

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

Thursday

February 11, 2016 Volume 22, Issue 7 75¢

•Tilstras look back on 68 years together pg 3 •BookMobile new activity at Tuff Home pg 7

Blizzards hit twice, closing roads, schools, businesses

By Lori Sorenson

Area residents had just dug out from the record-breaking Groundhog Day Blizzard last week when Round 2 hit just as the Super Bowl game was ending Sunday night.

Many game day travelers found it difficult or impossible to get home Sunday night, and white-out conditions through most of Monday again prompted officials to close roads in southwest Minnesota.

For both blizzards, wind speeds of 35 to 45 mph were the problem, causing blowing and drifting snow to send hundreds of vehicles off the roads.

Rock County received 6 to 8 inches in the first storm, with reports varying widely on Feb. 2. For example, the Sioux Falls airport (National Weather Service) reported 4.2 inches.

Four miles west of Rowena recorded 5.7 inches, Lake Benton, 6, Windom, 7, Sibley, 11, Orange City, 12, Spencer, 9, and four miles northwest of Okoboji, 9.8

This week's blizzard resulted in less than an inch of snow, but it didn't take much to cause zero visibility for driving.

Long day for snow crews

Both blizzards amounted to extra work for local snow removal crews. Rock County Highway Engineer Mark Sehr said he opted not to send plows during near-zero visibility.

On Feb. 3 crews got started around 5 a.m., when two abandoned vehicles were discovered partially buried on County Road 4 west of Luverne.

"We sent out six trucks, our blower and all three motor graders," Sehr said, adding that all hands were on deck Wednesday for storm cleanup. "Our mechanics were running blowers and our engineering techs were



Glenda McGaffee photo/0211 winter at Hills Rez

Picnic tables are covered with snow at the Hills Rez Wednesday after the Groundhog Day blizzard Tuesday.

doing snow removal for county property in town."

After 11 hours Wednesday and some extra intersection work Thursday, Sehr said crews had mostly caught up, except for some stubborn slippery stretches. For Monday's blizzard, the same scenario played out again, this time with a bit less snow to move.

Define 'blizzard'

While many parts of the tri-state area were under a winter storm warning or advisory, on

Feb. 2 Rock County was directly in the storm's path that was labeled a "blizzard warning."

According to state climatologist Mark Seeley, a blizzard is defined by wind speeds of 35 mph or greater, a quarter mile of visibility or less, and heavy snow or blowing and drifting snow.

"A lot of that was in play in southwest Minnesota and north-west Iowa," Seeley said during his weekly climate report on Minne-

Blizzards/continued on page 6



Glenda McGaffee photo/0211 city truck dumping snow

Hills city employee Dalton Bass moves a load of snow from Main Street to the Hills Rez Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Meet Your Neighbor, Dr. Emily Tschida

By Glenda McGaffee

Dr. Emily Tschida is a veterinarian at the Rock Veterinary Clinic just south of Luverne on Highway 75. She lives at 200 Central Avenue in Hills.

Tschida grew up in Omaha,

Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and Animal Science Veterinary School at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Rock Vet Clinic is her first place of employment. She has worked there since June of 2013.

Tschida shared some interesting experiences. "A couple of years ago a cat swallowed a sewing needle and we had to do exploratory surgery," she said.

Other interesting patients included a calf that ate the nipple

off his bottle and a cat that ate tinsel off a Christmas tree. Both of these animals also needed surgery.

When growing up, Tschida thought about being a dentist but decided to become a veterinarian. She enjoys

interacting with her clients and treats both large and small animals.

Tschida shared that it is very important for people in her profession to figure out a

Tschida/continued on page 2

weather
REPORT



FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 6 WEATHER

High temperature for the week:	40	Snow amount for the week:	5.80 in
Low temperature for the week:	8	Snow total for February:	5.80 in
Average temperature for the week:	31		

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John Rittenhouse photo/0211 vet
Dr. Emily Tschida cares for a patient, Skunker, at the Rock Veterinary Clinic south of Luverne Friday, Feb. 5.

Meet Your Neighbor, Tschida/cont. from page 1

work and life balance. She said, “You give so much to your job and patients. In college we had classes on this.”
Tschida has three pets of her own that came from animal shelters: her cat, Squash, and two dogs, Otis and Floyd.

Tschida moved to Hills in September of 2014. “I found a house online I liked and decided to move to Hills,” she said.
She enjoys the quietness of Hills and the proximity to Sioux Falls. “I was looking for a town close to Target,” Tschida said.



10 years ago (2006)

•Members of the Hills-Beaver Creek Patriot Mill-works group took the lessons they learned last semester and produced several hand-crafted furniture items.
The students, under instruction of Ray Vander Wolde, created 13 different types of wood furniture.

25 years ago (1991)

•Rock County residents are receiving a top grade in their recycling efforts.
That praise comes from the County’s Environmental Officer, Richard Dillon.
Dillon said he expected large amounts of recyclables to be collected early in the program. “We’re still waiting and seeing if the amounts are a one-time surge. A lot of people have been stock piling. We’re just waiting to see if it levels off.”

50 years ago (1966)

•A large barn was completely destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning on the Arvin Tilstra farm, three miles northeast of Hills, along with other property.
Arvin had been in the bar about 11 o’clock Monday night and everything was in order at that time. While the fire was of uncertain origin,

spontaneous combustion is suspected, for no heat bulbs or other contrivances were in use in the building.

75 years ago (1941)

•Contrary to widespread belief that fish possess no voices and therefore lead lives of perpetual silence, many fish are quite noisy creatures. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, many fish are capable of producing loud sounds – even musical notes – despite the fact that they have no vocal organs. Scientific investigations of sounds produced by various species of fish have revealed many piscine sound oddities, ranging from mere grunts, like a pig, to humming noises resembling musical notes.

100 years ago (1916)

•On some of the French military lorries there are afixed rods which, if a vehicle be tilted at a severe angle on a high-cambered road, swing out so that should a disposition to overturn be evinced, the tendency is immediately arrested by the feet on the ends of the rods, for these prop the car up by making an easy contact with the ground. The action is purely automatic.



Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools
Lunch Menu:
Monday, Feb. 15: No school.
Tuesday, Feb. 16: Grilled chicken sandwich, sweet potato fries, fruit.
Wednesday, Feb. 17: Chicken and rice hotdish, peas, fruit, dinner roll.
Thursday, Feb. 18: Hamburger on a bun, broccoli, fruit.
Friday, Feb. 19: Tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, fruit.



The Hills Crescent
U.S.P.S. 245-440
Published weekly (Thursday) in Luverne,

1 1095-8983
A Community Builder Since 1893
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Glenda McGaffee, editor
hceditor@star-herald.com
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By Glenda McGaffee

We know that Valentine's Day is Feb. 14, but why celebrate then instead of March 10 or May 2? Legends about Valentine's Day are fascinating because of their antiquity and sentimentality.

One of the most popular is the story of St. Valentine, who chose to be executed rather than renounce his faith in God.

Valentinus was a young priest who was arrested by the Roman emperor, Claudius II, for helping fellow Christians escape persecution. While he was imprisoned, the blind daughter of the jailer brought him food, delivered messages, and comforted him as best she could.

Claudius offered the priest his freedom if he would denounce Christianity. Not only did Valentinus refuse, but he tried to convert the pagan king, which so outraged Claudius, he ordered the priest to be stoned to death.

As Valentinus awaited his execution day, he restored the sight of the jailer's daughter who had helped him. She and her father were converted to Christianity by the miracle the priest had done.

On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a farewell note to the girl thanking her for all the kindness she had shown him and signed it, "From your Valentine." The next day a messenger delivered the note and a bouquet of violets to the girl at the exact moment of Valentinus' death. The day was Feb. 14, 270 A.D.

Another legend has it that the Romans celebrated Feb. 14 as the day the birds chose their mates and the Romans linked that courtship with the courtship of their own young people.

Romance is something we all possess whether we admit it or not. Valentine's Day appears each time a love letter is dropped into a mailbox, and each time there's a marriage proposal.

A valentine doesn't have to be a love letter. It can be any letter or card sent to a friend or loved one who is lonely or needs a little bit of cheer. When we listen to someone who has a problem, we are showing we care about that person. Just the fact that we care enough to listen to their problems is probably one of the best valentines we can give.

A phone call can be equivalent to a valentine. A fine sermon given by a minister can be a valentine to a fainting spirit. A pat on the back for doing a good job at work is a valentine. Even sometimes when we pray to God thanking him for a particular bright and beautiful moment which always lives in our memories, the prayer is a valentine.

There are many different kinds of valentines. Valentine's Day is a twelve-month proposition, not just to be celebrated on Feb. 14.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day for caring,

A day of love, a day of sharing. Sweethearts showing, each to the other,

How much they mean to one another.

Kids making valentines for moms and dads.

Parents planning treats for lasses and lads.

Grandparents and grandkids doing special deeds,

Thinking up ideas to fill special needs.

Exchanging of greetings, friend to friend

Phoning or writing, best wishes to extend.

Remembering shut-ins in a thoughtful way.

Cookies or candies to sparkle up the day -

In valentine season we each have a part

Spreading special joy from a loving heart.

This week I've chosen favorite recipes for Valentine's Day and Presidents Day.

The recipe for Cherry Square Bars was a favorite of my mom, Henrietta Wassenaar. It was her tradition to make something with cherries in honor of George Washington on Presidents Day.

**Cherry Square Bars
(Bar or Dessert)**

1 cup butter

1/4 teaspoon butter flavoring

1 3/4 cups sugar

4 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 can cherry pie filling

1/2 teaspoon cherry flavoring

1/2 teaspoon almond flavoring

3 cups flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

Cream butter and sugar. Beat well. Add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla and almond flavoring. Sift the dry ingredients together and add gradually to the creamed mixture. Beat until smooth.

Save back a little more than 1 cup of the batter. Spread the rest in an 11x17-inch greased pan.

Combine pie filling and cherry flavoring. Spread over batter in pan. Spoon remaining 1 cup of batter in small islands over cherry layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Sprinkle top with powdered sugar or drizzle glaze frosting over top while still warm.

Can be frozen. When removed from freezer, thaw and warm in oven just before serving. (Other fruit fillings may be used.)

**Cherry Pineapple
Cabana Cake**

1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple in juice (do not drain)

1 21-ounce can cherry fruit and pie filling

1 package yellow cake mix

1 cup butter, melted

1 7-ounce bag coconut, shredded

1 cup macadamia nuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13-inch pan.

Layer undrained crushed pineapple and cherry fruit filling. Sprinkle dry cake mix over the top, pour melted butter, covering evenly. Top with the coconut and nuts. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes or until brown on top.



Glenda McGaffee photo/0211 John and Ann Tilstra

Pictured are John and Ann Tilstra at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills Saturday, Feb. 6.

Tilstras reflect on 68 years of marriage

By Glenda McGaffee

"Prayer, faith in God and a sense of humor" is the advice the Tilstras share for a happy marriage. John and Ann Tilstra have been married for 68 years.

The Tilstras met at a square skipping party at the Community Building in Rock Rapids, Iowa, in 1943. They dated for two years. On dates they enjoyed sharing a pint of cherry nut ice cream purchased at Worthmore Ice Cream Store at Island Park in Rock Rapids, Iowa, and roller-skating.

They were married Dec. 11, 1945, on the farm of Ann's parents, Gerrit and Anna Nyhuis, near Rock Rapids, Iowa.

After their marriage the couple farmed and became the parents of two sons and two daughters: Ray and his

wife, Virginia, Sioux Center, Iowa; John and his wife, Leesa, Brandon, Wisconsin; Linda and her husband, Howard Soehl, Howell, Michigan; and Cindy and her husband, Bob Gannon, Marcus, Iowa. The Tilstras have nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

After their children were grown and married, John and Ann worked together on the farm. Ann said, "I loved working outside."

The Tilstras enjoyed traveling to California, the Black Hills,

Yellowstone National Park and Canada.

John drove school bus for 26 years for the Hills-Beaver Creek School district. He also enjoyed woodworking and painting pictures. Ann enjoyed crocheting.

John and Ann moved to Hills in 2007, and John became a resident of the Tuff Memorial Home in 2010. Ann visits her husband every day unless the weather doesn't permit it.

The Tilstras usually celebrated Valentine's Day by going out to eat.

500 S CENTRAL, HILLS

Check out this well cared for Gorgeous Victorian style home. This home features 4 Spacious bedrooms on the upper level with a full bath featuring a claw foot tub. The main level shows the beauty of this home with crown molding, hardwood floors, built in hutch in dining room and colonnades with lead glass doors to display your beautiful glass ware, the wood work in this home has been well cared for. The kitchen is large leading to the formal dining room. Kitchen appliances are included with the sale. The exterior of the home boasts a large corner lot with a newer oversize 2 stall garage in great condition and a 2nd older 2 stall garage great for storing collector cars or other personal items. Home is located on a LARGE corner lot. This home has been well cared for.

108 N WATER, HILLS

Modular home attached to a permanent foundation with a large family room addition and a large two stall garage. The master bedroom features, master bath and large closet. Kitchen was updated just a few years ago, with Oak cabinetry. Located close to the public school system.

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WEEKLY SPORTS NEWS



John Rittenhouse photo/0211 hbb 3

Hills-Beaver Creek guard Trenton Bass scored four points during Saturday's 80-62 home loss to Garretson.

Girls post win over Garretson

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls racked up their second consecutive win Friday in Hills. Taking on South Dakota foe Garretson on their home court, the Patriots pulled away in the second half to secure a 55-38 victory.

H-BC sported a 20-18 edge after 18 minutes of play. The Patriots went on to outscore Garretson 35-20 in the second half to prevail by 17 points.

Avery Van Roekel (20 points, seven rebounds and three assists), Sidney Fick (19 points) and Grace Bundesen (12 points) carried the load offensively for H-BC. Paige Tilstra pulled down seven rebounds and Jasmine Lingen passed for three assists for the winners.

Box score
Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 0 0 0-0 0, Lingen 1 0 0-0 2, Fick 3 3 4-5 19, Bundesen 2 2 2-4 12, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Van Roekel 7 0 6-6 20, Rozeboom 1 0 0-0 2.

Team statistics
H-BC: 19 of 47 field goals (40 percent), 12 of 17 free throws (71 percent), 31 rebounds, 17 turnovers.
Garretson: 13 of 54 field goals (24 percent), nine of 12 free throws (75 percent), 20 rebounds, eight turnovers.

Boys secure road victory

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team notched their eighth Red Rock Conference win of the season Friday in Westbrook. Pitted against the Westbrook-Walnut Grove Chargers on their home floor, the Patriots came out on the winning end of a hard-fought 67-62 victory.

H-BC gained the upper hand by opening a 37-31 lead at the intermission.

W-WG sported a 31-30 scoring edge in the second half, but it wasn't enough to keep the Patriots from securing a five-point win.

Zach Scholten (21 points and eight rebounds), Trenton Bass (16 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals), Isaiah Vis (12 points, 10 rebounds and four assists) and Cooper Vaughn (11 points, six rebounds and five assists) played big games for the Patriots.

Drew Forshey added five rebounds to the winning cause.

Box score
Vaughn 2 1 4-6 11, Burgers 1 0 1-2 3, Vis 6 0 0-6 12, Plimpton 0 0 1-2 1, Bass 2 2 4-6 14, Wilhelmi 0 0 3-4 3, Kueter 1 0 0-0 2, Scholten 8 0 5-12 21, Forshey 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics
H-BC: 23 of 58 field goals (40 percent), 18 of 38 free throws (47 percent), 43 rebounds, eight turnovers.
W-WG: 24 of 56 field goals (43 percent), nine of 17 free throws (53 percent), 38 rebounds, 12 turnovers.

Blue Dragons down Patriots by 18 points Saturday

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team slipped to 9-12 for the season after dropping an 80-62 home decision to Garretson, South Dakota, Saturday in Hills.

H-BC sported leads in the early stages of the first half.

The Blue Dragons, however, put together an extended run late in the first half and never trailed the

rest of the night before prevailing by 18 points.

The score was knotted at five when H-BC scored four consecutive points to open a 9-5 advantage when Trenton Bass drained a field goal at the 14:23 mark of the first half.

Garretson answered the challenge by going on a 13-2 run to open an 18-11 lead with 9:14

remaining.

The Patriots countered with a 10-2 surge capped by a layup from Isaiah Vis to regain the lead (21-20) at 7:04.

The Blue Dragons countered by putting together a 15-3 run to open a 35-24 cushion with 3:04 left in the stanza, and they remained in front by 11 (42-31) at the intermission.

H-BC's Zach Scholten turned an offensive rebound into a field goal 31 seconds into the second half to trim the difference to eight points (42-34).

Garretson regained control after putting together a 17-6 run to open a 59-40 lead with 11:31 left to play.

H-BC trimmed the difference to 15 points twice with less than 10 minutes remaining and trailed by 13 (65-52) when Stuart Plimpton drained a pair of free throws with 6:05 remaining.

Garretson thwarted the

challenge by mounting a 12-3 run to extend the lead to 22 points (77-55) with 2:22 remaining before settling with an 18-point victory at game's end.

Vis and Plimpton tossed in 18 and 12 points respectively to lead H-BC offensively.

Scholten (14 rebounds and three blocked shots), Cooper Vaughn (eight rebounds, five assists and four steals) and Josh Kueter (seven rebounds) also made key contributions for the Patriots.

H-BC hosts Edgerton Friday.

Box score
Vaughn 1 0 3-6 5, Burgers 0 2 2-4 8, Vis 8 0 2-4 18, Leuthold 0 0 0-0 0, Plimpton 5 0 2-4 12, Bass 2 0 0-0 4, Wilhelmi 0 0 0-0 0, Keuter 2 0 0-0 4, Scholten 3 1 0-0 9, Forshey 1 0 0-2 2.

Team statistics
H-BC: 25 of 72 field goals (35 percent), nine of 19 free throws (47 percent), 42 rebounds, 17 turnovers.
Garretson: 28 of 53 field goals (53 percent), 16 of 20 free throws (80 percent), 32 rebounds, nine turnovers.

President's Day

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February 4-15

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The Book of Love

Somewhere on a bookshelf, in a climate-controlled dim back room in the Library of Congress, is a book. It is kept under lock and key with severe security measures and an intricate secret code. The book is covered with a thick layer of dust because none of the cleaning people have enough clearance to get in to sweep it away.

The book is bound in the best leather known to man but in a very simple, modest design. The pages are yellowed with age, and there are literally thousands and thousands of them. Each page was painstakingly hand-written in the finest penmanship with what appears to be quill and ink. In the corner of each page, the page number rests, which is not

unusual in itself, except for the fact that the numbers are not written but embossed in fancy Roman numerals. The raised lettering stands out crisply on the fragile old pages as if they were just put there a short time ago.

It is the Book of Love. It is long, drawn out, and rumor has it, quite boring. It is full of charts, facts, drawings, tables, figures and instructions. It is so large and cumbersome that no one person can lift it even if they were allowed access to it.

The front matter of the Book of Love, which is supposed to contain the half-title page, the title page, which would list the author, any co-authors and the translator (if any), the copyright page and the table of contents, is non-existent. The book is age-

less and was probably written so long ago that anyone who ever knew anything about who contributed to its composure has long since passed on to glory. There is no byline, no acknowledgements, no list of illustrations, no forward and, most certainly, there is not a preface.

The book begins with music of every sort. Actually, this book is where music originated, and it holds music's entire ancestry, family tree and reason for being. The aging leather of the binding creaks, "You're welcome," though it is never opened, but I can hear it anyway.

This book was written oh so very long ago. It's full of fragile pressed flowers and things about love we're all too young to ever know. There are

heart-shaped boxes and valentines and locks of hair and movie ticket stubs.

The step patterns to every dance ever danced are in there also. Little shoe prints on page after page of every first dance as husband and wife, every father/daughter foxtrot, every mother/son waltz and the little girl standing on her father's shoes as they twirl together to music heard or silent. They are all in the Book of Love.

The tales of heartbreak are held there within. Sickness, accidents, anything that ever fell into the pathway of true love to trip it up and make it seem less real. Stories of sadness wrapped in love. They're all there.

The sound of every newborn's cry, every tear that ever fell out of love, the bravery of

every soldier, the sleepless nights of any mother who lost a child, and splinters from a wooden cross. All contained in the Book of Love.

It's all there. Locked away for safekeeping. No one ever looks, because there is no need. The contents of the Book of Love are engraved on the hearts of the believers in love. We see it every time we close our eyes. Our fingers caress the pages as we stroke our loved one's hair. We are the authors. We are the publishers. We hold the copyright and we own the book.

We can close the gate on this mystery so many are part of because we, we, we, we, we, we wrote the Book of Love.

Cleverly Disguised as a Responsible Adult, I'm Nancy Kraayenhof. ©2016

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Valley Springs, S.D.
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firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 14: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship.
Tuesday, Feb. 16: 7 p.m. Church Council meeting.
Wednesday, Feb. 17: 7 p.m. Lenten Service.
Thursday, Feb. 18: Parish Council meeting at Palisade Lutheran.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St.
Garretson, S.D.

Ph. 507-597-6257
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Thursday, Feb. 11: 7:30 p.m. Church Council meeting.
Sunday, Feb. 14: 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday School Love Coffee.
Wednesday, Feb. 17: 7 p.m. Lenten Service.
Thursday, Feb. 18: 7:30 p.m. Parish Council meeting at Palisade.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave. Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema Youth Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 14: 9:30 a.m. Worship. Sunday School follows Worship. 6:30 p.m. RCYF.
Wednesday, Feb. 17: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Interim Pastor Grant Fisher
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehempluth@alliancecom.net
Sunday, Feb. 14: No Sunday School. 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem.
Tuesday, Feb. 16: 10:30 a.m. Text Study. 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village.
Wednesday, Feb. 17: 2 p.m. Circles meeting at Tuff Village Garden Room. 6 p.m. Lent Supper. 7 p.m. Lent Service. Confirmation students attend Worship Service.

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

Blizzards strike twice in one week/continued from page 1

sota Public Radio Friday.

While many businesses and workplaces sent employees home around noon, schools canceled classes before the day even started Tuesday morning, Feb. 2, and remained closed for two days.

For Monday's blizzard, many southwest Minnesota schools announced Sunday night that classes would start late on Monday. But early Monday morning, dozens of schools were canceled altogether, and classes started late Tuesday.

According to state safety officials, who advised no travel Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday morning, Feb. 2-3, and Sunday night through the day Monday, Feb. 7-8, that was the right idea.

Southern Minnesota shuts down; roads closed

The Minnesota Department of Transportation, along with the Minnesota State Patrol and other state agencies, announced at 1 p.m. Feb. 2 that all state highways in southern Minnesota would close starting at 2 p.m.

Interstate 90 was closed from the South Dakota border east to Albert Lea and all state highways between Highway 14 south to the Iowa border.

State roads in southern Minnesota remained closed until Wednesday morning, Feb. 3, and this helped prevent many snow-related emergencies, according to the State Patrol.

"There was still some traffic, but there weren't nearly as many crashes and vehicles off the road that we would have expected with these driving conditions," said Lt. Matt Sorenson of the State Patrol.

"It helped to announce early and close the roads when we did. I think a lot of people got



Glenda McGaffee photo/0211 Jurrens Funeral Home

Mounds of snow pile up Wednesday in front of Jurrens Funeral Home on 1st Street in Hills.

the message and got where they needed to be ahead of worsening conditions."

He said it helped to have a detailed forecast with the degree of certainty of the magnitude this system carried with it.

"Often with a storm like this, we end up closing roads only after conditions have deteriorated to the point where there are multiple crashes and stranded motorists to respond to," Sorenson said.

"We had some incidents, but it seemed like people heeded warnings for the most part."

In the Marshall District (13 southwest Minnesota counties) there were two property damage

crashes, one injury crash and 19 vehicles off the road. That was between 10 a.m. Tuesday and 6 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2-3.

Statewide for that blizzard, there were 39 injury crashes, 449 property damage crashes and 475 vehicles off the road.

For the Feb. 7-8 blizzard, the Marshall District had 22 property damage crashes, two injury crashes and 168 vehicles off the road.

In Rock County this week, the Sheriff's Office and local emergency personnel dealt with 30 vehicles in the ditch, three stalled vehicles on roads and two crashes. Last week there were a dozen incidents involving

crashes and vehicles off the road.

Sorenson said the crash numbers were higher for this week's blizzard because roads weren't closed as early in the process.

"We were getting pretty busy already at 2 a.m.," he said. "But it wasn't until 8 a.m. that we started announcing that roads would be closed. By that time, there were already numerous crashes and our Troops were scrambling to catch up."

By Tuesday morning this week, all southern Minnesota roads had reopened.

Rain, snow, sleet, hail ...

For the Postal Service, de-

livering daily through "rain or snow or sleet or hail," became impossible with closed roads.

Postal patrons were greeted at the Luverne Post Office Wednesday morning with a sign notifying them that the mail had not come in.

"We all knew this was coming, so we got out early Tuesday (Feb. 2) and got done," said Luverne Postmaster Alisha Vander Wal, who lives near Hills and assisted in the Hills Post Office that afternoon.

"I got there all right, but got stuck three times in town."

She said four of the five rural routes from Luverne were able to complete their routes ahead of the storm, and city carriers completed their routes.

But on Feb. 3, Vander Wal said there was no mail to deliver, because the mail trucks were unable to get to Luverne.

While that made for a light workday Wednesday, she said the mail backlog kept her staff busy into the following week.

"Others are behind, too, because of the blizzard and weren't able to get to the Post Office," she said.

"Now we have people getting two or three Argus Leaders in a single delivery, for example, and it will take awhile to get everyone caught up."

After Monday's blizzard local postal employees are finding themselves back where they started, sorting the backlog and working to catch up.

Vander Wal encouraged residents to keep their sidewalks and steps clear of snow to help carriers and to keep rural mailboxes accessible. "That really helps," she said.

Residents are also reminded to keep snow cleared from fire hydrants so firemen can access them quickly in an emergency.

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community news

Births

A boy, Callahan Andrew, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces, 20 inches long, was born Thursday, Jan. 20, 2016, to **Andrew and Lexi Scholten**, Bricelyn. Grandparents are Brad and Beth Leland, Bricelyn, Jamie and Leah Holland, Winnebago, and Starla Scholten, Beaver Creek. Great-grandparents are Sally Van Wyhe, Hills, and Leonard and Roberta Scholten, Sioux Falls.

Meetings

Beaver Creek Township monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at the township hall.

MS Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Southwest Health and Human Services, Luverne. All persons with MS, family and friends are invited. For information call 283-2069 or 283-2964.

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.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. Fridays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. Call Shawn at 507-220-3180.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the Rock County Community Library. Call 605-321-4324.

Brandon area Al-Anon meets at 8 p.m. Monday and Thursday evenings and at 11 a.m. Saturdays at 209 Elm Street (behind VFW) in Brandon, S.D. Call 605-215-9947 with questions.

Free tax help available at library

Volunteers through AARP will provide free tax services at the Rock County Community Library in Luverne starting Feb. 8. Call the library, 449-5040, to make an appointment.

Appointments are required. Evening appointments are also available. Bring Social Security cards to appointments. The service is free for any private individual with a simple tax format. It's not for commercial, farming or investment taxes.



Tuff News

By Shateen Lichter

Happy Valentine's Day from the Tuff Memorial Home!

At the beginning of January, residents predicted the amount of snowfall for Hills. Stan and Ed kept close track and updated us after each snowfall. In the end, Esty Metzger, Jim Leenderts, Betty Nath and Lucille Ganges-tad were our winners.

Residents started the first week of February with Bowling, followed by Five Alive. Bingo was played in the afternoon. Even though a blizzard was going on, residents stayed warm on Tuesday with Tai Chi exercises and sing-along. That afternoon brought Bible Study and Poetry Club.

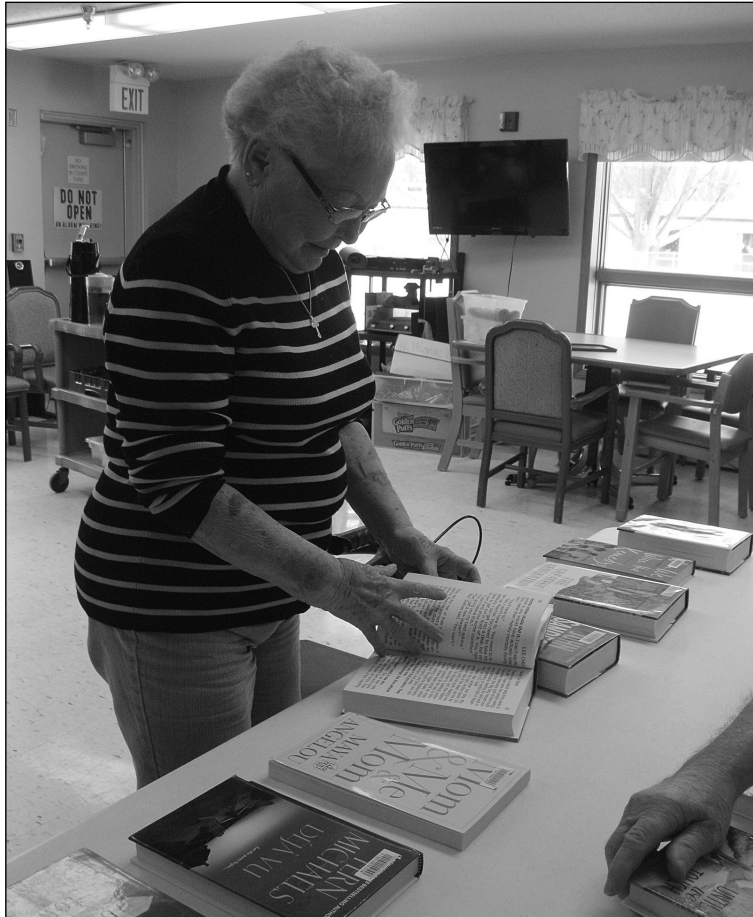
Wednesday morning, residents peeled potatoes for Thursday's dinner and Resident Council met that afternoon to discuss compliments, concerns and suggestions.

Kickball and ball exercises jumpstarted our day on Thursday, and the Happy Stitchers met later that morning. A new month means a new themed bingo. This week "I love you!" and "Heart!" phrases echoed through the dining room as residents played Heart Bingo.

Friday morning brought a new activity that will be added to the monthly calendar: Book-Mobile. We have been in contact with the Rock County Community Library and they will be putting together books each month for residents to "check out" at our BookMobile activity. We are very excited to be partnering with them to bring new books to the resident readers here at Tuff.

Later Friday afternoon, residents gathered in the dining room for a Football "Game." Residents threw a football (or beanbag) and earned points the farther it went. It was a close game between the "Broncos" led by team captain Deb Slegers and the "Panthers" led by Jim Leenderts. The final score: Broncos 30, Panthers 29. Afterward all enjoyed chips and salsa as well as cake and ice cream in honor of Pride in Food Service Week.

We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to the Tuff Country



Edyth Briggs (left) checks out books from the BookMobile at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills. At right, Team Captain Jim Leenderts throws a touchdown for the Panthers during the Tuff Football Game Friday afternoon to celebrate the Super Bowl.



Store: Twila Kirsch, Deb Bouwman, Tricia Blomgren and the group from the Apostolic Church in Lester, Pat Bentson, Mary Crawford, Delores and Shorty Leenderts, Samantha Koedam and other anonymous donors. The store would not be possible without your contributions. A BIG thank you from the residents at Tuff Memorial Home!

Looking ahead this week:

Thursday, Feb. 11: 2:30 p.m. Heart Bingo.

Friday, Feb. 12: Noon Sweet-heart Dinner. 2:30 p.m. Valentine Party. 7 p.m. Lester Hymn-sing.

Saturday, Feb. 13: 9 a.m. Manicures.

Sunday, Feb. 14: 9 a.m. Worship.

Monday, Feb. 15: 2:30 p.m. Bingo.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.

Wednesday, Feb. 17: 2:30 p.m. Adopt A Grandparent.

We hope everyone has a great week.

H-BC school calendar

Hills-Beaver Creek School Calendar for Feb. 11-Feb. 16

Thursday, Feb. 11:

Eighth grade girls' and boys' basketball tournament at Red Rock Central.

Girls' basketball at Heron Lake.

Friday, Feb. 12: High School dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

Elementary school dismisses at 12:45 p.m.

Boys' basketball at Edgerton.

Saturday, Feb. 13: Junior/Senior Snowflake Ball from 8 to 10 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 15: No school - Presidents Day.

Eighth grade boys' basketball tournament at Red Rock Central.

Boys' basketball at home against Adrian.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: Girls' basketball at home against Adrian.

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cards of thanks

The Family of Melvin Paulsen wished to thank everyone for your kind concerns. Your prayers, cards, notes, visits, food, and memorials were much appreciated. Thanks to the doctors, especially Dr. Judy, to all the staff at the homes, and the hospital staff. To Lorraine for the music, Reuben for his words at the funeral, all those who served lunch, and to Jeff Hartquist who helped us so much. God bless our caring community.

Jo Ann Paulsen
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Mark, Lisa and family
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