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★ **ESTHERVILLE NEWS**

JUNE 2024

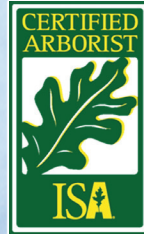
Inspiration for Our Day- "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." ~1 Peter 1:3

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IN THIS ISSUE

JUNE 2024

JOAN ENOCKSON

PAGES 4-9

ELC SPOTLIGHT

PAGES 10-15

ROCK GARDEN

PAGES 16-19

MINNESOTA MASSACRE

PAGES 20-24

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAGE 25



ON THE COVER

The rain and stormy weather was a perfect opportunity the last few months for rainbow photos. Mom MaKayla Hardman and children Westyn and Karter Witzke were playing outside when she saw the this beautiful moment to capture.

Photo by MaKayla Hardman



STORIES THAT *Sing*

Local teacher and author wins Literary Global Independent Author Award

BY AMY H. PETERSON
APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

Joan Enockson, Talented and Gifted teacher at Estherville Lincoln Central schools, is also a children's book author. Enockson has previously spoken with the Estherville News about her journey to becoming an author. She releases several chil-

dren's books each year - details can be seen on TallGirlPublishing.com. Enockson has won the Independent Author Award for Children's: Inspirational/Motivational book from Literary Global. The Literary Global Independent Author Awards aims to

recognize authors from various backgrounds and genres, whose books exhibit supremacy in both style and substance. Enockson's winning book is "Candace's Big Audition," a story of Candace the Cow and the second book of Enockson's Adventures

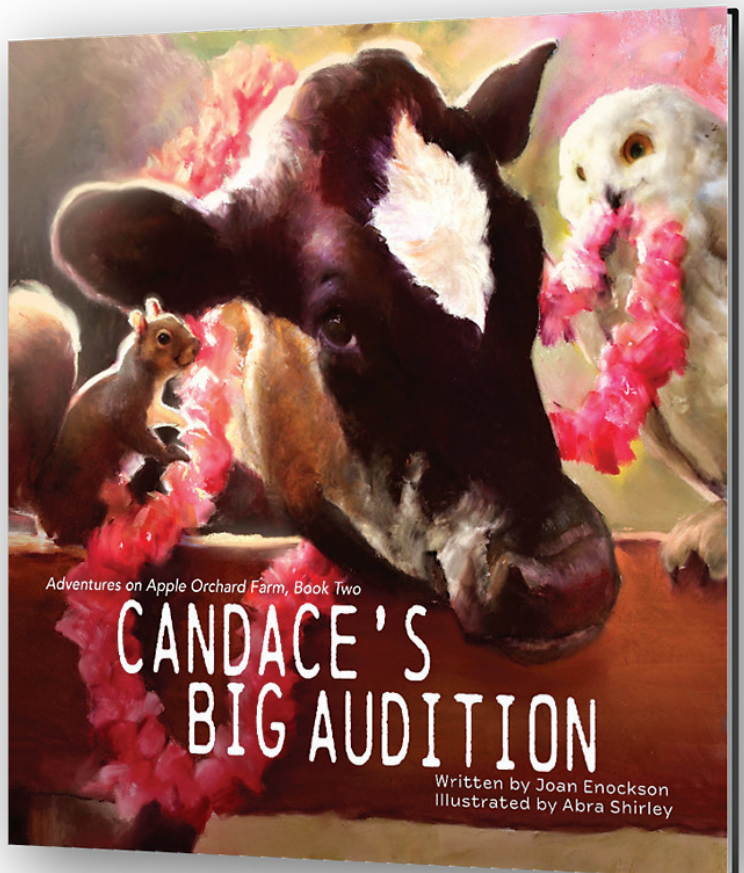
on Apple Orchard Farm series. At 3,000 words, the book is for early chapter book readers in third to fourth grade, or more broadly from ages 8-12. Enockson said the series highlights relatable stories of animals who encounter struggles that children might

WRITE A BOOK? IT WAS NEVER MY DREAM..... THEN I HEARD A 'HOOT'.
This is how it happened.

Joan writes on her website of how she started creating children's books in 2015:

"One morning I went for a walk. It was dark and foggy. Just as I crossed the railroad tracks I heard an owl hooting from the top of a utility pole. On that walk I wrote "Who Says 'Hoot'?" I had no idea that routine walk would be the beginning of the Adventures On Apple Orchard Farm series and Tall Girl Publishing."

joanenockson.com/my-story/





Writing Candace's choice in the book is the first time I have ever revealed the choice I made when I was young
-JOAN ENOCKSON



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Category:
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“Candace navigates the complexities of competition and friendship, presenting young readers with a relatable and engaging narrative.”



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6 ★★ JUNE 2024 ★ OUR HOMETOWN

face. Drawn from Enockson's childhood experiences as a child singing to cows on her family's farm, Candace is a cow who faces a choice that will have consequences to her friendship. From the dairy barn of Apple Orchard Farm, Candace must decide between doing her best in a singing audition and potentially beating out her best friend, Marny, or throwing the audition so her friend can be selected.

Enockson said, "Writing Candace's choice in the book is the first time I have ever revealed the choice I made when I was young."

Enockson came

from Washington State to Iowa to study music. Her current role as a teacher at Estherville Lincoln Central allows her to blend her passion for education, music, and writing. She teaches her gifted and talented students to create their own books from idea to book-in-hand, and engages her deep understanding of children's social-emotional learning to create books that make an impact.

Literary Titan reviewed the book stating, "Candace navigates the complexities of competition and friendship, presenting young readers with a relatable and engag-

ing narrative.” Other strengths the reviewer noted include, “The narrative adeptly tackles the theme of decision-making, highlighting the importance of weighing options and understanding the impact of choices. The book goes beyond simple entertainment, offering insights into emotional intelligence.”

trated by Abra Shirley. Enockson's newest series launches June 1, and is available for pre-order. It's decidedly more crabby. The first two books in The Crustacean Chronicles series will launch on that date: “Charlie's Crabby Day- A tale of friendship against the tide” and “The Sand Sculpture Competition-a tale of teamwork against all



Abra Shirley is an illustrator from Kansas who uses mainly pastels and is inspired by Norman Rockwell's process. Joan & Abra have worked on other children's books together in the past.



abramoriah@gmail.com | @art.by.abra

Joan uses the illustrations created by her talented artist friends to make the layouts of her books:

"I enjoy putting the book together so that it looks good. There is a lot to it, from adding all of the data in the front and back pages, to figuring out where to put the illustrations so the visual flow is appealing to the reader. During the formatting process, there are many trials and errors to make it look just right, but I enjoy the creative process."



Book cover photos from artbyabra.com, all written by Joan Enockson and illustrated by Abra Shirley



Joan says on her website:

While on vacation, riding my motorcycle along the Mississippi River, I began developing the

Adventures with Grandma Biker series.

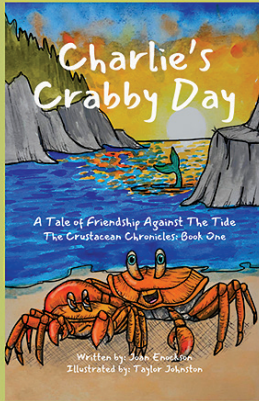
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Launch Date: June 1, 2024. *Available for pre-order NOW!
joanenockson6@gmail.com. *Order your signed copies today:)



Taylor Johnston is the K-12 ELC art teacher and illustrated Joan's Crustacean Chronicles. She loves using a variety of media and art styles.

SOME CHILDREN ARE UPSET TO HAVE REACHED THE LEVEL OF READING CHAPTER BOOKS BECAUSE THEY MISS THE PICTURES THAT GIVE CLUES AS TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE STORY.



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8 ★★ JUNE 2024 ★ OUR HOMETOWN

odds.”

Another series geared to ages 8-12, readers of these adventures of Charlie and Chuck follows the two crabs on an adventurous course to an unlikely friendship, discovering a world they could only dream of. For these books, Enockson teamed up with ELC Middle School art teacher Taylor Johnston. Johnston's art reflects her diverse influences, from black and white vintage illustrations to vibrant and colorful maximalist creations. She uses a variety of media and styles to evoke different emotions and feelings, and adapts her artistic expression to resonate with various audiences.

Enockson said teaming up with the right il-

lustrator for each of her creations is important to her because she hopes to reach visual learners. She said some children are upset to have reached the level of reading chapter books because they miss the pictures that give clues as to what's happening in the story.

Enockson's titles are carried at Brey's on Seventh in Estherville, and all are signed.

Enockson's author appearance adventures will take her to Alford, Swea City, Quimby, Storm Lake, Joice, Audubon and Milford this summer. In October, Enockson is guest speaker at the Heartland Conference at Dordt University in Sioux Center, and she continues with appearances through to Thanksgiving.

Joan Enockson's books can be found at:
[Amazon.com/author/tallgirlpublishing](https://www.amazon.com/author/tallgirlpublishing)

Get Signed Copies

at Brey's on 7th or by contacting Joan through email:
joanenockson6@gmail.com



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ELC SPOTLIGHT



ELC SENIORS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The senior class at Estherville Lincoln Central High School has not only excelled academically and in their extracurricular activities, but also by leaving an enduring mark on the community through its commitment to service.

Over the past four years, 22 members of the Class of 2024 have combined to participate in 2,940 volunteer service hours between 8th and 12th grades.

Their involvement spans a wide range of activities, including assisting teachers at Demoney Elementary, engaging in church groups, managing athletic teams, performing yard work for elderly residents, and spending time at local nursing homes.

These seniors have also played a vital role in various community events, such as Sweet Corn Days, the Fright Hike at

Fort Defiance, and the Flight Breakfast. They've also taken part in Elks Club activities, where they contributed by face painting, engaging with youth, and supporting music concerts.

These service initiatives play a crucial role in the personal and character development of the students involved. Through volunteering, students learn the value of empathy, teamwork, and

civic responsibility—skills that will serve them well as they transition into adulthood.

“These seniors have demonstrated exceptional dedication and compassion through their service efforts,” said Tara Paul, ELC Superintendent. “Their commitment to making a positive impact in our community is truly inspiring and reflects the core values we strive to instill in all our students.”

Their selfless contributions have not only enriched the lives of those they've served, but have also set a shining example for their peers and future classes of ELC students."

This commitment to service is not limited to the graduating seniors alone. ELC's Purple Cord Program, a service-oriented opportunity for students, has seen a total of 112 participants from 8th to 12th grade.

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, these students have collectively volunteered an impressive 2,363 hours, showcasing the widespread culture of giving back within the ELC community.

"The involvement of all students in both the Purple Cord Program and their individual service projects has been outstanding," said Sonya Gjerde, ELC High School Success Coordinator.

"They've dedicated

significant time and effort while showing true leadership and commitment to service. The senior class in particular has greatly enhanced our community's spirit and set a high standard for future classes. Their relentless work and influence reflect their admirable character and embody the true essence of what it means to be part of our ELC community. One School. One Heart. One Legacy."

As the Class of 2024 prepares to bid farewell to their high school years, they leave behind a legacy of service and kindness that will continue to inspire future generations of students. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding students and wish them continued success as they embark on their new adventures.



Purple Cord Participants Kennedy Paul, Jasey Anderson, and Leah Williams walk down the stage at the 2024 ELC Graduation Ceremony.

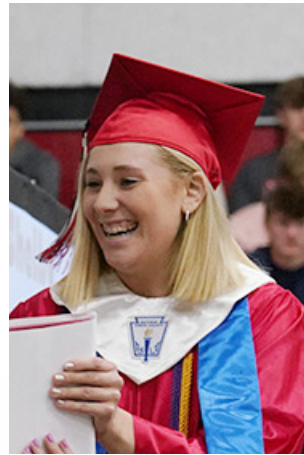




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OWEN LARSON



RYAN LEONARD



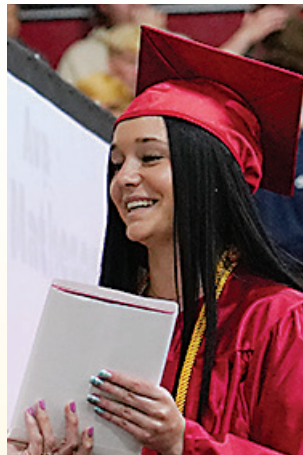
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HANNAH NITCHALS



JERSIE NITCHALS



KENNEDY PAUL



EMILY PAULSON



PIPER QUASTAD



CARSEN RENZE



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GRADUATES PICTURED ARE PURPLE CORD PARTICIPANTS - NAMES PROVIDED BY ELC CSD



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Flutter by the New Butterfly



Estherville Garden Club members Nancy Anderson, Evelyn Prentice, Hazel Wilson, Carolyn Brown with Roger Kahler, who installed the new butterfly sculpture at the Estherville Rock Garden.

Estherville Garden Club commissions Rock Garden Sculpture

By DAVID SWARTZ

DSWARTZ@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

Estherville's 91-year-old Rock Garden received an addition last week to add to the historic's sites appeal—an iron butterfly sculpture.

The sculpture was commissioned by the Estherville Garden Club

which annually takes care of the garden located on West South First Street at the south end of Mickelson Park and along the banks of the Des Moines River's west fork.

Kahler Custom Irons owner Roger Kahler made the sculpture

and installed in on Wednesday, May 12.

Garden Club member Carolyn Brown said the club used memorial money designated for projects like these to pay for the project.

Kahler's service have been used previously. Last year, the 92-year-old

from Dunnell, Minn., installed a railing for the steps leading into the interior of the garden. Kahler also made the "Yard of the Month" sign that the club displays at selected residences throughout the year.

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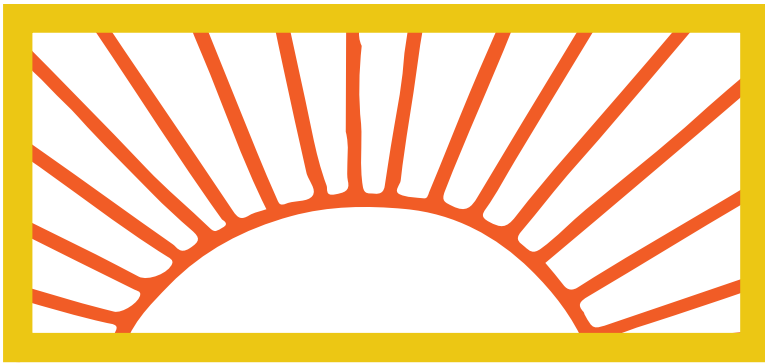
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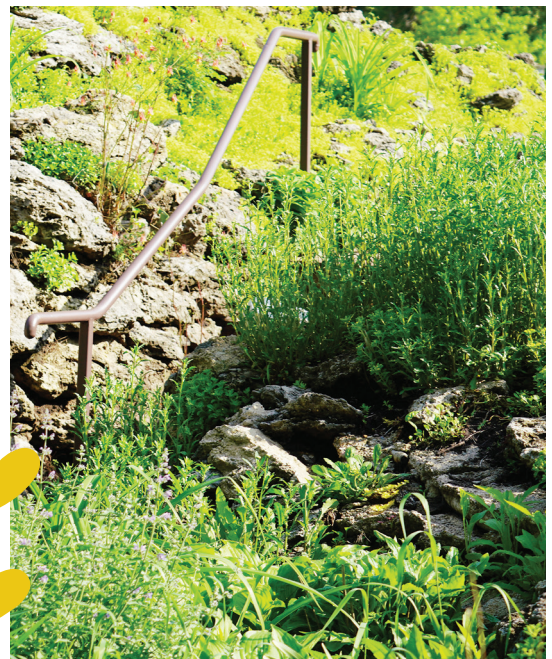
.....
This program surpassed anything I could have imagined, leading to significant personal growth and a deeper understanding than I ever knew was possible of the businesses, local government, and community organizations within Estherville. - Emily Mullaly
2024 Graduate
.....





Welcome to this garden
To spend a quiet hour

The kiss of the sun for a pardon
The songs of the birds for mirth
You are nearer to God's heart in
a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.
—Unknown



Roger Kahler installed this railing to help visitors navigate these steps into the Rock Garden.



The swinging bench was installed last summer. The plaque reads, "In Memory of Deborah Jane Dugan by Mike Hamre."

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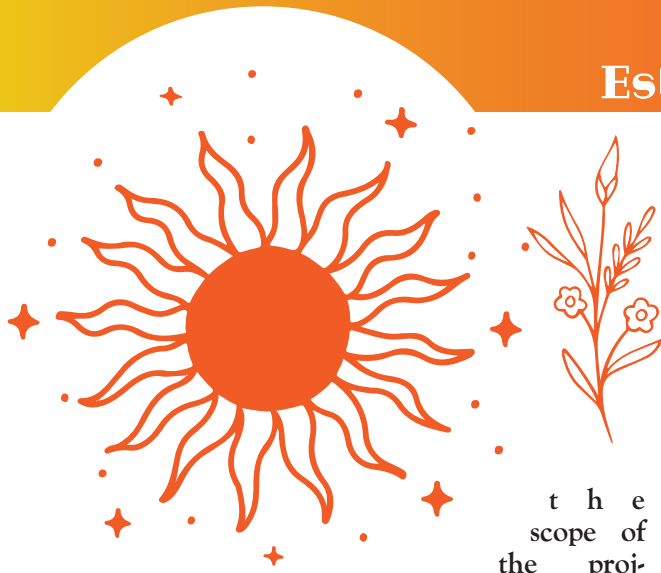
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History of the Estherville Rock Garden



First Street was part of a mill used on the west fork of the Des Moines River in 1960.

The rock garden was originally much larger, extending north from its current location to the swimming pool—now the Ninja park.

A band shell also was in the midst of the garden. The area was long used as a picnic spot.

Over the years, the garden was paired down in scope and became silted in.

In the mid 1990s, Boy Scout Aaron Omtvedt selected to clean up the current site as part of his Eagle Scout project. It took 100s of hours to remove several tons of silt and recover the mon-

ument. At that time, Estherville Boys Scouts teamed up with the Estherville Garden Club to resell the garden and re-introduce more plants and flowers.

The Estherville Garden Club has taken responsibility for its care since 1998.

While the group has had to battle the river flooding into the area, a berm was constructed to the east that protects the garden from lesser floods.

A swinging bench was added to the south side of the garden last year.

Editor's note: History of the rock garden taken from an Oct. 21, 2010 article in the Estherville Daily News.

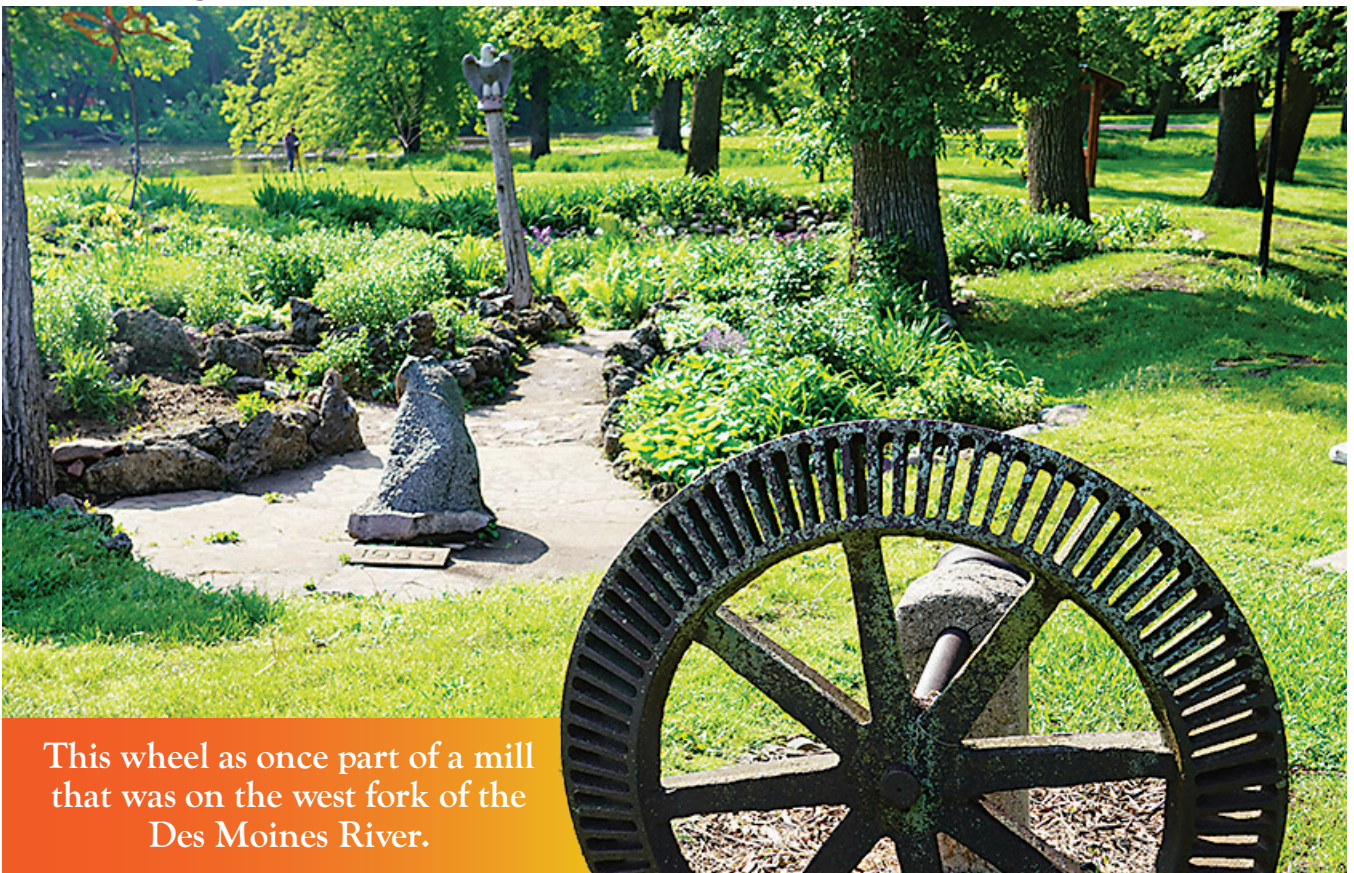
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The old mill wheel that sits on the street side of the garden on West South

By DAVID SWARTZ

DSWARTZ@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

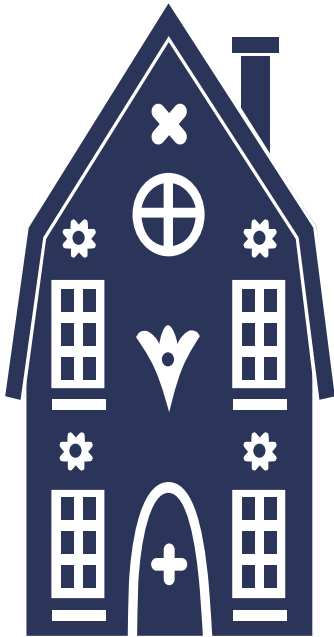
The concept for the rock garden was developed in 1932. A city councilman, Mr. Kilgore, was one of those behind the garden at a time when rock gardens were popular. In the spring of 1933,



This wheel was once part of a mill that was on the west fork of the Des Moines River.

MASSACRE IN MINNESOTA

A HISTORIAN VISITED WALLINGFORD TO DETAIL HER ANCESTORS' DEATH IN CONFLICT WITH DAKOTA SIOUX IN JACKSON



BY AMY H. PETERSON
APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

Deb Nelson Gourley visited the Sons of Norway meeting in Wallingford last month with a tale of Norwegian immigrants who braved the rocks, tangles, woods and harshness of the Minnesota frontier. Nelson Gourley is seven-eighths Norwegian and was raised on her family's 1853 Norwegian ancestral farm in southern Minnesota. She's an extensive traveler to Norway and has

worked extensively on genealogy with her mother and her son.

In genealogy, the searcher must be prepared for the good, the bad, the ugly, and the unbelievable.

June 2 marks the 100th anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, which Congress passed and President Calvin Coolidge signed to make indigenous tribal members full United States citizens. The local Sons of Norway Lodge in Wallingford heard a tale of two Larsons



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Deb Nelson Gourley presented her program, "Connecting the Dots of the 24 August 1862 Belmont Massacre" last month to members of Sons of Norway in Wallingford.

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last month from historian and author (and sheep reproduction expert) Deb Nelson Gourley's journey to find out what happened to her third-great grandparents, who are memorialized in Jackson, Minnesota as part of the uprising that killed a number of settlers in the area.

Today, we acknowledge that the land settlers built on had been ancient land of what we call the Dakota Sioux (Oceti Sakowin-the Seven Council Fires is a more accurate depiction of what the collective tribes called themselves) in southwest Minnesota. A large and itinerant tribe, they moved

their work and villages according to the seasons. Meanwhile, settlers from Scandinavia and western Europe were arriving by buggy and covered wagon to what seemed like open land. Out of the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. Government was providing land grants to homesteaders who would live on and cultivate the land.

In 1862, the battle known as the Sioux Indian Uprising or the Dakota Sioux Uprising. In Jackson County, it was the Belmont Massacre in which Nelson Gourley's great great grandparents lost their lives.

Nelson Gourley's great-great-great grandparents were among those Norwegian immigrants who agreed to come

to a new land and build it from the ground up. Southwest Minnesota in particular was a frontier in the young state in 1862. Throughout Minnesota more than one million indigenous people had inhabited the area. Times were hard and families were hungry. The U.S. Government was late with tribal stipends and contract payments, and local traders weren't paying their bills.

Author Gary Clayton Anderson said the Dakota Sioux tribe had complex relationships with whites dating back to the early fur traders arriving in the 1600s. Traders who were adopted as kin to the tribe, or who married in, were treated as family according to the high value the tribes placed on kinship. And they expected reciprocity of kinship from anyone they accepted into their tribe. As the fur trade declined and more white people moved into the territory, the



Doug Wagner
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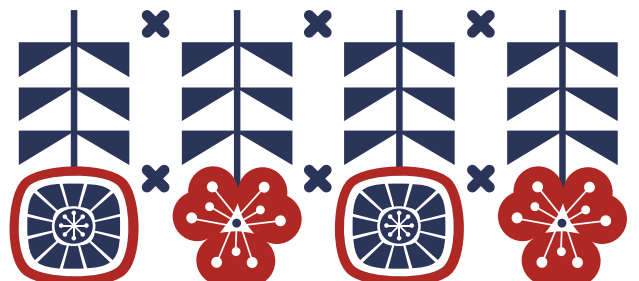


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reciprocity from both traders and the government failed to materialize. Over time, tribal members saw settlers as enemies to be driven out.

Historians of all backgrounds writing about this time and place agree that conflicts and relationships are complex, with the rising conflict and the consequences of the Dakota Sioux massacre leaving a very complicated legacy.

According to information from the Minnesota Historical Society, the U.S. Government broke its promises to the tribes, causing some of the Dakota Tribe to go to war against the

white settlers. Some Dakota Indians did not join in and aided and protected the settlers who had become their neighbors, allies, and even family members. Over six weeks, many from both sides were killed, while others fled Minnesota. A group of scouts and soldiers led by former Minnesota governor Henry Sibley marched against the Dakota warriors. Ultimately, 38 men from the Dakota tribe were hanged in Mankato in the largest mass execution in U.S. History, and the government forced most of the remaining members to exit Minnesota.

Nelson Gourley's

story began with her search for exactly which Lars Larson of two residing on the same property near Jackson was her great-great-great grandfather. Ultimately she discovered that a man who was called Jenntuften --the Iron Troll-- was not her 3g grandfather, after a journey of records, archives, and actual travel. Ultimately it was church baptism records from the 1860s that led her to the right path and the right Lars. Lars Larson Furnes, his wife, Anna Knudsdatter Langeland (Nelson Gourley's 3G grandparents). Their two-



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year-old son, Johannes Larson (Nelson Gourley's 2G grandfather) survived. The other Lars - Lars Larson Rasdal Hjernevik and his wife Guri Larsdatter Seim have been incorrectly listed as having perished in the massacre. They both lived - Lars the Iron Troll reaching the age of 81, according to his obituary on RootsWeb.

If the war took place in Minnesota today, the proportion of Minnesota's population killed would equal over 15,000. Over 600 settlers killed compares with 615 deaths of Civil War soldiers in Minnesota. Most of the 600 killed in Minnesota were unarmed non-combatants, and most were

killed within a six-week period, while Civil War casualties were spread over four years. By contrast a little over 100 Dakota Sioux were recorded as having been killed in the war. It's the largest number of people killed during a war with a tribe, according to Curtis Dahlin, author of "The Dakota Uprising - A Pictorial History."

Nelson Gourley's advice to Scandinavians and others seeking their settler roots is to check church records for marriage and baptisms, and to follow the movement of pastors during frontier days as they often worked in a circuit of congregations. Hence a baby or couple from one town or county

might have their ceremony in another place instead of waiting for the pastor to come back to their location.

Nelson Gourley publishes through her website astrimyastri.com where bilingual Norwegian/English books as well as histories, history and art, Scandinavian Studies, and genealogy kits are available. Her books have won national awards, including the prestigious G.K. Haukebo Heritage Resource Award for Historical Emphasis.



The Emmet Olson Cabin and the monument to Jackson County residents killed in the massacre are located at the Ft. Belmond site.

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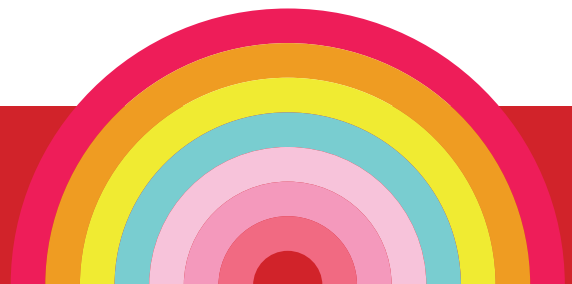
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE & JULY

- June 5 – Estherville Public Library (EPL) summer reading program kickoff 5:30 p.m. Library Square
- June 6 - Estherville Downtown Market in Library Square begins June 1 and runs every Thursday through the summer – Central Ave. and North Sixth Street.
- June 8 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Founders Day event, Peterson Point – Wallingford
- June 8 – Estherville Little League Association baseball tournament- Thoreson Park ballfield
- June 9-13 Reggie Schive Jazz Camp – Iowa Lakes Community College
- June 10 – Headliners concert at Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center (JKL) - \$10 at the door
- June 11 – Headliners concert on the Queen II at Arnolds Park – \$30 or JKL if raining
- June 11 – Going Bananas – Cake Pop Edition, free program at Estherville Pub. Library 5:30 p.m.
- June 12 – Headliners, jazz camp staff & alumni big band concert 7 p.m. JKL \$20
- June 13 – Jazz camp student combo concert 3:30 p.m., student big band 6:30 p.m., free
- June 13 – Headliners (Jazz Camp) at Little Swan Lake Winery approximately 9 p.m.
- June 19 – Lawyers in Libraries with Jennifer Bennett Finn, free program at EPL 5:00 p.m.
- June 20 – STEM Fest 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville
- June 20 – First day of summer/Summer Solstice
- June 20 – Ambassadors Golf Outing – Estherville Golf Course
- June 24 – Floral Embroidery craft session EPL 5:30 p.m. (must pre-register, limited spots available)
- June 26 – EPL Summer Reading Program finale foam party
- July 3 – Miss 4th of July Pageant, 6:30 p.m., Armstrong
- July 4 – Armstrong 4th of July Celebration
- July 4 7-11 a.m. 75th Annual Estherville Flight Breakfast located at the Estherville Municipal Airport. Serving pancakes, eggs, sausage and drink.
- July 26-30 Emmet County Fair, Estherville



Parting **SHOT**

photo by **DAVID SWARTZ**



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Dear ELC CSD and Stakeholders;

As we enter June, it is bittersweet that I write my final farewell to a community that has been a home to my family, the inspiration to my work, and an imprint on my career for the past 13 years. As my family and I prepare to embark on a new journey, I find myself reflecting on the memories we have shared, the challenges we have overcome, and the milestones we have celebrated.

The honor of serving as your district superintendent has been an honor of a lifetime. The staff and I have worked tirelessly together to ensure each student in our community received the quality education they deserved and one you expected. We did our best to create a nurturing and supportive environment where students could thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goal was always to create students who maximized their learning potential in becoming confident, independent, productive citizens with good character and would return to Estherville one day.

I am proud of all that has been accomplished during my tenure at ELC. From implementation of innovative educational programs to the multitude of partnerships with local organizations, we have made a great impact for our students. Our students, your children, have had great growth academically, being recognized as High Achieving and Commendable by the State of Iowa, our schools are thriving, and our partnerships continue to be strong.

It does not escape me that none of this would have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of each and every one of you, the community we serve. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a student, or a member of the broader Estherville community, your passion and commitment to our shared vision has made us better and contributed to our success.

It is with my deepest gratitude to all of you that I say goodbye and thank you. Thank you for your trust, your support, your friendship over the years. It has been an honor to serve as your superintendent, and I will carry the memories and professional growth of our time together with me as I go forward.

I have no doubt that the spirit of determination that defines the Estherville Lincoln Central CSD community will continue to thrive in the years to come. Together, there is nothing that cannot be accomplished, and I have every confidence that the best days for ELC and the community lie ahead.

With warmest regards and for the final time,

Tara Paul
Superintendent, Estherville Lincoln Central CSD

Thank You