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Only good news

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SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES

The hole in the fence

Guest Columnist

Darwin Anthony, Business Owner, Artist, Writer



The group of spring lambs stood watching me from outside the sheep pasture. The others looked through the fence with envy at the lambs that had gotten out of the pasture. They grazed on the rich green lawn grass and lower leaves on the apple trees. The wayward lambs looked over at me as if they knew they were in trouble. They started to run along

the pasture fence. The lambs in the pen joined them on the inside of the pasture fence. Sheep are animals that want to stay together. Sometimes this trait can be used to an advantage. If they can be kept in a flock, they are predictable. They will try to stay together. Suddenly the wayward sheep turned. They wanted to be with the sheep

of the pasture. They were moving toward the gate of the small corral. If I could get to the corral before they got that far, I could lock the sheep of the pasture out, open the gate to the corral and accomplish the mission of returning the wayward sheep to the flock. It worked. The lambs walked along the fence and went into the corral. I shut the gate and opened

the corral gate to the pasture. The wayward lambs joined the rest of the flock. "How did the sheep get out?" Experience had taught me that once lambs have experienced the taste of fresh grass and leaves they would return. They would remember THE HOLE IN THE FENCE! It is only the inexperienced who thinks they will forget. I forgot this lesson of long ago that morning. Once I put the sheep back into the pasture, I continued with my work in the garden. I would like to say that I was surprised when I went out to feed the sheep the next morning but some-

how I knew what waited for me. The same wayward lambs were once again enjoying the rich green grass of the lawn. Some were eating the lower leaves of the apple trees. They looked over at me as if to say, "You forgot, didn't you?" I was often given the duty of finding THE HOLE IN THE FENCE as a boy. Experience had taught me what to look for. A woven wire fence has many holes. Many of these holes were large enough for a small lamb to squeeze through. How would you know which hole the sheep were using? I walked long the fence of the sheep pasture.

I walked in with an experience eyed. I looked for the unusual. It was then that an old lesson was triggered within my memory. The memory was the words of my mother. She had been the one who had told me to watch for pieces of wool on the fence when the sheep start to get out. The hole that the sheep were using to escape left pieces of wool on the wire. I continued my walk around the pasture. Suddenly it was there! In the most distance corner of the pasture, in one of those hard-to-see places, was a tell tale sign, wool around the small opening. I had found it.

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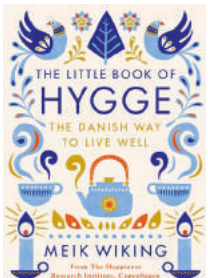


CARLSON-HALLMAN - Hilary Ann Carlson, daughter of Kermit and Robin Carlson of Trimont, Minnesota and Samuel Michael Hallman, son of Matthew and Stephanie Hallman of Alden, Minnesota were united in marriage at 5 p.m. on December 17, 2016. The ceremony was held at Evangelical Covenant Church in Trimont with Pastor Kaleb Hurley of Albert Lea officiating. The bride graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a bachelor's degree in TESOL and Spanish education and currently works as the Spanish teacher at Alden-Conger public school. The groom graduated from Waldorf University with a bachelor's degree in communications and currently works as a drafting technician for Jones, Haugh and Smith in Owatonna, Minnesota. After a honeymoon in Cancun, the couple will reside in Alden, Minnesota.

"From the Stacks" – What's new at the Library

"The Little Book of Hygge" by Meik Wiking

Denmark is often cited as the happiest country in the world. Why? Research points to hygge. Pronounced hoo-ga, it is central to life in Denmark. Loosely translated, it means comfort, togetherness and well-being. It is described as the feeling of being snuggled under a warm blanket, eating comfort food with those close to you, and warm morning light shining from your window. Hygge is about gratitude and enjoying the simple pleasures of life, in the pursuit of everyday happiness. This book will give you tips on how to introduce a bit of hygge into your everyday life!



"Pancakes!" An Interactive Recipe Book by Lotta Nieminen

Cook pancakes from scratch with this interactive recipe book—no food necessary! Mix the dry ingredients, whisk the eggs, flip the pancakes and more! The simple recipe



text guides young readers through each step of cooking pancakes, with fun interactive features such as pull-tabs, wheels and a punch-out piece that allows them to participate! Cooking pancakes has never been easier! (Or cleaner!) This recipe book, the first in a new series of interactive recipe books, is perfect for your little chef!

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 319 Downtown Plaza will serve a **free community meal** on Wednesday, February 22nd from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., or until gone. The menu includes pulled pork sandwiches served with chips, pork and beans, beverage and ice cream sundaes. Everyone is invited.



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DFS Scholarship Application help available

Applying for scholarships this year through Fairmont Dollars for Scholars? Attend a hands-on class to discover how Fairmont Dollars for Scholars evaluates its applications and receive help in starting your Dollars for Scholars application! This workshop will help you navigate the application process so you receive the most points possible for your aspirations, activities and academics.

If you have not yet created a partial student profile on fairmont.dollarsforscholars.org before this event, make sure you have the needed information to access an email account during the class (such as email web address and

password) as you will need to verify your new student profile before working on it. This class is for Fairmont Area High School juniors, seniors or graduates who plan on completing a Fairmont Dollars for Scholars application.

While pre-registration for the class is not necessary, it is helpful to ensure we have enough computers. You can register by calling Community Education at 235-3141. The class will be held only once on Tuesday, February 28th at 7 p.m. in the high school media center. For other questions, call Liz Wheeler at 507-399-2134 or email the chapter at Fairmont-Dollars@gmail.com.

Blue Earth Quilters meeting

The Blue Earth Valley Quilters will meet Monday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Blue Earth Area High School Choir Room. After introductions, the meeting will begin with show-and-tell, always an entertaining and inspiring part of the meeting.

The Gypsy Wife Quilt mini-group is continuing work on the project - just a couple months left until assembly of the blocks into a quilt starts. Signup for the Art Institute of Chicago Challenge will continue. These projects are to be completed for the EXPO in August. Booklets for the Minnesota Quilters State Show in Duluth are available at Michele's in downtown Blue Earth.

The program will be a demonstration by Felicia Hamlin on making a weighted blanket. These are especially helpful for those with insomnia, autism, ADHD, or sensory processing disorders. Commercial weighted blankets can easily cost several hundred dollars, so being able to make one can be very economical. This information may sound familiar - the January meeting was canceled

due to weather, so the program was delayed a month.

The Blue Earth Valley Quilters meet on the third Monday of each month (no meeting in July or December) under the umbrella of Blue Earth Area Community Education. Each meeting consists of a brief welcome and introductions, a quilt related demonstration, show and tell, a question and answer session and a few minutes to talk with other quilters. Those who are interested may stay after the meeting for the Block-of-the-Month project.

The Blue Earth Valley Quilters has been referred to as a guild without all the rules, a quilt discussion group, or a mini-class in quilting - it is open to everyone who enjoys quilts or quilting - quilters of all skill levels are always welcome.

For more information contact Mike Ellingsen at 507-526-5808.



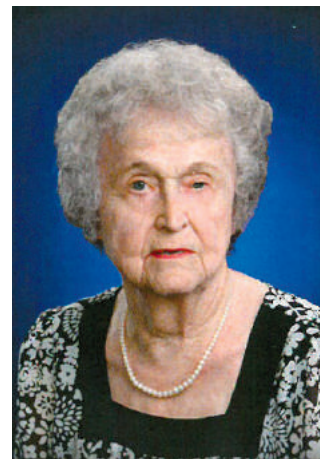
ARMBRUST 60TH - Muriel and Albert Armbrust of Truman will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017. Cards can reach them at 1971 160th Avenue, Truman, MN 56088.

Jaguar Youth Football

is excited to have you join us on Wednesday, February 22nd for our Pizza Ranch Tip night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Fairmont. We are in the process of changing over from the Bluejays, and in order to do this we need your help to purchase new jerseys, pants, and helmets for our youth. Come enjoy the excellent buffet as the Jaguar Youth Football team buses tables to work for your tips. All funds from this event will go towards helping us get our new equipment. A big thank you to The Pizza Ranch for this great opportunity, and we hope to see you on Wednesday, February 22nd.

The Fairmont High School class of 1962, spouses and friends will meet for lunch Friday, February 17th at 11:30 a.m. at the China Buffet in the Five Lakes Centre Mall.

Fairmont United Methodist Church continues their **Wednesday evening suppers** through February from 5 to 6 p.m. at the church. This week they will serve A&W Swiss Burgers. On February 22nd the menu will be tacos with all the fixings.



WILSON 95TH - Velma Wilson, former longtime resident of Fairmont, will celebrate her 95th birthday on Friday, February 24th. Birthday greetings can reach her at 702 West Walnut, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814.

The Fairmont MN Area Multiple Myeloma Support Group will meet Saturday, February 25th from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Mayo Clinic Health Systems Hospital in Fairmont in "The Classroom" meeting room. A video presentation featuring Dr. Durie and the latest on new treatments will be shown. All patients, caregivers, family and friends are welcome to attend. A continental breakfast will be provided. For more information, please call Joyce Schultz at 507-230-0207.

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Red Rock Center features Jackson artists

Red Rock Center for the Arts is pleased to announce featured artists, Lacey and Lexi Schneekloth. Their paintings and ceramics will be on display Tuesday, February 14th through Tuesday, March 21st.

A Meet and Greet Artist Reception will be held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts on Sunday, February 19th, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited to come and visit with the girls while viewing their paintings and ceramics, and enjoying light refreshments. This is a free event and everyone is welcome.

Lacey and Lexi Schneekloth are twins from Jackson, Minnesota. They both share a passion in art and creativeness for as long as they can remember. Their father is also very artistic and has inspired both of them to follow their dreams of becoming artists. Their work as artists is based on showing their love for abstraction, texture, and line as well as functionality. As artists they make work by finding different materials and letting their mind discover different ways to create work. They both create works that express emotions, mood, and feelings through color and movement. They both love the process of creating work and not knowing what the end result will be. Lacey and Lexi are constantly looking for new ways to go about their work to keep it experimental and exciting.



Lacey, left, and Lexi, Red Rock Center's Artists of the Month

Martin County Library to host Pajama Tales

Wear your jammies and join us for Pajama Tales!

Enjoy stories, activities and fun for the entire family. This event will be held at the Fairmont Library on Monday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

This event is free, open to the public and no registration is required. Call the Martin County Library in Fairmont at 238-4207 with questions.

A Special Thank You To . . .

All of the volunteers of the 2nd Annual Ryan Mortensen Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament, without whom this event wouldn't be possible.

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We apologize if we have inadvertently left any sponsor off this list. We appreciate all of your generosity.

32nd Family Fun Fair exhibitor registration

Fairmont Community Education and Recreation and Early Childhood Family Education are organizing the 32nd Annual Family Fun Fair, to be held Friday, March 31st, 4:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the Fairmont Elementary School.

The purpose of the Family Fun Fair is to assemble local agencies which are advocates of families with young children. The Fair will feature numerous educational, economic, health and support services available to families in this area.

ACME Magic Factory and Remarkable Reptiles will be featured attractions of this year's Family Fun Fair. Family Entertainer Brian Richards will

present two interactive performances featuring magic, humor and fun for children and families of all ages.

Remarkable Reptiles will bring several live reptiles (all harmless) including a friendly boa constrictor and assorted artifacts. The WeDay group, the CARDiACTS, from Fairmont Jr./Sr. High School will sponsor the food service fundraiser and assist with set up and clean up.

Groups interested in being exhibitors at the Fair are invited to contact the Fairmont Community Education and Recreation Office (507-235-3141) or Early Childhood Family Education (507-235-6205) for more information.



It was a full house over lunch last Friday at Truman Schools. Many parents, grandparents and community members joined students over the lunch periods as part of a Community Lunch sponsored in part by Truman Pride. Special thanks to our kitchen team for their hard work to make this happen.

CER offers Parenting Matters five session class

Do you deal with tantrums or meltdowns in your home? Come to this 5-session free class where you will be empowered to be your child's most important teacher.

Learn about social emotional development in early childhood. Then we discuss how to identify and manage emotions by learning how to teach children self-control. We move on to learning problem solving strategies so that we can deal with strong emotions in order to reduce stress at home. And, lastly, we will focus on building early literacy in our

homes.

A free, light meal will be provided each night along with books, games, and other resources to take home. Free childcare will also be provided, but pre-registration is required by February 21st. Class size is limited to 15.

Mondays, February 27th to March 27th, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. FES Rooms 1017, 1009, 1010 (enter through Door #1)

This class is made possible by a generous grant from Profinium through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

Ole and Lena Return to Fairmont Opera House

"Ole and Lena's 50th Wedding Anniversary" brought laughter to the Fairmont Opera House in February 2016. Now Ole and Lena return with hilarious new antics in "Ole and Lena Win a Cruise."

Two performances will entertain audiences at the Fairmont Opera House Saturday, February 18th at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, January 19th at 2:00 p.m. Social Hour begins one hour prior to each performance.

Every year, Lena listens to her friends at the Curler and Chat talk about their vacations, but year after year, she is disappointed. Ole's idea of a vacation is going to the Muskrat Lodge's Annual Convention, usually a camping event held in Potsdam, at a park only two miles from their farm! This year, Lena has decided that she and

Ole are going on a romantic vacation, even if it kills him.

Reserved-seating tickets for these performances are available to the public online at fairmontopera-house.org and through the Fairmont Opera House office at (507) 238-4900.

Early-bird Adult tickets are \$17.00. Tickets for Seniors (55-plus) and Students (including college with ID) are \$13.60 and tickets for Children under 10 are \$8.50. Tickets may also be purchased at the door during the hour prior to each performance time.

The Fairmont Opera House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community and arts center operating in a beautiful 1901 National Register of Historic Places theatre building at the corner of Downtown Plaza and Blue Earth Avenue in Fairmont.



Concert Association hosts "A Band Called Honalee"

Fairmont Concert Association will present "A Band Called Honalee" on Friday, February 24th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Area High School Performing Arts Center.

During this performance, these three talented artists will take you down memory lane with their timeless music of the sixties. This modern day folk trio is inspired by the music and legacy of one of the great groups: Peter, Paul and Mary. Audience members will enjoy the music and stories of the 60's!

Fairmont Concert

Association are reminded to present their tickets at the door the night of the concert.



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Deadline Monday at Noon for Wednesday's publication

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Lack of Workforce is Number One Challenge

Guest Columnist

Margaret Dillard, President, Fairmont Area Chamber



Lack of workforce – It’s the number one challenge for the local business community across the spectrum of industry. It is factual that we have more opportunity than we have workers to fill the positions. Frequent conversations with local business people from restaurants, service and financial industries, manufacturing, agriculture and retail cause me to be confident about the validity of my statements. It is heartbreaking to hear that local businesses choose not to expand, siting this shortage. Don’t take my word for it. Visit MinnesotaWorks.net, the state’s job board that always features around 250 positions within 25 miles of

Fairmont. Another point I have heard defended is that there are no jobs for a person without specific skills. MinnesotaWorks.net – it’s where you will find a snapshot of available job positions. Unfortunately, the lack of people to fill jobs is at the beginning of a rather overwhelming decade-long trend. While some will wait, baby boomers continue to retire. How do we battle a national situation like this one? It will take effort from all fronts. The City, FEDA and Fairmont Area Chamber have come together to recruit and retain talent to the region by encouraging workers to relocate to the area. Based on Research

Fellow at the University of Minnesota Center for Community Vitality, Benjamin Winchester’s research over 15-plus years, the local project known as Fairmont Area Life targets those who may pursue quality of life for themselves and their families. A variety of strategies that lure web-users to sites and social media platforms that feature the best of what we enjoy about living, working and raising families in Martin County. Also, 6 businesses that offer amenities that appeal to their employees will fare better. Some example are flexible hours, more complete or creative benefits, educational assistance, vacation and days off options, on-site

day care and company-based transportation. Some businesses look to automate. CBS Morning News recently featured a story about a barista robot! Community action should include efforts to welcome newcomers and job candidates. Remember Welcome Wagon? Sadly, Americans are no longer so comfortable with unannounced strangers at our front doors, but there are ways to invite people to attend gatherings and events and to be involved in communities. Locally, Newcomers & Neighbors meets every 5th Thursday throughout the year. The next will be Thursday evening, March 30th at Redrock Center for the Arts. To find out more, call the Chamber at 235-5547 or visit Facebook.com/FairmontsNewcomers. People new to the area AND those who wish to welcome them are in-

vited. Kudos to Dave Adams, Roni at Community Education & Recreation (CER), Erin Morrill and Dr. Zephania Cole for their work! Businesses recruiting professional can call the Chamber to ask that a Welcome Basket be waiting for job candidates at their hotel, thanks to a collaborative effort with Hy-Vee and local lodging facilities. It is evident that the area is unique in regards to geography. What other small community features five lakes and miles of residential shore property right in the heart of town? Even more valuable is our social capital and an ability to come together to address a common goal. Evidence is reflected in the business world through monthly ribbon cutting celebrations, ground breakings and several new facilities that have popped up. Martin County Broadband Committee made up of dozens of lo-

cals resulted in a multi-million dollar roll out of internet availability to rural businesses and residents. One day in October 2015 celebrated six new businesses expansion and relocations in Fairmont! That city, chamber, schools, businesses and county have and continue to work together is in itself an asset that is powerful and unique. I urge you to get involved and to develop your own unique and personal “elevator pitch” about Martin County, its people and amenities that encourages people to come here and stay here. If you would like to know more about more efforts to retain and recruit residents, please call the Chamber office. I will be happy to work with anyone who looks to contribute time and talent to make our community strong and inviting.

St. John Vianney School January Memorials

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$ 1,760 in memorials during the month of January, 2017.

These memorials were given in memory of:

GLENN BORCHARDT: By Loren & Irene Kleven
JENNY BREMER: By Jim & Carol Bulfer
DUANE BURSAR: By Eunice Barke, Pat Borowski, Allen & Lorna Bremer, Bursaw Family, Tom & Linda Feely, Mike Garry, Gary & Grace Haeckel, Dan & Ann Harris, Burdean & Dorothy Hartwig, Loren & Irene Kleven, Ed & Vikki Langford, Marcia Levenson, Gary Maday, Jim & Harla Maday, Dave & Dana Nawrocki, Mary Pat Nawrocki, Charles & Mary Jo Neusch, Bernie & Julie Petrowiak, Dot Petrowiak, Patricia Petrowiak, Tom & Ele Sherry, Al & Jane Thelen, James Welchlin, Linda Will, Jack & Nelda Zimmer
ALVIN DOESKIN: By Vivian Denton
DON FEUERHAKE: By Friends & Relatives, Jerry & Theresa Cassem, Jerry & Donna Determan, John & Darlene Eisenmenger, Stan & Betty Felber, Gene & Barb Gates, Richard &

Linda Klassen, Edward Kotewa, Vincent & Anna Landsteiner, Ed & Vikki Langford, Connie Lenz, Marcia Levenson, Mary Pat Nawrocki, Joe & Ida Rae Roessler, Jim Simser, Carl & Jo Smith, Maureen Stroup & Family, Frank & Kate Winzenburg
DON & NITA FEUERHAKE: By Gary & Kathy Langer
ONEETA ‘NITA’ FEUERHAKE: By Pat Borowski, Dan & Ann Harris, Sue Homan, Leon & Rose Marie Lammers, Marcia Levenson, Mary Pat Nawrocki, St. Gerard Circle
JESSICA FITZPATRICK: By John & Darlene Eisenmenger, Bruce & Ann Gemmill, Dan & Ann Harris, Jim & Julie Hill, Sue Homan, Dorothy Krick, Bart Stadtherr, Ken & Ellen Washa
MELVIN GEORGE: By Friends & Relatives, Pat Borowski, Allen & Lorna Bremer, Bill & Paula Bulfer, Clara Bulfer, Fern Bulfer, Jim & Carol Bulfer, Carol Carlson, John & Darlene Eisenmenger, Mike Garry, Bruce & Ann Gemmill, Gary & Grace Haeckel, Dan & Ann Harris, Jim & Julie Hill, Arven & Meda Holland, Sue Homan, Bob & Connie Katzenberger,

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JOYCE SLATER: By Irene Lutterman
CHERYL STEWARD: By Clara Bulfer

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund also gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$576.08 in general and special contributions given during January, 2017 by the following:

General Contributions: By Carroll Collins,

Margie Dahlstrom, Barbara Denney, Archie & Marsha Farnham, Stan & Betty Felber, Jim & LuAnn Hahn, Catherine Kasper, Leon & Rose Marie Lammers, Gary & Kathy Langer, Dennis & Mitzi Lockwood, Kathy McGowan, Virginia Maday, Alice Mal-

liette, Joe & Crystal Melsha, Bob & Mary Millette, Carol Pierce, Chris & Amy Pierce, Clayton & Mary Ann Pytleski, Ron & Karen Sandhurst, Bob & Marlys Steger, Eugene & Janet Voyles, Richard & JoAnn Warren, Jack & Nelda Zimmer

St. John Vianney School and St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund also acknowledge the receipt of contributions and memorials in the amount of \$1,775 given through the A+ Campaign for Excellence during the month

of January, 2017:

Contributions by Bank Midwest, Gary & Grace Haeckel, Joe Harber, Jerome Jorgenson, David & Beth Kloeckner, Patricia Petrowiak, James J. Welchlin

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IN MEMORY OF RAY & MARY ANN ROSOL: By Eric & Mary Van Norman
IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE & GUDRUN SEIBERT: By Gary Seibert

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Mayo Clinic Health System in Fairmont | 800 Medical Center Drive
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What's Cooking

with Kathy Lloyd

Something different for the lunch box!

A few years ago I used to watch a food program called "Mad Hungary". Sadly, it's no longer available, but I did copy one favorite recipe from the show. I used to make these chicken pockets when my granddaughter was living with us to take to work for her lunch. That way she would have something different to eat that day. They would be great along with a bowl of soup. They do take a little effort, but are worth the time. I hope that you think so too!

Pocket Chicken Pies

8 Tablespoons butter, room temperature
4 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
1/4 cup whipping cream
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups flour

Cream butter and cheese, cut in flour and salt, stir in whipping cream, divide dough in half, form into two disks, wrap in plastic wrap and chill for at least 30 minutes.

Filling:

1 heaping cup cooked shredded turkey or chicken
2 Tbsp. butter, melted
2 Tbsp. flour
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 stalk celery, chopped
1 chopped carrot
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
1/4 cup parmesan cheese

Melt butter, add onion, celery and carrot. Saute 3 minutes, stirring often. Stir in flour and salt, cook 1 minute. Add chicken broth, cook until thick. Add chicken and cheese, cool.

Roll out pastry on floured surface (1/2 at a time). Cut into 5 inch circles. On one side place 1/4 cup filling, fold over pastry. Moisten 1 edge with water and crimp edge with fork. Place pockets on parchment lined cookie sheet, chill or freeze. When frozen, place in plastic bag or plastic container. When ready to use, make slit on top with knife. Brush with egg beaten with 1 T. water. Place on parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Let rest 5 minutes before eating. Can be baked and reheated. Store in refrigerator.

Have a great week!!

DEATH notices

February 6 - Donald D. Saxen, 87, Welcome.

Kramer Funeral Home

February 10 - Donald L. Oberg, 83, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

February 10 - Brian A. Goedeker, 48, Sherburn.

Lakeview Funeral Home

February 11 - Elsie L. Langford, 84, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

February 11 - Charleen A. Swanson, 81, Welcome.

Kramer Funeral Home

In Memoriam

One Year Ago This Week

February 3 - Daniel J. Graif 64, Fairmont

February 9 - Marian E. Meyer, 92, Fairmont

February 9 - LaJune Poppe-Wiltse, 92, Ceylon

February 9 - Marilyn Hardt, 83, St. Cloud

(formerly of Fairmont)

February 9 - David L. McKnight, 60, Fairmont

February 9 - Harlan G. Schuller, 72, Fairmont

February 11 - Beatrice L. Hanson, 91, Fairmont

(formerly of Granada)

February 12 - Jeffery M. Finke, 37, Fairmont

February 13 - Melvin V. Shumski, 84, Fairmont

February 13 - Larry A. Hoffmeyer, 78, Sherburn

Volunteers collect oral care products for children

Designed to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and collect oral care products for at-risk children, the America's ToothFairy Smile Drive is being held nationwide this February during National Children's Dental Health Month. Martin County Early Childhood Dental Initiative (ECDN) will lead campaign activities along with Fairmont Elementary School, St. John Vianney School, St. Paul Lutheran School and CER Lights on for Kids.

Local community members are invited to drop off donated oral care products at area schools or the CER Office. Donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and rinse will be delivered to local children and youth in need.

Community members

donating to the Smile Drive are encouraged to share their experience by snapping a photo and #SmileDrive.

For more information about the Smile Drive, contact Roni Dauer in CER at 238-4632 or April Tordsen, RN at 238-4487.

"We are so grateful that caring individuals and volunteer groups across the country are helping ensure children receive the oral care products they need through the America's ToothFairy Smile Drive," said Fern Ingber, America's ToothFairy President and CEO.

About America's ToothFairy

America's ToothFairy: National Children's Oral Health Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness of pediatric dental disease. Through the #MySmileMatters Youth Movement, America's ToothFairy is building a powerful effort to eliminate tooth decay. For more information, visit www.AmericasToothFairy.org.

martincountylibrary.org

CHECK IT OUT!

@ the Martin County Library

So...ever wonder what your neighbor's reading? Well, here's the latest trending HOT topics at your local library.

• So far this year, we're all learning a bit of Danish, with the word "hygge." Pronounced hooga, there are several new books out that cover this term and its connection to keeping Danes happy. Hygge (loosely translated) means comfort, coziness and closeness.

• Hidden Figures, the hit movie about the NASA black female mathematicians, is making a huge surge in popularity. The book was the basis of the

movie. Try them both!

• The Magnolia Story, featuring everyone's favorite Fixer Upper stars, Chip and Joanna Gaines. This power couple is everywhere, from home décor to your TV screen and now, also this book about their success.

• Never Never by James Patterson. The ever prolific author has yet another bestseller on the charts. A Sydney-based crime detective is sent to the Outback to investigate the disappearance of a mine worker.

• A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Originally published in Sweden in 2012, this book has picked up a second life after it was exported to the US. A film version has also been recently released.

Check out these trending topics...or find a new topic of your own at your local library!



Ask A Trooper: How fast can I drive?

by Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

Question: How fast can I drive before getting stopped? Is there a tolerance?

Answer: State Patrol policy does not allow for speeds in excess of the posted limit.

Officers are required to follow their departmental policy and take into consideration many other factors (roadway, weather, lighting and traffic) including common sense. Speeding, along with driving too fast for conditions is discouraged by law enforcement everywhere.

Minnesota law regarding speed states that no person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions. Every driver is responsible for knowing actual and potential haz-

ards that may exist on the highway and must use due care in operating a vehicle.

I believe most vehicles that leave the roadway or spin out in the winter season are due to driving too fast for the conditions. Remember that the posted speed limit might not be the safest speed when the roads become slippery.

Drivers need to understand that speed kills. In the last five years (2011 - 2015) speed has contributed to an average of 81 deaths and 211 life-changing injuries a year.

For every 10 miles per hour you drive over the speed limit, your chance of being seriously injured or killed in a crash is doubled. So, when traveling 70 mph your chance of being seriously injured or killed in a crash is four times greater than when you are traveling 50 mph!

Remember too that fines double when traveling 20 mph or more over the speed limit, and if your speed is in excess of 100 mph, you can lose your license for up to six months. The driver may also be cited under the Duty to Drive with Due Care law in Minnesota.

You can avoid a ticket if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober.

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.

Tired of Varicose Veins?

FREE SEMINAR

Thursday, February 16
beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Center for Specialty Care's
Second Floor Classroom
717 S State St • Fairmont
Complimentary Dinner
RSVP by calling 238-3383

Following the seminar, you are eligible for a brief Venous Reflux Disease visual screening by Dr. Slater.

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Do you have Venous Reflux Disease? Learn the signs, symptoms and treatment at this upcoming free seminar.

OBITUARY notices

Elsie L. "Tootie" Langford, 84



A Celebration of Life Service for Elsie L. "Tootie" Langford, 84, of Fairmont, will be held Monday, February 20th, 2017, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont. A private fam-

ily burial will be held in Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont. Visitation will be 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 19th, 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont and one hour prior to the service at the church. Elsie passed away Saturday, February 11th, 2017, at Trimont Health Care Center in Trimont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Elsie Leone Kruse was born September 17th, 1932, to Otto and Elsie (Kaeding) Kruse in Center Creek Township. She weighed 3 lb 12 oz., slept in a shoebox and wore her sister's doll clothes. She was baptized at home by Pastor C.C. Metz of St. James Lutheran Church.

Elsie attended a rural parochial school and continued when the school was moved into Northrop in the late 1930's. She was confirmed in 1946 at St

James Lutheran Church in Northrop. She graduated from Granada High School in 1950 as Valedictorian. Elsie was a competent pianist and assisted in all music classes, and accompanied many vocal students as they competed in contests statewide.

Elsie married Romaine R. Langford September 8th, 1951, in Northrop. They made their home in Granada until moving to Truman in 1957. Romaine (Lank) died in 1982.

Elsie worked at the Truman Tribune and in the offices at the Granada, Truman, and Fairmont Public Schools until taking a position with the Martin County Special Education Cooperative in 1977. In 1988 she graduated Summa Cum Laude, with a B.S. degree from Mankato State University. She also attended classes at MN State College in Marshall and from St. Thomas University in

St. Paul, training in school business management.

Langford was an avid traveler, camping with her husband and family in all the 50 states, Canada, and Mexico. She took a year's leave to travel around the world from April 1st, 1989 to March 30th, 1990. She was part of the working crew on a 57' Bowan Ketch, sailing 25,000 miles on three oceans from 1985 to 1989. She traveled in more than 100 countries, trekked in Nepal and South America, and spoke to local organizations to motivate others to travel.

Elsie was active in many church groups at St. Paul's Lutheran, Truman, choir, Naomi Circle, was a room mother and organizer of school activities. After moving to Fairmont in 2000, she belonged to AAUW, Kinship, Fairmont Concert Association, judged local speech contests and taught ESL to adult immigrants

from Croatia. She served on the board of the MN State Welfare Assn., and the local welfare/social services board for eight years.

Elsie loved dancing, music, bridge, and other card games and being with her family, especially her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

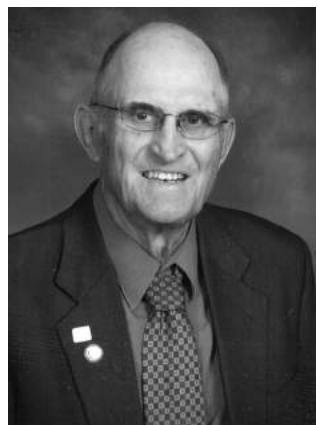
Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Greg (Beth) Langford of Esterville; Lon (LuAnn) Langford of Eugene, OR; and Kent (Cherrie) Langford of Winnebago; daughter, Kim (Greg) Wills of rural Truman; grandchildren, Amy (Stuart) Upson of Morris, IL; Dr. Sara Langford (Dr. Nicholas Von Glahn) of Claremont, CA; Emily Gould of Dallas, TX, Mackenzie Langford of Eugene, OR, Grace Langford of Eugene, OR, Brandon (Emily) Langford of Winnebago, Kristen (Jared) Cartwright of Huntley, Lacey (Tyler) Meixell of Granada, Yolanda Langford

of Florida, Joshua Wills of Truman, Colton Wills of Truman; great grandchildren, Leiden Von Glahn, Carter Langford, Peyton Langford, Merissa Cartwright, Caleb Cartwright, Eli Cartwright, Kelsie Cartwright, Kaelynn Meixell, Alya Meixell, Madden Meixell, Sky Langford, and Chevelle Langford; sister, Augusta Stusse of Welcome; and a sister-in-law, Frieda Kruse of Good Thunder, MN; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents; husband; siblings, Hans, Louis, and Emil Kruse, Olga Kruse Schofield Hudson; sisters-in-law, Helen Tonne Kruse and Shirley Kruse; brothers-in-law, Robert Schofield, Lester Hudson, and Roscoe Stusse; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Roy and Dorothy Langford.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Donald L. Oberg, 83



Funeral services for Donald L. Oberg, 83, of rural Fairmont will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 16th, 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont. Burial will follow the service in Center Chain Cemetery, rural Fairmont. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 15th, 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont and will continue one hour prior to the time of service. Donald passed away Friday, February 10th, 2017 at his

home. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Donald Leslie Oberg was born November 13th, 1933 to Leslie and Mildred (Carlson) Oberg in Pipestone, MN. As an infant Donald was baptized at Lake Wilson Methodist Church near Slayton, MN where he was also later confirmed. Donald grew up on the family farm near Lake Wilson, attending Murray County District School #72 through the eighth grade and then attending Lake Wilson High School where he graduated as the class valedictorian in 1951. He was active in football and basketball. Following his high school graduation, Donald attended Hamline University where he was a member of Pi Gamma Mu, the President of Intramurals and an employee in food services. Donald also played college basketball and ran track his freshman year. Donald studied a semester at American University in Washington D.C. before

graduating from Hamline in 1955.

On July 19th, 1963 Donald was united in marriage to Janice Porter at United Methodist Church in Fairmont. The couple lived in the Lake Wilson area until 1970; then moved to an acreage near Fairmont. In 1979 they built a home together in Silver Lake Township. Donald and Janice were blessed with five children: Todd, Tanya, Tricia, Trent and Trynda.

Donald farmed in both the Lake Wilson and Fairmont areas before working for Stokely, C.H. Gould, Rosen's Inc., Minnesota Mark IV, and Railway Motors. Donald held these positions before his career of twenty-five years with Arts Way Manufacturing in Armstrong. He retired May 2nd, 2003. After retirement, he worked for Green View as a substitute caretaker for the I-90 Blue Earth area rest stop until his health deteriorated.

From a young age faith was extremely important to Donald. He served as the President of the Southwest District for the

United Methodist Older Youth Council and it was through that membership that he was introduced to a young lady, from Granada, who later became his wife. Throughout his life he stayed an active member and held numerous positions within the church, including: Sunday school teacher, youth leader, usher, secretary of the church council, lay leader and lay speaker, as well as board member and President of the Southwest District United Methodist Men's Retreat. Don was a member of the Fairmont United Methodist Church for 33 years. For the past 4 years he was a member of Hope United Methodist Church in Blue Earth.

Donald was not only faithful to his religion but also to giving back to the community. He served as a Boy Scout Committee member of Troop 56 and was a Webelo leader of Pack 57. He was also on the Fairmont Dollars for Scholars board for thirty years, and served as President for six years. For his service he was honored

to receive the Dollars for Scholars National Honor in 1999.

In his spare time Donald enjoyed working with livestock, especially sheep, and his garden and lawn. He was concerned with rescuing greyhounds from the track and provided homes for three of them since 1996. Some of his fondest memories include spending time with his family at Hide-Away Resort on Upper Hay Lake and simply watching his children and grandchildren grow and mature. He lived life by the motto: Do your best and don't ask someone to do a task you won't do yourself.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Janice Oberg of Fairmont; children: Dr. Todd Oberg and his wife, Robin of Jacksonville, IL; Tanya Oberg of Rochester; Tricia Oberg of Eagan; Trent Oberg and his wife, Stephanie of Morris, MN; and Trynda Kroneman and her husband, Peter of Rochester; grandchildren: Carissa and Evan Oberg of Morris, and Gretchen Kro-

neman and her expected sibling of Rochester; brothers-in-law: Wayland Porter and his wife, Sue of Woodbury, and Dennis Lee and his wife, Andrea of Eagle Grove, IA; special family friends, Bev Baker and her husband, Bill of Cottage Grove; many nephews, nieces, other extended family and countless friends, including great neighbor and friend, Larry Brockman.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Mildred Oberg; father-and-mother-in-law: Wayland and Kate Porter; sister, M. Joan Lee; brother and-sister-in-law, Kenneth and Lois Oberg; brother-in-law, James Porter; family friend, Beth Wiese; and other relatives.

The family requests memorials be given in Don's name to Hope United Methodist Church Missions, Fairmont Chapter of Dollars for Scholars, Friends of Cedar Point Boy Scout Camp, and Rochester Mayo Clinic Medical Research.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Brian A. Goedeker, 48



A Celebration of Life service for Brian A. Goedeker, 48, of Sherburn, was held Wednesday, February 15th, 2017, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont with full military honors following the service at the funeral home by Lee C. Prentice America Legion Post #36 and the Martin County Vet-

erans of Foreign Wars Post #1222. Burial will be held at a later date at Ridge Lawn Cemetery near Truman. Brian passed away Friday, February 10th, 2017, at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Brian Alvin Goedeker was born April 17th, 1968, in Fairmont, the son of Alvin Lawrence and Ferne Marie (Sukalski) Goedeker. He attended school in East Chain and graduated from East Chain High School with the class of 1986.

Following his graduation, Brian enlisted in the United States Navy and later the National Guard where he served his country proudly until receiving his honorable discharge in July 1991.

Brian worked for a short time with Pepsi Co. where he ran a delivery route. His love of trucking and the open road lead him to work for Waletich Trucking of Mankato, where he earned Driver of the Year Award in 2014 for having over 4 million miles of accident free driving.

When not crisscrossing the country in his tractor and trailer, Brian enjoyed lazy days spent on the lake fishing or slaving away over a hot grill cooking for family and friends and making sure no one ever left hungry. Brian had a special place in his heart for animals and loved his dogs. Even when out on the road, his buddy Sasha was right beside him as he navigated his way to the next destination. Family was also very important to Brian and he cherished the opportunity to spend time

with his family. He will be greatly missed by those that loved him and called him a friend.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Alissa Goedeker, Megan Goedeker, and Dayton Pasch; two grandchildren; parents, Fern Sommer and her husband, Allan; fiancé, Bobbi Nowak and her children, Alec Nowak, Brittney Nowak and Joseph Maidl; sisters, Becky Wilken and her husband, Bryan, and Shirleen Zehms and her husband, Mark; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Brian was preceded in death by his father, Alvin Goedeker; paternal grandparents, Delbert and Rose Goedeker and maternal grandparents, Felix and Pearl Sukalski.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Peter Krumholz

Peter Krumholz of Parker, Arizona, formerly of Fairmont, passed away Monday, January 30th, 2017 at his home. Peter's parents were Fritz and R. Adelle Krumholz.

Peter went to St. John Vianney School in Fairmont and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1968. He enlisted in the U. S. Army as a Green Beret

Special Forces during the Vietnam War.

Peter is survived by brother and sisters: Susan Krumholz-Tuohey of South Carolina, Maggie of New Jersey, Jean of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, Paul of West Virginia and Ann of Houston, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: David and infant Thomas.

Cards are appreciated to Katy Jennings Krumholz, P.O. Box 162, Parker, AZ 85344-0162.

The Photo Press reserves the right to edit (as necessary) any obituary submitted for placement.

All obituaries must be submitted by noon on Monday of the week that it is to be placed. Any photos submitted must be in high resolution and high quality. Any questions on the Photo Press obituary policy can be directed to Jeff Hagen at 238-9456 or jeff@fairmontphotopress.com

obits continued on page 7

the BILLBOARD

Dining and
Entertainment

Upcoming Events

- SAT, FEB. 18 •
Live music from
Lance Allen
- FRI, MARCH 10 •
Last Rocky Mountain
Oyster Feed!
- SAT, MARCH 18 •
White Sidewalls
Tickets available at
Legends II

LEGENDS II Pub & Grill
CEYLON, MN
Good food, good friends, good times!

45 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN
Follow us on Social
Media @fntoperahouse

FAIRMONT
Opera House

Ole & Lena Win A Cruise

Side-splitting fun!



Two Performances!

Saturday, February 18
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 19
2:00 p.m.

Social Hour and Lobby Box Office
Open One Hour Prior to Performances

Tickets: Adult - \$17.00
Sr 55+/Student - \$13.60
Children under 10 - \$8.50
507-238-4900 or
fairmontoperahouse.org

eat play shop LOCAL

TRUMAN AREA

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

FEB 16 - 22

THUR: Lasagna, breadstick, coleslaw, veggies, applesauce.

FRI: Shrimp poppers, string cheese, mashed potatoes, CA blend veggies, fruit.

MON: No school.

TUE: Chicken nuggets, rice, green beans, veggies, fruit.

WED: Tator tot hotdish, dinner roll, spinach salad, carrots, fruit salad.

FAIRMONT AREA

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

Breakfast menu can be found online.

FEB 16 - 22

THUR: K-6: Chicken patty, chicken ranch wrap, fries, coleslaw, orange, applesauce.

JR/HS: Home-style beef and bean chili, baked potato, dinner roll, broccoli, coleslaw, celery sticks, orange, cocktail.

FRI: No school.

MON: No school.

TUE: K-6: Cheese stuffed breadsticks, turkey and cheese sandwich, broccoli, carrots, ba-

nana, applesauce. **JR/HS:** Spaghetti, breadstick, corn, salad, celery sticks, banana, applesauce.

WED: Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, ham and swiss pretzel roll sandwich, corn, broccoli, apple, cranberry sauce. **JR/HS:** Cheese stuffed breadsticks, carrots, three bean salad, broccoli, apple, mandarin oranges.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAIRMONT

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

FEB 16 - 22

THUR: Home-style beef and bean chili, dinner roll, broccoli, fruit cocktail.

FRI: No school.

MON: No school.

TUE: Cheeseburger, corn, celery sticks, banana.

WED: Cheese stuffed breadsticks, carrots, broccoli, mandarin oranges.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Menus subject to change.

FEB 16 - 22

THUR: Italian dunkers, peas, peaches, cookie.

FRI: Brats, potato salad, veggies, watermelon, ice cream treat.

MON: No school.

TUES: Taco salad, chips, mandarin oranges, coffee cake.

WED: Hot dog, fries, candied carrots, applesauce.

Fairmont VFW
1500 S. ALBION AVE.
507-235-9308

Hamburger Night \$5

Every Thursday
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hamburger or Chicken Filet and French Fries. Open to the public.
"DINE IN ONLY"

Fri, Feb. 17 • 5:30-8:00

Cook's Choice

Saturday, 5:30-Gone
All-You-Can-Eat
Spaghetti

served with
garlic toast **\$7.99**

Fairmont Eagles

1228 Lake Ave • 238-2555

Fri, Feb. 17 • 5-7pm:

Burger Night. \$5 Burger Basket.
FF, Sour Cream & Chive Fries
or Tater Tots

Fri, Feb. 17 • 7-11pm:

Butch & Friends

Sat, Feb. 18 • 5-7pm:

Fish Fry

Sun, Feb. 19 •

8:30am-12:30pm:

Breakfast Buffet

Mon, Feb. 20 • 7pm:

Bingo

Thurs Feb. 23 • 5-7pm:

Liver & Onion Dinner

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

Steak & Rib Night



Tuesday night 5 to 8 pm **only \$13.99**

Enjoy an 8 oz. Top of lowa sirloin or tender ribs, with choice of potato, vegetable and a side salad!

Ole's
Gathering Place
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HOT MEALS ON WHEELS

Hot Meals on Wheels are Monday through Saturday for convalescents and persons who cannot purchase and prepare adequate meals.

Meals are prepared by Lakeview Methodist Healthcare and volunteers deliver in Fairmont between 11 a.m. and noon each day. This is a community project and is non-profit and not government funded. For more info on Hot Meals on Wheels, contact Linda Bach-Quade 507-235-3820.

SENIOR DINING WEEKLY MENU

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

FEB 16 - 22

THURS: Baked chicken, sweet potato, wax beans, vanilla pudding.

FRI: Hamloaf or alternate, mashed potatoes, creamed cabbage, carrot cake.

MON: Spaghetti, cheese bread, lettuce salad, bar.

TUE: Swiss steak, twice baked potatoes, veggie mix, apple crisp.

WED: Chicken chow mein, rice/egg roll, broccoli, jello with fruit.

obits continued

Charleen A. Swanson, 81

A Celebration of Life Service for Charleen A. Swanson, 81, of Welcome, was held Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome, with Pastor Anthony Christoffers officiating. Burial was in the Welcome City Cemetery in Welcome.

Charleen went to her eternal rest Saturday, February 11th, 2017 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Mankato, surrounded by her family.

Charleen Ann Montgomery was born October 3rd, 1935, in Fraser Township, Martin County, the daughter of Chester and Leona (Plumhoff) Mont-

gomery. She was baptized and later confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome. She attended and later graduated Welcome High School with the class of 1954. On December 28th, 1960, she was united in marriage to Robert Swanson at Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome. After their marriage, they lived in Newport, Rhode Island and later in Omaha, Nebraska while Robert served in the Navy. In 1968 they moved to Welcome and raised their family. Charleen worked at the family store, the Corner Grocery in Welcome, and helped at the Welcome school kitchen. She was a life-long member of Trinity Lutheran Church where she sang in the church choir, was a Sunday School

Teacher, was head of the prayer chain and helped at church dinners. Charleen was a member of VFW-MAL, Legion Auxiliary of Welcome Post #553. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, sending out cards to people and playing card games.

Charleen is survived by her husband, Robert Swanson of Welcome; her children, Brian Swanson and Renae (Teuchert) of Roseville, Minnesota, Audrey Swanson of Fairmont, Jerome Swanson and girl friend, Pam Mulligan of Smyrna, Tennessee, Donna and Jim Hand of Fairmont; three grandchildren, Aimee Hand, Carlene Hand and Gavin Hand; brothers, Darrell (Penny) Montgomery of Zumbrota, Minnesota and Ronnie (Marilyn)

Montgomery of Welcome; sisters-in-law, Marian Holland of Fairmont, Elaine (Lester) Lenz of Welcome; brother-in-law, Francis (Wilma) Swanson of Fairmont, and Edward (Lorna) Swanson of East Chain;

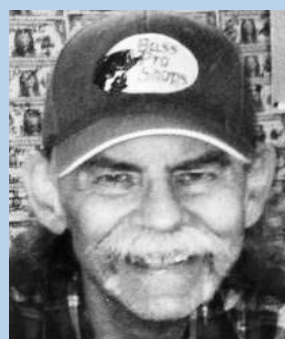
nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Charleen is preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Leona Montgomery; father and mother-in-law, Grant and Anna Swanson; grandchildren, Sarah Hand

and Rachel Swanson-Farmer; sister, Wanda Schultz, sister-in-law, Mae Swanson; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Schultz and Maurice Holland and other relatives.

kramerfuneralhome.com

Daniel C. Backstrom, 60



Daniel Charles Backstrom, 60, passed away at his home in Mesa, Arizona on Saturday, February 4th, 2017.

A memorial service is planned for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 18th, 2017 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairmont.

Dan was born in Winnebago on October 23rd, 1956. He grew up in Fairmont and graduated from Fairmont High School in

1975.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Diana; his mother, LeeAnn Backstrom of Fairmont; his sister Lori (Karl) Evans of Hanover, MN; his brother Gregg (Mary) Backstrom; nieces Stacy and Megan Backstrom and nephew Taylor Evans.

Dan was preceded in death by his father, Charles "Knute" Backstrom.



Jeff's Jottings

Now that Valentine's Day is past and I showered my wife with goodies to "get myself in good standing for the next year," I am getting ready to turn another year older on Thursday. It was February 16th, 1965 that I was born at the old Fairmont Hospital, across from Ward Park. It is hard to believe that I have been around for 52 years now! I can remember when I was much younger, anyone over age 50 was really old. Then as I flew past my teen years and into my 20's I was told to dread the big "4-0". When I finally reached that age, being 40



The things you do when you turn 50!

years old didn't bother me at all, I felt like I still had a long ways to go. Then two years ago I turned 50 and was "initiated" into the 50's with a big surprise celebration that Karis and my family sprung on me and about 50 of my family and friends. That year of being 50 years old seemed like such a hard time for me, I was adjusting to being what I used to consider "old" and still felt like somewhat of a "youngster". So, I have been asked if I am ready to turn 52 and I guess I would honestly have to say, "Yes", because now that I am this age, I don't consider my-

self an "oldster" yet. After all, as the old saying goes, "You are only as old as you feel" and I feel young!

Hello Ledyard!

A couple weeks ago, I welcomed the community of Ringsted, Iowa to the Photo Press family of readers when we expanded our territory to include those residents into our growing circulation. With the help of the Ringsted Postmaster, we are now happy to add to our growing list of communities we serve the community of Ledyard, Iowa. Ledyard is a quaint smaller community east of Ringsted and is now a part of the Photo Press family of readers this week and we welcome them aboard! I can remember a number of years ago traveling to Ledyard with my cousin Darin to take part in the antique tractor pull that took place in that community. I can remember how the locals went all out on putting on that pull and made it a very

enjoyable event. I wonder if they still have that pull every summer? I guess I will just have to take a trip south to Ledyard and find out in a few months. Welcome to all of our Ledyard readers!

Kids against hunger!

This weekend the annual "Kids Against Hunger" food pack will be taking place at the Fairmont National Guard Armory. I am proud to be a part of the committee that helps organize this event the past couple years and even have my own team take part in the food pack. Last year was the first year that "Hagen's Heroes" had a team pack food and ev-



everyone enjoyed it so much that we committed right away to this year's pack. The food pack takes place all day this Saturday, February 18th and a number of teams are prepared to spend the day packing food to be boxed and shipped to needy kids and families not only abroad, but many right here in the United States and even locally. If you have never been a part of the food pack, you need to come out and experience the energy that fills the armory that day. Maybe next year you can form your own team and take part in the fun!

Ole, Lena, burgers and more!

Before I go this week, I want to point out some events that are taking place in the upcoming week. The Fairmont United Methodist Church is having their Wednesday suppers from 5 to 6 p.m. at the church. They serve A&W Swiss Burgers on the 15th and tacos with all the fixings on February 22nd. Ole and Lena make

a popular return to the Fairmont Opera House and win a cruise this Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's performance will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's starts at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at the Fairmont Opera House. Next Wednesday, February 22nd, the UCC Church of Fairmont will host their free community supper from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the church on Downtown Plaza. Pulled pork sandwiches, pork and beans, and ice cream sundaes are being served. Also on Wednesday, February 22nd the Jaguar Youth Football organization is taking part in the Pizza Ranch Tip Night in Fairmont. Tips from 5 to 8 p.m. that night will go towards purchase of football equipment.

Have a great week!

Drive safely - visit a shut-in or family member - Eat, Play, Shop Local - help beat world hunger!

- Jeff

Naturally

By Al Batt

I watched bald eagles in Alaska feed upon spawned-out salmon.

An adult eagle flew down to the river and snatched a fish. Fishing seemed effortless for the raptor.

Other eagles watched the successful fisher bird.

It was quickly greeted by two young eagles.

The two weren't saying, "Dad, you're home!"

What they were saying was, "Give me that fish!"

One of the youngsters was able to wrest the salmon away from its elder, only to have it pirated away by another eagle.

Why do eagles practice piracy? It's supposed to save time and effort, but it appeared as if they put more time and effort into stealing fish than they would catching them.

I walked like a penguin to avoid slipping on the ice. I leaned my torso forward so that my center of gravity was on the front leg. Walking normally splits body weight evenly over both legs, which increases the risk of losing my balance and falling.

As I moved from ice to snow, my shoes made squeaking sounds. When temperatures are low, there is more friction between snow crystals. When I stepped on the snow, the crystals rubbed against each other and broke, making a squeaking sound. At 14 degrees



and lower is when the snow becomes squeaky.

Every day is a Wonderland.

DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program Bald Eagle Cam

The first egg was laid in the nest located somewhere in the Twin Cities area on January 28th, the second on January 31st and the third egg on February 3rd. The early nesting may give young birds a biological head start. Early fledging provides additional time for eaglets to practice flying and foraging skills before migration and harsher weather hits.

The eagle cam is at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam/index.html> and is largely supported by voluntary contributions, especially those indicated as a tax-deductible donation on Line 21 of the state income tax form.

Q-and-A

"There was a headless rabbit in my yard. Who would do that to a bunny?" It's not the work of a cult. It's a hoodunit. A headless rabbit is most likely a sign that a great horned owl has been dining in the area. These owls often eat the heads of their prey first or carry them away, leaving the bodies behind. Great horned owls preyed upon our domestic ducks that were too stubborn to go into their building at night. The owls are able to use their talons to make surgical cuts. The crushing power in a great horned owl's talons is 200 to 300 pounds per square inch,

many times stronger than the grip of the average human hand.

"Why did I see robins in January in Minnesota?" I've seen robins in the winter in Minnesota every year of my life since I was able to sit up and take notice. I'm sure that some robins have always spent parts of winter in southern Minnesota. They move around in winter in a search for food. I've no idea how their survival rates compare to the robins that migrate.

"How do bald eagles keep their eggs warm in cold weather?" The parents maintain the eggs at about 99 degrees Fahrenheit by keeping their brood patch in direct contact with the eggs. A brood patch is a featherless spot on a bird's abdomen. Both eagle parents develop these during the mating season. The bare skin is at about 105 degrees, the body temperature of an eagle. The parents roll the eggs around with their beaks to aid in development and to insure all eggs receive equal heat. Both male and female incubate the eggs, which hatch in about 35 days. The female is about a third larger than the male.

"What birds nest early in Minnesota?" The great horned owl, bald eagle, rock pigeon, common raven, barred owl and house sparrow.

Upcoming events

The Bluebird Recovery Program Expo will take place on April 22nd at the Northfield Middle School. For further information, call Jenean Mortenson at 507-332-7003, Carol

Johnson at 507-649-0126 or go to <http://bbrp.org/homepage/2017-expo/>

The "All Things Spring" Horticulture Day is at the Waseca Southern Research and Outreach Center on March 4th. Information can be found at <https://sroc.cfans.umn.edu>

Thanks for stopping by

"It takes no more time to see the good side of life than to see the bad." Jimmy Buffett

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." Oscar Wilde

DO GOOD.

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Photo of bald eagle by Al Batt

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Denise Rouse, Owner, Boutique Giddy Up

February..... The most Romantic month of the year. Some are lucky to have Romance in their lives, some can live without it, and some are still searching for it. Wherever you are at in this scenario the answer is simple. Bring Romance into your wardrobe! Romance on the prairie can look like this. A vintage pinup cowgirl top, cover with a calico print duster with the oh so romantic bell sleeves, add a middi lace vest, top with tons of pearls. Pair this with ripped skin-

ny jeans and over the knee boots. So feminine and chic! Another great choice would be a lace tunic top with a velvet slip under neath. Top with a beautiful lace scarf. How can you not feel romantic? Go one better and add a beautiful Romantic hair style to complete your look. February would not be

complete without a Love poem:

Not only did I love her, but I could tell the universe loved her, too.

More than others. She was different.

After all, I would be a fool not to notice the way the sunshine played with her hair.

Christopher Poindexter

Always remember, Life is a fashion show, and the world is your runway.

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MCW FFA member Parker Stevens trying to identify a species during the Fish and Wildlife contest.



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Ryan Mortensen Memorial Fishing Tournament Highlights



The Ryan Mortensen Memorial Fishing Tournament was held Saturday, February 11th. Thanks to all who helped make it a success!

Thank you to all the kitchen help, silent auction volunteers, event organizers, the many volunteers to help make the event successful and especially the many family, friends and fishermen who turned out to help make this annual event a successful and fun day! (submitted photos)



Our 3 big winners - (left to right): 3rd place - Mike Christians, 1st place - Bryan Jensen and 2nd place - Mark Fujan





FFA motto: Living to Serve

The FFA motto is: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Every day, members across the country live out the FFA motto, and the Martin County West FFA members are no exception. Knowing the importance of giving back, MCW FFA members strive to make their community a better place through various activities throughout the year.

Recently, MCW FFA members assisted with a benefit for one of their own FFA officers. On Christmas day, Alyssa Gilderhus, MCW FFA Officer-At-Large, suffered from a very serious brain bleed, an AVM. After numerous ambulance rides from the Fairmont Hospital to the Mankato Hospital then finally to Rochester, the doctors had decided that Alyssa's condition was very serious. Her parents were told that Alyssa needed immediate surgery and chances of recovery were very small. After three major brain surgeries, therapy, and other treatments, Alyssa is still fighting hard.

She has been in the Rochester Hospital for over 50 days, 34 of which were spent in ICU.

On January 29th, 2017 the Sherburn Lions Club and the MCW FFA Chapter held a benefit for Alyssa to help with medical bills. The pancake breakfast had almost 600 people in attendance, including other FFA chapters (Austin and JCC). We want to thank everyone for their support and continued thoughts! If you would like to make a donation to Alyssa and her family, checks may be sent to Bank Midwest in Fairmont or Sherburn.

The annual kids gardening program is run by MCW FFA members that dedicate every Wednesday morning in the summer to teach kids about gardening. There were 16 kids in grades 1-5 that participated in the kids gardening program last summer. Eivey Kuehl, Alyssa Williamson and Sierra Williamson were the main instructors for the program. Advisors Stephanie Wohlhuter and Jessica Daberkow assisted the FFA members in running the

program.

Another service that Martin County West FFA members provide is community garden shares. Emily Ziemer and Logan Potthoff worked on the garden 10-20 hours each week to ensure the best possible yield for community members with shares in the garden. Each person who bought a share had the opportunity to receive certain amounts of produce each week.

The Martin County Fair is one place FFA members are sure to be spotted. They helped with a scavenger hunt last year, bringing many smiles to local children. Educating children about agriculture is very important to Martin County FFA members.

The Corn Drive allows MCW FFA members to collect grain and cash donations to fund a variety of community projects and donations. In 2016, over \$12,000 was donated by local farmers and businesses. Pairs of excited FFA members drove grain trucks to local farms or businesses and asked them to donate bushels of corn or money. The mon-

ey raised was used to fund Maverick Christmas, a donation to Camp Courage, and many other projects.

Maverick Christmas is funded by the Corn Drive. Each year, there are families that may need help making ends meet around Christmas. Martin County West FFA members want all children in their community to experience the Christmas magic that comes from opening up a present from someone who loves them. This past December, high school FFA members split into two teams; one went to Walmart, and the other to Shopko. At their respective stores, members picked out gifts for children, and spent a total of over \$3,000 on Christmas gifts. Junior High FFA members enjoyed wrapping the gifts before they were sent to families.

Whenever someone is in need, FFA members are ready to help out. They truly believe that they are "living to serve" others. By doing this they are continually improving their school, community, and themselves.



State Degree Recipients - Students are Emily Ziemer, Aaron Ebeling, Karter Janssen, Maddy Ebeling, Maggie Bachenberg and Sierra Williamson (not pictured: Alyssa Gilderhus)

MAVERICK CHRISTMAS is an annual event where FFA members shop at Walmart and Shopko for over 50 families in the school district, providing a package of clothing and toys for each child on the list.



MCW FFA team at Walmart



MCW FFA team at Shopko



MCW FFA OFFICERS - Front (left to right): Kooper Janssen, Karter Janssen, Logan Potthoff. Back (left to right): Eivey Kuehl, Emelia Melson, Maggie Bachenberg, Sierra Williamson, Alyssa Gilderhus, Emily Ziemer

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Fairmont FFA Small Animals Team: Jenna Gustafson, Jazlyn Meyer, Mallory Mosloski, Chloe Graif, Lindsey Tonne.



Fairmont FFA Officer Team on their summer officer retreat: Lance Becker (Vice President), Camren Saxton (President), Andrew Moeller (Sentinel), Leyton Becker (Treasurer), and Chloe Graif (Secretary)

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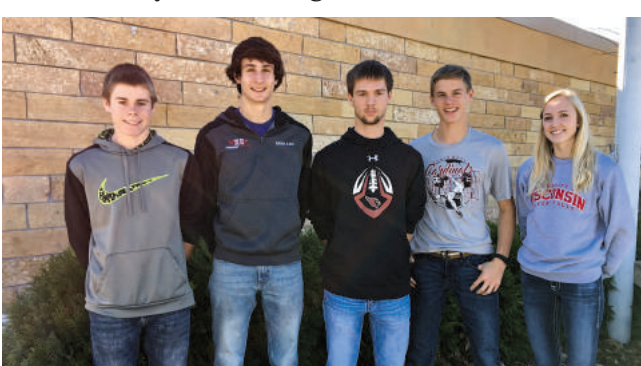
State Qualifying Fairmont FFA Wildlife Management Team, 8th Place at the Region Level: Mike Maakestad, Nick Segar, Shawn Busche



Every winter, Fairmont FFA members package soup mix jars for Heaven's Table Food Shelf. This year, 72 jars were packaged, feeding over 35 families in the local area. Pictured, left to right, back row: Camren Saxton, Andrew Moeller, Lance Becker, Leyton Becker, Jack Rosenberg, Nick Thate, Jed Fowler. Front Row: Holly Petrowiak, Chloe Graif, Andrea Thate.



Fairmont FFA Members at Region 7 Proficiency/Degree Interview Day. Left to right, back row: Reilly Hoefker, 1st Place, Wildlife Management: Andrew Moeller, 2nd Place, Poultry Production: Leyton Becker, State FFA Degree Recipient: Justin Schwieger, 3rd Place, Diversified Ag Placement: Camren Saxton, 1st Place, Beef Entrepreneurship, 2nd Place, Beef Placement: Lance Becker, 2nd Place, Swine Production Placement, State Degree Recipient. Front Row: Jazlyn Meyer, 1st Place, Small Animal Production and Care: Chloe Graif, Region Officer Nominating Committee: Briclyn Bonin, Region 7 President.



Freshman FFA members attend Region 7 Green-hand Day: Larissa Becker, Region 7 Reporter, Carter Davis, Dan Betts, Mason Kotewa, Joni Becker, Briclyn Bonin, Region 7 President.



Fairmont FFA members assist at Farm Safety Day: Back Row: Andrew Moeller, Camren Saxton, Lance Becker. Front Row: Jazlyn Meyer, Chloe Graif, Andrea Thate



Fairmont FFA Members, Lance Becker and Andrew Moeller, teach a lesson on farm safety to local elementary students.



Fairmont FFA Members serve appetizers at the Farm-To-Table meal this summer: Briclyn Bonin, Larissa Becker, and Hannah Johnson

(Pictured at left): State Qualifying Milk Quality and Products Team, 1st Place at the Region Level: Lance Becker, Andrew Moeller, Camren Saxton, Leyton Becker, Holly Petrowiak

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Truman FFA supporters eating at the pancake breakfast. (all FFA photos submitted)



Hailey Olsen making pancakes at the Truman FFA annual pancake breakfast.



Truman FFA member Lydia Studer (FFA sweat-shirt at left) in charge of refreshments at the breakfast.



Fairmont FFA Members at the 2016 Fairmont FFA Banquet: Back Row: Anthony Shimon, Steven Bulfer, Camren Saxton, Reilly Hoefker, Leyton Becker, Austin Philipp, Lance Becker, Caleb Johnson, Andrew Moeller, Carter Kotewa, Nathan Gillis, Nick Tonne, Brady Jensen. Front Row: Hannah Olson, Kaitlyn Cihoski, Larissa Becker, Chloe Graif, Briclyn Bonin, Dayna Madsen, Holly Petrowiak, Hannah Johnson, Logyn Cone

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National FFA Week: February 18-25

Did you know? Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. The week-long tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. The first National FFA Week was held in 1948. Today, FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses February

22nd, Washington's birthday.

National FFA Week did not start out as a week-long event. At first it was National FFA Day. The 1933 National FFA Convention Proceedings records the beginning of FFA Day in this way: "Stewart of Montana requested the floor at this time to present a matter of general interest. He suggested the idea of having a special Future Farmer Day some time during 1934, preferably on one of the regular national FFA broadcasting days. It was pointed out that the various state associations could perhaps plan special state broadcasts also on that day and that chapters might plan their father and son banquets on the date specified. The idea seemed to meet with general delegate approval and after some discussion it was moved by Stewart that the Board of Trustees arrange for such a day; motion passed."

Educate and advocate!

National FFA Week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. It's a time to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

Have fun!

There are a variety of events throughout the week that allow a chapter to communicate with oth-

ers what FFA is all about and ignite a passion for agriculture! Some chapters host teacher appreciation breakfasts, others conduct "Agriculture Olympics" competitions, while still others reach out to the community through service projects. This is just a small sampling of how chapters promote FFA in their schools and communities.

FFA Fact Sheet

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA membership today is comprised of 649,355 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,859 local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

FFA operates on local, state and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agriculture educators serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions.

The National FFA Organization is governed by a board of directors, chapters state associations and provides direction, program materials and support for local chapters and state FFA associations.

FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1950, Congress granted FFA a federal charter, making it an integral part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Act. FFA receives no

federal funding.

FFA members earn \$4 billion annually through hands-on work experiences and participate in and learn advanced career skills in 47 national proficiency areas that range from food science and technology to wildlife management and production agriculture. Through 25 national career development events, FFA members are challenged by real-life, hands-on skill tests, preparing them for career success.

The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs.

TOP 6 U.S. STATES with largest FFA membership
115,630, Texas
83,917, California
40,881, Georgia
27,205, Oklahoma
25,806, Ohio
25,784, Missouri

MISSION

The National FFA Organization is an integral part of agricultural education by helping make classroom instruction come to life through realistic,

hands-on applications.

FFA members embrace concepts taught in agricultural classrooms nationwide, build valuable skills through hands-on experiential learning and each year demonstrate their proficiencies in competitions that showcase real-world agricultural skills.

Today's FFA has evolved in response to expanded opportunities available in agriculture and its need to hire skilled and competent employees for 235 unique careers. The organization also helps students prepare for careers in business, marketing, science, communications, education, horticulture, production, natural resources, forestry and many other diverse fields.

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: classroom education, hands-on supervised agricultural career experiences and FFA, which provides leadership opportunities and tests students' agricultural skills.

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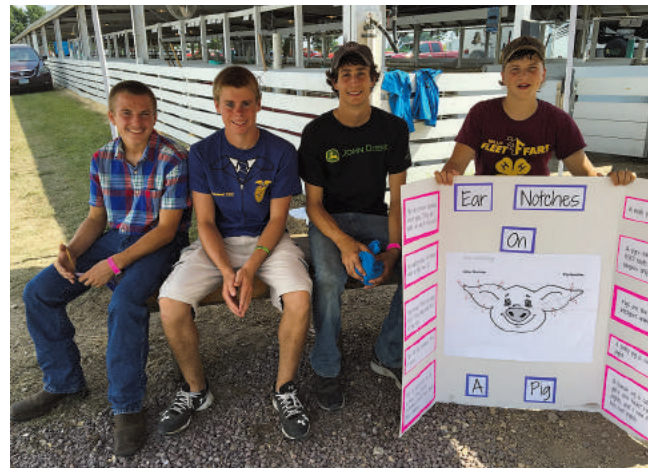
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Fairmont FFA members participating in FFA Day at the Martin County Fair, teaching fairgoers about swine: Nick Segar, Lance Becker, Andrew Moeller, Jed Fowler

Fairmont FFA Community Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 25th from 8:00-11:30 a.m. at Fairmont Jr./Sr. High School in the Ag Room. Enter through Door 24 (south end of the building). The breakfast is free, all are welcome: this is our way of saying "thank you" to the community that has supported us.

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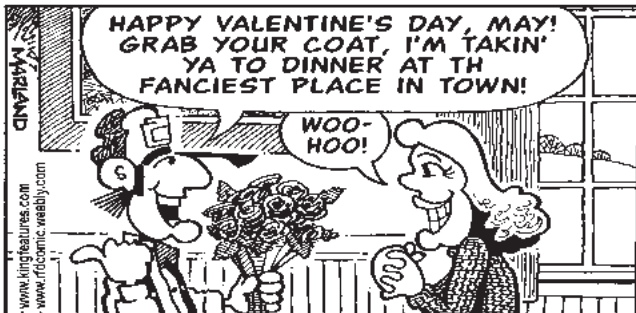
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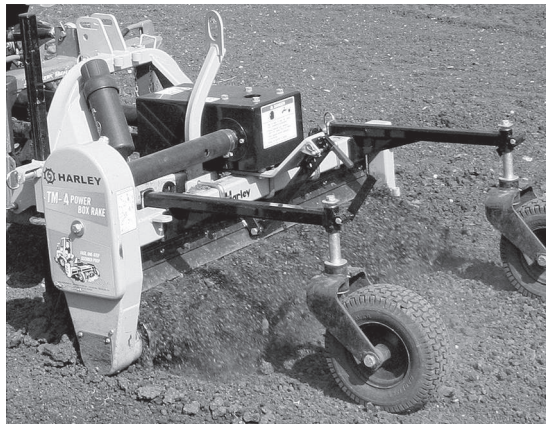
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Current Issues in Manure Management



The Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers will be sponsoring a training session for "Current Issues in Manure Management."

The training workshop is for commercial manure applicators and livestock producers who want to learn more about the developments in manure application.

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: Mankato National Guard Armory

Time: 11:00 am-3:30 pm

Cost: \$25 per person (lunch included)

AGENDA

- 11:00 - Registration & lunch until noon
- Noon - Welcome
- 12:05 - CAWT License Program Update
- 12:35 - Nitrogen Management Update
- 1:35 - Break
- 1:50 - Public Perception
- 2:35 - MN Pollution Control Agency Update
- 3:30 - Final remarks and instructions

Reservations are required

Contact Chris Meeks by February 17, 2017 to confirm your attendance.
(507) 304-4384 • email: Christopher.Meeks@BlueEarthCountyMn.gov

Attendance at this program will meet the education requirements for the MN Dept. of Agriculture's Commercial Waste Technician Licensing Program.

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ishing, available through J&R Drug in downtown Fairmont. The customer's "3x5 or 4x6 color prints are returned overnight in handsome album pages and your precious negatives are sleeved for extra

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protection."

The approximately 45-piece Fairmont City Band was to appear at the Fairmont Opera House. The band annually entertains hundreds at Sylvania Park during the summer and has existed for many decades, but a winter concert had been done only once before, in 1989.

The Martin County Arena, formerly called the Multi-Use Facility, now had a lighted sign on the west end of the building facing the highway at the Martin County fairgrounds. The sign was purchased with money donated by Northland Beverage with the City of Fairmont and the Martin County Agriculture Society paying for the wiring. The arena is

operated six months of the year by the city for an ice skating and hockey arena. The other six months the Agricultural Society operates it, including the Martin County Fair.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 1967

George A. Barden, 83-year-old retired merchant, was named Fairmont's Outstanding Citizen for 1966. Other nominees that year were Mrs. A. N. Grube and Mrs. J. A. Nightingale.

American Field Service students from area schools were to speak at a supper in Fairmont, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

A new Oliver implement dealership, Teeter Farm and Home Supply, was opening at 1300 N. State St. by Bill Teeter, who had been operating a similar business in Armstrong, Iowa.

Willis Freitag of the Fairmont Carpet Service was flat on his back, nursing a painful injury of the knee. The mishap occurred while taking the kids on a Ski-Doo ride on the Amber Lake ice.

The Garden Bug
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In 1985, the United States Senate passed a resolution asking the president to declare the rose as the national floral emblem. On Nov. 20, 1986 President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation certifying the rose as the U.S. national flower in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: nationalrosegarden.com

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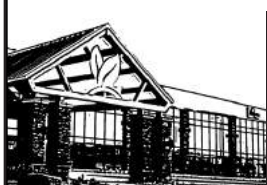
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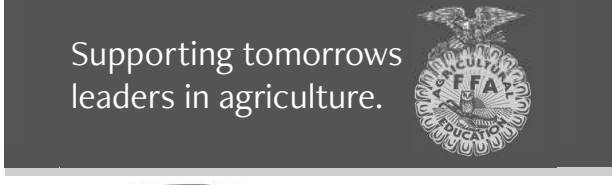
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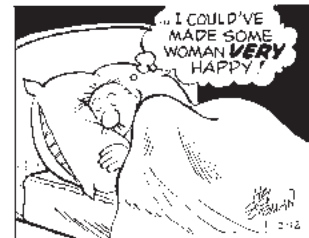
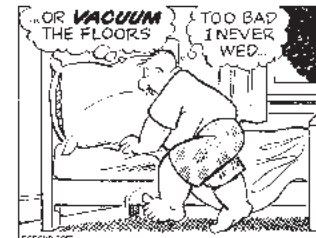
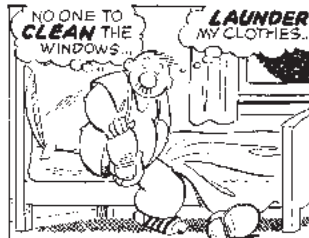
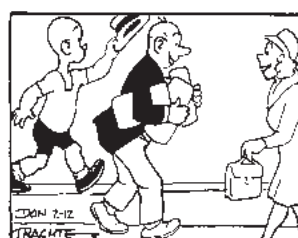
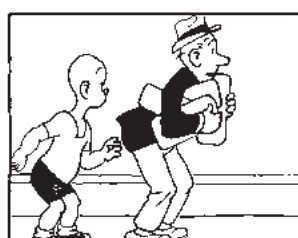
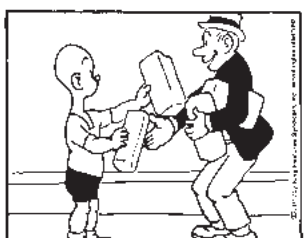
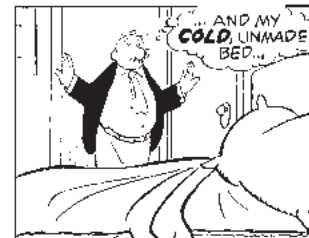
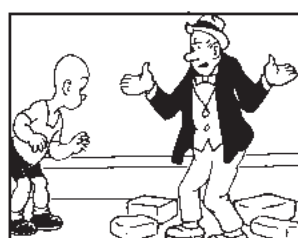
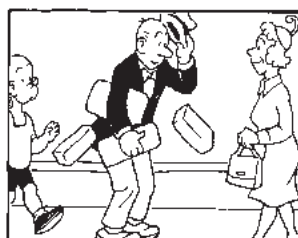
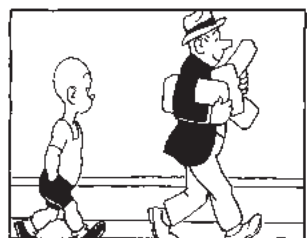
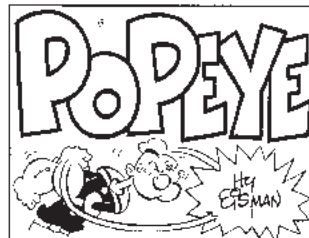
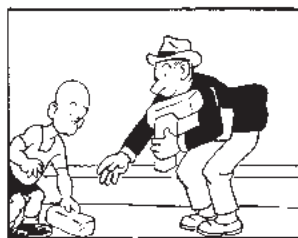
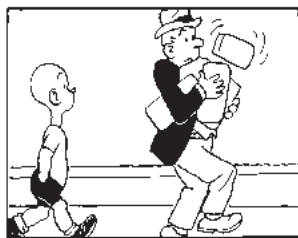
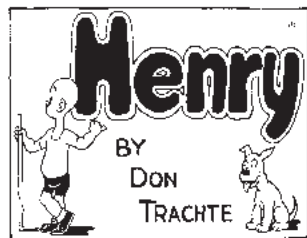
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John E. Zimmer, John E. Zimmer, Atty.-in-fact, Nelda J. Zimmer to Kevin B. Zimmer, SE¼SW¼, 2-102-30

Malorie Thompson, Todd Thompson to Laura S. Koch, Zachary R. Koch, Pt. W½SE¼, 27-101-29

Nathalie M. Daum to Nathalie M. Daum, Trustee, Nathalie M. Daum Trust, S½SE¼, 31-101-33

Linda L. McClintock to Kenny and Kris Sieverding Trust, Kenny Sieverding, Trustee, Kris Sieverding, Trustee, Lot 103, GS12, Belle Vue Estates Condo No. 1

Allison N. Lupke-Vrieze, Allison Vrieze, Nathan L. Vrieze to Jaimie L. Johnson, Lot 11, Pt. Lots 10 and 9, Block 27, Original Plat Triumph

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to Air Med LLC, Lot 11, Exc. E.25', Block 1, 1st Ext. Wards Central Addn.

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Stephanie Jacobson to James P. Dahle, Lot 4, E.4' Lot 5, Block 19, Original Plat Triumph

Kandi A. Aguinaga to Emmanuel S. Aguinaga, Lot 6, S.8' Lot 7, Block 10, Taylor & Johnsons 3rd Addn.

Teresa M. Tonneson, Troy D. Tonneson to Dayle F. Tonneson, Lots 7 and 8, Block 1, Legion Subd., Northrop

Arthur E. Miller, Bonnie J. Miller to Bonnie and Arthur Miller Revocable Trust, Arthur E. Miller, Trustee, Bonnie J. Miller, Trustee, Pt. OL 10, Campbells Addn., Welcome

Arthur E. Miller, Bonnie J. Miller to Bonnie and Arthur Miller Revocable Trust, Arthur E. Miller, Trustee,

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Bonnie J. Miller, Trustee, Lots 1 and 2, Exc. N.31', Block 5, Grafts 3rd Addn., Truman

Catharine L. Johnson, Richard E. Johnson to Catharine L. Johnson Living Trust, Catharine J. Johnson, Trustee, Richard E. Johnson, Trustee, Richard E. Johnson Living Trust, Lot 7, Blok 1, Cedar Creek Addn.

CONTRACTS FOR DEED

Southside Investment LLC to Cinco Group LL, Pt. Lot 1, block 1, 4th Ext. Country Side Addn.

Linda Sparks, Richard Sparks, Tamara L. Sparks, Thomas Sparks to Jeffrey Sparks, S.34.5' Lot 9, N.30' Lot

10, Block 1, Meyers Addn.

DEEDS OF DISTRIBUTION

Lane Slater, Per. Rep., Steven R. Slater Estate to Lance Slater, Lot 10, Block 15, Lake George Addn.

TRUSTEE DEEDS

Vanessa A. Kettner, Dale F. Kettner Revocable Living Trust to Natalie A. Kettner, Trustee, Vanessa A. Kettner, Trustee, Kettner Family Trust, 1/2 Int. SW¼, exc. 2 tracts, 17-104-30; 1/2 Int. Pt. NE¼SE¼, 1/2 Int. Pt. Govt. Lot 14, SE¼, 18-104-30

Financial Focus

Provided by:

Paul Schellpeper, Drew Schellpeper, Wyman Fischer, Mandi Kosbab

Financial Advisors, Edward Jones, www.edwardjones.com, Member SIPC



Try to overcome "Roadblocks" to a comfortable retirement

In your life, you will want to take many journeys. Some are physical - perhaps you'll finally visit the French Riviera or the Caribbean. Others involve personal growth - one day, you'll finally become fluent in that foreign language you've been studying. But of all the destinations you can identify, few will be as important as retirement - specifically, a comfortable retirement. And that's why it's so important to consider the "roadblocks" you might encounter on your road to the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

Here are five of the most common obstacles:

• Insufficient invest-

ments - Very few of us have ever reported investing "too much" for their retirement. But a great many people regret that they saved and invested too little. Don't make that mistake. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. Even if you do participate in your retirement plan at work, you may also still be eligible to fund an IRA, so take advantage of that opportunity, too. And always look for other ways to cut expenses and direct this "found" money toward your retirement.

• Underestimating your longevity - You can't predict how long you'll live, but you can make some reasonable guesses - and you might be surprised at your prospects. According to the Social Security Administration, men reaching age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 84.3, while women turning age 65 today can anticipate living, on average, until age 86.6. That's a lot of years - and you'll need to plan for them when you create long-term saving, investing and spending strategies.

• Not establishing a suitable withdrawal rate - Once you are retired, you will likely need to start withdrawing money from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. It's essential that you don't withdraw too much each year - obviously, you don't want to run the risk of outliving your resources. That's why you need to establish an annual withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your situation,

incorporating variables such as your age, the value of your retirement accounts, your estimated lifestyle expenses, and so on. Calculating such a withdrawal rate can be challenging, so you may want to consult with a professional financial advisor.

• Taking Social Security at the wrong time - You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your checks will be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will probably be 66 or 67, or when your payments "max out" at 70. You might not be able to afford to wait until then, but by postponing the date you begin taking withdrawals, you could help yourself considerably.

• Ignoring inflation - It's been low in recent years, but inflation hasn't disappeared, and it could rise at exactly the wrong time - when you're retired. That's why you'll want your portfolio to include some investments with the potential to outpace inflation, even during your retirement years.

By being aware of these roadblocks, and taking steps to overcome them, you can help smooth your journey toward retirement - and once you get there, you may enjoy it more.

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

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Zayne Engel signed his letter of intent with Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Zayne is also a member the MLHS 1,000 Point Club reaching that milestone early in the 2016-17 season. He is the son of Jason and Melissa Engel of Granada. Zayne is pictured with JAGS coach Brian Borkenhagen and MLHS Athletic Director Tom Taylor. (Submitted photo)



ONE TIMER – Mankato West's Courtney Bloemke shoots on Fairmont's goalie Sadie Sandersfeld as teammate Taylor Nuss looks on. Nuss and teammate Cori Emler had goals for the Cardinals. The Scarlet's eliminated the Cards (9-14-2) from the Section 3A playoffs with a 3-2 win. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



THIRD PLACE – The Fairmont/Martin County West Magic placed third in the Big South Conference gymnastics meet last Saturday night. The Magic compete in the Section 3A Meet this Saturday in Windom. BSC meet results: Worthington 142.8, JCC 140.35, Magic 138.925, New Ulm 136.275. (Submitted photo)



NO REBOUND – Cardinal goalie Colby Kuhl covers up a shot as Albert Lea's Dawson Luttrell looks for a rebound. Cardinals Karson Legred and Leyton Becker defend the play. The Tigers down the Cards 10-0. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



THAT'S GRAND – Senior Walker Torsen needed 14 and finished with 20 points to join the Cardinals 1,000 point club during the Cards 59-49 win over the Windom Eagles Friday night. Torsen joins Mitch Pfingsten 2,113; Eric Hugoson 1,481; Jeff Janssen 1,427 and Bob Winzenberg 1,271 as the Cardinal all-time leading scorers. (Submitted photo)



DOUBLE TEAM – Cards #41 Claire Cutler and Taylor Crissinger attempt to block New Ulm's Meleah Reinhart shot. The Eagles edged the Cardinals 51-45 last Thursday night. *Courtesy gregabelphotography.com*



BREAKAWAY – Cardinals Thomas Haven shoots on goal. New Ulm goalie made the stop while teammates #7 Ryan Esser and Max Heiderscheidt look on. The Eagles shutout the Cards 12-0 last Thursday night. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*

35 Fairmont Cardinal speakers compete at Mankato Loyola Classic



On Saturday, February 11th, 35 Fairmont Cardinal speakers took home second place as a team honors at the Crusader Classic at Mankato Loyola High School.

In Varsity, Fairmont had four first place finishes, Ben Hernes in Interpretation of Prose, Emma Koelher in Poetry, Lauren Carlson in Informative Speaking, and Emily Haugen in Extemporaneous Reading.

Second place honors went to Eric Head, Creative Expression, Lexi Fischer in Humorous Interpretation and Mikayla Soelter in Storytelling.

Third place awards went to Apoorva Komaragiri in Prose, Izzy Munch in Humorous Interpretation and Mikayla Soelter in Prose earned fourth place honors.

In the Novice division Ameya Komaragiri earned first place honors in Original Oratory. Second place finishes went to Alyse Schwebke in Creative Expression,

Annika Wheeler in Storytelling and Grace Higgins in Original Oratory. Katy Pedroza earned third place in Prose. Emily Kerekes in Extemporaneous Reading and Skyeli Malo in Humorous Interpretation earned fourth place honors. Fifth place honors went to Ethan Grunewald in Discussion and Lucas Simpson in Storytelling.

The team will travel to Mankato West High School on Saturday, February 18th.

Blue Earth Knowledge Bowl team continues strong

The 2017 Senior High Knowledge Bowl season continues to be strong for the Blue Earth Area squad. At the Minnesota New Country School last Friday in Mankato, the BEA Emerald team with Ben Backstrom, Lucas Determan, Bryan Karp, Hunter Rock, and Jacob Willette, finished in fourth place in the field of 38 teams from 12 different schools.

Determan left immediately after the competition to travel to St. Cloud, where he competed as part of the robotics team. Senior High Knowledge Bowl coaches for these students is Will Howieson with assistance from Mike Ellingsen. The next competition for the Bucs was in Sleepy Eye on Monday, February 10th.



Blue Earth Area Emerald - left to right: Bryan Karp, Ben Backstrom, Hunter Rock, Jacob Willette

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MARVIN looks like a big tough guy, but when you reach out to pet him you discover he is a marshmallow of a guy. Marvin loves to have his head petted and loves people attention. This gray tabby has striking green eyes.

CLETUS has silky long black hair. He is declawed, well-mannered, and friendly. He likes to sit on laps and is ok with kids. Cletus's best friend at his previous home was a dog, so he would be happy to live with a friendly fido.

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MAX is a Chihuahua and Yorkie mix, with medium length brown and white hair. Max loves people food and aggressively begs for it, so would be best in a home with no children. Max seems to be fine with other dogs and nice cats.

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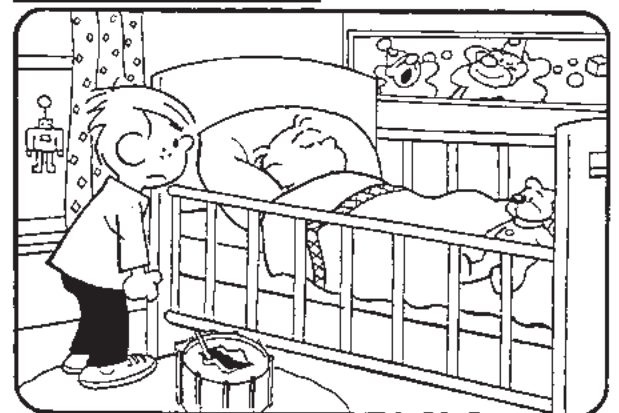
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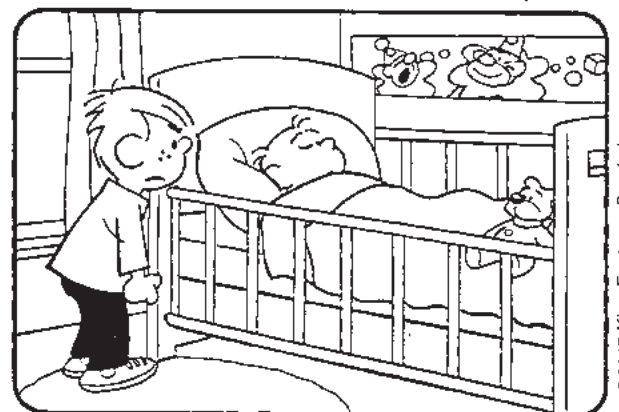
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Use Crop Insurance As A Risk Management Tool

Guest Columnist



Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst; VP, MinnStar Bank

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Due to the continued tight margins in crop production for the 2017 crop year, some farmers are contemplating reducing their crop insurance coverage in order to save on premium costs. While there may be a small savings in the premium costs per acre, that decision could add considerable risk to the farm operation for the coming year. Many farm operators remember a few years ago when crop insurance coverage virtually guaranteed a profit from crop production in a given year. Crop price guarantees have changed, and that may be no longer possible; however, the risk protection provided by crop insurance coverage may be more important now than ever.

The price guarantee for revenue protection (RP) crop insurance coverage for corn in 2013 was \$5.65 per bushel. At that base price, a farm operator with a 180 bushel per acre actual production history (APH) yield could guarantee over \$860 per acre with an 85% RP insurance policy, and over \$810 per acre with an 80% RP policy. The average corn costs per acre on rented land in Southern Minnesota for direct expenses, overhead costs, and land rent, based on the University of Minnesota FINBIN web site, was approximately \$870 per acre in 2013.

The situation with soybeans and RP insurance coverage in 2013 was similar to corn. The 2013 price guarantee for RP soybean crop insurance of \$12.87 per bushel. At that price guarantee, a farm operator with a 50 bushel per acre actual production history (APH) yield could guarantee nearly \$550 per acre in 2013 with an 85% RP insurance policy, and approximately \$515 per acre at 80% RP insurance coverage. The average FINBIN soybean costs per acre in Southern Minnesota for direct expenses, overhead costs, and land rent was approximately \$540 per acre in 2013.

The revenue guarantees per acre provided by RP crop insurance policies in 2013 virtually covered all direct and overhead expenses, as well as land rental costs, and in some cases provided a small profit margin. By 2015, the corn price guarantee dropped to \$4.15 per bushel, which lowered the dollar guarantee with a 180 bushel per acre APH yield to near \$635 per acre with 85% RP insurance coverage, and to just below \$600 per acre with 80% RP coverage. The

2015 corn average expense for land rents, direct and overhead expenses still exceeded \$800 per acre in many instances. Similarly, for soybeans, the RP price guarantee for 2015 was \$9.73 per bushel, lowering the guarantee to just below \$415 per acre with a 50 bushel per acre APH yield and 85% RP insurance coverage. The 2015 average expense for land rent, direct and overhead costs for soybeans was still near \$525 per acre.

For the 2016 crop year, the RP crop insurance price guarantees dropped even further to \$3.86 per bushel for corn and \$8.85 per bushel for soybeans; however, the average total costs of production for corn and soybeans also declined significantly from 2015 levels. It appears that the 2017 crop insurance price guarantee for corn should be similar to 2016 levels, possibly slightly higher, and should be considerably higher for soybeans, compared to 2016 price guarantees. As of February 10th, the RP price estimates were \$3.96 per bushel for corn and \$10.20 per bushel for soybeans.

Using those price guarantees, and a 190 bushel per acre APH corn yield, the resulting revenue guarantee would be near \$640 per acre with an 85% RP policy and just over \$600 per acre with an 80% RP policy. If we assume a 52 bushel per acre APH soybean yield, the resulting revenue guarantee would be just over \$450 per acre with an 85% RP policy and near \$425 per acre with an 80% RP policy. Estimated average 2017 production costs in Southern Minnesota for land rent, direct and overhead expenses are expected to be near \$700 per acre for corn, and \$460 per acre for soybeans.

Some producers tend to overlook crop insurance as an important risk management tool, since the available revenue guarantees are lower than the cost of production in many situations. However, the overall financial risk in 2017 may be far greater than it was in back or 2013, when overall crop revenues were much higher. Crop insurance premiums for 85% RP coverage for corn and soybeans in many areas are much more favorable now than they were in previous years. Some producers have been able to increase their APH corn and soybean yields in recent years by using the trend-adjusted yield (TA-APH) yield endorsement for their crop insurance coverage.

This has helped expand the insurance guarantee with only a minimal premium cost increase.

In the 2016 crop year, many farm operators in South Central and South-west Minnesota saw the benefits of having 80% or 85% RP crop insurance coverage for corn and soybeans. Some portions of this region received record rainfall during the 2016 growing season, and were impacted by severe storms with excessive rainfall events and hail, causing significant crop loss. In addition, the 2016 corn price dropped from a RP price guarantee of \$3.86 per bushel in February to a harvest price \$3.49 per bushel in October. This resulted for some substantial crop insurance indemnity payments for producers that incurred significant yield losses on corn in 2016, and had 80% or 85% RP crop insurance coverage in 2016. Producers with lower levels of coverage received very minimal 2016 indemnity payments.

As we enter 2017, we continue to have very tight crop margins for the coming year, and in some cases negative margins on cash rental acres to cover land rents, direct and overhead costs. Before reducing crop insurance coverage for 2017, a producer needs to assess whether they want to take on the extra risk of the reduced revenue guarantee of the lower crop insurance coverage. Reducing from an 85% RP policy to a 75% RP policy will reduce the insurance guarantee by \$70-\$80 per acre for corn, and \$50-\$60 per acre for soybeans. Producers are also encouraged to discuss this with their ag lender, before finalizing their 2017 crop insurance decisions.

The deadline to purchase crop insurance for corn and soybeans for the 2017 crop year is March 15th, 2017. For more information on various crop insurance policies and alternatives for 2017, producers should contact a reputable crop insurance agent. Kent Thiesse has written an information sheet titled: "2017 Crop Insurance Decisions". To receive a free copy of this information sheet, please forward an e-mail to: kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com. Some other very good web sites with timely crop insurance information are: University of Illinois FarmDoc: www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/cropins/index.as >USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA): www.rma.usda.gov/



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•Row 1 (l to r): Logan Potthoff, Kooper Janssen, Emelia Melson, Emily Ziemer, Karter Janssen, Sierra Williamson, Maggie Bachenberg, Maddy Ebeling, Aaron Ebeling, Seth Scarfpin •Row 2: Sydnee Hein, James Bittner, Latisha Forsberg, Abby Swanson, Jayden Moeller, Lexie Lange, Samantha Schwager, Nic Miller, Derrek Russenberger, Hannah Olson •Row 3: Cara Behrends, Erin Tlam, Maia Taylor, Emma Behrends, Jade Miller, Mercedes Moeller, Carson Kahler, Madison Klima, Karlee Thiesse, Alyssa Williamson, Lilly Krogman, Kelley Bettin, Hannah Wohlhuter, Kiley Bettin •Row 4: Emily Schultz, Cora Olson, Jordan Stahl, Grace Meyers, Jarek Cutler, Hannah Bliesmer, Dani Nelson, Nic Potthoff, Cheyenne Owens, Alexi Schafer, Ella Meyers, Lauren Borchardt, Zoie Thate, Taylor Elliot •Row 5: Remington Kuehl, Skylar Tumbleson, Heather Trumpold, Hunter Thompson, Lindsey Bettin, Austin Harris, Emily Matejka, Heather Trumpold, Leah Amborn, Miah Olson, Ivy Kokoruda, Odessa Stade •Row 6: Mason Mosloski, Dawson Becker, Colby Williamson, Cole Owens, Cam Dressen, Nick Beseke, Logan Kosbab, Shaylynn Anderson, Liz Fisher, Macey Becker, Sway Buchmeier, Tanner Sinn, Lucas Jagodzinske •Row 7: Cash Owens, Collin Clifford, Karson Janssen, Todd Morrow, Katie Lange, Nick Bittner, Noah Schettler, Hayden Jahnke •Row 8: Nick Rathmann, Cody Owens, Hunter Schmidtke, Zander Helmers, Jacob Rosenberg, Gabby Lange, Olivia Anderson, Sady Ringnell, Cayden Gregory, Kain Sanders, Carter Lyon, Blake Jagodzinske.



Do you know how your mail gets to your house? The preschool and kindergarten students from St. John Vianney can tell you. Students recently visited the Fairmont Post Office to learn how the mail gets delivered. (submitted photo)



The MCW FFA Poultry Career Development Events team, left to right: Jeremy Daberkow (advisor), Lucas Potthoff, Maggie Bachenberg, Cora Olson, Joyce Ziemann placed 16th in the nation.

We need help delivering only good news.

We have openings for carriers in these Fairmont areas:

•**Route 14:** 300 to 600 blocks of South Hampton, 500 to 700 blocks of Tilden, 200 to 800 blocks of Willow, and adjacent streets.

•**Route 25:** 900 block of Budd Street and School Street, 700 and 800 blocks of South Orient, 600 to 800 blocks of Victoria Street, Highland Avenue.

•**Route 26:** Cambridge Street, 200 to 400 blocks of Forest Street, 400 to 600 blocks of South Hampton Street and South Prairie Avenue, 300 and 400 blocks of Victoria Street, 300 to 400 blocks of Willow Street.

•**Route 29:** 300 to 600 blocks of Albion Avenue, Lake Park Boulevard and Lake Park Place, Linden Drive and Sisseton Drive.

•**Route 32:** Budd Lake Drive, 100 to 500 blocks of Woodland Avenue, Cedar Street, Circle Drive, Homewood Drive, Walnut Street.

•**Route 39:** 900 to 1000 blocks of Shoreacres Drive, 900 block of Summit Drive, Union Street, Capital Heights Court, Embassy Road, Heritage Court, Independence Drive, Liberty Lane, Rona Court, Channel Inn.

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