



Red Lake County HERALD

Serving Oklee - Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls

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Wednesday, December 25, 2024



The Holiday Train again a success!

The CPKC Holiday Train pulled into Plummer on time and to a very large crowd waiting in the the rain/snow on Sunday, December 15th. The weather didn't hamper the crowd, but the roads leaving that evening turned icy as the temperature dropped.



The CPKC official introduced Jim DuChamp (Plummer Mayor) Catherine Johnson (ICCC Director) and two CPKC Employees who are son & father. They presented a check to ICCC for \$4,500 this year to be used to fund the local food shelves.



By Eric Mickelson

The Holiday Train made its annual stop on Sunday, December 15th in Plummer.

There was food and drink options throughout town and Santa was at the Tri River Pioneers Museum. The Holiday Train arrived at 6:00PM with the entertainment. The performers Seaforth and Alana Springsteen did a great job entertaining the crowd.

Mayor Jim DuChamp and ICCC Director Catherine Johnson addressed the crowd thanking everyone for coming and supporting the fun event and donating to the Food Shelf.

In talking this past week with Director Johnson she reported that 1533 pounds of food were donated as well as \$855.76 in cash. CPKC Rail also presented Catherine with a \$4500 check for the food shelf at the event.

See ya next year!!



The entertainers this year were Alana Springsteen and Seaforth.



Essentia Health remains committed to providing high-quality care in Fosston and retaining ownership of First Care Medical Services

In a letter sent to the City of Fosston today, Essentia Health and First Care Medical Services (FCMS) assert that the City does not have the authority to unilaterally terminate the 2009 affiliation agreement or force the transfer of FCMS to the City. Instead, it is Essentia's position that the City can only terminate its own participation in the affiliation agreement overseeing health care in the Fosston area.

As a result, Essentia accepts the City's Nov. 26 decision to remove itself from the affiliation agreement, while we continue to own and operate FCMS, which includes the Fosston hospital, nursing home and neighboring clinics.

As always, we remain committed to providing excellent local health care, and patients should not expect to see any operational changes despite the City's action.

Key facts of the Essen-

tia Health-Fosston affiliation agreement

- Since 2009, Essentia has been the sole owner of FCMS, which includes the hospital, clinic and nursing home in Fosston, as well as clinics in Oklee and Bagley.

- The City of Fosston's role was to appoint one member to the FCMS board of directors and to ensure that certain services are provided.

- The City of Fosston can't terminate the affiliation agreement and require the transfer of FCMS to the City because Essentia is meeting the terms of the agreement according to a neutral arbitration panel's ruling in September.

- The arbitration panel specifically found that Essentia is continuing to provide comprehensive care and services to area residents as required by the affiliation agreement.

Statement from Essentia Health

"The City of Fosston has made its decision, and we look forward to engaging with the community to ensure we maintain high-quality health care in Fosston well into the future. The arbitration ruling in September, as well as legal precedent, permit us to continue to follow our mission in serving our patients, colleagues and the community."

The only thing the City can do is terminate its own involvement in the affiliation agreement. In light of the City's refusal to work with Essentia and its desire to withdraw from the agreement, Essentia will accept the City's withdrawal."

In our letter to City officials earlier today, Essentia and FCMS cited the September ruling of the arbitration panel. That letter can be read in its entirety at [EssentiaHealth.org/Fosston](https://www.EssentiaHealth.org/Fosston).

Essentia

Continued on page 2.

RLC employees were recognized by the County Commissioners for their years of Service



The Red Lake County Board of Commissioners recognized employees for their years of service at the December 17, 2024 Red Lake County Commissioners board meeting. From left: Mason Johnson, 10 years, Deputy and Investigator; Kari Moyer, 10 years, Highway Accountant/Admin Assistant; and John Burthwick, 10 years, Heavy Equipment Operator.



MUSTANG STAMPEDE

Oklee and Plummer are closed for Christmas Vacation. Watch for menus next week.

RLCC Sports Schedules

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

RLCC Mustang Girls Basketball

Thu, Jan 2:
JV Game @ 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM
Mahnomen @ RLCC High School

Fri, Jan 3:
JH Game 4:30PM
Away vs. Climax-Fisher Fisher High School

Mon, Jan 6:
JH Game 4:00PM
Girls JV 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM
Goodridge-Grygla @ Red Lake County Central HS

Tue, Jan 7:
JH Game 4:30PM
JV Game 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM
Away vs. Red Lake Falls @ RLF High School

Thu, Jan 9:
JH Game 4:30PM
JV Game 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM
Away vs. Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School

Boys Basketball Schedule

Thu, Jan 2:
C Game 4:45PM
JH Game 4:45PM
Varsity 7:30PM

RLC Basketball vs. Northern Freeze
Tri-County High School

Mon, Jan 6:
JH Game 4:30PM
Boys C 5:00PM
Boys JV 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM

RLC vs. Sacred Heart High School @ Sacred Heart High School

Thu, Jan 9:
JH Game 4:30PM
Boys C 5:00PM
Boys JV 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM

RLC Basketball vs. Stephen-Argyle Central Storm @ Stephen

Fri, Jan 10:
Boys JH 4:30PM
Boys C 5:00PM
JV Game 6:00PM
Varsity 7:30PM

RLC Basketball vs. Warren/Alvarado/Oslo @ RLCC High School

Mon, Jan 13:
Boys JH 4:30PM
RLC Basketball vs. Foston @ Red Lake County Central High School



Landon Vettleson takes a shot as teammates Clark Bergeson and Connor Nelson look on! The 7th grade defeated Clearbrook-Gonvick. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Bronco Bergeson shoots during the C team game at Clearbrook. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Connor Duden puts in a reverse lay-up against the CG Bears. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Emmitt Melin drives with teammate Connor Nelson looking on during the 8th grade game vs. Clearbrook-Gonvick. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Thor Thompson(41) shoots and teammates (22) Nate Powers, (30) Alex Renner, and (21) Atley Vettleson look for the rebound. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Ethan Majeres shoots(and makes) a three last Friday night vs Clearbrook-Gonvick. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



Ethan Johnson shoots over Clearbrook-Gonvick defender Cooper Wishard. *Photo by Eric Mickelson*



This was submitted by Angel Bergeson, K-6 Librarian, STEM and Art teacher, Red Lake County Central Elementary
Dean Koskela has been a custodian at Red Lake County Central Elementary for 14 years. Every year Dean has filled the library with Christmas decorations of all kinds. Dean usually decorates the library the weekend after Thanksgiving. When the students arrive back from break they are all filled with



excitement to go into the library and find their favorite decorations. The students are always so amazed that there



are three fully decorated trees in one room. It's not only the students that appreciate all of Dean's hard work, the staff

does too! Teachers and the rest of the staff enjoy taking a look at all the decorations as well. They have their favorites too. A big thank you to Dean for adding holiday



spirit to our school. You make a lot of people happy and warm their hearts!

More Pictures from the Holiday Train on December 15th



Beth Luikart, Sue Baker, Molly Hoeg, and Rich Hoeg attended the Holiday Train in Plummer. They are from Duluth and came to Plummer for the train. They stayed at the Oklee Inn. Photo by Eric Mickelson



Photo left: Santa had many kids stop by to say hi and to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Photo by Eric Mickelson



Great soups were provided at the Tri River Pioneers museum as part of the Holiday Train on December 15th. This crew was very busy serving many spectators! Photo by Eric Mickelson



Volunteer RLCC Honor Society members were helping collect the food that was brought to the Holiday Train event.



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More Holiday Photos



Memories of Days Gone By....



From the November 3, 1966, Oklee Herald the undefeated, Conference Champion, Oklee Bobcats Football Team! Caption read: The Oklee Bobcats fought their way through an undefeated season to win the 1966 conference title. In the photo left to right: bottom row: Steve Radniecki, Richard Bluemke, Allen Olson, Gary Halvorson, Donald Rindahl, Darryl Schumacher, Wayne Olson, Allen Bluemke. Second row: Tim Clark, Howard Bachand, Gary Rahier, Larry Fossum, Allan Olson, Tome Radniecki, Bob Hruby, Henry Clark, Arden Lundeen. Third Row: Rodney Bjerklie, Bob Melby, Anthony Radniecki, James Chaput, Gary Weberg, Gayle Hofstad, Warren Solheim, Dale Spong, Richard Plante. Fourth row: Coach Gene Arzdorf, Coach Roy Hokkanen, Student Managers Gary Spong, Paul Cyr, Leigh Sovde, Coach Arnold Carriere.

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			2				3	1
2			7			9	5	

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Senior Site News & Other Things

Bonny Cote, Treasurer - Acting Secretary

SAIL Classes

Ever wonder what SAIL stands for? It is "Stay Active and Independent for Life."

Jo Lambert or Carol Kvasager do a wonderful job of leading the group on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Oklee Community Center at 10 a.m.

Dates To Remember

Wednesday: Cards at 1:30 p.m.

Presently Hand and Foot is being played. Hand & Foot is a 1 deck per person game that is played with a hand and foot and it played by teams of 2 or 3 people. The object of the game is to be first to get rid

of all you cards.

If you are interested in seeing who the game is played, stop by on Wednesday afternoon.

Presently the card crew is looking for subs. They will assist in teaching you how to play.

It is an afternoon filled with laughter and fun.

Vi Cote is at Valley Care & Rehab Nursing Home in Barnesville. She is doing much better and would love to hear from you. Her address is:

Vi Cote
% David Cote
407 8th St. NE
Barnesville, MN 56514

Senior Site Meeting

Senior Site meeting was moved Thursday, January 2nd.

Please mark it on your calendar as it is important to have a quorum in order to make decisions.

Merry Christmas to All!



Brooks - Terrebonne News

By Barb Novak 218-698-4296 novakbl@gvtel.com

This is the time of year to remember those great old time Christmases that imprint onto your brain as a memory. When Christmas came each year my mother would try to outsmart me when she hid the presents. Each year I would find them and snoop to see what we got. It was one of the things my Mother would try and try to beat me with but I was foxier. I of course being a little kid, had a lot of time to look and snoop, so it was easier for me. Mom was always working and busy. I think I was about 4 years old when Santa came and gave us each a present. The boxes were the same size, and wrapped alike. One was thrown to me and one was thrown to my brother. I opened mine and was thrilled to see a toy caterpillar tractor. My eyes lit up and I was happy. Suddenly a yowl from my brother was heard, probably all the way to town. He opened his present and the baby doll that he got was not what he wanted. Quickly Mom scooped the caterpillar tractor out of my hands and she gave it to my brother. She then gave me the doll which I was really not hap-

py with. So I was crying. The rivalry between us continued through our lives. But then I was labeled as a tomboy, and I didn't mind. I did like what the guys could do but what us girls did was boring.

One year The tree was put up but bare. The ornaments were in the closet and I decided to trim the tree. I was around 7 then, and I knew nothing about trimming the tree. In those days the lights were pretty large and I put them on the tree. Then the ornaments and then the tinsel were put on the tree. It took me all afternoon. When Mom got done at the restaurant she came in and started to get angry. "Who told you to do that?"

"I did it for you Mom." I said. She began tearing it down. You see I only decorated one side of the tree the side that we look at not the back of the tree. It was so lopsided that it was about to fall over from the sheer weight of the decorations. Lesson learned.

My favorite part of Christmas was always going to church

and listening to the choir sing the carols. I heard our English carols and also heard the Polish carols at our Aunts church in Michigan. The sermon was in English and in Polish. The songs were slow and reverent in Polish. I have a tape of Polish songs that I found in later years and they are the songs that were sung by the choir. I can't speak Polish but the music transports me back to those years we spent at my Aunties house. She gave me a book for Christmas (my first book) It was called "Little Women." Could it be that she started me on the path of reading, writing and teaching English?

So in the memories of each of you is a gem of why you are who you are. Sometimes it is good to reminisce to find out where you are and where you are going. It is a journey this life of ours, and we need to stop and account for our needs occasionally. Christmas is the best time to do that. So Merry Christmas to all of you. May you all be blessed in huge proportions this year.

Plummer News

By Alice Jobe 218-465-4402

On Sunday, December 15th, the Holiday Train came to Plummer around 6 p.m. The box car opened up and a band from Canada sang and played guitars and drums. They sang a few Christmas songs. The town was overwhelmed with cars. BBQ's and soup was served at the Museum before the train came. Canned goods were donated to the local food shelves that evening and a check to Inter-County Community Council was presented Catherine Johnson, Director of ICC. The temperature was about 10 above that night.

On Tuesday, Anne Traxler invited Wavell Sorenson and Pastor Jonathan over for a luteifisk luncheon.

On Wednesday afternoon, RLCC Elementary had a Christmas Program called "Let It Snow". Parents and grandparents attended.

On Friday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the Challenger 1st graders from TRF toured the Plummer Museum. They came around 9 a.m. Eric Mickelson played the guitar and sang "Jingle Bells" for the kids to join in. On Tuesday, two 5th grade girls played the viola. They played "Jolly Old St. Nicholas", "Good King Wenslaus" and "Up On The Housetop."

Each day the kids made butter in baby jars. When it was ready, they put it on soda crackers to eat. They had juice to drink. They were quite noisy and full of energy like kids that age are.

Thursday morning, we got around three to four inches of fluffy snow. It it gets windy, it could be a problem.

Wishing all of you a blessed and happy Christmas!

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Who's Dat?

te, Sheena Lee and Amand Torkelson.

This is one of most popular columns of the Red Lake County Herald. Remember that photos from the 80s are now 40+ years old.

I am always in need of more photos - School days, church events, sports, etc. From anywhere in the area - Brooks, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, Oklee, send or email in a photo and description.

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: Red Lake County Herald, PO Box 9, Oklee MN 56742.

Or stop by the office and I will scan your photo(s) while you wait.

Who's Dat?

This week's photo is a familiar face in Wrestling.

Last Week's photo was the 2001 kindergarten class: Top row: Gus Bergamen, Cassi Nymann, Abby Gerardy, Harlee Hesse. Middle row: Mrs. Duden, Kevin Breay, Wyatt Casavan, Dylan Boutain, Allison Torkelson. Bottom row: Josh Braaten, Brandon Plan-



Red Lake County Sheriff
www.facebook.com/RedLakeCounty/

On the evening of 12/13/24, Derek Loren Gieseke (32) of Trail was cited for speeding on CR. #10 in Equality Township.

On the evening of 12/14/24, Elizabeth Leith Helgeson (18) of Warren was cited for speeding on CR. #11 west of Red Lake Falls.

In the early morning hours of 12/15/24, Blake Michael Arlt (20) of Red Lake Falls was cited for misdemeanor improper marijuana packaging on CR. #11 west of Red Lake Falls.

On the evening of 12/15/24, Red Lake County law enforcement, the Minnesota State Patrol, the Railroad Police, the Plummer Fire Department, and the Oklee Ambulance assisted with traffic and crowd control at the Holiday Train event in Plummer.

The Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received two separate reports of electrical issues on light poles. The first report was about a light pole sizzling and sparking near Hillcrest in Red Lake Falls on the evening of 12/15/24. The second report was about a fire on top of an electrical pole along CR. #19 north of Red Lake Falls. Red Lake Electric and Ottertail Power Company crews were notified, and the issues were resolved.

On 12/16/24, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report from a Brooks resident that their vehicle had been stolen. That report remains under investigation.

On the morning of 12/17/24, a member of the Red Lake County Highway Department

found a post-pounder along CR. #49. If anyone believes it may belong to them, they can contact the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office or the Red Lake County Highway Department.

On the evening of 12/17/24, the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report that a vehicle slid into the ditch near the intersection of CR. #5 and Hwy. #92 south of Oklee. A Red Lake County deputy responded to the scene. The vehicle was driven out of the ditch without any further assistance. No damage to the vehicle or any injuries were reported.

In the early morning hours of 12/19/24, several vehicles were ticketed for violating the city of Red Lake Falls' winter parking ordinance on Main Ave. Citizens are reminded to keep city streets clear of parked vehicles for snow removal purposes and to be aware of parking ordinances and restrictions. Red Lake Falls' city ordinances can be found on the city's website.

Mitch Bernstein, Red Lake County Sheriff: 12/20/24

Sudoku Solution

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

Oklee Senior Meals on Wheels NSI Menu

December 30 - January 3
Oklee Meals on Wheels Nutrition Services Inc (NSI) is the new service offering Senior Meals/Meals on Wheels. They are available for Home Delivery, Monday-Friday. Please call Carolyn at the RLF NSI Kitchen the day before, by 12 noon at 218-253-4454.

NSI provides this service in part under the Federal Older Americans Act through a contract with NWRDC under an area plan approved by the MN Board on Aging.

Mon: Smothered Chopped Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Whole Kernal Corn, Bread/Margarine, Chocolate Chip Cookie, 1% Milk.

Tue: Kitchen Closed.

Wed: Closed - Happy New Year.

Thu: Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Bread Pudding, 1% Milk.

Fri: Cooks Choice,Dessert, 1% Milk.



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- ACROSS**
1. F. unit of electrical capacity
 6. *Buche de Noël, e.g.
 9. What influencers do?
 13. Yemeni's neighbor
 14. Another word for Tokyo
 15. Singer Ross of "Where Did Our Love Go" fame
 16. Laundry room fire hazard, pl.
 17. Much of it about nothing?
 18. Furnish with a fund
 19. *"A Bad Moms Christmas" actress Bell
 21. *Tiny Tim creator
 23. Tibetan ox
 24. Khrushchev's domain
 25. *Goo on real Christmas tree
 28. Sketch
 30. *Poinsettia's motherland
 35. "____ Good Men", movie
 37. Brussels' org.
 39. Plant fungus
 40. Reluctant
 41. Klutzy
 43. **It's beginning to look like...
 44. Domains
 46. Bog down
 47. Oxen connector
 48. Under epidermis
 50. Mums' mums
 52. Over, poetically
 53. Alleviate
 55. ____ Mahal
 57. *Tanne in "O Tannenbaum" (2 words)
 61. *It is feliz to Feliciano
 65. Radioshow host: "Hello, you're ____"
 66. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
 68. Dispatch boat
 69. Carthage's ancient neighbor
 70. *Egg____
 71. Oil lamp dweller
 72. Fishing poles
 73. Bigheadedness
 74. Painter Degas
- DOWN**
1. Lore people
 2. Mideast ruler
 3. Hindu princess
 4. Jittery
 5. Farthest from point of origin
 6. Ground beef description
 7. Like Lemmon and Matthau together
 8. Merchandise
 9. Swim's alternative



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THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
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72							73			74				

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10. Dwyane, once of Miami Heat
11. Any day now, to Shakespeare
12. Swerves
15. King's order
20. Increasing
22. Philosophy ending
24. Undo, as in strings
25. Green side
26. Before, in the olden days
27. J.M. Barrie's Pan
29. "Howdy, ____!"
31. Internal picture
32. Meltable home
33. Singer Sam of "Twistin' the Night Away" fame
34. Weasel's aquatic cousin
36. **"Last Christmas" band, with !
38. Edible pod
42. Busybody, in Yiddish
45. Mountain range
49. Certain fraternity house letters
51. Cruel
54. Île de la Cité river
56. Tripped the light fantastic
57. *Number of ghosts in "A Christmas Carol"
58. **He's Just Not That ____ You", movie
59. Police's surprise
60. Habitual twitches
61. Not happening (2 words)
62. Minor bumper damage
63. "Heat of the Moment" band
64. Opposite of talker?
67. *The Grinch's Max

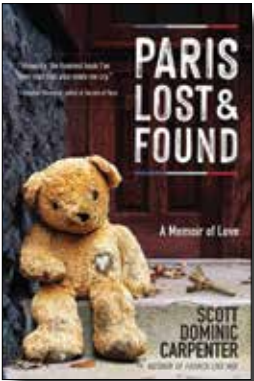
Writers & Writing by Michael Tidemann

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.)

Rhodes novel predicts the future

The late David Rhodes returns to his beloved Driftless region of southwestern Wisconsin in his futuristic novel *Painting Beyond Walls*, a story of a man of humble beginnings who goes on to achieve great things. The novel was published in September 2022, two months before Rhodes' death.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Rhodes was a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and author of several other novels set in the Driftless region, most notably *Driftless*



Painting Beyond Walls
David Rhodes
Milkweed Editions
ISBN 978-1-57131-141-2
\$28

and Jewelweed. Following his earlier success with *The Last Fair Deal Going Down*, *The Easter House* and *Rock Island Line*, Rhodes' publishing career halted after a motorcycle accident left him paralyzed.

Chicago of 2027 sets the stage for Rhodes' final novel. While the time isn't far in the future, Rhodes' depiction of events is a clear warning of how climate change could impact not just the landscape, but human behavior:

"Due to a steady trickle of people and businesses

from the East Coast, where retreating shorelines seemed increasingly inhospitable, and an even steadier stream of immigration from the drought-plagued Southwest, the costs of living in Chicago had risen."

Thirty-year-old August Helm, brilliant biochemical researcher at the University of Chicago, is working on a cure for cancer. However, his career is put on hold after he accidentally discovers an illicit liaison between his senior fellow researcher, Dr. Grafton, and a female graduate student.

Dr. Grafton tries to weasel his way out of August's discovery, saying men in superior positions have acquired an innate right to as many females as they want. While Grafton does not directly threaten him, the message is clear. Don't mess

with your superiors.

After he loses his position due to funding cuts, and with salt in the wound from a breakup with his out-of-his-league girlfriend Amanda Clark, August returns to his beloved Driftless region to heal.

Through his mother, August meets April, a devastatingly beautiful woman living in a gated community who seems totally out of reach until . . .

Rhodes has a devilishly clever knack for putting hapless individuals into seemingly hopeless situations then entertaining us as they struggle to emerge from them. Rhodes' description of the Driftless region is spot-on, and totally heartwarming.

This is a great book to curl up with, and it's hard to set down. It's also a wonderful final tribute to a great writer.

