

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

Thursday

December 3, 2015 Volume 21, Issue 49 75¢

•Martin Township new building pg 3 •Beaver Creek City Council seeks member pg 6

Lighting ceremony Dec. 13 joins list of local holiday events

By Glenda McGaffee

The public is invited to attend the annual Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Tuff Village.

The short program will include music, scripture and reading of names of those remembered by loved ones with a light on the tree. Dan and Allison LaRock will provide special music.

The lights will shine in honor or in memory of someone special (young or elderly, well or ill, living or deceased).

Names will be read during the tree lighting ceremony at the Tuff Village and printed in the Hills Crescent. The tree will be lit throughout the holiday season.

Other holiday events

With Christmas approaching, area communities and schools have announced dates for special holiday events.

•Monday, Dec. 7, Hills Appreciation Day will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with soup and sandwiches served. Santa will make an appearance from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Helping Build Communities Stronger, Alliance Communications and Exchange State Bank of Hills.

•Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Little Pates Christmas Program will be at 7 p.m. at the Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School in Beaver Creek.

•Thursday, Dec. 10, students in kindergarten through second grade will present a musical program, "Pajama Party," at the Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School in Beaver Creek.

•Saturday, Dec. 12, Santa will visit the Beaver Creek Fire Hall in Beaver Creek from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

To list other holiday events in the Hills Crescent, email glendasam2000@yahoo.com.



Light 'em up! contest underway

Glenda McGaffee photo/1203 Ward home

The Hills Lions Club is sponsoring a holiday outdoor decorative lighting contest in Hills, Beaver Creek and Steen. Judging for the event will be Monday, Dec. 14. Light 'em up! prizes are \$25 for first place and \$10 for second place with winners in all three towns. Area residents are encouraged to think about decorating ideas. A Facebook page, Light 'em Up Holiday Lighting Contest, has been set up with more information. Pictured is the home of Wayne and Janice Ward at 204 West 3rd Street in Hills.

School Board reviews World's Best Work Force report

By Glenda McGaffee

At a recent H-BC board meeting Superintendent Todd Holthaus reviewed the 2014-15 World's Best Work Force annual report.

In 2013 the Minnesota Legislature approved putting into law the World's Best Workforce Plan. MN Statue 120.B11 requiring all school districts to develop a plan to address five goals:

- All children are ready for school.
- All third graders can read at grade level.
- All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
- All students are ready for career and college.
- All students graduate from high school.

Goal No. 1:

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools aim to ensure all students are ready for kindergarten.

Forty-two percent of H-BC students entering kindergarten were proficient in the fall of 2015.

Goal No. 2:

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools aims for all students in third grade to achieve grade level literacy. H-BC Elementary teachers participated in continued creation of formative assessments. Utilization of the OLPA-Optional Local Purpose Assessment to identify students' needs and implement further interventions to assist students in accelerated proficiency. The district participated in the flexible learning year.

Goal No. 3:

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools aims to close the achievement gaps in reading and math.

The district has implemented a number of interventions to support learners that have identified needs. Implementation of the new district teacher development and evaluation has been put in place as well. Staff members have set individual student goals in regards to increasing student achievement. The teacher PLCs have also been attributable to identifying needs of students and appropriate interventions put into place.

Goal No. 4:

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools aims for all students to graduate from high school.

Teachers identifying learning targets and utilizing formative assessments have been the two main areas during the 2014-2015 school year that have assisted in making the graduation rate successful. Teachers' collaboration with one another, identifying student needs and providing interventions, also have been a focus.

Goal No. 5:

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools aims for all students to be college and career ready before graduating from high school.

H-BC students in grade eight take the Explore test and tenth-graders take the PLAN test to continue to monitor career and college readiness. Most juniors

School Board report/page 6

weather
REPORT



NOVEMBER 22 - NOVEMBER 28 WEATHER

High temperature for the week:	39	Snow amount for the week:	1 in
Low temperature for the week:	6	Snow total for November:	10 in
Average temperature for the week:	25		

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

Local investors buy back Minwind assets in bankruptcy sale

By Lori Sorenson

The 11 Minwind turbines in southwest Rock County will remain under local ownership after a bankruptcy sale last month.

According to the terms of the court agreement that closed Nov. 12, a group of community investors purchased four turbines for \$622,000.

The buyers are current and former investors of Minwind I-IV who organized under Community Renewables LLC.

First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Luverne, (Minwind's lender) purchased the other seven turbines for \$1.96 million in a non-cash transaction called a credit bid.

It's estimated that the 300-some local shareholders, many of them farmers, stood to lose as much as \$5.5 million in the Minwind bankruptcy.

Buying back the assets reportedly averted the costs of bankruptcy court and also the debilitating fines levied by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, for unfiled paperwork.

According to Dean Tofteland, the managing member of Community Renewables, the companies are going through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and are still subject to the court and the associated costs, which are substantial.

"The asset sale (auction) was the first part of the process of getting money back for the creditors and shareholders," Tofteland said.

"There was never enough money to pay for the FERC-



Crescent file photo

A crane lifts a blade to the top of a wind tower in September 2002 while workers wait (on the top) to assemble the inner mechanics. The wind tower, located three miles southeast of Beaver Creek or seven miles southwest of Luverne, was the second of four towers that were assembled in the area.

ordered refunds — incidentally, for damages that were not actually incurred by the utilities —

and that was the reason for the bankruptcy. The penalty was very extreme for such a small oversight."

Aside from financial reasons, the new owners say their primary motivation was to keep the wind production local.

"The ownership had always been local," Tofteland said. "In bankruptcy, anyone could bid on them, even Wall Street vulture funds."

He said Community Renewables and First Farmers holding company were among five qualified bidders participating in the bankruptcy auction of Minwind's assets.

The two buyers said Minwind's financial troubles stem from last year's \$1.9 million penalty for not filing paperwork as a qualified renewable energy facility.

Tofteland said he's optimistic about the future of wind production in Rock County.

"Although the bankruptcy was a complicated and expensive process, we feel successful that we are keeping the projects under local ownership," he said, speaking for the group of investors who bought Minwind's four original turbines.

"Rock County has always been cutting edge, whether it was developing one of the earliest ethanol plants, organizing the very first community wind farm or even building the Minnesota Veterans Home," Tofteland said.

"We feel it is important to continue that heritage, and local ownership plays a key part."

He said Community Renewables is already researching ways to keep the local wind

production viable.

"We are looking at some of the newer controller technologies to optimize the turbines, such as more precise yaw calibration and pitch sensitivity," he said.

Tofteland was one of the early investors in Minwind, which dates back to 2002 when the first four turbines were built near Hills. They produced power for Alliant Energy, which was sold in August to Sioux Valley Energy.

In 2004 seven more Minwind turbines were built north of Beaver Creek. This energy is sold to Xcel energy, which sends power via transmission lines to the Twin Cities.

The 11 turbines produce a combined output of roughly 15 1/2 megawatts per hour, which is enough energy to power a community 1 1/2 times the size of Luverne for an hour.

The "locally owned" business model for Minwind was based on the fact that each tower was organized as a separate business consisting of a single 1.65 mw wind turbine owned by 33 local investors.

The idea was that these projects benefit from the economies of scale and professional management of a larger project. Yet their cooperative-type business structure spreads financial benefits of community wind ownership to a large number of local farmers and landowners.

The turbines have continued to operate during the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case, which was filed in January.

The Hills Crescent

U.S.P.S. 245-440

Published weekly (Thursday) in Luverne,

1 1095-8983

A Community Builder Since 1893

ACTIVE MEMBER

Minnesota Newspaper Association

Roger Tollefson, publisher

Glenda McGaffee, editor

hceditor@star-herald.com

Chantel Connell, sales representative

sales@star-herald.com

-SUBSCRIPTION RATES-

Inside Rock County: \$48.00

Outside Area: \$58.00

Postmaster:

Send change of address forms to:

Hills Crescent, P.O. Box 837,

Luverne, MN 56156

(507) 962-3230

Periodicals Postage Paid at Luverne,
Rock County, Minnesota 56 56 Permit #33



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.



304 S CHURCH, HILLS

This is an absolutely beautiful 2-bedroom home that has all the updates and improvements, Large living area, Very nice eat-in kitchen, HUGE bathroom, Large bedrooms, partially finished basement w/ family area, 3rd bedroom (Not Legal), Garage and the most beautiful yard you ever seen a MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE!!!!

Elbers Auction Service
"Quality Auctions Since 1988"
Keith Elbers AUCTIONEER / REAL ESTATE SALES
Lic #67-62
office: 507-962-3433
home: 507-962-3432
cell: 507-920-6131
keith@realestateelbers.com
Matt Larson - Broker
www.ElbersAuction.com

starherald.com

school menu

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools Lunch Menu:

Monday, Dec. 7: Tater tot hotdish, green beans, mixed fruit, bread.

Tuesday, Dec. 8: Chicken patty on a bun, glazed carrots, pineapple.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, pears, bread.

Thursday, Dec. 10: Chicken and rice hotdish, peas, mandarin oranges, bread.

Friday, Dec. 11: Taco haystacks, creamed corn, peaches, bread.

purplewave.com CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT INTERNET AUCTION **BID NOW!**
THUR., DEC. 3
Bidding starts to close at 10 a.m. CST
purple wave auction
EQUIPMENT LOCATED IN MINNESOTA! Auction Inventory: boom lifts, dozers, dump trucks, excavators, heavy trucks, rollers, skid steers and more. 10% buyer's premium. **866.608.9283**

Nuts.com 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
BOX OF WINTER WONDERLAND
Packed in this gorgeous snowflake box is 4 pounds of deliciousness, including salted almonds, butter toffee pecans, mint chocolate espresso beans, peppermint malted milk balls, and much more. **ONLY \$39.99**
Extra Special Offer For New Customers:
Get 4 FREE samples of your choice with your first purchase*
nuts.com/festive
*Offer valid for new customers only, with \$25 minimum order. See website for full details.



Pictured above is the new office area in the Martin Township Building at 51st Street and 60th Avenue.



Martin Township celebrates new building

Saturday, Nov. 21, the public was invited to an open house at the new Martin Township Maintenance Office Building located at the corner of 51st Street and 60th Avenue.

Pictured above right, area residents enjoy the open house Saturday at the Martin Township new maintenance building where a catered meal was served by Tony's Catering.

Pictured at right are (from left) Robert Brouwer, township maintenance driver; Doug Bos, township clerk; Lucas Sandager, township treasurer; Jamie Dysthe, Dysthe Construction; Gawaine Diekevers, township board chairman; Allen Nuffer, member of Township Board; Dave Tingle, representative of Reeves Construction; and Jeff Dysthe, Dysthe Construction.

Not pictured are township board member Dave Swanson and representatives from Leuthold Plumbing, Heating and Electric and from Schuelke Electric.




Glenda McGaffee photo/1203 martin township building

Hills Appreciation Day

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
5 - 7 p.m.
Hills American Legion
Soup & sandwiches served

Santa will visit
Hills American Legion
December 7th
from 5-7 p.m.
Beaver Creek Fire Hall
December 12th
from 9-10:15 a.m.



To our many valued customers - we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for patronizing us throughout the year and invite each and every one of you to JOIN US ON APPRECIATION DAY!
Sponsored by Helping Build Communities Stronger, Beaver Creek Fireman's Auxiliary, and your area businesses in Steen, Beaver Creek and Hills

HONORING THOSE WHO HELP FEED THE WORLD

NOMINATE SOMEONE BY JANUARY 15, 2015
www.siehlprize.umn.edu

Siehl Prize for EXCELLENCE in AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Think nobody reads the little ads? Think again. Call Chantel at 507-283-2333 to advertise.



WEEKLY SPORTS NEWS



John Rittenhouse photo/1203 hbb 6

Hills-Beaver Creek senior Cooper Vaughn releases a one-handed shot during the 2015-16 season debut for the Patriot boys' basketball team in Pipestone Nov. 25.

Arrows spoil HBC's opener

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team opened the 2015-16 season in a disappointing way Nov. 25 in Pipestone.

After playing with the lead for a good share of the game's first 12 minutes, H-BC was outscored 61-23 in the final 25:37 of a 71-40 setback.

Surrendering the first two points of the game to Pipestone, the Patriots battled back to sport a series of six two-point leads in the first 7:23 of the game.

H-BC led 12-10 when it scored five consecutive points ending with a layup from Isaiah Vis to open a 17-10 cushion at the 7:37 mark of the first half.

Pipestone rallied with a 12-4 run to gain a 22-21 edge before H-BC's Cooper Vaughn knotted the score at 22 with one free throw.

The Arrows, however, outscored the Patriots 15-2 the rest of the half to sport a 37-24 advantage at the break.

H-BC never did make a run at Pipestone in the second half.

The Arrows scored the first six points of the stanza as a part of a 22-3 run that left the hosts sporting a 59-27 lead.

H-BC never trailed by less than 27 points the rest of the night before falling by 29 points at game's end.

Stuart Plimpton turned in a 10-point, five-rebound, five-

assist effort for H-BC.

Zach Scholten (nine rebounds and six blocked shots), Drew Forshey (eight rebounds), Vaughn (six steals and four assists) and Vis (five steals and four assists) also turned in productive nights.

The Patriots play in Ellsworth Friday.

Box score
Vaughn 2 0 2-4 6, Burgers 0 0 0-0 0, Vis 2 0 0-4 4, Leuthold 0 0 0-0 0, Plimpton 4 0 2-5 10, Bass 0 1 0-0 3, Kueter 1 0 2-5 4, Scholten 3 0 3-4 9, Dy.Forshey 1 0 2-4 4, Dr.Forshey 0 0 0-1 0.

Team statistics
H-BC: 14 of 55 field goals (25 percent), 11 of 27 free throws (41 percent), 36 rebounds, 23 turnovers.
Pipestone: 23 of 67 field goals (34 percent), 20 of 34 free throws (59 percent), 43 rebounds, 18 turnovers.

By Glenda McGaffee

I hope everyone had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving spending the day with family and friends.

I enjoyed the day with my family at my brother Bob's house east of Hills on the farm where I grew up. This was the first Thanksgiving without my mom, who died in April. I recalled memories of other Thanksgivings spent on the family farm with my mom and dad. Others are experiencing the same feelings and emotions as I am with this past holiday and the upcoming Christmas holiday.

The month of December has a couple of important events in the McGaffee household. My husband, Sam, will be observing his 61st birthday on Dec. 2, and on Dec. 4 we will be observing our 33rd wedding anniversary. The day we were married, the weather was beautiful and there wasn't any snow on the ground.

Another important event remembered in December is the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, which plunged the United States into World War II.

The Americans were taken by surprise and suffered staggering losses. About 150 airplanes were destroyed on the ground and 19 ships were sunk or severely damaged. Countless lives were lost. President Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy," and he asked for a declaration of war against Japan.

On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, and Congress unanimously declared war against these two countries.

In closing, I have a poem that expresses thoughts of missing your loved ones.

Living on Memories

Please don't tell me to stop grieving
This loss is tougher than you know

It's so hard to say "good-bye"

And let a loved one go.

I keep thinking that I see them

At times I don't believe it's true

That they are gone for good

This is so difficult to go through.

So, now I live on memories
That fill my heart today
I wish that my angel was here with me
I feel so lost since they went away.

This week I have a recipe for Eggnog Bread and Chocolate Snowball Cookies.

Eggnog Bread

2 large eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup eggnog
1/2 cup chopped red and green candied cherries
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup raisins
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8x4-inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, beat eggs, sugar and melted butter until well blended. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt; beat into the egg mixture alternately with eggnog, beating well after each addition. Fold in candied cherries, chopped pecans and raisins.

Transfer to prepared pan. Bake 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool.

Chocolate Snowballs

3/4 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 cup (6 ounces) chocolate chips

Confectioners' sugar
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar and salt until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually beat in flour. Stir in pecans and chocolate chips.

Shape dough into a 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 15-20 minutes or until set and bottoms are lightly browned. Cool on pans for 2 minutes.

Roll cookies in confectioners' sugar. Cool completely on wire racks.

SAINT PAUL
ICE FISHING & WINTER SPORTS SHOW
Presented by **CLAM**

THE ULTIMATE SHOW FOR THE ICE FISHING FANATIC

DECEMBER 4-6
ST. PAUL RIVER CENTRE
stpaulicefishingshow.com

FRIDAY: 1pm-9pm | SATURDAY: 10am-7pm | SUNDAY: 10am-5pm



Close the Gate

By Nancy Kraayenhof

Happiness = Thankfulness

Does happiness, like a grasshopper in tall grass, perch within reach but when you reach out to catch it, find that it has jumped away?

Some say that money is not the key to happiness, but I figure if I had enough money, I could have a key made.

When I see ads on television with smiling, happy housewives using a new cleaning product, the only thing I want to buy is the meds they must be on.

Some folks cause happiness wherever they go. Others cause happiness whenever they go.

Oh how easy it is to forget that life is supposed to be hard. God actually wired the world this way. To be one heart-stopping shock after another for some,

the occasional hand numbing zap for a few and the constant low voltage repetitive plodding along for others.

It says right in the Bible: In this world you will have trouble.

My husband and I have had a tough year... so far. The hubster's heart attack in January, losing his job in March, followed closely by the death of a good friend and the strokes of September. My Bell's Palsy came to visit in April, absolutely refuses to depart and the medical crystal ball has revealed a hip replacement in my future.

It sure would be easy for me to wallow around in our misfortune like a hog in the mud and exclaim, "Oh, woe is me!" as I dwell on the unhappiness of the whole package.

Life is meant to be difficult.

For some, it's downright spirit-crushing and they've convinced themselves that unhappiness has come to live with them and is here to stay. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The feeling of happiness itself is fleeting and elusive, but joy is an overflow of the hope that comes from the grace we have been given. If you could live 10 years of your life in total bliss, with NO pain, but in the end, not remember any of it, would you do it? I wouldn't. True happiness comes from gaining insight and growing into your best possible self. Otherwise all you're having is immediate gratification pleasure, which doesn't grow you as a person.

When you think about it, if we were to redefine happiness

as commitment and service, duty and honor, sacrifice and faithfulness. And when our sacrifice and service is focused on living as strong Christians, we can take heart because we know the real battle has already been won for us.

Being grateful is the key. Gratitude is the only fitting response for the grace we have been given. Our mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being, as well as the health and stability of our relationships with others, will be determined by how much gratitude we have. Maintaining a grateful heart is protection against becoming bitter, prickly and sour. Joy is essential to bear the burdens of life. We all have heartaches and difficulties but joy is like a good wax job on the

heart that allows the troubles to slide right off. A grateful child of God can't help but be a joyful and radiant person.

Aristotle has a wonderful quote related to this topic: "We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heartthrobs. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

I'll close the gate with optimism, thankfulness is actually happiness squared,

If you can't be grateful for what you have, then be thankful for what you've been spared.

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

check out www.hillscrest.com for your FREE source of local news

Schuelke Russ Schuelke
231 S Main, Hills, MN
(507) 962-3569 (605) 254-8249
email: schuelke-ECS@hotmail.com
ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE

Sundem Oil Co.
Bulk Delivery & Diesel Fuels
Gas & Oil
Orv & Bonnie Sundem, owners
605-962-3210

TUFF MEMORIAL HOME & TUFF VILLIAGE
"A Home With a Heart"
Phone 507-962-3276

MINNWEST BANK
Main Branch • 116 E. Main Street • Luverne MN
507-283-2366 Member FDIC

Exchange STATE BANK
Member FDIC Local. Dependable. Strong.
(507) 962-3250 Hills, MN

MANLEY TIRE & OIL SERVICE
Manley Minnesota
1-800-615-3704
Open six days a week - Closed on Sundays
To God be the Glory.

Elbers Auction Service
"Quality Auctions Since 1988"
P.O. Box 196 Hills, Minnesota 56138
507-962-3433 • www.elbersauction.com
Keith Elbers • Lic. #67-62

CHAPMAN
REFRIGERATION & ELECTRIC
HILLS, MINNESOTA 56138
507-962-3392
REFRIGERATION - HEATING - ELECTRIC

Worship Services

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

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

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St.
Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. 605-757-6662
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 6: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and Christmas Cantata.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St.
Garretson, S.D.
Ph. 507-597-6257
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net

Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday School.
Thursday, Dec. 10: 7:30 p.m. Church Council meeting.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave. Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema
Youth Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 29: 9:30 a.m. Worship. 11 a.m. Sunday School. 6:30 p.m. RCYF.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Interim Pastor Grant Fisher
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehmluth@alliance.com.net
Thursday, Dec. 3: Interim Meeting at Redwood Falls.
Sunday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Communion at Tuff Chapel; Christmas Program Practice. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem. 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Youth Night.
Tuesday, Dec. 8: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at the Village.
Wednesday, Dec. 9: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Confirmation; Circle of Hope. 7:30 p.m. Grades 9-12 Youth Night.

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



Residents fill the chapel Wednesday afternoon to hear Betty & Jerry Ackerman sing gospel songs.



Tuff News

By Shateen Lichter

Merry Christmas from the Tuff Memorial Home! The trees are (almost) up, decorated wreaths and stockings hang on each door, and the tables display bright and sparkly centerpieces. Christmas is here!

Family and friends of residents often ask, "What does Mom need?" or "What can I give to a resident this holiday season?"

I would like to take some time and provide some suggestions to make your Christmas shopping easier for your loved one in a care facility. While word searches and small fleece blankets are great ideas, let's go beyond and think outside the box.

Gift No. 1: Travel books. Perhaps your loved one always wanted to go to England but never made it there. Pick up a book, filled with beautiful photos, that describes different destinations and tourist stops.

The ability to experience a new destination at their fingertips is priceless.

Gift No. 2: CD player. I am a firm believer that each resident should have a CD player in his or her room. (And CDs will be great gifts for the future!)

Come back next week for more Christmas gift ideas.

Our final full week of Novem-

ber included the Tuff Country Store on Wednesday. This activity has become very popular since it opened.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for those who donate their time and resources to make this possible. Residents suggest the store is currently in need of toothpaste, hand soaps, gum, books, hairspray, seasonal candies, candy dishes, blush and powder.

One resident commented, "I know I can get this here (facility), but there is something about getting my own toothpaste."

Thank you to JoAnn Paulsen, Bethlehem Lutheran Quilting Club and other anonymous donors for your contributions.

Wednesday afternoon we were blessed with a performance by Betty and Jerry Ackerman. They sang gospel songs for us and set the mood of Thanksgiving in our hearts.

After a day of Thanksgiving feasts and family get-togethers, residents gathered for manicures Friday morning and met for Thanksgiving Jingo that afternoon. Jingo is similar to bingo, but the cards include pictures of items that are related to Thanksgiving instead of numbers.

The Activity Department

is looking for 1-2 volunteers to help "spruce up" mini Christmas trees for the resident rooms. If you are interested in helping for 1-2 hours, please contact Shateen at 962.3275. Thank you!

Looking ahead this week:

- Thursday, Dec. 3: 2:30 p.m. bingo

- Friday, Dec. 4: 2:30 p.m. Classic Country Music with David.

- Saturday, Dec. 5: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Reminiscing.

- Sunday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Worship.

- Monday, Dec. 7: 10 a.m. Snowflake Craft.

- Tuesday, Dec. 8: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.

- Wednesday, Dec. 9: 10 a.m. Tuff Country Store; 2 p.m. Christmas movie and snacks.

Resident and staff birthdays this week are Gloria Sorenson, Dec. 3, and Henrietta Bajema and Heidi Gehrke, Dec. 5.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Donna Gallant who is in the hospital. Best of luck to Melvin Paulsen as he continues his journey at the Veterans Home in Luverne.

The residents and staff at the Tuff Memorial Home wish you a very wonderful first week of December.

community news

Meetings

Beaver Creek Township will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the township hall.

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.

TOPS #698 Luverne (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets for weigh-in at 8 a.m. every Thursday at Pizza Ranch in Luverne. The meeting follows at 8:30 a.m.

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.

HCT Dinner

Theatre auditions continue Dec. 5

The final opportunity to audition for HCT Dinner Theatre production of "Natalie Needs a Nightie" will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Legion Hall in Hills. "Natalie Needs a Nightie" will be performed in March 2016. Roles are for four males and three females 18 and older.

Bank Nite movie 'Home Alone' at Palace Dec. 3

The free Bank Nite movie, "Home Alone," will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 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.

Tree of Lights

ceremony at Tuff

Sanford Luverne Hospice will sponsor the Annual Tree of Lights in honor or in remembrance of loved ones at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Tuff Village in Hills.

Call the Hospice office for information at 283-1805. The public is encouraged to attend a short program of music and reading of the names at the tree lighting ceremony.

Carnegie extends holiday hours

The Carnegie Cultural Center is hosting its annual Festival of Trees on North Freeman Avenue and will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday until Christmas.

Christmas at the Palace Dec. 12

Christmas at the Palace will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Historic Palace Theatre in Luverne.

Admission is \$12 for advanced reserved tickets available at the Palace Theatre Box Office 507-283-4339 (open Monday-Friday from 1-5 p.m.)

Coffee Break meets Tuesdays

Coffee Break will meet at 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday through April 2 at the Luverne Christian Reformed Church (605 N. Estey St.). The Book of Isaiah will be the Bible study.

Story Hour, a time of play and Bible stories, will be available for children ages 2 through kindergarten, and a nursery is available for the littlest ones.

School Board report/ cont. from page 1

and some seniors take the ACT test. The district has also implemented the use of the Portfolio MCIS-MN Career information System to track our students' career and college readiness and student goal setting as ninth-graders. In the state of Minnesota math students score the highest in the nation.

In other business the board:

- accepted the resignation of Lois Leenderts, school nurse, effective Dec. 11, 2015.

- heard a report about S.H.A.R.E. collection. Social worker Ali Breuer is promoting the program and responsible for taking applications for distribution in December.

•Upcoming events:

Little Pates Christmas concert will be Tuesday, Dec. 8.

K-2 Christmas concert is Thursday, Dec. 10.

Second quarter ends on Dec. 18

- heard a report from Superintendent Holthaus who informed the board that initial planning for a state-funded Safe Routes To School committee has been formed with representatives from the cities of Beaver Creek and Hills.

Junior/high students are participating in Rock County S.H.A.R.E. program and are collecting socks and undergarments.

Renovations for the new bus garage are progressing well, and garage doors will be installed soon, pending their arrival.

By Mavis Fodness

The Beaver Creek City Council is seeking to fill a vacancy on the council since Mayor Carolyn DeBoer died this fall of cancer.

At their regular monthly meeting Nov. 18, councilmen Pat Bender, Al Harnack and Josh Teune moved current councilman Jamie Dysthe from acting mayor to mayor when no one stepped forward to fill the mayor position.

DeBoer died in September, and the council is working on plans for a memorial in her honor.

Beaver Creek City Council seeks council member for empty seat

Dysthe, who has been on the council for 11 years, had been serving as acting mayor since September. As the city's official mayor, Dysthe's term will end in December 2016.

Bender was elected as acting mayor.

The group passed a resolution declaring a vacancy on the council, with plans to appoint someone to the vacancy. The term will be for 13 months.

"Next year the person can run and be elected into the position," Dysthe said.

According to the League of Minnesota Cities website, any elected city official must be an eligible voter of Beaver

Creek, at least 21 years old on the date of taking office, a U.S. citizen and be a resident of Beaver Creek 30 days before the appointment.

Any individual who has been convicted of a felony under state or federal law is not eligible unless the individual's civil rights have been restored.

Each interested candidate must submit a letter of interest in the council position to the city clerk in order to be considered for appointment by the council.

Until the appointment, the council seat will remain vacant.

Peekin' in the Past

10 years ago (2005)
 •Leenderts Lawn Care will purchase Moeller Spraying Service on Jan. 1.

Ronald Moeller, Ellsworth, started caring for his customers' lawns nearly 21 years ago.

... Leenderts wanted a business that would allow him to continue working as a bus driver for the Hills-Beaver Creek school district and give him plenty of time in the outdoors.

20 years ago (1995)
 •Highlights by team leaders of the H-BC football and volleyball squads:

Aric Leenderts led the Patriot running game with 1002 yards on 175 carries. Matt Metzger completed 93 passes out of 146 attempts. Wade Blomgren led the receiving corps with 436 yards on 28 catches. Leenderts had 18 touchdowns to lead the Patriots in scoring.

For the Lady Pate volleyball squad, Jenny Gorder led the team with 230 serve completions. Jerilyn Knobloch led the team in serve receptions with 73 percent. Jenny Gorder had 129 service points.

Kim Dahlquist led the team in blocks with 25. Tara Boeve led the team with 180 spikes.

50 years ago (1965)
 •Over 40 boys from Hills-Beaver Creek participated in this year's Camp Courage Corn Drive. By the end of the day, they had brought in and shelled over 462 bushes of corn, which was the largest amount ever for the local FFA Chapter.

75 years ago (1940)
 •Ove Sjolseth announces that he will hold his annual John Deere Day Saturday, Dec. 14th. At 1:00 o'clock free moving pictures will be shown in the school house, followed by a free lunch at Sjolseth's implement office.

100 years ago (1915)
 •Bargains at Harness Shop: Do not fail to call on us next Saturday, and see the big list of bargains in our store.

Our regular \$1.50 whip for \$1.
 Stable blankets lined with Kersey blanket lining, regular price \$1.25; next Saturday, \$1.
 One dozen halter ropes, regular price \$1.50, go at \$1.
 Two dozen husking mitts \$1.

classifieds

windows

We custom build and install energystar Therm-O-Loc Windows. Call Mike at Adrian Glass for a free in-home demonstration and estimate. 101 E. Pearl, Adrian, MN 56110. (507) 483-2228. (tc)



Check your Announcer for some bargains!

help wanted

Help Wanted - Immediate Opening
Tollefson Publishing
Part-time Multi-Faceted Office Position

This is multi-faceted position with an array of job duties including, but not limited to, working with walk-in and phone customers, generating postal reports and circulation-related matters, typing, proof reading and readying content for printing.

Applicant must have PC/Mac experience, data entry skills (will train on our software), be detail-oriented with strong customer service skills, be organized and have the ability to be responsible for all areas related to the position.

Competitive pay and flexible hours.

Email letter of application and resume to:

Rick Peterson
 Tollefson Publishing
 email: rick@star-herald.com
 Or mail it to: P.O. Box 837
 Luverne MN 56156
 Call: 507-283-2333

help wanted

Tiling • Excavation • Bulldozing

We offer **FREE ESTIMATES** and Drainage Planning. Volume discounts and Summer tiling discounts. Tile is a one time investment with a lifetime of results.



Call us at (320) 226-7268
 to get your tiling project started or visit us online at nelsonagdrainage.com

UPDATED DAILY news • sports videos • opinion columns • photos
star-herald.com



mcan

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



HELP WANTED

UNITED QUALITY COOPERATIVE at Parshall/New Town ND is seeking a qualified CEO/General Manager. This is a multi-location energy, grain, agronomy, and farm retail cooperative with sales of \$350 million. Business degree and or successful agricultural business management experience desired. To Apply: <http://tinyurl.com/o3yxchx> For more info contact Larry Fuller, 701/220-9775 or Email larry.fuller@chsinc.com

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

NOW HIRING
 Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610

TMC HAS OPENINGS

hauling boats to waterfront locations throughout US and Canada. CDL Class A, 1yr. OTR experience. Full benefits, employee owned company 855/409-3630 www.tmctrans.com

ONLY \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

EMPLOYMENT

RAILROAD VEGETATION CONTROL: Full-time traveling opportunity, 60-80 hours/week, \$12-\$15/hour starting, meal allowance, paid lodging & benefit package. RAW, Inc. in Cooperstown, ND 888/700.0292 info@rawapplicators.com www.rawapplicators.com

ADOPTIONS

ADOPTION: INCREDIBLY LOVING young couple wants to give your baby a warm, caring, happy home with every advantage. Expenses paid. Call/text Rebecca & David 646/378-9326

STEEL BUILDINGS

DIAMOND STEEL STRUCTURES Fall close out. Prices slashed. Arch-wall & straight wall steel buildings. 40' X 62' starting at \$9,900. Factory direct pricing. Call 844-297-8335

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

MISCELLANEOUS

SELL YOUR STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT or annuity payments for CASH NOW. You don't have to wait for your future payments any longer! Call 800/218-8581

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

DISH NETWORK

Get more for less! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!

Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096

ONLY \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

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

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, December 10 9:00am - 6:00pm
At all locations!



Luverne

Left to right: Heather Erickson, Carol Nelson, Ryan DeBates, Nicie Bosch, Sheryl Klaassen, Don Bryan, Chelle DeGroot, Kelly Kramer.



Hills

Front row left to right: Shirley Walraven, Marlys Rauk, Trista Bosch, Kathy Fick, Kyla Jellema, Erin Metzger, Heidi Van Wyhe
Back row: Aaron Erickson, Rod Bonander, Tim Plimpton, Caleb Ellingson

Stop in and visit with Shirley Walraven on her retirement



Ellsworth

Front row left to right: Dave Huisman, Theresa Theesfeld, Mark Iveland
Back row left to right: Mary DeBuhr, Dorene Chapa, Amber VanDenOever-Smid, Nora Huisman, Laurie Deutsch

Exchange
STATE BANK
Local. Dependable. Strong.



(507) 967-2570
Ellsworth, MN
(507) 962-3250 Hills, MN
(507) 449-6000 Luverne, MN