

\$1.00

It's coming....



But remember...

A black cat crossing your path
signifies that the animal is going
somewhere. ~Groucho Marx

The
thirteen
owns

Est. 1884



The Thirteen Towns
• 118 Johnson Ave. North
• Fosston, MN 56542
• Online: 13Towns.com
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• 218-435-1313

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020
●●● VOLUME 137, NUMBER 34 ●●●



13Towns.com



HAPPENINGS

2nd Monday
City Council

1st and 3rd Thursdays
Rotary at New Journey

2nd Thursday
Sons of Norway

Fridays
Lengby VFW Fish Fry

Loaves and Fishes
food shelf distribution times
Jan. 8, 2020: 12:30-3pm
Jan. 22, 2020 12:30-3pm
Call 218-431-1558 for information

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THE WEATHER STRIP

WED	37°/24°	☁
THUR	31°/12°	☁*
FRI	20°/5°	☁*
SAT	25°/13°	☁
SUN	26°/14°	☁*
MON	28°/14°	☁*
TUE	28°/14°	☁*

FOSSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday
& Friday
10AM - 6PM

Tuesday
NOON - 8PM

Thursday
NOON - 6PM

Saturday
11AM - 2PM

Sunday
CLOSED

AG
MARKET REPORT

Corn 3.11
Beans 7.47
Oats 2.12
Wheat 4.85

Prices current
Monday,
March 9



Recently, the Calvary Free Lutheran Confirmation class in Fosston participated in a service project for the local Loaves and Fishes food shelf. They collected food during the month of February, then they gathered it all, along with using a Thrivent Action Team card making further purchases, and brought it all to the food shelf on Sunday, March 1. A total of 259 pounds of food was collected! Sandy Johnson gave them a tour and shared with them the purpose of the food shelf and who it reaches.

"We wrapped things up by praying for this effective outreach in our community and that all participants and volunteers would be blessed and encouraged," says Pastor Alan Arneson, "and then we headed to Dairy Queen!"

Pictured from left are Pastor Alan Arneson, Aaron Gutterud, Reese Wedin, Brenna Hoefer, Chloe Landsverk and Loaves and Fishes coordinator Sandy Johnson

Something fishy at Sand Hill dam

Fosston residents living near Sand Hill Lake may have noticed some heavy construction equipment operating in the area this past winter. The Sand Hill River Watershed district has been working to enhance the river by replacing the dam with rocks designed to allow fish

to move across the barricade, as well as allowing water to flow.

To make these improvements, Sand Hill River Watershed (SHRW) has partnered with many agencies to restore connections from the Red River to critical habitats to help re-establish

and maintain healthy, robust native fish communities with greater resiliency to invasion by exotic species. Fish passage will be restored at two additional sites in the Sand Hill River watershed in 2020. The first barrier is the dam on Sand Hill Lake near Fosston. "We collaborated with the

DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to improve fish passage on the river," says April Swenby, Sand Hill Watershed Administrator. The dam is an impediment to fish passage; every year, migrating fish like yellow perch congregate near the dam but often have difficulty moving across it. The dam will be removed and replaced with rock arch rapids to allow fish passage upstream into Sand Hill Lake. The improved fish passage will enhance not just habitat but clean water as well. "I think the landowners are really going to like it," April says.

The second barrier is the road crossing on Kittleson Creek, a tributary to the Sand Hill River west of Fertile. This culvert is nearly perched and velocities exceed the swimming limits for most species at normal flows. This restoration would replace the culvert with a structure more appropriately sized for the creek and at a lower elevation to accommodate fish passage.

The SHRW partnered with the Minnesota DNR and used SHRW engineers "to make sure it suited the DNR regulations and what they like to see in habitat," April says. "DNR has very specific guidelines for fish passage, so they were a huge partner. We've been doing improvements up and down the Sand Hill for years - all grant funded. The Sand Hill River has been greatly improved over the last six years."

Both of these crossings are upstream of the dams that were modified for fish passage in 2017. Restoration of fish passage at these two sites will expand the number of

restored acres and river miles in the watershed. Numerous fish passage restoration projects have been conducted in the Red River basin, with almost immediate positive impacts to fish communities. A fish passage project similar to the one proposed for the Sand Hill River was conducted on the Wild Rice River, another major tributary to the Red River. Fisheries surveys found a low head dam on the Wild Rice River blocked fish passage and impacted populations. Similar to findings on the Sand Hill River, large river fish species such as Channel Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Goldeye, Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, and Walleye were common below but rarely captured above the dam. Within one year of passage restoration at this dam, these large river species were common upstream of the dam, with channel catfish captured 70 river miles above the previous barrier. Restoration of fish passage on the Sand Hill River would likely yield similar results. A second component of this project will enhance stream habitat within a channelized segment of the Sand Hill River downstream of the four drop structures. The river channel in this reach is unstable and has down cut significantly, creating a simplified habitat lacking in diverse substrate and depth. Habitat will be enhanced by constructing rock riffles in the channel to reduce velocities, increase pool/riffle habitat and provide more diverse substrate. The enhanced habitat will likely be used by many fish species for spawning, juvenile, and year round deep cover.



The Sand Hill Lake dam as it looked before the modification. The old dam created an impediment to fish, blocking them from using the river to migrate.



Almost finished! The new rock arch rapids will keep the Sand Hill Lake level high, while also making it easier for migrating fish to cross into the lake.