# Criscent Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek 

## Thursday

-Valentine's Day at Tuff Home pg 2-3 •Rock County clarifies buffer law pg 7


Pictured are (from left) Gary Helgeson, Hills mayor Keith Elbers and hospice representatives Diana Schwartz and Helen Saum. Helgeson is presenting Saum with proceeds from the annual Helgeson Father-Son Pool Tournament Saturday, Feb. 13, in Beaver Creek.

## Pool shooters in Helgeson Father-Son Tournament rack up funds for hospice

## By Glenda McGaffee

Area pool enthusiasts got o show off their talents Satur day, Feb. 13, at the 23 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$ Annual Helgeson Father and Son Pool Tournament.

The tournament, which was staged at Up The Dam Creek Bar in Beaver Creek, raised $\$ 731$ for the hospice program in Luverne

This year 16 father-son teams competed in the event.

The only stipulation is that tournament participants are of legal drinking age.

The Roger and Brian

Monen team won the tournament and received the traveling winners' plague. Doug and Cody Penning placed second.

The late Gordon and Kitty Helgesonstartedthepooltournament back in 1983.

Thetournamentwasplanned every year around Valentine's Day and Kitty's birthday, which was Feb. 4.
"I'm overwhelmed by the support," said Gary Helgeson, organizer and son of Gordon and Kitty.
'It's all abouthaving fun and donating money to hospice."


Glenda McGaffee photo/0218 councilman Metzger Newly sworn-in Hills City Council member Ross Metzger looks over a report received at the meeting Tuesday, Feb. 9.


Submitted photo/0218 winners pool tournament
Pictured are (from left) Brian Monen, Travis Helgeson, Roger Monen and Gary Helgeson at the $23^{\text {rd }}$ annual Helgeson Father-Son Pool Tournament Saturday, Feb. 13, in Beaver Creek. The father-son team of Brian and Roger won first place in the tournament and received the traveling trophy.

## Hills City Council has new councilman

By Glenda McGaffee
At the Hills City Council meeting Tuesday, Feb. 9, Ross Metzger was sworn in as the newest council member. He replaces Brad Berkhof, who moved to Sioux Falls.

Metzger's first official action was to approve the following building permits:
-LeRoy Van Wyhe will replace his cement driveway at 505 South Elizabeth Avenue along with the
cement inside the garage and sidewalk from the driveway to the front door. He also has permission to remove a small portion of the curb and gutter.
-Tom Bush will replace the flat roof on his commercial building at 223 South Main Avenue with a new metal pitched roof.

In other business, representatives Allan Nuffer and David Swanson from the Martin Township

Board, Clinton Township's Steve Top, and Hills Fire Chief Jeff Bass were pres ent to discuss the 2017 Fire Department Budget and fire contracts with Steen and Clinton Township.

The 2017 Fire Department Budget was approved for $\$ 45,275$. The fire protection contract for the city of Steen for April 2016 to April 2017 was increased to $\$ 4,500$ and for Clinton Township to $\$ 490$.

Page 2 February 18, 2016 Hills Crescent


Hello from the Tuff Memorial Home!

Although itwas blizzarding Monday, residents participated in a new activity that morning called Balloon Tennis. Bingo and $1: 1$ visits followed that afternoon. Bible Study met on Tuesday afternoon with Pastor Grant Fischer.

Wednesday morning we created "Thumb"Body Loves You! valentines by using our thumbs. This simple yet personalized craft can be made for any time of the year. Look up "thumbprint craft" on Pinterest or Google for infinite ideas.

Our Tuff Country Store opened Wednesday afternoon. Popular items included valentine treats, countrymusicDVDs, lipsticks, snacks, make-up, and women's clothing. It has been such a joy to see the tables filled with donations from our community. You all are the reason this activity has been a success for the residents at the Tuff Home, and for that we are thankful. The store is running low on blush, face powder, nail polish and snacks.

Thursday morning, our Bake \& Taste group met and worked on dippingstrawberries in chocolate for the Valentine's Day Party on Friday. The afternoon included HEART Bingo and You Lucky Dog! Thursday was the day Valentine balloon bouquets were delivered to the residents. Because of so many wonderful families and anonymous donors, every residentreceived a balloon bouquet! Each bouquet was madeup ofseveral balloons (over 150 balloons to-


Clockwise from left: Winnie VanderVliet enjoys her Valentine balloon bouquet Jean Van Malsen and Edyth Briggs share a joke while dipping strawberries. Jean Van Malsen and Henrietta Bajema make ThumbBody Loves You valentines.

## Tuff News/continued on next page

## The Hills Crescent

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## school news

## Local student named

 to USF dean's listThe University of Sioux Falls in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has releasedits dean'slistfor the 2015 fall semester. Included on the list is senior elementary education major Meghan Leuthold, Hills To qualify, students must earn a 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

## SDSU announces fall 2015 graduates

Joshua Boomgaarden, Bea verCreek, graduated after the Fall 2015 semester from South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, with a Bachelor of Science, agriculture and biological sciences.

## Do you have town news?

## Interesting history about the Hills, Beaver Creek,

Steen area?
Call Glenda. 962-3697

## Valentine's Day party at Tuff Home/continued from previous page

tal!) and a treat. Over $\$ 300$ was raised during this fundraising opportunity for the Auxiliary. Thank you to everyone who made this possible including family members, anonymous donors and those who put each bouquet together.

Friday was a busy day here at the Tuff Home. We started the day with Beach Ball Babble, and several couples celebrated the Sweetheart Dinner at noon. Many gathered that afternoon for the Valentine Party. Residents shared stories of how they met their spouse, enjoyed sweetheart puppy chow and dipped strawberries for lunch, and later played penny ante.

Saturday morning brought manicures and a pet visit that afternoon.

Looking ahead this week.
Thursday, Feb. 18: 2 p.m. Catholic services. 2:30 p.m. HEART Bingo.

Friday, Feb. 19: 2:30 p.m. Horse Races.

Saturday, Feb. 20: 9:30 a.m. Reminiscing.

Sunday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. Worship.

Monday, Feb. 22: 2:30 p.m. Bingo.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: 2:30 p.m. Monthly Birthday Party with Ray Larsen.

Residentandstaffbirthdays this week include Jodi DeBoer, Feb. 21, and JohnTilstra, Feb. 24.

We hope everyone has a great week!


Harold and Dallas Etrheim enjoy a SweetHeart dinner together.

in the past

## 10 years ago (2006)

-The Hills-Beaver Creek schooldistrictreceived $\$ 23,662.10$ in vouchers from the Microsoft Corporation in February.

The vouchers were the result of a $\$ 174.5$ million settlement from a class action suit, which alleged that Microsoft overcharged Minnesota consumers and businesses for products.

Software vouchers will be used to purchase MicrosoftWord for Macintosh computers at both the high school and elementary school. In addition, the district will upgrade the software used in both libraries.

## 25 years ago (1991)

-In an attempt to spread the news about the success of the Hills-Beaver Creek schools, Board member Alan Harnack proposed to make a video.

The proposal comes after the announcement by Minnesota's Commissioner of Education Gene Mammenga to consolidate nearly 200 rural school districts, despite Governor Arne Carlson's opposition.

Mammenga's proposal would force small districts to merge with neighbors if the districts do not have 1,300 students by mid-1994.

## 50 years ago (1966)

Unless you know the trick of usingyour parking brake, you may find your car rolling backward even though you thinkyou have set the brake firmly. There have been design changes in the parking brakes on newer cars. Tomake the parkingbrakehold, you mustapply the foot brake at the same time you put on the parking brake. Only in this way will you completely engage the shoes and drums on the rear wheels.

## 75 years ago (1941) <br> -Possibility of a WPACoun

 ty Library demonstration being organized in Rock county is being discussed with various interested persons and organizations throughout the county by Miss Florence Powell, demonstrations supervisor.Such a demonstration, which is sponsored by the Library Division of the Minnesota StateDepartment of Education, would mean that a temporary county library system would be set up in the county with book stations in centers through the county where library books would be convenient for all residents.

## 100 years ago (1916)

-Everybody that is young enough, and some persons who are not, appear to have adopted one of those many styles in hairdressing patterned after the "Bobby" coiffure. The "Castle bob," madepopularbythefamous dancer, requires a bare forehead with the hair drawn back and a bob at each side.

## correction

## Correction

The Feb. 11 edition of the Hills Crescent, in the segment Peeking in the Past, incorrectly stated that Arvin Tilstra had been in the bar about 11 o'clock on the Monday night before his barn set fire.

The text should have stated that Arvin had been in the barn where he was doing farm work.

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.

## 70 +/- Acres of Prime Clinton Twp, Rock Co. MN. Farmland <br> PUBLIC AUCTION

Thursday, February 25, 2016 Sale Time 10:00 am More Information, Maps \& Land Data at www.elbersauction.com Location of Land: From Steen Corner on Highway 270 go 2 Miles North on Co. RD 11 (100th Ave.) or from Highway 75 \& Highway 270 go 3 miles West on Highway 270 \& 2 miles North on Co. Rd 11 (100th Ave.). Land will be sold at the farm location. Watch for Auction Signs.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: West $1 / 2$ of SW $1 / 4$, Section- 8 , Twp-101N, Range 45 W , Clinon Township, Rock Co. MN.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is a very productive $70+/$ - acre tract that consists of 66.56 acres of tillable acres and 3.44 acres of roadway and ditches. According Rock Co. Assessors Office this tract has a CER rating of 96.04. Tract does not ontain a wetland. Predominate soil types a clay loam and Trent silty clay loam slay loam, Whitewood sity clay loym in PASE \& YIELD. Ti CORN/SOYBEAN BASE \& YIELD: The corn base on this tract is 49.60 acres with TAXES: Current Real Estate Taxes are $\$ 2964.00$. Taxes reflect Non Homestead status. Taxes will pro-rated to date of possession
POSSESSION: Land will be available for the 2016 crop year with possession given on March 1, 2016
TERMS: $15 \%$ down (non-refundable) immediately after auction. Buyer will be required to sign a purchase agreement at time of auction with the balance due of title and warranty deed will be delivered to the buyer. Elbers Auction Service represents the sellers only in this transaction. Property is sold being offered "AS
and IS" with no warranty given or implied as to the condition or use of property. This property is offered as a cash sale with no financing contingency. Although every effort has been made to the accuracy of information given all potential buyers are encouraged to verify all information given. Property will be offered for sale subject to any easements, restrictions, reservations or right a way easement of record if
any. Sale of property is subject to owner's confirmation. Any announcements made the day of auction will take precedence over any printed material. Informational booklets \& maps are available on request, by contacting one of the auctioneers or by visiting website at www.elbersauction.com
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: It is a pleasure for us to offer this very attractive tract of farmland. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase a very highly productive tract of farmland that would be a great addition to your current farming operation or as in investment in some prime farmland. If you are in the market for a very desirable

## Robert Beyenhof, Jodeen Fransman, Tamara Josephson - Owners

## Paul Vis, Attorney for seller

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## Boys rally to best Dragons Monday

By John Rittenhouse
The Hills-Beaver Creek boys basketball team capped an 11-13 regular season by posting a come from-behind victory over the Adrian Dragons Monday in Hills. Trailing 28-26 after 18 minutes ofplay, the Patriots puteverything together during an impressive second half
H-BC outscored AHS 33-12 in the second stanza to secure a 59-40 victory.
The Patriots didn't waste any time in turning things around in the second half.
H-BC opened the stanza with a 15-1 run to open a 41-29 advantage when Cooper Vaughn turned a steal into a layup at the 13:44 mark.
Adrian trimmed the difference to eight points (41-33) 2:40 later, but the Dragons never trailed by less than eight points the rest of the game.
ThePatriotsgradually extended their lead to 19 points (57-38) when Zach Scholten scored in the paint with 3:38 remaining and went on to win by 19 points.
$\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{BC}$ faced an 8-4 deficit early in the first half before going on a 13-2 run to open a 17-10 lead when Vaughn drained one free throw at 11:56
Adrian regained the lead at 19 18with $8: 33$ remaining and led by four (28-24) with 1:30 left in the opening stanza
H-BC scored the final two points of the half to trail by two at the break.
Scholten (23 points, 13 rebounds and four blocked


Hills-Beaver Creek junior Zach Scholten tossed in a game-high 23 points during Monday's 59-40 home win over Adrian.
shots) and Vaughn (10 points five steals and three assists) led H-BC statistically.
Isaiah Vis grabbed seven rebounds and Trenton Bass charted three assists for H-BC H-BC opens the South Section 3ATournament against Red Rock Central 12:30 p.m. Saturday in Windom.

Box score
Vaughn 402 2-3 10, Burgers 000000 , Vis 0-0 8, Leutho 0 0-0 2, Plimpton 0 , Kueter 00000 , Scholten $1010-023$, Forshey 20 0-0 4.
Team statistics
Adrian: 15 of 47 field goals ( 32 percent) eight of 17 free throws ( 47 percent), 33 rebounds, 14 turnovers.
H-BC: 27 of 47 field goals ( 57 percent),
three of seven free throws ( 43 percent), 33 rebounds, nine turnovers.

## Eagles win tight decision over Patriots

## By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketballteamlostahard-fough game to Southwest Christian in Edgerton Feb. 9.
In what was a tightly contested game, the Eagles sported a 33-32 edge at the intermission.
H -BC battled back to move in front by four points late in the second half, but SWC outscored
the Patriots by seven points in the final four minutes to secure a 72-69 victory.
Zach Scholten (30 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots) and Trenton Bass (10 points and five assists) turned in big games for $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{BC}$
Cooper Vaughn charted eigh rebounds, seven assists and three steals, while Stuart Plimpton

## registered four assists.

## Box scor

Vaughn $303-49$, Burgers $100-02$ Vis 20 $0-04$, Plimpton 300016 , Bass 220010 83 5-6 30, Forshey 00000 .

## Team statistics

H-BC: 28 of 59 field goals ( 47 percent), eight of 13 free throws ( 62 percent), 33 rebounds,
SWC: 24 of 60 field goals ( 40 percent), 12
of 14 free throws ( 86 percent), 25 rebounds.

## H-BC evens score with Heron Lake-Okabena

By John Rittenhouse
The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team avenged a January loss to Heron LakeOkabena when the teams met in Okabena Thursday.
After falling to the Wildcats by a $43-33$ tally in Hills Jan. 26 the Patriots returned the favor by upending HL-O 62-49 in Thursday's rematch.
H-BC gained momentum from sporting a 26-19 lead in the first half.
When the Patriots outscored the Wildcats $36-30$ in the second half, their 13-point conquest was complete.

Avery Van Roekel (21 points, five rebounds and three assists), Grace Bundesen (12 points and 12 rebounds), and Sidney Fick (19 points) led H-BC to victory.

The 14-6PatriotshostEllsworth Friday.

Bos 00 0-0 0,Tilstra 00 2-4 2, Spath 0000 0 ,Lingen $100-02$, Fick $341-419$, Bundesen $502-612$, Wysong $001-2$ 1, Wilhelmi 00 $0-0$
21, Rozehoom $102-24$.

Team statistics
H-BC: 21 of 53 field goals ( 40 percent), 16 of 30 free throws ( 53 percent), 30 rebounds 15L-0: 15 of 48 field goals ( 31 percent), 16 of 26 free throws ( 62 percent), 25 rebounds, 16 turnovers.

## Boys end two-game slide against Edgerton Friday

By John Rittenhouse
The Hills-Beaver Creek boys basketball team put an end to a two-game skid by besting the Edgerton FlyingDutchmen50-39 Friday in Hills.
Thehome-standing Patriotsgot off to a good start by opening a 37-23 lead in the first half.
Edgerton managed to sport a 16-13 scoring edge in the second half, butit wasn't enough to keep H-BC fromlockingup an 11-point victory.
Stuart Plimpton (11 points and five rebounds) and Isaiah Vis (11 points and three assists) paced
(
Southwest Christian sweeps series with girls in Hills

By John Rittenhouse
The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team dropped it second game of the season to Southwest Christian Feb. 9.
Taking on the E-Gals in a Red Rock Conference game, the Patriots came up on the shortend of a 77-64 decision.
SWC sporteda36-31 advantage after 18 minutes of play and after 18 m H BC 41-33 in outscored H-BC 41-33 in the second half to secure a 13-poin win.
Grace Bundesen (19 points and 13 rebounds, Sidney Fick (16 points, five rebounds and five

H-BC offensively.
Cooper Vaughn registered four steals and three assists for the winners, while Zach Scholten Josh Kueter and Trenton Bass grabbed eight, seven and five rebounds respectively

## Box score

Bass $201-25$, Burgers $010-0$ 3, Forshey 10 2-3 4, Kueter 100002 , Plimpton 40 | 3-4 11, Scholten $302-6$ 8, Vaughn 20 2-3 |
| :--- |
| 6, Vis 2 | 6 , Vis 20 7-8 11 .

Team statistics
H-BC: 16 of 40 field goals ( 40 percent), 17 nine turnows ( 65 percent), 36 rebounds, nine turnovers.
Edgerton: 13 of 50 field gols (26 perent) seven of 10 free throws $(70$ percent), 26 rebounds, 11 turnovers.

assists) and AveryVan Roekel(16 points) played well in the loss for $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{BC}$.
Kourtney Rozeboom collected five caroms and Paige Tilstra charted three assists for the Patriots.

## Box score

Tilstra 110-05, Spath 002-2 2, Lingen 00 O-0 0, Fick 23 3-4 16, Bundesen 70 5-5 19 Van Roekel 70 0-0 14, Rozeboom 400-2 8

## Team statistics

H-BC: 25 of 61 field goals ( 41 percent), 10 of 13 free throws ( 77 percent), 35 rebounds, SWC: 30 of 66 field goals ( 46 percent), 11 of 18 free throws ( 61 percent), 26 rebound 12 turnovers.


Choices
I actually took a few hours on Saturday afternoon and went to the movies with a friend. We went and saw Nicholas Spark's new film, "The Choice." It was totally a chick flick, a tearjerker and a bit farfetched, but it hit way too close to home for me. If only real life were like the movies and "happily ever after" was right around every corner

When we go to the movies, we join the families of the characters for the time we are there. We become part of their story. We cheer with them and weep with them, whichever is called for, in the couple of hours we are immersed in their tale. The time comes, however, when the credits roll, the lights come on and it is time to put on our big girl panties and step back into our own story.

Let's compare our every-
day lives and circumstances to a game of poker for a second We are dealt a hand and we have choices to make from there: keep the good cards, throw the rest in and draw some replacements hoping to make a better hand; throw it all back and start anew; or stand with what we're dealt and bluff.

Whatever we decide to do with what we've been dealt in life, our attitude is more important than the numbers on the cards. How we react to what we have is more important than the past, the money, our education, our appearance, our skill level, our successes, our failures, our gifts and even more important than how people treat you.

Our attitude is our wild card in the card game of life We actually have a choice every single day on what it will
beat and how to play it. We have no power to change our past. We can't change the inevitable. We can't change how people will act, what they will say or what they will do. But we can trump it all with our wild card choice of attitude.

Our wild card can keep us going or hold us back. It can fuel our fire or put it out like a heavy, wet blanket. It can either cultivate our fields or let the weeds grow out of control. And the very best part of it all is we get to choose how and when we play it!

I decided long ago that it doesn't make you a bad person if you make a few bad choices. What makes you a bad person is if you don't learn from those bad choices. Success in anything takes effort, and hard work runs the wiring for a bright future. No one has ever found success by wandering
aimlessly through life even if they made all the right choices along the way.

I have never done well with choices. Just ask my husband and he'll most likely tell you it is one of my most frustrating characteristics. There are just too many things to decide! Too many different foods on the menu at a restaurant, too many colors of paint for walls, too many shapes of pasta, too many channels on the television. It is overwhelming! Who has time to decide so much?

Back in '98 I looked at tile for my new fireplace for two solid weeks and just couldn't make a decision. My contractor was after me to decide so he could work on it, so I finally told him to bring me three tiles to choose from. He did. I chose I have never once regretted my choice, but I make it a point to avoid those aisles at home im-
provement stores just in case. Speaking of choices The story goes that a certain court jester went too far one day and insulted his king. The king became so angry that he sentenced the jester to be executed. His court prayed upon the king to have mercy on this man who had served him well for so many years. After a time, the king relented only enough to give the jester his "choice" as to how he would like to die. True to form, the jester replied, "If it's all the same to you, Your Majesty, I'd like to die of old age."

Leave the gate open and face the consequences it may bring.

Make the enlightened choice to close that gate ... same thing.

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


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Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Thursday, Feb. 18: 7:30 p.m. Parish Council meeting at Palisade.

Sunday, Feb.21:9 a.m. Worship. 10 a.m. SundaySchool. Wednesday, Feb. 24: 7 p.m. Lenten Service.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave. Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema
Youth Pastor
Sunday, Feb. 21: 9:30 a.m. Worship. Sunday School follows Worship. 6:30 p.m. RCYF.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: 7 p.m. Midweek.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Interim Pastor Grant Fisher
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehemluth@alliance com.net
Sunday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem. Tuesday, Feb. 23: 10:30 a.m. TextStudy. 2:30 p.m. Bible
Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village.
Wednesday, Feb. 24: 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:9:30a.m. and6p.m.WorshipServices.Sunday School and Catechism after morning worship.
$1^{\text {st }}$ Sunday of each month: Fellowship dinner after Sunday School

## BeaverCreek city staff receives 2015 Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award

By Glenda McGaffee Lloyd DeBoer of the Beaver Creek Maintenance Depart ment received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that he is receiving a 2015 Wastewater Treatmen Facility Operational Award.

DeBoer submitted data and permit records for the period from Oct. 1, 2014, through Aug. 31,2015. Based on a review of that information, DeBoer is eligiblefor a Certificate ofCommendation for outstanding operation, maintenance and management of the wastewater
treatment system.
The award recognizes DeBoer for tasks such as ensuring thefacilitydidnotexceed effluent limits, reports were timely and complete and there weren't any unauthorized releases, enforcement actions or inspections identifying significant compliance concerns.

DeBoer will be recognized at the $79^{\text {th }}$ Annual Wastewater Operations Conference March 23-25 at the Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The award ceremony will be Thursday, March 24.

## school menu

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools Lunch Menu:
Monday, Feb. 22: Spaghetti, corn, fruit, breadstick.
Tuesday, Feb. 23: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, fruit, bread.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Goulash, peas, fruit, bread.
Thursday, Feb. 25: Taco Haystacks, green beans, fruit.
Friday, Feb. 26: Fish sticks, glazed carrots, fruit, bread.

## INSTALL A PROPANE WATER HEATER

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Presidents Day was ob served Monday, Feb. 15. On this day the local banks and school were closed along with no mail service.

Feb. 22 is the traditional day to celebrate George Washington's birthday.

Washington had wisdom, patience and courage to persist in what often seemed like a hopeless struggle. He commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Without Washington it is doubtful that independence could have been achieved. When the struggle of war became almost hopeless, the troops looked to him for courage to go on.

George Washington served as our first president from 1789-1797. He had wisdom, courage, patience and dignity, which contributed much to the success of our government. Washington is often referred to as the Father of our Country.

This week I have this poem to share:

God's Footprints
Did you see this morning's sunrise?

Did you see it set last night?
Have you seen the shooting start in flight?

Have you seen the flowers of beauty?

With which our lands abound?

These are merely footprints
God's footprints all around. Have you seen a baby smiling?

Or heard its laughter ring? Have youfeltsoftrains from Heaven?

And watched wild birds wing?

Have you heard the forests whisper?

Or harked the ocean's sound?

These, too, are merely foot prints ...

God's footprints all around.
This week in honor of George Washington's birthday I have two recipes that use cherries. Cheer for cherries!

## Favorite Cherry Cream

 Cheese Bars1 can cherry pie filling
8 ounces cream cheese at room temperature
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 tube crescent rolls
$1 / 4$ stick butter
2 tablespoons vanilla
1/4 cup sugar
Place half of the crescent rolls in the bottom of an $8 \times 8$ inch greased baking pan. Press
the seams of rolls together Cream the cream cheese until smooth and add vanilla and powdered sugar. Spoon onto the rolls in the baking pan.

Top with the pie filling and place the other half of the rolls on top. Pour the melted butter over the top and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown

Tasty Cherry Dessert
1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs

2 tablespoons powdered sugar

2 tablespoons butter, melted Filling:
4 ounces cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup powdered sugar $1 / 2$ cup whipped topping 1 cup cherry pie filling Combine the graham cracker crumbs, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar and butter in a bowl and then press into the bottom of a greased $8 \times 4$ loaf pan.

Beat the cream cheese and $3 / 4$ cup powdered sugar in a small bowl until smooth Fold in the whipped topping and spread over the graham cracker crust. Top with pie filling and chill for 2 hours

Serves 4-6 and can be easily be doubled

## community news

## Rock County <br> Community Library closed until March

Due to renovations, the Rock County Community Library will be closed the rest of the month. Staff will still answer phones at 449-5040, and patrons can still return materials in the drop box. Tax appointments will still meet on Mondays as scheduled, and tax appointments can stillbe made by calling the library.

Patrons may use their librarycardsat any of the 24 publicPlumCreekLibrarylocations including Edgerton, Pipestone, Worthington and Adrian. See updates on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ RockCountyLibrary

## Monthly Food

## Ministry Feb. 18

The Monthly Food Ministry, sponsored by New Life Celebration Church, will be from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Luverne Senior Center. If you're having trouble putting food on the table, come from fresh produce, bread and meat.

## Tickets available for Hospice Dinner

## and Auction

Make your plans now to attend the Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction Saturday, April 23, at the Blue Mound Banquet CenterinLuverne.Purchaseyour tickets in person or by calling the Hospice office at 283-1805, and
theywill be mailed toyou.Anyone wishing to support the event by advertising or donating items for he silent/live auctions must have donations to the hospice office by March 7. For information, call 283-1805 or email helen.saum@ sanfordhealth.org

## Caregivers Support

Group meets Feb. 23
The Caregivers Support Group will meet at Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Society in the conference room at 5 p.m Tuesday, Feb. 23. Anyone dealing with caregiving or with questions in reference to caregiving and the resources available for thei benefit is encouraged to attend.

## Free tax help <br> available at library

Volunteers through AARPwill 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 taxformat.It's not for commercial farming or investment taxes

## Rock County Land Management Office clarifies buffer law

By Lori Sorenson
Gov. Mark Dayton introduced legislation last year to mandate vegetative buffer strips along waterways in an effort to cleanup Minnesota'snotoriously impaired waters.

Ever since those details have emerged, farm groups have pushed back vigorously, especially on the piece of legislation that requires producers to put buffers along private ditches on their land.

Responding to these concerns, Dayton announced last month that he would no longer press to have privately owned ditches affected by the plan, and DNR officials will stop mapping these areas on private ag ground.

With the dust still settling on the legislation's original details, personnel at the Rock County Land Management Office are sorting out the local impacts of law moving forward.

According to Doug Bos and Arlyn Gehrke the buffer legislation addressed three types of streams-perennial streams(the primaryfocus of thelaw), judicial ditches andintermittentstreams.

It's the intermittent streams on private ground that Dayton is backing off on, according to Bos
"The Soil and Water Conser vation Districthad the discretion to require buffers on streams that were 'ditched' (not a grassed waterway)," Bos said.
"If someone worked on a ditch, they would be required to have a $161 / 2$-foot buffer."

Essentially, he said, the governor's announcement doesn't change much for Rock County landowners, because the SWCD


This photograph was taken in 2014 in Rock County where erosion is washing cropland into streams and waterways. Gov. Mark Dayton's buffer legislation mandates vegetative buffers between cropland and waterways to protect the state's water quality. (Star Herald file photo)
resolution already requires a buffer for some private ditch circumstances, and the other two aspects of the legislation remain in place.

Bos also clarified that Rock County has only two judicial ditches so this area isn't as affected as other parts of the state in terms of that requirement.

Gehrke, who is taking the lead on buffer requirements, said his office is taking a more generalized approach to improving water quality.

For example, he said recent extreme rainfall events are too much forstandard grassywaterways to absorb in fields where noother conservationmeasures are employed.

In otherwords, Gehrke said


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producers are learning that strip till planting, terraces, basins and other practices all need to be considered in the overall picture of preventing erosion and water pollution.
"We have had about two dozen farmers ask for information about buffers, and the Corn and Soybean Growers Association approached us about pre senting at their annual meeting,"
said Gehrke, Rock County's GIS technician.
"They came to us, which I was very grateful for."

There are state and federal cost-share programs in place to help producers with the expense of implementing conservation practices, and Gehrke and Bos arehoping to see morevoluntary participation. Their office can be reached at 507-283-8862, ext. 4

Gov. Dayton, who has made water quality his mission, said he doesn't want to compromise the goal of his buffer strip legislation over controversy with only one aspect of the law.

That doesn't mean he's happy about conceding on the requirementsfor private ditches
"It is private effluent that affects public water," he said during a Jan. 29 Minnesota News paper Association convention in Bloomington.
"I'm just astonished that there's this fierce opposition to protecting water. ... Because it's private ground, we should allow dumping of whatever they want into public water supplies."


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The Family of Melvin Paulsen wished to thank everyone for yourkind concerns. Your prayers, cards, notes, visits, food, andmemorials 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.

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