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CALENDAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

THE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OF UNDERWOOD will distribute Christmas Baskets on Saturday, December 16th, 10 am until noon. To make the process easier, please stay in your vehicles and line up in front of the Pantry. We will come to you to sign in. The food will be brought to your vehicle. Please drive forward as the vehicle in front is served. Pre-Registration is not required. Only McLean County residents in need are welcome. 208 Lincoln Avenue, Underwood.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL WILTON FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS will be held at the Wilton pond starting at 5 p.m. There will be several activities including the kiddie parade of lights, ice skating, lighting the Christmas tree, and so much more!

THE THRIFT STORE, Garrison Area Resource Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

UNDERWOOD CITY WIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHT JUDGING

OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY KITCHEN, Turtle Lake City Hall, Please note, Only Date for December due to Christmas holiday, Sunday, December 17th, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, See you all, next year!

MAKOTI SANTA DAY, City Hall, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

GARRISON JFK WINTER DANCE SHOW, Garrison High School gym, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

THE WASHBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY would like you to join us Monday mornings at 10:30 am for our weekly children's story time Puppy Tales with Ichabod.

YOGA, First Congregational Church, Garrison, 8 a.m.

BONE BUILDERS, Garrison Senior Center, 10 a.m.

VITALENT BLOOD DRIVE, Makoti, 12- 5:30 p.m.

MAX FOOD PANTRY, Max City Hall, 12- 3:30 p.m., 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

YOGA, First Congregational Church, Garrison, 8 a.m.

THE THRIFT STORE, Garrison Area Resource Center, 10 - 6 p.m.

WHITE SHIELD HOLIDAY DINNER, Ralph Wells Jr. Community Complex, 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

COMMUNITY CLOTHING SHARE-EXCHANGE at 221 Main St. in Turtle Lake has a clothing opportunity at no cost each Thursday from 12:00 -6:00 p.m.

BONE BUILDERS, Garrison Senior Center, 10 a.m.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Garrison Hospital cafeteria (enter through ER), 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

TURTLE LAKE SENIOR CENTER, 1:30 p.m. at Turtle Lake City Hall.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

LORD'S PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION is held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Turtle Lake from **10 am -12 pm**. No referrals or pre-registration required. All in need are welcome to receive food at no cost.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

COMMUNITY CLOTHING SHARE-EXCHANGE at 221 Main St. in Turtle Lake has a clothing opportunity at no cost each Thursday from 12:00 -6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

TURTLE LAKE SENIOR CENTER, 1:30 p.m. at Turtle Lake City Hall.

LIBRARY HOURS:

WASHBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

UNDERWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. -Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

TURTLE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MCLEAN-MERCER REGIONAL LIBRARY - Riverdale Open Mon-Fri 8:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 5:00

GARRISON LIBRARY - open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Your Xtra
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Blue Christmas

MOVING TO A PLACE OF HOPE

The Christmas season brings about many joys and blessings but can also prove to be a difficult time for those facing grief and hardship.

Community-Wide Blue Christmas Service

Unlike other Christmas services, Blue Christmas is a time set aside -- a time to remember loved ones or past times, a time to reflect, and ultimately, a time to find renewal.

Everyone is welcome!

Please join us

Tuesday, December 19th
7:00 p.m. at
St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Garrison, ND

Both in-person and live-streamed on St. Paul Facebook

("Cohosted" by First Congregational - UCC and St. Paul Lutheran Church)

DAKOTA GARDENER

BY JOE ZELEZNIK, FORESTER

Still holding on

My wife and I have a couple of really cool apple trees in our yard. Each tree has multiple varieties grafted onto the main stem. I haven't counted lately, but I think one of the trees is up to about a dozen different varieties. The harvest is different each year, which is fascinating.

Right now, though, certain branches are still holding onto their leaves, while others have lost them all. Most deciduous trees, including apples, should have lost their leaves by now, so this isn't normal. What's going on?

Quite simply, those specific branches didn't harden up completely for winter. This tells me that those varieties are borderline hardy for our area. They really need a longer growing season, and a long autumn that allows them to go dormant naturally. They rarely get those conditions in our area, as we're so far north.

Yet other varieties go dormant just fine. It's crazy.

I've noticed a lot of other trees around that haven't lost

their leaves. For some species, this is perfectly normal, as they hold onto their leaves into winter naturally, even though they're fully dormant and hardy.

Ironwood is one species that has this characteristic of holding onto its leaves in the winter. The technical term for this is "marcescent." It's a normal behavior for ironwood and several of the oaks.

Other things can cause trees to hold onto their leaves well into the winter. Some diseases or insects can kill or damage leaves to the point where they don't fall off their branches in autumn. Those branches might not survive over the winter and therefore won't grow new leaves next spring.

At the other extreme, we sometimes water and fertilize trees too much and they won't shed their leaves naturally. It sounds counterintuitive. How can giving the tree the things it needs for growth and health be causing a problem?

Quite simply, too much wa-

ter or fertilizer keeps trees vegetative – growing – well into the fall and they don't harden up in time for winter. I often recommend that people avoid fertilizing after July 4, and apply some drought stress to their trees in August, to slow down their growth.

It seems illogical, but stressing the trees a little bit in late summer helps them go dormant on time.

Let's go back to those branches on my apple tree that are still holding their leaves. What should I do?

Really, there's nothing I can do. Those branches didn't harden up properly and all I can do is wait. Removing the leaves, one by one, won't change anything. I'll just wait for nature to take its course and the leaves will likely fall off in early spring.

There is one thing I can do for the apple trees to help them survive the winter. Protect them from rabbits! But that's a whole different story.

"You are welcome here!"

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Questions?

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DAKOTA RECREATION REPORT

BY PATRICIA STOCKDILL

Outdoor Notes:

*Ice is never completely safe. Avoid areas with vegetation, moving water, pressure ridges, and springs. Check conditions as you go along on the ice and don't move around at night.

*Registration now open for Feb. 9 - 11, 2024 WOW, Wild Outdoor Women, Lake Metigoshe State Park. Go to the N.D. Parks & Recreation Dept. website, (parkrec.nd.gov) and click "All Events" under the event listing for details.

*Dec. 16: East Canada Goose Zone season closes.

*Dec. 17: Muzzleloader deer season closes.

*Dec. 21: West Canada Goose Zone season closes.

*Dec. 23: Ho Ho Hike, Audubon Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Coleharbor.

*Dec. 25: Have a wonderful Christmas.

Fishing:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Dec. 11: 1,839.55 feet above mean sea level; 17,200 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Missouri River gauge height, Stanton: River stage, 7.51 feet.

Missouri River gauge height, Washburn: River stage, 8.69 feet.

*N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Fair to good walleye activity on the Missouri River from boats around Bismarck-Mandan. No activity on Lake Sakakawea

and no reports from area lakes.

*Lakes Audubon & Sakakawea, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Weather permitting a few anglers continue boat fishing for walleye around Deepwater Bay on Lake Sakakawea and west in the midsection. Some walk-on activity for walleye on the east end of Lake Audubon but ice conditions can vary and use extreme caution, testing ice depth along the way. Try jigs and minnows.

*Lakes Audubon & Sakakawea, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: No activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea, including in any of the back bays with open water. Some walk-on activity on the east side of Lake Audubon for walleye but use extreme caution. Try the coal veins and stumps from boats on the Missouri River below the tailrace for walleye.

*Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Weather and ice conditions permitting, the midsection continues producing walleye from boats using jigs and minnows/ Access conditions could change rapidly if weather turns more seasonable and ramps ice in and poor conditions prevent ice-fishing.

*Missouri River, Dakota Tackle, Bismarck: No Missouri River reports.

*Missouri River, Enerbase of

Washburn: Area lakes remain quiet as anglers generally wait for better ice conditions.

*Missouri River System, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River producing small walleye during the day, boat access permitting off the ramp if it's not iced in. Also try the chutes at night but overall angler numbers are light. Lake Sakakawea quiet with open water

*McLean Co. area lakes, Cenex of Wilton: Anglers starting to walk onto the back bays of Lake Audubon. Try minnows or nightcrawlers and jigs for walleye.

Hunting:

*Predators: Snow cover improving predator hunting success.

*Upland: Pheasant numbers remain good in the northwest and along some areas in central and west-central N.D

Numbers to know:

*N.D. Game and Fish Dept., main Bismarck office: (701) 328-6300, website: (http://gf.nd.gov).

*N.D. Game and Fish Dept., Riverdale office: (701) 654-7475.

*Report All Poachers: (800) 472-2121 or (701) 328-9921.

*Friends of Lake Sakakawea, the region's only organization working for quality lake access, weed control and effective partnerships, (www.lakesakakawea.com).

NOTICE FOR REQUEST OF PROPOSALS AND BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of the South McLean County Soil Conservation District will receive sealed proposals with bids for the new construction of cold storage building at the office of the South McLean County Soil Conservation District until 2:00 PM, Monday, January 29th, 2024. The proposal must be mailed or otherwise deposited with the District Manager, and it shall be sealed and endorsed "Proposal for Construction".

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bidder's Bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net sum bid. Bids must be submitted on the forms furnished by the South McLean County Soil Conservation District and in accordance with the specification and conditions contained. Copies of the proposal forms may be obtained from the South McLean County Soil Conservation District office in Turtle Lake, ND.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities or technicalities and to accept the bid or bids which appear in the best interest of the South McLean County District.

By order of the South McLean County Soil Conservation District Supervisors the 5th day of December 2023.

Christiana Kelly, District Manager
South McLean County Soil Conservation District
PO BOX 537 / 24 2nd Ave E
Turtle Lake, ND 58575



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FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

BY HUNTER KAMRATH

45 years of Truth, Justice, and the American Way

When it comes to superheroes, almost all of them have some kind of origin story. The origin story of how I became a die-hard fan of superheroes began when I was very young. Many may remember that our local grocery store used to have a VHS rental store where the produce section is now. Two VHS tapes fascinated me when I was younger, a movie called "Spider-Man" starring Tobey Maguire and an animated movie called "Batman Beyond". I found myself asking my mom to rent them every time we were in the grocery store, before she finally broke down and bought those tapes, and I've been obsessing over superheroes ever since.

It wasn't long afterwards when Superman became a favorite of mine. Often, there would be re-runs of the cartoon "Justice League", where Superman was the team's leader. While I really enjoyed those, it was a few years later when I received a box set of Superman movies for Christmas starring a man named Christopher Reeve that made me a die-hard fan of the Man of Steel.

"Superman: The Movie" starring Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman, and Marlon Brando will celebrate its 45th anniversary on December 15. It's one of my all-time favorite movies, and a lot of that is owed to

how the title character is portrayed by actor Christopher Reeve. The first half of the picture explores how he became the Man of Steel. As the film reaches its midpoint, we see the Caped Wonder rescue people for the very first time. His first daring rescue occurs when newspaper reporter Lois Lane is in a helicopter during a freak accident and is trying not to fall and Superman flies in just in time to save her. When she asks him who he is, he simply replies "A friend". This simplistic but powerful line is quickly backed up by the Man of Steel's actions a few short moments later. As he flies around making daring rescues, he comes across a young girl trying to retrieve her cat that's stuck in the tree, and he takes time out of his busy schedule to help this girl. The scene is simple, yet so effective. This interpretation of the iconic hero is all about being a friend, someone who's there to help people no matter what, and give people a sense of hope.

Christopher Reeve returned as the title character nearly three years later in "Superman II". The most powerful moment featuring our heroic protagonist happens at the end of the picture. The main villain, General Zod, and his two henchmen wreak havoc throughout the United States,

including the White House before they finally encountered the Man of Steel. In the film's epilogue, we see Superman retrieve the American flag that's supposed to be on top of the White House, and return it back to its proper place. He once again brings a sense of hope back to a nation that was forced to see the terror that General Zod brought.

I believe that this version of the character is still relevant today. Superman declares that he stands for truth, justice, and the American way. He is full of kindness and decency, acting as a friend to all the citizens who need his aid. All these wonderful traits combine into a symbol of hope in my opinion, and hope is a trait that is so important in the world we live in. Superhero movies like these two are why I love our costumed heroes; they remind us that no matter how bleak the situation is there is always the hope that good will triumph over evil in the long run.

"To say I believed in Superman is quite an understatement - of course I knew it was only a movie, but it seemed to me like the values embodied by Superman on the screen should be the values that prevail in the real world. . ."- Christopher Reeve (1952-2004)



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- **DELIVERY PROBLEMS:** If you're having any problems getting your Xtra - when and if - we want to know. Call our Garrison office at 701-463-2201 or 1-800-658-3485 when you want to report problems.

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36-TFNCCI 58540

SUPPORT GROUP: Alcoholics Anonymous Hotline 1-888-680-0651. Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meetings in Center, Sundays at 5 p.m. CT, St. Paul Lutheran Church, (no Al-Anon) 794-3381; in Garrison, Thursday at 8 p.m. at Garrison Hospital Cafeteria, enter through ER; in Washburn, Sundays at 7 p.m. First Lutheran Church, Harold call 460-1373 or Rachel 202-6716; in Wilton, Mondays at 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 734-6544.
15-TFNPI 58540

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52-TFNPI 58540

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GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LABORERS, no experience needed. Pay based on experience. Most work is in Garrison & surrounding area. Contact Kevin Katt @ 701-898-0544 Katt's Construction & General Contracting LLC
12-TFN-CH,XT

LIVESTOCK

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SHIP DATES scheduled to ship cows and bulls, Monday January 8th, and Monday January 22nd. As always, have them there by 11 a.m. Call Darin @ 701-315-0144 with any questions, also follow us on Facebook.

NOTICES

HAVE YOU BEEN in a relationship where you were emotionally or physically battered? Call McLean Family Resource Center, 701-462-8643 24/7, Washburn. The office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. EEOC compliant.
1-e-tfn-nc 58577

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34-1XCHXT 58540

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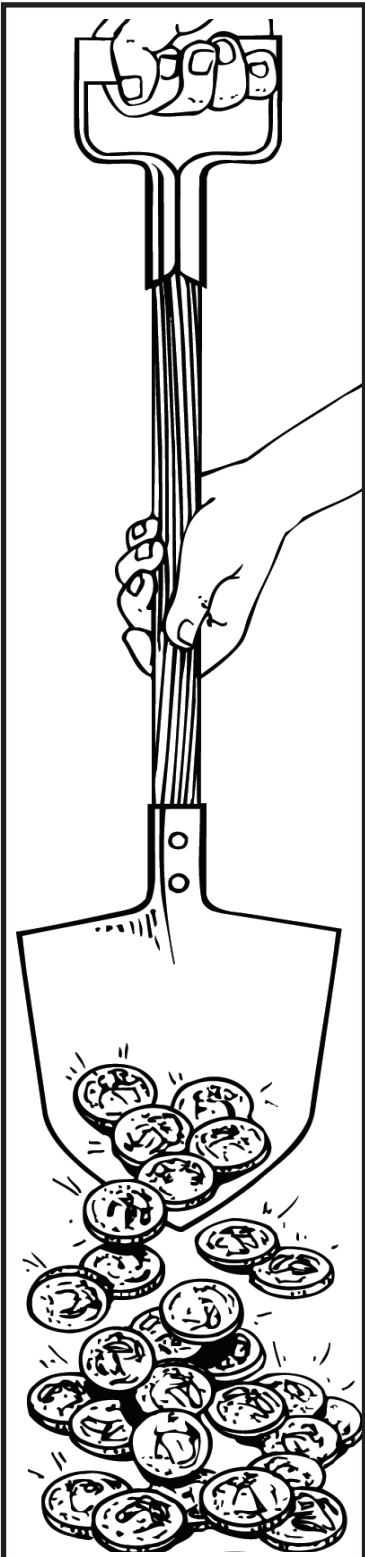
HOUSE FOR SALE; Riverfront property, 2 1/2 bath, 4 bedroom 1/2 mile from 18 hole golf course. Call 701-400-7793.

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34-9-e-pd 58577

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Any questions please contact the business office at 701-743-2201.

The McLean County Independent is seeking a **FREELANCE WRITER** for the Max area. Duties include covering events in that area that are happening. Would also research stories and obtain facts, interviewing individuals, providing photographs, investigating newsworthy stories, covering sporting events. If interested, please call 463-2201 or email resume or application to: darla@nordaknorth.com

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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If you find mistakes

in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose.

We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes!!!

PRAIRIE FARE

BY MAJOR ANDERSON, RN

“A Date That Will Live in Infamy”

December 7, 1941 is a “date that will live in infamy” as stated by President Roosevelt in his famous speech after the events of the Pearl Harbor bombing. That event led to the United States involvement in World War II. President’s Roosevelt’s speech was a call to arms and a declaration of war against this act of aggression by a foreign nation. He never wanted us to forget what happened. President Roosevelt concluded his speech by saying “With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph – so help us God.”

Over eighty years later, President Roosevelt’s words still have impact and meaning. There will always be threats to our country, both foreign and domestic. There have always been those who have stood up to stand against these threats and defended their country. Those who have served risk their health and safety for the

greater good. The men and women of the United States Armed Forces know that they may be called upon to give the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We must never forget those who suffered as Prisoners of War and the unknown fates of those who are still Missing in Action. Once back on the home front after the tours of duty are done and enlistments are complete, the service member will become a veteran, although transitioning back to civilian life can be challenging for some.

Many veterans will carry with them some physical, mental, or emotional toll from their service. Whether it is hearing loss or PTSD, there are service connected injuries that need to be cared for. Some are very easy to spot, like a missing limb or a scar from shrapnel injury. Others are harder to see, such as survivor guilt, substance abuse, and chronic pain which can be

hidden. According to a 2022 VA study the top five causes of death for veterans in order from greatest the least were accidents, suicide, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and homicide.

As health care workers, it is our duty to care for these service men and women. We need to make sure that their physical and emotional health is cared for. That they have access to the resources earned through their service to their country. If we all work together we can ensure that no one is left behind. Our goal should be that veteran health care is not ignored. As President Roosevelt said, we need to have confidence in our armed forces and the unbounding determination of the people of this country. Together we can all make sure that those who served will never be forgotten.

Major Anderson, RN is a nurse at the Brookings Health System in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie

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