

# 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.

### What's in a name ... everything, and nothing

None will argue that Tracy residents want what's best for everyone when it comes to a new community/senior center. But is everyone on the same page?

Not really.

The discussion surrounding a new "center" has been going on since the City sold the Multi-Purpose Center. There have been hurt feelings, and the sale created wounds in town — some of which have healed, others that may never. But we need to move on, and moving on means getting on the same page.

There are two questions that need to be answered — now: Who are we catering to, and should we build a new building? Both of those questions are begging for an answer, and until those answers come, more progress will be hard to come by.

We commend those on the steering committee, and we believe our city leaders are working hard on this issue, but we're still lacking a consensus on what the hell we're doing. A vote needs to be taken on the most simple of those two questions: What do we want?

Well, here's what we need: A community center.

#### Community.

Whatever we do, this should be a building in which all should be welcomed — from a bunch of rowdy cake-eating 10-year-olds at a birthday party, to a group of card-playing, coffee-sipping 70-year-olds. The senior members of our community deserve a nice place to visit, eat, share stories about the weather and farming and just enjoy each other's company. But why must we call it a "senior center." Don't those words alone alienate a good percentage of the population? Let's not let semantics get in the way of progress.

Being on that same page includes fundraising — which everyone knows will be key for this project. There needs to be one group dedicated to raising as much money as it can. The fundraisers are out there, they just need to be brought together with a plan. How can money be raised when no one knows what they're raising it for?

This community center project can work, we just need a common goal, and that starts with getting on the same page with one another.

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

## To the Editor

### We can do better by our Constitution

It is so very unfortunate that so many people have no clue, no understanding of our Constitution, how the Founders labored for months to provide the citizens of the United States with a national government that had "limited" powers and how it brought us to become the most advanced and free society the world has ever known. The men that wrote our Constitution would be appalled what has been done to it.

We, as a society, have failed to uphold our moral obligation to future generations to provide them with a nation that is strong, safe and free. We are moving toward being governed by a centralized all powerful and dictatorial regime that more resembles communism. Restrictions, regulations, trillions in spending and unending taxation. All this, and more, unfolding before us since January 20th, 2021. That will be our future and the future of all who follow us if we continue down this path. If people don't recognize this or choose to be blind to it, then the great American experiment is doomed.

All is not lost, but it will require the citizenry getting involved. We cannot just say "someone should do something." We cannot rely on elected political types to fix or make it better. We, the every day citizen, must get involved, get active and become part of the effort to make this country what it was intended to be under our Constitution. We, the people, the citizens of this great country, have the "duty" to preserve, defend and protect our Constitution to insure we pass on a nation that is free, honorable and virtuous to future generations.

ROGER BAUMANN  
WABASSO

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tracy Area Headlight Herald welcomes its readers to submit letters to the editor, as we believe they serve a civic purpose and are a forum of democracy in your newspaper. We encourage readers to use letters to the editor as a way to express feelings, thoughts, opinions and gratitude. Letters can be about any topic, but can be refused if judged to be libelous. If you wish to submit a letter to the editor, email it to [per@headlightherald.com](mailto:per@headlightherald.com). You must include your phone number and address for verification.

Letters that are not able to be verified will not be published.

## Mistakes, I've made a few

Earlier this winter sports season, I engaged in a friendly debate with a local radio personality after a basketball game. There were no winners or losers in this tet-a-tet, which came up spontaneously, kind of as a way to determine who was under the most pressure during the high school season. Still, it made me think.

The discussion was about the challenges we in the media face. He told me I was lucky that I could sit down and work out a story under no time constraints — that what I did wasn't live and I could make corrections as I typed, etc. I agreed that he had to work on the fly, which puts a special kind of pressure on him that I don't feel or probably couldn't deal with. I don't do "live."

However, I countered that he has the ability to correct himself a split second after a mistake, whereas my faux pas were permanent.

I was reminded of that last week when I made an egregious error on Page 1. I didn't just misspell a word or forget a comma, I spelled two people's names wrong — the cardinal sin of journalism. It wasn't on purpose, of course. I was working on deadline, trying to lay out the page to the best of my ability, and while I knew how to spell these people's names, I screwed them up during the layout process.

And, these mistakes are not going away. I can't correct them and put out a new paper for everyone.

Unlike my radio colleague, I can't fix something just like that. A mistake on the radio can be atoned for, either right away,

or later in a broadcast. A mistake in the paper is as permanent as a birthmark.

My mistakes are in your paper and are there to stay. They're ingrained on newsprint. And you know what? They will be there next year, too. And they will be there in 10 years. And when someone in the year 2050 looks back on this particular edition of the Tracy Area Headlight Herald — you got it, they will still be there.

They're not going anywhere.

Ever.

That's the cross I bear.

One of my first bosses in the newspaper industry once said, "The day I put out a perfect paper, I'll quit." The point being, that's never going to happen. I'd love to put out a perfect paper, drop the mic (or the pen in this case) and walk off into the sunset, keyboard in hand. The reality, however, is this: We will never put out a perfect paper.

Ever.

We work very hard on this paper. Every day. Every week. We have, at a minimum, three sets of eyes scanning each and every page every Tuesday. Yet, we miss things. And, well, it sucks. Three different people missed those misspellings last week. I can't explain it, it just happened.

I had a great morning last Wednesday. I got up early, picked up the papers from Page 1, and started delivery well ahead of normal time. We had all the papers on the newsstands about an hour earlier than we usually do. I was happy when I got back to the office. Heck, I was even proud of



There  
Ya Go

Per Peterson  
Editor

myself.

Then I was told of my mistakes and was reminded how humbling of a career I chose to devote my life to.

Learning of my screwups ruined my day. It sucked the very life out of my Wednesday for myriad reasons. I hate making mistakes, even though — full disclosure — I pretty much do it every week. The problem with my mistakes and those you might make is that thousands of people see them.

I know I'm human. I know I'm fallible. But that doesn't mean my mistakes don't eat me alive — especially the big ones. I sometimes hate this job. I hate how it wakes me up at 3 in the morning, wondering if I did this or fixed that. I hate how it defines me and demands my attention 24/7. I hate how frustrating it can be when people look at me as a nosy reporter.

Mostly, I hate how much I love it and how much I need it.

The one silver lining about making a big mistake or two — yes, I at least try to put a positive spin on everything — is that it wakes me up (literally as well as figuratively) and makes me work harder, makes me focus more. And that will make me a better journalist and make your paper even better.

So the next time you see a mistake in your paper, please don't think it was because I'm lazy. I'm not. None of us here at the Headlight are. We're just human.



## 100 editions ...take that, COVID

When my kids were in kindergarten, they received a certificate when they could stand in front of the teacher and count to 100. It was a big deal to reach that milestone with the pressure of the teacher listening and watching. But it was something every student wanted. They worked hard to achieve their goal of 100.

This week, we reach our own goal of 100. This is the 100th edition of the Tracy Area Headlight Herald that Per and I have published as owners. Last week we celebrated, although without a real celebration, the two-year mark of ownership. I'm so glad we didn't have a crystal ball when we took this leap.

The last two years have been a rollercoaster. As you know, I am a planner. I created our business plan. I calculated and created new ideas that I thought would help the paper. I knew the editorial side was covered. Per loves Tracy and the surrounding area. This is his hometown and I knew he would put everything into it.

On my side, the revenue side, I was making Tracy my town. I had worked with some of the accounts in the past at the Independent, but this was an entirely new challenge. And since we are both single parents, we had a lot riding on this leap of faith.

We entered that first year with our eyes wide open. We knew there would be challenges and thankfully our staff

### Tara's Takes

Tara Brandl  
Publisher



stepped up to help us along the way. While the job of writing and selling may be the same from one paper to another, when it is your paper and your business, it truly is so

much different. We learned so much in that first year. And I entered the end of March 2020 hopeful. We were excited for our one-year anniversary celebration. We were excited to do bigger and better for the next year ahead of us. And then, we all know what happened ... COVID.

There wasn't a business plan written for this situation. Every scenario that I had thought of before buying the business couldn't compare to the world we were living in. But Per and I both knew the most important things going into our second year of business were local news coverage and our staff.

We knew how important it was that we covered local news and everything happening in our area. We knew how important it was to keep our readers informed. We also knew how important it was to bring positive stories to our area. It didn't matter if there was less advertising or fewer events to cover. There was still news happening in our community, and it is always our job to bring it to you.

We also knew that we had an amazing staff and we wanted them to be able to stay at work. Luckily for us, we have a small staff. There is no one here that we don't need every week to make the Tracy

Area Headlight Herald what it is. Yes, we are no longer open on Friday afternoons. This small change allows us to cut down on hours a little but not on quality. Most Friday afternoons, both Per and I are still working. And our staff stays anytime we need them.

But as I look back at the last 100 editions, there were some crazy times, but there are even more reasons to celebrate.

Our staff. We seriously would not be where we are without them. They care about our business just as much as we do. April and Julie keep us going when I want to pull my hair out and Per wishes he had hair to pull out. While I may never call the insertion orders the correct name and Per will never stop saving photos to his desktop, they put up with us any way. Lisa Sell retired at the end of 2020 and left a void we have yet to be able to fill — they are pretty big shoes. She gave 45 years to our industry, and we can't thank her enough. Carol Strand helped me get the bookkeeping under control and set the stage for us to be able to be successful. I still refer to her notes now and then.

We also celebrate our readers. Those who know if we are running late because they are waiting at the newsstand for their paper. Those who tell us what they enjoy and when we make a mistake. Per hates mistakes. I make them every day. And when someone points out those mistakes, I know they are reading our paper, really reading it, and not just skimming over it.

TARA'S TAKES  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

TRACY AREA  
**HEADLIGHTHERALD**  
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# Community Ed. Schedule

**55 ALIVE 4 HOUR COURSE**  
Minnesota Safety Council's Defensive Driving 55+ refresher 4-hour course. If you have taken a state approved, eight-hour defensive driving course in the past, you can renew your 10%, 3-year car insurance discount by taking this state-approved refresher course. There is no driving test and no written test, you will receive a certificate of completion to provide to your insurance company. Contact the Activities Office to register 629-5510  
DATE: May 12 (Wednesday)  
TIME: 5-9 p.m.  
SITE: Tracy Area High School, Room 125  
FEE: \$18  
Register by May 5



## School Activities & Community Education

### UPCOMING CALENDAR

**THURSDAY:**  
Track Varsity Meet at Redwood Falls  
• Girls Meet, 3:30pm  
• Boys Meet, 6:30pm  
Baseball AB vs. Canby; A at Tracy, B at Milroy, 4:30pm  
Baseball JH vs. Windom at Windom Rec Area, 4:30pm  
Softball JH vs. Windom at Tracy Sebastian Park, 4:30pm  
Golf Varsity Meet at Westbrook, 4:30pm  
Golf JH/JV Meet at Canby, 4:30pm  
JO Volleyball 4-5-6 practice at Elem Gym, 3:15pm  
JO Volleyball 14s practice at HS Gym, 7:00pm

**FRIDAY:**  
Softball A (DH) vs. LQPV at Tracy Hwy 14 Fields, 4:30pm  
FFA Region VI Contest, TBD

**SATURDAY:**  
Baseball JH vs. RTR at Ruthton, 11:00am

**SUNDAY:**  
BBB 8<sup>th</sup> Grade AAU practice at HS Gym, 6:00pm

**MONDAY:**  
Baseball AB vs. Pipestone; A at Tracy, B at Milroy, 4:30pm  
Softball JH vs. RRC/WWG at Lamberton, 4:30pm  
Golf JH/JV Meet at Tracy, 4:30pm  
JO Volleyball 6th grade practice at HS Gym, 6:00pm  
JO Volleyball 16/18s practice at HS Gym, 6:30am

**TUESDAY:**  
Track Varsity Meet at Tracy, 4:15pm  
Baseball A vs. MACCRAY at Milroy, 4:30pm  
Softball AB (DH) vs. MACCRAY at Tracy Hwy 14 Fields, 4:30pm  
Baseball JH vs. Minneota at Tracy HS Field, 4:30pm  
JO Volleyball 6th grade practice at HS Gym, 3:30pm  
FFA Region Banquet

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14:**  
Panther Booster Club Meeting at Caboose, 7:00pm  
FFA Chapter Meeting  
JO Volleyball 16/18s practice at HS Gym, 6:30am  
Com Ed – Defensive Driving Refresher Course at HS Room 125, 5:00pm

# Technology overwhelms me

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." ~Arthur C. Clarke



## Uff Da!

Noel Ness  
Columnist

Art you hit the nail on the head. Technology is truly magic to me.

For example, I can talk into my TV remote and marvelous things happen. Like if I say, "Audie Murphy movies," all of Audie's movies will magically pop up on the screen and I can select one to watch. How for the love of Richard Nixon is that even possible? I just don't understand the technology that makes this a reality.

"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important." ~Bill Gates

I had a Doctor's appointment the other day. They call it a Tele help appointment. Because of the virus thing I now see the Doc on the screen of my Wife's phone, and he sees my ruggedly manly handsome face on his computer. I think. Don't really know. The technology saves me a trip to the doctor's office but is just so weird. Less stressful but weird. But I'm starting to get use to Tele help.

This is a good thing because it sure looks like this is the new normal until we get a handle on the virus. "The New Normal," there's a term we're all getting used to.

"Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards." ~Aldous Huxley

The technology that really baffles me is the computer. Are computers the Cat's Meow or what? Synonyms for cat's meow: Bee's knees, corker, crackerjack.

I love the fact that the computer allows me to play chess against folks from all over the world. Plus, about a zillion other things.

"Technology is supposed to make our lives easier, allowing us to do things more quickly and efficiently. But too often it seems to make things harder, leaving us with fifty-button remote controls, digital cameras with hundreds of mysterious features and book-length manuals, and cars with dashboard systems worthy of the space shuttle." ~James Surowiecki

Jim, I loved your comment about book length manuals. I was watching TV today and decided to change channels. The following message appeared on my TV screen "Taking a Break? We got your Back until you get Back." Now what in the name of Sally Field is that all about? Technology can be darn right scary at times.

# PUZZLES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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# SUDOKU

			8				3	
8	6					4		2
	5	9	3					1
2	7	8						
9			2				1	
1			5				4	7
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Level: Advanced

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66								67				68		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- One who manufactures
  - Science degree
  - Database management system
  - Desert
  - Inventor Musk
  - Welsh valley
  - Round Dutch cheese
  - Saying
  - Comedian and TV host
  - Uppermost portions of brain
  - City in Transylvania
  - Where astronauts go
  - Men's hairstyle
  - Indicates position
  - One point east of due south
  - Businessmen may have one
  - Grass part
  - Running back Gurley
  - Unwavering
  - Options
  - Annoy
  - Greek mountain
  - Pastas
  - Fishes
  - Wrap
  - Potentially a criminal (slang)
  - Seize
  - The Constitution State
  - Upset
  - 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
  - Central Chinese province
  - Predisposition
  - A notice of someone's death
  - One-time Kentucky Rep.
  - Swiss river
  - Cool!
  - Dried-up
  - Finger millet
  - \_\_\_ Allan Poe
  - German river
  - Brew
  - Kenyan river

- CLUES DOWN**
- Millisecond
  - Acts as military assistant
  - Knot in a tree
  - Husband-and-wife industrial designers
  - The Ocean State
  - Point the finger at
  - Parts in a machine
  - Midway between northeast and east
  - Portray precisely
  - Blisters
  - Mental illness
  - Nose of an animal
  - What students receive
  - Semitic peoples
  - Beats per minute
  - Family of drugs
  - Atrocious
  - Type of microscope (abbr.)
  - \_\_\_ or bust
  - Icelandic poems
  - A citizen of Pakistan
  - Very pale
  - Metric linear unit
  - Sea eagle
  - Biblical judge of Israel
  - Isaac's mother (Bib.)
  - Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
  - Cool!
  - Large hotel room
  - Type of boat (abbr.)
  - Picked
  - Type of hookah
  - Attack
  - Directs
  - Belgian WWII resistance fighter
  - Finished negotiation
  - Heroic tale
  - Middle Eastern country
  - Protein-rich liquids
  - Malaysian Isthmus
  - Spielberg's alien

# New farm safety video available from UMN Extension, American Family Insurance

In partnership with American Family Insurance, the University of Minnesota Farm Safety & Health Team is launching a new series of farm safety videos. The purpose of this project is to share crucial farm safety messages and reminders with the agricultural community. The videos can be used for many audiences including youth, farmers, agriculturalists, and health professionals. Emily Krekelberg, Extension Educator for Farm Safety & Health, is overseeing this new project. "This is a great opportunity for us to share safety and health messages more widely," she says. "Especially right now, when we are coming up on the busy spring planting season and are unable to do safety training face-to-face."

The videos are all shorter than 5 minutes, making them a great tool for farms. They provide a mix of information, demonstration, and discussion. The first video in the series covers roadway safety and includes information about pre-trip inspections, equipment for roadway safety, and safe driving habits. The video can be found at <https://z.umn.edu/AgRoadwaySafetyVideo>.

For more resources visit [extension.umn.edu/farmsafety](https://extension.umn.edu/farmsafety) and follow the UMN Extension Farm Safety and Health Team on Twitter @UMNFarmSafety.

# USDA encourages completion of Cash Rents & Leases Survey

You may have received a Cash Rents and Leases survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Please complete your Cash Rents and Leases survey by June 21. This survey can be completed and returned by mail, over the phone, or at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov).

tool in negotiating your rental agreements, and financial planning for your agricultural operation.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 27 at [quickstats.nass.usda.gov/](https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/).

If you have any questions about this survey, call 888-424-7828.

Information from this survey is used in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year. Survey responses from as many localities as possible help calculate more accurate rental rates. Completion of the survey ensures cash rental rates accurately represent your locality. Survey results will also give you a useful

# Tara's Takes

Continued from page 4

We love to hear what you like and what you think we need to do better. It means you care, too.

We also celebrate our advertisers. Those businesses that understand it is their neighbors and customers reading the paper. Those businesses that understand the value of the local newspaper and everything we bring to our reader's doorstep. You put your trust in us to help your business grow and we truly appreciate that.

I love getting to know the business owners in town and the area and learning all they do for our communities.

As the 100th edition rolls off the press, we look forward to 200, 300 and beyond. We love being part of the Tracy community. We look forward to covering spring sports this year and the return of Box Car Days. We look forward to media night at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant. We look forward to new businesses opening in Tracy and helping others celebrate milestones. We can't wait to continue to bring you the news of our area, every week.

Thank you for the trust you put in us and helping us reach our 100th edition!

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