

The Westby Border News

February 9, 2009

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CITY WATER WELLS DOWN FOR TWO DAYS

By: Val Moore

On Friday afternoon, February 13th, a series of events that may well be attributed to the fact it was just that 'Friday, the Thirteenth', the city of Westby lost its water source as the pumps in both city wells went down.

At around 3:00 what is referred to as "the north water well" quit from what appeared to be an electrical problem. The north well is used during the winter months because it has better water, but only has an ample supply for use then and not during summer months when there is need for outdoor watering.



It took a couple days for Agri Industries to come up with a new motor for the south well pump. Work began on Sunday afternoon to install the new motor and at about 8:00 PM, Sunday, cheers went up around the entire community as water once again began to flow. It was determined the north well would need a new pump and new motor and both are on order and will be installed as soon as possible.

Other than inconvenience, there seemed to be very little fallout from the incident overall.

At this time, Lyndon Lagerquist, town clerk and maintenance man, attempted to restart the pump on the south well. In September, when this well was last used, everything seemed to be in order. Now, all attempts to restart the south pump appeared futile.

Back to the north well, Triangle Electric out of Williston was called in to check out the electrical problem and it was determined a Sheridan Electric transformer had burned out which in turn burned out the motor on the pump. The well could not function without a new motor for the pump. After closer inspection of the south well, Lynden and Agri Industries, also out of Williston, found a nut holding a connection together had vibrated off shorting out a wire in the pump thus a new motor would also be needed for this pump.

Both Main Street businesses, Prairie Kitchen and Charlie's Place, did encounter hardships as they lost two days of business. The Prairie Kitchen, not only, lost their biggest day of the week with the Sunday Smorgasbord, but also, lost out on their special Valentine's Day Dinner planned for the occasion. Owner Suzi Ekness is in hopes this meal can be rescheduled for at a later date in March. Because it was a weekend and the tournaments were being held in Williston, the school was not affected. There were no reports of water lines freezing up or any other repercussions that the city is aware of.

City Councilmen Bobby Lagerquist and Jeff Ekness were consulted for this article. Thanks go to Lynden and the city council for doing everything in their power to find and eliminate the problem as quickly as possible.

[Return to Westby on the Web](#)

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We Serve Extra Lean
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TUESDAY - Waffle Special

WEDNESDAY - Halibut, Shrimp or Walleye w/ baked potato, toast, choice of salad

THURSDAY - 8 oz. Sirloin

FRIDAY - Chicken Fried Steak w/ fries, toast & salad

SATURDAY - Hamburger Steak w/ baked potato, toast & choice of salad



BOYS DISTRICT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Boys 3-C District basketball tournament was held in Sidney beginning on February 18th. In first round action on Wednesday evening, the Lambert Lions defeated the Westby-Grenora Rangers by a score of 77-57. Taylor Nielsen and Colton Hellegard combined for 30 points in that contest.

On Thursday, the Rangers were up against the Bainville Bulldogs and defeated them 77-66. Colton Hellegard racked up a whopping 24 points with Taylor Nielsen close behind with 17 points.

The Rangers season ended on a last second shot by the Brockton Warrriors in semi-final action on Friday night. Ryan Bendixson of Grenora was top scorer for the Rangers with 25 points and Taylor Nielsen led in rebounds with 11, also contributing 15 points. Colton Hellegard added another 18 points in his effort to head off the Warriors in the 79-78 disappointing loss.

The Westby-Grenora Rangers are coached by Josh Marottek and Joe Eberle.

SCHOOL STAFF SUPPORT SPIRIT WEEK

It is not just the students who become involved it spirit week at WHS. This past week the staff was also caught on film participating in "crazy tie and shirt day" in conjunction with spirit week and district tournaments.

Pictured left to right are: Robin Solberg, Peggy Bowman, Arlene Hove and Karla Christensen

NIELSEN'S HONORED

As is tradition, Brockton held their Star Quilt Ceremony between the semi-final and championship game at the District 3-C boy's basketball tournament in Sidney on February 21st. Taylor Nielsen of the Westby-Grenora Rangers was honored during the ceremony by the parents of Jordan Longtree. Pictured are Taylor, along with this parents, Eric & Cindy, and his sister, Katie.



ON TO REGIONALS

The District 16 Girls Basketball Tournament was held in Williston beginning Thursday, February 12th. In the opening round of district play, the Grenora/ Westby Gophers defeated Burke County 69-54 after leading at halftime 33 to 25. Samantha Olson scored a career high 33 points with 14 in the third quarter. She was also 6 for 7 from the line. Samantha was chosen player of the game.

In Friday's contest, the Ray Jays defeated the Gophers by a score of 48-37 with the Gophers fighting to the end to narrow the 20 point halftime gap. Samantha scored 12 points followed by Hallie Westgard with 10. In Saturday's game to secure a place at regionals, the Gophers outscored Trenton 44-38 after trailing at the end of the third quarter 31-29.

Jonni Muller of Grenora lead the scoring with 13 points. Hallie Westgard had 10 rebounds and 6 points for the Gophers. Player of the game went to Jonni Muller. The fourth place finish guaranteed the Gophers a berth at Regionals.

Regional play will also be held in Williston at the WSC Fieldhouse running February 23rd through the 26th. The Westby-Grenora Gophers will be paired up against Stanley, the number one seat out of District 15. This game is scheduled to be played at approximately 6:00 MST on Monday the 23rd. The Gophers are coached by Randy Nordhagen and Jeff Ekness.

Congratulations to Samantha Olson for being chosen as KATQ's Athlete of the Week following district tournament play.



FAMOUS FRIENDS

Lyle Ekness of Couer d' Alene , Idaho, celebrated his birthday with some pretty famous people this past year. Every year he and his buddies, who happen to have the same birth date, gather at Lakers Inn in Couer d' Alene for a mini celebration. Pictured here at the Inn is Rocky Bridges, major league baseball player, coach, and manager for 42 years. Bridges is also considered the second most quoted major leaguer behind Yogi Berra. In the middle is Lyle WHS class of 1956 and to the right is Don Larsen. Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in World Series history on October 8th, 1956, while playing for the Yankees. Lakers Inn is owned by Plentywood native Dwight Wilson.





When you are without the convenience of water over 48 hours things tend to get ugly, or should I say smelly, maybe I should say both and that can be interpreted in many ways. Friday, the thirteenth, started out like any other Friday, in fact, things were looking pretty good and even those afflicted with *paraskavedekatriaphobia* would have had a hard time finding anything wrong with the day. The sun was shining, the wind was down to a breeze, the road was open to Plentywood and I had just returned safely from an appointment in Sidney, which I had canceled twice before due to weather, only to find things had taken a turn for the worse. I wasn't even aware of the problem yet, when I got my first phone call. Did I have water? What do you suppose is the problem? When is it coming back on? Those three questions were asked over and over again throughout different conversations over the course of the evening.

At that point, we were still quite optimistic about the situation and even joked about it. I cooked a big dinner to find I had forgot to run the dishwasher that morning so it was full and now the sink was too and still no word on the water dilemma. Of course, the first time I used the bathroom I flushed it, out of habit and then thought, Ah oh! I maybe shouldn't have done that. That was one toilet down. I thought to myself, just in case this situation is not alleviated tonight I best not do that again, if I use the other bathrooms. We went to bed thinking surely we would get water in the morning. When word got out the next day it may not be fixed for another day or two, Danny hauled 15 gallons of water in from my Grandma's in the country for the toilets and as we have a stool on each of three floors quickly determined, after carrying five gallon jugs up two flights of stairs and another one down a flight, we needed to make a decision about which bathroom we wanted to use consistently and stick with it. Who knew that could conjure up such a discussion. At first, it was thought our best choice would be the one on the main floor as that is where most of the day light hours are spent, but then what if you have the urge

during the night, then you have to take the stairs or maybe we should each have our own bathroom. OK, the decision was made-we would go with downstairs bathroom. Buttttt, when you are in the middle of something and a little preoccupied it is not always easy to remember where to tinkle so I may have messed up a little. It wasn't long before our new motto was "if it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down".

The next dilemma was, how does a person survive without a shower, particularly when it is Valentine's Day and you have a so called "date" and on top of that are doubling with people who aren't in the same predicament as you are? Danny said, "We can't go without a shower!" so off again to my Grandma's to shower and foof up for the night. At least, it meant the dirty dishes weren't going to get any higher that night. We had a nice evening out, but returned smelling like a cigarette lit at both ends and nothing to do, but go to bed.

By Sunday morning, I've decided everything stinks starting with me, our clothes, the house, and ending with Danny. On top of that, the dishes are really getting deep. I desperately needed more water, so off Danny goes to my Grandma's again for 20 more gallons of water so I can heat some up and at least get the dirty dishes off the cupboard (I was thinking of just throwing away the ones in the dishwasher), get the tanks filled in the toilets again (I promised to just use the designated one) and take a sponge bath which doesn't do much for the smelly, smoky hair (but I hear Febreeze works in a pinch). Once those things were done, I felt a little better and decided things would be just fine and proceeded to dirty another pile of dishes while making dinner. About 8:00 that night the phones were again a buzz with the news of the return of sweet, sweet flowing water. As we all know, we never know how much we miss something until it's gone. The one thing we did learn is how full of it we really are-and at our house I decided Danny wins!

It is still soup weather here so I wanted to share a couple new recipes I tried recently. The first one is a super simple recipe I cut out of the Billings Gazette. In case you haven't noticed, we enjoy things with a little kick so I liked the idea of the added jalapeno. If that is something you can live without, I promise it will be enjoyed just as much without it. I used left-over baked potatoes and the cooking time was even less. I think the jalapeno pepper should be cooked with the onion and the beef as it gives it better flavor.

CHEESEBURGER SOUP

1 pound lean ground beef
 ½ cup chopped onion
 2 cups cubed potatoes
 1- 14 oz can beef broth
 1 medium fresh jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped (optional)
 2 cups milk
 3 Tbsp flour
 1 cup shredded American cheese

In 4 qt Dutch oven, cook and stir ground beef and onion until meat is brown and onion is tender. Drain. Stir in potato, broth jalapeno pepper and ¼ tsp salt. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 15 to 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Combine ½ cup milk and the flour, stir into meat mixture. Stir in remaining milk. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat and add cheese and cook and stir until cheese melts. Serves 4. This is another 'quick to come together' soup. The green peas, parsley and, particularly the lemon juice, make this a brighter, fresher version of pea soup. If you don't have an immersable blender I would highly recommend one. They work great to puree hot soups, like this one, without the mess of pouring into a blender and clean- up is a breeze. I purchased the Kitchen aid brand with metal blades as it was rated the highest in two of my cooking magazines. They run about fifty bucks and are well worth it.

TWO-PEA SOUP

1 large onion, cut in wedges
 2 medium carrots, cut in 1-inch pieces
 2 stalks celery, cut in 1-inch pieces
 3 cloves garlic, peeled
 1 T olive oil
 1 cup dry split peas, rinsed and drained
 2 pounds meaty smoked ham hocks
 ½ tsp dried summer savory or marjoram, crushed
 ¼ t pepper
 1- 10 oz pkg frozen green peas
 1/3 cup packed fresh flat leaf parsley leaves
 2 T lemon juice

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In shallow baking pan toss onion, carrots, celery, and garlic in olive oil to coat. Roast, uncovered, 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are lightly browned on the edges, stirring once. In a 4-quart Dutch oven combine roasted vegetables with 6 cups water, dry peas, pork hocks, savory, and pepper. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove pork; set aside to cool. Stir frozen peas and parsley into soup. Cool about 5 minutes. Transfer soup, half at a time, to food processor or blender. Cover; process or blend until nearly smooth. Return to Dutch oven. Stir in lemon juice. Cut pork off bones. Cut up meat and add to pureed soup, discarding bones. Heat through. Season with salt and pepper. 6 servings Note: don't skip the lemon juice it really adds a nice fresh flavor.

Enjoy
 For
 Life is Good
 And even Better with water!



**“Water, taken in moderation,
 cannot hurt anybody.”**

Mark Twain

FUNDRAISERS SET

The Westby LYO have chosen The Yellowstone Boy's and Girls Ranch as their service project this year. The youth group is planning a summer trip to the ranch to donate time and also, if funds permit, any more tangible item, such as clothes, the ranch may be in need of. To work towards this project, the LYO is selling money calendars at \$20.00 each, with drawings to begin on March 2nd.

The LYO is also selling the popular SEE'S CANDIES to be delivered by Easter. Available will be SEE'S spring line, including a variety of Easter eggs, candy bars, boxed assortment of chocolates and gourmet suckers. Contact youth leaders Sue Meyer(385-2277) or Brenda Ryals (brendaryals@hotmail.com) for more information. Order sheets with pictures and featured candies are also available at the church and the school.



WEE BEE QUILTERS

The Wee Bee Quilters met on February 3, 2009 with 7 members present: Donna, Doreen, Arlene, Lorna, Elaine, Faye M. Cindy joined us later in the afternoon.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Arlene handed out a supply list for the "Lone Star" quilt class that we will take from Kathy Johnson, on March 28, 2009. There are some ladies from Plentywood that would like to take the class also.

We will be making two smaller quilts using the "ugly" blocks, using 12 blocks for each. If Marti can get the material for one of the quilts we will put it together during our next months meeting, starting at 1:00 pm.

Darcy Nordhagen will bring some ideas for projects, for demos, maybe for next fall if we run out of time this spring.

Arlene had a demo on making an apron. We all brought our machines and material, and everyone really enjoyed the class. The aprons all turned out so cute, and so easy to make.

Elaine won the fat quarter, which was brought by Arlene Hove. Elaine was also our hostess for this month.

For show and tell; Donna brought a big quilt and table runner she had made and was machine quilted by "The Quilting Lady" in Williston. She also showed a quilt she had made using scraps of material her mother had saved. These were materials her mother used to make aprons and pot holders with. Donna also showed a Batik quilt she made. It was beautiful. Cindy Nielsen showed a quilt top she made using a Christmas theme and red-work. She also showed a tablecloth she made for her mother that she had done. Lorna showed a "cat" quilt top she had done.

Next meeting will be March 3, 2009 at 1:00 pm, either Karen or Marsha will be hostess.

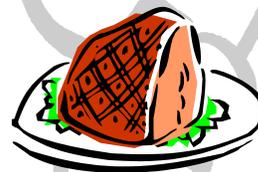
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◆◆◆ Adult Ed Classes ◆◆◆

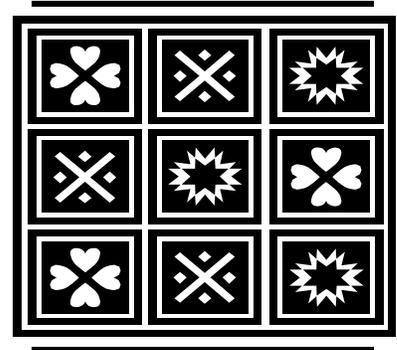
Beginning Woodworking Class



Learn beginning woodworking, safety methods and good practice. Have an easy project in mind. Limit six for the class.
Deadline to sign up February 20.

Lone Star Quilt Class

March 28, makes a 52 inch X 52 inch wall hanging.
Deadline to sign up March 4.
Need to call to get a supply list for this class before it meets.



Bread Making Class



May include any and all areas from pizza dough to buns, dark bread, sweet rolls, bread sticks and foccacia

With Darcy Nordhagen Sessions to be determined by instructor and participants Sign up by March 15th

Call Jennifer Pulvermacher to sign up or to give ideas for other classes:



Home (701)834-2262

School (406)385-2225

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, flowers, balloons, gifts, and cards for Kylie. We are very optimistic that the short circuit in her heart has been taken care of. We would especially like to thank the Westby School staff, students, Kylie's coaches and team, and everyone who has been so considerate in the past few weeks. We are fortunate to live in such a caring community and we could not imagine a better place to call "home". Thanks again, Jed, Brenda & Kylie Ryals

Westby Manor, Inc. has one-bedroom apartments for rent in Westby. Very nice, utilities paid, and free laundry. Eligible tenants will not pay more than 30% of their adjusted income. The Westby Manor, Inc. will be temporarily renting apartments to all persons without regard to income restrictions.

Call Brenda at 385-2577.

Equal Housing Opportunity

Upcoming Events February

23rd, 24th, 26th Girl's Regional BB
Tournament in Williston

Lutheran Parish February

25th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Service - 7:00 pm at Immanuel



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*Danny Moore
Westby Manager*

School Board Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westby School District #3 was held on February 9, 2009. Brenda Ryals, Donna Sorenson, Marty Westgard, Jim Sundsted, Mr. Koterba, Mr. Somppi and Arlene Hove were in attendance. Chairman Ryals called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were no visitors at this meeting.

The tentative agenda was reviewed followed by a motion to approve by Sorenson, motion seconded by Sundsted, AIF.

The Clerk read the minutes of the January 12, 2008 regular meeting, one word was changed, and the minutes were approved and placed on file.

The December financial and investment interest reports were reviewed.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports: Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Koterba discussed building upgrades and improvements for the summer months. These items include but are not limited to the following: 18 heating/air conditioning units, new carpeting in four classrooms, kitchen flooring, countertops in some of the elementary rooms, landscaping, rain gutters in the rear area of the building, repair leak in hallway roof, clock system, bi-fold doors in the cafeteria and painting in some rooms. Funding for these repairs/upgrades is already in place in the Building Reserve Fund; therefore no additional tax dollars would be necessary.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

A. The sports cooperative sponsorship agreement renewals were discussed. Sorenson moved to enter into a cooperative sponsorship with Grenora for boys' basketball for school years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. Sundsted seconded the motion for this basketball cooperative sponsorship and all voted in favor.

Westgard moved to enter into a cooperative sponsorship with Plentywood for football for school year 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. Sorenson seconded the motion for this football cooperative sponsorship and all voted in favor.

Announcements/Discussion

- A.** Mr. Koterba gave a brief 2009 Legislative update.
- B.** Mr. Koterba reviewed the final voting on proposals of the MHSAA.
- C.** Mr. Koterba reported on the MREA Board Meeting in Helena on January 21, 2009.
- D.** The MASS Spring Conference/Day of Advocacy will be held in Helena on March 16-17, 2009.
- E.** The MSGIA Legal Best Practices workshop will be held at the Westby School on either March 3rd or 4th, 2009 and all Board members are encouraged to attend.

Westgard moved to approve payment of February payroll warrants #10326-10341 totaling \$90,056.25, and February claims warrants #14919-14957 totaling \$30,518.90. Sundsted seconded the motion for payment approval, AIF.

The January extracurricular financial report was reviewed followed by a motion by Sorenson to approve, motion seconded by Sundsted, AIF.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Arlene Hove, District Clerk
Brenda Ryals, Chairman

**THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL AND
SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL.**



RIDING FOR A CAUSE

Approximately 150 riders on 120 sleds from Daniels and Sheridan County in Montana and Divide and Williams County in North Dakota gathered on February 21st to ride in memory of Travis Gunlikson (Zahl, ND) who was killed in an avalanche while snowmobiling at Big Sky in 2006. The men and women began their ride in Grenora, traveled to Westby, back to Grenora and finished the day at Vick's Club located at the 29 mile corner north of Williston. Proceeds from the ride provide educational opportunities for a second year student enrolled in the Farm and Ranch Management Program at Williston State College by awarding 2-\$1000.00 scholarships each fall.

PRESS RELEASE FROM SHERIDAN COUNTY CORONER

At about 10:30 PM (MST) Wednesday evening, February 18, John V. Mendes died in Divide County, North Dakota, southeast of Westby. Family members called 911, and the Westby QRU and Grenora Ambulance were dispatched to the scene where, despite resuscitation efforts, Mendes was pronounced dead. After release by Divide County authorities, his body was returned to Montana, where it was learned that Mendes had been involved in some kind of an altercation in Westby an hour and a half before his death.

Concerned that his apparently natural death could have been caused by internal injuries sustained in the altercation, Coroner Dave Fulkerson ordered an autopsy by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Tom Bennett in Billings; and the Sheridan County Sheriff's office interviewed several people to determine the sequence of events that preceded Mendes' death.

Preliminary autopsy findings were of no significant injuries and corroborated the apparent natural nature of Mr. Mendes' death, which was also supported by the investigative findings of the Sheriff's office.

WDC Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Westby Development Corporation was held February 16th, 2009 at the Westby Community Center with 7 members present, Brenda Ryals, Kolby Ruggles, Suzi Ekness, Steve Ekness, Jody Lagerquist, Val Moore, and Cyndie Paulson. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Kolby Ruggles at 7:35pm. The secretary's minutes were approved as read. The treasure's report was given by Brenda Ryals as follows: The W D C previous balance \$7309.16. Deposits : Interest \$2.72, New balance \$7311.88 . The border news had a previous balance of \$1087.26 with a new balance of \$1162.39. Ads, papers sold, subs. \$381.50. The following bills were paid \$150.00 to Val and Tracy for February . Bank service charge \$6.37. New Bills to Val and Tracy \$150.00. The savings is \$517.33 and the CD is \$17951.88

OLD BUSINESS:

The news letter was tabled until the June meeting, 2009, the end of the WDC year.

Steve Ekness will check with Tracy Johanson about working with him to combine the 2 Westby web sites and eliminate the www.geocities.com/westbymt site. This may help with the technical difficulties encountered on the old site.

Establishing a parking lot for semi's was again discussed. It is felt if the trucks have access to an easy place to park they are more apt to utilize Main Street businesses. Alan Mangel has agreed to allow the WDC use of the corner lots along the highway with the WDC responsible for needed changes.

The state department needs to be consulted on what, if any, laws on access and right-a-way need to be addressed. Val Moore will contact Lanny Nordhagen in these laws.

The Prairie Fest has been set for July 11th, 2009. Events being considered are Paint Ball competition coordinated by the National Guard, a Kiddy Train available through Williston Parks and Recreation ,a community auction, LYO Scavenger Hunt, Lion's Breakfast and Bingo, Nemont Telephone or Sheridan Electric customer appreciation, Old Time Fiddlers and Al's Meats Bar-B-Q.

Brenda will check with the Guards and Williston Parks and Rec on the status of these events, Cyndie will check with Butch Haugeland on the availability of his services for a community auction, Val will check with Nemont and Sheridan Electric, Suzie will ask Kim Rust about Lion's Club events and Kollby will contact the Old Time Fiddlers. It was mentioned a three year class reunion of the fifties will be held on this date.

Further housing projects for the Westby Development Corporation have come to a stand still with few structures available to refurbish. There is still a big need for housing to rent. Brenda had a call recently again about a family looking for a house.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm . Cyndie Paulson, Secretary

“If we had no winter, the spring
would not be so pleasant: if we did
not sometimes taste of
adversity, prosperity would not be
so welcome.”

Anne Bradstreet



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME BUT MUST BE SIGNED.