

NEW YORK MILLS DISPATCH

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Newtonville residents speak to NYM council

NYM council to seek more information on annexation

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

The potential annexation of a group of properties lo-

cated in "Newtonville" once again made its way to the New York Mills City Council.

During the public forum portion of its meeting on Tuesday night, the NY Mills City Council heard from a

NEWTONVILLE ANNEXATION
continued on 2



Photos by Chad and Dani Koenen

Children from across the region stopped by the New York Mills (above) and Bluffton (below) Easter egg hunts on Saturday morning. The NY Mills egg hunt was moved indoors due to cold temperatures and snow, while the Bluffton egg hunt was held in the community park. For more information about the egg hunts, check out page 12.



Contributed photo
Jessica Lenz, Jane Gudmundson and Te'o Lecoustre all placed at the section speech meet recently.

Gudmundson win section speech meet

Lecoustre to also compete at state meet

By Tucker Henderson
Reporter

Two members of the New York Mills High School speech team have advanced to the State speech meet at Eastview High School in Ap-

ple Valley on Saturday, April 23.

Senior, Jane Gudmundson, placed first in humorous interpretation during the Section 6A speech meet in Perham on Saturday, April 9.

"My main goal was to

OFF TO STATE SPEECH MEET
continued on 2

A DASH FOR COLORFUL PLASTIC EGGS



Delaney gets ready for the next chapter

Delaney to retire after 37 years with City of NY Mills

By Tucker Henderson
Reporter

At the end of the work day on Friday, April 22, Dave Delaney will officially enter into retirement, after 37 years with the City of New

York Mills.

After working in carpentry, Delaney started with the city in June of 1985 as a building maintenance worker at the NY Mills Community Home. Since then,

he has worked on many different projects—everything from cutting steel to clearing snow from our streets—and has enjoyed the variety the job has provided.

"We're not a big enough

DELANEY TO RETIRE FROM NYM
continued on 2

Photo by Tucker Henderson

Dave Delaney works on a housing unit at the pool in New York Mills. He has spent the past 37 years working for the City of New York Mills Public Utilities. His last day is April 22.



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New York Mills
Dispatch

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Audit shows the City of New York Mills' general fund grew in 2021

NYM City Council receives positive news about annual audit report

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

The City of New York Mills has maintained a healthy general fund balance, despite several unexpected projects over the past year.

During its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday night, the

City of NY Mills received its 2021 year end audit from John Hagen of Eide Bailly. Hagen said the city's unrestricted fund balance in the general fund is 90 percent of disbursements for the year, which is about what the city has maintained over the past 10 years.

"The city would be able to oper-

ate without any future receipts for about 10 months," said Hagen.

The unrestricted balance in the city's general fund is up significantly from 2018 when the city had just 58.1 percent of disbursements in the general fund. However, it is down from a 10-year high from 2012 when it maintained a 94.7 percent balance.

Last year the city's general fund grew by \$175,169 after a sale of capital assets resulted in \$347,684 of additional revenue. The city

received 22.2 percent more revenue than anticipated, much of that was due to a large increase in intergovernmental aid due to COVID-19 funding and additional grants, while disbursements were overspent by 38.7 percent. The increase was largely due to unbudgeted expenditures at the new T-19 building in downtown NY Mills.

Hagen credited the city for having such a positive fund balance at the end of the year, which can contribute to a favorable bond rat-

ing, produces investment income and provides a source of working capital to meet cash flow needs, as well as offers a cushion for unexpected expenditures or revenue shortfalls.

The audit also showed the city's water and sewer fund showed a negative cash balance at the end of 2021. However, those negative cash balances were more-than offset by a positive natural gas fund. Sales at the city-owned liquor store also increased last year.

OFF TO STATE SPEECH MEET

continued from 1

make it to state," said Gudmundson. "That was my main mark that I really wanted to hit my senior year, so anything that happens after this is just icing on the cake."

As Gudmundson continues on to Apple Valley, she will be competing in the numerous interpretation category. She has competed in a variety of categories during her years in speech.

"There was a senior (during) my seventh grade year, Leah Roberts, that really pushed me into speech," Gudmundson said. "I always acted, I did community theater in Fergus Falls, I did one-act, I've always been a theater person I guess. Leah Roberts said 'you should join speech,' so I joined speech."

Gudmundson said that telling peoples' stories are a highlight of her speeches.

"In the past I've done actors and actresses and some of the stories that they have, a lot of people don't know about," she said.

Connections are another highlight of her involvement in speech since seventh grade.

"If it weren't for speech, I would not know half of my friends right now," said Gudmundson. "You get to meet a lot of new people."

The team, which includes three members, all share in the accomplishment of potentially com-

peting at state.

Jessica Lenz placed sixth in poetry reading at the Section 6A meet, which qualified her as an alternate at the state meet. Being an alternate means that if a competitor is unable to make it to state due, an alternate member is chosen to compete in their stead.

Though competition is not guaranteed as an alternate, Lenz was an important addition to the team as they completed team building on Friday and as moral support on Saturday.

Te'o Lecoustre also placed in the Section 6A meet. His performance in prose reading placed third and qualified him to compete on Saturday.

Coach Leif Ronning said that he was "more proud than you can imagine" of his speech students. He said that going to state is a great accomplishment and the fact that his whole team qualified is an even greater honor.

"It's a breath of fresh air because they get to go to state," said Ronning. "Last year state was held virtually in the school library."

Ronning mentioned that the team would be taking Friday to do some team building, which will include some fun sight-seeing such as a trip to the Mall of America.

"We're excited," said coach Ronning.



Photo by Tucker Henderson

Annexation of a group of houses in what is commonly referred to as Newtonville, has been the topic of discussion at a number of New York Mills City Council meetings of late.

NEWTONVILLE ANNEXATION

continued from 1

pair of Newton Township residents against potential annexation. Adam and Amy Tervola-Hultberg presented the city council with a document, which was signed by approximately 30 people, against annexation.

Following last month's public hearing about the potential annexation, Adam Tervola-Hultberg said a number of residents of Newtonville were left with additional questions.

"Many of us left that informational meeting with some unanswered questions," said Tervola-Hultberg. "The general impression is, we are still left with a lot of us wondering how does this benefit us?"

He said many of the questions that he received when visiting with residents was why the city was seeking to annex the properties, which sit just outside of the city limits. Tervola-Hult-

berg said some questioned whether the desire to annex had to do with cosmetics, or public safety.

He said another concern was due to the increase in property taxes. Currently, Newtonville residents pay property taxes to Newton Township, but pay a 1 1/2 time price on city utilities. Even with a decrease in city utilities to the regular City of NY Mills rate, should the properties be annexed into the city, about half of the residents will see an increase in the net price paid for utilities and taxes.

"I would say a majority is not in favor of the annexation, but that being said, there were a few people who were indifferent or not even aware of the issue," said Tervola-Hultberg.

Later in the meeting, the city council briefly discussed the issue of annexation.

City councilman Jerry Nesland said the city council wanted to gain feedback from potential property owners when they hosted a public hearing last month. He said there were pros and cons on both sides in regards to potentially annexing Newtonville properties.

For example, a negative

for the city would be assuming the maintenance and future repairs for South Walker Ave., which is in need of quite a bit of work in the future, as well as all of the public utilities in the area. Currently, if there are repairs that are needed to the utilities or road, the township is responsible for the work.

On a positive, the city could receive approximately \$5,000 more in revenue and residents would be able to receive additional assistance from the police department. The services provided to city residents would also be expanded to the area.

NY Mills Mayor Marsha Maki asked for a comparison and breakdown about how different segments of Newtonville would be affected by a potential annexation for an upcoming city council meeting. The city council said it would like to see if there were certain portions of Newtonville that were adversely affected by a potential annexation more than others.

In other news

• Heard the monthly report from the liquor store. The combined gross sales were down 3 percent from

the prior year and the net revenues are down 6 percent as a percentage of sales from the prior year.

• Heard that the NY Mills Fire Department responded to 21 calls for service during the month of March. A majority of the calls were for city or rural medical rescues.

• Heard the NY Mills Police Department responded to 101 calls for service, while issuing 1 citation and making 2 arrests in March. The department has also completed a number of classes for training and updated its mandated and elected policy's.

• Heard that the city hall boiler replacement project could be getting underway in the near future. JPK Engineering staff is finalizing the drawings and specifications and should be advertising for bids in the near future.

• Heard that utility manager Kyle Mattson has been working with Verizon and their consultant KGI regarding a C-Band upgrade on their equipment on the water tower. The city has also hired KLM Engineering to perform a review of the plans and contract amendments on behalf of the city.

Retirement OPEN HOUSE FOR DAVID DELANEY
Thursday, April 21, 2022
1:00-4:00pm | New York Mills Fire Hall

Please join us in wishing David Delaney a happy retirement from the City of New York Mills Public Works Department. Dave served the New York Mills community for 37 years.

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DELANEY TO RETIRE FROM NYM

continued from 1

department to not do (a bit of) everything," said Delaney. "That's why the job has been fun. How many can say after 37 years they still enjoy coming to work?"

A multitude of changes have come to the public works department over the years, but one constant of Delaney's job has been the camaraderie of his fellow employees.

"For 37 years I've enjoyed working with each and every one of them," he said.

The department's newest employee, Jason Hotakainen, will be stepping in to fill Delaney's shoes starting the last week in April. Hotakainen was recently one of three candidates interviewed for

the public works position and started training on Feb. 14. Hotakainen comes from a maintenance background as he worked in that department at Lunds in the past.

Delaney said that there are many fulfilling parts of his job, but working with members of the community has been his favorite part of his career.

"Working for the community," said Delaney. "And the people I get to work with."

Hotakainen agrees with Delaney in this respect. He said that "being in the community" was a highlight so far. He also said that Delaney has taught him some important tips that he's

learned in public works and also how to deal with certain scenarios that he has seen over the years.

"I grew up in New York Mills and have been here all my life," said Hotakainen.

He said he's looking forward to making the community a better place for every resident.

Delaney will be going into retirement with a clear schedule. So far, no large trips or projects are planned for the coming months, just relaxation.

"Take the grandkids fishing," said Delaney of his plans. "No plans on travel at this point. Just enjoy life for a while."

Check out your local news online at... www.nymdispatch.com



Charles Piekarski on his Otter Tail County farm in 1973. He performed field work with use of a cultivator.

Piekarski farm memories

Local family has been farming for 50 years

By Tom Hintgen
Otter Tail County Correspondent

Charles Piekarski, with his wife, Carol, have farmed in Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County, the past 50 years from 1972 through 2022.

In 1973 Charles and his father, Steve, were featured in the local newspaper.

That year, soybean prices were high. That was due, in part, to a lifting of an embargo on soybean exports along with severe flooding

of crops down south in the Mississippi Valley.

In 1973 Charles and Steve Piekarski were about to benefit, as were other area farmers, from an increase of 33 million bushels of soybeans to overseas markets. That year there was not enough soybeans to meet the overseas demand.

Steve Piekarski said that soybeans "aren't any harder to cultivate than corn and some other crops. However, soybeans require quite a bit more moisture for the beans to come around right."

He and Charles added that soybeans were quite susceptible to hail and wind

PIEKARSKI FARM MEMORIES
continued on 4



A new book entitled "Let's Go!" highlights some adventures people can take in West Central Minnesota.

New book highlights adventures in Minnesota

Free copies of WCI's book available for local families

West Central Initiative's Director of Early Childhood, Nancy Jost, was inspired to create Let's Go! after being shown a children's book about Minnesota.

"The book was beautiful," said Jost. "But it didn't represent our region of Minnesota—our beautiful lakes, trees, cultures, and communities. So, I shared the idea of creating a similar children's book, but specific to our region with our

team, including our Early Childhood Initiative Coordinators." Fast forward three years, and 7,000 hard-cover copies of Let's Go! Ten Adventures Through West Central Minnesota are ready for distribution.

team, including our Early Childhood Initiative Coordinators."

Fast forward three years, and 7,000 hard-cover copies of Let's Go! Ten Adventures Through West Central Minnesota are ready for distribution.

ADVENTURES IN MINNESOTA
continued on 4

EOT Darkhouse makes donation to NYM fishing team



The East Otter Tail Darkhouse and Angling Association gave a sizable donation to the Eagles fishing team to help the growing team whose numbers have tripled since last year. Accepting the donation are three of the now 30 team members of the NY Mills fishing team.

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SALE ON .25CENT TOMATO PLANTS STARTS ON MAY 12TH



Contributed photo

More than 100 partners attended the housing summit at Thumper Pond in Ottertail on April 7. The event allowed community partners to discuss the county's Big Build and housing projects throughout the county.

Otter Tail County housing summit activates partners

Over 100 people attend housing event in Ottertail

Otter Tail County hosted a countywide housing summit on Thursday, April 7. The summit brought more than 100 housing partners together at Thumper Pond Resort to learn about housing

successes, engage with each other, and activate continued housing growth for Otter Tail County.

The housing summit included presentations from employers, builders, city

representatives, the Otter Tail County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), and the Community Development Agency (CDA). Guest speakers from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the Center for Rural Policy and Development, and Ehlers joined presentations about a variety of financial resources and partnership opportunities.

Otter Tail County's new Big Build housing finance programs were also introduced. These programs

align with the county's Big Build Initiative to build, rehabilitate, or preserve 5,000 housing units by 2025. The Big Build programs will make \$2.5 million available to housing partners to create new homes and keep people in affordable, stable homes.

The funding for these programs is made available by Otter Tail County's allocation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the Local Housing Trust Fund that was established in 2021.

"The Big Build housing finance programs will provide funding for public infrastructure needs and other financial gaps for new construction of owner-occupied and rental housing units," said Otter Tail County Community Development Director Amy Baldwin.

The programs were developed in response to many conversations with cities, builders, and developers about where they needed further support to make

housing projects move forward.

"The programs offer great opportunities for our housing partners to have the financial tools to build and rehabilitate homes," said County Commissioner and HRA Board Chair, Wayne Johnson. "The county board and staff have been very intentional about creating the programs to be investments into our communities that will meet the housing needs of our workforce."



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PIEKARSKI FARM MEMORIES

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damage but they could withstand drought almost as well as corn.

Steve served as an Army Air Force flight engineer and gunner for four years during World War II. He married Rachel Sanco at Our Lady of Victory Church, Fergus Falls, in 1946. They had three sons, Charles, John and James.

Steve and Rachel lived and farmed in Carlisle Township until 1978 when they moved to Long Lake. Rachel died in January 1996 and Steve died in August 2005.

Charles Piekarski, with his wife, Carol, have enjoyed farming from 1972 through this year.

Brother John and his wife, Sandy, farm at an adjoining farm in Carlisle Township. Brother James and his wife, Sharon, who live in Detroit Lakes, own a portion of the Piekarski farmsteads.

James helps Charles with farm work as does

Steve Roehl, a classmate of Charles. Both graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1966.

Crops in previous years have been wheat and barley. In recent years the main crops on the Piekarski farms have been corn and soybeans. John provides seeds for various companies.

The late Steve Piekarski's brother, Leonard Piekarski, and his wife, Darlene, also farmed in Carlisle Township. They had three sons, Pete, Tom and Jonathan and a daughter, Cleo.

Steve and Leonard had six siblings.

This story is included in a new book "Farmsteads and Old Neighborhoods," on sale at the county museum in person or online (Otter Tail County Historical Society) or in person or online at Lundeens in Fergus Falls. All book proceeds go to the county museum.

ADVENTURES IN MINNESOTA

continued from 3

bution.

"Our Early Childhood Initiative Coordinators partnered with their communities to develop themes that represent our region," said Jost. "We took special care to ensure the book was true to the people and places of west central Minnesota."

Visit www.wcif.org to view opportunities throughout west central Minnesota where families can receive copies of the book. The organization's goal is to distribute one book per family with young children.

"Some children were lucky enough to get a sneak peek of the book," said West Central Initiative Early Childhood Specialist Marsha Erickson. "They were inspired to play outside, explore their surroundings, and wanted to

learn more about other cultures. That was our hope. Mission accomplished."

About West Central Initiative

West Central Initiative (WCI) is a regional community foundation and an economic development organization serving the nine west central Minnesota counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin and a portion of White Earth Nation. Through philanthropy and planning, WCI fuels insight and action for the benefit of our region and our world. Since 1996, WCI has provided more than \$55 million in loans and \$65 million in grants to businesses and organizations.

For more information about the organization, visit WCI online at www.wcif.org.

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Otter Tail County Commissioners are currently discussing four potential redistricting plans to reshape the county as a whole. The plans will be discussed at a public hearing on April 26.

OTC seeks input on county redistricting

Four proposals being discussed by commissioners

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

Do you want to have a voice in how the Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts are shaped for the next 10 years? Well, if that's the case, you are in a bit of luck.

During its regularly scheduled meeting last week, the New York Mills City Council heard from Otter Tail County District 1 Commissioner Dan Bucholz about four different plans being discussed by

the county commissioners. The plans would essentially reshape the county's five districts to stay in line with state guidelines.

It is also likely all five commissioners will need to run for reelection this November under the new district's, because more than 5 percent of the voters will have changed districts during the reorganization. Otter Tail County did not change its district lines 10 years ago when the last census was taken, because the current map at the time was

within the 10 percent margin of residents per district. However, that isn't the case this time around.

With a county population of just over 60,000 today, the goal was to have the districts be as close to the average size of 12,000 as possible.

Much of that growth has taken place in District 1, currently served by Bucholz. The first-term county commissioner said District 1 has grown by about 11.2 percent over the past 10 years. The district currently includes the cities of Perham and New York Mills, as well as much of the central and north east portion of Otter Tail County.

District 3, which is represented by Commissioner Kurt Mortenson in the southwest part of the county, now has too few of residents according to state statutes.

Otter Tail County Commissioners are currently discussing four different plans for redistricting each of the five districts. There are four plans being discussed and a plan could be approved during a public hearing on Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. in Fergus Falls.

Shooting suspect arrested

By Tom Hintgen
Otter Tail County Correspondent

Sheriff deputies, on April 12, arrested a man in connection with an April 10 shooting in Pelican Rapids.

Arrested after a short pursuit in Redwood County

in southwestern Minnesota was Phouththasa Prathane, 36. The shooting victim survived and was treated at an area hospital.

Deputies said the shooting incident in Pelican Rapids took place at 2:13 p.m. on April 10.

Monson announces bid for new House District 5B seat

Sheldon Monson has announced his campaign for the 2022 primary election in House District 5B. This newly formed House District includes Todd County and portions of Wadena, Morrison and Cass counties.



Sheldon Monson

"Through this election process, I have been contacted by countless supporters from around the district that have encouraged me to run in the primary election," said Monson. "People from around the district want a representative that will defend their values and be their voice in Saint Paul. I look forward to running in the primary election and to seek support from around the district on August 9."

The Minnesota primary election is Aug. 9, followed by the general election on Nov. 8.

Monson is a resident in

Wadena County where he has served two terms as county commissioner. He has lived a life of service being a volunteer EMT, youth pastor, foster parent, 4-H leader and county commissioner. He has also been a small business owner, farmer, and electrician.



The agricultural design for license plates whose proceeds will benefit 4-H and FFA members in Minnesota.

Consider the new 4-H and FFA license plates

A new Minnesota license plate celebrating agriculture was unveiled in February. In 2021, the Minnesota legislation passed the approval for the creation of the new plate to support young people.

The new plate will benefit Minnesota 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members. The plate is available starting and will cost \$15.50. A minimum \$20 contribution is also due with plate purchase and each year afterward at vehicle registration renewal.

According to the University of Minnesota Extension the plate design was "inspired by nearly 100

sketches from 4-H'ers and FFA members, the plate draws upon imagery of both organizations. The hands holding seedlings symbolize the 4-H pledge of "my hands to larger service," while the rising sun is a "token of a new era in agriculture" honored in FFA ceremonies."

The license plate is an opportunity for people in Otter Tail County to show their commitment to agriculture while supporting the young leaders in local FFA and 4-H groups. Beginning April 11, 2022, the Motor Vehicle/Driver's License center moved temporarily and is providing

services at 914 E Channing. For more information visit: ottertailcountymn.us/license-center/



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4/12/2022	44	30		4/12/2021	51	33	
4/13/2022	41	34	0.18 Rain	4/13/2021	41	23	Trace-Snow
4/14/2022	41	24	0.2" Snow	4/14/2021	30	23	0.3" Snow
4/15/2022	30	11	3.5" Snow	4/15/2021	38	29	Trace-Snow
4/16/2022	19	12		4/16/2021	45	30	
4/17/2022	32	15		4/17/2021	55	35	
4/18/2022	35	20	1.0" Snow	4/18/2021	53	30	

A reminder that gas furnaces, water heaters, and other gas appliances should be serviced by your local plumbing and heating specialist, it is good practice to install Carbon Monoxide Detectors on each level of a house, follow safety guidelines provided by the unit manufacture. Notice for this winter season: Please keep your gas meters and regulators free of snow and ice, exercise caution when removing ice and snow from or around gas meter sets.

Snow removed from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots should not be placed near a meter set, service regulator or other pipeline facility, thank you for your cooperation

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Obituaries

6 • Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Geraldine Jezewski, 97

Geraldine "Gerry" LaVerne Jezewski, age 97 of Perham, passed away on Friday, January 7, 2022, at Elk Ridge Assisted Living.

Gerry was born January 1, 1925, to Paul and Augusta (Girdwood) Preuss in Perham. She was born in the family home on the corner of Main and 3rd Ave SE, where Service Foods now stands. Growing up, Gerry helped her father at his store, which stood near the Perham Post Office and was later Paul's Tavern.

After graduating from Perham High School, Gerry moved to Seattle, Wash. and worked as a "Rosie the Riveter" along with many other women during World War II. Once the war was over, Gerry returned to Perham, and married her war hero, Eugene Jezewski, on February 19, 1946.

Gerry was member of the United Church of Christ until its closing as well as the VFW Auxiliary. She enjoyed taking trips to Seattle, Wash. to visit her sisters, visits from her kids and grandkids as well as playing bingo and going to the casino.

Surviving Gerry are her children, Sherryl (Joseph) Holzer and Gary (Deb) Jezewski; grandchildren, Steve (Michelle) Holzer, Val Holzer, Brian Logan, Kristi (Aaron) Becker, Matthew (Tori) Jezewski; great-grandchildren, Jere-



my (Jessica) Holzer, Taylor Ann (Kirk) Spilde, Dartien Holzer, Eliana Logan, and Max and Sam Jezewski; and great-great-grandchildren, Knox and Dakota Holzer.

Gerry was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene; her parents; grandson, David Holzer; granddaughter, Diana Jezewski; sisters, Evelyn Weickert, Lauretta Atkinson, Ethel Morris, Florence Howell, Dorthea MacMillan, and Gertrude Harvey; and brother, Paul Preuss Jr.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at Schoeneberger Funeral and Cremation Service. Burial will be in the Perham City Cemetery.

Schoeneberger Funeral and Cremation Service, Perham, MN (218) 346-5175 www.schoenebergerfh.com

Elaine Paavola, 86

Elaine Paavola, age 86 of Perham, (formerly of New York Mills) passed away on April 12, 2022 at Perham Living in Perham. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills. Visitation was held

at 9:30 a.m. before the service at church.

Please visit www.karvonfuneralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Elaine's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral and Cremation Service of New York Mills.

Pamela Isaacson, 65

Pamela Isaacson, age 65 of Wadena, passed away on April 11, 2022 at her home in Wadena. Services will be held at a later date.

Please visit www.karvonfuneralhome.com

to leave memorials and condolences on Pamela's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral and Cremation Service of Wadena.

Lenzie Hennagir, 86

Lenzie Lee Hennagir was born on April 17, 1935, in Deer Creek, to parents Leon and Tamson (Chase) Hennagir. He passed away on April 6, 2022.

He married Marlys Jane Bellmore of Henning, on Nov. 7, 1959. They moved to Richfield, Minn., where they raised their three children, Terri, Tim, and Jeni. Lenzie and Marlys realized their lifetime goal and dream of building a lake home in 1992 and they retired there in 1997. Lenzie was a man of deep faith, but few words so you knew when he spoke up you should listen. He was always one to compliment the help he received from others.

He is survived by his three children and their families: Daughter, Therese J. Leckas, grandson Vasilios (wife Jackie, great granddaughters Evangelina and Naomi, grandson Fotios (Jillian), grandson Gianni (great grandsons Gianni, Vas, and Nicolas, granddaughter-in-law Alicia Leckas; Son Timothy (Michele Violet) Hennagir, grandson Seth (fiance Naomi), granddaughter Hollie; Daughter Jenifer Thornton, grandson Cameron (wife Kaitlynn, great grandsons Carson and Odin), and granddaughter, Jordyn.

Arrangements by Schoeneberger Funeral and Cremation Service in Perham.

NYM trap team gets ready for conference opener

Several team members crack 25 straight targets

The New York Mills trap season continues to be challenged by the weather. Several members of the team haven't been able to shoot at all until this week because of spring snow storms.

During NY Mills' second "practice" week, Preston Gordhammer was the first one on the team for this season to get 25 straight targets, followed by Jack Peeters. Only about half the team got to shoot during their second practice week due to weather.

Nathan Fischer didn't get a chance to shoot either of his practice weeks, and when he came out to shoot the third reserve week his gun wasn't available. As a result, he shot the team's trap gun, which he had never shot before. Fischer ended up shooting a 25 straight.

Head coach Tom Kotarski said that was some impressive shooting. The trap gun was donated to the team last fall by Rosie Lindberg, who is the aunt of NY Mills team member, Henry Irons.

During the week of March 11, known as NY Mills' "reserve" week, the trap team was finally able



Dashaun Robinson, Nathan Fischer and Henry Oakeshit 25 straight targets on April 11.

to get all their team member's scores in—despite the weather.

The Eagles had eight 25 straights shot. Those team members who shot 25 straights are Cody Barthel, Nathan Fischer, Henry Oakes, Jack Peeters, Braeden Peterson, Dashaun Robinson and Sawyer Wedde.

Wedde cracked 'em all with a "50" straight (two rounds of 25 straight).

NY Mills' top 5 scores for the reserve week go to:
50 - Sawyer Wedde - High Gun

49 - Jack Peeters and Dashaun Robinson

48 - Nathan Fischer and Braeden Peterson

47 - Cody Barthel, Maison Perry and Izak Schermerhorn

46 - Wyatt Engebretson

The week of April 18 kicks off NY Mills' five weeks of competition. This year the Eagles are in class 5A, Conference #2.

For the next five weeks they will be competing against all the other high schools in their conference, which includes:

New York Mills High

School

Northern Freeze High School

Parkers Prairie High School

Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School

Rockford High School

Spring Lake Park High School

St. James High School

Triton High School

This season there are 337 Minnesota high school teams in the Minnesota

NYM TRAP OPENER

continued on 10

NYM fishing league to host meeting April 27

An informational meeting for the New York Mills adult fishing league will be held on Wednesday, April 27. The organizational meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the NY Mills VFW.

For more information, or for any questions, contact Will Grieger at (218) 371-7092 or send the league a message on Facebook at NYM Fishing League.

Kawlewski, Meech honored by HOL fishing league



Contributed photo

Isaac Kawlewski and Aiden Meech were awarded their overall champion plaques for the 6-8th grade division of the Heart Of the Lakes High School Fishing League on April 13. The event was held at the Fergus Falls High School Auditorium. The pair couldn't have done it without the help of their volunteer boat captain Terry Weller. Tom Huvnh was the featured speaker at the annual spring event. He has been placing very high at several of the pro walleye tournament series events by placing among the top fishermen over the past two years. He shared insight on presentation, boat control, electronics, and bait selection to put more walleyes in our student anglers boats. This year's NY Mills High School fishing team has 30 registered team members and over 15 boat captains to make sure the student anglers can get out on the water.

There's nothing accidental about an accident

Question: I've noticed you use the word "crash" and not the word "accident" when talking about incidents while on the radio, T.V. and the newspaper. Why is that?

Answer: I'd be glad to talk about this as I am passionate about this topic and it is certainly intentional. The spark for this issue stems from a court trial from almost two decades ago involving the intentional ramming of a police vehicle, which resulted in the death of a police officer. During the trial, an attorney brought up the point that the incident was referred to by police in all of the reports as an "accident." It also was reported by police on an "accident" report form, thus it was argued that the incident was not intentional and charges should be dismissed. I won't get into the results of that trial, but ever since that time, traffic safety officials in the state have made a huge effort to influence everyone to use the word

"crash" and not the word "accident."

The definition of "accident" is "an unfortunate incident that happens and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury." The definition of "crash" is "collide violently with an obstacle or another vehicle." Accidents happen. That is what we tell children who are upset about spilling their milk at the supper table. We often think "accident" is a neutral word to describe bad luck but I think there is more to it than that. "Accident" tends to imply that no one is at fault and when used for a traffic crash, it could give the impression that what occurred was not important.

I understand that anyone involved in a crash did not want it to happen and that it was most likely unintentional. But there is a reason why it happened; and most of the time it is from a person in control of a vehicle that has a momentary lapse in judgement or made an

Ask a Trooper
Sgt. Jesse Grabow
OTC Sheriff



all-out destructive decision (impaired driving, reckless or aggressive driving, etc.) Even equipment issues (unsafe tires, obstructed vision, etc.) contribute to crashes and can be prevented. Yes, most crashes can be prevented.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 38,824 lives were lost in traffic crashes in 2020 - the largest number of fatalities since 2007. Preliminary reports for Minnesota in 2021 were 501 traffic deaths, the highest since 2007. Why the recent severe increase in fatal crashes? This is what the traffic safety commu-

nity is trying to understand and find a solution. Speeding has been a primary contributor since the start of the pandemic.

Weather and slippery roads can be a factor but each and every driver is responsible for keeping control of their vehicle at all times. This is accountability and it starts with every person, every time they get behind the wheel. The choices we make and the choices we fail to make have consequences. You might be a very good driver, but we do share the road with other people making some poor decisions (impairment, distractions, aggressive driving, etc.)



We dig up the facts so you don't have to

We cover all local meetings and school events to keep you updated with what's happening in your community.

www.nymdispatch.com



St. John's Lutheran Missouri Synod, Otter Tail

Church Directory

Apostolic Lutheran Church
315 Main Ave. S, New York Mills
Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
(218) 385-2166
(360) 241-8450 (Kandoll's)
www.nymalc.org
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible study
8:05 a.m. Echoes of Mercy on
KWAD
Sunday: 9:15 a.m. Sunday school
10:30 a.m. Worship
Church directory photographs
March 18, 19, and April 15

Assembly of God
103 N Hayes Ave., New York Mills
Pastor Larry Bessler
(218) 385-2033
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible Study
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible
study 10:30 a.m. Worship

Bethany Free Lutheran Church
21987 Co. Rd. 23, Blue Grass
Rev. Curtis Emerson
(218) 495-3771, (218) 639-4320
www.zionandbethany-flc.org
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship 10:15
Sunday school

Basswood Baptist Church
38188 340th St., Richville
Pastor Bert Holmquist
(218) 495-3771
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer, Bible
study, Kids club, Youth group
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school,
10:45 a.m. Worship

Blowers Chapel
42772 Co. Hwy. 19, Sebeka
(218) 837-5923
Pastor Jay Tolleson
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer meet-
ing
Sunday: 9 a.m. Bible study and
Sunday school 10 a.m. Worship

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark St., Verndale
(218) 445-5568
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship and
Sunday school 6-8 p.m. Celebrate
Recovery- Christ Centered Recov-
ery Program, Childcare provided

Firestarters Worship Center
107 W Main, Ottertail
Rev. Pete Thiel
(218) 367-3455
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship, 6 p.m.
Worship

**First Congregational United
Church of Christ**
11 E Gilman St., New York Mills
(218) 385-2587
Pastor Kathy Hodges
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship, fel-
lowship following service

Grace Connection
56303 US Hwy. 10, New York Mills
Pastor Jeff Heisler
(218) 640-0107
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship

Holy Cross Church
54216 Co. Hwy. 148, Butler
Father George Michael
Father Tom Skaja
(218) 385-2201
Wednesday: 5:15 p.m. Mass
Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass

**Joyful Spirit United
Methodist Church**
61847 State Hwy. 29, Wadena
Ricardo Alcoaster, Pastor
(218) 367-2270;
joyfulspiritnumc@gmail.com,
Sunday: 11 a.m. worship

Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
35706 State Hwy. 106,
New York Mills
www.oldapostoliclutheranchurch.org
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday school
excluding first of the month, 11
a.m. Worship

Ottertail United Methodist
104 Shores Road, Ottertail
Rev. Ricardo Alcoaster
(218) 367-2270
Wednesday: 3 p.m. Bible study, 5
p.m. Bible study
Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Worship, Fel-
lowship follows Worship
Tuesday: 9 a.m. Sewing, 9:30-
11:30 Devotionals
All services and Bible Studies are
on Facebook Live and on YouTube

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
401 2nd St. SE, Sebeka
Pastor Eric Clapp
(218) 837-5831
2nd Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Con-
firmation
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday school
10 a.m. In-person Worship, Online
Worship

**St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church**
310 Main St., Bluffton
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
(218) 385-2608
Wednesday: 8 a.m. Mass
Saturday: 3:30 Adoration and
Confession, 4:30 p.m. Mass

Southbrook Baptist Church
1842 2nd Street SW, Wadena
Pastor Jake Heppner
(218) 631-2002
Wednesday: 5:30 Youth group
and Kids club
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school,
10:30 a.m. Worship

**St. John's Lutheran
Missouri Synod**
31963 Co. Hwy. 61, Ottertail
Rev. Karl Weber
(218) 367-2470
Thursday: 7 p.m. Bible study
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11
a.m. Christian Education Hour

St. John's Lutheran Church
49658 Co. Hwy. 53, Perham
Vacancy Pastor Del Stohs
(218) 346-4302
www.stjohnsperham.org

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Sunday school,
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship, Fel-
lowship will follow

**St. Lawrence Catholic Church of
Rush Lake**
46404 Co. Hwy. 14, Perham
Fr. George Michael
(218) 346-7729, (218) 758-2888
www.stlawrencecatholicparishesonline.com
stlawrence@arvig.net
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Mass
Friday: 8:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass, 4 p.m.
Mass

**St. Paul's Lutheran
Missouri Synod**
750 1st St. W., Richville
Rev. Karl Weber
(218) 367-2470
Sunday: 8 a.m. Worship

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran
Church**
101 Gilman St. W, New York Mills
Rev. Ryan D.G. Stout
(218) 385-2011
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Vespers, i.e.
Evening Prayer
Sunday: 9:10 a.m. Worship, Sun-
day school follows worship, 11 a.m.
Confirmation

Trinity Lutheran Church
424 E Gilman St., New York Mills
Rev. Kirk Douglas
(218) 385-2450
www.nymtrinity.org
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. Preschool,
12 p.m. Preschool, 5:30 p.m. Trinity
Bells, 5:45 p.m. Worship Choir, 7:30
p.m. Praise Band
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. LWML Zone
Rally, 12:30 p.m. Speaker Caleb
Monson
Sunday: 8 a.m. Worship and You-
Tube service, 9:15 Education Hour
and Worship Wigglers, 10:30 a.m.
Worship, 1-3 p.m. Puzzle Competi-
tion
Monday: 8:30 a.m. Preschool, 12
p.m. Preschool, 4 p.m. Exercise
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. PS 3's Make
Up Session, 6 p.m. New Beginnings
AA Meeting

**Trinity Lutheran
Missouri Synod**
208 N Clark St., Deer Creek
Pastor Donald Wagner
(218) 462-2464
www.trinitydeer creek.org
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30
a.m. Bible study and Sunday school

Zion Free Lutheran Church
Assn. of Free Lutheran
Congregation
602 S Jefferson St., Wadena
Rev. Curtis Emerson
(218) 631-2741, (218) 639-4320
www.zionandbethany-flc.org
Handicap accessible
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible study
Sunday: 9:45 Sunday school, 11
a.m. Worship
Third Saturday of Month 10 a.m.
WMF meeting

Monson to speak about human trafficking

Human trafficking is something most of people in the greater New York Mills area has heard about, but what is it exactly and how can we help those affected by it? Caleb Monson, from New York Mills, is a missionary to victims of human traf-
ficking and will be speaking about his work with victims on Saturday, April 23 at 12:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend to event.

Trinity Lutheran Church to host movie night

The movie "War Room" is a movie about the powerful weapon of prayer. Everyone is invited to enjoy this movie on Sunday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills. Popcorn and snacks will be available. This is a free event for everyone to attend and is open to the public.

NYM SCHOOL MENU

Wednesday, April 20- Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Cottage Cheese, Fruit or Juice; Lunch: Assorted Waffles, Ham Patty and Yogurt, Fruit and Vegetable
Thursday, April 21- Breakfast: Benefit Bar, Cheese Stick, Fruit or Juice; Lunch: Beef Hotdog, Baked Beans and French Fries, Fruit and Vegetable
Friday, April 22- Break-
fast: Cereal, Yogurt, Fruit or Juice; Lunch: Assorted
Pizza, Cookie, Fruit and Vegetable
Monday, April 25- Breakfast: Assorted Muffins, Golden Graham Bar, Fruit or Juice; Lunch: Beef Nachos, Fiesta Beans, Fruit and Vegetable
Tuesday, April 26- Breakfast: Biscuits and Gravy, Hard Boiled Egg, Fruit or Juice; Lunch: Spaghetti and Sauce, Garlic Toast, Fruit and Vegetable

SENIOR MENU

Wednesday, April 20- Pork Loin, Pesto Bake, California Blend, Fruit Salad, Bread/Butter/Milk
Thursday, April 21- Baked Chicken, Baby Bakers, Peas 'n Carrot, Tapioca Pudding/Topping, Bread/Butter/Milk
Friday, April 22- Sliced Ham, Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Bean Casserole, Pecan Pie, Bread/Butter/Milk
Monday, April 25- Tater Tot Hotdish, Coleslaw, Toasted Buns (2 halves), Angel Food Cake, Milk
Tuesday, April 26- Polish Sausage/Bun, Fried Potatoes, Baked Beans, Mini Crème Puffs (3), Milk

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Jill Brenna, am bringing forth my Land Patent Benefit. If interested see <https://minnesotaassembly.net/jill-brenna>

Published March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, April 20, April 27, May 4, 2022

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL
Notice of Public Hearing and Intent to Consider Plans for Redistricting of County Commissioner Districts in Accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 375.01 to 375.025 Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375.025, Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 26th day of April, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing in the Commissioners' Otter Tail Lake Rooms of the Otter Tail County Government Services Center, 500 Fir Ave W, in the City of Fergus Falls, for the purpose of considering preliminary plans for the redistricting of Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts and for the purpose of redistricting Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts. A copy of the preliminary plans under consideration with all attachments and supporting documentation shall be available for public inspection in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the Otter Tail County website at <https://ottertailcountymn.us/redistricting>. Any citizen intending to submit a plan for consideration in the redistricting of Otter Tail County Commissioner Districts must do so no later than Friday, April 15th, 2022.
Wayne Stein, County Auditor
March 30, 2022

Published April 6, April 13, April 20, 2022

CITY OF NEW YORK MILLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INTENTION TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BONDS AND THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN THEREFOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of New York Mills, Minnesota, will meet on May 10, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall, in New York Mills, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on (a) the proposal to adopt a capital improvement plan and (b) the intention to issue general obligation capital improvement plan bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 therefor. The proceeds of the bonds will be issued, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.521, for the purpose of financing the construction of a new public works facility within the City. All persons interested may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above. If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the bonds is signed by voters equal to five percent of the votes cast in the City in the last general election and is filed with the City within thirty days after the public hearing, the bonds may only be issued upon obtaining the approval of the majority of the voters voting on the question of issuing the bonds. Individuals unable to attend the public hearing can make written comment by writing to the Clerk, New York Mills City Hall, 28 Centennial 84 Drive West, New York Mills, Minnesota 56567. Written comments must be received prior to the date and time of the public hearing.
BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Julie A. Roberts, City Clerk

Published April 20, 2022

BUCKET LIST

- Light saber fight in a swimming pool
- Boulder jump in Kathmandu
- Feed the sharks
- Survive feeding the sharks
- Catch catfish with my bare hands
- Run with the bulls
- Learn how to say "where's the bathroom" in another language
- Car surfing or cowboy riding in a blizzard
- Find the fountain of FORTNITE
- Make a bucket list



The Prairie Spy
Alan "Lindy" Linda
Freelance Writer

Time to check off another item on the bucket list

A recent trip to my snowy mailbox down at the end of the driveway produced a letter from the Jury Summons Processing Center for this county. Oh for joy: A summons for jury duty. I've never served on a jury.

I know without being told that jury duty is nothing like you see on tv; it's maybe weeks of first being herded in and out with a couple of hundred other people, all of'em sneezing and coughing and walking around with asymptomatic Covid or who-knows-what contagious flu or cold. And for sure, bad attitudes.

And then, being on call for the actual membership in a jury.

The thing is: I've managed to reach this advanced age, you know. It brings with it a nasty amount of physical decrepitude which takes a lot of attention to hold at bay. Common sense seems then to avoid contagious germs every chance I get. Meaning: crowds.

Luckily, advanced age is reason enough to be excused. I don't have to bring up stuff like common sense and large crowds in the midst of an epidemic.

But should I not be this old, here are some reasons other people have used to try to get out of jury duty. (Yes, there are valid reasons. What I've shown here are reasons other people have tried.)

One juror with a geography issue said simply, "My planet does not believe in the jury system."

FYI: to get away with this takes some documentation. You should say you're booked on a flight to Mars. Bring some tickets. Print up a brochure, too, show them all the sights to see on the planet. Tell them you're from Mars, so it's just a visit to see the old home place. Oh, did you mention: Mars doesn't believe in the judicial system we have here. Make up some special words, like Bork, or Grankj.

Another prospective juror was excused when she said: "I have a tapeworm.

Does he get a say in this defendant's case? He talks to me, you know." And that pretty much did it for having her in the juror box.

Here's another winner: The prospective juror can ask: "Do you want me to go against the prophecy of Jesus—'Do not judge others'?" You should also be able to cite other parts of Romans 1:1-32 about false prophets, which you say, might show up here in the courtroom. (Of course, you're looking at the lawyers while this voir dire is taking place.) This method is bulletproof, I bet.

Do you know, you might say to the lawyer questioning you: Did you realize that the word "laughter" is in the word "manslaughter." Go on to tell about how you think humor is important amongst jurors, because everyone just takes it all so seriously. Be outgoing. Supportive. Applaud every other prospective juror's answer. Yell out nice things, like: "Good job." Or, "Good answer, that's very insightful." In other words, you kind of have to be a pain in the butt.

Speaking of butts, one man showed up for this interrogation phase in a dog collar, chewing on milk bones out of a Tuffy bag, barking every once in a while. When he tried to sniff.....well, never mind.. That got him out.

One prospective juror brought a couple of rocks. When asked about this, she said that the "old ways were the best, don't you think?" Hmmmm. I suspect this got her home early.

When all else fails, look at the defendant and say: "Remember me? It was a cold night. I wore red, you wore blue, we went back to your place and you never called me back. Now! We'll see who has the last laugh!"

There are several valid reasons not to be able to serve on jury duty.

But they're not so interesting. If you need them, you can find them on the internet.

Have your opinion heard

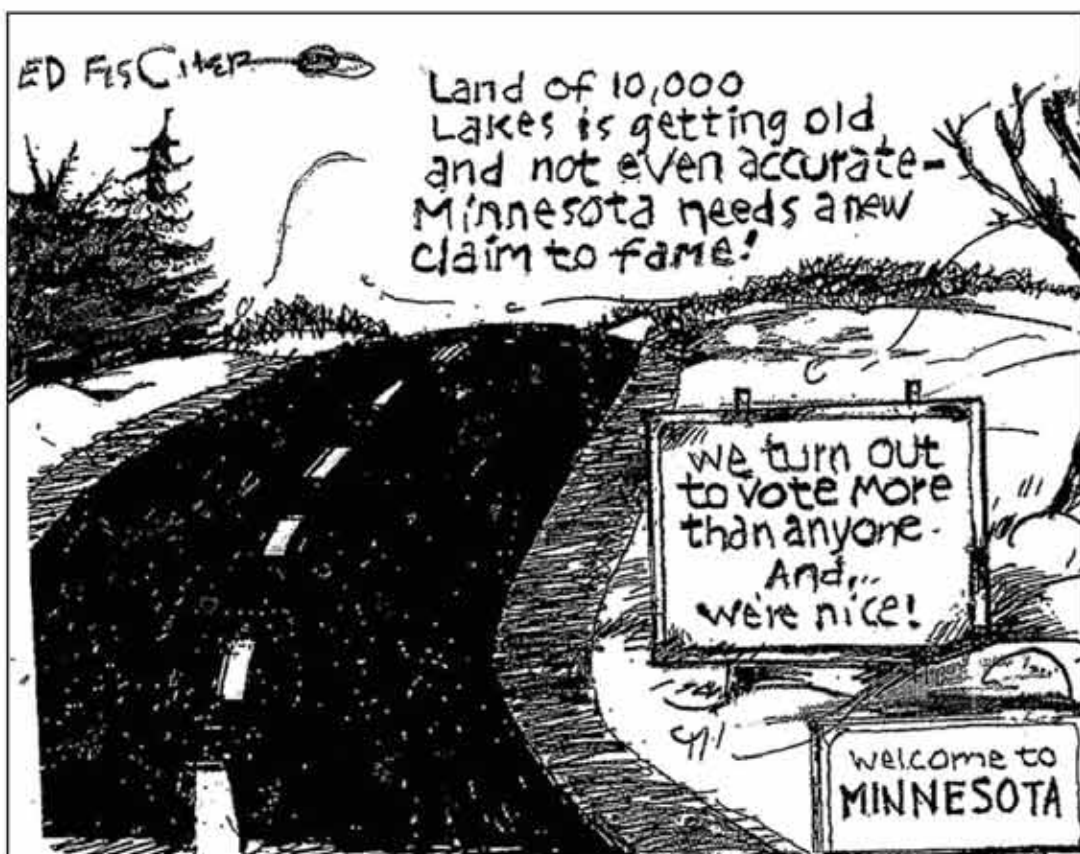
Have an opinion on a topic affecting New York Mills and the surrounding area? Write a Letter to the Editor to share your thoughts. Deadlines for all Letter's to the Editor is Friday at 12 p.m. Letter's can be emailed to news@nymdispatch.com or dropped off at the New York Mills Dispatch Office at 17 E Centennial 84 Dr.

New York Mills Dispatch

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Easter egg hunts are made for TV

If riding a bull is one of the most exciting 8 seconds in sports—Easter egg hunts could be the most exciting 5 minutes of the spring.

On Saturday, Dani, the girls and I attended three different Easter egg hunts in the area for the newspaper. It's our annual Saturday of Easter tradition and one that we keep marked down on our calendar each year. The egg hunts are a fun way to kick off the busy weekend, while also touching base with some people on a nice spring morning. Well, you can cross the latter part off that statement this year as we were greeted with cold weather, snow and a wind that reminded me of Christmas and not Easter.

What I always find entertaining during the egg hunts is listening to the parents talk to their children about how they should get the most eggs. Some parents tell their children to run to the opposite side of the field, while others tell them to be ruthless and take no prisoners as they criss cross a playground in search of colorful Easter eggs.

After hearing the strategies given to children and grand children at a number of the different Easter egg hunts in the area, I truly want to know whether you should get the eggs closest to you, or run to the opposite side of the field and work your way back.

To see the smiles on the children's faces as they walk back to the starting line with a bucket full of plastic eggs and endless wonders inside you can't help but smile yourself. It takes a lot of time and work to fill all of the Easter eggs so even though the event itself is over in the blink of an eye, the work going into the event starts weeks in advance. We do appreciate all of the work of the volunteers who make these events possible.

Now, even though I like watching the egg hunts each Easter I do have one idea I would like to see in the future—extreme adult Easter egg hunting.

Have you ever wanted to see an adult act like a child? Throw a bunch of plastic Easter eggs in the middle of a yard and watch the chaos ensue. I'm sure it would be made for TV and could even make for a new reality show where seven strangers stab each other in the back to see who could get the most candy in their bags, before all of the eggs were found. It could be like the show Survivor, but without all of the insect consumption.

There would be shoving, teamwork and even some name calling as contestants act like children

in search for those special eggs. It would be a blast to see and I think even the kids would enjoy watching adults let loose for a little bit. While I enjoy the egg hunts for our kids, I always feel a little guilty when I eat their "good" candy from the candy jar on our counter. If adults had their own egg hunt we wouldn't feel quite so bad when we open up a bite size Snickers we cracked open in an egg.

Reporter

I also wanted to put a small plug in here that the Frazee-Vergas Forum is seeking a part-time reporter to add to its staff. We are looking for someone for 20 hours a week to write feature stories, cover a few meetings and just enhance our news coverage in the Becker and Otter Tail County region.

While we are hoping to find someone with some writing experience, we will train the right candidate to fill the position.

If you want more information, or to apply, contact Chad Koenen at (218) 548-5585 or by email at chad@henningadvocate.com

Publisher's Perspective

Chad Koenen
Publisher



Learn how to camp, paddle, mountain bike, fish at Minnesota state parks

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' award-winning I Can! program resumes this summer with outdoor skill-building sessions held in more than 25 Minnesota state parks. Programs start Saturday, June 11, and continue through late August. Registration begins Thursday, April 14.

Program offerings include:

- I Can Camp!
- I Can Paddle!
- I Can Mountain Bike!
- I Can Fish!

The I Can! program is designed for individuals and families interested in trying one or more of the featured outdoor activities.

"We provide all the gear along with friendly instructors who can show you how to use it," said Ann Pierce, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails director. "Our goal is to make it easy for all Minnesotans to get outdoors, have fun and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of nature."

Registration and more information:

For more information—including program details, dates, times, locations, and minimum age requirements — visit the I Can! page of the DNR website or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday). To register for the I Can! programs, visit mndnr.gov/reservations (link is external) or call 866-857-2757 (8 a.m. to 8

p.m. daily, except holidays).

Since 2010, nearly 100,000 people have participated in I Can! programs. The DNR's I Can! program series is made possible with funding from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the three-eighths percent sales tax revenue that may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

Letters to the Editor

The New York Mills Dispatch accepts and encourages Letters to the Editor from readers on subjects of current and general interest. All letters must be signed and include contact information from the author. Letters can be emailed, as long as the editor is able to verify the author of the letter prior to publication. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit all letters and refuse the publication of any Letter to the Editor without explanation or prior notice.

The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to one publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or



Contributed photos

Katherin Garcia took 15th place in the 60-meter run during an indoor meet at Bemidji State.

Baune finishes in third place at BSU indoor meet

Eagles compete at large indoor track meet at BSU

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

The New York Mills track team headed back indoors last week as the Eagles competed at an indoor meet at Bemidji State University.

The Eagles were led by Alayna Baune who took third place in the triple jump with a jump of 31'9". A freshman, Baune finished just ahead of senior Sydnie Wgeishofski of Pequot Lakes who finished with a jump of 31'6" and behind just Jaden Hackel of Perham and Isabelle Larson of Wadena-Deer Creek. There were 40 people who competed in the event.

In the 800-meter run, freshman Jada Goeson

placed fourth as she finished with a time of 2:36.30. She also placed eighth in the 400-meter run with a time of 1:07.23.

In the 60-meter dash, Katherin Garcia finished just .01 seconds away from making the finals as she finished in 15th place in the preliminaries with a time of 8.96 seconds. Payton Lausten and Ashley Kassa tied for 17th place with a time of 9.07.

In the high jump Irene Mursu took 12th place with a jump of 4'4", while Goeson took 16th place with a jump of 4'2".

In the long jump Bella Bauck took 15th place with a jump of 14'3".

As a team the Eagles

placed 10th overall in the 14 team meet with 14 total points. Perham won the meet with Pequot Lakes taking second place.

The Eagles are scheduled to compete in Battle Lake on Thursday, weather permitting, in their lone action of the week.

- Girls 60 Meter Dash 15. Katherin Garcia 8.96, 18. Payton Lausten 9.07, 19. Ashley Kassa 9.07, 38. Lydia Nicholas 9.48, 56. Zaidie Trigerous 10.24
Boys 60 Meter Dash 59. Creed Mursu 8.87
Girls 400 Meter Dash 8. Jada Goeson 1:07.03, 19. Brielle Malone 1:13.52, 38. Jane Gudmundson 1:24.47, Zaidie Trigerous 1:26.91
Boys 400 Meter Dash 46. Elijah Gesser 1:05.13
Girls 1600 Meter Run 23. Brielle Malone 6:52.30
Girls 800 Meter Run 18. Macy Koljonen 2:55.54, 30. Dixie Dykhoff 3:16.98
Boys 800 Meter Run 21. Creed Mursu 2:32.65, 32. Elijah Gesser 2:39.40

- Girls 200 Meter Dash 16. Katherin Garcia 31.03, 22. Ashley Kassa 31.33, Lydia Nicholas 31.34, 27. Payton Lausten 31.44, 58. Jane Gudmundson 35.26
Boys 200 Meter Dash 67. Justin Kassa 31.56
Girls High Jump 12. Irene Mursu 4-04.00, 16. Jada Goeson 4-02.00
Boys High Jump Elijah Gesser
Girls Long Jump 15. Bella Bauck 14-03.00, 17. Alayna Baune 14-00.00, 43. Maya Radniecki 12-01.00, 48. Zaidie Trigerous 11-03.00, 51. Brielle Malone 10-06.00
Girls Triple Jump 3. Alayna Baune 31-09.00, Bella Bauck
Girls Shot Put 44. Emily DeYounge 22-01.25, 51. Josi Minderman 20-08.25
Boys Shot Put 45. Austin Gesser 20-09.00, 46. Creed Mursu 20-04.50



Left: Irene Mursu took 12th place in the high jump with a jump of 4'4" last week. Above: Jada Goeson took fourth place in the 800-meter run during last week's indoor meet at Bemidji State.



Boys basketball team hosts end of season awards banquet



Contributed photo

The New York Mills boys basketball team recently held its end of season awards banquet. Team awards include: Offensive MVP - Tate Olson, Defensive MVP - Jonah Johnson, Most Improved - Jack Peeters, Practice Player - Sam Kopveiler and Best Teammate - Breck Hensch. Conference awards include: Conference MVP - Tate Olson, All conference - Tate Olson, Jack Peeters, Jonah Johnson, Noah Noffsinger and Honorable Mention - Breck Hensch.

Great strides made in youth archery programs

By Tom Hintgen
Otter Tail County Correspondent

Youth archery is becoming more and more popular in Otter Tail County, with the support of 4-H and other organizations.

This is the first year that students have been able to be trained in archery through Fergus Falls Community Education with a basic set of equipment owned by School District 544.

A grant from the Minnesota DNR and matching aid from the Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club made this class possible along with the cooperation of Superintendent Jeff Drake and Community Education Director Mary Matteson.

Dave Sanderson, Chad Raitz and Jeff Struck are archery instructors as part of Fergus Falls Community Education for six consecutive Mondays: March 14, 21 and 28 and April 4, 11 and 18.

All three men are certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI) in the National Archery in the School Program (NASP). Struck is also certified for the archery discipline for the 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife project. 4-H also requires certification to coach a wide variety of other shooting sports in their program through the University of Minne-

sota Extension.

Twenty youths are signed up with 10 youths in each of two different classes, 5th through 8th graders, from 3:45 to 4:45 and from 4:45 to 5:45 at the Kennedy Secondary School community ed section. There are also some students on a waiting list for the next offering or in the event of cancellations. Sanderson and Struck also volunteer with archery instruction for 5th grade students attending the Prairie Science Class at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center on the south side of Fergus Falls.

"Matt Conner (USFWS) and trained NASP BAI trainer deserves credit for establishing archery at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center by obtaining proper equipment and training many volunteers" said Sanderson, who retired as a physician in Fergus Falls in 2011.

Struck retired from Otter Tail Power Company in 2016 where he had worked in system operations. Raitz is still working at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Fergus Falls.

Other individuals have also been trained as NASP BAIs and have helped with the 5th grade instruction at the Prairie Wetlands

YOUTH ARCHERY
continued on 10

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Eleven letter winners return to NYM line up

Eagles to feature deep line up, pitching staff

By Chad Koenen
Publisher

If the weather ever decides to make the transition from winter to spring, the New York Mills baseball team will return a potent line up featuring 11 letter winners to the baseball diamond.

Last year the Eagles ended their season at the Class A state championship game at Target Field. It was the second season in which the Eagles competed in the state championship game as they also took second place in 2019 (the 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The 2021 team finished with a record of 23-3 and will look to once again compete in one of the top sections in all of Class A.

Returning to the line up for the Eagles will be seniors Jacob Guck, Bren

Salo, Jonah Johnson, Cody Barthel and Breck Hensch.

One of the big keys for the Eagles will be their overall depth. Head coach Dustin Geiser has 12 juniors and 14 freshmen and sophomores who will all be ready to make an impact on varsity this season should their number be called into the line up.

While NY Mills will return a large portion of their team from last year they will need to replace some of their top starters on the mound from last season. While the Eagles lost some of their top starters on the mound from last season they will return a deep pitching staff to the mound, something that will come in handy when their season gets underway. Since teams must deal with pitch counts, as well as monitor innings pitched, having



Photo by Chad Koenen

Jonah Johnson is one of five senior letter winners returning to the New York Mills line up this season. Last year Johnson pitched in relief in the 15 inning state semi-finals win over Randolph.

such a deep pitching staff will be incredibly important when the season finally gets underway later this spring.

Among the preseason favorites in the conference will be Wadena-Deer Creek and Sebeka, while the preseason favorites in the section will be Kerkhoven-

Murdock-Sunburg, Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa, Ashby and Upsala-Swanville.

NY Mills was ranked as the second team in Class A in the state preseason poll, while Ashby is ranked fifth and KMS is ranked seventh. The Sebeka Trojans are currently ranked 11th in the state.



Contributed photo

Certified archery instructors train students in Otter Tail County.

YOUTH ARCHERY continued from 9

Learning Center. Up to 80 5th grade students participated this year alone in Tia Thysell's and Becky Green-angel's classes, who are also NASP BAIs.

It is safety first when conducting archery classes inside a gymnasium. There are 10-by-30-foot nets to protect areas behind the target butts. The structured range and archery equipment ensures that NASP is the safest academic sport for grades 4-12 youth in school, second only to ping pong (as quoted in government sports injury reports).

Schools in each state offer tournaments that allow individuals and teams from neighboring schools to compete for awards.

"There can be hundreds of youth participating in any one such tournament," Struck said. "State and national competitions can offer scholarship money to be awarded to top archers." Adds Sanderson, "These tournaments can host as many as a thousand youths at the state tournament. NASP offers academic incentives through their Academic Archer awards where good shooting and good grades combine. There are as many girls as boys that can compete."

A new Fergus Falls Area Home School NASP archery group has just completed shooting in four school tournaments. Their required training was conducted through the 4-H Shooting Sport and Wildlife summer program.

As noted by Struck, "We commend the West Otter Tail County 4-H SS&W Club for their wonderful strides made in archery and other shooting competition."

"It has been a learning experience as well as exciting to compete with hundreds of other school

students," Struck said. "As examples, competition is quite stiff with 343 students competing in the Alexandria tournament and over 250 in the Wahpeton Tournament."

Two tournaments were virtual, where scores were shot in the Lakes Area Archers range in Erdahl and submitted electronically with the help of Tom Johnson, a prominent area competitive archer and Otter Tail Power retiree.

The plan is to offer similar experiences to the District 544 students who are qualified and who practiced for next winter's tournaments.

Sanderson, Struck and Johnson have been working with Mick Johnson of the Fergus Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry to establish a suitable community archery range location.

There is now an outdoor archery range at DeLagoon Park two miles south of Fergus Falls near Pebble Lake. The site has seen some activity by the community, and this summer there will also be targets for kids.

A search is on for more grant money for a broad-head target and elevated shooting platform. Much of the equipment has been funded by a grant from the Blandin Foundation and volunteer labor. Someday there will be an indoor archery range as well.

More information about these youth and community archery opportunities can be found by contacting the Fergus Falls Parks, Rec, and Forestry office, West Otter Tail County Extension office, and the School District 544 Community Ed office.

NASP info is www.nasp-schools.org; www.nasp-tournaments.org

Cub Scouts hold annual Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold banquet



Contributed photo

Cub Scout Pack 307 held their annual Pinewood Derby, as well as their Blue and Gold banquet on April 10 in Ottertail. Scouts received their belt loops and pins along with patches they had earned throughout the year.

NYM TRAP OPENER

Clay Target League, assigned to nine different classes and 43 conferences based on team size.

In NY Mills' Conference #2, to allow for the younger or newest members of the team to get used to shooting and improve their scores, they only count the top 31 scores from each team. That means that the bottom nine scores from the team each week will not be counted in competition.

Kotarski said he is looking forward to this season to see how the team does. He said he is hoping the Eagles continue to "crack 'em all."



Contributed photos
Above: Jack Peeters and Cody Barthel hit 25 straight targets on April 13. Below left: Sawyer Wedde hit 50 straight targets and Braeden Peterson hit 25 straight on Monday, April 11. Below right: Preston Gordhamer kicked off the New York Mills season with the teams first 25 straight night.

continued from 6

MILLS LANES

Roll Offs - Week 1
April 4

Lumber Depot	3445
Designs by Tes	3389
Lunds	3311
Mills Lanes	3106

Brent Olson	266	642
Kurt Mursu	238	645
Ben Diehl	234	
Eric Maijala		621
Jeremy Freitag		621

Battle of the Businesses 2022
Week 4 - March 23

Team:	Mens Scratch Game	
Mills Lanes	Tim McKenna	247
F & M Bank	Chad Rudolph	243
Giere Trucking	Jeremy Freitag	236
Tim's Heating	Mens Scratch Series	
1776 Clothing Co.	Chad Rudolph	685
Lucky Strike Grill	Jeremy Freitag	666
South Central Draft	Tim McKenna	655
South Central Drifters	Womens Scratch Game	
Lunds	Erin Guck	193
Farmer's Daughter Bakery	Tiffany Ruther	176
Koehler Dairy	Mary Vorderbruggen	167
Magnifi Financial	Womens Scratch Series	
	Erin Guck	483
	Mary Vorderbruggen	479
	Tiffany Ruther	459

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Auction
Auction: Ted Guck Online only Auction! Opens, April 23rd at 10AM and Closes April 27th starting at 1pm. Preview: Friday, April 22nd 2pm - 5pm. Located at 50222 360th St. New York Mills, MN. Tractor, Attachments, Lawn Items, Tools, Shop Trailers, Firearms, Home

Items and More. Call 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit www.bachmannauctioneers.com. bachmannauctioneers@arvig.net. Lic:03-23

Auction: Lakes Area Spring timed Online Only Consignment Auction! Auction opens Thur., May 19 and closes Thur., May 26. Located at our facility between Frazee and Perham along Hwy 10 at 48208 Luce St. Perham, MN. Farm Machinery, Farm items, Trailers, Tractors, Cattle items, Trucks, Vehicles, ATVs, Boats, Sporting, Skid Steers & Attachments, Heavy Equipment, Lawn & Gar-

den, Landscaping, Shop items, and much more! Call now to Consign 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit our website for updates! www.bachmannauctioneers.com. Email items and pictures to bachmannauctions@arvig.net. Lic:03-23

Auction: Frazee/Evergreen area Live ON-SITE 6 Tract Real Estate Auction. Wednesday May 4th Starting at 10AM. Owners: Brenneman, Schmucker, & Gingerich.

All properties are located near Perham and Frazee in Becker County. Properties include Homesteads and farm sites with multiple out buildings, farm and pasture land, recreational and hunting land. Preview Tuesday, April 19th from 3-6PM. For more information contact Bachmann Auctioneers, LLC, Bachmann Carow Real Estate Inc. 218-346-7325, Vince 218-640-7653, Austin 218-841-2469 or visit www.bachmannauctioneers.com Lic03-23.

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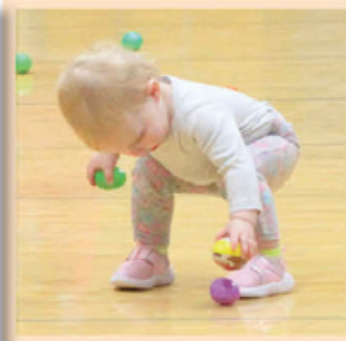
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Photos by Chad and Dani Koenen
The Easter Bunny was busy on Saturday morning as children from across the region stopped by egg hunts in both New York Mills and Bluffton. The egg hunt in NY Mills was held inside the school, while the Bluffton egg hunt was held at the community park. In NY Mills, the Easter Bunny was joined by a giant carrot.



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