

# CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

Thursday

February 25, 2016 Volume 22, Issue 9 75¢

•H-BC celebrates National FFA Week pg 7 •Rock County Library making progress pg 9

## Rock County hits record-setting yields in 2015

*Price, however, doesn't follow the record*

By Mavis Fodness

When the USDA released its annual crop production report last month, it confirmed Minnesota's 2015 crop season as its best on record.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Minnesota Field Office released individual county results and confirmed 2015 was also a good production year for Rock County.

The state upped its previous record corn yield set in 2010 by 11 bushels per acre to 188. The state's soybeans also set a yield record last year with an average of 50 bushels per acre, up five bushels from the previous record, also set in 2010.

Rock County beat the state's record corn yield by more than 10 bushels an acre, pushing its own record to 198.8. That breaks the previous yield record set in 2005 of 190 bushels per acre.

Local production of soybeans followed suit, increasing Rock County's record yield to 58.2 bushels per acre, up from 54.3 set in 2010.

In total, Rock County harvested more than 27 million

**Record crop season/**  
continued on page 10



Glenda McGaffee photo/0225 Ruthmary Jackson

Ruthmary Jackson grew up on a farm in southwest Minnesota and studied fine arts at the University of Sioux Falls. After receiving a degree in the arts she taught her artistry at Brandon Valley High School. She is pictured Friday, Feb. 5, at Eastbank Art Gallery and Studio.

## Former Hills resident featured artist in Sioux Falls

By Glenda McGaffee

Ruthmary Jackson, formerly of Hills, is the featured artist for the month of February at Eastbank Art Gallery and Studio at 401 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Sioux Falls.

The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 27. A featured artist reception was Friday, Feb. 5.

"This is my fifth show and I think I have found myself, my subject matter,"

Jackson said about her work.

"I love clear glass and always have. I have an extensive collection."

Jackson said it takes 1,000 pictures to get the perfect one. "I am very proud of this show," she said.

Jackson taught art at the high school in Brandon, South Dakota, for 30 years before recently retiring.

She studied at Sioux Falls College

and has attended numerous workshops.

She now has her art studio in her home in Sioux Falls where she works on painting and photography.

She said the entire Jackson family is involved with her art. Her husband, Roger, does the framing, and her son, Lee, who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, provides photography subject ideas.

## Heroin overdose leads to felony drug charges

By Lori Sorenson

A Hills woman and an Illinois man were arrested Sunday after emergency personnel were called to a Hills residence for a heroin overdose.

According to criminal complaints filed Tuesday in Rock County District Court, 32-year-old Christopher Theilken, Springfield, Illinois, and 35-year-old

Serenity Duehn, Hills, are facing felony drug charges.

The complaint states that deputies and first responders arrived at 125 South Church Ave. in Hills around 4 p.m. Sunday to find Duehn unconscious on the floor.

Theilken was reportedly



arguing with personnel about Duehn's condition and not cooperating with them about what had happened to Duehn.

The complaint states that hypodermic needles were in plain sight and



Duehn's arm had fresh needle marks as well.

When pressed about the evidence, Theilken finally admitted that they had both used heroin, and he showed officers unused heroin in the cupboard.

He was then handcuffed and sent by ambulance to the hospital.

After obtaining a search warrant, deputies took the heroin as evidence, as well as numerous needles and what appeared to be a meth pipe with residue in it. A small amount of marijuana was also located.

In a Mirandized interview, Theilken said he purchased the

**Felony drug charges/page 8**

weather  
**REPORT**



### FEBRUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 20 WEATHER

High temperature for the week:	50	Snow amount for the week:	0.75 in
Low temperature for the week:	14	Snow total for February:	9.45 in
Average temperature for the week:	38		

507-283-2333  
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hceditor@star-herald.com



## Hills mourns loss of town dog Daisy

By Glenda McGaffee

Friends and family gathered Saturday, Feb. 13, at the home of Tedd and Diane Larson, Hills, to celebrate the life of Princes Daisy Duke Larson.

Daisy was born March 1, 2002, and died Feb. 8 at the age of 14.

The Larsons purchased Daisy from an elderly couple in Harrisburg, South Dakota, and through the years she became known as the Hills town dog.

"Everyone knew Daisy and will miss her traveling around the streets in Hills," Tedd said, "I estimate Daisy gave birth to around 174 puppies. One of her pups was trained to be a Seeing Eye dog."

The Larsons shared an obituary for Daisy Duke Larson with the Hills Crescent:

*Daisy was a special pet that of course, all of you have met.*

*She was a little wild in her younger days but became quite mild as she began to age.*

*Chasing squirrels and rabbits were a habit, but teasing the cats was the most fun, even though they always won.*

*She enjoyed scaring up pheasants a ton but the sound of a gunshot made her run.*

*Sleeping by the fire with us at night was when she would love to snuggle in tight.*

*Tail wagging was her trait and also eating off our dinner plates.*

*Locker meat was always a treat, which of course can't be beat.*

*To Jim and Amy's or Tom and Sandy's she would stay, whenever Tedd and Diane were away. Sandy liked to cook her an egg each day, but Tom wasn't so spoiled he' say!*

*Forgot to mention Daisy even went to church one Sunday, but it was accidental, so not a fun day.*

*We all will miss our four-legged blonde a lot, (especially Tedd). I guess his two-legged brunette will have to fill the slot instead.*

*Now that Daisy's days are past, happy in dog heaven she is at last!*

### The Hills Crescent

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#### 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.



#### 726 21ST, HILLS

Welcome home to this ready to move into home. The home features 3 bedrooms as well as an updated kitchen with oak cabinetry - a large main floor laundry with bath. The living room offers plenty of space for family and friends to gather. The bedrooms are large and spacious and for the time when family time is on the list retreat to the lower level large family room. The garage is over sized with room for a work bench or potting bench for the person who likes to tinker. Unique set-up on this acreage with cattle yards for 500 head - 380' of cement feed bunks a commodity shed, pig nursery for 1200 head of pigs, large machine shed, 35KW automatic generator housed and included with the sale with a manure management plan in place with the possibility of 50 acres of cropland lease. This unique acreage deserves to be previewed - take a look today.



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### 10 years ago (2006)

•Hills' only café, Donatello's Café and Deli, was added to the local real estate market this week.

The opening of the restaurant changed the look of Main Street in Hills. In the opening months, cars, lawnmowers and bicycles filled formerly empty spaces on the road.

The listing, found on the Real Estate Retrievers Web site, describes the business as a "new restaurant and the only one in town, very profitable and productive."

### 25 years ago (1991)

•The recycling wave is here. And if Hills City residents want to keep their garbage rates down, recycling efforts will have to accomplish just that. ...

Commercial accounts will also receive a discount on their rates if recycling efforts are being taken. If not, the rate will be increased by 20 percent.

### 50 years ago (1966)

•During the two-year period that began last July 1, state government spending for all purposes - from school aids to historical markers - will average well over \$100,000 an hour, Harold T. Miller, Research Director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association, said today. ...

"The review identifies by source and purpose total state spending for the 1965/1967 biennium of more than

\$1,865,000,000 - up more than \$471,000,000 from the preceding two years," Miller said. "While the Research Bulletin holds to less dramatic language than the \$100,000-an-hour figure, the dry statistics in themselves are conducive to a jolting awareness of the spiraling costs of government.

### 75 years ago (1941)

•The Hills and Beaver Creek fire departments staged a "blitzkrieg" on the jackrabbits in this community last Sunday, and after the smoke of the battle had cleared, a count revealed that 80 "jacks" and one weasel had failed to run the gauntlet. ...

Many rabbits managed to escape through the gaps in the circle in the first section worked, and many were the shots wasted as the speedy "jacks" whizzed by. However, by the time the hunters were working their third section, they were "wised up" considerably on the technique of shooting the speedsters and their percentage of misses dropped appreciably.

### 100 years ago (1916)

•More than 500 lepers at large in the United States constitute a menace of serious possibilities unless proper steps for segregation are taken, in the opinion of physicians, nurses and others who testified before the senate health committee in support of a bill to establish a national leper asylum.

## death notice

### Bernice Bartels

Bernice Bartels, 95, Hills, died Monday, Feb. 22, 2016, at Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Services are pending with Jurens Funeral Home of Hills, jurensfuneralhome.com.

(0225 DN)

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# Tuff News

By Shateen Lichter

Greetings from the Tuff Memorial Home!

Our week began with bowling, Five Alive and bingo. Tuesday afternoon included Bible study with Pastor Grant Fischer. We also appreciated the program and lunch brought in from United Methodist for the Methodist Gathering that afternoon.

Wednesday morning, residents joined together for rubberband exercises and tried a new DVD for bell choir. Later that afternoon, students from HBC visited for Adopt-A-Grandparent. They shared and described how their weekly spelling assignments and tests go, which is very different than it used to be! A few tables quizzed each other on spelling words, and eventually everyone was playing You Lucky Dog, a fast favorite for this group.

Thursday morning brought ball exercises and our Happy Stitchers group met to work on projects. That afternoon Father Tom presented Catholic services and others joined for HEART Bingo.

We played a dice game called Horse Races on Friday afternoon. There is always at least one "horse" that takes the most wins. This week it was Gladys VanWettering's horse Spot while Charlie Horse, Toots Van Iperen's horse, had a tough time leaving the stall. Lots of fun was to be had that afternoon.

Saturday morning residents gathered for coffee and reminiscing about families, raising babies, and other engaging topics.

Looking ahead this week:  
Thursday, Feb. 25: 2:30 p.m. HEART Bingo.

Friday, Feb. 26: 2:30 p.m. Penne Ante.

Saturday, Feb. 27: 9:30 a.m. Frost Donuts.

Sunday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. Worship.

Monday, Feb. 29: 2:30 p.m. Bingo.

Tuesday, March 1: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.



Dallas Page (left), Gladys VanWettering, Bernice Aukes and Drew Leenderts take a break from spelling. Pictured below, Casey Kueter explains his spelling book to Henrietta Huenink during Adopt A Grandparent.

Wednesday, March 2:  
1:45 Resident Council.

We would like to welcome Gladys VanWettering to the Tuff Memorial Home. We look forward to having her join us for future fun.

Our sympathies go out to the family of Bernice Bartels. We will greatly miss her smile and kind heart.

Resident birthdays this week include John Tilstra, Feb. 24.

Earlier last week we asked residents what they would do with their extra day in February this year. Some residents said they would read and others mentioned they would nap.

What will you be doing with the extra day in February? We hope everyone has a great week!



## school menu

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools Lunch Menu:

**Monday, Feb. 29:** Chicken alfredo, peas, fruit, breadstick.

**Tuesday, March 1:** Super nachos, corn, applesauce, bread.

**Wednesday, March 2:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, pineapple, dinner roll.

**Thursday, March 3:** Grilled chicken with rice, green beans, pears, bread.

**Friday, March 4:** Cheese pizza, romaine lettuce with dressing, carrots with ranch dip, mandarin oranges.

**We salute our Future Farmers of America!**

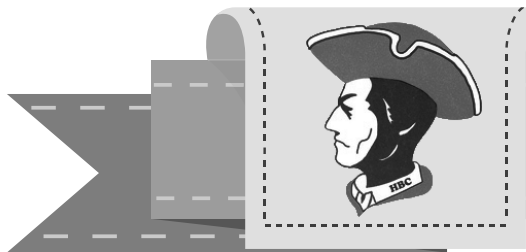
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## WEEKLY SPORTS NEWS

### Dutchmen knock off girls in regular season finale

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team ended the regular season in disappointing fashion Monday in Edgerton.

After falling behind early in the game, the Patriots put together an impressive rally in the second half to open a nine-point advantage against the Edgerton Flying Dutchmen.

Edgerton responded to the situation late in the game to hit a three-point shot to knot the score at 73 with less than 10 seconds remaining.

H-BC was whistled for a foul with four seconds remaining to send Edgerton's Jenny Nelson to the charity stripe.

Nelson sank her first free throw before missing the second attempt, giving the hosts the decisive point in a 74-73 victory.

Edgerton sported a 39-26 lead at halftime.

H-BC, which ends the regular season with a 16-7 record, received big games from Avery Van Roekel (30 points, 10 rebounds and three steals), Sidney Fick (26 points) and Grace Bundesen (11 points and 11 rebounds).

Paige Tilstra and Jasmine Lingen charted four assists each for the Patriots.

H-BC drew the third seed for the South Section 3A Tournament and takes on No. 6 Heron Lake-Okabena at 4 p.m. Saturday in Worthington.

**Box score**  
Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 1 0 0-0 2, Lingen 0 0 1-2 1, Fick 4 5 3-3 26, Bundesen 3 1 2-2 11, Wysong 0 0 0-0 0, Van Roekel 15 0 0-0 30, Rozeboom 1 0 1-2 3.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 30 of 58 field goals (52 percent), seven of nine free throws (78 percent), 34 rebounds, 25 turnovers.  
Edgerton: 28 of 70 field goals (40 percent), 13 of 22 free throws (59 percent), 29 rebounds, 18 turnovers.



John Rittenhouse photo/0225 hbb 6

Hills-Beaver Creek senior guard Cooper Vaughn tossed in 14 points and registered five steals during Saturday's 61-53 victory over Red Rock Central in Windom.

### H-BC outplays Adrian in Hills

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team notched its second consecutive victory Feb. 16 in Hills.

Taking on Adrian in a Red Rock Conference game, the Patriots outscored the Dragons in both halves of a 60-44 win.

H-BC sported a 29-24 advantage after 18 minutes of play before outscoring the Dragons 31-20 in the second half to cap a 16-point conquest.

Sidney Fick (16 points, five rebounds and five assists), Grace Bundesen (14 points and 10 rebounds) and Avery Van Roekel

(12 points, four assists and three steals) turned in solid efforts for the winners.

Kourtney Rozeboom grabbed six rebounds and Jasmine Lingen recorded three steals for the Patriots.

**Box score**  
Bos 0 0 0-0 0, Tilstra 1 0 0-0 2, Spath 2 1 0-0 7, Lingen 0 0 0-0 0, Fick 5 2 0-0 16, Bundesen 4 0 4-7 14, Gehrke 1 1 0-0 5, Van Roekel 5 0 2-2 12, Rozeboom 2 0 0-0 4.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 25 of 50 field goals (50 percent), six of nine free throws (67 percent), 32 rebounds, 10 turnovers.  
Adrian: 17 of 61 field goals (28 percent), five of seven free throws (71 percent), 28 rebounds, nine turnovers.

### Patriots sweep EHS series

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team posted a convincing victory over Ellsworth during a Red Rock Conference game staged Friday in Hills.

H-BC, which topped the Panthers by 22 points in Ellsworth back in December, turned in a more dominating effort in the rematch.

The Patriots outscored EHS in both halves of a 63-26 conquest.

H-BC rolled to a 43-16 lead and doubled Ellsworth's scoring output (20-10) in the second half to clinch a 37-point victory.

Avery Van Roekel (26 points,

five rebounds and four blocked shots), Grace Bundesen (11 points and seven rebounds) and Kourtney Rozeboom (10 points and five rebounds) played big games for the Patriots.

Megan Gehrke collected six caroms and charted four steals for the winner, while Paige Tilstra charted three steals.

**Box score**  
Bos 1 0 0-0 2, Tilstra 0 0 2-2 2, Spath 0 0 0-0 0, Lingen 0 0 0-0 0, Fick 0 1 4-7 7, Bundesen 5 0 1-4 11, Wysong 0 0 1-2 1, Wilhelmi 0 0 0-0 0, Gehrke 2 0 0-0 4, Van Roekel 8 0 10-10 26, Rozeboom 5 0 0-0 10.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 22 of 53 field goals (52 percent), 18 of 23 free throws (78 percent), 33 rebounds, six turnovers.

### Boys reach tourney semifinals

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team passed its first test of the South Section 3A Basketball Tournament Saturday in Windom.

H-BC, the tournament's fourth seed, experienced a slow start during a game with No. 5 Red Rock Central.

The Patriots recovered nicely by outscoring the Falcons 55-40 in the final 28 minutes of the game to secure a 61-53 victory.

The victory sent 12-13 H-BC to Tuesday's semifinals, where the Patriots met No. 1 Murray County Central.

RRC played with urgency early in the game as the Falcons scored the first nine points of the contest.

RRC led 13-6 as the game progressed, but H-BC forged in front 17-13 after putting together an 11-0 run ending with a field goal by Josh Kueter with 5:10 remaining in the opening stanza.

The Falcons trimmed the difference to two points (22-20) 24 seconds later, but Kueter capped a 4-0 spurt by draining one free throw with 45.8 seconds left to give the Patriots a 26-20 advantage and they remained in front by six (28-22) when the first half was complete.

H-BC proceeded to extend its advantage during the first seven minutes of the second half, and the Patriots led by 17 (44-27) when Trenton Bass canned a pair of free throws at the 10:22 mark.

RRC put together a 13-4 run to trim the difference to eight points (48-40) with 5:10 remaining.

The Patriots, however, matched the Falcons' scoring output (13 points) the rest of the game to win by eight points.

Cooper Vaughn (14 points and five steals), Bass (10 points), Drew Forshey (10 points and eight rebounds) and Zach Scholten (10 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots) played key roles in the win.

Preston Wilhelmi added nine steals to the cause.

**Box score**  
Vaughn 4 1 3-4 14, Burgers 0 0 2-2 2, Vis 1 0 0-0 2, Plimpton 0 1 0-0 3, Bass 1 1 5-6 10, Wilhelmi 2 0 3-7 7, Kueter 1 0 1-2 3, Scholten 5 0 0-1 10, Forshey 2 0 6-6 10, Raymon 0 0 0-0 0.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 19 of 44 field goals (43 percent), 20 of 28 free throws (71 percent), 34 rebounds, 12 turnovers.  
RRC: 17 of 47 field goals (36 percent), nine of 16 free throws (56 percent), 30 rebounds.

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# Close the Gate

By Nancy Kraayenhof

I actually experienced an “aha” moment this week. There I was smack in the middle of a situation I have been in many times before. It was almost like a theater production with everyone playing their part, saying and doing and feeling the same things at the right times, just like choreographed and mapped out on a stage ... except for me. I went off script for the first time in a very long time and I said no. It was kind of amazing.

Vague? Yes, I suppose it is, but the particulars in this case aren't that important. I'm not thinking about that specific “aha” moment, but those particular moments in general. The precise moment when something goes from intellectual knowledge to experiential knowledge. The second it moves from head knowledge to heart knowledge.

It's like two words that mean the same thing, like synonyms, but different. It's like book-smart and street-smart different. Like the difference between “hobby” and “mental illness.”

I looked all through the English language looking for two words to convey what I'm talking about and came up empty-handed. I wasn't even really sure how to look for such words.

One to mean knowing information and one to mean knowing that information personally.

One for reading a book about going to the beach. The other for digging your toes in the sand, hearing the seagulls, smelling the salty water, feeling the sun on your face, stepping into the waves and jumping in the water.

One for watching a movie

with a scene in a nightclub. The other for feeling the bass in your chest as you move through the room, trying to adjust your eyes to the dim light, having random strangers invading your personal space, plugging your ears with your fingers to hear the person shouting at you from two inches away, catching a whiff of the undeniable combination of beer, sweat and perfume all at the same time, dancing until your feet hurt so much they become numb, then to have it all come to an abrupt, rude halt when they turn on the lights and tell everyone to hit the door.

One for researching and reading everything you can get your hands on about becoming a parent and then having this 7 pound, 6 ounce baby girl with your eyes lay on your chest immediately after giving birth. This helpless little child of God

that has been entrusted to you from the safety of heaven is now your world and you are a parent.

Remember those Magic Eye books? One is buying the book and then reading what the 3-D image is supposed to be and the other for actually seeing the picture. You tilt your head every which way until you get the king of all cramps in your neck. You cross your eyes until your head begins to ache and then, after an hour or so, you just relax your eyes and the picture jumps out at you like the joker in a child's jack-in-the-box toy. It was there all along but you couldn't see it until you could see it.

For me that's an “aha” moment. When my two dimensional knowledge morphs into three-dimensional understanding. When my eyes are opened to the experience and there's no

going back to unsee it.

I am personally challenged with opening myself up to the ah-ha moment. To do so is giving up my illusion of being in control, living my life with an open hand and expecting something to land in it. It means keeping my dreams flexible when it seems the older I get, the stiffer everything else gets from my muscles to my dreams.

It's when I am blessed to get an “aha” moment it feels as if I actually touch the Divine. These moments in which my faith is so tangible I can hold it in my hand but I can't explain it in words.

These moments tossed into the air, as if by fate,

These moments when my heart must close the gate.

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

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**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. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. P.O. Box 73  
Beaver Creek  
Ph. 673-2428  
Email: lori.1stpc@centurylink.net  
Worship Leaders Michael Blank and Andy Anderson  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.  
Third Thursday: Deborah Circle.

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St.  
Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. 605-757-6662  
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net  
Ray Heidenson, Pastor  
Sunday, Feb. 28: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship.  
Wednesday, March 2: 7 p.m. Lenten Service.

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St.  
Garretson, S.D.

**Steen Reformed Church**  
112 W. Church Ave. Steen  
Ph. 855-2336  
Reuben Sinnema  
Youth Pastor  
Sunday, Feb. 28: 9:30 a.m. Worship. Sunday School follows Worship. 6:30 p.m. RCYF.  
Wednesday, March 2: 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. 28: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem. 7-8:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Youth Night.  
Tuesday, March 1: 10:30 a.m. Text Study. 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village.  
Wednesday, March 2: 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.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month: Fellowship dinner after Sunday School

**Ph. 507-597-6257**  
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net  
Ray Heidenson, Pastor  
Sunday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. Worship. 10 a.m. Sunday School.  
Wednesday, March 2: 7 p.m. Lenten Service.



Glenda McGaffee photo/0225 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball

H-BC sixth-grade boys' basketball players are (front, from left) Casey Kueter, Ethan Kruger, Weston Kellenberger, Austin Allen, Andrew Harris, Max Scholten Cole Baker, Taylor Dolphin, Austin Ripperda, Liam Raymon, (back) Coach Jordan Larson, Jacob Axness, Donovan Leenderts, Dallas Page, Conner Vander Voort, Tye Bundeson, D.J. Swenson, Sean Elbers, Drew Leenderts, Troy Durst, Oliver Deelstra and Coach Dylan Gehrke.

## H-BC fifth- and sixth-graders participate in basketball tournament Feb. 6

By Glenda McGaffee

Hills-Beaver Creek fifth- and sixth-grade boys and girls participated in a basketball tournament Saturday, Feb. 6, at the high school gym in Hills.

The event was a fundraiser for community education programs. Principal Jason Phelps said, "We appreciate all the help from the volunteers who helped make the tournament run smoothly."

Other teams involved in the tournament were Adrian, Edgerton, West Lyon, Central Lyon, Ellsworth and Edgerton Christian.

Fifth-grade West Lyon girls won first place and Adrian girls were second.

Fifth-grade boys from Central Lyon placed first and second place winner was West Lyon.

H-BC sixth-grade girls won first place and second place was Adrian.

Ellsworth sixth-graders won first place and H-BC white team placed second.



Glenda McGaffee photo/0225 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball

At right: H-BC sixth-grade girls' basketball players are (front, from left) Leanna Gaugler, Aliyah Stoltenberg, Danette Leenderts, Josie Klosterbuer, (back) Coach Randy Fick, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick, Mackenzie Voss, Samantha Moser, Tess Van Maanen and Tara Paulsen.

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National FFA Week  
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National FFA Week is February 20-27

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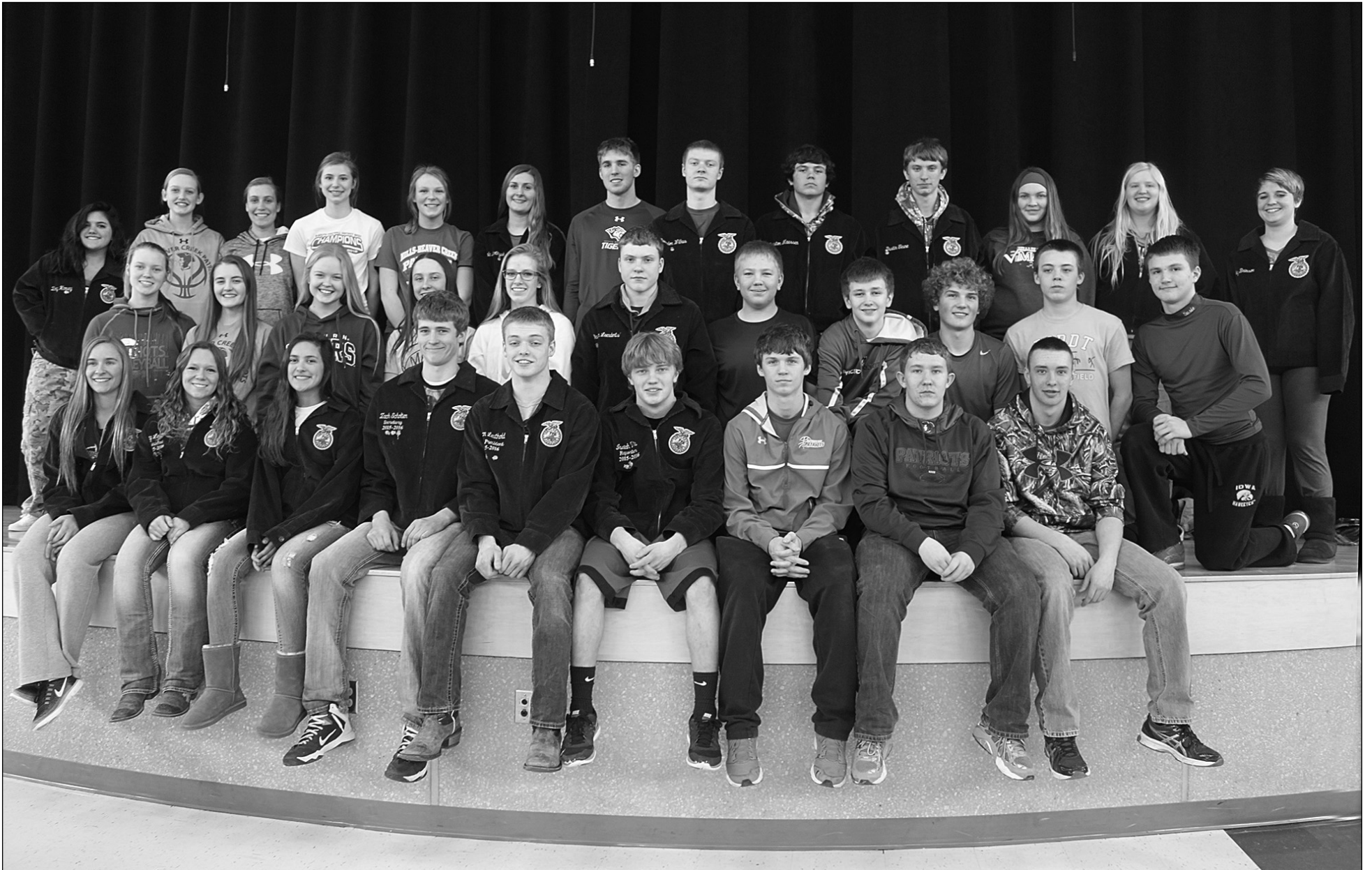
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Glenda McGaffee photo/0225-H-BC FFA members

Hills-Beaver Creek FFA members are (front row, from left) Jasmine Lingen, Haley Leuthold, Hunter Harvey, Zach Scholten, Logan Leuthold, Isaiah Vis, Trenton Bass, Orvil Swenson, Dean Fuerstenburg, (middle row) Grace Bundeson, Alexia Boltjes, Avery Wysong, Madison Spath, Paige Tilstra, Dawson Leenderts, Noah Hellerud, Wyatt Westrum, Luke LaRock, Hunter Bork, Bailey Susie, (back) Zoey Harvey, Bailey Swan, Amber Bos, Sydney Fick, Megan Gehrke, Angela Martinyuk, Andrew Forshey, Brandon Wilkus, Preston Massen, Dustin Tuene, Jennifer Konz, Kirsten Kooistra and Brittney Wilkus.

## Hills-Beaver Creek FFA celebrates National FFA Week

By **Glenda McGaffee**

The Hills-Beaver Creek Chapter is celebrating National FFA Week this week, Feb. 20-27.

The first National FFA Week was observed in 1948.

Today FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday, in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

The H-BC chapter joins

more than half a million members nationwide participating in National FFA activities.

FFA'ers at H-BC planned special events for each day of the week. Tuesday was Camouflage Day. Wednesday was

Farmer Day, when students could wear jeans, overalls, boots and plaid attire. Thursday is Down on the Farm Day. Students can wear their favorite animal T-shirt and drive their pickup or four-wheeler to

school. Friday is Wear Your FFA Jacket or T-shirt Day.

FFA was formed in 1928 and established in Minnesota in 1929. Minnesota membership is over 10,400.

## 2015 fish, game and trapping licenses expire Feb. 29

Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2015 expire Monday, Feb. 29.

Licenses for 2016 now are available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online at [www.mndnr.gov/buylicense](http://www.mndnr.gov/buylicense) and by telephone at 888-665-4236.

New licenses are required for 2015 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Monday, Feb. 29.

Anglers who purchased the three-year individual license in 2013 when it first became available must renew their license this year.

Anglers can help maintain and enhance Minnesota's famed walleye fishing by adding the \$5 walleye stamp validation to their licenses. The stamp is not required to fish or keep walleye.

Customers who purchase

online via smartphone won't receive a conventional paper license. Instead, they'll receive a text message or email that serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers. A printed copy of the text or email also can serve as proof of a valid license.

Ice shelter permits for 2015 remain effective through Saturday, April 30.

**Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools**

The Patriots are proud to be part of National FFA Week Feb. 20-27

Do you have town news?  
Interesting history about the Hills, Beaver Creek, Steen area?

Call Glenda. 962-3697



Lori Sorenson photo/0225 legislative coffee

Pictured at Friday's legislative update at the Luverne Area Chamber Office are (clockwise from left) Esther Frakes, Lorna Bryan, Rep. Joe Schomacker, Mark Ommen, Bob Bolger, Sen. Bill Weber, Gary and Janine Papik and Beth Bartels.

## Legislators Bill Weber and Joe Schomacker discuss issues at Contacts and Coffee

By Lori Sorenson

The Luverne Area Chamber hosted Sen. Bill Weber and Rep. Joe Schomacker for Contacts and Coffee Friday morning in the lower level of the Chamber office.

Weber and Schomacker, both of Luverne, discussed items of interest from the 2016 legislative session and took questions from citizens and local leaders who attended the event.

Schomacker said nursing home funding reform was one of the biggest accomplishments from previous sessions. "It's a value-based reimbursement system to keep up with costs," Schomacker said.

He pointed out that for Good Samaritan in Luverne, the legislation resulted in an additional \$600,000 per year, most of which supported better wages for caregivers.

The DFL caucus in Rock County is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Senior Center in Luverne. The GOP caucus is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Luverne Elementary Commons.

A good share of discussion centered on MNsure, the state's health care insurance exchange, which has been troubled by recent premium hikes and audits showing misappropriated funds.

Among the points raised Friday morning was the fact that Medicaid recipients are finding liens placed on their properties after signing up for nursing home assistance.

"To me, this is totally unac-

ceptable," Weber said. "They at least need to know what they're signing."

During Friday's casual discussion, the legislators were asked if they had any influence over the Blue Mounds State Park decision on replacing the dam and water feature.

Schomacker and Weber said they could weigh in on discussion, but proposing legislation it wouldn't likely produce outcomes.

"It's a honey and vinegar sort of thing," Schomacker said. "Sometimes you get more with a little honey."

Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere expressed disappointment with state funding for the Blue Mounds.

For example, this year is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Minnesota state parks and trails and there are more than 60 special events planned at parks all over the state.

"But there isn't one program planned for ours," Lanphere said.

She also lamented that funding hasn't been approved for a park naturalist at the Blue Mounds, and to generate interest the Chamber has taken the lead on events that draw attention to the park and to Luverne.

Weber and Schomacker agreed to participate in a meeting about the Blue Mounds with local

and regional park officials, along with the Chamber and Convention and Visitors Bureau.

At Friday's coffee gathering the legislators, both Republicans, encouraged the public to participate in the caucus process, which includes a straw poll for presidential candidates

"Precinct caucuses are the first step for both parties in the election process," Schomacker said. "These delegates determine both the candidates and party platforms."

He encouraged the public to participate and to bring resolutions for consideration.

The DFL caucus in Rock County is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Senior Center in Luverne. The GOP caucus is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Luverne Elementary Commons.

### Felony drug charges/cont. from page 1

heroin in Sioux Falls from a man he'd met at Grand Falls Casino two weeks prior and that he and Duehn had injected heroin Sunday afternoon.

After Duehn was released from the hospital Sunday evening, she told deputies (after being Mirandized) that she had taken prescription Adderall, Zanax and Oxycodone earlier on Sunday.

According to the complaint, she said she took the pills because she didn't plan to use heroin that day and knows she shouldn't mix the pills with heroin.

Duehn further indicated that she had been clean but had relapsed on heroin two weeks ago. She told law enforcement that Theilken had purchased heroin five times in the past two weeks.

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Mavis Fodness photo/0225 Library Remodel

## Progress in a week

Since the Rock County Community Library closed to patron visits Feb. 15, workers from Jones Library Services, Carlisle, Iowa, (location of picture 1 and 2) returned to assemble the new shelving that arrived earlier than expected. They later brought lending materials from the basement back up to the main floor. By week's end the shelving was in place, and the new reception area cabinets were being assembled (location of picture 3). The library will be closed until mid-March.



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

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**National FFA Week is February 20-27**



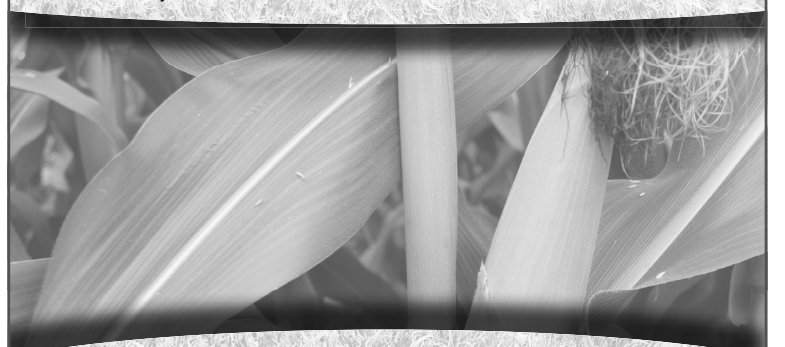
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PLANTING

# A Glance at 2015 Crop Season

*Yields per bushel in Rock County  
and surrounding counties*

County	Corn	Soybeans
Murray	199.5	55.4
<b>ROCK</b>	<b>198.8</b>	<b>58.2</b>
Lyon, Iowa	196	61.1
Nobles	193.5	57.1
Pipestone	91.9	*
Minnehaha, S.D.	191	56.9
Moody, S.D.	190.8	56.4

Source: USDA

\*Due to lack of survey response, no yield information was disclosed.

## Lack of NRCS archeologist puts local conservation projects on waiting list

By Mavis Fodness

Local farmers making structural improvements to their operations with federal funds are finding themselves on a waiting list.

Kurt Halfmann, Natural Resource Conservation Service district conservationist, said there are significant delays in the approval process.

He said 21 producers have completed applications to the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) and 14 more applications are waiting for one portion of the environmental evaluation.

"The designs are done but we haven't gotten a cultural resource response yet," Halfmann told the county's Land Management Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Until the cultural review is completed, a project stays at a lower funding priority under the rules of the federal EQIP program.

These projects include cropland improvements to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality or better ways to handle manure waste.

"It (delays in the cultural review) means projects that are designed and ready to go, can't go," explained Doug Bos, assistant director with the county Land Management Office.

Currently, the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) completes the cultural reviews according to the federal preservation standards.

SHPO consults with federal and state government agencies

to identify historic properties and to advise how to reduce or mitigate harm to any areas of historical significance.

Since October, SHPO has been assisting NRCS to complete the cultural review process as they seek to replace their archeologist, who left the position in June. Prior to the NRCS archeologist's departure, culture reviews would take only days to complete, Halfmann said.

Now that process is taking much longer.

"It is not our intention to stop projects," said Sarah Biemers, manager of SHPO's government programs and compliance department. "We are trying to help them (NRCS) as much as possible."

Since Oct. 1, Biemers' three-person office has reviewed 800 NRCS requests including the 21 from Rock County. The number is much larger than the 100 state NRCS officials had anticipated, she said.

SHPO reviews 3,500 projects annually.

"We give our best opinion based on the absence or presence of archeological resources," Biemers said.

A standard form letter is sent to agencies if her department cannot make a formal cultural determination on a specific project. That letter asks for additional details or for a walkover to be done on the property.

As state NRCS officials work to fill the archeologist position, ideas are being sought as to how to improve the NRCS review process, Biemers said.

## Record crop season/continued from page 1

bushels of corn in 2015 for grain production, also a record. That amount is up from the previous record of more than 25 million bushels harvested for grain in 2013.

Likewise, the last year's local soybean production also was the highest on record with 6.2 million bushels, up slightly from \$6.1 million bushels harvested in 2005.

The average price per bushel, however, didn't set any records in 2015 on a statewide level.

For corn, the state's average price for December was \$3.44 with more grain to be marketed in 2016.

In comparison, the average corn price per bushel was \$3.48 for the marketing year of 2014.

Marketing year 2012 had the

state's highest price per bushel of corn at \$6.67.

For soybeans, the state's average price for December was \$8.55 per bushel. For the 2014 marketing year the state's average soybean price was \$9.96.

The state's record price for a bushel of soybeans is \$14.30, also set during the 2012 marketing year.

## Century Farm applications accepted until April 1

Minnesota families who have owned their farms for 100 years or more may apply for the 2016 Century Farms Program. Produced by the Minnesota State Fair in conjunction with the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Century Farms Program was created to promote agriculture and honor historic family farms in the state. More than 10,000 Minnesota farms have been honored since the program began in 1976.

Family farms are recognized as Century Farms when they meet three requirements: the farm must be at least 100 years old according to authentic land records; the farm must be in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and the farm must comprise at least 50 acres.

A commemorative certificate signed by State Fair Board of Managers President Sharon

Wessel, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap and Governor Mark Dayton will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm status.

Applications are available online at mnstatefair.org (click the "Recognition Programs" link at the bottom of the home page); at fbmn.org; by calling the State Fair at 651-288-4400; or at statewide county extension and county Farm Bureau offices. The submission deadline is April 1. Recipients will be announced in May. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Information on all Century Farms will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2016 Minnesota State Fair, which runs from Aug. 25 through Labor Day, Sept. 5. A Century Farm database is also available at fbmn.org.

The Minnesota State Fair

is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world, attracting 1.8 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

Minnesota Farm Bureau - Farmers Families Food, is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children. Join Farm Bureau today and support efforts to serve as an advocate for rural Minnesota, fbmn.org.

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## community events

### Meetings

**Divorce Recovery Support Group** will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29, at St. Catherine Centennial Room in Luverne.

**Beaver Creek Township Board** will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, with the Board of Audit at 8 p.m.

**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.

**Al-Anon** meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Buffalo Ridge Meeting Room (lower level) at the Sanford Medical Center in Luverne. Call Stephanie at 449-1246.

**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.

### Library now closed to mid-March

Due to renovations, the Rock County Community Library will be closed until **mid-March**. The reopening date is pending. 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 still be made by calling the library.

Patrons may use their library cards at any of the 24 public Plum Creek Library locations including Edgerton, Pipestone, Worthington and Adrian.

See updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RockCountyLibrary/>

### Rock County spring weight road restrictions in effect as of Feb. 22

Spring weight road restrictions went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, on Rock County roadways.

For spring load restrictions, starting and ending dates are based on how the weather is affecting roadway strength. These dates are established by monitoring roadway strength as weather conditions change. Ending dates for spring load restrictions are variable, and drivers must check for updates throughout the spring.

If you have any questions, please call Rock County Highway Engineer Mark Sehr at 507-283-5010.

### Rock County caucuses March 1

The **DFL** caucus in Rock County meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Senior Center in Luverne.

The **GOP** caucus meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the Luverne Elementary Commons.

### Relay for Life team kick-off meeting March 3 at Pizza Ranch

Rock County Relay for Life team kick-off meeting will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at the Luverne Pizza Ranch. This come-and-go informational meeting is for anyone interested in taking part in the Relay for Life event June 10. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Mercie Domagala at 507-920-5117 for more information.

### Bank Nite movie 'Cinderella' at Palace March 3

The free Bank Nite movie, Disney's "Cinderella," rated PG, will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne.

Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, a free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s. A cash prize drawing will follow the movie. Must be present to win.

### Tickets available for Hospice Dinner and Auction

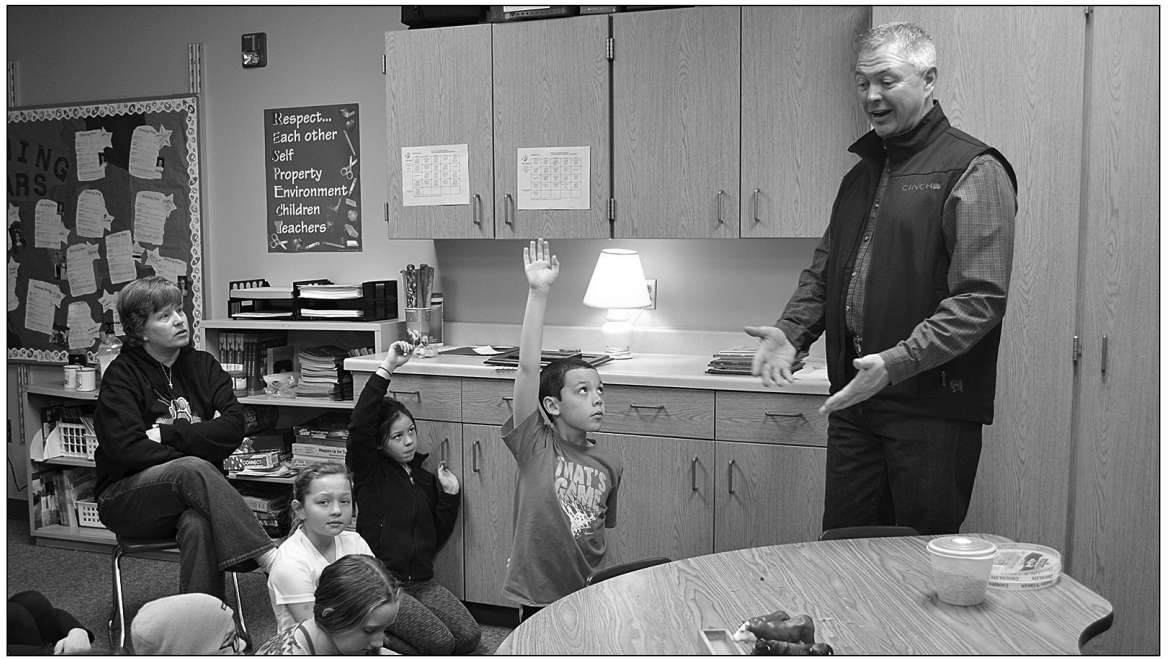
Make your plans now to attend the Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction Saturday, April 23, at the Blue Mound Banquet Center in Luverne. Purchase your tickets in person or by calling the Hospice office at 283-1805, and they will be mailed to you. Anyone wishing to support the event by advertising or donating items for the silent/live auctions must have donations to the hospice office by March 7. For information, call 283-1805 or email [helen.saum@sanfordhealth.org](mailto:helen.saum@sanfordhealth.org)

### 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.



Submitted photo

Rock County farmer Pete Bakken talks to fourth-graders in Harvey Dunn Elementary School, Sioux Falls, Friday, Feb. 19, about what cows eat on the farm as part of the yearlong Adopt A Farmer program through Ag United for South Dakota.

## Local cattleman shares farming experiences with fourth-graders

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County farmer Peter Bakken visited fourth-grade students at Harvey Dunn Elementary in Sioux Falls Friday, Feb. 19, to show them what "cow food" is made of.

Bakken has been "adopted" by the students and has been sharing video messages with the class every month since school began last fall.

In his monthly videos he shows the students what cows eat, where they live and how they are cared for every day on BlacX Farms in western Rock County.

"It's the little things every day that I don't think about that give them the tangibility of a farm," Bakken said about being an adopted farmer.

"It's fun and easy — fun in that you get to see the response on the kids' faces, and easy in the sense that you're the expert so you don't have to study. You're just there to talk about what you do and promote transparency."

This will be the second time the students will meet Bakken in person through the Adopt A

Farmer program, which also addresses crop production.

During their in-person meeting Friday, Bakken showed the students "cow food" — samples of the feed he gives to his cows — and shared more information about his experiences on the farm.

Feb. 19 was also his birthday, and he said he was surprised to be greeted that day with hand-made cards from the students.

Bakken's classroom visits were arranged by Ag United for South Dakota, a coalition of agriculture organizations of beef, corn, dairy, poultry, pork and soybean producers, in addition to Farm Bureau.

He also participated last year, and now has three classes of fourth-graders, including one at Harvey Dunn and two in the Garretson School District.

Bakken said one of his primary objectives in participating in the program was to connect with future consumers at a young age.

"Maybe as they graduate

from high school and look back to their Adopt A Farmer days, they'll know there are resources out there to find the facts in light of the negativity toward agriculture," he said.

"We're trying to communicate — at a fourth-grade level — the basic building blocks of taking care of our animals and taking care of our land."

Bakken said he enjoys students' reactions and questions, such as "Do the cows get cold outside?" and "Why does corn smell funny?"

He said he tries to keep the information basic, but he expands on that to talk about modern technology.

"They learn mechanization," he said. "The fact that we use GPS in the manure truck, and the fact that we're total containment — every drop of water that hits my farm has to be collected and accounted for."

The videos, which were shot and edited last year by Michelle Rook, can be seen on YouTube under SD Adopt A Farmer, searching Peter Bakken.

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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**  
**Floyd, Marianne and family**  
**Mark, Lisa and family**  
**Glen, Marla and family**  
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- **Comments:** Successful candidate will have a passion for instruction of group and individual band students in grades 5-12 in a highly successful band program. Currently the school district does not have marching band. Has had numerous students chosen as Jr. High Honor Band in State of MN and two years ago produced a MN all state trumpet player. Opening due to retirement.

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## HELP WANTED

The Tuff Memorial Home in Hills, MN is looking for Dietary Supervisor to head our Dietary Department.

This is a Full-Time position working Monday through Friday and offers a full benefit package. We would prefer someone that has completed the Certified Dietary Food Manager course but will accept a person that is willing to work to get that certification.

Please contact Dana Dahlquist at 507-962-3275 or email [danadah1749@yahoo.com](mailto:danadah1749@yahoo.com).

**Benefits**  
 Competitive Wage  
 Pension Plan  
 Friendly Atmosphere

**TUFF MEMORIAL**  
 505 E 4th St | Hills, MN  
 507-962-3275  
 "A Home with a Heart"



**mcan**

## Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



### HELP WANTED

#### 21ST CENTURY COOPERATIVE

Cumberland, Iowa, is seeking a qualified CEO/General Manager. This is a multi-location grain, agronomy, energy, and feed cooperative with sales of \$60 million. Business degree and/or successful agricultural business management experience desired. Apply to: <http://tinyurl.com/jfzle6o> - For more info contact David Lemmon, 320/219-0270 or email [david.lemmon@chsinc.com](mailto:david.lemmon@chsinc.com)

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## HELP WANTED

The Tuff Memorial Home in Hills, MN is looking for hard working, dependable individuals to join our team in caring for the elderly.

Positions include the following: Certified Nurse Aides, Full and Part-Time day shifts (6:00 AM to 2:30 PM) and evening shifts (2:15 PM to 10:15 PM), which includes every other weekend and every other holiday.

Trained Medication Aides, Part-Time evening shifts (3:00 PM to 10:00 PM), which includes every other weekend and every other holiday.

Please contact Dana Dahlquist or Jody DeBoer at 507-962-3275 or email at [danadah1749@yahoo.com](mailto:danadah1749@yahoo.com).

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