

County Bottle Shop

located on the corner of Highway 2 and 20

Liquor Locker

located downtown Devils Lake

County Bottle Shop

701-662-4044

Liquor Locker

fine wines

701-662-5661

Prices Good thru Sept 21st, 2025

Budweiser, Bud Light,
Budweiser Select or
Michelob Golden Draft
24 Pack/12 oz. Cans

\$21⁹⁸

Twisted Tea
Spiked Drinks
12 Pack/12 oz. Cans
Assorted Varieties

\$16⁹⁸

NUTRL
Vodka
8 Pack/12 oz. Cans
Assorted Varieties

\$17⁹⁸

Premium Cocktails
4 Pack/12 oz. Cans
Assorted Varieties

\$9⁹⁸

Ron Diaz
Rum
1.75 Liter
Assorted Varieties

\$14⁹⁸

Black Velvet
Whisky
1.75 Liter
Assorted Varieties

\$15⁹⁸

Malibu
Rum
1.75 Liter

\$27⁹⁸

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DEVILS LAKE JOURNAL

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Devils Lake Public Schools Board met Sep. 15



Melissa Haahr, District Business Manager, administered the Oath of Office to Elizabeth Orness, senior at DLHS, who will serve as the student representative on the Devils Lake School Board.

by Louise Oleson, DLJ

The Devils Lake School Board met Monday, Sep. 15 in the Sports Center on the DLHS campus. Following the Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and approval of the agenda, the newest board member, DLHS student Elizabeth Orness, DLHS senior, was sworn in and outgoing board member LeeAnn Johnston was recognized and thanked for her 14 years of service to the community. Student Outcome Goals goal number 2 “Choice Ready” and GPM 2.2 Essential Skills were discussed/reported on. Superintendent Ned Clo-

ten was optimistic and pleased with the progress the students were making with their goals, especially the Native American students and those recognized as economically disadvantaged students. He believes that now that the school system has filled the two-year vacant position of school counselor, that should help to improve the results of the Choice Ready and Essential Skills goals for all students. A lengthy consent agenda included approval of regular board meetings, financial report from Aug. 2025, the payment of Bills, Final 2025-26 Budget, Certificate of Levy, Annual Compliance

Reports, and “Be Legendary” Board Agenda Calendar. Tuition Waiver - In-district was also approved, included in the approval of the consent agenda, as were the first reading of the following new policy approvals: ACCB - Protection for Student Victims of Sexual Offenses; ACG - Mandatory Reporter Training; GABE - Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention and Awareness Including 22 policy approvals by committee recommendation. Under “Items for See SCHOOL | 2

Remembering with Darrell: Flax Straw Bales

by Darrell Hovland

Do you remember those HUGE stacks of flax straw bales in the 60’s and 70’s, maybe 80’s? I don’t recall the exact demensions of the stacks but they were about 20 feet tall, 50 feet wide, and 150-200 feet long and perfectly straight, designed to stand for years. There would be many of these bale stacks in one location which was called a flax straw yard and they were situated on the outskirts of what was then considered mid-size towns, like Harvey and Langdon. They were owned by the Schweitzer Fiber Company and Archer Daniels Midland. There is quite a story to these flax straw stacks and as I worked for the Schweitzer Fiber Company for 8 months I have a little knowledge about them which I will share with you. Here are some flax facts: Flax has been around and grown for thousands of years, some say as early as 3000 B.C. and flax plants were used to make linens when they were woven into white fabric and wrapped around mummies of Egyptian Pharoahs. I recently read an actual account about the Oregon Trail and it stated that a woman by the name of Sara Owens sowed the first crop of flax in

Oregon in 1841. It was used to produce shoe thread. She traded flax to local Indians for salmon and they used it to make superior fishing nets. Flax seed also has many health benefits. It’s full of fiber and protein and it is a good source of Omega 3 fatty acids and lingens which boost heart health. It is rich in vitamins, can help balance hormones and support reproductive health. It aids in weight management as it is a hunger suppressant and it’s reputation as a “super seed” makes it a popular addition to many recipes. It is recommended we eat 1-2 table spoons of ground flax seed daily to maximize the health benefits. However it is best not to use the whole seeds but use a ground version. Flax seed can have a bitter taste so it needs to be used sparingly. The early settlers when they would run out of coffee would grind up flax seed and use as a replacement for coffee as it was bitter enough to “kind of” resemble a coffee taste. It was better tasting than ground wheat which they would also use as a substitute for coffee. Bet you didn’t know that! And of course flax seed oil is also made from the flax seed. The straw from the flax seed when left unprocessed was sometimes used for insulation in walls and even mattresses

It was spread on fields for anti-erosion and as a windbreak. It was at times used as animal bedding but it is very coarse and rough and doesn’t absorb liquids well. It was also used as a fuel source for stoves as when burned it produces a high amount of heat. But when the flax straw is processed or milled, it has many more uses. When the flax straw is milled the “tow”, the soft fuzzy part of it is separated from the coarse straw and the tow is used to make fine papers such as bible parchment paper and cigarette papers. It is also used as replacers for fiberglass or cotton fibre for clothing. Raising flax was part of almost every farmers crop rotation even in the early days of land settlement. Flax is considered a “cash crop” as all a farmer could really do with it was sell it for cash. Although the yields for flax is lower than most crops, the price is much higher. So the money received by the farmer from the sale of their flax was usually used to buy extra products for the farm or household. It was sometimes difficult to harvest flax as the straw was so coarse it was hard to get it through the combine. Combines had straw choppers on the back of them as a discharge chute to chop

the straw up so it would break down in the soil better but if the straw was real thick and long, often times the straw chopper would plug up. We would disconnect or remove the straw chopper from the combine and just let the straw fall on the ground like a swath, then we would use a dump rake and rake up big piles of the straw and burn them. There would be many piles of straw in the field and we would walk around the field with a can of gas and a box of matches and light them on fire. So, you give a teen age boy a can of gas and some matches, nothing to go wrong there, right? I remember several times accidentally lighting the gas can on fire and having to quickly throw it! Fortunately I never got burned. Back in the 60’s they were finding many uses for flax straw and this created a huge demand for it. This was helpful to the farmer as now the straw processing companies would buy the straw directly from the farmer. So you not only got paid for the flax seed, you also got paid for the straw! Archer Daniels Midland and Schweitzer Fiber Company would set up flax straw yards in mid size towns where a farmer could deliver their straw to in small square bales. This was a big economical boost not

only to the farmer but to the town where these flaxstraw yards were located as the companies brought in many workers and these workers ate in the restaurants, slept in the motels, bought gas at the gas stations, and, I’m sure some, frequented the local bars. In the summer of 1973 I worked for a farmer by Kensal and we finished up harvest fairly early as the weather that fall was very nice so once again I was unemployed. There was a flax straw yard being built north of Harvey and there were lots of job opportunities hauling and handling flax straw bales so I took a job working for a contractor hauling these bales. Archer Daniels Midland and Schweitzer Fiber Company contracted with commercial hay producers from Minnesota to bale up flax straw into small square bales and haul them to the flax straw yard. I worked for a guy from Beltrami, MN, and we hauled bales off farm fields with a 2 ton flat bed truck with a hoist. Some haulers used semi’s. The guys who did the baling used self propelled balers with bale bunchers behind them. So the contractor got paid for making the bales, the hauler got paid for hauling them, and the farmer got paid for the straw. A lot of money flying around! Farmers

could make more money if they baled and hauled the straw themselves. I believe they were paid by weight as there was a portable scale at the flax straw yard. People hauled bales in from many, many miles around. There was constant activity in these flax straw yards. High school boys could make money after school by hauling bales. There was a lot of money being made in flax straw. These companies also hired people to stack the bales in these huge flax straw stacks. The stacks were very long and wide and there was actually blue prints on how to stack the bales. A stack was built in sections with 4 bale handlers per section. One of these 4 handlers was the supervisor and it was his responsibility to make sure the corners were perfectly square and there were no gaps between the bales. These stacks were built to stand for years if need be. The guy I was hauling bales for became ill and had to go home so I then got a job working on the stacks. On the crew of 4 that I worked with there were 2 older farmers from the Martin area and the supervisor was a young farmer from Harvey. I believe his name was Butch.

To be continued...

