dec. 1

Oklee

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Meatball, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Vegetables, Fruit, and Milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Biscuit w/Gravy, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger or Pizza Patty w/WG Bun, Tots, Vegetables, Fruit, and Milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Apple Fritter, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Chicken Spaghetti Hotdish, Breadsticks, Yogurt or String Cheese, Veggies, Fruit, and Milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Toast, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk. **Lunch:** Chili Corn Chips, Veggies, Fruit, String Cheese and Milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Chicken Pot Pie w/Biscuit, Veggies, Fruit, String Cheese or Yogurt and Milk.

Plummer

Monday: Breakfast: Omelet, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger w/ Bun, Cheese, Pickles, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Fruit, and Milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Bagels w/Cream Cheese, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Chicken Hotdish, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Fruit, and Milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Yogurt, Cereal, Fruit, Juice, and Milk. **Lunch:** Super Nacho's, Toppings, Corn, Churros, Fruit, and Milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Juice and Milk. **Lunch:** Pizza, Salad with Veggies, Fruit, and Milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk. **Lunch:** Chicken Noodle Soup, Gold Fish Crackers, Peas, Fruit, and Milk.

Volleyball Awards at RLCC High School



RLCC Mustangs earn Team Academic Silver Award ~ Back Row: Alexa Chervestad, Evelyn Klam, Quinn Graves, Jamie Flatgard, Kendra Christianson, Ella Moen, and Bryn Vettleson. Front Row: Hannah Dudycha, Emma Hendrickson, Natalee Hendrickson, Shelby Sherman, Keira Morinville, and Jennifer Johnson. Not Pictured Sydney Fougner.



Letter Winners -Bryn Vettleson, Hannah Dudycha, Shelby Sherman, Kendra Christianson, Evelyn Klam, Alexa Chervestad, Natalee Hendrickson, Emma Hendrickson.



Congratulations to Keira Morinville, Jennifer Johnson and Sydney Fougner (not pictured) for earning the Academic All State Award!



Receiving the Butterfly Award were Keira Morinville and Leah Pahlen.



Jamie Flatgard received Polar North All Conference.



Right to Left: Server Award - Quinn Grave, MVP, Best Blocker, and Best Hitter- Jamie Flatgard, Setter Award - Ella Moen, Best Passer, Best Digger, Leadership Award - Keira Morinville, and Miss Hustle - Alexa Chervestad.

Public Health Points

Parenting Tips

Ways you can celebrate gratitude, self-awareness, and appreciation of beauty with your family this month!

Mindfulness: I am present and fully engaged in the moment.

Make Monday marvelous with music! Start your day by listening to your favorite song. Close your eyes and focus on the lyrics. Feel the energy of the music. Is it happy? Sad? Upbeat? Let the music be the start of your marvelous Monday!

Find a rainbow in every room. Rainbows always make everyone smile. Capture the excitement of seeing a rainbow wherever you are. Find a comfortable seat and focus on your breath. Begin to look around the room and find every color of the rainbow. A red book. The orange carpet. A yellow pencil. The green plate. A blue folder. An indigo hairbrush. A violet flower. Rainbows are everywhere! What do you see?

Put on your favorite sweater and go for a walk as a family. As you walk, notice the leaves on the sidewalk. What colors do you see? How many leaves are still in the trees? Notice the sounds the leaves make as they rustle in the trees or move across the sidewalk. How does this fall weather make you feel? Excitement? Joy? Fear? Happiness? There are as many emotions as there are leaves and it's ok to feel and share them all.

Gratitude: I appreciate the good things that happen to me.

On Veteran's Day honor those who served in the Armed Forces by giving thanks for their service. Do you have a family member who is a veteran? If so, call them or write them a letter showing your appreciation.

Was someone kind to you today? Did a friend make you laugh? Did a teacher help you with your homework? Did someone hold open a door for you? Let them know how grateful you are for their kindness. A simple thank you or a returned smile can make a big difference in someone's day.

I am grateful for... Your kids experience SO many things

during their day. It's like a roller coaster that doesn't end when they get home. Take a moment to share something that you are grateful to have experienced that day.

Self-Awareness: I am aware of my own self and my own feelings.

Discover your strengths. There are 24 unique strengths inside you! Knowing your strengths helps you know yourself better. <https://thecharactereffect.org/parents/>

You come across a giant pile of fresh leaves in your neighborhood, at school, or the park. What is your immediate thought? Jump right in? Run through them? Kick them around? Take a moment to be aware of your thoughts and feelings and how they dictate your actions.

Appreciation of Beauty: I appreciate the beauty in the world around me.

Decorate for Thanksgiving! Download our Turkey Time activity and let your creativity shine! Spend time as a family to make colorful, fun decorations (and also share what you are grateful for)! <https://beechacres.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Turkey-Time-Final-JPEG.jpg>

What is more beautiful on Thanksgiving than the FOOD? Before you dive into that Thanksgiving meal, take a moment to appreciate how the food LOOKS before you're mindful of how it TASTES. What colors do you see? Notice the golden brown turkey, the yellow butter, and what color is cranberry sauce, exactly?

Stare at the stars. Tonight, before bed, step outside your routine and outside your house to enjoy the night sky. What do you see? Is it cloudy or clear? Be aware of your breath as you notice the stars, the moon, and the clouds. Now, get to bed! It's cold outside!

Source: <https://thecharactereffect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Character-Effect%E2%84%A2-November-Tips.pdf>

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Red Lake County Central High School First Quarter Honor Roll 2023-24

7th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Isabella Brekke
Savannah Brekke
Brennen Christianson
Aubrey Halverson
Jordan Johnson
Kinsley Kruchowski
Alyssa Morinville
Isabelle Paradis
Naomi Stordahl

"B" Honor Roll

Keira Baker
Amelia Benson
Molly Ferguson
Marshall Gagner
Trevor Lee
Parker Lundeen
Easton Morinville
William Mostrom
Jaylee Parsley
Emily Rathsack
Brielle Reinbold
Dylan Sogla
Ray Srnsky
Oliver Vogel

8th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Eli Grove
Keanna Landrus
Isabella Mitzner
Taylor Moen

Mason Williams

"B" Honor Roll

Mya Arlt
Lily Baker
Bronco Bergeson
Alexander Bramer
Malachi Flores
Willa Klam
Parker Klassen
Autumn Lindemoen
Dylan Lundeen
Rae Martinson
Marissa Morinville
Avery Nelson
Leah Pahlen
Oliveah Stordahl
Dalton Wichterman

9th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Benjamin Bramer
Natalee Hendrickson
Graceyn Kvasager
Gavin Roisland
Violet Tvedt

"B" Honor Roll

Alexa Chervestad
Olin Eskeli
Jackson Morinville
Arlo Svendsen
Thor Thompson

10th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Jacob Cater
Connor Duden
Gunnar Halverson

"B" Honor Roll

Will Gieseke
McKenzie Hamm
Hailey Hanson
Emma Hendrickson
Leif Hofstad
Lillie Lundeen
Nolan Lundeen
Kendra Morinville
Masen Pahlen
Nickolas Suchy
Colin Taggart
Mckenzie Tofstad
Atley Vettleson
Logan Vettleson
Dylan Wichterman
Peyton Williams

11th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Owen Chervestad
Kendra Christianson
Hannah Dudycha
Quinn Graves
Ciara Mitzner
Luke Peterson

"B" Honor Roll

Guy Bergeson
Dylan Dahle
Evelynn Klam
Ethan Majeres
Ruben Osborn
Oliver Russillo
Ryan Tvedt
Trevor VanDam

12th Grade "A" Honor Roll

Jamie Flatgard
Keira Morinville
Kya Morinville

"B" Honor Roll

Devin Davidson
Lilian Hager
Jennifer Johnson
Paul Malwitz
Ella Moen
Bryn Vettleson
Carly Vettleson





RLCC ECFE & Head Start had a trip to the Plummer Fire Department on November 14th. Afterwards the children went back to their classroom and colored pictures and learned about fire safety. Pictures courtesy of RLCC Elementary.

Josi's 4th Annual Halloween Food Drive in Red Lake Falls



Josi's 4th Annual Halloween Food Drive

The numbers are in:
\$4,008.00 in monetary funds
755.05 lbs. in non-perishable food and toiletries
That's \$7.00 more than last year, and 20.60 more pounds!
Including this year's totals, Josi has donated a total of \$12,159.00 and 2,545.50 pounds of non-perishable food and toiletries, to our local food shelf over the past 4 years! Matching donors were Dakota Heritage Bank and Red Lake County, Co-op. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our wonderful community members, our local schools, and our local businesses.

Minnesota adds impairments in 54 streams and lakes to 2024 impaired waters list, fewest addition in recent years

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today released its proposed impaired waters list for 2024, adding 199 impairments over 54 water bodies. The number of water bodies added are a significant decrease compared to the 2022 list, which illustrates progress in restoring and protecting water — though challenges remain throughout the state, particularly related to difficult to manage pollutants such as “foreverchemicals” and sulfate. The list is required by the federal Clean Water Act. It includes waters that no longer meet water quality standards, as well as water bodies that have improved and are proposed to be taken off the list. This year's list assessed and reviewed waters in the Big Fork and Crow Wing River watersheds, among others throughout the state. The list underscores Minnesota's progress in restoring and protecting waters, while highlighting the need for long-term solutions. Common impairments in these watersheds throughout Northern Minnesota include conditions stressing fish and bug populations. These impairments have led to studies and plans to restore the waters to meet standards. Positively, results from the St. Louis River Basin reflect more than a 10% decrease in impairments for aquatic recreation. In contrast, two water bodies in Duluth, Sargent Creek and Miller Creek, are included on this year's list, due to data that reflects elevated levels of PFOS in fish. “Minnesota's 2024 impaired waters list reflects our continued work to safeguard our state's water resources,” said MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler. “While progress is

evident in the decrease in water body listings and impairments, the challenges we face, particularly in addressing sulfate levels and PFAS contamination, remind us that our mission of water restoration and protection is critical for Minnesota's future.” Highlights from the overall 2024 impaired waters list include:
• Adding 199 impairments over 54 water bodies, bringing the total amount of listings from all years to 2,798 water bodies with 6,349 impairments.
• Removing 27 listings for improved water quality.
• This year's list demonstrates a significant decrease from 2022, which proposed 417 new impairments over 305 water bodies.
• This indicates an 82% decrease in water body listings and a 52% decrease in impairments.
• Lake trend data also indicates 31% of monitored lakes are improving in clarity and 9% are declining.
Continued challenges to water quality
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly known as the “forever chemicals” used in industrial settings and found in numerous consumer products, continue to be found in water bodies throughout the state. One type of PFAS, Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), can accumulate in fish and is transferred to humans when consumed, potentially causing adverse health effects. Aside from the two Duluth waters, the MPCA proposes adding Crystal Lake in Robbinsdale due to high levels of PFOS in fish. This brings the total number of water bodies impaired for PFOS on the list to 26.

The MPCA is working collaboratively with other state agencies to identify and address water bodies impaired because of PFOS in fish tissue. This work is guided by the statewide PFAS blueprint, which outlines strategies to prevent, manage, and clean up PFAS contamination in the environment. The 2024 list also includes 20 new water bodies that are impaired for sulfate — a naturally occurring nutrient that can also be found in discharges from mining operations, wastewater treatment plants, and industrial facilities. Sulfate negatively impacts the growth of wild rice, which is an important part of the biological community in many Minnesota lakes, streams, and wetlands and a cultural and economic resource to many, particularly tribal nations. Of the 20 new waters impaired for sulfate, 13 are wild rice lakes and 7 are streams. The MPCA has identified approximately 2,400 waters used for the production of wild rice, and this list is open for public comment for the first time, included among documents related to the 2024 impaired waters list. A milestone achieved: monitoring and assessment of all 80 watersheds. The MPCA has completed the first round of monitoring and assessment of all 80 watersheds in Minnesota, which it began in 2010. This comprehensive data is gathered in conjunction with partners throughout the state and drives the development of the impaired waters list. It also informs strategies designed to improve water quality, called, watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS)

Oklee School History

Some Highlights of the 1960s at the Oklee School!
By Eric Mickelson

****Correction:** I have a correction from last week that actually will be helpfully addressed this week's article to some degree. Thank you to those of you who politely questioned my facts! In last weeks article it stated that land was purchased across the highway for an athletic field from Earl Swenson. The land was not in fact across the highway it was across from Earl Swenson's. The land across the highway was not purchased until the 1965-66 school year. I apologize for my mistake!

I have been going through some history of the Oklee School decade by decade. I was inspired to do this as construction began this past summer with the destruction of the two story high school building and now with the walls beginning to rise!

One of the most important things to me, that happened in the 1960s was the Class of 1960. That was my mother's graduating class! My mother was a little like me being an “Oklee” person and a person whom home is a very important place. She remained close to many of her classmates, especially several who still live in the Oklee area. The nice part about that is today I guess I would call those same people not just friends of mom but they are also my friends!

Back to the Oklee School in the 60s. Mr. Don Pederson put in a request for more instruments including a set of tympani's, a bass saxophone, a bass clarinet, and cymbals for a price of \$1085. The following year 2 French horns, 1 alto clarinet, and a tenor sax were requested and granted if the price did not exceed \$650. The board also approved the purchase of a bass drum, snare drum, and baritone at a quoted price of \$342. It seems the 60s started with an interest in growing the band program! This was an interesting fact as I spent the last 3 years, with my wife, Patty, being a music teacher. Music is an important part of my life thanks to my parents, my wife, and my music teachers, Mrs. Ferden and Mr. Berg. Sadly, the band expansion of the 1960s is different from today and I hope we can once again rebuild our band program.

During the 1965-66 school year the School Board purchased 5 acres west of Highway 222 from George Asselin of Lambert Township for a price of \$2068. The board also agreed to start a wrestling program with Robert Frick as wrestling coach. This started a very positive tradition. The Oklee wrestling program prospered over the years. In 1970 Charles Bishop took over as wrestling coach. To any of who have lived in Oklee, Charles Bishop is kind of a “household” name. I will discuss more about Charlie's distinguished career in Oklee as a wrestling coach and teacher more as we continue with our history of the Oklee/RLCC School.

On October 31, 1967, a fire destroyed the two story elementary school in Brooks. Classes were held in the basement of St. Joseph's Church. The following year Brooks School was consolidated with



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the Oklee district.

Also during the 1968 football season the Oklee Bobcats football team played on the new football field west of highway 222! During the 1969-70 school year Oklee participated in the Vocational Ag Program in Red Lake Falls. The students were transported to transported to RLF.

In August of 1969 bids were accepted from Oklee Lumber, Jerry's Plumbing, and Ken's Electric for a new bus shed. The bids totaled \$21,565.

Back to the excitement, this week I have a trivia question and I want you to contact me with the answer. The winner will receive a \$5 gift certificate at the Oklee Business of their choice.

The question is, During the 1968 football season who scored the first touchdown on the new football field? Email your answer to mickelsonauctions@gmail.com. The first correct answer I receive will get this weeks prize. We will try dig up some more for next time!

Clean Water Act, Minnesota develops a list of impaired waters every two years. The draft 2024 list is due on April 1,

2024, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will make the final decision on approving the list.



Trunk or Treaters from Oklee's event in October.

Thanksgiving Fun Page



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Thanksgiving. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = H)

A. 6 20 11 1 24 25
Clue: Gobble gobble

B. 12 3 6 26 24 11 19 17 12
Clue: Coming together

C. 26 5 23 19 4 3 25
Clue: Special event

D. 6 26 3 17 1 2 20 23
Clue: Showing gratitude

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Thanksgiving.

ARTOS

Answer: Roast

Coloring page of a turkey with numbered sections for coloring. Legend: 1=Brown, 2=Red, 3=Yellow, 4=Blue, 5=Green, 6=Orange.

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 Overdrive, Writer's Journal, the San Diego Union-Tribune and Snowmobile. (Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His author page is amazon.com/author/michaeltidemann.)

Collection describes land challenges and solutions

Several books have come down the pike recently about the impact of agriculture on the Midwest, and Iowa and particular. However, Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways to a Sustainable Future shows not just challenges but solutions to the impact of agriculture on Iowa's landscape.

Editor Cornelia Mutel has assembled a variety authors – both academics and farmers – who have provided an objective assessment of the past impact of farming in Iowa. The meticulously documented selections by experts in their fields drill down to the heart of the problem. While Iowa is the most productive state in the nation for many ag commodities, there has also been a price in topsoil depletion, nitrogen and phosphorous runoff from drain tile and an overall impact on the state's flora and fauna.

The selections by farmers and conservations, however, tell many success stories of what has worked in reversing the impact of nearly 200 years of agriculture in Iowa.

Mutel puts it quite plainly in her preface: "In truth, although our environmental problems are worsening, we largely know how to solve them. It's not solutions that we are lacking, it's the collective will to enact them."

Kathleen Woida, who holds a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Iowa, says in her article, "The Root of Our Problems – Iowa's Degraded Soils," the state on average has lost half its former topsoil depth built over the millennia.

Keith E. Schilling, state geologist of Iowa, and Christopher S. Jones, research engineer at the University of Iowa, in another article tell us: "The transition from the dominance of point sources to nonpoint sources has been a huge change for Iowa, and with this change our most common pollutants are now traced to agriculture, nitrate, phosphorous, sediment, bacteria, and other mixed contaminants."

Mutel's collection also includes inspiring essays by farmers and others who have found solutions and possibly a way to reverse these trends.

In the essay "Curtailed Climate Change on the Farm" Francis Thicke, an organic dairy farmer near Fairfield, Iowa, tells us, "Regenerative agriculture, instead, is based on the principles of mimicking nature and harnessing the energy and the organizing power of nature's ecology, rather than trying to overpower nature with fossil fuels."

This is a great book for anyone interested in helping the environment as well as farmers who want to ensure continued productivity of their land. Beyond that, it would be a great core textbook for an environmental studies class.

Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways to a Sustainable Future
Cornelia E. Mutel, Ed.
University of Iowa Press
ISBN 978-1-60938-873-7
\$25

- ACROSS
- 1. *"Heaven's on Fire" band
 - 13. "I'm ____ you!"
 - 14. Gas station brand
 - 15. Affirmatives
 - 16. Image in Orthodox Church
 - 17. *Robert Wagner or Stephanie Powers, on TV
 - 18. *Vote for H.W. Bush, e.g.
 - 19. *Weird Al's last name
 - 21. Forum, pl.
 - 22. Dog-____ book
 - 23. Clingy plant
 - 24. Spiky succulent
 - 27. Accumulates (2 words)
 - 31. Turkish military leader
 - 32. Consequence
 - 35. *Wintour of Vogue
 - 36. Zoroaster follower
 - 38. E in B.C.E.
 - 39. #53 Down, third person singular
 - 40. Do like exhaust pipe
 - 41. Hertz' offering
 - 43. Extra cost
 - 44. Expert, in U.K. (2 words)
 - 46. *Ricky Martin's boy band
 - 48. Arrival time acronym
 - 49. *Piano player Lee Cureri on "Fame"
 - 51. *Baltimore player
 - 53. *Mikhail Gorbachev's policy
 - 56. Recipient of money
 - 57. *Umberto Eco's "The ____ of the Rose"
 - 58. Oration station
 - 60. Some tournaments
 - 61. In the thick of
 - 62. Place, in French
 - 63. Not at all good
 - 64. Bitty
 - 65. Other than what is

- DOWN
- 1. Ornamental pond dweller
 - 2. Deep black
 - 3. Greek promenade
 - 4. Shakespeare's output
 - 5. * Lou Reed's "Home of the ____"
 - 6. Like thick smoke
 - 7. Campus military org.
 - 8. Attractive to look at
 - 9. *"Back to the Future" car
 - 10. One on drugs
 - 11. Cecum, pl.

Statepoint Crossword

THEME: THE 1980s

CROSSWORD

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12. Is, in Paris
14. "A horse is _____, of course, of course"
20. Resin-producing tree
23. Took the bait
24. *Christopher Reeve's sartorial style in "Superman II"
25. Old World lizard
26. Indigenous person from Suriname or Guyana
27. Surveyor's map
28. Mix-up
29. Not married
30. Promenade in Spain
33. Tournament ranking
34. Remains container
37. *Washington's volcano
- Mount _____
39. *Close of "The Big Chill"
41. Genetic initials
42. Entertained
45. Affirm to be true
47. Cavatappi or udon, sing.
49. Scapegoat's due
50. Fiber crop variety
51. Head of family
52. Deed hearing
53. Chew on
54. Schooner canvas
55. *TV's "Family ____"
56. Sound of explosion
59. *Peggy ____ Got Married"

Thanksgiving Trivia

The first national Thanksgiving in the United States was proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1777.

Initially, Presidents proclaimed national Thanksgiving – Washington, Adams, and Monroe did so.

After 1815, Presidents ceased their proclamations, but by 1850, almost every territory and state celebrated Thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of the popular women's magazine Godey's Lady's Book, began a campaign in 1827 to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Sarah Josepha Hale also wrote Mary Had a Little Lamb.

In 1863, Hale was able to convince President Lincoln that a national Thanksgiving might unite the country after the Civil War. Lincoln declared two national Thanksgivings that year, August 6 celebrating the victory at Gettysburg, and the last Thursday in November.

In order to help the country economically, Franklin Delano Roosevelt lengthened the Christmas shopping season by declaring Thanksgiving for the next-to-the-last Thursday in November in 1939. In 1941, Congress permanently established the holiday as the fourth Thursday of November.

Ever wonder about the origin of the green bean casserole? Campbell soups created the recipe for an annual cookbook over 50 years ago. Campbell's sells over \$20 million worth of cream of mushroom soup for Thanksgiving meals.

Cranberries were probably not eaten at the first Thanksgiving as they were too bitter. Native Americans used the berries as a dye and to heal wounds.

Fun Facts About Turkey

A 15 pound turkey usually has about 70 percent white meat and 30 percent dark meat.

Turkey has more protein than chicken or beef.

Turkeys will have 3,500 feathers at maturity.

The five most popular ways to serve leftover turkey is as a sandwich, in stew, chili or soup, casseroles and as a burger.

In 1939, Thanksgiving celebrations switched to the third Thursday of November and not the fourth. The move was by President Roosevelt, who moved it to add seven extra shopping days to boost the economy. The idea angered football coaches who had arranged seasonal games, calendar printers, and Americans at large. Therefore, the date was officially switched back to the original in 1942.

The first TV Thanksgiving dinners were inspired by a mix-up. A Swanson employee accidentally made an order of 260 tons of Thanksgiving turkeys. Gerry Thomas, a salesman, came up with the idea of stuffing the turkeys to deal with the excess, and voila, over 10 million got sold. An industry was born.

Do You Remember?

By Eric W. Mickelson

Do you remember when horses did the hauling on the Oklee Dray Line Company. Maybe you are asking what is a dray line? A dray line was a business separate from the railroad. The dray line operator, called the drayman, contracted with local businesses to haul their freight to and from the depot for a fee.

When I was young when you would come to town there was a pretty good chance you would see a team of horses going up and down Main street hauling items to various places. This was the Oklee Dray Line Company.

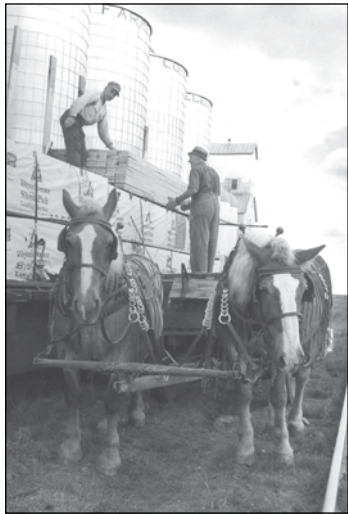
The Oklee Dray Line Company was started on November 1, 1920, by a 20 year old gentleman by the name of Tom Toulouse. I was born in 1965 so my memories of seeing Tom's horses on Main street were probably in the early 1970s. By this time Tom was in his 70s although he could have passed for a younger man than that. I am sure by the 1970s most towns had changed the way they hauled goods from the railroad depot, but in Oklee the horses were still harnessed and probably the Oklee Dray Line Company was the last dray line in the state to use horses.

For many years one of the biggest jobs of the dray line in Oklee was to deliver ice. Tom Toulouse cut ice on the Lost and Clearwater Rivers to supply the town in good years. Sometimes the smaller rivers would freeze nearly to the bottom making it impossible to cut ice so it would have to be delivered from Thief River Falls. The ice business came to an end with electricity and electric refrigerators and freezers. So the ice house in Tom's backyard sat empty!

Other jobs for the dray line was hauling coal for heating and hauling mail delivered by the train. By the early 1970s there were only 2 coal customers for Tom to deliver

to as heating with oil, gas, and electric heat took over. Mail was hauled from 1920 until 1959 with the end of passenger train service.

One of the best things for the horses on the Oklee Dray Line Company was when Tom rigged up a rubber tired wagon using an old Buick car frame. Another job that came although



for Tom and his horses was the fact that in the winter sometimes cars would not start. It is speculated that the horses from the Dray Line pulled more than 1000 cars to get them started over the years!

You may be beginning to see the Tom Toulouse was an important part of the city of Oklee, MN. He graded the alleys, hauled garbage, graveled the streets, and during shearing season he hauled the big bags of wool, from Melby's wool building, (it was behind E&J Grocery) that the kids had jumped in and packed full of wool to the train.

In 1948, Tom Toulouse did add a truck to his dray service to speed up some deliveries. But, he still preferred to use the horses and nearly all of the lumber used in Oklee was hauled by Tom and his horses. Tom had many horses over the years but as Cliff Melby remembers it, when he was

a youngster and helping Tom haul it was Kit on the left and Nel on the right. They were about 2200lbs each! The kids from town would run alongside the team and sometimes even catch a ride. My how times have changed!

Cliff remembers one day while hauling a big load of Portland Cement to the Lumber Yard he witnessed something that made a young boy grow up fast. As the horses stopped Cliff looked out the window of the Lumberyard Office and he could tell Nel was having trouble. Her hide began to ripple and she fell convulsing to the ground. When she stopped convulsing Cliff hoped she would be better, but she was not before he knew it Kit was backed up in front of Nel and pulled her from her spot and out of her harness. A wrecker arrived and hoisted Nel who was taken across the street to a spot beneath water tower and was butchered. Cliff was instructed to help as the tubs were filled with meat. When the deed was done Tom said, "I guess that is all we can do!" The reality of life sometimes unfolds before your eyes!

Tom kept the dray line going, but over the years he also had other responsibilities. Tom served as a special deputy to for the Red Lake County Sheriffs Department from 1925-1959 and as a special policeman from 1963-1966. He was also caretaker of the Oklee Depot meeting trains in the middle of the night when the depot master was off duty.

Yes, I guess you could say I miss coming to town and seeing the horses going down the street with Tom at the reins and Omer Boucher standing by his side. I want to thank Cliff Melby for sharing some of his stories about Tom Toulouse and a couple of his horses Kit and Nel. I hope you had a little fun traveling down memory lane, and thinking about the days of the Oklee Dray Line Company!

Senior Site News & Other Things

By Volunteers Jo Lambert & Bonny Cote
Site number: 218-796-5149

Senior Meals:
Oklee Senior Meals (LSS Meals) are available for Home Delivery, Monday-Friday - Meals on Wheels (LSS) meals will be furnished from Red Lake Falls, and you need to order a day or two before the day you plan on having a meal. **Note: Please call Red Lake Falls LSS Site** to order or cancel your meals from now on. Jo Lambert will no longer be taking the orders. Call Carolyn or Cathy at 218-263-4454 to order your meals.

SAIL Classes
SAIL exercise class are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am in the Oklee Hall. It is FREE to join. Sign up at the Senior Site or call Jo Lambert at 218-796-4527 or Carol Kvasager at 218-201-0180.

Hours for Craft Shop
The Craft Shop is open with the help of volunteers. Tues-

day, Thursday and Friday the craft shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. But if it is not open and Bonny is in the Oklee Office, she can open for you.

Dates To Remember
Wednesday: Cards at 1:30 p.m. If you would like to come play cards, come on in and and enjoy some fun game time visiting with your fellow seniors.

Game Day: On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, plans are to have a game day. This could be Rummy-O, Checkers, or bring a game to the site.

It was a very fun night for all ages at the Bake Bingo. And it looks like there are more Bingo events in the works from different groups.

The RLCC Basketball Girls is having a Bingo night on Thursday, November 16th from 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. And in the future, the Oklee Lutheran

Youth Group is having Bingo in December.

Points to Ponder
Whenever something happens that makes you sad, ask yourself whether you'd still care about it when you're ninety.

Try not to take anything personally. No one thinks about you as much as you do.

"Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what is right." Isaac Asimov

Happiness is a choice and everything else is a matter of perspective.

Wait 24 hours before getting mad and reacting about anything. If it doesn't bother you in 24 hours time, it probably isn't important enough to get mad over.

Have a great Thanksgiving week with your friends and family. And see you next week!

Red Lake County Sheriff

www.facebook.com/RedLakeCounty/

On the afternoon of 11/09/23, Lane Allen Anderson (27) of Red Lake Falls was arrested for violating the terms of his supervised probation. Mr. Anderson is on probation for a criminal conviction in Pennington County, so he was turned over to Pennington County authorities and booked into the Pennington County Jail in Thief River Falls.

On the afternoon of 11/10/23, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report that a small child was accidentally locked inside of a vehicle. Red Lake County deputies assisted the parents by unlocking the vehicle. The child was safely freed.

On the afternoon of 11/10/23, the Dollar General Store reported a theft of merchandise from their store. A Red Lake County deputy located the

suspect at a Red Lake Falls residence. Julia Rose Lee (36) of Fargo was cited for misdemeanor theft.

On the afternoon of 11/11/23, Samuel Martinez Sanchez (45) of Crookston was cited for speeding, misdemeanor driving after revocation and no proof of current motor vehicle insurance on CR. #11 west of Red Lake Falls.

On the afternoon of 11/11/23, Dean Matthew Kalstabakken (49) of Plummer was arrested for violating the terms of his supervised probation. He was taken to jail in Crookston. Mr. Kalstabakken was released from custody on 11/13/23.

On the afternoon of 11/13/23, Red Lake County law enforcement responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a Red Lake Falls residence. Law enforcement spoke with the involved parties and determined no crimes had been committed. The incident was mediated.

On the afternoon of 11/13/23, the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office reported Jason Troy Schuett (42) of Bagley was in their custody. Red Lake County held an active warrant for his arrest. A Red Lake County deputy went to Bemidji and transported Mr. Schuett to jail in Crookston.

On the evening of 11/13/23, a motorist reported their vehicle was damaged by some debris that flew off of a vehicle they met on Hwy. #59 south of Brooks. They claimed it was some scrap metal that came off of a trailer because the load was not secured properly. The caller's vehicle sustained front end damage. A crash report was completed, and the incident remains under investigation.

On the afternoon of 11/14/23, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report from a Red Lake Falls resident claiming they were being harassed by another. A Red Lake County deputy spoke with the involved individuals and determined no crimes had been committed. They were counseled and the situation was mediated.

On the afternoon of 11/15/23, a Red Lake County Jury convicted Jerrod Ash with five felonies, which include burglary, kidnapping, assault, threats

of violence and domestic assault. Mr. Ash was accused of breaking into his ex-girlfriend's residence, in Oklee back in February of 2023, and assaulting her. Causing her serious injuries requiring medical treatment at the Emergency Room in Fosston. The trial lasted two days and the jury deliberated for approximately three hours. Mr. Ash remains in custody at Crookston and his sentencing hearing was scheduled for 01/03/24.

On the afternoon of 11/15/23, a Red Lake Falls resident reported being a victim of financial fraud. That report remains under investigation.

On the morning of 11/16/23, a Red Lake County deputy responded to a farm site in Lambert Township to settle a dispute over the location of a parked vehicle. That incident was mediated.

On the morning of 11/16/23, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report of an individual lurking around vehicles parked at Sunset Court in Red Lake Falls. That report is still under investigation.

On the morning of 11/16/23, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report that a delivery truck ran into the Post Office building in Red Lake Falls. Damage was minor and there were no injuries. No citations were issued, and the involved parties will handle the repair details amongst themselves.

On the afternoon of 11/16/23, an individual reported a theft of a bag from Geo's Laundromat in Red Lake Falls. Red Lake County deputies located the suspect in Oklee. The bag was recovered and returned to the owner. Amber Louisa Hartl (43) of Oklee was cited for misdemeanor theft.

On the evening of 11/16/23, the Dollar General Store in Red Lake Falls reported an individual was in their store, and they had been previously trespassed. They claimed that individual has been given official notice not to enter their store or property. That report is still under investigation.

Mitch Bernstein, Red Lake County Sheriff: 11/17/23

Who's Dat?



Who's Dat?

This week's photo is of a fellow holding a bobcat on Main Street. This is from some negatives I have found and have no idea who it is or the year.

Last week's Who's Dat was of Audrey Bergerson, daughter Bonny Cote holding Creanna, and Birdie Gunderson. It is a 4-Generation photo taken in May of 1980.

Everyone has a photo or two that would be great for this column. Please share them with our readers as it is one of most popular columns of the Oklee Herald.

I am always in need of more photos - School days, church events, sports, etc. If you email

a photo, please scan at 300 dpi (high quality) if you can. You can email to okleeherald@gmail.com.

If you mail a photo to the Oklee Herald office, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope so the photos can be returned. Mail them to: Oklee Herald, PO Box 9, Oklee MN 56742 Or stop by the office and I will scan your photo while you wait.



Plummer News

By Alice Jobe 218-465-4402

On Tuesday, November 14th, the Plummer Legion Auxiliary met at 6:30 p.m. Rummage Sale was held on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. BBQ's & chips were served. On December 9th, Saturday, burgers will be served.

On Thursday, Anna DeHate and Anne Traxler went to Clearbrook for the Lutfesk & Meatball supper.

On Wednesday night at the Legion, Leo Schmitz treated everyone to crackers, cheese,

sausage and cookies for his birthday which was a few days later.

Some raking got done this week The weather is changing fast. I cleaned the west gutter on the house of leaves and ice. It was quite a job. The gutters are a real pain. I should have covers over them.

By the time this gets in the paper it will be the day before Thanksgiving.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving with your family!

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RED LAKE COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS AND POTENTIAL STARTUP ENTERPRISES

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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.

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