

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 cases are up, and deaths increased 80 percent in the past week.
P. 4

Shrek opens Friday

Le Sueur-Henderson theatre students will be putting on three performances of Shrek this weekend. P. 7



Titans Swimming

Titans make history at Section 1A meet with best team finish and Ella Schmiesing advancing to state. P. 8



The Henderson Independent

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Le Sueur-Henderson School Board

One school district, one school

LS-H is full steam ahead to put one building to the test

By Rachel Miller
Editor

Le Sueur-Henderson voters were warned: if the referendum that would demolish and build a new K-3 school and refurbish Hilltop Elementary fails, the school district will move ahead and put a single PreK-12th grade building in Le Sueur to the vote.

On Monday, the board made good on that promise, as they were all in support of moving forward with a new referendum to demolish Le Sueur's Park Elementary School, and construct a brand new elementary school onto the existing Middle/High School in Le Sueur.

The cost of the new referendum is not yet known, but will be lower than the \$50 million referendum that failed on Nov. 2. Not refurbishing Hilltop will lower the cost, and the district is mulling over whether to remove the high school's Career and Technical Education expansion from the project and instead put that as a separate second question, similar to the fieldhouse option the last time around.

If the referendum passes, Hilltop Elementary students will be bussed to Le Sueur when construction of the new school is complete, and Hilltop will be empty for either new development or possibly another school use.

One option Superintendent Jim Wagner raised was using Hilltop as an Alternative Learning Center. Right now, Wagner said other area school districts are sending their students to Mankato, and Le Sueur-Henderson could potentially gain those students and the state aid that follows them.

As an added bonus, Wagner said the existing setup (open school layout) is optimal for an Alternative Learning Center, and the district could set it up without additional spending.

"We are trying to provide everything for all of our students, and right now we are not," Wagner said. "Whether we like it or not, the model we have across the state and across the country accommodates 85-90 percent of the student body. Some kids don't learn in a square room, and if we want to provide service to all of our kids, that gives us the chance to

do so."

Tuck questioned whether residents would still think that is wasting money on Hilltop, to which Wagner replied, "Are those kids a waste of money? They deserve to have that."

Replacing Park Elementary School is something the school district desperately needs. The building, which was built in the 1930s and expanded in the 50s, has aging equipment that makes learning difficult, from failing boilers to an outdated electrical load, a needed roof replacement, and continual water damage to the gym floor.

The boilers are undersized for the school, and board member Gretchen Rehm shared how her daughter had to take the MCA tests while wearing a winter jacket due to how cold her classroom was.

"How do you expect her to do well on her MCAs, which is going against another student in the state in a normal classroom that is a normal temperature,"

WATER CONCERNS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

The LS-H School Board on Monday decided to move forward with a one-building referendum. Above, Kraus-Anderson Senior Project Manager Jason Peterson and Director of Project Planning and Development Gary Benson were present to gather information and offer insight. School board member Brian Sorenson also shared how he was disappointed with how the vote went in Henderson and did not see any viable way to save Hilltop.

VETERANS DAY 2021

Lessons from the veterans

By Beth Cornish
Independent staff

On Veterans Day this year, local schools provided fanfare and thanks to our veterans. The day began school at the Le Sueur-Henderson Middle School/High School when the members of the Le Sueur American Legion Post 55 presented the colors, before joining Le Sueur VFW Post 4297 and the Sibley American Legion Post 74 in the audience.

The LS-H Concert Choir, under the direction of Zachary Kubasta, performed an outstanding a cappella rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, then boarded a bus to perform at Park Elementary.

The LS-H Concert Band performed the Armed Forces Salute, a medley of the songs for each of the five branches of our military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines before Dean of Students Jeff Christ read a list of LS-H alumni currently serving our country, a reminder of the sterling example of honor, patriotism and sacrifice made by those close to home. Keegan Straub finished off the program with a reading of the poem "In Flanders Field."

Later that morning, young students at Hilltop shared a program of patriotic music and messages, with the LS-H



PHOTO BY BETH CORNISH

From the left, Madalynn Seaver, Adrian Villanueva, Robert Riemann and Gavin Renstrom each read about patriotism during the Veterans Day program at Hilltop Elementary in Henderson.

Concert Choir providing another stirring rendition of the national anthem. Three of the veterans demonstrated the proper way to fold the American flag before a short presentation explained how each part of the flag has meaning.

The 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies at the time of the Revolutionary War; the blue field is for the sky above our land; the 50 white stars are

for each state in the union; the red is for heart and the white is for purity. As the veterans prepared to leave, one of the classes filed back in to present a hand-written/drawn note of appreciation for each veteran.

Last but not least, the Minnesota New Country School in Henderson hosted another program in the afternoon.

SPEAKER AND HIS
MESSAGE

Commander Shannon Frost introduced Sam Gore, a two-tour Iraqi War veteran, who shared with the assembly at LS-H MS/HH and again at MNCS how and why he decided to join the Army. He was a junior in high school when 9/11 occurred and it

VETERANS DAY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Henderson City Council

City considers new water treatment plant

By Beth Cornish
Independent staff

Surprisingly, after the number of complaints of discolored and smelly water around town, only half a dozen residents attended the special city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, to hear the results of the pilot water study.

Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. performed a study of Henderson's water using their custom-built portable water plant over a two-week period earlier this fall. There is some good news as no contaminants such as radon or E. coli were found in the city's water.

The EPA standard is 0.30 mg/L for iron and 0.05 mg/L for manganese. Both of these elements are considered nuisance or aesthetic issues as iron and manganese don't cause any health issues, but they can result in a metallic taste, an orange or brown color, staining and clogging of fixtures.

TESTING PROCESS

The city's water supply was sampled prior to treatment and then run through a number of scenarios using chemicals, aeration, detention and filtration. The raw water at both wells exceeded the recommended standard for iron with an average of 1.97 mg/L at Well 1 (more

than six times the standard) and 1.24 (more than twice the recommendation) at Well 2. Raw water at Well 1 was at the EPA standard for manganese of 0.05, but Well 2 had an average reading of 0.15, three times the recommended amount.

The first test step added chlorine to the water, then aeration was used to aid in the removal process. Step three was to hold the samples and the final step was filtration using a choice of substrates to trap the solids created from the chemical process.

TEST RESULTS

The results after testing showed a great improvement. Water treated with chlorine and filtered with greensand came in at an average of 0.049 mg/L for iron (six times less than the standard) and 0.046 with the addition of aeration. Manganese levels improved to 0.016 for greensand and 0.015

CITY COUNCIL
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



GUEST COLUMN

By Al Christensen
Tri-County Solid Waste Director

Good weather equals successful fall clean ups

Hello everyone, I hope y'all have had a chance to get out and enjoy the beautiful fall weather lately! It certainly has been very helpful to everyone wanting to clean out our garages, basements and sheds and get ready for winter.

With my phone ringing off the hook on a daily basis, it's easy to see that our residents have taken the opportunity to gather a wide variety of household items ready for disposal or reuse or recycling, ranging from household hazardous waste, to expired medication, old furniture, appliances and TVs... I really appreciate and commend our residents for taking the time to call or email me and ask very insightful questions of how, when and where to recycle or dispose of items.

To start with, the local Blue Earth County household hazardous waste facility closed Oct. 28. The reuse store will be closed for the winter, but residents can still drop off materials starting in December by making an appointment.

This October we have seen record numbers of our residents bringing in their household hazardous waste materials by the truckloads. Residents in Sibley and Le Sueur counties can also dispose of their hazardous waste materials at the McLeod and Scott County facilities that are open year round. Please pack your materials safely when transporting them to a hazardous waste facility or you could find spilled materials in your vehicle, which we have seen many times... Recycle your holiday lights — I just

want to give a quick reminder to our residents that we have bins and carts set up at all our local city offices for residents to recycle their holiday light strings for free as they do not go in your usual recycling curb cart. The copper in them is valuable so we need them properly recycled.

Our \$5 coupon special is good through the end of the year for disposal of appliances or any size TV. Residents can find our coupon posted on our county and city web pages. You can print them off or just download them to your smart phone and show the coupon to our vendors from your phone. This is a great opportunity for our residents to save some money and clear out some space in the house.

Recycling reminders: It's always good to get these out before the holi-

days set in so I want to review them. Please keep these helpful reminders posted near your recycling cart to hone our recycling habits on a daily basis.

First off, NO electrical cords or light strings such as holiday lights as they can become caught in the machinery. NO wraps such as grocery store bags as they can get wrapped around recycling equipment. NO hazardous waste materials such as paints, oils or other liquids. NO batteries as they are a fire hazard. Alkaline batteries can be thrown in the garbage but you need to recycle rechargeable batteries, including button batteries found in toys, watches, hearing aids, etc.. NO Styrofoam... this is not a recyclable material.

As Black Friday specials start to roll out, the new TVs seem to magically

jump out of the box before Christmas morning so when you open the new TV box please remove the small plastic bags and Styrofoam, put these items in your garbage, and only recycle the cardboard box. NO needles or medications. NO food waste. NO clothing. NO window or mirror glass.

For a more detailed list of what is and is not recyclable, please go to our website or to the Nicollet County Waste Wizard for more helpful tips on recycling. Please also remember to reduce and reuse before you recycle...

That's all for now, please give me a call or send an email for any of your disposal or recycling questions at Tri County Solid Waste, 507-381-9196. Make every day Earth day with Tri County.

FROM OUR FILES

130 YEARS AGO NOV. 20, 1891

The first and only mill in the United States where flax fiber is to be prepared for the manufacture of linen wares will soon begin operations in Austin, MN. The process is the invention of a New York chemist by the name of Pennington, who has worked at it for five years.

The common method for separating the bark from the stalk is to expose the flax to the dew and rain for eight or nine weeks, when it is taken and scutched. By the Pennington method the flax is immersed in a solution of chemicals for 40 hours, after which the fiber is prepared for the linen mills.

The fact that Minnesota is chosen as the field for the first one of such plants shows that flax-growing in this state is an industry of new mean importance, and in the dim future we can see the outlines of the great linen factories that will be in operation all over the state in a few years.

Andrew Kohler, a farmer near North St. Paul, has been courting Annie Drew, a young girl of that place, who persistently refused him. Kohler called on her, and drawing a revolver, told her she could take her choice between him and death. Supposing it a joke she said, "Death." Kohler fired, the ball pierced the girl's heart, and she dropped dead. The next day Kohler committed suicide.

120 YEARS AGO NOV. 15, 1901

Messrs. Didra and Enkhaus returned from their trapping expedition Saturday. They brought with them 586 muskrat skins, 14 mink skins and four skunk skins.

The Indian Inspector, Major James McLaughlin, has closed a treaty with the Fort Totton Indians of North Dakota, by which over 100,000 acres of fine agricultural land will be opened for settlement as soon as congress takes action. This will give hundreds of people a chance to secure good farming land at a small cost.

A young fool woman in Brooklyn has allowed herself to be inoculated with virus from a cow suffering from tuberculosis as an experiment to show that Professor Koch's theory that bovine tubercule bacilli cannot infect human beings is correct. The result will be awaited with more than passing interest.

100 YEARS AGO NOV. 18, 1921

While out hunting rabbits with a companion on Monday, Louis Caswell accidentally was shot in one of his heels. Four kernels of shot penetrated the flesh after passing through

a heavy rubber and the heavy shoe below. Dr. Didra removed the shot.

It looked like winter last week, but one snowfall does not make a winter any more than one swallow makes a summer. The snow laid the dust along the streets and roads and made unknown quantities of germs harmless besides the pesky flies, and we have reason to feel thankful.

Armistice Day was a quiet day in Henderson. The Legion boys unfurled the stars and stripes on their high flag staff, and other private and public buildings hung out Old Glory. The bells sounded taps during the burial of the unknown soldier.

G. A. Buck's opinion: If we simply can't curb our fighting instincts, let's compromise by declaring war on Mars. Then we could all die in peace before inventing a method of attack.

90 YEARS AGO NOV. 20, 1931

The burglars that were in Henderson on the night that the People's Mercantile Co. at Arlington was robbed of \$1,000 worth of merchandise were no doubt the same men who were ordered out of town at the point of a gun by Policeman Ayer. The caught the miscreants at Minneapolis and now they are in the county jail at Gaylord to await trial and sentence at the coming December trial of the district court.

A patrolman "planted" in an apartment near 18th and Washington Avenue South captured three men who came to get a car parked nearby that was known to have been stolen. The patrolman fired several shots at a fourth man who ran away. Two more men were arrested in the home where the stolen car was parked, and a search of the home also revealed the whereabouts of the merchandise taken from the store. At first reluctant to admit their guilt, the men later came through with a confession and gave the officers a complete story of the Arlington robbery as well as other robberies staged recently at Cologne and Waconia. They also confessed to robbing Mullers Bros. hardware store and the Scharping Pharmacy of a few dollars from the till at each location about a month ago.

Bandits entered the Bank at Cologne on Tuesday morning and carried off several thousand dollars. The bandit car went into the ditch and the Carver County Sheriff caught the pair and recovered the swag.

Joseph Bertrang narrowly escaped with his life from an enraged bull on his farm one day last week. The bull attacked



From the Nov. 15, 2001 edition of the *Henderson Independent*: The Pink Ladies vamp it up for the Jets at a recent Grease practice. Left to right, Amy Guckeen, Nicole Halbmaier and Signe Swenson get a laugh from Jessica Hammes while Jeremy Lindeman and Joe Roby play it cool to the rear of the stage. (Compiled by Beth Cornish)

him several times, before his neighbor William Hoffmann and a dog succeeded in driving the animal from his victim. Bertrang suffered several fractured ribs and severe bruises.

80 YEARS AGO NOV. 14, 1941

When the torpedoed U.S. tanker Salinas limped into port under its own power, one of the luckiest fellows aboard was Phillip McBride of Chicago. It was the third time he had missed death by inches. He was transferred from the S.S. Greer to the S.S. Kearny shortly before the Greer was attacked and was then transferred to the Salinas just before the Kearny was torpedoed off Iceland. The Kearny limped into port tied to a sister ship.

During the prohibition period of 1920 to 1933 the governmental agencies lost over a billion dollars a year. This figure included lost taxes and the cost of the government enforcement agencies. It is estimated that during this period the public spent \$36 billion for bootleg and smuggled liquor. F. H. LaGuardia, while a representative in Congress, made an investigation of prohibition graft that resulted in an estimate that \$1 million a day went to official corruption. The records show that 595,105 criminal prosecutions in prohibition cases were handled by the Department of Justice in that time period.

J. Edgar Hoover stated recently, "Prohibition brought about a false set of conditions that sent the ex-convict, the crook, the burglar and the murdered into our home in the guise of the bootlegger."

70 YEARS AGO NOV. 16, 1951

The Henderson Bakery is hosting a grand opening next

Tuesday. Located next to the Sibley County Bank in the Elmer Brahs building, the bakery is owned by Art and Al Rode of Le Sueur, who also operate a bakery at Le Sueur. The building has been completely remodeled, redecorated, a new floor of tile and up-to-date features.

60 YEARS AGO NOV. 16, 1961

Last Thursday evening about one mile west of Henderson on County Road 62, near the Charles Dibbert farm, Richard McCormick, 16, of Blakeley, lost control of his father's 1953 Chevrolet. The vehicle crossed to the south side of the road, plowed into the ditch and rolled over twice, throwing McCormick from the vehicle. The first passing motorist to arrive at the scene was Karl Lieske, who found McCormick lying behind the left rear wheel. Richard was taken to the Minnesota Valley Memorial Hospital in Le Sueur, as were Judy Batcher, 15, of Arlington, and Beverly Deno, 14, of Henderson. Sharon Tesch, 16, of Henderson, was hospitalized at the Arlington Municipal Hospital with a head cut. A fifth passenger, Tommy Collins of Henderson, was not injured.

50 YEARS AGO NOV. 18, 1971

Ronald Walters, Social Studies instructor at the Henderson School, has been appointed part-time high school principal to assist J. A. Hobson starting Jan. 1, 1972. His appointment is only for the remainder of the school year and next year a full-time principal will be hired. The need was the result of the recent appointment of Hobson as the director of the Sibley County Vocational Center headquarters in Arlington.

He will begin work there on a part-time basis from Jan. 1 to July 1.

40 YEARS AGO NOV. 19, 1981

The Minnesota Farmers trip behind the Iron Curtain was featured in the Nov. 15 edition of the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune. Orville and Ethel Beuch of Henderson were members of the People to People delegation last summer and both were quoted and pictured in the comprehensive article.

In addition to Moscow, they visited Riga, Latvia, the Lenin Collective Farm near Rostov, Poland, Russia and Prague in Czechoslovakia. The couple are inviting the public to view their slides and hear their comments at the Centennial Church Social Hall this Sunday.

The jury trial of James Cermak, charged with 31 counts of criminal sexual conduct, came to a close on Nov. 10 when a Goodhue jury found him guilty on all charges. He was accused of sexually molesting children from Belle Plaine, New Prague, Montgomery and the surrounding area, including his own children and those of his brother, over a two year period.

The trial was held in Red Wing due to pre-trial publicity in Scott County resulting in a request for a change of venue. Cermak will be returned to the Scott County jail and will undergo psychiatric evaluation at the State Security Hospital in St. Peter prior to sentencing. His brother John's trial on 11 charges of sexually abusing seven children began on Monday in Red Wing.

20 YEARS AGO NOV. 15, 2001

In staid fashion at the start of its Nov. 8 meeting, the LS-H Board of Education accepted

the results of the Nov. 6 election that brought three new members to the table and denied an excess levy request. But later most of the board members expressed disappointment in a committee that ran an advertisement urging a "no" vote without addressing the board about the issues.

The advertisement appeared in the Minnesota River Valley Shopper, which is delivered to most district homes, the weekend prior to the election. The ad was prepared and paid for by the Committee for Common Sense Inc.

Curriculum and Graduation Rule Coordinator and Librarian Edrie Barton urged the board to challenge some of the information presented in the advertisement.

"I'm asking the board to request a retraction and that it be printed on the front page of the Shopper and an apology to the district for the misleading information provided to our voters two days before the vote with no opportunity to clarify them."

Superintendent Dave Johnson noted the timing of the excess levy request, or what he calls an operating levy, was "probably not good" because a number of things happening in community, life and society; from layoffs locally to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"It would have been great if this group had addressed us at the public forum," Johnson said.

10 YEARS AGO NOV. 16, 2011

As a team the Giants average of 347 yards per game placed them 6th overall in school football history. Brendan Kroehler ended his career with the 6th most defensive points awarded and the 3rd most all-purpose career yards. Jack Swanberg finished with the most all-purpose yards in school history and Zack Stueck had the second most receiving yards in a game with 147 against Central.

At Monday's city council meeting the board voted 5-0 to rescind the offer made to Michael Cherney of Adams, Mn. His hiring as the next Henderson Police Chief was contingent upon results of his background check.

No details were released from the report but Cherney was offered the same job in Lewiston last summer, only to have the offer rescinded after a background check. A personnel committee consisting of Kelly Braun and Mayor Tim Nytes will develop a new process for selecting a chief. In the meantime, Chief Sibley County Deputy Pat Nienaber will continue as the acting chief.

LS-H SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER
By Jim Wagner

Eternal vigilance is key to keeping schools COVID free

Good day to everyone in Le Sueur and Henderson. During this time of year, with the changes of weather, it continues to remind me of the fun coming with snow and winter. Based on the farmer's almanac, we are in store for an average winter of cold temperatures with a slightly higher than average snowfall. I look forward to seeing how it will look in the communities as both Le Sueur and Henderson get dressed up.

This year as we continue to keep up with sanitizing the buildings and classrooms, I want to remind everyone in both communities how important it is to maintain safety outside of the school buildings with the spread of COVID and all other sicknesses that come from winter and being inside more. The state and local area

are experiencing increases in cases both in absences from school and increases in hospitalizations.

I am not writing this to get into a debate about masks and vaccines, I am writing this to ask all adults in both communities to be smart and vigilant about any sickness that is going through your households and friends that visit you. It is imperative for everyone who lives in our school district to be aware of any sickness that exists in their home and anyone they visit.

I would like to avoid any closing or mandating if we can just be more aware and stay home if we are sick or stay away from homes of other people we visit who are experiencing some sickness. Please help do your part so the students can experience a mostly normal school year.

Based on the information that is coming out of the Minnesota Department of Health, I would encourage anyone who is eligible to get their vaccine, both COVID and Flu, as the data does show it minimizes how sick some can get. The school district has done the contract tracing to the best of our ability and the data would show that we have been able to minimize any spread in the buildings due to constant air exchanges, increased sanitation, and keeping students distanced whenever possible. I know what I am asking would mean changing plans for another year with the holidays, but it could mean the difference of masks or going back to virtual learning. So please follow the guidelines and stay healthy. I want to thank you for all for the help you can provide in this.

OBITUARIES

Darlene F. Krueger - 78

Darlene F. Krueger, age 78, of Le Sueur, died on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at Oak Terrace Senior Living Center in Le Sueur.

Memorial services were on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Le Sueur. Visitation was at the church from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Lunch followed services at the church. Burial will be at a later date in South Dakota. Rev. Jan Crissinger will officiate the services.

Darlene was born on November 28, 1942 to William and Lillian (Rachuy) Schipper in Iona Township, Murray County, MN. She grew up in the Fulda, MN area and graduated from Fulda High School. She then attended a Secretarial Program in Mankato and began work soon after that at Green Giant in Le Sueur, MN. She married Elton Krueger on



July 5, 1972 on a pontoon on Whitefish Lake in Minnesota. He died in 1978 and Darlene raised her two young girls while working with Green Giant, Pillsbury and later General Mills. She worked as a Capital Purchaser for 48 years. She enjoyed her gardening, her flowers, Curves exercising group, time with relatives and friends,

the Giant Celebration, and time at First Lutheran Church where she was a member for many years. She will be remembered for her Chex Mix she made for dozens of people during the Holiday Season.

She is survived by her daughters, Lynn Krueger (Kelly Sonnickson honorary daughter) of Chaska, MN and Katrina (Steve) McCarthy of Lino Lakes, MN; stepchildren Kurt (Joanna) LaBresh of Roseville, MN and Amy (Darren) Viera of Florida; grandchildren Lily and Annika McCarthy, Camille and Taylor LaBresh, and Audrey and Sydney Viera; twin brother Darrell (Mavis) Schipper of Fulda, MN, sister Wanda (Bob) Moline of Slayton, MN; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Elton Krueger, in 1978. Memorials preferred.

DEATH NOTICE

Donna M. Rohloff - 95

Donna Mae (Reinhardt) Rohloff was born on April 12, 1934 and passed away on November 9, 2021 at Hastings Senior Health and Living.

HENDERSON SENIOR DINING MENU

Thursday, Nov. 18: Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, California normandy blend vegetables, bread/butter, dessert, low fat milk

Friday, Nov. 19: Chicken alfredo, fettucine pasta, mixed vegetables, Mandarin oranges, dessert, low fat milk

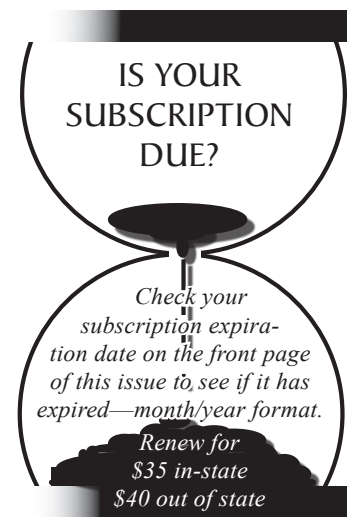
Monday, Nov. 22: Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll/butter,

dessert, low fat milk

Tuesday, Nov. 23: BBQ baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, broccoli florets, bread/butter, dessert, low fat milk

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Lasagna, California normandy vegetables, peaches, breadstick, dessert, low fat milk

Phone number: 1-866-985-8514 (10 a.m. to noon, best time to call)



We are the rememberers, the people left behind to keep the one who's gone from us, alive in heart and mind. The people left to cherish and preserve their legacy. Yes...we are the rememberers and will always be.

In loving memory of Toby Meyer
Gone 1 year November 19, 2020
Missed forever by his loving family and friends

The members of Centennial Lutheran Church invite you to **A Service of Thanks and Praise** Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021 7 p.m.

All to Thee, Our God, We Owe

Offering will benefit the Sibley County Food Share Fellowship and refreshments follow the service

701 Locust Street, Henderson

Turkey Bango
Redeemer Lutheran Church
14226 280th St.,
Henderson, MN 56044
2 Miles East of 169 on Hwy. 19

When: Saturday, Nov. 20, 3 p.m.

\$15 donation includes: 15 games of bango (bingo, \$5 extra cards) and supper served at 4 p.m. (\$3 extra meal)

Family friendly event • Money to benefit local families

WORSHIP SERVICES

- Centennial Lutheran Church**
701 Locust St., Henderson
Pastor Dennis McManus, vacancy pastor;
Cell: (320) 808-0624
Sundays - 9 a.m. Worship
- Church of St. Joseph**
213 S. 6th St., Henderson
Msgr. Eugene Lozinski •
507-248-3550
Sunday Mass - 9 a.m.
Tuesday morning service, 8:30 a.m.
- St. John - Assumption Parish**
26523 - 200th St. Belle Plaine
Msgr. Eugene Lozinski •
507-248-3550
Saturday Evening Service, 5 p.m.
Wednesday morning - 8:30 a.m.
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
32234 431st Ave. Gaylord
Pastor Scott Richards
507-248-3550
Sundays: 9:30 - Faith Formation
10:30 - Worship
- Creekside Community Church**
Christian & Missionary Alliance
114 Shamrock Dr., Arlington
Pastor Tom McCracken
(507) 964-2872
Email: creeksidecma@gmail.com
Video worship at www.creeksidechurchcma.org
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)**
229 S. 6th St., Le Sueur,
Church 507-665-3477
Rev. Patrick Feldus
920-918-9949
Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.
- St. John's Lutheran Church**
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
38597 State Highway 19, Arlington
Pastor Gary Ruckman (507) 964-2400
stjohnsarlingtonmn.org
9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
10 a.m. Sunday Service
- New Hope Baptist Church**
2020 Marshall Road. Shakopee
Pastor Tim Douglas (952) 403-5146
Visit www.newhopebaptistchurchmn.com for links to online services
- Word of Life Church**
890 Kingsway Drive, Le Sueur
Pastor Jason Lang
10 a.m. Sunday in person worship
Online services still available live Sunday at 10 a.m. on Facebook or Instagram; www.wordoflifelbc.org
- Sunrise Church**
722 Sunrise Dr., St. Peter
Pastor Mark Thompson
10 a.m. Sunday service live streaming
- St. Anne's Church**
217 N. 3rd St., Le Sueur
Fr. Chris Shofner
Parish Office: (507) 665-3811
www.stanneschurchlesueur.org
See archspm.org/covid19 for mass and prayer resources
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ**
111 S. 6th St., Henderson
Rev. Deb Meyer - (507) 248-3594
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
- Gaylord Assembly of God**
26958 MN-5, Gaylord • (507)237-5341
Pastor Bob Holmbeck
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening supper, Bible classes and Youth Focused
Need a ride? Call (507) 237-5117
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**
14226 W. 280th St., Henderson
(507) 665-2932
Pr. Foy Christopherson
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship service
Also on Facebook Live
- United Methodist Church**
730 South 6th St., Le Sueur
Pastor Terri Horn
1:30 & 7:30 p.m. broadcast CATV #7
lesueurumc.org
All services will be livestreamed on Facebook and later available for viewing on www.lesueurumc.org
- Jehovah's Witness**
Kingdom Hall, South 9th St., Henderson
Go to www.jw.org/en for video to download, or watch online
- River Rock Church**
PO Box 184, Belle Plaine (952) 873-5453
Chris Teien-Senior Pastor
Dan Jetto-Worship Pastor
330 S. Market St. in Belle Plaine.
www.riverrockchurch.com
Watch services online at www.riverrockchurch.com/watch
- First Lutheran Church**
116 Inner Dr., Le Sueur
(507) 665-2615
9 a.m. In-person worship
Communion first & third Sunday
Visit www.firstlutheranlesueur.org for links to our live broadcast on our YouTube page
- Zion United Church of Christ**
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In person worship has resumed at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Ask an Expert

Prepare your health for the holiday season

With the holiday season upon us, people are navigating how to approach this holiday season with family and friends. Winter is known to have an increase in flu and cold viruses cases that can put a damper on holiday activities. Additionally, COVID-19 vaccination for kids ages 5-11 was recently approved which can impact plans.

Jill Foster, MD, a pediatric infectious diseases physician with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview, discusses how to stay healthy and safe when celebrating the holidays this year.

What are some steps that can be taken to create a safer environment while gathering with friends and family?

When gathering, being aware means avoiding the highest risk situations as much as possible. On a scale of most safe is: outdoors and being only with vaccinated people — beyond that use face coverings as much as possible when not in the safest places. Additionally, try to keep the crowd size down, especially indoors. Make it okay with the people you are gathering with to ask about vaccine status and make arrangements accordingly. Ask those who aren't feeling well to please stay home. If something unanticipated happens, get tested.

What should people consider when thinking about taking a personal vacation for the holidays that doesn't

involve visiting loved ones?

Travel is the trickiest because it has the most unknowns and fewest things you can control. It sounds dire, but look at where you are going and imagine that if you get sick while you're there, whether or not you would feel comfortable getting your healthcare there.

Maximize your protections while traveling to and from. For example, double masking on planes and trains and in airports. Minimize your interactions outside your immediate group. Remember to check on COVID-19 requirements for travel to that place and to get back into the country if you leave the U.S. and be prepared.

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HENDERSON HAPPENINGS



The Friends of the Henderson Public Library meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the library lower level.

Henderson Public Library Hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 9 a.m. to noon, 2 to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 2 to 8 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

Henderson City Council meets the third Wednesday of

every month at 7 p.m. at the Community Building, 600 Main Street, Henderson.

For more information call 507-248-3234.

Henderson Lions Club meets twice a month from September to April on the first and third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Henderson RoadHaus Event Center.

Need a message on the Lions Club community message

board? Call Judy Loewe at 507-248-3345.

The Sibley County Historical Museum will be open on Sundays 2 to 5 p.m. through October.

Please call 507-248-3434 and leave a message if you need information or research.

Henderson Area Chamber meets the last Wednesday of each month at noon.

Henderson Township meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Henderson Public Library.

The Ladies Tourist Club, GFWC meets at 5 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in various locations from September through May.

For more information call Judy Loewe at 507-248-3345.

AA meetings 7 p.m. every Thursday at St. Joseph's Parish Center.

Jessenland Township Planning and Zoning Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Jessenland Town Hall located on Sibley City Hwy 6. If the third

Monday of the month falls on a national holiday then the alternate meeting date of the fourth Monday of the month will be used.

The Sibley Post #74 American Legion meets 6:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Henderson RoadHaus. For questions contact Dean Lind at 507-665-2053.

**If you want to list your meeting or event with the *Henderson Independent* call 248-3223 or e-mail us at hendersonmnews@gmail.com.



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Chuck Frauendienst gives direction to two other Le Sueur veterans during the flag folding demonstration at Hilltop.



Left: Sam Gore, a two-tour veteran, spoke to youngsters at the Le Sueur-Henderson Middle School/High School on Nov. 11 as part of the Veterans Day program.

Right: Mary Ann Peck, who participated in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service program during WWII, shared her path to the U. S. Navy with the group at the Minnesota New Country School.

VETERANS DAY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

made a huge impact on his life choices. After trying college, he realized he was not mature enough to handle college and not yet ready to make a long-term commitment to a career, so he approached an Army recruiter and decided to enlist.

Gore described the roller coaster ride of beginning training in warm weather in Oklahoma then running miles in the rain and mud as the season turned, then later moving to Kentucky where the reality of imminent deployment began to sink into the new recruits' consciences. They arrived in Iraq realizing that basic training was just that, basic, and they had a lot to learn.

One of the most poignant memories Gore shared was of the day he was supposed to drive the Humvee on patrol, but when he reported for duty, his name was not on the schedule. He returned to quarters to enjoy his unexpected time off, only to learn later that the vehicle had a close call. They encountered an IED while on patrol and a piece of metal bounced off the armor plating between the two portions of the windshield, rebounded off the driver's helmet, bounced off the glasses of the passenger behind the driver, then fell in the passenger's lap. The driver "got his bell rung" but suffered no long-term damage while the passenger sustained only a small cut on his nose. The freaky part is that at 6'7" Gore would have taken that shrapnel not in the helmet, but right in the face.

Another scary situation happened one night when a group consisting of six Americans and four Iraqis were walking a patrol through a town where

you were not allowed to have a Humvee on the road after dark. The situation was extra tense because they did not have an interpreter that evening, so they were communicating using hand signals.

Gore and his lieutenant were on the street when they realized they were under fire from a building near the street. They had no idea where the bullets were coming from, but they took off running for cover, while hollering for another squad member to open fire on the second floor windows.

At that moment Gore realized he was very grateful for suppressive fire because the gunman stopped shooting at them and ran away. Gore got on the radio and called for Bradley tank support to come extract them from the town. It was extremely sobering later to realize that someone had actually been aiming a gun directly at him.

He and his fellow soldiers spent many nights sleeping in the mud or on a cot in a tent aerated by shrapnel or in a truck, living without showers and eating MREs for weeks at a time. It was miserable, but they learned to tough things out and move on to the next thing with their heads held high, knowing that they survived a situation that many people would not have been able to handle.

Maybe he had an angel on his shoulder during his tours, but he came home with all his parts intact, although he suffered permanent damage to his left shoulder and his knees, which he credits to the time spent carrying 70-plus pounds of gear.

He remembers his fallen comrades every day and considers himself lucky to make it home alive. He is now a financial advisor, volunteer as-

sistant fire chief, and married with two young sons. Although most of his message was very somber, he reiterated at the end how proud he was to serve.

After Gore spoke at MNCS he remained at the microphone for a question and answer section. Asked by the *Independent*, "If you knew then, what you knew now, would you still have volunteered?" He replied, "Absolutely. You get caught up in the patriotic side of things and that's why you enlist... Once the bullets start flying, it's more about the guys you are with and the bonds that you form. That's why I would go back."

The other veterans in attendance wrapped up the afternoon by introducing themselves and sharing a little personal information. The one individual who really stood out was Mary Ann Peck. She explained how she joined the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service program after President Roosevelt opened naval enlistment to women in order to free up sailors performing desk jobs to join the fighting overseas. Peck had been longing to enlist and even though she had to get her parents permission to go, she finally talked them around.

She loved every minute of her service and would sign up to go again. Her biggest regret was that during most of her service, the women were housed in hotel rooms so she didn't get the full barracks experience. On her final assignment they were housed in a dormitory so she finally got to sleep in bunk beds.

Editor's note: Peck turned 99 on Nov. 14 and is still going strong. She credits the Silver Sneakers exercise program for her longevity.

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Shrek debuts Friday

Le Sueur-Henderson students will open its fall musical, *Shrek*, this Friday night in the LS-H Middle/High School auditorium, 901 Ferry St., Le Sueur

Students will be putting on three performances: Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., Saturday,

Nov. 20 at 2 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, and children 5 and younger are free if they are sitting on a lap. Activity passes will be honored.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER



Top: The four leads of *Shrek* are: Joe Fixsen as Lord Farquaad, Alexa Olson as Princess Fiona, Keegan Straub as Shrek and Austin Kleinschmidt as Donkey.

Above: LS-H drew on elementary, middle and high school talent to portray Princess Fiona as she grew from a young girl to adult. The roles include (left) Elena Thelemann as Young Fiona, (right) Muriel Hilgers as Teen Fiona and (center) Alexa Olson as Princess Fiona.

Right: Joe Fixsen, playing Lord Farquaad, sings "The Ballad of Farquaad."



REFERENDUM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rehm asked. "She is thinking about being cold while taking her state MCA."

Henderson board members Brian Sorenson and Rehm also echoed their frustrations that the referendum only passed among Henderson voters by a 17-vote margin.

"I expected more out of Henderson," Sorenson said. "But at this point something needs to get done, and as much as I'd love to see an elementary remain in Henderson, it just doesn't seem like it's viable anymore."

Board member Joe Roby, who lives in Le Sueur, said at least 15 people have told him the price tag wasn't the issue, but rather concern over being efficient with resources.

Board Chair Brigid Tuck aired that some people feel like the school district has not kept up with Park, and question why they should approve a new building as a result of the alleged neglect.

Except repairs on a school are much larger than a private

citizen's, and the board cannot just go ahead and do larger projects, unless they have the money in reserves. For example, a private citizen can go ahead and hire a contractor to do work like repairing/replacing a roof.

On the other hand, Park Elementary's roof is currently leaking into the gym, and since it contains asbestos, the replacement and mitigation costs are estimated to cost \$5-10 million. The amount is simply too large for the school district to cover without a referendum.

Tuck also shared an Aug. 3, 2018 article by MREA that addressed Long Term Facility Maintenance spending in Minnesota. An additional \$214-299 per pupil was allocated for LTFM Revenue.

According to the article, "Prior to this funding, the largest 25 districts covering half of the student body are able to spend \$2.79 per square foot on deferred maintenance while the other 314 districts with the other half of the Minnesota public schools' student body only spend an average

of \$0.58 per square foot."

"A lot of the general public just doesn't understand that we can't just go to the bank and borrow money like we do for our homes," Rehm said. "And then we don't bring in enough money on revenues to build that Long Term Facility Maintenance. When we go for these bonds, we are trying to fill that bucket of money for future repairs. We do [take care of our buildings], but we have never been able to fill that bucket."

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HENDERSON OUTPOST

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The Henderson Outpost is hosting a variety of events in November and December!
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Wednesday, Nov. 24 6 – 8 p.m.
Ladies Night is back! Stop by, pick up gifts of jewelry, home décor and beauty products, and enjoy free wine.

Thursday, Dec. 16 6 – 8 p.m.
Guys Night is here! Pick up gifts for the special ladies in your life (gift cards too!), and enjoy some craft beer and cocktails.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS

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SWIMMING

TCU Titans Swim and Dive makes history at Section 1A meet

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The TCU/LS-H Titans Swim and Dive team had an exciting finish to its season at the Section 1A Swimming and Diving Championships, held Nov. 10-12.

Eighth-grader Ella Schmiesing will be advancing to the state meet on Nov. 18-20 at the University of Minnesota campus for two events.

Schmiesing started off by winning the Section 1A Championship in the 50 yard freestyle. Her seed time of 24.58 seconds was the best of the field of 38 athletes, and she beat it by 0.4 seconds, finishing in 24.18. This was also a new personal best for Schmiesing, and a new team record. Austin's Olivia Walsh was second in 24.73.

LS-H's Kendra Westphal didn't make it past the preliminaries, and finished 33rd in 29.12 seconds. However, the time was a personal best for Westphal. LS-H senior teammate Brooklyn Kahle also swam in the preliminaries and finished in 38th in 36.69 seconds.

Schmiesing also won the Section 1A Championship in the 100 yard freestyle event. Although her seed time was just 0.02 seconds ahead of the next swimmer, Schmiesing went on to crush it and won with a time of 53.02 seconds. This was a huge win as it was 1.27 seconds faster than her seed time, and 0.62 seconds faster than second place. Westphal also competed in the event and finished in 35th place with

a time of 1:06.49.

Westphal also competed as part of two relay teams. She was the final leg on the 200 yard medley relay with Ellie Sladek, Schmiesing and Mallorie Plut, and they turned in a time of 2:03.16 to finish in 6th place. Mankato West smashed the competition in 1:50.36, and were almost six seconds ahead of second place.

Westphal was also part of the 200 yard freestyle relay with Plut, Sladek and Schmiesing, and they finished in 2:15.81 to place 9th.

In the end, the Titans finished in 8th place with 84 points, which is the highest the team has finished so far, according to Coach Kristen Munden. Mankato West blew everyone out of the water with 402 points, while New Prague was a distant second with 291 points.

"Today was one of the best days of my coaching career," Munden said. "I got to put a medal on one of mine and seven other athletes...twice."

ST. PETER MEET

The Titans wrapped up the regular season with the St. Peter invite on Oct. 26.

Schmiesing had an unbelievable performance, as she racked up three first place finishes and a second.

She started the meet off with a second place finish in the 200 yard freestyle relay. This is not a typical race for her, but it was still an unbelievable race, as she was beaten to the board by a mere 0.02 seconds. St. Peter's Hannah Denzer won the event in 2:03.19, while Schmiesing was second in 2:03.21.

Next up, Schmiesing was part of the winning 200 yard free relay team with Westphal, Sladek and Plut that finished in 1:57.62. Technically St. Peter had two teams who swam faster times, but both teams scratched (DQ).

A similar thing happened in the 100 yard breaststroke, as St. Peter's three individuals were DQ'd, but it would not have mattered, as Schmiesing's time of 1:13.32 was a full eight seconds faster than St. Peter's best swimmer.

Schmiesing's final win was part of the 400 yard free relay team. She joined Plut, Brianna Schroeder and Makenna Streed, and they turned in a time of 4:30.48.

Westphal also competed in two individual events. She joined Sladek, Julia Odenthal and Elizabeth Odenthal in the 200 yard medley relay, and their time of 2:35.15 was good for fourth place.

Westphal also turned in an individual fourth place finish in the 50 yard freestyle. She was the first TCU finisher, and her time of 30.13 seconds was two seconds behind the St. Peter champion.

Westphal also finished in sixth place in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 1:08.20.

Kahle also competed in three JV races. She swam 34.94 to finish fifth in the 50 yard freestyle; scratched in the 100 yard freestyle (but would have finished fifth otherwise); and was part of the 200 yard freestyle relay team that finished first in 2:28.02.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Le Sueur-Henderson swimmer Kendra Westphal wrapped up her season at the Section 1A meet last week. She was part of the 200 yard medley relay team that finished in 6th place, and also finished 33rd in the 50 yard freestyle. Although she finished in 33rd place, her time of 29.12 seconds was a personal best.



Senior Brooklyn Kahle swam in her final meet at the Section 1A Championship. Coach Kristen Munden said, "Her spirit, leadership and positive vibes left us in good spirits at every single meet. Kahle also won the team's Lizzie Trnka award, named after a former founder. "Lizzie's kind heart and warm personality and leadership is exactly what this team is all about which is why we decided to honor her... in our captain Brooklyn," Munden said.

VOLLEYBALL

Julia More earns MRC All-Conference honors

Le Sueur-Henderson senior Julia More received Minnesota River Conference All-Conference honors for the 2021 season.

More is the daughter of Dave and Margaret More. She was a four-year letter winner, three-year starter, and captain this year, and earned All-Conference Honorable Mention in 2020.

She has been a consistent contributor in her previous seasons and was the team's "go to player." She is extremely versatile and had to play many positions for the team due to injuries.

She always had a positive attitude, great work ethic inside and outside the gym, and was very coachable. While being asked to play three different positions this year, she still recorded 201 kills (2.5/set), a hitting percentage of 0.130, a serving efficiency of 93% with 37 aces, 149 set assists, and 78 digs from matches this season.

LS-H junior setter Morgan Schwandt earned MRC All-Conference Honorable Mention this year.

Other All-Conference selections included:

Madeline Guetzkow, Mayer Lutheran, junior, setter/right hitter; Laya Hallquist, Norwood-Young America, junior, setter; Morgan Johnson, Norwood-Young America, junior, libero; Molly Krentz, Sibley East, senior, outside hitter; Karla Krocak, Tri-City United, junior, middle blocker; Emma Lade, Mayer Lutheran, senior, setter/right hitter; Leah Lenz, Belle Plaine, senior, middle hitter; Sydney Meyer, Belle Plaine, senior, libero; Gabby Wachholz, Mayer Lutheran, junior, outside hitter/LB; Lilly Wachholz, Mayer Lutheran, senior, middle hitter; Carly Wolter, Lester Prairie, junior, libero; Jennifer Wolter, Sibley East, senior, middle hitter; and McKenna Ziemke, Belle Plaine, senior, outside hitter.

Aside from Schwandt, Honorable Mention also went to:

Maddie Dooley, Tri-City United, senior, libero; Chloe Engelke, Lester Prairie, junior, setter; Morgan Halquist, Sibley East, senior, outside hitter; Lilli Kahle, Belle Plaine, senior, rightside hitter; Stella Maass, Mayer Lutheran, junior, outside hitter/LB; and Lauren Schmidt, Norwood-Young America, junior, middle

hitter.

MRC Volleyball Coaches named Lilly Wachholz of Mayer Lutheran as 2021 Most Valuable Player.

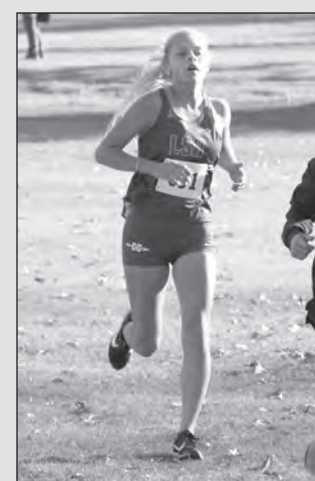
Joelle Grimsley of Mayer Lutheran was named the Volleyball Coach of the Year by conference coaches.



PHOTO BY RACHEL MILLER

Senior Julia More gets a kill against Sibley East. More earned MRC All-Conference honors this year and recorded 201 kills, 37 aces, 149 set assists and 78 digs during matches this season.

CROSS COUNTRY



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Left, senior Hailey Juarez received MRC All-Conference honors, while right, senior Dylan Novak received MRC All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Three LS-H runners recognized by MRC

Le Sueur-Henderson seniors Hailey Juarez and Dylan Novak, along with Brandy Wolf, were both recognized by the Minnesota River Conference this cross country season.

Juarez is the daughter of Ida Juarez and has been a member of the LS-H cross country team for the last six years. She has been the top runner for the last several years. She is also involved in track and was the subsection champion in the 1600 meter race last year. Juarez is a leader on the LS-H team who younger runners and teammates have been able to look up to. She takes great care in her academics and is regularly on the honor roll at LS-H High School.

Novak and Wolf received MRC All-Conference honorable mention.