

Kittson County Enterprise



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Pictured above,
August Bernstrom,
stands with his
Welcome to
Kindergarten sign
provided by Lancaster
Parent Teacher
Community
Organization.
(Submitted photo)

Home is where the heart is

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SISTERS KALLI AND BAILEY PETERSON are Kittson Central graduates returning this year to teach in their beloved hometown school. Kalli is the new kindergarten teacher for the second section of kindergartners and Bailey is teaching first grade. Both are looking forward to guiding the next generation.
(Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

Peterson sisters excited to begin teaching at Kittson Central School

By Anna Jauhola

There was little question of what Kalli and Bailey Peterson would choose for careers.

The sisters graduated from Kittson Central in 2010 and 2012, respectively, and have come full circle to teach the next generation of students in Hallock.

Kalli was hired as the new kindergarten teacher this year after the district made the decision to split the incoming kindergartners into two sections.

Bailey will be teaching first grade and is looking forward to the more hands-on challenge of being in a smaller school.

"With Hallock being my hometown, I feel like I have an extra special investment in our community, because I was a Hallock kid too," said Kalli.

The sisters grew up in rural Hallock, but were very involved in the school and community. Both were in 4-H and are still strong supporters of the leadership organization. Kalli was a hockey and football cheerleader, and also took baseball stats, while Bailey was in band, took football stats and played basketball. Now, both teach

Sunday school at Red River Lutheran Church and Kalli is on the Kittson County Literacy Council and Fair Board. Bailey is looking forward to becoming more involved in the community.

In the elementary wing of Kittson Central School, Kalli's and Bailey's rooms are across the hall from each other. Asking the questions of how they'll like the arrangement and whether they'll get along elicited hearty belly laughs.

"No, we'll be fine," Bailey said with a smile. "And since we're sisters, we know our boundaries too. We know when one of us just has to walk away."

"It's nice to be doing it together," Kalli said of starting their first year teaching at Kittson Central. "It's pretty cool actually."

The sisters come well prepared for their positions. Kalli has two bachelor's degrees from the University of Minnesota Crookston in elementary education and early childhood education, graduating in 2016. Over the last three years, she has taught kindergarten at Tri-County School in Karlstad.

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GRANDMOTHER HARRIET SANNER AND GRANDDAUGHTER VADA GATHERIDGE pose in the second grade classroom at Lancaster School. Gatheridge is the new second grade teacher and Sanner was the second grade instructor to teach in the same classroom when it was new in 1952.
(Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

Gatheridge finds pride teaching in grandmother's former position

By Anna Jauhola

A 65-year difference separates the teaching careers of a Lancaster grandmother and granddaughter, but they both harbor similar goals of fostering strong students through quality education.

Vada Gatheridge is beginning her first year as the second grade teacher at Lancaster School in the same classroom in which she was a second grader and her grandmother, Harriet Sanner, began her teaching career. She spent three years teaching third grade in 1952, 1953 and 1954. She also taught one year of Headstart in the 1960s.

"This addition was brand new the first year I was here," Sanner said of the second grade classroom. "I was in the church basement for six weeks. When I got here, the carpenters were still in the first and second grade rooms. It was quite a while before they finished, but the school knew I was getting so tired of having these big tables and chairs, so they let us come back."

Gatheridge does not have carpenters to deal with, but the week before school started, she had a

small chaos of her own as she set up her classroom for the first time. She had piles of goodies and decorations to one side and was excited to set up the tables for her 11 students.

Gatheridge attended Lancaster School and graduated in 2013. She then attended the University of North Dakota and graduated in 2017 with degrees in elementary and early childhood education. She student taught second grade at Tri-County School in Karlstad and taught one year in Pembina. She also substitute taught at Lancaster for about five months. When the second grade position opened up in Lancaster at the end of last year, she didn't hesitate to apply.

Gatheridge lives in Lake Bronson with her husband, Zach, who also attended Lancaster School. Her parents, Owen and Shelly Westerberg, farm near Lake Bronson. So, her roots run deep in Kittson County and she's excited to be teaching in her home school and particularly finds pride in teaching the same position her grandmother did so many years ago.

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Change in Port of Entry hours remains at a stand-still

By Anna Jauhola

LANCASTER, Minn. - The hours at the Lancaster Port of Entry will not be changing anytime soon.

Representatives from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) met with Congressman Colin Peterson, D-Minn., and members of the Lancaster and area communities on Thursday, Aug. 29 to discuss the issue.

As frustrations continue, they did not come to any conclusion on how to fix the problem.

CBP reduced the hours at the Lancaster Port of Entry a few years ago based on low traffic numbers. Mike Freeman, CBP area director of field operations, said the agency initially was going to set the

Lancaster port hours at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but upon hearing from the public, CBP set summer hours at 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and fall through spring hours at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"So we did listen," he said.

Despite that, Peterson and others at the meeting still don't feel CBP is taking the right approach in adjusting hours.

Specific to Lancaster, City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Johnson said the city's revenue has been heavily affected by the reduced port hours. She estimates that since 2017, the city and its businesses have lost approximately \$50,000 in revenue from the loss of Canadian campers.

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LAST CHANCE TRADING POST'S OPEN HOUSE event drew a constant crowd for a wine tasting on Friday, Aug. 30 in Hallock. Those sampling wine included locals, area residents and out-of-towners. Many complimented the renovated interior of the building, which was Gullander's Hardware for 100 years.
(Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

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