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Wednesday
April 4, 2018

Volume 54 | Number 48

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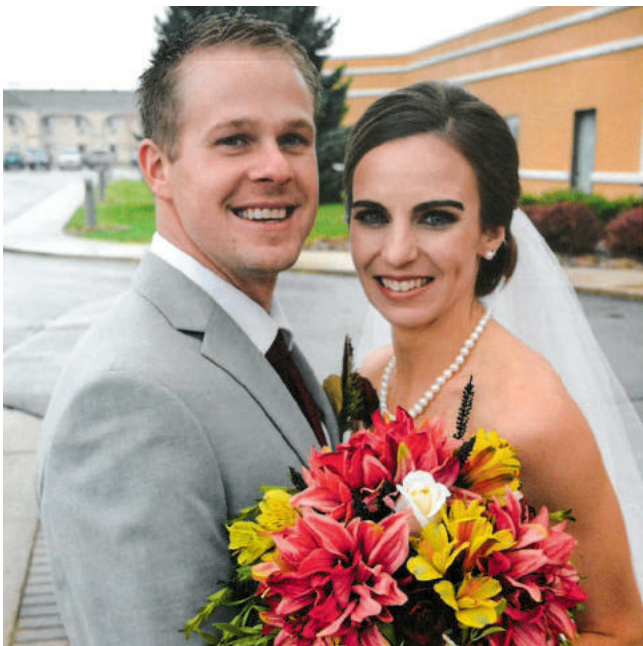
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CHIRPICH - Erika P. Hurley and Scott A. Chirpich were married November 17th, 2017 at St. Augustine Church in Austin, MN with Father Andrew Beerman of St. John Vianney Catholic Church officiating. A reception was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Austin. Parents of the couple are Peg and Dan Hurley of Chatfield, MN and Lori and Randy Chirpich of Fairmont. Erika is a Physician's Assistant in Orthopedics at Mayo Clinic Health System-Fairmont and Scott is an Assistant Project Manager at "Woodworks" of Fairmont.

CCFBank welcomes Mike Kunkel to the team

CCFBank is pleased to announce that Mike Kunkel has joined the CCFBank team as the West Region President.

"It is with great pleasure that we add Mike Kunkel as the West Region President for CCFBank. Mike's significant leadership experience, coupled with his commercial and agricultural lending background, makes him a great fit for our team. We are pleased that Mike has joined CCFBank and we are confident that he will be a key component to the future success in our markets throughout Minnesota," said CCFBank's CEO, Stephen Bianchi.

Kunkel is active in the financial industry as well as the local community. He received his degree from Minnesota State University Mankato, and a diploma from the Graduate School of Banking at University of Wisconsin-

Madison. He has served on the Minnesota Bankers Association Ag Committee, is active in the Greater Mankato United Way, Greater Mankato Growth Young Professionals, and is a member of the Mankato Downtown Key City Kiwanis. His role with CCFBank will be based out of the Mankato CCFBank location.

Citizens Community Federal N.A. (CCFBank), a wholly owned subsidiary of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., is a full-service national bank based in Altoona, Wisconsin, with over \$900 million in Assets and serving customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. To learn more about CCFBank, visit their Facebook page (Citizens Community Federal) or www.ccf.us. The company trades on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "CZWI."



Genesis Classical Academy Spring Fling

Genesis Classical Academy of Winnebago will have their Spring Fling on Saturday, April 7th at Riverside Town & Country Club, Highway 169 south of Winnebago.

The event will feature a Windsor chop and hamburger dinner, silent auction and live DJ from 5 to 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. a live auction will take place. There is a charge for the dinner and tickets can be purchased in advance from First Financial Bank in Winnebago and at Genesis Classical Academy. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Sponsors for the event include Winnebago American Legion Post 82, First Financial Bank in Winnebago, Thrivent Financial, First Bank Blue Earth, Once Upon A Child, Hy-Vee, Cargill, First National Agency and Profinium.



KESLER 90TH - Lila L. Kesler will be celebrating her 90th birthday Monday, April 9th. Cards can reach her at 2295 Highway 15, Truman, MN 56088.



LANDSTEINER 90TH - Vincent Landsteiner of Fairmont will celebrate his 90th birthday on Saturday, April 7th, 2018.

Fairmont Library Tinkerpalooza!

Join the Martin County Library for this all ages event at the Fairmont Library on Saturday, April 7th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Drop-in and check-out a variety of exploratory tinkering stations, including: Blacklight Legos, our giant mobile magnet wall, wooden ball runs, flight lab wind tunnel, Keva planks, experiments in the see-thru sensory table AND demonstrations by the Fairmont Robotics Team!

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dunnell will be having a **Soup and Dessert Luncheon** this Sunday, April 8th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for Ladies Aid/WELCA. Suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for ages 4-11, and free for 4 years and under. There will be soups/chili as well rolls, crackers, beverages and various desserts.

Fairmont Area High School Theater Department proudly presents Jonathan Rand's "Check Please!" Join us for a hilarious short comedy examining the difficulties of dating in the modern age. Show times are Thursday, April 5th at 8 p.m., Friday, April 6th at 7 p.m. and Saturday April 7th at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Fairmont High School. Tickets are available at the door.

bridal registry

Free gift when you register.

Rachel Plathe
Jordan Collins.....April 21
Evelyn Jorgenson
Timothy KueJune 16

Sterling
The Drugstore with More
Five Lakes Centre
Fairmont, Minnesota

Fairmont Library to host KARE 11 Meteorologist

Join us at the Fairmont Library on Thursday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. to hear Belinda Jensen speak.

Jensen, a KARE 11 meteorologist and weekend anchor, has been with the network for 25 years. She is also the author of a series of children's books about the weather, "Bel,

the Weather Girl."

This event is free and open to the public.

This program is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Blood donation opportunity in Truman

Truman Schools National Honor Society, along with the American Red Cross is encouraging local residents to donate blood on Monday, April 9th from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Truman High School Activity Room in Truman.

You can help those who have been seriously injured and need blood

products to help them recover.

To make an appointment or to learn more, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Teen Read-A-Latte Event to be held April 12

All teens are invited to join Amber at Graffiti Corner for the Martin County Library's Read-A-Latte event!

Enjoy free fro-yo and coffee and share what

you're reading, watching or listening to!

The event will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12th.

Call the library with questions at 238-4207.

The monthly meeting of the **Fairmont Lakes Foundation** will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, 5:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the Southern Minnesota Educational Center, 115 South Park Street. Note change of date for this month only. Enter by the southeast door of the building.

An Open House Couple's Wedding Shower for **Taryn Tumbleson** and **Cody Carlson** will be held on Sunday, April 15th, 2018 at 12:00 noon at Trimont United Methodist Church. Lunch will be at noon with a program to follow at 12:30 p.m. The couple is registered at Target.

We need help delivering only good news.

We have openings for carriers in Fairmont:

ROUTES NOW AVAILABLE!

Route 16: Fairview Avenue, 900 to 1000 blocks north side Blue Earth Avenue, 800 to 1000 blocks of East First Street, 100 to 400 blocks of North State Street.

Route 17: 400 to 600 blocks of North Hampton, North Oriwent, 400 to 700 blocks of North Grant, North Dewey, 500 to 700 blocks of East 4th, East 5th and East 6th, 700 blocks of East 7th.

Route 25: 900 block of Budd Street, 800 and 900 blocks of Highland Avenue, 900 block of School Street, 600 to 900 blocks of Victoria Street.

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: Lake Park Boulevard,

Lake Park Place, Linden Drive and Sisseton Drive.

Route 30: Kings Road, Hengen, Martin Court, Fairlakes, North and South Valley View Court.

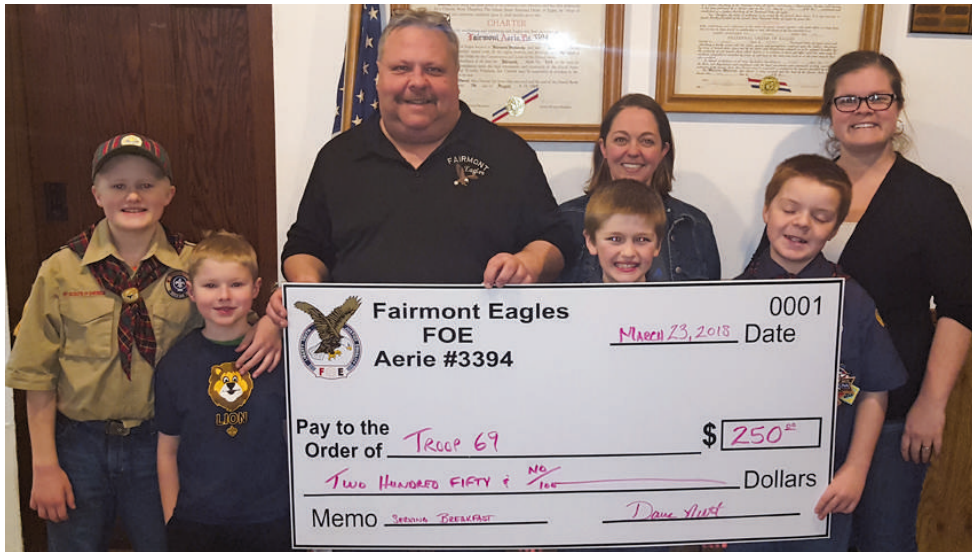
Route 37: 1200 to 1500 blocks of Albion Avenue, Oak Beach Drive, Oak Beach Place, Oak Street, East Lair Road, 100 to 200 blocks of West Lair Road, Lake Street, Cadillac Avenue and Lakeview Street.

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.

Route 44: East Belle Vue Road, Stadel Lane, Sylvia Street, Jerry Street.

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The Fairmont Eagles recently made a donation to Troop 69 Cub Scouts for their help with serving the Eagles breakfast buffet for the months of February and March. Pictured are Dave Nutt Club manager & past President (center) presenting a check for \$250 to (L to R) Milow Swanson, Oliver Swanson, Tina MacCorkell, Michael Mckorkell, Riley Ebeling and Laura Ebeling. (Submitted photo)

Federated REA awards students Federated/Basin scholarships

Federated Rural Electric, Jackson, congratulates the two local students receiving the 11th annual \$1,000 Federated/Basin Scholarships. This is the eighth year that two students were selected.

Jessica Christoffer, Round Lake, receives a \$1,000 Basin/Federated scholarship. Christoffer is a senior at Jackson County Central High School. Christoffer will attend South Dakota State University and major in Food Science and Technology. She is the daughter of Dean and Andrea.



Jessica Christoffer

Hannah Johanson, Elmore, receives the \$1,000 Federated/L&O/Basin Scholarship. Johanson is a freshman at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge; she graduated from Granada-Huntley-East Chain High School. Johanson is majoring in Dental Hygiene. She is the daughter of Greg and Rochelle.

In addition, Nicholas Resch, Spirit Lake, earned



Hannah Johanson

an employee dependent \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric. Cooperative employees with graduating seniors can submit the same application to Basin where 20 employee scholarships are awarded. Basin serves electric cooperatives in nine states. Resch is a senior at Spirit Lake High School. He will attend South Dakota State University majoring in Ag System Technology. Resch is the son of Mike and Julie.

The Basin scholarships are available to Federated members with high school seniors and college students who will be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school working on an undergraduate or master's degree. Federated received 18 applications. Each applicant completed a two-page application, wrote an essay, submitted grades, a reference checklist and college test

scores.

These scholarship applications were judged by retired school personnel Rosemary Schultz, Lakefield; and Sharon Rosen, Welcome.

Meanwhile, Federated's Operation Round Up scholarship applications were mailed with the March 1st and March 7th electric bills. The Trust Board is awarding nine \$700 scholarship with one for each of the six districts and three scholarships awarded for District



Nicholas Resch

At-Large, which includes all Federated members for a second-chance drawing. Applicants must be high school graduating seniors who are the sons or daughters of Federated members. Applications are due by April 11th and winners will be announced in the June Connections newsletter.

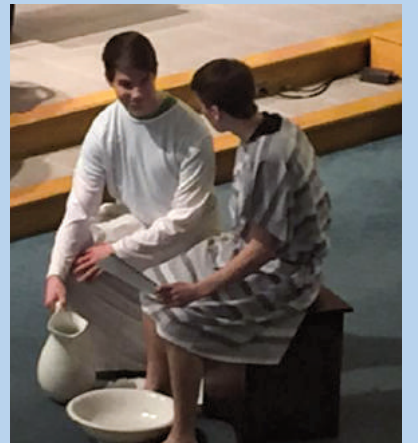
Federated is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative serving more than 6,700 members in Jackson and Martin Counties.

The Fairmont Class of 1953 is now meeting the 1st Friday of the month instead of Thursday. Lunch will be Friday, April 6th at 11:30 a.m. at the Ranch Restaurant in Fairmont.

SJV Confirmation students present "The Last Supper"



The St. John Vianney 10th Grade Confirmation Class presentation of "The Last Supper" was given on Wednesday, March 21st, 2018 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Fairmont. Parents, family members and friends were in attendance for Lenten event. Everyone enjoyed refreshments in the hospitality area after the performance. (Submitted photos)



FCH Foundation Annual Meeting

The Fairmont Community Hospital Foundation will have their annual meeting on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 at the Holiday Inn in Fairmont.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30

p.m., followed by a discussion at 6 p.m. and dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

There is no cost to attend. RSVP to Kayla Caven at kayla.caven12@gmail.com or call 507-236-3397 by April 20th.

St. Paul Lutheran Endowment fund

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont gratefully thanks the following for giving \$1,660.40 to St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Fund for the 1st quarter of 2018:

Merle & Beverly Brinkman
Roger & Pam Carlson
Engel & Betty Engelson

Gladys Gellert
David & Kathryn Gratz
Patricia Hall
Susan Hinz
John & Jean Huttemeier
David & Lois Johnson
John & Emily Johnson
Dennis Burmeister Estate
Russell & Joan Luedtke
Kent & Erlene Milbrandt
Thomas & Mary Westcott

Martin County West Drama Department presents "Arsenic and Old Lace", written by Joseph Kesselring this Friday, April 6th at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 7th at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 8th at 2 p.m. at the Sherburn Theatre. Tickets are available at MCW school and at the door. Concessions and bake sale will also take place in the theatre lobby!

The Sherburn American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sherburn American Legion Hall. All members are invited to attend.

The annual meeting of the Center Creek Cemetery Association will be held Monday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the Granada Council House. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

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It was a special day for Mrs. Walters' first grade class at Fairmont Area Elementary School when Officer Hagert came and helped the children make Easter baskets last week! (Submitted photo)

The Energy for Spring

Guest Columnist

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



Spring is finally here! Or is it? Minnesota remains the “Land of 10,000 seasons,” as I like to call it, but let’s be optimistic and say that spring really is here. That means you have to get back into gear for yard and garden work, spring sports, perhaps graduation or wedding preparations. Many people look to integrative and functional medicine to find out why they don’t have the energy that they used to. Some of it may be attributed to sitting around too much over the winter, or not enough sunlight – in which case you may be low on vitamin D. Whatever the reason, it is fixable if you know what is causing it.

So let’s look at some ways to boost your energy for Spring. We’ll look at some bad ways, some good ways, and some really healthy ways – that is, if you have the energy to keep up.

Some obvious bad ways are the “X-Hour” energy drinks, where “X” is a

number that tells you how long your energy (or wallet) will last. While some people do notice a boost from these expensive little “shots,” the fact that they work on you in the first place is pretty diagnostic of some kind of vitamin deficiency. For example, if you were not deficient in vitamin B12 then taking more is not going to help!! How about drinking a 64 ounce serving of Coke? Yes, you’ll get a boost. You’ll also get a crash, and you’ll also likely have problems sleeping that night. And if you rely on either of these unhealthy methods on a regular basis, you’ll eventually experience adrenal fatigue and need professional help to get back to normal. So let’s look at some problems you may have and how to fix them.

What if your problem is really a vitamin B12 deficiency? Then taking B12 will help. But wait, I can hear you asking, “Any B12? Just go down to Walmart

and get the cheapest one I can find?” No, no, no. As with anything else, you get what you pay for. Getting quality supplements is just as important as getting quality prescriptions. B12 deficiencies can come from low stomach acid, leaky gut, food allergies, and vegetarian diets to name a few. How do you know if you have a B12 deficiency? A simple blood test – which we do at Burtis Chiropractic Center – will tell us exactly how your B12 levels are. You can also retest later on to make sure you’re getting enough.

What about the aforementioned adrenal glands? They are extremely important for health and vitality, and perhaps the most misunderstood energy issue in the body! Adrenal support supplements come in all kinds and qualities, but taking them without first checking for the source of your problem can actually make matters worse. The

adrenal glands work with the thyroid (more on that later), the reproductive organs, the brain – just about everything. Again, simple blood tests will reveal if this is the source of the issue, or just a victim of some other abnormality in your body. Supplements like Adreset and ADB5 can often restore your adrenal glands and you to good health and good energy. One final adrenal tidbit: the adrenal glands make cortisol, which we need to wake up in the morning. You have likely heard how bad cortisol is and how it gives you belly fat. Forget that; it’s mostly wrong. Without cortisol you would be dead in a few days, if not sooner. You just need to have the right amounts at the right time of day, and that can be corrected through natural means as well.

So how about your thyroid? Many people suspect they have thyroid problems, so they go ask their doctor for a blood test. It often comes back normal so they look elsewhere. Unfortunately, most doctors only test one of seven thyroid biomarkers (TSH, which really isn’t even testing your thyroid; it’s testing your pituitary

gland) and misdiagnose a thyroid problem as something else. I can’t tell you how many people we have found to have a thyroid autoimmune disease called Hashimoto’s disease that was undiagnosed because their last doctor didn’t do the right testing. Many of these people were told it was depression and given the wrong treatment. That would make me depressed!! Fortunately, most thyroid problems can be treated naturally, even Hashimoto’s disease. Iodine, selenium, and thyroid glandulars all help here when given at the right time in the right way.

Getting good sleep is another problem many people have. Often it is just a matter of resetting your circadian rhythms. If you find yourself having your highest energy levels anytime other than the morning, this is often the problem. Having a circadian clock that is off (it’s called ‘phase shift’) has been linked to depression, PCOS, weight gain, fatigue, and a number of other things. And yes, it is fixable without prescription drugs. Melatonin, neurotransmitter support, and supplements to address stress can give you

great sleep again. If you find you can’t fall asleep easily then melatonin will often be your answer. If you find yourself waking up at night unable to fall asleep again, you usually have neurotransmitter imbalance – typically low GABA.

Interestingly, adrenal issues are often tied to circadian rhythm issues, and thyroid problems are often related to adrenal problems (elevated cortisol can block the conversion of T4 to T3, for all you health geeks). Hormone imbalances can lead to thyroid problems as well (excess estrogen often hijacks TBG), and a diet that leads to elevated insulin levels can lead to hormone problems (PCOS is a great example of this). Hopefully you see how it all ties together. And hopefully you see how treating one problem can just make a bad thing worse and how only an expert in functional and integrative medicine can really help you get the root cause of your issues.

Your old energetic self is still in there, it just needs help and some expert advice. Spring is here; time to take that energy back! We’ll see and your old self soon!!

Homeowners Want Elegant Electric Upgrades

(NAPS)—Most American homeowners are likely accustomed to standard, builder-grade wall plates and lighting controls in their space. However, according to a recent Harris Poll commissioned by the Collections by Legrand, 82 percent of homeowners believe there are more stylish lighting control options than what came installed in their home.

In fact, discerning homeowners have many ways to enhance and personalize lighting and power controls with a unique selection of wall plates, dimmers and switches, scene controllers, plug-in modules and outlets.

Key Findings

Here are the top five ideas survey respondents had about home lighting and charging



equipment.

1. Energy use and sustainability. While 91 percent of homeowners say reducing energy use at home is important, about one in five Americans don’t know that installing

lighting controls can meet that objective. The adorne Motion Sensor Switch, for instance, provides combination control, letting users manually or automatically turn lights on or off when entering or leaving a room through motion-sensing technology.

2. Smart home-inspired design and technology are on the rise. A growing presence of tech-focused products, appliances and solutions simplify day-to-day living, and lighting is identified as a priority smart home feature. The survey found that two-thirds of Americans say if they were creating a smart home, they would want to be able to control lighting via an app or online.

To that end, there are Wi-Fi and RF Lighting Systems in

the adorne and radiant Collections. They let users customize at-home lighting schemes from their smartphones through an intuitive, easy-to-use app. This allows for seamlessly controlled settings for any mood or occasion, whether at home or away. The app pairs with Wi-Fi Ready and RF dimmers and switches, through a discreet communication Hub, all controlled over the homeowner’s wireless local area network for a truly smart approach to lighting.

3. Childproofing is a major consideration for parents. Only about a quarter of Americans know tamper-resistant outlets eliminate the need to child-proof electrical sockets. These outlets keep young children from inserting common household objects such as keys, hair-

pins and other items, protecting curious little ones from danger.

For example, the Night Light with Two Tamper-Resistant Outlets from the radiant Collection includes black shutters that essentially disappear into the background for a sophisticated invisible effect. All outlets from both collections feature a patented shutter system that lets plugs in but keeps keys and other objects out.

Additional protection can be found in such innovative items as the adorne Collection Pop-Out Outlet, which disappears into the wall with a simple push when not in use, discouraging any interference.

4. Great design is a priority. To meet any style profile, the radiant Collection offers screwless, snap-on wall plates

in classic neutral and metallic styles, while the adorne Collection features luxurious, modern light switches, dimmers, outlets and wall plates that make a dramatic design statement.

5. Budget-friendly products are ideal. While some homeowners look to remodel projects as a way to add instant curb appeal and increase property values, roughly half of homeowners admitted that making home improvements is not a priority for them due to the cost. Fortunately, the comprehensive offerings from the Collections by Legrand are accessible across a variety of budgets.

Learn More

For further facts, visit www.legrand.us/collections.

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What's Cooking

with Kathy Lloyd

A new Egg bake recipe!

I am always on the look out for different egg bake recipe's. Joyce Jorgenson served this dish at a brunch at her home and shared the recipe with me. Its nice to have one that doesn't call for bread and if you used a different kind of flour other than wheat it would be gluten free. It was fast to put together, I made it for our Easter breakfast at church, I hope that you enjoy it too!

Overnight Brunch Egg Bake

24 oz. (6 cups) shredded colby/monterey jack cheese blend. (That is 3 pkg.)
2 tablespoons margarine or butter
1/3 cup sliced green onions
1/2 medium red bell pepper, chopped
1 jar (4.5 oz.) sliced mushrooms, drained
8 oz. cooked ham, cubed or cut into thin bite-sized strips
8 eggs
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 3/4 cups milk
Chopped fresh parsley, if desired

Spray 13x9 inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle half of cheese evenly on bottom.

Melt butter in medium skillet over medium heat. Add onions, bell pepper and mushrooms. Cook until onions and peppers are tender. Arrange vegetables over cheese, top with ham. Sprinkle remaining cheese over ham.

Beat eggs in large bowl, lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off, add flour, parsley and milk to eggs. Blend well. Pour mixture in baking dish. Cover. Refrigerate 8 hours or overnight.

To serve, heat oven to 350 degrees. Uncover baking dish. Bake for 55-65 minutes or until mixture is set and top is lightly browned. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. To serve cut into squares, garnish with fresh parsley.

Have a great week!

Americanisms



"If your house burns down,
rescue the dogs. At least
they'll be faithful to you."

—Lee Marvin

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Area College Student News



Morningside College's Abby Fitzgerald, a sophomore from Fairmont, is the Hauff Mid-America Sports/Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Women's Tennis Player of the Week for March 19th-25th.

Fitzgerald went 2-0 at No. 2 singles and combined with Erica Sherman, a senior from Red Oak, Iowa, for a 2-0 record at No. 1 doubles to help lead the Mustangs to a 6-3 victory against Nebraska Wes-

leyan University and a 5-4 triumph against Sterling College in last Saturday's triangular in Lincoln, Neb.

Fitzgerald defeated Nebraska Wesleyan's Torey Kogel 7-5, 6-4 and defeated Sterling's Kelly Hipp 8-5 to improve her season's record to 8-5.

Morningside will take a 6-4 record into its GPAC opener against Concordia University on April 7th in Sioux City.



Ask A Trooper: Trailer plates

by Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I recently purchased a trailer that requires yearly tabs. I'm worried the plate will get damaged if I mount it to the manufactures bracket. I have noticed over the years that owners of some trailers have mounted their trailer plates on the fender well in a vertical position and not horizontal so it can be read easier. Is that legal?

Answer: If your trailer is a small utility trailer that has 3,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or under, it would

receive a permanent Minnesota registration sticker. The registration sticker issued is displayed on the tongue of the trailer and no plate is required.

Registered trailers weighing over 3,000 pounds gross vehicle weight require one license plate with yearly registration displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters facing outward from the trailer. This plate must be mounted on the rear of the trailer.

The person driving the motor vehicle that is pulling the trailer shall keep the plate leg-

ible, unobstructed and free from grease, dust, or other blurring material so that the lettering is plainly visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover any assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin of a license plate with any material whatsoever, including any clear or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity.

If law enforcement sees any equipment or registration violation, you could be stopped and warned or issued a citation, so please obey all equipment and traffic laws.

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

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

eat play shop LOCAL

Team Bravo/Relay for Life will hold their "All-You-Can-Eat" Shrimp Feed on Friday, April 6th at the Northrop American Legion from 5 to 8 p.m. (or until shrimp is gone). A meat raffle will also be held. Cost is \$13 for Adults, \$6 for kids/students.

The Welcome Historical Society will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 7th. We will also be cleaning the museum that day. If anyone is able to help with the cleaning, please come to the museum at 2 p.m. that day. Your help would be appreciated!

Join the **Maplewood Residence in Fairmont** in thanking Glenda Clifford for 30 years of service. Come celebrate with us on Tuesday, April 10th in the Maplewood Dining Room from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a program will be held at 2:30 p.m.

Red Rock Center's **Lunch with the Arts program** on Tuesday, April 10th at Noon will highlight musical entertainment from the 40's & 50's featuring Patrick Rasmussen. Patrick enjoys singing and telling stories about growing up on the farm in rural Minnesota. Patrick lives in Owatonna but grew up on a farm south of Alpha and his aunt was Audrey McGowan of Fairmont who taught dance. Bring a sack lunch if desired, coffee and refreshments will be provided. Free admission. Everyone welcome.

martincountylibrary.org

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It's a perfect time of year to spring clean your reading list! Avid readers can get stuck in a rut, without trying anything new. So as you look to start fresh in the spring, here are some suggestions to spruce up your reading list and try something fresh!

• Read more diverse authors than you typically might. Try both

male and female authors, authors both living and dead, and branch out with authors of differing races and ethnicities.

• Match each new book (released in 2018) with an older book that's been sitting on your "to be read" list for a long time.

• There are so many genres of fiction, try one of each! Step outside your comfort zone with Science Fiction, Western, Romance, Mystery or something else unusual!

• Try finishing up a book you have always meant to read. We all have that classic novel that we have never made time for.

East Chain Sportsman's Club Trap Shoot Sunday

The East Chain Sportsman's Club will have a Trap Shoot Sunday, April 8th from 12 noon until ?? at the club grounds, 1/2 mile north of East Chain on 254th Avenue.

They will have practice rounds, 16 yd., 25 yd.,

Oakleys, Jeopardys, Boondocks, whatever you want to shoot!

The grill will be on all day long. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Moby at 507-236-4189.

National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month and all throughout the month of April, the Photo Press will feature short pieces of poetry written and submitted by Ed Brekke-Kramer of Fairmont.

Here is his piece for

April 4th:

"Somewhere overhead
quick in flight are April
loons

Chase receding ice

Laughing fish want

soon to find

tasty fish they have in
mind."

Prairie Star Quilters to meet April 9

The Prairie Star Quilt Guild will meet Monday, April 9th, 2018, at the Fairmont Covenant Church at 901 Woodland Avenue, Fairmont.

The board will meet at 12:30 p.m., followed by the general membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. The secretary and treasurer reports will be given, followed by the librarian, Roxy Brummond's review of new books and magazines added to the guild library. President Barb Mager will update the group on plans for the Fiber Arts Festival to be presented on Saturday, September 15th.

A sign-up sheet for those wishing to participate on one of the various committees for the festival, will be available. Reservations will be taken for the guild sponsored bus trip and tickets to the Minnesota Quilters 40th Anniversary Quilt Show in St. Cloud on Thursday, June 14th. The newly updated by-laws and constitution will be reviewed and voted upon by the guild members. Information regarding Christmas in July will be offered by Vice President, Deb Engman. To round out the meeting, members will share their creativity by presenting re-

cently completed projects during Sew, Show and Tell. A program will follow both the afternoon and evening meetings, presented by the "Feather Weight Lady" aka Deb Travis, on the history of the sewing machine as well as her sharing some helpful maintenance tips. Lunch will be provided by Sherry Bremer, Sandy Sorgenfrie and Marge Johnson, with a door prize provided by Sherry Bremer. The evening group will meet at 5:30 p.m.

The Prairie Star Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at the Covenant Church at 901 Woodland Avenue in Fairmont. Each meeting consists of a brief welcome, a short business meeting, show-and-tell, a quilt related program and a time to visit with other quilters over coffee and light lunch. The guild offers daytime and nighttime meetings. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys quilts or quilting - quilters of all skill levels are always welcome! Information and photos can be found on Facebook at Prairie Star Quilt Guild. For more information contact Barb Mager at 507-776-7601.

News You Can Use For Household Well Owners

(NAPS)—If you're one of the estimated 34 million Americans who use well water, you may be pleased to know there's a fount of information about the care and maintenance of your well available to you.

Private well owners now have an unprecedented number of practical online tools and resources that can help them be good managers of their wells and water. This help spans proper well construction, water testing and water treatment to well system maintenance and groundwater protection.

Where To Turn

These resources are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership through partners including the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), the University of Illinois (UI) and the Water Systems Council (WSC).

What You Can Learn

UI's www.PrivateWell-Class.org provides:

- 10 e-mail lessons on groundwater science, emergencies, finding help, water testing and treatment, and well construction, operation and maintenance
- 16 short videos on similar topics
- Recorded webinars
- Podcasts.

On WSC's www.Water-

Systems Council.org you can find:

- A HELP emergency response public service announcement, video, and Web materials
- A well regulations report
- A well owner's manual
- Five different Wellcare® brochures
- Its telephone hotline, (888) 395-1033
- A Wellcare® newsletter.

On NGWA's www.WellOwner.org you can find:

- 17 short lessons on



well construction and maintenance, water testing and treatment, and more

- 15 recorded webinars covering the same topics
- A well financing video
- A well owner app
- A well owner's manual
- Monthly e-mail tip sheets
- A directory of water well and water treatment professionals
- A directory of drinking water testing laboratories
- Answers to frequently asked questions. For example, the following:

Question: Should I

test water from my water treatment system periodically?

Answer: Yes. First, check the water treatment system owner's manual for recommendations on water testing. If you do not have that information, contact the manufacturer or go online to see if you can find the maintenance information for your product's make and model.

Generally, treated water should be tested after the treatment system is installed to make sure it is working. You can also test the water after the treatment system is serviced to make sure it is working properly. Another reason to test is if the treatment system has not been maintained according to the product maintenance recommendations. Neglecting maintenance such as the timely replacement or cleaning of a filter could impair the treatment system's effectiveness.

The site also offers quizzes with such questions as this one:

Question: A breach in a well system at or near the surface that can cause turbid water is:

- a) A hole or break in the well casing
- b) A broken, missing or unsecured well cap
- c) Deteriorated grouting that has allowed surface runoff to infiltrate the well
- d) All of the above.

The correct answer is d), all of the above—a hole or break in the casing; a broken, missing or unsecured well cap; and deteriorated grouting.

Financial Focus

Provided by:



Paul Schellpeper, Drew Schellpeper, Wyman Fischer, Dan Hamlet, Mandi Kosbab

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

Investors: don't panic if bear market returns

If you're in your twenties or thirties, you might be starting to focus more on investing to reach your financial goals. Because of this, you also may be more attuned to moves in the financial markets. Depending on your age, you may have only experienced the bull market of the past nine years, so you might not know what to expect – or how to respond – whenever the next bear market strikes.

Of course, just recently, you've witnessed a market correction – a drop of at least 10 percent in the major stock market indices, such as the S&P 500. This sudden plunge made big news and reminded many investors of how volatile the financial markets can be. But a full-fledged bear market usually isn't identified until the markets are down 20 percent from their recent highs. Plus, bear markets, unlike corrections, tend to linger for a while.

The last "bear" emerged from hibernation in October 2007 and stayed on the prowl until early March 2009. During that time, the S&P 500 declined by about 50 percent. Clearly, investors were not happy – but the market recovered and moved to new heights. This

long and strong run-up may have obliterated your bear market memories, if you ever had them at all. And that's why you might want to familiarize yourself with some of the bare facts about bear markets:

• Bear markets may provide good buying opportunities. When gas is expensive, you may just buy a few gallons at a time – but when the price falls, you're probably more likely to fill up your tank. The same principle can apply to investing – when stock prices are down, your investment dollars will buy more shares. And the more shares you own, the greater your ability to build wealth once the share price rises. In short, a bear market may provide you with a chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

• Bear markets don't last forever. No one can predict precisely how long bear markets will run, but they've typically been much shorter than bull markets. So, while you might not particularly like looking at your investment statement during a decline, you can take some comfort in knowing such downturns are a normal feature of the investment land-

scape.

• Bear markets don't affect all investments equally. If you only own U.S. stocks, your portfolio may well take a sizable hit during a bear market. But other types of investment vehicles may not be as directly affected – and some may even show positive results. Consequently, you could reduce the bear's "bite" if you also own a variety of other investments, such as international stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. However, while owning this type of diversified portfolio can help reduce the impact of market volatility, it does not guarantee profits or protect against losses.

A bear market can be challenging. But by making the right moves, such as staying patient, looking for buying opportunities and maintaining a diversified portfolio, you may be able to prevent a market decline from becoming unbearable.

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

How To Avoid Home Electrical Fires

(NAPSI)—Here's news that may spark your interest: According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are factors in some 43,000 home fires a year. Your home, however, can be protected. Here, from the experts at Electrical

Safety Foundation International, the premier nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety at home and in the workplace, are tips on how:

Have your home inspected by a licensed electrician every 10



years; sooner if your home is 40 years old or older, if it's undergone a major renovation or

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 6

if you've added major new appliances lately. In between, check out this checklist.

Switches and Outlets

- Are they working?
- Do plugs fit snugly? If so, they should be fine for now.
- Do they make crack-

ling, buzzing or sizzling sounds?

- Are they warm to the touch?

These can be signs of a fire in the wall. Have an electrician check it out right away.

Electrical Panel

Every home has a service panel that distributes electricity to your home. It's usually in the

basement, garage or utility area. Service panels have fuses or circuit breakers that keep wires from overloading and causing a fire.

- Make sure all circuit breakers and fuses are the proper size.

- Replace standard circuit breakers with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). Damaged or

malfunctioning wiring is the leading cause of electrical fires. An arc fault is caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices. AFCIs can prevent 50 percent of home fires. Without AFCIs, arc faults may be hidden until it's too late.

Extension Cords

Extension cords are a

convenient way to provide power right where you need it when working in or around your home, but using them improperly can be dangerous.

- Extension cords should be used only on a temporary basis.

- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use,

indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or device being used.

- Inspect cords for cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.

- Never use a cord that

Continued to page 15

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Jeff's Jottings

I am just going to cry "Uncle"! As I am writing this column, we are under yet another "Winter Storm Watch" for the next 2 days and they are forecasting even more snow chances this coming Sunday! First of all, since Spring has officially arrived (at least on the calendar it did), forecasters should not be allowed to use the words "Winter Storm" any longer in our weather. Secondly, not only do we have to put an arrest warrant out for Punxatawny Phil, we need to capture him and detain him for at least 12 months - so that would mean we won't have winter next year. This is the year of the "winter that won't quit." It makes it very tough to plan anything this time of year anyway, but with the weather we have had as of late, it makes it even tougher to plan ahead

with anything. I haven't even thought about taking the snowblower off of my tractor yet. AND no, I did not get any potatoes planted on Good Friday this year! At least Easter Day was nice with sunshine.

"What is it?" answered

Our "What is it?" item from last week a familiar piece to many readers. The item was a hay saw (or silage saw) that was used to cut portions out of the hay piles years ago (before they baled hay) and to cut the frosty crust off of silage in the winter. Many of those who responded said they still have the tool hanging up in their barn or machine shed. Thanks Dean Maschoff for bringing it in! This week we have a very unusual tool brought in by Melvin Evans of Truman. It is about 12 inches long,



made of metal (except for the plastic piece at the bottom). The top portion opens up much like a pliers, but I am not sure what the center round tube is for or does. So, what is it? And even more so, what is its purpose? You can email me your guess at jeff@fairmontphotopress.com or call our office at 507-238-9456 and leave your guess along with your contact info. If you have an interesting item you think would be good for a future "What is it?" either stop at the Photo Press so we can take pictures and get information, or email photos to me with a description. Thank you to everyone who has had an item in our popular section!

Ceylon Days coming!

Just a quick reminder that the annual national holiday "Ceylon Days" will be taking place this year in a little over a week away! The event will be held Saturday, April 14th and like usual, it promises to be a memorable event once again. They have a huge amount of items to be auctioned off throughout the day and there will also be garage sales, bazaars, many food vendors and after hours activities taking place throughout Ceylon that day (and weekend for that matter!). So, get your five-buckle overshoes and 3 plus layers of clothing ready for the big day!

Prime Rib, Soup, Shrimp and Theatre!

There are a number of events that are taking place around the area in the next week: this Wednesday April 4th, Fairmont United Methodist Church resumes their Wednesday Evening Suppers from 5 to 6 p.m. They are serv-

ing A&W Swiss burgers. Thursday, April 5th at 8pm the Fairmont Area School Theater Department presents "Check Please!" at the Performing Arts Center. They also will have shows on Friday, April 6th and Saturday, April 7th at 7 p.m. each night. On Friday, April 6th St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Fairmont will host a soup lunch benefit for Second Chances and the Martin County Humane Society from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also on Friday, Team Bravo/Relay for Life will have their Shrimp Feed from 5-8 p.m. at the Northrop American Legion. They will also have a meat raffle for this fundraiser. The 33rd Annual Family Fun Fair will take place at Fairmont Elementary Gyms on Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A magic show, reptiles, supper and much more will be on hand that night! The Martin County West Drama Department will present "Arsenic and Old Lace" this weekend at the Sherburn Theatre. Performances are Friday, April 6th and Saturday,

April 7th at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 8th at 2 p.m. Concessions and a bake sale will take place those days in the theatre lobby. Saturday, April 7th the Sherburn Lions Club will have their prime rib supper from 5-8 p.m. at the Sherburn American Legion. Also on Saturday, the Genesis Classical Academy of Winnebago will have their Spring Fling at the Riverside Town & Country Club, south of Winnebago. The event will start at 5 p.m. and features a dinner, silent and live auction and DJ. On Sunday, April 8th, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dunnell will host a soup and dessert luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. This is a fundraiser for Ladies Aid/WELCA. Lots going on in the coming week!

Have a great week!

Drive safely - visit a shut-in or family member - Eat, Play, Shop Local - Welcome back to winter!

- Jeff

"Just the other day"

Guest Columnist

Tom Palen, broadcaster, pilot, writer



I'm excited the Photo Press is going to carry my column, "Just the Other Day."

I write about most anything, but leave the politics and opinions to other pens. I prefer to take you places that make you smile and feel good. My stories are true and may from time to time tug on the heart strings. In order for you to jump right in not missing a beat, allow me to tell you a bit about myself, and introduce you to some of the cast.

I grew up in a large family with eight boys and eight girls. I am the oldest one on the younger half, giving me the wisdom that comes with age and the agility that blesses youth... and a never ending line of balderdash! I am a "middle child" which I view as an advantage, not a syndrome.

My dad was a broadcaster. Following in his footsteps, I enjoyed a 35 year long radio career in Iowa. Stepping away from the microphone was hard.

But, I knew there was more out there to see and other mediums in which to share my tales.

Dad was also a pilot. Growing up, airports and airplanes were always part of my life. I got my pilot's license, then pursued my commercial rating and was able to fly charter flights while still working in radio. Passionately sharing the spirit of aviation, I've given hundreds of people airplane rides. There is no greater thrill than handing the controls of an airplane to a young person and letting them fly!

Skydiving? Sure, why not. I've done two tandem jumps. It was a rush, but I love flying and prefer to stay with the airplane. I've dropped thousands of jumpers from the sky.

My mom was a wise woman who loved God, her husband, family and life. She was a really good cook, able to turn nothing, into a delicious meal. When it seemed there was not enough food, she

managed to feed 16 children, frequently having leftovers.

Mom taught me to do the same. When I grew up I realized she wasn't just showing me how to cook, she was teaching me about life. I have many fond memories with my mom

in the kitchen.

I love to cook and bake, especially for my family, friends and strangers who will become friends. I did a stint cooking for a wonderful group of people in an assisted living facility. Man, did I learn from their stories!

I remodel my own houses and always have a nice kitchen. I insist on a dining room to welcome guests; gathering, eating, and spending time together.

A fancy kitchen is a luxury that does not define the cook. I can just as easily whip up an awesome meal on a camp stove; or a fire in a ring out in the woods. My dining room

is comfortable, but so are logs and lawn chairs next to a campfire, when the company is good. I cook everything with love and prefer simple sincerity in every setting.

In this current chapter of life, my wife, Melissa and I spend a lot of time traveling around the country. Our dog June Bug, and cat, Edgar Allan, travel with us. The three of them provide more writing material than one man could possibly keep up with, but I try.

We have three grown daughters, two son-in-laws, and two beautiful granddaughters. They have moved to different places around the country, as have both our families. We visit them knowing we'll find and make more stories along the way.

My tales come from real experiences told from my point of view. When I

describe a conversation I had with June or Edgar, although neither of them actually speak English, our communications are very real. In my writings I take the liberty to translate their words.

I am a man blessed with far more than I deserve. I

hope you'll come along for the ride as I share my stories in my column called, "Just The Other Day."

Editor's Note: Tom's column will be published weekly in the Photo Press and you will also be able to read his complete column on the Photo Press website.

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APR 5 - 11**THUR: K-6:** Chicken wings, dinner roll, turkey ham & cheese sandwich, baked beans, salad, apple, fruit cocktail. **JR/HS:** Chili cheese dog, tator tots, apple crisp, peas, coleslaw, carrots, apple, pears.**FRI: K-6:** Sausage pizza, nachos fun lunch, corn, caesar salad, strawberries, applesauce. **JR/HS:** Cheese stuffed breadstick, green beans, caesar salad, broccoli, orange, fruit cocktail.**MON: K-6:** Cheeseburger, egg & cheddar chef salad, dinner roll, fries, carrots, banana, peaches. **JR/HS:** TPepperoni pizza pasta bake, dinner roll, green beans, caesar salad, carrots, apple, pine-

apple tidbits.

TUE: K-6: Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, turkey ham & cheese sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli salad, orange, fruit cocktail. **JR/HS:** Mini turkey corn dog, baked beans, spinach & cranberry salad, cauliflower, banana, peaches.**WED: K-6:** Fish sticks, dinner roll chicken ranch wrap, carrots, cucumbers, apple, pears. **JR/HS:** Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli salad, pepper strips, orange, applesauce.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAIRMONT

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

APR 5 - 11**THUR:** Chili cheese dog, tator tots, carrots, cucumbers, fruit cocktail.**FRI:** Cheese stuffed breadsticks, broccoli, orange, fruit cocktail.**MON:** Pepperoni pizza pasta bake, dinner roll, green beans, caesar salad, pineapple tidbits. **TUE:** Mini turkey corn dogs, baked beans, cauliflower, peaches.**WED:** Chicken nuggets, dinner roll mashed potatoes, gravy, pepper strips, applesauce.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Menus subject to change.

APR 5 - 11**THUR:** Cream ckn, brown rice, biscuit, peas, mandarin oranges.**FRI:** Meat & cheese sub, potato chips, coleslaw, pineapple, pudding cup.**MON:** Taco salad, fruit. **TUE:** Shredded pork sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, peaches.**WED:** Calico beans, corn muffin, cheese stick, applesauce, bars.

Sherburn Lions Club Prime Rib Supper

Saturday, April 7 • 5:00-8:00 p.m.
at the Sherburn American Legion
Cost (per person): \$17 (presale)
\$20 (at the door)Tickets may be purchased from Lions members,
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top 10 movies

1. Pacific Rim: Uprising ... (PG-13)
John Boyega, Scott Eastwood
2. Black Panther (PG-13)
Chadwick Boseman,
Michael B. Jordan
3. I Can Only Imagine (PG)
J. Michael Finley, Brody Rose
4. Sherlock Gnomes (PG)
animated
5. Tomb Raider (PG-13)
Alicia Vikander, Dominic West
6. A Wrinkle in Time (PG)
Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey
7. Love, Simon (PG-13)
Nick Robinson, Jennifer Garner
8. Paul, Apostle of Christ .. (PG-13)
James Faulkner, Jim Caviezel
9. Game Night (R)
Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams
10. Midnight Sun (PG-13)
Bella Thorne,
Patrick Schwarzenegger

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Spring

Rummage & Bake Sale

Thursday, April 5th 4 p.m.—8 p.m.**Friday, April 6th** 8 a.m.—8 p.m.**Saturday, April 7th** 8 a.m.—noon
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\$8/adults; \$5/under 12.
Take outs are available

TRUMAN AREA

Menus subject to change due
to inclement weather, short-
ages or delays in shipping.**APR 5 - 11****THUR:** Chicken fajita, rice, re-
fried beans, corn, peaches.**IFRI:** BBQ sandwich, ranch tator
tots, veggies, fruit.**MON:** Mini corn dogs, baked
beans, spinach salad, applesauce.**TUE:** Ribette sandwich,
mashed potatoes, peas & car-
rots, fruit.**WED:** Tator tot hotdish, din-
ner roll, spinach salad, veggies,
peaches.

SENIOR DINING WEEKLY MENU

Senior Dining is served each
weekday at 11:30 a.m. at
Friendship Village Monday
thru Friday. Meals catered
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welcome. LSS Senior Nutri-
tion is made possible in part
under the Federal Older
American Act through an
award from the MN River
Area Agency on Aging under
an area plan approved by
the MN Board on Aging.**APR 5 - 11****THURS:** Meatballs, baked
potato, winter mix veggie,
bread pudding.**FRI:** Tilapia, scalloped pota-
toes, tomatoes & zucchini,
ice cream.**MON:** Meatloaf, creamed
potatoes, peas & carrots, pie.**TUE:** Pork chop, garden
rice, corn, blueberry crisp.**WED:** Salisbury steak, mashed
potatoes, gravy, harvard beets,
cheesecake with cherry top-
ping.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Toupal 507-773-4547.

spring Car Care

1 in 5 drivers can't fix a flat tire. Can you?

(BPT) - For many Americans, fixing a flat tire remains a mystery. According to a survey from AAA, nearly 20 percent of U.S. drivers don't know how to change a flat. This is compounded by research saying there are 220 million flat tires annually - and each driver will experience up to five flat tires in their lifetime.

Before hitting the road, study up on these flat-tire-fixing hacks:

Be spared: Spare tires are usually hidden under the carpet in the trunk area, but they aren't always included in newer vehicles (allowing manufacturers to make lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles). When purchasing a new vehicle, ask the dealer about the inclusion of a spare.

Flatlining signs: A flat tire is usually accompa-

feel as if the vehicle can no longer accelerate. When in doubt, activate hazard lights and move the vehicle safely out of traffic, ideally on a flat area with enough space on the side of the road. Once in a safe spot, remember to practice high visibility: Wear a reflective vest and position reflective emergency warning triangles to alert motorists.

Hit the road, Jack: Having the right tools on board is critical, of course, and that's where a jack comes in. Remember, the jack is only used to get the vehicle off the ground, not to hold the vehicle in place - that's where the jack stands come in to ensure a safe and sustained lift. Refer to the owner's manual for the proper placement of the jack and the stands, typically the sturdiest part of the vehicle.

Rider's block: A common, and dangerous, error when changing a tire is not using blocks to prevent the wheels from rolling once the vehicle is raised. A tire-changing tool pack should include bricks or wooden wedges to be placed behind the wheels at the end of the vehicle that isn't being raised.



nied by a loud noise or rubber flapping. The vehicle will feel like it is being pulled toward the side of the flat tire, and it will

Get loose: Once the jack has been cranked up, and the wheel is slightly off the ground, it's time to remove the hubcap and then call for another key tool, a tire iron, to loosen the lug nuts and then pull off the flat tire. Be careful not to strip the lug nuts.

On the road again: With the flat tire off, line up the spare tire's holes with the wheel bolts and push on, hand-screwing the lug nuts back on. Then, lower the jack a touch so the wheel is in slight contact with the ground. Use the tire iron to further secure the lug nuts in a "star-like" pattern: After tightening the first lug nut, tighten the one that is diagonally across from it and continue in that pattern. This will prevent the wheel from wobbling.

In an age of mobile phones and easy connection to roadside assistance, the knowledge of addressing a flat tire has gone out the window. But, motorists should know - and practice - the basics of changing a flat to ensure they are prepared for the dreaded pop.

What's driving car care and purchases this spring

(BPT) - As the weather starts to warm up, Americans will hit the road more often for destinations ranging from family outings to spring vacation destinations. Because cars are such an important part of our daily lives, Hankook Tire examined what drives Americans to keep up with car maintenance, as well as what matters when maintenance can do no more and it's time to visit the dealership.

Leave it to me

Two-thirds (69 percent) of drivers perform their own car maintenance, according to the latest Hankook Tire Gauge survey. Among those who do so, the main motivator is to save money (54 percent). Others like doing it to save time (28 percent), because they prefer knowing exactly what's going into their vehicles (26 percent), or it's a fun task for some who simply enjoy it (22 percent). In fact, about one-third (35 percent) of drivers started taking responsibility for car maintenance as soon as they

earned their licenses.

The air in the spare

When asked the most elaborate car maintenance they've performed without help from a mechanic, most Americans said that they have either changed the oil (21 percent) or changed a tire (21 percent). But being able to change your own tire won't do much good if the spare doesn't have any air in it! Twenty-nine percent of Americans never check their spare tire's air pressure, which could be deflating if it's flat too. Fortunately, checking the air in the spare is part of a regular maintenance routine for more than half of drivers (57 percent).

Remind me

Generally, Americans agree that they welcome

a nudge to check their tire pressure, and 44 percent say that automatic tire pressure monitors ensure they check it regularly. Experts suggest checking your tire pressure once a month. Even new tires with minimal wear and tear lose air due to factors like temperature change,



driving distance or carrying added weight in your vehicle. Now is a good time to check your air pressure, as temperature fluctuations reduce tire pressure by about 1 psi for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit the outside air temperature drops.

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to purchase new tires, money talks. The Hankook Tire Gauge Index found that price influences nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of tire purchases, and similarly, 38 percent of drivers report that rebates, like Hankook Tire's Great Catch rebate, also impact their purchase decision. When it comes to the brand, however, drivers maintain an open mind. While nearly half of drivers (43 percent) say they have a brand in mind when they enter the dealership, they are flexible on what they ultimately buy - only 16 percent of Americans go into the dealer set on a particular brand.

Price also impacts vehicle purchases (41 percent). When shopping for a new car, drivers focus on price more than twice that of safety (18 percent) or performance (15 percent). And women are more price-conscious than men, as 45 percent of women consider the price when buying a new car, as opposed to only 37 percent of men.

Whether you are driven by price or performance, regular maintenance and vehicle knowledge is key to avoiding unexpected bumps in the road.



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3 ways Minnesota soybean farmers help clear the air

(BPT) - Soybean farmers in Minnesota wear many different hats: small-business owner, agronomist, equipment expert, accountant and environmentalist. Yes, they are the original stewards of the land, continually evolving their practices to keep natural resources healthy for the next generation.

But it doesn't end there. Soybean farmers have been at the forefront of developing a homegrown renewable fuel that has resulted in a dramatic improvement of the air quality in the Gopher state.

Biodiesel has become an important part of the energy landscape not only in Minnesota, but across the country, too. In just over 15 years, the biodiesel market in the U.S. has increased from about 25 million gallons to more than 2.8 billion gallons. Made from domestic, renewable resources such as soybean oil, biodiesel is a value-added by-product containing sources that would normally go to waste.

You may be scratching your head and saying, "I don't drive a diesel vehicle. Why should I care?" Well, you're not alone. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, diesel-powered cars accounted for only about 3 percent of total U.S. auto sales in 2014.

But, unless your family continues to rely heavily

on the moped for travel and commerce, here's why biodiesel matters.

Diesel engines are all around you

According to the Diesel Technology Forum, more than 95 percent of all large, heavy-duty trucks are diesel-powered, as are a majority of medium-duty trucks. Together, they move more than 90 percent of the nation's freight. And don't forget public transit, school buses and construction equipment. Things we all come in contact with every day.

Waving the green flag

And while you may think these trucks' massive diesel engines are an unfortunate but necessary aspect of commerce and expansion, think again.

According to the American Lung Association of Minnesota (ALAMN), during the 10-year period

with biodiesel as a fuel standard for Minnesota, a reduction of more than 7.4 billion pounds of carbon dioxide has already been realized. ALAMN estimates that is comparable to removing the emissions from 706,649 passenger vehicles or 17,998 railcars of coal.

That's not a typo. Removing emissions. Breathing easier. Biodiesel's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 percent is why the Environmental Protection



Agency recognizes it as the only advanced biofuel.

Revitalizing rural communities

According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the biodiesel industry contributes \$1.7 billion annually in the state, while supporting

5,397 jobs. Nationwide, there are approximately 200 biodiesel plants, which provide nearly 48,000 jobs. These are often hard-hit areas where employment options are few. Leaving for "greener pastures" is no longer the only option.

"Biodiesel is another step in increasing the diversity of our energy needs," says Tom Slusnecka, CEO, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. "Minnesota soybean farmers are proud to be leaders in growing that diversity."

In 2002, Minnesota became the first state to require that all diesel fuel sold here contain at least 2 percent blend of biodiesel. In the summer of 2018, Minnesota will be the first to move to B20, a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel.

The benefits of biodiesel are considerable, not just for Minnesota, but for the country as a whole.

To learn more about biodiesel, visit www.mn-soybean.org.

Heed the recall: Get your FREE airbag repair

(NAPSI)—If it hasn't happened already, your car dealer may call asking you to bring your vehicle to the dealership for a FREE urgent recall repair. For your own good and that of your passengers, you should do so.

The Problem

Some vehicles have airbags that do not function properly. Dealers have replacement airbags available and are urging affected vehicle owners to get their vehicles fixed for FREE.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the airbags installed in tens of millions of U.S. vehicles are sub-

ject to recall due to a safety defect that may cause the airbag to explode and cause serious injury or death.

What's Being Done

Because so many cars and trucks need to be fixed across many different vehicle manufacturers, a nationwide repair schedule has been developed to get the most dangerous airbags replaced first. Exposure to high heat and humidity over time can cause metal parts inside the airbag to explode and shoot out of the airbag at the driver or passengers.

What Car Companies Are Doing

FCA US LLC ("FCA

US"), vehicle manufacturer of Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and RAM vehicles, has been leveraging many different means of communication to get the message to owners about the dangerous airbag safety recall, including:

- postcards
- e-mails
- phone calls
- SMS/text messages
- Twitter
- Facebook.

In addition, all Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and RAM dealers have been reaching out to car and truck

Airbags continued on page 13



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<input type="checkbox"/> Wrangler Fortitude HT®	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrangler TrailRunner AT®	\$70	\$140
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Business travel on the rise for women

(BPT) - When it comes to business travel, more women are taking to the road and sky to get to their destinations. In fact, women account for 47 percent of all business travel worldwide, reports the Global Business Travel Association.

With female business travel on the rise, many brands are taking note of this growing consumer group. This year, Hertz is continuing its heritage of supporting the needs of female road warriors through award-winning customer service with its new "Her in Hertz" campaign.

Before your next trip, take note of these savvy travel tips and expert advice from frequent traveler Kristina Portillo, founder of BusinessTravelLife.com.

Plan ahead

"Productive business travel starts before I leave for the airport. I can save hours during my travel day by simply planning

ahead and not wasting time. Many of my travel accessories never leave my luggage. I have two sets of chargers, headphones, toiletries, etc., so the ones in my bag stay in my bag. I also pack items I need during transit on top. I always travel with a few healthy snacks, so I don't have to waste time finding snacks at airports."

Choose reliable brands

"In addition to planning ahead, who you chose for your business travel is equally important. As a mom and frequent business traveler, I need brands that have earned my trust and provide dependable, consistent service. That is why I, and so many other women, choose Hertz, a six-time consecutive winner of the annual Women's Choice Award."

Carry-on only

"I save at least an hour by traveling with only a carry-on. If I were to check my bag, I would wait in line at the airport to check

it (10 minutes), then wait for it to come to baggage claim (20 minutes) when I reach my destination, and then repeat when I fly home. Traveling with only a carry-on also significantly reduces my chances of luggage being lost."

Join travel loyalty programs

Travel loyalty programs reward travelers for their

Download and use travel apps

"Travel apps are a huge time saver. I use TripIt to organize my itinerary. I use OpenTable and TripAdvisor to find places to dine. And of course, I use airline, car rental and hotel apps during my trip. My airline app will allow me to check in online, serve as a mobile boarding pass and

channel my inner Rihanna and 'Work, work, work, work, work, work' as much as possible during my trip. Once I get through security, I find a quiet place to work (preferably a lounge). If my flight has Wi-Fi, I work during my flight. Even without Wi-Fi, I clean out my inbox and reply to email (they

will send once I connect to Wi-Fi). Once I get to my hotel, I do not turn on the TV unless I'm caught up on work. As we all know, watching TV is a major distraction and time suck. On the way home, I wrap up any reports and reply to necessary emails to close out my trip."



business. These programs come with perks that make travel more efficient and enjoyable. Travel programs also reward their members with upgrades and expedited services (aka less time spent waiting in line)."

notify me of gate changes and delays. Many hotels now have apps that offer digital check-in and digital keys.

"The goal of a productive business trip is to complete my work before I get home. Therefore, I



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Your Brakes May Be Trying To Tell You Something

(NAPS)—If your brakes are trying to tell you something, you should pay attention. A properly operating brake system helps ensure safe vehicle control and operation and it should be checked immediately if you suspect any problems.

"While an annual brake inspection is a good way to ensure brake safety, motorists should not ignore signs that their brakes need attention,"

said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "Knowing the key warning signs that your brakes may need maintenance will go a long way toward keeping you and others safe on the road."

What To Watch Out For

Motorists should look for the following warning signs that their brakes need to be inspected:

- Noise: screeching, grinding or clicking noises when

applying the brakes.

- Pulling: vehicle pulls to one side while braking.
- Low Pedal: brake pedal nearly touches the floor before engaging.
- Hard Pedal: you must apply extreme pressure to the pedal before brakes engage.
- Grabbing: brakes grab



at the slightest touch to the pedal.

- Vibration: brake pedal vibrates or pulses, even under normal braking conditions.
- Light: brake light is illuminated on your vehicle's dashboard.

Because brakes are a normal wear item on any vehicle, they will eventually need to be replaced. Factors that can affect brake wear

include driving habits, operating conditions, vehicle type and the quality of the brake lining material. Be sure to avoid letting brakes get to the metal-to-metal point as that can mean expensive rotor or drum replacement.

The Car Care Council offers a free custom service schedule and e-mail reminder service to help car owners remember to have their brakes inspected and take good care of their vehicles. It's an easy-to-use resource designed to help motorists drive smart, save money and make informed decisions.

The Car Care Council is also the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

Learn More

For a copy of the council's "Car Care Guide" or for further information, visit www.carcare.org.

Airbags continued from page 11

owners, urging them to schedule their airbag recall FREE repair.

What You Can Do

Consider the following steps on the road to safety:

1. Visit recalls.mopar.com to find out if your car or truck is under recall.



Search using your 17-character Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). You can find it on the lower left (driver's side) of your vehicle's windshield, on your car's registration card or your insurance card.

2. Call your dealer to schedule the FREE repair.
3. Call the Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and RAM dedicated toll-free customer care center at (866) 220-6765. They can help you with finding a nearby dealer, assist in obtaining alternate transportation while your car is being fixed, and update owner-

ship information if you no longer own the vehicle. That way, you could save the life of whoever does have it now.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I don't have a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or RAM vehicle; how do I check if I am affected?

A. Visit NHTSA.gov to find out if your car or truck is under recall. Search using your 17-character Ve-

hicle Identification Number (VIN).

Q. How can I find out if my vehicle is affected by a future recall?

A. Sign up at NHTSA.gov/Alerts to be notified if your vehicle is affected by a future recall. It's a good idea to check the site for recalls at least twice a year, in any case.

Q. How can I learn more about the Takata Airbag Safety Recall?

A. Get answers to frequently asked questions at NHTSA.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags.

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OBITUARY notices

Dale F. Rasmussen, 77



Memorial Service for Dale F. Rasmussen, 77, of Fairmont, was held Saturday, March 31st, 2018, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont. A private family burial will be held at a later date in Fairview Memorial Park Cemetery in Fairmont. Dale passed away Wednesday, March 28th, 2018, at his home in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Dale F. Rasmussen was born September 10th, 1940, in Armstrong, IA, the son of Clifford and Anna (Strong) Rasmussen. He was baptized June 30th, 1941 at his grandparents' home in Armstrong. On

May 28th, 1961 Dale was confirmed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Armstrong. He attended school in Armstrong and graduated from Armstrong High School.

On February 27th, 1960, Dale was united in marriage to Sharon Benck at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont. Together the couple made their home in Armstrong, and later in Fairmont. They were blessed with three children, Lynette, Kevin, and Diane.

Dale worked for many years at Stokley Van Camp and later for the Northrop Elevator. After retiring, Dale also worked at WFS and continued to work there until his fight with

cancer prevented him from doing so in August of 2017.

Dale was humble and hard working. He was a man of few words but when he spoke, people took notice to his sound advice. He loved the outdoors and cherished time spent hunting and long days on the lake fishing. Dale enjoyed relaxing on his back patio, watching the birds, and tending to his garden. He jumped at the chance to make a trip to the casino and was always up for a game of cards with anyone who would sit down with him. Family was extremely important to Dale and he cherished spending time with his children, grand-

children and great-grandchildren. He loved being able to travel with Sharon and made many fond memories and friends during the winters they spend in Arizona in addition to traveling to Europe, Alaska, and Panama Canal to name just a few. He will be greatly missed by those that loved him and called him a friend.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Sharon Rasmussen; children, Lynette Jessen and her husband, Kip, Kevin Rasmussen and his wife, Mitsy, and Diane Young and her husband, Rodney; grandchildren, Dustin (Melissa) Rasmussen, Levi (Angela) Jessen, Chantelle (William) Olson, and Ciara (Brandon)

Beitlich; great-grandchildren, Landon Jessen, Caiden Jessen, Logan Jessen, Lawrence Rasmussen, and Corynn Beitlich; sisters-in-law, Janice (Eldon) Tietje and Verlene Benck; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends, including very special cousins who provided endless help during Dale's illness, Earl Dean and Bev Benck.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Walt and Evelyn Benck; and two brothers-in-law, Larry Benck and Wayne Benck.

The family prefers memorials be directed to UHD Hospice.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Evelyn D. Strauser, 89



Memorial Services for Evelyn D. Strauser, 89, of Blue Earth, formerly of Fairmont, will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church in Fairmont. Visitation will be Friday, April 6th, 2018 from 4-7 p.m. at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Fairmont. Evelyn passed away Saturday, March 24th, 2018 at St. Luke's Lutheran Care Center in Blue Earth. Lakeview Funeral

Home in Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Evelyn Dorothy Kloczek was born June 6th, 1928 to William and Martha (Dulas) Kloczek in Freeborn County, Minnesota. Growing up she attended school and graduated from Freeborn High School.

On September 1st, 1948 Evelyn was united in marriage to Donald M. Strauser at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winnebago. The couple made their home together on a farm near Granada, where they raised their five children:

Dale, Patricia, Bruce, Jeffrey and Michele.

Evelyn worked various jobs throughout the years including, 3M, owning the Huntley Café, Kmart, but most importantly she raised a loving family. In her spare time she enjoyed sewing, quilting, canning, baking and cooking. She enjoyed spending time outdoors working in her flower garden and taking fishing trips in the summer. Evelyn was active in the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. She also was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic

Church in Winnebago before joining Saint John Vianney Catholic Church in Fairmont in 1989 when her and Don moved to Fairmont.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children: Dale Strauser and his wife, Linda of Granada, Patricia Johnson of Amboy, MN, Bruce Strauser of Lacey, WA, Jeffrey Strauser and his wife, Kitty of Marion, IA, and Michele Ehler and her significant other, Jon Neitzel of Fairmont; nine grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; four great-great-grand-

children; siblings: Angie Sauer, Matt (Violet) Kloczek, Janice Puckett, and Kenny (Jackie) Kloczek; sister-in-law, Joyce Roe and her husband, Maurice of Coralville, IA; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Donald in 2014; great-great-granddaughter, Amelia; and siblings: Adrian, Beatrice, Leona, Alex, Hubert, Rosie and Louis.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Raymond Hanson, 80



the personal care industry and his career in the chemical field took him to Mankato, Battle Creek, Michigan, Valencia, Venezuela, Dublin, Ohio, and the Twin Cities area. Known for his quick wit and love of family,

Ray enjoyed woodworking, fishing, bridge, and reading books on World War II. He was especially drawn to the little people in our family.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 60 years, Jean; children, Deb (Kevin) Kelly of Fairmont; Jay (Michelle) Hanson of Carver; Mike (Teri Jaspersen) Hanson of Mankato; 7 grandchildren, Tania (Mike) Fugazzi of Mankato; James Bowers of Eagan; Ashley (Corey) Blazejak of Fairmont; Kolin (Maggie) Kelly of Eagle Lake; Kalyn Kelly of Fairmont; Alyssa Hanson & Erika Hanson both of Carver; seven great-grandchildren, Braydn, Jack, Ella, Carson, Mara, Kolton, and Charlie; siblings, Sandy (Al) Giese, Richard (Pat) Hanson, Linda Hanson, Vicki (Dave) Pauling, in-laws, nieces and nephews, and many friends. Preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, a niece, aunts, and uncles.

May he rest in peace.

Ray was born October 11th, 1937 in Madelia, to Raymond and Evelyn (Bennett) Hanson. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Lake Crystal High School where he met his future bride, Jean Fredericksen. He attended St. Thomas College and graduated from Mankato State College. He married Jean on June 7th, 1958. They were blessed with three children: Deb, Jay, and Mike.

He was well known in

Dennis L. Garbers, 64



Dennis Lee Garbers "Garb", age 64 of Fairmont, passed away peacefully March 31st, 2018 at his home. A Celebration of Life honoring Dennis' life will take place at a later date. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Dennis was born in Fairmont March 6th, 1954 to Dale and Phyllis (Childs) Garbers. He graduated from East Chain High School in 1972.

Dennis married Melodie Johnson on February 12th, 1977 and they recently celebrated 41 years together.

Dennis farmed with his dad. He was an avid Toy Farm Collector and in 1990 won the National Farm Toy Display in Dyersville, IA which he built from scratch. Dennis was involved in the Borderline

Cruisers Car Club and an active member of the Kosuth County Ag & Motor Sports Museum in Algona, IA. Dennis had a passion for Chevy Nova cars and car racing. He also enjoyed shaking dice, playing cards and dominos. In 2017, Dennis was inducted in the Hall of Fame for the Fairmont Speedway with his dad Dale, which was a special honor for him.

Survived by his wife, Melodie; daughter Jeanne (Andrew) Garbers-Walden; grandchildren Hank and baby due in April; sister Cheryl (Jon) Rowan; Nate, Jared & Josh; father-in-law Leonard Johnson; aunts Arla Childs & Adeline Hartmann, brother & sister-in-laws and their families; Dennis & Sharon Johnson, Corey & Tricia, Karen & Cory Brown; Wayne "Skeeter" & Rita Johnson, Laurie & Tony Glade, Leah Noble; Mary & Mark Lenort, Courtney & Nicole; Deb & Darren Scruggs, Matt & Allissa, Tom & Jim Traetow, Detrik & Evan Scruggs; Chuck Johnson & Thom Peterson; Susan & Wayne Wiederhoeft, Aaron and Tyler; also by other loving family and many friends.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents Dale & Phyllis Garbers, mother-in-law Marilyn Johnson, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other special family and friends.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

DEATH notices



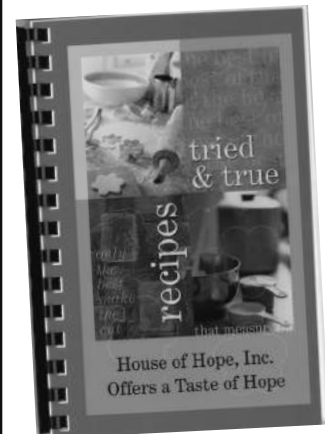
March 27 - Gerald G. "Jerry" Jenkinson, 88, Sherburn. Kramer Family Funeral Home
March 30 - Shane V. Sundeen, 39, Fairmont, (formerly of Buxton, ND)
Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service
March 30 - Yvonne R. Teske, 90, Chesapeake, VA (formerly of Truman)
Zaharia Funeral and Cremation Service
March 31 - Dennis L. Garbers, 64, Fairmont
Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service
April 2 - Dennis E. Odom, 77, Fairmont
Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service

In Memoriam

One Year Ago This Week

March 24 - Selma L. Peterson, 97, St. James (formerly of Trimont)
March 25 - Daniel L. Sweet, 54, Fairmont.
March 25 - Martin D. Ziemer, 85, Dunnell
March 27 - Elnora C. Weber, 99, Fairmont
April 2 - Lowell O. Wohlhuter, 88, Fairmont (formerly of Welcome)

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U.S.-made parts key to positive repair experience

(NAPS)—The next time you have someone work on your car, it may pay to ask the technician why he or she chose a specific brand of replacement parts.

That's because a brand name can be a strong indicator of product quality. It can also provide added assurance that the manufacturer will stand behind the product. It might even increase the likelihood that the part was engineered and manufactured in the U.S.A.

"U.S. manufacturing can be a strong competitive differentiator in the replacement parts industry," explained John Perrin, executive director of product management for the North America Aftermarket business of Tenneco, Inc., which manufactures Monroe shock absorbers, struts and other ride control products. "Many consumers are attracted to U.S.-based

manufacturers because of the perceived quality, performance and durability advantages of these parts as compared to products imported from offshore manufacturers."

A vast majority of Monroe ride control products sold in North America are manufactured or assembled in the company's plant in Paragould, Ark. Last year, the massive facility, with adjacent warehousing and strut assembly manufacturing operations, produced nearly 19 million shocks, struts and Monroe Quick-Strut modular strut assemblies.

Why Quality Matters

The choice of one parts brand over another can affect how your vehicle



will perform following the repair. In the case of shocks and struts, the differences could include ride quality; handling precision; noise, vibration and harshness (NVH); component durability; and even tire wear.

Quality differences can be even more profound in preassembled modular strut assemblies, which include all the subcomponents—strut, coil spring, upper strut mount, spring seat, isolator, boot kit, and more—needed for a comprehensive strut replacement. While many assemblies might look alike, a single poorly designed or mismatched part could lead to a performance problem or premature failure.

"There's a lot of science in a quality strut assembly," Perrin explained. "You need a coil spring with the proper metallurgy, coil configuration and spring rate for the vehicle. The damper needs to be tuned to the proper ride and handling profile. Every component can either contribute to or detract from the consumer's driving experience."

Given that hundreds of unique strut assembly configurations are required to cover the passenger vehicle population, maintaining U.S.-based engineering and assembly operations helps companies more closely control product quality and performance. For example, each Monroe assembly is both fit- and ride-checked on the corresponding vehicle model prior to introduction.

"That would be very difficult to do if we weren't designing, engineering and manufacturing in the U.S.," Perrin said. "We believe that's an important message for consumers, who deserve to know why a specific brand was chosen for their vehicles."

Learn More

For further facts on automotive replacement parts, go to www.monroe.com.

oto LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gunther Legislative Update

Last week the Minnesota House Republicans highlighted a comprehensive plan designed to prioritize student safety. These are changes that I believe are necessary. No student should fear going to school, and the proposals that are moving forward in the House will undoubtedly make our schools safer.

The approach includes more resources to meet the needs of students and schools statewide which includes everything from hiring more school resource officers, student counselors and mental health professionals to making critical building security upgrades.

The proposals making headway in the House that will be included in the larger proposal:

- School resources officers, student support personnel, and other school security programs funded through increased Safe Schools revenue, including a minimum level of funding for small schools.
- School building security upgrades, and expanded use of Long-Term Facility Maintenance revenue for security projects, including emergency communications systems.
- School-linked mental health programming to ensure better outcomes for all kids.
- Physical security audit grants to provide state assistance to review facility security and crisis management policies.
- Suicide prevention training for teachers to help educators learn how to engage and assist students experiencing mental distress.
- School-based threat assessment teams established to assess, intervene, and report threats facing students, teachers, and staff.

I'll be sure to keep you updated as this plan moves through the Minnesota House.

Rep. Bob Gunther,
District 23-A
Fairmont

Continued from page 7

feels hot.

- Don't run extension cords through walls or ceilings. This may cause the cord to overheat, creating a serious fire hazard.
- Don't nail or staple electrical cords to walls or baseboards.
- Make sure cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the insulation.
- Keep extension

cords out of high-traffic areas such as doorways or walkways.

- Insert plugs fully so no part of the prongs is exposed when the extension cord is in use.
- Ensure that all extension cords are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL, CSA or ETL, and always read the manufacturer's instructions.

Learn More

For further facts and tips on safety, visit www.esfi.org.

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LOCAL

MYSTERY

What is it?

25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

Week of April 7, 1993

The Borderline Cruisers Car Club displayed some of the member's cars at the Fair Mall this past weekend. About 30 automobiles from the past to the present were viewed by hundreds of people.

son as he proclaimed April 4th-11th as "School Board Member Recognition Week" throughout Minnesota. Pictured members of the GHEC school board were Mary Larson, Calvin Mattson, Rod Olson, Todd Thedens, Supt. Jon Bethke, Melody Sanders and Darwin Olson.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

Week of April 7, 1968

Lynn Becker of Northrop was gaining agricultural and horticultural experience through the Practical Agricultural Reciprocal Training Program, an international exchange program. Lynn was placed with the Anders Boysen family operation on a hog and crop farm near Kolding, Denmark.

Harold Swift of Northrop received the Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota State Athletic Directors Association. He was nominated by Tim Fabry, Athletic Director at Martin Luther High School, for his volunteer service to their athletic program. Swift had been the baseball coach at the school during the entire ten-year history of MLHS. Swift received his award at the recognition banquet of the Association in Minneapolis.

Fairmont's City Library closed and prepared to move to the county library on 114 E. Second Street, while the 65-year-old Carnegie structure was being razed and a new \$390,000 county-city library was being built. The new building was to be at the same general location, but on an enlarged space.

A Fairmont group was formed to protest a highway department order for a diamond interchange where Highway 15 north of the city would cross the new Interstate 90, which would soon be finished across Martin County. The department maintained that a cloverleaf exchange would be impossible there because of proximity of railroad property.

Fairmont High School honor roll was headed by seniors Norbert Boenninghoff, Joseph Cade, Patricia Carter, Phillip and Stephen Gaarenstroom, Nancy Jorgensen and Susan Rich.

33rd Annual

Family Fun Fair

A festival of activities to delight young children!
\$8/family or \$4/person

Fairmont Elementary Gymnasiums
714 Victoria Street
Friday, April 6 • 4:30-7:30 p.m.

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ACME Magic
Show Performances at 5:45 & 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria

Supper Time
4:30-7:30 p.m. • Cafeteria
ECFE Parent Advisory Board

Weather permitting you may see the Fairmont Fire Department's Ladder Truck

Activities include:
Fruit Walk, Tooth Fairy & Dental Care, Car Seat Safety, Scavenger Hunt, Face Painting, Easter Art and much more!

The Remarkable Reptiles

Gaze upon cages of live reptiles (all harmless) and assorted artifacts. Pet the loose boa constrictor or even hold it!

Co-Sponsored by District #2752 Community Education and Recreation
Early Childhood Family Education School Readiness Grant.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3	1	2				8
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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	<p align="center"><u>A Dahl Trucking Inc.</u> has immediate positions for Full-Time</p>
<p>Company Drivers</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$21.88/hr., OT after 40 hrs. • New equipment, e-logs. • Drug screening required. • Must hold a Class "A" CDL. • Weekly pay. <p align="center">Please contact Sue Benschoter at 507-943-3115</p>	<p>Office Assistant</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer phones. • File, copy. • Book hotel rooms. • This is a evolving position.

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WARRANTY DEEDS

Eva J. Fransen, Richard Fransen, Jeffery Johnson, Martha Johnson, Donavan Larson, Kristin Larson to Darlene Anthonisen, PT Lot 3, Block 1 Cooper Subd. Sherburn

Charles V. Woodward, Charles Vanderbelt III Woodward, Joann C. Woodward to Charles V. Woodward III, Joann C. Woodward, Lot 4, Block 1, Reiman Fairlakes 4th Addn

Two Eagle Properties Minnesota LLC to Douglas A. Willner, Lot 20, Block 1, Banke Addition

Betty L. Lewis, Connie M. Lewis to Jodee Lewis, Kent

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018 - C&C WHITE ELEPHANT BENEFIT AUCTION PLUS CASH DRAWINGS. 5PM Lunch, 6PM Auction. At the Sherburn Legion. **CARSON, CHRIS & ALLEN KAHLER AUCTIONEERS**

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 - MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL WHAT-A-KNIGHT DINNER & BENEFIT. At Northrop. Preview of auction items at 4:30PM. Meal at 6PM and Auction at 7PM. **KALLEMEYN & KAHLER AUCTIONEERS**

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018 @ 4:30 P.M. - HOWARD AND ANNETTE FREDRICKSON AND OTHERS. Household and tool auction at the ST. James Fairgrounds. **DAR HALL AUCTION COMPANY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 - MOUNTAIN LAKE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BENEFIT AUCTION. At Mountain Lake, MN. Food Concessions & Auction Inspection opens at 5PM. Live auction begins at 6:30PM. **DAR HALL & ALLEN KAHLER AUCTIONEERS.**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018 @ 10 A.M. - BUD & JOANN PLUMOFF AUCTION. Nice Antiques & Household items. At fairgrounds in St. James. **DAR HALL & ASSOCIATES.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018 @ 9:30 A.M. - DICK SONNECK - Large Auction of Artistic Metal Sculpture, Antique Truck Farm Equipment & other items. Located at 24501 470th Ave. Mapleton, MN. **HALL & KAHLER AUCTIONEERS.**

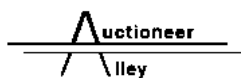
THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018 @ 5:15 P.M. - GARY & ROSIE ALTENBURG. Evening Retirement Auction including JD 4955, JD 4640, 4440, 4020 & IH 84 Hydro Tractors, 1660 Combine, Tri-Axle Truck, plus full line of well-cared for equip. Sale location: 14004 494th Ave, Vernon Center, MN. Full listing & pics at www.auctioneeralley.com **KAHLERS, HARTUNG, WEDEL & PIKE AUCTIONEERS**

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018 @ 3:30 P.M. - PHYLLIS WEDEL ESTATE AUCTION. Nice Antiques & Collections to be held at Martin County Fairgrounds at Fairmont, MN. **KALLEMEYN, HALL & KAHLER AUCTIONEERS**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018 @ 9:45 A.M. - TOM AND ANITA DAVIS. Large retirement farm equipment auction including: '05 CIH STX 325 Tractor, 1997 CIH 8920 Tractor, 2000 JD 9550 Combine, JD 925 Flex Head and much more! Sale located at 1161 50th Ave. Sherburn, MN. **DAN PIKE AND ASSOCIATES.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018 @ 9:45 A.M. - JAMES & KATHRYN FLANTZ. Large retirement machinery auction including: CIH 245 Magnum, CIH Steiger 9330, CIH 150 Puma Tractors, CIH 8830 Swather, CIH 2366 Combine, CIH 1020 Flex Head & CIH 1063 and much more! Sale located at 43577 330th Street, Gaylord, MN. **KAHLERS, HARTUNG, WEDEL & PIKE.**

PRIVATE LISTING FOR SALE: 4,000 head finishing hog site in Sec. 16 of Iowa Lake Twp., Emmet Co., IA and 4,000 head finishing hog site in Sec. 26 of Silver Lake Twp., Martin Co., MN. CONTACT DUSTYN HARTUNG 507-236-7629 FOR INFO ON PRICE, TERMS, & INSPECTION!



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• Dustyn Hartung 507-236-7629 • Leah Hartung 507-236-8786
**923 N. State St., Suite 170, Fairmont, MN
(507) 238-4318**

Lewis, W½, PT SE¼, 31-104-29

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Ardis Schleining, Leon Schleining, Ardis Schleninger, Leon Schleninger to Douglas A. Willner, Lot 20, Block 1, Banke Addition

Daryl A. Schultz, Lois M. Schultz to Lucinda Olson, Michael D. Schultz, SW¼SE¼, 34-104-32; PT W½NE¼, PT NE¼NE¼, 3-103-32

Craig A. Reed to Shantel K. Penkaty, W½ Lot 4, Block 10; Lots 5 & 6, Block 10, Tenhassen-Ceylon

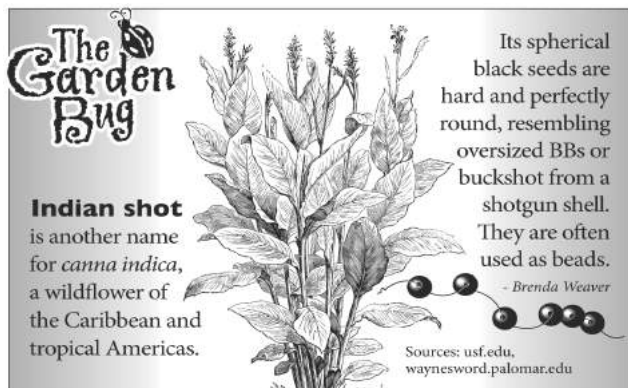
CONTRACT FOR DEED

Daryl A. Schultz, Lois M. Schultz to Lucinda Olson, Lots 13 to 17, Block 5, Original Plat Triumph

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	6	3	1	2	5	4	9	8
9	8	1	4	6	7	3	5	2
2	4	5	8	3	9	1	6	7
6	1	7	3	5	2	8	4	9
8	2	9	6	1	4	5	7	3
3	5	4	9	7	8	6	2	1
4	7	2	5	8	1	9	3	6
1	9	6	7	4	3	2	8	5
5	3	8	2	9	6	7	1	4



Howell Real Estate & Auction Auction Calendar

April 14 th	Ceylon Community Day Auction Auction: 8:30 am Ceylon, MN
April 28 th	Wallingford Relay for Life Auction 5:00 pm Wallingford IA Comm. Center
May 12 th	Tools and Real Estate (Garage) Auction 10:00 am 414 S. 10th St. Estherville
June 5 th	Armstrong Consignment Machinery Auction Located: Across from Art's Way Armstrong Call now to consign
June 16 th	Nancy L. Fry- Dvorak Retirement Machinery Auction 10:00 am North East of Estherville, IA
June 23 rd	Doug and Myrna Whitesell Estate Antique & Collectible Auction 10:00 am North of Armstrong, IA
June 30 th	Large Estate Gun Auction
Aug. 2 nd	Turpin Retirement Machinery Auction 10:00 am South of Superior, IA
Aug. 7 th	Gary & Brenda Madden Farm Machinery Retirement Auction Auction 10:00 am West of Ringsted IA
Aug. 14 th	Armstrong Fall Machinery Auction Armstrong, IA
Aug. 23 rd	Late Model IH Machinery Retirement Auction 10:00am South of Fairmont MN

Howell Real Estate & Auction

220 CENTRAL AVE. ESTHERVILLE IA 712-362-4844 OFFICE
Larry Howell 712-260-9693 - Mark Howell 712-260-9690
Gary Helmers 507-236-2921 - Jack Rooney 712-260-9694



Ask A Trooper: Deaf drivers

by Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Question: How and what does law enforcement do when they come across someone who is deaf or has hearing disabilities?

Answer: This is a good question and as a State Trooper I have come across situations dealing with this on traffic stops, motorist assists and crashes.

Minnesota's deaf and hard of hearing community recently helped create a two-way communication card. They provided significant input in the card's creation, identifying symbols that would be most helpful to them in communicating. The Departments of Public Safety and Human Services collaborated to produce the finished product.

A deaf or hard of hearing person can keep the two-sided, laminated card in their car and bring it out to show to law enforcement when necessary. The card features a set of icons the person can point to suggesting the best way to communicate (such as writing or lip-reading) and another set to indicate what help they need. Hospital? Tow truck? Directions? They're all there on the card.

The law enforcement officer can also use it to communicate by pointing to the icon indicating what information they need, such as a driver's license or insurance card. If the officer has pulled over the deaf or hard of hearing per-

son, they can point to icons such as the speed limit sign or traffic light on the back of the card to explain why. There's also a section to help explain what happens next, with icons for things like warnings and tickets.

Along with the icons are helpful tips for communicating, such as, "Maintain eye contact with me while speaking" and "Shining a flashlight in my face will make it hard for me to understand you." The card ends with a list of things a deaf or hard of hearing person might need if arrested or brought in for questions, like assistive technology for phone calls and a sign language interpreter.

So although traffic stops and flat tires still happen, this communication card can make the interaction safer, easier, and more productive for law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing people alike.

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

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

PUBLIC AUCTION (AKA)

STORAGE UNIT WAR

Tuesday, April 10

FAIRMONT MINI STORAGE

940 East 4th Street • Fairmont • 5:00 p.m.

Mini • 4th St.

Unit Nos.: u15, 5, 21, 72, 80, 87, 90, 92

STOR-ALL

**500 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont • 5:15 p.m.**

April 10 • Store-All

Unit Nos.: 12, 17, 18, 208, 217, 324, 344, 347, 357, 363, 424, 452, 457, 505, 519, 532

RIVERSIDE MINI STORAGE THURSDAY, APRIL 12 5 p.m.

520 S. Grove Street, Blue Earth

Unit Nos.: 3, 16, 40, 63, 66, 84, 323, 326

Units may be removed from auction any time up to time of auction.

USDA Crop Acreage Report surprises experts

Guest Columnist

Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst; VP, MinnStar Bank



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

On March 29th, 2018, USDA released the "Prospective Plantings Report", as well as the "Quarterly Grain Stocks Report". These were very highly anticipated USDA Reports, due to the uncertainty in grain prices in recent months, the potential for another increase in U.S. soybean acreage in 2018, and the likelihood of even larger increases in USDA estimated grain stocks in the coming year. The USDA estimates for intended 2018 U.S. soybean and corn acreage came in well below the projections of most grain marketing analysts, resulting in some short-term strength in the grain markets.

Typically, these late March USDA Reports are very critical to farm operators and grain traders because the Reports tend to have a high impact on grain market prices in the Spring and early Summer. This is the time of the year when many farm operators try to sell remaining grain inventories from the previous growing season, as well as look for opportunities to forward price a portion of the anticipated crop for the current year. In a majority of years, corn and soybean prices usually reach their peak-price from April until June, which is why the late March USDA Reports are so

important.

Following are some highlights from the March 29th USDA Reports:

Corn --- The Planting Intentions Report indicated an estimated 88 million acres of corn to be planted in 2018, which is a decrease of 2 percent from the 90.2 million planted acres in 2017. The intended 2018 corn acres are well below the 94 million acres in 2016, and are similar to the 88 million acres in 2015. The USDA corn acreage estimate was about 1.4 million acres below the average grain trade estimate of near 89.4 million acres. The highest U.S. corn acreage recorded in the March 31st estimate was 97.2 million acres in both 2012 and 2013. The 2018 corn acreage is expected to decline in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Kansas, and remain close to steady in most other major corn producing States.

The total U.S. corn stocks on March 1st, 2018, were listed at over 8.89 billion bushels, which is up about 3 percent, compared to the 8.62 billion bushels on March 1st, 2017. The March 1st USDA estimate was toward the high end of the grain trade estimates prior to the Report.

Soybeans --- For the first time since 1983, farmers will plant more soybean

acres than corn acres, if the projections in the March 29th USDA Planting Intentions Report hold true. 1983 was the year that USDA instituted the "Payment-In-Kind" (PIK) program, which paid farmers not to plant corn, in order to offset large U.S. grain surpluses.

According to the latest Report, U.S. producers will plant 89 million acres of soybeans in 2018, which is down 1.1 million acres from the 2017 record soybean acreage of 90.1 million acres in 2017, but is well above the 83.4 million planted acres in 2016. The USDA projection for planted soybean acres was about 2 million acres lower than the average grain trade estimates. The 2018 soybean acreage is expected to decrease from the previous year in 20 of the 31 major soybean producing States.

Soybean stocks on March 1st, 2018, were listed at 2.11 billion bushels, which up about 22 percent from 1.74 billion bushels on March 1st, 2017, and compares to near 1.5 billion bushels on March 1st, 2016. The March 1st soybean stocks estimate came in near the high-end of the pre-report estimates by grain traders.

Wheat --- Intended total wheat plantings for 2018 are 47.3 million acres, which is up 3 percent from the 2017

wheat acreage of just over 46 million acres. The 2018 U.S. wheat acreage would be the second lowest since records began in 1919, trailing only the 2017 acreage. Total wheat acreage exceeded 50 million acres as recently as 2016. Most of the increase in U.S. wheat acreage is for Spring Wheat in States such as Minnesota and North Dakota.

Total wheat stocks on March 1st, 2018, were listed at 1.49 billion bushels, which is down 10 percent from 1.66 billion bushels on March 1, 2017, but was close to grain trade estimates.

Cotton --- Intended U.S. cotton plantings for 2018 are estimated at 13.5 million acres, which is up 5 percent from 2017 acreage levels, and would be at the highest level since 2011. Recent changes to the government farm program payments for cotton have likely aided in the enhancement of the 2018 cotton acreage.

The State-by-State Prospective Plantings Report for 2018 is also rather interesting. Minnesota corn growers are expected to plant 7.5 million acres of corn in 2018, which is down 7 percent from the 8.05 million acres planted in 2017. Minnesota farmers are expected to decrease their planted soybean acres by 3 percent in 2018 to 7.9 million acres; however, Minnesota farmers are intending

to plant 1.6 million acres of Spring Wheat in 2018, which would be an increase of 38 percent. From the 2017 wheat acreage. The USDA Report was based on planting intentions as of March 1st; however, the potential for later than normal Spring planting dates in Minnesota and other Upper Midwest States may cause some of the planting intentions to change in the coming weeks.

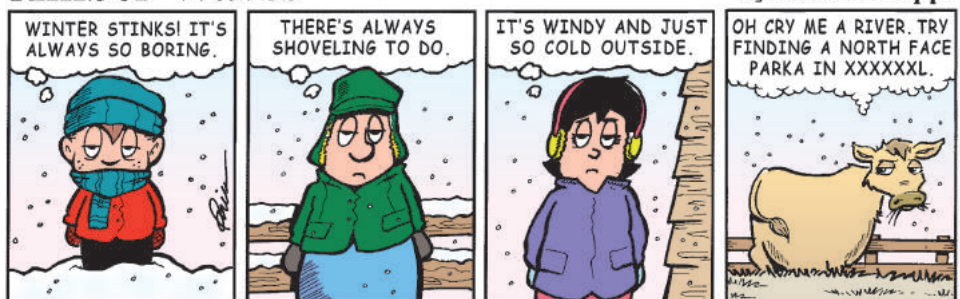
The March 31st USDA Grain Stocks Report indicated that as of March 1st, 2017, there were 5 billion bushels of corn and 855 million bushels of soybeans stored on farms in the U.S., which represents about 56 percent of the total corn stocks and 41 percent of the total soybean stocks. According to the USDA Report, there were 770 million bushels of corn and 115 million bushels of soybeans in on-farm storage in Minnesota on March 1st, 2018. USDA does not survey the percentage of the bushels in on-farm storage that are forward priced for future delivery, as compared to bushels that are not priced. However, many private analysts feel that a much higher percentage of the corn bushels still in storage on March 1st, 2018, may not be forward priced in 2018, as compared to other recent years.

On March 29th, the day

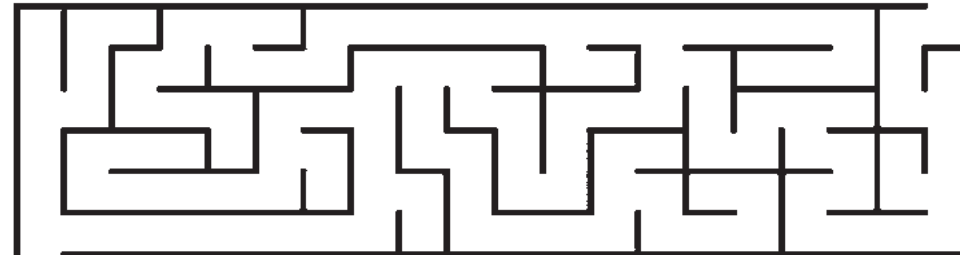
that the USDA Reports were released, December corn futures on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) increased by 14 cents per bushel, closing at \$4.11 per bushel. Both the CBOT December corn futures price and local forward contract prices in Southern Minnesota were near the highest levels achieved so far in 2018. Following the USDA Reports on March 29, November CBOT soybean futures prices closed 27 cents per bushel above the previous day, closing at \$10.47 per bushel. This was also near the highest CBOT closing prices for November soybean futures in 2018.

Most grain analysts felt the dramatic reaction in the grain markets was primarily due to the surprise in the USDA planting intentions numbers for corn and soybeans. Producers should look for opportunities to take advantage of these improved grain prices, both to sell any remaining 2017 grain inventories, as well as to forward price some of the intended 2018 production. The rather large levels of grain stocks for both corn and soybeans, will likely keep market price rallies a bit "in-check", and could potentially cause downward pressure on the grain markets later in the growing season.

Amber Waves



Kids' Maze



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Best-Selling HDTV Brands*

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2. Samsung
3. Panasonic
4. Sony
5. Vizio
6. AOC
7. Toshiba
8. Onida
9. TCL
10. Phillips

*worldwide
Source: Trending Top Most

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Portrait of a Veteran: Ronald Hartwig

Guest Columnist

Joseph Kreiss, Portrait of a Veteran Project

As a high school junior, Ronald Hartwig described himself as "a little bit wild." He attended Fairmont High School with the intention of graduating with the Class of 1957, but cut his schooling short to join the U.S. Navy. "I didn't like one of my teachers, so once I turned 17, I went into the Navy," he explained. That was in the fall of 1956.

Hartwig headed to Navy boot camp at the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill. After completion of his initial military training, he was assigned to the Keyport Torpedo Station at Keyport, Washington, part of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division. "I was at Keyport for six months and never stepped foot on a sub," he remembered. Then it was time to move again, this time to San Diego for three

months training in the Navy's electricians school.

"While I was in San Diego, they asked if anyone would be interested in submarines and I jumped at that," Hartwig remembered. Again, he packed his sea bag as the Navy sent him across the country to the Naval Submarine Base New London. During his training, Hartwig said

he had to undergo intensive psychological testing, plus three months of Navy Submarine School. "It was kind of dangerous at times," he recalled. "One time we had escape training where you had to swim up to the surface from the bottom of a 50-foot submerged tower.

Finally, in 1958, Hartwig received his duty orders and was transferred to the submarine USS Tiru (SS416), a Balao-class diesel boat based in Pearl Harbor, HI. "I got there on the first day and checked in with the duty officer," Hartwig said. "The next day we were heading out on a 60-day sea run on patrol in the Pacific."

Story and Photo © 2018 Joseph Kreiss Photography

To read the rest of Ron's military story, visit:

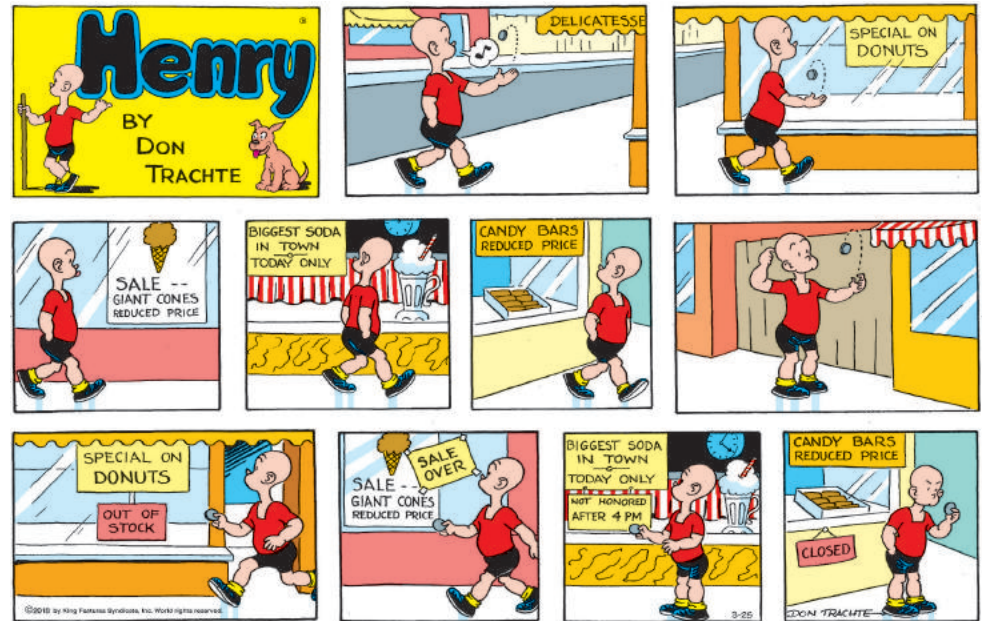
somnvetphoto-project.blogspot.com/



Ronald Hartwig - Born in Fairmont, MN in 1939. U.S. Navy Submarine Service Veteran.



Great Plains employees have been involved in a "Dress Casual Campaign". In order for employees to dress casual they had to donate money to a charity of their choice. The owners also matched the amount donated for a total of \$1,431. Adventure Playground in Fairmont was one of the charities to receive a donation. Adventure Playground Task Force members include: Amber Elliot, Aaron Schmidtgal, Linda Gorackowski, Jodie Whitmore, Katie Cochran, Joanna Long, Lisa Meyer, Ashley Rettke, Annie Pedersen, Jessica Andrews, Lynn Harris, Judy Boucher, Sherri DeJong. (Submitted photo)



Northrop Mayor Tom Wakey (center) presented an appreciation award to Dave Nutt and Dorothy Plath of the Fairmont Eagles last week for the organization making and donating over 100 variety of burgers and chips during the Northrop Elevator fire earlier this year. (Submitted photo)



Mrs. Brolsma's 1st graders at Fairmont Area Elementary School were very thankful for their Junior Achievement volunteer, Barb Seewald. The children always looked forward to Ms. Seewald's visits and smiles during the month of March! (Submitted photo)

Financial Focus

Provided by:

Paul Schellpeper, Drew Schellpeper, Wyman Fischer, Dan Hamlet, Mandi Kosbab

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

Should You Make Extra Mortgage Payments or Boost Your Investments?

Every month, you pay your mortgage. And, depending on your circumstances, you may be able to afford to put in additional payments – perhaps sizable ones. But should you? Or, if you really have the extra money, should you invest it?

Initially, you might think it would be quite nice to rid yourself of that mortgage sooner, rather than later. But is it really the burden it seems?

Actually, you get some real benefits from a mortgage. It certainly provides something of great value to you – your home. If you got your mortgage – or refinanced your home – within the past decade or so, you are borrowing money at a pretty favorable interest rate, by historical standards. And even assuming a mild rate of inflation, such as we've had for the past several years, you'll

essentially be paying off your mortgage with cheaper and cheaper dollars over time. Plus, your interest payments may well be tax deductible. (The new tax laws limit deductions on new mortgages of \$750,000 or more. For questions on your specific situation, consult your tax professional.)

So, given these advantages, an argument could be made that you should be in no hurry to pay off your mortgage. Still, you might be tempted to make the extra payments because you'll be building home equity. After all, isn't this equity valuable? It is – to a degree. The larger your home equity, the more money you'll get to keep when you eventually sell your home.

But in the meantime, that home equity may be less useful than you might imagine. For one thing, just building more eq-

uity won't make your home more valuable – it will rise (or fall) in value along with whatever's happening in the housing market. By contrast, you could take the extra money and buy more shares in an investment such as stocks – and the more shares you own, the more valuable your investment will be if the price per share rises.

Also, if you were to experience a temporary job loss or some other financial emergency, your home equity might not help you much; if you're not working, you could even have trouble getting a home equity loan. Conversely, your investment portfolio can offer you greater liquidity, depending on your specific investments. Most investment vehicles, such as stocks and bonds, generally can be sold quickly, without much difficulty. (Keep in mind,

though, that if you were forced to sell investments when their price was down, you could take a loss on the sale.)

Clearly, you could gain some advantages by using any extra money to invest, rather than paying down your mortgage. Nonetheless, you may simply get emotional and psychological satisfaction by speeding your progress toward the day when your house is paid off – and that type of satisfaction certainly has value. You'll need to weigh these intangible factors carefully in deciding whether to increase your investments or make extra mortgage payments – because, ultimately, you need to feel that you're doing the right thing, for the right reasons.

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

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sports.com
LIVE CARDINAL WEBSTREAMING VIDEO

The guy from just down the road

By Al Batt

My neighbor Crandall stops by.

"How are you doing?" I ask.

"Everything is nearly c o p a -

cetic. My favorite fruit is still the Franken Berry. T h e

weather has had

a wet sense of humor

lately. When I think

about the 10 most un-

usual weather events

in my life, I realize they

all happened last week.

Speaking of weather, I

remember your science

project in school. You

filled a jar with Janu-

ary air and labeled it

'Open in July.' There was

a ketchup truck in my

rearview mirror yester-

day. I knew that's what it

was because Heinz sight

is 20/20. I'm taking Pop

to see the doctor. He has

a dry mouth that makes

it impossible for him

to read. He can't wet a

finger enough to turn a

page. I wish you hadn't

talked me into getting a

complete physical with

all possible prodding

and probing included."

"I hope the doctor

didn't find a problem,"



I say.

"He didn't and that's the problem. For as much money as those tests cost, he should have found something wrong with me."

Naturally

On Easter, I watched a mink hunt the edges of a pond. An Easter mink searching for the Easter bunny.

Spring has come to the roadsides in the form of a ground squirrel. The 13-lined ground squirrel is the small gopher-like animal often seen along roads. Coyotes, foxes, hawks, owls and weasels prey upon this little critter. They are also called squinnies, grinnies, liners, 13 liners, streakers and streaked gophers. The 13-lined ground squirrel is frequently confused with a chipmunk. It has 13 light stripes, alternating solid and dashed, on its back. It runs with its tail low to the ground. The chipmunk has two light stripes and tends to hop while holding its tail up and front paws together, something like a rabbit or tree squirrel.

I'd been all over the birding map. Birding four states in one day allowed me to see the

niceness and the nastiness of spring. Spring can be full of winter. Spring is when we get the winter that no one else wants and the snow shovel has been worn to a sliver.

Birds begin to serenade sunrises and sunsets. With temps just north of 20°, song sparrows were singing up a storm. Not literally, I hoped. It was a sunny day. Sunny days in winter and spring cause us to shine and sing.

Q-and-A

Karen Wright of Mankato asked what determines the size of a deer's antlers. The main factors affecting antler size of a white-tailed buck are age, nutrition and genetics. Deer grow and shed antlers annually and typically begin to grow a new set in late spring. Growth starts at the pedicle, the antler growing base attached to the skull. Hormones controlled by photo-period regulate antler growth. The growth cycle coincides with the breeding season, so that bucks have antlers for fighting with others to establish dominance.

"Why did Audubon shoot birds?" Because

he didn't have binoculars or a camera. Not many of the birds that John James Audubon painted were willing to pose for him. He shot them so he could study and draw birds. Audubon mounted freshly killed specimens on wires connected to a board, an arrangement that allowed him to position the birds in life-like attitudes. He drew them, and then filled in the drawings with watercolors. He often performed anatomical dissections after drawing his subjects and when working far from home, he cooked and ate his specimens.

"What are some nicknames of flickers?" Nicknames for the northern flicker include: Golden cuckoo, cotton rump, silver dollar bird, dish-washer, fiddler, grasshopper woodpecker, high-holer, meadow partridge, wake-up, yacker, yarup, yellow hammer and yellow jay.

"How high can a bird fly?" The two highest-flying bird species on record are the Ruppell's griffon vulture seen flying at 37,000 feet and the bar-headed goose spotted flying over the Hi-



The scientific name of the coyote is *Canis latrans*, which means "barking dog". Photo by Al Batt

malayas at nearly 28,000 feet.

"Does a crow eat eggs?" It does, but I eat more eggs than a crow does.

"I bought a recycled plastic peanut feeder, but the birds won't eat the recycled plastic peanuts. What can I do?" Try feeding the recycled plastic peanuts to recycled plastic birds.

"How can I tell the difference between a male and a female blue jay?" The female lays the eggs. Blue jays can tell who is whom because they see a wider spectrum of light than we do. Blue jays are

sexually monomorphic, which means the males look like the females and the females look like the males.

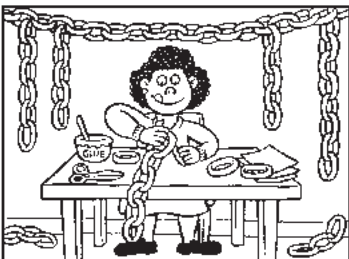
Thanks for stopping by

"We hope that, when the insects take over the world, they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all our picnics."--Bill Vaughan

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." — Melody Beattie

DO GOOD.

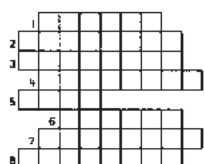
© Al Batt 2018



MAVIS LOVES TO MAKE PAPER CHAIN DECORATIONS. See how many paper links you can count in the above drawing.



DON'T THROW AN AIR BALL SOLVING THIS ONE

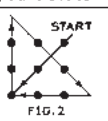


Sink the following eight words and win the game. In the grid there is room to enter eight words or terms pertaining to basketball. The following hints should help you dribble to victory.

1. A credit for scoring.
2. For some, a sure point maker.
3. You can't play without them.
4. Shooting while in the air.
5. To pass the ball.
6. What teams need to win.
7. To score off the backboard.
8. To shoot over your head.

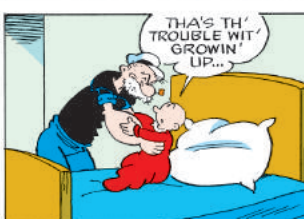
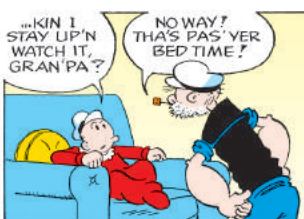
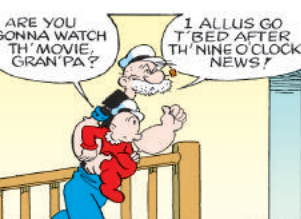
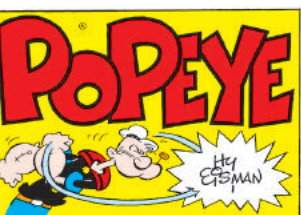
There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of a spectacular shot.

- • • A NEAT WAGER! Draw nine dots on a sheet of paper (Fig. 1). Challenge your friends to connect them up by drawing four straight lines through them without lifting the pencil from the paper. (See Fig. 2 for solution.)



THE "M" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the M's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Roman numeral for 1000.
2. Rebus for "none left."
3. Found in a wrestling ring.
4. A radio antenna.
5. A source of power.
6. Poorest excuse.
7. Short-handed hammers.
8. Baby Bear's bed.



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