



Larsen brings home gold

Glencoe resident wins national triathlon

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Returning vets to be honored at county fair

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The McLeod County

Chronicle

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July 8, 2015

Council denies extension for Lincoln Park construction

By Rebecca Mariscal Staff Writer

The Glencoe City Council heard updates on the Lincoln Park construction project and considered an extension request from Duinink Brothers, the main contractor for the project.

The contractors have requested an extension to the interim completion date of Nov. 16. The project is already behind on phase one of construction, which was supposed to be completed this week. City Engineer John Rodeberg recommended that the council deny the extension. He said he did not think the company had a good reason for the extension

and was not properly prioritizing the project.

“They are still not making the effort we thought they should,” Rodeberg said.

If the project goes past its planned completion date, it would cost the city \$250 a day and provide further inconvenience to residents in the area. The city could enforce penalties on the company if this occurs.

Rodeberg said denying the request will provide motivation for the contractors to work more efficiently and bring more workers into the area.

The Council agreed and denied the request. Rodeberg said the city will continue trying to lessen the in-

convenience on residents in the area. In other business, the Council:

- Approved a quote for electrical work at the Oak Leaf Park campground. The quote was from Brust Electric for \$14,352.

- Approved a supplemental agreement with Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) for the design of the Armstrong Avenue project, which will encompass an area from Highway 22 to 13th Street and from Seventh Street to Chandler Avenue. The estimated fee in the agreement is \$275,500. This is a not-to-exceed fee, meaning if the project goes over the city does not have to pay the extra. Rodeberg said the project will

need state aid approval, which will be sent for in the fall. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

- Approved an order for repair for 1329 13th St. E. The owner is deceased and property taxes have not been paid, but the house will not be forfeited until 2018. Though the house is not likely to be repaired, City Attorney Jody Winters said the city is required to give the heirs time to repair. If they do not do so within 30 days of the call for repair, the city can go to court in order to repair or take down the house on its own.

- Heard an update on the Glencoe Municipal Airport taxiway project. A grant application has been sent to

the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the project. City Administrator Mark Larson said the city will likely receive the grant and be able to begin construction by the end of July.

- Heard an update that Archer Daniels Midland has received a permit from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a storm sewer connection.

- Heard an update on the economic development with AmericInn. The company is close to having a purchase agreement and could start construction later this year. AmericInn is a franchise that would be looking for local investors.



Chronicle photos by Lori Copler

New Auburn 4th of July

New Auburn hosted a Fourth of July celebration, starting with a dinner Friday, July 3, and continuing Saturday with an antique car and motorcycle show, a bat house building activity, more food, a softball tournament and fireworks to cap the evening on the Fourth. Above, several people tour the car show before voting on their favorites. At right, Kassima Pedersen took advantage of one of the ladderball sets constructed by Fred Grack, who also provided bean-bag boards for the event. The celebration was the result of the combined efforts of the New Auburn Fire Department Relief Association, High Island Lake Conservation Club, Immanuel Lutheran Church, the New Auburn Lions Club and New Auburn VFW Post 7226.



County Board to seek construction manager for proposed jail work

By Lori Copler Editor

McLeod County will be seeking a construction manager for its proposal jail expansion and courthouse security project.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to send out a request for bids on proposals for construction management services.

County Administrator Pat Melvin said he was directed to prepare a request for proposals after a County Board workshop on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 30. The board had heard about the benefits of a construction manager at a previous workshop on June 23.

Melvin said that John McNamara of Wold Architects had indicated that if the county desired to hire a construction manager, it would be best to do it soon.

Melvin presented the proposed request for bids to the County Board at its Tuesday meeting, and pointed out a few changes he felt were necessary. He asked the County Board to approve the document contingent upon its review by County Attorney Mike Junge. Junge said he should be able to review the document by Thursday.

Melvin suggested a deadline of July 24 to receive proposals, and to then have the County Board schedule interviews with prospective construction management firms.

The goal is to have a construction management firm on board by September, which will then work with Wold to tweak final plans.

In other business, the County Board:

- Approved the appointment of Sarah Young, currently the county's solid waste coordinator, as the acting solid waste director. The current director, Ed Homan, is on medical

leave.

- Approved an addendum to the Minnesota Public Employees Association union contract to establish the compensation of the new K9 dog handler.

According to Tim Langenfeld, chief deputy, the sheriff's office reviewed compensations with other counties and cities to determine compensation for time spent in care of the K9 dog and for being called out on specific incidents.

- Appointed Commissioner Doug Krueger as a voting alternate to the Joint Ditch 11 Authority, which includes representatives from Renville, McLeod and Sibley counties. That will allow Krueger to act on behalf of the county in the event that Commissioner Paul Wright, the appointed delegate, cannot attend a meeting.

- Approved a proposed design to reroute County Ditch 20 to the edge of the St. Anastasia Catholic Cemetery, north of Hutchinson, when repairs are made to the ditch. County Attorney Mike Junge told the County Board it should consider charging the cemetery for a portion of the work, since moving the ditch will free up space within the cemetery boundaries. There also will need to be a public hearing once estimated costs for the repairs are received.

- Approved a conditional use permit for Justin Hertzog of Midwestern Storage Solutions to provide outdoor storage of campers, boats, recreational vehicles, trailers, etc., on 203rd Street, rural Hutchinson.

- Accepted a petition for requested repairs to County Ditch 22. The petition was made by Gene Freed and JML Farms. The petition was referred to the environmental services department.

Plato woman's songwriting published on compact disc

By Rebecca Mariscal Staff Writer

When she lost her stepfather in 2010, Diane Kohn of Plato turned to writing as a way to grieve. Just a few years later, what started as therapy has transformed into published songwriting.

Kohn's song, "If Only I Had One More Chance," was recently published on HillTop Record's album "The Best of HillTop." This is the fifth song that Kohn has had pub-

lished. Her other songs are "Jesus is the Answer You're Looking For" and "Mustard Seed Faith" on the album "Heaven is My Home" and "Lord, I Will Rest in You" and "Precious Savior, Will You Take My Hand" on the album "Glory."

The recent album is a compilation of music that represents HillTop Records, located in Hollywood, including country, contemporary, jazz and Spanish songs. Kohn's contribution is a funeral song.

"It's really a goodbye song to the love of your life," she said.

The lyrics were inspired by tragic events in Kohn's life both past and present, including the recent death of her mother-in-law and the death of her own mother in 2006.

"I typically feel the events of life probably deeper than most people," she said. "I just wrote the words I felt led to write."

For Kohn, writing is a process that happens over time. Songs often

develop in pieces, with words coming to her as she moves through her daily life.

"Through the process you start piecing it all together," Kohn said. "Then something will happen in life and you'll get the rest of the words."

Though she's been writing poetry since 2010, Kohn didn't begin writing songs until 2011 when she was first contacted by HillTop Records. Songwriting was not something Kohn was originally interested in,

but she said she had nothing to lose.

"Some questioned the integrity of the company and thought I was being scammed, but sometimes in life you just want to take the risk," Kohn said.

She reworded some of her current poems and submitted her new lyrics to the company to be considered for publication. She was not disappointed.

Kohn

Turn to page 8

Weather

 Wed., 7-8 H: 76°, L: 55°	 Thur., 7-9 H: 81°, L: 57°	 Fri., 7-10 H: 82°, L: 65°	 Sat., 7-11 H: 88°, L: 68°	 Sun., 7-12 H: 97°, L: 67°
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June highlights: 3.26 inches of rain; high temp, 95 on June 9; low temp, 51 on June 1.

Date	Hi	Lo	Precip.
June 30	81	61	0.00
July 1	71	57	Trace
July 2	79	51	0.00

July 3	82	54	0.00
July 4	86	59	0.00
July 5	88	62	0.00
July 6	77	56	1.11

Temperatures and precipitation compiled by Robert Thurn, Chronicle weather observer.

Chronicle News and Advertising Deadlines

All news is due by 5 p.m., Monday, and all advertising is due by noon, Monday. News received after that deadline will be published as space allows.

Happenings

Glencoe class of '46 reunion

The Glencoe High School class of 1946 will gather for its 69-year reunion Friday, July 17, at noon, at Dubbs Grill & Bar for lunch. All are encouraged to attend; if you don't want to come alone, bring a friend. Questions: call 320-864-6562.

Glencoe Music in the Park

The Glencoe Lions Club's Music in the Park series begins today (Wednesday) at Oak Leaf Park Shelter 2 in Glencoe. The music will be by Carver Creek, a five-person family group, sponsored by Larry Anderson-State Farm Insurance. The group offers instrumental and bluegrass, gospel, Irish, old-time, new music and early country. A meal of a shredded beef sandwich or hot dog, chips, dessert and a beverage will available from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the music from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Wednesday, July 15, the music will be by Jim and Mike Wendolek and is sponsored by First Minnesota Bank. Bring a lawn chair. Proceeds go to community projects. Bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Call 320-864-5237 with questions.

Brownton staff get-together

The yearly get-together and lunch for all former Brownton School District 421 staff will be Wednesday, July 15, at the Brownton Bar & Grill. Gather at 11 a.m. and order from a special menu at 11:30 a.m. For questions or additional information, contact Anita Crosby at 320-587-8073, or e-mail abcrosby@hutchtel.net.

First Lutheran polka services

First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe will hold polka services on Sunday, July 19, at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Music will be led by Chuck Thiel and the Jolly Ramblers. Songs will include both familiar hymns and polka tunes. The Men's Club will host a breakfast from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Republican women set picnic

The Greater Minnesota Republican Women will host their annual picnic Tuesday, July 14, at 5:30 p.m., at the Northwoods Park, 885 Elm St. NE, Hutchinson. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to pass, along with plates and utensils. Beverages will be provided. A legislative update will be given from state Sen. Scott Newman and state Reps. Dean Urdahl and Glenn Gruenhagen, as well as other local representatives. For more information, call Ginny at 320-587-5965.

Shady Lane Sportsmen

Shady Lane Sportsmen's Club will have its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the clubhouse.

SL seniors to meet July 13

The Silver Lake Senior Citizens Club will meet Monday, July 13, at 1 p.m., in the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Plato Lions burger night

The Plato Lions Club will host a pork burger night Thursday, July 9, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Plato Park.

SL to spray for mosquitos

The city of Silver Lake will spray for mosquitos Tuesday, July 14, shortly after sundown. In case of rain, the spraying will be postponed one day. For more information, contact Clarke Environmental Services at 800-715-2159.

Blood drive set in Stewart

There will be a blood drive Tuesday, July 21, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Cactus Jack's II on Highway 212 in Stewart.

VBS at First Congregational

First Congregational Church in Glencoe will host vacation Bible school July 12-14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Questions can be directed to Kari at 320-864-3009.

County seniors potluck set

The McLeod County Senior Citizens meeting and potluck have been set for Wednesday, July 15, at noon, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. The meal will be served before the meeting. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact Genny Lhotka at 320-583-9222.

Glencoe seniors meetings

The Glencoe Senior Citizens meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the seniors room at the Glencoe City Center. Sheephead is played on Tuesdays, and both sheephead and 500 are played on Thursdays. All seniors over 55 are invited. For more information, call 320-864-3799 and leave a message.

Pastors to assist at church

First Congregational Church, 1400 Elliot Ave. North, of Glencoe announces that the Rev. Keith Weber will serve the church at the pulpit on the following Sundays: July 12, 16 and 26, and Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30. The Rev. Justin Gromoll will be at the pulpit Aug. 2. Rev. Weber and his wife Sandy, currently living in New Haven, served this congregation as interim minister 2008-2010. All are invited to a welcome coffee this Sunday, July 12, following the 9:15 a.m. service.

Grace Bible Church VBS

Grace Bible Church in Silver Lake will host Everest Vacation Bible School for kids ages 3 and up July 13-17 from 6:30 p.m.-9:10 p.m. Everest will include Bible learning, crafts, team-building, games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats. The theme this year focuses on conquering challenges with God's mighty power and missions. There is a charge to participate. An adult class also is available. The church is located at 300 Cleveland St., next to the city water tower. For more information call Beth at 320-327-2266 or the church at 320-327-2352.

SL City Council considers 5-year plans

By Karin Ramige Cornwell
Publisher

It is not often an employee is asked to work for a wish list, but the department heads of the city of Silver Lake were asked just that.

At its quarterly meeting Monday, July 6, the City Council was presented with a 2016-2021 capital improvement plan from each department.

The purpose of the five-year capital improvement plan is to look at what each department might need in the next five years and plan for funding sources to complete the projects, if possible.

Police department

Police Chief Forrest Henriksen told the council that the biggest need for the department is a new squad car. The current squad is due for replacement.

He suggested that the city purchase a sport utility vehicle (SUV) for the next squad car, which is what other area communities and the sheriff's department uses.

The new squad would be outfitted the same as the current car with radio, radar, emergency lights, computer docking station and a half cage in the back for prisoner transports.

The last couple of squad cars have not been outfitted with dash cameras, but it could be something to install in the new squad. The cost of the new squad is estimated to be \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Henriksen also recommended keeping the old squad car for transportation to training and additional patrol if needed.

He also mentioned that the department's taser guns are outdated and need to be replaced sooner rather than later. Two of the three tasers

owned by the city have failed. Henriksen will bring estimated costs for replacement taser to the Council at its next meeting later this month.

Council Member Ken Merrill asked if there was any equipment or technology that would make the job of the police department easier.

Henriksen couldn't think of anything offhand. Council members asked about body cameras and drones.

He said that might be something to look at in the future, but there is still too much controversy over both items right now.

It was also noted that applications for the police chief position have been slow in coming. Henriksen has submitted his resignation because he plans to relocate. His last day will be in early August.

Public works

The needs of the public works and utilities departments include not only the replacement of vehicles and equipment, but upgrades to the streets, water lines, sanitary sewer lines, and sidewalks.

A street and utility repair and replacement project is slated for 2016 on Cleveland Avenue, with others on the horizon over the next five years.

A water treatment plant was added to the plan as a possibility in the next five years. The city's water quality was a hot topic on the recent citywide survey.

Before a water treatment plant can be discussed, many of the water line issues will need to be addressed.

Ambulance

Ambulance Chief Duane Wawrzyniak informed the Council that the biggest need for the ambulance service is

personnel. He said it is harder and harder to find people willing to volunteer. The service will be looking at a citywide mailing to find interested individuals.

He also told the Council that the state is recommending all ambulances use a 12-lead monitored EKG and defibrillator.

The 12-lead EKG can be monitored via cell phone, allowing a hospital or cardiac lab to read the scans before the patient arrives. Reports show that the survival rate has increased and heart damage decreased with the use of these machines. The cost for such a device can run about \$25,000. There is a possibility of grant funding.

Wawrzyniak also said that the ambulance service will be receiving an automated CPR machine through outside funding. The machine performs the compressions needed in CPR, allowing the EMTs to perform other needed services to the patient.

He added the ambulance is in good shape and the ambulance service will continue to perform routine maintenance.

He also added that motorized cots would be nice. They run in the \$10,000 to \$25,000 range with a power lift into the ambulance.

Fire department

The fire department is in the process of purchasing a new tanker truck, which will

run in the \$100,000 range. The purchase could happen yet in 2015.

The department will continue to work on its needs for the next five years.

Liquor store

Liquor Store Manager John Jerabek reported that offsale liquor sales have increased greatly while onsale sales have been sluggish.

In an effort to attract customers to stay at the bar, cosmetic updates such as paint, carpet and updated bathroom fixtures are in order in the immediate future.

Replacing the doors and painting the exterior would be a bit further down the road.

A trial of an offsale liquor store on Highway 7 is in the plan for 2017. The plan would be to rent for a couple of years to see how it goes, then look at a more permanent location if it went well around 2020.

City buildings

A remodel or relocation of city hall and the police department is being slated for 2017. There is additional space available that could be used better.

The Council discussed a number of possibilities, including relocating the city offices to the auditorium or new construction. The Council will continue to look at all viable options.

Council Member

The Silver Lake City Council is looking for an individual interested in serving as a member of the City Council.

Responsibilities include formulating the City Budget and other City policies, overseeing City Staff and attending regular and special meetings of the City Council.

Requirements: Must be a resident of Silver Lake for at least 30 days and have a desire to get involved in the community.

Anyone interested in learning more should contact City Hall at (320) 327-2412.

F20-22Ca



Submitted photo

A long way from home

The Chronicle received several photos, including the one above, of a 1948 Chrysler Windsor sedan that is currently undergoing repairs and service at Older Car Repairs in Melbourne, Australia. According to John Fleming of Older Car Repairs, the vehicle has a service tag from "Born & Steinbrecher, 730 W 10th St, Glencoe." Fleming said he would like to know more about the car's original owners, as well as more about Born & Steinbrecher. The odometer reads 77,000 miles, according to Fleming, and the car is still in original condition. Anyone with any information is welcome to bring it to the Chronicle, or e-mail it to Fleming at oldercarrepairs@bigpond.com.

NYA couple dies in accident

A Norwood Young America couple died Wednesday night, July 1, as the result of a motorcycle accident, according to the Carver County Sheriff's Office. Heidi Gongoll, 40, a passenger on the motorcycle, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, Patrick Gongoll, also 40, was taken by ambulance to the 212 Medical Center, where he died as a result of his injuries.

According to the sheriff's office, the motorcycle was traveling south on Carver County Road 11, north of Carver County Road 140 in Dahlgren Township, just after 10 p.m., when the driver lost control, drove off the roadway and struck a field approach. The riders were thrown from the cycle.

Personnel from the sheriff's office, Chaska Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Carver Fire Department, Chaska Fire Department, Ridgeview Ambulance and

the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office all assisted with the crash, which remains under investigation by the sheriff's office and the state patrol.

Happy 50th Anniversary
July 10

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K27Ca

Confederate flag controversy

Our view: Reaction to S.C. Legislature's decision is getting ridiculous

The South Carolina State Legislature recently voted to not fly the Confederate flag on its statehouse or government buildings.

Those of us in the cool, blue north have some difficulty understanding that decision. To many of us, who have not been immersed in the South's complicated history and culture, it seems a futile, symbolic gesture, and a possible flaunting of freedom of speech to boot. But, perhaps, to the Legislature, flying that flag is the equivalent of shouting "fire" in a crowded theater — a standard by which our court system sometimes draws the line between freedom of speech and harmful behavior.

The Legislature's decision is its prerogative and within its purview. What disturbs us has been the reaction to that decision. From the decision to drop the old 1970s television series, "The Dukes of Hazard," from the rerun schedule to the censoring of a firefighter who displayed the Confederate flag on a fire truck at a parade, the reaction has started to border the ridiculous.

Those of us who grew up on 1970s television know that "Dukes" was a parody of the

Southern culture. It was fraught with stereotypes — from good-ol'-boy cousins to inept law enforcement to the infamous Daisy Duke, who wore the now cliched "Daisy Duke" cut-offs to divert attention from her otherwise sound mind, to the naming of the Dukes' car as the General Robert E. Lee with a Confederate flag painted on its roof. That flag was probably the least offensive thing in that television series.

As to punishing a firefighter for putting the Confederate flag on a fire truck at a parade — it was probably a tasteless gesture, but here in Minnesota, a relatively harmless one. And, tasteless thought it may be, it should be a gesture protected by the freedom of speech amendment in our Constitution.

What we really, really wish though, is that the people who are so stirred to rebellion by the Confederate flag issue would redirect their attention to bigger issues.

If that passion were directed in the right directions, we would have fewer hungry people, better educated children, a more robust economy, better roads and highways, and an overall better nation.

— L.C.



I'm turning into my Mom, in a good way

As we begin to hit middle age, we start to realize that we are more like our parents than we ever would have dreamed when we were teenagers.

I suspect that is true of those who have become parents themselves — who find themselves using the same admonishing phrases with their own children that they heard from their parents a generation ago.

As for me, I noticed I was starting to become more and more like mother when I began the transition from a slob to a neat freak.

My mother kept a pristine house. Laundry was folded and put away as soon as it came out of the dryer. She prepared meals with one hand and cleaned up with the other, wiping counters even as she put ingredients into a casserole dish or a stockpot.

I can remember lying on the couch under a blanket and watching TV. I would go to the bathroom only to return and find the blanket folded and the throw pillows returned to their respective corners.

Beds were made with precision corners and every dish sparkled before it was put away after being washed.

After I moved away and was on



Lori Copler

my own, I rebelled in every way.

I hid dirty dishes in the oven, never made my bed, and used the "de-wrinkle" cycle on the dryer frequently because I never folded my clothes and put them away. I just left them in the dryer until I needed them. I vacuumed infrequently and dusted even less often. If a room was too messy, I just closed the door so I wouldn't have to look at it.

But at some point in the last few years, I tired of the clutter and began to clean up my messes.

There are no dirty dishes left in my sink. I have a tendency to pull out the vacuum as soon as I see a stray dog hair on the carpet. I've

swept the floor in my garage more times in the past two months than I have in the past 10 years. I make my bed every morning.

But I knew the transformation to becoming my mother was nearly complete the day I washed sheets and decided that I needed to learn how to fold the fitted sheet. Usually, I fold the top sheet and pillow cases neatly, then just wad the fitted sheet up in a ball, stick in the closet and close the door.

But Mom's fitted sheets were always as neatly folded as her pillow cases and top sheets (which I suspected she also ironed). So I knew it could be done.

Since Mom isn't around anymore, I went to the next best source: YouTube. Sure enough, I found several videos on how to fold fitted sheets. I propped my laptop on a pillow and went to work and, lo and behold, I ended up with a neatly folded fitted sheet. I left the closet door open so I could admire my handiwork.

So, Mom, even though you're not with me here, you will always be a part of me. The apple really didn't fall that far from the tree.

You can
vote
online at www.glencoenews.com

Question of the week

What can be done to improve attendance at the Glencoe Days celebration?

- 1) Move all events downtown.
- 2) Change to a different weekend.
- 3) Combine it with Heat in the Street.
- 4) Make people more aware of the activities.
- 5) I don't know.

Results for most recent question:

There has been much debate about whether the Confederate flag should be displayed at government buildings. Should it be allowed to fly?

- 1) Yes. That's freedom of speech — 63%
- 2) No. It's an offensive symbol — 37%

71 votes. New question runs July 8 - July 14.

Letters to the Editor

Good news recently from the U.S. Supreme Court

To the Editor:

Which way is the crowd running? For I am their leader and I must lead! Some good things happened a couple of weeks ago that points to hope about the way the crowd is running. People of the same sex who have been denied the dignity and security of marriage now have been given equality. Their commitment to each other is recognized by the law of the land. As always, there will be those who protest, but the crowd has said this is a right that should exist and the Supreme Court of the United States has agreed.

Affordable Care Act was granted a victory by the Supreme Court by allowing federal subsidies to people whose income was such that they couldn't afford to buy health insurance in all states. To me, this said that kindness and the law won over the persistent talk of repeal. Certainly, there will be improvements and refinements in how the law is interpreted and enforced. Again, there will be the protesters, but the crowd has said it is a good thing — people

who weren't able to get health insurance because of pre-existing conditions are able to now have it. Just a reminder that one of the major causes of personal bankruptcy is the medical bills of a family member.

Sometimes a horrible event will somehow have a good outcome. The killing of nine people in Charleston, S.C., was a shocking reminder of the prejudice and acting out on innocent victims — in a church, during Bible study — a place of comfort and sanctuary. The crowd was shocked, angry and lashed out at the symbol of prejudice and injustice, the confederate flag. There were demands that the flag be removed from where it flew in South Carolina and placed in a museum rather than by the statue in the main thoroughfare. Businesses stopped selling the replicas of the flag and, suddenly, there was a change. This flag represented man's injustice to his fellow man and people wanted it gone. Again, there was talk of getting guns out of the hands of irresponsible people, and somehow controlling their access.

Society changes slowly and change is hard for everyone, but adaptation to changes is necessary for growth. When your job changed and you had to have retraining, it was difficult, but you overcame and felt good about learning new things. Ideas change, shifts in populations, ethnicity, culture, beliefs — change is hard. But slowly, through communication (yes, those handy little gadgets we all carry) the crowd begins to change. Talking with and understanding the view point of others causes a change in thinking. The Supreme Court articulated the changes, but the crowd caused the changes to occur.

So I remain optimistic and hopeful as I see the crowd ever so slowly changing until some catalyst causes real change to occur. This past week was momentous with change, most of which was for the betterment of society.

Jan Conner Hutchinson



Feel strongly about an issue?

Share your opinion with The McLeod County Chronicle readers through a letter to the editor.

Please include your name, address and telephone number (for verification purposes). email to: loric@glencoenews.com

The McLeod County Chronicle

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Letters The McLeod County Chronicle 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. loric@glencoenews.com

Ethics The editorial staff of the McLeod County Chronicle 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 Chronicle 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 The McLeod County Chronicle news is 5 p.m., and advertising is noon, Monday. Deadline for Glencoe Advertiser advertising is noon, Wednesday. Deadline for The Galaxy advertising is noon Wednesday.

Tracing Roots

By Ron Pulkrabek



A hike around Glencoe, part V

Back on Greeley and 13th Street corner, I stop at Preiss' Mercantile packed full with mostly clothes, shoes and various other useful items. My godmother, Agnes Peters, worked here when she was in her 20s. I stop to put my feet into the new X-ray machine invented to show how your foot fits inside a shoe. It is interesting to see all the bones in my foot and toes. Next door is Krueger's Sport Shop with a lot of fishing gear in it. I really don't need that fancy equipment to catch bullheads in the Crow River.

I continue south on Greeley and check out the used cars in Harpel Bros. "OK" used car lot. In a few years I'll have \$40 to buy a used 1939 Chevy. On the corner is an impressive solid brick building that once was the McLeod Bank, but now is Siefert's furniture store.

I continue around the corner heading west on 12th street. I peek into Pokies Brass Rail Saloon and see a few locals having fun and laughing while locking their heels into the brass foot rail, raising their behinds up two inches off their stools and pulling themselves up on their elbows to lean over the bar to watch a buxom barmaid bent over washing and shaking beer glasses right in front of them. Harold

Pulkrabek, the owner, is at the back bar grill frying hot liver wurst. It is delicious placed between two slices of bread. Harpel Bros. Chevrolet is next. My grandfather bought his brand-new 1941 Chevy coupe there for \$585 and still drives it.

The Commercial Hotel is next. Bruckschen's John Deere Implement next door has a nice, high-powered 28-horsepower, John Deere "B" setting on the wooden show room floor. It may be a nice tractor, but not one a wife or little kid can drive and that "putt, putt" would drive a person deaf. They won't be in business long! Nothing beats a little 8 N Ford!

Across the street is the gigantic, three-story, Walkeracres Hotel, complete with a 100-foot-long open porch. It is across the street from the busy train depot, and I imagine many customers often sat on the open porch in rocking chairs and watched the trains come and go and see all the busy activity. I climb the creaky inside stairs to look at the now-empty rooms. Walkeracres now sells seeds, feeds and grain bins. Schlauderer's Minneapolis Moline, located just to the north, has a nice powerful Prairie Gold "U" tractor with red wheels on the showroom floor.

Just west of Walkeracres is

the huge, former Congregational Church, which is made into eight apartments. My uncle and aunt, Lester and Ethel Howe, live in one of them on the second floor. The apartments are nice and the stairs are not creaky.

Then back east on Greeley and south on Hennepin, across the railroad tracks and past a lumberyard. Next is the Post Office where my godfather Henry "Hap" Peters has been the postmaster for the last 13 years. Then I peek into the big window of Vopatek's Jewelry Store.

I swing over to Johnson's Dodge/Chrysler dealers on Highway 212 and see what is new for 1950. I think they should put fins on the rear fenders for looks and speed stabilization. I don't know about you, but I am getting tired and stop for a malt at Dibb's Cafe, then cross the street to watch the sweating men stacking hot cement tiles in 100-degree heat at Jungclaus Drain and Tile for \$1 an hour. I cross the street and peek into Charlie's Restaurant.

Wow! What a day! I am Pooped! I'm too tired to hike to Green Giant. Ho! Ho! Ho!

I'm sorry if I made a few mistakes; after all, it was way over half a century ago.

Letter to the Editor

Goal of 130 units set for next blood drive

To the Editor:

It's that time of year — those "hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer," as penned by Nat King Cole in 1963. School is out and students are enjoying vacations, as are the rest of us. Going to the beach, the lake, the pool, ballgames, picnics, outdoor concerts, parades, fairs, reunions, vacation destinations ... the choices in Minnesota are endless in the summer!

There is a group that doesn't take a vacation during the summer. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion. The Red Cross is the nation's largest blood supplier. Each day, the Red Cross must collect about 15,000 units of blood nationwide to serve patients at approximately 2600 hospitals across the country. North

Central Blood Services of St. Paul (of which Glencoe is a part) must collect over 1,000 units each day to fill the demand at 108 hospitals in the North Central Region.

The second Glencoe Community Blood Drive for 2015 is set for Wednesday, July 29, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the air-conditioned Glencoe City Center ballroom. The American Red Cross has set our goal for this drive at 130 units. Many slots on the July donor schedule have already been pre-reserved at our last blood drive in April. The volunteer callers are in the process of filling the appointment slots still open for the day. If you have not been contacted or did not pre-set an appointment at our April blood drive and wish to donate, please contact our

Scheduling Coordinator Nelda Klaustermeier at 320-864-3475. Appointments are encouraged.

Walk-ins are welcome but we have a completely full donor schedule until 4 p.m. (the maximum is 24 donors per hour). Your walk-in donation will go quicker if you arrive after 3:30 p.m.

Help us meet the goal set for us again at this July drive. Your commitment is appreciated and your donation is important. Your one unit of blood could change up to three lives. Don't take a vacation from donating blood — the cost to someone's life is too high.

Charleen Engelmann,
Coordinator
Glencoe Community Blood Drive

Guest Column:

Why run for political office?

By Lee H. Hamilton

I spend a fair amount of time talking to students and other young people about Congress and politics in general, and I've noticed something. It used to be that I'd regularly get asked how one runs for office. Nowadays, I rarely do.

This is a young generation that is famously leery of politics. Every year, the Harvard Institute of Politics surveys young Americans about their attitudes. In its most recent survey, only 21 percent of respondents considered themselves politically engaged. Last year, only a third counted running for office "an honorable thing to do" — compared to 70 percent who considered community service honorable.

A lot of young people are repelled by politics; they've lost faith in the system just as many other Americans have. But look. If you don't have people who are willing to run for office, you don't have a representative democracy. As the leading edge of the millennial generation reaches the age where running for office is a realistic possibility, I hope they'll consider a few things.

First, it's hard to find a

more challenging job. The number, complexity, and diversity of the problems we face are astounding. As a politician, your work is never done; your to-do list is always full. It's intellectually as challenging an occupation as anything I can imagine. It's the chief way we resolve, or at least manage, the problems we face. In a country as diverse as ours, building a consensus behind a solution — which is what accomplished politicians try to do — is difficult work. It can also be immensely satisfying.

Second, I don't know of another profession that puts you in touch with more people of more different types, ages, and views. You meet — and, if you're serious, really engage with — liberals and conservatives, voters rich and poor, religious believers and secular humanists alike.

Finally, and perhaps most important, the work can be immensely satisfying. Whatever level you're running at, whether it's for the school board or for president, you're doing it to try to make things work.

My first year in Congress, in 1965, I voted for Medicare. I'd had no role in drafting it. I played no substantive part in

its passage. Yet I still remember that vote, and I still derive deep satisfaction from it. Because I know that I voted for legislation that has helped millions of people, and will continue to do so into the future. That's the thing about holding public office: you have a chance to contribute to the direction and success of a free society.

I know a lot of people who've worked mainly in the private sector but spent some time in public office, and they almost invariably speak of their time in the public sector as among the most rewarding and satisfying times of their professional lives.

That's because I think they understand a simple formula: there's no America without democracy, no democracy without politics, and no politics without elected politicians. There are a lot of exciting, challenging and satisfying professions out there, but here's what I tell young people: I consider politics chief among them.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

We've lost our collective marbles

Not sure when we lost our collective marbles as a country, but it has accelerated greatly in the past several years as the social engineers have gained the upper hand.

The latest mind-shaping has come in the form of historical amnesia, the reinterpretation of marriage and the constant attempts to change the faces on the paper money in this country. Oh, by the way, you can't have any transfat in your food anymore, either.

So, where to start. How about revising history. The banning of the Confederate flag from the statehouses, on clothing and on bumpers in the Deep South and the "Dukes of Hazzard" from TV is suppose to erase racism. Hate to say it, but it might not work. Racism is alive and well in this country, and I suspect it always will be whether the Confederate flag is around or not.

The next thing may be the erasing of the Civil War from our history books so as not to offend those who don't want to remember that conflict.

Jumping onto the revisionist bandwagon is a call in the Twin Cities to rename Lake Calhoun because it was named for a Southern politician who spoke eloquently and vigorously for states rights prior to the Civil War. The lake was named for Sen. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who was a strident states rights advocate, which included maintaining slavery as well as other states rights of importance in that era.

Folks, the Civil War was



Rich Glennie

more about states rights than slavery at the start, and Sen. Calhoun was a states-right advocate, and a very good one at that.

So to penalize Sen. Calhoun and South Carolina, Minnesota do-gooders want to rename Lake Calhoun. I'm sure Sen. Calhoun doesn't really care, but serious historians should. We should not cave into historical revisionists who think this is a great time to forget that sordid part of our history.

As to the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage throughout the country, we knew it was inevitable. I have nothing against same-sex families, but I do object to calling it a marriage like traditional heterosexual marriage. They are not the same, biologically. So, call it something else.

As to putting a woman on the face of U.S. paper money, fine. But to now eye Alexander Hamilton for replacement is like replacing President George Washington on the one dollar bill or Abe Lincoln on the five. Hamilton, the main proponent of a strong central government and the

federal banking system in this country, was as important as Washington as our first president or Lincoln for keeping the country together during the Civil War.

While Hamilton was never president and happened to be shot dead in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr, that does not denigrate him to the historical junk pile in the name of political correctness.

Maybe the country should create new paper denominations, like the three-dollar or seven-dollar bill. Then we can include more women on our currency and not eliminate the important men who helped shape our country.

As long as I'm on my high horse, transfat in our food is the latest target of social engineers who are hell-bent on making us look like Barbie and Ken dolls. Hate to break it to you, but that transformation "ain't gonna happen."

I like my transfat. I'm not alone, just ask anyone who had a hamburger or cheeseburger at Oak Leaf Park during the recent Glencoe Days celebration or a brat or hot dog over the Fourth of July.

But thanks for thinking of my health. Apparently I'm incapable of making those eating choices on my own.

Wonder who was around to protect the cavemen from eating those artery-clogging mastodons?

Rich Glennie was the editor of The Chronicle for 23 years. He retired Aug. 1, 2014, but still plans to submit an occasional column.

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The Professional Directory is provided each week for quick reference to professionals in the Glencoe area — their locations, phone numbers and office hours. Call the McLeod County Chronicle office for details on how you can be included in this directory, 320-864-5518.

Obituaries

Elva Ann Kraemer, 91, of Glencoe

Elva Ann (Witthus) Kraemer, 91, of Glencoe, died Sunday, June 28, 2015, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, July 1, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe with the Rev. Ronald Mathison officiating. Dawn Wolter was the organist. Congregational hymns were "How Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace" and "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

Interment was in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Glencoe.

Elva Ann (Witthus) Kraemer was born April 3, 1924, in Glencoe, the daughter of Arthur and Lydia (VonBerge) Witthus. She was baptized as an infant on May 4, 1924, by



Elva Kraemer

the Rev. Dyesterheft at St. John's Lutheran Church in Helen Township, rural Glencoe, and was confirmed in her faith as a youth on March 21, 1937, by the Rev. Alf. Streufert at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe. She received her education in Glencoe and graduated from Glencoe High School.

On April 22, 1945, she was united in marriage to Charles "Chuck" Kraemer by the Rev. Alf. Streufert at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe. They made their home in rural Glencoe, and their marriage was blessed with four children, Ron, Judy, Tom and Jim. They shared over 62 years of marriage before Mr. Kraemer's death on March 16, 2008.

In addition to being a loving wife, mother and homemaker, Mrs. Kraemer worked alongside her husband on the farm and later enjoyed working in retail stores in the area. She was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe and belonged to

the local Home Extension group.

Her talents included sewing, crafts, baking and making wedding flowers. She cherished the time spent with her family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Judy Pioske of Waconia, Tom (Sandy) Kraemer of Dassel and Jim (Ginger) Kraemer of Glencoe; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Loretta Templin of Hutchinson and Eldora Damlow of Norwood Young America; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Lydia Witthus; husband, Charles Kraemer; son, Ron Kraemer; brother, Elroy Witthus; sister, Delores Unglaub; and son-in-law, Paul Pioske.

Arrangements were with the Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel in Glencoe. Online obituaries and guest book are available at www.hantge.com.



Chronicle photos by Lori Copler

Silver Lake's second Music in the Park concert was held Thursday, July 2, with George's Concertina Band, left, providing the music. Above, members of the Silver Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 141 provided the meal. Members who assisted were, front from left, Genny Lhotka, Carol Navratil, Cindy Tews and Sharon Grivna and, back, Janet Picha, Sandy Kautz, Cindy Fouquette, Judy Penas and Joann Ardolf.



Lawrence A. Norton, 56, of Glencoe

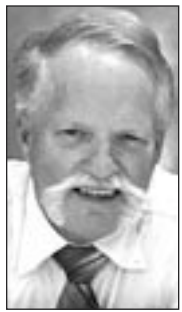
Lawrence A. Norton, 56, of Glencoe, formerly of Sauk Centre, died Friday, July 3, 2015, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, July 7, at Zion Lutheran Church in Sauk Centre with the Rev. Marty Porter officiating.

Casket bearers were Scott Baird, Ron Anderson, Nathan Toenies, Isaac Toenies, Ben Toenies and Sam Toenies.

Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Lawrence Alfred Norton



Lawrence Norton

was born Sept. 15, 1958, in Paynesville, to Dale and Ruby (Gehlhar) Norton. He graduated from Sauk Centre High School and then completed his degree at Alexandria Technical College. For the past 23 years, he has worked at Excelsior Appliance in Excelsior.

Mr. Norton was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Sauk Centre. His favorite pastime was spending time with his family, especially his nieces and nephews. He enjoyed outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, enjoying a nice campfire, and playing volleyball with his nieces and nephews. He enjoyed watching "The Andy Griffith Show" and "Bonanza" with his family.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters, Floyd

Norton of Buffalo, Dave Norton of Bloomington, Karen Norton of Sierra Madre, Calif., Brenda Baird of Grand Rapids, Janice (Rick) Smith of St. Cloud, Sherry Anderson of Temple Hills, Maryland, William Norton of Sauk Centre, Ruby (Ken) Toenies of Randall and Daniel (Emily) Norton of Woodbridge, Va.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Joyce Utne; brothers, Robert Norton and Ralph Norton; nephews, Eric Baird, Ryan Baird and Caleb Toenies; and niece, Nicolette Norton.

Arrangements were with Patton-Schad Funeral and Cremation Services of Sauk Centre.

Over 280 attend Music in the Park

Silver Lake's Music in the Park series continued Thursday, July 2, with over 280 people attending. The evening began with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in honor of Independence Day.

The George Palma Band provided music and the Silver Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 141 served lunch.

On Thursday, July 9, Blake Klaustermeier and friends

will provide music which starts at 7 p.m. A lunch of Mr. Rib sandwiches, chips, pickles, desserts and beverages served by Grace Bible Church will be available starting at 6 p.m. At approximately 6:45 p.m., there will be a children's dance group performing. As usual, drawings for prizes will be held throughout the evening.

Please bring your own lawn chair. In case of adverse

weather, the event will be in the Silver Lake Auditorium and an announcement will be made on KARP radio.

Lowell Schubert and friends will provide music on Thursday, July 16, with the Silver Lake Women's Club serving barbecues, chips, pickles, dessert and beverage. All Red Hat members are invited to attend.

Martha C. Schultz, 95, of Waconia

Martha C. Schultz, 95, of Waconia, died Saturday, July 4, 2015, at the Good Samaritan Center in Waconia.

The funeral service will be Thursday, July 9, at 2:30 p.m., at Westview Acres Chapel, 433 W Fifth St., Waconia, with the Rev. Helmar Heckel officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held a half-hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Martha C. Schultz was born on March 1, 1920, in Willsbach, Germany, the daughter of Karl and Wilhelmine (Vollert) Mahler. She was baptized on April 11,



Martha C. Schultz

1920, at the Evangeline Reformed Lutheran Church by the Rev. Schnitzer and confirmed on April 2, 1933, at St. George Church by the Rev. Balz. On Aug. 21, 1955, she was united in marriage to Leonard G. Schultz at Immanuel Lutheran Church in New Auburn.

Martha lived a life through world wars that most of us could just imagine. She was very proud of participating in the 1936 Olympics. After surviving World War II, she made the decision to move to the United States, where she married Leonard in 1955. The two of them wrote to each other for five years prior to their engagement. Mrs. Schultz has always been known for her German heritage and sharing stories of her past. Her faith has always been her compass through life and now she is in heaven

with her Lord.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leonard; her parents, Karl and Wilhelmine Mahler; and sister, Lena Straub.

She is survived by her loving family: son and daughter-in-law Norman and Karen Schultz of Fridley; daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Todd Reid of Waconia; grandchildren, Karl Schultz, Marcus Schultz, Kelly Reid and Kristy Reid; sister, Hilde Knapp of Germany; sisters-in-law, Adeline Litzau of Glencoe, Inez Alsleben of Glencoe, Della Schultz of Glencoe and Bernice Bierstadt of Gaylord; nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

Funeral arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia, www.johnsonfh.com.

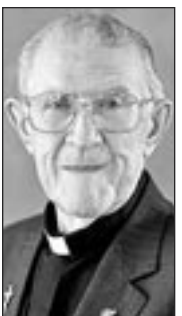
Rev. John R. Harpel, 97, Techny, Ill.

The Rev. John R. Harpel, 97, SVD, died July 3, 2015.

He was the beloved son of the late William and Mary Harpel; and the loving brother of Frances, William, Regina, Lucy, Raymond and Delores; fond uncle of many.

The funeral mass will be Thursday, July 9, at 10:30 a.m., Divine Wood Residence, 1901 Waukegan Rd., Techny, Ill. Interment will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Techny.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in the Rev. Harpel's name for the retirement of missionaries at Divine Word residence, 1901 Waukegan Rd., Techny, Ill.,



Rev. J. Harpel

60082. Arrangements are with the N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home in Glenview, Ill.

Community Calendar

Thurs., July 9 — AA Group mtg. next to Post Office in Stewart, 8 p.m., call 320-212-5290 for info.

Mon., July 13 — Tops Weigh-In mtg., 5-5:30 p.m.; Brownnton Senior Citizens Club, Brownnton Community Center, 1 p.m.; Stewart City Council, 7 p.m.; Edward Ewald Post 143 of Brownnton & Auxiliary, Brownnton Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

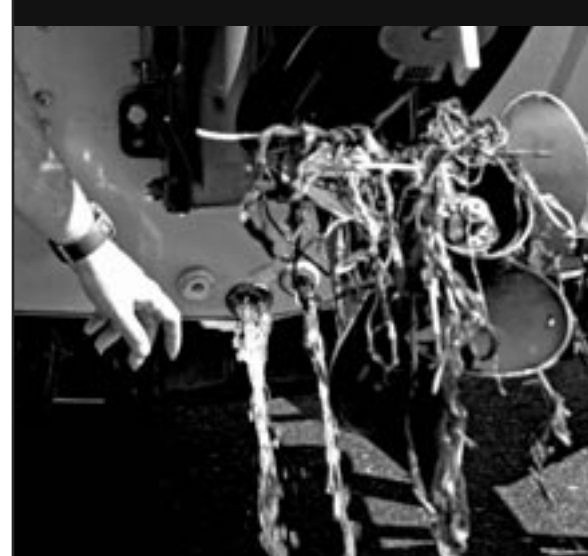
Tues., July 14 — Greater Minnesota Republican Women annual picnic, Northwoods Park, 885 Elm St. NE, Hutchinson, 5:30 p.m.

Wed., July 15 — Yearly get-together and lunch for all former Brownnton School District 421 staff, Brownnton Bar & Grill, 11 a.m. For questions or more info., call Anita Crosby at 320-587-8073 or e-mail abcrosby@hutchtel.net.

Thurs., July 16 — AA Group mtg. next to Post Office in Stewart, 8 p.m., call 320-212-5290 for info.; Stewart Lions.

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Library News

By Jackee Fountain

“Moo!” Traveling Show

The Glencoe Public Library is excited to announce the “Moo! Traveling Trunk Show” to be presented on Thursday, July 30, at 10 a.m., in the Glencoe City Center South Ballroom.

Dave LaRochelle, author, and Mike Wahnoutka, illustrator of “Moo!” will present a program with a puppet show, music, drawing, audience participation and a question-and-answer time. This event is free and open to young children, day cares, children’s groups, and families.

“Moo! Traveling Trunk Show” is sponsored by the Once Upon a Reader Organization of Minnesota, Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators, Pioneerland Library System, and funded from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. More information is on the Glencoe Library website and at the library. Children may sign up for a free book by July 18.

McLeod County 4-H group will present a “Garden Gone Wild” program on Friday, July 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Glencoe Library. A second program, “Agriculture Gone Wild,” will be on Friday, Aug. 7, at 10:30 a.m. Registration can be found at the Glencoe Library and with the McLeod County 4-H. This is a free program for children

who completed kindergarten through fifth grade. Contact the Glencoe Library for more information.

Continue celebrating Shark Week by visiting the Glencoe Library and having your picture taken inside a shark’s mouth. Pictures available through Saturday, July 11, and shark books available forever.

Movie Monday will be on Monday, July 13, at 3:30 p.m., in the Glencoe Library Activity Room. The movie presented will be a G-rated Disney movie. This is a free library event and children may bring snacks for the movie.

Preschool Storytimes continue throughout the summer on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. There will be no session on Saturday, July 18. Come and enjoy a story or two, songs, games and an age-appropriate craft or picture to take home.

Friends of the Glencoe Library will meet for a short meeting Thursday, July 23, at 7 p.m..

New books by authors David Baldacci, James Patterson, Mary Higgins Clark, Debbie Macomber and Daniel Silva are now available.

Further information can be found on the Glencoe Library website: www.glencoe.lib.mn.us.

Ground broken on RS Fiber Cooperative project

The RS Fiber Cooperative fiber optic broadband initiative will officially break ground on the project today (Wednesday, July 8) in Sibley County. A ground-breaking ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. along Sibley County Road 8 between County Road 17 and County Road 9.

RS Fiber Cooperative General Manager Toby Brummer said, “We couldn’t be more excited that the project is under way. It has taken a lot of work, time and effort by many individuals to make it to this point, but all of that work has finally paid off. This is a significant achievement that will benefit the Renville and Sibley county residents in so many ways. It is very satisfying to see fiber optic cable being installed.”

The service also will be offered to the communities of Brownton and Stewart in

McLeod County.

The RS Fiber Cooperative and Hiawatha Broadband Communications, Inc. (HBC), anticipate offering services with fiber to approximately 1,600 homes and businesses and cover 90 percent of the service area with high-speed wireless services in late 2015. By the end of 2016, the number of homes and businesses that can be served with fiber will climb to 4,200. Upon final completion, the RS Fiber Cooperative will operate a fiber optic network for most of Sibley County and portions of Renville, Nicollet and McLeod Counties.

Over 6,200 potential customers will be able to use this high-speed fiber optic network, which will provide data speeds that can be over ten times faster than speeds offered by current service

providers. Construction will be completed in two phases over the next five to six years with Phase One now under way. The initial network construction phase is projected to cost \$15 million.

The original project began in 2012 and was restructured by the joint-powers board as a private cooperative, making it easier to finance and greatly lowering financial risk. As the project was refined, and the engineering and financial models revised, the total project cost was reduced by over 30 percent. The RS Fiber project is funded through issued bonds and commercial loans.

The project is moving forward under the management of Hiawatha Broadband Communications. HBC is overseeing the design, development and construction of the fiber optic network, as

well as day-to-day management duties. HBC is an experienced operator of similarly designed, rural fiber optic networks in 17 communities throughout southeastern Minnesota including Red Wing, Wabasha, Lewiston, Lake City, Plainview, Dover, Eyota and Elgin.

HBC’s experience in developing rural fiber networks has helped the RS Fiber Broadband initiative gain momentum and successfully reach the groundbreaking stage. HBC’s expertise has also helped create the most efficient project possible. Formed in 1997, the Winona, Minnesota-based HBC helps foster economic advancement in communities throughout Minnesota with fiber optic technology for television, Internet and telephone services.



Submitted photo

Reinitz recognized as Driver of the Year

Paul Reinitz, of Glencoe, shows off his plaque for Line-haul Driver of the Year from Wiseway Transportation Services with owner Brett Wines, manager Mitch Dahl and owners Jeff Wines and Bob Schmidt on June 29.

Reinitz was one of three Wiseway drivers honored for safe driving, strong job performance and high professionalism. Reinitz has been a driver for Wiseway since 2006.



Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek

A warm weekend and plenty of rain were the highlights to the end of our 2015 Fourth of July weekend.

A cold front moved through Monday, bringing with it very pleasant, dry air. We’ll stay dry and cooler than normal through Friday, when things warm back up. The main ridge of high pressure dominating weather over the western United States will inch our way, increasing temperatures to near 90 by Saturday and Sunday.

Our only chances of rain will be passing showers or thunder late Friday and again late Saturday into Sunday. Neither look to be a big washout, but they’ll be something to watch as we get closer to the weekend. The extended shows the warm weather staying closer to us, so I imagine we’ll stay at above our normal, which for this time of year is 83 degrees. Have a great July week, everyone!

Ma dobry weekendem

Mit dobry vikend

Wednesday night — Lows 57-63; clouds.

Thursday — Highs 75-81, lows 57-63; mostly clear.

Friday — Highs 78-84, lows 63-69; partly cloudy, possible late showers.

Saturday — Highs 82-89, lows 63-70; partly cloudy, late thunder.

Sunday — Highs 82-89; partly cloudy.

Weather Quiz: Why were skies so hazy last week?

Answer to last week’s question (When do our days start getting shorter and when do we see our highest average temperatures?): Days get shorter after the summer solstice, which typically occurs around June 21. There is a lag to the hottest days of the year of about two weeks with July 4 to July 13 typically being the hottest ... it just takes the earth a few days to soak up the hottest sun and give us the warmest temperatures.

Remember: I make the forecast, not the weather!



Submitted photo

Bull riders’ gift

Paisley Lindemann, 6, attended a bull riding event by MT Bucking Bulls at the Hutchinson fairgrounds and received a T-shirt signed by the riders. Lindemann is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia.

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The McLeod County Chronicle

New Auburn auto show winners announced

The High Island Conservation Club, Inc., and Immanuel Lutheran Church of New Auburn co-sponsored the fifth-annual New Auburn Car

Show on the Fourth of July, with High Island Lake as a backdrop to the display of vehicles. There were eight classes of

competition: truck, people's choice, best classic, best late-model, best pre-'50s, muscle car, rat rod and motorcycle. Trophies were presented to

the winners of each class. Each winner is pictured below. Photographs are courtesy of Jennifer Rostad.



Verne Schlueter's 1941 Chevy 1-ton Express won the truck class at the New Auburn auto show Saturday.



Carol Polzin, Gaylord, won the people's choice award with her 1965 Ford Mustang.



Winner of the best classic at Saturday's auto show was Jerry Strauss of Winsted with his 1954 Chevy 210.



With the best late-model car was Kelly Solmonson of Glencoe with this 1994 Chevrolet Impala.



Winner of the best pre-'50s class was Ron Schauer of Winsted with his 1936 Chevrolet two-door Studebaker Humpback.



Best muscle car award went to this 1968 Buick Skylark owned by Matt and Todd Sunvold of Arlington. Matt is pictured with the trophy.



Winner of the best rat rod class was Dean Kraemer of Lester Prairie with his 1932 Plymouth Rat Rod.



Gary Schmidt of Gaylord won the motorcycle class with his 1987 Harley Davidson Softail.

Kohn Continued from page 1

ed by the results. "They totally captured what I was feeling in my heart as I was writing it," Kohn said. "It's very special." The fee to get published has been between \$425 and \$465 for Kohn and she receives revenue based on album sales. She said though the revenue is minimal, for her it's just exciting to get an album featuring her songs. "It'd be really great if I could capture back just the cost of the contract," she said. "But it's more for the joy of writing and it's fun to be able to pass CDs off to friends and family that I feel might benefit from it."

Kohn hopes that all who listen can benefit from her songs in some way. "I just hope and pray that it will minister to people with whatever they're going through in their life," she said. Kohn attributed her success in songwriting to the blessing of God. "I believe He has opened all the doors for me and that He gives me the words to write," she said.



Diane Kohn

Moving forward, Kohn plans to continue writing songs and publishing with HillTop.

"It's been really exciting and fulfilling for me to be able to be part of it," she said. "I feel really privileged to have that opportunity."

Her songs can be purchased online at hilltoprecords.com or by emailing Kohn at 2kohns@centurylink.net.

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