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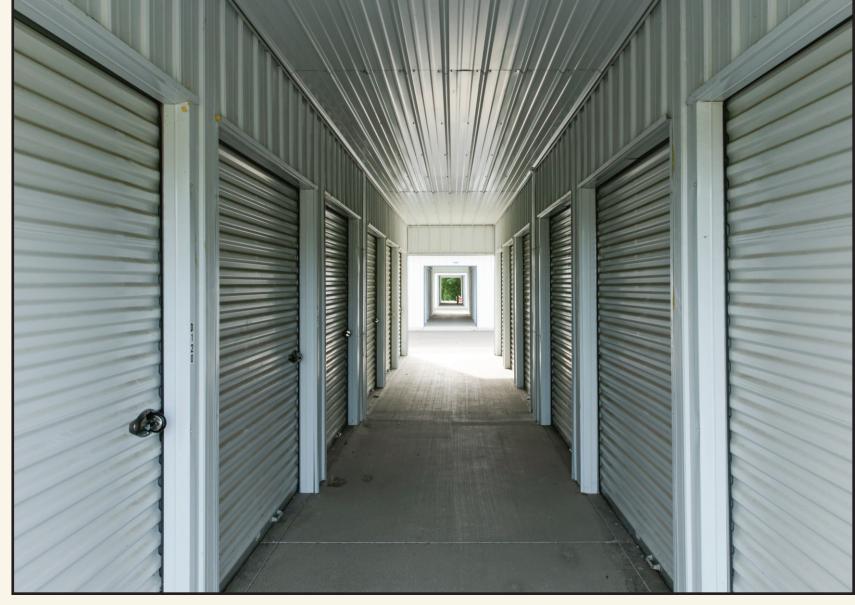
JUNE 2021

## Convenience and great customer service is hallmark of KO Storage



KO Storage facilities can be found from California to Maine and from Texas to Minnesota. Locally, the Minneapolis based company has facilities in Maple Lake, Annandale, South Haven, and most recently, Buffalo.

Photos submitted



Unlike storage facilities of old, rentals are done over the phone or completely online. The company uses the latest technology to make paying your rent and accessing your unit easy and immediate.

By Brenda Erdahl

Convenience and customer service is the top priority of the KO Storage team, and as a provider of self-storage units with nearly 100 facilities across the country, a dedicated staff and easy-access, on-line booking, they are uniquely equipped to do it.

KO Storage facilities can be found from California to Maine and from Texas to Minnesota. Locally, the Minneapolis based company has facilities in Maple Lake, Annandale, South Haven, and most recently, Buffalo. KO Storage offers self-storage units in all sizes for customers' many different needs, but that's not what makes them so unique.

"If you were to ask what KO storage does, most would think we rent self-storage units, and we do, but we do much more than

that," said Director of Operations DeAnn Burns. "When someone rents from us, they are often in the process of a transition. It might be a happy transition. Maybe they got a new job and are moving to a new home. Or it could be a sad transition. Maybe grandma is moving into an assisted living home. We help to make that transition a positive one."

### Customer service and convenience

To best serve their customers during whatever changes life has thrown at them, KO Storage has put together an entire team that is dedicated to customer service at its Communication Center. That's where customers find support, report issues, and make reservations.

Part of that high level customer service is convenience. Unlike storage facilities of old, rentals are done over the phone or completely online. The company uses the latest technology to make paying your rent and accessing your unit easy and immediate.

"It's incredibly smooth," Burns said. "There is no need to meet with someone on their schedule. The moment the payment goes through you have access to the unit right away."

Almost all of KO's self-storage units are unmanned. A facility manager oversees several sites in a general area. For example, Ryan Kurr is the facility manager who oversees storage sites in Annandale, Maple Lake, South Haven, Buffalo and Maple Plain. A Jack-of-all-trades, Kurr maintains eight facilities in the area and the surrounding grounds. He has worked for the company since 2017 and says he loves it. "We keep the units clean and ready to go," and if there is a problem, Kurr is always on-call to handle it.

With KO's vast network of facilities, the company is also capable of providing the best value for your dollar.

"Our district managers are always looking and comparing rates to offer the most competitive pricing for our customers," Burns said.

### Humble beginnings

KO Storage got its start in 2016 when partners Andrew Freeman and Jon Marshall purchased a



Ryan Kurr is the local facility manager for Annandale, Maple Lake, South Haven, Buffalo and Maple Plain. He maintains both the storage units and the surrounding grounds.

small storage business in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. In those five years they have grown KO Storage to what it is today, and it continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Joining their team as a third partner is Ryan Burnet. People often ask what KO stands for. It's not an acronym, Burns said. The partners are also the founders of the Northside Boxing Club, a charitable organization for intercity children, and KO is sometimes associated with the term "knock out."

### Local services

Locally, KO Storage facilities are conveniently located along or near Highway 55. Maple Lake has two sites – one is across from Lake Region Co-op. Cenex and the other is in the old Maple Lake Lumber building near the post office. Annandale has three locations all just off the highway, and the one in Buffalo, which just opened this spring, is on Hwy. 55 as well.

### Make your reservation

For more information, or to make your reservation today, visit [www.kostorage.com](http://www.kostorage.com)



Partners, Andrew Freeman, Ryan Burnet, and Jon Marshall have grown what started as a single storage facility in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to a vast company with nearly 100 facilities across the country.

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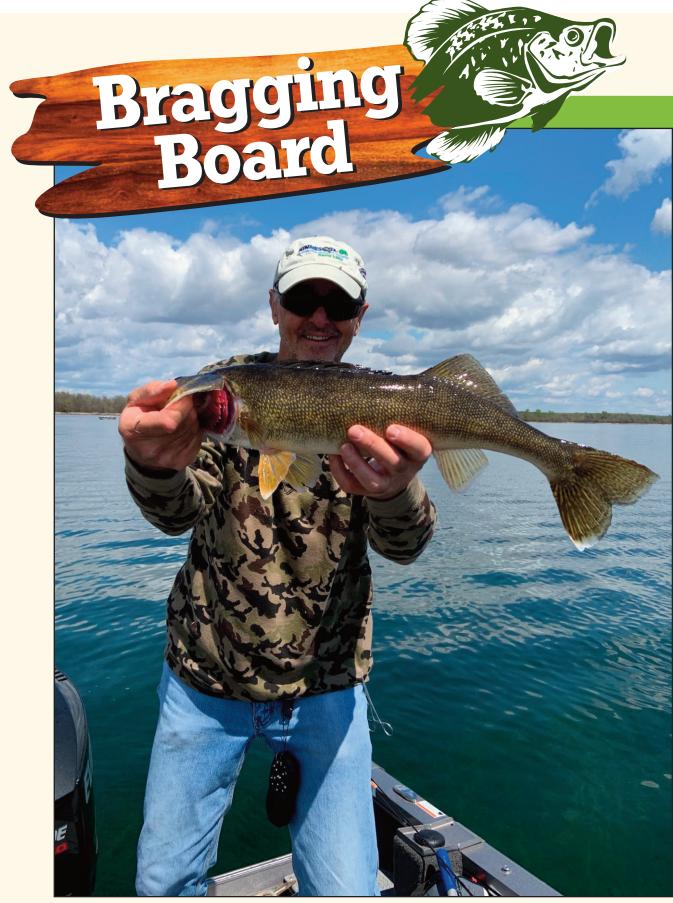
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## Reporting fish die-offs helps the DNR

### Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Report

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would like the public's help in reporting fish die-offs in lakes and streams, which happen occasionally and usually result from natural causes. "People tend to be concerned when they find dead fish, and they can help by reporting what they see right away," said Tom Burri, limnology consultant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources who deals with water quality issues related to fisheries. "Reporting dead fish helps us determine whether an investigation is needed."

People should call the state duty officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 if they encounter several dead fish in a lake or a stream. Doing so provides a single point of contact for the incident. The state duty officer is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week. An early report also allows timely water sampling or other response actions, if needed. It's especially helpful to know what fish types and sizes people see in a fish die-off.

If there is an immediate threat to life or property, call 911

## June Fishing Forecast

### Anglers see panfish action on lakes

Brenda Erdahl  
Staff Writer

Sunfish, crappies, and largemouth bass are biting well on most of the area lakes now that the weather is finally warming up. Anglers can go out on pretty much any lake they want and catch a meal of panfish, said Shane at H&H Sports Shop in Maple Lake.

Sunfish were stacked in the shallows on Pleasant Lake last weekend, but they were on the small side. Shane reeled in a couple of keepers out of the 40 or so he caught. They were biting on Flu, Flu jigs and wax worms. Your best bet, he said, is to fish along the weed line and they will come to you. Shawn at Cenex in Buffalo said pink and lime green jigs are attracting walleyes on Buffalo, Pulaski, Dean lakes and the Mississippi and Crow rivers. Buffalo and Pulaski are slow bites and anglers will have to work for their meal, but Dean is doing well, and since the rains, the rivers are too, he said.

Anglers continue to find crappies on Little Maple in 12 to 16 feet of water and northern pike are biting on most of the area lakes along the weed edge in 10 feet of water. The bait of choice is sucker minnows. Ramsey is a hot spot for pike right now with the average size around three to four pounds, Shane said.

Bass have been biting in the shallows and along the weed line on most of the area lakes. The season opened for bass on Saturday, May 29.

### Baitshop Chatter

**Buffalo Lake:** Walleyes are biting slow in 25 feet of water.

**Lake Pulaski:** Walleyes are biting, but anglers have to work for them.

**Dean Lake:** Walleyes are biting well on pink and lime green jigs, Lindy Rig Spinners, shiners, night crawlers and leaches.

**Crow River:** Walleyes are biting and so are the catfish.

**Mississippi River:** Anglers are having luck catching walleyes after the heavy rains and catfish. Catfish are biting on sucker minnows and Shad Raps.

**Granite Lake:** The bite is slow.

**Pleasant Lake:** Sunfish are biting in the shallows on Flu Flu jigs and wax worms.

**Clearwater Lake:** Anglers have been catching walleye along the weed line in 12 feet of water using shiners and leaches.

**Big Swan Lake:** Walleyes have been biting in 12 feet of water on shiners and leaches.

**Little Maple Lake:** Crappies continue to bite well, and the bait of choice are crappie minnows. Sunfish are also abundant along the weed edge.

**Ramsey Lake:** Anglers are catching small northern pike (3 to 4 pounds) in 10 feet of water.

**Lake Constance:** Anglers are catching panfish in the shallows along weed edges.

**Rock Lake:** Sunfish, bass and crappies are biting on wax worms, leaches, and crappie minnows.

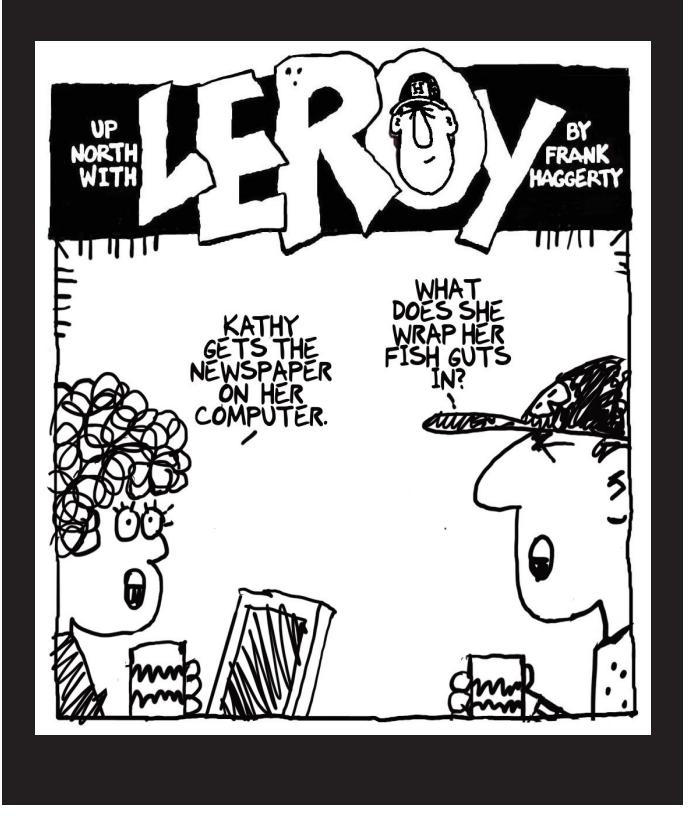
### Reporting fish die-offs helps the DNR

first. For general information, people can also contact area DNR fisheries offices, but this is not the best way to report fish kills.

#### Bacteria a common culprit

In early spring, the retreat of lake and stream ice can sometimes leave behind dead fish, commonly referred to as winterkill. When snow and ice cover a lake, they limit the sunlight aquatic plants receive. The plants respond by reducing the amount of oxygen they produce. If vegetation dies from lack of sunlight, the plants start to decompose, a natural process that consumes oxygen dissolved in the water. Fish die if oxygen depletion becomes severe enough. In mid-spring and summer, groupings of dead fish usually are the result of a common bacterial infection referred to as columnaris. Columnaris tends to affect fish as water temperatures warm and fish are stressed from the energy they spent on spawning. Columnaris infections can kill sunfish, crappies and bullheads, and occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

*More information on fish kills is available on the DNR website.*



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# Lake John

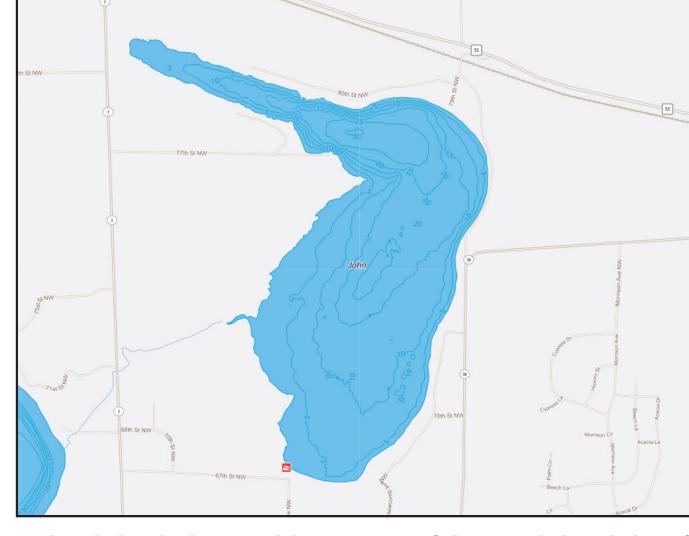
**By Joe Stewig**

Area Fisheries Manager

Lake John is a 411-acre lake located just west of the City of Annandale in Wright County. The lake has one public access located on the south end of the lake. As with many lakes in the area, Lake John offers a variety of fishing opportunities; however, the lake is primarily a bass/panfish/northern pike lake.

While bass and panfish are the mainstays the lake is also managed for Walleye. Walleye fry were first stocked into the lake back in the 1950s with management switching to fingerlings in 1967. Walleye were generally stocked every one to three years thereafter until 2008 when stocking was switched to even year stocking. The most recent lake survey conducted in 2016 found above average numbers of Walleye (3.1/gill net); however this is slightly lower than the long term average for the lake (3.9/gill net) dating back to 1980. Walleye caught ranged in length from 10 to 25 1/2 inches and averaged 18 1/2 inches and just over two (2) pounds. Walleye growth is above average for the area taking about three (3) years to reach 15 inches.

Northern Pike abundance is relatively high with a small average size at 20 inches and 1 3/4 pounds. Anglers will have ample opportunity to catch pike under 26 inches as only 6 percent of the pike sampled were longer than 26 inches. Catching a pike over 30 inches in Lake John is extremely rare. No pike over 30 inches were sampled in the most recent survey. Growth



Lake John is located just west of Annandale, right off Highway 55.

of pike is average for the area, taking six (6) years to reach 25 inches.

While Walleye get all the attention, Lake John is probably best known as a Largemouth Bass lake. Bass were last sampled in 2016 and caught in average numbers for the area, but the catch was two times higher than in 2006. Bass collected ranged in length from six (6) to 20 inches with an average length and weight of 12 inches and 1.3 pounds. Fifty-three percent of the bass sampled were longer than 12 inches and 19 percent were longer than 15 inches. While we only sampled one bass over 20 inches in 2016 there are plenty roaming the lake so don't be surprised to catch one over 20 inches.

Black Crappie are found in below average numbers but at times can provide excellent fishing. Black Crappie abundance appears to be low; however summer assessments tend to not give a true representation of the actual crappie population and so a targeted spring assessment would better represent the size structure of the

crappie population. That said, crappies sampled in 2016 ranged in length from 5.3 – 10.7 inches with an average length of eight (8) inches. Fifty-two percent of the crappies sampled were longer than eight (8) inches and 11 percent were longer than 10 inches. Growth of Black Crappie is average for the area taking four (4) years to reach eight inches (8).

Bluegill abundance is average for the area with a good av-

## LAKE OF THE MONTH



Lake John is also known as a Largemouth Bass lake. Photos submitted

erage size. Bluegill sampled in 2016 ranged from three (3) to 8 1/2 inches with an average length of 6 1/2 inches. Similar to crappies, the Bluegill population is better represented through spring targeted sampling. Bluegill growth in Lake John is average, taking four (4) years to reach six (6) inches.

There are no special fishing regulations; however, the lake is infested with Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels so care should be taken not to spread these invasive species. Practicing selective harvest will continue to ensure healthy fish populations for future enjoyment. If anglers choose to harvest a meal of fish, it is suggested they harvest smaller Northern Pike (<22 inches) due to their high abundance.

## Spring is a good time to review dock and platform regulations

**By the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Before installing or investing in a new dock or dock platform, lakeshore owners should check to ensure it will meet state requirements. Lake service provider businesses should also review the regulations, to ensure the equipment they sell or install is in compliance. Dock and dock platform size are regulated in Minnesota by the Department of Natural Resources to provide a balance between the protection and utilization of public waters. Docks and dock platforms allow riparian landowners to access and enjoy public waters.

However, oversized dock systems can have a variety of negative impacts, including interfering with other riparian owners, presenting safety and freedom of navigation issues for boaters, shading out important aquatic plants, and eliminating critical habitat where fish spawn, feed, grow and find shelter from predators. A dock is a narrow

platform or structure extending from the shoreline out into the water intended for mooring watercraft and to provide access to deeper water for recreational activities. A dock may not be more than 8 feet wide and may not be combined with other similar structures to create a wider dock. A modest platform at the lake end of a dock is allowed under certain conditions. A single, temporary platform up to 120 square feet measured separately from the access dock, or 170 square feet including the area of the adjacent access dock, is allowed if the following conditions exist:

- The access dock must be 5 feet wide or less, and
- The dock must be on a lake with a shoreland classification of general development or recreational development.

In addition to size requirements, dock owners are encouraged to design and locate their dock to avoid interfering with their neighbor's use of the water. A dock

cannot be longer than needed to achieve its intended use, including reaching navigable water depths. Docks must not obstruct navigation or be a water safety hazard and must allow for the free flow of water beneath them. A dock should not close off any part of the lake to other users and must comply with any local ordinances. Minnesota's current dock and dock platform regulations have been in existence for many years, but not everyone is familiar with them. Lake residents might assume that if another lakeshore owner has a dock with a large platform, it meets the state's rules. Sometimes, that isn't the case. A helpful document about state dock requirements is available on the DNR website. Local DNR hydrologists can assist lake homeowners with questions about docks.

The DNR website also contains links to other helpful information for lakeshore owners about shoreline erosion control and restoration projects to help improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

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# Classic Coleslaw

Contributed report

Paired often with slow-cooked barbecue, grilled chicken, or pork, coleslaw is one of the most popular side dishes around. But, have you ever wondered where coleslaw came from? And, how did it become the side dish that it is today? We're here to tell you the story of how this dish came to be. Read below to discover the unique history of coleslaw.

Like much of American cuisine, the coleslaw is inspired by dishes from all over the world. The roots of coleslaw recipes make their way back to ancient Rome. Roman citizens would often eat a meal featuring cabbage, eggs, vinegar, and other spices.

On the other side of the globe, the Dutch founders of New York served a shredded cabbage salad. This is similar to today's "slaw. The dish was initially created in the Netherlands. In fact, the term coleslaw originates from the Dutch expression koosla, which means "cabbage salad." Recipes similar to coleslaw have been found and used in American homes from as early as 1770. However, one of the most pivotal moments in the history of coleslaw was the creation of mayonnaise in the 18th century.

Coleslaw completes the deli salads trifecta alongside macaroni salad and potato salad. Coleslaw is often served at summer picnics and barbecues, and it is at home on the side of sandwiches or even on top. Coleslaw can dress up reubens or even replace sauerkraut (another cabbage-based topping) on frankfurters. It's convenient to pick up premade coleslaw at the deli counter, but it's also easy to make at home. Whip up this recipe for "Classic Coleslaw," courtesy of Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise company.

## Classic Coleslaw

Serves 6-8

**1 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise**  
**3 tablespoons lemon juice**  
**2 tablespoons sugar**  
**1/2 teaspoon salt**  
**6 cups shredded cabbage**  
**1 cup shredded carrot**  
**1/2 cup chopped bell pepper**

Combine mayonnaise, lemon juice, sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Stir in cabbage, carrots and green pepper. Chill, if desired.

**Tip:** For an even quicker prep time, use bagged coleslaw mix instead of shredding the cabbage and carrots.



Caption: A permit may be required to remove aquatic plants like those pictured above. Visit the DNR's website for more information.

Photo from Minnesota DNR

By the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Lakeshore property owners, here's a reminder that a permit may be required to remove aquatic plants. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for fish, ducks and other wildlife. They also stabilize the lake bottom, which helps maintain water clarity, and protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing energy from waves and ice.

Additionally, the DNR frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to wash muck and plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though you can buy one in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of the lake or uproots plants.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the DNR website. To apply for a permit, visit the DNR's permitting and reporting system.

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# TEACHER of the MONTH



## TESSA DICKINSON

By Tom Westman

Annandale area residents recently had the opportunity to vote for the Annandale May Teacher of the Month. The votes have been tabulated and Annandale Elementary third grade teacher Tessa Dickinson was the top vote getter.

Many of those casting votes commented on Dickinson as a teacher. Examples included:

"Wonderful teacher and great with students!"

"A dedicated team player."

"Patient, kind and amazing."

"Tessa has gone above and beyond during this unimaginable (COVID-19) school year, from having both distant learners and kids in person and she has done it all with grace!"

"We have been so lucky to have her this year!"

### Klippenes comments

"Tessa Dickinson is a top notch teacher that knows how to connect with any student," said Annandale Elementary School Principal Jon Klippenes.

Dickinson was a recent recipient of the Leadership in Educational Excellence Award (LEEA), which was voted on by her peers.

"Tessa was one of our synchronous learning teachers this year who taught students in her class and online all year," Klippenes said. "When the decision was made to hire a distance learner teacher she said she didn't want to let her distance learning students go because she had built such a great relationship."

According to Klippenes, Dickinson is creative in her lessons and takes a personal in-

terest in each of her students.

"She shows leadership within our staff and is one the best encouragers in our school," Klippenes said. "She is a well deserving recipient of teacher of the month."

### About Tessa

Dickinson grew up in Hector, MN and graduated from Buffalo Lake-Hector High School. She was active in athletics and music while in high school. She earned a degree in Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education at St. Cloud State University.

After college she taught at Glencoe-Silver Lake schools for seven years, teaching special education in grades 2-6.

"I was then hired by Bendix Principal Tracy Reimer in 2010 to teach special education at Bendix Elementary," Dickinson said. "I continued to teach special education in Annandale for five years and then began teaching 3rd grade."

"I have great appreciation for the experience I've gained teaching in both of these areas. I am so thankful to be a part of the Annandale school system and love living in the community as well."

### What is a great elementary teacher?

"I think a great elementary teacher is one who is able to develop strong relationships with their students and their families," Dickinson said. "When students know that you are truly invested in them, they also have a stronger desire to put energy into their learning and the relationships within their classroom. Feeling safe and cared for allows them to focus on their learning and work hard."



### Loves teaching

I absolutely love books and sharing great literature with my students," Dickinson said. "I also love teaching math and helping kids find the strategies and methods that work for them.

### COVID-19

"This year has posed many challenges as we addressed how to safely go to school during a pandemic," Dickinson said. "I am so proud of the work we did, and am so thankful that we were able to have in-person learning throughout the entire year at AES."

"Learning new technology, embracing masks and teaching in new ways was challenging at times, but it was 100 percent worth the effort. The students have adapted so well and thrived during a difficult time."

### Summer ahead

Dickinson loves spending time outdoors and reading books.

"I hope my students and all families are able to enjoy the summer and be ready to come back for another great year at AES."



## KRISTINE KOLLES

By Brenda Erdahl

Kristine Kolles, a third-grade teacher at St. Timothy Catholic School has been voted Teacher of the Month for June.

Nominators describe her as "caring," "kind, creative, hard working, inspirational, faithful, patient, bubbly, personable, engaged, encouraging, compassionate and joyful." She has a "very warm and welcoming personality," "helps children to understand," "is professional in all she does as a teacher," and "deeply cares for children and goes the extra mile to be sure children are getting the best education possible."

Kolles began her teaching career at St. Tim's seven years ago after a stint as a long-term sub in the St. Michael School District and as a kindergarten aide at Ave Maria Academy.

Kolles holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from St. Cloud State University. She said she wanted to become a teacher to "inspire kids, encourage them to ask questions, and to show them they can have fun learning about our amazing world."

Her favorite part about teaching is "having fun with the students and learning right alongside them."

Kolles is originally from the Maple Lake area and attended St. Timothy school as a child.

She loves the family spirit at St. Timothy and its Catholic identity.

Kolles is married to Myles and they have three



daughters. Their oldest is enrolled in kindergarten at St. Timothy and their middle daughter is in the school's Faithful Beginnings preschool program.

## VOTE by JUNE 13

### GO ONLINE TO VOTE FOR THE JULY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

The July poll features teachers from Community Ed.

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# LAKE Country Calendar

# June



| Sunday                                  | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|--|--|---|----------|
|   |        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5        |
| • Annandale City Council Meeting 7 p.m. |        | • Silver Creek Township Meeting 7 p.m.<br>• Corinna Township Meeting 7 p.m.<br>• South Haven City Council Meeting 7 p.m.                                       | • Maple Lake Chamber Meeting 12 p.m.   | • Maple Lake Legion Riders Meet 7 p.m.           | • Last Day of Classes (Annandale School District)               |          |
| 6                                       | 7      | 8  | 9  | 10   | 11  | 12       |
|   |        | • Chatham Township Meets 7 p.m.<br>• M.L. American Legion Meets 7:30 p.m.<br>• Maple Lake City Council Meets 7 p.m.<br>• Pioneer Park Potluck Supper 6:30 p.m. | • Sons of the American Legion _ML 8 p.m.<br>• ML Lions Club Meet 7 p.m.<br>● June New Moon |  | • Annandale Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon, City Hall Square   |          |
| 13                                      | 14     | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18  | 19       |
|   |        | • Albion Township Meeting 7 p.m.<br>• Maple Lake Township Meeting 7 p.m.<br>• Corinna Township Meeting 7 p.m.  | • Wright Saddle Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.<br>• Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meets 7 p.m.       |  | • Annandale Farmer's Market, 8 a.m. to noon, City Hall Square   |          |
| 20                                      | 21     | 22   | 23   | 24   | 25  | 26       |
| Father's Day                            |        |  |  | • Knights of Columbus Meet 7 p.m.<br>○ Full Moon | • Chaos in Clearwater Demo Derby<br>• Take Your Dog to Work Day |          |
| 27                                      | 28     | 29   | 30   |  |   |          |
|   |        | • W.C. Snowmobile Assoc. Meets 7:30 p.m.   |  |  |   |          |

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