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"Preserving Our Past While Working On Our Future"

Rothsay Regional Report

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Benefit To Be Held For Greg Honrud At Event Center

By: Karen Carpenter

Things happen as we travel life's meandering paths. There are joys as well as heartbreak. One thing of great value is the support and friendship of others.

On Saturday, April 24, Rothsay community, and surrounding area, is invited to show support and concern for one of their citizens.

Greg Honrud was diagnosed with Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HHC), rare liver cancer. He has been treated at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The long trips and required hotel stays add to the overwhelming expense of cancer treatments.

The benefit will run from 2:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Rothsay Event Center. T-shirts can be purchased to sponsor the benefit at the Powerhouse in Rothsay. There will be a silent auction, live music, food, drinks and more at the benefit.

Friends and family members have come together to organize the event. Tolly Tollefson, Rick Fiedler and Maurice Skogen are the main organizers.

Other ways to help are through a Go Fund Me account, or an account set up for Greg at Farmers State Bank in Rothsay.

It should be a fun evening and bring some financial support to Greg, who has endured so very much in his life.

Greg was diagnosed with Chrones Disease as a preschooler and it caused him to miss a lot of class time after he started school.

He had his first surgery in 1987, the summer before his senior year in high school. At that time Greg had three-and-a-half feet of his small intestine removed.

Nine years later a second surgery was needed, again removing the same amount of the small intestine.

"Chrones causes you to feel sick to the stomach just about every time you eat," said Greg. "After two surgeries things got worse as far as using the rest room more often, and not getting vitamins and minerals from food the way I should."

Greg was then diagnosed with Osteoporosis and told to increase his intake of dairy.

When Greg was 30 he started developing kidney stones. He averaged two per year for a total of 24. As anyone who has dealt with kidney stones will attest, it is terribly painful.

"Urologists didn't take my Chrones into consideration, and just told me to avoid dairy products and protein," stated Greg. After more than 10 years of episodes, a kidney specialist found his body isn't acidic



A benefit will be held for Greg and Darcie Honrud. Greg has been diagnosed with a rare form of liver cancer. He has been doctoring at Mayo Clinic. The Honrud family includes, left to right, Darcie, their dog, Bo, and Greg in the front; back row Dylan, Jenny and Jacob. The benefit is scheduled for April 24 at the Rothsay Event Center.

enough.

Some good things have begun to happen for Greg. He hasn't had a kidney stone in the last 10 years and about three years ago his Chrones Disease went into remission.

"I was finally able to see doctors a little less, and have times when I didn't always have medical bills," commented Greg.

The reprieve didn't last very long for Honrud though. That lack of calcium in his body caught up with Greg.

After tooth loss and severe gum infections, Greg had to have his teeth extracted and full dentures in January 2020. The cost was several thousands of dollars.

In July of 2020 Greg started to have trouble walking because of pain in his knees. He was then diagnosed with arthritis in both knees. Up to that point doctors had blamed everything on the Chrones Disease.

"On November 6, 2020, I was getting ready to go deer hunting the next day, when out of nowhere, I had pain on my right front," said Greg. It hurt to walk, get up from sitting,

lay down, even to take a deep breath.

"I didn't hunt this year, and two days later went to the emergency room in Fargo. They didn't find anything wrong, but said it looked like there might be some spots on my liver. I missed the following week of work, but the pain disappeared over that week," stated Greg.

Greg's wife, Darcie stated, "it was a good thing that we went to the doctor when we did. If the pain had stopped, Greg may not have gone, he can be a little stubborn."

His doctor ordered an MRI that found six lesions. A biopsy was done on three of those lesions

"The day before Thanksgiving I was called at work, and told all three biopsies were cancer," commented

Greg. "I had been to Mayo Clinic twice for Chrones in 2012 and again in 2013. I mention this as I have learned Mayo Clinic has been hesitant to take new patients due to the pandemic.

"My Chrones doctor in Fargo asked if I was interested in going to Mayo Clinic for the cancer, and was a big help in getting me into Mayo so fast," said Greg.

The Honruds first trip to Mayo was the week of Christmas. Because of the pandemic, Greg had to miss work and quarantine for a week prior.

After a few tests at Mayo, Greg and Darcie were told he was not a candidate for a Liver transplant, not a candidate for surgery. Doctors

stated that this type of cancer is treatable but not curable.

"I was told it is rare to have cancer in just the liver, and they have no idea why I have it," said Greg.

At home the following day, Greg received a phone call from one of the doctors and he discussed a treatment called Y-90. This seemed a very good option, and more appointments were scheduled.

The Honruds were back at Mayo the week of New Year's, and a trial run was done to see if a catheter type device would have a clear path through an artery in Greg's right leg to his liver.

During the trial run the device made it to Greg's liver, and a contrast was injected to see if it would find it's way through blood vessels to his stomach or lungs.

Radiation that can get to the stomach can cause an ulcer, and radiation that finds it's way to the lungs can burn a spot that will no longer take oxygen.

On January 18 it was back to

Mayo for a Covid test, and two days later the procedure was done.

Nano size radiation particles were placed right next to the tumors. "I was told mild 'flu like' symptoms were to be expected as side effects, with fatigue and stomach issues being the worst," Greg said.

"I had slight fever, chills, backache, and very bad stomach aches. This made sleeping difficult to do as I would normally wake up due to the stomach and back aches. I have felt normal and been pain free from mid-November up to the day of the radiation. Since the radiation, I feel icky at best if not dealing with a stomachache or backache," continued Greg.

On February 1, Greg received a call from his insurance company telling him that he had been approved for a liver transplant.

"I asked what they, the insurance company, knew as I had been told it wasn't an option," stated Greg. "I was told they had received a fax

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Greg Honrud loves to fish, both in the summer and ice fishing in the winter. He has served for three years as volunteer boat captain for Rothsay in the Heart O'Lakes High School fishing challenge.

Lions Club Taking Part In Plastic Recycling Challenge

The Rothsay Lions Club is taking part in the Trex recycling film challenge. The Rothsay Lions, along with other nearby clubs, are collecting bags and plastic film through July.

Clubs that are in Zone 8 of 5M9 are taking part in the challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to reduce the amount of plastic film that goes into landfills. The first club that hits 500 pounds of collected plastic is the first to earn a Trex bench which is made out of recycled plastic bags and film. So far the Rothsay Club has collected nearly nine pounds of plastic.

"We have a start on our goal of 500 pounds of plastic film and bags", states Diane Kunze. Diane feels the goal is attainable with a little help from the community. We help to keep some plastic out of the landfill and hopefully are able to earn a bench for our community at the same time. It's a win win.

The plastic gets weighed every third Saturday at Service Foods in Fergus Falls. The bags and film needs to be free of food residue and paper labels. The following is a list of



the acceptable recycling items: bubble wrap, grocery bags all colors, case overwrap, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, cereal bags, paper towel and toilet paper

overwrap, Ziplock food storage bags, ice bags dry and without metal clips, wood pellet bags, stretch film, pallet wrap and furniture foam wrap.

For more information on the recycling program please go to: www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/.

There is a collection box located in the front entryway at New Life Lutheran Church. Community members can check out the Rothsay Lions Club Facebook Page or contact any member of the Rothsay Lions Club to drop off plastic. Members include: Missy Amundson, Darrel Tollefson, John and Diane Kunze, Becca Paine, and Justin and Kevin Matheson.

The Rothsay Lions Club meets every Third Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at The Powerhouse. Come check us out.

Local Farmers Remain Optimistic At Start Of 2021 Planting Season

For the first time in a number of years, farmers across the nation are looking forward with some enthusiasm to the upcoming 2021 growing season. The past half dozen years have been challenging and there has been some erosion in the actual number of farmers tilling the soil.

But that shakeout, which seems to occur every generation or so, has pretty well run its course for now. Those that remain in farming are looking at adding a few more acres this year. Right now final planting decisions are also being made.

National Ag Day/Ag Week is celebrated every year as the calendar greets the first day of spring. This year the arrival of spring is Saturday, March 20. National Ag Week is being observed from March 20 through March 28. Although the business of farming never really stops, these dates are observed to welcome farmers back to their fields.

Down in the southern states, winter wheat has already begun to green up fields with the crop that was seeded last fall. Row crops will be going in the ground soon down there. In the middle part of

the midwest, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, winter wheat is up and farmers are just about to take to their fields after a very open winter with little snow.

Here in the upper midwest we still have a little ways to go. It has been mostly a snow free winter so that is not an issue. However, with an open winter and some very cold temperatures, frost can go deep. That may delay things a little bit but we have had 50 and even record-setting 60 degree days already and the ground has started to warm up.

The winter farm meetings and

shows have just about run their course. Farmers have had enough of meetings and now want to actually start turning a few wheels to turn their fields black again.

Around here, farmers are hoping for a good "average year". Both 2019 and 2020 growing seasons were a study in contrasts. The year 2019 was about as cold, wet, miserable and late as farming can get. Crop year 2020 was just about as good as it gets with the exception of a September frost. An "average"

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