

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Discussion of Possible Tax Increment Financing District

Mayor Auringer moved to item B. because Dick Asleson was present from Northland Securities. Mr. Asleson explained the roll of TIF and how some development may not have occurred without the TIF Assistance. He stated that it is sometimes a misconception that you are losing tax money because the tax money did not exist to begin with. Mr. Asleson reviewed the various types of TIF Districts and a possible timeline.

Mayor Auringer asked about the timeline of the district. Mr. Asleson stated that the maximum timeline is 26 years but the amount could be set by the City Council. Ms. Raddatz asked what happened if the units were sold. Mr. Asleson stated that if the TIF would be reassigned. It was discussed what a reasonable rate of return would be and how this would be found. It was discussed that the Tax Increment Financing would be used for private projects.

It was also discussed if the value of the townhomes when assessed came in higher the length of the district would be shorter. Mayor Auringer asked what if 35 percent of the project was constructed and the rest was not developed. Mr. Asleson stated that the City would not be liable for any default.

### A. 2003 Squad Car Condition

Mr. Potter explained the 2003 Squad Car was having transmission problems and the City would have to make a decision if the car should be repaired or a new car possibly purchased. Chief Wills described the issues at hand with 2003 Squad Car that was put into service in April 2002 and that the transmission problems along with other possible repairs would be an estimated \$4,000.

Chief Wills discussed that the following vehicles were explored for possible purchase:

Crown Victoria, Chevy Impala, Ford Explorer, Ford Expedition

The discussion turned to the purchase of new vehicle due to the fact that the 2003 Crown Victoria was scheduled for replacement in 2007. Mayor Auringer stated that a SUV concerned him because of the gas mileage. Chief Wills responded that the gas mileage would be similar to a Crown Victoria with the most of the mileage being in town driving. Mayor Auringer asked if a smaller more fuel efficient car would be possible. He stated that it would be fairly cramped and could not be involved in pursuits. Mr. Hager pointed out the a Ford Expedition could not be involved in pursuits as well. Chief Wills confirmed that was correct.

Discussion took place over the purchase of an SUV, the associated gas mileage for a vehicle. It was also discussed that that a SUV would be more beneficial in snowy weather because the current Crown Victorias have difficulty in snow. It was also discussed that an SUV has more resale value than a Crown Victoria. It was mentioned that used Police Expeditions were sold for \$10,000 to \$12,000 versus a Crown Victoria which is \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Mr. Potter asked if there was a preference between the Explorer and Expedition. It as discussed that an Expedition would be a safer and more room. It was discussed if an SUV was chosen, it

would be converted to the K-9 vehicle so that Sergeant Lawson could transport people in the back unlike the current K-9 vehicle in which people have to be transported in the front seat next to the officer. Mr. Auringer asked if any of the vehicles were E-85 outfitted. It was discussed that the nearest E-85 station was Kwik Trip in Mankato and that the gas mileage with E-85 was reduced.

Some of the findings for having a SUV vehicle were the following:

The Expedition would cost \$2,400 more than a Crown Victoria but would be a better vehicle in the inclement weather enhancing public safety, have a higher resale value, and be better for transporting people.

Mr. Ericksen made a motion to approve the purchase of a new Ford Expedition including the outfitting of the vehicle. The motion was seconded by Ms. Raddatz. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Ericksen, Ms. Raddatz, Mr. Hager voting in favor of the motion. Mayor Auringer and Mr. Olsen voted against motion. The motion passed on a 3-2 vote.

C. Resolution 2006- 25 Resolution approving the City of Eagle Lake applying for a  
Outdoor Recreation Grant

Mr. Potter stated that the Council needed to approve a motion in order to allow them to apply for a Minnesota DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant. Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms Raddatz. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting in favor.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ericksen and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
7:00 P.M.  
MARCH 6, 2006**

**Members Present:** Mayor Tim Auringer, City Council Members Hub Ericksen, Adlor Olsen, Patty Raddatz, and Aaron Hager

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Brad Potter, Public Works Director Rich Reinbold, Police Chief Phil Wills, Fire Chief Clete Frederick, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Auringer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

The following were present for Roll Call: Mayor Auringer, City Council Members Patty Raddatz, Adlor Olsen, Hub Ericksen, and Aaron Hager.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Olsen moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2006 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND FEBRUARY 23, 2006 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Raddatz moved to approve minutes. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried.

**6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

**A. Resolution 2006-18 Community Partnership Agreement with DM&E Railroad**

- Mr. Potter reminded Council that DM&E approached the City in the late 1990's regarding a partnership agreement and at that time no agreement was reached. DM&E has now been approved by Federal Surface Transportation Board and that DM&E is still looking for an agreement with the City. Currently DM&E has agreements with 53 out of 56 communities that will be affected.
- There are 2 possible routes: the first and most favorable to DM&E is the existing line and the second a southern bypass. This will be dependant on DM&E reaching an agreement with Mankato and the use of the Union Pacific Line.
- Proposed agreement with Eagle Lake and DM&E will give fencing to residential and park property along the line. City would like to develop a whistle free community. Noise mitigation for property owners is not addressed in proposed agreement.
- For a whistle-free zone there will need to be railroad gates, and a cost to upgrade intersections with arms or medians. There may be funding for these costs of 100 percent of local government share up to 10 percent of total cost

- City would have 30 days to amend or withdraw from any agreement and DM&E would be responsible for maintenance and liability issues related to crossings. There are *provisions as to when whistle-free zone would go into effect.*
- Meeting was opened to public testimonies
  - Judy Koenig (100 Blace Ave)– What would be the cost for a whistle free zone to City?  
DM&E would fund 100% of local share up to 10% of total cost. If federal money is not there City would need to pay. There will need to be eleven trains per day before whistle-free zone would go into effect.
  - Carl Anderson (113 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St)– North 2<sup>nd</sup> St does not have sidewalk crossing at this time, would City have opportunity for this with agreement? City can address issue, but there is no guarantee.
  - Don Schoeb (217 James Ct)– Will DM&E be using ribbon rail (welded rail)? Mr. Potter stated that he believes this is the plan with the upgrade.
  - Pat Ellis (320 LeRay Ave)– Is the fencing that is mentioned in the agreement acoustic fencing? No, the agreement has safety fencing as a provision (chain link).
  - Dan Mock (103 Plainview St) – What is City’s preference between through town and the South route? Mr. Auringer stated that if the south route is used, the existing line would still exist and be in use and therefore with two lines, this would box the City in. City has no input on this issue
  - Pat Ellis (320 LeRay Ave) – would like to see agreement designate City with a “slow order” (speed limit)
  - Don Schoeb (217 James Ct)– Is the money from the federal government contingent on gate crossings? It will be a loan which taxpayers will need to pay back.
  - Ryan Hargen (202 Cranberry Ct) – Where does proposed South route run? South of Marquardt’s property and V’s up
  - Todd Enz – If slow zone is in place would this force DM&E to use south route? Unsure
  - Don Schoeb (217 James Ct) – Is there a current agreement to keep tracks free for medical emergencies? Not sure.
  - Jim Enz (208 Diane)– Who determines if south route is developed? Union Pacific has the most say and weather DM&E can reach an agreement with them. What is present train traffic? Three – five trains per day.

Public Hearing Closed

- If resolution is approved City could still add additional concessions
- If City denies resolution the federal government mandates would be in effect and federal government does not mandate any financial support. There is no guarantee for a whistle-free zone.
- Mr. Olsen moved to pass resolution. Mr. Auringer seconded. Roll call vote was taken and motion passed with a 4:1 in favor. Mr. Auringer, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Ericksen and Mrs. Raddatz voted in favor. Mr. Hager opposed.

**7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- A. Resolution 2006-19 Resolution regarding setting water fees in conjunction with Chapter 8 of the City Code regulating Water Service
  - Mr. Potter read proposed fees and recommended adoption of resolution
  - No public comments
  - Mr. Hager moved to pass resolution. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.

- B. Resolution 2006-20 YMCA Conduit Bond Project Approval
- Mr. Potter stated that City would have no liability in this issue and that he has checked with bond attorney, City attorney, and other counsel. Notice has been published in paper
  - **No public comment**
  - There would be a 1/4 % issuance fee for approximately \$2,250
  - Mrs. Raddatz moved to approve resolution. Mr. Olsen seconded. Roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- C. Resolution 2006-21 Issuing Notice of Intent Franchise for Cable Service
- Mr. Potter mentioned that Hickory Tech approached City and that City would keep current agreement with Charter Communication.
  - City needs to publish intent to franchise if resolution is passed
  - Mr. Hager moved to pass resolution. Mrs. Raddatz seconded. Roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously
- D. Resolution 2006-22 Resolution of the City Council regarding Decision on Need for Environmental Impact Statement for Eagle Ridge Phases I-III
- Mr. Potter mentioned the conditional environmental worksheet for 150 lots of residential subdivision and that only three comments were received. The hand dug well issue on property is still unresolved and experts will be brought in on this issue
  - By passing resolution, Council is saying there is no need for further state required environmental studies
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to pass resolution. Mr. Olsen seconded. Roll call vote was taken and approved unanimously.
8. **Consent Agenda**
- Item K of consent agenda, Resolution 2006-24 ALLOWING Mayor Pro Tem Patty Raddatz to sign City checks in absence of City Administrator or Mayor. This is in accordance with auditor's recommendation
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to approve consent agenda. Mr. Hager seconded. Consent agenda approved unanimously.
9. **Old Business - None**
10. **New Business**
- A. Report on the formulizing assessments for Johnson Street
- SMI representatives John Weber and Troy are in attendance
  - Last month Council agreed they wanted to hard surface road
  - The proposed assessment is based on area and is equitable approach
  - Mr. Layman is opposed to any assessments for improvements to Johnson Street and may appeal assessment
  - City would not need to bond for this assessment
  - John with SMI state they would need the amount of the assessment and that they are more than willing to pay their share
  - Mr. Auringer stated it is the City's duty to serve SMI with utilities
  - Mr. Potter reminded Council that vote will need 4/5<sup>th</sup> approval to pass and that a public hearing will be needed
  - SMI has a signed purchase agreement that is good until March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - City could absorb cost if appraiser comes back saying it does not benefit the land owner
  - The cost of \$120,000 comes from 300 feet of road at \$400/feet and sewer would need to be run to the property
- B. Bids for Water Tower Cleaning
- Rick Reinbold stated that two bids were received and he is recommending hiring Tight Rope to clean the water tower at a cost of \$2,700

- Mr. Olsen moved to accept the bid from Tight Rope. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**C. Purchase of New Mower**

- Mr. Potter mentioned that quotes have been received and that \$14,100 was budgeted with \$7,500 in revenue for sale of old mower.
- Rick Reinbold mentioned that City will be taking on new areas to mow, such as ponds and ditches along 598<sup>th</sup> Ave and that he would like to look at keeping old Toro which has a sweeper and is becoming obsolete. He has looked at prices with and without a trade-in. Rick also pointed out that weather is a factor and that the public works department may have only a small window of time to complete mowing
- The budget allows for \$14,400 and the additional \$400 can come out of parks-dedicated funds
- Mr. Hager stated he would be interested in seeing cost comparison if mowing services were subcontracted out and the comparison with wages, equipment wear
- Mr. Ericksen moved to purchase new mower and to keep old Toro. Mrs. Raddatz seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**D. Bids for sale of 1983 Fire Rescue Vehicle**

- Mr. Potter stated that the City received no bids and that it was advertised in several locations. Clete Frederick has a national web site this could be listed on with a 10 percent commission fee. Would like to see a minimum bid kept
- City will keep working towards sale of vehicle

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Olsen made a moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m... The motion was seconded by Mr. Ericksen and passed unanimously.

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2006**

**Members Present:** Mayor Tim Auringer, Council Members Patty Raddatz, Hub Ericksen, Adlor Olsen, and Aaron Hager

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** City Administrator-Brad Potter, Deputy Clerk-Kerry Rausch, Police Chief-Phil Wills

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Auringer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The pledge was said
3. **Roll Call** – The following council members were present, Ms. Raddatz, Mr. Ericksen, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Hager and Mayor Auringer
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Mr. Olsen moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Bills over \$1,000, DME Railroad, and Resolution to hire new PT Police Officer. Ms. Raddatz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Presentation of Petitions and Comments** – None
6. **Consent Agenda**
  - A. Resolution 2006-15 accepting defibrillator from ISJ Auxiliary
  - B. Resolution 2006-16 renewing gambling license of Eagle Lake Fire Relief Association
  - C. Bills over \$1,000 – Police Department car computersMs. Raddatz moved to approve consent agenda. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Old Business** – None
8. **New Business**
  - A. Discussion of Possible Greater MN Gas Franchise Agreement
    - Mr. Potter mentioned that Greater MN Gas is regulated by the MN Public Utilities Commission
    - Gas companies don't want lines to run to close to each other or parallel to each other for safety issues
    - Current agreement with Center Point Energy is not exclusive
    - City would need to create a right-of-way ordinance
    - Could be cost benefit to citizens with competition

- Mr. Tom Tillijohn with Greater MN Gas commented that they have been in area for several years and may have lines where City could be looking at annexing in the future
  - They can provide same service as larger companies and are currently in 7 counties and in 7 communities in the area
  - They are able to service residential and large commercial consumers
  - They entered into a franchise agreement with Mankato 3 years ago and they have a pipe along County Road 17 towards Mankato
  - They would compete for new areas of town and not with existing structures
  - Company currently has 10 employees for billing, service, and customer service
  - The largest stumbling block to date is safety/fire protection issues with communities
  - Mr. Potter mentioned that attorney is comfortable with agreement
  - Council gave staff to approval to move ahead with process
  - Public hearings will be needed
- B. Discussion of possible Hickory Tech Franchise Agreement
- Mr. Potter has been speaking with Carrie Rice of HTC who approached the City of Eagle Lake
  - Currently the City has a non-exclusive agreement with Charter Communications and if City moves ahead with agreement with HTC the same franchise fee that applies to Charter would also apply to HTC
  - Attorney is comfortable with HTC agreement
  - Mr. Bruteeno with HTC mentioned that this agreement would provide an alternate cable provider to residents and that they have provided such services for the past 5 years
  - HTC would not need to lay new cable to offer this service and they are currently in 5 communities in this area (St. Clair, New Richland, St. Peter, Waseca, and Ellendale)
  - 100 percent digital program
  - Mr. Potter mentioned City would need to publish notice for intent to franchise and hold public hearings
  - Council gave staff approval to proceed with this issue
- C. Extension of Agreement with Midwest Wireless for additional antennas
- Mr. Potter stated that Midwest Wireless currently pays rent of \$50 per month for antenna currently on water tower. They would like to place an additional 6-12 antennas for \$700 more per month.
  - Staff commented that Midwest could construct an additional tower in the industrial section of the community
  - Concern was mentioned about appearance and location of shed that would need to be constructed
  - Council approved proceeding with discussion with Midwest Wireless

D. Police Department Update of On-Call Pay

- Chief Wills would like to see on-call pay of \$2.25 per hour for when officers are at home on on-call status. If they were called out, they would then go off "on-call" pay and begin "call-out" pay
- This could possible allow to drop coverage for slower times
- Overtime pay rate would increase if officers have on call pay and overtime pay, but this may also reduce amount of overtime incurred
- Mayor Auringer stated he would like to see Chief Wills be given the use of discretion to pair back hours of coverage when officers are not needed and that this should save the City money in the long run
- Mr. Hager moved to approve use of on-call pay for police department at the rate of \$2.25 per hour. Ms. Raddatz seconded. Motion carried unanimously

E. Six month probationary review for Officer Andrew Hagen

- Chief Wills mentioned that additional field training would be conducted, but recommends that Officer Hagen be removed from the new hire probation period
- Mr. Ericksen moved and Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

F. Possible Extension of Mankato Water System

- Mr. Potter stated that Mankato will conduct a feasibility study at their cost which would look at Mankato constructing pipe up to County Road 86 (KTOE) and Eagle Lake to construct from there to Eagle Lake
- City would not be able to integrate our water with Mankato's water supply
- City would have to follow water rates set by Mankato
- Council approved to have Mankato continue with feasibility study
- Mr. Hager mentioned he would like to see Eagle Lake remain independent in regards to water supply

G. Discussion on 2 City Council meetings per month

- In 2005 council held 1600 minutes worth of regular council meetings and 1373 minutes of special meetings and would there fore like to look at holding 2 council meetings per month
- Benefits mentioned included moving items of business along faster, council members would be able to plan their schedules better.
- Other issued discussed is that the first meeting of the month would contain most items on the consent agenda, and would the council member's rates of pay change with increasing regular meetings. If so, this would not occur until 2007
- Discussed possibility of holding council meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month
- Notification and public hearings would need to take place

H. DME Railroad

- Mr. Potter mentioned he has spoken with the president of DME and that Eagle Lake is 1 or 3 communities that have not entered into an agreement with DME and that time is running out to enter into such an agreement

- Would like to look into obtaining a whistle free zone through the City but then *would need to address safety issues and have strong police enforcement with surrounding issues*
- Council mentioned they would like staff to check into what other communities have entered into and also to address concerns with location of public works building
- I. **Resolution to Hire New PT Police Officer**
  - Chief Wills mentioned that 6 potential officers were interviewed and that a conditional job offer was made to Dustin Miller
  - References checked out good and would be able to start employment February 27, 2006 upon positive results from evaluations
  - Starting pay will be at Step 1 in the amount of \$10.88 per hour
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to approve resolution and Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously
- J. **Volmary Development**
  - Mr. Dennis Terrell voiced concerns in regards to the purchase agreement for this development and any pending/levied assessments and how it affected the purchase price of parcel that were realized during the rezoning processes
  - This assessment was not levied against property in 1997-1998
  - Issue would need to be reopened for public hearings to take off the roll of wetlands that parcel is being assessed for
  - The \$42,000 assessment would need to be paid or reopen public hearings
  - Mr. Potter will look into weather this assessment would be eligible for TIF

**9. Adjournment**

Mr. Olsen moved to adjourn meeting at 8:40. Ms. Raddatz seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2006**

**Members Present:** Mayor Tim Auringer, Council Members Hub Ericksen, Adlor Olsen, and Aaron Hager

**Members Absent:** Patty Raddatz

**Staff Present:** City Administrator-Brad Potter, Deputy Clerk-Kerry Rausch, Fire Chief-Clete Frederick, Public Works Director-Rick Reinbold, Police Sergeant-Laramy Lawson, Police Officer-John Kopp

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Auringer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

The following were present for Roll Call: Mayor Tim Auringer, City Council Members Adlor Olsen, Hub Ericksen, and Aaron Hager

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Ericksen moved to approve the agenda with the addition under New Business for the Eagle's Nest Dance Permit. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 9, 2006 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 19, 2006 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND JANUARY 26, 2006 EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Hager noted that his name appears in minutes on occasion as Hagen and asked that this be corrected. Mr. Hager moved to approve minutes as corrected. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carries.

**6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

Resident inquired to see if City is looking into a compost site

**7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Ordinance 2006-05 Public Hearing for an Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the City Code Establishing Rates and Regulating for Water Service.**

- Mr. Potter stated that this would strike the old chapter 8 and create a new chapter 8.
- Fees would not be set within this ordinance
- Ordinance clarifies unpaid utility bills and ramifications if bills are not paid
- Staff recommend approval of ordinance
- Public hearing opened with no comments and then closed
- Mr. Olsen moved to approve ordinance 2006-05 and Mr. Hager seconded. A roll call vote was taken and motion carried unanimously

**B. Ordinance 2006-06 Public Hearing for an Ordinance amending Section 17.03 of the City Code, Subdivision 3 changing recyclable pickup from the first and third Thursday of the month to every week of the month.**

- Mr. Potter mentioned that this ordinance would change recycling pick up from the first and third Thursday of each month to a weekly Thursday pick up
- Staff are recommending approval
- Public hearing was opened with one resident asking if someone has petition this change. Mr. Potter stated that

this is brought about more as a service for the City and was not petitioned

- Mr. Ericksen moved to approve ordinance and Mr. Olsen seconded.
- A roll call vote was taken with 3 in favor and 1 opposed. Mr. Olsen, Mr. Ericksen and Mayor Auringer in favor and Mr. Hager against

- C. Resolution 2006-09 Resolution increasing recycling rates from \$2.50 a month to \$3.50 a month for households.
- Mr. Potter stated that this resolution is simply changing the monthly recycling rate
  - Mr. Olsen moved to approve resolution and Mr. Ericksen seconded.
  - Roll call vote was taken with 3 in favor and 1 opposed. Mr. Olsen, Mr. Ericksen and Mayor Auringer in favor and Mr. Hager opposed
- D. Ordinance 2006-07 Public Hearing for Request of John Weber to rezone property from R-3. Limited Multiple Family Dwelling District to B-1, Community Business District. The property is described as the East Half of Government Lot 5, Section 7, Township 108 North, Range 25 West (approximately one acre located south of United States Highway 14, east of Johnson Street, and north of 201 Johnson Street).
- Mr. Potter explained this is a rezoning request from R-3 to B-1. East of this property is currently R-3 and Agricultural to the west.
  - Have met with property owners within 350 feet of said property and discussed their concerns
  - Individuals interested in purchasing this parcel are looking at constructing a 42 x 96 commercial building which would house SMI, which services lifts and hoists
  - Johnson Street is a 24 feet wide gravel road currently and discussion was held in regards to paving the 320-330 feet to reach to parcel and also the issue of maintaining a gravel road which the City does not have proper equipment to maintain
  - Approximate cost to refinish street would be \$100,000 - \$150,000
  - Staff recommends approving rezoning and would like direction from Council in regards to street surface
  - Public Hearing was opened with John Weber, perspective owner, stating that their business could not afford bearing the cost of road improvements and with that public hearing was closed
  - Mention was made that Johnson Street has a 60 foot right-of-way
  - Concerns regarding wetland delineation were brought forth by council. Wetlands will be delineated at time of platting property
  - Brian Malm, with Bolton Menk, mentioned that City could see some economies of scale in combining sanitary sewer work needed with the resurfacing of street
  - Mr. Hager moved to approve rezoning and Mr. Ericksen seconded.
  - Roll call vote was taken and was approved unanimously
- E. Resolution 2006-10 Public Hearing for the request for approval of the City of Eagle Lake's 2006-2010 Capital Improvement Program.
- Mr. Potter stated that CIP is a 5 year plan which is a "guideline" for the City and does not lock the City into projects or timeframes
  - Staff recommend approve
  - Public hearing was opened with no comments and then closed
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to pass resolution and Mr. Hager seconded.
  - Roll call vote was taken and approve unanimously
- F. Resolution 2006-11 Approving Contract Extension with LJP Enterprises for Refuse and Recycling Services
- Mr. Potter mentioned that Council had discussed this issue at a work session and that LJP will keep fees for service the same until 2007
  - Staff recommend approval
  - Mr. Olsen moved to approve resolution and Mr. Ericksen seconded.
  - Roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously

## 9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Monthly Bills

F. Committee/Board Minutes

- B. Treasurers Report
- C. Police Report
- D. Fire Report
- E. Public Works Report
- G. Building Permits
- H. Charitable Gambling Reports
- I. Correspondence

- J. Resolution 2006-12 Resolution for accepting Michael Frazee to Fire Reserves
- K. Report regarding progress of Land Use Plan
- L. Resolution 2006-13 Resolution declaring Police Officer Leo Bosard eligible for PERA.
- M. Approval of Bond Payment for Greenfield and Canterbury No.5 Overlay
- N. Resolution 2006-14 Resolution setting a date of hearing for YMCA conduit bond
- O. Acceptance of Scott Reiten to Park Board

- Mr. Olsen mentioned that we does not believe employees should be using personal charge cards to purchase fuel of City vehicles
- Mr. Potter asked Council to pull item K, Land Use Plan
  - Mr. Potter mentioned that on January 30 the Planning Commission met with township boards in regards to Land Use Plan looking at projected growth for City.
  - Mr. Kloss of the LeRay Township Board mentioned that he wanted to let City know the Township's concerns and would like to be kept informed and to have township's concerns addressed. He mentioned that we would like to see options/stages incorporated into map and not use projected dates. He feels this may adversely affect property owners in that it would arbitrarily inflate the valuation of property for tax purposes. Mr. Kloss also mentioned the town board would be interested in having a dialogue regarding an annexation agreement
- Mr. Ericksen moved to approve consent agenda and Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

#### 10. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Dennis Terrell asked the status of the sewer and hook up fees assessment on the proposed Volmarly project
- Mr. Potter stated he is looking into an ordinance passes in 2000 and pending assessments that were never levied to find validity of fees. He is looking at having closure to this issue within one week

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Bills over \$1,000

- Cleve Frederick reported that the new Fire Department rescue vehicle is scheduled to be delivered Feb 16, 2006
- Mr. Hager moved to approve bills and Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

##### B. Report on Municipal Well RFP/Mankato Extension of Water Services

- Mr. Potter explained that RFP's for the well have been reviewed and that one mentioned purchasing water form Mankato.
- Mr. Potter and Mr. Reinbold have met with George Rosati of Mankato investigating purchasing water service from Mankato. Still uncertain is cost of running pipe and that Mankato may want to use City's sanitary sewer pipe
- City should have initial cost answers within 1-2 weeks
- Rick Reinbold is checking with the MN Dept of Health on any water quality issues they see in the future
- Mr. Potter with speak with those who have submitted RFP's to verify costs can remain as bid
- Council mentioned concern of becoming dependant on Mankato for water service

##### C. Acceptance of bid for Fire Hall Furnace

- Mr. Potter stated that current furnaces at approximately 50-60% efficient and that City has received quotes which could bring efficiency up to 80% without needing to go through roof of building
- City and Fire Department would share cost
- Staff is recommending approve of Countryside Refrigeration and Heating quote to replace furnaces
- Mr. Olsen moved to approve and Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

##### D. Eagle Ridge II – Associated Trunk Sanitary Sewer Improvement

- Mr. Potter stated that improvements need to be done for future growth and that option #1 provided by Bolton Menk to retrofit trunk line is best option
- Discussion was held in which City may be able to cover costs through the enterprise fund and if City chooses to

assess to property owners City would need to open project up for bids

- Area charges received will help cover costs
- Staff recommend improvement to lift station on Owl Lane
- *Mr. Brian Malm, of Bolton Menk, mentioned that at time of original design he made an inaccurate guess as to City's growth areas and due to that this trunk line will need to be corrected and by doing so now City can avoid tearing up street*
- Mr. Hager moved to approve Option #1 presented by Bolton Menk to increase the size of pipe in Eagle Ridge Phase II. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

E. Proposed Staffing Levels for Police Department

- Mr. Potter asked for clarification from Council on their intention of staffing levels for filling opening within Police Department, specifically 1 or 2 part-time officers
- Chief Wills and Sergeant Lawson will do interviewing and hiring
- Council asked officers present their feeling for staffing needs
- Mention was made as to coverage hours and that at this time there would be no change in hours of coverage
- Mr. Potter mentioned that he would like to see Chief Wills and himself have to leeway to run the department as appropriate and that closure in this issue is needed
- Mr. Hager moved to hire one part-time officer at this time with the opportunity to hire an additional officer if deemed necessary by staff and department once brought forward for Council approval. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

F. Eagle's Nest Dance Permit Request

- This is an annual licensure that runs the calendar year.
- The owner of the Eagle's Nest is looking at holding a dance in March
- Comment was made to look into the police departments' staffing need for such an event
- Mr. Ericksen moved to approve licensure and Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next EDA Meeting – February 16, 2006 at 6:30 a.m., at Uncle Albert's
- B. Next Planning Commission. – February 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Fire Hall Meeting Room, 101 Plainview St.
- C. Next Park Board Meeting – February 21, 2006 at 6:30 a.m. in Fire Hall Meeting Room
- D. Next Regular City Council Meeting – March 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., in the Fire Hall Meeting Room, 101 Plainview St.
- E. Sergeant Lawson reminded Council that he would be hosting K-9 training Tuesday, February 07, 2006 and that Council Members are interesting in observing they would be welcome to watch the vehicle narcotics searches in the City Park.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Ericksen moved to adjourn at 8:55 and Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2006**

**Members Present:** Mayor Tim Auringer, City Council Members Hub Ericksen, Adlor Olsen, and Aaron Hager

**Members Absent:** Patty Raddatz

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Brad Potter, Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch, Police Chief Phil Wills, Police Sergeant Laramy Lawson, Police Officers John Kopp, Andy Seifert and Andrew Hagen

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Auringer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

The following were present for Roll Call: Mayor Auringer, City Council Members Adlor Olsen, Hub Ericksen, and Aaron Hager.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Adlor moved to approve the agenda with additions. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried.

**5. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Resolution 2006-08 Resolution adopting Elected Official Out-of-State Travel Policy**

- Mr. Potter explained that this is a state mandated policy for elected officials
- Staff are also looking at creating in "in-house" travel policy for in-state travel
- Staff is recommending approval
- Any expenses over the amount indicated in the resolution will not be reimbursed
- Mr. Hager moved approval of resolution. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**B. Approval of wage increase for Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch**

- Mr. Potter noted that the Council gave a positive review of Ms. Rausch at the January 9, 2006 meeting however, forgot to officially approve the wage increase.
- Mr. Hager moved to approve wage increase from \$13.49 to \$13.96 per hour. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Review of Regional K-9 Training**

- Mr. Potter stated he has discussed with City Attorney and underwriter and gave them an overview of the training to take place.
- There are concerns in that there are agencies from other states and volunteers participating and the City's liability.
- Attorney would like correspondence from Weir Agency
- Staff will look into possibility of City Attorney drawing up waiver that volunteers could sign and also if out-of-state agencies provide City with proof as liability coverage for their officers in attendance
- Mr. Auringer moved to approve training once staff satisfactorily addresses for the League of Minnesota Cities regarding liability issues for both officers and volunteers. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Review of staffing levels of Police Department (Third full-time officer)**

- Discussion was held on staffing levels needed for police department
- Chief Wills presented data comparisons of other departments in similar sized communities

- When asked by the City Council, Police officers in attendance stated what they feel is right for the department in regards to hiring full-time or part-time officers
- Mr. Olsen called the Question
- Mr. Ericksen moved to leave position unfilled for 1 year, but open for amending if after 3 months the burden proves to great. Mr. Olsen seconded. Mr. Ericksen withdrew motion.
- Mr. Ericksen moved not to hire a full-time officer, but to allow flexibility for hiring additional part-time officer(s). Mr. Olsen seconded. Roll call vote was taken with 2 in favor and 2 opposed. Mr. Ericksen and Mr. Olsen voted yes and Mayor Auringer and Mr. Hager voted no. Motion fails due to tie.
- Mayor Auringer moved to hire third full-time officer. Mr. Hager seconded. Roll call vote was taken with 2 in favor and 2 opposed. Mr. Ericksen and Mr. Olsen voted no and Mayor Auringer and Mr. Hager voted yes. Motion fails due to tie.
- Mr. Ericksen moved more to hire a full-time officer, but to allow police department flexibility to hire part-time officer(s), subject to review after one year. Mr. Olsen seconded. Roll call vote was taken with 3 in favor and 1 opposed. Mr. Ericksen, Mr. Olsen, and Mayor Auringer voted yes and Mr. Hager voted no.

**C. Review of Goals and Objectives of Police Department**

- Mr. Potter stated that he would like to have all departments set goals and prioritize then
- Police Department goals were reviewed
- Mr. Hager asked Chief Wills to pick 2 short-term and 2 long-terms goals to work on first and present to the council in future how department plans to implement and when

**D. Review of Goals and Objectives of Police Chief**

- Mr. Potter stated that it was Mr. Wills option to close the meeting or leave it open due to the performance review.
- Chief Wills opted to keep meeting open to public
- Mr. Hager asked Chief Wills to identify most important goals and report back to council how and when planning to implement
- Mr. Potter recapped the outcomes and goals of the performance review that was conducted
- Upon recommendation position goals will be monitored quarterly and a review will be help in 6 months regarding performance and pay issues

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Adjusting Pay Equity Point System**

- Through audit it has been determined that City's job scale's points do not fall in line with State Job Match Point System.
- Laura with the Council of Governments has recommended to staff that council approves State's Job Match Point System
- Council would like more information as to how approving State Job Match Point System will affect City before voting on issue

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Olsen moved to adjourn meeting at 8:08 p.m.. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2006**

**Members Present:** Mayor Tim Auringer, City Council Members Hub Ericksen, Adlor Olsen, and Aaron Hager

**Members Absent:** Patty Raddatz

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Brad Potter, Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch, Public Works Director Rick Reinbold, Police Chief Phil Wills, Fire Chief Clete Frederick, Police Sergeant Laramy Lawson, Sergeant Laramy Lawson, Police Officers Andy Seifert and Andrew Hagen

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Auringer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

The following were present for Roll Call: Mayor Auringer, City Council Members Adlor Olsen, Hub Ericksen, and Aaron Hager.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Hager moved to approve the agenda with additions. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2005 TRUTH AND TAXATION MEETING, DECEMBER 5, 2005 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND DECEMBER 27 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Olsen moved to approve the minutes of the Truth and Taxation meeting, regular council meeting and the special meeting. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried

**6. Public Hearing - None**

**7. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

**8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Ordinance 2005-12 Second reading of an Ordinance rezoning property described as Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block Four, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Block Three and the adjacent portion of vacated Industrial Drive from L-1, Light Industrial to R-3, Limited Multiple Family Residential District**

- Mr. Potter stated this would be changing the parcel of land from an Industrial to Residential zoning.
- Planning Commission is recommending the change in rezoning
- Staff recommends approval of ordinance
- A Public Hearing was opened and closed
- Mr. Hager moved to approve ordinance for rezoning. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Ordinance 2006-01 Public Hearing or Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the City Code Establishing Rates and Regulating for Water Service.**

- Mr. Potter stated that by amending Chapter 8 for water rates would allow City to set water rates by resolution instead of by ordinance
- Public comments were heard. Kip Bruender of Joan Lane asked if this would mean that no public

- notice would be needed, which is correct. Public hearing was closed.
- Mr. Hager asked why we would want to do this and Mr. Potter stated that this would streamline the process to keep uniform with other fees processed at the beginning of each year.
  - Mr. Olsen moved to approve change in ordinance but still publish notice of proposed rate changes in City's official newspaper at least 10 days prior to adoption of rate changes. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Ordinance 2006-02 Public Hearing for Ordinance amending Chapter 5 Subdivision and Development Regulations of the City Code by establishing Section 5.600 Fees
- Mr. Potter stated this is the way to legally set fees for services
  - Public Hearing was opened with no comments and then closed.
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to approve ordinance. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Ordinance 2006-03 Public Hearing or Ordinance amending various sections of Chapter 6 of the City Code (Zoning)
- Mr. Potter stated this is to set up a fee structure
  - Public hearing was opened with no comments and then closed
  - Mr. Hager moved to approve ordinance. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously
- E. Ordinance 2006-04 Ordinance amending Section 26.03 Access to Parks and Recreation Areas. The ordinance would amend Fees for renting Basketball Court or Hockey Rink in City Park
- Mr. Potter mentioned this would be a clarification of the ordinance in which ordinance would refer to a resolution for setting fees
  - Public hearing was opened with no comments and then closed.
  - Mr. Olsen moved to approve ordinance. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- F. Resolution 2006-01, a Resolution Designating the Depositories of the City
- Mr. Potter stated this is a state statute requirement
  - The current has grown by keeping with local banks, 4M, and other banks with higher returns.
  - All are FDIC insured and have no on-line fees
  - Mr. Potter would like to see City more aggressive with monies in attempt to keep property tax levies down
  - No comments from public
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to approve resolution. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Resolution 2006-02 a Resolution Setting the Fee Schedule for 2006
- Mr. Potter stated that any proposed rate increases were published with bulk water and water rates increasing.
  - Proposed rate increases are due to City's growth.
  - City is looking at a three prong approach to funding the new well which is needed. That being from rate increase, hook up fees, and water area charge
  - Public comments were taken from Jim Peterson in which he asked if other alternatives have been looked into such as limiting City's growth. Mr. Peterson also mentioned possibly piping water in from Mankato with an intergovernmental agreement
  - Mr. Potter mentioned that RFP's on the well project are due in next week and may address these issues. Mention was also made that if City looks at piping water in from Mankato we would still be likely to see water rate increase since Mankato's water rate is higher than City's.
  - Resident, Jim Enz asked for clarification on outside meter remote reads and how accurate outside meters are.
  - Resident, Kip Bruender inquired to the revenue in the water account as of today and if this would help subsidize a new well. Staff mentioned that there is a balance in this account, which some of the monies go towards salaries and water main breaks
  - A new well will likely cost between \$300,000 and \$700,000
  - Enterprise fund has balance today and will help ensure funds remain
  - Mr. Bruender asked if it would be good to wait until cost of well can be accurately determined prior to setting new water rates.
  - Council discussed options in setting water rates
  - Mr. Ericksen moved to approve fee schedule as presented. Motion died for lack of second.

- Mr. Hager moved to approve fee schedule as presented with the exception to the water usage rate, which could be addressed at a later date. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**H. Resolution 2006-03 a Resolution of the City of Eagle Lake for the approval of the City's Land Use Plan (Public Hearing Required)**

- Mr. Potter explained that the land use plan is a look at where the City is going
- It is an outline for the City as to where we want to grow and not to force people to develop their properties
- Provides for sanitary sewer planning
- Public hearing was opened with comments take from Don Schneider, LeRay township supervisor. He asked how far along City is, in regards to industrial parks. City has approached one land owner to get thoughts, but there is nothing on the table.
- Public hearing closed.
- Mr. Hager moved to table resolution. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion tabled.
- City staff would meet with LeRay Township to discuss possible concerns.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- Items requested to be pulled are Anniversary Review of Police Chief, Phil Wills and Six Month Probationary Review of Deputy Clerk, Kerry Rausch that will be addressed in a closed meeting.
- Mr. Hager moved to accept consent agenda, excluding pulled items. Mr. Olsen carried. Motion carried.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Tax Increment Financing – John Volmary**

- This is a request to start the process, not to approve TIF agreement
- Mr. Hager asked for clarification on setting tax schedule and also asked if City can set the number of years for TIF. Mr. Volmary stated that City can set years TIF would be in place.
- The next step in process is to approve entering into an agreement with Northland Securities to develop TIF documents. Mr. Volmary would pay the associated fees.
- Mr. Ericksen moved to proceed into agreement with Northland Securities. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried 3 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Olsen).

**B. Agreement with Mankato Area Hockey Association**

- Public Works Director Mr. Reinbold stated that he has checked with other communities as to outdoor ice rink rental fees in which he would other communities do not rent their outside ice
- Local members of MAHA have indicated that they think there should be a reduced rate for residents
- Agreement between MAHA and City is clear in regards to hours and insurance coverage. Liability is the biggest issued remaining.
- Mr. Olsen moved to enter into agreement with MAHA. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Bills over \$1,000**

- Mr. Potter explained questions that were addressed
- Mr. Ericksen moved to approve bills over \$1,000. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried.

**B. Annual Appointments of Council Members to City Committees and Acting Mayor**

- Mr. Olsen moved to approve appointments as presented in packet. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried.

**C. Annual Designation of Official Newspaper**

- Mr. Olsen moved to maintain the Lake Regions Times as the City's official newspaper
- Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**D. Discussion of City Council Wages**

- Mr. Olsen moved to increase council wages by \$50 for regular meetings
- Mr. Potter mentioned that this is an item which needs to be published prior to official action.
- Mr. Hager and Mr. Ericksen agreed that City may want to leave wages for regular meetings alone, but look at changing wage rates for special meetings

- Discussion to be continued at later Council meeting
- E. Agreement with Progress Land Company to privately improve portion of 598<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Owl Lane to Peregrine Avenue
  - *This is the same general agreement as Phase 1 with the exception of the letter of credit issue*
  - Progress Land has approved agreement pending attorney approval
  - 1st agreement is still not signed
  - The street involved is a rural section and is 24 feet wide with gravel shoulders and will be paid for by developer
  - Mr. Hager moved to approve agreement. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- F. Andrew Seifert Resignation
  - Andrew Seifert has turned in his resignation with his last day of employment with the City being January 29, 2006.
  - Mr. Hager moved to approve Officer Seifert's resignation. Mr. Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - Discussion was held as to filling the vacancy within the police department due to Officer Seifert's resignation.
  - Mr. Hager moved to opening a full-time position within the police department. Motion dies for lack of second.
  - Discussion followed including looking into staff option.
  - Discussion will be brought forward in special meeting scheduled for January 19, 2006
- G. American Legion Gambling Resolution
  - Renewal of Charitable Gambling License is a annual event
  - Staff recommend approving resolution
  - Mr. Olsen moved to approve American Legion Gambling Resolution. Mr. Ericksen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel evaluation for the anniversary Review of Police Chief, Phil Wills and Six Month Probationary Review of Deputy Clerk, Kerry Rausch.

At 9:30 p.m., the meeting was closed to the public regarding the personnel evaluation for the anniversary Review of Police Chief, Phil Wills and Six Month Probationary Review of Deputy Clerk, Kerry Rausch.

The Council met with Ms. Rausch and Mr. Wills to discuss their performance reviews and to discuss possible wage increases with the position. The outcomes of the reviews would be presented at the City Council meeting.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

After the personnel evaluations were completed, Mr. Olsen moved to adjourn meeting at 10:20 p.m. Mr. Hager seconded. Motion carried.

**EXHIBIT 7**

**Copy of the May 10, 2006 issue of the *Lake Region Times***

# Lake Region TIMES

A Weekly Community Newspaper Serving  
Eagle Lake • Madison Lake  
St. Clair • Pemberton  
Jamestown Township • LeRay Township



75¢

Wednesday, May 10, 2006  
Serving The Lake Region Area  
For 97 Years  
No. 41  
The Lake Region Times  
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Madison Lake, MN 56063-0128  
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## Supporting Sarah Benefit Draws Hundreds CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN'S



*By Jerry Christensen Times Editor*  
Eagle Lake friends, neighbors, classmates, strangers and Madeline East High Drama Group stopped in to wish Sarah Rock for mother Holly, father Tim, and brother Zach well and to help defray some of the expenses the family has experienced since Sarah's diagnosis with Wilms' Tumor, a rare genetic disorder in which cancer destroyed her liver. She has recently had a liver transplant and is back home recuperating and will need to continue with some post-operative care.



Supporting Sarah  
Continued on pg. 6

Eagle Lake's Sarah Rock and her mother, Holly, were among the many who supported Sarah's dad on a late & long illness and was not available for the above picture.



*Photo by Jerry Christensen*  
St. Clair St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church held its 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation during its Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, May 7. The 2006 Confirmation Class, dressed in white gowns with red stoles, were: Jordan Kimota, Laura Westphal, Chelsea York and Alena Prosko. Pastor David Schmitt confirmed the five youth as they publicly confessed their God-given faith in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## First Communion, Confirmation & Graduation Celebrated At Marysburg



*Photo by Jerry Christensen*  
Marysburg: Alle France, Breana Baker, Mike Mayer, David Sprague, Bryan Williams, Patrick Ponce, Daniel Winder, Robert Gullickson, Megan Zimmerman and David Mayson will be confirmed on Thursday, May 11. Not all were available for the photo with Father Edwin on Sunday, May 7.

*By Jerry Christensen Times Editor*  
Marysburg friends gathered in the church hall to recognize the students who have recently received their First Holy Communion, friends gathered in the church hall to recognize the students who have recently received their First Holy Communion.

those who will be confirmed on Thursday, May 11, and Marysburg  
Continued on pg. 7

## A Modern Day Jonah



*Photo by Jerry Christensen*  
Eagle Lake's "Oh, Jonah" was performed by the Epiphany Lutheran junior choir, second through fifth grade, for both the 8:30 and 10:05 a.m. services on Sunday, May 7. Jonah was brought to life through music, mime and puppet-making. The story represented God's people, who need to be repentant for and take responsibility of their actions, and turn to and listen to the words of God. The choir was directed by Laura Thilsted, who also created the set and the puppets.  
Participants were: Rafael Munoz, Abbea Lange, Justin Wakefield, Sam Jensen, Maggie Peterson, Wade Rensow, Ben Awakke, Kristy Meyer, Cayla Neuberger, Kayla Engstrom, Amy Larson, Matt Johnson, Nick Olson, Aaron Black, Juana Arndt, Kelli Steinberg, and Alyssa Shaw.

|   |                                  |  |  |  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES...</b></p> | <p>Things-2-Do...<br/>Page 5</p> | <p>Hot Air + Cold Air in a Fight?<br/>Page 6</p> | <p>Gaining An Experience...<br/>Page 8</p> | <p>SPRING TIME = GARAGE SALE TIME...<br/>PAGE 10</p> | <p>"You play the hand you're dealt. I think the game's worth while."<br/>- Christopher Reeve, 1952-2004, American Actor/Director/Lobbyist</p> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|

Lake Region Times \* Page 2  
Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Eagle Lake \* Madison Lake \* Pemberton \* St. Clair  
Jameson Township \* LeRay Township

**Lake Region Times**  
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Published Wednesdays in the heart of Minnesota's hunting and fishing paradise, the beautiful Southern Minnesota Lake Region. Member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association. Subscription rates: \$25.00 per year for Blue Earth County addresses, \$30.00 for other Minnesota addresses, \$35.00 for all addresses outside Minnesota. Advertising and news item deadline is 12:00 noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

Periodical postage paid at Madison Lake MN POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Lake Region Times, PO Box 128, Madison Lake, MN 56063-0128

JERRY GROEBNER, Publisher & Editor  
JAMES GROEBNER, Assistant Editor & Photographer  
Advertising Production & Sales  
RUSS GROEBNER, Proof Editor  
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**ODDS 'N' ENDS**  
by Jerry Groebner

**End-Of-School Activities**

It is hard to believe that the 2005-2006 school year is about over. It seems like the school year just started and now they are in the last few weeks.

Along with the end-of-the-year come all kinds of special awards ceremonies, concerts, and proms, and numerous other special events. As much as I like to attend as many as possible, I cannot attend each and every event. We would like to give credit where credit is due for all the students' hard work throughout the school year. Please let me know in advance of these special events and I will do my best to be there. We would also appreciate any submitted articles and photos of these special events if anyone would like to submit information, please let us know so we have space for it.

Let's give the kids a big Congratulations for all their work.

**Thanks**

Speaking of calls and help, Thanks to Pastor Schmidt, St. John's Lutheran Church in St. Clair. He is so good at emailing me about special events and even sending reminders. Then, when I am there to get pictures, he helps the nurse along so I can get the needed information and pictures so I can move an in another event.

Sunday was Confirmation at St. John's with pictures at 8:30 a.m.

That was followed by the program at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, with another 8:30 a.m. program.

Then, there was the Marysburg recognition brunch following their 10:30 a.m. mass.

It was a busy day but everyone cooperated so well. Thank you.

**Thought For The Day (Continued)**

**Minnesota State Representative Tony Cornish**  
1-800-704-8525  
[rep.tony.cornish@house.mn](mailto:rep.tony.cornish@house.mn)



**REP. CORNISH AUTHORS CASTLE DOCTRINE LEGISLATION**

Saying that citizens should be allowed to stand their ground against law-breaking intruders that break into a home, car or business, State Representative Tony Cornish is authoring legislation allowing the use of deadly force against an unprovoked intruder.

The legislation is known as the "Castle Doctrine" relates to the ancient common law notion that a home is one's castle and the king or queen of the house has the right to defend it.

"Common sense tells us that if someone breaks into your home, be it there to do bodily harm," Cornish said. "By giving these citizens the option to use deadly force if they are in danger, we are protecting the law-abiding citizen rather than the violent criminal."

"Minnesotans have a right to feel safe in the comfort of their own homes," Cornish continued. "When that right is violated, homeowners should be able to use whatever force is necessary to protect themselves and their families."

The Castle Doctrine legislation has several notable provisions, which cover a person's home, vehicle or business:

- Removes the "duty to retreat" (leave your property and run) when attacked in a place you have a right to be, and allows victims to stand their ground.
- Creates the presumption that an attacker or intruder intends to do great bodily harm. Therefore, force, including deadly force, may be used to protect yourself, your family and others in the face of attack.
- Provides that people using force authorized by law shall not be prosecuted for using that force.

Since the early 1990s, Minnesota's higher courts have ruled that one has a "duty to retreat, if possible" when attacked anywhere outside of one's dwelling. This bill would permit a person to stand his ground if attacked anywhere - either inside or outside of his home. But to use lethal force away from the home, that person must have a reasonable belief that he is in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death from another person.

"Law-abiding citizens should not be victimized by fleeing to run away from an attacker," Cornish said. "This bill basically tells the bad guys: If you're going to use illegal force, be prepared to face legal force."

Indiana, Florida, South Dakota, Mississippi and Alabama have all recently adopted Castle Doctrine laws.

**Much Ado About Something**  
The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on SJR-12, the flag burning amendment this summer.

By Thomas L. Beck

The U.S. Senate knows it is coming - an up or down vote on the Flag Amendment. All of a sudden, congressional staffers in 34 offices are trying to revitalize the issue - much ado about nothing - to justify a NO vote by their respective bosses. Justifying the vote that would kill this amendment is hard work.

Flag burning is expressive conduct, nobody's burning flags. Flag burning doesn't hurt anyone, and flag burning is wrong, but must be tolerated and protected. Are among the many benign statements appearing in letters to constituents and editors to revitalize the issue - much ado about nothing.

The Constitution never guaranteed absolute freedom of speech. Conduct is either right or wrong; frequency is not a legality factor. Offensive conduct can engage emotions and even incite violence. Illegal actions do not have to be tolerated.

What is a flag? A national banner placed on the crest of a fallen hero. What is desecration? Putting to unworthy use. Burning is not the only example of unworthy use - urinating, defecating, and other acts to defile. A reasonable person can recognize acts of physical desecration, especially someone accustomed to pledging allegiance to the flag.

So who is right and does it really matter? Right, wrong, or indifferent is much ado about nothing. The real issue is the Constitution of the United States - the blueprint of our democracy.

The Founding Fathers realized the Constitution had to be a living document subject to modification by the governed. As the ink was drying, a list of initial amendments were wisely offered of which the first ten ratified became known as the original Bill of Rights. Since then, 17 other changes were made, to include the most recent one that took over 200 years to be ratified.

Amending the Constitution is very laborious and deliberative, by design. However, its "checks and balances" system was designed to catch and correct mistakes made by any branch of government - legislative, executive or judicial - no exceptions.

In 1989, contrary to judicial precedent, the U.S. Supreme Court struck the vast majority of Americans in a 5-4 decision that the physical desecration of Old Glory is a violation of the First Amendment.

Thomas L. Beck is national commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization. A text version and a high-resolution photo is available at [www.becknet.org](http://www.becknet.org).

**NOT ENOUGH PARKING AT MADISON LAKE BOAT RAM**

In your past the Dept. of Transportation has been accused of overfilling parking on the North side of Hwy. Park has opened a new parking lot on the fishing pier. This new lot is large enough to handle the boats and cars for park boat and trailer all the way out on the pier. This new lot is the North Shore Park ramp. The new lot is large enough to handle the boats and cars for park boat and trailer all the way out on the pier. This new lot is the North Shore Park ramp. The new lot is large enough to handle the boats and cars for park boat and trailer all the way out on the pier. This new lot is the North Shore Park ramp.

**Billie's Bits Hayden Appointment**

By Billie Carlson

The arguments being used against the appointment of General Michael V. Hayden as replacement to Director Peter Geiss as head of the CIA are suspicious. The big complaint is that General Hayden is of the MILITARY. They are saying that a military person should not be head of a civilian position.

How strange. A few years ago, it was being said that someone running for President should have had some military background. They were also saying that draft dodgers should not be elected President.

General Hayden has already had experience in the Intelligence Department of the United States. General Hayden has been the Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) (General Hayden has been called a great leader with extensive vision and tremendous experience. He is said to be a top notch administrator and knows the importance of sharing information between agencies.

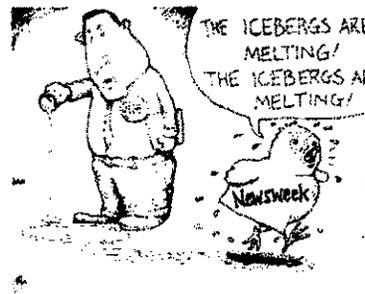
According to what I have read, General Hayden and Ambassador Negroponte, the new head of all the Intel agencies, will both implement Intelligence Reform to keep our country safe. We are not told just what these reforms will be. The Patriot Act gave a lot of leeway for wire tapping of suspected terrorists and others. The NSA gave leeway and permission for the wire-tapping of foreign telephonic calls and internet, and congress passed it.

How can we win the war on terrorists or on terror if we tie the hands of those who are supposed to gather information and then act upon it?

The reason for objecting to General Hayden is head of the CIA are suspicious. Who would the newsmen like to see heading the CIA? It will be interesting to learn why Peter Geiss was asked to resign. Just what differences did he have with Ambassador Negroponte and General Hayden? Will we ever find out?

Next Sunday is Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all I am thankful for my lovely family. God has blessed me.

May God Bless the United States and our leaders.



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- Letters to the Editor and Opinion/Commentary pieces may not exceed 400 words. Submissions exceeding the 400-word limit will be edited to an acceptable length or omitted from publication at the discretion of the Lake Region Times.
- Submissions will be considered for publication on a first-come/first-published basis and as space allows.
- The name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of the author(s) must be included with the submission. Only the name and hometown will be printed.
- The Lake Region Times reserves the right to edit submissions for grammatical, readability and length reasons, in the event that a modification of an unclear statement may cause misinterpretation of the opinion of the author(s). The Lake Region Times will attempt to contact the author(s) prior to publication. If the Lake Region Times is unable to contact the author(s), the submission will not be published.
- The Lake Region Times reserves the right to reject any submission deemed offensive, inappropriate or ambiguous as determined by the Lake Region Times.



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# THE DIET DETECTIVE

Lake Region Times • Page 3  
Wednesday, May 18, 2006

## THE CREATIVE COOK

by Julia Herzig

Because of those fat-free, low-carbohydrate diets, you've gotten a bad rap lately. However, it's a fun hobby to do.

Here's the skinny on one of America's favorite foods. Find it a good source of fiber and, if you're into a low-carb diet, it's a great source of protein. It's also a good source of iron, potassium, calcium, and zinc. It's also a good source of fiber and, if you're into a low-carb diet, it's a great source of protein.



In addition to fiber, a typical 1-cup serving of spaghetti provides 15 grams of protein, 10 grams of fat, and 45 grams of carbohydrates.

High-quality protein is the most important part of a spaghetti diet. It's found in meat, fish, and eggs. It's also found in soy products, such as tofu and tempeh.

The term "protein" is a general term for a group of nutrients that are essential for life. They are found in meat, fish, and eggs.

Protein is a building block for the body. It's used to build muscle, bone, and skin. It's also used to produce enzymes and hormones.

Protein is also a source of energy. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of vitamins and minerals. It's used to produce energy and to power the body's metabolism.

Protein is also a source of fiber. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of iron. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of potassium. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of calcium. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of zinc. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of magnesium. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of phosphorus. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

Protein is also a source of selenium. It's used to power the body's metabolism. It's also used to produce heat.

## Part 1: The Ultimate Weight Loss Quiz

By Charles Stewart Plutkin

To predict your ability to lose weight permanently, take this quiz. Part 1 (this week) probes your eating and activity, and Part 2 looks at your behavioral readiness and other key factors. While the quiz is not scientific, it is based on key studies as well as experts' advice.

Check your score to find out if you're ready to shed those pounds for good.

1. When it comes to "fast food" such as take-out, fast-food, or fast-food, you:

a) Keep eating until it's gone. (-2)  
b) Have no problem stopping after a bite or two. (+3)  
c) Hunt it down like a hot-seeking missile even if it's rejected from night. (-4)

d) Prefer fruits or vegetables instead. (+4)  
e) Prefer fruits or vegetables instead. (+4)

2. Which of the following best describes your home?

a. Chips or candy in bowls with night. (-4)  
b. Fridge packed with fruits and veggies. (+2)  
c. Empty fridge. (-4)  
d. Fridge stocked with fresh fruit and veggies, and no "junk food" in the pantry or on the table. (+4)

3. What's your typical meal?

a. Light meal. (-4)  
b. Like to have smaller meals and eat more often. (+2)  
c. I don't keep track of what I eat, but my portions are probably fine. (+3)  
d. I occasionally keep a food diary, and I know the portion sizes for the foods I eat. (+4)

4. How would you describe your dieting history?

a. I feel like I've spent my entire life on a diet. (-3)  
b. I only diet when I need to, like for a special occasion or a big event. (-3)  
c. I'm careful about what I eat, but I never diet. (-4)  
d. I need to lose weight quickly or I'll lose interest. (-5)

5. How often do you eat three or more servings of fruits and veggies (without butter or other fattening extras)?

a. Daily. (+5)  
b. At least three days a week. (+3)  
c. Rarely. (-4)  
d. Never. (-6)

6. How often do you drink alcohol?

a. More than 10 drinks a week. (-6)  
b. Five to 10 drinks a week. (-3)  
c. One a week. (+1)  
d. Rarely. (+2)

7. Do you plan your meals?

a. I just grab what I can when I can. (-5)  
b. No, I just wing it. (-4)  
c. I plan my dinners. (+2)  
d. I know what I'm going to eat for lunch and dinner. (+4)



Charles Stewart Plutkin is a nutrition and public health advisor, author of the best-selling *Drinking the Fat Water* (Plume, 2005), *Breaking the FAT Power* (Plume, 2006) and *Lighten Up* (Plume, 2006). He is also the author of *Drinking the Fat Water* (Plume, 2005).

## Dear Dr. Doe

by Doc Lang, Ph.D.

DEAR DR. DOE:

I'm usually good and laughing but recently, I've realized that when I feel slighted, I don't give that person a second chance. I just write them off. Recently, a woman I knew only in the good friend of a dear friend of mine who died recently, invited me to meet her at a movie downtown and then didn't show up. I was recovering from a knee operation, and walking was hard for me, so I had to be carried. I was embarrassed. Our friends must have crossed, and the lady I met her phone number. Later, she apologized, but I really didn't want to see her again.

I've forgotten her name, who was actually invited to see when I was a child, but why did I find it so hard to forgive such a lady? I just don't know what I was feeling. My mother used to say, "You're too sensitive, dear!" - which carried me - and was absolutely true!

DEAR VANESSA: I'm sorry that it's a tricky business - and let's face it - we're all people who are PERFECTLY all in some fashion, with

each a little white affair in another part of the brain. It's hard to be perfect - I'll get right back to you! Besides, they may be right!

In other words, it's important to be "right" in order not to be rejected, ridiculed, abandoned, humiliated or abandoned. Being "right" is very necessary for survival, and even a little understanding can make you a child feel slighted and "crossed."

I had a close friend who was a very good person, but she was a little sensitive. She was a little sensitive, and she was a little sensitive. She was a little sensitive, and she was a little sensitive.

## Poor Rix's Almanac by Rix Quinn

Rix's new book, "The Almanac," is a collection of 100 essential communication skills. It's available now for 99 cents from the "Almanac Store" section of Amazon.com.

Dear Poor Rix: This is my first spring in my new apartment. My girlfriend dropped by last night, and she said she was going to be home for the night. I was a little nervous, but she was a little nervous.



The cartoon is a drawing of a man in a suit, looking a bit nervous. It's a simple line drawing with a few details like a tie and a pocket square.

1. Wash your clothes, because cleaning up for dirty, unclean clothes may be defined as something other than a "big" group.

2. To surprise, play up your skills. Poor Rix's favorite work songs include "My dog is dirty, but my shirt is clean," and "The kitchen window is dirty, and it's got me a part."

3. Get rid of clutter, unless clutter is

the cause of your grief, because that old poem "A dirty room leads to a dirty mind" is a dirty room, and it's a dirty mind.

4. Prioritize your tasks by listing priorities. Poor Rix's agenda includes: (1) Clean house, (2) Wash clothes, (3) Wash dishes, (4) Wash car, (5) Wash windows, (6) Wash floors, (7) Wash walls, (8) Wash ceiling, (9) Wash baseboards, (10) Wash trim.

5. Remove your most hated by cleaning up. Poor Rix's most hated by cleaning up is a messy room. It's a messy room, and it's a messy room.

## Mother's Day Ideas

Tasty, Nutritious Mother's Day Meals

(MAY) - Giving the gift of good health is one of the best ways to show Mom how much she's appreciated on Mother's Day. Here's a tasty way to keep health on her plate with the recipe below.

The Role of Folic Acid: Since 1998, virtually all white flour in the U.S. has been enriched with folic acid, which helps protect against certain birth defects. Folic acid has also been found to decrease the risk of preterm among women, and to help lower blood homocysteine levels, which is believed to be a risk factor for heart attack and stroke.

Blueberry Rice Crisp: This recipe makes 6 servings. It's a healthy and delicious treat for Mother's Day. It's a healthy and delicious treat for Mother's Day.

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This blueberry rice crisp can be a delicious and healthy way to show Mom your care.

1 cup whole wheat flour  
1 cup chopped walnuts  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 tablespoons margarine

Combine rice, blueberries and 1/2 cup margarine. Add 1/2 cup whole wheat flour and 1/2 cup chopped walnuts. Place rice mixture in a 9x9 inch baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Serve warm.

More recipes are available at [www.healthy.com/recipes](http://www.healthy.com/recipes).

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# DISABILITIES

## Just One More Thing Day Without Immigrants

By Jeff A. Gendron

In 1986, there were about 2.5 million illegal aliens in America. Congress and President Ronald Reagan's administration considered them vital because they had not contaminated serious crimes, and that they had sufficient ties to American life to be allowed to remain in the U.S. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 provided for the legalization and granted amnesty to the illegal aliens who met certain requirements. In exchange for legal status for the illegal aliens, President Reagan insisted that the magnet attracting illegal aliens to America be removed by extinguishing any incentive for American employers to hire illegal aliens. President Reagan believed that if an employer were fined for hiring an illegal alien, as much as \$1 million in the worst cases, the fine would wipe out any potential savings achieved by the hiring. It may have been a good idea, but obviously it did not work and turned out to be a dismal failure. No why try amnesty again?



In late March and early April of 2006, record numbers of protesters in many cities protested against possible changes in the laws dealing with illegal immigrants. The first week they got the attention of the quiet majority of Americans by the waving of flags from their native countries. Learning from the experience, protesters only waved American flags in later protests, only to have the American national anthem sung to them, with the words changed, during times up again.

Wolverine Packing Co., Detroit, Michigan, fired 15 women, some legal, others illegal aliens, on March 23, 2006, for attending a protest for immigrant rights. A manager at the Detroit newspaper plant said they had been told they would be terminated if they missed work on the day of the protest. "It was not fair," said Mercedes, a 31-year-old Detroit woman who attended the rally and was fired. "We went to fight for our rights." Mercedes is an illegal alien and asked that her last name not be used, according to the Detroit Free Press. All the workers at the plant were hired by an employment agency.

On March 30, 2006, 125 Ennis High School (Ennis, Texas) seniors were suspended from events the following weekend, including sporting events and the prom. The students were warned the previous week the suspensions would happen if they protested against the new federal immigration legislation. The students chose to protest and learned a valuable lesson in personal responsibility.

The California State Senate passed a resolution on April 27, 2006, which supports the "Great American Boycott 2006." The vote was along party lines, 24 Democrats for and 13 Republican against the resolution for supporting the May 1, 2006, boycott by illegal aliens and their supporters. The resolution describes the boycott as a way to educate the country about the tremendous contribution immigrants make to our society and economy.

There were hundreds of protests and rallies on May 1, 2006, in what became known as "The day without immigrants." The boycotts were to remind Americans of the role immigrants play in the U.S. economy and demand immigration reform, said organizers. Some businesses were closed in support of the protest on because they did not have enough workers to stay open.

Protesters are in a real quandary on what to do with the 12 million illegal aliens in America. I believe they are partly responsible for this mess by not having the laws of our country upheld for decades. This election year the politicians should remember the illegal immigrants can not vote. In the end, it is a national security issue to know who is crossing our borders. We check passengers on airplanes, but not close our borders? What if there is another terrorist attack like 9-11 and we find out the terrorist came in across our border illegally? Then it will be too late to fix the problem, but the nation, from the politicians to do something will be tremendous. A little law, I would think!

Just One More Thing, May Day (May 1) is a spring festival celebrating human fertility and the renewal of nature. The festival originated with the celebration of the Roman goddess Flora and spread to other countries of the Roman Empire. May Day was especially popular in England during medieval times. Activities centered around the Maypole, a tree collected from the woods and brought to the village to celebrate the upcoming summer. However, in many European countries it is a time of courtship. In Communist and socialist countries, May Day often features parades exhibiting military prowess. May Day is also known as International Workers Day, often referred to as "Labor Day," in most countries other than United States.

## PhD Has Down Syndrome Son

By Daniel J. Vance

Although 24-year-old Lene Jaques of Prosser, Colorado, had a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from the University of Arizona, her degree couldn't prepare her for the birth of her son, Ben.



"At seventeen weeks I was told during a routine sonogram that Ben had only one heart valve and no walls that separate the upper and lower chambers of his heart," she said in a telephone interview. "In addition, he had a cleft lip and palate, although at the time they didn't know about the palate. Later, another doctor found two cysts on his brain."

In these she and her husband learned Ben also had Down syndrome, which is caused by a defective embryo cell division creating an extra No. 21 chromosome. It affects perhaps 350,000 Americans and is the nation's leading cause of mental retardation. The National Down Syndrome Society claims up to 50 percent of children with Down syndrome are born with heart defects similar to those Jaques described.

At the time, the Jaques lived in Kalamazoo, Mich., and already had children ages 6, 3, and 1. Doctors at Kalamazoo said that Ben might not live a week, and specialists in Ann Arbor recommended her having an abortion.

Today, Ben is 9 and home-schooled. "And he loves building with blocks, playing with Thomas the Tank Engine, and watching Sesame Street," Jaques said. "He has a play kitchen and loves serving food. He loves playing church, adores our priest and unites him at home."

Ben reads books of up to 20 words. He is hearing impaired, so he reads by sight. And he does basic addition and subtraction, and knows his colors. Jaques said Ben is in kindergarten level in her home school, and believes he easily could reach fourth-grade in most disciplines.

Because Ben in the past has aspirated stomach "contents" into his lungs, which can lead to aspiration pneumonia, Jaques now must feed him through a tube into his stomach (nasal gavage).

Jaques said that Ben is a delight. "Although having difficulty speaking, he also has the will and drive to be understood," she said. "Eventually, he's always understood because he doesn't give up. I admire his outgoing spirit."

A self-described "apprehended nerd," Jaques said she has benefited from her son's life. For one, he has taught her to value each human being regardless of their intellectual abilities.

For more, see [danieljvance.com](http://danieljvance.com) and [www.djv.com](http://www.djv.com). [This column made possible by a grant from Blue Valley Sed, [www.bluevalley.com](http://www.bluevalley.com)]

## Inspiration Point

By Rick Leibel

### EARL & ARNOLD

Wonder if you see an old friend? "Who is this e-mail from?" I thought.

"Rick, did you grow up in Centreville? Graduate '73? Know a big goof by the name of Earl?" I laughed. Thirty-three years had passed. Off went a quick response, "Here's a hint—Arnold."

Yes, he knew Arnold. That was my nickname in high school. I wasn't too fond of it since it was the nickname of a cute pig on a popular television show of that era. Arnold-the-pig comparison aside, it was great wandering back to those old memories. I have many sniffs worthy ones with Earl.

Another e-mail to Earl: "So tell me about life. Where do you live? Wife? Kids? Job? What do you do for fun? Spiritual life? Etc."

Pondering through a deep searching of my brain, I thought: "Spiritual life?" Earl and I had been best friends. We both attended churches every Sunday. We both thought of ourselves as Christians, yet it's highly doubtful we ever had one significant spiritual conversation. Realistically, it's doubtful we even had a frivolous, shallow one. More than likely—zero.

So God, if we love You, we are supposed to talk about You and your commands? Even outside of church? Should we start with our good friends?



By the Author



### Phone Home It's Me - God!

Anger and a thirst for revenge are natural reactions when a wrong is committed against you. I understand that. However, acting on those feelings is wrong. As impossible as it seems, you must try to find it in your heart to forgive, as Christ commanded.

If you can do this, you will be practicing what I do every day. There is nothing I won't forgive provided the sinner is truly repentant. That is the key. The sinner's heart must be pure when he comes to Me. Simply saying, "I'm sorry," is not enough.

If at all possible, if someone has wronged you, they should not only be truly sorry, they should make an effort to make amends. This will be their way of atoning.

By way of atonement for sinners, I ask that they not only try to right the wrong they've done, I ask that they "Go and sin no more." If a person is committing the same sin over and over again, they are not making a true effort. They are not showing a genuine repentance.

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## Investing For Retirement While Saving For Health

By Karen Acker

**Personal Finance Expert**  
"NAPF—At the time of year you're in the right time to consider setting up a Health Savings Account (HSA). If you need a new way to reduce taxes while you put money away, an HSA may be just the thing for you."

These high-deductible health insurance plans coupled with HSA-style savings accounts are really pretty easy to understand, offer a number of benefits and are becoming more popular.

What is an HSA? HSA's were developed to maximize your savings on health insurance while providing a valuable tax break. The two parts of an HSA program are the eligible, high-deductible health plan and a tax-advantaged savings account. For an individual, an HSA-eligible health insurance plan must have an annual deductible of at least \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for families. (These health insurance accounts, like flexible spending accounts have a variety of HSA-eligible health plans from insurance companies you know and trust.)

The second part of an HSA program is an HSA-style savings account that allows you to reduce your taxable income by the dollars you save. You can deposit funds up to the limit of your health plan's deductible into the HSA each year. In addition, certain regulatory limits, the higher your health plan's deductible, the more you can sock away for free.



Like an IRA, the Health Savings Account is meant to encourage you to save for retirement by investing your savings.

How does the tax savings work? If you make \$40,000 a year and you put \$2,000 in your HSA, you'll only pay taxes on \$38,000. Like an IRA, the HSA is meant to encourage you to save for retirement. Funds placed into your HSA can be invested and the balance will roll over each year into retirement.

You can use your HSA funds to cover medical expenses such as over-the-counter drugs, eye glasses, copayments and any medical costs incurred before your annual deductible is met.

Visit official websites.com to learn more about HSA's and get a free health insurance quote. Just enter your zip code and sign to find plans available near you. If you're looking for a way to maximize your tax savings while preserving the benefits of a quality health plan, take a look at your HSA options today.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>EAGLE LAKE AREA</b>        | <b>SMITHS HILL AREA</b>   |
| Church of Christ              | Trinity Evangelical   |
| Sunday School 9:30 am         | Lutheran Church   |
| Sunday Worship 10:00 am       | Sunday School 9:30 am   |
| Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm | Sunday Worship 10:00 am   |
|                               | St. John's Episcopal Lutheran                                   |
|                               | Church - Wells  |
|                               | Sunday School 9:30 am   |
|                               | Sunday Worship 10:00 am   |
|                               | Communion celebrated 1st, 3rd & 5th                             |
|                               | Thursday Evening Worship 7:00 pm                                |
|                               | Communion is celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month |