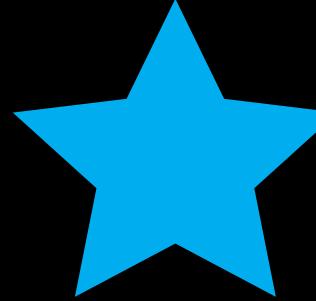


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Inside this Issue

Outdoors Report.....	2
Legal Notices.....	3
From the Bleachers	4-5
From the Students	6
Classifieds / Business Directory	7
Prairie Fare.....	8



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Pieces of Our Community Puzzle

Submitted by Elizabeth Colby

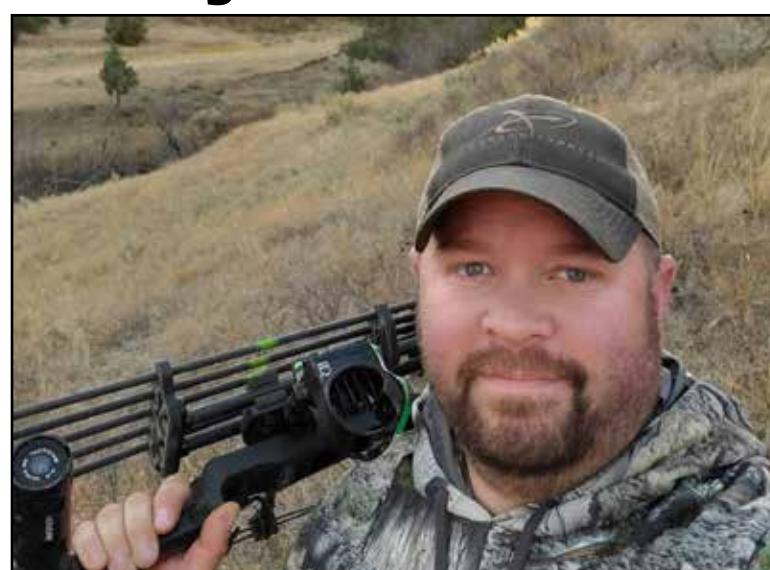
Happy New Year! It's a custom for the new year to set goals for ourselves. Goals to help us live life better, live more excited, live with more purpose or direction. New year goals can spark hope within us that we can become anew. Let me introduce to you someone that may inspire you that it's never too late to start something new or to follow through on your goals.

Travis Leier is a native of Velva. He lives on the south end of town with his dog Bella. During his senior year at Velva Public School, Travis started working at Verendrye Electric Cooperative. Twenty-three years later, Travis is still employed there as a Staking Engineer and GIS Technician.

I asked Travis what he loved about living in Velva, ND. He replied, "that it's a close-knit community." Travis pointed out that people are always willing to step up when the need arises to support the community as a whole or to individuals within the community. Travis recalled the time that he broke his leg. A whole host of community members brought him

food. The local drug store called to see how they could be of assistance, and individuals were offering to help pull his trapping sets without hesitation. Travis loves to stay busy, and oh boy does he accomplish this with his big passion, the outdoors. Travis' passion for the outdoors was lit during his time spent on the farm as a little boy. You can still find him there tinkering on equipment or working on projects such as soil conservation, weed control and food plots. I've heard on good measure that Travis grows both strawberries and clematis that are to be rivaled. It's safe to say that even though Travis no longer lives on the farm farming is still in his blood.

Travis has always loved to hunt wild game and fish (ice fishing is his favorite method of fishing). In 2021, Travis was able to fill a once-in-a-lifetime elk tag. It was a 75-yard shot and the bull elk scored a 338. Recently, Travis has expanded his skillset and stepped into trapping. Travis enjoys trapping beaver, weasel, mink and snaring coyotes. Travis didn't stop there with his passion. He is also a self-taught taxidermist and owns Leier's Trophy Taxidermy Studio. For 6 years he has been perfecting his taxidermy skills. Travis specializes in shoulder mounts and fish mounts but is working on expanding into full body mounts.



Travis is one of the founders of the Velva Wildlife Club. He has been the club President for 10 years. When asked what Travis is most proud of for the club he replied, "how much the community has rallied behind us to make it what it is today. A group of guys got together with a dream and a goal. We were hopeful to have a space with a little building and maybe a trap house someday." They never imagined

that their wildest dreams could be brought to life. But that's what's possible when dreams are dreamt, goals are set and follow through happens.

One fun, random fact about Travis; he loves building excel spreadsheets. He enjoys the inner workings of formulas, references and mapping. Travis seems to be very analytical and enjoys researching. You can witness his brilliance through the spreadsheets that he develops for his hunting, trapping and taxidermy data and information.

Word on the Street

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

ROAST BEEF DINNER:

The Velva Senior Center, Main St., will serve a Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday, January 11th, 11am to 1pm. Open to the public. Delivery available in town, call 338-2628.

Travis also serves on the ND game and fish advisory board, the ND Fur Hunters and Trappers Association, and he's a trappers and hunters education volunteer instructor.

One of Travis' goals for 2026 is to get his binzebo fireplace working in a manner that no longer smokes him out.

Cheers to everyone that set new year goals! May you be surrounded by community that will cheer you on in your efforts and may you be successful in your follow through.

It Was Front Page News

Submitted by Kathy Holte

January 5, 1950

Farmers Evening School to Hold Regular Meeting Monday

Due to the stormy cold weather on Monday the farmers evening school at Velva was postponed. The topic on Monday night will be on "Farmstead Improvements and what aid can the local soil conservation district give to farmers?" Gilbert Schwandt from the local soil conservation office will give the information on this topic.

Former Soo Line Agent in Velva Wed in Jamestown

C.O. Kaufman, who was agent for the Soo Line in Velva for some 21 years before going to West Duluth as agent for the company seven years ago, and Mrs. Agnes Kaufman, sister of the former Mrs. Kaufman, of Jamestown, ND, were united in marriage December 26, at St. James Catholic Church in

Jamestown. Monsignor Edward J. Geraghty, pastor of the church, celebrated the nuptial mass using a double ring ceremony.

Association of Commerce Meeting Scheduled for January 10

According to Secretary Paul Burgess and President James Morley of the Velva Association of Commerce, the next dinner and business meeting has been set for Tuesday evening, January 10. Efforts are being made to obtain a suitable speaker for and the occasion. The Hotel Berry dining room is the appointed place and serving will begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 12, 1950
C.P. Brandon Elected Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

Christ P. Brandon, of Towner, was unanimously elected chairman

of the McHenry board of county commissioners Monday. Brandon served for one year in his present term of office and previously served for twelve years. Monday afternoon the entire board including Commissioner William Hill from Velva, went to Devils Lake to attend the North Dakota County Commissioners Association convention. The board was accompanied by county auditor Anton Burkhard.

Implement Dealers Meet with Young Farmers Tuesday

The young farmers held their regular meeting on Tuesday afternoon with fifteen in attendance from six different townships. Ed Leinhart, Lyle Kittilsby, and Ernest Nelson, representing the Velva Implement companies, were present to give necessary information on machinery and prices during the discussion on that topic. The subject was "What equipment should we have for operating our farm?" A problem was figured out by the group as to how much equipment they needed for a livestock farm and how much for a grain farm with about the same amount of capital investment. The livestock farm consisted of a unit of 100 cows, while the grain farm, of an equivalent capital investment, was 320 acres. According to the purchases, which was necessary of the two groups, the grain farm required more machinery investment; however, it gave the greatest amount of returns per dollar invested for the first year figuring a yield of 12 bushels to the acre of wheat. Further figures and factors will be studied along this line for the future meeting. The next regular meeting of the young farmers will be held next Tuesday afternoon at 2:40.

Continued to Page 3