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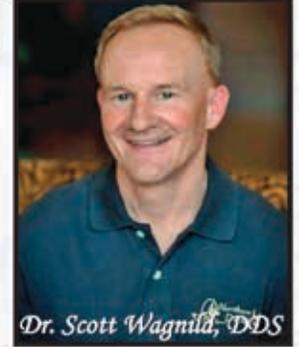
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**OTC
FAMILY—FRIENDS & FUN
In Otter Tail County**

Fall 2018
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Otter Tales

Wow, what a short summer! Either I am getting old or I fell asleep like Rip Van Winkle, but it flew. It was a hot one too. I'm sure it was a record number of days over 90 degrees with the humidity to go with. Some folks love those hot humid days, but I'm not one of them. Don't get me wrong, I like summers - but only when I'm on, in or near a lake. Sorry, but I really like fall. That first 40 degree morning that slaps you in the face and welcomes you to a crisp start of the fall season. My favorite days are when the colors are peaking and you can sit back and really enjoy them from a pontoon or walk in the woods. That will be coming soon too.

Speaking of fall, I hope you enjoy this issue of *OTC Magazine*. We feature "Empowering Kids" - a new initiative by Kim Nelson out of Perham. Kim and her staff are doing great work to help kids with

special needs with the goal of making their childhood more enjoyable and better preparing them for a productive adulthood. Well worth the work on their part. Their story will warm your heart.

Talking about another worthwhile effort, the building of the childcare center in Battle Lake is a journey of the almost impossible. It started with a great idea and almost never happened at so many turns over several years. This is just a great story about the resolve and dedication of a real community working together to bring something of such need to young families in this area - bravo!

Don't miss another great photo journey of Gulf lighthouses by Pam Larson to get you thinking about booking that winter trip to warmer climates. The history piece about Maine Township made me think about what life must have been like back then. The hardships, simplicity, and hoping you can feed and shelter yourself and your family - harder times, I'm sure. I'd most likely be a little thinner than I am now, that is for sure.

Well, sorry I brought up the 'f' word, but fall is coming soon. So, before you tune up the snow blower and find the shovels, be sure to take time and really enjoy this fall season - it should be a beauty. The sightseeing, fishing and hunting should be good - I'll see you out there!

— Ed Pawlenty, *OTC* Publisher



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Want to share a special photo?

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and photos to:

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Thanks for reading OTC!

Summer 2018

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Empowering Kids Whose Brains are Wired Differently

STORY & PHOTOS BY MAGGIE VERTIN

Joey* has developed an interest and skill at taking apart and putting tools back together. He enjoys the activity and the calming benefits of focusing on one controlled activity. At school, Joey likes to take apart his mechanical pencil and put it back together – it helps him focus in the otherwise distracting classroom, but Joey’s teacher does not appreciate the inappropriate behavior and sees Joey as disruptive and not paying attention.

Marcus* had developed an annoying and disrespectful habit of throwing a fit whenever a visitor came to the family home. The sudden interference startled and agitated him. After working with teachers, Marcus learned his behavior was socially disrespectful and he is learning how to cope through a series of steps that the rest of us just take for granted – he now has an expectation of what follows the ring of a doorbell and his expected behavior to say hello and return to his previous activity without becoming fitful.

Roger* was attending an outdoor family event, but was sitting indoors and reading by himself when guests arrived. When invited outside to be with family, he quickly obliged by moving outside to continue reading by himself.

Julian* loved the idea of playing sandlot baseball, but would get very upset when others didn’t follow the rules as he knew them. He understood how to have a good time by following the rules, but when the rules got changed or interpreted differently, he would get agitated. With a little help, Julian now understands he sometimes has to use “a flexible brain” to enjoy such activities.

Medical science has been trying to specify exactly what “social disorder diseases” are and what causes them for a very long time. The consensus thus far is two-fold: being “on the spectrum” of autism and like conditions is a medical condition and not a behavioral problem; and persons with the conditions have brains that are wired differently than the general population.

The kids mentioned above (*not their real names) have been empowered by learning to strengthen certain skills while in public and by a community becoming more aware of the world of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and its effects on families, schools and communities. This all became possible through the work and generosity of **Empowering Kids** founder Kim Nelson. Nelson was discouraged by the limited amount of help she could find or provide for her young grandson without having to travel a great distance. Nelson and Office Manager Christi Stoll became close over the shared experience of family members in need and had a dream to bring specialized services to the community of Perham.

Persons on the autism spectrum, even children, know that their brains are wired differently. Their brains send many signals and messages at a time, and they are not always able to sort or compartmentalize many messages at one time. This can cause physical pain and meltdowns.

“Do you want to play?” interpreted by a child with autism may go something like this:

“I want companionship; I want to do something; what does play mean? Play what? What are the rules? I can’t see what the game is, so I don’t know what it is or how it works.” All of these brain messages need to be sorted out in order to answer that seemingly simple query.

Children with autism can become easy targets for bullies. At first, they like the attention and believe the bully wants to become their friend. They lack the ability to filter nuances and usually take words at face value. They are extremely literal and understand cues and rules much easier if presented in visual fashion. The staff at **Empowering Kids** use and teach visual communication as a much easier and more successful language tool.

People on the autism spectrum are extremely literal. They are not intentionally anti-social, but even small talk is challenging.

Empowering Kids is a dream fulfilled by founder Kim Nelson (center), shown here with staff Christi Stoll (l) and Tiffany Tobkin (r).



Take these examples for instance:
"That's a piece of cake; hit the road; cry over spilled milk; driving me nuts; put a sock in it; needle in a haystack."

Children and adults with ASD interpret these words literally, which obviously causes confusion, discouragement and misunderstandings. At which time they become seemingly awkward or clueless while trying to interpret and react to such incoherent phrases! Communication is a big challenge with ASD, and persons who communicate infrequently or with few words haven't mastered such language nuances. Their brains are wired differently.

According to Program Director Tiffany Tobkin, programs are designed to start with the very young and focus on three core areas of "self-regulation, social interaction and strengthening special interests."

Sensory overload is a particularly common challenge with ASD. A busy and colorful bulletin board, standing in the middle of a line or crowd, a large gathering, or extremely loud noises can trigger negative coping behavior. But generally, individuals with ASD may be able to work on or talk about an area of specific interest and will be extremely knowledgeable on that particular topic. Their brains are wired for facts and figures; their brains interpret literally; their brains are visually dominant.

A five year old who is interested in geography once created an etch-a-sketch image of the United States with the outline of every state in less than ten minutes. An older child can ask your birth date and

then tell you what day of the week it was when you were born. One 13 year old likes to take apart tools and small appliances, fix them and then reassemble them without ever looking at an instruction manual. Their brains are wired differently.

A child "on the spectrum" may blurt out inappropriate social comments because he doesn't really understand being rude instead of polite. If there is a question that needs answering, "Why are you so fat?" The child doesn't get the nuances – he just wants an answer.

One child explained it this way: "... once I just had to blurt something out and my brain didn't ask my permission."

Their brains are wired differently.

Families in Otter Tail County area now have a special resource for children and young adults struggling with autism spectrum disorder. **Empowering Kids** offers a lifeline to children coping with specialized brains who hope to find meaningful and challenging careers for a lifetime.

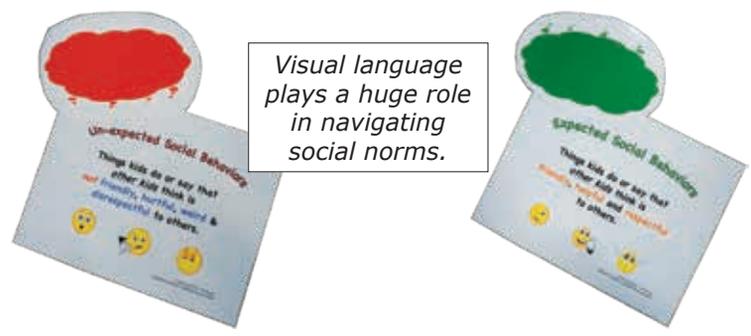
"Executive function" was never a term I encountered while job searching, but **Empowering Kids** is preparing their students for productive lives with fulfilling careers and high executive functions.

Adults with ASD are facing monumental hurdles in order to fit into certain office situations as they apply for jobs and pursue careers. Employers want workers who know how to organize tasks and can prioritize tasks quickly.

ASD often results in weak professional office skills because these individuals have a difficult time



Archery instructor Ryan Henderson (below) spends lots of one-on-one with kids, but values the group interaction (left).



Visual language plays a huge role in navigating social norms.

staying on task. They get distracted easily and become overwhelmed if a task contains multiple functions that need sorting and applications at the same time. Once visually interpreted, an ASD employee can function with a list their brain can handle. Many ASD individuals are highly skilled, but lack the ability to sort and apply the small steps to complete a task. A large portion of those afflicted are extremely intelligent and even possess savant skills.

According to Tobkin, **Empowering Kids** understands that ASD individuals have very unique interests and "...if we can hone those skills now, it might blossom into finding jobs and careers for a lifetime." Programs are designed to start with the very young and help individuals become well-rounded and able to eventually navigate social situations - such as job interviews and working with others - as well as time management.

"Since the spectrum is so diverse, we encourage group learning as we like to see kids learn from each other in group situations," adds Tobkin.

Empowering Kids now offers both individual and group services, with fees and scholarships making it affordable for all families. Nelson is encouraged by the community response to this special group whose brains are wired differently.

*Real names are not used to protect privacy.

Facts

- **Prevalence of autism in U.S. children increased by 119.4 percent from 2000 (1 in 150) to 2010 (1 in 59).**
- **35 percent of young adults (ages 19-23) with autism have not had a job or received postgraduate education after leaving high school.**
- **Almost four times as many males as females are afflicted with ASD.**
- **No single cause is known - genetics and environment may play a role.**



Maggie Vertin is pleased to be a contributor. She is happy to call Otter Tail Lake home for the extended season, and relishes the opportunity to meet such fascinating people in the area.

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Are these kids awaiting the opening of Battle Lake Area Child Care Center?

Autumn Brings More Than Fall Color This Year

STORY & PHOTOS BY REBA GILLIAND

Autumn always brings cooler temperatures and red, yellow and orange leaves, but *this* year it'll bring an even greater transformation – the opening of the Battle Lake Area Child Care Center!

Only a Dream

For many, child care close to home has been only a dream. One local mother tells of driving her 2 year old to New York Mills for child care and then driving to Fergus Falls to work, reversing the trip each evening. She says, "A child care center in the Battle Lake area will save me about an hour and half driving each day." Dozens of others have similar stories.

The Dream Comes True

But dreams of an area child care center are finally coming true. In 2015, Battle Lake Youth Center, Inc. (BLYCI) formed a nonprofit with a mission of "retaining and attracting young families to the Battle Lake area to improve the vitality of the area and maintain the viability of area schools."

Since reliable, high-quality child care is a basic need for many families, BLYCI is building a child care center to help fill a critical child care provider shortage.

A group of dedicated volunteers are supporting BLYCI by raising funds to construct the child care center. In March 2017, the 14-person capital campaign team, led by co-chairs Gary and Karalyn Harrington, began meeting with potential donors, applying for grants, and sharing the need with churches and civic and service organizations.



BLYCI Board of Directors

Standing l-r: Juan Herrera, Joyce Herbranson, Dave Marso, Patricia Johnson, Sara Christianson.

Seated l-r: Marjorie Quammen, Jennifer Cameron, Lynn Gagner.

Missing Board members: Kevin Foss, John Chase, Jesse Mark

**Capital Campaign Team:
A Group of Dedicated Volunteers**

*Standing, l-r: Megan Johnson,
Lynn Gagner, Craig Haukebo, Pat
Kostelecky, Gary & Karalyn Harrington,
Sue Tysdal, Dean Nordstrom*

*Seated, l-r: Reba Gilliland, Joyce
Herbranson, Carrie Fisher, Candace
Heathington, Chelsey Tysdal,
Juan Herrera*

*Missing active members: MacKenzie
Barry and Patricia Johnson.*



By March 2018, the team had raised 75-percent of the \$600,000 needed for the building, which triggered the construction stage.

Excited moms, dads, donors, supporters and kids gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony on April 21. It was a festive occasion that concluded with shovel-wielding Visionary donors (\$50,000 or more) and numerous youth with smaller shovels doing the honors.

The child care center's first two grantors, West Central Initiative (WCI) and Blandin Foundation, were on hand to take up a shovel and congratulate the community on their achievement.

As soon as the ground thawed (remember late April?), John Christensen and his crew had shovels in the ground preparing the site. No sooner was the ground prepared than Dan Barbre of Barbre Construction brought in his team to begin building the center. Just five months later, the building is near completion and expected to be finished by mid-September.



*Even the
cupcakes had
shovels.*



Kids helped break ground, too.

Opening of the Battle Lake Area Child Care Center

The 4,800 square-foot building will soon be open for business. Enter Tiny Tykes' owners Jamie and Justin Nepl.



The Nepls will Operate Battle Lake Area Child Care Center.

The Nepls currently own and operate two successful child care centers in Wahpeton and Milnor, North Dakota, and have entered into a partnership agreement with BLYCI to operate the Battle Lake Area Child Care Center. Jamie and Justin have over a dozen years of experience in child care management. They emphasize nurturing and development activities for children – a philosophy that aligns with BLYCI's.

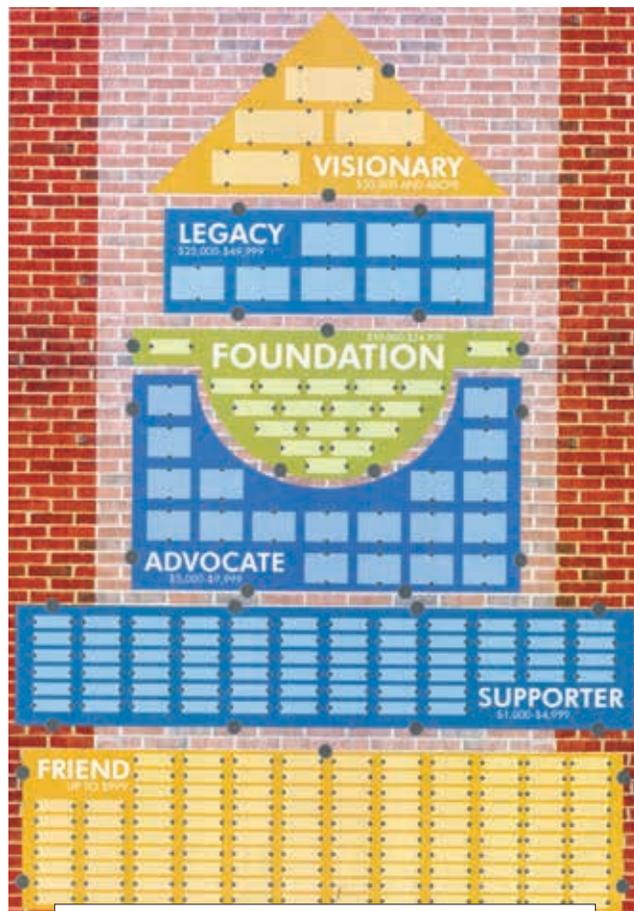
The center is expected to open in October, as soon as inspections are complete and the state licenser gives the go ahead. Meanwhile, Jamie is hiring an executive director to oversee day-to-day operations and report to her. Once the executive director is in place, Jamie and the director will hire child care staff.

Eventually the Battle Lake Area Child Care Center will reach full capacity with 46 children, but for now will open with 10-12 children on the first day. A few more will be added each week until full capacity is reached with 12 infants, 14 toddlers, and 20 preschoolers.

Jamie says, "Staffing is so important for a child care center to be successful. I want to get the right staff in place and trained to provide the right care to the children." Eager families can expect word about openings as Jamie works through the waiting list from earliest to latest inquiries.

A much-anticipated grand opening is expected in October, at which time congratulations go to all

who helped bring the dream of a childcare center in the Battle Lake area to life. Donors at every level will be recognized on a large 4 x 8-foot display located just outside the front door under the veranda.



Donors Who Brought the Dream to Life are Recognized in a Permanent Display.

Who Will Benefit from the Battle Lake Area Childcare Center?

A child care center will benefit parents with young children, but how about the rest of us? The 10 to 12 child care workers employed at the Center will certainly benefit, but beyond these direct benefactors are employers, communities, and even the region.

From the perspective of an employer in the community, Randy Dorn, Executive Vice President of The First National Bank of Battle Lake, talks about the challenges lack of childcare presents. Dorn says: "Our biggest hurdle when hiring employees, retaining employees, and the production of employees is their need for reliable, stable child care. We have existing employees who are scrambling on a weekly basis to find a safe place for their kids so they can make it to work."

Past school board member and Blandin Leadership Program participant, Yvonne Erickson, focuses on the impact a child care center will have on the community when she says: "The Battle Lake Area Child Care Center will fill a very large gap with



Nearly-completed Child Care Center will open this fall

many benefactors – ranging from attracting and retaining young families to broad economic impact.”

Val Martin, speaking from the perspective of the City of Battle Lake’s Economic Development Director, emphasizes the importance of child care in attracting businesses: “The lack of child care can be a hindrance in attracting new business owners. Without an ability to fill that need, it can make a prospective business owner look at another community.”

Echoing Martin’s words are those of Nick Leonard, Director of Tourism and Economic Development for Otter Tail County: “We have a shortage of child care providers across the region and our county is no exception. It’s no secret, the child care shortage is taking a toll on rural communities. The problem has become so bad, some parents are quitting their jobs to take care of their kids or they’re leaving town. And Main Street is seeing the aftermath.”

Ed Pawlenty, owner of the *Battle Lake Review* and *Ashby-Dalton Post*, brings a relative newcomer’s perspective to the child care center. Upon donating, he summarized his rationale: “We have a vibrant community base that works together to improve things here. If these factors were not present, an investment like the child care center would not be feasible. It is **because** these factors are present that this investment makes sense to help young families make a go of it out here, which is critical to the growth of Battle Lake and Otter Tail County.”

Transforming Lives and Communities

The answer to the question, “Who will benefit?” is “All of us.” Lack of child care in an area has a cascading effect on other aspects of community life, including vitality and even sustainability.

A child care center will move the area forward in that it meets basic needs of parents, children, businesses, and communities.

High-quality child care enhances young children’s learning and developmental outcomes, which in turn propels families and communities into a better future.

Child care is a factor for families in deciding where they will live and work. In this tight labor market, businesses are constantly competing for workers. Families don’t settle and are not likely to move to an area where child care needs can’t be met. Communities and businesses need young people to live in their communities, take jobs, and contribute to the local economy.

High-quality child care is a critical component of thriving communities.

Still Time to Help Make a Difference

Currently, the capital campaign team is working to close a \$155,000 gap beyond the \$600,000 building cost for such expenses as paving the parking lot, installing a playground, purchasing additional equipment for the commercial kitchen, and adding a cupola to the roof.

Those interested in joining the hundreds of individuals, organizations, businesses, churches and foundations in making the dream come true can pick up a donation form from the First National Bank in Battle Lake or talk with one of the capital campaign team. An investment in the Battle Lake Area Child Care Center is an investment in all of our futures.



Reba Gilliland: Neither our children nor grandchildren were raised in this area, but my husband and I wholly support this child care center and school. Meeting the needs of young families is key to the success of businesses, churches, organizations, and community.



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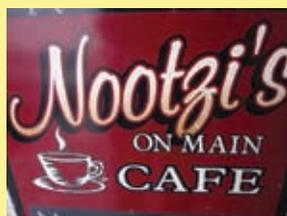
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Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
9/6	7:00PM	Girls Soccer	WHA
9/6	6:00PM	Girls Swim	Rocori
9/11	6:00PM	Girls Swim	Sauk Rapids-Rice
9/11	7:00PM	Boys Soccer	Alexandria
9/13	5:00PM	Volleyball	Alexandria
9/14	7:00PM	Football	Detroit Lakes
9/18	7:00PM	Girls Soccer	Rocori
9/20	7:00PM	Girls Soccer	St. Cloud Apollo
9/22	1:00PM	Boys Soccer	Crookston
9/25	7:00PM	Volleyball	St. Cloud Apollo
9/27	6:00PM	Girls Swim	Willmar
9/27	7:00PM	Boys Soccer	Hillcrest
9/28	6:00PM	Football	Perham
10/2	7:00PM	Boys Soccer	Sauk Rapids-Rice
10/4	7:00PM	Girls Soccer	Brainerd
10/4	7:00PM	Volleyball	Sauk Rapids-Rice
10/9	7:00PM	Volleyball	Brainerd
10/11	7:00PM	Volleyball	Willmar
10/12	7:00PM	Football	Park Rapids Area
10/16	5:00PM	Girls Swim	Alexandria

Rockets Varsity Sports

Football & Volleyball

Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
9/7	7:00PM	Football	Bertha-Hewitt
9/14	7:00PM	Football	Verndale
9/18	7:15PM	Volleyball	Henning
9/25	7:15PM	Volleyball	Rothsay
9/28	7:00PM	Football	Hillcrest
10/5	7:00PM	Football	Brandon-Evansville
10/11	7:15PM	Volleyball	Ashby

Arrows Varsity Sports

Volleyball

Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
9/13	5:00PM	Volleyball	Rothsay
10/2	5:00PM	Volleyball	Parkers Prairie
10/16	5:00PM	Volleyball	Brandon-Evansville

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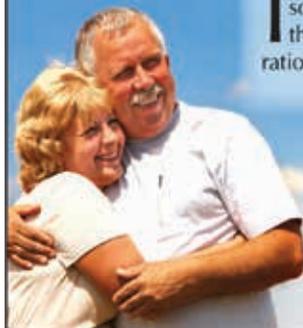
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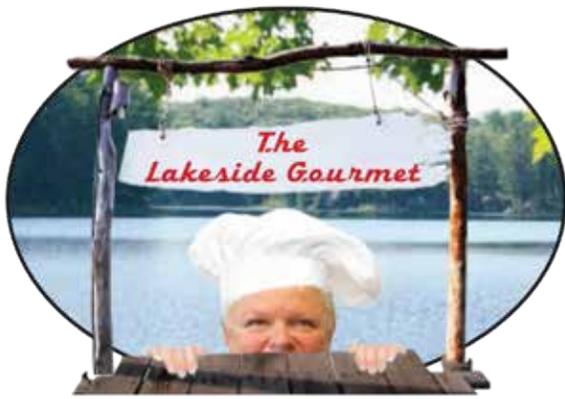
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The Lakeside Gourmet

BY SANDRA THIMGAN
PHOTO BY DAN THIMGAN

“Let Them Eat Cake” — Shrimp Cakes!

Shrimp Cakes

Makes 4-5 cakes

- 1/2# raw, medium shrimp, peeled, deveined, roughly chopped
- 1 3/4 cup panko crumbs, divided
- 2 T. green onions, minced
- 1 T. fresh parsley, minced
- 1 T. fresh chives, minced
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

Combine shrimp, 1 cup panko, onions, parsley, and chives. Whisk eggs, lemon, mustard, Worcestershire, salt, and cayenne in separate bowl and combine the two mixtures. Chill 1 hour, then form into balls, roll in remaining 3/4 cup panko, gently flatten into patties, and chill cakes 2-3 hours. Fry in 2 T. canola oil over medium heat in a non-stick pan, turning carefully, until golden brown. Serve on a bun or plated with a salad or pasta. Top with remoulade sauce.

Remoulade Sauce

- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 2/3 cup green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise (light is fine)
- 2 T. fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 T. honey
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- Salt/Pepper to taste

Process all ingredients in food processor and until vegetables are finely chopped. Chill until ready to use.

Ah, yes, the line often attributed to Queen Marie Antoinette, “*Qu’ils mangent de la brioche*” or “*Let them eat cake.*” That didn’t work out so well for her, but your guests may “lose their heads” over this new addition to your menu. Health experts keep encouraging us to add more fish and seafood to our diet, so this recipe can help add variety to your menus.

Stepping out of the “burger” zone with these cakes is a delicious change. Try to use the freshest ingredients, steering away from precooked shrimp, and presenting the best “taste of the sea” at your table. A complementary sauce recipe follows, but your favorite tartar sauce would also be a fine accompaniment.

Start a seafood “revolution” at your table and you will be swimming in compliments!



Texas shrimp is our favorite! When the Fabian Seafood truck stops in Fergus, we are there! Check them out on Facebook or their website: <http://www.fabianseafood.com>. Enjoy the cakes! Sandy Thimgan lives on Silver Lake with her husband/taster, Dan



Maine, Minnesota: Little Township, Big History

STORY & PHOTOS BY BECKY TIGHE

VINTAGE PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH & SYLVIA KURTZ

Maine, Minnesota was organized on September 5, 1871, by pioneers from the state of Maine who had first settled in Stearns County, Minnesota, naming their new home Maine Prairie. During the first local election, R.F. Adley, one of these founders, requested that the new township also be named Maine. (How homesick they must have been for Maine!)

Geography Was Destiny: The stagecoach Trail

Early settlers needed transportation, and Maine was on the stagecoach trail midway between Perham and Fergus Falls, both important destinations in 1871. The 45-mile stage ride was a 2-day trip, so a place to change, eat, and maybe sleep was important. A general store was needed, too. J.A. McConkey built the original Maine store and established the post office, later passing the business on to his son-in-law, W.I. Wilson, who built the store that still stands opposite the site of the original store. This building where the stagecoaches stopped is one of Minnesota's most important historic structures (now a privately-owned antique shop). It is located on Otter Tail CR 45 just south of Otter Tail CR 74, right on the Otter Tail Scenic Byway.



Map Courtesy of East Otter Tail
Historical Society

Maine Township Data

Location: 46° 24'5"N 95° 51'11"W

Elevation: 1332 feet

Area: 36 square miles

Zip code: 56586

Area code: 218

Population:

Historic Census: *Not found*

2010 Census: 686

Driving Distance from:

Fergus Falls - 20.4 miles

Richville - 14.9 miles

Underwood - 11.7 miles

Battle Lake - 13.6 miles

Perham - 23.6 miles

Churches:

Maine Presbyterian Church

St. James Catholic Church

Nearby Lakes:

Round Lake

Pickerel Lake

Ottertail River

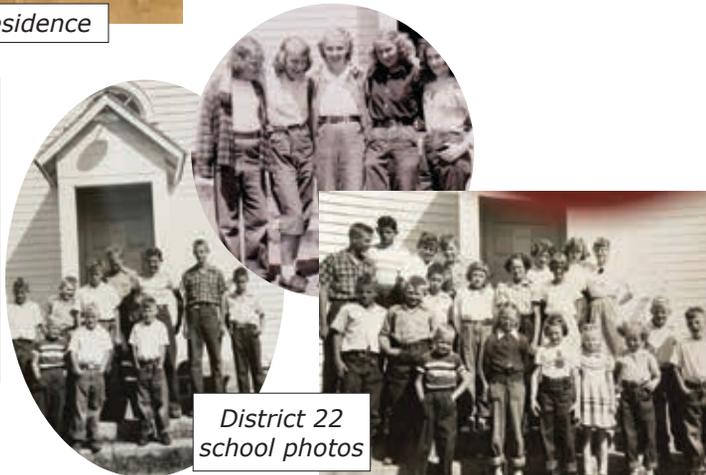


W.L. Wilson store & residence

The former
stagecoach
station



W.I. Wilson family
l-r: Ralph, Elda,
W.I. & Mrs. Wilson



District 22
school photos

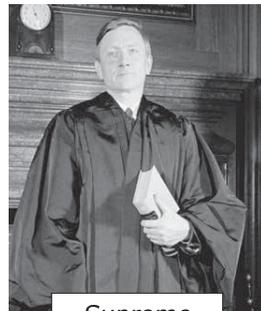
U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (1898-1980)

Did you know that William O. Douglas, famous conservation-oriented U.S. Supreme Court Justice, was born in Maine Presbyterian Church's "manse" (parsonage)? He was the son of the Rev. Wm. Douglas, the second minister of the church. Rev. Douglas was a former evangelistic singer who left that vocation due to throat problems. He emigrated to Maine from Nova Scotia and married Julia Fisk, daughter of a charter member of the church.

William O. was born



Rev. William Douglas, William O. (front), Martha, Julia (Fisk) Douglas



Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas

in 1898 and baptized by his father in the Maine church. The family soon moved west, seeking a better climate for Rev. Douglas' failing health - he died in Portland, Oregon, when little William was six. Douglas later said his mother was left destitute. Growing up poor, he excelled in high school, worked at manual jobs, and attended Whitman college on scholarship.

He taught high school English, economics and Latin, but despaired of making a living that way and left to study law at Columbia University. So began the career that culminated in an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1939. Douglas served 36 years, the longest tenure on record at the time, and died in 1980 at the age of 82. A memorial to him may be found at Phelps Mill park.

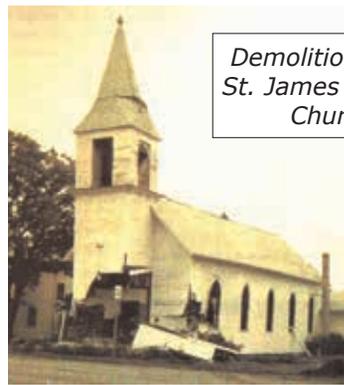
St. James Catholic Church

The first Catholic settlers came to the territory of the present-day Catholic parish of Maine between 1875 and 1882. Initially, Mass was said only once or twice a year in private homes, with priests coming by horse or buggy. Gradually, priests came to say Mass about once a month. St. James parish's first recorded baptism was on November 22, 1877; first recorded marriage on June 27, 1883.

"Desirous of having their own church, the parishioners (ultimately accepted) ... a donation of five acres from Daniel Moore for the church and another five acres from Patrick Moore for the cemetery," says the church's 125th anniversary history booklet. The church, 26 x 36 feet in size, was

dedicated in November, 1893. In 1913 it was doubled in size to accommodate a growing congregation. In 1985, a decision was made to tear down the original church. But the old steeple had been constructed so sturdily that, in three attempts to yank it down with a cable and bulldozer, the steeple stood firm but a cable snapped. Finally it was dismantled by chainsaws and sledgehammers, reported the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*, calling it "the little church that wouldn't. Wouldn't fall down, that is."

The sacristy, which had been preserved, was later lost to fire, leaving the congregation with no church in which to worship. The Maine Presbyterian church offered the use of its church until a new St. James building could be constructed. The new church was dedicated on August 26, 1986.



Demolition of old St. James Catholic Church



Statue of St. James



St. James Catholic Church - now



St. James 125th



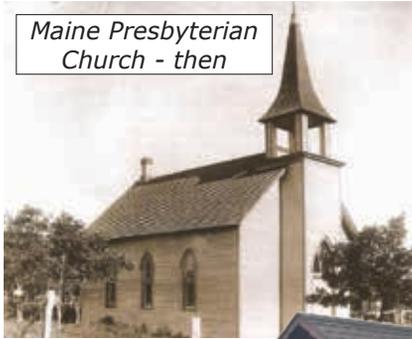
Maine Presbyterian Church

"In the early winter of 1886 the Rev. R.N. Adams and the Rev F.F. Young of Fergus Falls held a series of meetings in the schoolhouse in District 22, and at their close the Maine Presbyterian Church was organized on December 4, 1886. Prior to that time the American Sunday School Union had established a Sunday school ... the church was an outgrowth of the Sunday school." (From the Maine Presbyterian Church Dedication booklet, 1952.)

Of the original 14 founders, only three were originally Presbyterian, but the 11 others "unselfishly put aside their denominational preferences in order that a church may be possible. The elders were ... J.A. McConkey, William Dow and H.T. Putnam."

Rev. Alfred Pettitt was the first pastor, who took on this church as well as the Home Mission and Sunday School work and four other churches in which he ministered (Lawrence, Elbow Lake, Pomme de Terre, and Maplewood). The old church was built in the summer of 1887, and was the only English-speaking Protestant Church between Fergus Falls and Perham. Silent Vale Cemetery, across the road from the church, has never belonged to the Maine Presbyterian Church but its presence has enabled the church to be of service to many others besides their own congregation "who have come here to lay aside their dead" as the 1952 booklet dedicating their present building expresses it.

Maine Presbyterian Church - then



The Other Maine: Leading-edge Milling on the Farmer's Doorstep

Before railroads, getting grain to a mill could involve a 150-mile journey. Stone mills couldn't mill Minnesota's spring wheat efficiently - stone grit got into the flour, and the bran, which shattered, couldn't be sifted out. European millers invented a new method, roller milling, which revolutionized milling in the mid-1870s.

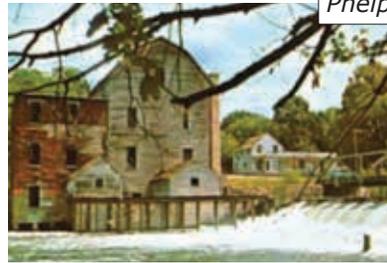
William E. Thomas bought land for a mill on the Red River in 1887 (known now as the Otter Tail River). His mill, equipped with the new technology, began operating in 1889. Thomas called it "the Maine Roller Mills," and it could grind four varieties of flour at a rate of 60-75 barrels a day. In wheat-grinding season, 35-40 wagons loaded with wheat would line up at the mill.

Such activity called for workers, rooms for farmers, a general store, a cheese factory, blacksmith, and a repair shop. But there was confusion. The Maine on the Red River was three miles from the Maine of the stagecoach trail. William Thomas obligingly renamed his mills "Phelps," to honor his wife's maiden name.

Water power was eclipsed by steam, gas and electricity, and railroads eclipsed wagon roads.

Besides, the dam on the Otter Tail leaked badly. In 1919, Thomas sold his mills. The business slowly deteriorated into mere feed milling, finally closing in 1939. In 1965, largely due to the efforts of Geneva Tweten, the land and mill were purchased by Otter Tail County for a recreational site. The mill was preserved and is listed on the National Register of Historic places.

Phelps then



Phelps now



Maine Township Today

Maine Township hall



Old store



If you visit Maine today, you could be forgiven for mistaking it for a ghost town. But that would be confusing commerce with community. To see

Auto mechanic building



Maine bursting with life, visit its churches. At the July 22, 2018, celebration of the 125th anniversary of St. James Catholic church, the mass, blessing of the statue of St. James, and congregate dining resonated with joy. The church and grounds were packed with exuberant parishioners greeting one another.

Later that week on July 26, 2018, the Maine Presbyterian Church was packed, too. A men's quartet from Fergus Falls was coming to sing lively Gospel music, so they shared a supper with one another. Visitors were welcome, too. After an encore and standing ovation, no one seemed to want to leave the crowded church. Almost 147 years after its founding, Maine is full of life, faith and friendship.



Becky Tighe left advertising to volunteer with Christian non-profit ministries in Romania and Austria for 7 years. Returning to Minnesota, she settled in Battle Lake. She likes spending time with her 10 grandkids and living among BL's wonderful people.



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Pensacola Lighthouse

Fall/Winter Travel Destination: Gulf Coast Maritime Sights

STORY & PHOTOS BY PAM LARSON

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 caused an explosion of our young country's seaborne commerce using the Mississippi River as a transportation route for lumber, farm products and passengers. The Gulf of Mexico presented many challenges for the construction and maintenance of lighthouses to support this new marine traffic. In addition to the bayous, soft and muddy shifting sands, coral reefs and hurricanes, historical events like the Civil War took a toll on the structures. Confederate soldiers used towers as lookouts and Union soldiers bombarded the targets. Following the war, more substantial materials were used and today almost 50 beacons remain on the Gulf Coast.

With that background information, we headed south to the panhandle of Florida to increase my checklist of lighthouses. Since we also like to visit National Parks, we stopped at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky on our way south, and we were not disappointed.

We also stopped at FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs, GA, where he spent much time in the hot springs pool to relieve his symptoms of polio. There is a great museum of his life and the unfinished portrait that was in process as he had the stroke that ended his life.



Mammoth Cave Natural Entrance



Stalactites



FDR's Little White House



Cape San Blas Light, FL

Since nearly all of the Gulf Coast is low and sandy, the lighthouses need to be tall to be seen from a distance. In 1847, the first of numerous Cape San Blas beacons were built in St. Joe, FL. Storms and erosion resulted in many redesigns and moves, finally resulting in this attractive structure.



Cape St. George Lighthouse

From 1854 to 2005, Cape St. George Lighthouse, FL, survived storm after storm, until erosion finally caused it to crumble into the waters of the gulf. The area fishing community carefully reclaimed and cleaned the bricks, rebuilding

the lovely tower in a more solid place for future generations to enjoy.

A stop at the Eglin Air Force Armament Museum showed us aviation warfare items from World War I through the high tech equipment of today.



U.S. Air Force Armament Museum, Eglin AF Base, FL

Blue Angels over Pensacola Lighthouse



Bottlebrush at Pensacola Lighthouse

practicing. The National Naval Aviation Museum is also located there, with phenomenal displays of aircraft representing the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Lots of maritime history in the south, and we couldn't pass up a chance to visit the *USS Alabama* and the submarine *USS Drum* in Mobile, AL. The battleship was huge, and the submarine hatches got smaller as the tour progressed!



Crooked River Lighthouse

The Crooked River Lighthouse at Carabelle Beach, FL, stands a little bit inland, but since 1895 has guided vessels through the dangerous pass between St. George and Dog Islands.



Great Blue Heron



Larry enters a submarine hatch (left) and stands on battleship deck (below)



St. Andrew's State Park, FL



Water park

Unusual traffic hazards

We were fortunate to be at the Pensacola Lighthouse while the Blue Angels were practicing at the same location - the Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. They give an amazing show, even while

Sand Island Lighthouse



The Sand Island Lighthouse is located in the Gulf of Mexico, about three miles south of the entrance to Mobile Bay. Pounding wave action has reduced the original 400-acre island to the one-acre piece that holds the lighthouse. The town of Dauphin Island owns the lighthouse and is working to restore

it. Dolphins like to frolic near the fishing boats as they enter the bay, so we saw a few on the trip to the lighthouse - although they are very hard to photograph!

Mississippi doesn't have much Gulf shoreline, but we still saw two lighthouses there. The Round Island Light had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina,



Round Island Lighthouse

then overturned by Hurricane George. It was reconstructed in the town of Pascagoula.

The Biloxi, MS, lighthouse has withstood many storms, including major damage from Katrina. Built in 1848, it was one of the first cast iron lights in the south. It is the only lighthouse in the U.S. that stands in the middle of a four-lane highway - U.S. Route 90.

most recently Katrina and Rita, the reconstructed lighthouse was completed in 2013. It is now operated as the New Canal Lighthouse Museum and Education Center.

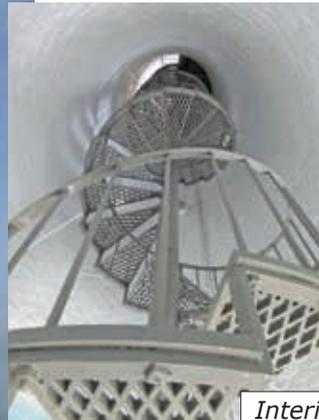
Much of the Interstate Highway in Louisiana was a bridge.



Little blue heron in St. Bernard State Park



Biloxi Lighthouse



Interior view

Raised house for future New Orleans flooding



The Port Pontchartrain Light in Louisiana was built in 1832, then replaced with the existing structure in 1855. It shined until 1929. It was a memorable landmark and eventually was surrounded by the Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park. It is now on the property of the University of New Orleans Technology Center.



Lake Pontchartrain Lighthouse

New Canal Lighthouse



The New Canal Lighthouse was first established in 1838 at the north end of the New Basin Canal in New Orleans. Damaged by several hurricanes,

Before heading north for home, we stopped at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The museum was located there because that is where most of the Higgins Boats were made. Boats that were able to land over open beaches were essential to the strategy that won the war. The museum was a great tribute to the people who were a part of that war. There were countless visitors, but there was a hushed and contemplative atmosphere.

Higgins Boat in National WWII Museum in New Orleans



If you visit the Gulf Coast, you may be interested in stopping in at the National Museum of WWI in Kansas City, MO, on your way home. It is impressive! At the conclusion of the "War to End All Wars," artifacts from all the countries involved were assembled as part of this vast collection.

The re-creation of the types of trenches used by different countries showed what awful conditions soldiers tolerated. An archivist in the extensive library helped me find information on my grandfather's war-time service in France.

We concluded our visit with a meal at the "Over There Café." I enjoyed the GI Sampler - Chipped Beef on Toast, Trench Stew, and Goulash.

Even though some lighthouses are still active aids to navigation, radio, radar, GPS and other navigational systems have taken over many of the primary functions. Some beacons serve as highlights to parks and historical sites, and all remain a testament to their region's maritime heritage. It is hard to say why there is a strong force attracting people to lighthouses, but perhaps it is the isolation and solitude plus the notion of man working against nature to help people.



GI Sampler



Model of a trench



National WWI Museum, Kansas City, MO



This trip brought my personal lighthouse total to 236, in 19 states and 6 provinces. Whether sandy & balmy, rocky & windswept, in town, remote or even off-shore, all lighthouses give a sense of hope and safety in beautiful places.



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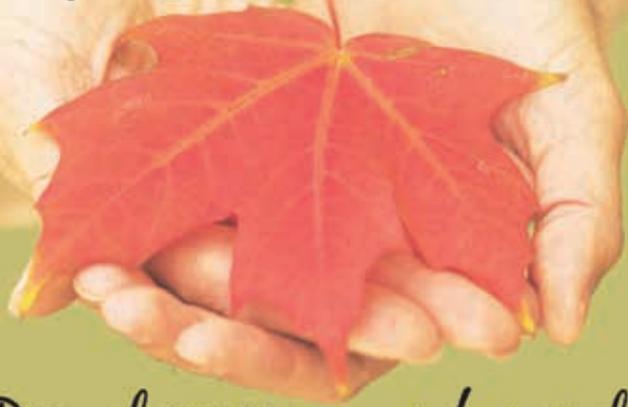
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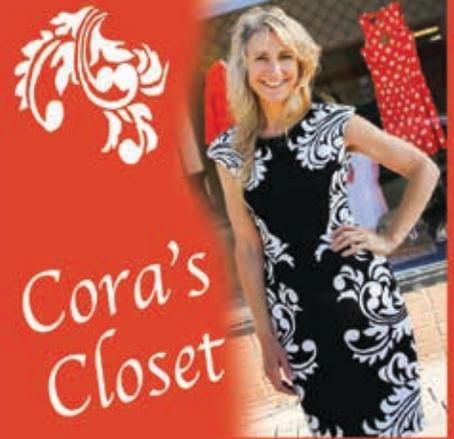
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GLENDALOUGH IMPROVES SERVICES FOR PARK VISITORS

Many visitors to Glendalough Park have noticed a new building just up from the Annie Battle lake access. The building is named the **Goose Nest** and provides many new rental options to enjoy the park. The Nest also has wide variety of items that visitors might have forgotten to bring on their camping trip, from s'mores fixings and ice cream to hammock straps. The Goose Nest was built after a winning concessions bid by Galloping Goose Rentals out of Battle Lake, owned by Kurt and Tanya Maethner and Casey Love. In addition, the "Goose Gaggle" is a knowledgeable staff. Steve Bradsteen manages the Nest in the summer and Casey's sister, Kari Love, fills in when time allows. The "GG Girls" Addison, Allyson, and Olivia (daughters of the owners) are learning the business and doing a great job helping customers! Kaila Sweazey, business manager, keeps them (and the business) in line!

Boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and hydro-bikes can be rented for use on Annie Battle Lake. A motorboat option is even available on nearby Molly Stark Lake. In addition, you can rent many bicycle options, from regular bikes to fun cycles and surreys (pedal cars). Burley's and Wee Hoo's are also available so you can take the whole family on the Glendalough trail inside the park and all the way to Battle Lake!

The new hydro-bikes have quickly become favored by guests. It looks like a small pontoon with a bike mounted on it that provides the propulsion via pedal power with speeds topping 10 mph. You can take in the lake scenery and the clear underwater views while getting your exercise.

Park manager, Jeff Wiersma, has been very happy with the new additions and believes it adds to the parks amenities. "We used to handle the rentals but when the new park office was built farther away from the lake, it became very difficult for us to manage it." related Jeff. "Galloping Goose is providing much wider range of rentals to our park visitors."

Next time you come to Glendalough, check out the Goose Nest for some fun activities or to pick up that item you forgot. The Nest is open 7 days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends in May, September and October. Galloping Goose Rentals has a self-pay rental option available anytime. Reservations are suggested during peak summer months.

To reserve or for more information go to:
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The Goose Nest



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The hydro-bike in action



The Goose Gaggle: Kari Love, Casey Love, Kurt, Tanya, & Addison Maethner, Steve Bradsteen, Kaila Sweazey. Not pictured: Allyson Goodman and Olivia Love



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