

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

Thursday

January 14, 2016 Volume 22, Issue 3 75¢

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Financial help on the way for nursing homes, due to reforms

Legislators host listening session at Tuff Home on Jan. 18

By Lori Sorenson

Workers at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills will receive pay raises, thanks to recent legislation that changes how nursing homes are funded.

The Minnesota Legislature recently passed the Senior Care Reimbursement Reform Bill, which gives \$138 million in additional funding to nursing homes.

Tuff Administrator Laura Preheim said the funding is a welcome relief for the Hills facility.

"The board and I were eager to utilize the increased funding to increase starting and existing wages, increase health insurance benefits offered to full-time employees and their families, attract qualified workers to health care careers, and to offer nursing scholarships to qualified employ-

Nursing homes/cont. page 6



Glenda McGaffee photo/0114 Deelstra family snowman

Winter creations

The Deelstra family members are pictured Jan. 9 with the snowman they built at 212 Central Avenue in Hills. Pictured are (from left) Olivia, Emma, Layla and (in back) Joni Deelstra.

Carbon monoxide alarm is lifesaver for Hills family



Glenda McGaffee photo/0114 Gehrke family

The Gehrke family members are pictured in their home Saturday, Jan. 9. They are (from left) Pete, Sophie, Taylor, Melissa and Hailee.

By Glenda McGaffee

A carbon monoxide detector is credited for saving a Hills family late in December.

Melissa Gehrke and her daughters were sleeping in their home on East Second Street at 4 a.m. and Pete Gehrke was at work in Sioux Falls when the family's carbon monoxide detector sounded off.

"When the first alarm sounded, I thought the battery was low so I grabbed the stepstool, took the top off and by that time the second alarm was sounding," Melissa Gehrke said.

"Then I realized there was something wrong. I flipped the lights on, woke the girls, grabbed some clothes, my cell phone and told the girls to go out to the van in our garage. I had to go back in the house to get medicine for our youngest daughter, Sophie."

She said she handed her phone to their oldest daughter, Taylor, and told her to call 911 if she didn't return.

"When I returned to the van, I backed the car into the driveway of our neighbors, Alan and Bonnie Leenderts, and called 911. By that time my adrenaline was really going," she said.

"When the firemen arrived, they could detect the carbon monoxide, and when entering the basement, their masks became foggy. They also went up on the roof to check our vent. The cause of the carbon monoxide was a crack in our furnace."

Melissa said she wants everyone to know how important it is to install these alarms. The detectors they own are also smoke alarms, and they talk,

Carbon monoxide/cont. page 6

weather
REPORT



JANUARY 3 - JANUARY 9 WEATHER

High temperature for the week:	32	Snow amount for the week:	4.45 in
Low temperature for the week:	-14	Snow total for January:	4.45 in
Average temperature for the week:	21		

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McGaffee celebrates 40 years at Tuff Home

By Lori Sorenson

At 19, Glenda McGaffee remembers not liking her new job at the Tuff Home in Hills.

"I hated it," she said. "I hated all the old people."

McGaffee said it didn't take long to like her job and love the people — her co-workers and the residents and their families.

This week McGaffee will observe her 40th anniversary of working at the Tuff Home, and she said it's a good time to reflect back on her career.

"I grew to love it through the years," she said Friday when asked about her 40-year job. "I love the elderly. If you can make their day brighter, then you've done your job."

Part of that commitment comes from the time her own mother, Henrietta Wassenaar, spent at the Tuff Home while McGaffee worked there.

"It occurred to me that we should think of all the residents as if they're our parents or grandparents," she said.

And this, she said, is what also makes it hard to say good-bye to residents when they pass away.

"They become your family, and you become their family," McGaffee said. "The residents see you more than they see their own relatives."

Further compounding losses, she said, is the fact that residents' family members stop visiting Tuff after their loved ones pass away.

"That's the hardest part

about saying good-bye — you don't see their families anymore either," she said.

When McGaffee started at the Tuff Home in 1976, it was a part-time job.

She was already a columnist for the Hills Crescent, and her neighbor, Judy Jacobson, encouraged her to apply for an opening in the activities department helping residents with arts and crafts.

In the years since then, her job changed from activities to office work to social services and back to activities, and she worked under (and helped train) several different administrators.

Rosella Metzger, who recently retired from 40 years in the Tuff Home dietary department, thinks of McGaffee as her "roomy," since the two women shared office space and knew each other so well.

"She has a good work ethic and a friendliness about her," Metzger said. "We got to be pretty close."

Metzger said she, like McGaffee, developed a unique perspective on aging after working so long in a nursing home.

"You don't think you're getting older, but you realize it when you start seeing people you know become residents," Metzger said.

"It's amazing how many people we worked with who became residents and then passed on."



The Tuff Memorial Home nursing staff of the late 1970s included (front, left) Lois Hoyme, Isabell Biever, Jean Hellerud, Alice Severtson, Betty Walters, (middle) Florence Stoltenberg, Joyce Griffin, Bernice Tilstra, Nellie VanderWolde, Grace Slieter, Clara Bosch, Catherine Fikse, Fern Strecker, Lola Deragisch, (back) Dawn Beyenhof, Carol Gehrke, Joan Fransman, Diane Van Goor, Twyla Bajema, Pat Smedsrud, Dena Umland and Grace Wassenaar.

McGaffee said her job makes her appreciate her own good health. "The older I get, the more I appreciate that I'm able to get up in the morning and do what I want to do," she said.

Most of her 40 years at the Tuff Home McGaffee worked

full time, until she recently went half time in order to pursue her job at the Crescent.

"I'm so glad I started that job," she said. "It's a different world I get to see out there, other than the residents and my co-workers

at Tuff. And at the same time, the residents and people at the Tuff Home have a lot to share with the Crescent, too."

McGaffee will host a small anniversary celebration at the Tuff Home at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. Cake and coffee will be served.

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Other staff members at the Tuff Memorial Home in the late 1970s were (front, left) Rosella Metzger, Dorothy Bos, Esther Nelson, Helga Van Goor, Lucy Knobloch, (middle) Rochelle Hoogeveen, Coleen Martens, Pearl Hoff, Malena Boeve, Anna Schouwenburg, Hendrene Leenderts, (back) Judy Jacobson, Bill Ehde, Pastor O. Paul Hougén, Jim Iverson and Glenda McGaffee.

Do you have town news?
Interesting history about the Hills,
Beaver Creek, Steen area?
Call Glenda. 962-3697

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek



Tuff News

By Shateen Lichter

Greetings from the Tuff Memorial Home!

Last week we learned that January is Fiber Focus Month. It comes as no surprise that it is also Get Organized Month.

According to Simplify 101, often featured in magazines including Real Simple and Better Homes & Gardens, women spend an average of 55 minutes looking for lost or misplaced items ... per day! They suggest that cutting that time in half would save you a week out of your year that was just spent looking for lost items. They suggest starting small, realizing that it will take time to get organized.

Residents started the week with bowling, bingo and Five Alive\1:1 visits on Monday.

We appreciated Bible Study with Pastor Fischer on Tuesdays, and a new activity began afterwards called Poetry Club. They will be meeting once a month to work on an acrostic poem for each month. Residents came up with the following for January:

J - Jam preserves for eating

A - Airplane traveling
N - New Year

U - Long Underwear for keeping warm

A - Aggressive Drivers
R - Ruminant and Romance

Y - Year

Resident Council met Wednesday morning, and Mr. Bosshart's classroom joined us for Adopt-A-Grandparent that afternoon. Residents taught the students how to play one of their new favorite games, You Lucky Dog. Many enjoyed the game, and time went by too quickly.

Our Happy Stitchers group met Thursday morning to work on embroidery, knitting or crochet projects. Jean Van Malsen started teaching me how to embroider. She is a patient teacher!

The Hills Christian students joined us Friday morning for

Tuff news/continued on page 6



Etta DeJongh (right) and Dallas Page take turns playing You Lucky Dog during Adopt A Grandparent get-together.



Whither-soever

By Glenda McGaffee

By Glenda McGaffee

We are certainly having our share of snow and cold weather this year.

This week I have a helpful hint when shoveling snow. Before shoveling snow, coat your shovel with any kind of household liquid wax and even the wettest snow won't stick to your shovel.

With the cold weather we have been having, why not warm up with some soup. This week I have two of my favorite homemade soups.

Beef Macaroni Soup

1 pound ground beef
2 cups frozen vegetables
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (14 1/2 ounces) beef broth
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup uncooked elbow macaroni

In a large saucepan cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Stir in mixed vegetables, tomatoes, broth and pepper. Bring to a boil; add macaroni. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until macaroni and veggies are tender.

Yield: 5 servings

Potato Soup

2 cups boiling water
1/2 cup diced carrots
2 cups diced potatoes
1/2 cup diced celery
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup chopped onions
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup flour
2 cups milk
4 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup cooked ham

Add boiling water to potatoes, carrots, celery, onion, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. DO NOT DRAIN.

Make a sauce of butter, flour and milk. Remove from heat and stir in cheese until melted. Add ham and undrained vegetables. Heat through, but do not boil.



207 CHURCH, HILLS

Very nice twin home centrally located close to post office and convenience stores. The twin home features two bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. The floor covering was recently replaced to a barrier free flooring for someone using assistance in walking. The master bedroom features a large closet and accessible bathroom. The guest bedroom has a "Murphy" styled bed which is included with the sale, which allows this room to be used for multiple purposes. The two bathrooms are adjacent to each other for ease of use. The laundry room is large with a separate vanity sink for quick clean ups and is conveniently located just off of the two stall garage entrance. There is a formal dining area adjacent to the kitchen. The kitchen features an abundant amount of cabinetry with a separate pantry area. Call an agent today for your preview.



504 CHURCH, HILLS

Move in ready ranch style home with 2 bedrooms on the main level and one legal bedroom in the lower level. Lower level features a finished family room, and 3/4 bath. Main floor Recent renovations include new flooring in the living room and kitchen, kitchen cabinets have been recently refurbished, new interior doors, main level bathroom updated in 2015. Attached double garage. Property is on an oversized lot.



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WEEKLY SPORTS NEWS



John Rittenhouse photo/0114 hbb 5

Hills-Beaver Creek junior guard Isaiah Vis drives to the basket during Friday's home game against Westbrook-Walnut Grove. Vis scored 10 points to help the Patriots snap a four-game slide with a 73-60 win.

Patriots snap four-game slide Friday

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots snapped a four-game slide with a late run Friday in Hills.

After playing with the lead most of the night, H-BC fell behind Westbrook-Walnut Grove by two points with 5:14 remaining in the game.

The Patriots responded to the challenge by outscoring the Chargers 17-2 the rest of the night to nail down a 73-60 victory.

It looked like the Patriots might run away with an easy victory when they turned a nine-point halftime lead into a 39-25 advantage when Zach Scholten tipped in a field goal to cap a 5-0 spurt to start the second half.

W-WG, however, remained

within striking distance by trimming the difference to seven points (45-38) with 11:58 left to play.

A 9-4 run capped by a three-point shot from Jed Burgers gave the Patriots a 12-point (54-42) cushion with 9:03 remaining, but the Chargers wouldn't give up the fight.

W-WG went on a 16-2 run of its own to move in front 58-56 with 5:14 left in the game.

H-BC answered the challenge in commanding fashion.

The Patriots reeled off seven consecutive points as a part of a 15-1 run ending with Burgers canning a pair of charity shots that gave the hosts a 71-59 lead with 1:28 left to play.

H-BC used a 2-1 scoring edge in the final minute to inflate the final margin to 13 points.

The Patriots played well early to open a 13-3 lead when Scholten drained a field goal at the 11:25 mark of the first half.

The lead was extended to 11 points (16-5) when Trenton Bass buried a three-point shot 23 seconds later, but W-WG battled back with a 13-5 run to trim the difference to three points (21-18) with 5:53 remaining in the stanza.

A 9-2 surge ending with Bass hitting a three-point shot gave the Patriots a 30-20 advantage with 2:27 left before settling with a 34-25 lead at the intermission.

Bass (18 points and three assists), Burgers (10 points),

Isaiah Vis (10 points and seven rebounds) and Stuart Plimpton (10 points and three assists) led the Patriots offensively.

Scholten collected nine rebounds and Cooper Vaughn recorded five assists for the 3-8 Patriots, who play in Adrian Thursday.

Box score
Vaughn 2 1 2-4 9, Burgers 0 2 4-4 10, Vis 5 0 0-0 10, Plimpton 3 0 4-7 10, Bass 3 3 3-5 18, Kueter 1 0 0-0 2, Scholten 3 0 0-1 6, Forshey 2 0 4-8 8.

Team statistics
H-BC: 25 of 51 field goals (49 percent), 17 of 28 free throws (61 percent), 29 rebounds, 12 turnovers.
W-WG: 19 of 44 field goals (43 percent), 17 of 25 free throws (68 percent), 40 rebounds, six turnovers.

Girls rout Chargers

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team opened play in 2016 by registering its fourth consecutive victory Thursday.

Taking on Westbrook-Walnut Grove in Westbrook, the visiting Patriots outscored the Chargers in both halves of the game during a 70-44 victory.

H-BC led by seven (30-23) at the intermission before using a 40-21 scoring cushion in the second half to ice a 26-point victory.

Jasmine Lingen (17 points, six rebounds, four steals and four assists), Sidney Fick (15 points and five rebounds), Avery Van Roekel (14 points and three assists) and Grace Bundesen (12 points, 10 rebounds and three steals) turned in big performances for the Patriots.

Makayla Kolbrek (six rebounds, four assists and three steals) and Madison Spath (four steals) also played well for the 6-2 Patriots, who play Red Rock Central in Jeffers Friday.

Box score
Bos 0 0 0-0 0, Tilstra 2 0 0-0 4, Spath 1 1 0-0 5, Kolbrek 0 0 3-4 3, Lingen 8 0 1-2 17, Fick 5 0 5-6 15, Bundesen 3 0 6-9 12, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Van Roekel 5 0 4-4 14.

Team statistics
H-BC: 25 of 80 field goals (31 percent), 19 of 25 free throws (76 percent), 35 rebounds, 16 turnovers.
W-WG: 16 of 46 field goals (35 percent), nine of 20 free throws (45 percent), 31 rebounds, 35 turnovers.

Dutchmen down boys

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team returned from the Christmas break by taking on the Edgerton Flying Dutchmen in Edgerton Jan. 5.

The Patriots fell behind in the first half and couldn't completely recover in the second half during a 67-58 setback.

H-BC faced a 38-21 deficit at the intermission.

The Patriots rallied to outscore the Flying Dutchmen 37-29 in the second half, but it wasn't enough to keep them from dropping their fourth consecutive contest.

Cooper Vaughn (14 points and three steals), Jed Burgers (11 points) and Stuart Plimpton (10 points) led H-BC offensively.

Trenton Bass turned in a five-rebound, three-steal effort.

Drew Forshey added three steals to the cause.

Box score
Vaughn 5 1 1-3 14, Burgers 3 1 2-2 11, Vis 3 0 2-10 8, Plimpton 4 0 2-2 10, Bass 0 0 2-2 2, Kueter 0 1 0-0 3, Dr. Forshey 2 0 0-1 4, Dy. Forshey 1 0 0-0 2, Scholten 2 0 0-0 4.

Team statistics
H-BC: 23 of 55 field goals (42 percent), nine of 20 free throws (45 percent), 25 rebounds, 15 turnovers.
Edgerton: 24 of 50 field goals (48 percent), 14 of 22 free throws (64 percent), 32 rebounds, 27 turnovers.



Close the Gate

By Nancy Kraayenhof

A muffin

A book that we have read a lot in day care is "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," by Laura Numeroff.

It is a circular tale that begins when a boy gives a cookie to a mouse. The mouse asks for a glass of milk. He then requests a straw (to drink the milk), a mirror (to avoid a milk mustache), nail scissors (to trim his hair in the mirror), and a broom (to sweep up his hair trimmings).

Next he wants to take a nap, have a story read to him, draw a picture, and hang the drawing on the refrigerator. Looking at the refrigerator makes him thirsty, so the mouse asks for a glass of milk. The circle is complete when he wants a cookie to go with it.

I thought about this the other day after we had finished reading the book and decided to write a circular story of my own.

"If You Give a Day Care Mom a Muffin"

If you give a day care mom

a muffin, she'll want a glass of raspberry green tea to go with it. She'll pour herself some in her special tervis glass that looks like goldfish are swimming in the drink — the one with the tight-fitting lid and the nice, big orange straw that matches the color of the fish.

She'll set it on the counter and go check on the baby. But the glass is just not quite back far enough on the island and one of her two-year-olds will just be able to reach it enough to skooch it off the edge, hoping for the forbidden sip out of her coveted cup.

It will crash to the floor, the lid will pop off and there will be raspberry green tea everywhere — and Jackson immediately crawls through it.

She'll quickly get out the Hoover Floormate, one of the greatest inventions ever made, and suck up the mess and give it a good rinse. She'll get down on her hands and knees to make sure she got it all and find Jos-ten's sock under the stove. It's

the one that has been missing for three days that she swore the house or one of the children ate. She'll clean up the baby and decide to throw his clothes in the wash.

She'll then remember that she had put a couple of messy winter coats in the washer that morning — clean coats are something all kids need and they're not going outside today anyway. She'll quietly tell the bigger children that she is running to the laundry room for a minute. She'll take one of the two-year-olds with her and quickly go downstairs before any of the young ones notices, or there will be wailing at the gate.

She'll put the coats in the dryer, back up and nearly trip over said two-year-old and bump into the deep freezer. Bumping into the freezer will remind her she hasn't yet planned supper. She'll grab a couple of pounds of frozen hamburger as she remembers she used the last one out of the upstairs freezer.

She will then hear the thun-

dering footsteps of children up above who suddenly realize they are not in her line of sight and have begun a running game. "Walking feet!" she will exclaim as she picks up the toddler and the burger and heads up the stairs.

She'll put the burger in the freezer and then remember that tomorrow is barbecue day, take one back out and put it in the fridge to thaw. She'll figure she had better put a plate under that or it'll leak for sure.

She'll head to the cupboard for a plate and suddenly smell something funky. She'll put the plate under the burger and follow her nose to the offending odor. She'll change the diaper and head to the door to throw it out before the aroma permeates the whole house.

She'll note when she gets to the back door that the snow has drifted up and must be moved ... again! She'll go to wash her hands and then, of course, her cell phone rings. She'll not get to it (where is it anyway?) before the

caller hangs up. Oh well, that's what voicemail is for.

Hearing the phone, she'll remember she was supposed to call and activate her new chip credit card. Thinking of her credit card will remind her that groceries will be delivered tomorrow between 10 and 11 a.m. and she'll wonder if she remembered to order more raspberry green tea mix.

She'll then go pour herself some because that sounds really good right now. And chances are, if she has her special glass filled with her favorite ice tea, the kids will have discovered and eaten the muffin that was supposed to go with it.

I actually LIVE a tale that's round, no day is ever like another,

I'll close the gate and treasure my life as a circular Day Care Mother.

Cleverly Disguised as a Responsible Adult, I'm Nancy Kraayenhof. ©2015

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Ben Clare United Methodist Church
26762 Ben Clare Ave.
Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwlb@knology.net
Bill Bates, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship. 10 a.m. Fellowship. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

Valley Springs Reformed Church
701 Sunnyside Ave.
Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. 605-757-6640
Norman Bouwens, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School.

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St.
Beaver Creek
Ph. 673-2428
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.
Third Wednesdays: 1:30 p.m. Deborah Circle.

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St.
Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. 605-757-6662
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Saturday, Jan. 16: 10:45 a.m. Serve the Banquet in Sioux Falls.
Sunday, Jan. 17: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship.
Tuesday, Jan. 19: 7 p.m. Church Council meeting.
Wednesday, Jan. 20: 7 p.m. Confirmation; choir practice.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St.
Garretson, S.D.
Ph. 507-597-6257
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Thursday, Jan. 14: 7:30 p.m. Church Council meeting.

Saturday, Jan. 16: Serve the Banquet in Sioux Falls.
Sunday, Jan. 17: 9 a.m. Worship. 10 a.m. Sunday School.
Wednesday, Jan. 20: 7 p.m. Confirmation at First Lutheran.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave. Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema
Youth Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 17: 9:30 a.m. Worship; Pulpit supply Carl Gerhart. Building Fund Offering. 6 p.m. Evening Service; Grant Diekevers. 6:30 p.m. RCYF. Wednesday, Jan. 20: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Interim Pastor Grant Fisher
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehmluth@alliancecom.net
Sunday, Jan. 17: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at Bethlehem. Annual meeting follows service. 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Youth Night. Tuesday, Jan. 19: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village. Wednesday, Jan. 20: 9 a.m. Quilting. 2 p.m. Combined Circles meet at Tuff Village. 7 p.m. Circle of Hope; Confirmation. 7:30 p.m. Grades 9-12 Youth Night. Thursday, Jan. 21: Pastors Conference meeting at Grace Lutheran in Luverne.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 E. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
e-mail: hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services. Sunday School and Catechism after morning worship. 1st Sunday of each month: Fellowship dinner after Sunday School

Tuff news/continued from page 3



Jim Leenderts & Donovan Leenderts play You Lucky Dog!

Carbon monoxide/continued from page 1

informing the occupant of why the alarm is sounding.

The Gehrkes have two alarms — one on their main floor and one in their daughters' room.

Assistant Fire Chief Jared Rozeboom shared his experience when he arrived on the scene.

"When we arrived on scene, we assembled a crew and entered the home with our gas monitor. Upon entering the home, our monitor was reading around 200 PPM (parts per million)," he said. "Once the crew entered the utility room where the furnace is located, those levels immediately rose to 540 PPM. The crew then shut down the furnace and began to open up windows and doors in the home to ventilate the carbon monoxide from the home."

He said they also accessed the roof to check the vents due to the amount of snow that was on the roof, but he said it was not the snow on the roof that was causing

the problem.

Rather, he said it was a malfunction of the furnace that caused it to release deadly levels of carbon monoxide into the home.

Rozeboom said this emergency carries an important message for everyone.

"While we have long stressed the importance of having a working smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm, it is always hard to measure the success of prevention. If nothing bad happens, was it luck, or was it because of something else?" he said.

"In this case it was because they had carbon monoxide alarms installed, and they had properly working batteries installed in them. So many times we hear of lives lost because they either didn't have alarms installed or they didn't have working batteries installed in them. Here we can measure the

lives that were saved because of a properly installed and working carbon monoxide alarm. Had these alarms not sounded, we would be talking about a totally different outcome here. The levels of carbon monoxide in the home that night would have turned deadly in just a few short hours."

Rozeboom said the working carbon monoxide alarms are only part of the story.

"You can have all the alarms in the world, all the best alarms ever made. You still have to act when they sound. That's what Melissa did that night. She did the right thing when the alarms went off. She recognized the danger she and her family were facing and she removed them from the danger and called 911. That's the other part of the story that we want everyone to know about," he said.

"When these alarms go off in your house, get out. Don't try to be the hero and find where the carbon monoxide is coming from. The real hero takes their family, leaves the house and calls 911. Let the firemen come and verify the carbon monoxide level and locate the source."

He's relieved in this case to report on the success story of everything done right.

"We can't stress enough the importance of having a properly working carbon monoxide and smoke alarm and knowing what to do when they go off," Rozeboom said. "Test them every month and change the battery when you change your clocks. It really is a matter of life of death."

rubber band exercises. We are always thankful for their visits. Residents spent the afternoon coloring and painting, with the Lester hymn singing in the evening.

Saturday brought manicures, and our book club met that afternoon to read another chapter from "Little House in the Big Woods."

Looking ahead this week:

Thursday, Jan. 14: 10 a.m. Memorial service for Donna Gallant.

Friday, Jan. 15: 2:30 p.m. Men's Den & Gal Pals.

Saturday, Jan. 16: 9:30 a.m. Sandbulte Quartet.

Sunday, Jan. 17: 9 a.m. Worship.

Monday, Jan. 18: 2:30 p.m. Bingo.

Tuesday, Jan. 19: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.

Wednesday, Jan. 20: 2:30 p.m. Cheeto Toss\Happy Maintenance Day!

Resident birthdays this week include Henry Van Manen, Jan. 18, and Edyth Briggs, Jan. 22. Staff birthdays include Alyssa Monen, Jan. 14, and Brooke Van Wattering, who celebrated her birthday on Jan. 9.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Phyllis Schweitzer who is in the hospital.

The Tuff Memorial Home Auxiliary is looking to start up again and work on fundraising for projects and other events. If you are interested in being a part of a group that aims to make a difference in the lives of our residents, please contact Shateen (507-962-3275) or email her at slichter@tuffmemorial.com We are hoping to meet in February.

Have a great week, everyone. We look forward to hearing your stories of getting organized in 2016.

Nursing homes/cont. from page 1

ee candidates," Preheim said.

Minnesota Rep. Joe Schomacker and Sen. Bill Weber, both of Luverne, will host a listening session from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills with staff and administration to discuss how the new law will affect them.

Schomacker, Minnesota House Aging and Long Term Care Policy chairman, said the listening session will be an opportunity to discuss senior care and to put faces on those who provide care for seniors.

Preheim said she's looking forward to the Jan. 18 event.

"We're excited for the opportunity to meet our legislators from southwest Minnesota and honored that they have chosen Tuff Memorial Home as part of their statewide tour," she said.

Previous Minnesota budget cuts tied to Medicaid reimbursements created a funding gap that hit rural nursing homes the hardest.

The new law means nursing homes in rural areas now will be reimbursed at the same rate as nursing homes in metro areas of the state.

According to information from Schomacker's office, the estimated financial impact of the legislation for the Tuff Home is as follows:

- Annual change in Medicaid and estimated private revenue for Rate Year 2016: \$509,000. (This new revenue will be in addition to the care center's current reimbursement amount.)

- Change in Medicaid revenue per resident day: \$31.23.

- Percent change in Medicaid revenue: 20.49 percent.

Schomacker said senior care facility residents and the people who care for them are already starting to see the benefits of 2015's senior care reforms.

Under these reforms, payment rates set by the state for all residents — those who pay privately and those who rely on government assistance — will better reflect the actual costs of care.

As a result, some facilities have already been able to fill open positions, give employees raises, increase benefits and expand staff development opportunities.

Real performance incentives are also a key piece of the reform, meaning that a center that provides exceptional quality can see an increase in its rates.

Schomacker and Weber will host a similar listening session in Luverne following the one in Hills. It will be from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Society — Mary Jane Brown Home on South Walnut Avenue.

The estimated financial impact for the Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne is as follows:

- Annual change in Medicaid and estimated private revenue for Rate Year 2016: \$650,000. (This new revenue will be in addition to the care center's current reimbursement amount.)

- Change in Medicaid revenue per resident day: \$46.16.

- Percent change in Medicaid revenue: 30.95 percent.

— Hills Crescent writer Glenda McGaffee contributed to this article.



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Steen Church addition completed

Glenda McGaffee photo/0107 new addition completed Steen Church

The new addition to the Reformed Church of Steen is completed as is shown by the photographs taken Dec. 12. The work was done by Cleveringa Construction of Luverne. The addition includes a fellowship hall, multi-purpose room, youth room, classrooms, storage and bathrooms.



community events

Meetings

Grand Prairie Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, in the Fireman's Room of the Ellsworth City Hall.

SWMN Habitat for Humanity Board will meet Thursday, Jan. 24. Call 507-215-2091 for information.

Sound Cascade Sweet Adeline Chorus rehearses at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Prairie Creek, 4400 W. Creekside Dr., Sioux Falls. Call 507-597-6288.

No book donations

Due to the lack of space while the Rock County Library undergoes renovation, the Friends of the Library request that all book donations be held until the remodeling work is complete.

Quilts at Carnegie

The quilts created by the Blue Mound Quilters are currently on display at the Carnegie Cultural Center through Feb. 6. The Carnegie is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. A reception is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23.

Swim party for grades 6-8

Rock Youth in collaboration with Luverne Area Community Foundation and the Rock County and Pipestone/Rock Counties Collaborative will host a swim party Friday, Jan. 22, from 7 p.m. to 8:55 p.m. There is no cost, and snacks and drinks will be provided. Contact Stephanie Pierce (507-227-6049) or Stacy Schepel (507-283-4491) with questions.



10 years ago (2006)

•Fifth- and sixth-grade students at Hills-Beaver Creek participated in the National Geographic Bee. ...

After two sudden death questions, Billy Horsman answered a question about Venus, Italy. He was declared the winner by Principal Todd Holthaus and given a medal.

25 years ago (1991)

•The Hills Community Club erected a sign near the water tower in Hills citing the achievement of the Hills-Beaver Creek football team. The sign shows passersby that H-BC was number one in 1990, winning the State Nine-Man title in November. It also notes Chad Miller's prep bowl record. (Caption under photograph of new sign)

50 years ago (1966)

•Announcement was made Sunday to the local congregation that Rev. John Kruishad tendered his resignation as pastor of the Christian Reformed church in Hills. The family will be moving to Holland, Mich.

•The Beaver Creek Commercial Club is sponsoring an hour and forty-five minute concert

by the Ink Spots, world wide favorite group of entertainers, at the school auditorium in Beaver Creek. The show will get underway Monday, January 31 at 8 p.m.

75 years ago (1941)

•The morning passenger has changed time this year coming about 10:25, which makes it too late for most of those taking kids to school to wait for mail. This kind of cuts down the crowd somewhat at the post office at mail time. On the other hand, it gives patrons more time to get letters mailed at the post office.

•About 20 persons attended the New Year's Eve hard time party at the Do-Drop-Inn.

100 years ago (1916)

•The Evening Argus-Leader of Sioux Falls will hereafter reach Hills on the 7:10 p.m. Great Northern and will serve Hills' patrons with their latest Evening edition which carries the full leased wire day Associated Press and complete market reports delivered here twelve hours ahead of other dailies. The price of the Evening Argus-Leader is 25 cents per month or \$2 per year, in advance by mail.

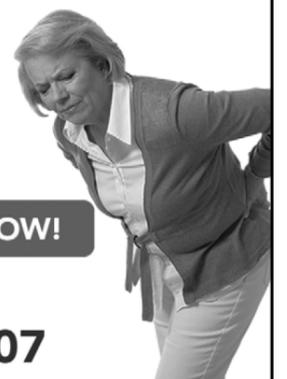
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correction

The Jan. 7 edition of the Hills Crescent misidentified a photograph of the H-BC 50th anniversary celebration.

Bob Klosterbuer was inaccurately identified as Jerry Klosterbuer. The Crescent regrets

the error.

The Hills Crescent strives for fairness and accuracy in all its reporting. If an error or omission is spotted, editor Glenda McGaffee can be reached at

962-3697.

death notice

Berneta Johnson

Berneta Johnson, 86, Ethel, Washington, died Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015, at her home.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at Grace First Church in Russell.

classifieds

cards of thanks

Thank you for the kindness that each of you have shown to me in your own special way. I have been blessed by all the wonderful people in my long life of 100 years. Bertha Thompson (1.10-1.14)

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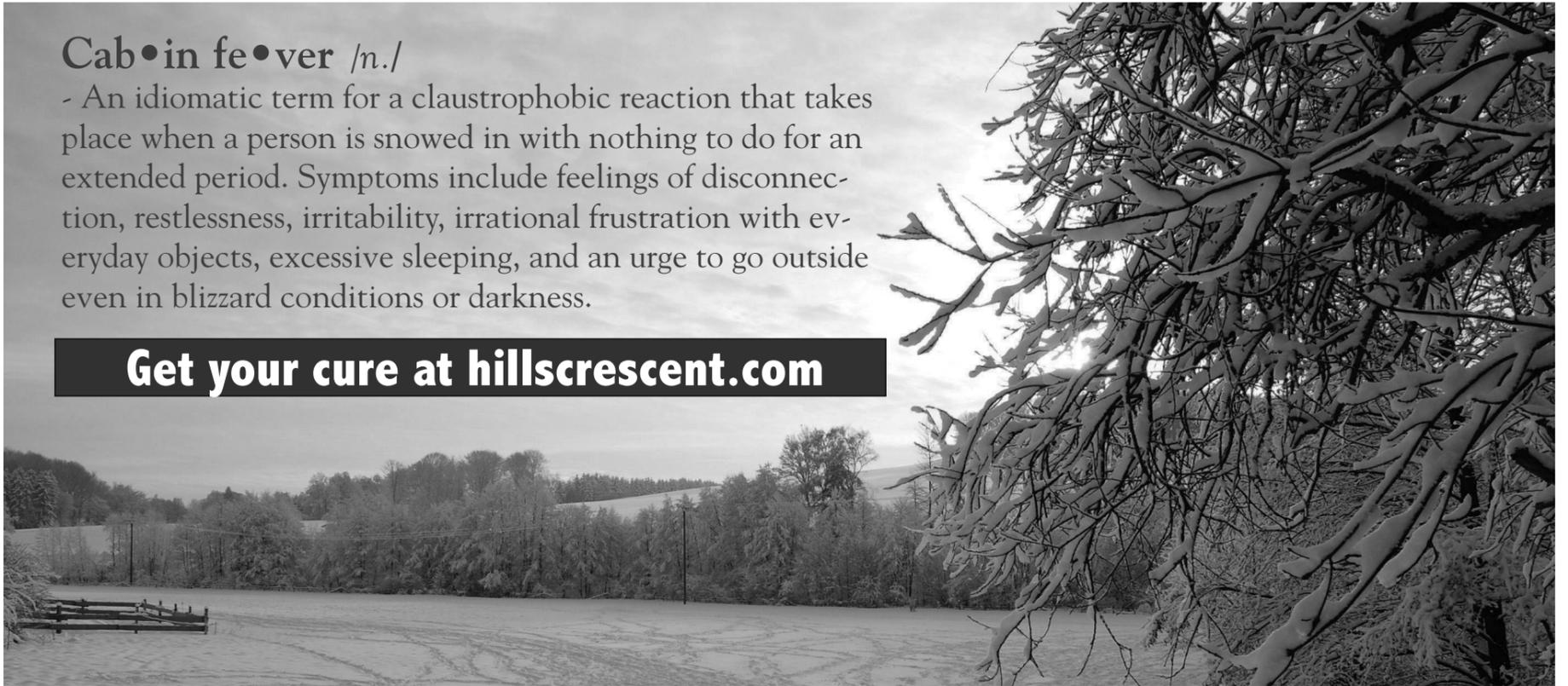
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