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Saving the best for last

Toryn Richards wins Class A State Pole Vault title on final attempt

Photo by Leanne Kavitz

WEM senior Toryn Richards cleared 10-feet, 9-inches in the pole vault on her final attempt to win the Class A State Pole Vault Championship Friday, June 11 at St. Michael-Albertville High School. She also placed second in the high jump.

Jay Schneider
LifeEnterprise

During her celebrated WEM sports career, senior Toryn Richards has been in many pressure situations.

Whether it be slamming down the final kill in a volleyball game or making the winning free throw in a basketball game, the three-sport All-State athlete had her share of pressure packed performances.

But none could match the Friday af-

ternoon, June 11th performance at the Class A State Track and Field Meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

After just finishing in second place in the Class A high jump competition, Richards returned to the pole vault area with one jump to decide whether or not she was a State Champion or a State Placemanager.

Three vaulters had cleared 10-feet, 6-inches. They included No. 1 seed Kaitlyn Schuur of Southwest Minnesota Christian, Taylor Bockoven of Milaca,

and Richards. Schuur made it on her first attempt, Bockoven on her second attempt, and Richards on her third and final attempt.

All three would then attempt to clear 10-feet, 9-inches. Schuur and Bockoven both missed all three of their attempts. Richards missed her first two attempts before heading over to finish her high jump competition.

Upon returning, Richards was looking at this scenario - make the jump and Vault to 5

Elysian looking at water treatment plant

Jay Schneider
LifeEnterprise

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is requiring the City of Elysian to improve its water quality.

In November of 2020 the MDH notified the city that the primary well serving city residents has exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for gross alpha and combined radium.

The level is higher than the primary drinking water standard set for health and safety. Levels are known to increase the risk of cancers.

With the radium problem, the city has put together an application which has been sent to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office requesting approval to continue with an infrastructure improvement project.

This project would consist of constructing a water treatment plant, which would be located at Sunset Park.

According to City Administrator Lorri Kopschke, the current water system consists of two wells, an elevated water tower, and a water distribution system. The well located in town near the water tower can provide portable water to city residents. The second well is inundated by iron bacteria and cannot be used.

Kopschke said the city has unsuccessfully tried to reclaim the second well but without a

treatment facility this cannot be done.

After the city received the letter from the MDH, they hired the engineering firm of Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) to identify possible options for the water system.

Drilling a new well or implementing a reverse osmosis water treatment plant were the two options. SEH recommended the construction of a filtration water treatment plant which would allow the city to use both wells.

The proposed water treatment plant would remove radium from the primary water source and also would remove iron and iron bacteria from the secondary well.

Preliminary cost of the water treatment plant is \$6.9 million. The city is looking for grant dollars to help pay for the facility. The first step was putting together the grant information, which has been completed. Cost to residents has not been determined during this early stage.

The water treatment plant would be designed to treat 0.72 million gallons of water per day. It would also include a clearwell for pumping finished water out into the distribution system and a backwash receiving tank to collect water from the filters and feed it at a controlled rate into the sanitary sewer.



The United Methodist Church in Elysian will be celebrating the 135th anniversary of the building on Sunday, June 27. Above is a photo of the current church and below is a photo from back in the late 1800s.

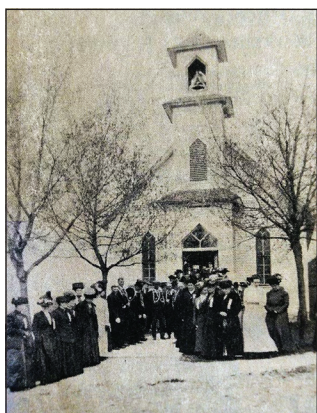
EUM Church building has been standing for 135 years

A church is not a building! But so much of what a church does and how they are identified is tied to their building that sometimes a celebration of the building is called for.

So it is that the Elysian United Methodist Church is celebrating the 135th anniversary of the structure at 201 Fourth Street NW. The building, much as it appears today, was dedicated in 1886, free of debt.

Originally the building shared the hill where the old brick schoolhouse still stands. The pioneer candor spirit was evident in Ira Myrick who sawed the lumber, in Glyde Swain who hauled the stone, in Edward Barnes and son who built the walls, in Harvey Beardley and John Chase who directed the project. Two logs from Joe Warner's place (now Bruce Williams' north of town) "made all the lower joists, some 1568 feet!"

The building suffered a few bruises over the years. In August 1897, lightning



struck the belfry causing a fire which was quickly put out. In the summer of 1972, the ceiling collapsed, and extensive repairs were required. And in 1979 a water main broke under the church causing "many problems."

Electricity was introduced to the building in 1915 and used to light the sanctuary for a first service on December 31. One hundred years later the congregation used only candlelight for the Christmas Eve service.

The pioneer can-do spirit it was in evidence again in 1955. The story is that one winter day, the pastor's car slid down the icy hillside during services. After a congregational vote, arrangements were made to move

the building to its present location. June 14, 1956, the building was lifted from its foundation. Once out in the street, a beam broke and there it sat for 3 days. But they pressed on.

Over the years the building housed all the routine gatherings of a congregation, and some exceptional ones: release time classes for school children; revival meetings; meetings of an active MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and its predecessor the Epworth League; and at a service in September 1888 "eight members were added to the M.E. church—three by sprinkling, three by immersion, and two by pouring."

Never in its 135 years has the building sat so long without services as it has during the recent months of Covid19.

"We canceled services for months and held off holding the much-loved monthly potlucks. We met as often as we could outdoors. We are taking this opportunity to say we're still here!" said Pastor Dean Wolf who has served the congregation for 5 years.

Church to 4

Fr. Ince is retiring, new pastor named

Lisa Ingebrand
LifeEnterprise

The Catholic parishes in Waterville and Elysian will have a new pastor next month.

Fr. Micheal Ince, who has led the local churches since November 1991, will be retiring from his position as pastor on July 1.

Fr. John Powers, who was ordained in 2015 and has been most recently serving the parish of St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Elko New Market, will become the new pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville and St. Andrew Catholic Church in Elysian. Powers will also be teaching at Bethlehem Academy in Faribault.

Ince plans to continue residing at the rectory in Waterville, a place he has called home for almost three decades. A second bedroom and office area in the local rectory will be made available for Powers, but according to Ince, Powers plans to reside in Faribault.

"We don't have all the details figured out just yet, but I plan to assist him when and where I can. He's a young guy, but he'll have a lot on his plate," stated Ince, who has faithfully celebrated hundreds of baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, and marriages with the community, and has presided over approximately 250 funerals.

"It's been a wonderful experience. I've certainly enjoyed all the years I've been here," stated 85-year-old Ince, leaning back in his desk chair with a smile. "I suppose I could have retired years ago, but there's nothing else I'd rather be doing. I always said as long as my body is able, I'll keep at it... and, this old body has done well, but now I'm dealing with arthritis in my knees and such."

When asked to reflect on



Lisa Ingebrand Photo

Fr. Michael Ince will retire as pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville and St. Andrew Catholic Church in Elysian. Fr. John Powers, who will be coming from Elko New Market, will become pastor of the local parishes on July 1.

his first weeks as pastor of the local parishes, he chuckles.

"The sole of my shoe came loose during that first Saturday service," he shared. "I had to slide around that whole weekend before I could go and get another pair of shoes."

His first summer in Waterville, he learned how to clean a bullhead.

"Oh, I went over to see if I could be of any assistance, and Rollie Zimprich and the Slechtas sat me down with a

big, wide tub full of bullheads and showed me how to clean 'em," Ince laughed. "After that, I came down every year and helped... I got involved with selling buttons, too."

Ince was named Bullhead Days Grand Marshal in 2008.

As pastor, he has led his parishes through financing and completing numerous construction projects, including a large expansion at St. Andrew's in 2007, a building addition and installation of an elevator at Holy Trinity,

Pastor to 5

COVID-19				
	Positive cases		Vaccinated	
County	Total	Deaths	1st Dose	2nd Dose
Le Sueur	2,973	26	11,916	11,298
Rice	8,204	110	34,838	32,788
Scott	17,553	137	80,828	75,058
Waseca	2,380	23	8,630	8,178
State	604,687	7,550	3,029,339	2,830,857

Includes ALL Covid-19, including the mutant variant.
From Minnesota Department of Health.
Case data as of 6-22-2021. Vaccination data as of 6-20-2021.

