

# OPINION



## Lisa's Lines

by Lisa Ingebrand

I was frazzled.

My daughters, Anna and Ellen, and I were rushing around the grocery store, getting all the items we needed for a long weekend at a friend's cabin.

Already behind schedule, I tried to focus on my list and the navigation of my cart through crowded aisles. The girls followed, helping me every so often grab items from the shelves.

Ellen, my 9-year-old, also kept trying to sneak snacks into the cart.

And, for some reason 12-year-old Anna decided it was the perfect time to have a heart-to-heart conversation about junior-high girl stuff.

I tried to listen. I tried to pay attention to her story about friends and tennis and something to do with a bottle of Gatorade... I really tried.

However, I was also trying to remember that ONE THING I realized I didn't have on my list right as I was walking into the grocery store (the one I didn't bother to write down because I would surely remember). And, I simultaneously discovered Ellen's secret stash of goodies piled on the lower-level of the cart.

Ugh. Now what? Do I have Ellen return all the items to their correct locations throughout the store, which would take a whole lot of time that we just didn't have, or do we surrender the pile with the cashier or do I resort to piling everything on a random empty shelf?

"Mom? What do you think about what so-and-so did?" my sweet Anna asked as we rounded a corner to a new aisle.

She had been talking the whole time, and as much as I tried to follow everything she was saying... I got lost in my own thoughts and the task at hand (and dealing with Ellen

and her pile of contraband candy and chips).

"I'm sorry, Honey, I didn't hear you." I explained while finding and crossing another item off my list.

So, Anna started retelling her story. I think I caught the same parts of the story this second time around, because when she asked for my opinion once again, my brain couldn't even pull together a simple comment.

All I managed, was, "I'm sorry, what did you say?"

Yikes. One thing you don't want to do is ask a tween-age girl to repeat her story a THIRD time. If looks could kill, I would be lying dead on the floor of aisle 5—right by the ketchup I failed to grab.

I kept walking, knowing we just needed to get the grocery shopping finished, but as we rolled into the next aisle, both my girls started complaining... "Mom, you got the yucky kind of bread!" "Mom! You never listen!" "Mom! Why are you so mean?"

My cell phone rang. With one glance I knew I didn't have the answers the caller wanted from me. I didn't have answers to anything.

My brain was overloaded. I was overwhelmed. And, Lord, help me, I was doing everything I could to not to lose my mind. Anxiety attack in aisle 6, anyone?

Reaching my breaking point, I stopped mid-aisle and turned to face my still-complaining children.

"I. AM. TRYING." is what came out.

Maybe the words were a little louder than they should have been, but I needed them to hear me—and I wasn't screaming (which I consider a minor victory).

As I turned back to my cart, barely holding back tears, a woman, maybe 10 years my senior stepped directly in my

path and forced me to make eye contact with her.

"You ARE trying, and that is all ANYONE can ask," she told me with such force that I can still feel it in my bones.

Then, she stepped aside and disappeared down another aisle.

It took me a moment to collect myself and process what had just taken place. A few tears may have fallen, but I walked a little taller through the last few aisles.

I was trying, and truly that is all I can do. That's all anyone can ask of me.

Such simple words, so perfectly timed.

I don't know who she was, but she appeared in my life at the exact moment I needed her. She didn't lecture. She didn't yell. But, she saw me. She identified a mom at her breaking point.

I am grateful for her and her message.

My girls heard it too, and were oddly reserved for the rest of our shopping trip.

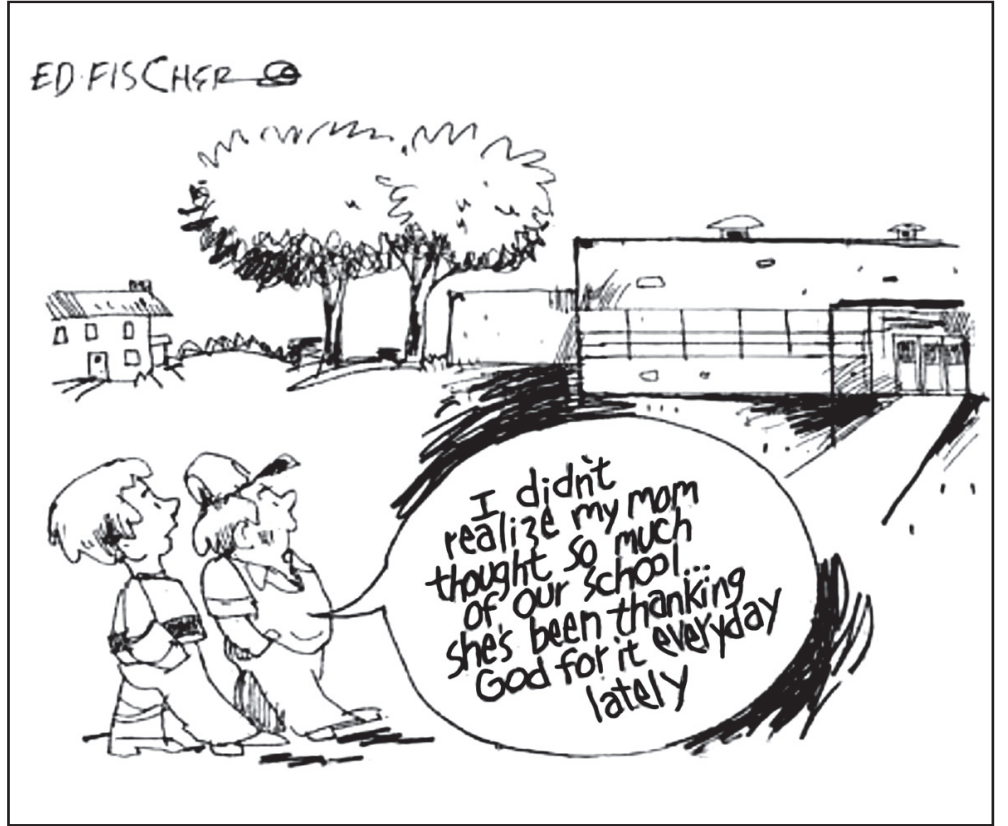
I later found out that after she addressed me, the lady went on to give my girls a glare that would scare Dracula.

If I ever see her again, I might hug her.

She spoke such a simple truth, and that truth continues to resonate with me.

We are all TRYING—trying to be good parents, good grandparents, good children, good grandchildren, good employees, good bosses, good friends, good neighbors, good congregation members, good gym members, good students, good athletes and coaches, good teachers, good stewards of the Earth... the list goes on.

It's easy to get overwhelmed, to feel like you're failing, but as one wise woman once told me: "You ARE trying, and that is all ANYONE can ask."



## Those Were The Days

### 100 Years Ago August 19, 1921

Mr. and Mrs. S.R. Adams are moving in from the farm and will occupy their new home at the east end of Main Street in Elysian.

During a recent storm, the wind blew down three tents at the Brown Camp near Reed's Lake, tearing three of the canvasses to pieces.

Mrs. Elsie Stavenau has sold her lakeshore lots to Sheriff Anton Osten and Alderman G.W. Eichstadt, of Mankato, who will build summer cottages at Lake Francis.

### 75 Years Ago August 14, 1946

The Le Sueur County Fair at Le Center has been cancelled by the fair officials on account of the polio pandemic. Also being called off were the Waseca County Fair and the Lions Club "Farm Days" celebration.

Wynone Prehn of the Iosco Wires 4-H Club was awarded a blue ribbon and a State Fair trip on her demonstration in her Food Preparation Projects Achievement Day.

Mrs. John Shortall, a member of one of the pioneer families of this section of the state, passed away at her farm in rural Kilkenny.

### 50 Years Ago August 19, 1971

Elysian twins are marrying twins. Kay Anne Meister will become the bride of Mike Landrum and Kathleen Anne Meister will become the bride of Pat Landrum.

Sam Terrell, who recently sold his house in the village, is selling his personal property at auction in Elysian.

The following students passed the Swimmer Course: Dale Hrdlicka, Sandy James, Kent Kaupa, Laurie Nusbaum, Robert Quiram, and Kathy Ritchison.

Sp/4 Robert Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Taylor, who is stationed in Germany, was recently hospitalized after having the misfortune of breaking his ankle.

### 25 Years Ago August 15, 1996

Jessica David was named WEM Homecoming Queen, Miss Czech Minnesota, and Miss Czech U.S.A.

Six different pieces of playground equipment have been approved for purchase by the Waterville City Council after the People for Parks Committee, City of Waterville, and Waterville Lions Club donated money towards the structures. They will be placed at West Park.

The family of Matilda Stangler hosted a surprise 90th

birthday party in her honor.

Keely and Marcy Zwart of Elysian have won many awards during their close to 20 combined years as members of the Elysian Willing Workers 4-H Club.

The Waterville City Council received a quote of \$20,800 to demolish the Evanston (Backman) Building in downtown Waterville.

### 10 Years Ago August 18, 2011

Within a week crews are tentatively scheduled to start work on the approximately \$3.4 million wastewater main and street project in Waterville.

Nolan Wetzel of Elysian and his dog Belle, received Champion Junior Novice Showmanship in the Le Sueur County 4-H Dog Show.

The WEM varsity boys basketball team competed in the Breakdown Sports USA Invitational and won the championship, defeating Roseville, Bemidji, and Lakeville South. Players on this team were Nick Kaplan, Zach Erdman, Jeff Amundson, Tucker Kinniry, Travis Nusbaum, Grant Pope, and Tate Harmon.

Sebastian Lee won the Buccaneer Football Ironman competition and Lindsay Ayers won the WEM Volleyball Fitness competition.

## Letters

### New to Medicare Virtual Class

Learning what to do when you become eligible for Medicare can seem overwhelming. This class is for people who will be new to Medicare and would like to learn about Medicare Parts A, B, C and D.

The free class will be held on Friday, Aug. 27 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Topics will include a comprehensive introduction to Medicare including what Medicare covers, supplemental insurance and Part D prescription coverage. During the class you will learn the Medicare enrollment details, how to get the most from your benefits and how to research your Medicare plan options using the Medicare.gov site.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3uPL1v5> to sign up for

the class, as space is limited. More classes and events can be found at: <https://mnraa.org/calendar/>

The Senior LinkAge Line is a service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's local area agencies on aging. It is the state's federally designated State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). Call the Senior LinkAge Line at 1-800-333-2433 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit [www.MinnesotaHelp.info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info) to chat with a specialist during business hours.

**Candice Conway**  
Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging  
Mankato

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It was a beautiful day (to leave) for a ball game and this group took advantage of it last Friday via Ray Meyer's chartered bus service. Their destination was Met Stadium for the Twins baseball game. Ralph Faltersack, who operates the Corner Bar in Elysian, picked a near-perfect date for the "gang." Those who traveled by bus included: Mrs. Veronica Muetzel, Mrs. Marcella Beccue, Mrs. Evelyn Seifert, Tuba Schmitz, Les Splett, Roland Wagner Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tolzman, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zellmer, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bohlen, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Roemhildt, Carol Seifert, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bittner, Mr. and Mrs. Arnis Roemhildt, Jimmy Ryan, Otto Kuehn, Ralph and Lucy Faltersack, Sis Anderson, Jim Nelson, and Ray Meyer. (Taken from *The Elysian Enterprise* - August 19, 1971)

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## THE BOOK CORNER

"Strongheart" by Jim Fergus

"Strongheart" is the final installment to the "One Thousand White Women" trilogy, a novel about fierce women who are full of heart and the power to survive. In 1873, a Cheyenne chief offers President Grant the opportunity to exchange one thousand horses for one thousand white women, in order to marry them with his warriors and create a lasting peace. These women, 'recruited' by force in the penitentiaries and asylums of the country, gradually integrate the way of life of the Cheyenne, at the time when the great massacres of the tribes begin.

"Texas Outlaw" by James Patterson & Andrew Bourelle

Texas Ranger Rory Yates is sent to the remote West Texas town of Rio Lobo, a municipality with two stoplights. Rio Lobo Detective Ariana Delgado is the one who requested Rory, and the only person who believes a local councilwoman's seemingly accidental death is a murder. Then Rory begins to uncover a tangle of small-town secrets, favors, and lies as crooked as Texas law is straight. The next ballad of Rory Yates may not be about a hero, but rather an outlaw song.

These items and many more are available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at [tds-mt.iii.com](http://tds-mt.iii.com) and can be picked up at Waterville or Elysian Area Library.