

OPINION



Lisa's Lines

by Lisa Ingebrand

It had been way too long. Due to COVID-19, my family of four hadn't visited, in-person, with my husband's grandparents since Christmas. They don't have a laptop to Zoom with us (unless someone lends them one), and Parkinson's makes phone calls difficult for great-grandpa. We've exchanged handwritten letters a few times over the months, but it was time to see them in person. They haven't been well, and our hearts ached to be with them. So, we got creative and planned ahead. We packed lawn chairs, picnic blankets, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, and a giant bubble making kit—and our masks—loaded in our vehicle, and made the 1.5 hour drive to their home. The sight of their big, red barn across the rolling corn fields never looked so beautiful. Our daughters, Anna and Ellen, cheered, and soon after we parked, Ellen ran up to the front door to ring the doorbell, spouting, "Grandma! We're here! We're here!" A few minutes later, Great-Grandma open the door... and the tears fell. "Oh! These are happy tears!" she reassured us. "We're so glad you came!" We set up socially distant lawn chairs in the driveway and enjoyed the morning sunshine as we waited for great-grandpa to join us. The kids got busy decorating the driveway with colorful chalk drawings, eagerly insisting their great-grandparents look at each and every one of their masterpieces. Each work of art received a big smile and word of praise. Great-grandma and I chatted about regular things... flowers, baking, family members, and current events. Great-grandpa and John talked of great-grandpa's military service, long-ago trips, and John's work. The conversation was

slow, but we weren't going anywhere. We had the time to wait for grandpa's words, and treasure them. It was nice—soothing, really—to talk with them face to face, and hear "the greats" lovingly banter with each other. The kids played and entertained us. The girls also delighted in finding fallen nuts around a giant tree and spent half the morning trying to crack them open. They also watched bugs inch their way across the driveway, proudly showing us their "cool" finds, cartwheeled and summersaulted in the yard, and enjoyed munching on freshly baked chocolate chip cookies Anna made for the occasion. It was a good, good morning. And, before we knew it, it was almost noon—for us to pack up for the return trip home. Tears fell once again. Great-grandma wanted nothing more than to have us all pile into her home, gather around her big kitchen table, and feed us. That's how she loves on us. We wanted the same. I've been attending holidays at John's grandparents' house since I was 15 years old. I claim them as my grandparents, too, and there's something special about grandpa and grandma's house... The warmth, the love, the memories... COVID-19 is stealing so much from all of us, but on that beautiful, late-summer morning, I like to think we reclaimed a little piece—a slice of true, healthy happiness. That morning, as we drove away, great-grandma and great-grandpa stood with their arms around each other, waving to us, surrounded by brightly colored chalk rainbows, cheerful hearts, and hopscotch patterns. They were smiling, and so were we.



Those Were The Days

25 Years Ago
September 20, 1895
Another building boom has struck Kilkenny. Besides John Murphy's new brick and R. Dynes new addition which are fast nearing completion. Arthur Dynes is erecting a fine new dwelling and a large barn. W.J. Rowland has the lumber on the ground for his new dwelling which will be erected on the lot just north of the creamery. The good natured butter maker, Will J. Rowland is the recipient of the Chicago Produce gold medal for the month of August. Will's butter was the best creamery butter in the State of Minnesota, scoring 96 points.

75 Years Ago
September 26, 1945
Fire did considerable damage to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hughes west of Waterville. It is presumed the fire started from an oil stove. John Roessler died at his home two miles north of Elysian early Tuesday morning, after an illness of the past year, aged 65 years. He was one of the substantial farmers of this community, and had served for many years as town supervisor, on the school board, and as one of the officers of the local creamery board.

the New Prague Times, one of Minnesota's leading country newspapers, that on October 1st its subscription rate will be advanced from \$2 to \$2.50 per year. County Day Activity Center for the 1970-71 fiscal year. Waterville Feed and Seed, owned by Art Sorgatz, advertised bulk delivery of Purina Chows and Purina Health Aids for livestock and poultry. Mrs. Julius Tiede of Kilkenny displayed an Easter Lily that was blooming in the month of August, an uncommon happening. Joyce Bohlen had the high game (214) and high series (500) in the Sunday Mixed Doubles Bowling League.

100 Years Ago
September 24, 1920
C. F. Chase reports a good yield of marquis wheat on the Gerdts farm west of Elysian, where 159 bushels were threshed from a 7 1/2 acre field. The approaching marriage of Mr. Sam A. Terrell to Miss Mildred Sershan is announced to take place Sept. 29. A wedding dance will be served that evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stierlen. Announcement is made by

50 Years Ago
September 24, 1970
A \$9,950 state grant has been awarded to the Le Sueur

Three members of the Kilkenny Horseshoe Pitching Club participated in the Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitching Association's State Tournament, which was held in Litchfield over Labor Day weekend. Jason Villwock placed first in his class in the junior division. Matt Melchert took second place in his class in the junior division. Jake David placed fourth in his class in the adult division. Tim Strobel and Lori Hiller were the winners in the first Lake Region Life football picking contest.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Reader:

When you vote in this presidential election consider the fate of the environment - consider what Thomas Edison wrote to Henry Ford in 1931. "We are like tenant

farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using nature's inexhaustible source of energy - sun, wind, and tide...I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy of

power. I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackles that."

Doris Berger
Janesville, MN

Senior Dining Menu

PLEASE NOTE - The kitchen at The Village in Waterville will be delivering meals every day. The congregate part of the meal program is not available until further notice, but pickup/delivery continues.
Monday, September 28: Vegetable Beef Soup, 1/2 Meat Sandwich, Pineapple, Dessert, Milk.
Tuesday, September 29: Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, California Blend Vegetables, Dinner Roll w/ Butter, Dessert, Milk.

Wednesday, September 30: Baked Fish, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread/Butter, Dessert, Milk.
Thursday, October 1: Glazed Turkey/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, 1/2 c. Broccoli Florets, 1/2 c. Bread Dressing, Cookie, Milk.
Friday, October 2: Baked Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Whole Wheat Bread w/Margarine, Mandarin Oranges, Milk.
For home delivered meals, call 507-362-8599 (leave

message) before noon for the next day's meal. Full cost of meals is \$7.40. A donation of \$4.50 to \$7.40 will help us to meet our cost to serve quality meals. Older Adults (age 60+) and their spouse have a right to a meal based on their ability to donate. Food Stamps (SNAP Vouchers) accepted. For guests under 60 years of age, the charge is \$7.40. Children under 12 years of age pay \$3.70 and receive 1/2 portions. Meals provided by Lutheran Social Services.

Charge for election-related letters

Starting September 1, the LifeEnterprise is charging for the publication of letters to the editor that relate to candidates for office, are a political endorsements, or relate to an upcoming election.

These letters will be considered ads and are subject to a \$25 charge, paid before publication.

Guidelines for letters to the editor for the election season are:

- Letters should be 300 words or less.
- The author of the letter must include their address and a daytime telephone number to be used for verification of authorship. Author's name and city of residence will be published. The phone number will not be published.
- Anonymous letters will not be published.

• Letters must be received by 12 p.m. Monday to be considered for that week's issue. Election letters will be published up to October 22, 2020. Only rebuttals will be published in the October 29 issue.

• Viewpoints expressed in the letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

• Letters deemed libelous, repetitive in content, in poor taste or involving personal attacks will be rejected. This decision will be made by the editor.

Letters to the editor on non-election issues that follow our guidelines will continue to be published free of charge.

Political letters should be sent to Editor Jay Schneider, lrlife@frontiernet.net, mailed to 115 S. 3rd St., Waterville, MN 56096, or delivered to the office.



Photo courtesy of the Eggers Family

There used to be a slide located at the Waterville Swimming Beach. It must have been some job to put it together. Notice the raft in the undated photo. It's on the left, farther out in the water. Waterville had its own "water park."

WEM School Menu

Breakfast and Lunch

Monday, September 28: Mini Donuts, Fruit, Juice, Milk. Beef Nachos, Chips, Cheese Sauce, Broccoli, Pineapple/Orange, Milk.

Tuesday, September 29: Milk, Chicken Tenders, Yogurt, Granola Bar, Diced Corn, Diced Pears, Bread Stix, Milk.
Thursday, October 1: Not Available.
Friday, October 2: Not Available.

Wednesday, September 30: Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk.

THE BOOK CORNER

Words are powerful. So choose them wisely. Here are a few titles with "words":
"Words on Fire" by Jennifer A. Nielsen—Junior Fiction Audiobook.
"Four Words for Friend: Why Using More Than One Language Matters Now More Than Ever" by Marek Kohn—Adult Non-Fiction.
"Bigger Words for Little Geniuses" by Susan and James Paterson—Children's Fiction Picture Book.
"The Words Between Us" by Erin Bartels—Adult Christian Fiction.
"Bread for Words" by Shana Keller—Non-Fiction Picture Book.
"Words and Your Heart" by Kate Jane Neal—Children's Board Book.
"Loud Fast Words: Soul Asylum Collected Lyrics" by Dave Pirner—Adult Non-Fiction.
"The Words I Never Wrote: A Novel" by Jane Thynne—Adult Fiction.
"Fighting Words" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley—Children's Junior Fiction.
"Her Final Words" by Brianna Labuskes—Adult Thriller.
"Beyond Words: What Elephants and Whales Think and Feel" by Carl Safina—Children's Junior Non-Fiction.
These items and many more are available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at tds-mt.iii.com and can be picked up at the Waterville Public Library.
"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." ~Mother Teresa

MN South Lake Region

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