

# OPINION



## Lisa's Lines

by Lisa Ingebrand

### Roadkill

I rarely see a few of my neighbors, but for some reason, when I do encounter those certain few, I look like a crazy woman.

Take last Sunday, for example. One of those rare neighbors walked down his driveway just as I was carrying a big, dead bloody opossum down the road on the top of a board with my children following me, funeral-procession style.

I wanted to hide. I looked ridiculous, but instead, I smiled in my neighbor's direction and informed him that we were going to bury the creature.

Without missing a beat, he chuckled and replied: "Oh, I thought it might be what's for dinner."

I appreciate the humor. Really, I do. Then, from the end of his driveway, he yelled: "You do know the ground is frozen, right?"

Gosh darn it. Logistics of the burial hadn't yet crossed my mind.

My neighbor's chuckles were warranted. I didn't know what I was going to do with the dead animal, but I knew I had to do something. My girls, Anna and Ellen, came across the opossum immediately after it was hit by a car, and my little animal lovers called for me to come and help.

It was too late for the opossum. I informed my girls of this, and 10-year-old Ellen said a prayer for the lethally injured creature as we stood around it, protecting it from any more harm.

After its furry body went limp, my little girl looked at me with tears in her eyes and asked: "Mom, what are we going to do?"

That was a good question. It was evident we had to do something. Just pushing the carcass to the side of the road wasn't an option. My little animal lover, who loves watching all the creatures that visit our yard, needed to show this poor opossum some compassion.

My girls stood vigil while I went and got a shovel.

While I walked, I started thinking about opossums... how they eat ticks... how they get a bad rap for being rabid, even though rabies is extremely rare in opossums... and how they are marsupials and they carry their babies in their pouches... Babies. In. Pouches.

Flashbacks from nature shows came to me. There could be babies in that dead opossum's pouch.

Someone is going to have to look in its pouch, and that someone will probably have to be me. (Dead animal inspector is just another hat that I—as mom—get to wear by default.)

So, along with the shovel, I grabbed a board to use to carry the animal back to my yard where I could better inspect it (out of my neighbors' view).

Anna helped me transfer the opossum from the road to the board and carried the shovel back to our house. I carried the opossum. Ellen remained quiet, a bit traumatized by the amount of blood at the scene.

Once we had the dead opossum in our yard, I talked to the girls about marsupials and how we should probably check the body for babies.

Ellen's eyes grew even bigger, and Anna ran to get latex gloves.

Before inspecting the dead creature, we watched a YouTube video about how to check a dead opossum's pouch for babies. The video made it seem simple enough, but my girls quickly bowed out of the job. Instead, they stood close, hovering over and watching as I put on a set of gloves and found the creature's pouch.

Thankfully, it was empty. (I can't imagine what I would have done had we found babies! I'm sure we would have brought them to a wildlife rehabilitation place or something, but I was ready to be done with the situation.)

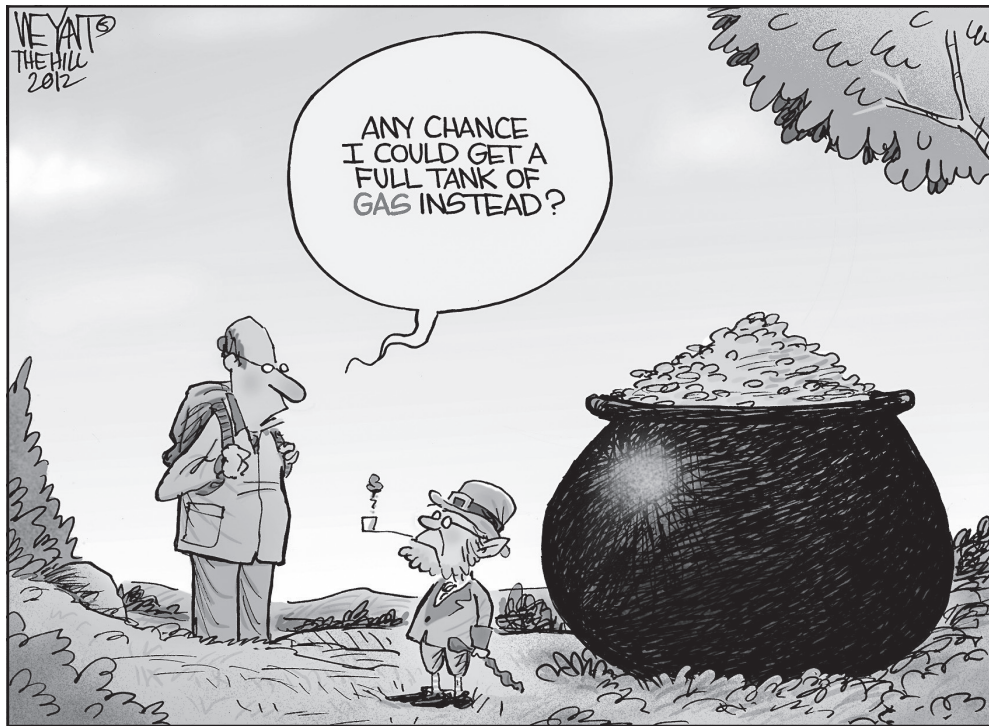
With nothing left to do but bury the body, my girls and I sat back and just admired the oddly beautiful creature for a few moments. Then, we "buried" it under natural debris in a wooded area. It was a lot of rigamarole to go through for roadkill, but all those short-lived crazy moments did give rise to some big lessons about life, death, and compassion.

Ellen asked lots of questions that night at bedtime, but she was at peace. She was proud of how we handled a sad situation and did the best we could.

She also asked: "Mom, do you really think (our neighbor) would have eaten it?"

I told her that I don't know but suggested she be ready for lots of opossum-related jokes in the future.

Opossum stew, anyone?



### Those Were The Days

#### 100 Years Ago March 17, 1922

John Roessler was elected supervisor to succeed Fred Dehn in Elysian Township. H.E. Morsching was re-elected clerk. Hugo Stoering was elected treasurer.

The old Bruce home southwest of Elysian is being moved to the B.F. Zimmerman farm west of Janesville.

Bernhard Arndt moved to the Leonard Geldner farm northwest of Beaver Dam where he has rented 160 acres.

Emil Geyer delivered a large elm log to Leonard Geldner's sawmill near Lake Jefferson. Says it scaled 620 feet and at \$23 per thousand it brought much better returns than a larger load of cord wood would sell for right now.

Winter is on its last legs and they are beginning to wobble.

#### 75 Years Ago March 19, 1947

The spring sale of confiscated furs by the State Game and Fish Division amounted to \$17,892. Included in the sale were 8,500 muskrat, 200 beaver, 200 skunk, 200 mink, 400 raccoon, and small lots of other species.

Seniors named to the Waterville High School Honor Roll were Amy Luker, Janice Miller, Ela Morgenweck, Genevieve Peterson, Marilyn Pope, Gladys Preuss, Betty Seifert, and Dorothy Spitzack.

Gene Severson, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Severson of Waterville, has been initiated into Phi Delta fraternity at Hamline University.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd A Worrell of Elysian.

#### 50 Years Ago March 16, 1972

Waterville-Elysian High School senior Tom Short was among players named to the All-Conference basketball team by Gopher Conference coaches. Charles Grams of Janesville and Mark Siegfried of Morristown were also named to the elite team.

All farmers who had their fences cut by snowmobilers contact Roland Wagner, Jr., Victor Bruns, Gene Stoering, or Bill Nikoley. Others who wish to help fix fences may contact one of the persons listed above.

Doug Dugger, one of the cornerstones of country and western music, will be featured at a service in the Elysian Assembly of God Church.

#### 25 Years Ago March 20, 1996

Three Knights of Columbus members were honored at their annual recognition banquet held at Gilligan's in Waterville. Norris Jobe, Donald Gregor, and Norman Knish are honorary life members.

Paul and Rose Gregor of Kilkenny received the Riv-

er Friendly Farmer Program award.

WEM Junior High Students of the Month were Tanya Strand, Benjamin Fyvie, Stephanie Vollbrecht, and Gabriel Gehrke.

WEM sophomore Shelley Boettcher was named to the All-Gopher Conference Girls Basketball Team.

Marge Boyd had the high game (207) and high series (530) during the Wednesday Night Ladies Bowling League.

#### 10 Years Ago March 22, 2012

A benefit for 2-year-old Briggs Gregor, son of Adam and Patty (Brown) Gregor will be held March 17. Briggs has been diagnosed with a rare condition called hyperoxluria a genetic disorder in which the body is unable to process proteins.

The WEM boys basketball season ended with a 49-48 loss to St. Peter in the North Sub-Section Championship. The Bucs had a record of 26.3.

Kaitlin Rahn donated 10 inches of her hair in honor of her cousin Aaron Mende of Le Sueur.

All-Gopher Conference wrestlers were Dylan Wolff, Brady Ayers, Coiin Ayers, Skyler Petry and honorable mention picks Ben Boran, Taylor Grams, and Tucker Roeker.

### "Ask a Trooper"

**Question:** I am a new parent and I am not sure if I am doing this child car seat thing properly. Is there somewhere I can go to find out if I am doing it right? Thank you.

**Sgt. Troy Christianson**  
Minnesota State Patrol



percent of the victims were known to be properly secured.

•Of the 86 children (ages 0-7) seriously injured in motor vehicles in the past five years, only 50 percent of the victims were known to be properly secured.

•Of the 15,672 children ages 0-7 who were properly restrained in the past five years, 88 percent were not injured, and another 9 percent sustained only minor or possible injuries.

#### For the safety of your children

- Be an attentive driver
- Always buckle up
- Always secure your children in the proper restraint for their age, height and weight.
- Always have your children sit in the back seat.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer.

•Forward-facing seats - Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether. Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer.

•Booster seats - Use after outgrowing a forward-facing harnessed restraint; safest to remain in a booster until 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

•Seat belts - Use when children can sit with their back against the vehicle seat and have their knees bent comfortably over the edge with their feet touching the floor.

#### Keeping Children Safe

•From 2016-2020, 20 children (ages 0-7) were killed in motor vehicles and only 40



### Curiosity cost a buck

Curiosity cost a buck at Ralph's Corner Bar in Elysian all during February, and it was all for a worthy cause... the Heart Fund Drive. Ralph Faltersack (right) is pictured turning over the \$52 he collected to Brad Hooper of Mankato, one of the promoters of the "game" in the interest of the Heart Fund Drive. Faltersack hung a sign that read "Y C J C Y A D F T H F" in his bar last month and it cost \$1 to find out what the combination of letters meant. (The Elysian Enterprise - March 16, 1972)

### THE BOOK CORNER

It's National Craft Month! Did you know that you can use your library card to access CreativeBug.com for free? Still not getting enough crafting in? Here are some suggested reads:

"Bibliocraft: A Modern Crafter's Guide to Using Library Resources to Jumpstart Creative Projects" by Jessica Pigza—Nonfiction

"Japanese Origami for Beginners: 20 Classic Origami Models" by Vanda Battaglia and Francisco Decio—Nonfiction

"Eco-Craft: Recycle-Recraft-Restyle" by Susan Wasinger

"15 Minute Watercolor Basics: Create Frame Worthy Art in Just a Few Simple Steps" by Anna Koliadych—Nonfiction

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 Elysian Area Library.

MN South Lake Region

## LifeEnterprise

- Established in 1883 -  
Published weekly by Suel Printing Co., Inc.  
at 115 S. 3rd Street, Waterville, MN 56096

**SINGLE COPY PRICE: \$1.75**

Official newspaper of the City of Waterville, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School District #2143, Le Sueur County second legal paper, City of Elysian, City of Morristown, and City of Kilkenny

#### CONTACT INFO

Phone: (507) 362-4495 • Fax: (507) 362-4458  
lrlife@frontiernet.net • lrnews@frontiernet.net  
lrlifeoffice@frontiernet.net  
www.lifeenterprisemnnews.com

Managing Editor: **Jay M. Schneider**  
Staff: **Deb Atherton & Lisa Ingebrand**

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**\$48 per year** in Le Sueur, Waseca, Rice and Blue Earth Counties  
**\$55 per year** in Minnesota & Snowbirds  
**\$63 per year** outside Minnesota

Postal regulations require that all subscriptions be paid in advance. Pre-paid subscriptions are transferable, but NOT refundable.

#### AD RATES

Display Advertising.....\$10.50 per column inch  
Classified Display.....\$11.00 per column inch  
Garage Sale / Thanks.....\$11.00 per column inch

#### POSTAL INFORMATION

Periodicals postage paid at Waterville, MN 56096  
USPS 007-200

#### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:  
LifeEnterprise  
115 S. 3rd Street  
Waterville, MN 56096

Member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

Material in the LifeEnterprise is copyrighted under United States copyright laws and can only be reprinted with permission.