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**Fall  
2016**

**Flying Off Into  
the Sunset:  
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Retires**  
◆  
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◆  
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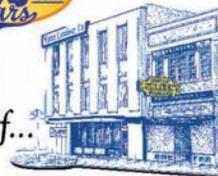


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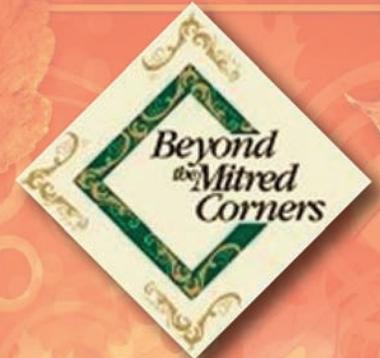


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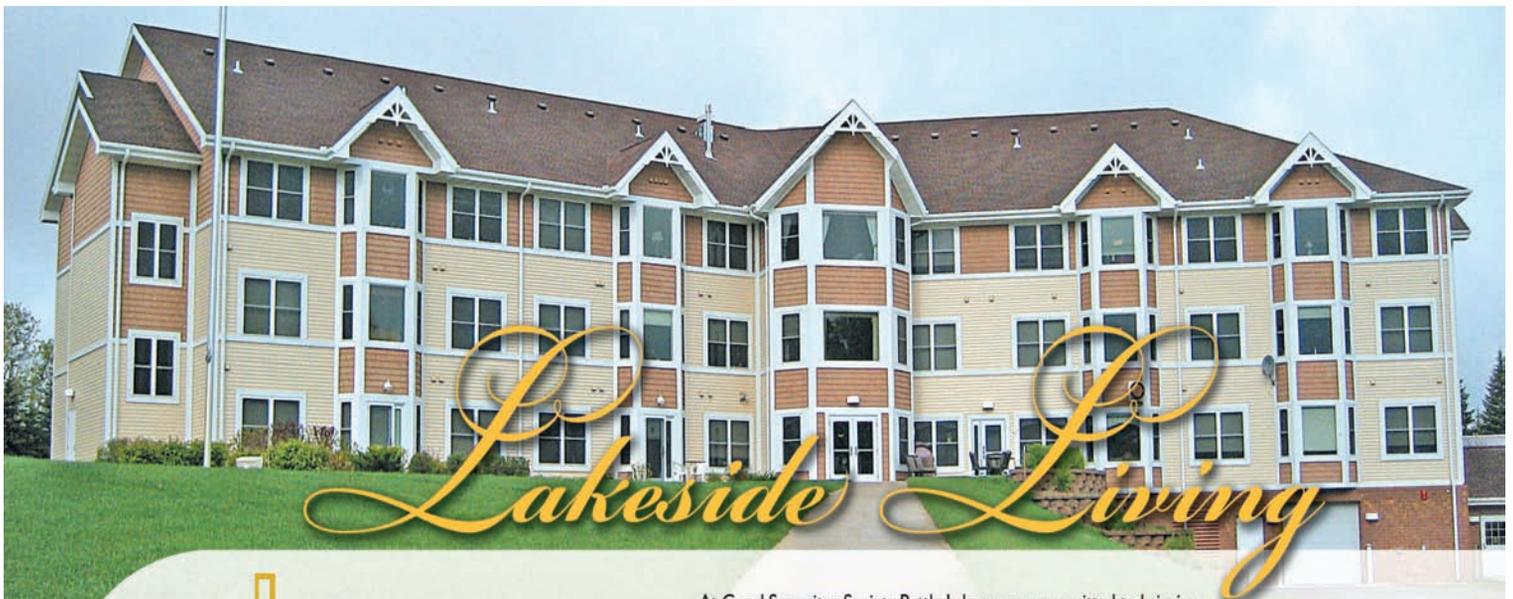
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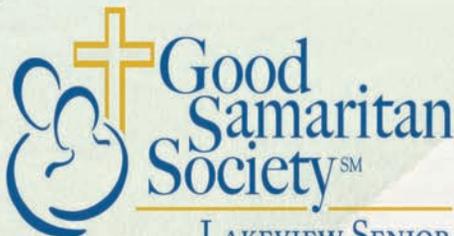


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## Cover Story: Flying Off Into the Sunset: Prody Ends 40 Years of Leadership

BY RICK SCHARA PHOTOS BY DI PETERSON

*After retiring from Lakeland Mental Health Center, Clair Prody has more time for power paragliding and other hobbies, traveling with his wife, Barb, and spending time with family.*



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OTC  
FAMILY—FRIENDS & FUN  
In Otter Tail County

Fall 2016  
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#### OTC'S STATEMENT:

*Honoring men, women, families, friends, events and more. Featured through East and West Otter Tail County four times a year. Also distributed to stores and area resorts so vacationers can enjoy the entire magazine!*

#### CONTACT:

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# “Hi” From Di

**Wow! We all** love our OTC Family-Friends & Fun! So many people have been featured in articles and pictures! This is GREAT! Our summer OTC disappeared quickly, so subscribe for \$10 to

make sure you get a copy! And we'll even mail it to you if you go somewhere for the winter - see details on page 5! Thank you everyone!

In 1966 my husband John played football, and I was a cheerleader. John graduated in '67, I in '68, and our wedding was in '69! Here's what we look like 47 years later! Yea! Three years will be our 50<sup>th</sup>! GRIN!

Now have fun reading **OTC!** Lots to see and fun prizes to try to WIN!!!!!!

Di Peterson — OTC Editor



## Summer Photo Contest

See page 15 for Winners!



## Summer Contest Winner

**Pamela Moe**, Ottertail, won the Nerium AB products from Jenny Skjeret, **Salon & Co.**, Fergus Falls.

## Summer “Win to Dine” \$25 Gift Card Winners

Here are the lucky winners from 255 entries:

- Battle View Landing**, Henning: Ruth Illies, Battle Lake
- Big Chief Café**, Fergus Falls: Jennifer Nickolite, Clitherall
- Chagen’s Pub**, Henning: Jeff Siira, Battle Lake
- Hoot `N Holler Saloon & Dining**, Ottertail: Pamela Hedstrom, Richville
- Nootzi’s on Main**, Dent: Monte Anderson, Perham
- RK’s Prairie Café**, Parker’s Prairie: Lorna Rohr, New York Mills
- Ruby’s City Restaurant**, Ashby: Roger Wold, Clitherall
- Social’s Bar & Grill**, Fergus Falls: Margie Walton, Dent
- Underwood Quik-Stop**, Underwood: Sharon Smith, Underwood
- Vining Palace**, Vining: Alyssa Morlock, Wadena
- Willy T’s Tavern & Grill**, Ottertail: Edwin Grelson, Frazee
- Ye Olde Schoolhouse**, Erhard: Kathryn Lien, Fergus Falls

# Fall Article Idea Contest

**Win Stoneware  
from Lance Hanfler’s  
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For a chance to win, please send us an article idea you’d be willing to write about for a future issue, AND give us your fun feedback – we like to see that you enjoy **OTC!** Winner’s name will be drawn on November 5!

Email Di at:

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OR mail to:

Di @ OTC Magazine,  
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Please include your name,  
address & phone number

## Summer Article Idea Winners

**Gail Hedstrom**, Elbow Lake, won the \$25 gift card from **Stella’s**, Battle Lake. Look for her article “Step Into Cora’s Closet” on page 26.

**Elizabeth Huwe**, Perham, won the \$25 gift card from **Granny’s Pantry**, Battle Lake. Her article “Preparing to Serve” appears on page 30.

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- UNDERWOOD RIB FEST, NOVEMBER
- OTTERTAIL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 15TH
- 4TH WLC ANNUAL BINGO EVENT, NOVEMBER 8TH
- UWOTC COMMUNITY IMPACT LUNCHEON, JANUARY 18TH, 2017
- 8TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF FRIENDS FIGHTING HUNGER CHARITY EVENT, JANUARY 28TH, 2017

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# Flying Off Into the Sunset

## Prody Ends 40 Years of Leadership

STORY BY RICK SCHARA  
PHOTOS BY DI PETERSON



*Clair Prody demonstrates his PPG  
(Powered Para Glider)*

**When Clair Prody** made his retirement official in July of 2016, he traded his desk for a 28-foot wing.

Perhaps you've seen him silently flying his one-person contraption – ok, officially a “powered paraglider” – near his West Battle Lake home?

“That is one of the things I want to do when I retire,” Prody said. He bought and took flying lessons on the PPG (Powered Para Glider) ten years ago after he fell in love with the idea on a vacation in Mexico.

“I was at the Mayan ruins and watched this thing flying around and I remember thinking that it looked interesting.” Obviously, that was an understatement.

The ability to sail high above, often silently, is soothing to the soul, he admits. And only one time did he have a little rougher landing. “But most of the time if anything happens when you're in the air, you simply glide down,” he says.

Anything else on the ol' retirement bucket list? There will be some time spent down south – "But we're not planning to be snowbirds," he's quick to point out – plus traveling with his wife, Barb, spending time with their eight grandkids, biking, golfing, hunting, doing home projects, and ice fishing. Or should we say "fish watching?"

### **Local connections**

At 66, Prody never strayed too far from home. He grew up on a farm near Kent, a town of 120 people north of Breckenridge, and went to Moorhead State University. He was in the U.S. Army for a couple of years, and then went back to graduate school on the G.I. Bill.

He was trained to be a teacher, while "not quite" earning a Master's in management. Not quite, Clair? "I finished all the required coursework and more, but never followed up to claim the degree," he smiles. He actually took a job as a yard clerk with the Burlington Northern Railroad during graduate school, traveling between Dilworth and Fergus Falls on a daily basis.

In January of 1976, he began employment at the Fergus Falls State Hospital and moved to Fergus Falls in March. Only a few months later, a fellow employee told Clair that Lakeland Mental Health Center (LMHC) was looking to hire an assistant administrator. After a little research (he hadn't even heard of the firm before), he decided to apply. He interviewed with Roy Anderson, LMHC Executive Director, and the Board Executive Committee, which included the Reverend Otto Dale.

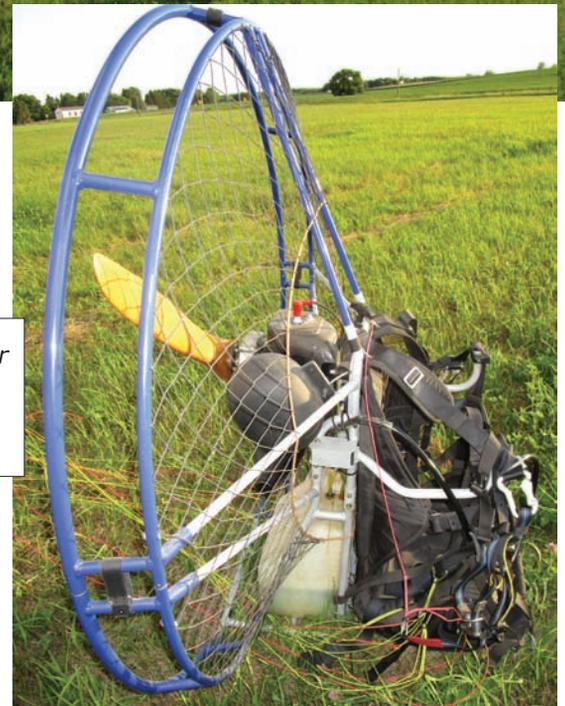
Forty years later he's about to leave holding the CEO title, which he has been since 1998. What keeps someone in a job that long?

"We have had excellent staff, and I believe in our purpose and mission," Prody said. "That just resonated with me." LMHC provides mental health services in six West Central Minnesota counties. "We have 210 employees now," Prody said. "I remember starting we had 17!"

In 1976, LMHC provided outpatient therapy and medication management, speech pathology, and school psychological services. Since that time, LMHC



*Ready for take off*



*Paraglider engine and harness*

has significantly expanded their services to include community-based services to adults and children. Fergus Falls is the corporate office for LMHC, and 40 years ago, was the only full-time LMHC office. Since that time, LMHC has opened full time offices in Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, Alexandria, and Glenwood.

Clair points out that the success and growth of LMHC is due to a number of factors. "We have a staff and Board committed to serving and improving the lives of individuals in our communities. Also, we have excellent county and community partners that recognize the value and need for mental health/

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

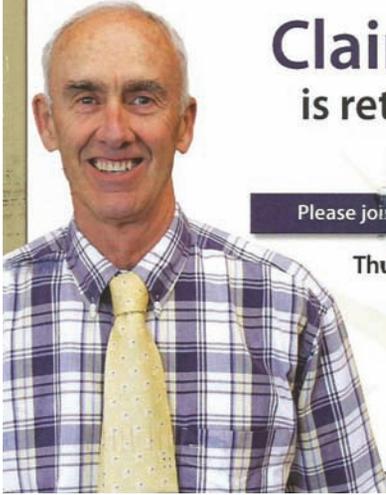
# Clair Prody, CEO is retiring after 40 years of service at LMHC

Please join us as we wish him a happy retirement!

Thursday, July 14 from 4:00–5:30 p.m.  
at LMHC's Fergus Falls Office



Lakeland Mental Health Center



Clair and Barb at the retirement party



Retirement party announcement

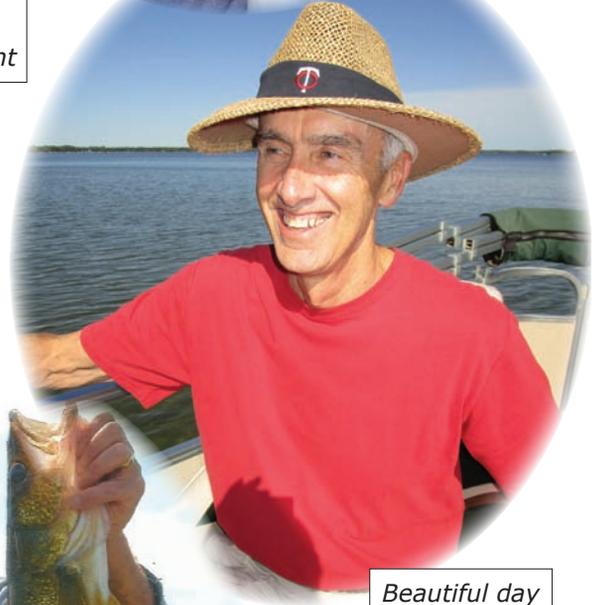
chemical health services. The role of good mental health for individuals, families, and our communities is increasingly being recognized by society."

"I consider myself very fortunate," he continues, "to have been a part of LMHC for all these years. I truly have enjoyed my career with LMHC, knowing the services our staff provide have positively touched many individuals and families in our communities."

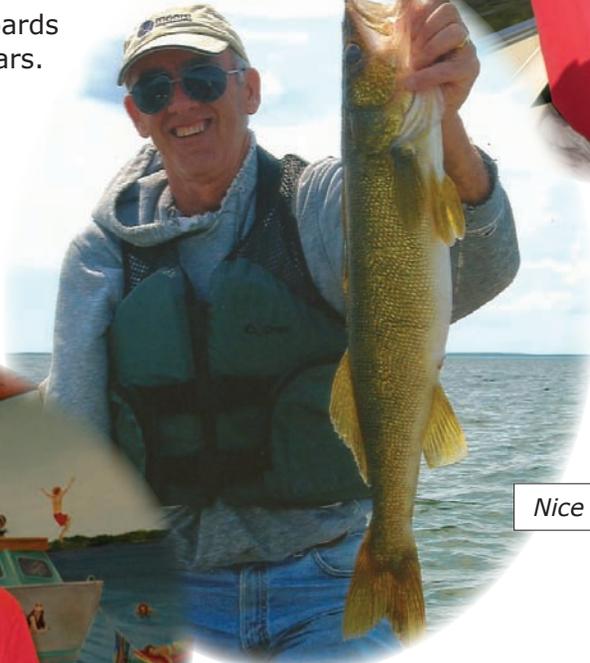
Being involved locally has also been part of Clair's life. He is a member of the Otter Risers Kiwanis in Fergus Falls, and has volunteered for many charitable events or served on boards of various organizations throughout the years.

### Winter sport

Winter doesn't always lend itself to paragliding, so Clair finds refuge on the frozen lakes in the area. It's easy – Clair and his wife Barb live on West Battle.



Beautiful day on the lake



Nice catch!



Barb & Clair Prody



Rick Schara is a freelance writer who has close ties to Lakeland Mental Health. Just ask his wife.

# OTC Summer Photo Contest Winners

*THANKS to all  
who entered!*

*CONGRATULATIONS  
to the winners,  
who each won \$40!*

## "Beauty Among the Cattails"

— Submitted by Roland Jordahls,  
Pelican Rapids, MN

Roland captured this red-winged  
blackbird in full song



Watch for More  
Summer Photos  
Next Year in  
OTC!



## "Look What I Caught!"

— Submitted by Jackie Hochstein,  
Battle Lake, MN

8-year-old Zoie Hochstein caught  
this 19" bass while swimming in  
Blanche Lake

## "Four Friends"

— Submitted by Les Jimmerson,  
Battle Lake, MN

l-r: John Peterson, Les Jimmerson,  
Clair Prody and Richard Oftedahl



# A Father's Pride

BY LAKE REGION HEALTHCARE  
PHOTOS BY DR. JASON GLYNN



*Pat and Dr. Jason Glynn on Pat's last day at LRHC*

**Pat Glynn has** reason to be proud. After a highly respected 41-year career as a nurse anesthetist-- all at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls, he retired in early May.

"I have loved coming to work every single day," says Pat, who also directed the Department of Anesthesia. "I am going to miss it dearly, but it's time for the next chapter."

Pat's greatest joy was caring for patients of all ages, from a 3-day-old to a 106-year-old.

He also liked working with all specialties. His favorite was pediatric anesthesia. "It's a very stressful time for moms and dads because it's difficult to entrust the care of your children to someone else," says the father of two and grandpa of six. "I took a great deal of pride in earning that respect."

It's no surprise that family played into the highlight of Pat's career: the chance to work side-by-side in the operating room with his son Dr. Jason Glynn, orthopedic surgeon. Jason joined Lake Region Healthcare in 2010.

"I waited many, many years for that moment," says Pat. "When it finally came, there wasn't a prouder father on this earth. I can't tell you how incredible it was to walk into that room and watch all

his skills be put to work. It was wonderful." The two worked together often, Pat administering the anesthesia and Jason performing the surgery.

## **Striving for excellence**

Pat could see early on that his son had the makings of an outstanding surgeon. The two spent hours together in the woodworking shop building birdhouses and constructing cabinets. "Jason was meticulous - everything needed to be perfect," says Pat. "That striving for excellence and precision carried over into his education and medical career."

For Jason, the interest in medicine started early. "As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a doctor," he says. "I have memories of going to work with my dad on weekends when he'd see patients. I got a sense of what goes on in a hospital and what it means to take care of people."

And to work side-by-side in the operating room with his dad? "The icing on the cake," says Jason. "To be able to work with your dad, doing things that you both have spent years learning to do, and hopefully doing pretty well - it's been a great experience. In the short time Dad's been retired, the place hasn't been quite the same. I miss him."



Father and son in Ireland celebrating Pat's retirement

### Leaving a legacy

For father and son, medicine is also about values - values passed down from Pat's dad, a master cabinet-maker who this year turns 89. Says Pat: "My father taught me to be honest, be fair and treat people like you'd like to be treated. That's a lesson that served me well, and it's served my son and daughter well, too. We hope to keep it going in our beautiful grandchildren."

Described as "two peas in a pod" by many at Lake Region, even down to their style of walking, Pat and Jason easily finish each other's sentences when they talk about what they believe is important in the

practice of medicine.

"It's about giving your best to every single person you take care of," says Jason. Adds Pat: "I totally agree. And it's about honesty, compassion, humility and a commitment to success."

Both land on the word "family" when reflecting on the practice of medicine at Lake Region. "Being a family and treating people like family," says Pat. "That's what we pride ourselves on at Lake Region. This is a place where a patient is not a number, but a person."

Like father, like son...



## Welcome to WestRidge Mall

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<p><b>Oct. 1:</b> Fall Art, Craft &amp; Home Show, 10am-4pm</p> <p><b>Sterling Haunted House:</b> Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 &amp; 31</p> <p><b>Oct. 28:</b> WRM Mall-O-Ween &amp; FF Tae Kwon Do Halloween Carnival, 6pm-7:30pm</p> <p><b>Nov. 12:</b> Holiday Art, Craft &amp; Home Show, 10am-5pm</p> <p><b>Nov. 24:</b> Thanksgiving, WRM Closed (WR Theatre Open)</p> <p><b>Nov. 25:</b> Holiday Shopping begins with WRM extended hours</p>	<p><b>Dec. 9:</b> The Edge Dance Show, begins at 6pm</p> <p><b>Dec. 10:</b> Christmas Art, Craft &amp; Home Show, 10am-5pm</p> <p><b>Sterling Christmas Extravaganza:</b> Dec. 10, 11, 17 &amp; 18 (each date, noon-5pm)</p> <p><b>Dec. 25:</b> Christmas, WRM Closed, (WR Theatre Open)</p> <p><b>Dec. 31:</b> New Year's Eve</p> <p><b>Jan. 1:</b> New Year's Day</p>
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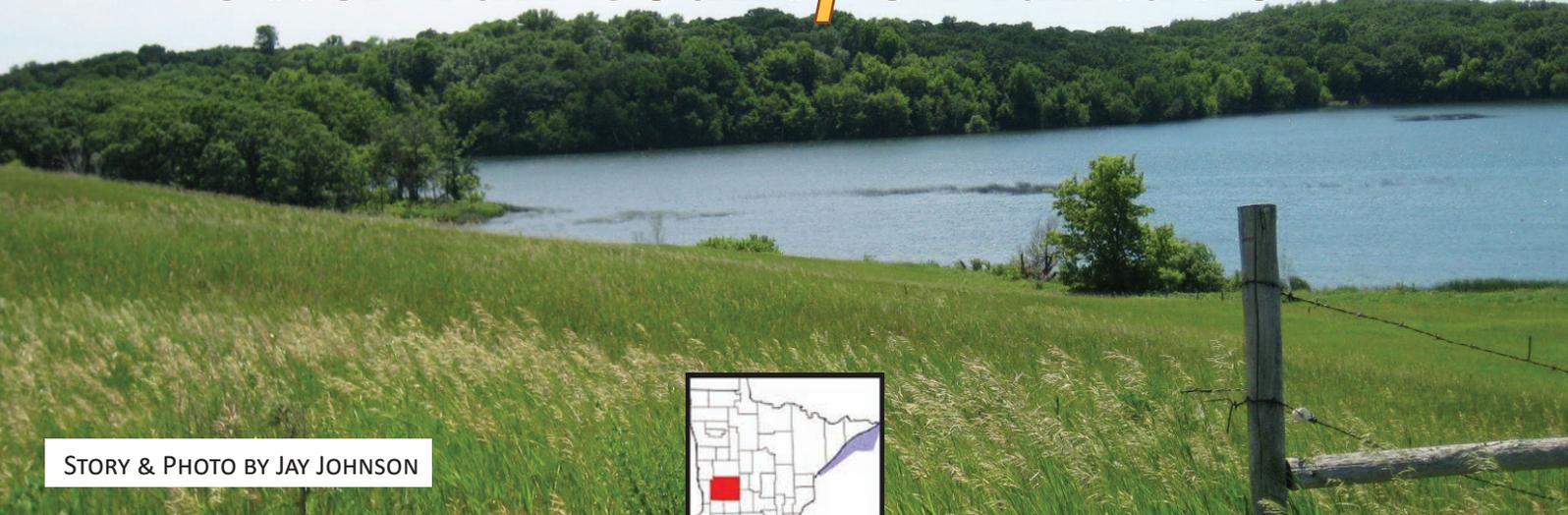
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# Otter Tail County's Plantations



STORY & PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



**You've all seen** the "fields" of pine trees along the highways in the county. There's a few hundred of these "fields," and they're not all pines. Many are spruce trees, and there are many hardwoods and bushes.

Most of those trees were planted on highly erodible soil and were specifically selected because of their natural ability to grow well in that particular type of soil. For example, pines grow well in high, sandy soil; spruce do better in low ground. Early tree planting in this area consisted of mostly Norway (or red pine) and some white spruce.

After the devastation caused by Dutch elm disease, the planting of solid fields of pines was replaced by mixing in more varieties of hardwoods. Burr oak and green ash are two of the many varieties that do very well in poor soil.

I call tree planting "long-term gardening." Trees are just like any other "crop". It just takes longer. Trees are planted close together to force them to grow tall and straight with fewer side branches. This is similar to the way they grow in a forest. In a typical Norway pine plantation, the management plan would have every other tree removed at 20 years of

age; every other row harvested after 40 years; and then the mature saw logs would be harvested at 80 years of age. Then it can be replanted, and the cycle starts all over.

The combination of topography and poor soil makes some land better for growing trees than any other crop and should not have been cleared for farming in the first place.

In recent years, many of the trees being planted were different varieties of aspen or "popple". Native aspen is Minnesota's No. 1 forest product and is used for the production of paper, chipboard, plywood, and a whole lot of other things. During extreme drought, farmers used aspen bark for feed for their cattle. Many of the most recent plantings were new varieties of clones that had been recently created. These trees are all genetically identical.

Trees are good for everyone. They are certainly one of our most valuable resources. They provide the oxygen we breathe, block the wind and shade our yards, beautify the landscape, and provide food and shelter for our abundant wildlife. They create the lumber for our homes and this piece of paper. Enjoy our trees!



Jay Johnson is a life-long resident of Otter Tail County. He created the Prospect House Museum in Battle Lake. His many occupations include planting trees, making maple syrup, logging and fighting forest fires.





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# LAKE AVENUE CAFE

## A PLACE TO FEEL RIGHT AT HOME

STORY & PHOTOS BY REBA GILLIAND

**Summer of 2014**, a new cafe opened downtown Battle Lake. It's the kind of hometown cafe on the main drag where breakfast "rules" and people greet each other and sit around and talk. Large windows overlooking the sidewalk and traffic on Lake Avenue offer plenty to look at outside.

Inside the place is eclectic and informal – a swordfish hangs on the west wall, large pots filled with spider plants sit on the ledge in the east window, and framed photos of historic Battle Lake adorn the north wall.

orders - pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, patty melt, wraps, or some other breakfast or lunch favorite. Home cooking is a specialty at Lake Avenue Cafe, and customers rave about the potato salad, caramel or cinnamon rolls, and coffee cake.

"Some places have lots of items on the menu," says Aaron, "but my goal is to have a simple menu where food is consistently well prepared."

Running a cafe wasn't necessarily Aaron's first choice as a career, but he has a great deal of experience. His family owns the Dalton Cafe, where growing up he spent summers in the kitchen. Family members are often on hand to help out at Lake Avenue Cafe too.

Aaron was born and raised in Fergus Falls and graduated from Fergus High School in 2008. He began college at M-State, where he played football and basketball and completed two years of basic coursework. He was recruited to play



On the south wall is painted an original, signature graphic of the cafe's name inside the state of Minnesota. Anywhere from two people to large groups are easily accommodated simply by moving chairs and tables together or apart.

Aaron Link, who with his family owns the cafe, is usually behind the grill filling customers'



*Customers enjoy the delicious food and the historic photos adorning the walls.*

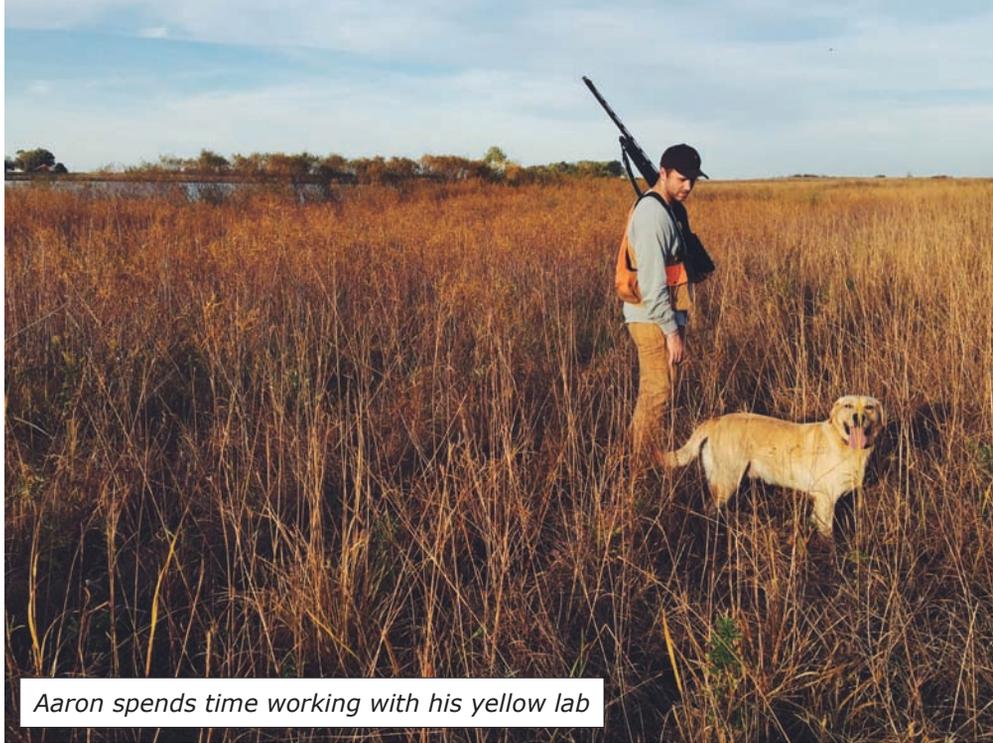
football at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL, where he transferred in 2010. Both his parents graduated from Olivet, so the school was familiar. It was there he met Rivka, now his fiancé, where they sang together in the gospel choir. Currently, Rivka is at school in Boston, but she helps out at the cafe when she's back in Minnesota.

With a degree in recreation management, Aaron set his hopes on a job as activities director or youth sports director at a school or sports facility in one of the mountain states where he could snowboard and enjoy other winter sports. At the time he graduated, however, no activities-director jobs were available anywhere.

It was then Aaron's life took another turn. He was driving around one day and noticed the building on the corner of Lake Avenue and Main Street in downtown Battle Lake. Thinking it a great location for a cafe, he talked to the owner.

The rest is history. After putting in a kitchen and remodeling the space, Lake Avenue Cafe opened for business May 2014. Since then he's gained a good foundation of local customers. "Local people keep you open and the business running," he says, "tourists are icing on the cake."

Running the cafe is a priority, but not his only passion. Aaron's interest in youth sports did not wane just because he didn't find a job as a sports activity director. He coaches hockey bantams



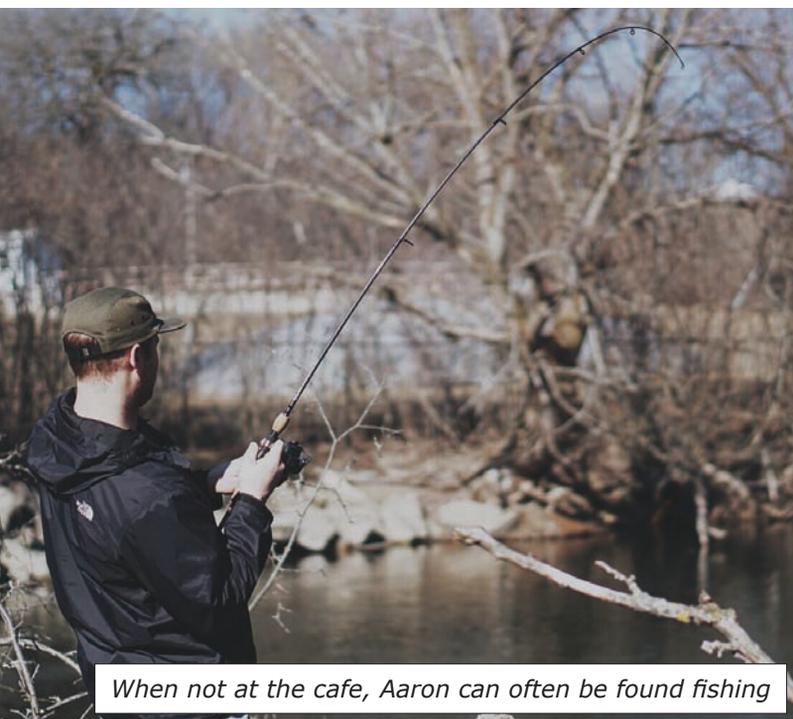
*Aaron spends time working with his yellow lab*

(8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade boys) in Fergus. The new ice arena is a plus. "It's in a good location near the school with two full sheets of ice," he says.

Besides coaching hockey, Aaron can be found on a lake or in a field when he's not at the cafe. He fishes on many lakes and enjoys a good catch, whether game or pan fish. He says he found a great place to fish on West Battle Lake, but he's keeping the location to himself. He hunts ducks, geese, pheasants in season and spends a lot of time working with his yellow lab.

At the cafe, Aaron is all about building relationships and makes it a point to step back from behind the grill and talk with people. During down times, he can be found sitting at a table with one of the "regulars."

Lake Avenue Cafe is one of those places where you feel right at home. Aaron says he likes feeling the place is part of the community – and he wants to keep it like that.



*When not at the cafe, Aaron can often be found fishing*



Reba Gilliland is a freelance writer who lives in Battle Lake. The fruit parfait is one of her favorites at Lake Avenue Cafe.



# Setting Goals 101

BY KATRINA MOUSER

**We all have** hopes, wishes, and dreams of places we want to travel, people we want to meet, and changes we want to make in our careers or lives at home. But then we stop short, and the hopes, wishes and dreams are just that – hopes, wishes, and dreams – and we settle for the status quo. We do the same with our bodies. We dream of losing 25 pounds, or having defined triceps, or eating less sugar, or being able to run a 5K – but without a

plan, chances are pretty slim that those dreams will become reality.

But the truth is any dream can become reality by setting a goal and supporting it with a plan of action. Very few adults have been taught the *importance* of setting a goal, let alone *how* to set a goal. Goals keep us moving forward. Goals keep us young and healthy. Goals give us something positive to think about and talk about. Goals give us life!



# Specific

Goals need to be very specific. A vague goal is difficult to measure, and impossible to determine whether it was attained. Instead of saying "I'd like to lose some weight," chose a number of pounds or a waistline measurement. Or instead of saying, "I want to eat less sugar," change it to, "I will only eat ice cream on Sundays with my family, and no desserts, sugary drinks, or other sweet treats during the other days of the week."

# Engrave

This seems like a silly step, but study after study shows us that people who write down their goals are much more successful at meeting their goals than people who don't. So engrave it on a piece of paper (or several) and keep it somewhere visible. Don't be afraid of people seeing your goals - you will impress them, and perhaps encourage them to do the same for themselves!

# Trackable

Your goal should be measureable and trackable. The goal should have lots of numbers - the number of minutes/days/weeks/months, the number of pounds/inches, the number of pounds of weights/ reps, or the number of miles/kilometers, etc. For example: *I will go to BodyPump at 6:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during September, October, and November.* This goal is easy to measure and track. At the end of the 3 months, you could add up how many sessions were attended, and figure out what percentage you were successful. Depending on the goal, perhaps a chart or calendar would be helpful in tracking.

# Attainable

Choose a goal that makes sense for you for the stage of life you are in. As a mom, the intensity of my workouts go up and down around pregnancies, holidays, and fluctuating bedtimes! Set your goal just far enough out so that it is a challenge, yet not so difficult that it sets you up for failure.

# Growth

As you are working toward your goal, compare your growth only to yourself. If you are making improvements, even if they are smaller and slower than what you would like, you are still moving forward.

# One

Start with one goal. Don't overwhelm yourself with a whole new set of rules. Steadily increase the intensity of the goals, and one day it will be fun to look back and see how far you have come.

# Accountability

I can't stress this one enough! I have personally found that having an accountability partner - whether it be my spouse, friend, or classmate - helps motivate and encourage me on the hard days. My husband and I recently did a sugar-free month (and we plan to repeat it regularly) and we were both 100% successful because we didn't want to let the other person down. This life is not meant to be lived alone.

# Life

There is nothing more fulfilling and energizing than reaching your goal. Once you successfully reach one goal, it's time to set another. This is going to be your new pattern for LIFE.

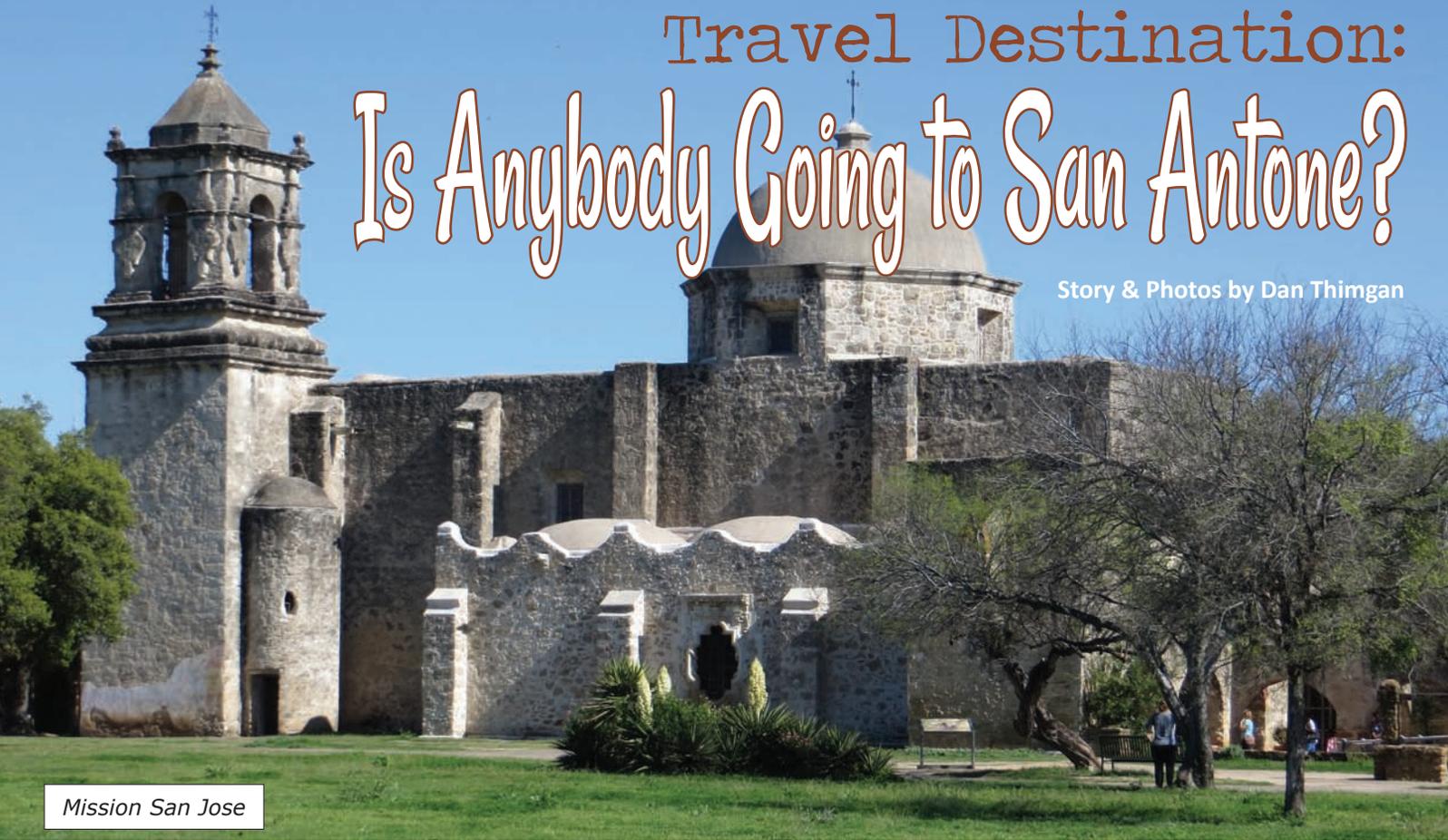


Katrina Mouser, RD, LD, is a stay-at-home mom of four children, but uses her dietetic background for writing and speaking about nutrition around Otter Tail County. She lives near Fergus Falls on a hobby farm.



# Travel Destination: Is Anybody Going to San Antone?

Story & Photos by Dan Thimgan



Mission San Jose

**“Is anybody going** to San Antone?” the old country-western song asks, and we thought ... why not us?! Southern hospitality, the Hill Country, the Texas two-step! We couldn’t resist, and we think ya’ll might enjoy a visit there yourselves.

We confess we had not thought of San Antonio, Texas, as one of America’s largest

cities, but SA is considered to be the U.S.’s seventh largest. Our rental (through VRBO, Vacation Rental by Owner) was in the charming Enchanted Village neighborhood in the Castle Hills area of north San Antonio. Our location proved ideal for our stay, offering great amenities locally, plus it was just a short 15-minute drive to the city’s core, and the iconic Alamo.

In many ways, the Alamo defines the beating heart of the state’s early history, the Cradle of Texas Liberty. We made multiple visits to the shrine. Respectfully interpreted for all ages, the Alamo is truly a paradox of the raw bravery and questionable decision-making that spurred on Texas independence. Add Stephen Harrigan’s *The Gates of the Alamo* to your reading list.

Directly across the street from the Alamo, you can descend down to the San Antonio River

and SA’s famous Riverwalk. Throbbing with activity at almost any time of day, Riverwalk is a totally attractive, high-end ... well, there’s no way to avoid saying it ... Tourist Trap! Clustered on both sides of



The Alamo



the river are an astonishing number of places to eat, drink, shop, and ... indulge in unparalleled people watching! Definitely worth a stroll.

To fully sample other San Antonio delights, we recommend ya'll take one of the city tours. We enjoyed the narrated hop on/hop off Trolley ride. Depending on your tastes, you can hop off, enjoy one of the sites, then hop back on to your next stop. There is also a narrated river cruise if desired.

Here are a few must-sees: the painstakingly restored sanctuary of Mission San Jose. Dating from the mid-1700's, the exclusive King William Historic District and its centerpiece, the Guenther House, and La Villita, SA's first "regular" neighborhood, now home to a community of artists, eateries, and galleries. The San Fernando Cathedral, where Santa Anna promised "No Quarter" to the defenders of the Alamo, and where today the remains of the Alamo defenders (Davy Crockett et al.) are "allegedly" entombed in the Cathedral's entryway. You might also stop at El Mercado, the colorful Mexican market, or ascend to the top of Tower of the Americas, SA's version of the space needle, which literally towers over the city.

Want to spend a day wandering beautifully interpreted flora? Then the SA Botanical Gardens (near the zoo and water park) is for you. And, of course, there are great art galleries and shopping malls throughout the city. We'd recommend the Pearl Brewery area, or the Alamo Quarry and North Point Malls.

But, we found plenty do in our own neighborhood. Our favorite guilty pleasure, and the best-kept secret in north SA, is the weekly wine tasting at Joe Saglimbeni's Fine Wines, every Saturday afternoon from 11:00 - 5:00. This being



Arneson Riverwalk Theatre

Texas, there are not just one or two wines to taste, there are usually seven! And, outdoors in Joe's parking lot, there's a different top-notch food truck each week. Some people buy a bottle of wine, food from the truck, take the Wino Xing to Joe's "tree house," and while away the afternoon.



Wino Xing sign at Joe's



Sandy and Dr. Bruce Winders, head curator of The Alamo

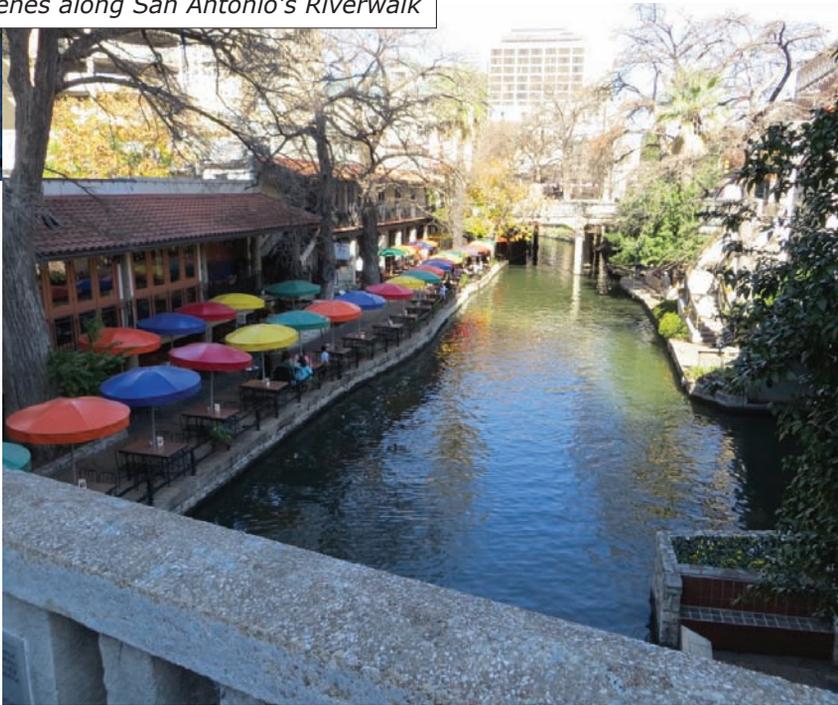
Another neighborhood favorite was the once-a-month dinner theater at the Little Italy Restaurant. Their slogan: "Play with your food!" A little wine, an ample dinner, and high hilarity from the talented Damien Gillen and his Company Theatre. How about *Greater Tuna* - a play about a tiny Texas town where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies? Or, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* - in 90 minutes!

There were many favorite local places to eat: pastries and free coffee at C'est La Vie Bakery, Castle



*Anturium at SA Botanical Gardens*

*Scenes along San Antonio's Riverwalk*



Hills Farmers' Market (think candied jalapeños!), sushi at the Godai, flautas at El Bosque, the cuisine and weekly mariachis at Tilo's Tex-Mex, lunch buffet at India Oven, or the barbecue at Two Bros., or simply pack a picnic and bike to Walker Ranch Park.

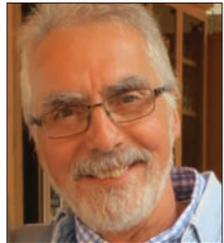
When we travel, we usually take our bicycles. Nothing, however, prepared us for bike-friendly San Antonio and its impressive (and still developing) 52.6 mile trail system. Our location was just a quarter mile from Walker Ranch where we could connect with the marvelous Salado Creek Greenway trails. Biking, hiking, bird (and deer and armadillo) watching.

During the last month of our stay, the beautiful, fragrant spring was emerging in Texas. There were fields carpeted with Texas bluebonnets. Our neighborhood was filled with the blooming perfume of mountain laurels and huisache trees and the constant background of the burbling, spring songs of cardinals and titmice and mockingbirds, ... and those other birds preparing to migrate north.

And, so, suddenly, we were reminded that it was time for these snow birds to load our car and return to Minnesota. Consarn it! Did we even mention the SA Spurs? The Rodeo? The laser light show at San Fernando Cathedral? Well, just how much excitement can y'all squeeze into three months?



Dan Thimgan and wife, Sandy, thoroughly enjoyed wintering in San Antonio, but they always look forward to coming home to rural Battle Lake. But, y'all promised to save us some snow ... and, you didn't!





## *The Lakeside Gourmet*

BY SANDRA THIMGAN  
PHOTO BY DAN THIMGAN

### **Baked Walleye**

5-6 walleye fillets  
Fish sauce\*  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

1 cup panko crumbs  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
Freshly ground pepper

6 T. melted butter  
1 T. fresh lemon juice

4 green onions, chopped

Brush each fillet with fish sauce, season with salt and pepper and refrigerate for an hour. Bring to room temp before baking.

Mix the panko, Parmesan and pepper in a flat pie tin. Melt butter and lemon juice together.

Use a baking sheet (with sides) big enough to hold your fillets, line it with foil, pour in the melted butter/lemon combo and put in a preheated 350° oven until butter is heated. Remove pan from oven.

Dip each fillet into the butter, then into the panko/cheese mixture, press to cover and return to buttered sheet pan. Do this with all the fillets.

Sprinkle remaining panko mixture on the fillets, then the chopped onions. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes, until fish flakes and is opaque. Plate fillets and serve with your favorite side dishes.

\* You will find fish sauce in the Asian food section.

## **Baked Walleye**

**The successful fisherman** comes in the door holding a stringer of walleye and says, "I invited all the guys over for walleye tonight!"

And they call this luck? Slaving over a hot skillet, frying fish?

Lakeside Gourmet to the rescue — a crowd coming for fish dinner? BAKE IT — easy, delicious, and very little cleanup!



Living in Otter Tail County, the walleye is king, indeed, and finding a quick and easy way to make it for a crowd is a winner. Love making life easier for folks at the lake. Sandra Thimgan lives on Silver Lake, near Battle Lake, with her husband, Daniel.



# WIN to Dine

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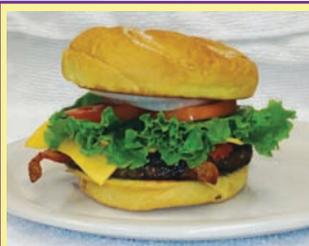
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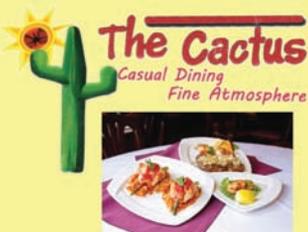
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Drawing held on October 21 ~ Summer Winners listed on page 6!



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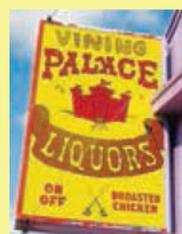
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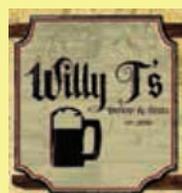
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# Step into Cora's Closet

STORY BY GAIL HEDSTROM  
PHOTOS BY SAMMY JO SEVERANCE

*Dawn Saxton welcomes visitors to her unique boutique*

**Stepping into Cora's** Closet, an upscale consignment boutique located in downtown Fergus Falls, you are likely to be greeted by the embracing smile of the shop's creator and proprietor, Dawn Saxton. Dawn's affection for unique items of clothing and jewelry at moderate prices contribute to her enthusiasm for consignment shopping, and were integral in her decision to open a shop of her own.

Prior to opening her business, Dawn worked as a social worker for 27 years. "I loved being a social worker," she said. "It is a wonderful job, and I met the most amazing people. I worked for Wilkin County for 7 years, Grant County for 8 years, and at West Central Area School in Barrett for 12 years." A 1982 graduate of Fergus Falls high school, Dawn attended Fergus Falls Community College (FFCC), and in 1986 earned a bachelor's of social work from Moorhead State University.

Dawn shared that she did not leave social work because she was burnt out; rather, she simply wanted to try something new. "I was at a different stage in my life. My youngest son had graduated

from high school, and I just felt like making a change." In contemplating what she would do next Dawn knew she wanted to do something totally different, meet new people, and have a different experience. In 2015, she bravely launched a consignment store. Given Dawn's appreciation for style, her artistic talents, and desire to help others, opening her own consignment store seemed like the perfect fit.

Cora's Closet's namesake was Dawn's great aunt. "She was a woman with a unique sense of style and her closet was filled with fabulous clothing and the most interesting jewelry. Exploring her closet was an adventure." Dawn wanted to carry over a similar experience, featuring a mix of vintage, modern, and eclectic merchandise that avid thrifters would appreciate.

Also an artist, Dawn is skilled in numerous mediums, including painting, charcoal, water colors, figure drawing, and sculpting. She studied under the direction of Charles Beck at FFCC and was inspired by his talent, the scope of his work, his philosophy of making art accessible to all people, and the support and encouragement he provided her as a student.

Dawn has invoked that artistic finesse in her store. "I want visiting my store to be very pleasant. I am cognizant of providing people with an experience that is pleasing to their senses." Pleasant music, attractive colors, infused oils, and distinguished displays all demonstrate Dawn's artistic talents and create an aesthetically attractive and inviting atmosphere. "I wanted to create a place where people can relax and enjoy. I want people to feel like it was a nice visit, even if they are just walking through."

The support of friends and family were tremendous assets for getting things started. "Everybody has unique talents, and I have friends



*A beautiful selection of next-to-new items in every size and style.*

with skills that have really complimented what I have done." Dawn's friends stepped forward to lend their time, talents, hard work, expertise, and ideas. "I had help with everything from creating a business plan and recordkeeping to painting, wallpapering, and creating displays." Dawn was creative and frugal in setting up her shop, implementing her artistic creativity in repurposing much of the furniture and display units to minimize the startup costs.

Dawn chose Fergus Falls as the location for Cora's Closet. "I could live anywhere, and I choose here. Fergus has a lot of cool things going on. It is a beautiful community, with a really nice downtown; people take a lot of pride in making their businesses and main street look welcoming." Expressing her gratitude for the supportive downtown culture, Dawn said, "Everyday people stop in and say that someone from another business suggested that they check out my store. I do the same. I frequently refer people to other businesses in town, including the other consignment store, especially if they are looking for something specific that I do not have on hand or something that might be hard to find."

Dawn finds her location in River Front Square a perfect fit. Being in a shopping complex where she has neighbors provides support, friendship, and increases store traffic. "The location offers ample parking in front and back of River Front Square, and it is close to great restaurants and other fun shops. I am in a really nice area."

One of Dawn's favorite aspects of consignment shopping is finding something that is completely original. "Often if you ask people where they purchased something that is really unique, they reply that it was at a consignment or thrift store, or a little boutique they discovered while they were traveling. I have consigners who have purchased things throughout the world and it's so interesting to hear the stories behind their items."

Cora's Closet has more than 450 contracted consigners, resulting in immense diversity in merchandise, distinct pieces, and new merchandise arriving daily. "Some consigners bring in one or two items and others bring in larger quantities." Due to the



*Find the perfect outfit for your special occasion!*



volume of consigners, people interested in consigning with Cora's Closet need to schedule an appointment in advance.

Dawn values both her consigners and her customers, two groups that often overlap. "I strive to make sure that consigners and shoppers have positive experiences. For the people who bring items in, I want to be able to sell their items at decent prices. And for those shopping, I want to provide quality merchandise at reasonable prices. I enjoy helping people find that perfect something they are looking for. I love seeing people discover something they instantly fall in love with and have to have. It's rewarding to help them find something perfect and within their budget."

Recently, Dawn helped a woman procure the ideal dress for her daughter's wedding, "It was so gratifying, she found a beautiful dress in the store and it looked awesome on her. She looked lovely and was delighted. Helping people is tremendously rewarding."

Dawn describes the consignment business as a win-win-win venture: "It allows people to find great



items at reasonable prices, while providing consignors with income from sold pieces." The third win stems from Dawn's benevolent nature. "I knew from the beginning that I wanted to give back to others."

When Shegitu Kebede came into Cora's Closet, the opportunity for giving back presented itself. Shegitu is the creator of the non-profit organization Women at the Well, which helps provide support and services for people living in refugee camps in Ethiopia. "Shegitu told me about her mission with Women at the Well and I knew instantly this was an organization I wanted to contribute to."

While every consignment store operates a little differently, at Cora's Closet consignors receive 50% of the price once an item has sold. Merchandise is kept on the floor for three months, after which time all unsold items are donated to Women at the Well unless consignors choose to pick up their unsold items.

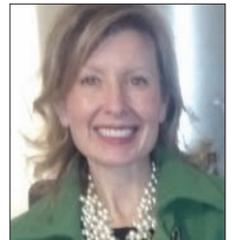
Dawn is grateful that she has found wonderful employees, who she describes as very creative, knowledgeable, and hardworking. "Having such competent employees allows me to pursue my other interests as well."

Dawn has an entrepreneurial spirit, delving into property rentals and owning Culligan Water in Elbow Lake. Level headed, realistic, and wise, Dawn sums up her business philosophy: "Having a business is about building relationships. I love meeting new people and learning about their experiences. For me, people are the important part."

LIFE IS TOO  
SHORT  
TO  
WEAR  
BORING  
CLOTHES



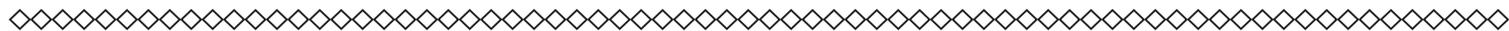
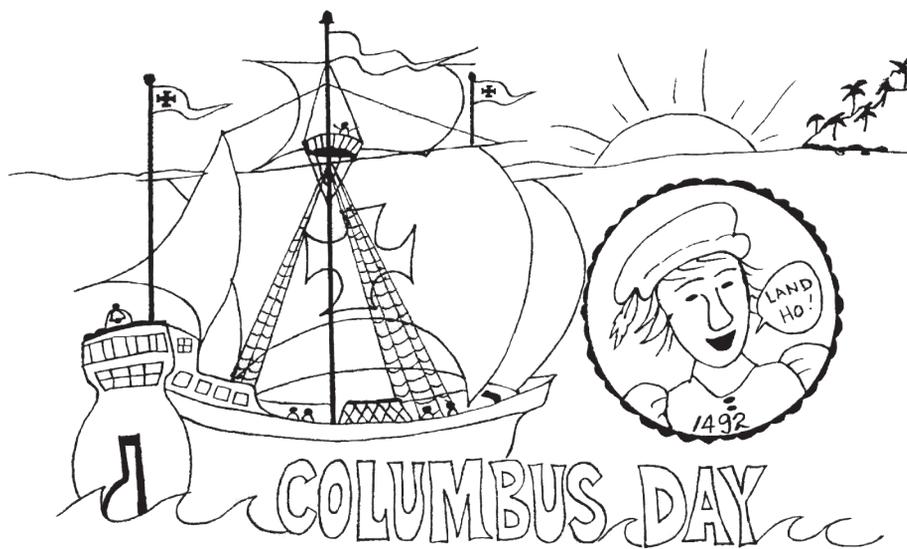
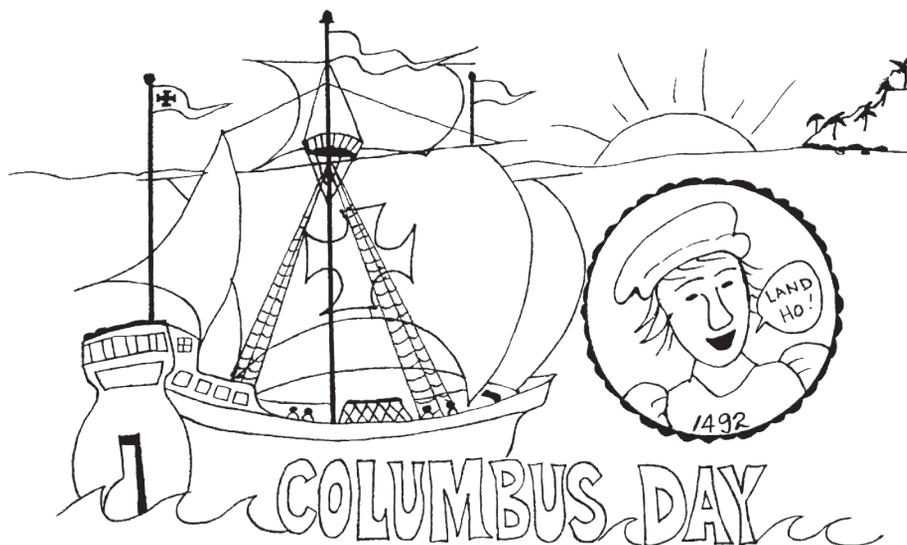
Gail Hedstrom is the library director of Thorson Memorial Library. She is also a freelance writer and public speaker.



# PUZZLE TIME

*It's all about Otter Tail County!*

Can you find all 10 differences in these sketches by Jane Dixon, OTC's cartoonist?



## Trivia

In 1492 Christopher Columbus actually landed on what island?

-----

Answers on page ??



*PAD graduation ceremony held in September 2014 at Veteran's Memorial Park, Detroit Lakes, MN. Two of the dogs paired with veterans in this group - Rayne and Bella - were trained by Jessica.*

# PREPARING TO SERVE: JESSICA HONER TRAINS PATRIOT ASSISTANCE DOGS

BY ELIZABETH HUWE

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH HUWE, JESSICA HONER & SARAH JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

**Jessica Honer is** used to getting some odd looks in her hometown of Perham as she leads a bandana-wearing dog through the grocery store, into an appointment, or browses at a shop. The most dramatic reactions usually follow the errands – when the dog hops into the back seat of her car, and Jess drives off to her next stop.

“No, I’m not blind,” she said, laughing. “But having the dog along is a good way to confuse people at a movie.”

Seeing-eye dogs for those who have impaired sight are one of the best-known types of service

dogs – but they are not alone. When Jess takes these dogs out and about, they are being trained for a lesser-known, but just as important, duty – assisting veterans of the armed forces who return home with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or traumatic brain injuries.

Since 2006, Lucky Dog Boarding & Training Center, located in Detroit Lakes,

had been involved in raising and screening puppies for area service dog organizations that trained dogs to assist people who are blind, need help to monitor blood sugar or warn of seizures, or for a host of other purposes.

After recognizing the growing need for psychiatric assistance dogs among veterans of all ages in Lakes Country, and the costs associated with finding one, Michelle Bechtold and Linda Wiedewitsch founded Patriot Assistance Dogs (PAD) in 2011 as part of Lucky Dog and the Marshmallow Foundation animal shelter and rescue.

“Brian and I had been fostering dogs for a few years previous the founding of PAD, and I’ve always had a passion for rescuing animals,” Jess said, explaining her draw to PAD was largely because they were actively working to pull rescued dogs into the program. So, the couple volunteered to foster a German shepherd named Mason, one of the first six PAD trainees.

Linda convinced Jess to also try her hand at being Mason’s trainer, and the rest is history. In 2012, Mason was matched with his veteran.

“It pretty much just became such a natural thing that I wanted to keep doing it,” Jess said of the training. “When I could see what they were doing with the veterans – what the dogs would learn and the progress they would make throughout the training, it was just something that I knew, deep down, that I was meant to do.”

Harley, a German shepherd puppy born in May, will be trainee number 12 for Jess. For now, Harley is being taught the puppy basics – to signal



Jessica & Tate



Jessica & Tate



Harley was born in May of 2016 and was donated into the PAD program by a private citizen. Someday she will be paired with a veteran, but for now she just wants to explore.



when she needs to go outside, to behave in her kennel, and how to socialize with other dogs.

As she gets older, Harley's training will include more obedience work and a variety of skills intended to assist her veteran with symptoms and triggers in day-to-day life, such as: becoming a physical

buffer to maintain personal space, interrupting anxiety or panic attacks, waking the veteran from night terrors, or simply being there to provide physical comfort.

"I try to take them everywhere with me," Jess said of her training process. The dog in training often goes with her to work, to the grocery store, to doctor appointments and movies, and to crowded events. They go in elevators and use stairs. "They go everywhere to get all those different experiences. I take them everywhere that their veteran might take them so they're used to all of that."

In the end, Jess will spend about a year working with Harley before she can get final approval to meet with veterans.

**Fast Facts about PAD**

- 108 of the 135 dogs in the program were rescued or surrendered.
- 6-9 months is the average training time for the dogs.
- 6-12 weeks is the average training time for the dog and veteran after being matched.
- 52 veteran applicants are waiting for interviews to enter the program.
- 29 veterans are approved and waiting to be matched.
- 73 certified veteran/dog pairs have completed their training, 15 additional pairs are preparing to graduate.
- Dogs who "flunk out" of the PAD program are put up for adoption as family pets, with adoption fees helping to fund the program.
- Service dogs are generally allowed wherever customers and members of the public can go. This includes restaurants, taxis, hospitals, apartment buildings and more as part of the Americans With Disabilities Act.



Bella, "Bell-Bell," or "Big Ears" was one of the dogs who Jessica found as a rescue and brought into the PAD program.



### PATRIOT ASSISTANCE DOGS

*Rescued dogs rescuing veterans*

After spending so much time together, how does Jess cope with letting the dog go on to its new home?

Jess shook her head and smiled. "You know, everyone always asks me: isn't it hard to give them up? You'd think that would be the most difficult... but to me, that's probably one of the most rewarding parts."

For example, she said, there was Bella.

Jess and Brian found Bella being given away in a Facebook post. She was 5-6 months old, nameless, and scared of a lot of normal, everyday things. But, as time went on, Jess said she realized Bella would be a perfect fit for PAD.

"She just naturally picked up on wanting to help," Jess said. "As soon as she really stepped into that (training) role, it was just like a natural thing for her. It was just meant to be."

In 2014, Bella went on to be part of the most quickly-matched team PAD has had so far, bonding almost instantly with a veteran who suffered from flashbacks to Iraq, night terrors, and anxiety.

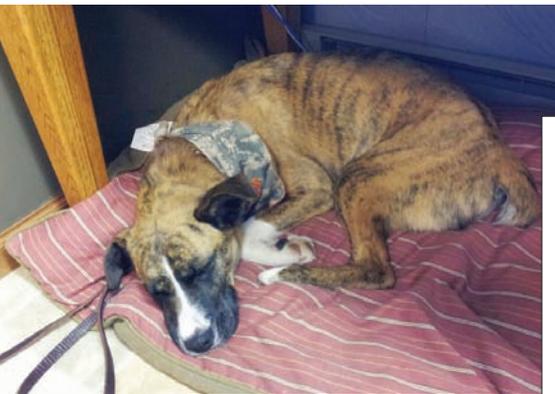
The pair is still doing "fantastic," Jess said. She met up with them recently and said the veteran was a changed man.

"He never really would talk with me much, his wife did most of the talking," Jess said of their previous interactions. But, when they met up again, the veteran gave Jess a hug and told her he probably would be dead, his wife wouldn't have a husband, and his son wouldn't have a father... if not for Bella.

In the midst of the happy reunion, Bella knew that she was still on duty, and stayed focused on the veteran's needs rather than begging for attention from her former trainer.

"You could tell that Bella recognized me, but she was like: No. I'm working right now," Jess said. "She stayed by him and kept her focus on him."

Because she's seen the impact the service dogs make on the lives of their veteran – as well as the ripple effect of positive impacts for surrounding family members - Jess said, "That's why I can keep doing what I do. Giving that dog up is not the hardest part... it's probably the most rewarding part."



Rayne now goes to hockey games with her veteran, who previously had difficulty going out in public because of his symptoms.



*In all, it costs about \$10,000 for PAD to train, house, and medically clear each service dog before it is matched with a veteran. This is done at no cost to the veteran, which is made possible by donations of food, supplies, and volunteers' time spent teaching the dogs.*

**For more information about getting involved with the Patriot Assistance Dogs program as a volunteer, foster, or donor, call 218-847-4100 or find them on Facebook**



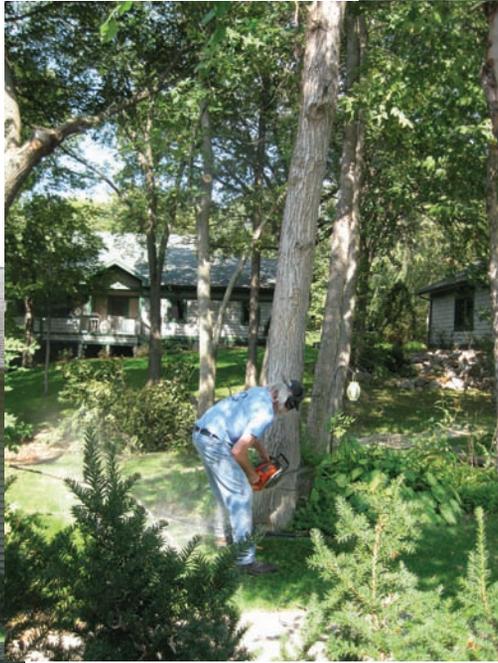
Elizabeth Huwe is a graphic designer/ former newspaper reporter/freelance writer who calls the city of Perham "home." While working together at the Perham newspaper, she saw first-hand Jess's passion for volunteering for with the PAD program.



# WOOD TREES

BY JAY JOHNSON

PHOTOS BY DI PETERSON &  
GARY HARRINGTON



*Jay Johnson  
removing dying  
trees from a  
homeowner's  
property*



**For the last** 40 years, I've been doing tree work of all kinds: planting, pruning, shaping, tree surgery, logging, tree removal, and making maple syrup. I've cut, split and delivered thousands of cords of firewood.

The different kinds of "grain" in the wood has always fascinated me. The way the wood flows around knots and wounds is another piece of nature's art. It is always interesting to look at, many times it is amazing, and sometimes it can be very valuable.

I like to hunt for burls – the "jewels of the woods" – that occur occasionally here and there for no apparent reason. The vast majority of burls have little or no value because of cracks, rotten or hollow

spots, bark inclusions, or lack of interesting grain. They make interesting landscape pieces for a flower bed. The best ones are solid, with no defects and "curly" grain, or – if you're lucky – will have "eyed" grain like "bird's-eye" maple. They are the ones that are very good for carving or woodturning.

There are many different ways to identify what kind of tree you are looking at or what tree a piece of lumber came from. Most people identify trees by their leaves. I work in the winter a lot, so I often identify trees by their bark. Another way to identify many trees by their shape. For example, elms almost always look like a "Y." That's why they were commonly planted as boulevard trees.

I can tell some wood by smell. Red oak has a nice, sweet scent. Apple smells like apples (and makes excellent barbecue wood). Cherry smells like cherries. Local "old-timers" called elm "piss-elm" because of its smell.

Nurserymen can identify trees by their buds. Serious wood collectors and experts use a microscope and identify by cell structure. I consider myself a tree expert – from the ground up – on all of our native trees. I never learned the Latin names (except for *arborvitae* – white cedar). The Latin names just don't seem very useful to me.



*Jay often works alone, but occasionally has others help him - Don Salomonson is working with him in the photo at left.*

### **Tree Planting (In quantity!)**

I'm not talking about planting one tree at a time, I'm talking about planting 1,000 (or more) trees in one hour! That figures out to 20 trees a minute - or one every three seconds. That's an average rate for a normal tree planting day.

We use a tree planting machine that was state-of-the-art ... in 1930 when it was built ... to pull behind a caterpillar tractor over tree stumps. The plow part of this dinosaur piece of machinery briefly opens a slit in the soil, which is followed by two packing wheels that close it up again. You have about two seconds to insert a tree seedling correctly before the packing wheels arrive.

The two-man machine we use has a box for each person that holds between 100 and 1,000 seedlings, depending on the size and kind of tree. I grab a handful of seedlings with one hand and separate the stems by feel. At the same time, I take a seedling in the other hand and insert it into the quickly-opening-and-closing slit in the ground. Each

seedling must be planted at the right depth and stand straight vertically. Seedlings vary enormously in height and in length of roots. Some are stiff and straight, some are crooked, some are loose, and floppy. Each seedling requires its own planting plan.

Once you have achieved planting skill, speed is essential. The longer the bare-root seedlings are out of the ground, the lower their survival rate. This is especially true when they are in the planter boxes in the open field. A hot, dry, sunny day will dry out the fine roots in just a few minutes.

Tree planting can start as soon as the ground is thawed. Planting a dormant seedling in cool, wet soil is ideal.

Everyone would like their trees planted first. Of course, this is not possible. Luckily, different soils and other conditions create different planting times. To keep steady progress and improve survival, we plant seven days a week, are at the planting site at 8:00 a.m. (no matter where it is), plant regardless of the weather conditions, and plant as long as we can physically stand it or until the job is done - whichever comes first.

Tree planting is not a job for sissies. It is dirty, hot, cold, wet, and seems to go on forever. On a scale of 1 to 10, the comfort factor of riding a tree planter is below zero. No springs, old steel tractor seats, and hard steel all around to bang into. At times, the lurching machine causes your hand to get pulled into the packing wheels and get run over. Sometimes it hurts and is difficult to pull it out. And you still have to plant another one in two seconds.

Tree planting is a job you love to hate. Spring is a great time to be outdoors - but its uncertain weather is challenging. We try to plant every tree perfectly and would love to see them all survive and do well. However, as in all planting, Mother Nature has the final say. Rainfall - and the timing of it - is critical to a good survival rate. The baby trees need to be "babied" for a couple of years to do well.



*Getting ready to plant*



Minnesota has been gaining in tree population since 1976. There are many tree plantations all over west central Minnesota, and I'm glad that I've helped plant many of them. We have no shortage of trees in Otter Tail County, truly one of the prettiest spots in the United States. Trees are good for everyone. God bless our trees.



*Planting or watching them grow, Jay enjoys working with trees*

*For more info, contact Jay at: 218.864.4008*



Jay Johnson is a life-long resident of Otter Tail County. He created the Prospect House Museum in Battle Lake. His many occupations include planting trees, making maple syrup, logging and fighting forest fires.



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BLHS All-School Reunion



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Police Chief Kent Kortlever



American Legion, Paul Putnam Post 289



Fun Run



Pop-Up Dancing Tour in parade



Heart of the Lakes Band



Native American Dancer



Parade announcers Gail Ralston & Jen Knudson



Enjoying ski show

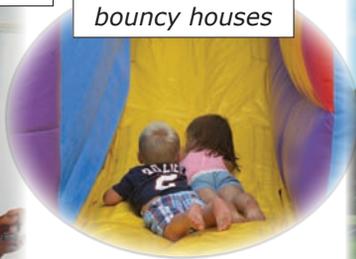


Shriners' wow spectators

Lions host pancake breakfast



Kids have fun at bouncy houses



Kid's sermon at Community Worship



# Fun Time at Battle Lake's 125<sup>th</sup>

PHOTOS BY BATTLE LAKE REVIEW



125<sup>th</sup> Souvenir Quilt - Raffle display



Foam/laser teen dance

Re-enactment at Prospect House Museum



"Walk through History" exhibit

Pastors at Community Worship Service



125<sup>th</sup> Queen Candace Heathington and King Bob Wasson

Bald Eagle Ski Show on West Battle Lake



Downtown Buildings Early days to today



Crowds at water-ski show





# Henning Landmark Center

STORY & PHOTOS BY DAN BROTEN

Our 1914 beautifully restored living room, used for receptions or meetings



**Welcome to the** Henning Landmark Center located in the heart of downtown Henning, MN.

This original house was built in 1914 for Dr. A.J. Lewis, and served as the doctors' residence and clinic. In 1948 an additional clinic was added, which was also served by Dr. Charles Lewis, Dr. Jay Kevern, and Dr. Jon Wigert. This facility continued to serve the community until the 1970s when a new medical clinic was built.

In 2006, with generous funding from the Espeland Family Foundation, this home, clinic, and neighboring gas station was purchased from Dr. Wigert and family, making it available to be used by members of our surrounding communities.

In 2009, Henning Landmark Center opened as a non-profit center for the Arts, serving as a meeting place, event center, local history museum, reading room, lending library, art gallery, and retreat center.

Annual activities include a pie & ice cream social, a corn & brat feed, Santa Day, used book sales, summer art camps for kids, and reading programs, to name a few. Along with these annual events are many artistic workshops throughout the

year, offering training in oil and watercolor painting, ceramics, woodworking, blacksmithing, writing, photography, quilting, calligraphy, textile arts, and more. We have plans to convert

our garage space into a workshop for some of these larger activities, including a 3-day blacksmithing demo scheduled for late September.

Our *Beverage and a Book* reading group meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday to discuss and share thoughts. *Creative Company* offers a chance for people of all ages to get together and share in projects or crafts.

Our Gallery space is located in the former clinic and has a changing display of works by local and visiting artists, featuring a variety of mediums. This space is also used for group meetings and lectures.

The home is beautifully original and restored, Arts & Crafts style architecture, and houses our reading room library, sun porch, full kitchen, and beautiful living room. It is often used for luncheons or dinner parties, receptions, meetings, or just a place to sit and relax.



Wood figure carving workshop with Wayne Hankel



Charles Beck exhibit of wood cut prints

We host Artist Residencies, offering exposure to new artists, art forms, and techniques, and have given the local students and community the opportunity to expand their experiences.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> floor now has five furnished bedrooms, with one shared bath, and bed space for a maximum of 10. At this time, access is by stairway only.

While we are not a Hotel or B & B, we make our rooms available for small group retreats, multi-day workshops, family gatherings, reunions, or other Community events.

We welcome your participation in the many activities and opportunities offered, and invite you to tour the facility, check out current exhibits, attend a workshop, and hopefully become a member or volunteer.



*Watercolor painting workshop by Arlene Sherman, one of many art workshops offered at the Landmark*



*Paint & Sip workshop, for a fun taste of creativity*

## Henning Landmark Center

415 Douglas Avenue  
(near Hwy. 210 & Hwy. 108)  
Henning, Minnesota

### *Regular hours:*

Tuesday & Thursday, 1-4pm  
Saturdays from 10-2pm

### *By appointment:*

Any day of the week for events

~ Please call Dan Broten for details ~

**218-548-5760**

*Visit us on Facebook or  
on our website for additional  
facility & scheduling information*

**[www.HenningLandmark.org](http://www.HenningLandmark.org)**



*Two of the beautifully furnished bedrooms*



*Our Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social  
in garden area with live music and great food*



Dan Broten is a freelance photographer and current director of the Henning Landmark Center. Growing up in the Chicago area, Dan spent many childhood summers visiting relatives in Henning, and developing a love for this community and the Minnesota lifestyle.





# THE WRITE STUFF

STORY & PHOTOS BY KAREN TOLKKINEN

**There's a room** overlooking the Otter Tail River where gunshots explode, bodies vanish and families betray each other. Yet no police officers ever respond, and no neighbors ever complain. The violence exists only in words, as members of the Fergus Falls Writers Group take turns reading their latest work aloud. Then come the critiques.

Should "kabang" be written "Ka-BANG?" Shouldn't "wo, wo, wo," be written "whoa, whoa, whoa"? And honestly, would a sniper really be able to see a person's head explode through the scope? Wouldn't the recoil prevent that?

Writers receive what they're looking for – honest feedback, both good and bad. At a recent session, group moderator Lois Reff urged John Miersch to "ramp up the tension" in the latest chap-

ter of his Vietnam War novel. Then she dished out the praise: "It's really coming along well. Just keep going. This is a great rough draft."

The Fergus Falls Writers Group is becoming almost venerable. Begun in the early 1990s, it still meets in the same place, on the same days and at the same time. It even follows the same format: readings followed by critiques. Only the faces change, as writers move or suffer health issues or take issue with the critiques. Generally, though, the writers forge strong friendships and often go to lunch afterward.

Several years ago, Tom Hiatt began driving an hour from Morris to attend the Fergus Falls meetings.

"There's a consistency I like," he said. "I like the people. I like going out to socialize afterward.

I like the drive here. I like the city of Fergus Falls – it's very pretty."

Plus, joining the group pushes him to write his novel. "Otherwise I get too self critical," he said. "I put it aside and don't work."

Authors bring in a variety of work, including memoir, children's literature, poetry, essays, newspaper columns, short stories and novel chapters. Many of the writers have been published in magazines, newspapers and short-story collections. Some have published novels and memoirs. Others have never published.

Writers of all ages and abilities are welcome, Reff said, though she acknowledges that joining a writing group can take a huge act of courage. Years ago, her own desire to write felt so audacious that it took her a long time to even say the words, "I am a writer."

In fact, one day while shopping, she saw Stephen King's book *On Writing* for sale. She placed it upside down in her cart so no one would see it and assume she thought she was a writer.



*John Miersch  
silently reads  
a manuscript,  
jotting editing  
suggestions*

"We have to be so sensitive about that leap people have to make from wanting to be a writer to being a writer," she said. "You really have to expose yourself to write."

Virginia Zachmann, one of the group's founders, said members have been urged since the beginning to focus their critiques on the quality of writing with an eye toward getting it published.

"There would be no attacks if someone disagreed with the reader's point of view," Zachmann said. "The idea was to make the piece more salable."

She said she thinks the Fergus Falls Writers Group works because the details were ironed out ahead of time. She and the other founder, Melva Johnson, sought tips from one of the founders of a successful writers' group in White Bear, Minn. "She said you need to meet at the same place every time, and at the same time," Zachmann recalled. "You also need to have your format decided on before you start so people know what it is. If that format isn't what the person wants, then it's the wrong group for them."

Miersch said bringing his novel to the group forces him to keep writing. He doesn't care so much if it gets published, he said, but he does want to finish it.

"They ripped it apart, but that's OK," he said. "I think I have thick enough skin that it didn't bother me too much."

A thick skin does come in handy, agreed Vernal Lind of Battle Lake, who has published six books and numerous articles. Writers bare their souls, and criticism can feel personal, and he wonders if some writers haven't returned because of it. Still, he urged writers to bare their souls anyway.

"People may be ready to cry for you," he said.



*Lois Reff comments on a manuscript, focusing on consistency of details. On the right is Sandy Barnhouse.*



*The critique sessions draw writers eager for feedback on their work.*

Fergus Falls Writers Group  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
The River Inn, 133 S. Mill Street,  
in the offices of the Lake Region Arts Council



Karen Tolkinen learned about the Fergus Falls Writers Group from a flyer at Bigfoot Gas & Grocery in 2010 & has attended off and on since then. She has a journalism degree & was a newspaper reporter and publisher of a women's magazine. She's now a freelance writer.



# Elle at the Helm

STORY & PHOTOS BY MAGGIE VERTIN

## Chase Crew may

just be Battle Lake's newest and best PR tool. Nothing earmarks this town with a beachy, sporty, fun-loving resort tone more than Chase Crew water toys spilling out and over main street.

It's hard to resist the lure – it's in the air just like it is in the breath of young owner Elle Chase. The setting, sporty style and sass are hard to escape if a day at the lake is in the offing. Add to that the spunk of the sales staff, competitive pricing, and equipment for rent or purchase for any water or beach activity under the sun.

Elle is part of the Chase family crew of six from Ethel Beach. Growing up in a family where all members contributed to the family business was a great environment for Elle and her siblings to flourish at their own endeavors and develop personal entrepreneurial skills.

Elle established her business at the tender age of 15. She wanted to obtain a SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard), but was hesitant to ask her father for one. She knew he

would want to outfit the whole family, not just one, but also knowing the cost was too much of an investment to ask for. So, with the anticipation that she could be driving soon she asked her Dad to purchase six boards, which she would rent out when the family was not using them. She would be responsible for everything, including delivering the boards to area lakes.

What began as one truck and six SUPs has grown into a hugely successful storefront retail business with satellite outlets owned and operated by an 18 year old with a year of high school ahead of her.

The second summer, Elle's Dad bought a school bus and a truckload of SUP's, and Elle enrolled in a crash business class renting/selling out of the bus.

Elle's fearless ability to tackle uncanny risks, all-one-can-dream possibilities, and brash undertakings gives her the skills to succeed. She sees challenges as opportunities to learn, to grow, to create.

This fall Elle will finish high school through the MN State program in Fergus Falls, earning her Associate Arts degree. She then plans to take a "gap" year and explore the larger world and its possibilities before returning to business as usual at flagship Chase Crew. However, with several minutes between now and then, the business could take on a whole new focus. The ability to "adapt and go with the flow" should not be underrated, Elle muses, "I mean things have moved quickly the past couple of years. We have grown beyond my craziest expectations."

The Chase Crew includes the third generation of family-owned and operated Ethel Beach Resort on quiet Ethel Lake, located between Battle Lake and Otter Tail Lake. Elle and her siblings have always been part of a larger family endeavor and have been involved with all aspects of running a resort – and then some. "We might be hauling firewood or selling Christmas trees," Elle described, "and when we learned to drive our duties were expanded. We also love family fun, and resort living gives us plenty of



Above: Elle creates designer wrapped SUPs

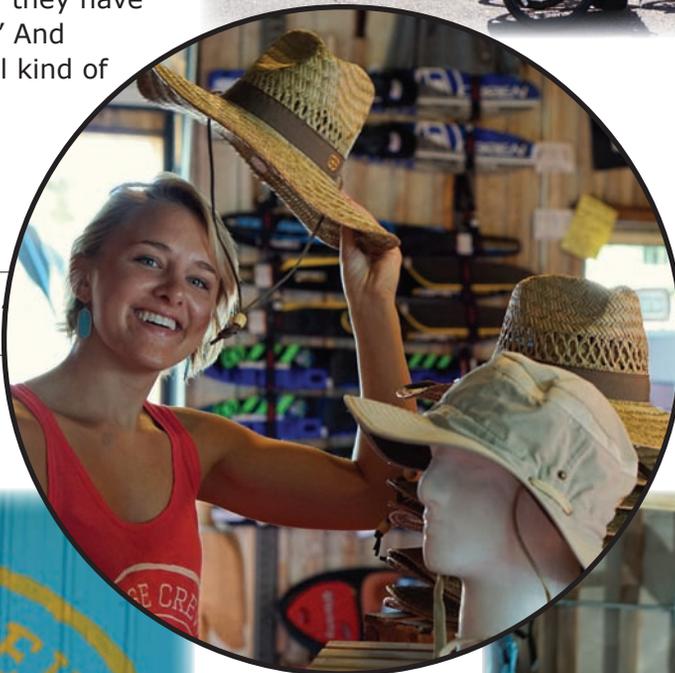
that – enough to share throughout the area! Selling/renting water activity items is such a natural for all of us and I get plenty of help from the whole crew. My Dad is the fire-works and my Mom is emotional support.”

When asked about future plans, “Elle exhales, “Give me a paper bag to breath in ... I’m still learning accounting, inventory and how to handle a screw gun.”

Elle demo-ed and painted and refurbished the old gas station building housing Chase Crew with finds from Canterbury Park’s Junk Bonanza. “I came across the most interesting items – a rusted out shell of a VW Bug and a zebra hide – with no idea what to do with them. But now they have given the shop such character.” And painting the entire building teal kind of makes a statement.



Family fun for everyone



Under the sun clothing .. shirts, hats, sweats



Elle stocks sports & picnic gear and water toys for sale or rent





# Fall Events

## SEPTEMBER

- Tuesdays: Pelican Rapids Farmer's Market*  
*Tuesdays: \$5 Movies - All Movies, All Day - CEC Theatre, Fergus Falls*  
*Wednesdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 9-1*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: Victor Lundeen/KBRF-AM Online Book Club, 9:35am*  
*Saturdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 2-5:30*
- 3: Gathering of the Airplanes 10-2 - BL Airport  
3: JUNK LOVE Craft Show - West OTC Fairgrounds  
4: Lions Pancake Breakfast - BL Lions Park Shelter  
8-10: Ottertail Lions Polka Daze  
9-10: Threshing Show Dalton  
10: Dreams for Kids Motorcycle Run - Perham  
10: Hospice Motorcycle Ride - Fergus Falls  
12: Pelican Fly-in/Drive-in - Pelican Rapids Airport  
15: Chili Cook Off - Wadena  
16-18: Fall in Love with Ottertail  
17: Viking Challenge 5k and Viking Crusade 10k, 21756 County Road 22, Fergus Falls  
22: Annual Flapjack Feed - Fergus Falls YMCA  
23: Motorized Trail Ride - Glendalough State Park  
24: Author Richard Paul Evans - Kennedy School Auditorium, Fergus Falls 2-4  
24: Battle Lake Pumpkin Fest  
24: Central Lakes Cycle Duathlon  
24: Colors & Textures of Autumn - Art of the Lakes, Battle Lake  
24: Harvest Fest - Pelican Rapids  
24: National Public Lands Day - Prairie Wetlands  
29: Pelican Rapids Rotary Golf Scramble

## OCTOBER

- Tuesdays: Pelican Rapids Farmer's Market*  
*Tuesdays: \$5 Movies - All Movies, All Day - CEC Theatre, Fergus Falls*  
*Wednesdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 9-1*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: Victor Lundeen/KBRF-AM Online Book Club, 9:35 a.m.*  
*Saturdays: I-94 BMX Bike Races, 11:30 am*  
*FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 2-5:30*
- 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hairyman 5k - Vergas  
1: Fall Art, Craft & Home Show - FF Westridge Mall  
1: Galactic Cowboy Orchestra - New York Mills  
4-6: Holiday Open House - The Shops of Ottertail  
5-9: Oktoberfest - Pelican Rapids  
6: Skippyjon Jones Snow What - A Center for the Arts, Fergus Falls  
7-8: Wicked Fun Weekend in Ottertail  
7-11: Pelican Rapids Oktoberfest  
9-15: National Wildlife Refuge Week - Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls  
15: Ottertail Pumpkin Festival Fundraiser  
21: Haunted Museum Stories - OTC Historical Society  
21: Turkey Bingo Fundraiser for Perham EMS/Fire Department - Cactus Event Center 7-10pm  
21, 22, 28, 29: Henning Haunted House  
28: According to Coyote - New York Mills  
28: Mall-O-Ween - FF Westridge Mall  
29: Community Halloween Party - New York Mills  
29: Halloween Costume Contest - Otter Supper Club

### Puzzle Time Answers:

- 1) Feather in Columbus' hat
- 2) Captain's room window panes
- 3) Dark outline on rudder
- 4) Cross on foremast's small flag
- 5) Buttons on Columbus' coat

- 6) Additional palm tree on island
- 7) Bell on quarterdeck
- 8) Additional row of rigging
- 9) Person in crow's nest
- 10) Extra rays on sun

### TRIVIA: San Salvador

## Family – Friends & Fun

Zoom over and enjoy **ALL** of the fantastic fall events  
in East & West Otter Tail County!

So many area events, so little space!  
Please check local newspapers for more events.



### NOVEMBER

Tuesdays: \$5 Movies - All Movies, All Day -  
CEC Theatre, Fergus Falls  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: Victor Lundeen/KBRF-AM Online  
Book Club, 9:35am

- 4: The HillBenders "Tommy, A Bluegrass Opry"  
A Center for the Arts, Fergus Falls
- 5: 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus Bazaar - Perham Comm. Center
- 12-13: Holiday Art, Craft & Home Show - FF WR Mall
- 12: Turkey Trot - Kennedy High School,  
Fergus Falls
- 18: Ney York Mills Elementary Carnival
- 19: Redneck Holidazzel - Vergas
- 24: Perham Turkey Trot
- 25: Holiday Parade of Lights - Perham
- 25: Old-Fashioned Lighted Horse Parade -  
Pelican Rapids
- 26: Christmas Festival - Wadena/Deer Creek  
Elementary School 9-5
- 26: Home for the Holidays - Battle Lake
- 26-30: Christmas Tree Festival, New York Mills

### DECEMBER

Tuesdays: \$5 Movies - All Movies, All Day -  
CEC Theatre, Fergus Falls  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: Victor Lundeen/KBRF-AM Online  
Book Club, 9:35am

- 1-11: Christmas Tree Festival, New York Mills
- 3: Holiday Craft Fair - Battle Lake
- 3: Annual Service of Remembrance - Olson Funeral  
Home, Fergus Falls
- 3: Community Christmas Party - New York Mills
- 3: Otterdazzle - Ottertail
- 3: Prairie Christmas Craft Sale, Parkers Prairie
- 9: Dueling Pianos - Bigwood Event Center,  
Fergus Falls
- 9: The Edge Dance Show - FF Westridge Mall
- 9-11: A Night of Tradition - A Center for the Arts,  
Fergus Falls
- 10: Christmas Art, Craft & Home Show - FF WR Mall
- 10: Rudolph's Closet - Dent United Methodist Church
- 10: Santa Day - Dent Community Center
- 10: Santa Day - Landmark Center, Henning
- 11-24: White Christmas - Perham
- 16: Wendy & Linda: JOY! - A Center for the Arts,  
Fergus Falls
- 21: Longest Night Music Fest - New York Mills

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