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Camino De Santiago

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# PhotoPress

Only good news

Wednesday  
December 30, 2015

Volume 52 | Number 34

SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES



## Carpet Clearance SALE

12 Month No Interest Financing  
with qualifying credit

# Save up to 40%

on in-stock carpeting, vinyl  
flooring and porcelain tile.  
(suggested retail - while supplies last)

### Sale Runs Saturday, January 2nd Through January 9th!



Realistic new laminate  
flooring. Install yourself  
and save!

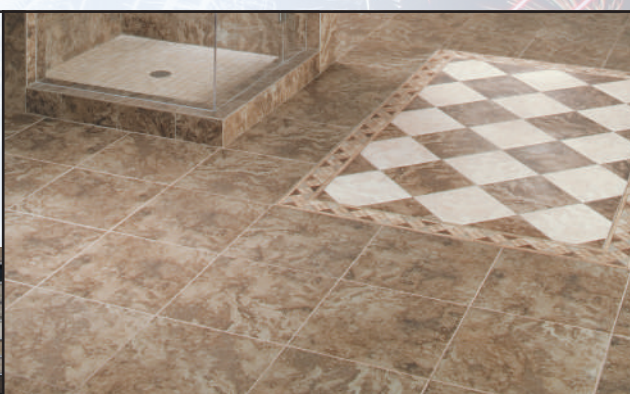
reg. price ~~\$4.59~~  
**\$2.99** sq. ft.

Congoleum  
and  
Mannington  
Vinyl Flooring

starting at  
**\$1.10**  
sq. ft.



Mohawk & Shaw  
carpeting starting at  
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sq. ft. stock  
lasts!

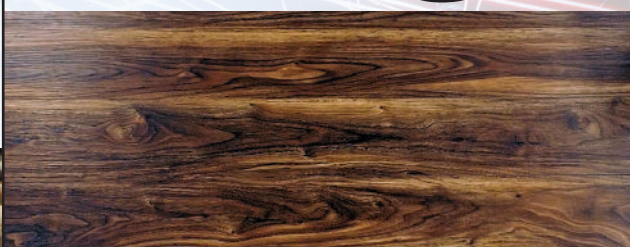


**MOHAWK**  
Porcelain Tile

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sq. ft.

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SAVE  
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Closed New Year's Day  
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## Marriage License Applications

Sandra Gail Hallstrom and Norman LeRoy Langford

**Fairmont High School Class of 1960**, spouses and friends will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5th at the Pizza Ranch in Fairmont.

The Martin Luther HS Athletic Boosters will be hosting a **JAGS Tailgate Party** on Monday, January 4th at the Boys Basketball Game in Northrop. They will be serving grilled hamburgers with all the trimmings, chips and cookies for a charge. Come cheer the JAGS on as the take on the MCW Mavericks. "C" game begins at 4:45 p.m. Burgers will be available during the games.

**The Fairmont Lakes Foundation's** monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5th, 5:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the Southern Minnesota Educational Center, 115 South Park Street. Enter through the southeast door. Everyone is welcome.

## 25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

### WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 1991

James T. Clifford, 71, former president of the Fairmont Photo Press and one of its founders, and active manager of the commercial advertising department for many years, died at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

\*\*\*

Paul Schellpeper, broker with Edward D. Jones Co. in Fairmont was pictured presenting a certificate for one year's subscription to "Value Line" periodical, to Martin County Librarian Gil Picken. A year's subscription to the publication cost \$495.

\*\*\*

Huntington's Barber-Stylists in the Fair Mall Shopping Center, used the front page of the Fairmont Photo Press to "thank everyone for a great three months at the Fair Mall." The ad included a picture



**Monday night's snowfall piled up to create a headache to navigate on the street in front of the Photo Press the next morning. Snow removal crews worked throughout the day to remove the winter burden.**

## Baby Buzz

Barret Kurt Olson, son of Ashley and Derek Olson of Sherburn, was born at Mayo Clinic Health System in Fairmont on December 3rd, 2015. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Barret was welcomed home by his siblings, Reese and Emmet Olson. Grandparents are Kurt Olson of Sherburn, Julie Krueger of Trimont, Doug Daberkow of Sherburn.

\*\*\*

Alexis Mae Toothaker, daughter of Cody & Angie Toothaker of East Chain, was born at Mayo Clinic Medical Center in Fairmont on December 26th, 2015. She weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 22 inches long. Alexis was welcomed home by her sisters, Addison & Kylie. Grandparents are Kevin and Mary Hugoson of East Chain, John and Susie Toothaker of Fairmont. Great-Grandparents are Leighton and Ardis Hugoson of Fairmont.

of the staff and coupons. Huntington's also had family-owned salons in Blue Earth, Waseca, New Ulm and Owatonna.

\*\*\*

Kevin Thate, 38-year-old Fairmont man who was a salesman for Draper Beverage Company for 18 years, was treated to an "uptown" ride on his final trip around the east route of his territory. A full-style limo from Albert Lea was engaged, complete with lady driver, to open doors and wait on all his needs throughout the trip which included some 20 towns. Thate started his new job as manager of the new Prairieland garbage disposal plant being built in Truman.

\*\*\*

Darrell Van Note retired from Fairmont Railway Motors after over 34 years. He worked in various departments and spent the last three years as mechanic in the Experimental Department.



**LAFLEY 80TH** - Marie Laffey of Fairmont will be celebrating her 80th birthday with family. She was born January 7th, 1936. Her family would like to honor her with a card shower. Please share a favorite fun story or special memory you have of her. Cards will reach her at 902 S. State Street, Fairmont, MN 56031.

**BANKS 100TH** - Rose Banks of Fairmont will become a centenarian on January 8th, 2016. Cards may reach her at: 850 Goldfinch Street, Apt. 509, Fairmont, MN 56031.

## Overwhelming Vote Support by Cooperative Memberships

WFS (Truman) and Central Valley Cooperative (Owatonna) are eager to announce that voting members of both cooperatives have approved a plan of merger to bring their two companies together. Both memberships were overwhelmingly in favor of the unification and exceeded the state required two-thirds majority (67%) vote with 76 percent of the WFS membership ballots cast in favor and 75 percent of the Central Valley Cooperative (CVC) ballots cast in favor of the unification.

The merger will go into effect on March 1st, 2016 and the newly unified company will be named Central Farm Service. WFS Chief Executive Officer, Todd Ludwig will take the reins as CEO of the new company, while CVC CEO, Gary Mohr, will become the Chief Administrative Officer. As stated in the merger proposal documents, both administrative offices, Owatonna and Truman, will remain open in order to serve members' needs.

The plan was first announced to the respective memberships in a letter

on October 14th, which also included a list of anticipated questions and answers. Following harvest, informational meetings were held and ballots, along with additional information, were mailed to voting members on December 2nd, with a due date of December 21st.

As stated in the Plan of Merger documents, equity held by both memberships will transfer dollar for dollar and all existing equity is intended to be retired under the current practices of each co-op. Equity earned in the new co-op will be retired on years earned. There will also be equal representation from each of the former co-ops, with six directors from each board.

The newly merged cooperative, Central Farm Service, will service a trade area that is approximately 110 miles north and south from Randolph, Minnesota into Iowa and 125 miles east and west from Hayfield to Welcome, Minnesota. The two companies currently cover a trade area that is adjacent to each other, but do not operate facilities in the same communities.

**People First** will hold their monthly meeting and Christmas party, Tuesday, January 5th at 3:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Fairmont's MRCI. Also, fudge sellers will receive their fudge sale prizes during the meeting. Please note the change in meeting time! Anybody needing a ride to this event or has questions about People First should contact Pat Willett-Kietzer at 507-848-5017.

**CORRECTION to the Day Plumbing "Heroes" story** from the December 23rd edition of the Photo Press. The food shelf that was stated as being started by Nancy in Welcome. It actually should have stated "Tonya had recently gotten the food shelf started in Sherburn." There is not a food shelf in Welcome. We apologize for any inconvenience.

*Wishing you a Happy New Year! Thanks to all our loyal customers and friends.*

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Fairmont, MN



Karla Malo (right) of Granada was the winner of the Photo Press stocking stuffer giveaway last week. She won a cordless Black & Decker multi-piece set from Richard's Auto, along with a stocking filled with gift cards and certificates from the following businesses: Slumberland, Fleet & Farm, HyVee, Sterling Drug, Carpet Plus, Sovell Jewelry, Fairmont Liquor Store, Computer Lodge, Fareway, Poppe's Store & Car Wash, Pizza Ranch, BowlMor Lanes, Graham Tire, Perkins, Aspire, Buntjers Salon, Dee's Floral, Anytime Fitness and Taco John's.

## Dollars For Scholars Scholarship Applications Open January 1

Scholarship applications for the Fairmont Dollars for Scholars chapter will open on January 1st, 2016. Students who wish to apply can begin creating or updating their student profiles now at fairmont.dollarsforscholars.org. Eligibility for all scholarships offered by the local Dollars for Scholars chapter will close on April 1st, 2016.

An information night on how to use the scholarship application system and how each application

is scored will be held in the Fairmont Senior High School Media Center on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m. To register for that, call Community Education and Recreation at 507-235-3141.

For more information or questions, call Liz Wheeler at 507-399-2134. If you are interested in making a year-end donation to Fairmont Dollars for Scholars, call Loren Dunham at 507-238-1172.

The "Generation to Generation" Antique Auction will be held at Martin Luther High School, Northrop on Saturday, January 9th beginning at 9:45 a.m. Dozens of parties have consigned some interesting collections to the sale. For pictures and a detailed listing go to martinlutherhs.com and click on "Special Events, Antique Auction". New items are added daily. Auctioneer Alley/Land Services Unlimited are donating their services to this benefit for Student Tuition Aid.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS & CHRISTMAS ITEMS 1/2 PRICE

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## We'll Be Closed New Year's Day

The Photo Press will be **CLOSING AT NOON** on Thur, Dec. 31 and is **CLOSED ALL DAY** on Fri, Jan. 1.

**PhotoPress**  
Only good news

112 East First Street | Fairmont, MN  
P> 507.238.9456 | info: frontdesk@fairmontphotopress.com





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our family is beyond grateful for everyone who helped facilitate the touching jersey retirement ceremony for our son and brother, Parker Burtis, on December 12th at the Martin County Arena.

A special thanks to a few groups who were instrumental in making the ceremony even more special than we could have imagined, including the Fairmont Hockey Association board and John Korsmo for all their work to make the ceremony happen; FHS school board; Gemini Studios, KEYC Mankato, and Fox Sports

North for covering and airing the event; James Bohn for singing the National Anthem; D&S Trophies for putting together the shadowbox display; the boys and girls varsity hockey teams; and our family, friends, and Parker's former teammates who came to show their support.

We are forever appreciative of all the continued support shown to our family through this difficult time. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Burtis Family  
Fairmont

On December 31st, the West Martin County Vet Clinic in Sherburn will close. Dr. Eldon Madison will retire after 30 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Madison has provided excellent care to pets and livestock with dignity, respect, professional expertise and good humor.

He has gotten to know the owners well during his time as veterinarian.

So, on behalf of all creatures great and small, we bid him a teary farewell. With best wishes and thanks. Happy Tails!

Janette Loe  
Fairmont

Dear Friend(s):

The Salvation Army of Fairmont would like to thank everyone for helping with Community Kamp for Kids (Red Bag Day) by Sentinel, Photo Press, Woodward Broadcasting Inc., KSUM Radio, and all the sponsors' supporters, Drivers, Runners who picked up the food, People who were sorting the food donations and toys, clean up and setting up, and all the donations

that were given for the drive, you all were a blessing.

Many people in our community will receive because of your generosity. Your gift of time is greatly appreciated!

Again, thank you for helping out with the dinner.

Have a great day in Him!

JoAnn Hixenbaugh,  
Major, Corps Officer

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## 50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF  
JANUARY 2, 1966

Stan-Em Beauty Salon, operated by Stanley Foss and his wife for 15 years in downtown Fairmont, was sold to Mrs. Virgil (Barbara) Jacobson, a former employee. The Fosses left for St. Paul to become managers of the Academy of Beauty Culture at Seventh and Cedar Streets.

\*\*\*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council installed new 1966 officers. Re-elected from last year were Earl Nolte, chairman; Duane Roloff, treasurer; Charles (Knut) Backstrom, finance chairman; Ray Brockberg, Sunday School Superintendent; Arno Norman, head usher. New members were Richard S. Johnson, secretary; James Cone, Synod treasurer, and Darrell Leiding, financial secretary.

\*\*\*

The Fairmont Saw Shop opened under the new ownership of Lewis Clark, Jr., at 1002 N. Main Street

The Lakesters Car Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 5th, 7 p.m. in the meeting room at McDonald's. All car enthusiasts are welcome.



Greatest Birding Moment

As the year comes to a close, I like to reflect on my greatest birding moment. This year it was the Carolina chickadee that came to my yard one rainy afternoon. He was fun to watch. I simply love birding, and I hope you do too.

Happy New Year, everyone!

E-mail: birdingbits@earthlink.net  
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## Resolve to Save for Travel in 2016

(StatePoint) If your budget didn't allow you to take the vacation you wanted in 2015, don't let the same reason hinder your wanderlust in 2016. A few resolutions, made around the New Year, can help you reach your vacation goal.

Here are a few quick tips to consider:

- **Contribute to a vacation savings account:** Big travel purchases, like airfare and hotel accommodations, are hefty withdrawals if you don't set aside money specifically for a vacation. Earmark a portion of each paycheck to send straight to a dedicated vacation savings account. Once it's there, don't touch it until it's time to pay for your trip.

- **Create a budget:** A budget is the only way to track your spending and ensure you have more coming in than going out.

- **Budget your time:** Before making any travel plans, check your job's vacation policy so you can budget your days off from work accordingly. If you don't get paid time off



from work, the pay cut is also an important item to consider in your financial budget.

- **Temporarily skip extras:** Which of your daily expenses are necessary and which are optional? Consider packing your lunch for a month or using the company coffemaker instead of indulging in a daily latte at the café around the block. At the end of the month, calculate the savings and "pay yourself" by directing this money to your vacation fund.

- **Consider coupons:** Vacation packages found on daily deal sites can be just the ticket you need to get the vacation you want

for less. Other travel sites often offer special rates if you bundle purchases. Investigate these options before resigning yourself to an expensive a la carte plan.

- **Be on time:** A missed flight or train could cost you a pretty penny you did not account for when drawing up your vacation budget.

You don't need to defer your vacation again this year. A few tips can keep you on track for a memorable vacation.

\*\*\*\*\*

PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Dangubic - Fotolia.com

## LIVING

**Is Your Life in Balance? Healthy Habits to Try in 2016**

(StatePoint) Is your life in balance? The new year is a great time to take stock of your routine and make improvements where necessary.

Here are some thoughtful habits to consider incorporating into your day in the coming year.

**Find Time to Decompress**

- If you're a morning person, get out of bed 30 minutes earlier than normal to wake up with your favorite coffee or tea and think about what you need to accomplish for the day.

- More of a night owl? Spend at least 30 minutes before going to sleep to unplug from technology

and relax with a new book you've had on your list to read.

- Schedule time for exercise to reduce stress and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Planning workouts ahead of time will make you more likely to stick to them.

**Write Everything Down**

- Handwritten notes and to-do lists will reinforce your memory of the tasks you need to conquer. They also give you the option to look at what you need to do for the day and prioritize the list. Consider a personal planner, which includes a variety of styles that reflect your personality and organizational needs.

- Documenting your day not only keeps you organized, but also provides you with an opportunity to look back and reflect on your life's accomplishments, memories and

milestones from the year.

**Balanced Diet, Balanced Life**

- Maintaining a healthy, balanced diet will help you feel great, and can increase your focus, energy levels and productivity.

- Plan out your meals ahead of time before going shopping by marking them in a calendar. This will give you more time during the week to cook and prepare meals, without having to make frequent trips to the store or feel tempted to grab take-out.

- Cooking your own fresh meals can help keep your bank account balanced, and is often much healthier than food from a restaurant. And spending time in the kitchen is also a stress reliever for some people.

Make a fresh start -- the beginning of a new year is the perfect time to make positive changes to how you schedule and organize your time.

**Celebration of Giving Back**

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# Ag Update: Looking Ahead to 2016

Guest Columnist



Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst; VP, MinnStar Bank

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

As we end 2015, many farmers are focusing on cash flow strategies for 2016, wondering what the future holds for land values, cash rental rates, and 2015 ARC-CO payment prospects, as well as being concerned how various ag policy issues may play out in a Presidential election year. **Following are some items that are likely to be on the forefront in the agriculture industry for 2016:**

**Land Values** --- Land values in most areas of the Midwest have declined by 10-20 percent from the peak land values in 2013 and early 2014; however, there were still some very strong localized land sales during 2015. A recent, highly credible, land value survey from Iowa State University, released in early December, showed that average land values in Iowa decreased by 3.9 percent during 2015, which followed a decline of 8.9 percent in 2014. This was only the second and third time since 1999 that Iowa farm land values decreased from one year to the next. The 2014 decline was the largest annual decrease since 1986.

According to the survey, the average land values dropped by about 6-8 % North Central Iowa from November, 2014 to November, 2015, which followed a decline of 10-12 percent a year earlier. Land values have remained surprisingly strong in many portions of Northwestern Iowa. Land value adjustments in Southern Minnesota have likely been similar to the Northern Iowa land value survey results, with slightly stronger land values in Southwest Minnesota, compared to other portions of the region. Continued low grain prices and reduced farm profitability in 2016, along with any increases in farm real estate interest rates, could cause land prices to decline even more by the end of 2016.

**2015 Farm Program Payments** --- When 2015 ARC-CO payments for

corn and soybeans are made in October, 2016, there will likely be a significant variation in the payment levels from county-to-county. This variation in 2015 ARC-CO payments will depend on the final 2015 county yield, expressed as a "% of the county benchmark (BM) Yield". Counties in Minnesota and Northern Iowa are likely to have a wide-range in 2015 ARC-CO payments for both corn and soybeans, with many counties getting some 2015 ARC-CO payment, especially for corn. The estimated 2015 ARC-CO payments for corn and soybeans will be different in many areas of Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. These States likely had much lower county yields in 2015, and a will likely have a lower "% of (BM) Yield", which will likely result in many counties receiving the maximum, or close to the maximum, 2015 ARC-CO payments for corn and soybeans.

Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for details on the farm program. Kent Thiesse has written an information sheet titled: **"Estimating 2015 Corn and Soybean ARC-CO Payments"**. To receive a free copy of this information sheet, send an e-mail to : kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com or call (507) 726-2137.

**Tight Cash Flow Margins in 2016** --- It appears that profit margins in crop production in 2016 will be much tighter than in recent years. The combination of lower projected market prices for corn and soybeans in 2016, together with nearly steady input costs for seed, fertilizer, and chemicals, will limit estimated potential returns over direct expenses and land costs, at average crop yields. A major variable in profit margins for crop producers will be land costs, both land rental rates, as well as real estate loan payments on purchased land. Another key variable in breakeven levels in crop production

are loan payments on capital investments such as farm machinery, facilities, etc.. Tight profit margins for 2016 are also likely to exist in all segments of the livestock industry.

As we plan ahead for very tight margins in corn and soybean production for 2016, it is a good time for farm operators to review all aspects of a crop operation. Obviously weather conditions can account for a large portion of the crop yield variation; however, there are other more controllable crop management factors that may also contribute to yield differences. Looking for ways to reduce or control direct and overhead expenses, including land rental costs, is also a key to improving profit potential for crop producers. Decisions that are made on crop marketing and crop insurance, as well as potential payments from the government farm program, can also have a significant impact on potential profitability for 2016.

## Farm Management Strategies for 2016:

**1. Know your "cost of production"** - this is a key for making grain marketing decisions, knowing where to lower production costs, and other management decisions.

**2. Optimize crop insurance and farm program options** - these programs are key component of a good risk management plan for crop producers.

**3. Negotiate land rental contracts with Landlords** - there may be opportunities to lower some very high land rental rates, or to convert to a "flexible lease" agreement.

**4. Sharpen your grain marketing skills** - no matter what level grain prices are at, there is usually a large difference in average price that farmers receive for their corn and soybeans.

**5. Use caution with capital investments** - from 2010-2014, many farm operators invested extra income into farm machinery upgrades, fa-

cilities, and land purchases; however, much more caution and analysis is required during these times of tighter profit margins.

**6. Pay attention to family living expenses** - many farm families in-

creased their level of family living expenditures during the higher profit years, but now may need to look for ways to scale-back their non-farm expenses.

**7. Communication is key during difficult times**

- sharing farm-related issues and financial matters with business partners, lenders, farm advisors, and family members is extremely important during challenging times in the farming business.

## Financial Focus

Provided by:



Paul Schellpeper, Drew Schellpeper, Wyman Fischer, Christy Selbrade, Mandi Kosbab  
Financial Advisors, Edward Jones, www.edwardjones.com, Member SIPC

## Time For Some New Year's (Financial) Resolutions

The countdown to 2016 has just about begun. If you're like many people, you might be mulling over some New Year's resolutions, such as hitting the gym more, learning a new language or taking a cooking class. All are worthy goals, but why not add some financial resolutions as well?

**Pay yourself first.** Even if you aren't living "paycheck to paycheck," you probably don't have much trouble spending your money - because there's always something that you or a family member needs, always a repair required for your home or your car, always one more bill to pay. But if you are going to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you need to invest consistently. So before you pay everyone else, pay yourself first by having some money automatically moved from your checking or savings account each month into an investment.

**Take advantage of your opportunities.** If you have a 401(k) or similar plan at work,

take full advantage of it. Contribute as much as you can afford - or at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered - and choose the mix of investments that give you the potential to achieve the growth you need at a level of risk with which you are comfortable.

**Focus on the long term.** In the short term, you might be excused for not wanting to invest. The headlines are typically scary, the financial markets are frequently volatile and the future often looks murky. Yet, if you can look past the uncertainties of today and keep your focus on tomorrow, you will find it easier to follow a disciplined investment strategy that gives you the opportunity to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

**Don't be driven by fear.** When the market is down, investors tend to react with fear. Specifically, they rush to sell their investments, afraid that if they don't "cut their losses," they might sustain even bigger ones. If you can get past this feeling, you may find that a down market can offer you the

chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

**Forget about the "hot stocks."** You'll hear friends, co-workers and talking heads on television tout today's "hot stocks." But by the time you might hear about them, they may have cooled off - and, in any case, they might not be appropriate for your needs. Forget about "getting rich quick in the market" - it probably won't happen. True investment success requires patience and persistence.

**Cut down on your debts.** It's easy to pile up debts, but a lot harder getting rid of them. Yet, if you can reduce your debt load even moderately, you'll free up money you could use to invest. So look for ways to conserve, cut back and consolidate - it will be worth the effort.

Making these resolutions can help you work toward achieving your financial goals.

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

## Struggling with depression or other emotional concerns?



The path to better wellness starts with providing expert care that addresses all of you. Siri Heille, nurse practitioner, and a team of expert providers specialize in addressing the complex mental and emotional needs for patients of all ages, including:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- ADHD

Mayo Clinic Health System in Fairmont

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**eat play shop LOCAL**



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Subscription: \$37/1 year; \$24/6 months







# The Chain / Upon Their Backs

Guest Columnist

Darwin Anthony, Business Owner, Artist, Writer

We had purchased an insurance agency in the community. The owner had died and we bought the agency from his estate. His agency was somewhat unusual. Most of the business was written with people who had his same political affiliation. He had been a political leader of the area. His customers were widespread.

His agency sold a wide variety of insurance but much of the business was crop hail. I decided to contact each of his clients in person. I spent days going from farm to farm, introducing myself, and asking that they allow us to continue writing their insurance. Most were pleasant out of respect for their now-deceased leader of that political party. However, some would try to corner me on politics. Many would try to find out if I had the same political beliefs as the former agent. I have made it a policy to never discuss politics or religion with customers. I found this to be the best way to be able to work on a level playing field.

I drove up the lane of one of his clients. I had his crop hail insurance file with me. The farm was near a river and large and beautiful trees surrounded the building site. Could they provide a catalyst for a first conversation with what I hoped would be a continuing client? I remember walking to the front door of the large four-sided home. I remember that the home had a porch that went across the entire front of the home. However, there was no step. The front door seemed to be hanging above an open space. I walked around to the back of the house and noted another full-sized porch. I entered the porch and knocked several times. Just as I was about to give up, someone addressed me from behind. The low and powerful voice scared me! The tall man stood as though he was protecting his land. I introduced myself and told him why I was at the farm. He motioned to the picnic table in the lawn and asked me to sit down. I opened the conversation by asking about his giant trees and how old they must be. It was almost immediate; I had hit on a subject that he wanted to discuss. He asked me to walk toward the barn as he had something to show me.

He pointed up to a particular limb high in a giant oak tree. He wanted me to note THE CHAIN that was embedded in the limb about three feet out from the trunk. I had no idea what it meant or why he wanted to show this chain to a stranger. I could sense that he was



proud of what he was about to tell me. He told me the story of his family in great detail. He wanted to tell me about THE CHAIN and its significance in family history.

The story continued when we returned to the picnic table on that hot spring afternoon. His grandparents had been some of the earliest Norwegian settlers. They had found their way to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, which is located on the Mississippi River. It was at Prairie du Chien that a decision had been made. His grandfather would leave the family at the river. He would walk west to find farmland. He walked over two hundred miles until he found land that suited him. It was what he was looking for. The land was located near a river that had many large trees. These would supply lumber for building. The river would provide the water for drinking until a time when they could drill a well.

The vast prairie would

provide the farmland needed. He decided that it was here that his family could settle. I listened as he spoke of his grandfather with such pride. He told of his grandfather walking back to Prairie du Chien to get the family. They then returned to the land, the land where

the very picnic table that we were sitting on, was located.

I was sitting in awe as he told his story. Why was he sharing this all with me? What made him think that I was interested in such history? Was it that I had mentioned the beauty of the giant trees? I found out that THE CHAIN had a special significance. It had been installed in a tree in the early days by his grandfather. It had been used when butchering. A pulley and rope was attached to the chain. A carcass of a hog could then be lowered into a barrel of boiling water for scalding.

A long and meaningful relationship developed from this meeting. We became very good friends. I was always anxious to see him each spring when we renewed his crop hail insurance. He would tell me a piece of his family history each year.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**CARTER** and **CARSON** are brothers that are about 14 weeks old. These boys are mainly black, but Carter has some brown shading on his legs. Carter and Carson are lab/terrier/? cross. They are up to date on shots and neutered.

## Upon Their Backs

The hot summer sun beats down on the flat prairie! Our workhorses rest at the end of the field, resting before returning to their plodding duty. The hair near the horse collars is white with sweat. They seem relieved to stop. I feel sorry for them. I remember getting down from the hay mower and walking up in front. They look down at me, for I am just a boy. Their large gentle dark eyes have a kind look to them. I rub my hand down their long faces. They respond by moving their heads toward me. They seem to be thanking me for thinking of them.

The workhorse was the power of the farm when I was a boy. Some neighbors bought tractors for heavy work. My father finally gave in and bought a tractor for these jobs. However, he used horses long after others had stopped. He wanted to hang onto something that was precious to him. He was a horseman and he needed to teach his skill

to his son. The work of the farm was UPON THEIR BACKS. They bore the heavy load. They pushed into their neck collars to power the plow, disc, harrow, cultivator, mower and wagons. It was before my time, but I was told of them walking in a circle as they pulled a large wheel, the stationary horsepower. The horsepower turned a rod that powered the stationary pieces of farm machinery such as the early threshing machines. They would walk for hours!

What bothers me is that the common workhorse is mostly forgotten today. No one ever speaks of them. The common workhorse did so much and is given credit for so little. We seldom see them pictured as they were. Most people think of them as the high stepping, beautiful purebred horses pulling a wagon that hauls nothing. They think of them as giants that we see at the fair!

The common workhorse deserves to be remembered. They deserve a place in the memory of

those who were born on the prairie. Most were not the beautiful animals that are now pictured. They were average in size and plain to look at. Their harnesses were plain, yet they were simple and effective. There were no braided manes and tails. Their hooves were not polished black and adorned with just-right shaped horseshoes. There were no chrome ornaments over their collars. They were just plain workhorses! They were faster than the oxen and slower than the tractor.

I feel a sense of sadness as I write this essay. How many people remember them? They were wonderful. When you worked with them you soon began to understand them. They were like people. Some were better workers than others. The common workhorse soon became a friend – they wanted to satisfy. You knew them and they knew your voice. They responded to kindness – my father taught me that.

The success of the farm was UPON THEIR BACKS!



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It was a very good Christmas around the Hagen household this year. The good weather provided Karis and I the opportunity to make it to both church services on Christmas Eve, to my parents' place on Christmas Day and to Karis' parents' home in Mountain Lake on Saturday. We were able to see our newest additions to the family on the Harder side (two nephews born this summer) and spent some good time together as families for the holidays. As much as I love this time of year and especially Christmas, I find myself glad when it is all over with because of all of the activities that go along with Christmas and how the time off seems too short because of the many things we do. Before I knew it, the weekend was gone and I was back at work again – even if it is a short week again this week!

### Ugly is in the Eye of the Beholder

The Hagen family started a new tradition this year when we held the first ever “ugly sweater” contest for Christmas Day. Participants were able to either purchase or make their own ugly sweaters and then a “winner” was chosen from those that took part. Karis did a great job making our sweaters this year and even though I will never

wear mine again, it was fun seeing what the others came up with for their versions of the ugly sweater. My “sis” Nikki won the contest this year with her entry being a Christmas tree that was all lit up with tiny light bulbs and light strands. Ugly sweaters have started to come back into style (if you can really call ugly sweaters stylish!) and many stores have their own versions available for purchase during

the Christmas season. On Facebook, I saw quite a few people that posted their own versions of ugly sweaters and some were very creative.

### What is it? Identified

For those of you who were wondering about the answer on our “What is it?” from a couple weeks ago, the round brass disk was correctly identified as the brass top off of the fuel filter bowl on a carburetor for the Stromberg engine found in many old Chrysler automobiles and even some airplanes in the 1940s and 50s. David Swift, a reader from Maryland correctly identified the item first, but we also had another 3 that had guessed correctly on the item after David's guess. Thank you to all who submitted their guesses and also to the gentleman that brought in the item for us to include in our column!

### Out and About

There are a few events

and activities coming up in the next week to point out for you. On New Year's Eve, there will be a number of restaurants hosting meals for people to take in. You can also take in the Prime Rib Supper at the Fairmont Eagles on the west side of Fairmont. They will serve between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Reservations are requested. You can also travel to Sherburn to the Sherburn American Legion Hall for their New Year's Eve meal. They will be serving steak, shrimp and pork chops with the fixings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Sherburn Serviceman's Club and the Sherburn Lions Club sponsor this. Come join them for good food and great conversation on Thursday night! On Saturday and Sunday, January 2nd and 3rd, the Fairmont Trap Club hosts their 14th annual Gun Show at a new location, Martin Luther High School in Northrop. Hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is an admission charge. On Monday, January 4th, the Martin Luther High School Athletic Boosters will have

a Jags Tailgate Party for the MLHS boys basketball game versus Martin County West. They will be serving grilled burgers with the trimmings, chips and cookie for a charge. The “C” game starts at 4:45 p.m. and serving will continue through the “A” game.

### Parting Thoughts

Before I go this week, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. Thank you too all of our advertisers for their support this past year and to you the readers for your comments on our publication. Remember, if you are out on New Year's Eve, please drink and drive responsibly. If you have been drinking, hand the keys to a designated driver and don't become a statistic for the new year!

Have a great week!

*Drive safely – visit a shut-in or family member – Eat, Play, Shop Local – Happy New Year!*

*- Jeff*

## Former Fairmont Resident Takes Memorable Trek Across Spain

Many of us have our own “bucket lists” that we hope to accomplish while here on Earth. For a former Fairmont woman, that bucket list took her on a walk across Spain this past summer.

Julie Rittenberry of Boise, Idaho is the daughter of Martin and Virginia Krause of Fairmont. She and her husband Keith spent part of the holidays at her parents' home and spoke with the Photo Press about her journey.

Julie, who formerly served in the Air Force, was inspired to take the trek when she saw the movie “The Way”. The movie featured Emilio Estevez and Martin Sheen and focused on a pilgrim-

age that many have made across Spain since the year 800 A.D.

Julie has been a part of hiking groups in Boise for some time and felt compelled when seeing the movie to do the “Camino De Santiago” pilgrimage. She wasn't exactly sure how to prepare herself for the trek, so she searched on FaceBook and found “APOC” or American Pilgrims on the Camino group that gave her suggestions and ideas on what she needed to do to take the pilgrimage.

The trek itself is about 500 miles long and takes you through many small towns in Spain before reaching the Santiago Del Camino, which is the

sight where James, the son of Zebedee, who was one of Jesus' disciples, is buried. Pilgrims purchase a “passport” from a non-profit agency, which is then stamped at the various sights along the way and is needed to receive your certificate upon completion of the trek. She also purchased a shell, which is a symbolic piece for the pilgrims that make the trek.

Rittenberry flew out of Boise on August 28th, 2015. She flew into France, just across the border with Spain and began her trip. Much of her trek was walked “on her own”, but she stated that she never was really alone, since many other people from many different countries were also making the trek across

Spain. Her parents were very apprehensive of her

emails and pictures from Julie while on her trek, the



(Front, L to R): Julie and husband Keith Rittenberry. (Back): Virginia and Martin Krause

taking the trip by herself, but after receiving many

apprehension eased for them.

Rittenberry stayed in Alberge's (cheaper style living quarters that was pretty much a bed in a room with others) in small towns along the way. Much of the food she consumed while on the trek was considered “Pilgrim Meals”, which usually consisted of some type of protein, salad, soup, bolognaise and a dessert. Because she many times traveled alone and the sleeping arrangements, Julie always kept her “valuables” close to her - even when showering.

Pilgrims were many times identified by the backpacks they wore and the shells that many hung

around their necks or on their shirts. Julie stated that she many times started her trek early each day and planned for her overnight stops ahead of time so she could also spend time visiting the small towns and areas that she stayed in.

After walking for 32 days (she actually spent 34 days on the pilgrimage - spending a couple extra days taking in the areas she was in), Rittenberry arrived at the Cathedral Santiago on October 3rd, 2015, which was the end point of her trek. She received her certificate showing that she had completed her trek and attended three masses at the cathedral in an emotional end to her journey.

Julie said that should would like to do the pilgrimage again sometime in the future and that “there is alot of things I would do differently, now that I have taken the trek.” She called the pilgrimage a “life-changing experience” and that she learned many things about the people she met along the way and the lifestyles of the people throughout Spain.

Her advice to those who may be interested in taking the pilgrimage themselves, “Use the online forums to learn about the area, the trek itself and also what to expect along the way.” It may not hurt to brush up on a little Spanish, either!

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### Future Bowling Champs?

Students in K-2 at Fairmont Area Elementary School enjoyed a fun week learning how to bowl in physical education class. Instructor Mrs. Deb Heinrich talked briefly about how the game is played and then students were able to practice what they learned!



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### Preparing For Christmas Break

Students in Mrs. Rodning's 2nd grade class at Fairmont Area Elementary enjoyed their final day before Christmas break exchanging gifts and doing crafts last week.



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**LEFTY LAYUP** - Cardinals Noah Quiring makes a layup against Mankato Loyola at the Bethany tournament. The Cards (4-4) took on Class 2A #2 ranked St. Croix Lutheran (8-1) Tuesday night in the semi-final game. The championship game and third-place game will be played Wednesday night. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



**FREE SHOT** - Cardinals Josh Liljenquist eyes up a free-throw attempt. The Cards downed Mankato Loyola 63-51 at the Bethany Lutheran College Holiday tournament Saturday at Mankato. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*

BOYS BASKETBALL			WRESTLING		
BIG SOUTH EAST			BIG SOUTH EAST		
	REC				
Waseca	4-0	10-1	RED BULL	2-0	4-0
St. Peter	3-1	7-2	Blue Earth	1-0	5-5
CARDS	2-2	4-4	Waseca	1-1	3-2
New Ulm	2-2	2-7	St. Peter	1-1	6-8
Blue Earth	1-3	1-6	New Ulm	1-3	5-6
St. James	0-4	1-5	St. James	0-1	1-6
BIG SOUTH WEST			G-HOCKEY		
	REC			BSC	REC
Marshall	4-0	8-2	New Ulm	8-0-0	11-1-1
JCC	3-1	6-1	Luverne	7-1-0	10-3-0
Worthington	2-2	3-5	Waseca	4-2-0	6-7-1
Windom Area	2-3	5-3	Marshall	4-3-0	5-7-0
Luverne	1-2	6-4	CARDS	4-4-0	6-6-0
Redwood V	1-3	6-3	St. Peter	4-5-0	5-9-0
Pipestone Area	1-3	3-5	Windom	1-8-0	2-9-0
			Worthington	0-9-0	0-11-0
GIRLS BASKETBALL			B-HOCKEY		
BIG SOUTH EAST				BSC	REC
Waseca	3-0	7-1	Luverne	7-0-0	8-2-0
St. Peter	2-1	6-2	New Ulm	6-1-0	7-2-0
New Ulm	2-1	5-3	LSHSPTCUC	6-1-0	7-4-0
Blue Earth	2-1	3-2	Marshall	5-2-0	6-4-0
CARDS	0-3	3-5	Waseca	3-3-0	3-4-0
St. James	0-3	1-3	Redwood V	3-4-0	3-5-0
BIG SOUTH WEST			CARDS	2-6-0	3-8-0
Pipestone	4-0	7-0	CARDS	1-7-0	1-8-0
Marshall	4-0	6-2	Worthington	0-9-0	0-11-0
Worthington	2-2	4-4			
Windom Area	1-2	2-3			
Redwood V	1-2	2-4			
JCC	1-4	1-6			
Luverne	0-3	1-5			



**DOOR STOP** - Cardinals goalie Colby Kuhl makes a point blank save on Luverne's Jaxon Nelson stuff attempt. Kuhl had 70 saves in the Cardinals will 11-1 loss to Luverne last Tuesday night. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



**PUCKSTARE** - Cardinals Ethan Lubenow awaits the drop of the puck. The Cards took on the MBA Storm Tuesday night in the Morris/Benson holiday hockey tournament. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



- When was the last time before 2015 that the Detroit Tigers started a season 6-0?
- Who had more stolen bases in his career: George Brett or Pete Rose?
- Name either of the two Ohio State quarterbacks to be picked in the first round of the NFL Draft.
- Entering this season, who is the Memphis Grizzlies' leader in career blocked shots?
- In the 2014-15 season, Carey Price set a Montreal Canadiens record for most wins by a goaltender (44). Whose mark did he break?
- Montreal's Didier Drogba in 2015 became the oldest MLS player (37) to record a hat trick. Who had been the oldest?
- Which horse holds the record for fastest Breeders' Cup Classic victory?

- Answers**
- It was 1985.
  - Brett had 201 steals in 21 seasons; Rose had 198 in 24 seasons.
  - Don Scott (1941) and Art Schlichter (1982).
  - Pau Gasol, with 877.
  - Jacques Plante (twice) and Ken Dryden each had 42 wins in a season.
  - Marco Di Vaio was 36 when he had a hat trick in 2013 for Montreal.
  - Ghostzapper ran a 1:59.02 in 2004.

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**STAND OFF** - Cardinals #3 Myah Lytle and Mankato East/Loyola's Bailey Kanstrup vie for a loose puck. The Crusaders edged the Cardinals 4-3 despite Taylor Nuss' hat trick. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



**RICOCHET** - Cardinals goalie Sadie Sandersfeld deflects Mankato East/Loyola's Madison Davis chip shot. Crusaders #4 Carissa Shank follows up on the play. The cards were in tournament action Tuesday night at the Schwan Cup vs Northern Lakes Lightning. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*

Happy Holidays

From The Fairmont Opera House  
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Jonas, Bethanie, Scott, Barb, Mary,  
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Not pictured: Chris & Kristie

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### WARRANTY DEEDS

Clarence Dannhoff, Atty.-in-fact, Clarence H. Dannhoff, Marlene E. Danhoff to Randall Bock, Lot 4, Block 1, Heritage Park 3rd Addn.

Eldon I. Tlam, Lorraine E. Tlam to Daryl E. Tlam, Jaqueline S. Tlam, Pt. SE¼NE¼, 19-101-33

Albert Gerhardt, Gladys Gerhardt to Albert and Gladys Gerhardt Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Pt. NE¼SE¼, 14-101-32; Pt. E½NE¼, 24-102-32

Diane Gerhardt, Dick Gerhardt to Dick and Diane Gerhardt Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Pt. NE¼SE¼, 14-101-32; Pt. NE¼NE¼ w/utility easement, 24-101-30; Pt. SE¼NE¼ w/driveway easement, 26-101-30

Jack Gerhardt, Shelly Gerhardt to Jack and Shelly Gerhardt Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Pt. NE¼NE¼ w/utility easement, Pt. SE¼NE¼ w/driveway easement, 26-101-30

Alan Gerhardt, Audrey Gerhardt to Alan A. and Audrey M. Gerhardt Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Und. 1/2 Int. Pt. SW¼SW¼, 13-101-32

Tim Gerhardt, Pamela Holck Gerhardt to Tim LeRoy and Pamela Holck Gerhardt Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Und. 1/2 Int. Pt. SW¼SW¼, 13-101-32

Michael J. Stolz, Penny J. Stolz to Federal National Mortgage Association, Pt. NE¼NE¼, 35-104-30

Harlan C. Thilges, Joan M. Thilges to Dennis W. Sovell,

Lynn A. Sovell, Pt. Lot 1, Block 1, Arlorn Acres Subd.

Stephanie Rosburg to Kevin R. Pagel, Lots 11 and 12, Block 9, Original Plat Welcome

Janet Y. Kahler, Ryan L. Kahler to Jolanda P. Rothmeier, Ricky A. Rothmeier, Pt. NW¼SE¼, 29-102-32

Karl F. Olhausen, Vickie K. Olhausen to Assembly of God of Sherburn, MN, Lot 16, Block 1, Gemmills Subd, Sherburn

### QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Mark Crissinger, Patricia D. Crissinger to Mark Crissinger, Patricia D. Crissinger, Pt. SW¼SW¼ and vacated Lt4-6 BK 4, 5-102-29

John F. Murphy, Nery G. Murphy to John and Nery Murphy Revocable Trust, John F. Murphy, Trustee, Nery G. Murphy, Trustee, W½S½NE¼, 23-102-29

## DEATH notices



December 20 - James E. Persson, 81, Westminster, Colorado (formerly of Trimont).

Kramer Funeral Home

December 22 - Shirley D. Bradley, 80, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

December 26 - Floyd C. Buckmeier, 89, Fairmont.

Kramer Funeral Home

December 27 - Genevieve "Gen" Theobald, 97,

Sherburn. Kramer Funeral Home

December 27 - Peter L. Jepsen, 63, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

### In Memoriam

#### One Year Ago This Week

December 20 - Thomas M. Hammer, 67, Fairmont

December 22 - Randall Erickson, 95, Fairmont

December 22 - Rosemarie Forstrom, 84, Trimont

December 24 - Oriet A. Winge, 94, Fairmont.

December 25 - Michael W. Prust, 64, Ceylon

December 27 - Kevin Anderson, 58, Sherburn

December 28 - Elnora L. Bicknase, 85, Fairmont

**Wishing tree traditions**  
At the famous Wishing Tree of Lam Tsuen (near Hong Kong, China), wishes are written on "lucky" papers, rolled up, then tied up with red string and attached to an orange for weight. All are tossed into the tree; if they catch in the branches, the wishes are said to then come true. "Wishing trees" can be found in many cultures throughout the world. - Brenda Weaver  
Source: www.greenfield-thong.com

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## OBITUARY notices

### Floyd C. "Bucky" Buckmeier, 89



A Celebration of Life Service for Floyd C. "Bucky" Buckmeier, 89, of Fairmont, will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 2nd, 2016, at St. John's United Church of Christ in Fairmont, with Pastor Richard Abel officiating. There will be a time of fellowship and sharing of memories of Bucky in the church basement right after his service. Bucky left us on Saturday, December 26th, 2015, at Truman Senior Living in Truman.

Floyd Charles Buckmeier was born in Martin County, Minnesota, on November 20th, 1926, to Charles and Katherine Lillian (Johnson) Buckmeier. He attended school in Granada. On December 6th, 1947, he married Mary Lou Garbers at Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome. After their marriage they farmed in the Granada area and later near Rose Lake until moving to their home on Budd Lake in Fairmont. Mary Lou was called to her eternal rest on March 22nd, 2014. Bucky was employed at Railway Motors in the foundry in Fairmont for many years until his retirement in the 1980's. In retirement, Bucky installed lawns, did snow removal, landscaping and plowed gardens for people in the area. He enjoyed playing cards, dancing, traveling in the United States and

overseas. Bucky looked forward to deer hunting with his hunting buddies. He remained in his home in Fairmont after Mary Lou's death until becoming a resident of the Truman Senior Living. Bucky was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome where he served as usher. He also was an active member of the Martin County Fair Board for twelve years.

Bucky is survived by two daughters, Nancy Buckmeier of St. Cloud, and Jean (Patrick) Murphy of rural Fairmont; two grandchildren, Erik Murphy of Fairmont and Kate Murphy of Minneapolis; sisters, Marguerite Burmeister of Fairmont, Mary Jane (Don) DeSart of Albert Lea, Charleen (Fred) Zoeller of Fairmont; brother, Cecil "Butch" (Marty) Buckmeier of Lake Mills, Iowa; sister-in-law, Mary Garbers of Welcome; many nieces and nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Bucky was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jim Buckmeier; sister, Lois (Gene) Bell; brothers-in-law, Donald Garbers and Earl Burmeister and other relatives.

[kramerfuneralhome.com](http://kramerfuneralhome.com)

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

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

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1. Stable; 2. Smear;  
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Today's Word  
**MEDICAL**

## NOTICE To The Voters Of FAIRMONT TOWNSHIP

Filing for the following offices to be elected at the 2016 Annual Election will open Tuesday December 29, 2015.  
**Supervisor - 3 Year Term**  
Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the clerk at:  
834 225th Avenue  
Fairmont, MN 56031  
Filing will close on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.  
Published by Order of The  
**FAIRMONT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Heather Trembley, Clerk

## Antique Auction

**"Generation to Generation"**  
Martin Luther High School, Northrop, MN

**Sat., Jan. 9th • 9:45 a.m.**

4 miles north of Fairmont, I-90 Exit #102 on Hwy 15  
& 1/4 mile West on County Highway 38.  
Good lunch available. Inside Sale.

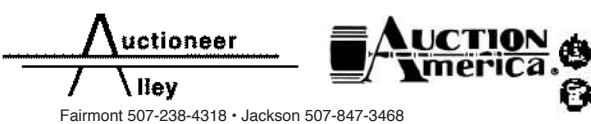
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Full listing & pictures at: [www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com)



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**Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:45 AM – MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL:** High quality antique and collectible auction. To consign, contact Marge Thiesse at 507-436-5249. *Kahlers & Hartung, Auctioneers*

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Watch our website for upcoming auction flyer.  
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## PhotoPress Classifieds

### 3 Notices

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Applicants are subject to written examinations, must pass physical and psychological examinations, and must pass a thorough background examination satisfactory to the county. The starting hourly rate is \$22.45/hour (2016). Shift work is required and the number of hours and shifts will vary.

For a complete job description and required application(s), please contact: Job Service at Fairmont Workforce Center, 412 South State Street, Five Lakes Center, Fairmont, MN 56031 or call (507) 235-5518. Required applications can also be obtained on our website at [www.co.martin.mn.us](http://www.co.martin.mn.us). Completed application forms are to be submitted to the Fairmont Workforce Center only.

Applications close 4:00 P.M. on January 15, 2016.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II MARTIN COUNTY U OF M EXTENSION/4-H PROGRAMS

The County of Martin, MN, is accepting applications for the position of an Administrative Assistant II for the Martin County University of Minnesota Extension and 4-H Programs. This position is a key administrative function for the county-based Extension Office, functions include day-to-day operations of office, staff management, workload management, financial recordkeeping and data - including analysis, reports and record management - customer service, and the administration of programs and activities, coordinates the overall operations of the department, point of contact for 4-H Program, processes and manages many aspects of 4-H online and 4-H software computer programs, bulletins, records, letters, etc., assists in preparations and organization of the annual Martin County Fair, assists in organizing the annual 4-H Recognition Banquet, organizes, develops promotional materials for, and adequately prepares for 4-H Adventures after-school programs, assists individual 4-H clubs as needed; especially regarding 4-H stewardship compliance, supervises schedules, assigns projects, and manages support members and intern personnel, prepares agendas, takes minutes, mailings, tracks committee member terms, historic record keeping, etc.).

**Qualifications** of eligible applicants include (but not limited to): Graduation from High School plus one to two years of related college level courses and at least two years of related experience which includes: demonstrated skills and knowledge of modern office practices and procedures, which includes experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, etc.), ability to effectively establish, nurture and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, public and all others this position may work with, in a manner conducive to efficient performance and high morale, including individuals from other organizations, ability to multi task and work with interruptions, ability to supervise personnel in a manner conducive to efficient performance and high morale, working knowledge of the 4-H program, and functions within County government to include program planning and administration.

The successful applicant is subject to reference and criminal background checks, in which the results are acceptable by the county. The position is eligible for benefits and starting wage of \$15.62/hour. For required application, a complete job description and application supplement, please contact the Job Service at Fairmont Workforce Center, 412 South State Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 or call 507-235-5518. Deadline January 11, 2016, by 4:00 p.m. Applications can also be obtained on our website at [www.co.martin.mn.us](http://www.co.martin.mn.us). Completed application forms are to be submitted to the Fairmont Workforce Center only.

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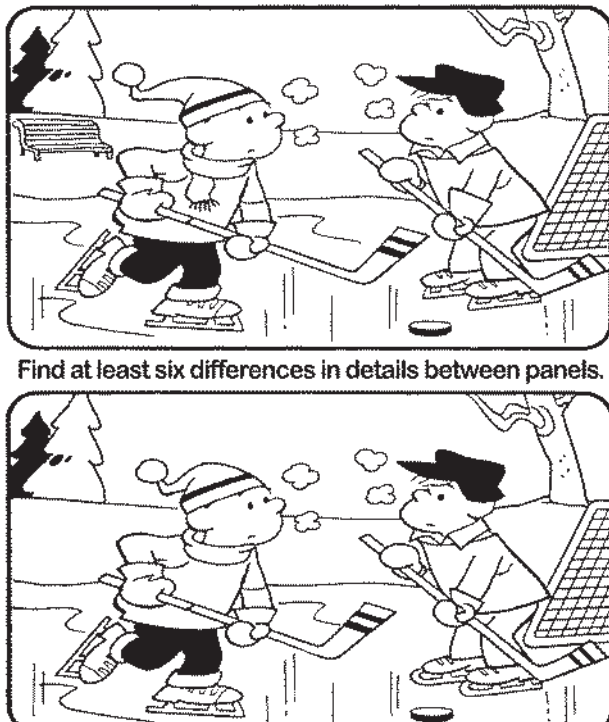
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Thought for the Day: "The higher we soar, the smaller we appear to those who cannot fly." — Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche  
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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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4. Stick is shorter. 5. Glove is missing. 6. Skates are different. 7. Bench is missing. 8. Cap is different. 9. Scarf end is missing.

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**SENIOR DINING  
WEEKLY MENU**

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

Area Agency on Aging under an area plan approved by the MN Board on Aging.

**DEC 31 - JAN 6****THURSDAY:** Pork Roast, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, rice pudding.**FRIDAY:** CLOSED.**MONDAY:** Bean Soup, cornbread, twinkie dessert.**TUESDAY:** Pot Roast, red skin potatoes, gravy, baby carrots, cake.**WEDNESDAY:** Chicken a la King, beet pickle, lettuce salad, pie.**TRUMAN AREA**

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

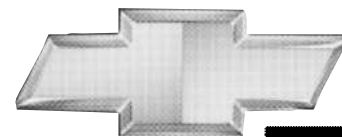
**JAN 4 - 6****MON: Breakfast:** Cereal**Lunch:** Chicken Strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce.**TUES: Breakfast:** French**Lunch:** Hot Dog, potato wedge, baked beans, mandarin oranges.**WED: Breakfast:** Egg/**Lunch:** Ckn Noodle Soup, PB sandwich, peas, carrots, fruit.**FAIRMONT AREA**

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

**JAN 4 - 6****Elementary hot breakfast can be found online.****MON: Breakfast** K-6: Pancake on a Stick, orange, milk. JR/HS: Breakfast Pizza, Cinn. Toast Crunch, blueberry muffin PB&J, pears, apple juice, milk.**Lunch** K-6: Popcorn Chicken, biscuit, turkey and cheese sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy, celery sticks, apple, pears. JR/HS: Chicken Nuggets, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, caesar side salad, broccoli florets, apple, pears.**TUES: Breakfast** K-6: Breakfast Pizza, apple, milk. JR/HS: Pancake on a Stick, syrup, Cocoa Puffs, yogurt, PB&J, apple, OJ, milk.**Lunch** K-6: Cheese Dunkers, chef salad, dinner roll, peas, broccoli florets, orange wedges, applesauce. JR/HS: Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo, breadstick, marinated cucumbers and tomatoes, carrots, orange, applesauce.**WED: Breakfast** K-6:French Toast Sticks, banana, milk. JR/HS: French Toast Sticks, syrup, Cheerios, string cheese, PB&J, peaches, apple juice, milk. **Lunch** K-6: Hot Dog, ham and cheese sandwich, oven baked beans, red pepper strips, apple, peaches. JR/HS: Nachos, SW black beans, jicama sticks, apple, mandarin oranges.

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**Thursday:**  
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Fish Sandwich Basket. . \$7

**Friday:**  
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Sandwich . . . . . \$6.50  
Philly Steak Basket. . \$8

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## Naturally

By Al Batt

I was on the way to Albert Lea to donate my time to a worthy cause—ringing bells for the Salvation Army.



Time is the greatest of gifts. We have so little to give.

While I was considering duct-taping the bell to my forefinger so that the dinger wouldn't hit the floor quite so often, a bald eagle flew over. Eagles take the winter much better than we do. I'm guessing that they fly more comfortably, too.

Crows were also on wing, after having dispersed to the countryside from their nighttime roost in the city.

Snow buntings flew up from the roadsides ahead of my car as if they were feathered snowflakes. These brown, black and white birds that nest in the high Arctic swirled through the air as if they were wind-driven snow.

The road was evidence that it had not been a good night to be a free-range feline. Schrodinger's Cat experiment found, that without observation, you cannot say what something is doing. Three cats were dead on the road. They were done doing things. At this time of the year, if the sun is willing to become involved, even a dead cat casts a long shadow. I knew where my two cats were. They were in my house. An indoor cat lives twice as long as an outdoor cat. Some studies show the difference to be even greater than that. One thing for sure, an outdoor cat never uses a turn signal.

Pathology is the science or study of the nature and cause of disease. There could be another use for that term. Pathology could be the study of the things that cross your path. Or in the case of the cats, things that didn't quite cross your path.

### Q-and-A

"Is a poinsettia poisonous?" Not until it gets its own reality TV show. The Minnesota Poison



FOX SQUIRREL by Al Batt

Control System says that poinsettias aren't poisonous. They shouldn't be considered edible and if eaten in quantity, may cause stomach upset and possible vomiting. This could happen when a puppy devours an entire plant. These experts add that if a child eats a single poinsettia leaf, no ill effects should be expected. A Mexican legend has it that the poinsettia originated in a miracle. Having nothing to offer Christ

at his birth, a poor child gathered weeds into the form of a bouquet. The weeds turned into a brilliant red.

"How do you spend your vacation?" I use a credit card.

"Can wild turkeys fly?" Not only can wild turkeys fly, they are able to hit short bursts up to 55 mph. They can fly high enough to roost in trees.

"What is your favorite insect?" There are around 90,000 insect species in North America and a backyard could easily have 1,000 species. I like ambush bugs, ants, beetles, bees, butterflies (the monarch is Minnesota's state insect), damselflies, dragonflies, moths, walking sticks and wasps. I even like boxelder bugs. I like spiders, too, but they aren't insects. They are arachnids. I think my favorite insect would be

one that isn't native to this country, the honey bee. It's my favorite for a selfish reason. I love honey.

"How do you celebrate the New Year?" With a great sigh of appreciation and surprise that I made it another year and a "thank you" uttered in every way possible. Happy New Year!

Thanks for stopping by

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."--Bill Vaughn

"Anything too stupid to be spoken is sung."--Pierre de Beaumarchais

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not" --Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

DO GOOD.

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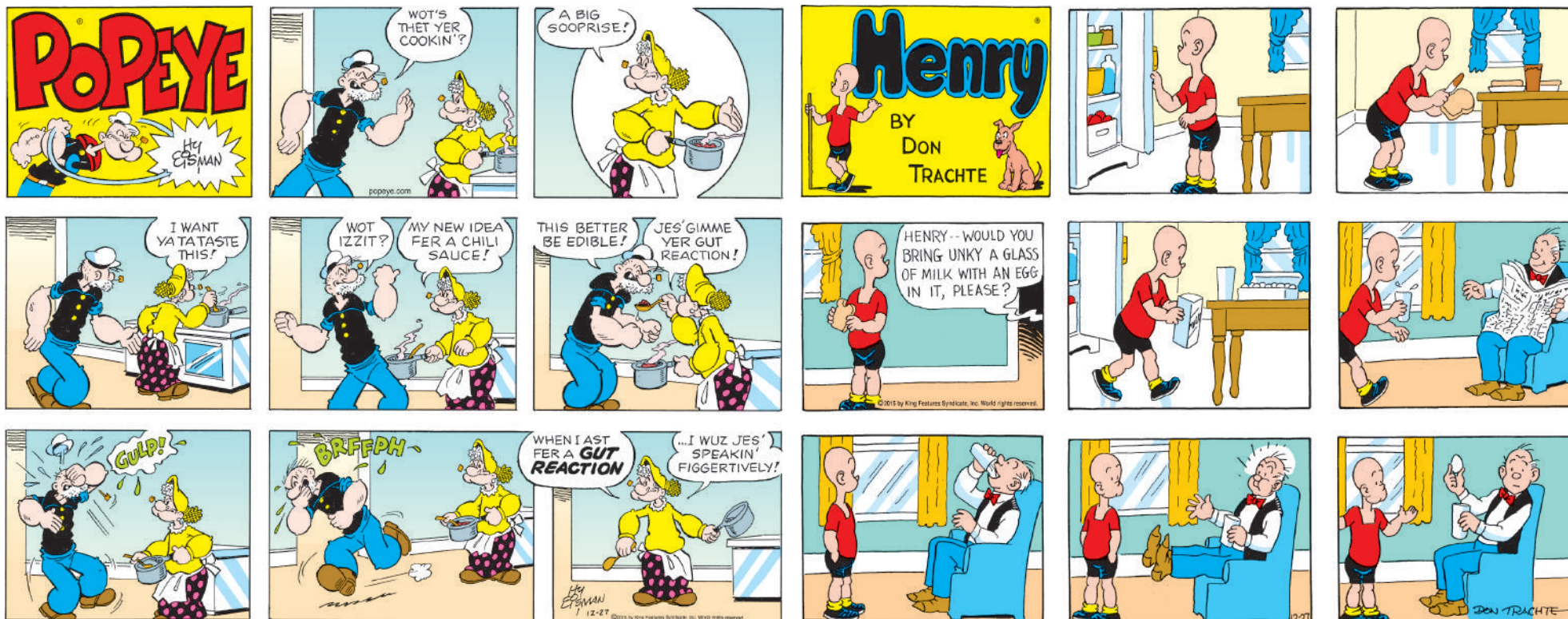
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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