

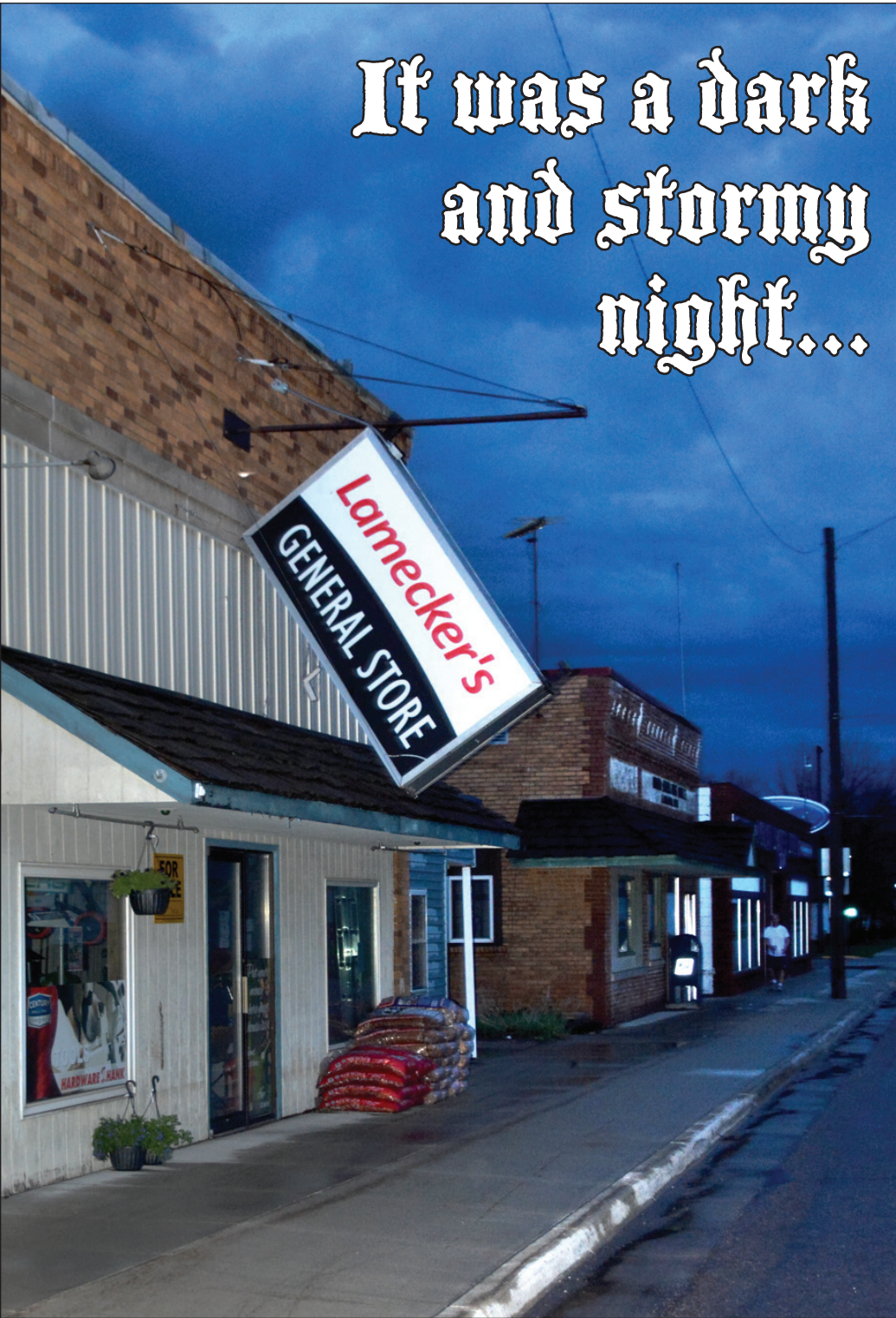
Village Life
 Find out how affordable it is to advertise with us. We offer significant discounts when you combine two or more publications!
THE KERKHOVEN BANNER LAKES AREA REVIEW
 HERALD WESTERN PEACH
 Call 264-3071, 847-3130 or 354-2945 today!

THE KERKHOVEN Banner

A free press is the light that shines on a free People

Proud to serve the communities of Kerkhoven, Murdock, Sunburg and Pennock • Established in 1896

Volume 124, Issue 45



It was a dark and stormy night...

Last Thursday evening's straight-line wind storm didn't last particularly long, but the gusts did their share of damage around the area. Much of that was tree uprooting as sodden ground failed to hold many mature trees, particularly pines.

Structural damage was also widespread. The biggest event in Kerkhoven was the de-roofing of Glacial Plains Cooperative's feed shed, a metal building

along Highway 12. Large chunks of the roof flew like kites across the roadway and up to and in Otter Tail Power lines running down the business alley a block away. Many customers of Otter Tail and other utility companies were without power for various lengths of time.

Above, the sign for Lamecker's General Store in Kerkhoven held on by a thread after the storm had passed. It was re-hung in Friday's aftermath.

High winds leave damage in wake

by Cormac Dodd

After Thursday's derecho, widespread straight-line wind damage is evident across communities in south-central Minnesota.

The violent storm system leaves a pattern of devastation so severe insurance agencies in Iowa claim it represents the worst blow to infrastructure and people's homes since 2020, the last powerful derecho.

The derecho descended on the Midwest in swaths that spanned a corridor running from eastern Nebraska to Southwest Minnesota. And the destruction was more pronounced in the wide-open spaces outside of town, bare for now during spring planting. Meteorologists have given the storm the derecho classification for the magnitude of the gusts moving in a single direction.

"This is more claims I've ever had after one storm," said Kevin Strandburg of Strandburg Insurance, a local insurance agency in Kerkhoven. "We've seen just really widespread damage."

The total losses for those impacted by the storm surge will be made higher by the current high cost of building materials, as homeowners hurry to rectify the state of their properties in light of damages. Contractors in short supply now more than ever, the cost of labor at a surge, which could exacerbate damages.

The storm complex arrived amid what had already been a bad week of weather, following the high winds that raged across the flatlands Sunday night, the hail the size of golfballs that arrived early Monday morning and, according to reports, damaged a significant number of cars in Kerkhoven, Murdock and Benson.

Thousands were without power in the Midwest, and parts of Kerkhoven's main electrical block was deadened through Friday.

In warped metal, garages were skewed off their founda-

tions, as siding caved. Pole barns were pummeled. Basements flooded, owing to sump pumps in paralysis.

Rural Swift County experienced the most damage due to the storm. South of Murdock, at least one individual spoke about not receiving power un-

til Sunday night, claiming 51 hours without power, according to a social media post. In Kerkhoven, city workers labored to prevent back-up at the sewer plant.

Gusts of 71-mph were recorded in Kandiyohi County. (Continued on page 6)



On Friday morning, Otter Tail service representative John Zvorak cut away a large part of metal roofing which had flown over from its previous location on top of the Glacial Plains Cooperative feed storage building in Kerkhoven, nearly a block away. Scott Doring assisted Zvorak as fellow Otter Tail crew members were busy with some 300 broken utility poles.

It's official! Woody calls it quits after 46 years on the job

by Kari Jo Almen

The first order of business on maintenance supervisor Woody Nelson's mind when he began his portion of last week Monday's Kerkhoven City Council meeting was to hand a page from a yellow legal pad to council members: his letter of resignation. After working for the city for 46 years, Nelson has chosen May 31 as his last day on the job. In those 46 years the affable Nelson has kept the city running smoothly, and smoothed the literal and figurative roads, doing everything from planning major street repairs and construction and plowing snow to making sure the city complies with regulations and ordering new playground swings. All members of the city council approved Andy Thorson's motion to accept the resignation with great regret.

With that business behind him, Nelson turned the discussion to street repairs to be completed this year. The Council decided to accept bids on two of four street projects as submitted by Joe Riley Construction of Morris.

Project number one will be to complete seven asphalt patches. Existing material sufficient to pave three inches of asphalt will be removed and the existing gravel base will be shaped and compacted.

The areas to be patched are:
 •A 5'X5' area around a storm drain between 11th St. N. and 12th St. N. on the north side of the alley between Wyoming Ave. and U.S. Hwy 12.
 •A 5'X7' area between 11th St. North and 12th St. North on the south side of Wyoming Avenue.

•A 7'X15' area at the intersection of Wyoming Ave. and 13th St. on the southeast corner.

(Continued on page 3)



Happy 17th of May a couple days early

Sunburg celebrated its Norwegian heritage on Sunday with its annual Syttende Mai (17th of May) celebration. This was the 17th such event held there.

Above, Paige Moe of the Barnehage pre-school in Sunburg waved her Norwegian flag as she rode through the Grand Day parade.



Hit one out of the ballpark with a fresh, hot pizza from Speedway!

