



\$1.00

It's coming....

**Friday  
the 13th**

**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  
• Email: 13towns@gvtel.com  
• 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

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Call in the Calvary .... 1
- Opinion/Editorial ..... 2
- Signs of Spring ..... 4
- Gardeners Workshop .. 5
- Looking Back ..... 6
- USDA Program ..... 7
- Students of the Month .. 8
- Wrestling Page ..... 9
- Thiberts ..... 10
- Ice Fishing ..... 11
- Church/Obits ..... 12
- Directory ..... 13
- Classifieds ..... 14-15
- Leading Businesses .. 16

**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

# Call in the “Calvary”



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 Hoefler, 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

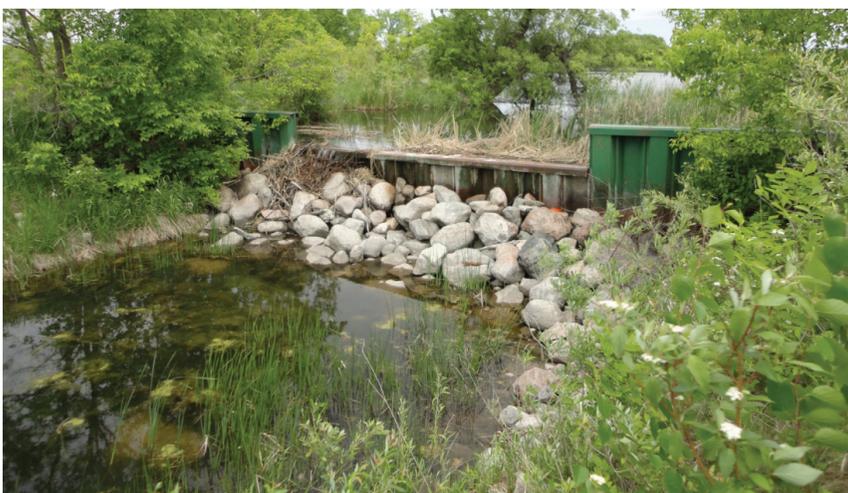
to move across the barricade, as well as allowing water to flow.

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.

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 Wall-eye 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.

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