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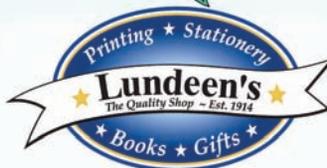
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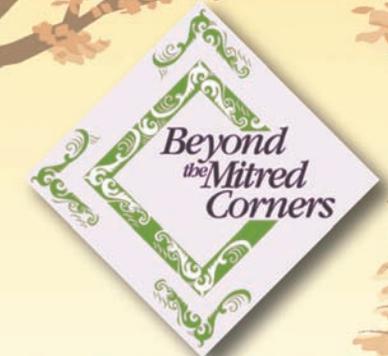
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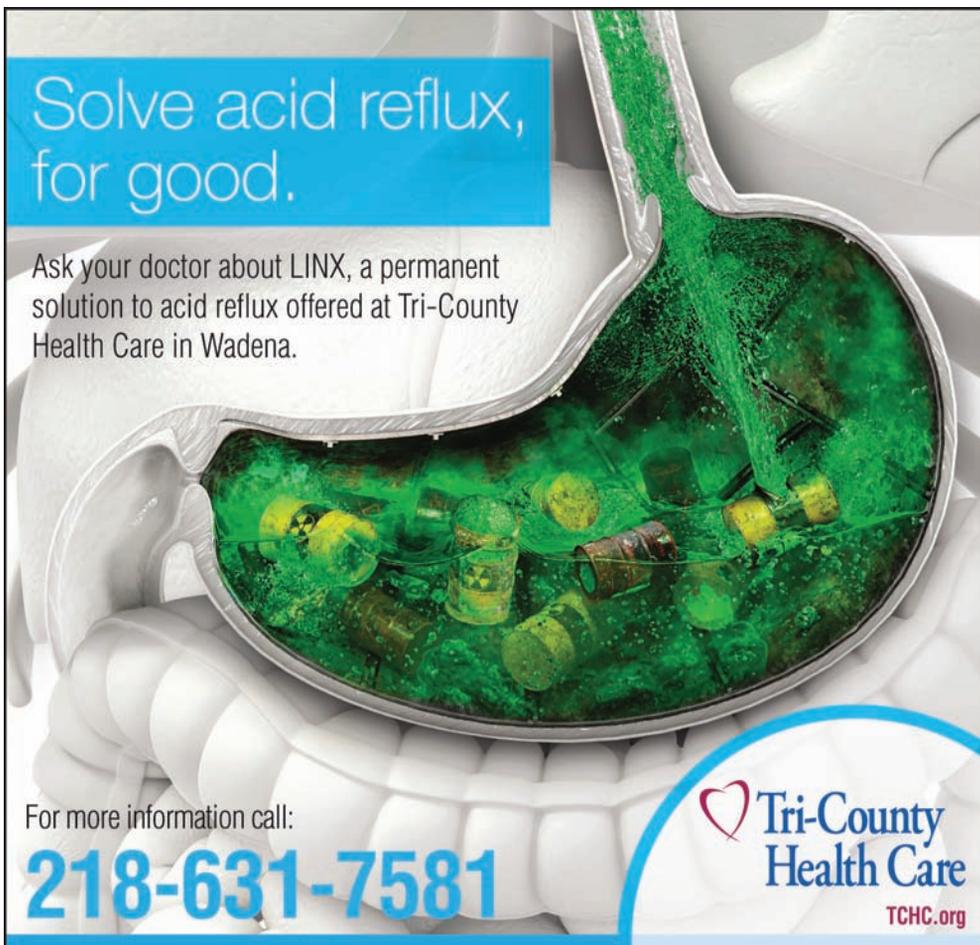
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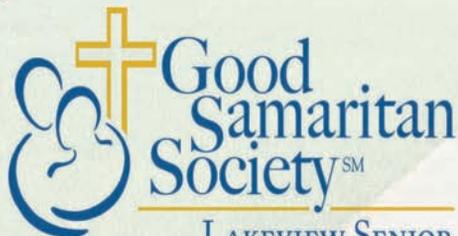
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Di Peterson: Smiles & Bows
 STORY BY REBA GILLIAND
 PHOTOS BY REBA GILLIAND & DI PETERSON
Di says goodbye to the readers of OTC Magazine, retiring after four years as editor.



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**OTC
 FAMILY—FRIENDS & FUN
 In Otter Tail County**

Fall 2017
 Volume 4—Issue 3

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OTC'S STATEMENT:

Honoring men, women, families, friends, events and more. Featured through East and West Otter Tail County three 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

I hope everyone had a great summer enjoying the lakes, family, friends and fun. Soon, we will be enjoying the crisp mornings and colors of fall while we walk, bike or tour this great place where we live

and play. We have so much to see and do here in Otter Tail County, it is no wonder we never get bored with life here in the rural outstate of Minnesota!

Our Fall issue of *OTC Magazine* is out and it is with great sadness that I tell you this will be my last issue as editor. I have decided to retire and concentrate on what is most important to me – my family and friends. I have had great fun working with all the talented writers, photographers, designers and other people to produce this magazine. It has been especially gratifying to see my idea for a magazine get started and become so popular over the past four years. I will always consider it to be my favorite and proudly watch it grow into the future.

I leave the editing in good hands with Ed Pawlenty, the publisher, and thank him for believing in me and my ideas over the years. I am sure he will continue the legacy of interesting stories about so many interesting people in Otter Tail County!

Most of all, be sure to enjoy your Family, Friends, and Fun – and with that, I say "Bye From Di!"

— Di Peterson, OTC Editor 2014 - 2017



Di will spend more time with grandkids & friends



Our Otter Tales

Over my years, I have had the good fortune to meet many people with great attitudes and personalities, but then I met Di

Peterson. She redefined what an energetic personality means and what the power of a positive attitude can do. If you have met her, you know what I am talking about...if you haven't, you are really missing out.

The first time I met Di, she wasted no time in pitching me her idea about starting a magazine. Me, being new to town and new to figuring out how to run a newspaper, tried to say no but instead merely bought some time to get acclimated to my new business venture. After a few more visits from Di, we decided to start *OTC Magazine*. I had no experience with a magazine, but thought it would be a great learning experience – and I really had no chance at saying no. It has been a great four years, and I will miss her being the editor.

I hope you all have enjoyed reading *OTC Magazine*. It is like a favorite family recipe of Di's that she carefully prepares and wants everyone to enjoy...and that is what makes her special. It is never about her, it is only about making sure her readers enjoy the magazine. Her personality shines through with each issue to be sure you, the reader, are happy...nothing else matters to her.

I can only hope to keep her "recipe" going as we move on without our "baker". We will miss her dearly and hope to do her proud in the years to come. Thank you, Di, for all your hard work, vision and energy!

— Ed Pawlenty, OTC Publisher

Summer 2017 Article Idea Winner

Jane Dixon, Henning, won the \$25 Gift Certificate from Stella's. Look for her "Puzzle Time" on page 14.

Look on page 14 for:

"Win to Dine"

Summer 2017 \$25 Gift Card Winners

Fall 2017 Article Idea Contest info

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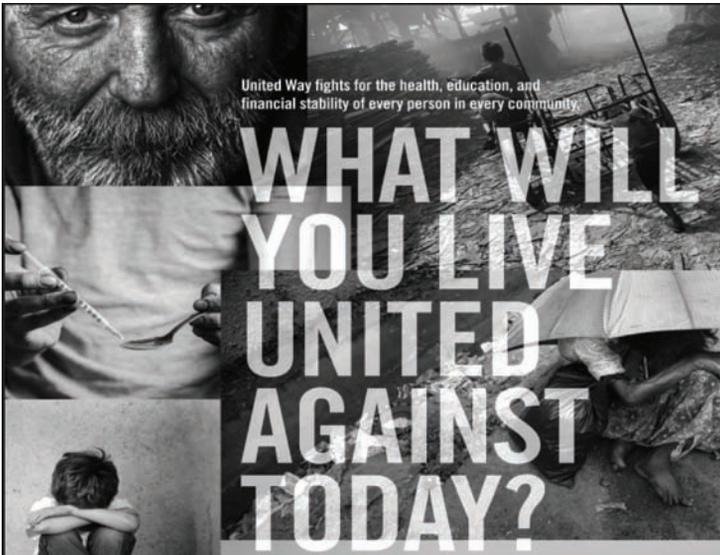
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Diane Peterson: Smiles & Bows

STORY BY REBA GILLIAND

PHOTOS BY REBA GILLIAND & DI PETERSON

OTC Family-Friends, & *Fun* magazine premiered summer 2014. The magazine was Diane Peterson’s idea, but getting it published was anything but easy. The story of how the magazine came to be is just one more example of Diane’s determination to accomplish what she sets out to do.

Her passion for magazines—more specifically, for editing and writing articles in magazines—began early. In 1967 as a junior in high school, she was editor of *Clarion*, Iowa’s, first school magazine, *Sketch*. In addition to editing it, she wrote an imaginative tale for the issue from the point of view of a football!

Diane’s next foray into magazine writing was in the Brainerd area where she lived for 32 years. She wrote on occasion for a quarterly publication of *The Brainerd Dispatch: Her Voice*, a magazine “by women, for women ... about women.”

Even after leaving the Brainerd area, she sometimes wrote for the magazine. In the Summer 2012 issue she wrote, “Bloom Your Beauty,” where she shared health and beauty tips with women of every age. She begins the article in typical Diane fashion: “OK. Before you start, please step in front of a mirror and smile at



Diane in high school

VOLUME I NUMBER 1
 CLARION HIGH SCHOOL
 AND
 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
 CLARION, IOWA USA
 APRIL 1967

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EDITOR DIANE SHARP
 JUNIOR

PHOTOGRAPHER . RANDY HANSON
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Diane was editor of Sketch, the Clarion, Iowa, High School magazine

yourself. Think of your favorite lifetime experiences and your smile will increase. Celebrating and appreciating our lives is very important!"

Her Voice inspired Diane to begin a woman's magazine in the Fergus Falls area. Shortly after moving here, she approached the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* about publishing a magazine that would celebrate the lives of lakes-area women. The result was *In Good Company*, which premiered Fall 2009.

Led by Diane, a 12-member advisory board comprised of women from the area established a mission for the publication and set content direction. The magazine's mission was: "Women of all generations encourage, motivate and inspire us. In GOOD Company is written and produced locally and celebrates the lives of our neighbors and friends in Otter Tail, Grant and Wilkin counties."

True to the mission, Diane emceed a premier event at The Spot in Fergus Falls for every issue for four and one-half years celebrating that issue's featured women, along with their families, writers, photographers, and guests. The highlight of the evening was always the unveiling of the cover art – the woman chosen to be on the cover of that issue.

By the summer of 2013, the *Daily Journal* had decided to take another approach to content and design, and with the changes Diane decided to retire as editor. *In Good Company's* Winter 2013 issue was her last.

But Diane missed having a magazine celebrating the amazing women in the area and missed editing. She determined to get another magazine going.

The task was not so easy. She needed a publisher and someone to "bankroll" the magazine. With ties to Perham, she approached the *Perham Focus* as a potential publisher and the head of KLN to help fund the magazine until it became sustainable. She had no luck.

Undeterred, she took another tack. Diane laid out her magazine proposal to the then-new owner and publisher of the *Battle Lake Review*, Ed Pawlenty. Armed with issues of *Her Voice* and *In Good Company*, she shared her dream of a magazine celebrating not just women, but family, friends and fun.

Her overwhelming passion for this magazine persuaded him to publish the premier issue of *OTC Family-Friends & Fun* magazine in the summer of 2014, with 10,000 copies distributed throughout the county.

From then until now, Fall 2017, the team consisting of Diane as editor, Joy Minion as designer, Ed as publisher, and a faithful cadre of writers, have produced 13 issues of the magazine – nearly 100

stories celebrating family, friends, and fun in this beautiful county of Otter Tail in which we live.

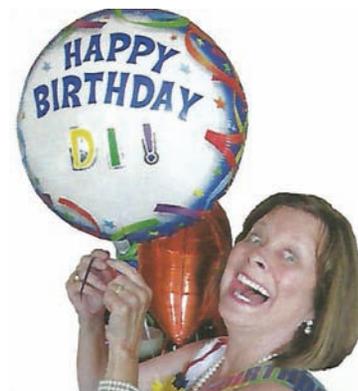
But Diane is waving, "Bye, Bye" again. The Fall 2017 issue will be Diane's last as editor of *OTC Family-Friends & Fun*. She is experiencing language difficulties – increasing difficulty in finding the right word and saying what she wants to say. She has been diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, a disorder in which portions of the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain shrink – portions of the brain generally associated with personality, behavior, and language.

For sure, the diagnosis is not a welcome one. It was just the Fall 2015 magazine when Diane was celebrating her 65th birthday and full of plans for making the magazine even better.

Still, Diane is as unsinkable as the character in the 1964 classic, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. She carries on with a smile, greeting friends, and celebrating and appreciating life ... just as she advised women in the *Her Voice* article in 2012.

It has been 50 years since Diane was a junior in high school and editing *Clarion*, Iowa's, first school magazine. Over the past 50 years, Diane has started and edited two magazines and written for many more. Her goal has been to honor women, men, and families.

The covers of Diane's magazines tell the story: for Diane, it's all about people ... not places and things, but people. She finds



Diane celebrating her 65th birthday in 2015

Several OTC Family-Friends & Fun magazine covers



a way to celebrate people in every issue and every cover.

You might think from this article that Diane's passion for magazines has been her whole life. Not even close. She's been a wife and friend to her high school sweetheart, John Peterson, making a home wherever they've lived.



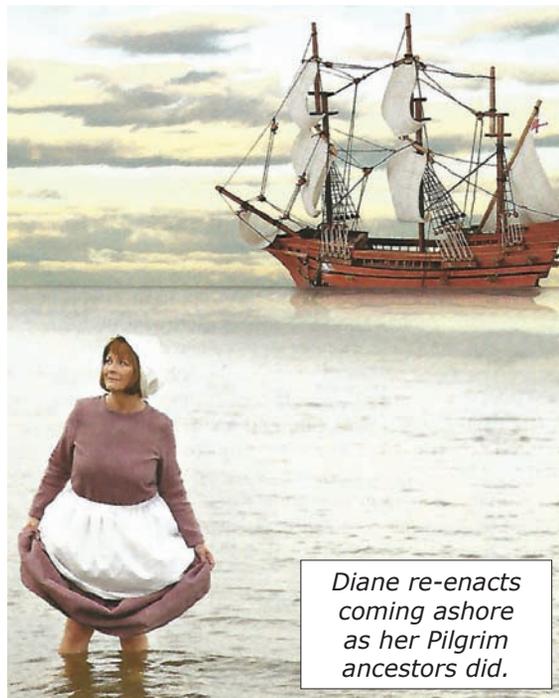
Diane and John Peterson

She's received awards and acclaim as a cheerleading coach and has been recognized in the



Diane inducted into Brainerd Warriors Hall of Fame in 2015, honoring her years of service as cheerleading coach.

Diane as cheerleader in 1966 (left) and 2015 (right)



Diane re-enacts coming ashore as her Pilgrim ancestors did.

Who's Who of High School Cheerleading Coaches, honoring the outstanding coaches of the century.

Her roots trace back to the Pilgrims who came on the Mayflower. She's a proud mother and grandmother of three beautiful and talented grandchildren. Diane's been a good friend to many over the years and continues to make friends wherever she goes. But all these are stories for another time and place.

There is a thread that links her passion for magazine editing and writing with her other passions; however, everything Diane has done she's done with her whole heart.

A party for Diane's retirement as editor of *OTC-Family-Friends & Fun* was held on Thursday morning, August 31, at the Shoreline Restaurant in Battle Lake. Her last magazine as editor came out that day.





Di with good friends Wanda Oftadahl and Barb Prody



Jane Dixon, OTC's Puzzle Time artist, and Diane in the '70s



Diane and Reba, friends and "cousins" thanks to their husbands who are 2nd cousins.

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Barb Hogg: On a Mission to Prevent Diabetes

BY LAKE REGION HEALTHCARE
PHOTOS BY KATIE JOHNSON

When Barb Hogg learned her blood sugar had taken an unhealthy jump, she knew it was time to step up.

"Until last December, I was never too serious about my A1C. But when it hit 10, that scared me," says the 57-year-old from Fergus Falls. The A1C blood test measures average blood sugar over a period of months. Barb would like to see hers drop to under 7.

The Decision to Change

Family history plays into Barb's concern about diabetes. "My grandmother was very diabetic and almost blind before she passed," she says. "Diabetes can do a lot of damage."

She has another frame of reference, too. A patient registration specialist at Lake Region Healthcare, she day in and day out sees the connection between habits and health. "I realized I needed to do something about my own lifestyle or I could end up with some really bad health problems," she says. "I decided to start with eating habits."

Seeking Help

Barb's first step? A meeting with Julie Hamre, registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator at Lake Region Healthcare. They talked about food choices, portion control, counting carbohydrates and dealing with temptation. "I knew that reducing portion sizes would be the toughest part for me,"

Barb Hogg "before" and "current" on her health improvement journey



says Barb. "Faith is my number-one priority, so that night I went home and prayed. I said I can't do this one on my own."

Help came in many forms, including:

- **A new way to shop for groceries.**
"Now I look at labels," says Barb. "The education from Julie absolutely made a difference in knowing what to put in my cart and what to put back on the shelf."
- **Knowledge to make smart substitutions.**
"I used to snack on chips – not anymore," she says. "Now if I snack, I choose yogurt or a cup of fruit gelatin that's sugar-free and low in carbs."
- **Terrific support!**
"Coworkers, friends, family, people at church – everybody has been so positive and helpful," she says. "All the encouragement has been awesome."

Building in Activity

In January, Barb welcomed another help: "Shoot for the Moon," Lake Region Healthcare's community health challenge.

"A few of my coworkers chatted with me about it and I thought, *Yeah, that would help me out and get me motivated,*" she says. "I loved how they kept checking in with me to see how I was doing." By the end of the three-month challenge, she had walked a total of 75 miles, far surpassing her goal of 25.

"Always before I was so beat after a day of work. All I wanted to do was go home and chill," says Barb. "Now I come home and still have energy to spare. I want to get outside and walk the dog. I feel great!"

Impressive Numbers

After four months of healthier living, Barb lost 38 pounds, going from a size 26 to 18. The weight loss also eased the pain in her arthritic knees, making it easier to be more active and go more places – even places with steps.

"But I think what I'm most proud of is my A1C," says Barb. "It's now down to 7.7, and I'm hoping my next one will be under 7."

In the meantime, she'll continue practicing healthy habits and pursuing her life's purpose. "I just try to spread joy," she says.

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OTC Summer Photo Contest Winner

"All Your Eggs in One Basket"

— Submitted by
Russ & Patricia Jovrud,
Henning, MN

Russ: On May 8th as I walked along our row of pine trees, a robin flew out of a nest. There were two eggs. Mother bird was very upset, so I left. On May 10th I checked on nest again and there were four eggs. Later in May the nest was empty and we saw several young robins.



Fall Article Idea Contest

**Win Stoneware
from Lance Hanfler's
Lakes Area Pottery!**



Prize #1



Prize #2

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!*

Summer 2017

"Win to Dine" \$25 Gift Card Winners

Here are the lucky winners from 390 entries:

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- City Restaurant & Club 74**, Ashby: Margie Walton, Dent
- Lakes Café**, Perham: Connie Warner, New York Mills
- Nootzi's on Main**, Dent: Monte Anderson, Perham
- RK's Prairie Café**, Parker's Prairie: Lisa Carlson, Underwood
- Social's Bar & Grill**, Fergus Falls: Eric Splichal, Dalton
- The Cactus**, Perham: Lyle Gleesing, Ottertail
- Underwood Quik-Stop**, Underwood: Clair Prody, Battle Lake
- Vining Palace**, Vining: Jeff Siira, Battle Lake
- Willy T's Tavern & Grill**, Ottertail: Ruth Illies, Battle Lake
- Ye Olde Schoolhouse**, Erhard: Stephanie O'Brien, Richville
- Z103 Bar & Grill**, Fergus Falls: David B. Pugh, Fergus Falls

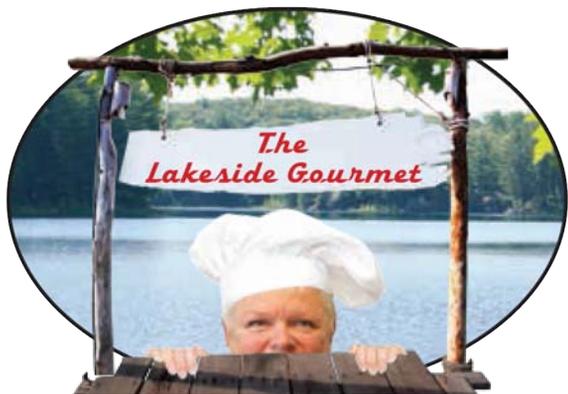
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Apples ... The Call of Fall

Fall — a crispness in the air, colors changing before our eyes, ripened apples falling from the trees in the neighborhood, lying on the ground, calling to us as we pass, anxiously awaiting some delicious preparation. Like the serpent tempter in the Garden of Eden ... which dessert will be our “downfall”? Take the rich creaminess of cheesecake, the crunchy topping of apple crisp, combine them and, for that extra touch of decadence, drizzle on a buttery caramel sauce and a pinch of salt on top — it’s worth the risk!



Caramel Apple Crisp Cheesecakes

18 regular muffin-sized cheesecakes

Crust:

- 1 1/3 cups crushed graham crackers
- 2 1/2 T granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 6 T butter, melted

Streusel topping:

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup quick oatmeal
- 1/3 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup butter, cold and diced into small cubes

Cream cheese filling:

- 2 - 8 oz pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1# apples, peeled, cored and finely chopped (1 large Granny Smith, 1 Honeycrisp)

Caramel sauce:

I used a purchased caramel sauce.

Preheat oven: 325°

Crust: In mixing bowl, whisk graham crumbs, sugar, and cinnamon. Pour in melted butter and stir with fork until evenly moistened. Divide mixture among 18 paper-lined muffin cups, about a rounded tablespoon each. Press into compact layer and bake in 325° oven for 5 minutes, remove and allow to cool.

Streusel: In mixing bowl, whisk flour, oatmeal, brown sugar, and spices. Add cold butter and stir with fork until it is in small crumbles. Refrigerate while preparing apples and filling.

Filling: Toss chopped apples with lemon juice, set aside. In bowl, with hand mixer cream together cream cheese with sugar just until smooth, don’t overbeat. Mix in eggs, one at a time, then blend in sour cream and vanilla.

Assembly: Divide cheesecake batter evenly among 18 muffin cups, pouring filling over crusts (about 1/4 cup each, fill about 3/4 full). Divide apples evenly over filling, then sprinkle heaping tablespoon of streusel over tops. Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes. Cool at room temperature 30 minutes, then refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Drizzle with caramel sauce and a light sprinkle of kosher salt.



It is always fun to find a recipe that combines great taste, ease of preparation, and a big WOW factor! These single-serving cheesecakes fill the bill. Enjoy trying them with all the great varieties of apples discovered right here in MN. Sandra Thimgan lives on Silver Lake with her husband, Dan.



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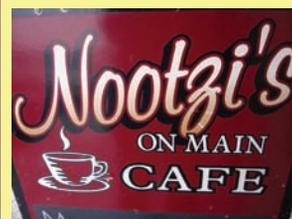
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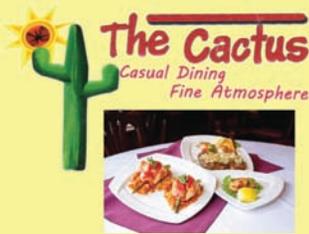


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TOURING OTTER TAIL COUNTY



Early day tourists with a day's catch of fish

STORY & PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Otter Tail County is without a doubt a very “pretty” place to visit. I’d call it a “garden spot”. The first settlers thought they’d found the “Garden of Eden”. All of their necessities were laid out right in front of them, ready for their use. Fertile soil – much of it prairie – that did not need clearing and was ready to till. Plenty of trees for building and firewood, very abundant fish and game of all kinds, and water – the “staff of life” – were everywhere. This was truly the land of opportunity.

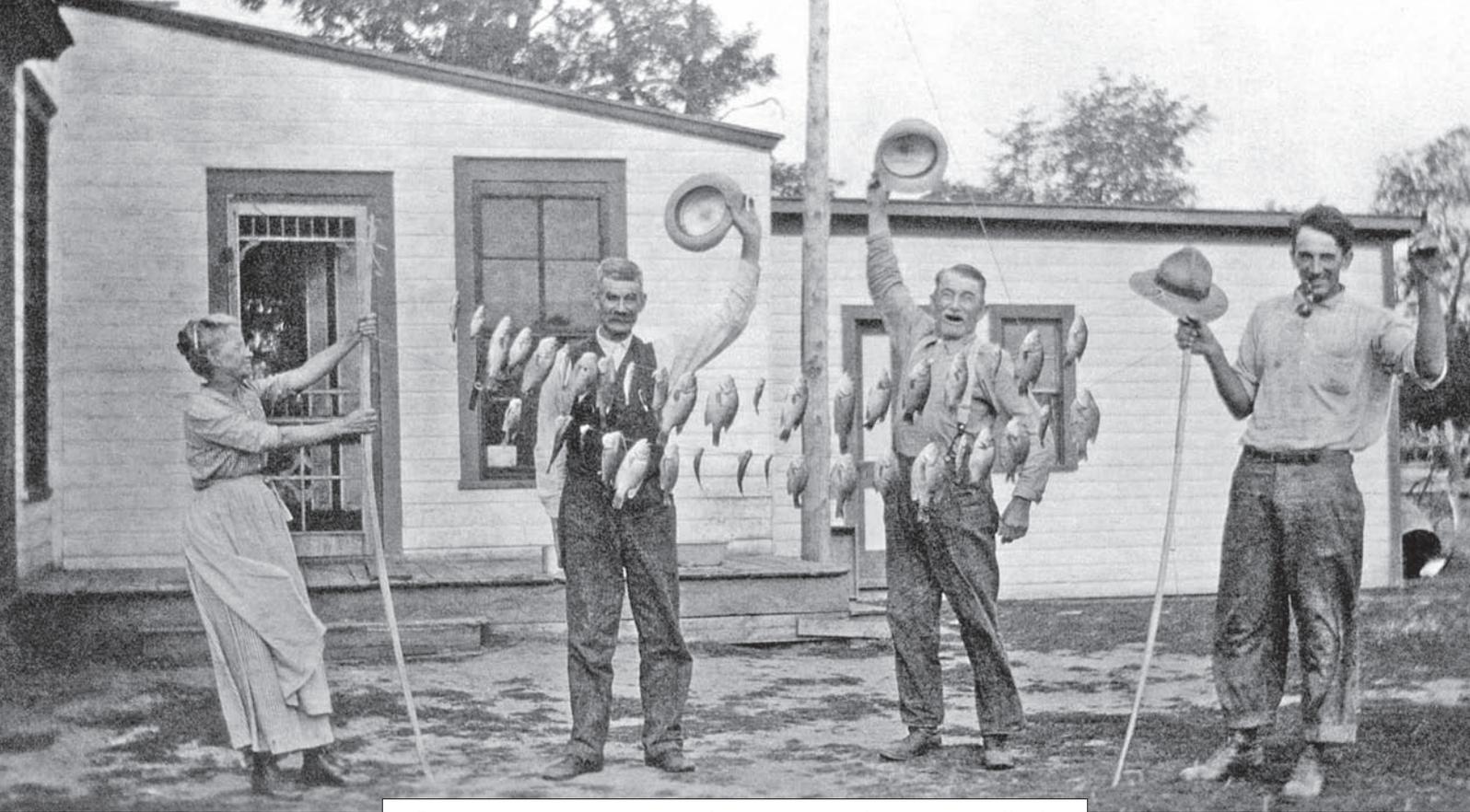
In a Prospect House Museum archives letter, a friend of “Cap” Colehour writes about the buffalo disappearing in 1858 and enjoying the view from Inspiration Peak in 1870. He was traveling from Chicago to Winnepeg! I can’t imagine how difficult that must have been. No roads, no cars, very few railroads – the rivers were main roads of travel.

They didn’t have resorts with cabins for the tourists back then – they had nothing but a tent. When the railroad came to Battle Lake in the fall of 1882, tourism became feasible. “Cap” Colehour built the first “tourist hotel” in this area in the summer of 1886. That was the start of a “boom” in tourism, with hotels opening all over the area. For the next 40 years – until travel by car became practical – this was the “Gold Rush” days for tourism business in Otter Tail County.

This county is a natural for tourism: beautiful scenery, more lakes than any other county in the United States, the second highest point in Minnesota (Inspiration Peak), abundant wildlife, and fish – lots and lots of fish of all kinds. Three tourists at the Prospect House in 1889 caught **205 fish in 4 hours** on Clitherall Lake, weighing a total of **469 pounds!**

The fishing here has always been exceptional, but I think the main reason tourists came here was to escape the heat and cool off in the clean, clear lakes in Otter Tail County. There was no air conditioning (or refrigeration) back then. Many tourists at the Prospect House came long distances and stayed all summer. Some of the very first tourists came from Burlington, Iowa, and “created” the first summer home in the area by dragging a house across Otter Tail Lake on the ice and moving it to Battle Lake in 1880. There were only two ways to keep cool back then – you could go to the lakes, or you could buy a cave!

With the arrival of good roads and reliable cars, tourists started to visit all of the other areas in the county that weren’t accessible by train, and tourism changed again. There were many fewer resorts now. Many, many visitors over the years have built summer homes or permanent homes in the county.

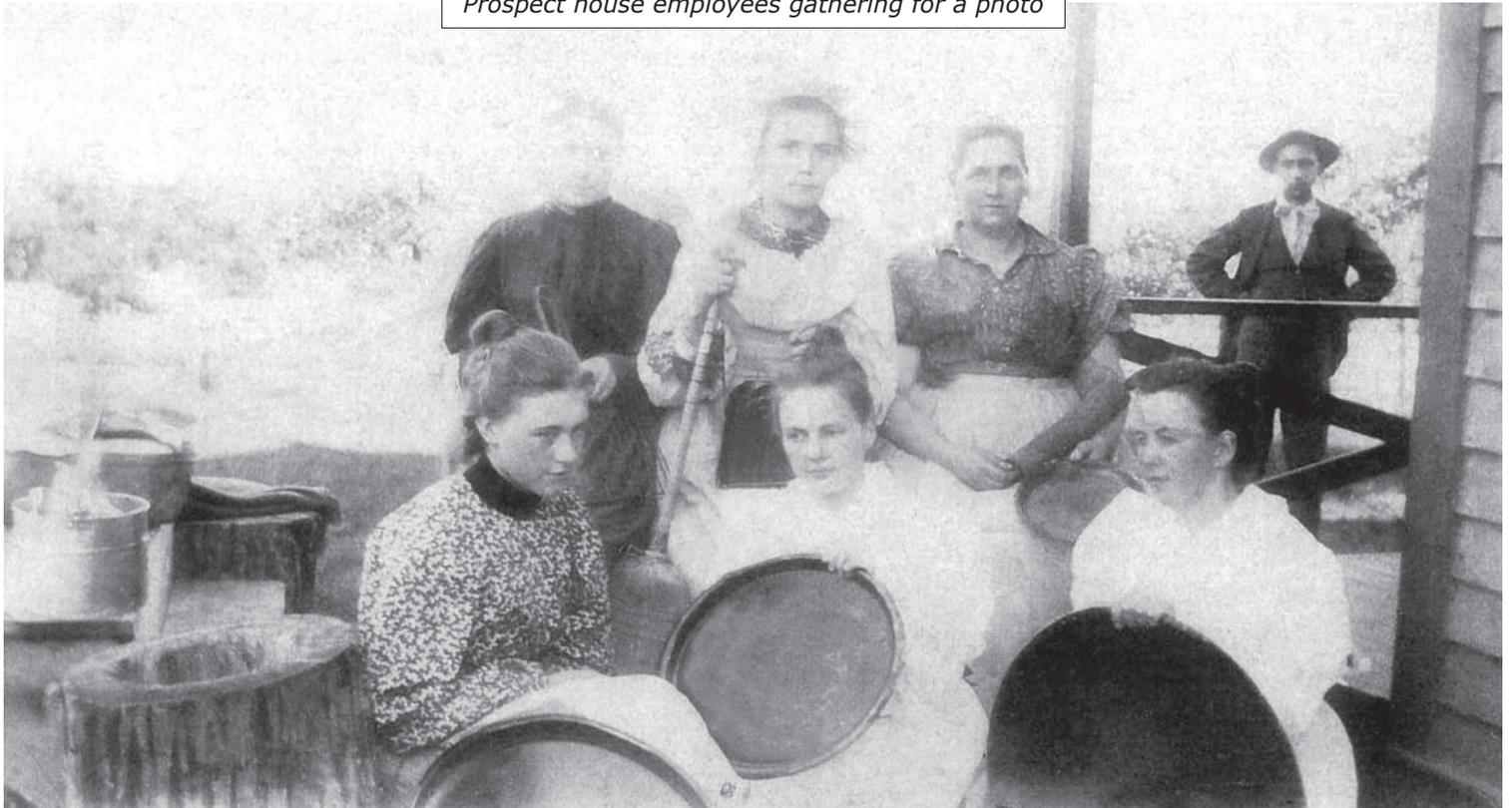


Prospect house guests excited about their good luck fishing

The tourists still come. Otter Tail county is still on the most beautiful places to visit (or live) in the United States.

We must remember to appreciate our good fortune – to enjoy this exceptional landscape.

Prospect house employees gathering for a photo



Camp Corliss



Eben E. Corliss, pioneer citizen and developer of Camp Corliss. He sold the camp in 1911, when he was appointed custodian of the State Capitol building in St. Paul. He was admitted to the bar in 1870 and served as Otter Tail County Attorney for 10 years between 1870 and 1884. He served a term in the State Legislature in 1872, and was a member of the State Capitol Commission. He also had held the offices of Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Register of Deeds and Superintendent of Schools of Otter Tail County.

Courtesy of Tom Everts

Camp Corliss (Bonnie Beach) is the pioneer resort in the Battle Lake vicinity. In July of 1886, Eben E. Corliss built a summer cottage on the west shore of Clitherall Lake. By June of 1893, "Camp Corliss" was well established, and in June of 1902, a telephone line was extended from town to the camp.



Camp Corliss dining room about 1920. Their famous Sunday chicken dinners began in 1910.

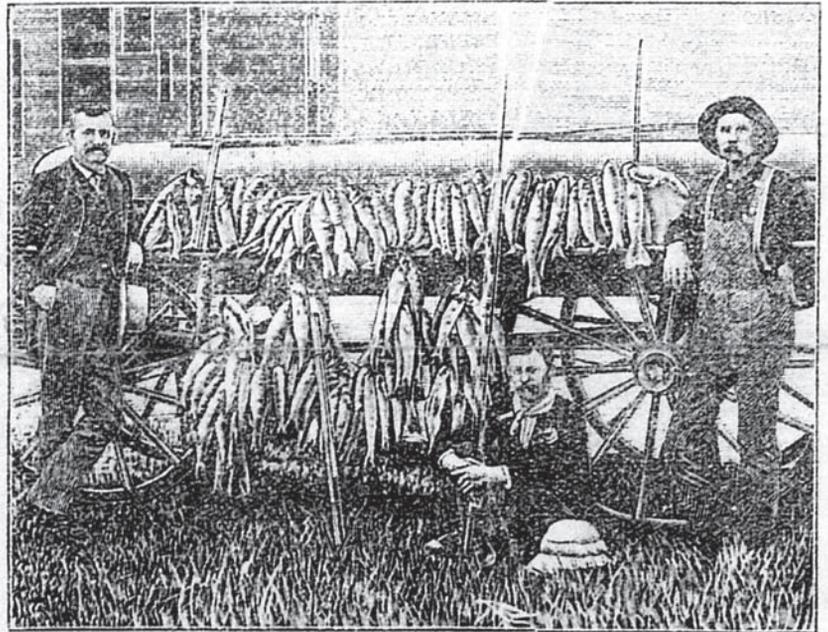
Courtesy of Sonja Peterson



Early photo of Camp Corliss, the pioneer resort.

Courtesy of Tom Everts

Caught with PROSPECT HOUSE BAIT.



T. B. TREZEVANT.

GEO. W. POWELL.

CAPT. JOHN CORSER.

GEO. W. POWELL, of St. Louis, Mo. and T. P. TREZEVANT, of Memphis, Tenn., were in this village last summer, and on Thursday, June 12th, in company with CAPT. JOHN CORSER, oarsman, they drove out to Clitherall lake, two miles south-east of here, intent on having a few hours sport with rod and reel. They arrived at the lake at 10 o'clock and were soon ready for business. The fish, blue gill and pike, were on the war-path that day, and the gentlemen were kept busy from the start, and at 2 o'clock they rowed ashore and ordered their team, having made up their minds it was time to quit. When the party arrived in the village, they stopped in front of CHESTER RETALLICK'S gallery, the fish were taken from the boat and hung along the side of the hay rack, and a photograph was then taken. There were 201 fish, weight 469 pounds, and the above is a correct copy of the photograph spoken of.—BATTLE LAKE REVIEW.

One of many File photos from the Prospect House Museum

Selection from the Battle Lake history book describing the first resort in the area



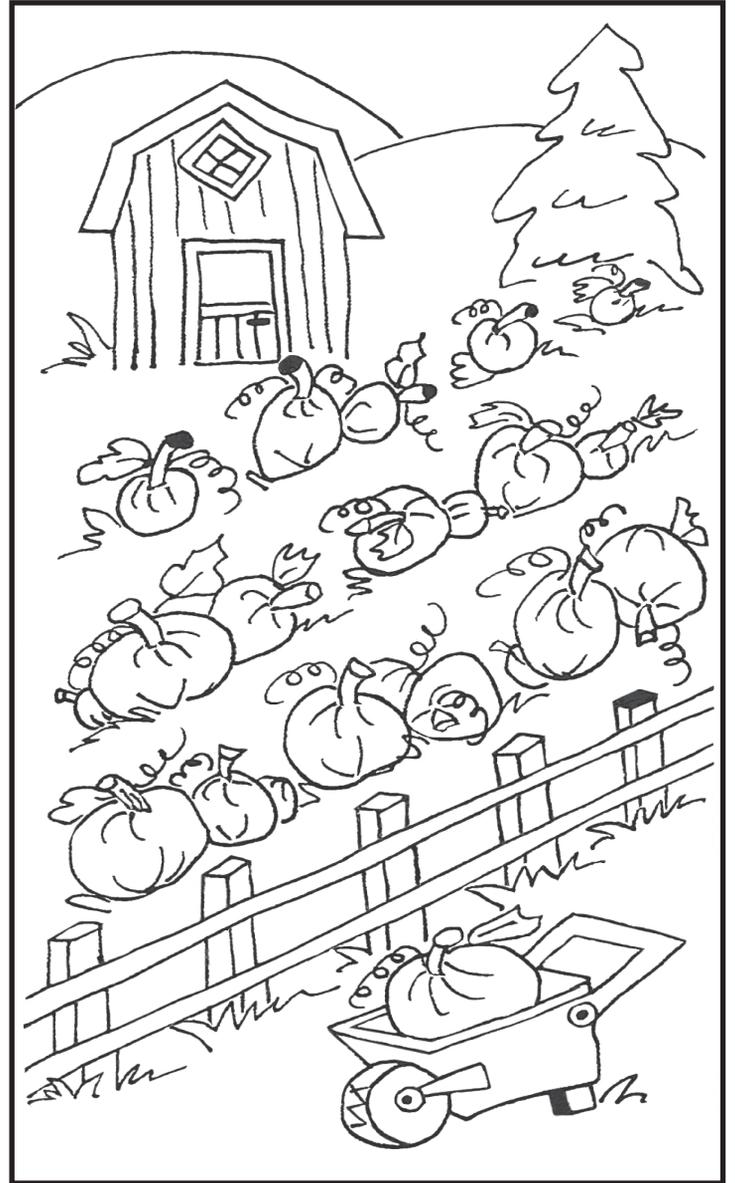
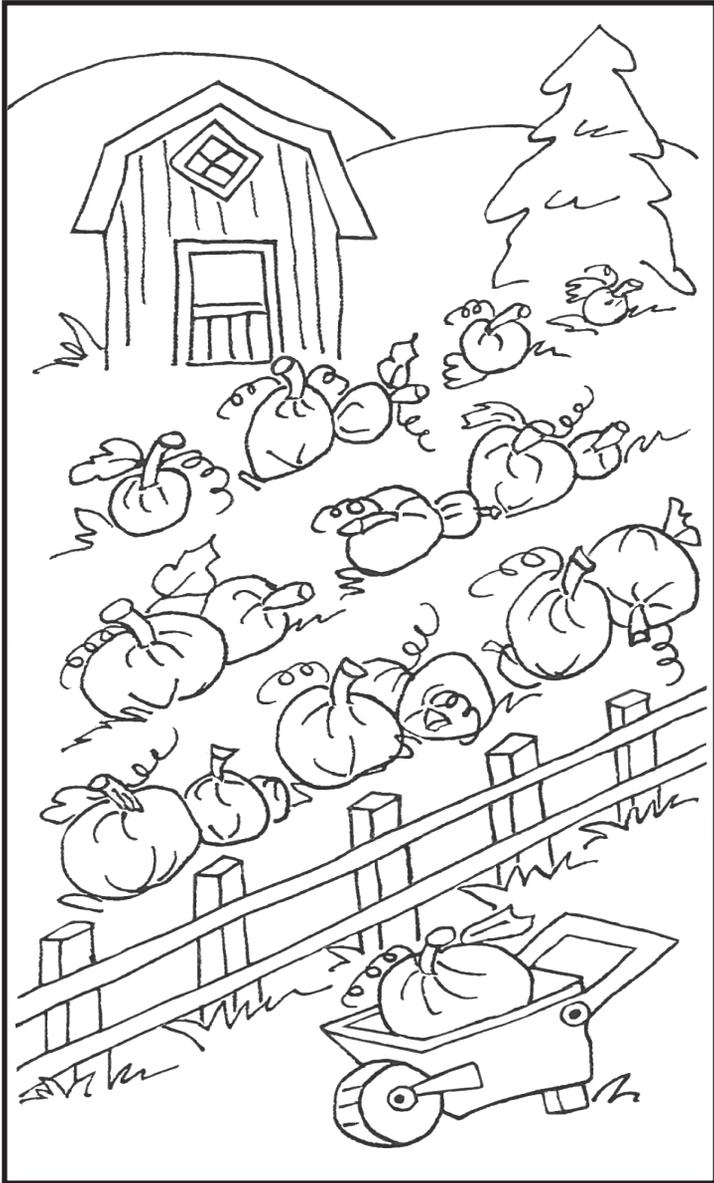
Jay Johnson is a life-long resident of Otter Tail County. He created the Prospect House Museum in Battle Lake. His many occupations include planting trees, making maple syrup, logging and fighting forest fires.



PUZZLE TIME

It's all about Otter Tail County!

Find the 10 differences in the lower picture. (Answers on page 25)



Do you recall the nursery rhyme about pumpkins?

P _____, P _____

P _____ E _____



Students design and build cars powered by CO2 cartridges

Learning in a Brave New World

STORY & PHOTOS BY JEFF DRAKE

"Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable." — William Pollard

As a two-time National Blue Ribbon School and a six-time Minnesota Reward School – the only traditional public high school in the state to achieve this distinction – you might be surprised to hear that there will be some significant changes coming to the educational experience students will receive at Battle Lake Public Schools this fall.

The rate of change in the world means we are charged with preparing students to be productive citizens performing jobs that don't yet exist using knowledge that isn't yet known. That is a daunting task. The key question was: ***What do our students need to be able to know and what do they need to be able to do to be productive, contributing citizens in the 21st century?***

Great organizations are anchored by core, fundamental beliefs. Our district selected five pillars that will continue to drive the education delivered to Battle Lake students. They are: **Character, Critical Thinking, Collaboration/Communication, Content Knowledge, and Creator/Maker/Problem Solver.**

Of these five pillars, it is important to note that character is listed first. It is intentional. For some, character might seem old-fashioned. There are certainly plenty of shiny new bells and whistles to chase after and our vision will address some of those because they are becoming increasingly necessary. In the end though, we believe that without the emphasis of character as the heart and

soul of an organization, none of the rest of the plan would really matter.

The other four pillars represent life-long skills and attributes that are transferrable. They provide our students with the ability to adapt as they interact with and influence the changing world around them. They are the cornerstones that ensure that the educational experience within our school is relevant today and will continue to be relevant in the future.

While the five pillars form the foundation of the vision, the philosophy we embrace is a liberal arts approach to education. We continue our adherence to a liberal arts philosophy because it represents the values of our local community and we feel it is the best approach in preparing students to deal with complex issues. The philosophy has nothing to do with being "liberal" or "conservative" – rather an approach that fosters a broad base of core knowledge and a systemic way of thinking.

The new educational vision fully incorporates technology knowledge and skills into our preK-12 curriculum. In order to effectively implement technology standards into the curriculum, the district needed a framework. **ISTE** (International Society of Technology in Education) was selected due to its well-established reputation for technology standards in the educational field. The learning goals contained within the *ISTE* standards were an outstanding match with our five pillars and our educational philosophy.

ISTE standards consist of seven categories that each contain four standards, resulting in a total of 28. The seven categories are:

- Empowered Learner;
- Digital Citizen;

- Knowledge Constructor;
- Innovative Designer;
- Computational Thinker;
- Creative Communicator; and
- Global Collaborator.

Embedding the 28 standards into our curricula is a significant undertaking. To do it effectively will require a three-year phased implementation schedule. Each year for the next three years, every grade level or department will embed two *ISTE* standards. At the end of three years, we will have all 28 placed in both the high school and the elementary. They will be spread out evenly, with no single grade level or department being responsible for more than six standards total.

Starting this fall, all students in grades 3-12 will be issued a Chromebook. A Chromebook is similar to a small laptop computer with internet access and a keyboard. Grades 7-12 will be able to take the Chromebooks home with them during the school year. Internet access will be directed through the district's filtering system. Grades 3-6 will be required to keep their issued Chromebooks at school. Classrooms pre-K-2nd grade will each have six Kindle Fire HD8s.

Why did the district embark on a one-to-one initiative? First, we wanted to place access to information and learning supports literally at the fingertips of our students. The Chromebook is a tool students can use to dive deeply into an area of interest or access online tutorial programs if they are struggling to understand a concept presented to them through a classroom lesson. Recognizing that not all students have exposure to the same resources, the presence of a one-to-one device helps level the playing field by providing greater access to learning opportunities for all students. A one-to-one initiative was the most cost-effective option and offered far more utility and potential impact on student learning than a traditional school computer lab housing desktop units. The Chromebooks are designed to provide five years of service. We have established a replacement rotation that is affordable for the district with the continued support of the capital projects levy.

How will student assessment change? We will still have students taking tests and quizzes. You will still see various types of homework assignments, papers and presentations. However, you will also be seeing more assignments requiring hands-on, real-world application. We want students demonstrating their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, their creativity, their ingenuity, and their ability to communicate and collaborate with others.

The 28 *ISTE* standards will primarily be demonstrated through work in three broad categories:

- Digital Media Production;
- Coding & Programming;
- Engineering & Design.

To accomplish this, we examined the role of a 21st century media center. We wanted the media center to remain an exciting, active, central learning hub built on exploration and discovery for the entire school. What changes are taking place? Cosmetically, the nearly 20-year-old carpet is being replaced and we have added a splash of bright blue paint to the walls. Tables and chairs will have casters to allow quick changes into various flexible learning configurations. There will be an addition of soft seating, promoting collaboration and communication or just a quiet, comfortable area to read, study or do research. The plan includes an area for presentations and small group discussion.

Additional features will include a digital media production lab complete with a green screen to allow students the ability to add creative touches to iMovies and other forms of digital recording.



Med school student D.J. Cline guides 2nd grade students in a hands-on study of physiology



Industrial technology students design and construct various projects in a cabinetry class

The production lab will enable our students to create news stories, school features, film shorts and other vignettes. The former desktop computer lab will become a school-wide *makerspace* lab. A *makerspace* is a place where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. We want students leaving their educational experience with the understanding that there are multiple solutions to problems – not just one.

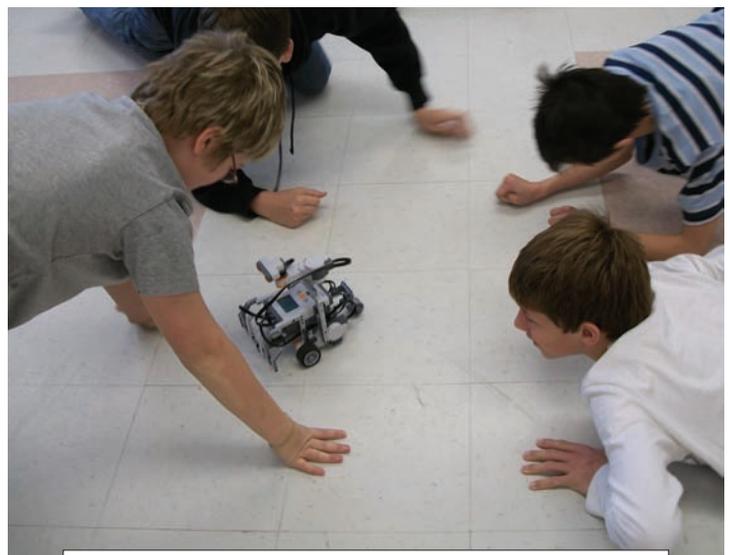
Our plan is for students to use Legos®, K'nex®, TinkerToys®, cardboard, pipe cleaners, squishy circuits, snap circuits, spheros, robotics and other hands-on objects and tools to learn about the engineering and design process. To increase the learning opportunities for our students, the school would gladly accept donations of building/design toys or financial donations. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the district office.

A teacher who served as a mentor to me while growing up relayed the following quote: "The only constant in life is change." That was nearly 40 years ago. The incredible growth in information and unprecedented access to it makes those words more apropos today than ever. The Battle Lake vision of 21st century education has been hailed by area experts as a model for other schools to emulate. It ensures that our students will graduate with the flexible set of skills needed to traverse the rapidly changing landscape of today's global workplace and maintains our reputation as one of the finest school districts in the United States.

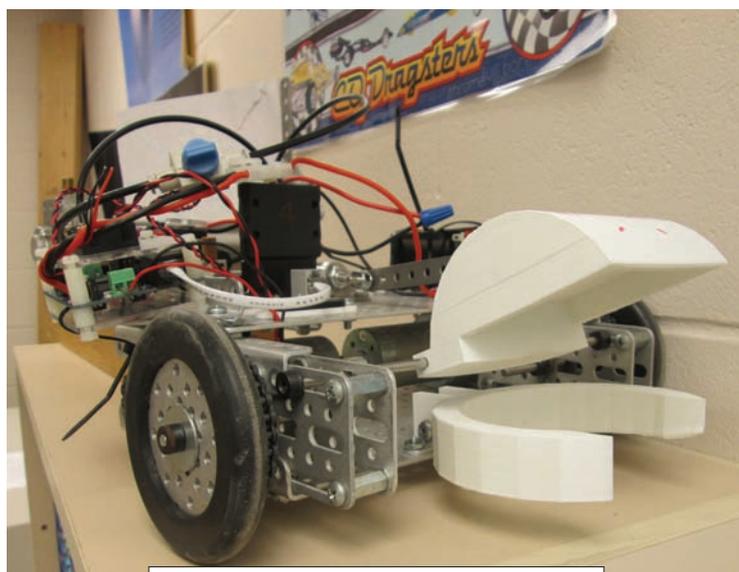
If you would like to learn more about our school, its vision and how it might fit the needs of your child, feel free to contact us. We would love to meet you!



Students construct trebuchet machines to study physics and mechanical advantage



Junior high students use Legos to build a robot



Students in a robotics class design, build and test their robot



Jeff Drake is in his 15th year as an administrator for the Battle Lake Public School District. He received a B.A. in Psychology at Gustavus and an M.A. in Educational Psychology from UMD. He resides in rural OTC with his wife, Amy, and their two children.





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Puzzle Time Answers

- 1) Vertical lines on barn
- 2) Handle on barn door
- 3) Stems shaded on last row of pumpkins
- 4) Bottom line on pine tree
- 5) Extra leaves on middle row of pumpkins
- 6) Extra pumpkin in middle row
- 7) Extra vines on front row of pumpkins
- 8) Top shaded on last fence post
- 9) Wheel has extra lines
- 10) Shading on wheelbarrow leg

Nursery Rhyme:
 Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater



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A Family Who Picks Together, Sticks Together

BY KATRINA MOUSER
PHOTOS BY ED PAWLENTY

Dorothy Richards has a special green thumb that her tomato plants benefit from every year

Driving along County Highway 74 in Maine Township, you may see a weathered painted sign reading "Vegetables 2 Miles." If you take a few minutes to follow that sign, you will be in for a treat ... not only fresh vegetables, homemade jams and jellies, and eggs for sale, but a humble family where working together is tradition and life-giving.

Dorothy Richards, who is now 91, and her late husband Paul bought a farm in 1957 with about 200 acres just north of Phelps Mill. Here they farmed and raised five children. Over the past 60 years, their family has been gardening and canning year around to supply themselves and many grateful customers with abundant vegetables. Today Dorothy still lives on the property, and next door live her daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Bill Novacek. Together they work together to garden and harvest the two farms.

Then...

It all started in the early 60s when Dorothy had her children sell sweet corn from a roadside stand at the end of their road. When they sold out, the kids would walk home – or sometimes they would hitch a ride with customers to get more corn from the garden!

Bonnie remembers as a little girl riding in their station wagon into Fergus Falls to sell their tomatoes at Service Food's original location on Union Avenue. The produce manager's name was Les and he would come out and give the girls a Saf-T-Pop lollipop. Dorothy would then use that money to buy school supplies and clothes for kids.

As the kids started graduating from high school, they moved the corn to their garage and from there the vegetable stand was born. Dorothy's husband was ingenuitive and entrepreneurial, and both of them had a love of working in the dirt, so soon their garden grew to fill several acres. People may remember Richards' Berries, when they operated a pick-your-own strawberry and raspberry farm in the 70s. At its peak they planted 30,500 strawberry plants one year!

In 1986, Bonnie and her husband moved back to the original farm to help her parents with the growing vegetable farm. Their four children were young, and were welcomed additional helpers! At their peak, the family was planting 2,000 tomato plants by hand. Yes, you read that right. 2,000 tomato plants!! Neighbors and tourists to the lake country started buying tomatoes by the bushel, not only for fresh eating, but for canning.

Paul also had a special love for chokecherries. He loved them so much that he planted an extra 100 chokecherry trees close to the house for easier picking. He did the picking, and then handed the baton to Dorothy to can it into juice. Every year he would challenge himself to beat the last year's



Bill and Bonnie Novacek, carrying on the family's gardening tradition that started 60 years ago

harvest. His best year yielded 100 quarts! Through the winter, Dorothy would make jelly out of the juice, as jelly-making is her specialty. One time she also accidentally created chokecherry pancake syrup, which has turned into a good seller.

And Now...

Today the self-service vegetable stand is still in Dorothy's garage, and is open 7 days a week from about 8 am - 9 pm. This year Bonnie and Bill started 750 tomato seedlings in their house, and after giving several away, they are guessing they have around 650 left between their two gardens! As if that's not enough entertainment, they grow zucchini, green beans, beets, kohlrabi, onions, peppers, peas, cabbage, strawberries and raspberries. They also have three large patches of sweet corn. Last year they supplied the Underwood Lions singlehandedly with sweet corn for Underwood's Harvest Festival.

Bonnie and Bill grow their tomatoes without cages or staking, and just "let them do their thing." Dorothy fusses a little more with hers, staking them in a row and making sure they are in perfect condition. In August and September, sorting

tomatoes becomes a full time job to supply all of their regular canning customers. Dorothy sits and sorts according to ripeness, and packs into boxes. For several years she even packed a box of green (just turning) tomatoes for a family from Oklahoma every year so they ripened as they drove home!

Dorothy likes to keep an eye on the out-of-state license plates that show up in her yard. Just last fall, she had a special request from the daughter of a long-time customer from Chicago to make 100 half-pints of jelly for her wedding at Phelps Mill. Dorothy was honored to do that for her.

So what is their secret to their garden success? No chemicals, just good old "black gold" and ... time. Bonnie works full time for Otter Tail County, but spends every evening in the garden. They joke that the boat in their yard hasn't moved since they bought it and brought it home! But gardening is what they do best, and what they enjoy. Bonnie's three sisters and brother also help with the gardening efforts as they can.

After spending an afternoon at the farm, I still have one question that will remain unanswered. Their famous canning tomato is an unnamed variety, a hybrid of Dorothy and Paul's favorite varieties. They will continue to plant them, along with Romas. In this world of change, Bonnie says she likes to keep things simple and predictable, which is obviously working well for them.

Outside of their vegetable stand, the Novacek's find additional time to pour into the community. Bonnie is invested at the St. James Parish in Maine, including their annual Summer Festival in July, while Bill volunteers with the Let's Go Fishing program for the elderly on area lakes. Bonnie says that their family comes together and supports causes as a whole, giving it their all.

Bonnie credits the family farm for her rich childhood and extensive memories. She remembers often telling her children as they tired from berry picking, "A family who picks together, sticks together." The Richards' vegetable stand brought their family together, and keeps it together to this day.

Bonnie has shared two of her family's favorite recipes for using those abundant tomatoes!



Recipe: SPAGHETTI SAUCE

From the kitchen of: BONNIE

- 3 C. DICED ONIONS (SAUTE)
- 4 CLOVES GARLIC
- 16 C. TOMATOES (APPROX 10 LBS)
- 4 LG CANS TOMATO PASTE
- 4 C. WATER (OPTIONAL)
- 4 BAY LEAVES
- 3/4 C. SUGAR
- 1-2 TSP PEPPER
- 2 TBL SALT
- 1-2 TBL OREGANO
- 4 TSP BASIL
- 8 BOUILLON CUBES
- 2 TBL ITALIAN

SIMMER FOR 2 HRS - TAIL - SEASONING
WATER BATH UNTIL WATER STARTS TO BOIL



Bonnie & Bill tending tomatoes

SPANISH TOMATOES

APPROX 4 QTS

Recipe:

From the kitchen of:

- 1/4 C. SALAD OIL
 - 6 ONIONS - CHOPPED (4 LARGE) = 3 CUPS
 - 6 CLOVES GARLIC CHOPPED = 2 TBL CHOPPED DRIED
 - 6 GR PEPPERS CHOPPED = 2 CUPS
 - 8 LBS TOMATOES - PEELED & CHOPPED
 - 3 6OZ CANS TOMATO PASTE (OPTIONAL)
 - 4 TSP SALT 1/2 TSP PEPPER & 2 TBL BR SUGAR
- SAUTE ONIONS GARLIC & PEPPERS IN OIL UNTIL TENDER. STIR IN TOMATOES, PASTE, SALT, PEPPER, & SUGAR.
SIMMER UNCOVERED ABOUT 20+ MINUTES. STIR OCCASIONALLY TO PREVENT STICKING - MAKES 1 DUTCH KETTLE



Scenes around the farm



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.





Fall Events

Family – Friends & Fun

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

SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays: Pelican Rapids Farmer's Market
Tuesdays & Fridays: Pelican Rapids Minnow Races
Wednesdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 2-5:30
Saturdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 9-1
Saturday mornings: BL Farmers Market
Sat/Sun: Erhard Corn Maze 9/2-10/28

2: Gathering of the Airplanes 10-2 - BL Airport
2: Underwood Harvest Festival
3: Lions Pancake Breakfast - BL Lions Park Shelter
8: Ottertail Lions Polka Daze
8-10: Threshing Show - Dalton
9: Dreams for Kids Motorcycle Run - Perham
9: Hospice Motorcycle Ride - Fergus Falls
9: Show Your Love for MN - West Ridge Mall, FF
14: Someplace Safe Golf Scramble - Perham
15-16: Kirkbride Arts & History Weekend
16: Isaiah Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament - Dalton
16: Boots on the Ground Vets Motorcycle Fun Run - FF
23: Battle Lake Pumpkin Fest
23: Central Lakes Cycle Duathlon - Fergus Falls
23: Archery in the Park - Glendalough
23-24, 30: Leaf Days - Maplewood State Park
30: Luminary 5k Walk/Run - Fergus Falls

OCTOBER

Wednesdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 2-5:30
Saturdays: FF Farmers Market, Museum lawn 9-1

1: Leaf Days - Maplewood State Park
6: Neil Diamond - Perham HS Auditorium
7: I Outran the Hairyman - Vergas
10-15: Pelican Rapids Farmers Market
11-15: Oktoberfest - Pelican Rapids

OCTOBER, CONTINUED

15: Fall Color Bike Ride - Glendalough
19: Sidewalk Sale - West Ridge Mall, FF
21, 22, 28, 29: Henning Haunted House
24: Richard Tostenson - A Center for the Arts, FF
27: Craft Show - West Ridge Mall, FF
27: Community Halloween Party - New York Mills
30: Harvest Fest - Perham

NOVEMBER

4: Annual Focus Bazaar - Perham Comm. Center
6: The Shops of Ottertail "Home for the Holidays"
11: Turkey Trot - Fergus Falls
17-19: Children of Eden Musical - Perham
18: Redneck Holidazzel - Vergas
24: Lighted Horse Parade - Pelican Rapids
24: Christmas Tree Festival - New York Mills
25: Junk Love Winter Show - Fergus Falls Armory
24: Holiday Parade of Lights - Perham

DECEMBER

2: Battle Lake Craft Show at the school
2: Community Christmas Party/Santa Day - NY Mills
2: Otterdazzle - Ottertail Community Center
2: Henning Santa Day
21: Longest Night Music Fest - New York Mills

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



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