

# Opinions

## The two sides of wrestling: cute and cool

**Starting them early: The very youngest of wrestlers are tough and adorable at the same time**

If there are any wrestlers or former wrestlers reading this, please don't kill me.

I respect your sport and all that you put into it. I get that in no other sport are athletes more intense. I get that you sacrifice for your craft, that you're tough, that you don't smile for photos.

But I have to say this: Wrestling can be cute. Yes, I said it — cute.

I know, I know, wrestling isn't a cute sport. It's mean and it's sweaty. It's rough and it's tough.

It's brute strength and it's strategy. It's mano a mano at its finest.

However, when it comes to the youngest of wrestlers, it's none of that. It's just cute.

OK, that's the last time I'll use that word, but as I watched preschoolers and kindergarteners wrestle each other at last Friday's youth wrestling tournament at the VMC, it dawned on me that wrestling can be, well ... never mind.

It also occurred to me that in no other sport do little kids compete at such a young age. You don't see kindergarteners playing organized basketball, or football. Preschoolers are often more known for their fingerpainting than they are for their athletic ability, but they get them started young in wrestling. That's why I have grown to have so much respect for the sport.

It was awesome watching the first part of last week's tournament for a number of reasons. It was fun watching these youngsters learn. It was fun watching the refs — TMB/WWG varsity wrestlers and former wrestlers help teach them. It was fun watching the parents record their little ones on their



MARA FREEBURG shakes her opponent's hand before their bout at the behest of official and TMB/WWG varsity wrestler Trevor Eisfeld. Photo / Per Peterson

phones and even giggle at them, because it's impossible not to.

I've written before that I've never been a huge fan of wrestling, but watching Karl Campbell's kids wrestle over the last couple of years, I've learned to respect it. The TMB/WWG wrestling program is a monster, has been for a long time, and tournaments like Friday's is where it all starts.

So my hat's off to all the wrestling parents, the high school wrestlers and coaches and everyone who helps to continue building a wrestling tradition at TMB/WWG. It's truly an amazing program you've created.

And a credit to the smallest of wrestlers — the ones who can't help but smile while wrestling because they're having that much pure fun on the mat. The ones who hold their parents hands as they get checked in. You're all extremely cute. Sorry, adorable.

**At the higher levels: Wrestling is a study in physical and mental strength**

Every sport has some things in common — competitiveness, desire to succeed, etc. — but at the same time, every sport is different — the plays, the rules, the skills needed. Being in the throngs of winter sports brings all kinds of competition. Some I am very familiar with; all my kids play basketball and I have that one down. Others, I am learning the ins and outs of as I attend more and more events for the paper.

Last Tuesday, I covered the wrestling match since Per was covering a meeting. It was deadline night and we wanted to make sure we had results and photos before we went to print that night. Now, I have watched wrestling in the past. Many years ago my brothers wrestled in Russell when Roger Hook ran the youth wrestling program. I also have three nephews who wrestle for Marshall. I know the determination they have, the length of the wrestling season and the many, many, many things they do in the offseason to be ready for wrestling.

I've attended a couple of high school wrestling matches in the past, so it wasn't completely new to me. I have been told the stories of the "wrestling mom" and how loud the crowd can be. But any sport your child is in will cause many moms to scream loudly. At Brady's first basketball game this year he made a buzzer-beater at the half. After the game he said, "I could hear you cheering when I made that mom." That's just a mom thing.

So I settled into my oh-so-comfortable spot on the gym floor Tuesday night to shoot the TMB/WWG vs Wabasso/RRC wrestling match. As I watched the matches through the camera lens, I tried to anticipate their moves, wanting to be at the right place at the right time with the lens. Since I was zoomed in on the action, I wasn't watching the crowd and was solely focused on the kids wrestling. As I sat clicking through every available photo

### Tara's Takes

Tara Brandl  
Publisher



on the camera card, I watched intently as these high school kids bent into shapes that made my old bones ache and pick each other up like they were tossing around a younger cousin at Christmas. As I watched the matches, I had two thoughts in

my head:

1. This is not only a physical sport, it is beyond mentally tough.

I was amazed as the kids anticipated their opponent's next move, while trying to make the move they wanted. Whether they were ahead or not, they were fighting until the end of the third period, trying not to give up a point. When the hometown wrestlers were taken down, the determination spread across their faces. If someone took me down like that, I'd lay there and ask for a pillow. These boys were fighting back to their feet, figuring out their next move to turn the tables on the opponent. While their bodies were working, their minds never slowed down during their matches, planning moves, listening to coaches, etc.

2. Holy cow, brute strength. These kids are strong. Really strong. At one point in Trevor Eisfeld's match, the Wabasso/RRC opponent had him standing and had hold of one leg. They stared at each other for a moment and then from that position — on one leg — Trevor did a back flip and twisted down to escape his opponent. All I could do was take photos. The strength in that one leg and core to do that has to be amazing. It makes an ESPN highlight reel if a football player hurdles a defensive player when they are going down to make a tackle. They are making that jump with two feet. This took much more talent and strength. Trevor's dad and I were friends in high school and I kept thinking, "No way his dad could do something like that!" (Sorry Tom, but you would agree with me). I know they lift weights

### TARA'S TAKES

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## To the Editor

**District grateful for generosity of Tracy, surrounding communities**

Greetings from Tracy Area Public Schools,

This is an exciting time of year as students and staff will be taking time to visit family and friends and enjoy the holidays. Unfortunately, many of our families struggle to make ends meet, and the holidays can be an especially challenging time of year. On a bright note it is so nice to see the generosity of our community during the holidays. We have been very fortunate to receive gifts from community members and businesses for a variety of worthwhile causes. Just this month I have received donations from our community (Tracy, Balaton, Currie, Amiret, Garvin, and surrounding area). Most of these people wish to remain anonymous but direct us where to put the money. It is not uncommon for people to ask us to give money to families in need to help them have a happier holiday season.

We also periodically receive donations from people who like to give towards an activity, an event, or an academic subject area that was meaningful to them while they were in school. Some have indicated that a past teacher or subject area made a significant impact on their life and want dollars to go towards that area. Sometimes we will receive gifts from people because of a positive experience they had working with our students or were inspired to give to a program after watching our students perform. No matter what how much the donation or what they want the dollars to go towards, we always respect their wishes and make sure the contribution goes directly towards the requested area.

Another area that has earned significant contributions since 2012 is the Tracy Area Education Foundation. The Mission Statement of the Foundation is "To provide a secure and trustworthy means for accepting and channeling charitable donations to promote educational excellence and personal growth for students attending Tracy Area Public Schools." The foundation board is made up of 12 local members. Currently on the board is Eric Fultz, Chad Anderson, Tom Hook, Ed Carter, Deb Smith, Patty LeClaire, Darcy Carlson, Carol Cooreman, Seth Schmidt, Brenda Bengtson, and Jesse James. The board is currently looking for a couple new members. If you are interested on being part of the committee, you may contact anyone on the board. The board president is Eric Fultz, treasurer is Ed Carter, and secretary is Brenda Bengtson.

There are two different funds within the foundation. First is the Endowment Fund. The Endowment fund is like a savings account. The endowment gifts are invested and never spent, only income generated from the original gifts is spent in a way that benefits our children and the district. The endowment fund ensures a permanent, stable revenue stream and, when large enough, will help fund the future district projects. The second fund is the Non-Endow-

ment Fund, which is the project fund. This is like a checking account. Both the principal and income are spent to fulfill immediate needs. Until our endowment is large enough, this project fund will be used to assist the school with projects as money becomes available and needs surface. The Tracy Area Education Foundation has contributed to choir robes, band uniforms, stage lighting, Wi-Fi for buses, internet hot-spots, software programs, the courtyard project, new iPads, front entrance updates at TAHS, and a Drone for Engineering and Design Class. The most recent contribute from the foundation is towards an "Innovative Incentive Grant." This provides an opportunity for teachers to apply for dollars that will go towards new and innovative strategies to enhance their classroom.

If you are interested in donating to families in need, specific programs, academic subject areas, or to the Education Foundation please contact me and I will be happy to visit with you about your options. I would also encourage people or groups to that have specific ideas in mind to pool your resources and work together to accomplish a certain goal. A great example is how our music boosters helped promote and contribute to the purchase of new band uniforms and choir robes. This would not have happened so quickly without their involvement and support.

The Tracy Area is a compassionate, caring, and supportive community to live and raise a family. We are very fortunate to have so many people that are willing to donate time and resources to help our school and students have a happy, healthy, and well-rounded educational experience. Thank you for all your support and donations! Together, we can all make a positive impact on the lives of our children!

CHAD ANDERSON  
TRACY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPT.

**Tracy Area United Fund Drive exceeds goal**

The Tracy Area United Fund Board would like to thank the businesses and individuals who made contributions to the 2019 Fund Drive. We exceeded our \$11,000 goal and were able to disburse \$12,050 to benefit 25 local and area organizations.

We also want to thank the *Tracy Area Headlight Herald* editors and staff, the City of Tracy Office Staff and the O'Brien Court Office Staff for their help and support. We welcome any suggestions for improvements to our United Fund Drive.

If you know of any organization that has not made a request for funding in the past, but would like to be considered for next year, please contact any board member for more information.

SUE KEUL, CAROL STRAND,  
SANDY STOB, JANEL RAU, DENISE CLOUSE,  
RONNIE DAHL, PERRY FALES, CHRIS KAMRUD  
TRACY AREA UNITED FUND BOARD



## Why is America dying...

Faster than other developed countries? There is an old joke about why most men die before their wives.

(Because they want to.) Not so funny after you get past sixty, but an unintentional and vital point about our current society. If we don't want to live anymore, it becomes so much easier to die. Are we more afraid of living than dying? Purpose keeps many of us alive long after we should have moved on to the amazement of onlookers. Our "Best if Used up Before" date has long past and yet many of us are still active and productive. That quality is fading fast for our 20 - 45 year old sons and daughters.

Trends that have been restated for the last several years show an accelerating trend in mortality in the U.S. Overall, despite incredible and very, spendy health care we are fatter and in worse health than other developed nations. Average life span has decreased. Good news for younger folks as there might be a few more Social Security dollars left with less old folks, but wait! This overall decline is fueled, not by us old codgers going to meet our maker but by young people age 20 - 45, ending their lives in their prime due to suicide, drugs,

**Little Voice on the Prairie**  
Bill Richards



alcohol abuse and a host of related illnesses.

This November, Virginia Commonwealth University restated this through their research. "Working-age Americans are dying at higher rates, especially in economically hard hit states." Author Steven Woolf stated, "Working-age Americans are more likely to die in the prime of their lives. For employers, this means that their workforce

is dying prematurely, impacting the U.S. economy. More importantly, this trend means that children are losing their parents and our children are destined to live shorter lives than us."

The last 10 years have seen a 23% increase in suicides. Chronic liver and other alcohol related illness increased 7.9% for men and 11% for women. Drug overdose deaths increased 72%. Several causes have been suggested. The economy for a large segment of wage earners is not improving with real income

**LITTLE VOICE ON THE PRAIRIE**  
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**TRACY AREA HEADLIGHT HERALD**

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# Opinions

## SHEDDING SOME 'LIGHT...

"Shedding Some Light" is a regular feature on the Opinions Page that will consist of our spin on local, state and national issues.

### Clock is ticking on Juul

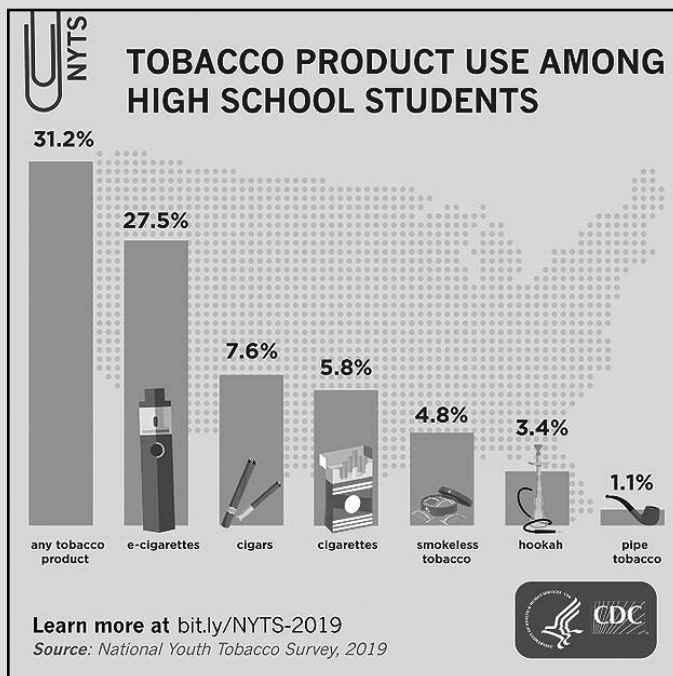
Donald Trump is a lightning rod for controversy. He says things that turn our stomachs, offend us, embarrass us. He may or may not be kicked out of office.

But say what you want about him, the man did the right thing last week when he signed off on a new law that would raise the federal age requirement of who can legally purchase tobacco products to 21.

Trump signed spending bills approved by Congress last week that will soon make it illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase vaping products and e-cigarettes, as well as conventional tobacco products. It's now up to the Food and Drug Administration to update its regulations and submit a final ruling within 180 days.

Now, while the cynic will say policing the new law will be just as difficult as it always has been — because we know kids smoke and have for years — we welcome this news with rose-colored glasses, because if anything it sends a message that our government, flawed as it may be, is serious about wiping out vaping once and for all. A number of states, including Minnesota, are filing lawsuits against Juul, the No. 1 maker of vaping products, but to get this from the White House — well, you know they mean business.

Truly, enforcing any kind of ban on products that can be purchased over the counter is no small task, but we have to believe this news will make a positive difference and will be yet another step in bringing down the scourge that is Juul.



Trump might not go down as the best president this country has ever had, and we sure have become accustomed to shaking our heads at most of what he says or tweets, but we applaud his common-sense decision to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21. We hope this turns out to be an historic move that will wipe out any possibility of our youth smoking anything, electronic or not.

It's funny how Juul has gone from some kind of savior to adults looking to kick the smoking habit to an evil empire that tries to lure kids into using their deadly product. What's even funnier is that Juul turned out to be its own worst enemy. Juul could've simply kept pushing vaping devices as a smoking cessation product, but instead, greed got the best of it and this horrible company wanted more. That's why it went after kids, hoping it could hook them and make them customers for life.

Juul made millions off our naiveté, our strong desire to kick an unkickable habit and eventually our youth, but it has failed, and now it's one step closer to being shut down.

#### Guns can save lives ...

Where do you sit on conceal-and-carry? If you're against it, you might want to check out the story that developed over the weekend in Texas.

A man shot two people during a church service in White Settlement, TX, on Sunday. One person died, and the other had life-threatening injuries. The shooter also died. Why? Because there were two armed parishioners at the church.

The gun debate will go on forever, but just think about this: You're at your church taking part in communion, and shots ring out. You're helpless. You might die. Your life flashes in front of you as you look for cover. And then, just like that, a fellow worshipper, probably someone you know, pulls out his gun and fires back, defending everyone in the church. That changes things, doesn't it.

We're not saying everyone should go out and buy a gun, but for anyone who doesn't believe in conceal-and-carry at least keep an open mind about guns and know that they do save lives.

Just ask survivors from that small Texas church.

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### conflict of interest

noun

- a situation in which the concerns or aims of two different parties are incompatible.
- a situation in which a person is in a position to derive personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity.

It wasn't always pretty at City Hall last year, when the phrase 'conflict of interest' became somewhat of a mantra — and not in a good way. It's the most glaring example of why it is ...

## time to move on from 2019

The month of July hasn't been kind to Tracy in recent times.

Two years ago, the iconic Masonic Lodge building downtown was removed from the city's landscape, much to the chagrin of some in town.

In 2018 — you remember 2018 — a flood of historic proportions ravaged the city, either caving in basements, or ruining them to the point where homeowners had no other choice but to gut theirs and start over — what choice did they have with four feet of raw sewage downstairs? We're still cleaning up from that one.

Then came July 2019, when things got ugly in a different way. This ugliness had nothing to do with a building being razed, or floodwaters flowing through town. This, as they say, was personal, and, quite frankly, it was embarrassing.

That's when longtime Tracy businessman Jeff Salmon was kicked off the EDA board by a city council that found it had enough evidence to "substantiate" his removal. Salmon faced a number of allegations thrown at him by a roofer who did work for him earlier that year. The relationship turned bitter, and the result was a strong push from said roofer to remove Salmon from his position of power on the EDA board. That was when we got to know the complexities of public hearings and learned that some of it shouldn't really be all that public.

Also this July, that same EDA board lost one of its finest members when Mark Seager stepped down from his position.

The fun wasn't over when the month ended, either.

In August, a second public hearing took place — this one to determine



### There Ya Go

Per Peterson  
Editor

whether or not EDA member and city councilman Tony Peterson should join Salmon on the outside looking in at EDA proceedings.

Unlike his boss, Peterson ultimately survived his hearing, but another scar formed. By the time EDA Chair Dennis Fultz was to appear before the council in what would've been a third hearing (he was accused by Peterson of committing various violations), it seemed the council had had enough and called off the dogs, putting a cap on what was a messy and embarrassing three months of finger-pointing, anger and bitterness.

The term "conflict of interest" became common lexicon at City Hall during this time, and while I can't put a finger on exactly when conflict fatigue among Tracy residents peaked, by the time all was said and done everyone was ready to move on.

So that's my theme for 2020: Let's move on. Perhaps that should flash on the Lions Club electronic message board on the highway: "Welcome to Tracy, We've Moved on!"

But seriously, let's leave public hearings, conflicts of interest, and attorneys in our wake as we forge ahead to better things for Tracy. We mustn't completely forget about 2019 — forgetting about history opens the door for us to repeat it — but we have to renew our vision for the future.

The year 2020 can be a great one for this city. We have a new city administrator, and people working publicly and privately for the betterment of Tracy. Also on our horizon are a new liquor

store and a new cafe on the highway, and a laundromat downtown that will fill a vacant building once seemed destined to succumb to a Noomen excavator.

There are other reasons to be excited about downtown. Our wonderful library got even better this fall with a remodeled basement, and the old Super Valu building — deemed hazardous a scant few months ago — has a new owner, as does the old Gulf Station at the corner of Morgan and 4th. We can't wait to see what develops with those buildings. Look at the traffic that Breanna Thompson has brought to downtown with her dance studio. And try to find another bowling alley in Lyon County. Let me save you some time — none exist, we have the only one right here in town.

When you hit rock bottom, all you can do is look up, and after the summer of 2019 we should certainly be looking up. Look at our hospital, which just added two ER rooms. Look at our great schools, one of which will undergo a massive facelift in 2020 to improve safety for students and staff. Look at Broadacres. Look at the housing possibilities in areas like Front Street, Orchard Lane and, yes, the blank canvas that still is the Red Rooster. Look at our long overdue infrastructure improvements. And if you're not happy with how things are going at City Hall, look ahead to another election year — if you want to change things, that would be the time to try and do it.

Just like the rubble was cleared at the Masonic Lodge site and flood waters eventually dried up, what happened at City Hall last summer, too, shall pass. So look ahead and look up, residents of Tracy, and enter 2020 with a glass half full. Who knows, we might even enjoy a quiet July this year.



## My New Year's resolution: I will not act my age

Age is just a number. We have all heard this before. We tell ourselves this when we don't want to admit that we are getting older. However, more and more, my body is letting me know I am aging and not always gracefully. There are days my kids like to remind me how old I am getting. These are the days they are playing with their life.

However, when there are days that I see more wrinkles in my face in the morning or my body is a little sorer as I get out of bed, I am not going to focus on these aspects of aging and instead, act more like my grandma.

Let me give you a little background on my amazing grandmother. On Thanksgiving Day, she turned 89 years old. But she acts like she is maybe 40. She still lives alone, in a split level home in which she takes steps every day. I have a two-story home and am already thinking about how long I want to tackle steps every day.

In addition, she volunteers with Prairie Home Hospice at the Hospice House every Wednesday. She attends Mass every day. She takes Communion to the hospi-

### Tara's Takes

Tara Brandl  
Publisher



YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO GO SLEDDING. Just ask Grandma Krogman, who recently went sledding with her great-grandkids.

tal patients regularly. And she is still part of the Russell Auxiliary and volunteers with the Bloodmobile.

If this doesn't tire you out enough, she is there for her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids at the drop of a hat. When my kids are at school in Marshall and one of them has a practice after school, she is always there to pick up kids, to help run them to practice or games. She is regularly in attendance at the great grandkids' sporting events and concerts.

While I truly appreciate everything she does, what she did on Christmas break with my kids puts her in a whole new category. Since we had early deadline, the kids spent time at my parents' farm prior to Christmas. Most kids spend time during the holidays baking cookies with the great-grandparents or maybe sharing some hot cocoa. Not mine.

AGE  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

TRACY AREA  
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### The game has changed — the rules should, too

Newspapers push for transparency all the time. It's kind of our thing. With that said, we're upset that all we receive regarding people who test positive for COVID-19 are crumbs of information.

With all due respect to HIPPA laws, we feel it's unfair for the Minnesota Department of Health to not disclose the city from which a coronavirus sufferer hails. All we get from the MDH is a person's county.

That's not fair. We live in small towns here in rural Minnesota and people — Stay at Home order or not — are in contact with each other. Wouldn't it be better if we knew if one of the four Lyon County positive test cases lived in Tracy? Would that not go a long way to making us all respect Stay at Home even more than we do now?

Ask yourself: If you knew one of the Lyon County people who tested positive was from Tracy, would you be more apt to stay at home? More careful with your planning? Who knows who else that person might have been in contact with. It could be someone across the street.

The federal HIPPA law was created to protect patients' rights. We understand that. However, in cases when the condition a patient is in could potentially impact the community in which he or she lives, that's one law that should be broken. Or at least bent. We're living in unprecedented times — strange times that should override HIPPA.

We don't need details. We don't names. We just need to know what city these patients call home. So far, the only thing the MDH is posting are "outbreaks" in long-term facilities (it defines outbreaks as a facility with one or more residents or staff with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19). But that's not enough. Sadly, outbreaks in living facilities is a given — we in rural Minnesota want, no deserve, to know where our infected neighbors hail from.

Protecting the rights of patients is important, but not nearly as important as protecting the public.

*Walz delivers strong, honest message ...*

We appreciate how Gov. Tim Walz' blended a spirit of optimism with brutal honesty during Sunday night's State of the State address, which was viewed by more than 8,000 people on YouTube.

"We won't just make it to spring, we'll come out on the other side better," Walz said. "The state of our state is strong; the state of our state is resilient; the state of our state is united."

Walz outlined some things Minnesota is doing to try to stay in front of the epidemic — things like building hospital capacity, increasing testing to better track the disease, increasing ventilators and ICU beds for when people fall ill, and working to find more personal protective equipment for the doctors, nurses, first-responders.

But Walz also didn't mince words Sunday. He said the battle against COVID-19 is far from over, and that it's "going to be a cold, long winter."

And he's right, partly because no one can put their finger on when this epidemic will go away and our lives will return to normal — whatever that is.

Through the 12-minute address, Walz sounded like a leader. We've heard President Donald Trump use his podium time in recent weeks to criticize, point fingers and say things he would later have to defend — and we've grown accustomed to that — but Walz on Sunday spoke with passion and empathy and did so with a strong voice.

That is exactly what politicians are supposed to do in dire times.

*It's not raining, it's a downpour ...*

It's a good thing Minnesota entered the 2020 session with a budget, because we're going to need every cent.

Gov. Tim Walz on Monday was asked by a reporter during his daily tele-conference about how COVID-19 spending will affect the state's budget, which before all this happened stood at roughly \$1.5 billion.

"We were in solid financial shape, we were able to pay our bills," Walz said. "We will certainly have to balance the budget when we come out of this. There will be lack of revenues because of the COVID-19 shutdown."

The state is doing the right thing by spending on COVID-19; our fear is what that will do to the state's budget next year and the years to follow. How will not having "rainy day" funding in the future affect us? That's a good — and scary — question.

*Editorials are the opinion of the editor and do not necessarily reflect those of Tracy Area Headlight Herald employees.*

## Are we going to strike out this spring?

Everything has changed, hasn't it? Store hours have been shortened. We can't stand just anywhere anymore, whether it's at the gas station or the grocery store. We're social distancing ourselves into a whole new way of life.

To put it bluntly — please pardon my language — it sucks. It just does. There's no other way to say it. Well, there is, but I'm in no mood to sugarcoat things.

I hate this. We all do. I know there are way more important things in life than sports, but the lack thereof is taking its toll on me.

For starters, the TMB baseball team should've opened its season last Tuesday. You remember baseball, right?

For the first time in what seems like forever, the field looked like it might've been able to handle a March game. With the rain that fell a few days earlier there was a shot the game might not have been played, but with COVID-19, we never even had that chance, no matter the weather and field conditions.

Heck, the snow drift down the third base line at the softball field, which is usually the last snow to go in the spring, was gone last week. But it didn't matter, because the softball team can't play, either. They were supposed to have a home game against MCC on Thursday, but ... no. Fields are now nothing more than tumbleweed factories.

While it's not exactly fun standing outside in 48 degree weather with a brisk wind hitting you in the face while you're trying to take notes and photos, I long for those days now.

It's getting harder and harder to have a sports page these days, but I'm trying to keep it alive, even though there are no games to cover. You might see a different-looking Page 6 in the coming weeks, but as a sports lover, I don't want to see that page disappear, even if it's only for the time being.

Right now, all we can do is hope



**There Ya Go**  
Per Peterson  
Editor

COVID-19 passes sometime this month, so when the calendar turns to May, school doors will open back up and student-athletes can hit the field once again. Why? I miss it.

I miss spitting sunflower seeds.  
I miss the clicking noise metal spikes make on cement.

I miss seeing sand fly up when a long jumper lands and high jumpers arching just enough to clear the bar.

I miss ump's ringing up batters.  
I miss the weird chants in the dugouts (I still don't know what "shoebox" means).

I miss plays at the plate.  
I miss fair or foul.  
I miss pole vaulters climbing to the sky.

I miss wondering if I guessed right on whether it's a hit or an error.  
I miss relay handoffs.

I miss third base coaches giving signals and arguing calls.

I miss watching track and field kids gathering in their camps on the infield, scarfing down string cheese and Sun Chips.

I miss shot-putters grunting and discus throwers spinning.

I miss stolen bases, but not as much as I miss a catcher nailing someone at second.

I miss watching little kids racing each other for foul balls as if they were filled with money.

I miss players rounding third.  
I miss taking photos outside.  
I miss ... it all.

...

Since I can't write about current sports, I'll include a note about a very cool sports story from 1980. Surely some of you will remember when the Tracy wrestling team took on a team called Lunen-Derne — a squad for Germany that was in Tracy as part of an international cultural exchange. Roger Trulock organized the event.

"I think they really enjoyed Tracy and it's people, and they want many Tracy people to come and visit them in Lunen," Trulock was quoted as saying in the April 10 edition of the Headlight Herald.

How cool must that have been for all the wrestlers? It wasn't the Olympics, but how many times do wrestlers get a chance to grapple against those from other countries?

Some of the boys on that team were Jim Trulock, Dave Knott and Steve DeLauriers.

...

With an increasing burden on food shelves across the nation, there's no better time to give to the Tracy Kitchen Table Food Shelf. Monetary donations are the best kind and are used to buy in bulk through Second Harvest. Money can also be put into the food shelf's account at Food Pride. Checks can be made to Tracy Kitchen Table and sent to: UCAP

Tracy Kitchen Table  
1400 S. Saratoga St.  
Marshall, MN 56258

...

This is going to be a very strange Sunday. Of course, Easter Sunday is coming up, but churches will be empty. What a sad state of affairs.

Church is not only a place of worship, it's also a place for people to just be together, and I'm sure many in Tracy and surrounding communities are missing the fellowship that they're so used to having as part of their Sunday routine. Distance worshipping is fine, but it's not the same. Not even close.

For me, I'll miss being with my friends at Lake Sarah Lutheran Church this Resurrection Sunday and the annual huge breakfast we have every Easter — it's an event that everyone in our small church on the highway look forward to every spring.

I hope you all find a way to enjoy your Easter.



## The calm during a storm that never happened

"S"he was calm. It was a scary calm. It would have been better if she was mad."

Those were the words of Brady on Sunday evening as he told Per of my reaction to the events

earlier that day. It was a gorgeous day and we needed to be outside, so we were busy in the yard. We cleaned up sticks and large piles of leaves along the fence, the bag's worth of garbage that always seems to blow up against our fence each winter, put away winter stuff, brought out spring planters even if they are still empty, etc. Since we had road construction on our street last fall, our front yard is a mess. While picking up sticks I found a good size rock in the front yard. We have rock edging around our back garage so I asked Ben to take the new rock back there. A short time later he came back around the house with his eyes down and saying, "I tossed it and it just bounced."

"It just bounced," referred to the rock I had handed him a few minutes earlier. Instead of carrying it to the back, he tried to "toss" it. Based on his story of tossing it, he would not have made it tossing it. Instead, since he is missing baseball, he

### Tara's Takes

Tara Brandl  
Publisher



more than likely got into his best pitcher's stance, wound up and fired it toward the back yard where the rocks were. Unfortunately if Ben didn't have bad luck,

he would have no luck. Instead of a perfect pitch to the back, he was able to hit the one and only tree in the yard. I mean the *only*. The rock bounced off and sailed through my porch window. Normally, there would have been a lot of yelling, scolding, maybe a few swear words I shouldn't say in front of my kids, but not now. Instead, I asked Ben to carefully clean up the glass that had landed outside the porch. I had Brady help me clean up the glass that landed inside the porch along with the rock, which I then asked Brady to *set* in the back with the rocks. During this time no voices were raised, not much else was said. It was cleaned up, I went and got some supplies to cover the window until I could get it fixed and we went back to our outside chores.

Yes, this was different for the kids than how I usually would have reacted. Broken windows do not make me happy.

But we are in different times and honestly, I don't have the energy to get upset over these things.

In all honesty, I have also run out of wine in my house, so you know I am handling this pandemic gracefully. In the last few weeks (I can't even remember when this started) my kids have had to change from a family that at this time of the year is at a ballpark almost every day for practice or games. A family that spent a lot of nights surviving off the concession stand, drive through or sandwiches I packed. We are not a family that stays home. There is always something going on. Add in the crazy business of running a newspaper and the neverending things to cover and home is where we laid our heads at night.

In addition, they have had to adapt to an entirely new way of learning. One that comes with its own added stress. Last week I could not figure out the answer to Natalie's second grade religion question. I had to call in the reinforcements (April, Julie and Per). After much deliberation and some help from Google, Per was able to come up with the correct answer, after which Natalie informed me that I was

**TARA'S TAKES**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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