Opinion

Why be sour when you can be sweet?

"You catch more flies with A young honey than vinegar."

While we don't actively go out to catch flies, that saying really means a lot in life. You're more likely to get Editor what you want with sweetness rather than being sour.

Someone should remind the four people in charge of the Le Sueur County Historical Society (LCHS) of that

I hate to beat this topic to death because it has been covered in the paper many, many times over the past year. However, it is important.

It is history.

It is access to history and artifacts.

I don't understand how a county historical society can continue to function in the society that is open and welcoming to everyone who is interested, we have a "secret" society run with alleged deceptiveness.

That's vinegary.

People who submit applications and their annual dues, with the HOPE of being admitted into the society, court to get that information? sometimes receive rejection letters.

Rejection! To a county historical society?

Ouch!

I applied in April 2014, and again in 2018.

Last year, I was denied membership. In my denial letter, they rejected me "by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors" and returned my check. No reason was given for my rejection.

In 2014, I was neither accepted nor denied membership. The application (and

perspective

Wade Young



my check) disappeared. I asked several times for my check to be returned. Apparently, they lost it. I received the run around from their previous attorney, current attorney and society coordinator. Nobody seems to know what happened to the check that contains my personal banking information.

Semi-vinegary. I attribute this to poor paper manage-

Last year, a group of memmanner LCHS has been for bers had enough of the sociyears. Instead of having a ety's three board members and their director's refusal to allow them access to basic information. They filed a lawsuit to get answers and are requesting: a democratic election, access to complete financial records, and governing documents.

Wow! You have to go to Property is purchased and

sold, yet sometimes, apparently, members are never informed of transactions. This happened in 2017 when we did a story on the purchase of a property in Waterville in January. However the society's director asked us to not run the story because they hadn't informed the society members yet. They planned to do so at the annual meeting in October, ten months after the purchase. (You may remember that meeting. A DEPUTY SHERIFF had to close it down because things

were out of control.) We asked what the plans were for the property.

We never received an an-Extremely vinegary!

Other county historical societies around the state, Waseca, Scott, and Rice, for example, are doing wonderful things. They send out newsletters, emails, hold programs and regular annual meetings, and have robust memberships. At the newspaper, I frequently receive emails about their programs with an invitation to attend or

join the group. An invitation?

Sweet as honey!

On its website, the Rice County Historical Society welcomes feedback from

"Feedback and evaluation is so important to show us how we are doing," it states.

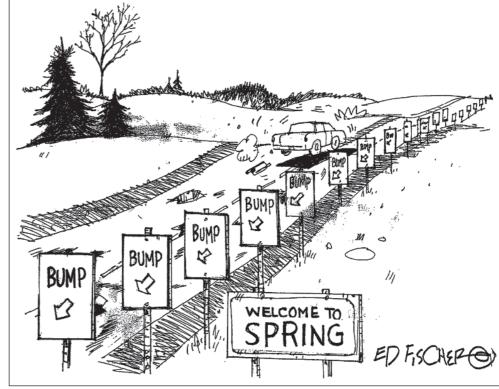
They also have approximately 350 members. Their programs, events and annual meetings are open to the pub-

Welcoming!

In Le Sueur County's historical society, negative feedback gets you expelled. Ask Dean Pettis and George Luskey, who, as members, asked probing questions about its finances. They were kicked out. If you try to attend an annual meeting as a non-member, you are told it's "members only" and denied entry. Stinging!

The Scott County Historical Society has three staff members, three board members and six directors. It features programs for kids, lectures, workshops, a book club, and youth archaeology

Perspective to 5



Messenger Memories

100 years ago March 28, 1919

The city election for the City of Montgomery will take place on April 1st and up to the time the Messenger hoped that at least four teams went to press, little interest was manifest.

Bernard Reilly, son of Mr. Montgomery or Kilkenny or and Mrs. Terrance Reilly of Erin Township, arrived New York from overseas.

Don't forget to change your clock Sunday, March 30. The time advances one hour at 2 o'clock a.m. on that date.

The property formerly the corner of Main and Ash Streets opposite J.T. Franta's clothing store, was purchased last week by Dr. James McKeon & son, who will remodel the building and establish a hospital. This will make a fine institution. It is needless to say but that the project will prove a success from the start gratulations to the McKeon's for their public spiritedness.

Kilkenny township, were vis- Koschade of Montgomery. itors at St. Paul last week.

80 years ago March 31, 1939

Due to the fact that there is opposition for three of the offices in the city, indications are that a record vote will be cast at the annual charter election next Tuesday.

To celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the opening of the Washa Store, a goodwill program will start this Saturday and continue through April. During the next month, hundreds of dollars in cash and merchandise will be given to old and new patrons of Washa's R.C.U. Store.

All prospects of an early spring went glimmering during the past week when the thermometer dropped below the freezing point.

Farmers who got crops for the canneries in Minnesota will be protected against loss or delay in payments under their contracts under terms of a bill sponsored in the Minnesota State Senate by Senator William L. Dietz of Le Sueur County.

March 26, 1959

Bids have been let for the development of the Sunset View residential area in north Montgomery. According to the developers, the low figures of the bids make it possible for them to offer 80 foot lots for as low as \$1,500 which will include sewer and

on Montgomery's basketball team is a unanimous choice to the Mythical SLS Conference Basketball Team.

The final attempt to re-organize the Le Sueur County Baseball League will be held in the Legion club rooms in Le Center on March 30. It is will be available to organize for class "B" baseball with

final hopes for completing the league.

40 years ago March 29, 1979

possibly both, apparently the

Montgomery-Lonsdale High School Activities Director George Embretson has known by Louis Tyra on been nominated as a candidate for State Athletic Director of the Year.

> The condition of the section of Boulevard Avenue under construction had deteriorated to the point where it has been closed.

The Montgomery-Lonsdale Board of Education Monday night made a posiand the Messenger joins the tive commitment to construct community in extending con- a new Vo-Ag building in the immediate future.

The Hlavac Drug Store, Edward Fitzpatrick, Mrs. which has been operating in James Carroll and little Lonsdale since 1933 has been zog, Caleb Wisdorf and Betdaughter, Dolores Carroll of sold to Mrs. Alfred (Bea) sy Schroeder.

20 years ago April 1, 1999

What should have been an evening of enjoying youth hockey turned into tragedy for a Mound family when their son died of injuries when he slid through a 13inch gap on the bleachers at the Hutchinson Athletic Arena and fell 10 feet. Since the incident, it has been revealed in the last two months, two other children were injured in similar accidents in Minnesota. Responding to these incidents, several legislators have introduced a bill that will address bleacher safety

The Rice County board has voted 3-2 to approve a conditional use permit for the Faribault Rifle and Pistol Club to establish a new practice shooting range in Shieldsville township.

The Sub-Section Speech Meet was held last Friday at MLHS. Those advancing to the Section Meet next week at St. Peter are Adam Sery, Chelsea Petree, Alvssa Her-

TCU English Language Learners CAN DO so much

Our English Language (EL) department has been busy wrapping up ACCESS testing, a statewide standardized test used in all districts with English Learners.

Within our district we have about 150 students who qualify for EL services. These are students who speak a language other than English at home, and who are not yet proficient in the English lan-

ACCESS testing occurs over a period of three to four weeks in early spring, and we use the information to help us determine which students continue to qualify for English Language services within our schools. The test have been identified as crucial to learning; speaking, writing, reading, and listen-

Students' ACCESS scores reflect proficiency levels ranging from Level 1 (Entering) to Level 6 (Reaching). Our teachers use ACCESS results to make decisions about students' English academic language and to facilitate their language development. as areas that we need to focus on in our programming to help them access curriculum.



Sarah Tupy TCU High School ESL teacher **ESL** Coordinator



Holle Spessard TCU Director of Special Services

scores to help us determine educational programming, individual results align to "Can Do Descriptors" that we can share with all teachers. These 'Can Do Descriptors' highlight what language learners can do at various looks at four key areas that stages of language development as they engage in classroom activities and lessons. The 'Can Do Descriptors' represent what learners can do with language across all different content areas. We share that information with the students classroom teachers so they better understand what the student CAN DO versus thinking about what the student can't do.

The results of testing show us Do Descriptors' within the cultures of all of our students students' strengths, as well classroom, we provide students who qualify for EL we value diversity and all the with direct services with an richness it brings to our com-EL teacher. The time stu- munity. In addition to using the dents spend within EL pro-

gramming depends on their proficiency level. We also provide push-in services in which the EL teacher goes into the classroom to provide On top of specific individ-

al services, as a district we strive to implement EL best practices within all classrooms and schools. We know English Language learners benefit from increased access to print and language exposure. We work hard to ensure that our learning environments are filled with student work, posters with key concepts and terms, and word walls to make sure academic language is visible and pres-

As a district, we work to understand and value the native language and culture students and their families come to us with. Understanding how this language is similar to or different from English will help focus on common troublesome areas. We feel very fortunate to have multiple staff members within our district who can speak different languages. We also work Along with using the 'Can hard to embrace the many and families. As a district,

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Science Fair has young minds working

Wade Young

Montgomery Messenger

Young scientists from Most Holy Redeemer's Big Bang Science Fair showcased their creative ideas on Friday, March 15.

It was the second time in many years that a Science Fair has been held at HRS.

The topics ranged from which pop damages teeth the most (Mountain Dew), which liquid dissolves Skittles the fastest (water) and which fertilizer helps marigold plants grow the fastest (Tiger Bloom).

Juliette Ramirez Madie Proudy grasped the concept of the Science Fair and created robotic hands out of straws, glue, cardboard, and strings. Their three-sided board display explained how they created the hands and what the pieces of the hands were supposed to represent (ie straws were bones, strings were tendons).

The end results for the



Photo courtesy of Holy Redeemer School

The winners of the Holy Redeemer Science Fair are (3rd-5th grade division) 1st place: Allison Rynda, 2nd place: Dakota Meadows; (6th-8th grade division) 1st place Steven and Megan Odenthal, 2nd place: Elizabeth **Odenthal**

girls, their robotic hands took some time to learn how could pick up empty pop cans, make fists, give a highfive and thumbs-up.

Ramirez got the idea during the summer when she started panicking about the idea. Once they were made, it

to work them.

"To make them work, it took like two weeks," Ramirez stated. "I thought right away we'd be able to grab stuff, but we had to work and practice to do that."

Students were judged on the originality of their project, their scientific method or engineering process and communication to judges, which included their display board and presentation.

The Fair was sponsored by Catholic Schools Center of Excellence in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese. The local winner has the opportunity, if they wish, to attend Regional Big Bang Catholic STEM Fair on April 6 at Totino-Grace High School in

Flooding in Waterville at a minimum so far

Jay Schneider Life/Enterprise

or not there will be substantial flooding in the Waterville

According to Le Sueur County Emergency Management Director Ann Traxler, the water is going down in Waterville.

The Whitewater River in Waterville is swollen over its banks, but has not yet caused any significant damage.

"It seems like we are doing pretty good right now," Traxler said during the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday, March 26 in Le Center.

Traxler said there are currently six roads closed in the county, two of which are in townships.

The lagoon area in Waterville currently has flooded and a number of streets have on certain lakes. some water spilling over them.

There are currently 2,000

residents in Waterville and another 500 in Le Center. Traxler said there is water

filled sand bags available for

coming from the Montevideo With possible high winds

over the course of the next few days, there may be ice dams which could cause some localized flooding. In other Le Sueur County

Board business: * A carp assessment pro-

at a cost of approximately This weekend may be a big \$23,000. These are AIS funds area and bathroom area in the determining factor whether and will not cost the taxpayers anything.

> The proposed lakes include Mabel, Dora, Sabre, Tustin, Swede's Bay, Henry, Scotch, German, Middle Jefferson, West Jefferson, and East Jefferson.

Le Sueur County Environmental Specialist Holly Kalbus said they will assess densities of carp by netting, measuring, weighing, and releasing them.

There has become a concern county-wide that carp are causing major problems with the water quality.

Kalbus said carp densities of 89 pounds/acre cause high concentrations of pollutants.

Commissioner Danny O'Keefe suggested Kalbus talk with local seiners to help determine the number of carp

If a lake is determined to have a high number of carp, Kalbus said they will need to decide how to progress, with the possibility of seining as one of the solutions.

* A project media system was approved for the 4-H Building in Le Center.

The county will provide \$3,500 to partner with Wildlife Forever in placing public service announcements about aquatic invasive species prevention on KARE 11 televi-

* County Fair Board Presposal for 11 basins within ident Chad Washa presented

the county was approved the 2019 fair budget and requested \$8,500 for a check-in

new show arena building. The request was approved and Washa said this new building has been completely paid for due to donations, grants, and dollars from the

* Dave Scheiber of Le Sueur and Mike Weinandt of New Prague each came before the board witz concerns.

Scheiber said he has been in contact with the Minnesota Attorney General about a matter with the county, including treatment from county staff and fraudulent records.

Weinandt asked the commissioners if he could get a complete list of zoning violations he has placed against him so he can get them taken care of.

Weinandt said it has been two months and 25 calls to the county without any response.

Josh Mankowski, Environmental Services Director said he is working with his staff and other county departments to get a complete list togeth-

The commissioners directed Mankowski to have this list comprised within 10 working days.

* The next meeting of the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners will be Monday, April 1 at 9 a.m. in Le Center.

Perspective from 4_

Madie Proudy (left) and Juliette Ramirez display their

robotic hands they made for their Science Fair project.

Lovely! What does our society

have? A lawsuit between citizens/members who want answers and a skeleton board of three members (it could be up to nine, according to their bylaws).

When Jordan Gish of Le or kicked out? Center applied to become a member on March 22, 2017, can't I ask about the finances? his request and application Since there are so few dues were denied because, as their then-attorney stated, "LCHS could not determine that you support the mission and purpose of the organization ..."

Ouch! That stings.

become a member?

To me, the big question is this: Why doesn't the sociical societies? You know, the ones that don't have multiple lawsuits over the course of 10 years.

Why be like this? Why not be open and wel-

coming? Why not accept feedback

so the organization can be stronger?

filed in Le Sueur County during the lawsuit, LCHS' attorney, Ray Konz, stated, "If Plaintiffs have legitimate concerns about LCHS' operations and finances, Plaintiffs should make meaningful tation.

contributions to the advancement of LCHS's mission."

The problem with that statement is a Plaintiff can't make meaningful contributions to LCHS's mission because LCHS picks and chooses who they want as members. How can one contribute if one is not accepted,

If I am a member, why from lack of membership. how is the coordinator paid? Is she paid? Where does that money come from? How are the lights and heat paid for? Is there a line of credit at the society in Montgomery (no How can you support a bank? If so, what is it? How mission when you can't even is the property purchased invited as the media and as a in Waterville paid for each month?

If I want answers to these ety operate like other histor- questions, do I have to make a meaningful contribution to the advancement of its mission just to get answers?

Konz also stated, "... this lawsuit has functioned to distract LCHS from the fulfillment of its mission, and tarnish its reputation in the community at large."

In a response to a motion this statement. Previous lawsuits, the annual meeting in 2017, previously closed annual meetings, and the society's attitude to shut out the media from its annual meetings have tarnished its repu-

The society is also not obeying the court's orders in the lawsuit. According to a letter to Le Sueur County Judge Mark Vandelist dated March 15, the society has not produced a list of items, including bank records, property sale records, accounting records, check copies, profit/ loss statements, audio recordings of board meetings, information on liabilities, among others.

They don't obey the judge?

On January 31 of this year, I attended the annual meeting of the local historical affiliation with LCHS). I was private citizen. The meeting reviewed the past year's finances and business, and the next year's goals and plans.

Sweet! I was hopeful that in 2018

LCHS board members and its coordinator would finally have an epiphany that a strong organization is not one that denies people membership, or denies members from basic information or a fair Personally, I disagree with election, or one that kicks out members if they ask probing questions.

> That epiphany never came because the lawsuit drags on and on and on and on.

That is not only vinegary. That is sad.

Student news

was named to the Dean's List ics. for St. Olaf College for the

Jessica Hagglund, of Lonsfall semester. Vikla is study- dale, was named to the Dean's

Megan Vikla, of Lonsdale, ing studio art and mathemat- List at Minnesota State University, Mankato for the fall

Minor flooding impacts Northfield

With a snow-filled winter fect the morning of Tuesday, and Fifth Street, started takconcern: flooding.

in the area over the weekend to see floods. of Friday, March 15, and

Northfield is fast experienc- in Northfield reached over Friday, March 15. ing its first spring weather 899 feet Monday, according The high water levels have to the weather service. Gen- caused the river to pick up The National Weather Ser- erally, at about 897 feet, more branches and brush vice reported minor flooding downtown Northfield starts

Monday, March 18, and a the west side of the Cannon south of Water Street. flood warning was still in ef- at the intersection of Hwy. 3

seemingly nearing an end, March 19. The Cannon River ing on water the weekend of

than usual, which gathered under the Fifth Street bridge Ames Park, which borders and at the foot of the dam just

Northfield News



Library Lendings

The Montgomery Public Library's more than 20,000 items, including newer books and materials in different genres and formats. Materials can also be requested through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at www.tdslib.org and picked up at the local library. Remember, library cards are easy to get!

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🥾 State Farm'

Vicent Cassel said, "Cinema is entertainment, and people go to movies because they want to feel good and forget about everything."

The new DVD releases for March are as follows:

Aquaman Becoming Astrid Ben is Back Burning Creed II The Favourite Free Solo Green Book

House of Cards, Season 6 If Beale Street Could Talk Mary Poppins Returns Mortal Engines Of Fathers and Sons Second Act

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