

Kittson County Enterprise



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Pictured above, a moose

was seen along Hwy 75 just south of the canola plant early one morning last week. After walking through the canola field, it turned around and seemed to be pondering the Road Closed sign.

(Enterprise photo by Margie Holmgren)

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Council approves payment for playground equipment

By Anna Jauhola

The Lancaster City Council approved payment for new playground equipment at the sports complex during its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 13.

Over the last couple of years, different entities have been working to raise enough money to replace playground equipment. Councilor Luke Nordin said the committee has a couple of quotes for equipment. With volunteers doing the installation, one quote is \$13,000. It's an extra \$10,000 for professional installation, he said.

City Clerk Carol Johnson said the city approved \$2,500 some time ago and received \$3,000 in donations from the American Legion Post. The council approved paying out that \$5,500 to the playground committee to help purchase the equipment.

Johnson noted the Lancaster Lions Club has also dedicated \$3,000 to the project, but the city was not holding that money and the group would have to approach the Lions for those funds.

Nordin said the group would like to get started on the project this fall in time for the football season.

Johnson said Mendy Coffield from Lancaster School also contacted her about agri-lime for the ball field, now that the season is over. The city approved in 2019 to pay for half that cost, which was \$2,600, but should make another motion for the current year.

The council approved paying for half the cost, not to exceed \$1,500 to account for inflation.

Mosquito spraying

The council briefly discussed the city's mosquito spraying so far this summer. In June, the council approved JC Spraying's quote, which was \$998 for each spray of the city and golf course together; \$683 for the city alone; and \$368 for the golf course alone. So far, the city has spent \$5,988 on mosquito spraying, closing in on the budgeted \$7,000.

In June 2021, the council approved adding \$10.50 per quarter to the city's water/sewer bills to generate income to pay for mosquito spraying each year. The city collected those

funds last year up to \$3,319, according to the 2021 actual budget numbers. They only sprayed once last year, said Mayor Mike Olson, which left quite a bit of money in the account to help this year.

The \$10.50 charge on each quarterly water/sewer bill generates just over \$7,000 annually.

The council will evaluate how much more spraying needs to be done this summer and adjust accordingly.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the resignation of Liquor Store Manager Shannon Bowlin, who came on board in January 2021. She will be leaving to take care of family in California.

- Approved advertising for the Liquor Store manager position, which will not exceed 28 hours per week at \$21.85 per hour.

- Approved two event permit applications for closing a section of Central Avenue on July 29 from 4 to 9 p.m. for the Brats and Bags events; and for a wedding reception from 8 a.m. Oct. 1 to 8 a.m. Oct. 2.

- Heard from Johnson that she and George Zondagh purchased a new monitoring system for the fridge and freezer in the community center. The city's had issues with the appliances freezing up, so this allows Zondagh to receive alerts on his smartphone on the temperatures and if there are issues. The monitors each run on the city's wifi connection. Because they have worked so well, Johnson said they ordered two more monitors for the coolers in the Liquor Store as well. The total cost was \$70 for the first unit, which includes the main receiver and two monitors, and then \$20 for each of the other two monitors.

- Decided to hold off on a paving project until they can get a quote on replacing sewer line along the same route. The city received a quote of \$66,000 from Agassiz Asphalt for paving two blocks from Central Avenue and Third Street South to Fifth Street South. However, the location also needs new sewer, so Zondagh will seek quotes for that and the council agreed the sewer replacement will likely take place in 2023 and paving in 2024 instead.

Oh, that is Sew Tori!

Local woman realizes dream of serving community

By Anna Jauhola

Customer service, affordable pricing and the environment with a dash of creative license are the foundations of one of Hallock's newest businesses. During the coronavirus pandemic, Tori Younggren saw her limited window of opportunity and seized it. And Sew Tori was born.

"COVID was bad for a lot of people's businesses," she said. "In a way, it was the reason mine kind of catapulted. I was doing wedding and bridesmaids dresses on my kitchen table. Then I had Dellamae in January 2020 and then we all got locked down."

When 2021 came along and things started to open up again, Younggren realized she didn't want to wrestle two toddlers, housework and animals around her seamstress work. Within two weeks of that realization, she secured her employment identification number, business bank account and rented space for Sew Tori inside Zedge Beauty Lounge in Hallock. She also came up with the business name — using a play on words to base it off her friends' old saying regarding her unique style, "That's so Tori!"

"Coming out of 2020, all these weddings were delayed and they were trying to get their weddings in. Bridal shops were swamped or wouldn't do fittings because of COVID-y stuff," Younggren said. "I just saw this little window of opportunity and I thought, 'This is it!'"

Then the custom orders started rolling in and word started to spread that Hallock recently acquired a seamstress. Younggren said she put an ad in the Enterprise and even tried advertising on the internet through Facebook. All of it paid off.

"People started coming up from Grand Forks, Thief River and Roseau," she said. "So I'm bringing people into our town, too, and that was super cool."

During prom 2022 alone, Younggren altered more than 80 dresses. She loves being a part of these special occasions, from proms to weddings to just everyday clothing. She soon realized she'd made the right move, but she'd need more space.



TORI YOUNGGREN, OF HALLOCK, has been so busy in the last year with her new business, Sew Tori. In April, she relocated to the building shown above, at 101 S. Atlantic Ave. in Hallock. BELOW: Younggren works on altering a bridesmaid dress for a woman from Grand Forks who found Sew Tori online. She added a slit and sewed in modesty cups in about 45 minutes. Show also is Younggren's long list of projects in the works. (Enterprise photos by Anna Jauhola)

"I needed a bigger space for my sewing business, so I asked Rocky (Bakken) one day," Younggren said. "He looked out his window (at Bakken Boots) and said, 'I never see anyone in that building over there. You should call the number on the side of it.'"

The building at 101 S. Atlantic Ave. was available, directly west of the Hallock Cenex station. And it ended up being the perfect fit. After presenting her business proposal to a few people, Younggren applied for a loan through Northwest Community Action and officially became a business property owner. She began sewing at the location on April 1, 2022, and has since painted the building a dark blue and made it her own.

"I don't think I'm going anywhere. I'm pretty booked!" she said.

A History of Togas

Younggren has been fascinated with making clothes and creating beautiful things since she was very young. As a petite girl, she said clothing in her age range never fit her.

"I remember being 9 years old and everything that would fit me was like Minnie Mouse," she said. "It was appropriate for my age. My mom was a seamstress, so we'd go to JoAnn Fabrics



and she'd make me a swimsuit or a figure skating dress or a sundress. It was so fun."

Even at a young age, Younggren sketched her ideas and gave them to her mother to help create. Later, she began making her own doll clothes, but that's where it stopped for a while. She entered college and didn't know what to major in, so she enrolled in education.

"I was in my first semester, and I hated it," she said. "Teaching was not for me."

After visiting with her adviser, she discovered the major of Apparel, Design and Merchandising.

Continued on page 3

Hallock City Office to close for half-day on Thursdays

By Anna Jauhola

Through the end of this year, the Hallock City Office will be closed every Thursday afternoon from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The council approved Clerk/Administrator Aimee Sugden's request for this closure during the regular Monday, July 11 meeting.

"It's kind of a double-edged sword. Our office is very welcoming, so we get a lot of people that come in," Sugden said. "With camping, the phones tend to ring non-stop and it's hard to stay on top of not only day-to-day things, but also just trying to move the city for-

ward with newer projects. So Kendra (Kroening, assistant clerk) and I have been trying to think of something, a way to fix it."

Sugden said she and Kroening recently attended separate training sessions and found cities, such as Bemidji, do the same thing — close for one afternoon a week to catch up on work. She hopes this will allow them to take some uninterrupted time to handle projects and regular work.

"We like the visitors and we like that people feel comfortable coming in, but sometimes we need to get stuff done," Sugden said.

"I'm not the best at telling people I need to get stuff done and they need to leave."

Councilor Mike Totleben asked what they'd do if someone came to the door, found it locked on a Thursday afternoon and knocked to get in. Sugden replied they'd probably answer if someone really needed something or if someone has an appointment. She added Thursday afternoon closures will also allow for uninterrupted meetings.

"It's worth a try," said Councilor Jen Peterson, who made a motion to approve

closing the city office Thursday afternoons through the end of 2022. The council will re-evaluate the situation in January.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a building permit for Guy Gustafson to build a new bedroom and rebuild new sunroom and deck.

- Heard the wifi is operating at Gilbert Olson campgrounds and everyone is very happy with the new amenity.

- Heard the city will be meeting with the Department of Natural Resources regarding the damage at the dam. And

that the city paid its last retainage amount to Spruce Valley Construction in order to submit to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council grant for reimbursement. The city also paid Houston Engineering by Friday, July 15 for its last bill of \$4,000, which is necessary also to be reimbursed from Lessard-Sams. If the city didn't pay that bill, it wouldn't have been reimbursed through the grant and the city would have paid out of pocket. Sugden said Lessard-Sams requires a copy of the physical check before they issue a reimbursement.

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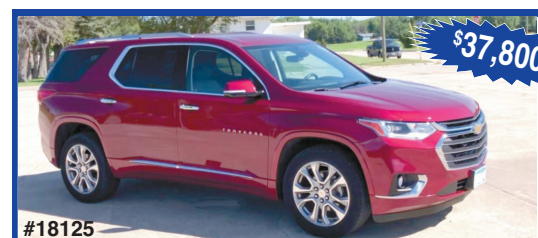
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