



SILVER LAKE

Leader

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City Council agrees to buy used pay loader

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

On Monday night, the Silver Lake City Council approved the purchase of a 1996 Fitalis pay loader from Juul Contracting for \$38,500, with funds coming from the capital improvements fund in the public works department.

The Council discussed options to repair the current 1989 pay loader, but found that no parts were available.

Public Works Supervisor Dale Kosek researched options to contract for loading snow and quotes for purchasing a new or used pay loader.

He received a quote from Borka Excavating for \$150 an hour to load and remove snow.

Councilor Eric Nelson asked for an estimate on time spent in a year loading snow, and Councilor Pat Fogarty, liaison to the public works department, reported that from 2009 to 2014, 175 hours went into loading snow.

Fogarty said Kosek averaged hours over a five-year span due to weather differences between the years.

"In 2012, they only loaded snow twice," Fogarty said.

Since Jan. 26, the city has been renting a pay loader from Juul Contracting at a cost of \$50 per hour, and discussed options to continue to rent it.

Fogarty said the public works department put together a list of everything it uses a

pay loader for, including brushing and pushing grass piles two times a week; filling and back-dragging alleyways; compacting garbage in the dumpsters during Pola-Czesky Days; and for spring and fall sweeping and loading leaf piles.

Fogarty said the department also uses a pay loader to move snow around the ambulance and fire halls and to remove fallen tree branches after storms.

"So it really is a necessity for the city. Not just to remove snow," Councilor Carol Roquette commented.

Fogarty also presented an option for a "lease-to-own" program for a pay loader. To

lease a 2006 John Deere 544 pay loader that has 6,500 hours and a three-yard bucket, it would cost \$14,400 a year.

It was reported that a new pay loader would cost around \$200,000.

Fogarty said Juul Contracting offered to sell its 1996 Fitalis pay loader to the city.

"Both Dale and Gary like the pay loader, and Juul said they are not using it. It's not as big as the one we have, the one that is broken, but it's big enough for what we need," Fogarty said.

He added that the broken pay loader has a 3-1/2-yard bucket, and the 1996 Fitalis has a three-yard bucket.

Mayor Bruce Bebo said Juul

was "firm" on selling the pay loader for \$40,000, but the city was able to talk it down to \$38,500.

He also said Juul is willing to "forgive" the \$3,600 the city owes for renting the pay loader since January.

"They are willing to forgive that if we buy it from them," Bebo said.

Bebo said the public works department also looked at not buying a pay loader, but investing in a skid loader.

"Realistically, money wise, that didn't make any sense," Bebo said.

Nelson asked if parts were available for the 1996 machine in case of repairs.

"Yes, there are parts avail-

able," Fogarty said.

"How do we pay for it?" Nelson asked.

City Clerk Kerry Venier said the City Council could either use money from the general reserve fund and see that balance decrease, or that the capital improvement fund could be used.

"There is no money in the capital improvement fund, but we could 'borrow' money from the general fund and run the capital improvement fund into debt with the anticipation of paying back the general fund," Venier said.

He suggested transferring money over the next 10 years

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Silver Lake Leader photos by Rich Glennie

Science of energy

Lukas Johnson, a representative of the Minnesota Science Museum, conducted an energy education program at Lakeside Elementary on March 19 that captured the fourth-grade students' attention (above). It also was an audience-participation program as Tyler Roehrich, left, and Owen Peterson (in the photo at right) demonstrated two of the sources of energy used in Minnesota — coal, a fossil fuel, and nuclear power. The program was sponsored by the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, which supplies power to communities such as Brownton and Arlington. Lauren Blank, project coordinator for Avant Energy of Minneapolis, also attended and said the program introduces students to the concept of energy and energy sources and how a power plant generates electricity for homes and businesses. Besides coal and nuclear power, Johnson also demonstrated the use of hydro-electric generation, wind power and solar energy.



Communitywide survey being planned for spring

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

The Silver Lake City Council, at its Monday meeting, heard the planning commission is in the process of reviewing and putting together a communitywide survey to deliver to residents this spring.

Councilor Eric Nelson, liaison to the planning commission, said the group reviewed the 2004 survey, and discussed throwing out some of the questions and making changes to accommodate the current status of the city.

Mayor Bruce Bebo said the survey was "more constructive than objective."

City Clerk Kerry Venier said the questions on the last survey were not "leading," though he saw some negative feedback about himself, the police chief at the time, and other government figures.

"But most people answered the questions in a positive way," Venier said.

"Are you looking for positive feedback or realistic feedback?" Bebo asked.

"We are looking for feedback in general," Venier commented.

Nelson said some of the

questions include asking about foreclosures and the importance of the business district on Main Street.

Nelson said the plan is to review and finalize the survey next month so it can be delivered sometime in the spring.

In other matters, the Council:

- Reviewed the Municipal Liquor Store year-to-date report and found the business showed a net profit of \$16,094, up from \$15,513 in 2013.

- Approved retaining part-time bartenders Jessica Trebbensee and Kari Eischens with step increases.

- Reviewed the public safety report to find the hiring process with Police Officer Robert Cripps is continuing.

Councilor Carol Roquette, liaison to the department, also reported that Police Chief Forrest Henriksen turned in all information regarding faded street signs to the public works department, which will replace the signs.

- Discussed freezing water lines and the steps residents

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County Board sets 2015 budget process

By Lori Copler
Staff Writer

The McLeod County Board of Commissioners issued budget instructions Friday morning — hold the line at current levels.

The commissioners met in special session Friday morning to discuss the 2015 budget process.

The commissioners also heard from Auditor-Treasurer Cindy Schultz that she would like to move the budget process up a month because this is an election year, with the primary election being moved to August from September.

"July 18 is probably the last day I'll be able to work on budget issues (because of the elections)," said Schultz.

Commissioner Sheldon Nies, who sits on the county's budget committee, suggested the Friday meeting to "bring

everyone along for the beginning of the process."

In the past, Nies said, the budget committee has done most of the grunt work, with the County Board getting involved in the final stages.

Last year, with two new commissioners, the County Board held full board workshops with department heads.

That is a process the Board would like to continue this year again, it indicated.

Commissioner Jon Christensen said that hearing from each department head helps commissioners get a fuller understanding of how each department operates, what its capital needs are, and its budget needs.

Schultz said that in the past, larger departments with budgets exceeding \$1 million were

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State title anniversary to be celebrated

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, the Silver Lake Lakeites nine-man football team brought home the Minnesota State Nine-Man football trophy, and to celebrate the anniversary, a public gathering is set for Saturday, April 5, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Silver Lake Legion.

Lakeite graduates Nancy Benz, Tony Kadlec and Sandy (Tschimperle) Posusta organized the reunion event and would like to invite fans, friends, family and all community members interested in attending the big event.

The event includes a social hour with cash bar at 5 p.m. and a program from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. honoring the coaches, Buz Rumrill and Dan Tschimperle, and trainer Don Ranzau.

Food also is available, but those attending are responsible for contacting the Legion to order and pay for the meal.

Choices include chicken drummies, shrimp dinner, pollock fish dinner, grilled shrimp skew, butterfly pork chop, smoked pork chop, steak and shrimp combo, ribeye steak, or a T-bone steak.

All dinners include a baked potato and cole slaw. Call the Legion at 320-327-2404 by Friday, March 28 to order.

RSVP to the event by logging in at www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B44A5AF2F4-silver_1 or visit "Silver Lake North" on Facebook and click the "RSVP" link.

If one has pictures, memorabilia, or other items to display, please contact Tony Kadlec at tkadlec@gmail.com; Nancy Benz at benzwillen@comcast.net; or Sandy Posusta at sposusta@gmail.com.

Look for player and coach interviews about the state championship in next week's edition of the Silver Lake Leader.



Submitted photo

1983 state champs

Thirty years ago, the Silver Lake Lakeites nine-man football team brought home the Minnesota state trophy. Pictured are Durwin Jones, Jim Blazinski and Larry Stifter. A reunion to celebrate the event is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, at the Silver Lake Legion. The public is invited to attend.

Grace Bible wild game feed set for March 30

Members and friends of the Grace Bible Church in Silver Lake will host a special wild game feed Sunday, March 30, beginning at 5 p.m.

The evening will include domesticated elk burger and samplings of a variety of wild game (and not-so-wild game), door prizes, and a "Bird Dog" parade.

Guest speaker Gary Mitchel will talk about his experience

getting lost in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). In 1967, he was lost in the BWCA for six days.

Tickets are limited. They need to be ordered in advance by calling the church at 320-327-2352 or Shawn at 320-234-9425.

Grace Bible Church is located in Silver Lake next to the city water tower.

Wednesday Lenten services held at Faith Presbyterian

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Friends and family of Faith Presbyterian Church and the surrounding community are hereby advised to appear for jury duty on the following Wednesdays in Lent — April 2 and April 9 at 6:15 p.m. — to decide the case of *The People vs. Judas Iscariot*.

The Wednesday Lenten services will take the shape of a court hearing in which Judas is on trial for his part in Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Is God's love big enough to forgive him of his part in the story?

The congregation will serve as the jury. Prosecution and defense attorneys will attempt to sway the judge and congregation with evidence based upon the Bible and tradition.

Various witnesses are "subpoenaed" to testify, including Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, and others. Come and hear the testimony and cast your ballot. Each week the trial will begin at 6:15 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 108 W. Main St., Silver Lake.

Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek



Your weather condensed: a cool start to the week, a stormy middle and a fantastic Sunday is how things are looking right now.

We started the week off well below normal in the temperature department as another batch of Canadian air came sliding in late last week and weekend.

Highs to end the week will climb back up toward 40 for Saturday with a chance of a significant warm-up Sunday into the 50s.

Here comes the but ... this could change depending on what happens with a midweek storm that is being very poorly forecast as I write this.

A strong spring storm will enter the Upper Midwest late Wednesday into Thursday. At this point, it looks like things will be warm enough at the onset to be a rain/snow mix. Things would most likely change over to all snow Thursday, but that may be after it dumps most of its moisture on us. The most likely scenario is a mix, followed by a small amount of snow.

Having said that, a track change south could mean cooler air and more snow. It's hard to venture a guess when the storm is this far away (as I write this), but I'm hoping the less-snow scenario wins out!

Friday things clear out and things will remain mostly clear through the weekend. And like I said, the bright spot could be Sunday with highs in the 50s, but if the storm changes the overall pattern, I could be way off. In other words, please pay attention to more up-to-date forecasts this week.

Have a great last week of March, everyone; bring on the April showers!

Ma dobry weekendem Mit dobry vikend
Thursday — Highs 30-38; lows 17-23; mix early then snow.

Friday — Highs 28-34; lows 14-20; partly cloudy.
Saturday — Highs 38-44; lows 27-33; partly cloudy.
Sunday — Highs 47-55; mostly clear.

Weather Quiz: What are some of April's weather extremes?

Answer to last week's question: **When will we see that first 70-degree temperature?** Most of the record highs now are into the 80s, so it isn't a stretch to think our first 70 would be too far away. I'll be an optimist and go for early April; maybe next week if the pattern keeps Pacific air moving in.

Remember: I make the forecast, not the weather!

Townships set budgets during annual meetings

All 14 of McLeod County's townships had annual meetings Tuesday, March 11, and several also had annual elections.

A recap of those activities for townships in the Silver Lake Leader area:

• **Hale** — Clerk Tammy Stifter said she was re-elected to a two-year term with 13 votes. There was a blank ballot for the three-year supervisor position, and incumbent Clarence Juncewski, who did not seek re-election, received four write-in votes. Stifter said the township board will find out at its regular meeting if

Juncewski will serve another term.

Stifter said township residents asked the board to look into the cost of the potential purchase of a plow truck.

The levy will remain the same as it currently is.

• **Rich Valley** — Clerk Theresa Rusten said the levy was set at \$65,000 for the road and bridge fund, and at \$1,000 each for the general and fire protection funds.

Topics on the agenda were the potential purchase of a new tractor, road conditions and the possibility of a "clean-up" week in the township.

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asked to present their budgets to the County Board, while smaller departments with little fluctuation submitted their budgets internally.

Schultz also suggested that the County Board provide more than 15-minute time slots for budget presentations at workshops.

Schultz said that some department heads felt that a 15-minute time slot to present major budget concerns "was a slap in the face. They (department heads) wanted the opportunity to talk to you."

Nies suggested that rather than the County Board setting time limits on presentations, that administration ask "them (department heads) how much time they want" and schedule accordingly.

Nies also asked his fellow commissioners for guidelines for department heads on setting their budgets.

"The last five years, we've told them to hold their budget at the level you had the year before," said Nies.

The County Board agreed to keep that same premise, but noted that only applied to operational expenses. Items such as salary increases and additional personnel will be decided by the Board.

"They are our issues," said Nies.

Nies also noted that even without budget increases, the County Board has been able to undertake several projects — such as improvements at the fairgrounds and a new highway shop between Lester Prairie and Silver Lake — by using reserves.

However, Nies said, the County Board may need to address whether it wants to continue that practice or consider bonding for some capital improvements. Nies said the county could probably dedicate about \$1 million to bond payments without raising taxes "if everything else stays the same."

Although the county has been spending from its reserves, it also contributes to them by not budgeting for County Program Aid (CPA) revenue from the state, banking any insurance dividends received and from departments consistently coming in under budget.

The County Board set its first budget workshop for Monday, May 19, and subsequent ones for Wednesday, June 4, and Wednesday, June 18.

Upcoming Events

Lions sausage supper slated

The Silver Lake Lions are hosting their annual sausage supper today (Thursday, March 27), from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium. The menu includes Polish sausage, cheesy hashbrown potatoes, bread, corn, sauerkraut, dessert, milk and coffee. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds will go to the Silver Lake Fire Department.

Sportsmen's Club to meet

The Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club will meet Thursday, March 27, (tonight) at 7 p.m. at the sanctuary.

Pola-Czesky meeting slated

The Pola-Czesky committee will meet Monday, March 31, at 7 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Degree of Honor meeting

Degree of Honor No. 182 will meet Tuesday, April 8, at 1 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Summer rec sign up night

The Silver Lake summer recreation and swimming lesson sign-up night is set for Wednesday, April 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Programs include kindergarten through sixth grade summer recreation morning program; kindergarten through second grade baseball; third- and fourth-grade boys baseball and fifth- and sixth-grade girls softball. All grades are for the 2013-14 school year. Students must have completed kindergarten to participate in any activity. Programs are dependent on number of participants and coaches available. For questions call Gary Kosek at 507-351-4272.

Citywide garage sale dates

The Silver Lake citywide garage sale dates are set for May 8-10. More information will be available later.

Luce Line Railroad program

On March 30, at 1 p.m., in the McLeod County Museum Educational Media Center, a Luce Line Railroad Club program will be held. Come for an afternoon to learn more about the history of railroads in McLeod County. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Lenten soup suppers begin

Each Wednesday night during the Lenten season, Grace Bible Church in Silver Lake will hold a 5:30 p.m. soup and chili supper (free-will offering) served by members of the Living Water Puppets Team. The meal will be followed by a 7 p.m. church service.

Foster parent meeting set

McLeod County Social Services is hosting foster parent orientation for families interested in becoming foster parents on Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at McLeod County Health and Human Services, 1805 Ford Ave., Glencoe. Call social worker Brenda Sandquist at 320-864-3144 or 800-247-1756 for additional information, or to register for the meeting.

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from the capital improvement fund back into the general fund.

"We would use money in the reserves, but pay it back. We're technically spending the money in reserves, but the plan is to replenish it," Venier said.

On a 5-0 vote, the Council approved purchasing the 1996 Fitalis pay loader from Juul for \$38,500, with the rental costs forgiven. The machine will be

paid through the capital improvement fund over the next 10 years.

The Council also discussed options to scrap the broken pay loader, and Fogarty reported there was an offer to buy it for \$7,000.

"But after talking with Juul, they said the new set of tires (on the broken pay loader) was worth that," Fogarty said.

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should take to prevent frozen pipes.

Bebo voiced concern about residents continuously running water, whether they have frozen lines or not, and calling the city for credit on their water bills.

Venier said residents are to call the city *before* they run water.

"We have Dale (Kosek) check into the properties to see if they are at risk for frozen water pipes before they start running water," Venier said.

"But what if people come too late, that's the problem I'm

worried about," Bebo said.

Venier said the frozen water lines are taken "case by case."

Menu

March 31 - April 4
Silver Lake
Senior Nutrition Site

Monday — Hamburger, baked beans, peaches, bun, margarine, ice cream, low-fat milk.

Tuesday — Liver or pepper steak, buttered boiled potatoes, peas, bread, margarine, apricots, low-fat milk.

Wednesday — Pork chow mein, rice, chow mein noodles, oriental vegetables, mandarin oranges, cookie, low-fat milk.

Thursday — Roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, margarine, pudding dessert, low-fat milk.

Friday — Creamy vegetable soup, egg salad sandwich, tropical fruit, crackers, margarine, dessert, low-fat milk.

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Letters
The Silver Lake Leader welcomes letters from readers expressing their opinions. All letters, however, must be signed. Private thanks, solicitations and potentially libelous letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit any letter.
A guest column is also available to any writer who would like to present an opinion in a more expanded format. If interested, contact the editor, richg@glencoeNews.com.

Ethics
The editorial staff of the Silver Lake Leader strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. We appreciate errors being brought to our attention. Please bring any grievances against the Silver Lake Leader to the attention of the editor. Should differences continue, readers are encouraged to take their grievances to the Minnesota News Council, an organization dedicated to protecting the public from press inaccuracy and unfairness. The News Council can be contacted at 12 South Sixth St., Suite 940, Minneapolis, MN 55402, or (612) 341-9357.

Press Freedom
Freedom of the press is guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press..."
Ben Franklin wrote in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1731: "If printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody there would be very little printed."



Deadline for news and advertising in the Silver Lake Leader is noon, Tuesday. Deadline for advertising in The Galaxy is noon Wednesday.

Trek north was postcard perfect

Just as I was starting to get over this obnoxiously long winter, I decided to head north six hours to enjoy a snowy weekend in Ely.

Yes, most people do fly south for winter and you're probably thinking I took a wrong turn from the flock.

I thought the same when I woke up to below-freezing temperatures and heavy snow Friday morning in Ely, but my friend Gratia and I made the most of our weekend in the woods.

Her family has a cabin about seven miles out of Ely, on the outskirts of the Boundary Waters, and we made a trip up there last November, too.

However, because of the amount of snow this winter, there was no access to get to her cabin in the woods, and we had to camp out at her friend's apartment in town.

I didn't mind — it was nice to have a bathroom and running water this time around, though there's nothing quite like sitting on the cold toilet seat in an old, dingy wooden outhouse, listening to the birds and squirrels chirping away while trying not to think about spiders and other creepy crawlies creeping near your bare butt.

Ah, nature. Staying in town also gave us the freedom to enjoy a few Bloody Marys and that famous "Bucky Burger" at the Ely Steakhouse.

I've been trying to watch what I eat, but there was no way I was going to pass up that savory burger, covered in melted cheddar, topped with crispy bacon and steaming fried onions with their house

The Travel Section

By Alyssa Schauer



Thousand Island sauce on the side. And, of course, I ordered a side of french fries — the true companion to a juicy burger.

You can bet my menu this week involves a lot of salad and veggies just to balance out that meal. But it was oh so worth it.

Our weekend also saw a night of dancing and loud, off-key karaoke, and we were able to squeeze in a little antique and thrift shopping.

Every time I'm in Ely, I have to stop at the Ely Surplus store to check out their flannel collection.

In the back of the shop, there are three or four racks buckling under all of the flannel discarded by previous owners.

And they always have the same sale: Buy one flannel at \$6.99 or get two for \$12.

Do you think I ever buy just one? When I got home from the weekend, I emptied my backpack and opened my closet to hang my new additions.

I realized half of my closet is blue, yellow, green, and red with flannel. It seems I'm stuck in the '90s grunge phase, yet.

Despite our weekend in the "suburbs," we were able to fully enjoy the beauty and the

quiet of the wilderness of the north.

On Saturday, we trekked over to Kawishiwi Falls, a 70-foot waterfall that spills into Fall Lake.

We hiked through here in November, too, but at the time, the trees were barren and the land brown.

The trail at Kawishiwi winds through the woods, and the blanket of Friday's fresh snow left a stunning landscape for our hike.

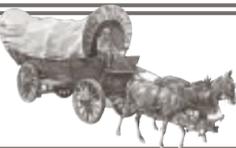
I felt as if I were in a Christmas postcard, traipsing through two feet of glittering snow underneath frosted evergreen trees and tall, bare birches.

I am so thankful that this scene is in our own backyard. I have been dreaming of visiting national parks and seeing other sights throughout the United States, and I am proud to say we have one of the most beautiful national forests just a few hours north of us.

And even though I enjoyed lacing up my boots and donning long underwear, wool mittens and a knit scarf for the brisk hike, I'm definitely looking forward to feeling the warm sun on my face. And my feet definitely can't wait for sandals.

Down Memory Lane

Compiled by Margaret Benz



75 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1, 1939 — Betty Jean Tatting was announced as the valedictorian of the Silver Lake High School Class of 1939, the largest class to graduate from Silver Lake High School with a roll of 30 members. Salutatorian honors were awarded to Doris Navratil. Other high-ranking seniors were Mildred Dlouhy, Elizabeth Jaskowiak, Margaret Grzeskowiak, Esther Kovar, Edythe Buska, LeRoy Zrust and James Totushek.

Joe Mallak announces that he will discontinue custom feed grinding on April 8.

Albert Lunow has his 114-acre farm for sale at \$105 per acre with good buildings and well. The farm is located one-half mile from Silver Lake on Highway 7.

A dance will be held at the Bohemian Hall on Easter Sunday, April 9, with music by Jerry Dostal and his orchestra.

Specials at the E.H. Totushek Store include: brown sugar, 4 pounds, 19¢; Swift's premium lard, 2 pounds, 17¢; bulk farina, 5 pounds, 19¢; High Life peanut butter, 2 pounds, 23¢; Golden syrup, 49¢ a gallon; free, your choice, package cake four, one package pancake flour, or one package wheat cereal with the purchase of every 49-pound sack of Mother's Best flour.

Frank Dlouhy, 79, passed away on Thursday afternoon, March 30, at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Dlouhy of Hale Township. Funeral services will be held on Sunday, April 2, at the Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake.

50 YEARS AGO - MARCH 26, 1964 — Monday it rained and then a high wind drove the temperatures down and it turned cold.

From all reports, the open house at both the Silver Lake Produce and Mallak's Elevator were very well attended.

Silver Lake American Legion Post 141 celebrated its 45th birthday on Monday, March 16. Honored were five charter members who have had continuous membership for 45 years. They are John C. Horejsi, Joseph Kaminsky, John Svanda, Frank Trnka and Rufus Wanous.

In observance of Good Friday, the Village Council has requested that all business places be closed from noon until 3 p.m.

The Silver Lake Fire Department answered two fire calls to extinguish chimney fires. The first call was last Thursday morning at the Dan Plihal farm home in Hutchinson Township and the second to the Mrs. Victoria Novak home in Rich Valley Township on Monday evening.

Silver Lake High School music students receiving "A" ratings at the District Music Contest held at Lester Prairie on March 13 were Lanny Kolpek, Gary Navratil, Kathy Sustacek, Darrell Vasek, Jacqueline Hlavka, Marilyn Skorpik and Betty Krcil.

The Silver Lake Village Council has issued a strict warning that the running loose of dogs about the village absolutely will not be tolerated. The dogs must be confined to the owner's premise either on a leash or in a pen all year long.

The big Silver Lake Fire Department Dance will be held on Saturday, April 4, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Music will be furnished by Bud's Accordion Band.

Fritz and Catherine Maresh of Maresh Furniture Store won a trip for two to Rome, Italy.

Orrin and LuWayne Wraspir have installed a new ice cream machine that makes both chocolate and vanilla soft swirl cones.

Slanga Hardware Store opens its big spring sale this weekend with a lot of red hot specials.

Carlene Ruzicka began working at Marlene's Beauty Lounge as of April 1.

The Otto Stritesky family has moved to their new home in Silver Lake north of the Ben Radtke, and the Kenneth Striteskys have moved to the home vacated by the Otto Striteskys.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Rannow have moved into their apartment of the Ruzicka Apartments on the east end of town.

Mrs. George (Florence Eggert) Nyman, 57, passed away on Tuesday, March 31. Funeral services will be held in Minneapolis on Saturday morning.

Mrs. Emil Trutna, 70, passed away on Saturday morning at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wally Hanke, in Hutchinson. Funeral services were held from the Jon Hus Church in Hopkins.

Daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. LuWayne Wraspir on March 28 and Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Dorothy Stibal) Splitzger on March 19. A son was born on March 17 to Mr. and Mrs. William (Patricia Zaruba) Droeg.

25 YEARS AGO - MARCH 30, 1989 — Sunday morning, April 2, at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins.

The Silver Lake Fire Department is sponsoring its annual dance on Saturday evening, April 1, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Music will be by Richard Szplinski and His Old Time Band.

The eighth-annual Silver Lake Lions Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 2, at the Silver Lake High School multi-purpose room.

Named to the Circle Eight All-Conference team for girls basketball and boys wrestling from Silver Lake High School were: Kelli Wawrzyniak, BJ Penas, and Karen Hlavka in girls basketball, and Cory Chmielewski, Joel Wosmek, Troy Rozeske, Wayne Green and Jesse Artmann for wrestling. Honorable mention in girls basketball went to Pam Klima and Bruce Heuer in wrestling.

Shamla Farm Supply is holding a Supersweet Feeds open house on March 31.

On March 31-April 1, Shamla Oil Co. is holding a tire sale with every tire in stock on sale. Free coffee and donuts will be served both days.

Variety Plus is holding an anniversary sale on March 30-April 1.

Due to an early Easter and a lot of snow in the City Park, the Silver Lake Civic Association Easter Egg Hunt was moved to the auditorium last Saturday, March 25.

Trent Smutka, a Hutchinson High School senior and son of Nathan and Juanita Smutka, has signed a letter of intent to play NAIA Division I football this fall at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D.

William and Rosella Quast will hold an auction at their farm 4-1/4 miles northeast of Winsted on Saturday, April 8.

Paul Pokornowski, son of Sylvester and Marcella Pokornowski, competed in the annual Montevideo Karate Tournament on March 12. He earned a third-place trophy in the men's adult white, orange and blue belt division.

Funeral service for Katherine Robison, 59, were held on Saturday, March 25, from the Maresh Funeral Chapel in Silver Lake.

A 25th anniversary open house honoring Mr. and Mrs. Wes Holm will be held on Sunday, April 2, at the Silver Lake Legion Club.

Tracing Roots

By Ron Pulkrabek



Pulkrabeks visit Czech homestead

During our 1985 visit, we drove to the tiny village of Horni Ujezd. [pn. Hor (roll the "r" 4 times) kneel]. It is located about 75 miles southeast of Prague, where our relatives once lived.

The Pulkrabeks sold the farm in 1840 to the great grandparents of the present owners, Jan (John) and Emily Rozek, who are now in their late 70s. They live with their bubbly daughter, Hana, and son-in-law, Oldrich.

Although we are no relation, they greeted us with open arms and hugs just as if we were long lost brothers and sisters. Toasts of wine and pivo followed.

The main barn in the neat yard was connected to two houses in a courtyard shape. The communists took away their very productive 80-acre farm in 1948, although they were allowed to keep two acres with the buildings. They were allowed two cows, one horse, two pigs, a few chickens and 50 rabbits. Some of the rabbits were angora type, which they sold to sweater manufacturers.

They also had a large garden, apple trees and many beautiful flowers. Everything seemed to grow abundantly.

They showed us old plows, seeders and harrows and horse-powered turn-ables once used by the Pulkrabeks 150 years ago.

Oldrich is a mechanical genius, although he is required to work on a dairy farm. He has built several small tractors out of motorcycles and has a shop

with a metal lathe and a home-made welder. He scrounges up materials.

They have a 1940 Zetor tractor which they hid from the communists for 40 years. They buried it! Unfortunately, if you were born on a farm, and the communists took your farm away, you were reduced to a humble peasant for life.

Jan and Emily were once prosperous farmers before the communists took it away 40 years ago. Jan was required to turn in one horse to the communists. It was such a big horse that they couldn't pair it with another. They told him to take it home. We saw the huge collar.

A full wagon load of smaller potatoes, (maybe rejects) were in the yard. It was their bonus payment from the government.

Hana and Emily had dinner ready for us. The first course was homemade chicken noodle soup with noodles as fine as string. You know it is good when small little bubbles of chicken fat float on top of the yellowish broth. This was followed by roast pork and three huge dumplings (knedliky) with gravy, served on our individual plates; (you could not turn it down) and sauerkraut, pivo (beer), kolaches and four-inch squares of fruit bread and various pastries. Oh, were we ever stuffed!

We toured several churches and cemeteries and found many Pulkrabek tombstones. We even found a live, older, Louie Pulkrabek, but he was not a close relation.

A funeral and burial was taking place; children dropped small flower petals on the path as six men carried the casket on their shoulders from the church to the adjoining cemetery. A brass band followed, playing soft, sad, religious songs.

Near a fork in the road with no buildings, on a small stream nestled among the trees, a flowing well was located at a local outdoor meeting place. The little flowing stream contained several barrels of cool "Policka Pivo" from the nearby brewery in the town of Policka. A tapper was already attached to one keg while the others were held in reserve.

A few strokes on a hand tire-pump gave the keg air pressure. A few empty mugs for everyone to use were standing on a stone wall, plus a tin money box. Just help yourself and pay 20 cents on the "honor system" and sit back and enjoy yourself.

Locals say the policemen drink, but never pay!

Every evening or during the day, the locals would gather, tip a few, exchange the daily gossip, talk about the unfortunate situation they were in and have a few laughs. It would be like meeting under the Koniska Bridge with kegs cooling in the Crow River which has a flowing well nearby. The pivo (beer) was delicious!

To be continued.

Legal Notices

Rich Valley Township

Rich Valley Township 2014 Gravel Hauling Bids
Rich Valley Township will receive sealed bids for hauling and laying 5,000 cubic yards, more or less, of class 5 gravel, not to exceed 8% of 200 screen clay or binder mix, on Rich Valley Township roads. The bid should include pricing for the roads to be graded immediately after the gravel is dropped. Job is to be completed by June 1, 2014.

The Township Board also requests the winner bidder sell and deliver gravel to any Rich Valley township resident who wishes to purchase gravel at the same cost. The bidder will work directly with the resident for this service and for payment. Gravel price should be good until August 1, 2014.

Bids should be submitted by April 9, 2014.

Mail bids to:
Theresa Rusten
Rich Valley Township
16343 Ideal Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336

(Published in The Silver Lake Leader March 27 & April 3, 2014)

Rich Valley Township

Rich Valley Township Dust Coating Bids
Rich Valley Township is requesting dust coating bids for a single application to 41-45 miles of Rich Valley township roads to be completed by **June 15, 2014**.

Application should consist of 30% magnesium chloride and cover a 24 foot width.

Quotes should be written at a cost per mile and received by April 7, 2014.

Submit bids to:
Theresa Rusten
Rich Valley Township
16343 Ideal Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336

(Published in The Silver Lake Leader March 27 & April 3, 2014)

Rich Valley Township

Rich Valley Township Board of Appeal and Equalization Important Information Regarding Assessment

And Classification of Property This May affect your 2015 taxes.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Rich Valley Township shall meet on Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 PM at Rich Valley Township Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation of classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed.

Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Theresa Rusten
Rich Valley Township Clerk
(Published in The Silver Lake Leader March 27, 2014)

Live Entertainment

Saturday,

March 29

7:00-10:00 p.m.

JIM & DEAN'S COUNTRY MUSIC

Silver Lake American Legion Club

241 Main St. W.
Silver Lake
320-327-2404

2014-15 Faith Preschool Open House & Registration
Sat., March 29th, 1-3 p.m.



Faith Presbyterian Church
108 W. Main St. • Silver Lake

Registration is open to the public for children who are ages 3 or 4 on or by September 1st, and are potty trained. We offer afternoon classes.

Questions? please call 320-327-2452

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New London, MN (320) 354-4312
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Obituaries

Thomas V. Friauf, 74, of Hutchinson

Thomas Victor Friauf, 74, of Hutchinson, died Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at his residence.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 21, at Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. The Rev. John Pasche officiated.



Thomas Friauf

The pallbearers were Dennis Getz, Dale Horton, Brent Lindeman, Craig Thran, David Popelka, Brad Jackson and Tim Ellis. Interment, with military rites, was in Bohemian National Cemetery, Silver Lake.

Mr. Friauf was born Dec. 11, 1939, to Art and Grace Friauf.

He honorably served his country in U.S. Armed Services.

On April 8, 1967, Mr. Friauf and Alice Baseman were joined in holy marriage in Wattertown, S.D.

Mr. Friauf formerly was employed as a journeyman for the Milwaukee Railroad. He also engaged in dairy farming for many years south of Silver Lake.

He enjoyed going to the cabin, deer hunting, playing cards and going to auctions.

Mr. Friauf was a life member of the VFW and belonged to the American Legion, both in Hutchinson.

Survivors include his wife, Alice Friauf; children, Russell (Vicky) Duenow, Jeff Duenow, Pam VonBerge (David Popelka), Terry (Marilyn) Duenow, Tracy Schmidt (Dale Horton), Wayne (Teri) Friauf and Holly Setter (Dennis Getz); 22 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; brother, Donald Friauf; two sisters, Joyce Frey and Arlene Lewin; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Art and Grace Friauf, and a daughter, Theresa.

The Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake served the family. Online condolences may be made at www.mareshfuneralhome.com.

Donald M. Pawlicki, 81, of Glencoe

Donald Michael Pawlicki, 81, of Glencoe, died Thursday, March 20, 2014, at Sanford University of South Dakota Medical Center in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 26, at the Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe. The Rev. Anthony Stubeda officiated.



Donald Pawlicki

The readers were Sierra Wieneke and Taylor Pawlicki. The soong leader was Kelly Blissenbach, and the organist was Sue Mielke. Congregational hymns were "Here I Am, Lord," "On Eagle's Wings," "I Am the Bread of Life," "Song of Farewell" and "Be Not Afraid."

Military honors were by the Glencoe American Legion Post 95. Honorary pallbearers were his great-grandchildren, Samantha Ims, Rachel Ims, Benjamin Ims and Grace Pawlicki. Pallbearers were his grandchildren, Heather Ims, Cory Pawlicki, Bailey Pawlicki, Taylor Pawlicki, Sierra Wieneke and Olivia Wieneke. Interment was in the Glencoe Catholic Cemetery.

Mr. Pawlicki was born Dec. 26, 1932, in Silver Lake, to Michael and Gertrude (Poko-

rowski) Pawlicki. He was baptized as an infant on Dec. 28, 1932 by the Rev. S. Julkowski, received first communion in April 1943, and was confirmed Nov. 4, 1945, all at St. Adelbert's Catholic Church in Silver Lake.

He attended school in Silver Lake through the eighth grade and then worked with his parents on the family farm.

Mr. Pawlicki entered the U.S. Army on May 1, 1953, and served his country as an Army corporal during the Korean War. He received his honorable discharge on April 29, 1955.

On May 13, 1961, Mr. Pawlicki was united in marriage to Eleanor Heinen by the Rev. Henry LeMay at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Glencoe.

They made their home in Glencoe. In February, when Mr. Pawlicki needed help with his daily care, he moved to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

The Pawlickis were blessed with three children, Rick, Randy and Patti. They shared 52 years of marriage.

Mr. Pawlicki worked various manufacturing jobs, mostly notably as a painter. He worked for Pure Milk in Winsted, Farmhand in Green Isle and Bullert's gravel pit.

He served as the St. Pius X Catholic School custodian from 1983-86 before going to work at Delta Manufacturing.

He retired in the mid 1990s. He was a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Glencoe, where he served as an usher.

Mr. Pawlicki was a good person who truly enjoyed the simple things in life. He was a fan of polka and concertina music. He also was creative and expressed that with his hands. He enjoyed both metal working and wood working, the outdoors and cutting wood. He especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Pawlicki of Glencoe; children, Rick (Cindy) Pawlicki of Chaska, Randy (Jodi) Pawlicki of Becker and Patti (Jeff) Wieneke of Luverne; grandchildren, Heather Ims, Cory Pawlicki, Bailey Pawlicki, Taylor Pawlicki, Sierra Wieneke and Olivia Wieneke; great-grandchildren, Samantha Ims, Rachel Ims, Benjamin Ims and Grace Pawlicki; brother, Leon (Sylvia) Pawlicki of Hutchinson; nephews, nieces, other relatives and many friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Michael and Gertrude Pawlicki; and sister, Theresa Yurek.

Arrangements were by the Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel of Glencoe. Online obituaries and guest book are available at www.hantge.com. Click on obituaries/guest book.

Lester Dana Lhotka, 86, of Silver Lake

Lester Dana Lhotka, 86, of Silver Lake, died Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at his residence.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, March 28, at 11 a.m., at Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake.



Lester Lhotka

Visitation is tonight (Thursday, March 27), from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake. Parish prayers will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Further visitation will be Friday morning, March 28, one hour prior to the Mass at the funeral home.

Inurnment will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Honorary urn bearers will be his grandchildren, Tim Bauman, Kelly Bauman, Tyler Lhotka, Jas-

mine Lhotka, Justin Cleveland and Morgan Cleveland.

Mr. Lhotka was born June 19, 1927, on the family farm in Rich Valley Township, to Dana and Christina (Friauf) Lhotka.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1951, Lester D. Lhotka and Margaret A. Bandas were joined in holy marriage at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Silver Lake. God blessed their marriage with four children.

Mr. Lhotka engaged in farming for 49 years.

He was an honest, tough man and a good neighbor with a good sense of humor! He always made you feel special.

Mr. Lhotka was a faithful member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake. He also was a member of The Lions Club for 36 years and served on the Catholic School Board.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Margaret A. "Margie" (Bandas) Lhotka; daughters, Wendy (Steve)

Bauman of Woodbury and Kris (Lon) Cleveland of Canby; sons, Michael (Barbara) Lhotka of Cokato and John (Seng) Lhotka of Goodyear, Ariz.; grandchildren, Tim and Kelly Bauman, Tyler and Jasmine Lhotka and Justin and Morgan Cleveland; sisters, Marjorie Stritesky and Germain Smutka; other relatives and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Dana and Christina (Friauf) Lhotka; father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Bessie Bandas, brothers-in-law, Guy Stritesky, Raymond Smutka and Raymond Bandas; niece, Annette Bandas; and great-nephews, Toni Smutka and Alexander Stritesky.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

The Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.mareshchapel.com.

Marion Loebertmann, 78, Silver Lake

A Mass of Christian Burial for Marion Helen Loebertmann, 78, of rural Silver Lake, was held Tuesday, March 25, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake.



Marion Loebertmann

Mrs. Loebertmann died Thursday, March 20, 2014, at the Glencoe Regional Health Services long-term care facility.

Pallbearers were Bob Mochinski, Pete Reardon, Henry Loebertmann, Bruce Lorentz, Dan Entinger and Glen Mallak. Interment was in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Waverly.

Marion Helen Klenicky was born March 2, 1936, in Hale

Township, McLeod County, to Alexander and Emily (Hornick) Klenicky.

On June 5, 1965, Marion Klenicky and Leo Loebertmann were joined in holy marriage in Silver Lake. God blessed their marriage with two children, Patrick and Helen.

Mr. Loebertmann preceded her in death in 1972.

Mrs. Loebertmann engaged in dairy farming in Hale Township and lived on the family farm until she entered the Glencoe Regional Health Services long-term care in 2008. She worked hard on the farm.

She was always happy and had a smile on her face! She enjoyed embroidering, playing bingo, coloring, dogs and "loved" jewelry.

Mrs. Loebertmann was a faithful member of Holy Fam-

ily Catholic Church in Silver Lake. She also belonged to the Rosary Society and CCW.

Survivors include her loving children, Patrick Loebertmann of Silver Lake and Helen Loebertmann of Monticello; sisters, Rita Klenicky of Glencoe and Martha Klenicky of Silver Lake; many nieces and nephews on the Loebertmann side; other relatives and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Alexander and Emily Klenicky; her husband, Leo Loebertmann; and three brothers, an infant twin brother, Henry Klenicky, Joseph Klenicky and Stanley "Buddy" Klenicky.

The Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake served the family. Online condolences may be made at www.mareshfuneralhome.com.

Church News

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
300 Cleveland Ave., Silver Lake
Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor
320-327-2265

<http://silverlakechurch.org>
Sat., March 29 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.m.

Sun., March 30 — "First Light" radio broadcast on KARP 106.9 FM, 7:30 a.m.; pre-service prayer time, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school for all ages, 10:35 a.m.; Wild Game Feed, "Lost in the BWCA," 5 p.m.

Wed., April 2 — Soup supper, 5:30 p.m.; confirmation class, 6 p.m.; Lenten service with guest speaker Daryl Willet, 7 p.m.

Sat., April 5 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.m.

Dial-A-Bible Story, 320-327-2843.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN
108 W. Main St., Silver Lake
320-327-2452
Fax 320-327-6562
E-mail: faithfriends@embarqmail.com
Carol Chmielewski, pastor
Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun., March 30 — Handbell practice, 8:45 a.m.; worship service with fellowship to follow, 10 a.m.

Wed., April 2 — Light supper, 5:30 p.m.; WOW classes, 6 p.m.; Lent service, 6:15 p.m.; choir practice, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
700 W. Main St., Silver Lake

Anthony Stubeda, Pastor
Thurs., March 27 — Mass at Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; area pastoral council, Holy Family, 7 p.m.
Fri., March 28 — Mass, 8 a.m.; stations of the cross, 6 p.m.

Sat., March 29 — Reconciliation, 5 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.; AFC mission group wine tasting, dinner, silent auction at Crow River Winery, Hutchinson, 6 p.m.

Sun., March 30 — Mass, 8 a.m.; Mass, 8 p.m.

Mon., March 31 — No Mass.

Tues., April 1 — Mass, 8 a.m.; eucharistic adoration, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Wed., April 2 — Mass, 5 p.m.;

first- through sixth-grade religious education, 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.; seventh- through 11th-grade religious education, 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Thurs., April 3 — Mass at Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; CCW meeting, 7 p.m.

Fri., April 4 — Mass, 8 a.m.; first Friday calls; stations of the cross, 6 p.m.

Sat., April 5 — Reconciliation, 5 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
950 School Rd. S.W., Hutchinson
320-587-9443
E-mail: infor@loversoftruth.com
Jim Hall, Pastor

Sun., March 30 — Worship, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
770 School Rd., Hutchinson
Kenneth Rand, Branch President
320-587-5665

Sun., March 30 — Sunday school, 10:50 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; priesthood, relief society and primary, 11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

RIVERSIDE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
20924 State Hwy. 7 W., Hutchinson
320-587-2074
E-mail: assembly@hutchtel.net
Dr. Lee Allison, pastor

Sun., March 30 — Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

FIRST CONGREGATION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
31 Fourth Ave. S.W., Hutchinson
320-587-2125
E-mail: jmm@hutchtel.net

Sun., March 30 — Sunday school, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m.

ST. PIUS X CHURCH
1014 Knight Ave., Glencoe
Anthony Stubeda, Pastor

Thurs., March 27 — Mass at GRHS-LTC, 10:30 a.m.; junior choir, 2:50 p.m.; Schoenstatt boys' group meeting, 2:50 p.m.; area pastoral council at Holy Family, with parish administrative councils, area worship committee

and parish worship committees.

Fri., March 28 — Morning prayer, 8 a.m.; school Mass, 8:20 a.m.; stations of the cross for school children, 2 p.m.; Spanish Mass, 5:30 p.m.; adoration of blessed sacrament, 6 p.m.; benediction, 6:50 p.m.; stations of the cross, 7 p.m.

Sat., March 29 — Reconciliation, 3:30 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.

Sun., March 30 — Mass, 9:30 a.m.; Spanish Mass, 11:30 a.m.; no Spanish religious education for children and adults; adoration of blessed sacrament follows Spanish Mass; benediction, 5:45 p.m.; communal celebration of reconciliation; Mass at Holy Family, Silver Lake, 8 p.m.

Mon., March 31 — No Mass; HandS committee and E&C committee, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., April 1 — Morning prayer, 7 a.m.; Mass, 7:20 a.m.; Hispanic ministry adult catechesis, 7 p.m.

Wed., April 2 — Morning prayer, 7 a.m.; Mass, 7:20 a.m.; kindergarten through sixth-grade religious education classes, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.; seventh- through 10th-grade religious education classes, 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

SHALOM BAPTIST CHURCH
1215 Roberts Rd. SW., Hutchinson

Rick Stapleton, senior pastor
Adam Krumrie, worship pastor/director of student ministries

Sun., March 30 — Adult growth groups, Sunday school and worship, 9 a.m.; adult growth groups and worship, 10:30 a.m.; discover membership, noon; Shalom running group, 4 p.m.; Financial Peace University, 7 p.m.

Mon., March 31 — Griefshare workshop, 6:30 p.m.; women's discipleship, 7 p.m.

BETHEL LUTHERAN
77 Lincoln Ave., Lester Prairie
Bethany Nelson, pastor
320-395-2125

Sun., March 30 — Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; choir, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., March 31 — Paper drive through April 10.

Wed., April 2 — Soup supper, 6 p.m.; Lenten worship, 7 p.m..

Greater Minnesota GOP Women to meet April 1 at Harmony River, Hutch

The Greater Minnesota Republican Women will meet Tuesday, April 1, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Harmony River Senior Living Center, 1555 Sherwood St. SE, Hutchinson.

The parking lot and front entrance face Sherwood Street. Enter through the main entrance, follow the signs to the elevator and take it to the lower level of the building to the activity room across from elevator where the meeting will be held.

Guest speakers are Rhonda Thompson and Traci Seifert, whose husbands are running for governor. Come and meet the feminine side of the candidates.

Mitzi Shimanski, wife of local county commissioner Ron Shimanski, has agreed to

share tactics to improve social media talents.

Also, Emily Gruenhagen, wife of state Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, and Ginny Newman, wife of state Sen. Scott Newman, will present a pro and con discussion on the "Bullying Bill," which has passed

through the senate finance committee and will be on the floor in the Minnesota Senate in April.

Call Maureen Krumrey at 320-864-4162 for more information, or e-mail: mkrumrey@embarqmail.com.

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Part 2: Tim Orth Foundation recipients of 2014

By Josh Randt
Sports Editor

The 16th-annual Tim Orth Foundation basketball benefit in Glencoe is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, March 29, at the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School gymnasium.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Two basketball games featuring area athletes will highlight a night packed with delightful performances and entertainment geared toward establishing a sense of love and care in the community.

The following entertainment will take place at the event: Hutch Tiger Special Olympics, Laketown

Gymnasts, GSL Danceline, Just for Kix, Zumba Movers, therapy dogs, Buffalo Wild Wings eating contest, shooting and slam dunk contests, face painting and more.

Proceeds raised through admissions, concessions, donations, raffles and a silent auction will go toward 12 youths in the area.

The Leader will feature stories and biographies on the recipients over the next two weeks.

Angelita Gonzalez, age 2 of Glencoe, was born prematurely and is fighting to stay alive; Brayden Havelka, 3, Hutchinson, battles Dandy Walker Syndrome and Molly Koschinska, 1, Waconia, has an

atrioventricular canal defect.

Ricardo Martinez Jr., 16, Glencoe, lives with spina bifida; Jada Neid, 9 months, Glencoe, suffers from pulmonary hypertension and Luke Nelson, 16, Cokato, had half of his skull removed after a football accident.

Cody Olson, 7, Hutchinson, has leukemia; Ty and Braden Olson, 7 and 9, have injuries from a head-on car crash; Ty has a traumatic head injury.

Taylor Tenhoff, 16, Cokato, had two bone marrow transplants; Zella Jo Thode, 1, Hutchinson, was born with half a heart and Landon Weigel, 8, Hutchinson, suffers from episodes of airway swelling.

A tentative list of players for the boys game is as follows: Jayden Juergenson (Hutch), Andy Bentz (Hutch), Eric Madsen (Litchfield), Andy Scheider (Litchfield), Tommy Gove (Waconia), Michael Vigel (Waconia), Toby Hansom (Delano), Damian Longstreet (Delano), Nick Machemehl (Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity), Spencer Radtke (LPHT), Alex Heigl (LPHT), Austin Smith (Howard Lake-Winsted-Waverly), Garrett Zander (HLWW), Alex Smith (HLWW), Anthony Gruenhagen (Mayer),

Orth info
Turn to page 6

Lita is 'unstoppable'

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Despite a diagnosis of "failure to thrive," Angelita (Lita) Gonzalez, 2, of Glencoe is unstoppable, according to her mother, Berangila.

Berangila's pregnancy with Lita was rough. "She was nothing like my other two pregnancies with my sons. I started bleeding at 22 weeks, which I contributed to a fall I had at 16 weeks. It was a rough pregnancy, even after Lita was born. Recovery was difficult," Berangila said.

Lita was born premature at 30 weeks, weighing 2 pounds, 13 ounces at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"We were there in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) for 45 days. The biggest concern was that she had a brain bleed, otherwise she was overall healthy for a premie," Berangila said.

"But when the doctors told me Lita was 'failure to thrive,' it sounded ugly. It was hard for me to swallow that news at first. I wondered about her future," she said.

"Failure to thrive" means that Lita is growing developmentally and physically slower than most children her age.

"She struggles to stack blocks, throw balls, speak words. Her educational development is way behind her age," Berangila said.

Lita sees a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, the public health nurse, and a speech therapist several times a month, on top of trips to the



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Angelita Gonzalez, 2, was born premature at 30 weeks, weighing 2 pounds, 13 ounces. She is diagnosed as "failure to thrive," which means she is growing developmentally and physically slower than most children her age. She is one of 12 Orth recipients of this year's Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Jamboree, set this Saturday.

cities weekly to see an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor and a gastroenterologist.

"Without my date book, I would absolutely have no clue what was going on," Berangila laughed.

Currently, Lita weighs 24 pounds, which is a "huge effort since I fought to get her up to 20 pounds," Berangila said.

She added that Lita has oral

aversions to textures and smells of foods.

"If she touches it and it's wet, she won't eat it. If she smells it and doesn't like the smell, she won't eat it," Berangila said.

She found that Lita likes Malt-O-Meal, jojo potatoes and

Angelita Gonzalez
Turn to page 6

Finding normalcy

By Josh Randt
Sports Editor

"We just performed a life saving surgery on your son."

Those were the words Greg and Sara Nelson heard after three and a half hours of surgery on their son Luke, who had half of his skull removed stemming from a subdural hematoma — a collection of blood on the surface of the brain.

Luke's injury happened during the second game of the season on Friday, Sept. 6, playing for the Dassel-Cokato Chargers football team.

Today, if you didn't know all that Luke has been through, you may not believe it.

His scars are hidden by his hair, and only a slight indent on the right side of his head remains visible.

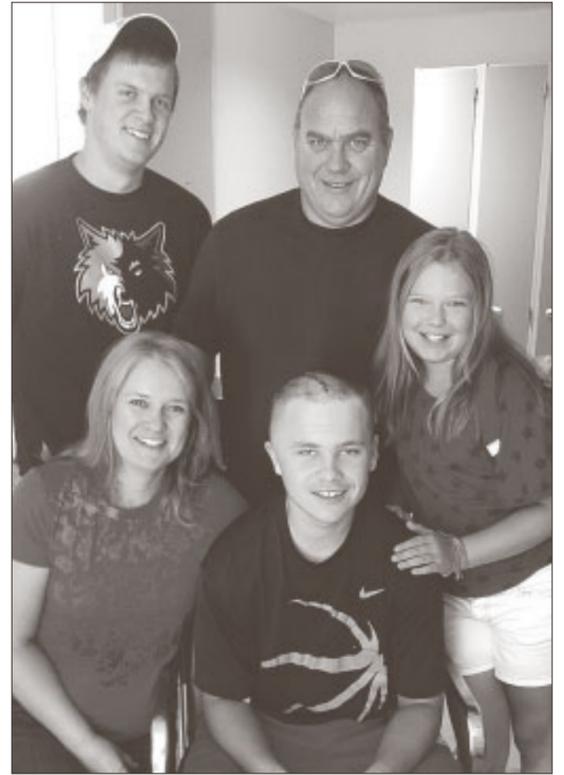
"I kind of grew the hair out," Luke said nonchalantly.

But it wasn't long ago that life in the Nelson household changed drastically.

Late in the fourth quarter versus the Orono Spartans, Sara and Greg said they noticed from the stands that Luke was staggering, and didn't seem like his normal self.

"He was lining up on defense, and Orono was at the line of scrimmage," Sara recalled. "He just turned around and started walking the other way toward the goal post. That's when Coach Weinandt came on to the field, and they stopped. He (Luke) collapsed in his arms."

The 16-year-old began to



Submitted photo

Luke Nelson, center, was all smiles with his family as he was discharged from HCMC after a total of 37 days in the hospital to treat a subdural hematoma, a collection of blood on the surface of the brain. The injury occurred while playing for the Dassel-Cokato football team back in September, and required the removal of half of Luke's skull, which was replaced 11 days later. Luke is pictured with his mother, Sara (front left), sister Sidney (front right), brother Isaac (back left) and dad Greg. Luke is one of 12 recipients of this year's Tim Orth Foundation.

seize and vomit in the arms of his head coach, and went unresponsive as his parents rushed on to the field.

An ambulance on site rushed Luke to a hospital in Litchfield, with Greg on board, holding his

son's hand.

The ride to the hospital was tough for Greg, who is a first responder himself.

Luke Nelson
Turn to page 6

Cody Olson: 8-year-old battles leukemia



Silver Lake Leader photo by Lori Copley
Cody Olson, 8, is into "everything Batman," as is evidenced by this "fathead" on his bedroom wall. Cody was diagnosed with leukemia in August 2013, and is one of 12 recipients of this year's Tim Orth Basketball Jamboree fundraiser.

By Lori Copley
Staff Writer

Last August, Cody Olson, 8, of Hutchinson was a typical boy, involved with baseball, Batman and Legos.

But his parents, Craig and Joni Olson, noticed that he was often fatigued, just didn't feel well, and had what seem to be a rash on his face and legs.

"I thought he had a virus," said Joni Olson, and decided she should take him in for a check-up before school started.

The Hutchinson Medical Clinic ran blood tests, and the doctor knew immediately that Cody had leukemia, Joni said.

"They contacted Children's Hospital and sent us down there right away," said Joni. Cody spent six nights at the hospital, where he had more blood tests, a port for chemotherapy placed in his chest, and started chemo treatments.

"He was very sick, and very tired," Joni said of that first week of treatments. The treatments caused fluid build-ups, and pressurized oxygen was administered.

"He was quite ill the first couple of days," said Joni.

And another complication set in: the spinal taps required to monitor his condition cause debilitating headaches, which sometimes last up to six days.

"They're so bad, he can't even move without getting nauseous," said Joni.

"I don't care for those," agreed Cody of the spinal taps and subsequent headaches.

Cody's illness has altered the family's lifestyle. Because of his susceptibility to infection, Cody rarely attends school, but a tutor comes each weekday evening to work with him.

He goes to Children's at least once a week for his chemotherapy treatments and tests, which can make him ill and tired. Because of the fatigue and the amount of time he spends lying down to cope with the headaches, Cody has to have physical and occupational therapy to keep his muscle tone.

"At one point, he was so weak that he was literally crawling up the stairs," said Joni.

His illness hasn't dampened his enthusiasm, though.

Cody said his interests are "Batman, Batman and Batman — playing Batman, doing Legos of Batman..."

Cody claims he has no girlfriends, but his older sister, Kate, disagreed.

"He has like 16 or 17 girlfriends," said Kate. "From girls my age down to his grade."

His mother joked that older girlfriends are beneficial.

"You want girls who can drive you around or who are able to pick you up," Joni teased.

Cody has four siblings, Kate, Carson, Kendra and Cullen.

Joni said Cody will continue his "front-line" attack of chemotherapy for another month and a half, and then go into a "long-term maintenance program" for about 2-

Cody Olson
Turn to page 6

Litchfield brothers still recovering from collision

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

On Jan. 3, Chris Olson of Litchfield and his two sons, Ty, 7, and Braden, 9, were involved in a head-on car crash that sent all three of them to North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale.

"Braden had internal bleeding and he broke his leg in two places. He also broke his nose and fractured the brow bone above his eye. He has made a full recovery so far, and is healing well," Chris said.

"Ty is also doing remarkably well. He is able to do everything he did before, but just a little bit slower," Chris said.

After the accident, Ty was sedated to allow him to rest while the swelling on his brain stem subsided.

"He was in intensive care for 11 days. He had bleeding on his brain stem, and he had a spinal cord injury," Chris said.

Chris said Ty also underwent neck surgery to fuse together his vertebrae.

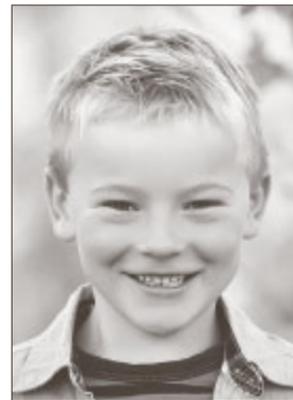
"It is a serious surgery and he will be in a neckbrace until May while the fusion is taking hold. Hopefully it does, and we can move forward," Chris said.

Ty's brain injury affected his speech and some of his fine motor skills; he is currently seeing a speech therapist and occupational therapist three days a week to relearn those skills.

"He is working hard through rehab. His communication is going quite well, but it just takes time to relearn all those skills," Chris said.

He added that both boys are back to a "normal" routine, and are both back to school full time.

"Braden (a third-grader) has already been back to



Submitted photos

Ty Olson

Olson Brothers
Turn to page 6



Braden Olson

Weigel's condition is a 'mystery' for doctors

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Second-grader Landon Weigel has been suffering episodes of a swollen airway for the past two years, and after a series of doctor appointments, the cause is yet unknown.

Steve and Tonda, Landon's parents, stressed the frustration of no diagnosis.

"It's really frustrating for us. Nobody can pinpoint what Landon has," Tonda said.

She said the first breathing episode happened in 2011, and in 2012, he went to Children's Hospital to have surgery to remove his adenoid glands, which sit behind the nose above the roof of the mouth.

Tonda said the doctors thought the glands were enlarged, blocking Landon's airway.

"At first, we thought it worked, because he no longer had breathing episodes. But after six months, he had another attack. And they continually get worse," Tonda said.

Landon, 8, said his throat "clogs up and then I can't breathe. It's really scary," he said.

"And he throws up," Tonda added.

Landon said that he also gets "red bumps" all over his body.

"It looks like he has chicken pox, but that's not it. And one of those bumps actually got infected last year, causing cellulitis," Tonda said.

She added that Landon also gets croup, a common respiratory problem in young children, quite often.



Chronicle photo by Alyssa Schauer

Landon Weigel, 8, has been suffering "breathing episodes" for the last two years. Despite multiple doctor appointments and a surgery to remove his adenoid glands, his diagnosis is still a "mystery" for doctors.

"But the doctors said he's too old to be getting croup," she said.

She said he doesn't have asthma and he isn't diagnosed with any allergies.

"He's a mystery and it's frustrating. We don't have insurance, but he catches everything coming and going. His immune system isn't that strong and we have seen many doctors," Tonda said.

In the meantime, Landon was put on medications to help with

the chicken pox-like rash and he was prescribed an EpiPen (an auto-injector of epinephrine for emergency treatment of allergic reactions.)

"An EpiPen alone costs \$300. We just can't always afford that. But we are so happy to be a part of the Tim Orth event this year. Things could be a lot worse for us, and we are lucky," Tonda said.

Brayden Havelka: a 'pretty easy-going kiddo'

By Lori Copley
Staff Writer

Brayden Havelka is described by his mother as a "pretty easy-going kiddo; he'll do anything you ask."

That is despite the fact that the 3-year-old has limited use of his left side, wears braces on his legs and has been slow to develop.

Brayden was born about five weeks early to his parents, Pam Hoffman and Jeff Havelka of Hutchinson. On the day he was born, Pam and Jeff learned that Brayden had a cyst on his brain stem, and had suffered an internal brain bleed while Pam was still carrying him.

"It was kind of like he had a stroke," said Pam. His left side has been severely affected, and he wears braces on both feet and an arm.

Along with his physical issues, Brayden has been developmentally delayed, in part because of his premature birth and in part because of his brain bleed.

"He didn't start walking until he was 2-1/2, and he didn't start talking until he was 2," said Pam.

Brayden has a wide range of interests, his mother said.

"He loves being outside," Pam said. "He loves trains — Thomas the Train — he loves swimming, and right now, he is obsessed with 'Toy Story.'"

Along with going to therapy four times a week, Brayden goes to preschool.

Pam said doctors have never offered a long-term prognosis for Brayden.

"I don't think they can," said Pam. "But I do know he is doing better than anyone expected."

Brayden will be one of 12 children who will be beneficiaries of this year's Tim Orth Basketball Jamboree, set for March 29 at the GSL High School gym. The Jamboree is a fundraiser for children with medical needs and their parents, who have difficulty with the financial aspects of their children's conditions.



Submitted photo

Brayden Havelka, 3, is a 2014 Tim Orth Foundation recipient. Brayden suffered an internal brain bleed and had a cyst on his brain stem at birth. He has limited use of his left side and has been slow to develop.

Luke Nelson continued from page 5

"That ambulance ride was the hardest part. I'm a first responder, and I've been in similar situations, but it's never your child that you're dealing with," said Greg. "I was kind of on autopilot. It's not until after that you sit back and realize what you went through."

A CT scan revealed the bleed, and prompted a helicopter ride to Hennepin County Medical Center, where surgeons informed Greg and Sara they would drill a hole the size of a half dollar in Luke's skull to drain the blood.

Doctors informed the Nelsons that the type of bleed Luke was suffering from usually takes care of itself by the time they can get to it, and that their main focus was evacuating the blood.

Luke went into surgery just after midnight.

Three and a half hours passed, and the Nelsons had not heard a word on the status of their son.

Ten minutes later, doctors told the family they had removed half of Luke's skull, instead of the smaller hole they initially thought was needed, as there was too much swelling in his brain.

"That was hard to hear," Sara managed, as her eyes filled with tears.

"No one can prepare themselves to hear something like that," Greg said.

Luke remained in the intensive care unit (ICU), while his skull, or bone flap, was kept frozen.

Starting Sunday, Luke was introduced to his new form of practice that didn't involve a football.

"He had speech, physical and occupational therapy three to four times a day," Sara said. "They were trying to establish what part of the brain was damaged, and where the challenges would be."

The removed section of Luke's skull was kept frozen for 11 days, until doctors reattached it on Sept. 17.

Three days later, Luke had recovered well enough that the doctors were planning on discharging him, which elated the family.

But just as they were about to leave, they received word that Luke's last blood cultures showed a growth of bacteria.

"We literally had the bags in the car, and we were going to go to homecoming," Sara recalled. "That was a hard night. They put the IVs back in and had him on powerful antibiotics right away."

Luke was cleared to go home

on Sunday, Sept. 22, but was back at HCMC just four days later as his health had started to decline at their home in Dassel.

A CT scan showed a blood clot in the internal jugular and subclavian vein in Luke's neck, which was also infected.

Doctors started Luke on blood thinners, and he had to learn how to give himself shots in the stomach two times a day.

Over the next week, Luke suffered from terrible bouts of nausea, but an alteration in his medication improved the situation.

A special moment came on Oct. 4, when Luke got an eight hour pass to attend a home game against Litchfield.

But another setback took place just two days later as the Nelsons were once again anticipating their son's departure.

Luke developed another fever and his blood pressure started dipping dangerously low, so he was given medication to raise it.

Doctors told the Nelsons that Luke has the possibility of getting very sick, as his body was acting septic.

But just as Luke's blood pressure had suddenly dropped, it began to slowly rise in the same sudden way.

Once stabilized, Luke decided

Zella Jo: 'happy, social baby' despite heart defect

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Zella Jo Thode, 1, was diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome before birth and spent the first 4-1/2 months of her life at Children's Hospital.

Sara Thode, Zella's mother, explained that hypoplastic left heart syndrome is a rare heart defect that affects 4 in 10,000 children.

"It means that her left ventricle didn't grow. Zella is also diagnosed with dextrocardia, which means her heart is located on the wrong side of her chest. Instead of the left side, it's on the right side of her body," Sara said.

In addition to hypoplastic left heart syndrome and dextrocardia, Zella has scimitar syndrome — a rare congenital heart defect where her right pulmonary artery and right lung are extremely small and displaced, interrupting proper blood flow through the heart.

To treat hypoplastic left heart syndrome, three open heart surgeries are required, two of which Zella already underwent.

Sara said the three surgeries are the Norwood, Glenn and Fontan procedures. The Norwood procedure occurs within a few days of birth; the Glenn procedure is done within four to six months of birth; and the Fontan surgery occurs between the ages of 1-1/2 and 4 years.



Chronicle photo by Alyssa Schauer

Zella Jo Thode, 1, was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a rare heart defect that affects 4 in 10,000 children. She is one of the 12 recipients for this year's Tim Orth Jamboree, set for Saturday, March 29 at the GSL gym.

She was born Feb. 22, 2013, and had the first surgery March 1.

"Zella went into cardiac arrest after the first surgery and was put on an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine for 11 days that helps pump blood into the heart," Sara said.

"It's hard to walk into that room at 4 a.m. with about 30 nurses and doctors and watch your child getting CPR. It was really scary," Sara said.

Around Easter time, Zella's kidneys and her liver were also shutting down, leaving her jaundiced. Sara said a week later, doctors also found she had a perforated colon and underwent emergency surgery to fix it.

"Zella also had seizures and has moderate to severe brain damage from lack of oxygen during her cardiac arrest," Sara said.

In December, Zella had the second heart surgery, the Glenn procedure, which was "trickier" for Zella than other hypoplastic left heart patients.

"Zella has a dynamic anatomy. She is the 1 percent where everything that could possibly happen, will happen. This surgery will give her 8 to 9 years. It's an extremely high risk surgery, and a very tough decision to

make as a parent. But she did phenomenal," Sara said.

She said after the surgery, Zella had a lung infection and blood infection, but was finally able to go home at the end of February.

"The biggest thing for us now is to get her bigger and stronger. With her right lung being so small, she is not a candidate for the third surgery. We don't know what is going to happen for her future. We have to wait and see," Sara said.

Zella goes through about 35 syringes of medication a day and is on oxygen. "We are trying to wean it off to help her be able to breathe on her own," Sara said.

She added that Zella sees a gastroenterologist (GI) doctor, a physical therapist and an occupational therapist.

Zella also has complete oral aversion, which means she has a feeding tube.

"But despite everything she's been through, she is very happy and content. She is easygoing and a very social girl," Sara said.

Because of her health issues, Zella cannot go to daycare, so Sara stays home to care for her. Her husband Matt, is a physical education teacher in the Willmar school district.

They have a son, Jones, 3, who is "in love with Zella. Those two are inseparable," Sara said.

Angelita Gonzalez Continued from page 5

generic chicken strips.

"The hardest thing right now for us is her being nonverbal. She says only a couple of words, and her brother, who is 1, is rattling off phrases already," Berangila said.

She added: "But, she's finally finding humor in things, and it's great to see her laugh. She was scared of laughing at first...I think she was afraid of her own voice. It took a long time for her to get up the courage to laugh."

In October 2011, Berangila, her husband Juan and their family moved from Michigan to

Minnesota.

"Juan has family here and we lived in Stewart before moving here (Glencoe). We lost our apartment to fire in February 2012. We lost everything we owned. But everything we've been through has made us stronger. The fire was devastating, yes. But it was also kind of a blessing because it moved us to Glencoe. I feel at home here," Berangila said.

Berangila also said raising a premature baby has been "a blessing."

"Lita amazes us all. I have a

whole new respect for mothers with preemies. I would not wish a preemie on my worst enemy, but at the same time, I wouldn't trade the experience.

"Lita has made us better parents. She taught us to slow down and be patient. She's actually done wonders for my entire family," Berangila said.

Cody Olson

Continued from page 5

1/2 years. Although his type of leukemia is severe, there is a 90 percent cure rate, "which is the good news," said Joni.

Cody is one of 12 recipients of this year's Tim Orth Basketball Jamboree, a fundraiser for children with serious medical issues. This year's event is Saturday at the GSL High School gym.

Joni said Cody is scheduled for chemo later this week, but it's hoped that Children's will adjust his treatment so that he won't be too ill to attend the Jamboree.

Joni said the family has known past recipients of the fundraiser, and they buy raffle tickets each year.

"But for some reason, we've never attended," said Joni. "We're looking forward to it; we hear it is quite inspirational."

Orth info

Continued from page 5

Mason Diedrick (Mayer), Andrew Cardinal (Norwood Young America) and Cole Petersen (Glencoe-Silver Lake).

A tentative list for the girls' game is as follows: Monroe Julius (Hutch), Taylor Juergenson (Hutch), Emilia Miner (Hutch), Madison Christie (Hutch), Miranda Schultz (Waconia), Maranna Gunnerson (Annandale), Andi Gayner (Dassel-Cokato), Brenna Olson (DC), Sammy Jo Lange (GSL), Steph Klockmann (GSL), Shannon Nix (Lester Prairie), Jessica Garza (Sibley East), Megan Eckberg (SE) and Sami Brinkmann (NYA).

Olson Brothers Continued from page 5

school for the last couple of months, but Ty (a first-grader) just got back to school full-time recently. It's a normal school day for him, except of course phy. ed.," Chris said.

Ty continues to see a speech therapist and occupational therapist after school, "so he's pretty tired at the end of the day."

Chris is an English teacher at Litchfield Middle School and his wife, Cindy, works in the special education department

at Litchfield High School.

They also have a daughter, Alyssa, 12, who is a sixth-grader. Cindy and Alyssa were not involved in the accident.

The Olsons heard about the Tim Orth Memorial Foundation through friends and past recipient families.

"I think it's such a great thing for people to be so selfless. These people volunteer to help people they've never even met. It's amazing to see that support," Chris said.

to surprise his parents once again.

"He went from a kid who had a terrible appetite and couldn't hold anything down, to asking for Applebee's wings!" Sara said. "Greg and I sprinted out the door while Isaac was looking for the nearest location on his phone."

"I was probably on my way to the car in 30 seconds," Greg said with a laugh. "It was pretty exciting."

Luke was finally discharged, this time for good, on Oct. 15, after doctors felt sure of his returning home.

He returned to school on Oct. 29, though, he started with half days until he was cleared for full days after Thanksgiving.

Recently, Luke was cleared from occupational and speech therapy on March 20. He's also got his driver's license back.

The Nelsons reiterated that they truly are blessed to not only have Luke still around, but that he's still himself.

Currently, the main improvement Luke is working on is his processing speed.

The only thing missing from Luke's life now, is the thrill of competition.

Football is out of the question, but Luke still hopes to be able to play baseball next season.

Sara first heard of the Orth Foundation as Don Tangen was one of three substitutes for her while she spent all 37 days in the hospital with Luke.

Immediately, the Nelsons received help in the form of gas money for the many trips back and forth from Dassel to the cities.

"I just wanted to give a big thank you to the Tim Orth Foundation, and all the incredible support we have felt, even beyond the Dassel-Cokato community," Sara said. "We're very thankful, and humbled that Luke is still here, even though he gives us a hard time!"

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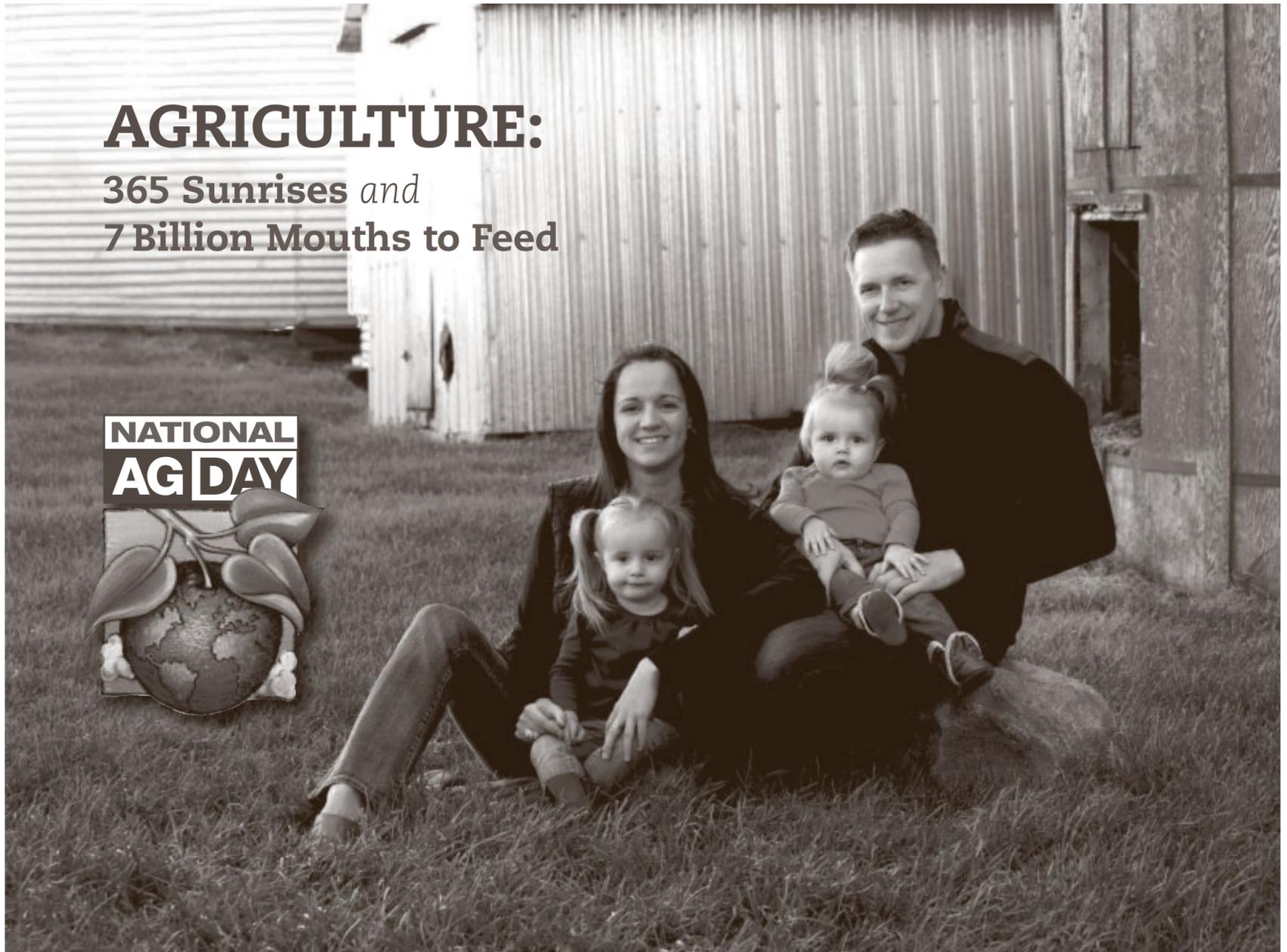
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**NATIONAL
AG DAY**



NATIONAL AG DAY: MARCH 25, 2014

ABOUT AG DAY

March 25th

is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- 1 understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- 2 value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- 3 appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- 4 acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

www.AgDay.org

Download the 2014 Ag Scene at Glencoenews.com Click on "Special Sections" in the top navigation.



Why Celebrate Ag Day?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize—and celebrate—Ag Day each year:

- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.
- Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.
- Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture. Career choices include:
 - farm production
 - agribusiness management and marketing
 - agricultural research and engineering
 - food science
 - processing and retailing
 - banking
 - education
 - landscape architecture
 - urban planning
 - energy
 - and other fields.
- Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.
- Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.
- Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

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