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An Offer They Can't Refuse

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Only good news

Wednesday
January 25, 2017

Volume 53 | Number 38

SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES



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**Saturday,
February 4th**



Holiday Inn Fairmont • 6 pm

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*in
real life*



Throughout January and year-round, key messaging shares that mentoring is a critical component in young people's lives, helping them make decisions that ultimately lead to improved opportunities and connections.

1 in 3 young people are growing up without a mentor

Real Possibilities – Bryan Wilken & Kyler

Bryan and Kyler began their friendship a few years ago. They've enjoyed many different activities together including ice skating! Bryan thinks that Kyler is a creative, risk-taking, smart kid. Bryan knew he would enjoy hanging out with him after their first meeting together! For Kyler, having a mentor is "kind of like having another important family member." As a result of their friendship, Bryan has learned that the littlest things can make a big impact on somebody.



Why Not Start Your Own Friendship Journey?

Real Possibilities – Marcus

** Picture and name changed to protect privacy*

Marcus is an energetic, talkative, sweet and fun-loving Fairmont Elementary student! Marcus is interested in so many things! He would like to play with trains, go swimming or bowling, jump on trampolines, run, play video games or tag, or watch cartoons with his mentor!

Would you like to spend time with this FUN kid? It could be your lucky day; be Marcus' mentor!

----- *Help Us Find Marcus a Mentor* -----



"We all have the ability to give and this is the program that giving just a little can go such a long way. Such a small time commitment and the reward is far beyond what you might imagine." - Bryan

Kinship

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fairmontkinship@gmail.com

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PANNKUK-NICHOLS - Amy Pannkuk and Jared Nichols were married November 5th, 2016 at Kellerman's Event Center in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Parents of the couple are Barb and Bill Pannkuk of Fairmont, LeeAnn and Wade Magel of Naples, Florida and Randy and Denise Nichols of Carlisle, Iowa. Grandparents are Betty Pannkuk of Fairmont, Ann Kivett of LeGrand, Iowa and Charles and Ann Nichols of Marshalltown, Iowa. Amy is a Fairmont graduate and teaches third grade at the International School of Minnesota in Eden Prairie. Jared is a graduate of Oskaloosa High School in Oskaloosa, Iowa and is a software developer at Wolters Kluwer in Minneapolis. The couple resides in Minnetonka.

CREST holds informational meeting

An informational gathering sponsored by CREST will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center in Sherburn. The topic for this month is "Coping with Sensory Changes with Aging." A soup/sandwich lunch will be provided. These informational gatherings are provided by CREST as an opportunity for education and fellowship to anyone in the surrounding area. If you have a topic you are interested, please let the CREST staff know. We will consider doing health related topics or informational topics on things like fraud prevention, living wills, legal must-do's; etc. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the CREST office at 235-3833.

25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 1966
Bob and the Beachcombers were coming to the Fairmont Middle School gym. They had put together a special half-hour program called "Beach Blanket Buddies", featuring dancing, sing-aongs audience partici-

pation and rock and roll music.

Minnesota National Guard officials were to hold meetings regarding announced cutbacks in the Guard structure. Included in the cutbacks was the Fairmont unit, the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry.

Bryan's Pamida Pharmacy had been desig-



RATIKE 65TH - Marvin (Butch) and Marlene Ratike of Truman will celebrate 65 years of marriage Thursday, February 9th, 2017. A celebration with family was held at the Red Rock Center for Arts in Fairmont. Their family is honoring them with a card shower and cards may be sent to them at P.O. Box 67, Truman, MN 56088.

"Is it magic?"

"Is It Magic or Is It Science?" Jerry Wenzel's presentation demonstrates science concepts in a fun and easy to understand way.

Wenzel will be at the St. Paul Lutheran School in Fairmont on Friday, January 27th, starting at 1 p.m. Area schools have been invited to attend.

His program is fast moving, highly entertaining at the same time involving students in the process. Some of the science concepts that are demonstrated are discrepant events, Bernoulli Principle, Newton's law of motion, and

density. Watch water disappear and beach balls float in the air. Is it static electricity or magnetism? Have you ever been shrink wrapped?

He has taught middle school science in East Grand Forks for 35 years before retiring in 2007. He continues to bring the wonderment of science to school children and adults of all ages from across Minnesota and Wisconsin. He also teaches elementary science methods to pre-service teachers at Southwest Minnesota State University.

on their Cedar Township farmstead. The district had held its annual open house and Tree Days the previous week.

The Martin County American Cancer Society would again sell bunches of daffodils as a cancer fund-raiser. Alyce Bachman, chairperson of the Martin County Unit of the American Cancer Society, warned of "Look-Alike" fund-raisers, using similar sounding and looking titles and logos.



The East Chain 4H meeting was held at the Martin County fair office on January 8th at 4 p.m. Roll call was "what is your favorite football team?" Birthdays were Dylan Benes and Courtney Stueber. We had hot chocolate and popcorn. Demonstrator Camren Saxton showed us card tricks and then explained how they worked.

Tyler Kurt showed us a science experiment making water fizz. There were 23 members that attended. Fun was had by all.

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Segar



PYTLESKI 95TH - Please join the family of Florence Pytleski of Fairmont at an open house in her honor Saturday, February 4th from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Lakeview Methodist Care Center. Cards can be sent to Florence at the Lakeview Methodist Care Center, 610 Summit Drive, Room 328, Fairmont, MN 56031.

City Of Lakes Garden Club February meeting

City of Lakes Garden Club of Fairmont will meet Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 at The Ranch Restaurant, in Fairmont at 9:00 a.m. Each person is responsible for their own meal. Please bring five Valentines which will be distributed to a local health care facility.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month. The host/hostess for the month may choose the location and time for the meeting. "The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage all

forms of horticulture in the home and community and to increase the pleasure derived therefrom."

The theme for 2017 is "Herbs - Their Uses in Our Lives". There will be a business meeting followed by a presentation on Chives; the Herb of the Month.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like more information about the Garden Club, please call Myrtle Heifner at 507-235-8535. New members are always welcome.

Business of the Year nominations open

The Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for Business of the Year. Anyone residing or doing business in Martin County is invited to nominate their favorite business in four categories:

- Large Business of the Year (Over 15 employees)
- Small Business of the Year (15 employees and under)
- Rising Star (less than three years in business)
- Non-Profit (new category this year)

To be considered for a Business of the Year Award, the organization must be setting the standards for excellence and innovation with their business practices and

community involvement. The business must be a Fairmont Chamber member in good standing at the time of the nomination, may not have received a Business of the Year Award in the past two years and meet the criteria for the specific award for which the business is being nominated.

Nominations may be submitted by the form on the chamber's website at www.fairmontchamber.org. Nominations must be received by February 6th, 2017 at 4 p.m.

The Chamber's annual banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, February 23rd, where the nominees in the four categories will be honored.

Sherburn Girl Scouts tie blankets for Welcome Baby Baskets

On January 2nd Girl Scout Troop 34085 of Sherburn cut and tied 30 blankets for the Martin County West baby baskets. The baskets are a way for the early education groups to reach out to the families of the babies and provide information. The girls did this as part of their Bronze Award, which is the highest achievement for Junior Girl Scouts.



The girls had a great time with the blankets and plan to make 10 more blankets for the Welcome Baby Baskets. They are also gearing up for cookie season, which starts February 11th, 2017. Troop 34085 has their first cookie booth set for February 18th at 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at Hy-vee in Fairmont. We are looking forward to another great year. The girls have a lot of activities they want to do with their cookie money such as attending Chanhassen Dinner Theater and possibly sleeping with sharks. These are a few ideas at this time. We will see what they all agree on. They went to camp last year and have used their funds towards painting with canvas and roller-skating.

at Hy-vee in Fairmont. We are looking forward to another great year.

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These are a few ideas at this time. We will see what they all agree on. They went to camp last year and have used their funds towards painting with canvas and roller-skating.

2017

planning calendars

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Area College Student News



The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2016 semester at Buena Vista University.

Students named to the Dean's List must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for the semester, based on a 4.0 grade point system, and

must have taken at least 12 hours of coursework.

- Elizabeth Kim of Fairmont
- Emily Kim of Fairmont
- Matthew Tennyson of Truman

Tracy Swanson of Sherburn, was named to Buena Vista University's

Dean's List for terms one and two. Students named to the Dean's List must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for the two terms, based on a 4.0 grade point system, and must have taken at least 12 hours of coursework.

Swanson attends BVU's Online site.



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The Fairmont American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 36 will meet Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Goldfinch Estates in Fairmont. All members and anyone interested in the Auxiliary are encouraged to attend.

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David Kloeckner

James Kloeckner

Paul Kloeckner

Mike Johnson

Gregg Smitherman

Lori Schock

Positive thoughts with Smarter Women

Kick off 2017 with an unforgettable night with motivational speaker and life guru Renee Rongen, Tuesday, January 31st at 5:15 p.m. at the Fairmont Opera House.

Are you looking to learn how you can live a more powerful, meaningful, passionate, and profitable life? Join us for an amazing night with one of the best motivational speakers of our times!

Renee Rongen is an award-winning writer, successful entrepreneur, and hilarious motivational speaker. Renee grew up in rural Minnesota. She now lives in northern Minnesota with her husband Tom and children Alexander, Elizabeth, and Grace. She considers her family her biggest accomplishment in life. A philanthropist, she has always championed causes that affect women and children. Her biggest gift is her ability to find the extraordinary in ordinary.

Her presentations are hysterically funny and transformational. Renee

is a master storyteller and every meeting planner's dream. She is much more than a speaker, motivator, or comedian. She is an experience. Meeting planners all over the world who have hired her as their Conference Keynote Speaker are all praise for her. With her energetic, engaging, and entertaining style, she has raised the bar for motivational speakers. Coupled with customized rich content, her speeches move her audiences to live, act, and work differently. Thanks to her transparency and authenticity, today she is one of the top rated speakers in the U.S. and Canada. Her life changing messages encourage her listeners to make positive differences to the world by using their unique talents. Her messages have an enduring appeal and she inspires her audience with laughter and tears.

When you attend this event with Renee Rongen and Women Forward, you will learn:

- To live a powerful,

meaningful, and profitable life with kick-in-the-pants motivation

- To live, act, and work differently so that you can cut a clear path to your dream life.

- To reach your ideal level of success and happiness through tips to transform your life and skills

Living a meaningful life is the only way to find success and happiness in this world. When we have a purpose, we need nothing else to stay motivated. The purpose of your existence could be anything. It could be your family, relationships, career, leisure, enjoyment, spirituality, or material comforts. Having a purpose in life is not about satisfying oneself. It is also about making a difference to other people's lives.

A little motivation might change your life. So are you planning to attend the event? They say that everyone needs regular motivation. Make sure you get your next dose here. RSVP to: Marsha at Marsha@sweetfinancial.com.

Red Rock Center for the Arts donations

The board and staff of the Martin County Preservation Association (Red Rock Center for the Arts) extends their sincere gratitude and says thank you to all who support us through participation, in-kind and monetary donations. We acknowledge the following people for their generosity and service October-December.

Monetary Contributions

Bob and Sandy Meschke
Norm and Sandy Langford
Dick and Sherry Truman
Merlin and Delores

Waterbury
James and Lauretta Hagen

Robert and Elaine Stewart

Roger and Joyce Moeller
Roger and Gretchen Hoppe
Delores Waterbury
Wanda Johnson

Roger and Gretchen Hoppe
Fairmont Class of 1956
Marilyn K. Thompson-Christ

Ernie and Sandy Nuss
Roger and Julie Hen-

drickson

Mrs. Robert Luedtke
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Bill Busse
Tom and Linda Feely
Carol and James Dick
Hugoson Pork

Memorials

Phil and Sharon Hanson
In memory of Liz Garry
Kenny and Becky Goerndt
In Memory of Liz Garry

Honorariums

Virginia Riedesel in honor of Wanda Johnson
Carol Nasby in honor of Wanda Johnson

MaryDon Kislingbury in honor of Wanda Johnson

Virginia Riedesel in honor of Ed and Corry Schermerhorn

Grants

Martin County Youth Foundation

In Kind Donations

Lisa Dahl
Joan Bartingale
Judy Berkland

Arlene Saxton

Paula Bulfer
Lud Key Locksmith
Ed and Vikki Langford
JoAnn Rehling
Kathy Moore
Carmen Davis
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- BLIZZARD SNOWMOBILE CLUB PRESENTS -

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OBITUARY notices

Hurly A. Morris, 84



Services for Hurly A. Morris, 84, of Ceylon were held Monday, January 23rd, 2017, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Esterville, IA. Burial followed

at Lake Belt Township Cemetery in Ceylon with full military honors by Nassen-Detert American Legion Post #529. Hurly passed away peacefully Thursday, January 19th, 2017, at his home in Ceylon. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Hurly Alison Morris was born April 9th, 1932, to Clarence O. and Linda (Gilberg) Morris in Welcome. In 1938, they moved to Ceylon where he attended school and graduated in 1952. Hurly entered the U.S. Army in 1952, and served in Korea until his honorable discharge in 1954.

On May 11th, 1952, Hurly was united in marriage to Sandra Stefanski

at St. John Vianney Catholic Church. This union was blessed with three children: Mark, Todd, and Lori.

Hurly worked at the Ford Garage in Sherburn as a mechanic until 1955. He then worked for Poppe Construction from 1955 to 1966. After that, he worked for Lampert Building Center from 1966 to 1972. In 1972, Hurly stated his own business, Hurly's Construction, and ran it until his retirement in 1994.

After celebrating over 50 years of marriage, Sandra passed away. Hurly then met Carol Danek and they were married on April 23rd, 2005.

Hurly was a life member of the American Legion, the V.F.W., Disabled Veterans and the Korean Veterans Association

where he was commander for a number of years. He also served on the American Legion Color Guard for a number of years.

Hurly and Carol traveled by RV to the West Coast. They spent three summers from May to September in the RV in Alaska where he fished for halibut and salmon. They spent six weeks in Arizona one winter. The biggest trip was the Revisit Korea program where they spent a week in Korea and then another week in China seeing the Great Wall and the Terracotta Soldiers. In addition were many trips to the Missouri River for fishing and yearly trips to Beltami State Forest for deer hunting.

Hurly was an avid fisherman, hunter, and woodworker. He loved watch-

ing baseball, football, and Nascar on TV. He volunteered at the Salvation Army and ran slot cars for the CER program at the Fairmont School as well as for Ducks Unlimited. He coached Peewee baseball and built many things for the home including building the house and even made guitars that went to special people.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Carol Morris of Ceylon; sons, Mark (Deb) Morris of Fairmont, Todd (Ramona) Morris of Fairmont, daughter, Lori (Tom) Bents of Ceylon; grandchildren, Matthew (Liz) Morris of Fairmont, Amanda (Joe) McFarland of Mankato, Emily (Ryan) Seale of Cedar Springs, MI, Abby (Doug) Roderick of Madison, SD, Erin Morris of Fairmont, and

Dani Morris of Fairmont; five great-grandchildren; brother, Jim (Toots) Morris; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Shirley Stefanski, David (Annyea) Stefanski, Gerald (Stephanie) Danek, Richard (Candace) Danek, and Barbara Danek, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Hurly was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sandra Morris; brothers and sisters-in-law, Merrill (Virginia) Morris, Leslie (Mary Jane) Morris, and Donald (Audrey) Morris, sister, Audrey Newell; two infant siblings; brother-in-law, Mike Stefanski; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Dorothy Stefanski.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Jerry Niss, 78



A Celebration of life service for Jerry Niss, 78, of Fairmont will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 27th, 2017, at St. John's United Church of Christ in Fairmont. Jerry

will be laid to rest following the service in the Lakeside Cemetery. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, January 26th, 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont and will continue one hour prior to the time of service at the church. Jerry passed away Thursday evening, January 19th, 2017 at his home in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Jerry was born July 2nd, 1938 in Fairmont to Leonard and Ella Niss (Finke) and attended Granada High School. On Janu-

ary 14th, 1958 he married Judith Swanson in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Jerry and Judith spent most of their time raising a family in Fairmont. His family knew him as a loving husband and devoted father.

Jerry spent 36 years working for Fairmont Railway Motors, now known as Harsco Rail, a division of Harsco Corporation. He was an avid outdoorsman who spent his free time hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling and trap shooting. Jerry was fond of sharing his love for the outdoors with his children. Family vacations and outings included fish-

ing and hunting in Minnesota, fishing in South Dakota, moose hunting in Canada, and elk hunting in Wyoming. He had an affection for creating outdoor memories with family and friends. Jerry was a great story teller and known for his long, entertaining stories, which he loved to repeat. Jerry was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and American Hunter. He was involved with the local chapters of Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Fairmont Blizzard Snowmobile Club.

Jerry is survived by his

wife of 59 years, Judith Niss of Fairmont; daughter Linda Cook and her husband, Werk of San Antonio, Texas; son Calvin Niss and wife, Sherri of Laramie, Wyoming; son David Niss and wife, Dana of Mansfield, Ohio; son, Daniel Niss and wife, Brenda of Lexington, Ohio. Jerry is also survived by his twin sister Sherry Schmidt from Ceylon, sisters: Ruth Peterson, Arla Mae Childs, Belvidere "Babe" (Melvin) Schmidt, Karen Niss; brother, Lenny Niss; and a sister-in-law, Sylvia Willard and her husband, Roger. Jerry has ten grandchildren and

four great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Lisa Birdwell, his parents; sister, Truma Mildord; brother, Loren Niss; and five brothers-in-law, Corwin Schmidt, Morris Peterson, Dick Childs, Rodger Swanson and Keith Swanson.

A special thank you to UHD Hospice in Blue Earth for their loving care and support.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Ann Marie Dahlke, 86



Funeral service for Ann Marie Dahlke, 86, of Fairmont, was held Monday, January 23rd, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont. Burial followed at Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont. Ann passed away Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at Mayo Clinic Health System - Fairmont.

Ann Marie Natvig was born February 6th, 1930 in Cresco, IA, the daughter of Oscar and Berthilda

"Tillie" (Steensland) Natvig. She attended country school in Howard County, IA through the 8th grade, then attending Cresco High School, graduating in 1948. Ann went on after high school and attended the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls where she met Don. On August 29th, 1950, Ann was united in marriage to Donald E. Dahlke in Cresco, IA. They started out in Cresco and then moved to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for two years. They then lived in numerous places while Don pursued a baseball career and obtained a master's degree in education, which included Cedar Falls, IA, California and Colorado before settling in Fairmont in 1955, where Don began his teaching career. Ann was a beloved mother and grandmother and worked part time as a secretary for the school nurse.

Ann was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and was active in the LWML and Naomi Circle. She was a member of Rose Lake Golf Course. She also enjoyed knitting, bridge, card club and spending time with her friends.

She is survived by her husband, Don Dahlke of Fairmont; son, Gregg Dahlke and wife, Julie, and Ann's granddaughters, Joelle and Leandra, all of St. Paul, MN; daughter-in-law, Barb Busch of Rosville, MN; sister-in-law, Stella Natvig of Cresco, IA; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Pauline and Norm Tucker, of Dixon, IL; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, Oscar and Tillie Natvig, Ann was also preceded in death by an infant son Todd Dahlke, son Paul Dahlke, and brother, Kenneth Natvig.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Marjewel "Marge" J. Kilmer, 82



A memorial service for Marjewel "Marge" J. Kilmer, 82, of Loveland, Colorado, formerly of Fairmont, will be April 8th, 2017 at 2 p.m. at

Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont. Marge passed away peacefully in her sleep Thursday, December 29th, 2016 at Northshore Health and Rehabilitation Center in Loveland.

Marjewel Joan Zeller was born May 16th, 1934 in Minneapolis, to Laurin "Bud" and Winifred (Gullickson) Zeller. On February 6th, 1955 she was united in marriage to Donald C. Kilmer in Truman. They made their initial home in Victoria, Texas, followed by Rapid City, South Dakota, then in the mid-1960s they settled in Fairmont. Donald passed away December 7th, 2009.

Left to cherish her memory include her five children: Donald W. (Lau-

ra) Kilmer of Colorado Springs, Sandy (Dave) Bulfer of Fairmont, Tom (Darlene) Kilmer of Ault, Colorado, Ken (Vicki) Kilmer of Loveland and John Kilmer of Rapid City; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brother - Keith Zeller of Winona, Minnesota; sister- Sandy Kearney of Hondo, Texas; other extended family and friends.

Marge was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Donald C. Kilmer; her parents; and grand children, David Bulfer, Jr. and Jackie Bulfer.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Make An Offer They Can't Refuse

Guest Columnist

Kim Kreiss, Realtor Cavers Realty



If you've chosen your dream home and submitted an offer, you'll be waiting with baited breath for a response from the seller. You'll be wondering if they will reject your offer, or accept it? Will they come back with another price? So many possibilities!

1. Hopefully, you offered a reasonable price so that your offer isn't flat out rejected. It's never fun to get rejected right out of the gate. But rejections to your first offer usually are the result of a "low-ball" offer, which is a price substantial-

ly below asking price. Sellers will usually reject "low-ball" offers, especially if the property is priced properly. If your offer is flat out rejected, many times you can try again by submitting another offer. You do have to be careful, though, when submitting a "low-ball" offer to test the waters because you don't want to offend the sellers. If you offend them, the seller may never accept another offer from you, even if it is a good one.

2. Here's another scenario: You might get an immediate "Yes!" from

the seller if you submitted an offer that was at asking price, or above asking price. If this happens, you will always wonder if you could have offered less and still received an accepted offer from the seller.

3. The most common possibility after submitting your first offer is when the seller submits another offer back to you, which is called a counter offer. How many times you and the seller "counter" depends on how much each of you like to negotiate. Some buyers and sellers really like to negoti-

ate. If you like to negotiate more than the seller, you may push them away and they end the game. Keep in mind, the seller can end negotiation at any time. Negotiation is tricky, risky and a gamble at times. Remember the old Kenny Rogers song, "The Gambler"? The lyrics go something like this, "You gotta know when to hold 'em, and know when to fold 'em." The same holds true in real estate negotiating.

Negotiation gets even trickier when you there are two parties trying to buy the same house. You may of heard of "bidding wars" on TV real estate shows, but unless you're bidding on a property at an auction, there are no bidding wars. There are, however, times where the seller has two (or more) buyers trying to buy

the same property. In this case, you may find that all the buyers will be instructed to submit their best offer. By law, the seller can only work with only one offer, or buyer, at a time. While the seller works with their chosen buyer, the other buyers wait in the wings hoping the negotiation falls apart and they get another chance to buy the property. If you're not careful at this point of negotiation, you may lose your dream home over as little as a few hundred dollars, and will regret it for a

long time. My husband and I learned this the hard way.

We were competing against another buyer for a house and were told to submit our best offer. We submitted our best offer but our best wasn't good enough. We lost a house over \$1,000. If we knew it would take \$1,000 more to buy the house we loved, we would have paid it. You know what they say about hindsight. But don't kid yourself, whenever I drive by that house I always wonder "What if?"



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kids Against Hunger is a nonprofit organization with the mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the United States and to feed starving children throughout the world.

Since its launch, Kids Against Hunger has provided over 1 billion meals for children and their families in more than 60 countries. This large endeavor has been made possible through the countless volunteers and donations committed to ending world hunger.

Through the years Martin County has contributed to the Kids Against Hunger mission through our annual food pack and benefit concert.

This year our Kids Against Hunger Benefit Concert will take place on Wednesday, January 25th, at 7 p.m., in the Fairmont High School Performing Arts Center.

Our theme for the 2017 concert is "Blessed". Our

talented local students will be the entertainment for the evening. The concert will feature a variety of acts, such as vocalists, pianists, black light skits, dancing, and much more! This is a community event, and all ages are welcome. The concert is free to attend, and a free-will donation will be taken during the concert. All collections will go to funding our local Kids Against Hunger food pack on Saturday, February, 18th.

We all have a chance to support our community and be a blessing to hungry people around the world. All it takes is one quarter to feed a hungry child. We hope to see you in the next few months at the concert and the food pack!

Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on.

Lauren Carlson
student coordinator
Kids Against Hunger
Fairmont

* * *

On behalf of the CREST Staff & Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the individuals, businesses, churches and organizations in Martin County who gave during the 2016 CREST Annual Appeal. We were able to exceed our monetary goal and the total was doubled by a matching gift from a Martin County resident.

Because of your generosity, CREST can continue to offer services to those in need such as friendly

visiting, telephone reassurance, home helper services, minor home repair, transportation, and caregiver relief services.

We are also in need of volunteers to help provide these services & enjoy the rewards of helping seniors. If you are interested in obtaining CREST services or would like to be a volunteer, please call the CREST office at 235-3833.

Rob Stauter
CREST Executive
Director

* * *

The Salvation Army of Fairmont would like to say thank you to everyone for helping with ringing the bells and donations of collecting food and toys for the community, and people who were sorting the food donations and toys, clean up and setting up and all other donations that were given, you all were a blessing.

We were able to help over 763 people with food

and toys. Many people in our community and Martin County did receive help because of your generosity. Your gift of time is greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you so very much for assisting those in need.

Have a great day in Him!
JoAnn Hixenbaugh,
Major
The Salvation Army
Corps, Fairmont

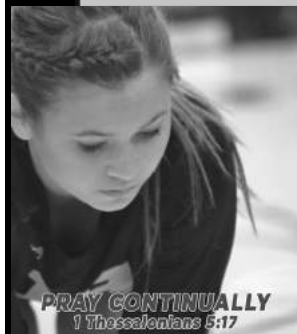


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Adult Bingo

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Thurs, Jan 26 • 5-7pm:

Liver & Onions Dinner

Fri, Jan 27 • 5-7pm: Burger
Night. \$5 Burger Basket. FF, Sour
Cream & Chive Fries or Tater Tots

Sun Jan 29 • 8:30am-12:30pm:

Breakfast Buffet:

Biscuits & Gravy, French Toast,
Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, ham,
bacon, sausage, kielbasa, potatoes,
fruits & danishes. Coffee, juice, milk
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Seniors \$9; Kids (5-12) \$7

Mon Jan 30 • 7pm: Bingo

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Thanks for stopping by last week. We
apologize any inconvenience the menu
error might have caused you. Please
come back for our specials, including
our Prime Rib special this Friday!

Regards, *Manager Greg*

Friday, Jan. 27th

5:30-'til gone

PRIME RIB

10 oz. with baked potato
and salad bar - only \$15⁹⁹

Saturday, 5:30-Gone

All-You-Can-Eat

Spaghetti \$7⁹⁹

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Dell Lutheran's 33rd Annual

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Sunday, February 5
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$18 Donation - Adults
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All proceeds support Mission Projects

MENU

Lutefisk-Potatoes-Klub-Corn
Norwegian Meatballs-Romgrot
Lefsa-Kringla-Norwegian Rice
Homemade Buns-Rosettes

BAKE SALE: sponsored by Dell
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and make Him known.**

**Lake Belt
Cemetery Association
Annual Meeting
will be held
on Saturday,
January 28, 2017
10:00 a.m. at
Lake Belt Town Hall
Ceylon, MN.**

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAIRMONT

Menus subject to change due
to inclement weather, short-
ages or delays in shipping.

JAN 26 - FEB 1

THUR: Grilled cheese, to-
mato soup, celery sticks, peach-
es.

FRI: Cheeseburger, baked
beans, broccoli, orange.

MON: Chicken fajitas, cilan-
tro lime rice, cowboy caviar,
peaches.

TUE: Salisbury steak, gravy,
mashed potatoes, dinner roll,
broccoli, pineapple tidbits.

WED: No info provided.

HOT MEALS ON WHEELS

Hot Meals on Wheels are
Monday through Saturday
for convalescents and per-
sons 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 Linda
Bach-Quade 507-235-3820.

TRUMAN AREA

Menus subject to change due
to inclement weather, short-
ages or delays in shipping.

JAN 26 - FEB 1

THUR: Max sticks, CA blend,
celery with PB, fruit.

FRI: Tator tot hotdish, dinner
roll, spinach salad, applesauce.

MON: Cheese pizza, green
beans, veggies, pineapple tidbits.

TUE: Chicken hotdish, bread-
stick, spinach salad, peas, fruit.

WED: No info provided.

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 Nutri-
tion 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.

JAN 26 - FEB 1

THURS: Pork roast,
mashed potatoes, mixed veg-
gies, rice pudding.

FRI: Golden broil fish or al-
ternate, creamed potatoes,
beets, cake.

MON: Roast beef, mashed
potatoes, gravy, carrots,
pumpkin dessert.

TUE: Chicken strips, po-
tato salad, green beans, cake.

WED: Roast turkey, mashed
potatoes, gravy, creamed
corn, cherry crisp.

FAIRMONT AREA

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

JAN 26 - FEB 1

Breakfast menu can be found online.

THUR: K-6: Cheeseburger,
sunbutter and grape jelly sand-
wich, tator tots, red pepper
strips, orange, applesauce. **JR/
HS:** Grilled cheese, tomato
soup, sweet and tangy broc-
coli salad, celery sticks, apple,
peaches.

FRI: K-6: Cheese pizza, na-
chos fun lunch, peas, caesar salad,
apple, pears. **JR/HS:** Teriyaki
glazed chicken, asian brown rice,
carrots, asian pinto bean salad,
broccoli, orange, pineapple tid-
bits.

MON: Chicken nuggets, din-

ner roll, mashed potatoes, gravy,
turkey and cheese sandwich, cel-
ery sticks, grapes, peaches. **JR/
HS:** Chicken fajitas, cilantro lime
rice, cowboy caviar, jicama sticks,
apple, peaches.

TUE: K-6: Chicken sand-
wich, fries, turkey and cheese
sandwich, green beans, caesar
salad, orange fruit cocktail. **JR/
HS:** Salisbury steak, gravy,
mashed potatoes, dinner roll,
spinach and cranberry salad,
broccoli, orange, pineapple tid-
bits.

WED: No info provided.

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Outstanding Conservationist Award

Martin SWCD is proud to announce Jon and Karen Helvig of Truman, MN as our 2016 Outstanding Con-



Jon and Karen Helvig at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual convention.

servationist. They currently run a 1,700 acre corn/soybean/oats operation and manage 35,000 wean to finish hogs per year. Jon uses a cover crop rotation as part of his soil health management. The Helvigs have also planted several windbreaks, buffers (including a 6.5 acre CRP buffer), and a shoreline stabilization along Perch Creek to reduce erosion. They have also established a native planting along the shoreline of Fox Lake and installed a rain garden to improve water quality. Jon and his family see the bene-



Cover Crops on the Helvig farm help reduce compaction, decrease Nitrogen loss, reduce erosion, improve infiltration and look great!

fits of being stewards of the land and enjoy hunting on the habitat provided by the windbreaks, CRP and cover crops on their property. The Helvigs prioritize improving soil health and water quality on their farm. Thank you and congratulations to Jon and Karen Helvig, Martin SWCD 2016 Outstanding Conservationist.

First rite of spring

By Rich Perrine

The Pasque flower is the first flower to appear on the prairie. Observing the Pasque flowers in bloom, the first color to appear on a drab late winter landscape, is often referred to as the "First Rite of Spring." Before green-up and often with snow still lingering, the Pasque flowers brighten the colorless landscape, pushing up a fuzzy stem and bud. The pale laven-

der-blue blossoms open just as their leaves begin to appear. At about the same time, Spring Ephemerals

Contact Martin SWCD at 507-235-6680 if you would like to be put on a contact list to participate in a guided walk to see the first wildflowers as they emerge from another winter's rest. We start checking in March, but have a target date of April 8th, 2017 for a hike to a Martin County native prairie where the Pasque flowers have welcomed spring visitors for centuries.



like Bloodroot and Trilliums are starting to add color to our native forests around the lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species

by Dustin Benes, Martin SWCD Technician

Are there any Aquatic Invasive Species of concern in Martin County?

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants or animals that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many aquatic species that we should be concerned about; zebra mussels, Eurasian water-milfoil, starry stonewort, spiny water flea, silver and bighead carp. These will displace and out compete with our native beneficial species.

So the big question. Have any been found in Martin County? As of now, no! There are no populations of aquatic invasive species in Martin County. So, where is the closest infestation in our region of the state? By using the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website, under aquatic invasive species, "infested waters list" we can find which waters have been listed as impaired. You can access the infested waters list and other useful information about aquatic invasive species at www.dnr.state.mn.us. Water bodies are added to the infested waters list if they contain populations, or they are connected to a water body that does have a population of invasive species. Located to the North and East of Martin in Blue Earth County, Lura Lake was put on the infested waters list in 2004 for Eurasian water-milfoil. Also in Blue Earth County just to

the east of Mankato; Madison, Ballantyne, North and South Eagle Lakes were all added to the list. Madison Lake, Eurasian water milfoil was discovered in 2010 and Ballantyne Lake in 2012. In 2015 North and South Eagle Lakes were listed with Eurasian water-milfoil. Then if we travel to the west in Jackson County, lakes and some county ditch systems are listed as

impaired, because they are connected to water bodies that do contain invasive species. These are listed as impaired for Silver and Bighead Carp. Jackson County is connected to water bodies from the Iowa Great Lakes area; Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji, and Little Sioux River. These water bodies contain zebra mussels and bighead carp.

Anyone can use the MN DNR website to keep up to date and educate themselves on Aquatic Invasive

Species. Being aware they exist, and taking the time to clean water equipment before you transport them is very important in preventing the spread.

Minnesota is home to 11,842 lakes that are 10 acres or larger in size. Outdoor and recreational enthusiasts are doing their part in controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species, only 5% or 592 lakes are on the infested waters list.

You can help stop the

spread of aquatic invasive species. Take these steps every time you leave a lake or river - whether or not it's infested:

Clean your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving a waterbody.

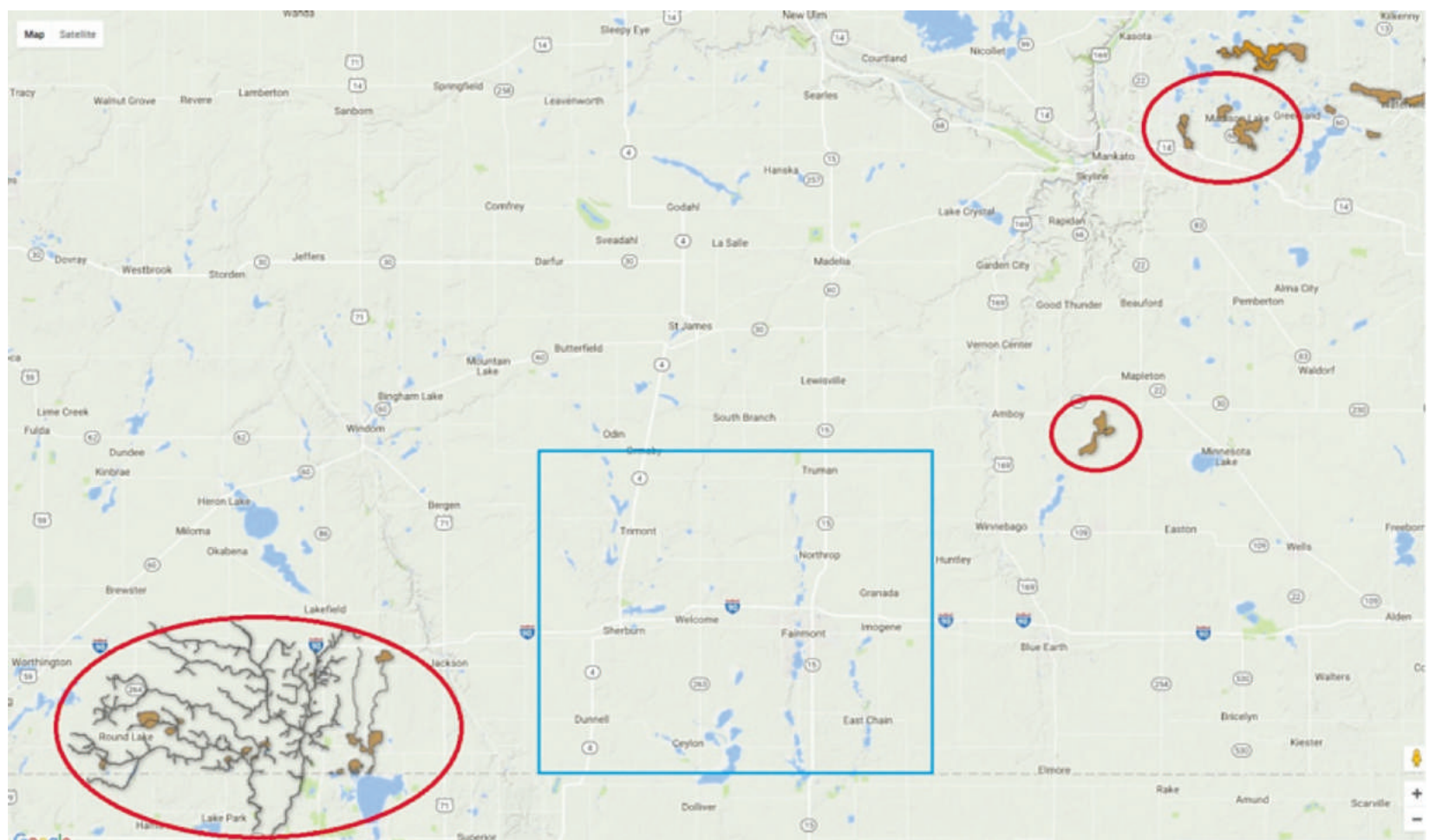
Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bilge before leaving a waterbody.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release fish, animals or plants

into a waterbody unless they came from that waterbody. To keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Learn to identify aquatic nuisance species and report any suspected sightings to the nearest DNR fisheries station.

It is against the law to transport invasive species. Contact Martin SWCD or your nearest DNR office for further assistance about aquatic invasive species.



Areas circled in Red show water bodies that have been added to the MN DNR infested waters list. The blue box is Martin County. You can see how close aquatic invasive species are to us. Everyone that enjoys our natural resources needs to do their part in protecting our waters from these species. Map taken from the MN DNR Infested Waters List.

Environmental Day

by Greg Johanson

Environmental Awareness Day was held on September 15th 2016. This event started in the mid 1970's in our county to set aside one day in the fall for all 5th grade students to learn about our environment and its surroundings. The event includes three 20 minute learning sessions, followed by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. The stations this past year included the

DNR fisheries, a working watershed model provided by MPCA, and the native prairie station. A one hour presentation from the Raptor Center is also a big hit for the students.

This event was again held at the Heritage Acres learning center, which provides a great setting for both indoor and outdoor presentations, as well as a look back at agriculture's past.



Martin Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Change

After serving 12 years on



Darwin Roberts retired at the end of his term in December 2016 after serving 12 years on the Martin SWCD Board of Supervisors.

the Martin SWCD Board of Supervisors, Darwin Roberts retired at the end of his term in Dec. 2016. Darwin served the northeast part of Martin County (District 1.), including Center Creek, Fraser, Nashville, Rutland and Westford Townships. Darwin provided a rural and agricultural perspective to the Board. Darwin has been involved in several Conservation groups throughout his term including serving on the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) Board. Darwin has been willing to try new practices over the years to improve soil health and water quality on his own farm. Darwin became Martin County's 1st Minnesota Water Quality Certified Farm,

had the first 2 woodchip bioreactors in the county installed on his farm and has been involved in many experimental/ trial plots with the University of Minnesota. Darwin has been recognized as a National Association of Conservation Districts Soil Health Champion. Darwin has been a great advocate for Conservation and will be missed by the Board and Staff.

Larry Cowing will be replacing Darwin as the District 1 Supervisor. Larry and his wife Allison live in Center Creek Township where they raised their 4 children; Ciara, Paige, Trevor and Tyler. Larry will continue to provide a rural and agricultural perspective to the Board. The



Larry Cowing will serve on the Martin SWCD Board of Supervisors as representative for District 1.

Cowing family has been farming the same ground since the 1800's. Larry has adopted numerous conservation practices on his farm and we are looking forward to his expertise as he serves as District 1 Supervisor.

Governor Dayton signs agreement with USDA for \$350 million in federal funding to protect and improve water quality in Minnesota

Governor Mark Dayton today signed an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), securing \$350 million in federal funding to protect and improve waters in 60,000 acres across 54 Minnesota counties. The new state-federal effort, the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), will target areas of southern and western Minnesota facing significant water quality challenges, to protect and improve our natural resources for future generations.

"Minnesota is at a criti-

cal juncture in addressing our state's serious water quality challenges," said Governor Mark Dayton. "Through this landmark agreement, Minnesota will be better able to protect and improve our waters for our families, natural habitat, and our future. Clean water is everyone's challenge, and everyone's

responsibility."

Through the Minnesota CREP, farmers and agricultural landowners can voluntarily enroll land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easement program to create buffers, restore wetlands, and pro-

continued on page 4S

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RH1026DT

Naturally

by Al Batt

I walked briskly as if I were going past a skunk farm.

It was the January cold that caused me to hurry, not skunks. But then I caught the faint scent of a skunk.

It made me want to flip the calendar and see how close spring was.

A squirrel scurried up a tree and put the trunk between it and me. A squirrel knows where the back of a tree is. The name "squirrel" comes from two Greek words, skia, meaning, "shadow" and oura, meaning "tail." A squirrel can position its tail over its body for protection from sun, rain or snow. It's also a warm blanket when sleeping.

Coming home late one night in January, an eastern screech owl flew across the road in front of me. It's a cool little bird to see at any time. Not far from that sighting, I spotted either a deer mouse

or a white-footed mouse scampering across the same road. I'd wished that I had contact information for the tiny owl so that I could have given it a heads up as to where a meal might be found.

Q-and-A

Foster Otten of Hayward asked if all birds have tongues. Birds don't have fleshy tongues like ours, but they do have tongues. Different birds have different types of tongues. Birds that drink nectar have tongues shaped like tubes for efficient extraction of liquids. Some woodpeckers have long, barbed tongues to help them catch insects. The case could be made that a bird's tongue serves more as a finder of foods than a taster of them.

Jack Madsen of Good Thunder wrote, "I was curious to see if it was true that parrots live more than 100 years? Apparently, as the song says, 'It ain't necessarily so.'" A nocturnal, flightless New Zealand parrot called the Kakapo lives in the slow lane and lives on average for 58

years with a potential to reach nearly 90. Macaws can live 60 years in the wild.

Charlie, who was reportedly owned by Winston Churchill, was said to have lived past 100. The bird was purported to have been taught to spew obscenities against Hitler and the Nazis. It's a good story, but researchers have cast doubt on Charlie's existence, saying that Churchill had no such parrot. Churchill's daughter, Lady Soames, denied

that her father ever owned a macaw. According to Soames, Churchill owned an African grey parrot named Polly, but sold the bird before becoming Prime Minister. Parrots in captivity have been known to live over 80 years. Cookie the Cockatoo, the world's oldest parrot, died at the Brookfield Zoo at age 83.

"Where did the word 'cardinal' come from?" The redbird's name derived from the red robes of the Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church.

It's from the Latin cardinalis meaning "principal, chief, essential," and from cardo meaning, "that on which something turns or depends; pole of the sky," originally "door hinge," which is of unknown origin. The Cherokee believe that the cardinal is the daughter of the sun and that if you see a cardinal flying upward toward the sun, you'll have good luck.

"How did they get the birds to attack the actors in the movie, 'The Birds'?" Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 film "The Birds" employed live birds, puppets and animation. To attract the trained birds, actors often had ground meat or fish smeared on their hands. The star, Tippi Hedren, has spoken often about the scene where she's attacked in the attic. That scene took a week to shoot, but ran about a minute on the screen. Hitchcock in-

sisted on having trained gulls attack her. They were attached to her costume by elastic bands.

"Why are goose bumps called 'goose bumps'?" Because they just are. That's why. Boy, every adult has to love that answer. They are also called goose pimples or goose flesh, appearing on our skin when we are cold or frightened. Bumps appear at the base of body hair making it stand up straight. The reflex of producing goose bumps is known as horripilation. The term "goose bumps" likely came from a similar appearance to a plucked goose. Other parts of the world call it hen or chicken flesh and duck or bird skin.

Thanks for stopping by

"You must not blame me if I do talk to the clouds." - Henry David Thoreau

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

DO GOOD.

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The Martin County Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program, administered by the MN Department of Agriculture, was created by the 1994 Minnesota Legislature and is funded with federal Environmental Protection Agency money. Applicants should call the SWCD/NRCS office at 235-6680 to make an appointment.

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Highlight tree: Hackberry Governor Daton

The Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis* is native to the southern two thirds of the state. Its growth rate is rapid but long lived, reaching full maturity at 150 to 200 years. It can reach heights of up to 130 feet with a crown spread of over 50 feet and has deep fibrous spreading roots.

Leaves are simple, single toothed, heart shaped with a lop-sided base. Leaves are pale green, often rough with sunken veins, mite galls are often present and leaf tips are often curved. Branching is alternate and the tree is monoecious (male and female flowers on the same tree). Small round berry-like fruit are borne on short stems.

These sweet nutlets (edible) turn deep purple when ripe and provide a source of food for birds and mammals. Reddish brown twigs with pale oblong lenticels grow in a zigzag pattern and have no terminal buds. Lateral buds are triangular and hug the twig. Pith is often chambered at the nodes and solid elsewhere. Main branch crotches are U

shaped. The gray fine layered corky bark ridges are very distinct on young trees. Bark on older trees becomes scaly. Their shade tolerance ranges from intermediate to tolerant.

They prefer bottomlands with a soil pH of 6.6 to 8.0, but will grow on a variety of sites. They prefer well drained moist soils, but will tolerate both moderately wet to moderately dry conditions. They are susceptible to insects: Elm scurfy scale, hackberry psyllid gall-makers, fall cankerworm and spring cankerworm, and disease: Witches' broom, powdery mildew and leaf spots.

They are tolerant to drought, but intolerant to salt spray. Hackberry trees are often used for shelterbelts and windbreaks and are planted for shade and street plantings.

They are good to very good for wildlife providing both food and nesting - branches and cavities. The wood is similar to elm, used for saw logs and veneer.



continued from page 2S
tect wellheads for drinking water. Farmers and other landowners who voluntarily participate in the program will be eligible for \$350 million in federal funds for direct payments to farmers.

"This landmark agreement will protect Minnesota's most sensitive natural resources for future generations to enjoy and ensure our farm families are compensated for their conservation efforts," said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. "I thank Secretary Vilsack and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for working with us to establish this partnership."

The Minnesota CREP will invest a total of \$500 million in Greater Minnesota. To leverage the full \$350 million in federal funds, the state of Minnesota must commit \$150 million, of which \$54.8 million has already been appropriated in past legislative sessions. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have included \$30 million for CREP in their 2017 Jobs Bill. Additional funds will be recommend-

ed through the Clean Water Fund, the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

The Minnesota CREP is a five-agency effort, led by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and including the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The project will be completed in partnership with USDA - Farm Service Agency.

The agreement has the support of nearly 70 organizations and agencies in Minnesota including Pheasants Forever, Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota Rural Water Association, and the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Stop in to Martin SWCD if you would like more information on the CREP program.

Volunteer Opportunity!

by Ashley Brenke

In 2017, we will begin the watershed approach in the Blue Earth River Watershed. The watershed approach is a 10-year cycle that will occur in each of Minnesota's 81 major watersheds to evaluate water conditions, establish priorities and goals for improvement, and take actions designed to restore or protect water quality. When a 10-year cycle is completed, a new cycle begins. The watershed approach was started by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2008.

The first part of this cycle is to evaluate water conditions by performing water quality monitoring. As part of this monitoring we are looking for citizen lake and stream volunteers!! Volunteer monitors

are a critical component of Minnesota's Watershed approach. About once a week during the summer, lake monitoring volunteers boat to a designated spot on their lakes to collect water transparency readings. Stream monitoring volunteers collect water from a stream and take transparency readings as well.

The 10-year cycle started in the Watonwan River Watershed in 2013 and the Des Moines River in 2014.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the watershed approach, or in becoming a citizen lake or stream volunteer to help gather vital information about the health of our water resources, please contact Martin SWCD at 507-235-6680.

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2016 Year in weather review for Martin County

By Pete Boulay MNDNR State Climatology Office

2016 will be remembered in Minnesota as a warm and wet year with a lengthy growing season.

The winter of 2015-16 had about two weeks of real “winter” with cold enough temperatures to keep a snow pack. The peak of winter was in mid-January. The mercury stayed below zero statewide during the day on January 17. This was followed by one of the biggest snowstorms of the season on February 2-3. Fairmont had 10.2 inches and I-90 was closed between Albert Lea and Sioux Falls late on Feb 2. Winter was brief and thunderstorms rumbled across the state on February 18th and 19th with 50’s and 60’s in Minnesota by the close of the month.

Winter was on the wane by the first week of March as air temperatures surged into the 60’s. There was talk of early lake ice out across the state. Budd Lake lost its ice on March 14, about two weeks earlier than the median. Winter did have one last hurrah with a snow storm on March 23-24 that blanketed southern Minnesota with seven inches of snow at Fairmont. After a string of seven months of above normal statewide average temperatures, April fell just short of normal. It was a minor speed bump of the otherwise warm year. May was again above normal and planting across the state was completed early. 93% of the corn crop was planted statewide by May 15 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The summer of 2016 was an active summer in terms of heavy rain events. Any fears of drought were erased in a series of heavy rain events eroded away the moderate drought that was present in west central Minnesota in June. The largest rain event of the summer was the storm of July 11-12, which affected much of central Minnesota. Hardest hit was Kanabec and Pine County. Another heavy rain event was on August 11-12 hit Kandiyohi County hard. Overall though, it seemed that Waseca County bore the brunt of the heavy rains in 2016 and wound up with the state record precipitation total of 56.24 inches by the end of the year. There were 37 tornadoes for the year statewide, none in Martin County

Saturated fields across the state were common by the time autumn arrived. Luckily for growers, late autumn turned out to be balmy with November being especially forgiving with an average statewide temperature of twelve degrees above normal. The first two weeks of November were warm and dry and helped the progress of harvest. The first significant snowstorm and blizzard of the 2016-17 winter was on November 18th. The heaviest snow was 25 inches near Leader in Cass County. The final soil moisture level readings at Lamberton and Waseca in early November showed above average soil moisture.

After an early December warm-up, winter made a comeback with Budd Lake freezing over on December 9, ten days earlier than the year before. 2016 had one more surprise up its sleeve near the end of the year, and that was a Christmas Day rain and thunderstorm event that dropped three-quarters of an inch of precipitation at Sherburn and much of the state saw heavy precipitation. The soil had little frost in it at the close of the year, and much of the state had a soil moisture surplus that will still be there when spring arrives in 2017.

Township	Range	Section	Name	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Growing Season Total (May-Sep)
101N	29W	35	Johanson				2.60	3.55	4.02	7.79	2.20	8.28				25.84
101N	30W	13	CPS			*	4.54	4.53	3.09	8.17	1.68	9.23	4.56			26.70
101N	32W	25	Bents				2.27	4.44	3.25	5.05	2.52	6.24				21.50
101N	32W	26	Schmidtke				4.04	2.68	2.86	4.14	2.63	5.47	3.48			17.78
101N	33W	6	Swanson				4.12	5.60	3.18	6.37	2.75	4.73	4.88	*		22.63
102N	30W	5	Martin SWCD					3.74	4.85	7.19	3.17	6.43	4.75			25.38
102N	30W	25	Luckow				6.10	5.35	2.77	7.54	2.01	6.25	4.72	1.04		23.92
102N	30W	31	Interlaken			1.67	4.70	2.90	2.48	8.46	2.60	6.52	4.66			22.96
102N	32W	7	Zehms				4.47	4.22	2.90	8.18	2.63	3.54	2.54			21.47
102N	33W	22	Sherburn NWS	0.17	0.64	1.65	4.12	6.35	4.64	7.86	2.84	4.77	5.04	1.26	1.48	26.46
103N	29W	5	Roberts				4.86	2.91	4.57	6.18	3.23	6.24	5.43			23.13
103N	30W	4	Toothaker				2.63	3.59	7.45	5.93	4.15	5.91	5.06			27.03
103N	31W	22	Moeller				2.94	3.93	4.63	6.49	3.92	4.78	4.86			23.75
104N	29W	8	Petersen				3.29	3.95	5.98	7.27	4.49	5.32	5.32			27.01
104N	30W	31	Sanders			1.51	3.79	3.22	6.74	5.29	4.14	5.83	5.51			25.22
104N	32W	32	Trimont	0.15	0.13	1.99	3.61	5.71	4.92	6.87	4.75	3.59	5.12	1.09		25.84
104N	33W	6	Wilson				4.28	7.26	5.32	7.06	4.79	6.60	4.90			31.03
County Averages				0.16	0.39	1.71	3.90	4.35	4.33	6.81	3.21	5.87	4.72	1.13	1.48	24.57
# of Observations				2	2	4	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	15	3	17

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Erin Brenneman and her family operate Brenneman Pork, a fully integrated, family-run pork and grain operation in Washington County, Iowa. She has a truly unique perspective on farming, growing up in the suburbs of Chicago. She always assumed food came from the grocery store, never thinking what it takes to raise it. That all changed in 2004 when she received her degree in Animal Science from ISU and married her husband. They moved back to his family's farm in southeast Iowa and have been passionate about sharing experience ever since. Erin's passion is with the baby piglets. She describes her job as a “day one farrowing specialist” as running a maternity ward for pigs. Erin and Tim have two boys, ages 5 and 10, that have a passion for the family farm. Brenneman Pork is passionate about instilling into the next generation the desire to continuously improve.

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USDA announces new conservation opportunities to improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will offer farmers and ranchers more opportunities to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The announcement includes new CRP practices to protect water quality and adds an additional 1.1 million acres targeted to benefit wildlife, pollinators and wetlands.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is an extremely popular voluntary program that offers producers and landowners a wide variety of opportunities to prevent erosion, protect wildlife habitat and reduce nutrient runoff," said Vilsack. "With the program close to the legal enrollment limit of 24 million acres, USDA has been working to use all of the tools at our disposal to maximize benefits by combining multiple soil, water and wildlife objectives in the areas where it is needed most."

Vilsack unveiled a new conservation initiative known as Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR), which will add new tools to CRP that can help to improve water quality. CLEAR will as-

sist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filter nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. Early estimates indicate that CLEAR could help to reduce nitrate runoff by as much as 40 percent over traditional conservation methods. CLEAR may cover up to 90 percent of the cost to install these new practices through incentives and cost-share. These new methods are especially important in areas where traditional buffers have not been enough to prevent nutrients from reaching bodies of water.

USDA will also add an additional 1.1 million acres to a number of key CRP practices that are critically important to wildlife and conservation. These include 700,000 acres for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) efforts, which restore high-priority wildlife habitat tailored to a specific state's needs. In addition to SAFE, 300,000 acres will be added to target wetlands restoration that are nature's water filters and 100,000 acres for pollinator habitat that support 30 percent of agricultural production.

The continued strong demand for CRP com-

bined with the limited acreage available for enrollment and lower land rental rates, allows USDA to modify certain program components without affecting the integrity of the program. Signing incentives are being reduced by \$25 per acre on certain practices for fiscal year 2018 enrollments (incentives are currently between \$100 and \$150 per acre) and a cap on the maximum soil rental rate is being instituted for Continuous CRP at \$300 per acre. The savings from these changes are being reinvested back in CRP, including the additional acres for SAFE, pollinator habitat and wetlands restoration.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned

and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they are working to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide. Read more about USDA's record conservation outcomes under this Caring for our Land, Air and Water: Preserving Precious Natural Resources for Tomorrow.

Southern MN DU #4 in MN for fundraising

The Southern Minnesota chapter of Ducks Unlimited, located in Sherburne, has been awarded with the 2016 #4 ranking, in terms of fundraising dollars, for the state of Minnesota. Southern Minnesota DU again also led the entire southern region of chapters in fundraising and numbers of sponsor memberships. In 2016 the chapter had 169 Sponsors and are trying to break their own state record with a recruiting effort going on now until their March 18th 2017 Spring Event.

Volunteers for the chapter, hosted 6 fundraising events throughout the calendar year including an annual dinner event that will again be hosted on March 18th this year, a sponsor event and a Greenwing event for youth under the age of 17, and 2 other fundraising events.

The chapter also partnered with local high school trap teams to raise money for both conservation and youth shooting.

Ducks Unlimited is a non-profit that leads the world in wetlands conservation. All Ducks Unlimited chapters are led by volunteers that have a passion for leaving the landscape in better condition for the next generation of hunters and conservationists.

Funds raised by all Ducks Unlimited chapters are used for wetlands conservation in Minnesota and across North America. Last year Ducks Unlimited spent over 6 million dollars in Minnesota and a large portion of that right here in Martin County!

For information on becoming a DU volunteer in the Sherburne Area please contact Doug Hartke at (507) 236-1700.



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New conservationist in Fairmont



by Betsy B.G. Norland, District Conservationist, Martin County, USDA-NRCS

The USDA - NRCS Fairmont Field Office has a new District Conservationist. Betsy B.G. Norland started her duties August 22, 2016 in the Fairmont Field Office.

Betsy had been in the USDA-NRCS St. James Field Office for the last

four years. She is not new to the Fairmont Field Office. Betsy started as a Soil Conservation Technician and Soil Conservationist here in Martin County before going to the St. James Field Office.

Betsy looks forward to working with producers and landowners again in Martin County by following NRCS's mission of "Helping people, Help the land."

Find out more about NRCS's mission, page 12S.

Southern MN Ducks Unlimited Greenwing event gets national recognition

by Doug Hartke

This week the Southern Minnesota Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, in Sherburn, MN, was awarded with the 8th largest Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Youth Event hosted in 2016.

Ducks Unlimited Greenwing events are hosted by local Ducks Unlimited volunteers and these events serve as learning and introduction

tools for youth of all ages to topics such as conservation, hunting & shooting. Last year's event hosted balloon making, a petting zoo, slingshot shooting and a host of other activities for the kids.

Ducks Unlimited would like to thank the chairs of the event, Kirk, Becky, Jordan, and Audra Yahnke, as well as the entire Southern Minnesota Ducks Unlimited

volunteer committee for hosting the event.

Ducks Unlimited is a non-profit habitat conservation organization that conserves, restores and protects wetlands across North America. To date Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 200,000 acres in Minnesota & will be investing over \$10 million dollars in Minnesota in 2017.

To learn more about getting involved with the local Ducks Unlimited committee or to learn more about Greenwing and other upcoming local DU events please contact Doug Hartke at (507) 236-1700. This years event will be May 20th, 2017 at the Martin County West Trimont School.

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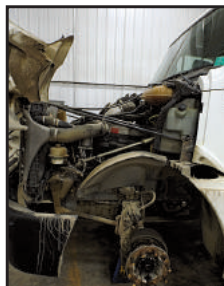


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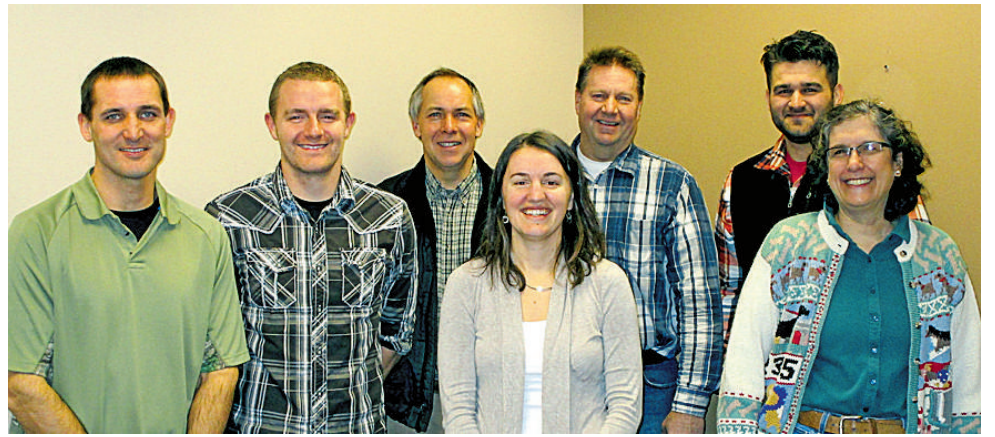
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SWCD Board (left to right): Larry Cowing, Linda Meschke, Judy Beckman, Clair Schmidt Jr, County Commissioner Liaison Steve Flohrs, Tyler Ask.



SWCD and NRCS staff (left to right): Dustin Benes, SWCD; Jesse Walters, SWCD; Rich Perrine, SWCD; Ashley Brenke, SWCD; Greg Johanson, SWCD; Ben Cottrell, NRCS; Betsy Norland, NRCS.

Pollinators

Animal pollinators (including but not limited to: ants, bats, bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, flies, moths and wasps) play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables. Most plants require the assistance of pollinators to produce seeds and fruit. About 80% of all flower-

ing plants and over three-quarters of the staple crop plants that feed human-kind rely on animal pollinators.

Pollinators visit flowers in search of food, mates, shelter and nest-building materials. The energy that powers pollinator growth, metamorphosis, flight and reproduction comes from sugars in nectar, and the

proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals from pollen grains.

The secret bond of the partnership is that neither plant nor pollinator populations can exist in isolation – should one disappear, the other is one generation away from disaster.

What are we doing?

Working directly with landowners, we have restored over 40 acres of pollinator habitat and are working on restoring an even larger number of acres in the coming years through various state and federal programs. Through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) landowners can take advantage of cost-share opportunities to convert land to pollinator habitat. Many landowners have already taken advantage of this opportunity resulting in over 100 acres of habitat to be restored throughout the county, and many more are now showing interest.

We have assisted several landowners, rural and urban, plant their own pollinator habitats throughout the county. Pollinator habitats consist of native plants that produce flowers throughout the growing season. It is important to include a variety of species that flower through-



A monarch caterpillar on a Butterfly Milkweed plant just northwest of Fairmont on a 12-acre restored pollinator habitat plot. Milkweed is an important host plant to the Monarch Butterfly.



A restored native pollinator habitat northwest of Fairmont. The flowers pictured are some of the first to bloom in the spring.



Mrs. Walters' first grade class from Fairmont with Martin County Pheasants Forever chapter members shortly after they seeded their pollinator plot east of Fairmont.

out the entire growing season so there are always flowers available to produce nectar and pollen.

Recently we assisted Martin County Pheasants Forever Chapter as they began a youth pollinator habitat restoration project on a 1-acre plot located in a wildlife management area just east of Fairmont. The project focus is to include the youth in every step of the restoration efforts, including education regarding the importance of pollinators. Mrs. Walters' 1st grade class in Fairmont seeded the entire plot and will help main-

tain the site as it becomes established over the next few years. Martin County Pheasants Forever Chapter did a great job securing a grant to pay for the site preparation, youth education and seed costs necessary to make this project happen and we hope to assist in future youth pollinator habitat projects.

What can you do?

Plant a pollinator garden/habitat plot. Again, these sites must include a variety of native wildflowers that have different bloom times so there are flowers available from as

early as March to as late as October. Martin SWCD can provide technical assistance, including native seed recommendations from reputable sources.

Another important consideration is to avoid or limit pesticide use. Pesticide residues on the plants will kill more than the target pest which is responsible for a large decline in the animal pollinator population.

If you would like to plant a pollinator garden or habitat plot please call (507-235-6680) or come see us at 923 N. State Street, Fairmont, MN 56031.



A natural native pollinator habitat southwest of East Chain with a mix of native wildflowers supplying pollen and nectar throughout the entire growing season. The flowers pictured are some of the last to bloom in the fall.

Drainage Water Management

by Martin SWCD

Stream protection in regions with extensive row crop agriculture will require storage of runoff and drainage water during peak flow periods to reduce the high flows that cause the most stream-bank, bluff, and ravine erosion. The water is detained for slow release over hours, days or weeks, or is retained for later uses like supplemental irrigation. Spring and early summer are the periods that require the most storage, since row crops are not yet established with full canopy transpiration. We have highlighted three water storage practices

that will remove excess nutrients, such as nitrates, from tile water prior to it entering the waterway. Martin SWCD was awarded a Clean Water Fund grant that can be utilized on the following practices. Typically, these grants will offer a landowner 75% cost-share to install any of these three practices. If you would like to learn more or if you would like to install one of these practices on your land to help improve water quality, please call us at 507-235-6680 or visit us at 923 N. State Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 M-F 8-4:30.

Saturated Buffer

A saturated buffer is an alternative drainage tile outlet in which tile drainage water seeps beneath buffer areas of perennial vegetation via a subsurface distribution pipe prior to entering a drainage ditch or stream. The purpose is to reduce nitrates in tile water via denitrification and plant uptake, and to reduce peak flows associated with typical tile drainage outlets.

Woodchip Bioreactor

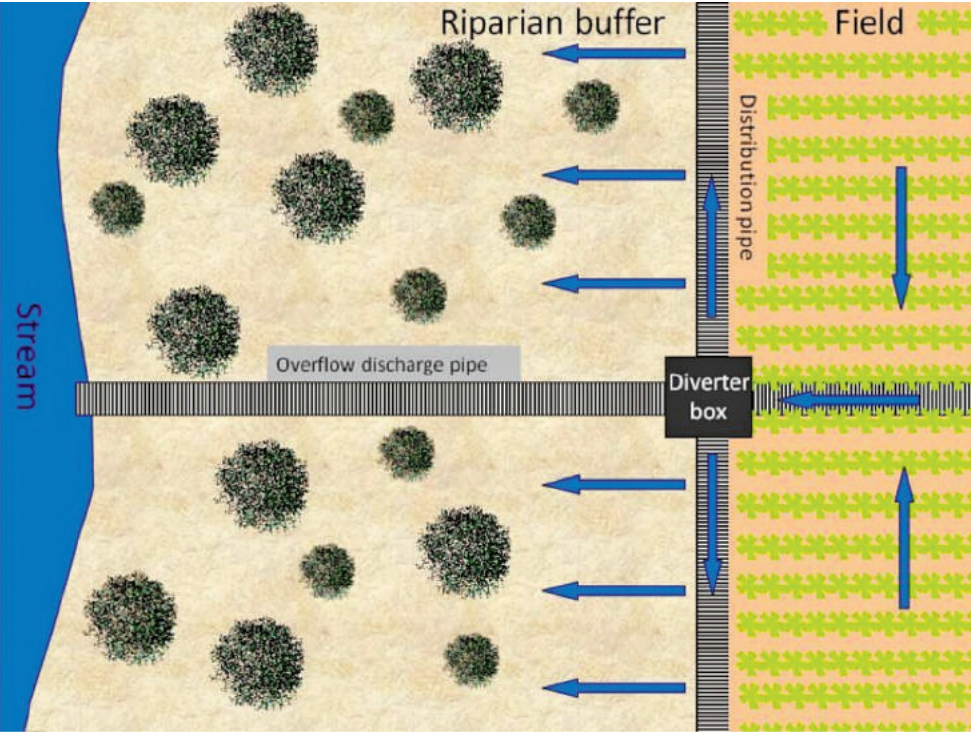
Bioreactors are essentially subsurface trenches filled with a carbon source, mainly wood chips, through which wa-

ter is allowed to flow just before leaving the drain to enter a surface water body. The carbon source in the trench serves as a substrate for bacteria that break down the nitrate through denitrification or other biochemical processes.

Treatment Wetland

Constructed wetlands, sometimes called treatment wetlands, are man-made systems engineered to approximate the water cleansing process of natural wetlands. In agriculture, constructed wetlands are used to filter runoff which carries ex-

cess nutrients such as nitrates and phosphorous from cropland, feedlots, aquaculture operations and agricultural processing facilities. Constructed wetlands can also provide habitat for some waterfowl, other birds, amphibians and invertebrates.



Top view diagram of a saturated buffer. Source: Dan Jaynes, USDA-ARS

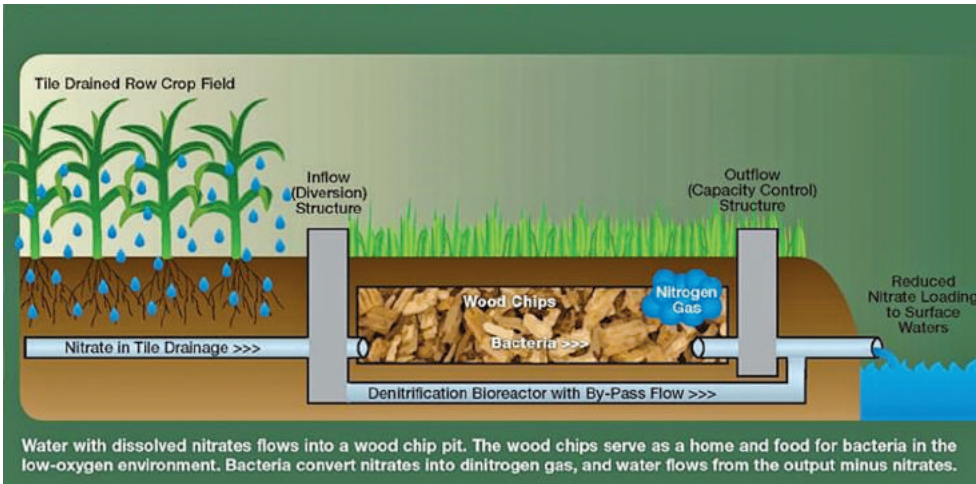


Diagram of a woodchip bioreactor. Source: Farm Journal Magazine.

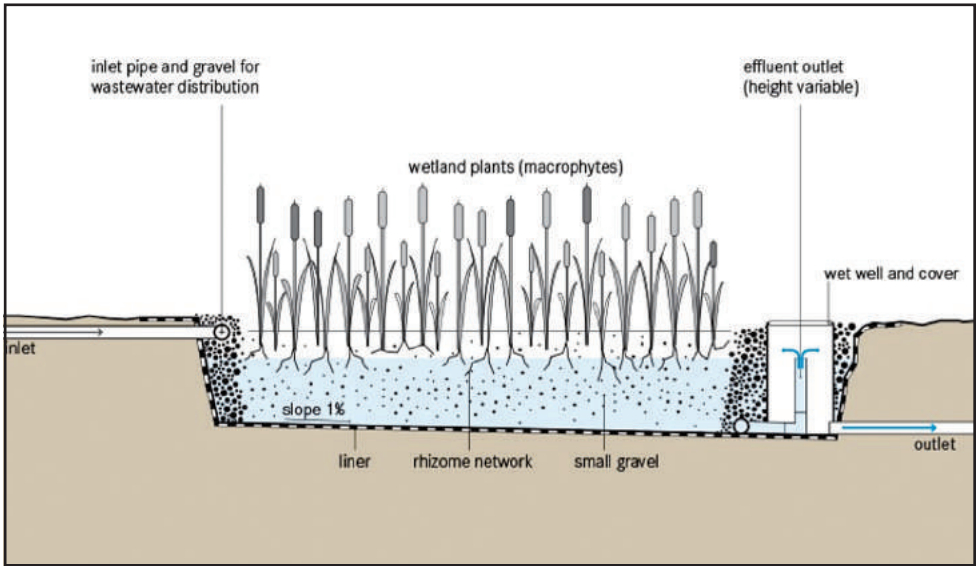


Diagram of a treatment wetland. Source: Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management.

NRCS, USFWS Partner to Accelerate Conservation on Agricultural Lands for Monarch Butterfly

Partnership Provides Technical Assistance, Funding and Predictability to Participating Agricultural Producers

The monarch butterfly is a new national priority species of Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW), a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Populations of monarchs, a pollinator species cherished across North America, have declined significantly during the past two decades. This collaboration aims to help the species recover by working with agricultural producers to make wildlife-friendly improvements on their farms, ranches and forests. "Producers can make simple and inexpensive tweaks on working lands that provide monumental benefits to monarch butterflies and a variety of other insects and wildlife," said Cathie Pullman, NRCS state conservationist in Minnesota. "By adding

the monarch to Working Lands for Wildlife, we can accelerate conservation for the species at the heart of its migration corridor." NRCS and USFWS recently completed a conference report that explains how conservation practices can help the eastern monarch population, a species known for its annual, multi-generational migration from central Mexico to as far north as Canada. This report, which the agencies began crafting in 2015, was a step toward adding the monarch to WLFW, which uses a science-based, targeted approach to help a variety of at-risk species.

"We need to make every effort to help ensure monarchs don't become endangered now and in the long term," said

USFWS Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius. "Conservation efforts on agricultural lands across the nation can have a significant positive impact on monarchs as well as many other pollinator insects and birds. Working with farmers and other private landowners, we can



ensure a future filled with monarchs." The monarch butterfly joins an array of wildlife species across the country already part of WLFW, including the greater sage-grouse and New England cottontail, two recent successes in species conservation. The

USFWS determined in 2015 that the two species didn't warrant protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) because of voluntary conservation efforts underway to restore habitat. Through WLFW, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help producers adopt conservation practices that benefit the monarch. Meanwhile, through the conference report, the USFWS provides producers with regulatory predictability should the monarch become listed under the ESA. Predictability provides landowners with peace of mind - no matter the legal status of a species under ESA - that they can keep their working lands working with NRCS conservation systems in place. Work through WLFW will center on 10 states, including Minnesota, in the Midwest and southern Great Plains that are

considered the core of the monarch's migration route and breeding habitat. Much of this work will focus on planting and enhancing stands of milkweed and other high-value nectar plants for monarchs. Assistance is also available to producers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. USFWS has committed significant funding - \$20 million over five years - to support monarch conservation efforts. Additionally, USFWS is working with partners, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wildlife Federation and the Mexican and Canadian governments to leverage resources and investments to support and implement conservation actions across the continent. During the past two years, NRCS has made available \$6 million through a variety of Farm Bill conservation programs for monarch conservation in the 10 states. Additionally, NRCS is working with partners, including The Xerces Society and General

Mills, to increase staffing capacity to help producers design customized conservation strategies for working lands. The two agencies' efforts contribute to a multi-agency, international strategy to reverse the monarch's population decline in North America, estimated to have decreased from one billion butterflies in 1995 down to an estimated 34 million. Through the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators offsite link image, released by the White House, the United States has a goal of increasing the eastern population of monarchs back to 225 million by 2020. Producers interested in NRCS assistance should contact their local USDA service center to learn more. NRCS accepts landowner enrollment applications on a continuous basis. NRCS offers more than three dozen conservation practices that can provide benefits to monarchs as well as a variety of other pollinators.

Propagating native plants and restoring diverse habitats

In 2015, Martin SWCD received funding for the Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats Project from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative - Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

The project focus is restoring uncommon/rare at-risk native plant species to provide habitat for other at-risk species. This will be accomplished by protecting and expanding diverse native forest and prairie habitats in thirteen counties across the state. Project partners will use local ecotype native plants that

are aggressive enough to compete with and overtake invasive species, in order to reclaim areas where non-native species have started.

We are over one year into our five year project. Some of the focus species not often found in restorations that we have worked with include Bottle Gennian,



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Martin County SWCD "Day at the Capitol"

The Martin SWCD held its annual Legislative event and Day at the Capitol on March 21st and 22nd. This is a special two day event held each year for Conservation Districts throughout the State. The event starts out with an evening meeting for all districts and state agencies to discuss the upcoming programs, and funding available for districts to administer, and the following day is a visit to the capitol with our legislators about issues or concerns within our respective counties.

Our district has always felt that it is important to keep in touch with our leaders who make important decisions impacting our county. The event for 2017 is yet to be determined. Many topics will be discussed during this event such as our state cost-share programs, the buffer initiative progress, and the proposed new CREP program.



Picture (L to R): Nate Carr, Michelle Stindtman Faribault County SWCD, Ashley Brenke Martin SWCD, Representative Gunther, Greg Johanson Martin SWCD.



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- Cover Crops
- Sediment Basins



Wetland Restoration

- Wetland Restoration
- Shoreline Restoration
 - Stabilization
 - Planting



Chemical Management

- Variable Rate Technology
- GPS Control Systems
- Flow Metering
- Secondary Containment



Other Practices

- Flood Control
 - Ring Dikes
 - Culverts and Diversions
- Well Relocation and Sealing
- Conservation Drainage
 - Control Structures
 - Bioreactors
- Field Windbreaks
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 - Metering
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- Odor Control Practices



Manure Management

- Manure Spreading Equipment
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 - Box Spreaders
 - Liquid Manure Spreaders
 - Drag Lines
 - Fertigation Equipment
- Incorporation Equipment
- Tanker Trucks
- Skid Steers
- Manure Agitation and Pumping
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AgBMP Loan Program Example Practices.indd 6/9/16

Martin County Pheasants Forever projects and accomplishments

by Bryan Gregor, MCPF Habitat Coordinator.

With financial support from the National PF and the LSOHC purchased the Gruven WMA.

Recently announced the acquisition by PF of an additional 195 acres to the Gruven WMA.

With financial support from the Martin County Conservation Club and Pheasants Forever purchased the 71 acre Scoby King unit as an addition to the Island WMA.

Donated \$5000.00 to support acquisition of the Swanson tract to add 160 acres to the Caron WMA.

As of January 2016, has contributed \$2 million dollars since inception to local conservation and habitat projects and Martin County Pheasants

Forever Chapter number 49 is well on its way to \$3 million at this time.

MCPF will continue to work with the National PF organization during 2017 and beyond to put habitat on the ground here in Martin County. We have a strong lobbying chapter and great relationships.

Last Fall, with



the assistance of Mrs. Krysten Walter's first Grade class from Fairmont Elementary, seeded a one acre plot of the Gruven WMA to wildflowers for pollinators.

Martin County Pheasants Forever supports the Fairmont High School Trapshooting team and 4-H shooting

sports...assisted St. James and Faribault chapters in their Wounded Warrior and youth hunts and this past summer MCPF held the first annual PF youth trapshoot.

MCPF has provided over 2000 trees and 50 bushels of seed sorghum and corn to affect over 300 acres of cover and food plots in the past two years and organizes and provides emergency corn feeding if and when

needed. [over] MCPF will hold the 32nd annual fun and fund raising Banquet on Saturday March 11th at the Fairmont KC hall with social from 5 to 7 and dinner at 7pm. All are invited but, seating will be limited to two-hundred.

SWCD Seeding Program

by Greg Johanson

If you are enrolling into a conservation program such as CRP, or if you just need to do some grass seeding, the Martin County SWCD can help you out. We have a 10 foot grass drill, along with a 6 foot no-

till drill. These drills work well for grassed waterways, CRP sites and ditch or creek buffers as well. We can also custom seed your site with our broadcast seeder, which will handle any size site you have. The Martin SWCD can also or-

der the seed that best fits your site. If you are interested in renting one of our drills, or contracting with the SWCD to do custom seeding, you can stop in to our office, or call us at 507-235-6680.

SWCD 2017 Rates

Drill Rental Rates:

Martin County: \$8/Acre with a \$50 minimum
Out of County: \$10/Acre with a \$75 minimum

Custom Seeding:

Minimum Charge: \$125
Martin County: \$25/Acre
Out of Martin County: \$30/Acre



Martin SWCD Seeding equipment.



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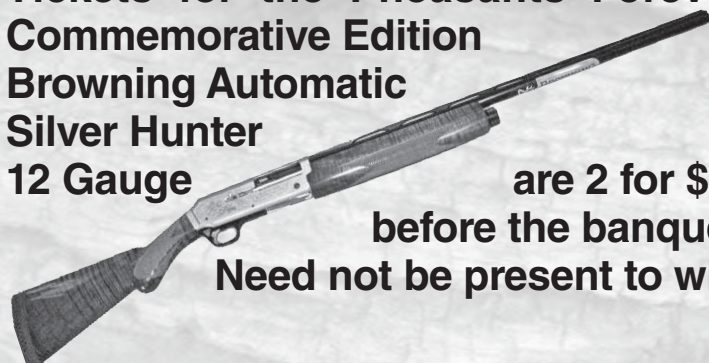
Sponsor Membership: \$275

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To join Pheasants Forever, fill out this registration blank. Send check or money order.

32nd Annual Banquet



Tickets received before Monday, March 6 will be eligible for an Early Bird shotgun drawing!

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Producers with CRP expiring have options

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continues to experience record demand while having a lower acreage cap. While it is uncertain whether a CRP General Signup will be offered this year, participants expiring September 30, 2017 should not wait for their contract(s) to expire to consider their options, which includes the following:

Continuous Enrollment or CRP Grasslands: All or a portion of a participant's acreage may be eligible for enrollment in a continuous CRP contract or the new CRP Grasslands Program. If a participant plans to return a portion of their land to production, important conservation benefits may still be achieved by re-enrolling sensitive acres such as filter strips or pollinator habitat. Offers for the next CRP continuous enrollment will be considered on a first come first serve basis, so submit your offer as soon as you can, but no later than August 31, 2017. If demand is as high as anticipated some offers may

not be accepted because of the 24 million acre cap. The effective start date of the new contract would be October 1, 2017.

Transition Incentives Program (TIP): If participants are not planning to farm the land from the expiring contract themselves, TIP may provide a participant(s) two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher, a veteran (must be a beginning farmer or rancher defined as farming 10 years or less), or a member of an underserved group. Restrictions apply regarding family members. New landowners or renters are required to use sustainable grazing or farming methods as they return the land to production. TIP offers a way to create new farming opportunities while continuing conservation efforts. Interested parties need to contact their local FSA office no later than August 31, 2017.

Contract Expiration: Participants who do nothing

will have their CRP contract(s) expire. The final payment of the contract will be issued in October of 2017. The acreage may be planted, grazed, or hayed after September 30, 2017. Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, the land may be valuable for organic production. Prior to contract expiration, participants should visit with their local FSA office and review the current crop acreage base reinstatement provisions. Before planting check with FSA or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to see if the land may be subject to conservation and wetland compliance provisions.

Conservation Easements or Working Lands Programs: CRP land may transition into conservation easements to provide longer term benefits. NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) or state or private easement programs may be an option. Participants planning to

convert their CRP land to agriculture use, USDA's working land programs, including FSA's CRP Grasslands, NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may be available to address a participant's resource needs. In many cases a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP, and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP and even receive additional ranking points.

Conservation Reverse Enhancement Program (CREP): This land is currently under an easement which restricts planting of an annual crop. CREP acreage is not eligible for any type of CRP re-enrollment.

Please contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> to explore your options.

Helping people help the land



by Betsy B.G. Norland, District Conservationist, Martin County, USDA-NRCS

The USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Minnesota offers thirty-six programs/initiatives to help producers and landowners help the land. That is the NRCS mission - helping people help the land.

The programs offered are voluntary conservation

programs that a producer or landowner can sign an application for any time of year. For each program there are windows of time where the applications are accepted for consideration. Here, in Martin County, the NRCS has provided technical and financial assistance to producers and landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP - WRE) - which was formally known as the

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). This year under EQIP in Martin County, practices of critical area planting, cover crops, nutrient management, comprehensive nutrient management plan, and drainage water management plan have been implemented.

Planning under EQIP continues for grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, and cover crops. Martin County producers have signed up 28, 751.9 acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP encour-

ages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Individuals interested in learning more about NRCS programs can contact the field office staff at the NRCS office, 923 N State Street, Suite 110, Fairmont, MN 56031 or call 507.235.6661, extension 3. USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Martin SWCD District Manager Report

by Ashley Brenke

The mission of Martin SWCD is to assist land users of Martin County in efficiently utilizing the soil and water resources in our county. This is accomplished in large part due to our partnerships with Federal, State, and Local agencies, as well as with local Conservation Organizations. By working with a diverse group of partners, we are able to make our grant funds go further to implement projects such as water quality inlets, streambank restorations, or denitrifying bioreactors.

One source of funding we receive for projects is from Minnesota's Clean Water Fund. On November 4, 2008, Minnesota voters approved

the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment to the constitution to: protect drinking water sources; protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; preserve arts and cultural

heritage; support parks and trails; and protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Amendment increases the sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales, starting July 1, 2009, continuing through 2034. Those dollars are dedicated to four funds: Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Right now, Martin SWCD has funds from the Clean Water Fund to offset the cost of installing certain conservation practices, including saturated buffers, treatment wetlands, and streambank restorations in the Elm Creek Watershed.

If you are interested in learning more about a conservation program or would like Martin SWCD to look at a potential conservation project, please call us at 507-235-6680 or stop by our office at 923 North State Street, Suite 110 in Fairmont.



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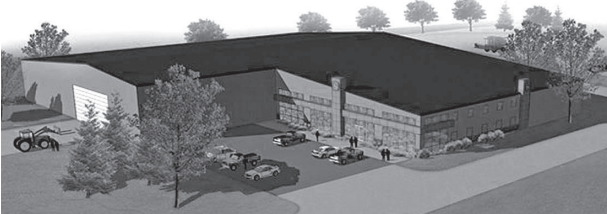
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2017 Spring Tree Order Form

Species	Price per Bundle	Number of Bundles	Cost
Bare Root Conifers: 8" - 15" (Bundles of 25)			
Cedar, Eastern Red	\$ 42.50		
Cedar, Northern White	\$ 40.00		
Pine, Red	\$ 35.00		
Pine, White	\$ 35.00		
Spruce, Black Hills	\$ 45.00		
Spruce, Colorado	\$ 45.00		
Spruce, White	\$ 35.00		

Bare Root Small Trees: 12" - 36" (Bundles of 25)			
Cherry, Black	\$ 27.50		
Chokecherry, Common	\$ 30.00		
Crab, Red Splendor	\$ 30.00		
Plum, American	\$ 28.75		

Bare Root Tall Trees: 12" - 36" (Bundles of 25)			
Cottonwood, Common	\$ 27.50		
Hackberry	\$ 26.25		
Maple, Silver	\$ 25.00		
Maple, Sugar	\$ 32.50		
Oak, Burr	\$ 27.50		
Oak, Red	\$ 31.25		
Poplar, Norway	\$ 31.25		
Walnut, Black	\$ 31.25		

Bare Root Shrubs: 12"- 36" (Bundles of 25)			
Buffaloberry	\$ 25.00		
Dogwood, Gray	\$ 23.00		
Dogwood, Red Osier	\$ 23.00		
Dogwood, Silky	\$ 23.00		
Chokeberry, Black	\$ 30.00		
Cranberry, Highbush	\$ 40.00		
Elderberry	\$ 26.25		
Lilac, Common	\$ 25.00		
Nannyberry	\$ 35.00		

Special Orders			

For Office Use Only			
Date Called			
Date Trees Picked Up			

Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Phone	
Township	Section

Mail Order and Payment to: Martin SWCD
923 North State St, Ste 110, Fairmont, MN 56031
(507) 235-6680 or visit www.martinswcd.net

Species	Price per Tree	Number of Trees	Cost
Potted Conifers: 9" - 15" Individual orders			
Cedar, Eastern Red	\$ 10.00		
Cedar, Northern White	\$ 10.00		
Pine, Austrian	\$ 10.00		
Pine, Ponderosa	\$ 10.00		
Pine, White	\$ 10.00		
Spruce, Black Hills	\$ 10.00		
Spruce, Colorado	\$ 10.00		
Spruce, Norway	\$ 10.00		
Spruce, White	\$ 10.00		

Planting Charges	Price	Number	Cost
Bare Root Trees/each	\$ 1.00		
Potted Trees/each	\$ 1.50		
Minimum Charge	\$ 100.00		

Miscellaneous	Price	Number	Cost
Mats - 4'x4'/each	\$ 3.00		
Mats - 4'x300' rolls/each	\$ 150.00		
Tubes - Bulk/foot	\$ 1.50		

The cost of these trees does not warrant free replacement and the District offers no guarantee of survival. These trees shall be used for conservation purposes only. Price and size are subject to change without notice due to stock availability. Any order under \$100 shall be paid when placing an order. Any balance shall be paid when trees are received. Upon signing below purchaser understands these conditions. Special orders must be prepaid at time of order.

Signature _____ Date _____

Tree Cost	
Miscellaneous Costs	
Sales Tax (6.875%)	
Planting (no tax)	
Total Cost	
35% Down payment	
Balance Due	

Down Payment Receipt # _____
Final Payment Receipt # _____
Check Cash (circle one)



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Martin County Conservation Alliance - Wildlife Habitat

Collectively, Martin County wildlife organizations and agency support staff meet to set priorities for local habitat restoration projects. Besides local clubs and chapters, national organizations including The Conservation Fund, Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited play a major role in moving quickly to assist with the funding of projects when opportunities arise. Known as the "Martin County Conservation Alliance," this group has teamed up to make a huge difference in improving habitat and acquiring marginal land, adding habitat and acres to exist-

ing DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Work continues on a \$1 million acquisition funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended to the legislature by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) to add nearly 139 acres of marginal land to the Caron WMA. The Outdoor Heritage Fund is one of four funds created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, receiving one third of the money raised by the tax increase.

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL) administered by the Department of Natural Re-

sources is also funded by the LSOHC. This program can provide up to \$400,000 for acquisitions and habitat projects on public land. A second fund through this program, the Expedited Conservation Project Grant Program (ECP) can provide up to \$50,000 for smaller projects. The Martin County Conservation Club and the Fox Lake Conservation League both have active CPL land acquisition projects. Two projects are located adjacent to the new Center Creek WMA. Additional projects are located by the Perch Creek WMA and the Caron WMA. There are five ECP projects being imple-

mented on Martin County WMAs. One is for woody removal on grassland, two are for wetland habitat improvement and two are for grassland improvement. These are all projects that have been needed for some time, but without the extra funds available through grants, this work would not be possible. The CPL and ECP grants are competitive and require a 10% local match. LSOHC grants do not require a match but applications with significant match rank higher.

The Fox Lake Conservation League has taken possession of a 40 acre parcel

near Cedar Lake that will be added to the Martin County Park System as a prairie natural area. The parcel holds nearly 10 acres of probably the best hillside prairie left in Martin County. An access, parking area and interpretive trail are planned for completion this year and the property is expected to be transferred to the County about a year from now, in January of 2018. \$435,000 in funding for this project is being provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) as recommended by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). This

funding comes from the Minnesota Lottery. \$40,000 in local cash and in-kind match for the project is being provided by the Trimont Conservation Club and the Fox Lake Conservation League.

There is approximately \$3.35 million in current habitat project activity and if you add the projects that are waiting for funding there is almost \$10 million in projects in progress and ready to go plus nearly \$440,000 in local match.

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Martin County Water Plan

by Rich Perrine

The Martin County Water Plan was updated in 2016. The 10 year plan was adopted by the County on January 17, 2017 and is expected to be replaced by "One Watershed One Plan" as that State driven process replaces local water planning. Future plans written by watershed are expected to be phased in, first with the Watonwan River Watershed, followed by the Des Moines, with the Blue Earth River expected to be completed last, ending the need for a County Plan.

Promise of a new CREP program to begin in 2017 is expected to provide permanent benefits, adding critical wildlife habitat and helping to manage water quantity and improve water quality by taking sensitive marginal cropland

out of production. CREP, a combination of the federal Conservation Reserve Program and the state Re-Invest in Minnesota has been a huge benefit to water management and water plan implementation. Other federal programs, including EQIP and CSP continue to assist farmers with moving toward more water friendly farming practices. Utilizing cover crops and moving toward no-till are going to be necessary if long term goals of water planning are going to become reality.

Voluntary conservation practices have been the primary implementation strategy for water planning and that is expected to continue under the new plan. A lot of attention has been focused on buffers recently. Although buffers play an important role in

reducing sedimentation from overland flow, they need to be implemented strategically in combination with other practices. While a buffer may be highly effective in some locations, without supplemental practices, concentrated flow, gully erosion and streambank erosion may render buffers ineffective in others.

The focus on "precision conservation", putting the right highly effective conservation practices in the right locations to accomplish water quality and water quantity management goals continues to be important. The idea of keeping the raindrop where it falls is the key to water quality and quantity management. The soil health initiative, cover crops and continuous living cover on annually cropped lands is

expected to make the biggest impact to both water quality improvement and water quantity management under the new plan. With additional agricultural drainage to improve productivity, water storage will continue to be an important practice throughout the landscape.

For water planning to be effective, voluntary citizen participation will be critical in both rural and urban areas. Cooperation between agencies and the programs offered will go a long way toward providing land occupiers with the tools they need to make a difference. We need to plan for the larger rain events as climate change has changed the need for intensified planning! An Agricultural Research Scientist in Minnesota recently discovered that tilled soil releases soil carbon (as CO₂) into the atmosphere at a much higher rate than soil covered by plant material or crop residue. So besides reducing soil loss, improving water quality and managing water quantity, reducing soil tillage reduces the impacts resulting from accelerated climate change.

It doesn't matter if our soil disappears as a result of one large storm event or several smaller ones, when it's gone, it's gone. When soil erodes off the landscape, besides a loss in productivity, soil settling into downstream water storage areas and water courses, reduce the function and value of these downstream resources, making them even less effective and less capable of handling future storm events.

MCW Students Give Back



by Rich Perrine

The Fox Lake Conservation League received grant funding through Pheasants Forever for pollinator habitat to be planted on Martin County West School property. This pollinator habitat is located on about 6 acres just west of the FFA Community Gardens north of the MCW High School.

New species will continue to be added to the site, with a goal of establishing diverse prairie habitat with over a hundred local source native prairie forbs or wildflowers that

can serve the school as a prairie learning center.

Many species of native wild flower seed collected from local prairie remnants have been planted into the alfalfa field already.

On MCW Gives Back Day, about 15 Martin County West Students joined SWCD Staff in transplanting over 1,000 Meadow Blazing Star bulbs that were started from seed harvested from Martin County prairie remnants.



Water Storage/Wetland Pond and windmill pump provide unique water management from subsurface drainage.

Ducks Unlimited project update

Rooney Run enhanced; wetlands next

by Doug Hartke

Ducks Unlimited purchased 280 acres on the Rooney Run Wildlife Management Area in Martin County in January 2016. DU then restored 200 acres of former cropland on this property back to prairie by planting a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs. The land was transferred to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for

long-term management and public use. By summer 2016, the property saw numerous varieties of wildflower and was attracting many prairie wildlife species. This year, DU will restore wetlands on the property to create habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl, and resident wildlife and game animals too.

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Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc.

by Mike Katzenmeyer,
Chair - Fairmont Lakes
Foundation



With the exception of those who embrace the winter weather and the ice covered lakes, it would be easy for many to put our lakes out of sight and out of mind until the spring thaw. It is not hard to agree when the thermometer shows negative numbers exacerbated by 30 mph winds. However, as the ice thickened and the temperatures moderated, one only has to tour the city to see the activity on the ice. Ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling are but a few activities being enjoyed this winter.

We would offer this caveat: Please enjoy the activities and see that the remnants of your enjoyment do not spoil the enjoyment of future users of our lakes. When you place a house on the ice to shelter you while you fish, please be diligent about cleaning up your site of all debris when you move to a new site or take your house off the lake.

Consider participating in the Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. Fishing Contest which will be held on January 28, 2017. Registration is limited and entry forms may be obtained at Sommer Outdoors. All proceeds will be utilized to fund future projects to benefit our reservoir.

We are currently working on establishing a kayak/ canoe rental station(s) for our lakes. Hopefully we can get the details worked out so we can implement the system this summer.

Let's take a step back into 2016...

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc., working with Martin Soil and Water and the City of Fairmont, put together a grant application which was submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The grant was seeking funding for a habitat restoration project along Dutch Creek. The Department of Natural Resources provided technical assistance in the plan design. The long range goal of the plan was to reestablish wetland habitat, which in turn would stem some of the polluting runoff which enters our reservoir at high water events.

We were not successful in obtaining a grant, but will be resubmitting a request in 2017.

In September we completed another lake shore clean-up. This time we had a redo on George Lake and included Lake Sisseton. We had a host of volunteers show up with boats, kayaks, canoes, pontoons, and waders to assist in the project. We removed over 700 pounds of refuse, including a television set from the lakes.

In October we assisted the Department of Natural Resources staff in stocking our reservoir with Muskies. This was a culmination of a long range plan for improving the fishing and the water quality in our reservoir. Earlier, we stocked approximately 3,000 Bluegills which are considered excellent "predators" of rough fish, due to the large amount of rough fish eggs they will consume...on the top end of the food chain, the plan is that the Muskies will provide an additional predator to manage the rough fish population.



DNR stocked Fairmont lakes in October.

Ongoing in our long range plan is the continued effort to educate the public to the virtues of aquatic vegetation. Not only does it provide habitat for our pan fish populations, but it provides much needed filtering action to remove pollution from our reservoir.

If you own lake shore property, think about it this winter and consider establishing some native aquatic vegetation. Martin Soil and Water is a good place to start. They will provide advice and assistance in obtaining vegetation for you to plant.

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. recognizes and appreciates the support of the community in embracing our projects designed to protect and enhance the water quality and recreational opportunities in our reservoir.

Are we at the point where we cannot wait for ice-out??

Martin County Conservation Club, Inc.

by Bruce Moore,
President MCCCCI

We had our fourth annual MCCCCI fundraising banquet on February 20, 2016 with approximately 400 people attending. It was a great success resulting in comparable financial results of the previous banquets from the raffles, drawings, and auctions. There were many spouses and youngsters present so it is becoming a family event for them.

Net proceeds from these banquets are used for helping county youth trap shooting teams (Fairmont, Truman and 4H), Let's Go Fishing for Seniors, Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Martin Soil and Water projects, Dollars for Scholars, financial matches for DNR projects, and the Harry Stewart Environment Day to name just a few. Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, and those attending the banquet. Our fifth annual banquet is February 25, 2017 at the Fairmont Armory. Tickets available at Hyvee, Sommer Outdoors, and at club meetings...without your support we wouldn't be able to do as much as we do!

In April, we held our annual wood duck, bluebird, and wren house give away at our park on N. Silver. Many people took advantage and most of the houses went home with them. Several very nice donations were made and we appreciate them



as well. Thanks to Jim Grotte and Steve Maurice for all of the hours they put in cutting the pieces and also to the volunteers who helped assemble and paint them.

Last September we applied for a CPL grant to purchase 85 acres in Center Creek township adjacent to the Center Creek WMA that we kicked off in 2014. Late November, we learned that our grant request was accepted and we are now in the paperwork process of making this addition happen. The Fox Lake Conservation League was also approved to pursue an additional 80 acres in this same area so the CC WMA could total 300 acres in the next few years. It is exciting to be a part of the many projects happening in the past few years with partners like Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, FLCL, and the Martin County Soil

and Water District. Again with "Thanks" to all of the financial support of our members and the public!

Thanks are also in order to Harlan Sukalski for use of his tractor and mower to create fire breaks for a planned spring burn of our RIM prairie on N. Silver. Also to Mark and DeDe Kotewa for chopping leaves and spraying weeds at our park this fall.

Plans are being made for a Youth Habitat Day (bird house building) at the Five Lakes Mall in March. Watch the news for date and time, bring a youngster and join the fun!

Club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at our park on N. Silver, April through October and Tami's on the Ave, November through March. All members and the public are welcome. Memberships are available at meetings and Sommer Outdoors.

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What's Cooking

with Kathy Lloyd

A meat and potato man's type casserole!

I really enjoy the all-in-one dish type meal, they are usually satisfying and warm you up in this cold weather. I made casseroles a lot when we were raising our family. I stretched the meat and along with a bread, salad and dessert, filled up those hungry growing boys, which was a challenge! This recipe comes from the Trinity Lutheran cookbook from Blue Earth over 50 years old.

Three-in-one Casserole

In a 9 inch square baking dish place the following ingredients in layers:

- 1 lb. raw hamburger mixed with 1 can undiluted tomato soup, spread in the bottom of the dish
- 1 layer cup thinly sliced celery, can add some chopped onion if you wish
- 1 layer thinly sliced raw carrots, 1 1/4 cups
- 1 layer raw potatoes, sliced very thin, about 4 medium potatoes
- Top these layers with on can undiluted cream of mushroom soup.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours, uncovered. Have a great week!

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A FEW OF OUR CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

MOMMA is a sweet and playful gray and white cat. She is a sleek, shorthaired girl. Momma is happy to be petted and held, and loves attention.
CHRISTOF is back! This very sweet declawed boy is a little under a year old. He loves to play with both people and other cats. Alert and outgoing, Christof is a great guy.
SUNNY is a very shy boy. This buff and white guy has always been very shy and uncertain of people and new situations. He is living in a foster home, where he is finally opening up to his foster family and accepting love and attention. Not too surprisingly no one who has met him has wanted to adopt him.

A FEW OF OUR DOGS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

SAGE is a bright eyed and friendly mix. Our guess at breeds includes yellow lab, red heeler, and perhaps shepherd. She is about 50 pounds and dark yellow or light rust. Sage sits on command, loves people, and does ok with some other dogs.
POPPY is a mix of perhaps kelpie, schipperke, and shepherd. She is about 30-40 pounds with short black hair. Poppy likes to be with people and occasionally will try to break out of kennels to be with her friends.
PUPPIES! We have a litter of 9-10 week old puppies that are ready for adoption. The puppies are fluffy and mainly black with little accents of white. They are mixed breed and we are guessing they will be 50-60 pounds.

Rose Sale - buy a dozen roses for \$20. Order before Feb 3rd by either emailing pawprints01@hotmail.com or calling 238-1885.
 Pick up your roses on Feb. 14th at the shelter between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Ask A Trooper: Emergency Kits

by Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Question: What items should I have in my vehicle during this extreme cold weather? What is the proper procedure if I become stranded and/or go off the road?

Answer: With the recent below zero temperatures, being prepared with an emergency kit and plan can save your life.

We recommend the following items be in your vehicle, especially in the winter:

- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats
- Snow shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Window washer solvent
- Ice scraper with brush
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Jumper cables
- Tow chain or rope
- Extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves)
- Blankets
- Warning devices (flares or triangles)
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable snacks for both human and pet passengers
- First-aid kit
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)
- Mobile phone and car charger pre-programmed with rescue apps and important phone numbers including family and emergency services

If stranded, stay in the vehicle and call 911. Provide the Dispatcher with the following information:

- Problem you're experiencing

- Your location (Get in the habit of looking for mile markers and cross streets/roadways)

- Any injuries to yourself or passengers
- Preferred tow company, otherwise the closest approved tow company will be dispatched

At night, keep your dome light on and activate the vehicle's emergency flashers.

Be aware that snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your car so make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow and keep a window slightly open while the engine is running.

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and that you have at least a half of a tank of fuel.

Slow down and use winter driving skills to avoid crashing or going off the road.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and of course, drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

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CHECK IT OUT! @ the Martin County Library

Our Winter Reading Program is heating up with several fun events on the horizon!

*Come and join the newest trend--coloring for adults! De-stress and relax while coloring beautiful designs at the Sherburn Library. Open coloring is available on Thursday, January 26th from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. All supplies are provided.

*Canvas painting for adults will be held at the Trimont Municipal Build-

ing on Monday, January 30th at 6 p.m. All supplies are provided and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. Space is limited, please register with Dana at the Trimont Library at 507-639-2571.

*The Fairmont Library will host an Adult Cake Decorating class on Saturday, February 4th at 10:30 a.m. Call the library at 238-4207 (or stop in) to register. All supplies are provided. Fareway Cake Decorator Jennilee will teach you the basics of cake decorating!

Flex your creative muscles this winter with free programming at your local library!!

Visit our website at www.martincountylibrary.org for our full event calendar.

DEATH notices



January 13 - Jessica E. Fitzpatrick, 25, St. Paul, MN (formerly of Fairmont). Lakeview Funeral Home

January 18 - Ann M. Dahlke, 86, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home

January 19 - Hurly A. Morris, 84, Ceylon. Lakeview Funeral Home

January 19 - Jerry L. Niss, 78, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home

January 20 - Leo Grev, 79, Odin. Kramer Funeral Home

January 22 - Hulda G. Hoffmeyer, 96, Sherburn. Kramer Funeral Home

In Memoriam

One Year Ago This Week

January 19 - Evelyn L. Sandberg, 91, Fairmont

January 19 - Wilma Potter-Caryl, 91, Fairmont

January 19 - Diane M. Erwin, 67, Fairmont

January 21 - Herman J. Deling, 99, Fairmont (formerly of Ceylon).

January 22 - Alice M. Christensen, 93, Ceylon

January 23 - Arlyn G. Sandersfeld, 83, Fairmont

January 24 - Dick Van Ravenhorst, 78, Elmore

January 24 - Luella F. Wessel, 99, Truman

50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF

JANUARY 29, 1967

Richard Bolster, assistant manager of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, resigned to accept appointment as Martin County Deputy Sheriff.

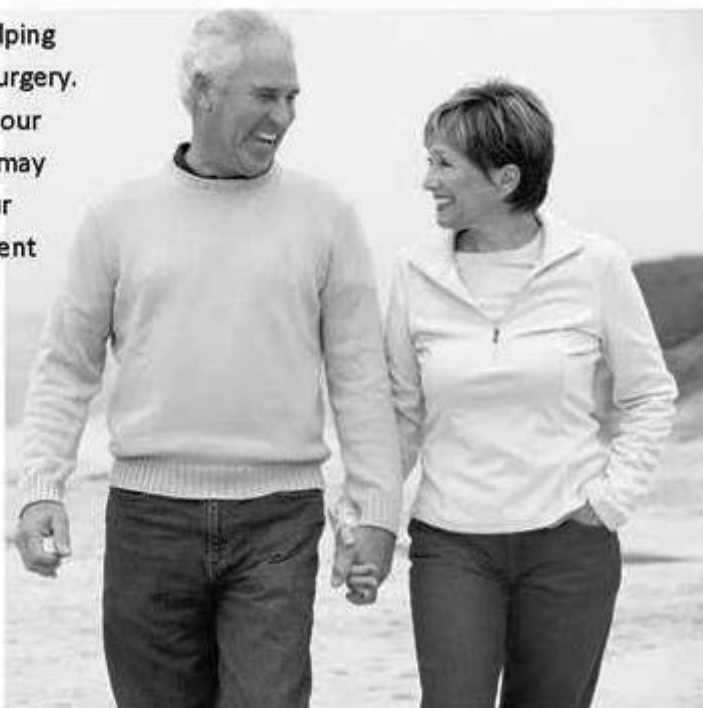
Fairmont Federal Savings and Loan added a ninth director at its annual meeting. He was Robert W. Luedtke, Fairmont farmer, who joined directors George Barden, Pete Cory, C. F. Holden, Martin Schamber, E. L. Ballou, Henry F. Flentje, Ray L. Haeckel and K. W. Scott.

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Thursday, January 26
12:00 Noon—1:00 p.m.
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WARRANTY DEEDS

Heidi Schmidt, William Toninato to Gregory C. King, N.15'10" of E.62', Lot 3, Block 29, Original Plat of Fairmont

Wells Federal Bank to Debra L. Allen, Kenneth B. Allen, Pt. Lots 3, 4, 5 and 10' of vacated alley, Block 8, Goulds Addn.

Chris Griffin, Christian A. Griffin, Eric E. Griffin to Craig M. Asmus, Debra M. Asmus, Pt. S½SE¼ w/easement, 27-101-52

Dawn D. Willner, Douglas A. Willner to Angel K. Bettin, Jesse R. Bettin, Pt. AP#29, NW¼, 7-102-32

Joleen M. Flohrs to Christina Christianson, Lot 8, Block 3, Larsons Subd.

Dawn Willner, Douglas A. Willner to Chris Nasby, Pt. Govt. Lot 14, SW¼, 6-102-30; Lot 1, Exc. W.90', Block 1, Hagen Addn.

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

James L. Johnson, Joy A. Johnson to James L. Johnson Trust Agreement, James L. Johnson, Trustee, Joy A. Johnson, Trustee, Pt. Lot 4, and Pt. of vacated alley, Pt. Lots 5 and 6 and Pt. of vacated alley and 6th Street, Block 5, Original Plat of Fairmont

Kevin D. Behrens, Lori B. Behrens to Kevin D. Behrens, Lori B. Behrens, Und. 1/2 Int., SE¼, Und. 1/2 Int. Pt. NE¼, 21-103-31

Donald D. Saxon, Janet L. Saxon to Donald D. Saxon, Janet L. Saxon, S.23' Lot 9, Block 3, Original Plat Wellcome

DEEDS OF DISTRIBUTION

Delora H. Drayfal Estate, Vicki Russell, Per. Rep. to Vicki Russell, Lots 3 and 4, Exc. W.36', Block 4, Grafts 3rd Addn., Truman



TIED UP - Cardinals' Nate Kallenbach and the Arrows' Ethan Baartman wrestle for a rebound. *Courtesy gregabelphotography.com*



ON TARGET - The Cardinals' Taylor Crissinger shoots a three pointer over the Bucs. *Courtesy gregabelphotography.com*



POWER SHOT - The Cards' Lucas Denney powers a jump shot through Blue Earth Area's #41 Grant Strukel and #23 Bobby Lindsey. The Cards defeated the Bucs 69-40 last Friday in Blue Earth. *Courtesy gregabelphotography.com*

We Thank You

The Martin County Historical Society Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank those individuals and businesses listed below that contributed to our "2016 End Of The Year Fundraising Drive" in making it a success.

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Historical Society
Pioneer Museum**



**Martin County
Historical Society
Pioneer Parsonage**

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Darrell & Rita Worthley

The MCHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



MATMEN CHAMPS - The Fairmont/MCW Red Bulls captured first place at the Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Invite last Saturday. Red Bulls 218.5, LSH 186.5, Mankato West 138.0, Pine Island 120.5, LCWM 116.0, Medford 95.0, Madelia/Truman/Martin Luther 52.0.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Wednesday, February 1, 10:30 a.m.: Roggow Family - 152 acre land auction to be held at Jackson MN Legion Hall. Land located in Sec. 15 and 22 of Petersburg Twp. *Dan Pike Auction & Assoc., Auctioneers*

PRIVATE LISTINGS: Check with us for private listings on 151 acre parcel in Westford Township and 273 acre parcel in Fraser Township. Both by private sale method. *Please contact Dustyn Hartung at 507-236-7629.*



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
Kahler, Hartung & Wedel Auction Companies and Dan Pike
Auction Company, (507) 238-4318; Dar Hall Auction Co.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF INTENT TO DISSOLVE A DOMESTIC CORPORATION BY SHAREHOLDERS OF FAIRLAKES TRANSPORTATION, INC.

The undersigned, being the duly organized representative for the above-named corporation, for purposes of dissolving said corporation under Chapter 302A, of the Laws of the State of Minnesota, as amended, do hereby duly give notice to all creditors or persons possessing claims against said corporation:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

1. That Fairlakes Transportation, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, is in the process of dissolving as provided by law.
2. That said corporation has filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State a Notice of Intent to Dissolve dated November 8, 2016.
3. That the date of filing of the Notice of Intent to Dissolve was November 8, 2016.
4. Any claims against said corporation must be presented in writing to the following address: Fairlakes Transportation, Inc., 530 Kings Road, Fairmont, Minnesota 56031
5. Pursuant to Minn.Stat. § 302A.727, Subdivision 2(e), written claims against the Corporation must be presented within 90 days of the first publication of this notice of dissolution.

Dated this 9th day of January 2017.

Nancy Gunther
Nancy Gunther

PhotoPress Classifieds

1 Card of Thanks

BURSAW - Words cannot express the gratitude for all the memorials, flowers, money, cards, food and supplies given to us. Thanks to Father Kline and Beerman for their blessings, prayers and the beautiful funeral mass and to the ladies who served the dinner. Thanks also to the Legion, V.F.W. and Korean Vets. Your kind expressions of sympathy will never be forgotten. God bless. ~Bursaw Family. 38-1tp-1

BECKER - Thank you for all the cards and best wishes for our 60th anniversary. We are truly blessed. ~Jerome and

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Fairmont

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Call Steve @
507-276-1032 or
Linda @
507-233-6272
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3M FULL TIME PRODUCTION OPERATORS

3M Fairmont, MN is seeking Full-Time Production Operators. The primary responsibilities include safely operating production machinery, support production processes, and efficiently produce quality products to attain company goals. Candidates must possess a High School Diploma or GED, be willing to work all shifts and able to lift up to 50lbs. 3M provides an excellent wage and benefit package, including 401(k) plan and medical insurance.

For a complete job description and requirements and to apply for consideration, visit: www.3m.com/careers from there click "Search and Apply" and type in R00016003 for 3M Fairmont Production Operator. Application deadline is February 1st, 2017.

3M is an Equal Opportunity Employer

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (DISPATCHER) FULL AND PART TIME OPENING(S) MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Martin County Sheriff's Office (County of Martin, MN) is accepting applications for the position of Communications Officer, for full and part time position(s); as well as to place candidates upon the eligibility roster to fill full time and part time vacancies as they occur for up to one year or until the County determines the list is exhausted of eligible candidates. The duties of the Communications Officer includes but not limited to, receives information requiring law enforcement, fire and/or medical responses and disseminates information via radio and/or phone to proper emergency or non-emergency services. Duties and responsibilities include (but not limited to): providing initial contact for all public safety calls, 911 emergency lines, administrative phone lines and radio traffic; dispatches personnel including law enforcement, fire, rescue, ambulance; operates radio console receiving and transmitting message; uses multiple computer systems, data bases and mapping applications for data entry and retrieval. Qualifications of eligible applicants include: Graduation from High School, college beneficial, effective communications techniques, particularly for communicating with other parties under stress; ability to react quickly and calmly in emergencies; communicate clearly and concisely and relaying of details accurately; must work effectively without close supervision; general knowledge of the geography of Martin County, incorporated areas, roads, and streets; the ability to type at reasonable rate of speed. This position requires working rotating shifts during the days, nights, weekends, and holidays. Eligible candidates may be subject to written, oral, physical, psychological, and background examinations.

Starting hourly wage \$20.20/hr. For required job application (s) and complete job description, contact the Job Service at Fairmont Workforce Center, 412 South State Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 or call 507-235-5518 or required applications can be obtained from our website at www.co.martin.mn.us All original applications must be submitted to Fairmont Workforce Center. Deadline: January 27, 2017 by 4:00 p.m.

Martin County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Jan Becker. 38-1tp-1

7 Help Wanted

DRIVERS: \$5,000 orientation completion bonus! DEDICATED no-touch reefer openings! 2300 miles per week guaranteed (more miles available)! 1 yr Class-A. Call today: 1-855-252-0630. 36-5tcc-7

10 Apartments For Rent

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT for rent. 507-235-5614. 38-3tcc-10

KRUEGER REALTY: one or two bedrooms, some with heat provided. Garbage, water, on-site laundry. EHO. Call Krueger Realty at 507-235-9060. 25-tfn-10

23 For Sale

25 GALLON HEXAGON aquarium with all needed accessories. 507-235-9798. 37-3tp-23

MISS ME GIRLS JEANS. Size 14, skinny. No wear, like new, from Scheels. \$45 firm. 507-236-7415. 36-3tnc-23

HARDWOOD FIREWOOD for sale. Split, dry, stored inside. Will deliver or you haul. Camping, home heating. John Mike Kimmel. 507-238-1724. 26-15tp-23

24 Household Items

REFURBISHED APPLIANCES for sale. Dan's Appliance

Sleepsource and TV. 1255 Hwy 15 South, Fairmont. 507-238-2333. 24-tfn-24

31 Automobiles For Sale

2007 CHEVROLET COLBALT LS. 145,000 miles, very good condition, new brakes and belts, remote start. Salvaged title. \$2500. 507-525-0807, Mark. 38-3tcc-31



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Job Requirements:

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Position Details:

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Application Procedure:

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Trailer Close-Out Sale! 4 place snowmobile trailers 20' & 24'; Fuel Tank trailers: 500 gallon, 990 gallon & no tank trailers; 6'X12' V-nose ramp door \$2,750.00; 7'X16' V-nose ramp door \$4,199.00; 14,000# skid-loader trailer \$3649.00. 100's of trailer parts, Trailer Repairs, Hitches, Tires and much more. 515-972-4554 www.FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com for prices & information! (MCN)

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Career Opportunity in Lewisville

PT GOOSENECK DRIVER
to haul livestock locally, will also assist with yard work as needed. Class A CDL with a clean driving record is needed for this position.

• Stop by to fill out an application, Send resume to:
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Or download application at
www.lynchlivestock.com and mail it to:

Lynch Livestock, Inc.
Attn: Angie M.
331 3rd St. NW, Waucoma, Iowa 52171
For more info. call HR at 563-776-3051
Post offer physical and pre-employment drug test required.
EOE



Lincoln Becker and family were honored during Fairmont Hockey Fight Cancer Night. Fairmont Hockey accepted as many donations as possible in 76 seconds between periods. The 76 second timeline signifies that in the United States, a person is diagnosed with cancer every 76 seconds.



'76 HORNPIPE REVIVED
- Songwriter, musician Warren Nelson's "A Martin County Hornpipe" played at the Fairmont Opera House last Saturday. Nelson's first show celebrating his hometown of Fairmont, originally done 41 years ago, played to a large audience. Nelson brought back memories with historical songs and slide show.



BOYS & GIRLS U11-U18 TRAVELING SPRING/SUMMER 2017 SOCCER



2017 SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Sunday, Jan. 29 • 4:30

Fairmont Elementary School
Door #21 - 3-6 Lunch Room



Jan. 29th (one day only), \$80
Jan. 30th - Feb. 4th, \$100
Feb. 5th - 15th, \$125

Registration will be done online this year! After our annual meeting concludes, the link will be available to register your child. We will have computer labs open for use and board members available to help the families through the registration process if needed.

Contact the board with any questions -
fairmontmnsoccer@gmail.com.

New - \$100 Volunteer Deposit will be collected!

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



1661 PATRIOT DRIVE, FAIRMONT
House for sale by owner. 4 BR, 3 BA, oversized 3-stall attached garage, built in 2000. New roof.
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2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
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2011 MAZDA 2
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507-920-5675 • 507-238-2999



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Welcome Motor Co., 1310 N. State St., Fairmont, MN, 235-3447, welcomemotorcompany.com

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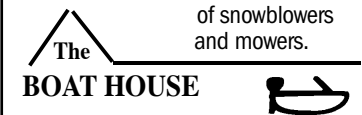
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Jeff's Jottings

It's hard to believe that we are almost through the month of January and we are in a mid-winter thaw! The ice that covered the roads and sidewalks a little over a week ago has all disappeared, only to be replaced with muddy dooryards and little lakes of water in the farm fields. I know this isn't the type of weather that snowmobile riders and skiers like, but as a person who is neither, the recent warm-up is a welcome change for me. Now if we could have a little more sunshine so I don't have to bump up my Vitamin D! Of course, it is still January and we do live in the Midwest, so stay tuned!

New businesses and great changes!

While driving around the area recently, I took

notice of a number of new businesses starting out or getting close to opening up. Over on the east edge of Welcome, the new Pioneer Seeds building has been closed in and work has begun on the inside. On the south side of Fairmont the former Serenades (and prior to that the Sirloin House) is now called "Ambiance on Albion" and they just opened up for business last week. The new pub and grill has plenty of big screen TVs to catch your favorite sport while enjoying the atmosphere with family and friends. On the north side of town the former Olson Locker has been abuzz with activity while work continues on the inside in preparation for the opening of "The Butcher Block". The new butcher shop will be a welcome addition to Fairmont and anticipated

opening of the new business is next month. Travel to the west side of town and you will see that Wiederhoeft Welding has relocated to a refurbished building between K&W Electric and Weightronix. The move is a great opportunity for Dustin to grow his business. All the activity taking place in these communities and plans for more activity in the coming months is a good sign that our local business climate continues to improve and that we can contribute to even more growth through our patronage to these and other local businesses.

Benefit for Alyssa

It seems like we have been having an awful lot of benefits over the past couple years for local residents, all of whom have been well-deserving of those benefits. One thing that we can always count on from the residents of this area is when a person is in need, the local communities rally around them to help ease their financial burdens. One

such family in need this weekend is the family of Alyssa Gilderhus. Alyssa is the daughter of Duane and Amber Engebretson of



Sherburn. She is a senior at Martin County West. On Christmas Day, Alyssa suffered a very serious brain bleed, also known as AVM, and has been hospitalized in Rochester ever since. She has a long road to recovery and her family is in need of your help. The Sherburn Lions Club is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast Benefit at the

MCW Jr/Sr High School in Sherburn from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 29th. If you would like to donate, but can't attend the benefit, a fund has been set up in her name at Bank Midwest in Sherburn and Fairmont.

Snowmobiling, ice fishing, bands and more!

Before I go this week, I have a few events coming up this weekend to highlight. The Blizzard Snowmobile Club is still going to hold the Icekahana on Saturday, January 28th starting at 10 a.m. at The Chain of Lakes Yacht Club in Fairmont. The NSSR Racing event has been cancelled for that day. If ice fishing is your thing, take in the ice fishing contest sponsored by Fairmont Lakes Foundation on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Amber, Hall, Budd, Sisseton and George lakes. Prizes will be awarded. Also on Saturday, a new event will be held at the Fairmont National Guard Armory. There will be a Veterans Appreciation

event starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. The band "Arch Allies" will perform along with other activities taking place. A portion of the proceeds will go to the local Disabled American Veterans chapter and the Brother in Arms Guide Service. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$20 at the door. Veterans can get tickets for \$5. Then on Sunday, the Pancake Breakfast benefit for Alyssa Gilderhus takes place at the MCW High School in Sherburn from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lots of great events taking place this weekend!

Have a great week!

Drive safely - visit a shut-in or family member - Eat, Play, Shop Local - support your local veterans!

- Jeff

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Denise

What's a girl to do, when Old Man Winter is rearing his ugly head?! Bring out the Fur. Fashion on the Tundra can be complicated, but it can



be done, right? Just because we are forced to layer up doesn't mean we can't look fabulous.... right? So when put-



ting on that 3rd layer make it a fur vest. Who cares if you look a little fluffy that's the idea. I'm sure you have been seeing or you own one or two

by now, a knitted hat with a pom pom on top. Oh so cute! Small pom-poms or super sized pom-poms, any way you wear them they are super fun and warm too! I have a feeling that pom-poms will be making their way into spring and summer fashions. And I bet they will be adorning everything. How could they not? And for that, why didn't I think of that moment. The knitted hat, with the opening for your



messy bun. Genius!! All I can say is what took so long? Don't forget to add some fur to your boots. Some boots come with fur or you can pick up fur sleeves to add to your boots. Why not add some furilicious fun to your wardrobe, it will make winter a lot more bearable, trust me! And don't



forget the time tested fur coat. And of course my



favorite the vintage leopard fur coat. But then again any fur is fun. My advice is...when winter gets you down add some fur!

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Some members of Pack 57 Cub Scouts attended their annual winter event last weekend. They decorated walking sticks and used them to take several hikes in the woods with and without snow shoes. They did some sledding, learned to use a compass to find out what direction they were going, and learned what to do if they got lost. They also successfully tried their hands at Dutch oven cooking and ended the day with making a campfire where they roasted marshmallows and told jokes. If you have a boy in grades 1-5 and are interested in Cub Scouting, contact Laurie at 235-9142."

BEAHS Knowledge Bowl results, Part 2

The 2017 Senior High Knowledge Bowl season continues to be strong for the Blue Earth Area squad. At the the Blizzard Invitational Part 2 last Wednesday in Blue Earth, the BEA Emerald team with Ben Backstrom, Lucas Determan, Bryan Karp, Hunter Rock, and Jacob Willette, finished in second place with a score of 86 points. First place was taken by Fairmont Crimson, while 3rd place went to NRHEG Puce in the field of 22 teams from 7 different schools.

The BEA Topaz team

(with Jackie Frerichs, Grant Strukel, JR Karp, Emma Sullivan, and Katelyn Schonborn) finished in 9th with 67.5 points, and the Opal team (with Ville Remsu, Grace Leland, Mason Mauris, and Ashley Petersen) finished in 14th with 57 points.

Also competing were the BEA Sapphire and Ruby teams. Senior High Knowledge Bowl coaches for these students are Will Howieson with assistance from Mike Ellingsen. The next competition for the Bucs is in Mankato on Friday, February 3rd.



Blue Earth Area Emerald (L to R): Jacob Willette, Bryan Karp, Ben Backstrom, Lucas Determan, Hunter Rock



"Berries encapsulated in ice" by Butch Barnes of Fairmont



"Remnants of man and his pet on an icy morning" by Butch Barnes of Fairmont. Butch blew off the fluffy snow recently and these footprints and paw prints were left behind on the sidewalk.

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