



BACK IN THE DAY

Underwood

COMPILED BY SHELLY WALLACE

from the Files of the Central McLean News Journal

20 years ago, March 2006

The Underwood Area Economic Development Corporation is holding a pancake and sausage breakfast on March 19, with proceeds going to the Underwood Senior Citizens Center.

UAEDC president Diane Cottingham said the group wanted to do something special for the senior citizens because they are such an important part of the community.

The Underwood Civic Club met March 8 to discuss the upcoming appreciation supper, along with hearing updates from the Underwood School and UAEDC. Renee Fransen reported she has received lots of compliments on the new gym.

Local students on the NDSU Dean's List for the fall 2005 semester are: Heather Anderson and Beth Bicknese, Riverdale; and Robert Hager and Allison Ness, Underwood.

Underwood City Auditor Diane Schell recently returned from a three-day trip to Washington, D.C., to visit with North Dakota's congressional delegation. She was invited to travel with the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association to express the importance of funding the water program.

Underwood resident, Milton "Lefty" Walcker, 75, died March 11, at a Bismarck hospital.

Court was in session Monday night in the McLean County Courtroom—Teen Court, that is. Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program in which first-time juvenile offenders are held accountable for illegal behavior through a sentence imposed by a jury of their peers.

The mild winter has been a contributing factor in keeping the McLean County budget on target.

30 years ago, March, 1996

Improved weather is allowing work on a ramp from the elementary school building to the lunchroom and lower floor of the high school. The ramp will run along the outside of the lunchroom wall and be enclosed. The lunchroom was not long enough for the proper slope of the ramp. Work also continues on a mini-elevator in the high school building.

Wetch and Sons Drilling, Mandan, was awarded contracts to get supplemental city water wells up to par at the Underwood City Commission meeting Monday.

Holly Gefroh was the top Underwood High School student in the American High School Math Exam for the second year in a row, scoring 86. The top three scores are used for the school team score. The other students on the team are Mitch Lang and Josh Roller.

40 years ago, March 1986

Representing Underwood at the

young authors convention in Bismarck were first graders Jennifer Krumwiede and Chandra Shirley, second graders Anne Anderson and Holly Gefroh, third grader Kary Reule, fourth grader Joseph Heger, fifth grader Dawn Leidholm and sixth grader Michael Heger.

A large crowd attended the Easter cantata, "And the Word Became Flesh", presented by the combined choirs of Augustana and Birka Lutheran Churches.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Hoff returned after spending about five weeks in Tempe, Ariz. They also enjoyed four tours to California and Nevada.

Knudson Implement held its annual; pancake and sausage feed, and the Underwood Jaycees held their annual steak fry.

50 years ago, March 1976

Claire Ihringer of Garrison approached the city commission at their regular meeting, requesting a written lease for city-owned property. Ihringer plans to erect a cement plant on the old city dump ground south of town.

The commission also heard from Whitey Mees regarding plans he has to develop 17.2 acres of land south of Underwood. In action two weeks ago, the commission annexed Mees' property to the city upon his request.

Reliable sources say the big low North Dakota experienced last week was the final note to old man winter's show for the year. The blizzard conditions which were experienced during Thursday's storm left barely a scratch on the landscape. Little snow accompanies the high winds and most of the white stuff floating around was already on the ground.

Superintendent Sam Tollefson has announced Underwood School District has put in its application to the Office of Coal Impact. The application amounted to \$170,580.

March 12 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and friends gathered at the Riverdale Ballroom to celebrate the Legion's 57th birthday with a potluck supper.

60 years ago, March 1966

County and at-large winners have been determined in the University of North Dakota sponsored "Know Your State" competition for high school students. Among the winners are Robert Rupp and Gwen Saylor of Underwood High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gutknecht celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on March 13, when their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Leidholm, entertained at an anniversary dinner.

BACK IN THE DAY page 6

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

BY KELSEY MAJESKE

Sunshine and survival



I have officially been staring at a blank white page for almost an hour. To be honest, the words aren't coming as easily today as they sometimes do. It has been a long few weeks; I have written more columns and editorials for our newspapers recently than I have in the rest of the year combined, and they weigh heavily long after the writing is complete.

It is a love-hate relationship. I love digging into what a community or our newspaper is going through and trying to bring reason and calm to the "loud noises" that often dominate our local conversations. Our readers may not always appreciate the "outside looking in" view, but I choose to believe that it has value. If someone doesn't want to read it, they can always feel free to turn the page. We live in a time where it is so easy to get lost in the noise when you are living right in the middle of it, and if any insight I share helps even one person turn it down a bit, then I am right where I want to be.

I won't pretend to be all-knowing, or even right the majority of the time. But what I can do, what a local newspaper must do, is offer perspective. We look at the facts, we fight for the public's right to know, and we try to help our readers turn down the volume of the rumors so they can focus on the reality of the situation.

This week is Sunshine Week, a national celebration that shines a light on the importance of public records and open government. For all the years that I have been doing this, my editorials seem to often circle this theme. Democracy dies in darkness, and our job is to ask the questions that bring light into that darkness.

Sometimes, that job is incredibly hard. It's hard because not only are there some officials who prefer to work in the shadows; but it's also hard because these towns are our homes. Digging into the transparency of the people who oversee where we live and raise our families is uncomfortable, not just for me or our writers but all

of our staff associated with our local newspapers. It can create tears in friendships and lead to accusations that we are "just trying to sell newspapers."

The honest, heartbreaking truth is: I wish those stories did sell enough newspapers to save the industry. If all we needed was a good news story and a scandal or two to survive each year, we would be thriving.

While I spent this week preparing to celebrate Sunshine Week, focusing on our mission to bring light to public records, I spent last week writing a very different editorial regarding the proposed closing of one of our newspapers. It isn't facing closure for a lack of content, news, or scandals. It is facing closure due to a lack of community support and a lack of desire by some readers to help us fight for public transparency.

Sunshine is the best medicine for a healthy democracy, but producing that light as a newspaper isn't free. We have reached a point where many local businesses and individuals no longer choose to believe in the value of the printed word to share their sales, their events, or their support for the community newspaper, while we work toward our mission of transparency and accountability as your community watchdog.

As we celebrate Sunshine Week, our main message to our readers is this: remember that public records don't belong to the government; they belong to you, the people. Our goal is to fight to keep those public records in your hands to provide transparency and clarity. But a watchdog can only bark for so long in an empty house. If you value the light, please help us keep the power on by supporting your community newspaper, whether through a subscription, advertising, or simply sharing our goals with your friends and neighbors. We appreciate all our readers and advertisers more than you will ever know!

Central McLean News-Journal

P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576 • 701-462-8126 • USPS #647540
 email centralmclean@nordaknorth.com • website nordaknorth.com

Ethyn Williams-Calvert..... Editor
 Shelly Wallace..... Sales Representative
 Jackie Kohler..... Production

Published every Thursday by Nordak North Publishing., P.O. Box 309, 59 North Main, Garrison, ND 58540-0309. Periodical postage paid at Garrison, ND. For more information or for a subscription, write Central McLean News-Journal, P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Central McLean News-Journal, P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576.

Deadlines
 3 p.m. Monday – classifieds
 10 a.m. Tuesday – advertisements, public notices, news and area announcements