

Inside this Issue:

The Season of Sweetness

Page 4

Winter Car Car Tips

Pages 12-14



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Only good news

Wednesday
December 6, 2017

Volume 54 | Number 31

SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES



FCH Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation

Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation seeks recruitment efforts for your local hospital.

Earlier of this year, we granted your local hospital funds to recruit an OB/GYN and within a matter of months, Dr. Johnathan Buchholz was brought on board, with the help of Merritt Hawkins. Merritt Hawkins is a large, well known physician recruitment firm who has relationships throughout the country.



After the success we had in the search for an OB/GYN, we recently granted your local hospital additional funds to recruit an Orthopedic Surgeon and the search is currently in process.



Help us to continue funding recruitment efforts and providing needed equipment for MCHS-Fairmont to keep our local medical community strong.

Donations can be made out to FCH Foundation
Mailing address PO Box 826, Fairmont MN 56031

Contact: Kayla Caven, 507.236.3397 or kayla.caven12@gmail.com



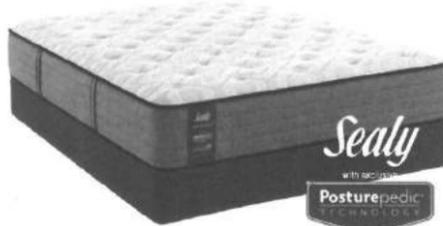
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AYERS-NICKOLAY - Trista Ayers and Ben Nickolay were married October 17th, 2017 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Audrey Kingstrom was the Humanist Celebrant. A reception followed at the Snyder Auditorium. Parents of the couple are Roger and Theresa Ayers of Fairmont and Tony and Lisa Nickolay of Wayzata, Minnesota. Trista was educated in Fairmont High School, graduated from Mankato State University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology. She works at 3M Corporate in St. Paul as an analytical chemist. Ben graduated from Minnetonka Senior High School and the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical design. He works at Stratasys Corporation in Eden Prairie as an applications engineer. The couple live in Bloomington, Minnesota with their dog Dexter. (Cilento Photography, Eden Prairie, MN)



GARBERS 80TH - Marvin Garbers of Sherburn will be celebrating his 80th birthday with his family on December 12th. Cards can reach him at 105 N. Lake Street, Sherburn, MN 56171.



Katherine Elizabeth Morris and Matthew John Osborn

Fairmont United Methodist Church continues its Wednesday Evening Suppers from 5 to 6 p.m. each Wednesday. This week they will serve chicken 'n biscuits and on December 13th it will be fish fillets. Meals include peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, beverages and homemade desserts. A \$2 donation is suggested.

rial, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial and Arlington Cemetery

- Tour historic sights: Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Newseum, 9/11 Memorial and Mount Vernon.

- Attend special events: theater performance and all-states dinner & dance.

- Interact with 1,500 teenagers from across the U.S. sponsored by rural electric co-ops; meet with your Members of Congress and make new friends.

- Go places; interview to be the Minnesota representative on the Youth Leadership Council. Federated is a Touchstone Energy cooperative serving 6,700 members in Jackson and Martin Counties. Sponsoring this trip demonstrates Federated's commitment to their local communities and its youth.



WENDT 90TH - Leonard Wendt celebrated his 90th birthday on December 5th, 2017. Cards will reach him at: Leonard Wendt, c/o Trimont Health Care Center, 303 Broadway St. S., Trimont, MN 56176.



MEYER 100TH - Valleen Meyer of Truman will celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, December 17th at Truman Senior Living, with her family and close friends. Cards will reach her at TSL, 400 N. 4th Avenue East, Room A-14, Truman, MN 56088.



KRAMER 60TH - Tom Kramer, well-known and loved funeral director, owner and operator of Kramer Family Funeral Home, will celebrate his 60th birthday Friday, December 8th. Well-wishes can be sent online to kramerfuneralhome.com or by mail at 71 2nd Avenue SE, Trimont, MN 56176. No phone calls, please.

St. John Lutheran Sherburn LWML invite you to their annual **Guest Day** on Wednesday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. They will have a short program, sing Christmas carols and enjoy a dessert luncheon while you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Please join them!

The East Chain United Methodist Church will host the monthly **Community Coffee Party** from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 9th. Rolls, Christmas treats, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and juice will be served for a free will offering. Everyone is welcome.

Korean Veterans Chapter 254 will meet at 9 a.m., Saturday, December 9th at The Ranch Restaurant in Fairmont.

Teens: win a free trip to Washington

A local teenager will experience first-hand the pride of being an American by winning a free trip to Washington, D.C. June 9th-14th. Federated Rural Electric, Jackson, will select the winner of this trip through its annual Youth Tour Contest.

High school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, attending a high school in Federated's service area can enter. Pick up an application from the school counselor or contact Federated (info@federatedrea.coop or call 1-800-321-3520). The application and information also on Federated's website (www.federatedrea.coop). The student writes a 300-word essay on an energy-related topic, which is due with the application by February 12th.

Five finalists are selected for short interviews March 19th, starting at 4 p.m. The combined scores from

the essay, interview and application determine the trip winner, along with second and third place who receive \$150 and \$100, respectively.

"Last year only seven local students entered the contest so your odds of winning are great," stated Andrea Christoffer, Federated's marketing & communications manager.

The winner will travel with 40 other Minnesota teens sponsored by other rural electric co-ops. Federated's delegate is one of 1,500 delegates nationally. Here are a few possible tour highlights:

- Tour the monuments: Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean Veterans Memorial, Iwo Jima Statue, World War II Memo-

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Rachel Schafer benefit will be December 16th

A pancake feed and bake sale benefit will be held for Rachel Schafer on Saturday, December 16th at the Martin County West High School. Hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The benefit is sponsored by the Sherburn Lions Club and a free will donation will be taken. There will be a variety of baked goods and holiday treats for sale.

Rachel is a 2001 MCW graduate, daughter of Phil and Julie Schafer of Sherburn. Rachel re-

cently underwent open heart surgery to repair two valves, a procedure necessary to prepare her body for a second kidney transplant. Rachel received her first kidney when she was 16. She currently goes to dialysis three times per week and is on the transplant list awaiting a matching donor.

If you like to read more about her story, visit: <http://www.caring-bridge.org/visit/rachel-schafer>

There will be a **hymn fest** on Sunday, December 10th at 7 p.m. at Red Rock Center for the Arts. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend.

The **Retired Martin County Highway Workers** and spouses will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12th at the Ranch Restaurant.

Christmas Open House
Join us as we celebrate the holiday season with an open house.
Open House - Fairmont
December 13
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Serving sandwiches, holiday treats, coffee and cider.
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Shop at Vendor Market in East Chain Saturday



The East Chain Activity Center will host its first ever Vendor and Craft Market on Saturday, December 9th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Over 20 vendors and artisans from Minnesota and Iowa will have gifts for purchase.

Homemade crocheted wearables and toys, decor for your home, children's accessories, One Twelve Timber woodcrafts, Premier Jewelry, Norwex, Mary Kay, Watkins, Rodan+Fields, Lu-LaRoe clothing, Usborne books, Simply Said, Young Living oils, decorated furniture, Thirty One, Pick Zebra, Damsel Pro, LipSense, Ashley

Magnolia crafts and paper goods and more will be available.

Best of all, there is a gym for kids to play in while you shop, and concessions on site with walking tacos, hot sandwiches, and other snacks.

Come inside from the cold this Saturday and get your Christmas shopping done while supporting local small businesses.

Door prizes from the vendors will be awarded every hour.

The Center is located on Hwy 53, at the address of the former East Chain School. Questions? Call 507-399-9677 or see our Facebook page.



Fairmont Rotary named Celia Simpson a "Student of the Week." A Fairmont High School senior, Celia is the daughter of Fran Simpson and she has a twin brother, Luke. Celia's high school activities have include orchestra, soccer, speech, Target, and Robotics (team captain). Celia's post high school plans include majoring in international relations, criminology, or Arabic. She is considering attending Seattle University. (Submitted photo)

Red Bag pickup is Saturday in the area

A reminder that this Saturday, December 9th is the Salvation Army's Red Bag pickup, scheduled for between 9 a.m. and noon. The staff from KSUM, Photo Press and Sentinel, plus other volunteers will collect the bags that are left on the doorsteps. American Heritage girls will assist in the pickup in Fairmont, and Boy Scouts will pick up the bags in the area towns listed below.



The Sentinel and Sentinel Plus distributed the red bags in the city of Fairmont during this week, and the Photo Press has the bags in this week's issue for the towns of Ceylon, Dunnell, Granada, Northrop, Sherburn, Trimont, Truman and Welcome. See the November 29th issue of the Photo Press for a list of items needed. Call the Salvation Army at 238-9797 for any questions or for more information.

New Hot Meals on Wheels board members

The Hot Meals on Wheels program has four new volunteer board members as of November 27th.

Karen Toupal is the Contact Chairperson and is leading the helm of this service that has provided the delivery of hot meals to residents within our community for many years.

Other board members are Erin Maidl, Route Chairperson, Janet Leininger, Volunteer Chairperson, and Joe Newcomb, Menu Coordination. Lakeview Methodist Healthcare Center will continue to provide the hot meals, and JoAnn Rehling will continue as Treasurer for the program.

Linda Bach-Quade coordinated and ran the Hot Meals on Wheels program for many years and is retiring from the board at the end of November. Her service and dedication to this

program and to our community was unparalleled and she is committed to make this a very smooth transition.

Currently there are approximately 23 people per day relying on a hot, nutritious, delivered meal. Meals are delivered Monday-Saturday between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., each route has 6 to 8 deliveries and 4 drivers are needed daily. This service is completely reliant on volunteers to coordinate and deliver these meals, and more volunteers are always welcome.

If any service groups, area businesses, or individuals are interested in volunteering to deliver meals, please contact Janet at 303-909-1914. If you or a loved one would benefit from this service, please contact Karen at 507-773-4547.

The calendar says Christmas is coming. Set aside your shopping and come for our **Service of Advent Light** at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, 323 East 1st Street, at 7 p.m. on December 6th, 13th, and 20th.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Welcome will hold its **Christmas Goodies Bakery and Cafe** on Saturday, December 9th. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Candles and Carols

The Senior Choir and Handbell Choir of Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Earth will join forces on Sunday morning, December 10th, to present a service entitled Candles & Carols.

Pianist for the services is Mark Frahm with instrumental assistance from Jolene Krussow-violin, Debbie Ankeny-viola, and Bennett Petersen-double bass. Narrators will be Joe and Patti Strukel. Directors for these Trinity choirs

are Mike and Sue Ellingsen.

Candles & Carols was written by Mark Hayes, and features beautiful arrangements of beloved carols including The First Noel, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Love Came Down at Christmas, Silent Night, and many others.

Services will be presented at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Services are open to the public and guests are welcomed.



"The Wizards of Winter" put on a spectacular light and sound show to a full house last Saturday night at the Fairmont Opera House. (Photo courtesy of Joseph Kreiss Photography)

Christmas Shopping

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

Going On Now
ROTARY BOOK SALE

Saturday, December 9
HOLIDAY VENDOR SHOW
Girl Scout wrapping Christmas gifts for a small donation.
10AM - 3PM

Sunday, December 10
FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Trimont Area Band	11AM
United Methodist Choir	12PM
Ann Wehner & Sue Billett	12:30PM
United Methodist Men's Group	12:45PM
Joyce Kollasch & Ann Wehner	1:30PM
Accordian Group	2PM

Friday, December 22 until 9pm
MOONLIGHT MADNESS (Watch For Details)
Coffee & Cookies at participating merchants.

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Dec. 16-17	1pm - 4pm
Wed. Dec. 20	
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Thurs. Dec. 21	
5pm - 8pm	
Fri. Dec. 22	
5pm - 8pm	
Sat. Dec. 23	
1pm - 4pm	

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Holiday Health, the Season of Sweetness

Guest Columnist

Dr. Scott Burtis, M.S., D.C., Burtis Chiropractic Center

Welcome to December. Welcome to parties, goodies, Christmas cookies, and all the fun that leads up to the big day. Some of you will do your best to resist the many temptations that the holiday season brings. Many of you will just give in and look forward to the New Year's resolution you will make (and break) again as a way of being okay with adding those extra calories. Most of those calories will come in the form of sugar, which will result in blood sugar fluctuations that can become serious.

If you are currently pre-diabetic or diabetic, you know how important it is to control your blood sugar. Uncontrolled blood sugar is hard on your kidneys, liver, brain, eyes, circulation, etc. There is just nothing good about it. If left uncontrolled it will turn into actual type II

diabetes and, at a certain point, diet and exercise will no longer be enough. Some of you have already reached that stage and are on some combination of medication that usually includes metformin, Januvia, Glucophage, and so on. Remember that NONE of these medications is without side effects. Even metformin, considered the most effective and safest, can interfere with normal thyroid function and has side effects which include nausea, vomiting, cramps, and weight gain.

For those of you who were told to go right to medication for blood sugar control, please kindly remind your doctor about the famous "...when diet and exercise don't work..." line. The thing is, diet and exercise work very well. The problem is getting patients to choose that before choosing the drug route.

Before you go right to one of the standard blood sugar meds or an insulin pump, you should really consider trying some natural products which have been shown scientifically to work with controlling your blood sugar.

When it comes to natural control of blood sugar, the big three are green tea, cinnamon, and alpha-lipoic acid. Green tea contains epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) which has been shown to protect pancreatic islet cells and enhance insulin action. Insulin resistance has been shown to decrease after green tea use, and blood lipids also show improvement. Green tea is one of the best antioxidants known and has been shown to affect blood sugar control positively. Cinnamon is becoming increasingly well-known for enhancing

insulin sensitivity. Cinnamon has been shown to reduce both blood sugar and A1C in pre-diabetics and diabetics. Please note that only certain kinds of cinnamon have been shown to have this effect. Lastly, alpha-lipoic acid is another antioxidant that has been shown to reduce blood sugar levels when normal insulin sensitivity has been lost. It acts as a free radical scavenger and additionally has been shown to support glucose transport to cells.

An additional component that can be part of natural supplementation is chromium, which acts as a gatekeeper to letting insulin do its job—getting glucose into your cells. Lastly, zinc can be paired with cinnamon to help do its job more efficiently.

While there are a number of products on the market that contain one or more of these separate components, please remember that you get what you pay for. You certainly would not call around for the cheapest brain surgeon, and you wouldn't go to a dollar store to get

chemotherapy if you had cancer. When it comes to any kind of supplements, make sure you are getting pharmaceutical grade products from an expert that knows what they are talking about. One of the products we suggest at Burtis Chiropractic Center is Metagenics's MetaGlycemX. MetaGlycemX contains green tea, alpha lipoic acid, and cinnamon. It also features enhanced levels of other key supportive nutrients—biotin, chromium, and vitamins C and E—combined in a well-rounded formula for healthy individuals with blood sugar concerns. Another product that has been shown to perform much the same as metformin without the side effects is berberine. Berberine is an herb that stabilizes blood glucose levels through normalizing both insulin levels and insulin sensitivity. Some more recent research studies are showing berberine to work better than metformin. In addition, it does not have the potentially harmful effect on your mitochondria.

Before concluding, let me remind you that blood sugar problems are often really adrenal or leaky gut problems. High or low adrenal and/or thyroid function can affect cortisol and T3/4 levels which can lead to poor blood sugar control. If these are the source, then no glucose drug will help for long. But determining this takes a functional medicine approach that requires specialized blood testing that very few facilities in this area offer. At Burtis Chiropractic we do offer this type of blood testing. As a reminder, chiropractic neurological approaches can often optimize the function of these organs and improve integration as well.

In the end, the best thing to do is to eat healthy and get your exercise. If this is not doing the job, or you want an extra measure of protection this holiday season, make sure you consider high-quality nutraceuticals without the side effects of drugs. Then enjoy the gifts that really matter—health, home, and happiness.

Sweet Financial helps Fairmont Opera House raise \$35,000 at concert event

On Saturday, November 18th Sweet Financial Services hosted "One Night in Nashville" at the Fairmont Opera House where they brought in three of the top songwriters in country music from Songwriter City, The Warren Brothers & Josh Kear, to perform for their clients and members of the community. With over 300 people in attendance, they managed to raise over \$35,000 for the rehabilitation of the local landmark, The Fairmont Opera House.

The audience members joined Sweet Financial for a unique, authentic experience to hear the songwriters perform and tell the stories behind the hit songs you've heard time and time again on the radio. With number 1 hits such as Need You

Now by Lady Antebellum, Before He Cheats by Carrie Underwood, Neon Light by Blake Shelton, Drinking Class by Lee Brice, Lights Come On by Jason Aldean, The Highway Don't Care by Tim McGraw, Feel That Fire by Dierks Bentley and many, many more, the artists shared the compelling stories of how these hits found their way to some of the top favored recording artists.

Bryan Sweet, Founder and CEO of Sweet Financial Services, saw this performance back in April of 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee and was so impressed that he knew he had to bring the once in a lifetime experience to his quaint town of Fairmont, Minnesota. When the singers graced the stage on Saturday the 18th he knew

very quickly that it was the right decision based on the shared laughter, tears and good old-fashioned foot stomping that occurred throughout the night!

On top of providing an incredible experience to all that attended, there was an underlying greater cause for the evening. Sweet Financial was able to help raise approximately \$35,000 to be put towards the rehabilitation of the Fairmont Opera House. Built in 1901, the Fairmont Opera House has relied on Fairmont and the surrounding communities to propel its mission forward. They had again reached a time where they have needed to ask even more of their beloved supporters for help, which is why they've created their "Launch the

Legacy" Capital Campaign. Blake Potthoff, Executive Director of the Fairmont Opera House, along with their Board of Directors, had decided that it was time for a large-scale fundraiser. It is a 116-year-old building that has aged well but is in need of some tender love and care to keep it standing for generations to come.

Sweet Financial has been a long-standing supporter of the Fairmont Opera House and was proud to be able to help contribute to their campaign. One Night in Nashville was a night to remember for Sweet and his team, the Fairmont Opera House and all who attended the event.

Grupe joins CCFBank as Commercial/Ag Banker

CCFBank's West Region President Matt Zebro announced the hire of Conner Grupe to the Commercial/Ag lending team. Conner grew up in Martin County, and comes to CCFBank with prior ag lending experience as well as experience farming acres of his own.

Grupe received his degree in corporate finance from Buena Vista University and has prior Ag Lending experience in a community bank setting. His role with CCFBank will be based out of the Fairmont

CCFBank location, where Grupe is involved in the agri-business board of the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce and also serves as a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles in Blue Earth.



Citizens Community Federal N.A. (CCFBank), a wholly owned subsidiary of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., is a full-service national bank based in Altoona, Wisconsin, with over \$900 million in Assets and serving customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

Hilgendorf joins State Bank of Fairmont

State Bank of Fairmont from Mankato State University is pleased to announce

that Dan Hilgendorf has joined the State Bank of Fairmont family as Vice President and will specialize in agriculture and commercial lending.

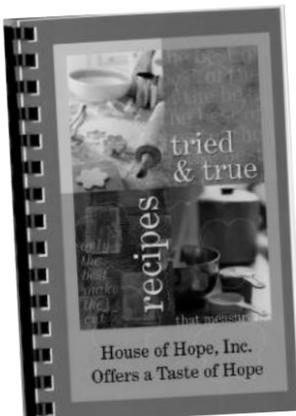
Dan has 30 years of lending experience, most recently as Vice President of First Farmers & Merchants Bank. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance



He grew up on a family farm near Trimont, where his parents still reside and his brother runs a row crop and custom hog finishing operation.

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What's Cooking

with Kathy Lloyd

Christmas Decorating!

This weekend my goal was to put up the Christmas decorations. They are all up and it looks like Christmas at the Lloyd home! Several of my friends no longer put Christmas trees up. They do decorate in other ways, but I just can't give that part up yet. My tree's decorations don't have a theme or a color scheme. Most of them are ornaments my children and even a grandchild made for me. Other store bought ones are those friends and family members gave me. Each one holds a special place in my heart. Those great memories come flooding back as I hang each one, I cherish them all. So as long as Pa Lloyd can put together the tree we will have one. If you remember other years I have written about my Christmas Therapy book by Karen Katafiasz. I quote her #7 suggestion: "Decorate your home with meaning and purpose and joy. Let something of your own and your family history be told in the decorations".

Now we can't just eat Christmas cookies the whole month of December. Today I am sharing a casserole recipe I made for us this week and my better half suggested I share it with you. I found it in the Grace Lutheran Church cookbook. It's one I will make again.

Chicken Casserole

- 2 chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 Tblsp. olive oil
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 box stove Top Dressing
- 1 can (14oz.) chicken broth
- Swiss cheese

Saute chicken, onion and celery in oil until chicken no longer pink. Put in greased 9 inch pan. Lay cheese on top of chicken to cover. I used shredded, then spread on undiluted cream of chicken soup. Cook dressing according to directions on package, except use the whole can of broth, butter as directed. Then spread dressing layer over the soup. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes then uncover for another 30 minutes. I didn't use a lot of cheese, just a sprinkle.

Keep warm and have a good week!



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

Detail of illustration by Milo Winter (1925)

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Toddler Tinker Lab at the Fairmont Library

The Fairmont Library will host its final Toddler Tinker Lab of the year on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m.

The "lab" is designed to allow toddlers to explore, grow and create with a variety of activities each month. The best part? Leave the mess behind at the library! Call the library at 238-4207 with questions.

No registration is required and this event is free and open to the public.

Red Rock Center's featured artists

Red Rock Center for the Arts of Fairmont featured artists for the month of December is the Fairmont Hardanger Club featuring hardanger needle work designs by Joyce Kollasch, Renee St. John, Gladys Gerhardt, Elaine Krueger, Dorie Meyer and Mona Gaworski.

The exhibit will be on display December 5th to the 28th.

An Artist Meet & Greet Open House will be held on Sunday, December 10th, 2 to 4 p.m. View the display, visit with the artists behind the work while enjoying cider and holiday goodies.

Everyone is welcome to this free exhibit.



Thank You to Youth Foundation

On behalf of the Fairmont Community Education and Recreation youth programs, I would like to express my thanks to the Martin County Youth Foundation for their generous donation to support Prairie Ecology Bus Center STEAM Adventures and Minecraft Robotics Camp scholarships for the winter CER youth enrichment activity programs.

Youth are our most important assets for the future. Thank you to the Martin County Youth Foundation for providing so many quality oppor-

tunities to area youth to grow and become our future leaders.

Taking time to provide quality experiences for youth is one of the most wonderful ways to show them that adults realize how important they are. Please make a difference in the life of a child during this season of Christmas love and throughout the new year by sharing your time and blessings with someone from our younger generation.

Ronelva (Roni) Dauer
Director

Thanks for pancake supper

The Fairmont Kiwanis Club Early Risers, wishes to thank the support we received from the community for our 40th Annual Pancake Supper which was held at the Five Lakes Centre on Monday, November 27th, 2017.

The great support we have received from the community has helped us to fund and support our many youth focused, and community centered projects, such as Back to School Supplies, Fairmont Area Kinship, Koats for Kids, Kids Fishing Contest, Dollars for Scholars, Bike Safety Program, Success and Summer Street Hockey Program, and other programs which us to "improve the world, one child and one community at a time".

This could not be done without the support of our community members. We also appreciate all those who responded to our ticket sales, not only those who purchased for themselves and their families,

but also the many individuals, businesses, financial institutions, and retailers who purchased extra tickets to distribute as they wish.

Also, because of the generous support of Olson Rentals, Culligan Water, McDonald's, Hy-Vee and Fareway, Perkins Restaurant, The Ranch Restaurant and Thrivent Financial-Live Generously, our Kiwanis Club was able to serve approximately 600 persons at the event.

Thank you also to the Management at Five Lakes Centre for allowing us the space to hold our Pancake Suppers. Thank you all for being a part of the Fairmont Community who believe in the promotion of youth activities.

Respectfully,
Daron Johnson - President, Early Risers Kiwanis Club
John Hovick - Event Chairperson
Harlan Gorath - Publicity Committee Member

martincountylibrary.org



If you're looking to get into the holiday spirit, look no further than Hoopla Digital! Hoopla has downloads (all free with your library card) to bring holiday cheer to your home! Here are a few of the holiday titles available for download now with Hoopla Digital:

Holiday Music by Josh Groban, Mariah Carey, The Ten Tenors, Sia, Michael Buble, Blake Shelton, The Rat Pack,

The Beach Boys, The Supremes, The Nutcracker Soundtrack and more!

Holiday Book Downloads: Books about holiday crafts, baking, cooking, hosting, DIY gifts and more! Children's books too celebrating the season!

Holiday Novels for Adults by Robyn Carr, Susan Wiggs, Debbie Macomber, Linda Lael Miller, Jill Shalvis, Brenda Novak, Susan Mallery, Diana Palmer and more!

Holiday Movies for the Whole Family: Christmas Love Story, A Cinderella Christmas, The Spirit of Christmas, A Christmas Kiss, The Snowman, Inspector Gadget's Christmas, A Muppet Christmas and more!

SJV School Endowment memorials, contributions

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$1,590 in memorials during the month of October, 2017. These were given in memory of:

BETTE BISHOP: By The Bishop Family, Maureen Boro, Bill Cole, Dr. Jim and Carol Dick, Darlene Eisenmenger, Bernard and Jean Elsenbast, Doug and Marilyn Forstrom, Dick and Helen Gould, Linda Gruber, Rod and Helen Hager, Dr. David and Lois Johnson, Wayne and Char Kahler, Catherine Kasper, Lois Kesler, Krahmer Law Firm, Dorothy Krick, Leo and Rose Marie Lammers, Janette Loe, Shirley Maschoff, Sue and Dave Nash, Mary Pat Nawrocki, Curt and Ellen Nelson, Professional Tax Advisors, Ken and Marilyn Rusch, John and Jennie Sorenson, John and Sharon Spics, Monte and Kathy Swift

JOHN BRANDENHOFF, JR.: By Larry and Jamelle Swanson

DONALD BURGESON: By Bruce and Ann Gemmill

ORTY BUTTWEILER: By Joell Schaefer

CHERYL CHAMPINE: By Bruce and Ann Gemmill

JIM HILL: By Scott Foster

BETTY HINDERS: By Joell Schaefer

LARRY 'LEM' MILLER: By Larry and Jamelle Swanson

DONNA SCHILTZ: By The SJV School Staff

BILL SCHONS: By Linda Gruber, The Schons Family

HARRIET WESSEL-

MANN: By Burdean and Dorothy Hartwig

JAMES 'JIM' WINTHEISER: By Carol Carlson, Dr. Jim and Carol Dick, Linda Gruber, Judy Gunther, Leon and Rose Marie Lammers

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund also gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$778.04 in general and special contributions given during October, 2017, by the following:

General Contributions:

By Mike Carr, Carroll Collins, Margie Dahlstrom, Barbara Denney, Archie and Marsha Farnham, Stan and Betty Felber, Jim and LuAnn Hahn, Red and Meda Holland, Catherine Kasper, Leon and Rose Marie Lammers, Kathy Langer, Dennis and Mitzi Lockwood, Kathy McGowan, Virginia Maday, Alice Malliette, Joe and Crystal Melsha, Bob and Mary Millette, Chris and Amy Pierce, Carol Pierce, Clayton and Mary Ann Pytleski, Ron and Karen Sandhurst, Bob and Marlys Steger, Eugene and Janet Voyles, Jack and Nelda Zimmer

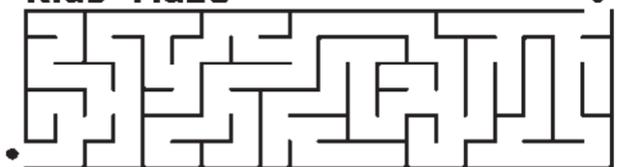
Special Contributions:

IN HONOR OF CAROL PIERCE, For Her Beverage Contributions to the SJV School Dinner Dance: By the SJV School Dinner Dance Committee

IN HONOR OF THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF VIRGINIA MADAY:

By Duane Hassing, Kerwin and Francine Hassing

Kids' Maze



Dining and Entertainment

Fairmont Eagles 1228 Lake Ave • 238-2555

Friday, December 8 • 5-7pm: Burger Night!
1/3 lb Burger Baskets with choice of french fries, sour cream and chive fries or tater tots for \$5, plus our open menu, appetizers and much more! Happy Hour 5-7pm

Sunday, December 10 • 4-8pm: Steve Lang & Bob Petrowiak

Monday, December 11: Kitchen opens 5pm • Bingo 7pm

Tuesday, December 12: Dart League 7pm
Kitchen open til 8pm

Fridays: Full Menu Available • Full Service Bar • Everyone Welcome!

39th Annual Christmas Party!

Saturday Night,
December 9th
starting at 6:30 pm

Umbreit's
U-Turn Bar & Museum
Dunnell, MN • 507-695-2526
"Come join the fun! Umbreit will be working as usual."

Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
5-8pm: Fish Fry

LEGENDS II Pub & Grill
CEYLON, MN • 507-632-4696
Good food, good friends, good times!

Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10

Sample many of our items including Baked goods!

Timberlake Orchard
176 200th Ave. • Fairmont, MN
507-235-2648 • timberlakeorchard.com

Gift Baskets
Gift Certificates
Prize Drawings

HOT MEALS ON WHEELS

Hot Meals on Wheels are Monday through Saturday for convalescents and persons who cannot purchase and prepare adequate meals. Meals are prepared by Lakeview Methodist Healthcare and volunteers deliver in Fairmont between 11 a.m. and noon each day. This is a community project and is non-profit and not government funded. For more info on Hot Meals on Wheels, contact Karen Toupal 507-773-4547.

TRUMAN AREA

Menus subject to change due to inclement weather, shortages or delays in shipping.

DEC 7 - 13

THUR: Hamburger, sweet potato fries, broccoli, hot apple slices, raisins.
FRI: Corn dog, calico beans, spinach salad, strawberry cup, fruit.
MON: Sausage pizza, CA veggies, spinach salad, pineapple tidbits, fruit.
TUE: Ribette, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, fruit.
WED: Max sticks, spaghetti sauce, broccoli, spinach salad, peach cup, fruit.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAIRMONT

Menus subject to change due to inclement weather, shortages or delays in shipping.

DEC 7 - 13

THUR: Dutch chicken pot pie, biscuit, caesar salad, garbanzo beans, fruit cocktail.
FRI: Sloppy joe, tator tots, cucumbers, applesauce.
MON: Chicken alfredo, dinner roll, broccoli, carrots, apple.
TUE: Tacos, rice, jicama sticks, pears.
WED: Lasagna, carrots, dinner roll, celery sticks, banana.

SENIOR DINING WEEKLY MENU

Senior Dining is served each weekday at 11:30 a.m. at Friendship Village Monday thru Friday. Meals catered by Lakeview Methodist Healthcare. To reserve your meal, call 238-1650 between 9 a.m. and noon the day before. All area seniors welcome. LSS Senior Nutrition is made possible in part under the Federal Older American Act through an award from the MN River Area Agency on Aging under an area plan approved by the MN Board on Aging.

DEC 7 - 13

THURS: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, rice pudding.
FRI: Golden broil fish, creamed potatoes, beets, cake.
MON: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, pumpkin dessert.
TUE: Chicken strips, potato salad, green beans, cake.
WED: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, creamed corn, cherry crisp.

Our 23rd Annual Christmas Cookie Bakery & Cafe

Saturday, Dec. 9 • 8:30-10:00 am

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
214 North Dugan, Welcome

Bakery - where items can be purchased singly or by the dozen
Cafe - where items can be sampled with a cup of coffee or hot cider
Let us help 'you' with your Holiday Baking

FAIRMONT AREA

Menus subject to change due to inclement weather, shortages or delays in shipping.

Breakfast menu can be found online.

DEC 7 - 13

THUR: K-6: BBQ chicken sandwich, tator tots, ham & cheese sandwich, coleslaw, cucumbers, garbanzo beans, fruit.
JR/HS: Dutch chicken pot pie, biscuit, peas, caesar salad, barbanzo beans, apple, fruit.
FRI: K-6: Cheese pizza, dinner roll, corn, nachos fun lunch, caesar salad, peas, carrots, fruit.
JR/HS: Sloppy joe, tator tots, caesar salad, cucumbers, carrots, orange, applesauce.
MON: K-6: Hamburger, fries, egg & cheddar chef salad, dinner roll, coleslaw, carrots, broccoli, fruit.
JR/HS: Chicken alfredo, dinner roll, carrots, broccoli, apple, pineapple tidbits.
TUE: K-6: Chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, turkey hame & cheese sandwich, tossed salad, tomatoes, cucumbers fruit.
JR/HS: Tacos, rice, coleslaw, jicama sticks, orange, pears.
WED: K-6: Meatball sub, carrots, sunbutter & grape jelly sandwich, tomato & cucumber salad, celery sticks, pepper strips, fruit.
JR/HS: Lasagna pasta bake, zucchini, dinner roll, celery sticks, pepper strips, banana, peaches.



Financial Focus

Provided by:
Paul Schellpeper, Drew Schellpeper, Wyman Fischer, Mandi Kosbab, Dan Hamlet
Financial Advisors, Edward Jones, www.edwardjones.com, Member SIPC

During holidays, be extra vigilant about protecting financial data

To help achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you should save and invest regularly. But that's only part of the picture. You also need to protect your financial assets in various ways. One such method is guarding your personal information - especially any information that could be linked to your financial accounts. It's obviously important to be vigilant at any time, but you need to be even more on your toes during the holiday season, when fraudsters are particularly active.

So, to help keep your important data under wraps during the holidays, consider these suggestions:

- Extend your protection to all mobile devices. Identity thieves can now compromise your mobile devices by installing spyware that steals usernames, passwords and credit card information. Fortunately, you can fight back. By doing a little research online, you can find the best mobile security software for your needs.
- Use multiple passwords. Online security specialists recommend that you use different passwords for each new online shopping site you visit during the holiday season. Although this might seem like a hassle, it can be helpful, because even if identity thieves were to grab one of your

new passwords, they still couldn't use it for other sites you may visit. And you can even find a free online program that can help you keep track of all your passwords.

- Be suspicious of "huge savings." It happens every holiday season - identity thieves develop fake sites with attractive graphics and stunningly low prices on a variety of items, especially digital devices. If you fall for these pitches, you won't get any merchandise, but you might get a handful of headaches once the bad guys have your credit card number and other personal information. To prevent this, be wary of any deal that sounds too good to be true, and do some digging on the websites that offer these mega-savings.
- Watch for fake shipping notices. During the holidays, when you may do a lot of online shopping, you will probably receive some legitimate shipping notices. But the bad guys have gotten pretty good at generating fake notices designed to resemble those from UPS, FedEx and even the U.S. Postal Service. If you were to click on the link provided by one of these bogus notices, you could either take on some malware or get taken to a "phishing" website created by the shipping notice forgers. Your best defense: Only shop with legitimate merchants and only use the tracking numbers given to you in the email you received immediately after making your purchases.
- Keep your Social Security number to yourself. As a general rule, don't give out your Social Security number online - to anyone. No legitimate retailer needs this number.

Finally, be aware that not all attempts at stealing your personal information will come online. When you're out shopping at old-fashioned, brick-and-mortar stores, consider bringing just one credit card with you - and protect that card from prying eyes.

By following these precautions, you should be able to greatly reduce the risk of being victimized by identity thieves and other miscreants. And the more comfortable you are in doing your holiday shopping, the more you can enjoy the season.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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WARRANTY DEEDS

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Ross Wiggin, Lots 9 and 10, Block 7, Original Plat Triumph

Leland R. Trunkenbolz to Joyce E. Grev, Lot 1, Block 2, Cedar Creek 2nd Addn.

Compeer Financial FLCA to Eber Noe Juarez, Pt. SW 1/4 SE 1/4, 33-104-30

Marsha Lee Malo, Travis Jason Malo to Joann Jacobson, Michael Jacobson, Pt. Tract "F", Govt. Lot 4, SW 1/4, 20-102-30

Cynthia D. Fruechte, Kevin M. Fruechte to Travis Ja-

son Malo, Lot 10, Block 1, Greischars 1st Addn.

Amy S. Gerken, Atty.-in-fact, Erma T. Laue to Joseph Christensen, Morgan Christensen, Lot 13, Block 11, Subd. B8, 11, 13, T&J 3rd Addn.

State Bank of Fairmont to Ashley M. Kabe, Cameron R. Kabe, Lot 7, Block 1, Keslers Hillsdale Addn.

James Duchene, Susan Duchene to Laura A. Hady, Lot 30, Block 1, Hillcrest Addn.

Laura Ann Hady to Cole Stangler, Lot 7, Block 2, Highland Addn.

Aaron Emil Hoffman to Amelida D. Volgarino, Zachri D. Volgarina, Lots 7 and 8, Block 7, Original Plat Welcome

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

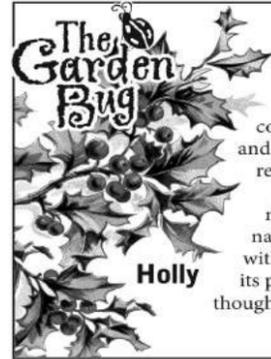
Courtney M. Luniewski to Timothy R. Luniewski, Lots 14 and 15, W.12.7' Lot 12, Block 6, Ramsdales Addn.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE DEEDS

Paul Christianson, Co.-Per. Rep., Michael Mulder, Co.-Per. Rep., Estate of Leslie W. Peterson to Greta R. Christianson, Ingrid A. Langseth, Pt. Und. 1/2 Int., Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Block 11, OLE of Outlots A to H inclusive to the Town of Triumph, Original Plat Monterey

TRUSTEE DEEDS

Nancy Wagar, John Wager Trust to Becky Holland, Curtis Holland, Pt. Govt. Lot 5, NW 1/4, Pt. Govt. Lot 1, NE 1/4, 1-101-30



Long before holly was used for Christmas decoration, it was considered sacred to the Druids. While other plants wither away in cold weather, holly leaves remain green and strong, and the berries remain bright red even in the harshest of winters. The pagan Druids regarded this as potent magic against the destructive forces of nature, and adorned their surroundings with cuttings of the plant to benefit from its powers. Cutting down a holly tree was thought to bring very bad luck. - Brenda Weaver

Source: howstuffworks.com

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NOTICE of INTENT to ADOPT MARTIN COUNTY BUFFER ORDINANCE and BUFFER MAP to THE MARTIN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE (shoreland) and LAND USE MAP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the adoption of The Martin County Buffer Ordinance, Martin County Buffer Map, amendment to the Martin County Zoning Ordinance (shoreland), and Land Use Map will be considered by the Martin County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, in the Martin County Commissioners Room, 201 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, Minnesota at the regular board meeting at 10 a.m. The Martin County Board of Commissioners will take formal action on adopting the Buffer Ordinance, Official buffer map, amend the Martin County Zoning Ordinance (shoreland to be consistent with Buffer Ordinance) Chapter 13 (Shoreland Districts), Subdivision 18, Agricultural Use Standards, Number 1, and update official land use map. The Planning Commission recommended to the Martin County Board of Commissioners adoption of the Buffer Ordinance, Official buffer map, amendment to the Martin County Zoning Ordinance (shoreland), and land use map by a public hearing which was held November 28, 2017.

A complete copy of the proposed Buffer Ordinance, buffer map, land use map and amended changes is available for review in the Martin County Auditor's Office, The Martin County Planning and Zoning Office and on the Martin County Website ~ www.co.martin.mn.us. A copy is also available with Martin County Township Clerks and City Clerks.

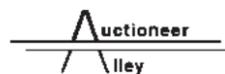
Pam Flitter
Martin County Zoning Administrator

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Friday, December 15, 2017 10:30AM - JASON & ROBIN BURNS - 76.92 Acres +/- Farmland Auction located in Sec 36 of Alba Twp, Jackson Co., MN. Sale to be held at the American Legion Hall, 423 Main St, Lakefield, MN. DAN PIKE & ASSOCIATES

Saturday, January 13, 2018 STARTING AT NOON - The large Martin Luther High School Annual Antique and Collectible Auction. Several members of Auctioneer Alley are the auctioneers for this auction.

Check with us for several new private farm listings! Contact: Dustyn Hartung at 507-236-7629 or Kevin Kahler at 507-920-8060, or call the office at 507-238-4318.



For upcoming auction flyers:
auctioneeralley.com -or-
danpikeauction.com

- Allen Kahler, 764-3591
- Ryan Kahler, 764-4440
- Kevin Kahler, 235-5014
- Dan Pike, 847-3468
- Doug Wedel, 236-4255
- Dar Hall, 327-0535
- Dustyn Hartung 507-236-7629
- Leah Hartung 507-236-8786

923 N. State St., Suite 170, Fairmont, MN (507) 238-4318

Weiss Milling earns Bio-Zyme® Dealer Status

Weiss Milling Inc., Welcome, has recently completed the necessary training needed to be named a BioZyme® Master Dealer.

Weiss Milling Inc., is located at 104 S. Dugan St. in Welcome. They can be reached at 507-728-8745.

As a Master Dealer, Weiss Milling had at least one of its employees complete multiple online training modules to further his or her education about the brands and product lines BioZyme offers. The Master Dealers will be able to share their expanded knowledge of the BioZyme products with potential customers.

"We are excited to certify this dealership as being knowledgeable about the product line up and feel confident that when you have questions, this dealer will be an excellent resource for you to go to," said Erin Creason, Inside Sales Coordinator. "Weiss Milling has taken

the time to complete our strenuous training program, and this dealer has committed to stocking or is willing to order our full product line. Feel confident that they are one of the most informed dealers that our company works with."

Master Dealers will receive special designation on the online dealer locator, signage for their store and apparel that indicates their Master Dealer certification so customers can easily identify those who have gone the extra mile to provide excellent knowledge and service.

To learn more about BioZyme and its product lines or to locate a dealer in your area, go to www.biozymeinc.com

About BioZyme® Inc.

BioZyme Inc., founded in 1951, develops and manufactures natural, proprietary products focused on animal nutrition, health and microbiology

MARTIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Carl Nettifee Memorial Animal Shelter

522 E. MARGARET ST. • FAIRMONT, MN • 238-1885

pawprints.petfinder.com

Email: pawprints01@hotmail.com

HOURS: Tue & Thurs 6-8 p.m. • Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



A FEW OF OUR CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

MADDIE is a tortie (black and orange) spayed female. She is a playful girl who plays well with kittens. Maddie has been in the shelter longer than any of our other cats. Why? The only thing we can see stopping people from adopting her is that she needs special food due to some digestive issues.

LAURA is a gorgeous brown tabby with white. She has dark lines around her eyes that make them pop just like eyeliner on a model. Laura is just under a year old and is in the colony room with several other young cats. Laura does well with the other cats and likes people too.

PINK & FLOYD are cute little 9-10 weeks old. Pretty Boy Floyd is a long haired gray kitten, while his sister Pink is a white and brown tabby with short hair.

A FEW OF OUR DOGS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

BABES is a black and white, one-year old female. She was surrendered when her owner lost her house. According to the previous owner she is a black lab and boxer mix. Babes has lived with and been fostered with other dogs and does well with them. She is housetrained and affectionate toward people she knows.

JINX is a long-legged shepherd mix with brown hair. He loves to go on walks and hang out in the yard. Jinx does well with most female dogs, but does not like to share space with other male dogs.

Join us at the Five Lakes Centre on Saturday for our big Christmas Craft Sale. We will have both gift items and home decorations.

Fresh evergreens, pine cones, white birch and a little bling will be the order of the day. We also have special cat and dog stockings stuffed with goodies for your 4-legged friends and family.

PhotoPress

Picture Peddler

Deadline Mon at Noon for Wed's publication

1 week, your picture and 20 words for \$16; Run 2 weeks, your picture and 20 words for \$26. We'll take the picture at the Photo Press for an additional \$3.50



2003 CHRYSLER CONCORD LIMITED
Heated leather seats, auto seats, gas, automatic transmission, no rust. \$2,000.
Call: 712-209-2623



2010 NISSAN MURANO SL
AWD, option loaded, heated seats, pwr sunroof, leather, 71K miles, sale price \$13,995.
Welcome Motor Co., 1310 N. State St., Fairmont, MN, 235-3447, welcomemotorcompany.com



2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT
24,000 miles, silver, \$16,999.
ASC Warranty • Financing Available
1st Street AutoMart, 827 E. 1st St., Fairmont, MN
507-920-5675 • 507-238-2999



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1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 stall garage, outbuildings, land 70' wide by 356' long, St. James.
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2008 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT - 17T230
4x4, Vortec 5.3L V8, 126,000 miles, \$15,388.
Fairmont Ford, 700 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont, MN • fairmontford.com
507-235-6681 • 800-726-6912



2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT2- 17T222
4x4, 2.4L 4 cylinder, 41,800 miles, \$21,488.
Fairmont Ford, 700 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont, MN • fairmontford.com
507-235-6681 • 800-726-6912



2014 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT 17C078
2.5L, FWD, 33,500 miles, \$14,588.
Fairmont Ford, 700 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont, MN • fairmontford.com
507-235-6681 • 800-726-6912



Jeff's Jottings

Last Friday night was about as perfect a night as you could ask for on Holiday Delights in downtown Fairmont. My quartet, "SonGQuest", was one of the groups strolling the downtown area singing Christmas carols in all the stores along the Downtown Plaza. I can remember in years past where we nearly froze to death from the cold or trudged through deep snow between stores, so it was a very nice night to be out and about. It was good to see so many shoppers downtown and in the restaurants that night!

A group of students from Fairmont Area Schools also spread the Christmas cheer with carols and the Salvation Army Brass Band played a number of holiday tunes, collecting donations in the red kettle along the way. I had the fun opportunity to sing for my mother when we stopped in to Enderson's Clothing where she was working and it was also a blast singing for some young listeners in Sovell Jewelry, 12 Baskets and Picture This, Scrap That stores. I even saw a video of our performance in El Agave Restaurant from that night. You can't go



anywhere without getting caught on camera nowadays! Thanks to all who took part in Holiday Delights last weekend!

"What is it?"

I guess I gave too much of a clue in my photo of the "What is it?" item from last week. I had a total of 11 people correctly identify the item. The first to get it correct was Pete Milne of Granada and Pete received a 2018 Photo Press desk calendar for being the first one. Other correct guesses came from Bonnie Henton, Carl Beckendorf, Ken Kabbage, Melvin Evans, Paul Peters, Bob Nelson, Lawrence Ternes, Scott O'Sell, Scott Quastad and Isaac Lewan. The item is actually a Schrader Tire Pressure Gauge from the early 1900's. Many said that it was used with the early pneumatic tires on a Model T. I am also still getting responses to the "What is it?" item from two weeks ago. Clifford Steinberger of Armstrong, Iowa wrote in that it was indeed a fish



grabber for big northern pike. He said when you caught the fish, you would reel him alongside the boat, then open the grabber and push it down on the fish, tripping the spring mechanism and you could then pull the fish into the boat. Years ago it was legal to use, but is no longer considered legal to use. Do you have an item that you aren't sure what it is or maybe want to see if others can guess what it is? Bring it down to the Photo Press so we can take some pictures and get information on it and it will be featured in a future column.

Winter Car Care
This week the Photo Press has a special section on preparing your vehicles for the oncoming winter season. It is very important to make sure that you have a good battery in your vehicle, tire pressure is checked regularly, and that you have a winter survival

kit in each vehicle, should you become stranded. The past few winters have been on the mild side, but we all know that the weather can change from minute to minute during the winter in the midwest. Always have a blanket, candles, some chocolate and extra mittens and hats in your vehicles at all times during the winter. More importantly, always check for road conditions and if no travel is advised, that means NO TRAVEL IS ADVISED. Don't take any unnecessary chances on the roadways this winter. Check out our special section in this week's paper for more tips.

Bake Sale, candle lighting and more!

Before I go this week, I have a number of events taking place in the days ahead. On Wednesday, December 6th from noon to 6 p.m. and Thursday, December 7th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Fairmont Community Blood Drive is taking place at Holiday Inn in Fairmont. This Friday, December 8th the ladies of St. Paul Lutheran in Truman are having a bake sale from noon until gone

at the Truman Community Building. Proceeds go toward parsonage repairs. Saturday, December 9th will be the East Chain United Methodist Community Coffee Party from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the church. Also that day is St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Welcome Christmas Goodies Bakery and Cafe from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. On Sunday, December 10th, The Compassionate Friends will take part in a Worldwide Candle Lighting at 7 p.m. They ask everyone to light a candle for all the children who have passed away. Also on Sunday, a hymn fest will take place at Red Rock Center in Fairmont at 7 p.m. On Wednesday, December 13th St. John Lutheran Church LWML of Sherburn will have their guest day at 2 p.m.. Lots of great events in the coming week!

Drive safely - visit a shut-in or family member - Eat, Play, Shop Local - pack your winter survival kit in your vehicle!

- Jeff

It was just there

Guest Columnist

Darwin Anthony, Business Owner, Artist, Writer



The red building on the corner is familiar to so many. I remember seeing it as a child. Its shape and color made it something that "stood out." We would pass it when we went "to town" on Saturday night. IT WAS JUST THERE. It was on one of the most traveled streets in the county seat town. Going past it meant that we were getting close to Carpenter's grocery and feed store, the movie theaters, ice cream parlor, dime store, and shop where they sold saddles, bridles, and other things of leather. It has always been a landmark.

interest in its restoration? IT WAS JUST THERE at one time, but things have



changed. It has been returned to something wonderful. It stands proudly on the well known corner. It stands restored by those

with a love of making great things greater.

We attended something wonderful last evening. We attended a Valentine dinner and dance at the RED ROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS. Even though I had watched the lengthy restoration project, a project that had been done mostly by volunteers, I could not believe my eyes. We entered the center and saw something wonderful. The edges of the varied-direc-

tion ceiling were accented by the lines of individual lights. The wooden floors had been sanded and refinished and reflected the soft lights of the ceiling. The rich colors of the tall stained-glass windows, accented by the refinished soft colors of the wood which surrounded each of the them, was breath taking. There was just enough light coming through the windows from the outside street lights to accent the richness of their colors. Round tables had been set with fine dishes, silver, and linen. A string ensemble played appropriate music. We entered the hall and witnessed something

of magnificence. IT WAS JUST THERE at one time. But, that had changed. It had been transformed into a work of art. I could feel the power of its message. It had come together

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“An Andy and Bing Christmas” at the Fairmont Opera House

Story and photos courtesy of Joseph Kreiss Photography

It was like your favorite two Christmas albums had come to life on the stage as the Fairmont Opera House presented “An Andy and Bing Christmas” last Sunday afternoon, December 3rd.

The timeless, classic holiday songs of Bing Crosby and Andy Williams were sung and played by a 19-piece orchestra and featured seasoned Minnesota musician Mick Sterling, former Minnesota Golden Gopher Alum and Super Bowl Champion Ben Utecht, along with lead singer Cate Fierro and the Delightful Choral Singers.

All-time favorites such as ‘White Christmas,’ ‘Happy Holiday,’ ‘Jingle Bells,’ ‘Mele Kalikimaka’ and ‘It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year’ had the packed Opera House crowd singing along.



Ben Utecht (left) represented Andy Williams while Mick Sterling shared Bing Crosby holiday tunes.



Champion Ben Utecht (right) showed off some Super Bowl moves during the show.



Lead singer Cate Fierro (left) joined Ben Utecht for a number of classic holiday songs

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Pack 57 Cub Scouts would like to thank Patty Monsen, Fairmont City Clerk for the great tour of City Hall. The Scouts were learning about citizenship and how our local government works. They selected questions ahead of time and did a wonderful job of finding out the answers. If you are interested in joining Scouting, contact Laurie at 507-235-9142. (Submitted photo)

Thanks to a grant from the Partners in Education, students from Ms. Simmering's Fairmont Area High School reading classes and students from Mrs. Meyers' 4th grade class teamed up to attend the movie "Wonder" at the Fairmont Theater. Both classes read the book this fall with great interest and passion for the story. So many life lessons were learned while reading and viewing! The two groups will meet again this year for additional follow-up activities that reinforce the themes from this story, one of which is "When given the choice between being right and being kind, Choose Kind." (Submitted photo)

CarCare2017

—Get Winter-Ready—

As temperatures drop, check tire pressure often

You may notice when the weather turns colder, the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) light on your dashboard lights up more frequently. The Car Care Council recommends checking your tire pressure regularly during the winter to help keep the TPMS light off and your vehicle safe.

"It's typical at this time of year for motorists to get TPMS warnings and then get worried about their tires," said Rich White, ex-

ecutive director, Car Care Council. "Often drivers will see this in the morning when it's coldest. If the temperature warms, the light could turn off but it's likely that tires will still be a few PSI under inflated. This is why it's important to check tire pressure regularly."

According to the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, for every 10 degree drop in temperature, tire pressure decreases one to two pounds per

square inch (PSI). Checking the tire pressure is important for vehicle safety, tire life and gas mileage.

Incorrect tire pressure can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every one PSI drop in pressure of all four tires and improve fuel efficiency by up to 3.3 percent when the correct tire pressure is maintained.

"Tire pressure should be checked at least monthly. It is important to note that newer cars with tire pressure monitoring systems may not alert you until the tire is significantly under-inflated,

Safe winter driving tips

(StatePoint) While winter can be a beautiful time of year, it can also be a treacherous season on the roads. Winter driving conditions require increased attention and an ability to adapt quickly.

In 2016, 8,010 people nationwide were killed in car crashes between December and March, resulting in an average seven percent per month increase from 2014, according to the National Safety Council (NSC). ese numbers are a warning to everyone on the roads about how dangerous winter driving can be.

"Winter looks more idyllic outside our house windows than outside our windshield," said Debo-

so you may want to check it more frequently," said White. "It is important to check tire pressure whenever there is a significant weather change and more often during the winter months."

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For a copy of the council's Car Care Guide or for more information, visit www.carcare.org.

rah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council.

In an effort to prevent crashes on the road this winter, MyCarDoesWhat, an NSC and University of Iowa initiative, is offering some major pieces of advice for driving in winter conditions.

- Slow down. Drivers frequently underestimate how long it takes to brake and how difficult it can be to steer on slippery roads.

- Don't use cruise control on slippery surfaces like ice and snow. It will diminish your control and reduce your reaction time in the event of a skid.

- Remember, bridges and overpasses freeze before roadways, so be alert

in cold weather when approaching one.

- Many new safety technologies (like back-up cameras) have outside sensors that can freeze or fog up. Always make sure they are clear so they work their best.

MyCarDoesWhat also reminds drivers of the safety technologies that can help vehicles adapt in slippery and changing conditions.

- Anti-lock braking systems (ABS) help drivers maintain control by preventing wheels from locking up. ABS works differently than traditional brakes, delivering and releasing precise braking pressure to each wheel as needed. So, don't pump the brakes if you have ABS. Just hold them down firmly and look and steer in the direction you want

to go. The brakes may buzz and vibrate when the ABS has activated.

- Traction control helps you accelerate without spinning out on slippery surfaces like snow and ice.

- Electronic stability control senses when you may be losing control around a corner or curve, and can stabilize your car if it begins to veer off the road.

- Adaptive headlights adjust to changing roadway conditions -- such as curves -- to provide optimum illumination along the roadway during long winter nights and periods of low daytime visibility.

- The temperature warning feature provides updates about upcoming roadway conditions such as black ice.

For more information, visit MyCarDoesWhat.org



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CarCare2017

—Get Winter-Ready—

5 driving tips every teen driver needs to know

(BPT) - Once a newly licensed teen gets behind the wheel for the first time without a parent or guardian, the taste of freedom is exhilarating.

But a teenager's lack of behind-the-wheel experience puts them at greater risk of getting into an accident. Add factors like passengers, loud music and stress, and the situa-

tion can quickly turn dire. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, with one in three teen deaths caused by vehicle crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

To help teens navigate into this new responsibility safely, there are lots of resources out there to help

them. For example, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and The UPS Foundation have come together to create the UPS Road Code program, which is available in 57 Boys & Girls



Clubs across 46 U.S. cities. This is a free program that educates teens on safe driving principles and best practices for road safety.

Taught by UPS employees who volunteer their time, the program offers classroom instruction along with practice time behind the wheel of a virtual driving simulator. The UPS instructors share insights they have learned through the company's in-depth defensive driving training.

"The thing that has really hit home for me is the fact that driving a car is a huge responsibility," said CeCe McNeal, the national teen ambassador, east region, for the UPS Road Code program.

The program's national teen ambassador, west region, Jaylen Vinson added, "Whenever I get into the car, before I turn the key, I remind myself that I'm in control of the car and I'm in charge of the choices I

make on the road."

Whether you have a teen in your life who needs some guidance, or you would like some reminders of how to be more mindful while on the road, here are some tips and insights that McNeal and Vinson learned during the course that can help drivers of all ages avoid risky behavior

the road. **Delete Distractions:** If your attention is on something other than driving - texting, eating, turning the radio dial, talking to a passenger or on the phone - you're putting yourself at greater risk of getting into a crash. And with every crash, you also risk the lives of your fellow passengers and everyone else out on the road.

Mind the Speed: Sometimes we don't pay attention to the speed limit, which can lead to harmful consequences very fast. Increased speed can result in an expensive traffic ticket, along with raised

insurance rates. But, most importantly, speeding reduces your time to react to hazards and increases your likelihood of getting into a dangerous collision.

Plan for the Weather: Get into the habit of checking the weather before you plan your trip. Driving in heavy rain, snow and ice can be stressful and slippery for any driver. So, when the conditions are bad and you have to head out, give yourself extra time. And if you're still running behind schedule, just remember, it's always better to be late than end up in a serious crash because you are rushing.

Never Drive While Impaired: Alcohol and other substances can impair your vision and reaction time, which can lead to a greater likelihood of being in a fatal crash. In fact, in 2016 there were 10,497 people in the United States killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes and an average of one alcohol-impaired driving fatality happens every 50 minutes, according to the

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Driving under the influence is never worth the risk.

Look and Think Ahead: One key to being a good driver is staying focused on the road and what's around you, so you can spot the hazards and respond to them immediately. Be aware of others sharing the road with you, including bicyclists and pedestrians, and leave enough space between you and the other cars to allow for reaction time. Scan the road ahead, especially intersections, while also remembering to check those rear and side-view mirrors regularly.

"If you don't handle your car in a safe manner at all times, it can turn into a deadly weapon against others on the road, your passengers and yourself," McNeal said. "Keeping these tips top of mind before getting behind the wheel can reduce the risks faced on the road and help to make the roads safer for us all."

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Clear winter roads keep us safe and the economy humming

(BPT) - Across the U.S., more than 70 percent of the population lives in areas affected by snow and ice. Each winter the average driver in these areas will see more than 5 inches of snow on the roads.

And when the snow is falling there are few things more comforting than the sight of snowplows and salt trucks making highways safe for commuters, shoppers and travelers.

According to the Fed-

eral Highway Administration, snowy, slushy or icy pavement accounts for more than 116,000 Americans injured and over 1,300 killed each year. In fact, 24 percent of all weather-related vehicle crashes occur under such wintry conditions. A study by Marquette University found that effective use of road salt reduced vehicle crashes by 88 percent, injuries by 85 percent and the cost of accidents by 85 percent.

In the Snow Belt, citizens expect roads to always be cleared of snow and ice, no matter how bad the storm, says Bret Hodne, public works director for West Des Moines, Iowa. To help meet those sky-high expectations, Hodne orders salt months before the first snowflake falls. His motto is "don't trust your climate" because if you plan for an average season, it's bound to be a record-setting winter of snow and ice.

Salt was first used in the 1930s for snow and ice control, but it wasn't until the 1960s that salt became widely adopted by snowfighters as one of the major weapons to keep winter roads safe. In an average Iowa winter, Hodnes department alone uses 4,000 tons of salt and keeps twice that amount in storage. Salt works by lowering the freezing point of water and when applied

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Continued on page 14

CarCare2017

—Get Winter-Ready—

Continued from page 13

on already frozen roadways (deicing) it helps to melt the ice. When salt is applied before a freeze sets in (anti-icing) it helps prevent liquid water from becoming ice. This is why drivers will often see salt trucks out and about before the roads start to freeze.

Both methods give tires more traction with the pavement, keeping roads open and safe while protecting lives and commerce. How quickly salt melts frozen water is dependent upon a number of variables, including

temperature, time and the rate of application. Fortunately, it is usually not necessary to melt all the snow and ice on a road. Merely destroying or preventing the bond between pavement and frozen water is a more efficient, economical and environmentally sensitive approach.

In addition to enhancing the safety of our roads in winter conditions, those snowplows are doing a lot to improve mobility. Snowfighters reduce weather-caused delays and congestion, allowing for emergency vehicles to respond more quickly when people need help, making for shorter travel

times for families, allowing kids and parents to get to school and jobs safely and on time.

A study by IHS Global Insight for the AHUA found that snow and ice-related delays and shut-

downs hurt hourly workers the most. According to the researchers, a state can incur economic losses of between \$300 and \$700 million every day that roads are closed and impassable.

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OBITUARY
notices

Ernest A. Abelson, 73



Memorial services for Ernest A. Abelson, 73,

of Fairmont, were held Tuesday, December 5th 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont. Burial was in Kansas Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery near Butterfield, MN. Ernest passed away Thursday afternoon, November 30th, 2017, at his home in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Ernest Albert Abelson was born June 1st, 1944, in Parkers Prairie, MN, the son of Victor and Mary-Ann (Judson) Abelson. As a young boy, Ernie moved with his family to Butterfield, where he attended school.

Following his education, Ernie moved to Fairmont where he met and later married Pamela L. Olson. He also began his employment with Stokely's where he worked his way to night foreman of cold storage. Ernie was later united in marriage to Robin Paradis.

Ernie had a passion for classic cars, especially Dodge cars. Throughout his years, he had a Dodge Charger in addition to owning a Road Runner and a Barracuda. Ernie also loved his four-legged friends and cherished the special bond his had with his dogs.

Left to cherish his memory are his children,

Lowell Abelson of Minneapolis, Kevin Abelson of Minneapolis and Marianne Vandereide and her husband, Jay of Medford, MN; grandchildren, A.J. and Addison; two brothers, Victor Abelson and his wife, Diana of Welcome, and Earl Abelson of Fairmont; sister Mavis Keech of Mankato; his ex-wives, Pam Abelson and Robin Abelson; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Mary Ann Abelson; brother, Harvey Uhde; sister, Dorothy Curry, and two grandchildren, Kelly and Erica.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

DEATH
notices

November 28 - Eugene Mager, 70, Truman. Zaharia Family Funeral and Cremation Service
November 30 - Ernest A. Abelson, 73, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home
November 30 - Jean M. Palmer, 66, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (formerly of Fairmont). Lakeview Funeral Home
December 1 - Gary G. Stade, 69, Lakefield. Kramer Funeral Home
December 4 - Lois Peterson, 89, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home

In Memoriam
One Year Ago This Week

November 28 - Theodore "Ted" Luetgers, 91, Fairmont.
November 29 - Arline M. Hagen, 97, Fairmont (formerly of Ceylon)
November 30 - Marion Burkhardt, 91, Trimont
December 1 - Charles "Bud" Bregel, 96, Fairmont

The guy from just down the road

By Al Batt

My neighbor Crandall stops by. "How are you doing?" I ask.

"Everything is nearly copacetic. My family is like my Christmas lights. Half aren't too bright and half don't work, but we do have some fine cooks. I love the good food of the holidays. I may drag through a day, but when there is food on the table, I get washed up quicker than a reality TV show star. Shopping is exhausting. I'm tired. It's no wonder. I've been walking since I



was a year old. Pop started doing sit-ups so he can eat more at Christmas. He said he did one repetition. I told him that it's not a repetition unless he does more than one. I'm taking Pop to get his false teeth checked to see if they can be made to fit better. The way it is now, each time he sneezes, everyone yells, 'Duck!'"

Nature by the yard

It appeared to be nearing its end, but looks can be deceiving. It was a box elder tree that didn't know how to die. It was covered with noisy birds. European starlings. A group that

wanted America to have every bird mentioned by Shakespeare brought them here and released the birds in Central Park in the 1890s. Starlings have become one of the continent's most numerous songbirds. The feathers starlings sport now have white tips, giving them spotted looks. By spring, the tips have worn away, leaving dark and iridescent brown feathers. Scientists call this a "wear molt."

A warbler, Hiss and Nixon

In 1948, Alger Hiss, an American government official, was accused of being a Soviet spy. His guilt hinged on whether Hiss knew Whittaker Chambers, a former member of the U.S. Communist Party. Chambers reported Hiss's excitement about seeing a prothonotary warbler on the Potomac River. This bird sighting linked the two people and eventually led to Hiss's prison sentence for perjury and Richard Nixon's rise to political power. Nixon, an obscure Congressman before the hearing, was a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, which brought him national attention.

Chambers testified that he and Hiss had been friends while they were members of the Communist Party in the 1930s. Hiss denied knowing Chambers or being a Communist. To bolster his claim that he knew Hiss, Chambers said that Hiss was an amateur ornithologist and had mentioned seeing a prothonotary warbler along the Potomac River. Hiss, in his book, "In the Court of Public Opinion," maintained he'd have told even casual acquaintances about his sighting of a prothonotary warbler because he was an avid birder.

Congressman John McDowell, a Committee

member, underscored Hiss's contention by saying, "To discover a rare bird or an unusual bird or identify a bird that many other people have seen is a great discovery in the life of an amateur ornithologist. You can usually recall almost everything around it. It is like winning the ball game or the yacht regatta. You can recall the time of day, how high the sun was, and all the other things."

Q-and-A

"Is the eastern meadowlark the state bird of any state?" The western meadowlark is the state bird of six states--Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon and Wyoming. The eastern meadowlark is the state bird of none. The northern cardinal is the state bird of the most states, seven, which include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. The northern mockingbird has the honor in five states--Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

"I have a problem with wasps in my wood duck house. Any ideas would be appreciated." Rubbing a bar of soap on the ceiling of the house might do the trick, as paper wasps prefer attaching their nests to horizontal surfaces. The soap makes it difficult for the wasp nest (made of wood pulp and saliva) to stick to the box. Putting static-cling plastic or stapling a piece of smooth plastic to the ceiling of the box might act as a deterrent. Some people use wax or petroleum jelly on the wood. I don't recommend either. Wax could attract bees and petroleum jelly could soil feathers. I'm hesitant about spraying insecticides inside a nest box as the birds could absorb them. While working in North Carolina, I had lunch with locals who told me that they kept wasps from building nests on their wrap-around porch by painting its ceiling a sky blue color. Seemed odd, but they swore by it.

Fairmont CBC

The Fairmont Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 16th. Anyone interested could contact Brad Bolduan at (507)831-1189. Participants don't need to be experts. If you'd rather not bird outdoors, you could count birds at feeders. The count area is a 7.5-mile circle centered at Amber Lake Park. This reaches the Iowa border. The circle includes East Chain, Wilbert, and Imogene, and

nearly reaches Northrop and Welcome.

Meeting adjourned

"Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more." -Mother Teresa

"Just living is not enough--one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower." - Hans Christian Andersen

DO GOOD.

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STARLING, by Al Batt

Ask A Trooper: Bicycle Helmet



by Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

Question: Can my child use a bicycle helmet when he is a passenger in my side by side or ATV?

Answer: In Minnesota, any class 1 or 2 ATV operator or passengers under the age of 18 must wear an approved helmet when riding on public lands or waters, or a public road right-of-way. You are required to wear a seat belt if provided by the manufacturer.

An approved helmet worn by an operator or passenger must meet federal law, which requires the helmet to display the symbol DOT. DOT is the manufacturer's certification that the helmet conforms to the applicable

federal motor vehicle safety standards. Standard bicycle helmets and hockey helmets are not legal helmets.

By paying attention, driving the speed limit, wearing your seat belt and never drive impaired, you can reduce your chances of being involved in a potentially life changing crash.

If you have any questions concerning traffic relat-

ed laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us) Twitter: MSP-PIO_SOUTH

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1 Card of Thanks

HARTKE - I would like to thank my family for hosting my 90th birthday party. Thanks to everyone that attended for the gifts, flowers and cards I received. It was a wonderful day!
~Lois Hartke. 31-1tp-1

THEESFIELD - The family of Dennis Theesfield would like to express our thanks for the outpouring of love, shown to us at the loss of Denny. Thank you for all your prayers, memorials, cards, food, flowers and phone calls. They were all overwhelming. Thank you to Pastor Lauri for her beautiful service, Henry Olson Funeral Home, Armstrong Ambulance crew and to the church ladies for serving the delicious dinner. ~Sharon Theesfield, Bill and Jan Nielsen, Jack and Judy Hurt, Randy and Jeanne Weisbrod. 31-1tp-1

JOHNSON - The family of Doug Johnson would like to thank everyone for their care, concern and generous gifts during this difficult time. A special thank you to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, the military Honor Guard, the St. Paul Lutheran ladies auxiliary, Pastor Bertram and Tom Kramer of Kramer Funeral Home for helping us coordinate everything. An extra special thank you to our wonderful families and friends. Your kindness will always be remembered. Doug's passing was a shock to all of us and he will be greatly missed. 31-1tp-1

ROSE - We just celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary at the Holiday Inn hosted by our family. Thank you to our family Glenn and Bud for providing the music, the Holiday Inn for serving the delicious family dinner as well as the open house later. Thank you to family and friends attending, the phone calls, cards and flowers. Again thank you to our family - you are the greatest! ~Mom and Dad. God bless everyone. Aldor and De Elda Rose. 31-1tp-1

6 Tutoring

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10 Apartments For Rent

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14 Houses For Sale

3 BEDROOM RAMBLER. 1830 Albion Avenue. Newly painted outside and inside, 200 amp service, newer shingles, appliances stay, finished basement, double garage, close to lakes,

walking trails and soccer fields. Asking \$150,000. 507-236-0554. 30-3tp-14

23 For Sale

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24 Household Items

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25 Musical Items

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25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 1992

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency announced it will spend an estimated \$305,000 to replace six rows of blades and diaphragms in one of its turbines. Three generating units belonging to the

City of Fairmont had been placed under life-of-unit contracts with SMMPA

Kyle Seifert, Fairmont Cardinal senior, was named tackle on the All-State Football Team by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

Kelly Moller of Fairmont received a Presidential Medallion from the MN Women of Today.

The Fairmont Area Pilot's Club placed a "Tree of Hope" at the Fairmont Airport Terminal. Gifts collected would be distributed to terminally ill children throughout Minnesota.

The Fairmont Area Foundation reported three new investors: Tech Builders, \$1,500; Hawkins

Chevrolet-Cadillac, \$3,000 and W. Hodgman and sons, \$5,000.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 1967

Lyle David Tenney, 24, of Pleasant Prairie Township, was killed in a head-on collision on Highway 15 a mile north of Fair-

mont. He was a Korean Conflict veteran, having been discharged the previous March. A companion from St. Paul and the driver of the other car were hospitalized in Fairmont.

Hallie Nickerson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Neil Nickerson and John Hegdal, son of the C.H. "Cap" Hegdals, were cho-

sen by the AFS committee for consideration as candidates for the Americans Abroad summer programs.

Christmas packages should be addressed with the zip code, the postmaster warned. The zip was still quite new and easily overlooked.

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- FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, Sun. Dec. 10, 11am-2pm
- MOONLIGHT MADNESS, Fri. Dec. 22, until 9 pm

- Visit with Santa! - pics available

* Dec 9, 10, 16, 17 1-4 pm
* Dec 20 - Pet Night! 5-8 pm
* December 21 & 22 - 5-8 pm
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Setting up flexible lease agreements

Guest Columnist



Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst; VP, MinnStar Bank

Phone: (507) 381-7960 • E-mail: kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com

A growing number of farm operators and landlords are considering a "flexible cash lease" rental agreement as an alternative to straight-out cash rental rates that may be difficult to "cash flow" for 2018. A typical "flexible lease" allows the final cash rental rate to vary as crop prices and/or yields vary, or as gross revenue per acre exceeds established targets. The use of a flexible cash rental lease is potentially fairer to both the landlord and the farm operator, depending on the situation, and how the flexible lease is set up.

A "true" flexible cash lease allows for the landlord to receive additional land rental payments above a "base" land rental rate, if the actual crop yields and/or market prices, or the gross revenue per acre, exceed established "base" figures. A "true" flexible cash lease would also allow for the "base" rent to be adjusted downward, if the actual crop yields and prices, or revenue per acre, fall below the established "base" figures.

Most flexible leases have been modified in recent years, and only "flex" upward with added rental payment to the landlords, if the "base" crop yield

and/or prices, or revenue per acre, are exceeded. The modified "base rent plus a bonus" approach is acceptable if the "base" cash rental rates are kept within a reasonable range. If the "base" rent is set too high, above breakeven levels, resulting in a "loss", it is very difficult for the producer to recoup any of those losses with a flexible lease. There are many variations of flexible land rental leases in existence, some that are very workable, and some that do not work as well. In most "flex leases", one-half of the "base rent" is paid prior to planting, and any bonus or additional rents are paid with the second half or final rental payment.

Flexible leases can work well for newer or younger farm operators that may not be able to afford the higher cash rental rates for farm land. Most Ag Lenders support the use of flexible leases as a way to reduce financial risk in a farming operation. A flexible lease makes it easier for producers to utilize risk management tools such as crop revenue insurance policies and forward pricing of grain. A flexible lease, with a fair base rental rate, allows landlords the security of a solid base rental rate,

while having the opportunity to share in added profits when crop prices and/or yields exceed expectations. Flexible leases are a nice alternative for Landlords that want to continue to work with long-standing farm operators, without setting cash rental rates too high to keep the current tenants.

One of the biggest challenges with flexible cash rental leases is determining the "base rent" per acre, which in most instances is the minimum rental rate for the year on a land parcel. The "base rate" should be adjusted upward or downward annually, depending on changes in crop price expectations, average crop yields, or the projected "break-evens" for crop production for the coming year. The best way to establish the "base" rental rate is to have a rental rate per acre that is agreeable to both the landlord and farm operator, with an established method of calculation. There are several different ways to approach the determination of a "base rental rate."

Many flexible cash leases require a "base yield" of some type. The easiest method to get a base yield is to use the crop insurance APH yield, which is updated annually. Another alter-

native to determine a base yield for a crop could be using the producer's actual verified annual production on a farm, which is averaged over a period of years. Actual yield calculation on the farm for a given year can be determined by warehouse receipts, settlement sheets, scale tickets, bin measurements, grain cart weigh wagons, yield monitors, or any other method that is acceptable to both the landlord and farm operator.

The "base price" for a crop could be the projected harvest (October) price at the local grain elevator or processing plant for that crop on a specified date prior to planting (ex. - March 1 or April 1 for corn and soybeans), and the final price is the price for that crop at the same location on a specified date in the Fall (ex. --- October 15th). In some instances, a weekly or monthly average price at the local level from planting to harvest is used to determine the final price. Whatever method is used to determine both the "base" and final prices should be consistent, using the same grain elevator or processing plant as a source for the local grain price.

With the occurrence of much higher crop input costs in recent years, some flexible cash leases have been modified, and are now based on gross revenue triggers that exceed the cost of production, rather than on crop yield and price triggers. In this type of lease,

the landlord only receives additional cash rental payments beyond the "base rent" when the final gross revenue per acre (yield x price) exceeds the established cost of production for the year. Typically, the added "flex" rent payment to the landlord would be a set percentage of the added gross revenue per acre above the established cost of production per acre, which is usually around 30-35 percent for corn, and about 35-40 percent for soybeans, with a "maximum" rental rate per acre.

Just as with crop yields and prices, determining the established cost of production for a crop for the year can be a challenge. Some possibilities would be to use cash flow statements for the year prepared by a farm management advisor, ag lender, or the producer themselves. Many Universities and farm management associations have average cost of production data available. There also probably needs to be allowances in a flexible lease to allow for added costs or expenses due to weather or emergencies.

There are many variations to setting up a flexible lease agreement between a landlord and farm operator, including using yield only, price only, or a base crop revenue compared to a harvest crop revenue, with or without using cost of production, and many more. The big key, regardless of the flexible lease agreement, is that both

the landlord and tenant fully understand the rental agreement, and the calculations that are used to determine the final rental rate. It is also very important that flexible lease agreements, as well as all land rental contracts, be finalized with a written agreement. Successful "flexible cash lease agreements", just as any other long-term cash rental agreements, have always involved cooperation, trust, and good communication between the farm operator and the landlord.

Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst, has prepared an updated Information Sheet titled: "Flexible Lease Agreements for 2018". To receive a free copy of this Information sheet and other land rental information, contact Kent Thiesse at: kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com

Iowa State University has some very good resources on flexible cash leases and written cash rental lease contracts, including sample cash rental contracts, which are available on their "Ag Decision Maker" web site, which is located at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>. The University of Minnesota has a computer spreadsheet titled "Fair Rent" which is an excellent resource for determining equitable land rental rates and evaluating flexible lease examples, and is available on the following web site: <https://fairrent.umn.edu>.

Holiday Delights Downtown Fairmont 2017



Fairmont Area High School Cross Country awards

The following awards were given at the FHS Cross Country Awards Program on November 27th:

Most Valuable: Andrew Moeller, Iliana Ramon,

Hardest Worker: Dayton Pasch, Sarah Krumholz and Emma Koehler

Most Improved: Connor Artner, Laura Thompson

Rookie of the Year: William Saari, Corene Moeller

Outstanding JV: Tyrell Zieske, Sara Sundblad

All-State: Iliana Ramon, Sarah Krumholz and Laura Thompson

Academic All State: Sarah Krumholz

All Section: Iliana Ramon, Sarah Krumholz and

Laura Thompson
All Conference: Nathan Willett, Iliana Ramon, Sarah Krumholz and Laura Thompson

All Conference Honorable Mention: Andrew Moeller

Five Year Healthy and Dependable: Noah Wolter and Darrian Kueker

The boys team had a 74% winning percentage

and finished 7th in the Section of 22 teams.

The girls team had a 95% winning percentage and finished 5th at State and 1st at Section.

Head coach Bob Bonk was named Section 2A girls head coach of the year award and Stew Murfield received the Section girls assistant coach of the year honor.



Moeller



Ramon



Pasch



Krumholz



Koehler



Artner



Thompson



Saari



Moeller



Zieske



Sundblad



Willett



Wolter



Kueker



Head Coach
Bob Bonk



Assistant Coach
Stew Murfield



DRIVE BY - Cardinals Taylor Crissinger drives to the hoop past a pair of Waseca defenders. Class 3A #9 ranked Bluejays flew past the Cards 70-51 last Thursday night. Courtesy gregabelphotography.com



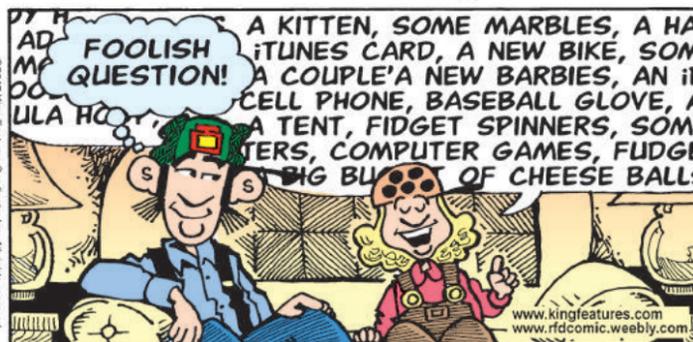
BLOCKER SAVE - Rachel O'Connor MAKES THE SAVE ON Mankato East/Loyola's Saisha Dau's shot attempt. The Cougars defeated the Cards 10-2. last Thursday night. Courtesy fairmontsports.com



WHERE IS IT - Cards goalie Colby Kuhl deflects the puck wide on a Windom Eagle shot. The Eagles downed the Cards 7-3 last Thursday night. Courtesy fairmontsports.com

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Driver Needed
The Photo Press needs someone to deliver the papers each Wednesday to the Alpha, Sherburn and Welcome Post Offices.

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NEWS: Thursday, Dec 21, 5:00 p.m.
ADS: Friday, Dec. 22, Noon

The Photo Press will be **CLOSED** all day on **Mon, Dec. 25.**

WHERE IS IT - Cards goalie Colby Kuhl deflects the puck wide on a Windom Eagle shot. The Eagles downed the Cards 7-3 last Thursday night. Courtesy fairmontsports.com



Red Rock Center for the Arts Lunch with the Arts program will feature holiday music by Bill Busse, Joyce Schultz and Sandy Ettesvold on Tuesday, December 12th, noon to 1 p.m. It's a holiday trip from the palm trees swaying in LA to the palm trees swaying on Christmas Island. Create more holiday memories as they present the holiday songs that have made your Christmas bright through the years. Bring your friends for great music, fellowship and treats! Everyone is welcome, and admission is free. (Submitted photo)



Martin County Youth Foundation sponsored a Strong Fathers / Strong Families event on November 27. This event was for students PreK-2nd grade and an accompanying male caregiver. It was held in the Wm. Budd Room at Fairmont Elementary School. The children and their caregivers participated in many fun activities that focused on technology, art, math and gross motor skills. The next event will be held February 26th, 2018. Please call 235-6205 to register. (Submitted photos)

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Second graders at St. John Vianney School presented the play "The Golden Goose" November 29th and 30th. Pictured are Avery Kurt, Abby Hodges, Hunter Geitzenauer, Noah Heckman, Hannah Siebring, Ingrid Edman, Evie Folkerts, Michael Hamlet, Kaedyn Hansen, Max Krahmer, and Lauren Bettin. (Submitted photo)



Second graders at St. John Vianney School presented the play "Stone Soup" November 29th and 30th. Pictured are Brooklyn Stone, Lexi Haycraft, Kelly Lockwood, Michael Gries, Bella Hill, Tyler Slama, Caden Wickert, and Paxton Smith. (Submitted photo)

Federated REA Operation Roundup Recipients



Ceylon Festival Committee - Federated Rural Electric Trust Board Director Lori Beseke (left) presented a \$500 check to Barb Kronback, A.J. Kronback and Angie Thompson from the Ceylon Festival Committee. Beseke presented the check on behalf of Federated members participating in Operation Round Up. The money goes toward new, safer playground equipment at the city park.



Martin County Beyond The Yellow Ribbon, Fairmont - Federated Rural Electric Trust Board Director Deb Rentschler presented a \$500 check to Dale Baruth from the Martin County Beyond The Yellow Ribbon, Fairmont. Rentschler presented the check on behalf of Federated members participating in Operation Round Up. The money goes toward Thanksgiving groceries for active duty and National Guards' families.



Fairmont Area Kinship - Federated Rural Electric Trust Board Director Deb Rentschler (center) presented a \$1,100 check to Fairmont Area Kinship, which was represented by Char Kahler, Kermit Brown and Katy Gonzalez. Rentschler presented the check on behalf of Federated members participating in Operation Round Up. The funds cover a Microsoft Surface Pro to record activities and grow the program.



East Chain Activity Center - Federated Rural Electric Trust Board Director Deb Craven presented an \$858 check to the East Chain Activity Center. Dale Jensen and Bob Calkins accepted the check. Craven presented the check on behalf of Federated members participating in Operation Round Up. The funds will buy four carts for moving chairs and toward weights for the senior fitness program.



Project 15/90 Kids Want To Have Fun - Federated Rural Electric Trust Board President Lori Beseke (right) presented a \$1,000 check to Project 15/90 Kids Want To Have Fun. Laura Olsen accepted the check. Beseke presented the check on behalf of Federated members participating in Operation Round Up. The money will go toward indoor play equipment at the Fairmont Five Lakes Mall.