



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

Left: A helicopter drops the Cub Scouts' packaged eggs from high in the air onto the grass of Arvig Park below. Right: Leo Neuerberg, first grader, holds up his unborken egg.

Seeking more balance

Ojibwe woman leads sacred water walk through Perham

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Complete silence, except for the sounds of nature... the swishing of water and the breeze in the trees — this is what Sharon Day, the director of the Indigenous People's Task Force in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, feels as she leads a Nibi Walk along a river.

"Nibi" means "water" in Ojibwe. A Nibi Walk, a sacred water walk, is described as an Indigenous-led extended ceremony to pray for water. As an Ojibwe woman born and raised in Minnesota, these walks — which she started leading in 2011 — allow Day to connect with the world around her as well as raise awareness on the need for clean water.

In fact, a Nibi Walk recently passed right through the town of Perham. Starting on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 18, at the landing in Elbow Lake on Highway 113 on the White Earth Reservation, those participating in the Nibi Walk on the Otter Tail River gathered some water from the lake before carrying it along the river toward the direction of Perham and Fergus Falls.

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Elizabeth Vierkant/ Perham Focus
Sharon Day, an Ojibwe woman, has led many Nibi Walks, especially in the state of Minnesota.

EGG DROP

Helicopter drops eggs high above Arvig Park

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

A crowd watched in awe as a helicopter landed in the field of Perham's Arvig Park on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 18. Cub Scout Pack 321, chartered by the Perham

Rotary Club, held their egg drop that day. For this activity, kids wrap an egg up safely in a package to be dropped from high in the sky. The goal? To have their egg survive without a crack.

This year, instead of

dropping the packages from a tall building or a ladder, they were loaded into a helicopter and dropped into the Arvig Park field below. After, kids raced to grab their packages, ripping them open with their parents and other adults to see if

their egg made it.

In the field where the eggs were dropped, three orange cones labeled as a "house" sat in the grass. The three scouts whose eggs landed closest to these "houses" received an Dairy Queen gift card. All those whose egg didn't break got their picture taken by the sign that said, "My egg survived the crash. September 10, 2021 Helicopter Egg Drop."

The participating kids were excitedly smiling, enjoying this educational morning activity.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with Cub Scouts, contact Cub Scout Den Leader Gordy Przybylski at 317-946-7007.



Cub Scouts and their parents run down the field at Arvig Park toward their packages, excited to see if their eggs survived the fall.

Otter Tail County works to improve broadband access

By Rebecca Mitchell
Perham Focus

While hoping for internet access, the wait for those last few miles can last for years.

As part of eight regional broadband discussions across the state, area leaders shared their successful and ongoing broadband projects. Otter Tail County community

development director Amy Baldwin highlighted the county's geographic and cost challenges as well as their recent work with the Blandin Foundation. The county joined the Blandin Community Broadband Program in 2020 after being rated the fourth worst in the state for broadband speed in 2016.

BROADBAND: Page 12



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

Productive Alternatives team members hold shovels at the groundbreaking of their building on Monday.

New life for old 4-H building

Productive Alternatives will upgrade fairgrounds site

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

This year has been one filled with construction and changes in the Perham community, and another large project is approaching. The old 4-H building, located on the East Otter Tail Fairgrounds at 400 Fourth St. SE, has a brand new purpose after being empty for many years.

Productive Alternatives, a nonprofit social services agency that provides services and employment to people with disabilities

— including the people of Perham — has recently been in the process of acquiring the building. On Monday, Sept. 10, they held a groundbreaking ceremony with all of their team members, symbolizing the start of the building's construction and renovation to come.

"It's been close to a year in terms of when we started looking for a different location," said Steve Skauge, president of Productive Alternatives. "After several hits and misses on buildings,

we connected with the Perham school district... We reached an agreement with them to take it."

Skauge said that the building, which has been owned by the Perham School District, has been empty for several years. Because of this, it's in a state of disrepair and needs a lot of work. There's a lot of remodeling necessary, but that way, Productive Alternatives will be able to transform it into exactly what they need.

BUILDING: Page 10

WHAT'S INSIDE

Otter Tail River Watershed open house packs a crowd
See page 2

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."
-Steve Martin

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VOLUNTEER DAY

Landscape the custom home gifted to Perham veteran

News Staff
Homes for our Troops and Hemelgarn Builders started construction on a gifted, customized Perham home in June for Lucas Schmitz, a veteran who lost his right leg after contact with an improvised explosive device in 2006. The community is now invited by Homes for our Troops to Volunteer Day on Saturday, Oct. 9. Those who attend Volunteer Day will be assisting with landscaping outside of the Schmitz family's

new, accessible home located at 42845 Turtle Bay Cir. in Perham. There will be signs to help volunteers locate the event.

Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, and landscaping starts at 10 a.m. To RSVP or to learn more information about Homes for our Troops and Schmitz's story, visit hfotusa.org/schmitz.

For more information, contact Vanessa Leite at vleite@hfotusa.org or 774-265-2309.



Elizabeth Vierkant / Focus
Lucas Schmitz smiles as people cheer and wave flags for the Homes for our Troops home build kickoff at St. Henry's Catholic Church on the morning of June 26.

CORRECTION

On Page A1 of the Sept. 16 issue of the Perham Focus, in the story "70 years later, and memories of Perham live on in stories," two team members of Perham High School's 1950-51 football team — which was undefeated and unscored upon — were mentioned. Three actually attended the 70-year class reunion. They are Ray Schmitz, Ambrose Zeller and John Bucholz.

BRIEFS

New Perham market center open for business

Jack Chivers Realty recently moved to a new office in Perham. The Chivers entered the Perham market place five years ago, with a shared office on Main Street. After the recent additions to their Perham team, they needed more space to serve their clients.

The Chivers have now moved in to the previous COVE co-working space, next to Level III and across from Dot & Minnie's clothing boutique at 157 First Ave. S. The new space allows for more room to host their team of four sales agents and the marketing staff. The office has two windows that showcase properties for sale to consumers in

downtown Perham.

Perham Homecoming set for Oct. 1

Buckle up, Perham High School graduates and students. Homecoming is back for 2021 on Friday, Oct. 1. Celebrations begin at 1 p.m., and the parade will start at 2 p.m.

Check next week's Perham Focus for more information.

Otter Tail County Public Health encourages a safe return to school

Students benefit from in-person learning and keeping kids healthy and in classrooms is a priority, Otter Tail County Public Health said.

Currently, Otter Tail County is considered a high COVID-19 transmission area. With elevated positive cases and higher test positivity rates, it will take active community engagement and support to help keep kids in the classroom again this year.

"As a pediatrician, I'm all about helping kids be healthy, strong and set up for success. It's up to all of us to help safely return kids to the classroom, resume activities and normalize this school year," said Dr. Folstad, a pediatrician at Lake Region Health Care.

A safe return to school includes layering all the available mitigation measures, which are:

1. Get vaccinated for COVID-19. Everyone

12 years and older is eligible

2. Wear masks indoors, including those who are fully vaccinated

3. Maintain physical distance between others

4. Get tested

5. Stay home if you are sick

6. Wash your hands and other surfaces frequently

"Otter Tail County Public Health supports the current CDC and MDH recommendations of universal masking indoors due to the level of COVID-19 transmission we are

seeing in the community, this includes in school settings, and unfortunately is regardless of vaccination status," Public Health Director Jody Lien said.

Otter Tail County Health also said it's also important to make sure your child is up to date with all recommended vaccines, including the influenza vaccine this fall.

Visit ottertailcountymn.us for information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Look for upcoming flu shot clinics in your community.

News Staff

Due to staffing issues, the Perham Focus office will be

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Classified ads, etc. may still be placed by calling 218-346-5900.

Normal business hours will resume on September 27.

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POLICE REPORT

News Staff

Sept. 13:
 ▶ 9:05 a.m. Vandalism: Perham business reported vandalism to private property.
 ▶ 7:43 p.m. Suspicious Activity: Perham resident reported suspicious activity; all OK.
 Sept. 14:
 ▶ 6:10 p.m. Harassment/Stalking: Perham resident reported harassment; provided referral regarding order for protection.
 ▶ 8:05 p.m. Assault: Adult male issued citation for 5th Degree Assault.
 Sept. 15:
 ▶ 3:01 p.m. Assist - Public: Perham resident reported issues with apartment plumbing claiming landlord won't repair.
 Sept. 16:
 ▶ 12:09 p.m. Driving Complaint: Caller reported tan pickup driving with excessive speed.
 ▶ 11:34 p.m. Traffic - Warning: Issued verbal warning for speed.
 Sept. 17:
 ▶ 8:38 a.m. Suspicious Activity: Report of a party sleeping under a tarp on private property.
 ▶ 3:26 p.m. Traffic - Warning: Issued verbal warning for speed.
 ▶ 3:37 p.m. Traffic - Warning: Issued verbal warning for speed.
 ▶ 4:52 p.m. Child Custody Issues: Assisted with child custody exchange.
 ▶ 4:52 p.m. Suspicious Activity: Perham resident reported

suspicious activity; all OK.
 Sept. 18:
 ▶ 12:20 a.m. Party Complaint: Caller reported loud party; advised of noise ordinance and to keep noise down.
 ▶ 5:44 a.m. Assist - Public: Adult female transported for evaluation.
 ▶ 12:44 p.m. Animal Call: City Ordinance Violation issued for cat at large and defecate on private property.
 ▶ 3:09 p.m. Accident - Property Damage: 2 vehicle crash at NW Third Ave/NW Fifth St; no injuries.
 ▶ 5:06 p.m. Suspicious Activity: Perham resident reported suspicious male; unable to locate.
 ▶ 8:38 p.m. Suspicious Activity: Caller reported damaged vehicle on the road; vehicle was from previous accident.
 Sept. 19:
 ▶ 12:47 a.m. Assist - Public: Perham resident requested assistance retrieving personal property.
 ▶ 2 p.m. Open Door/Window: Caller reported open door at business after hours; contacted owner.
 ▶ 3:35 p.m. Traffic - Warning: Issued verbal warning for equipment malfunction.
 ▶ 7:32 p.m. Child Custody Issues: Parents had argument regarding safe driving with the child; party left prior to arrival.

COURT NEWS

Dent man charged with felony after botched tile job

News Staff
 Ronald Allen Solberg Jr., 49, of Dent, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony theft by swindle. According to court records, On June 8, a Becker County sheriff's investigator spoke with a woman who owns a lake property on Township Road 81 on Lake Melissa. The woman said she had been looking for someone to tile a shower and had come across an ad for RS14 Construction, LLC, owned by Solberg. She paid him \$1,200 to do the work. The job was supposed to be done in two days, but it ended up taking four days, and the woman said the work was very bad: There were

holes in the grout and there was a mess everywhere. The woman said that Solberg told her that he was licensed, but she later found out that he is not licensed and that the Department of Labor has a cease-and-desist order against him. On July 15, the investigator spoke to the woman again. She said Solberg never came back to fix the work and will not return her calls or text messages. The woman said that she had two other contractors evaluate the shower and was told by both of them that the tile work would need to be torn out and redone. On Aug. 31, Becker County District Court Judge Gretchen Thilmoney issued a summons for Solberg to appear in court.

Hog roast raises \$15,119 for hospice care

News Staff
 The sixth annual JJ's Hog Roast for Hospice on Aug. 13-14 raised \$15,119 for Hospice of the Red River Valley. The two-day event featured music, a car and bike show and a traditional hog roast meal near Pelican Rapids. Throughout the past six years, the event has raised \$42,933.50 to help provide hospice care to patients and families in the area. "We're so appreciative of Jeff and Cindy for hosting this event in memory of their son, JJ,"

said Erin Hagen, development officer with Hospice of the Red River Valley. "We're honored to be part of this wonderful event that brings the community together." Jeffrey "JJ" Bruns, Jr. died in 2015 at 28 years old because of an accidental death. His family wanted to memorialize his name in a special way that reminded them of JJ's fun-loving personality while supporting a great cause. Next year's event is scheduled for Aug. 19-20, 2022.

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Frazee woman killed in house fire

By Michael Achterling
 Detroit Lakes Tribune
 A 79-year-old Frazee woman was found dead in the remnants of a house fire on Monday morning. On Sept. 20 at 9:28 a.m., first responders received a call of a house fire that was smoldering at 33895 120th Street about a mile northwest of Frazee, according to the call-for-service report. Delores Mae Lubitz, 79, of Frazee, was found

dead after firefighters were able to extinguish the remnants of a house fire, which probably began overnight, according to Frazee Fire Chief Joe Nelson. "The whole structure was down at the time of arrival," said Nelson. "It burned through the night and nobody noticed the blaze." He said with a south wind, the smoke was being pushed into the woods where there are very few residents, so it

wouldn't have been hard to imagine that nobody saw the structure on fire since the area was so sparsely populated. "When we got there, there wasn't much structure left besides basically a tin roof," said Nelson. Lubitz's body was transferred to the Ramsey County Medical Examiners office for identification and an autopsy to determine the official cause of death, according to the Becker County Sheriff's Office.

Becker County Sheriff Todd Glander said, "At this point, we have no reason to believe that any foul play is involved." The Frazee Fire Department, Frazee police, Frazee rescue, St. Mary's EMS and members of the Becker County Sheriff's Office assisted with the scene. The Minnesota Fire Marshal's Office is conducting an investigation into the incident, which remains ongoing.

Camp helps grieving kids and families

News Staff
 Though her life was very brief, little Emily Johnson's legacy has continued to touch the lives of countless children and their families. In honor of her memory, Camp Emily was developed in 2007 to fill the need for bereavement services in our region that are specifically designed for children. Camp Emily is a free area day camp held each year for youth ages 7-18 who have experienced the death of someone they loved. Age-appropriate activities, discussions and breakout sessions

are provided, along with meal breaks. All groups are facilitated by professionals trained in grief. "Grief is a journey, and everyone has their own path. Camp Emily provides an outlet for children and families to process their grief. The age-appropriate activities help with healing and shows them they are not alone." Terry Beck, bereavement social worker at LB Hospice said. The annual Camp Emily will be offered by LB Hospice, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, at Bethel Church located on 702 W Alcott Ave. in Fergus Falls.

Parents or guardians are asked to attend and participate in the daylong event. Thanks to donors and sponsors, there is no charge to participate in Camp Emily. Those newly bereaved, as well as those who have been on the path of grief for some time, are welcome. For more information, to request brochures or to register, call 218-998-1400 or register online at LBHomes.org/services. Space is limited, so early registration is requested. The registration deadline is Oct. 1, 2021.

Be a voice to end hunger

For Hunger Action Month® this September, North Country Food Bank will join Feeding America and other network member food banks to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of people facing the impossible choice of hunger.

During the month of September, people across northwest and west central Minnesota can get involved in the movement by learning, committing, and speaking up about ways to ending hunger. "It is so important to get involved and understand how hunger affects our community. Hunger is not somewhere else. It is right here affecting our neighbors, friends and family. And, we all have the power to do something about it to make sure nobody in northwest and west central Minnesota has to wonder how they will put their next meal on the table," said Susie Novak Boelter, executive director of North Country Food Bank.

choose to donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help end hunger. Learn more about how you can take action by visiting www.northcountryfoodbank.org.

Food banks around the country are working to make a real and lasting impact on food insecurity in their communities, and they are asking for the public's support, according to a North Country Food bank news release. September marks the 14th year Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization with a nationwide network of 200 food banks, including North Country Food Bank, and 60,000 partner food pantries and meal programs, has organized the annual call to action. This year's campaign presents the impossible choices that millions of Americans must make between food and other basic needs.

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WADENA
WHEN: September 24-26, from sunrise to sunset.
WHERE: Select field in Wadena.
 Directions: From the State Hwy 71 & State Hwy 29 intersection in Wadena, take Hwy 29 towards Deer Creek for 2 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 75, go approximately 1.75 miles and the field will be on your right. Signs will be posted at field entrance.

PERHAM
WHEN: September 24-26 from sunrise to sunset.
WHERE: Select field south of Ottertail.
 Directions: 2 miles south of Ottertail on Hwy 55, right side of the road. Signs will be posted at field entrance.

Note: Fields will be clearly marked with signage and flags. All are welcome, but don't forget your digging tools. And from all of us at R.D. Offutt Farms, "These spuds are for you!" (While they last. Please dig at your own risk.)

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NEW ARRIVALS

Judy Emma Andersen



Judy Emma Andersen, age 78 of Perham, MN died Tuesday, September 14, 2021 in her home under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley and her family.

Judy was born October 26, 1942 in Bottineau, ND the daughter of Arthur and Clara (Kaeding) Kiesow. She was united in marriage to William "Bill" Andersen for 48 wonderful years. Judy worked in her early years at Red Owl stores in St. Paul, MN. Bill and Judy moved to Fargo, ND in 1982 as Bill continued his food career with Red Owl. In 1984, they purchased an apartment building in Moorhead, MN which Judy successfully managed until 2011. In 2003, they sold their Fargo home and Aitkin, MN lake cabin and moved to their Little Pine Lake home near Perham. Judy thoroughly enjoyed the lake and her real love of beautiful flower gardens. Bill's brother Mike visited often and enjoyed the gardening and fishing fun. Judy and Bill were blessed with their son Steven who has two wonderful children, Zech (Nicole) and Melissa (Dustin) Johnson. Melissa and Dustin have two wonderful children, Kynslee and Kade. Judy and Bill traveled to 20 different countries over the years on vacations and cruises. She also really enjoyed their frequent visits to Las Vegas and Laughlin, NV. Locally, their favorite casino was Shooting Star in Mahanomen, MN. They enjoyed the food, gambling, and concerts monthly for years. They met many wonderful friends and employees and appreciated their friendships. Judy's other enjoyment was wearing her sparkling high heels and fashionable clothing.

Judy's family sincerely thanks the wonderful doctors, nurses, and staff at the Roger Maris Cancer Center for three years of service and compassion and Hospice of the Red River Valley for providing comfort to both she and her family in Judy's final days.

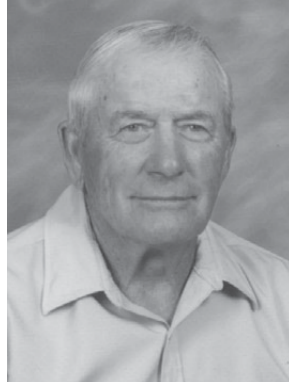
Preceding Judy in death were her parents; her sister Norma Brenden; her brother Gary Kiesow; and great-grandson Garrett.

Surviving Judy are her husband Bill; her son Steven (fiancé Kathy); two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her sister Dorothy Brandt; brother-in-law Owen Brenden; brother-in-law Mike Andersen; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation will be from 11:00-1:00 followed by the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25 at Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service in Perham. Burial will be in the Perham City Cemetery.

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

Eldor Huwe



Funeral Services were held for Eldor Huwe age 94, of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota (formerly of Wolf Lake, Minnesota) on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Corliss, rural Perham, Minnesota with Pastor Jared Nies officiating. Congregational hymns were accompanied by Amy Sobieski. Pallbearers were Jason Hendrickx, Gannon Huwe, Blake Huwe, Scott VonRuden, Andy VonRuden, and Derek Huntziger. Military Honors were provided by Wolf Lake V.F.W. #8165 of Wolf Lake, Minnesota. Eldor was laid to rest at Spruce Grove Union Cemetery, rural Menahga, Minnesota.

Eldor Herbert Huwe was born on April 24, 1927, to Albert and Emma (Janke) Huwe and grew up on the family farm in Corliss Township. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Corliss Lutheran Church.

On February 16, 1946 Eldor was inducted into the United States Army and served in the Pacific Theater. After his discharge, Eldor returned home and began farming near Wolf Lake, Minnesota. On May 17, 1950, Eldor was united in marriage to Margaret Beck who he always called "a wonderful woman." Their marriage was blessed with five children: Linda, Connie, Laurie, Tim, and Jane.

Eldor was a lifelong member of the church and was very active on the church councils. He also served as a Wolf Lake Township Supervisor, a member of the local V.F.W. and was instrumental in starting the Wolf Lake Fishing Derby. Eldor was a member of the Lions Club, a board member of the Menahga Forest Products, and the West Central Telephone Association. Margaret and Eldor were awarded Valley Farmer and Homemakers from Minnesota Red River Valley Association.

In the early days, living in Wolf Lake, he played on the baseball team. Lifetime interests were fishing, playing cards, square dancing, hunting, and traveling.

Known for his wise-cracking and quick sense of humor he poked fun all his life. He especially loved saying, "respect your elders!"

On September 14, 2021, Eldor passed away at Oak Crossing Center in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Eldor was the last survivor of Albert and Emma Huwe. He was preceded in death by his sisters: Thelma Dickson, Leona Matz, and Helen Anhorn; brothers: Raymond, Kenneth, Arnold, Norman, and Albert; wife: Margaret; and daughter: Connie.

He is survived by his children: Linda Huwe; Laurie (John) Hendrickx; Tim (Brenda) Huwe; and Jane (Robert) VonRuden; 10 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Eldor's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of New York Mills, Minnesota.

Eldor Huwe

April 24, 1927 - Sept. 14, 2021

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. - Eldor Huwe, 94, Detroit Lakes, formerly Wolf Lake, Minn., died Tuesday, Sept. 14, in Essentia Health Oak Crossing.

Services were previously held.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Allen Kimber

Sept. 12, 1944 - Sept. 14, 2021

ST. CLOUD, Minn. - Allen Kimber, 77, Henning, Minn., died Tuesday, Sept. 14, in St. Cloud Hospital.

Services were previously held.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Marvin Fiskari

Feb. 11, 1931 - Sept. 19, 2021

NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. - Marvin Fiskari, 90, New York Mills, Minn., died Sunday, Sept. 19, in Mills Manor.

Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by a funeral at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 23, at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills. Burial will be 2 p.m. Thursday, in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.



Kyle Lawrence Bopp

Baby boy Kyle Lawrence Bopp was born on September 4, 2021, to Lillian Bryniarski and Tyler Bopp. He weighed 6 pounds, 11.5 ounces and was 19 inches long. He was delivered by Dr. Anderson at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud grandparents are Daniel and Brenda Bopp; and Mary Woida; and Chad Bryniarski.



Sullivan Ryatt Delbow

Josie Klingberg & Jamie Delbow, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Sullivan Ryatt Delbow. Sullivan was delivered by Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN and Tonya Diggins, Midwife, CNP at Perham Health on September 2, 2021, at 7:38 a.m. He weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. Sullivan is welcomed home by siblings Sterling and Scarlett.



Shepherd Oliver Nielsen

Breann & Doug Nielsen, of Perham, Minn., are happy to announce the birth of their son, Shepherd Oliver Nielsen. Shepherd was delivered by Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN at Perham Health on August 21, 2021 at 5:24 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19-3/4 inches long. Shepherd is welcomed home by sibling Mads; and grandparents Michelle & Clayton and Laura & Keith.



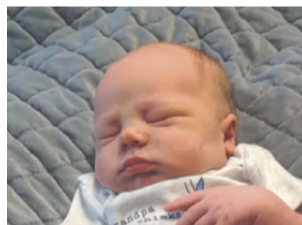
Hailie Renee Masog

Samantha & Brett Masog, of Perham, Minn., are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Hailie Renee Masog. Hailie was delivered by Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN at Perham Health on September 13, 2021, at 6:18 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.



Freyja Harriet Raine Wegscheid

Julia & Zachary Wegscheid, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Freyja Harriet Raine Wegscheid. Freya was delivered by Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN at Perham Health on August 30, 2021, at 1:05 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long. Freyja is welcomed home by grandparents Melissa Mattfeld; Dan & Paula Mattfeld; Gloria & Scott Smith; and great-grandparent Lawrence Wegscheid.



Dennis Edward Stanbrough

Darcy & Tyrell Stanbrough, of Dent, Minn., are happy to announce the birth of their son, Dennis Edward Stanbrough. Dennis was delivered by Tonya Diggins, Midwife, CNP at Perham Health on September 7, 2021, at 8:12 a.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19-1/2 inches long. Dennis is welcomed home by siblings Tyrell, Michael and Julia; and grandparents Lynn Stanbrough and Teresa & Dennis Brandt.

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Perham church donates \$1,750 to community

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Perham has a great community full of volunteers and people who pour a lot into its development, said Northwood LIFE Church's pastor, Jason Erickson. On Wednesday, Sept. 15, Erickson and Assistant Pastor Stew Burns represented the church as they presented the Bridge Pantry, Perham softball, Perham baseball and the Yellowjackets fishing team with a \$1750 donation split evenly among them, raised from the church's 2021 Dog Days fundraiser throughout the summer.

This fundraiser is part of Northwood Church's Hope for Perham program, which is one of the local ministries the church created to specifically funnel funds back



Elizabeth Vierkant / Focus

Left to right, Joan Kaelberer with Bridge Pantry, Jason Erickson with Northwoods LIFE Church, Jason Groth with Perham softball, James Mulcahy with Perham baseball, Mitch Anderson with the Perham Yellow Jackets Fishing Team and Stew Burns with Northwoods LIFE Church stand together after Northwoods gave out their donations.

into volunteers and the city itself. On Thanksgiving, this program serves about 300 people both through delivery and at the church with a community meal.

"(Hope for Perham) is a way we as a church are able to give back to those

who pour so much into the Perham community," Erickson said.

Those who received the donations on Wednesday expressed their gratitude to Northwood Church.

"We appreciate the support we get," Joan Kaelberer with the Bridge

Pantry said. "We're so blessed to have so many people in the city who give back and take care of us in the community."

Mitch Anderson mentioned that the Yellowjackets fishing team is a new addition to Perham schools. This program allows kids from sixth grade through their senior year to try fishing in a competitive format. The team provides fishing supplies and opportunities for kids who may not have access to them otherwise.

"We're appreciative for the church because this will help with some expenses," Anderson said.

If you want to learn more about Northwood Church and the Hope for Perham program, they can be contacted at 218-346-LIFE.

LOOKING BACK 50 AND 25 YEARS AGO IN PERHAM

News Staff

50 years ago

Turning the keys

After having the furniture store in the Schoeneberger name for nearly 100 years, Martin Schoeneberger announced that he'd sold it to a local businessman a couple of weeks prior to the Oct. 7, 1971, issue of the Perham Enterprise-Bulletin. However, that week of Oct. 7, it was announced this businessman was Don Swenson. In a photo, Martin was shown handing over the keys to Swenson, officially changing ownership. Swenson renamed the store to "Perco Home Center." Soon after, workers started a 10,000-foot expansion of Perco facilities.

Don's Super Market

Hungry for some meat? In 1971, Don's Super Market was offering some discount prices on a variety of protein: Ground beef was 69 cents per pound, a three-pound tin of ham was \$3, a pound of summer sausage was 83 cents, a pound of hot dogs was 48 cents and a pound of bacon was 69 cents.

Sequel to the Luce pictures

In last week's "Looking Back" of the Perham Focus, a picture of homes in the village, "Luce" being destroyed was included. This destruction of the town, which was located near Perham and vacated months earlier, was done to make Highway 10 a four-lane expressway. A few days prior to Oct. 7, 1971's publication, the last house in Luce was torched. This left what was previously a town with people, empty and

ready for a new road.

From the Thursday, Oct. 7, 1971, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin

25 years ago

Queen Elizabeth, King Jason

Perham High School had its 1996 Homecoming in late September. The court was announced in the Perham Enterprise-Bulletin, highlighting Elizabeth Januszewski as Homecoming queen and Jason Witzke as Homecoming king. Elizabeth was volleyball captain and involved with basketball and basketball player, and he was involved with Spanish Club and the honor roll.

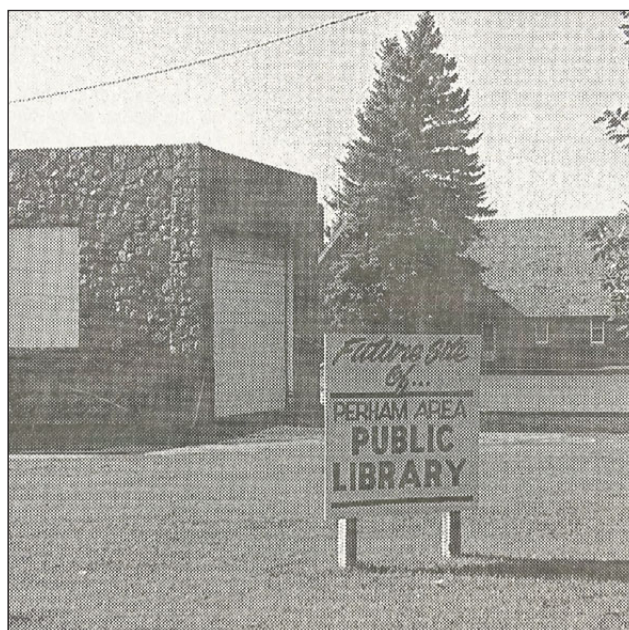
Library gets go-ahead

After a long wait, construction of the new Perham Library was approved on Oct. 1, 1996, much to the excitement of the librarians. The project was going to cost around \$900,000 and was planned to start a week or so from Oct. 3 of that year. The new building was planned to be about 8,000 square feet and in the place of an old garage, which was to be demolished. A sign sat on the lot, showcasing the future location of the Perham Area Public Library.

Elegance: Full line of bridal gowns and wedding items

In 1996, two Perham-area women, Linda Goderstad and Deanna Stromme, opened up "Elegance" in Perham, a bridal shop on Second Street Southeast selling wedding items, prom dresses and other elegant items.

From the Thursday, Oct. 3, 1996, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin



A sign displays where construction of the new Perham Library was planned in 1996.



File photos

The town of Luce is shown, gone and completely demolished, in 1971.

CHURCH SERVICES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the response to the coronavirus pandemic, some scheduled meetings or services may have changed or been canceled. Call ahead to confirm that events are taking place as scheduled.

Apostolic Lutheran Church
New York Mills
Rev. Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
360-241-8450
Echoes of Mercy on KWAD
Sunday: 8:05 a.m., 9 a.m. Finnish
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Assembly Of God
103 N. Hayes Ave., New York Mills
Pastor Larry Bessler, 385-2033 (church) or 385-3270 (home)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Wed. 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Basswood Baptist Church
Intersection Co. Rd. 14 /32, Richville
Pastor Bert Holmquist, 495-3800
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study/Kids Club

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
210 Maple Ave. E, Frazee
Pastor Ed Borchardt
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Adults
9-10:30 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
Services 104.1 Sundays at 8 a.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA
619 3rd Ave SW, Perham
346-4780
Lead Pastor Erin Bovendam
Associate Pastor Dennis Preston
9 a.m. Tues. TV Brcdcast (Ch. 14)
www.calvaryperham.com
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Communion every Sunday

Crosspoint Alliance Church
600 8th Street NE, Perham, MN
Office: 218-346-4673
Pastor Michael Bochman
Services at 9:00am & 10:30am
Sermons are posted on our FaceBook page as well as on our website: crosspointalliance.com

First Congregational United Church of Christ
'God Is Still Speaking'
11 E. Gilman St.
New York Mills, 385-2587
Sheri Nelson, Pastor, 640-3722
Jack Volpe, Shirley Davis, 639-3192
Open Communion, Handicap Accessible
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Refreshments

Holy Cross Church
Butler | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 5:15 p.m. Wednesday
Weekend Mass: 8 p.m. Saturday

Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS
Dent Pastor Dan Abrahams
Sunday 9 a.m. Worship/SS

Lakes Area Word Fellowship
Vergas Pastor Larry Vosika
218-847-8499 or 218-342-2620
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship
Wednesday 7 p.m. Worship

Maine Presbyterian Church
30761 Co. Hwy. 45, 2 mi. N of Phelps Mill
Pastor: Ed Morgan
Summer (June thru Aug.): 9:30 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship Every Week
Winter (Sept. thru May): 10 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship
2nd Sunday of the Month Handicap Accessible

New Creation Lutheran LCMC
295 Coney St. West, Perham
Pastor Randy Freund |346-7203
Pastor Linda Nicklason garden@newcreationperham.org
10 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Communion every Sunday
Nursery available
Coffee fellowship after worship
Mondays 9 am-5 pm
Tuesdays 9 am-3 pm
Wednesdays 10 am-6 pm
Thursdays 9 am-12 pm
Friday Closed

Northwoods LIFE Church
945 West Main St. Perham
Pastor Jason Erickson
Assistant Pastor Stew Burns
6:15 Wed. LIFE Groups & Kids LIFE programming
10 a.m. Sun. Service
218-346-LIFE (5433)
www.northwoodslife.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Dent | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 7 p.m. Tuesday;
8:30 a.m. Thursday
Weekend Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Henry's Catholic Church
234 2nd Ave. SW, Perham
Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8 and 10 a.m. Sunday
Second Sunday of the Month: 1 p.m. Spanish Mass

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Rush Lake | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday

St. John's Lutheran Church
49658 Co. Hwy. 53, Rural Perham
Pastor Jared Nies, 218-346-4302
stjohnperham.org
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Divine Worship
10 a.m. Friday TV Broadcast, Channel 14

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS
4 miles west of Dent, Hwy. 108 18-758-2440
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.-May)

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS
Ottertail | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
11 a.m. Sunday Schl Communion

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS
410 E Scharf Ave, Vergas 56587
stjohnvergas@arvig.net, 342-2791
Rev. Jacob Wagner, Pastor
Worship Services:
Sunday 9 am, Coffee Fellowship after Advent & Lent-Wednesday 6pm potluck after
Summer-Wednesday 7 pm
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 am (Sept-May)
Sunday School 10:15 am (Sept-May)
Confirmation Class 5 pm (Sept-May)
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Handicap accessible

St. John the Baptist Catholic
Bluffton | Fr. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mass: 8 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS
13130 Co. Hwy. 39, Frazee
Pastor Thomas Batchelder
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday/Mo.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS
Richville | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
8 a.m. Sunday Worship
9 a.m. Sunday School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS
31385 Co. Hwy 4, Vergas
Pastor Delton Stohs
Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran's Church
500 6th Ave SW
Perham, MN 56573
218.346.7725 Church Office
stpaulschurch@arvig.net
Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe
pastorratcliffe@gmail.com
Sundays 9:00 am Worship, 10:15 Education hour

St. Peter's Lutheran Church-NYM
101 W. Gilman St. (P.O. Box 7)
New York Mills, MN 56567
Phone: (218) 385-2011
E-mail: stpetersnym@arvig.net
St. Peter's will be resuming Worship with Communion at 9:00 a.m. beginning on June 28th!

Trinity Lutheran Church-NYM
P.O. Box J | 424 E Gilman Street
New York Mills, Minnesota 56567
(218) 385-2450

Unitarian Church of Underwood
206 N. Main St., Underwood.
www.ucofu.org
Weekly Sunday services 10 a.m.
Mindfulness and Quaker Quiet Time:
3rd Sunday/month at 8:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
301 Main St., Dent
Handicap accessible
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
Communion first Sunday of month
Monday and Friday
8:30 a.m. Exercise Group
Wednesday 9 a.m. Quilting

United Methodist Church
Frazee | Pastor Ray Sherwood
9 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

United Methodist Church
Ottertail | Rev. Ricardo Alcoser
218-367-2270
8:45 a.m. Sunday Worship
Coffee and Fellowship to Follow

United Methodist Church
223 4th Ave. SE, Perham • 346-7420
www.pdumc.weebly.com
Handicap accessible
10:00am Sunday Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

United Methodist Church
Richville | Pastor Rod Tornquist
218-346-5656
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: Youth 6:45-8 p.m.;
Choir 7-8 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Vergas | Pastor Ray Sherwood
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SS

Waters of Grace Lutheran - ELCA
Laurie Albertson, Synodically
Authorized Minister | 334-3455
9 a.m. Worship with Communion
every Sunday
Location: Frazee Event Center

Zion Lutheran of Amor
Pastor Jim Gronbeck
495-2563/ www.zionamor.org
Facebook: Zion Amor
Summer worship services 8:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship 9:00 a.m.

Church schedules subject to change - please contact your church to confirm information.

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Phone: 218.385.3466
E-mail: tmluff@arvig.net

Schoeneberger FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE
100 Jake Street, Perham, MN 56573
218-346-5175

SUPPORT GROUPS

Codependency Recovery 12-Step Group: At the Perham Library every Wednesday at 7 p.m. For women only. The library is located at 225 2nd Ave., NE, Perham.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Successfully) MN 1030 Perham: Tops Meetings have changed to Thursdays and will meet at the Perham United Methodist Church, 223 Fourth Avenue Southeast, Perham. Weigh-in

will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. Meeting from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Contacts for Tops Meetings are Ruthann at 218-346-2666 or Sue at 218-298-2786.



Martin Schoeneberger hands the keys of his furniture store over to Don Swenson in 1971.

Get your kid's car seat checked for safe travel

News Staff

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Minnesota law states that all children must be in a child restraint until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least 8 years of age, whichever comes first. In Minnesota, three out of four child seats are used incorrectly.

Riding a bicycle without a helmet significantly increases the risk of sustaining a head injury in the event of a crash. It is estimated that one out of seven children will receive head injuries because of a bicycle crash. Wearing a helmet in the event of a crash reduces the likelihood of serious head injury by 60 percent.

The Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition is having a car seat check and bicycle helmet

giveaway on Sept. 27 from 3-6 p.m. at the Ottertail Operations Center at 469 Main St. in Ottertail.

"The coalition is dedicated to keeping all road users safe. Car seat and helmet use matter," said Leah Jesser, the Safe Communities Coalition coordinator. "One of the simplest and most important things we can do to protect our children is having and using the right safety equipment. We urge you to get your car seats checked, make sure they are installed correctly, and ensure your children wear a helmet every time they get on their bikes."

Contact Leah Jesser at ljesser@co.ottertail.mn.us or 218-998-8320 to schedule an appointment. You may also receive a free properly fitted bicycle helmet for your children.

Need a New Car?
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motors.inforum.com

OTHER VIEW

Survey shows need for mental health support

As disruptive as the pandemic was during the 2020-21 school year, students still learned and accomplished academic goals — more than some initially thought.

According to a University of Minnesota analysis of the new Minnesota Safe Learning Survey, the extent of how much coursework was perceived to be higher than the spring of 2020, but lower than pre-pandemic times.

The statewide survey of 10,500 educators, families and students was conducted in May and June. The goal was to provide a broad picture of how those most impacted by the state's Safe Learning Plan actually experienced it in practice.

Here are some major points from the study, as cited by university leaders:

Support is needed for mental health

When asked to name their top three challenges during the school year, educators in all roles including administrators, teachers and support professionals, cited "taking care of my own mental health" and "supporting student mental health" as their top challenges. Families and students reported mental health support as their third greatest challenge. These findings were the same in the winter 2021 survey.

"The most salient finding between the Winter and Spring Safe Learning Surveys was that educators, families and students are concerned about mental health," said Katie Pekel, the principal in residence at the University of Minnesota. "As we prioritize our return to school planning, this is a finding that cannot be overlooked."

Learning occurred

As in winter, all three groups surveyed — students, educators and parents — felt that learning did occur during the 2020-21 school year. However, as grade levels increased, families felt that their students were learning less. Additionally, all groups continued to believe there was more learning taking place pre-COVID and that

more learning occurred this school year than during the 2020-21 school year when the state shifted entirely to distance learning.

Student engagement shows mixed results

While findings suggested that there were successes in student engagement, researchers also found challenges. Teachers reported "engaging students in learning" as their third-highest challenge, while students reported that "keeping up with my school work" and "understanding my school work" were their top two challenges. This may indicate that there were successes in reaching surface levels of learning during the 2020-21 school year, but challenges in achieving the support needed for deeper engagement in learning.

Moving forward

The Spring Minnesota Safe Learning Survey added questions related to support needed moving forward. All respondent groups reported mental health and engagement among their top concerns and reported a desire to return to in-person schooling as much as possible.

► Educators discussed school infrastructure needs, including a more manageable workload and more funding, staffing and resources.

► Students generally desired changes that would help them feel less stressed and worry less about their grades, including a more manageable workload and more meaningful assignments.

► Family respondents, who largely expressed frustration with COVID-19 restrictions, reported their top concerns as student social interactions and relationships and students being behind academically.

Read the full report of the spring Minnesota Safe Learning Survey at www.cehd.umn.edu/research/safe-learning-survey. The survey will be distributed to districts across Minnesota one final time, from October to November.

This other view is the opinion of the editorial board of our sister publication, the Alexandria Echo Press.



Nathan Bowe / Tribune

Darren Newville with the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, right, talks to a man at the open house on Monday.

Otter Tail River Watershed open house packs a crowd

By Nathan Bowe
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Penny for your thoughts?

There were lots of people at the Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan open house Monday, Sept. 20, and on the way in, they all got three pennies to vote on four general priorities for water projects. They could drop all three in one jar or spread them out over three jars.

By eyeballing the pennies dropped into jars at the community room of the Detroit Lakes Police Department, planners could get a look at what people at the meeting consider the most pressing Otter Tail River basin water issues: They could choose among habitat continuity; groundwater quality and quantity; agricultural land management; or lake and stream water quality.

"Through this whole process we're hoping people come and tell us what they want in the watershed," said Ben

Underhill, water planner with the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District. "We can use it to hone in on things that people in the watershed really care about."

Another station at the open house explained what the One Watershed One Plan concept is all about. Pete Waller, a conservationist with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in Detroit Lakes, was manning that station.

One Watershed, One Plan is designed to plan and pay for water projects — things like erosion control, wetland restoration, aquifer replenishing, wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, keeping phosphorus out of lakes, and many other projects — based on the geographic boundaries of river watersheds.

Deciding which projects get priority will be a committee made up of one representative from each of the local units of government — counties, watershed districts and soil and water conser-

vation districts — within that river watershed. Most of the watershed is in Becker and Otter Tail counties.

At the open house, there was a water taste test at another station, giving people the chance to sample city water from Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls, along with private well water, and water from other sources. It gives people a chance to "learn about where your drinking water comes from," Underhill said.

Another station featured a pair of oversized maps of the Otter Tail River basin, and people at the open house could put colored stickers on the maps to show where they live. They could also note particular issues of local concern on post-it notes.

And the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency manned a station to explain the agency's watershed restoration and protection strategy report for the Otter Tail River basin.

That report incor-

porates water quality assessment, watershed analysis, public participation, planning, implementation, and measurement of results into a plan that addresses both restoration and protection, according to the MPCA.

Overall, the Otter Tail River basin is in pretty good shape, but there are localized areas that need improvement, and the WRAPS report has two parts: Strategies to restore impaired waters, and strategies to protect clean waters.

Moriya Rufer, a consultant with Houston Engineering of Fargo, is helping write the water plan for the new Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan unit. She expects the plan to be finished by late next year, a process that will include at least four public meetings, she said.

Another Otter Tail River 1W1P open house will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the AmericInn in Fergus Falls.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you community for your love and support

To the family and friends of the late Louella (Lou Robben) we wish to extend our sincere thanks for your many kindnesses and for the condolences and support that we have received.

A special thanks to Dr. Mark Paulson and Dr. Judy Dahl and the awesome nursing staff and

support staff at Sanford Health in Perham for your unwavering direction and care through the years. Thank you, Hospice Red River Valley Blue Team staff (our warriors in scrubs) for your remarkable support.

Your many acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be a great comfort to us in our time of sorrow.

Family of Lou Robben, New York Mills

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Saturday, September 25, 2021
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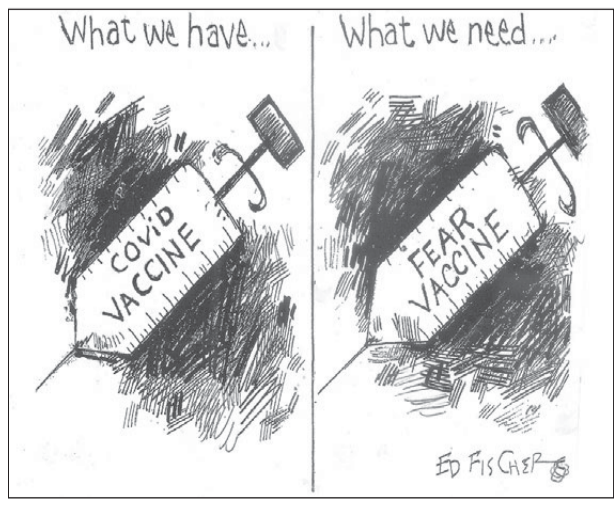
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CROSS COUNTRY

IN A FLASH

Amid lightning, girls run to fourth-place finish, shorthanded boys take sixth

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

It was a bizarre race for the Perham girls cross country team in Little Falls at the Lucky Lindy event on Thursday, Sept. 16.

When the race kicked off, there was a slight overcast over the Little Falls Golf Course. But no more than five minutes later, the rain started coming down. With the sky filled with lightning, the Perham girls ran to a fourth-place finish.

"The varsity girls had a great day," Perham head coach Jeff Morris said. "They finished fourth overall by edging out Staples in the tiebreaker. Alexandria took home the team title."

Eighth-grader Gracie Morris led all Perham girls with a time of 20:17.5. Her time was good enough for 12th place in a field with 135 runners. Junior Quincy Anderson wasn't too far behind in 16th with her time of 20:34.3.

"Leading the way was the one-two punch of Gracie and Quincy," Morris said. "Both of these girls did a fantastic job establishing our team at the front of the pack. It sets the tone for the rest of the team."

Leelou Novotny (21:15.5), Liz Birkeland (21:29.5) and Kaia Starz rounded out the top five for the Yellowjackets, putting them in a tie with Staples-Motley. It came down to the sixth-fastest runners for each team.

Lauryn Rustad had a gutsy race," Morris said. "Her finish broke the tie with our team and Staples."

Rustad was just two seconds behind Stalz with a time of 22:26.6. Staples-Motley's Addisyn Cichos was clocked in her team's sixth-fastest time in 24:12.5.

Boys take sixth

Despite missing one of its top three runners, the Yellowjacket boys ran to a sixth-place finish behind another impressive performance from senior Jakob McCleary.

"We were down one of our top three due to illness but still competed well in a fantastic field with great competition," Morris said. "The boys were sixth overall, just behind Staples. Bemidji took home the team title."

While the girls had to run through the rain, the thunderstorms subsided for the boys race. McCleary ran through the overcast fairways to a time of 16:28.0. The next fastest runner was St. Cloud Cathedral's 17:04.8.

Sophomore Caden Doll finished in 18:20.9, with junior Micah Thompson two seconds behind. Carter Flatau 18:43.8 and Dylan Guck 18:59.3 were the final two points scorers for the Yellowjackets.

Contact Jared Rubado:
jrubado@dlnewspapers.com



Above: Caden Doll runs to a 40th-place finish with a time of 18:20.9 for Perham at the Lucky Lindy cross country event in Little Falls on Sept. 16. **Left:** Perham eighth-grader Gracie Morris runs to a 12th-place finish with a time of 20:17.6 on Sept. 16, 2021 at the Lucky Lindy event in Little Falls. Morris led all Perham runners as the Yellowjackets took fourth as a team.

Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

SWIMMING AND DIVING ROUNDUP



Vance Carlson / Forum News Service

Irene Mursu swims the 100 butterfly to a seventh-place finish in Park Rapids on Sept. 18. Perham took fifth place out of five teams and had eight section-qualifiers. Mursu also completed the Iron Woman on Monday in Thief River Fall.

4 Yellowjackets complete the Iron Woman

By Jared Ruabdo
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Perham-New York Mills swimming and diving team continued its impressive season with a 92-78 win over Thief River Falls.

The Yellowjackets set 10 personal records and had four section qualifying times. Irene Mursu, Jasmyn Olson and Molly Meyer joined Elle McDonald as Perham-New York Mills swimmers to complete an Iron Woman. All four have competed in the eight individual events in one meet, with McDonald doing it twice this season.

Here are the highlights from Thief River Falls:

200 MEDLEY RELAY- Junior Lucie Meyer, senior Irene Mursu, eighth-grader Taylor Ziemke, freshman Elle McDonald (2nd); Junior Kaydi Mursu, seventh-grader Megan Galbrecht, eighth-grader Maggie Vickmark and junior Josi Mindermann (4th); 200 FREE- Junior Lucy Schultz (1st), K. Mursu (2nd, section qualifier) and senior Jasmyn Olson (6th); 200 IM-Vickmark (1st), freshman Molly Meyer (3rd) and sophomore Madeleine Lamb (5th); 50 FREE- Ziemke (1st), McDonald (5th) and Mindermann (6th); 100 FLY- Vickmark (2nd, one-second cut), K. Mursu (4th) and Olson (6th); 100 FREE- Ziemke (1st), L. Meyer (4th, two-second cut) and Mindermann (5th); 500 FREE- I. Mursu (1st, section qualifier), Schultz (2nd, section qualifier), McDonald (4th); 200 FREE RELAY- Ziemke, M. Meyer, Schultz, I. Mursu (2nd); Olson, Galbrecht, Lamb, Vickmark (5th) 100 BACK- L. Meyer (3rd), M. Meyer (4th, second cut, section qualifier) and eighth grader Madison Lohse (6th); 100 BREASTROKE- I. Mursu (1st, section qualifier), Galbrecht (5th, two-second cut) and Lamb (6th); 400M FREE RELAY- McDonald, Lamb, L. Meyer and Schultz (2nd); Olson, Mindermann, seventh-grader Jaelyn Rodewald, K. Mursu (4th)

Perham drops both in double dual

Perham-New York Mills looked competitive in two close losses in the Sept. 13 double dual in Bemidji.

Perham-New York Mills fell to the Lumberjacks 196-116 before losing to Thief River Falls 157-145. Despite the losses, the girls set personal records in 26 of 33 individual events. Here are the double dual meet highlights:

200-YARD FREESTYLE- Seventh grader Jaelyn Rodewald swam the event for the first time ever (12th), sophomore Madeleine Lamb dropped seven seconds (10th), freshman Molly Meyer cut 11 seconds (7th) and junior Lucie Meyer dropped eight seconds (6th); 200 YARD IM- Junior Kaydi Mursu cut three seconds (6th), freshman Elle McDonald dropped four seconds (4th) and eighth grader Maggie Vickmark shaved off 11 seconds (2nd); 50-YARD FREESTYLE- Junior Josi Mindermann cut a quarter of a second (11th), junior Lucy Schultz cut over a second, which broke the 30-second mark for the first time (7th) and senior Irene Mursu took first; DIVING- In the first diving meet of the season, senior Madison Ruther took sixth, sophomore Avery McAllister improved her score by 13 points (3rd) and sophomore Britney Lorentz improved her score by 12 points (2nd); 100-YARD BUTTERFLY- Seventh grader Megan Galbrecht swam

Yellowjackets take fifth in Park Rapids

At the Park Rapids, where Perham-New York Mills took fifth, McDonald became the first to complete the Iron Woman. She also cut off 27 seconds on her 100-yard butterfly and 19 seconds on her 100-yard breaststroke.

Melrose took first place as a team with 551.5 points. Sauk Centre (511.5), Park Rapids (464.5) Detroit Lakes (432.5) and Perham-New York Mills (239) rounded out the

SWIMMING: Page A8

FOOTBALL

Yellowjackets falter early at D-G-F

By Andrew Haugland
Special to the Perham Focus

It was a one-sided affair, as the Perham Yellowjackets fell flat Friday, Sept. 17, against the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Rebels, 48-0.

In what looked to be a promising game for Perham, the stars didn't quite align. The Yellowjackets defense barely had time to settle in before DGF found the end zone and made it a 7-0 game just over five minutes into the first quarter, after McKale Pierson ran it in from 42 yards out.

Perham started to drive down the field to try to tie up the game, but a costly interception put the ball back into the Rebels' hands. DGF was able to capitalize on the



Andrew Haugland / Special to the Perham Focus
Brian Ramos (52), Levi Richter (2) and Chas Melvin (1) combine on a tackle for the Perham Yellowjackets on Friday, Sept. 18, against Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton.

Peterson, Gigstead and Hanson inducted into Perham Athletic HOF

Staff Report

Three standout Perham individuals will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday night at halftime of the Yellowjackets' football game against Detroit Lakes.

Jim Peterson, Brittany Gigstead and Hans Hanson left their mark on Perham and will now see their legacies enshrined among other Yellowjacket greats.

Peterson was a three-sport athlete and graduated in 1984. He played on the defensive side of the football field, wrestled and handled the hot corner for the baseball team.

HALL OF FAME: Page A8



Perham Focus / file photo
Longtime Yellowjacket head baseball coach Hans Hanson will be inducted into the Perham Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 24, during the Perham football game against Detroit Lakes

FOOTBALL: Page A8

TENNIS



Vance Carlson / Park Rapids Enterprise
LaVonne Lindberg reaches for a shot on Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the Perham-New York Mills win over Park Rapids.

Perham-NYM picks up first win

Staff Report

The Perham-New York Mills girls tennis team picked up a road win Tuesday, Sept. 14, against Park Rapids.

While falling in first singles and first doubles, the team showed depth by prevailing in all the other matches.

A scheduled match at Fergus Falls on Monday, Sept. 20, was canceled because of weather.

The team was scheduled to host Parkers Prairie on Tuesday, Sept. 21, and competes at Detroit Lakes on Thursday, Sept. 23, plays Saturday, Sept. 25, in a tri-

angular at Thief River Falls.

Perham-New York Mills 5, Park Rapids 2

Singles:
No. 1 - Rachael Herman, PARK RAPIDS def. Mallory Belka, PERHAM/New York Mills, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3
No. 2 - LaVonne Lindberg, PERHAM/New York Mills def. Morgan Koppelman, PARK RAPIDS, 5-7, 6-2, 6-3
No. 3 - Avery Malone, PERHAM/New York Mills def. Mickey Clark, PARK RAPIDS, 6-0, 6-3
No. 4 - Kaia Anderson, PERHAM/New York Mills def. Shailyn Hayes, PARK RAPIDS, 6-3, 6-4
Doubles:
No. 1 - Abby Morris, Macy Goochey, PARK RAPIDS def. Trinity Covington, Jane Gudmundson, PERHAM/New York Mills, 6-1, 6-0
No. 2 - Maya Radniecki, Karris Muench, PERHAM/New York Mills def. Emily Schulz, Natalie Harvey, PARK RAPIDS, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4
No. 3 - Addicyn Zimmerman, Eva Vorderbruggen, PERHAM/New York Mills def. Abby Runyan, Emmy Goochey, PARK RAPIDS, 7-5, 6-3

VOLLEYBALL

Solid serving lifts Perham over Pelican Rapids

By Jonah Bove

Special to the Perham Focus

The Perham volleyball team came out firing on all cylinders Thursday night, defeating the Pelican Rapids Vikings 3-0. Perham secured its second victory of the season with a 25-23, 25-14, 25-9 victory over the Vikings.

"We played with consistency out there tonight," said Yellowjackets head coach Nikki Bruns. "It's important to set the tempo off the get-go. We lost the tempo a little bit in that first set, but we came back together and controlled things well throughout the rest of the night."

Perham started the first set with a comfortable 19-12 lead, but the Vikings battled back with a seven point run to tighten things up at 19-19. Both teams went back and forth until the Yellowjackets were able to pull ahead 24-23. They were able to finish the set off with a nice kill. Jaden Hackel got the tempo rolling in the second set immediately, with the



Jonah Bove / Focus

Lola Pulver goes up for a kill against the Pelican Rapids Vikings on Thursday night.

first of the 10 Yellowjacket aces on the night. Things just got moving nicely from there.

"Keeping the tempo is a mental challenge," said Bruns. "It can be hard to keep things from getting sloppy when you're holding a lead. I thought we did a great job of stay-

ing motivated tonight. I hope we can continue to build off that." Perham jumped out to a 12-4 lead in the second set, but the Vikings attempted to claw back, drawing it as close as 17-12. The yellowjackets sealed the set off with a beautiful kill from Olivia Pilgrim to take a 2-0

lead. "I thought our back row was on it tonight," Bruns said. "Our serving was great." Thiel led the Yellowjackets with three aces, and was a big problem for the Vikings in the third set, as she served the Yellowjackets on a 13 point run to give Perham a 22-4 lead.

The Vikings didn't leave without trying to respond, but Greta Raser ended the night with a kill for the 25-9 set win and for the 3-0 victory.

Sydney Anderson and Mallory Greiff had two aces each, and Maya Richter and Pilgrim had one apiece.

Pilgrim and Lola Pulver led the team in blocks on the night, with a pair each. Thiel also led the team in kills with 11 on the night.

On Tuesday, Sept. 14, the Yellowjackets dropped a back and forth battle with Pequot Lakes in five games (25-21, 22-25, 25-22, 22-25, 8-15).

The team took fourth in a weekend tournament at Hawley.

Hackel commits to UND

By Jeff Beach
Perham Focus

Perham Yellowjackets quarterback Colton Hackel has announced that he has committed to the University of North Dakota.

"I am excited to announce that I will be continuing my academic and athletic career at the University of North Dakota!" Hackel said on Twitter Sunday.

Hackel gave a verbal commitment as a preferred walk-on at UND.

"Obviously, the coaching staff played a big part," Hackel told the Grand Forks Herald. "I love the staff. They checked in on me every week, and I got to know

them and the commitments coming in with my class."

Hackel, who is listed at 6-foot-2 and 220 pounds, leads the Yellowjackets in rushing so far this season, with 243 yards on 34 carries for a 6.6 yards per carry average. He also has four rushing touchdowns. As a passer, Hackel has completed 37% of his throws this season, completing 14 of 38 passes with four interceptions and one touchdown.

The UND Fighting Hawks play in the Missouri Valley Conference of the Football Championship Subdivision of Division I.

FOOTBALL

From Page A7

mistake, finding the end zone again. The Yellowjackets' Karter Kosowski was able to block the extra point attempt making it a 13-0 lead.

"We got a lot of looks that we wanted to see. We just didn't pull off the plan," said Perham head coach Aron Velde.

Kasowski was able to block two extra-point kicks on the night, one of the few bright spots for the Yellowjackets, who posted 139 yards of total offense to DGF's 407.

After the first quarter, things started to unravel even worse for Perham, as the Rebels were able to score another touchdown increasing their lead to 21-0, after converting on the two-point attempt. The Jackets shot themselves in the foot again after fumbling on a completed pass along the sidelines that fell in the hands of a Rebels defender. DGF scored after the turnover increasing the lead to 28-0, the touchdown was Pierson's second of the game. Pierson would finish the game with 155 yards rushing and 42 yards receiving, both tops for the Rebels.

The Rebels were able to score again before the first half ended, as DGF's Logan Johnson was able to score from four yards out. Kosowski blocked the PAT again and the score increased to 34-0.

"We never gave up on each other. We stayed a united team through that whole mess," Velde said.

The Rebels were able to make it a 40-0 game in the third quarter after Donavon Verdi ran it in from the six-yard-line, DGF was unable to make the PAT. By the halfway point of the second half both teams removed their starting players, giving the young guns some time under the lights.

DGF scored its final touchdown of the game, when freshman Casey Macziewski ran one from the six yards out,

making it a 48-0 game.

The last time Perham was shutout was in 2014, a 41-0 loss at Pequot Lakes. The last time Perham was defeated by 48 or more points, was 1975 at Park Rapids, 48-0.

Hudson Hackel led the Yellowjackets in rushing with 22 yard on five attempts. Quarterback Colton Hackel had 48 pass yards, completing three passes on 13 attempts with two interceptions. Chas Melvin had three catches for 48 yards.

Gordy Martinez (7 solo, 1 assist) and Chas Melvin (6 solo) were the top tacklers for Perham. Aiden Kennedy recovered a fumble for Perham, the only turnover the team forced.

Even through adversity, Velde says the strength of his team comes from within it, the bond.

"When things don't go well, we pick each other up, we teach each other, and learn from our mistakes rather than pointing fingers.

Velde was quick to blame himself on the lack of execution, as he said it ultimately comes down to the head coach. Velde said he's looking forward to playing Detroit Lakes next week. Detroit Lakes, another ground and pound team, is 2-1 on the season defeating Thief River Falls 28-0 Friday. The Yellowjackets will look to improve the various facets of its game, in preparation for the Lakers.

"We're going to have another physical week of practice, we play DL next week, which is another tough, solid opponent. We definitely just have to get back to doing the little fundamental things correctly."

D-G-F 48, Perham 0

Perham 0 0 0 0 — 0
D-G-F 13 21 6 8 — 48
1st:
DGF - McKale Pierson 42 yard pass from Owen Leach (Pierson kick) 7-0
Pierson 11 yard run (Pierson kick blocked) 13-0
2nd:
Nick Waale 9 yard run (Waale rush) 21-0
Pierson 5 yard run (Pierson kick) 28-0
Logan Johnson 4 yard run (Pierson kick blocked) 34-0
3rd:
Donovan Verdi 6 yard run (Pierson kick failed)
4th:
Casey Macziewski 6 yard run (Landon Morkassel run) 48-0

SWIMMING

From Page A7

the event for the first time ever (8th) and eighth grader Taylor Ziemke dropped 14

seconds (2nd); 100-YARD FREESTYLE- Rodewald cut three seconds (12th), Lucie Meyer dropped two seconds (9th), and Irene Mursu cut second (1st); 500-YARD FREESTYLE- Seventh grader Anika Mursu (11th) and eighth grader Madison Lohse (10th) both swam the event for the first time ever. Molly Meyer cut 38 seconds

(4th); 100-YARD BACKSTROKE- Galbrecht swam the event for the first time (11th), Kaydi Mursu cut half a second (6th), McDonald dropped seven seconds (4th) and Vickmark cut five seconds (3rd); 100-YARD BREASTSTROKE- Anika Mursu swam the event for the first time ever (11th) and Ziemke dropped seven seconds (2nd);

SECTION QUALIFIERS- Irene Mursu- 100 free; Ruthe- diving; Lorentz- diving; McAllister- diving; McDonald- 200 IM, 100 back; Vickmark- 200 IM, 100 back; Ziemke- 100 fly, 100 breast; NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL RECORD: Ziemke- 100 fly 1:08.82

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com

HALL OF FAME

From Page A7

Gigstead graduated in 2007 after accomplishing a plethora of running accolades. She was described as a great leader by her teammates and superiors in running and basketball.

From 1994-2016, Hanson coached baseball and basketball. His head coaching duties for the baseball team started in '98, while he took the helm of the girls basketball team from 2003-07.

Here is the list of accolades from Perham's three 2021 inductees:

JIM PETERSON- 9X Letter winner; 6X captain in football, wrestling and

baseball; All-conference in football and baseball; HOL Conference MVP defensive lineman; 68-24 career wrestling record; Eighth all time in wrestling wins; 36 career fall victories; 2X HOL Conference champion; 2X District 23 wrestling champion; Region 6A wrestling champion; 1984 state Class A wrestling entrant; School record 12 consecutive fall victories; School record 21 fall victories in a season; All-District 23 baseball team; 1984 team leader in hits, runs, at-bats and assists; 1984 Perham Male Athlete of the Year; North Dakota State University Wrestling 1985-89;

BRITTANY (SCHAN-

ANDORE) GIGSTEAD- 10X letter winner in cross country, basketball and track; 5X captain in cross country, basketball and track; 3X all-state in cross country; 2X HOL Conference champion in cross country; 7X HOL Conference champion in track; 8X subsection track champion; 5X section track champion; Perham school record in 400M, 1600M, 4x400M and 4x800; State runner up 4x800 relay; 2X state champion 4x800M relay; State champion 800M; NDSU track captain; NDSU 4x800M relay school record; NDSU 4x1600M relay school record; NDSU 15X top three places in Summit

League track; NDSU 3X NCAA national qualifier 800M; 3X USTFCCA all academic track team;

HANS HANSON- Section 8 girls basketball runner up 2013; Perham baseball record 324-117; 49th MN all time baseball wins; 6X section 8AA baseball champion; 2X state third place; 2X state consolation; 2013 state Class AA runner up; 14X conference baseball champions; Perham assistant baseball coach five years; Perham assistant boys basketball coach four years; 2003 MN baseball coach of the year; 2019 MN HS Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame induction

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I certify that the above statements made by me are correct and complete.
Melissa Swenson, Publisher

TOP PRO ANGLERS CONVERGE ON OTTER TAIL LAKE

Minnesotan Mark Courts trying to hold on to angler of the year spot

By Eric Morken
Alexandria Echo Press

Ottertail, Minn.

Mark Courts, a 23-year professional angler out of Harris, Minnesota, is having one of those years where not much has gone wrong on the water.

That's what it takes to be in the running for an Angler of the Year Award on a national tour against other top professionals. That top spot in the season standings is exactly where Courts finds himself as the Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops National Walleye Tour gets ready to finish off its 2021 season with its three-day championship Sept. 22-24 on Otter Tail Lake.

"No matter what kind of athlete you are, before game day you always have the butterflies," Courts said. "I wouldn't call it nerves. I'd just call it excitement. We're all there to win the tournament. I think that's our first and foremost goal. If the angler of the year thing works out, it works out. But I'm going there to win. I'm super excited."

Courts is currently 12 points ahead of Chase Parsons of Denmark, Wisconsin, and 16 points in front of Alexandria, Minnesota's Drake Herd in the Angler of the Year standings.

Courts has a total weight of 116.19 pounds for 32 fish and a big day of 27.04

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► **Were:** Otter Tail Lake, Ottertail, Minn.

► **When:** Sept. 22-24

► **Weigh-In:** 3 p.m. each day at Beach Bums Bar & Eatery (35776 Co. Hwy 72, Battle Lake, MN). The public is invited to attend the weigh-in each of the three days of the tournament, and there will be a kids fishing clinic after the weigh-in on Sept. 23.

pounds through this tour's four regular-season events. He started the season taking 15th place in a field of 113 pros in Chamberlain, South Dakota, April 29-30 before taking 20th at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, May 27-28, 13th in Huron, Ohio, June 24-25 and 33rd out of 107 professionals at the final regular-season stop in Mobridge, South Dakota, July 29-30.

Courts has avoided that one really bad day that can send an angler down the season standings against the other top professionals in this field.

"A lot of it has to do with all my great sponsors. I couldn't do it without any of them," Courts said. "I feel like I run the best equipment, and that puts me in position to do well... That's really what it boils down to. Being confident in my electronics and knowing



Contributed / Jay Sloan

Mark Courts of Harris, Minnesota, holds up one of the walleyes that helped him to first place in the current Angler of the Year point standings on the Cabela's-Bass Pro Shops National Walleye Tour. Courts will try to hold on to that top spot through the tour championship, which runs Sept. 22-24 on Otter Tail Lake in Ottertail, Minnesota. Chase Parsons of Denmark, Wisconsin, is just 12 points behind in the Angler of the Year standings, and Alexandria, Minnesota's Drake Herd is 16 points back in third place.

what they're telling me. My boat running good all year long. My motor being unbelievably reliable. My rods and reels, nothing going wrong. That's the biggest thing. When you look at an Angler of the Year. You can't have anything go wrong throughout the year, and really that's been my year."

That what he hopes

continues as the best of this tournament circuit head to Ottertail next week. The top 40 professionals and co-angler amateurs based on the season point standings are invited to the championship that starts on Sept. 22.

The top 10 professionals and co-anglers after the first two days of this event will

compete an additional day on Sept. 24 to determine a champion.

There is more than \$100,000 in cash and prizes up for grabs to the winning pro at this tournament. Another nearly \$8,000 and additional sponsor bonuses are on the line for the pro who comes away with the Angler of the Year honor.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Perham Living senior apartment to host art show

No matter their age, everyone can always learn new skills. For the past few months, Anna Lossande with Jollybird Studio in Detroit Lakes has been coming to Briarwood, a senior assisted living building on the Perham Living campus, to teach residents acrylic painting classes. These classes were offered twice a month, and, now complete, Briarwood seniors have art pieces to show off. On Monday, Oct. 4, from 5-6 p.m., Briarwood will be hosting an art show to present the paintings to the public at their building at 630 Fifth St. S.W. in Perham. This show includes

a 48x48 painting that the residents worked on together, which will replace artwork on the walls of Briarwood. Briarwood can be reached at 218-347-1865.

Learn about reusing more, wasting less

This fall, the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department and area libraries are partnering to host two screenings of the documentary, "REUSE Because You Can't Recycle The Planet" as a part of the Choose to Reuse Campaign of 2021. This family-friendly film follows reuse expert Alex Eaves on a trip across the country in search of solutions that help people, the planet and your wallet. "This film isn't about our

waste problem. It's about solutions. And they are everywhere!" said Alex Eaves, filmmaker and owner of STAY VOCAL, a reused t-shirt company. There will be two screenings: Tuesday, Sept. 28: 6 p.m. at the Fergus Falls Public Library Tuesday, Oct. 12: 6:30 p.m. at the Perham Area Public Library The film is approximately 60 minutes, followed by a discussion about reusing more and wasting less with staff from the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department. Check your screening location and date prior to the events in case of updates related to COVID-19. Both events are on Facebook as well as the events tab at ottertailcountymn.us/events.

For more information about the benefits of reuse, and a list of area reuse businesses, visit ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/choose-to-reuse/. Ottertail flea market Sept. 25 The fall flea market is coming to Ottertail on Saturday, Sept. 25. Attendees will be able to cruise different vendors' shops in search of items to buy, accompanied by live music played by The Castaways from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Reservations for an outdoor space are \$10, and reservations for a covered outdoor space are \$25. To reserve a space or for more information, contact Karen or Stephanie at 218-367-3931.

R.D. Offutt Farms to host Potato Field Days The R.D. Offutt Perham farm team is hosting its Seventh Annual Potato Field Days, inviting fellow neighbors and members of the community to an "all-you-can-dig party." On Sept. 24-26 from sunrise to sunset, those interested can bring potato forks and buckets to a specific RDO field and dig to their heart's content. The potato field is two miles south of Ottertail on Hwy. 55 on the right side of the road. Signs will be posted at the field entrance, and flags will indicate where to dig. Feel free to snap a picture and tag RDO on Instagram with #RDOfielddays. News Staff

BUILDING

From Page 1

"We've been in the building we currently own (located on 802 Jenney Ave. SW in Perham) for 13 to 14 years I would guess," Skauge continued. "It's served us and our mission well, but our mission has changed." He said that the Perham location specifically focuses on day services, meaning they provide those they serve with employment opportunities. In the past, Productive Alternatives brought work directly to its site for their members to complete. The workers would get paid for the amount of work they completed. Now, Productive Alternatives has an empha-



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus Construction has started on the old 4-H building to make it suitable for Productive Alternatives.

sis on more community-based work. This means that those they service will work jobs throughout the community and be paid an hourly salary. Because of this, team members won't be working a full 40-hour week, but they still need

day services. "The changes we've made and are making are positive and provide better and more opportunities to people in general," Skauge said. "This is why moving is important. We have a different program. A new facility designed

for this is exciting." So, this building's new renovations will make sure to serve that new mission. This new space will include social, leisure and recreational zones rather than just a warehouse, since they don't need an industrial-type setting any longer. They also need spaces to help those they serve learn and practice self-help skills. "Our building became something that wasn't conducive to what we're trying to do," Skauge said, explaining the difficulties of providing leisure in a warehouse setting that was designed as a workshop. "We're going to be completely moving over (to the new building). We're in the process of selling our old building." Productive Alternatives has several other

locations where they are making the same transition, such as in Fergus Falls, Alexandria and Brainerd. In Alexandria, they're even in the process of constructing an entirely new building. As for the work on their new Perham location, Skauge said they plan to give it a complete makeover. Before the cold sets in, they hope to start some outside work as soon as possible. They'll be adding a garage on the building's west side, constructing parking lots, gutting the inside of the building to suit their needs and more. "We'll be trying to retain some of the original beams," Skauge said. "It's a cool building... We're going to try to retain some of the original look" He hopes for construc-

tion on the building to be done by the beginning of 2022. He also hopes that Productive Alternatives will be able to fully transition there quickly after the completion. They have been working with Hammers Construction through the planning process of construction. "We're very excited about this as an organization," Skauge continued. "This building has sat empty for a while, and I think people will appreciate seeing it used for a good purpose and that it's a good thing for the community. Perham's always been really supportive, and I think this is something we can do to help the community in the context of seeing this building refurbished and reused."

NIBI

From Page 1

Gathering water from the source of a river, those that lead the walk carry that water alongside the river, walking about a mile before passing it along to another person to carry it. They're followed by someone who carries an eagle feather staff, which is there for protection. "We're so far apart from nature most of the time unless you're fortunate to have a garden and put your hands in the dirt," Day said. "Most people are disconnected from the water and disconnected from the earth. That's what we're trying to do as we take people along." Those who participate in the walks are asked to be silent, to mediate and to focus their attention on the water. Day said she wants them to make a connection with the earth. Walking up along Highway 10 into Perham on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 19, Day had already been participating and meditating on the Nibi Walk along Otter Tail River for a bit over a day. She described the way an eagle would fly over to watch them, how horses approached them in greeting and how different trees make different noises, such as between ash trees and pine trees. Connecting and meditating

with the earth and nature is a large part of the Nibi Walk. "When we care about the water and the earth, we're going to make different decisions," Day said. "If we want any kind of habitable world for our great-great-grandchildren, several generations from now, we've got to do something (to help the environment) now." Having sat on the state's Clean Water Council for three years, Day is also quite passionate about environmental preservation and the need for clean water. The Nibi Walk, as well as a spiritual event, is also a way for Day and others to raise awareness about pollution and the need for clean water. South of the Twin Cities, Day said, people can't drink their well water or give it to their babies because it contains so much nitrate — a salt or ester of nitrous acid. She's personally witnessed how in southwest Minnesota, people need to treat their water before drinking it, and they can't swim in lakes. There are many farms throughout the state of Minnesota, and, as found in a study published by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, runoff from fertilized crops contributes to 73% of Minnesota nitrate pollution. On the Minnesota River, cropland runoff is the source of 95% of nitrate pollution. The runoff also contributes to the erosion of rivers. As discussed by the Friends of the Mississippi River, nitrate

pollution can put the lives of people at risk, such as causing blue baby syndrome, and high nitrate levels are also harmful to water life and habitats. They also mentioned that Minnesota is the sixth highest contributor of nitrogen to the Gulf of Mexico dead zone, which is suffocating aquatic life and hurting the fishing industry. "Walking along the highway, I see things people throw away," Day said. "If people would think — a cigarette butt or filter. I saw so many. That's never going to decompose." While Day mentioned that an individual person can make a small difference by recycling or not littering, but that's not going to tip the balance. She believes that what's going to tip the balance is by looking at large industries and the pollution they contribute toward, such as how much water a power plant uses. She also brought up how Enbridge, the company constructing the Line 3 replacement pipeline through Northern Minnesota, was recently fined \$3.32 million by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for an environmental violation, as they dug a trench several feet deeper than they were supposed to. In early August, the MPCA found several inadvertent releases of drilling fluid into 12 river crossings, which then flowed into the wetland. This was not allowed under Line 3's certification.



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus Sharon Day leads the Nibi Walk down Highway 10, entering Perham on Sunday afternoon.

"We're just way out of balance (with nature), and we need to come back to the center," Day said. "To refine the balance, ask, 'How much do I need? When I take something, how much am I leaving?' Only take what you need. Leave the rest." The Nibi Walk along Otter Tail River, which ended in Fergus Falls on Tuesday, Sept. 21, was able to happen thanks to the donations of the community and interest from the organization, Clean Up the River Environment. If you're interested in learning more about Nibi Walks or wish to donate toward them, go to nibiwalk.org. Day shared a story of the time she asked her grandson where the spirit lives. He looked up to her with tears in his eyes, and patted his chest, saying, "Right

here." She asked him who we should be kindest to and he said, "Who we love." Though Day is the director of the Indigenous People's Task Force, which is where they receive the funds for Nibi Walks, she organizes them and participates in them in her own time without pay. She does this because she's passionate about the environment from a scientific and spiritual standpoint. Reflecting back on that story about her grandson, Day continued, "The spirit does live here in each of us. If we can just start doing our work based on what we do or don't do and how that's going to affect our (descendants) seven generations from now, we may be making different decisions today as opposed to this idea of progress and wealth and attainment of material things."

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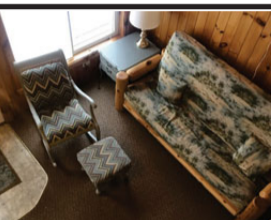
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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16						17	
18		19			20	21				
	22			23						
24	25			26				27	28	29
30			31	32					33	
34		35							36	
		37					38			
39	40	41					42		43	44
45			46	47	48				49	
50				51					52	
53				54					55	

- ACROSS**
- Snaky curve
 - Lead actor
 - As well
 - Dove's cry
 - Contend (with)
 - Lived
 - Deli purchase
 - Great Barrier _____
 - Speed competition
 - "Carmen," e.g.
 - Explodes
 - "_____ Sawyer"
 - Riding whip
 - Hot and dry
 - Furnaces
 - Jamaican product
 - Sobbed
 - As of now
 - Bent down
 - Tariff
 - Flower receptacle
 - Favorite
 - Spicy sausage
 - Uprisings
 - Cattle stick
 - Large truck
 - Mine shipment
 - Skin affliction
 - Wood source
 - Monkey suit
 - Cast off, as skin
 - Hourglass filler
 - Yo!
- DOWN**
- Repeat
 - Bath bar
 - At a future date
 - Vamoose
 - Foot end
 - Monkey's cousin
 - Hockey official
 - Sudden
 - Dancer's jump
 - Religious faction
 - Small numbers
 - Lightning _____
 - Path
 - Scold
 - Flood boat
 - Trot
 - Upper canine
 - Accelerate in neutral
 - Swine home
 - Closetmouthed person
 - Withstands
 - Avoided
 - Flower garland
 - Used a crowbar

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	E	H	D	N	A	S	D	E	H	S
X	T	L	E	E	T	R	E	N	C	A
R	O	S	E	M	I	S	R	O	D	P
S	O	T	R	I	M	I	A	V	A	S
T	P	E	T	S	E	V	A	S	E	L
L	V	E	L	E	D	C	R	I	E	D
S	H	E	R	S	H	E	A	R	I	D
S	C	R	O	P	C	R	O	M	A	T
S	C	V	E	R	E	F	E	R	E	H
N	E	B	E	C	O	P	E	C	O	C
A	L	S	O	A	L	S	T	A	R	S

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers. Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

4						6		1
		6		3				
9								7
				5	3		7	8
3			1		9			
		9			2			
					1	2		
							9	6
8		5			4			

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TODAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

8	1	4	7	6	9	2	8	9
9	6	7	8	2	3	4	1	5
5	8	2	1	4	9	3	6	7
4	3	1	2	9	7	6	5	8
2	9	5	6	8	1	7	4	3
8	7	6	3	5	4	1	9	2
4	7	3	9	1	8	5	2	6
9	5	8	4	3	2	6	7	1
1	2	6	5	7	9	8	3	4

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BROADBAND

From Page 1



Baldwin

continue asking for these services to expand broadband.

The reality of technology came hard in the pandemic as more people and businesses needed to have these resources for education, healthcare and work. While the state has set speed goals for 2022 and 2026, Baldwin said she sees these goals as more of a minimum due to all of the connectivity changes during the pandemic. With the increased understanding of the need more funding is available, as researcher and contributor to the Blandin on Broadband blog Ann Treacy said. She's worked in the industry since 1994.

When the county's federal CARES Act funding became available, Baldwin said having ideas ready due to their work with community partners and the Blandin Foundation helped with the projects of tech packs, computers, smart rooms and public Wi-Fi locations with the Viking Library System.

The county's broadband focuses include:

- ▶ Increasing access for kids and schools to coding and STEAM career options, including an upcoming virtual career fair.

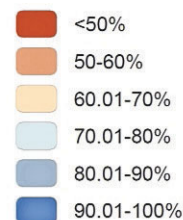
- ▶ Helping businesses with tech assessments that include consultants and matching grants for aspects like new websites or reservation systems to strengthen their business.

- ▶ Committing up to 25% (\$2.8 million) of the county's American Rescue Plan funds to broadband projects. The total cost for the unserved areas of the county is approximately \$40-50 million, according to Baldwin. The county also used \$200,00 of CARES Act funds for broadband projects, including Wi-Fi hotspots, equipment and resources for job seekers and students.

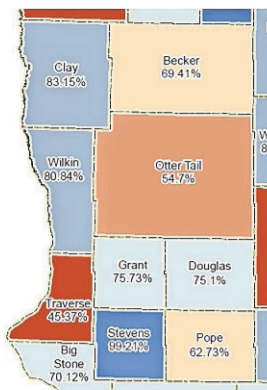
The broadband services are also part of the county initiative to attract new residents and

Percentage of Households Served by Wireline Broadband Service

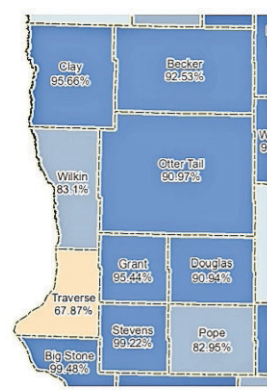
At Least 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload Speeds (2022 State Broadband Goal)



2016



2021



Contributed / Minnesota Office of Broadband Development

In 2016, 54.7% of households in Otter Tail County had 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds, which increased to 90.97% in 2021.



Contributed / Otter Tail County

A map of Otter Tail County shows broadband access (green) and future projects (gray highlighted).

address the workforce shortage. And as current and new residents come, Baldwin said she's received some phone calls about inadequate internet service for residents to work from home.

"What do people need in our county to grow and thrive and locate here and remain here in what people consid-

er basics? That housing, child care and then broadband. That when you're coming from other regions that have really strong broadband access that it's just an expectation that you think you'll be able to get it and that's a really disappointing realization when you may choose to come here to Otter Tail County," Baldwin said.

There are resources available to Minnesota families for free Chromebooks, monthly broadband service costs, and communities can apply for the Community Broadband Resources Accelerate program through Oct. 22. More broadband financial assistance opportunities are available on the DEED website.

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FARM SAFETY YIELDS REAL RESULTS

The harvest can be a particularly busy and dangerous time for farmers, which is why National Farm Safety and Health Week is held every fall. This year, the campaign takes place from September 19 to 25 and promotes the theme Farm Safety Yields Real Results. To help you assess your habits, here are 20 tips for safer farming.

- PERSONAL**
- Learn basic first aid including CPR and emergency response skills.
 - Use personal protective equipment as needed including gloves, boots, hearing protection, face masks and respirators.
 - Teach everyone who lives and works on your farm, as well as visitors, the appropriate safety procedures.
 - Avoid wearing loose clothing when working in confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers.
 - Get plenty of rest, and be sure to stay hydrated and nourished throughout the day.
- TRACTORS**
- Perform safety and maintenance checks on tractors and other machines before every use.
 - Install a rollover protection structure on each tractor.
 - Use a seatbelt when operating farm equipment.
 - Prohibit additional riders on tractors.
 - Drive safely both on and off the farm.
- CHEMICALS**
- Be cautious around dangerous chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon monoxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
 - Store farm chemicals away from children and livestock.

- Make a list of all chemicals on the premises for firefighters to reference in the event of an incident.
- LIVESTOCK**
- Treat livestock with respect and caution.
 - Understand the flight zones of the animals you handle.
 - In confined spaces, make sure you have an exit strategy.
- GRAIN**
- Keep bins, beds and wagons of grain safely covered and out of the reach of children and animals.
 - Make sure no grain is flowing before you enter a bin, and always have a rope, safety harness and two people with you.
 - To prevent fires, make sure areas with grain dust are properly ventilated and limit potential ignition sources.
 - If someone becomes submerged in grain, call 911, and don't attempt to go in after them.
- In addition to these 20 tips, be sure to have an emergency response plan specific to your operation. It should include shutdown procedures, emergency contact information (local fire department, police, etc.) and lockout procedures.

Make safety your priority every day

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