

CRESCENT

Hills • Steen • Beaver Creek

Thursday

December 24, 2015 Volume 21, Issue 52 75¢

•Light 'em up contest winners pg 6-7 •H-BC 2nd graders write letters to Santa pg 8-9

Steen land sale sets new record

By Lori Sorenson

Eighty acres of land near Steen sold for \$19,000 per acre Thursday morning, topping Rock County's previous land sale record of \$16,200 per acre in November 2012.

"It just blew me out of the water," said Tom Houselog of the Rock County Land Records Office. "The bidding started at \$12,000 and went to \$19,000 in a matter of a few minutes."

The successful bidder was Steen farmer Matt Boeve, who lives directly across the road (Highway 270) from the 80-acre parcel, which sold for a total of \$1,520,000.

Houselog said the tract of land, all tillable ground, is among the best and most fertile in Rock County, but he was still surprised by the record sale, due to dropping commodity prices.

"With prices half of what they were at their highest, I didn't know how the market would react," Houselog said.

"But it's just one sale. ... It could have been \$9,000 instead of \$19,000 and would that mean the market is tanking? Again, it's just one sale, and it's hard to know what motivated the bidders."

He said one factor that drives up land auction prices is proximity to adjacent ground, especially if more than one bidder shares that interest.

While Thursday's land sale is a record-breaker, Houselog said the implications for land values in the neighborhood will not be. "It's only one of several sales we'll be looking at for our 2017 assessments," Houselog said.

The highest-priced land so far in 2015 was 56 acres in Springwater Township that sold in April to the Hoogland Trust for \$13,850 per acre.

The highest price in 2014 was \$15,250 per acre in Kanaranzi Township, and in 2013 the high sale was \$15,300 in Kanaranzi Township.

Until Thursday, the all-time record sale in Rock County was in Beaver Creek Township in 2012 when Eric Fick bought 80 acres for \$16,200 per acre. The land had been in the Walter and Leora Hellwinckel family for 85 years.

"It was such an extreme sale, I didn't know what to take away from it," Houselog said about Thursday's land auction.



Glenda McGaffee photo/1224 Project LOVE volunteers

Volunteers gather at the American Legion Building in Hills Monday, Dec. 14, and arrange items to fill boxes for Project Love. Pictured are (front) organizer Marilyn Nelson, (back, from left) Bob Walraven, Marie LaRock, Ellen Fick and Dan Fick.

Project Love volunteers make Christmas deliveries

According to Project Love organizer Marilyn Nelson, volunteers delivered 63 large boxes, 35 small boxes and 17 fruit trays Wednesday, Dec. 16, to new people in the community, those with illness in their family, those with financial needs and more.

Donations are delivered along with hugs and messages that "we care."

The group is in its fifth year of community service.

Project Love is funded by the Steen Reformed Church, Hills United Reformed Church, Presbyterian Church of Beaver Creek and Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Hills, along with donations from individuals, businesses and organizations.



FFA members of H-BC assisted Project Love volunteers in bringing groceries and other items to the American Legion in Hills, Monday, Dec. 14. Pictured above are (from left) Orvil Swenson, Dawson Leenderts, Brittney Wilkus, Avery Wysong, Megan Gehrke, Preston Maasen, Dustin Teune, Matthew Swenson, Trenton Bass, Dean Fuerstenberg and adviser Tom Sandager.



Additional FFA Project Love volunteers pictured at left are (from left) Logan Leuthold, Erik Honken, Brandon Wilkus, Zach Scholten, Isaiah Vis and FFA adviser Tom Sandager.

Glenda McGaffee photos/1224 Project LOVE volunteers

weather
REPORT



DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 19 WEATHER

High temperature for the week:	37	Snow amount for the week:	.75 in
Low temperature for the week:	7	Snow total for December:	3.00 in
Average temperature for the week:	28		

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



Tubb News

By Shateen Lichter

Merry Christmas to you from the Tuff Memorial Home!

Our week started with the wonderful singing talents of the Junior High Choir of HBC. Residents and staff are thoroughly enjoying the many singing groups that have visited us this holiday season. We thank you for sharing your time and talents with us.

Monday afternoon brought CLAUS Bingo and the Ho-Ho-Ho's cheerfully echoed through the dining room.

Wednesday morning Troy Mader from Beresford braced the wind and snow to present a Christmas program for us. Wednesday afternoon a group of residents gathered to play Penny Ante, a favorite game of theirs.

Father Tom gave Catholic services Thursday morning, and another group of residents made almond bark pretzels for the Christmas coffee social. In the afternoon, the students from Hills Christian presented a beautiful program for the residents. They are a very talented group and we look forward to their return. Afterward, the women of United Reformed hosted a hymn sing and served an assortment of delicious cakes. Thank you to both groups for sharing your time, talents and goodies with us.

Friday was the day everyone had been waiting for. The senior



Dean Luethje embraced the role of Santa and helped deliver presents to each resident in the Tuff Home. Above, he gets a hug from Lila Harnack.



Above, Esty Metzger is loving her gift from Santa. At left, Roger Schneekloth is all smiles when Santa stops to see him

high choir from HBC started off the day with a variety of Christmas songs that had us all singing along. Residents joined together for their Residents Christmas Dinner, and afterward Santa surprised us with a cheery visit. Dean Luethje embraced the role of Santa Claus and helped deliver presents to each resident.

Our Christmas coffee social was scheduled that afternoon. Three tables were filled with delicious sugar cookies, fudge, anise candy, almond bark pretzels, peanut butter blos-

soms, no-bake cookies, coffee, hot cider and more. A great big thank you goes out to the staff and family members who not only provided goodies, but who also stopped in and joined their loved one in fellowship. This was a wonderful turnout and a tradition that will continue in years to come.

Saturday afternoon the piano students of Glenda McGaffee gave a wonderful recital. Their hard work was evident during the program. Thank you, students, for sharing your talents.

Sunday evening a group of carolers from the American Reformed Church sang through our hallways.

The Tuff Country Store is thriving this month, thanks to the following donors: Alicia Kelderman, Deanna Hrdlicka, Sandy Bush, Betty and Jerry Ackerman, Alma Rowe, Glenda Schomacker, Stan Van Wyhe, Rachel Benson, Carol Gerhke, Greg and Diana Spath, Grace Lutheran Quilting Club and Shirley Hoogeveen. The store is in need of face powder, lipstick,

embroidery towels, lap quilts, blush, Fiddle Faddle, and watch batteries. Thank you so much for your donations and your support for the Country Store; it would not be possible without you!

- Looking ahead this week:
- Thursday, Dec. 24: 2 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 - Friday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! No scheduled activities.
 - Saturday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Christmas reminiscing and frost donuts.
 - Sunday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m. Worship.
 - Monday, Dec. 28: 2:30 p.m. Bingo.
 - Tuesday, Dec. 29: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study.
 - Wednesday, Dec. 30: 2:30 p.m. Monthly Birthday Party.

Resident Rosa Sandstede has a birthday this week on Dec. 27.

Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." KJV.

The Tuff Memorial Home wishes you a very Merry Christmas and hopes your Christmas is filled with love and laughter, yet focuses on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

'O Holy Night'

Dan LaRock and Allie LaRock perform two musical selections, "O Holy Night" and "Hallelujah," at the Hospice Tree of Lights ceremony at the Tuff Village in Hills Sunday, Dec. 13. The lights were purchased by family and friends in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The names were read at the lighting ceremony, and the proceeds support the Sanford Luverne Hospice program.

Glenda McGaffee photo/1224 hospice tree lighting



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LAND MANAGEMENT



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School levy to increase by 12.73 percent

By Glenda McGaffee

The Hills-Beaver Creek School District levied the maximum amount allowed by the state, \$1,427,158.75, which is a 12.73-percent increase over last year's levy.

One of the contributing factors for the increase is the district's new ability to levy for facility maintenance. This was newly created by the 2015 legislative session.

Last year's levy was \$1,266,051.97.

District Auditor Matt Taubert of Meulebroeck, Taubert, and Co., PLLP, Pipestone, pre-

sented the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, at the H-BC School Board meeting Monday, Dec. 14.

In other business, the board:

- canceled the regularly scheduled school board meeting on Monday, Dec. 28.

- approved Meghan Leuthold as a student teacher under Shelly Fischer in the kindergarten room the last semester of the school year.

- approved Kendra Doerr and Heather Doerr for a four-week practicum to work

in a variety of classrooms as paraprofessionals at H-BC elementary.

- heard that art teacher Mary Petersen was awarded a grant with Southwest Minnesota Arts Council for \$4,000 through the state's Legacy Fund.

- noted that H-BC Foundation will host an event Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the high school.

- heard that Logan Leuthold, Isaiah Vis and Cooper Vaughn were named to the all area football team by the Worthington Globe.



Glenda McGaffee photo/1217 Walraven

Shirley Walraven will be retiring from the Exchange State Bank in Hills. Her last day of employment will be Thursday, Dec. 31.

Shirley Walraven to retire after 38 years at Exchange State Bank in Hills

By Glenda McGaffee

Shirley Walraven will retire Dec. 31 after 38 years of employment at the Exchange State Bank of Hills.

Walraven grew up in Pipestone. She started working for a certified public accounting firm in Pipestone after graduation. When she and Robert Walraven married, she moved to Hills where she worked with Dora Steffen doing income tax.

Shirley said she wanted a job in town so she didn't have to travel. Dennis Roning was the president of the bank in Hills and hired her to work part time. Other employees at that time were Gene Sundem, Dorothy Thorin and Carol Nelson.

She worked at the bank when it was located on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue.

Walraven said she has fond memories of her early years with the bank.

"The bank at the corner downtown was unique in its own way," she said.

"In the winter when there was a wind from the north, it blew snow in through the windows on the north side. The bathroom was a closet made into a bathroom."

She recalled the building being in poor shape.

"We sometimes had mice," she said. "That building was pretty old. One thing we would comment about was the hole in the floor where Dennis Roningsat at his desk. We always wondered if we would ever lose Dennis to the basement."

When Rodney Bonander bought the bank, Walraven worked full time.

When asked what changes have occurred in the banking industry, she said, "Lots of computer and more all the time. Regulations have also become a task to stay ahead of."

She also commented on economic times. "I've seen interest rates on deposits go as high as 16 percent," she said.

Some of Walraven's favorite memories revolve around her work relationships.

"I have been very fortunate to have worked for some great bosses — Dennis Roning, Rod Bonander and Tim Plimpton. Also there have been great co-

workers through all the years," she said.

"You kind of become a family with all the hours you spend together. I will miss them all. ... I will also miss visiting with the public."

In her retirement Walraven said she plans on spending time with family and traveling.



Merry Christmas from all of us at Town & Country Disposal and best wishes for the New Year.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - Calvin Coolidge

The City of Hills



WEEKLY SPORTS NEWS

Girls clobber Panthers

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team posted their fourth victory of the season when they dismantled Ellsworth 72-50 in Ellsworth Thursday.

H-BC outscored the Panthers in both halves of the game and led by as many as 30 points before settling with a 22-point victory.

The score was knotted at four in the first half when H-BC scored 10 consecutive points as a part of an 18-2 run that left the Patriots sporting a 22-6 lead when Mekayla Kolbrek buried a pair of free throws at the 8:56 mark.

The Patriots extended their lead to 19 points (27-8) when Kourtney Rozeboom delivered a field goal at 6:21, but the Panthers countered with a 10-2 run to make it a 29-18 game with 2:46 remaining in the stanza.

H-BC ended the half with a 12-4 surge ending with a three-point shot by Jasmine Lingen with 29 seconds left to give the Patriots a 41-22 advantage they would take into the second half.

The Patriots scored the first nine points of the second half to make it a 51-22 game when Avery

Van Roekel converted a three-point play 3:22 into the stanza.

H-BC led by 30 points (57-27) when Lingen recorded a field goal at 12:15, but that proved to be the biggest lead the Patriots would sport in the contest.

Ellsworth trimmed the difference to 19 points (68-49) with less than two minutes remaining before falling by 22 points at game's end.

Rozeboom (18 points and five rebounds), Van Roekel (14 points and six rebounds), Sidney Fick (13 points and 10 rebounds) and Grace Bundesen (10 points) played key roles in the win.

Lingen added nine rebounds and three assists to the cause, while Paige Tilstra chipped in five assists and four steals.

Box score
 Bos 1 0 0-0 2, Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 1 0 0-0 2, Kolbrek 1 0 2-2 4, Lingen 2 1 2-3 9, Fick 5 0 3-8 13, Bundesen 3 0 4-5 10, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Van Roekel 5 0 4-5 14, Rozeboom 9 0 0-1 18.

Team statistics
 H-BC: 29 of 71 field goals (41 percent), 15 of 24 free throws (63 percent), 44 rebounds, 19 turnovers.
 Ellsworth: 14 of 47 field goals (30 percent), 19 of 27 free throws (70 percent), 25 rebounds, 24 turnovers.



John Rittenhouse photo/1224 hl bb 2

Hills-Beaver Creek senior Cooper Vaughn delivers one of his three assists during Monday's home game against Luverne. H-BC dropped a 63-51 decision to the Cardinals.

H-BC's rally falls short Monday

By John Rittenhouse

An impressive second-half rally by the Hills-Beaver Creek boys wasn't enough to lift the Patriots to a basketball victory over Luverne Monday in Hills.

H-BC, which trailed by as many as 18 points in the second half and faced a 16-point deficit at the intermission, didn't give up the fight.

The Patriots came roaring back in the second half to trim the difference to two points with 4:35 left to play.

Luverne, however, answered the challenge by outscoring the hosts 15-5 the rest of the night to secure a 63-51 victory.

Trailing 37-21 entering the second half, H-BC scored the first four points of the stanza during a 7-2 spurt ending with a three-point shot from Zach Scholten to

make it a 39-28 game with 14:01 left to play.

Luverne increased its lead to 12 points (44-32) moments later, but the Patriots countered with a 14-4 run ending with Scholten hitting one free throw at the 4:35 mark to make it a 48-46 contest.

The Cardinals answered the challenge by scoring the next eight points and led by as many as 13 points (61-48) before prevailing by 12 counters at game's end.

Both teams sported slim leads in the game's first six minutes.

H-BC led 11-10 when Luverne scored five consecutive points to move in front 15-11.

The Patriots converted a field goal to make it a 15-3 game before LHS went on a 17-1 run to open a 32-14 cushion.

A 7-0 run ending with H-BC's Dylan Forshey sinking one free

throw with 1:13 remaining made it a 34-21 game, but LHS hit a three-point shot late in the half to open a 16-point advantage at the intermission.

Isaiah Vis (17 points and four steals) and Scholten (16 points, 15 rebounds, four steals and eight blocked shots) led H-BC statistically.

Stuart Plimpton passed for four assists, while Trenton Bass and Cooper Vaughn charted three assists each for the 2-6 Patriots.

Box score
 Vaughn 1 1 0-0 5, Burgers 1 2 0-0 8, Vis 8 0 1-5 17, Plimpton 0 0 0-0 0, Bass 0 1 0-0 3, Kueter 0 0 0-0 0, Scholten 3 3 1-2 16, Dr. Forshey 0 0 0-0 0, Dy. Forshey 0 0 2-4 2.

Team statistics
 Luverne: 20 of 54 field goals (37 percent), 14 of 23 free throws (61 percent), 30 rebounds, nine turnovers.
 H-BC: 20 of 51 field goals (39 percent), four of 11 free throws (36 percent), 30 rebounds, 19 turnovers.



John Rittenhouse photo/1224 he gb 9

Jasmine Lingen releases a shot in the paint during Thursday's 72-50 victory over the Ellsworth Panthers in Ellsworth.

Wolverines best Patriots Friday night

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team slipped to 2-3 in Red Rock Conference play after losing a home game Friday.

The Patriots entertained Mountain Lake Area for their final league game of 2015.

MLA gained the upper hand early by opening a 36-28 lead in

the first half and outscored H-BC 29-27 in the second half to secure a 65-55 victory.

Cooper Vaughn led the Patriots with 18 points and five steals.

Isaiah Vis and Josh Kueter collected eight and seven rebounds respectively, while Stuart Plimpton recorded three assists.

Box score
 Bass 1 1 0-0 5, Burgers 0 0 1-2 1, Dr. Forshey 1 0 1-6 3, Dy. Forshey 1 0 0-2 2, Kueter 3 0 0-3 6, Plimpton 1 0 3-4 5, Scholten 3 0 2-2 8, Vaughn 6 0 6-11 18, Vis 2 0 3-7 7.

Team statistics
 H-BC: 19 of 53 field goals (36 percent), 16 of 37 free throws (43 percent), 31 rebounds, 17 turnovers.
 MLA: 20 of 49 field goals (41 percent), 19 of 32 free throws (59 percent), 35 rebounds, 17 turnovers.

Boys withstand late challenge by Fulda

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team picked up its second Red Rock Conference win of the season Dec. 15 in Slayton.

The Patriots started the game well by opening a 31-22 lead in the first half.

Fulda battled back to outscore H-BC 28-21 in the second half, but the Raiders missed a potential

game-winning three-point shot before time expired to leave the Patriots with a 52-50 victory.

Zach Scholten (14 points and seven rebounds) and Stuart Plimpton (11 points and five rebounds) led H-BC offensively in the game.

Isaiah Vis (eight assists and three steals) and Jed Burgers (five rebounds) also played well for the

winners.

Box score
 Vaughn 3 0 1-2 7, Burgers 3 1 0-0 9, Vis 2 0 1-1 5, Plimpton 3 0 5-8 11, Bass 0 0 0-0 0, Kueter 1 0 0-2 2, Scholten 5 1 1-2 14, Dr. Forshey 2 0 0-2 4.

Team statistics
 H-BC: 21 of 39 field goals (54 percent), eight of 17 free throws (47 percent), 39 rebounds, 18 turnovers.
 Fulda: 19 of 54 field goals (35 percent), one of three free throws (33 percent), 25 rebounds, 14 turnovers.

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Close the Gate

By Nancy Kraayenhof

guest column

A Stable Foundation

Well, God bless us, everyone, and here it comes again — Christmas: a season of cultural insecurity, financial strain and family meals involving tensions worthy of another Cuban Missile Crisis, or even something of true historical importance — like the outcome of the latest Survivor series.

It always puzzles me when people react to the savage perils that the season seems to create with variations of wounded surprise. The hustle, the shopping, the crowds, the family feuds, the debt, the wrapping, the cooking, the cleaning.

The celebration of the birth of our Lord always seems to turn out appalling, and is it any wonder? Mary gave birth to the Savior of the world without an epidural in a drafty barn surrounded by donkey poo and no one tore up sheets and boiled water. The country had been occupied by a foreign power, and since Obama's been in charge, we're probably not allowed to admit this isn't something every civilian population really enjoys. Doesn't sound

like much of a birthday party, now does it?

Bethlehem was small. It was primitive. No curtains on where windows would have been if there had been windows back then. A great, heavenly bright star had taken up residence outside. I wonder if anyone thought it was a UFO? Either way, no one was getting any sleep with the unusual light streaming everywhere even though no crying He makes.

Then the weird strangers started showing up. Three fancy fellows who were referred to as magi or kings with untold riches and some shepherds who brought their sheep with them. Just what everyone needed: more un-house-trained livestock, but then again, they weren't in a house now, were they?

I want you to just imagine for a minute how freaked out these flock-watchers were! They are babbling something about "a huge bright light and singing and a whole herd of angels! A what of angels...? A host? Really? Is that what they're called? That doesn't sound quite right, but OK, a HOST of angels. But weren't

we the HOST of angels, though, because they were visiting us...? Anyhow, the host was talking about love and peace and that we weren't supposed to be afraid but we were downright terrified! I think some sheep actually fainted! There we were just watching our flocks and all of a sudden these big booming voices! It was just really messed up and crazy! Angels dropping in and messing with you in the dark. It isn't something you would expect to happen but it did! So we just had to go and find that baby lying in a manger and, sure enough, there He was. And not crying, either! Even with how straw can be a bit scratchy and prickly and all. What a blessing and we got to be a part of it! Pretty exciting when you think about it! Wow."

The three kings, of course, started the whole Christmas present thing by bringing their gifts, each one heavy with symbolism.

Frankincense would have made the stable smell a bit better and would have added a bit of

Close the gate/cont. on page 6

By Interim Pastor Grant Fischer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hills

When it comes to the days leading up to Christmas Eve, I'm pretty much of a "Bah Humbug" kind of guy.

I find it difficult to get into the spirit of Christmas when stores start advertising Christmas items weeks before Thanksgiving and radio stations begin to play Christmas music almost as soon.

The reason for the season appears to have become profits and presents and the cynic in me begins to rebel.

Yet something amazing happens to me and I hope to all the other Scrooges out there.

When I hear the Christmas story of Jesus' birth and sing the beloved Christmas carols, the Scrooge in me suddenly has an "Aha" moment.

"Aha, this is the reason for the season!"

And then my imagination begins to work overtime thinking about all those "what if" things.

"What if people were as eager to share all year long as they are at Christmas?"

- Grant Fischer, Pastor

What if friends and neighbors could share this much good will and peace with one another all year long?

What if all those broken relationships could be healed so easily?

What if people were as eager to share all year long as they are at Christmas?

Oh, what if...?

And that is part of the mystery and challenge of the incarnation. Once Jesus the Christ is born in our hearts, the Scrooge in us begins to see the world and others differently — moving to bring peace and goodwill to all.

Wouldn't that be a grand Christmas present?

Merry Christmas!

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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
Thursday, Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.
Sunday, Dec. 27: 10 a.m. Joint Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran with the Hallelujah Hooligans.

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

Thursday, Dec. 24: 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.
Sunday, Dec. 27: 10 a.m. Joint Parish Worship Service with the Hallelujah Hooligans.
Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting to vote on a proposal for residing the church.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave. Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema
Youth Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 13: 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: bethlehempluth@alliancecom.net
Thursday, Dec. 24: 2 p.m. Christmas Eve service at Tuff Chapel. 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Communion at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
Sunday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem. No Youth Night.
Tuesday, Dec. 29: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Village.
Wednesday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Quilting. No Confirmation or 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

Shaffers named Light 'Em Up contest winner in Beaver Creek

By Glenda McGaffee

The first-place winner of the Light 'Em Up contest sponsored by the Hills Lions Club in Beaver Creek is Sterling Shaffer who lives at 402 East 1st Ave.

Shaffer, 76, describes himself as one of the elite seniors in the town of Beaver Creek. He has a passion for Christmas and decorates both the outside and inside of his house.

He and his wife, Lois, moved from Sioux Falls to Beaver Creek in 1975 after he accepted a position in the Hills Municipal Liquor Store.

Shaffer shared memories of his childhood in Milbank, South Dakota.

"I grew up in the Depression years, but we always had a big Christmas tree with electric lights," he said. "As I became older, my mom didn't want to decorate the tree, so I did it."

The Shaffers have two children, Julie and her husband, Wade Roos, who live in Prior Lake, and Richard and his wife, Karen, who live in Duluth. There are six grandchildren.

"At first this year I thought I would not put up decorations since we will be out of town visiting our children, but after some thought I decided to decorate," Shaffer said.

"I usually start a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving and first put up the Christmas tree in the house."

He said he has seven to choose from in his garage.

"Every year I put up a



The nativity scene in the home of Sterling and Lois Shaffer was made by his mother.



Glenda McGaffee photo/1224 Shaffer

Light 'Em Up! first-place contest winner in Beaver Creek is Sterling Shaffer, who's pictured on his front yard at 402 East 1st Street on Friday, Dec. 18. His wife, Lois, did not know what to buy him for a Christmas present and decided the best present would be recognizing his passion for decorating for Christmas and putting his picture in the local newspaper. Shaffer enjoys decorating inside and outside his home for Christmas (pictured at right).

Second-place holiday lighting winners in Beaver Creek are Heidi and Travis Broesder at 303 South 1st Street.

different one with a different theme of decorations," he said.

"Lois and I feel the nativity scene is the most important part of Christmas and this is the focus of my décor. My goal is to have the outside of the house decorated by black Friday."

He said he's downsized decorating a bit through the years.

"Outside is a moose I purchased at auction across the street. My wife said, 'I didn't know a moose was part of the Christmas décor,' but it blends

well with the other decorations. Every window in the house has a light."

Shaffer said, "I plan on decorating for Christmas until I can't do it anymore."

First place winners received \$25 dollars and second-

place received \$10 dollars.

Judges for the event were Laura Preheim, administrator of the Tuff Memorial Home, Shateen Lichter, activity director of the Tuff Memorial Home and Teresa Johnson from Sioux Falls, S.D.

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Close the gate/continued from page 5

aromatherapy. It has many religious associations which could have implied that Jesus would have something to do with religion or possibly would grow up to make scented candles. It was extravagant and rich and would in no way predict him to be anything as sensible as a carpenter.

Myrrh was considered a holy anointing oil. They got that one right on the nose to bring to the Savior. It was used a lot in funeral rites, too. That could have cast a little shadow.

Then there's the gold. A great big sparkly basket of gold that could almost guarantee you would get robbed while you

huddled down, unarmed in your smelly stable that probably didn't even have a front door much less a security system. Not to mention that a whole bunch of strangers were in town for the registration.

It's adorable to see the cardboard structure set up at the front of the church which is supposed to resemble a stable. The Sunday School children playing the parts of Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and kings do a wonderful job with a plastic doll playing the part of the baby Jesus. Some of the kids are dressed up as the animals, and they're so darn cute as donkeys and sheep and cattle. It tells us the story but not the

whole story. It leaves out all the reality of the smells and the cold and the whole uncomfortable setting. The young girl who gave birth to God's one and only Son in such conditions. Mary's husband, who knew he wasn't the father of this child, but stuck it out with her. What they all endured for us is priceless.

I'll close the gate and marvel at all the characters' amazing affirmation, We are all very blessed to have gotten the gift of such a 'stable' foundation.

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

Merry & Happy
Christmas New Year!

from
Chantel, John
& Glenda

The Hills
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Glenda McGaffee photo/1224 Bosch

First-place holiday lighting winners in Steen are Linda and Brad Bosch at 239 East Sanford Avenue. Second-place holiday lighting winners in Steen are Scott and Cindy Hartog at 331 East Church Avenue



First-place holiday lighting winners in Hills are Tim and Wendy Buss at 213 East 4th Street. Pictured with Tim is their granddaughter, Bristol Teune, who assisted in decorating. Second-place holiday lighting winners in Hills are Wayne and Janice Ward at 204 West 3rd Street.


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Loved ones of	John Honken	Rose Smith
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Edwin Aanenson	Ocke Jellema	Audrey Spath
Abram Albert Ackerman	Jeanette Jellema	Mike Spath
Peter C. Ackerman	Norman Jellema	Art Swanson
Mrs. Jennie Ackerman	Stacy Jellema	Opal Swanson
June Albers	Leland Jellema	Edward Tofteland
Harvey H. Aukes	Wilfred Klein	Mary Tofteland
Harley D. Aukes	Daryl Klein	Andrew Tofteland
Alice Aukes-Keller	Ronnie Klein	Bernie Top
Gladys Benson	John M. Kooistra	Hyman Top
Bastian Berkhof	Mrs. Mary Kosters	Loretta Trygstad
Sharon Boeve	Ackerman	Walter Trygstad
Jessie Boeve	Lois Leenderts	Harvey Van Whye
Lyle Bos	Jim Martens	Jennie Van Whye
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Ione Bush	Josh Munns	Arnie Veldkamp
Gertrude DeVries	George Nelson	Terry Walraven
Bill DeYager	Jason Oden	Bev Wassenaar
James Elbers	Hattie Olson	George Wassenaar
Leo Gebhart	Oscar Olson	Gerrit (Sam) Wassenaar
Matilda Gebhart	Kristie Olson	Henrietta Wassenaar
Dorothy Gosmire	Cheryl Pavel	Wesley Webster
Gerald Haak	Gladys Sanderson	
Michele J. Harmening	John Schwartz	
Gordon Helgeson	Earl Smedsrud	
Joyce Helgeson	Eldena Smedsrud	

018019-00075 12/15

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
 Wishing you every happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year



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Dear Santa letters from Mr. Van Wyhe's class

Dear Santa,
I want a Frozen boy Kristoff and Han's doll. I did dishes. Can you bring my little brother two trucks?
Love, Caidence Ellis

Dear Mom and Dad,
I should get presents because I've been good! I want my dad to get a Tyrann Mathieu jersey.
Love, Micah Bush

Dear Santa,
I should get a gift because I've been nice to my family. I want an American girl doll for Christmas. You should give Joslyn a phone.
Love, Ally Birger

Dear Mom and Dad,
I want an iPad for Christmas. I have been good because I've listened. I think my dad should get a drill.
Love, Gavin Voss

Dear Mom and Dad,
I should get a present because I've been pretty good this year. I want a pair of football gloves. For Christmas my little brother wants a Lego set.
Love, Jamin Metzger

Dear Mom and Dad,
I should get some fishing lures. My mom should get a lamp. I should get a gift because I've been nice to my little brother.
Love, Clayton Kellenberger

Dear Santa,
I should get a gift because I have been good at school. I want a new Wii game. I want to give my mom and dad a gift.
Love, Gavyn Leuthold



Students in Halden Van Wyhe's H-BC second-grade class include (front, from left) Gavin Voss, Callum Bartels, Gavyn Leuthold, Tucker Holwell, Clayton Kellenberger, Claire Knobloch, Hadley Spath, Abby Olson, Caidence Ellis, (back) Henre Merson, Rachel Graves, Jamin Metzger, Micah Bush, Teagan Rainford, Ella Sammons, Isabel Wysong and Ally Birger.

Dear Santa,
You should give my dad a hat for Christmas. I should get a gift because I have been good this year. For Christmas I would like a Christmas elf hat.
Love, Hadley Spath

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I want an X-box for Christmas. I want my mom to get a new phone.
Love, Tucker Holwell

Dear Santa,
I should get a gift because I've been good. I want a Lego set for Christmas. I should get my cousin a toy truck.
Love, Jacob Tiesler

Dear Santa,
I would like to get a bouncy ball. I would like Elijah to get a toy tractor. I should get a gift because I have been good.
Love, Rachel Graves

Dear Santa,
I should get a present because I do my chores. The present that I want is chapter books. My brother should get some cowboy boots.
Love, Claire Knobloch



Dear Santa,
I should get a new bed because I have a good grade. I want an Olaf blanket. You should get my cousin Devin a pair of shoes.
Love, Abby Olson

Dear Santa,
I have been nice to my sisters. I want a Fin Fun Mermaid Tail and for Shayla a 20 pack of Shopkins.
Love, Teagan Rainford

Dear Santa,
I should get a gift because I am working on behaving. I want a real life Mr. Potato Head. I want my family to get a hug.
Love, Henre Merson

Dear Santa,
I want a new phone case for an iPhone four. I should help my mom clean and my dad too. I will give my brothers' an X-box fur because my brothers want it.
Love, Isabel Wysong

Dear Santa,
I should get a gift because I've been good this year. I want to get some Shopkins for Christmas! You should get Claire some Shopkins too!
Love, Ella Sammons

Dear Mom and Dad,
I should get a gift because I help wash dishes. I want Madden 16. I think Micah should get a Giant's hat.
Love, Callum Bartels



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~ From Stuart, Mark, Kevin, Ladell, Bob, Dalton, Michael, Tanner, Lee, Julie and Cindy.



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Dear Santa letters from Mrs. Vandenhoeck's class

Dear Santa,
 What I want for Christmas is a remote control race car because I think I have been a good boy and not naughty. Please give my cousin Paul a duck call so he could call ducks. He lives on a farm with ducks. And get my mom a new microwave because she doesn't have one.
 Love, Quintice Susie

Dear Santa,
 May I have an Xbox 360 because I've been really good to my family. Can you get my friend, Henry, a new Wii because his is broken.
 From your best friend,
 Donovan Mess

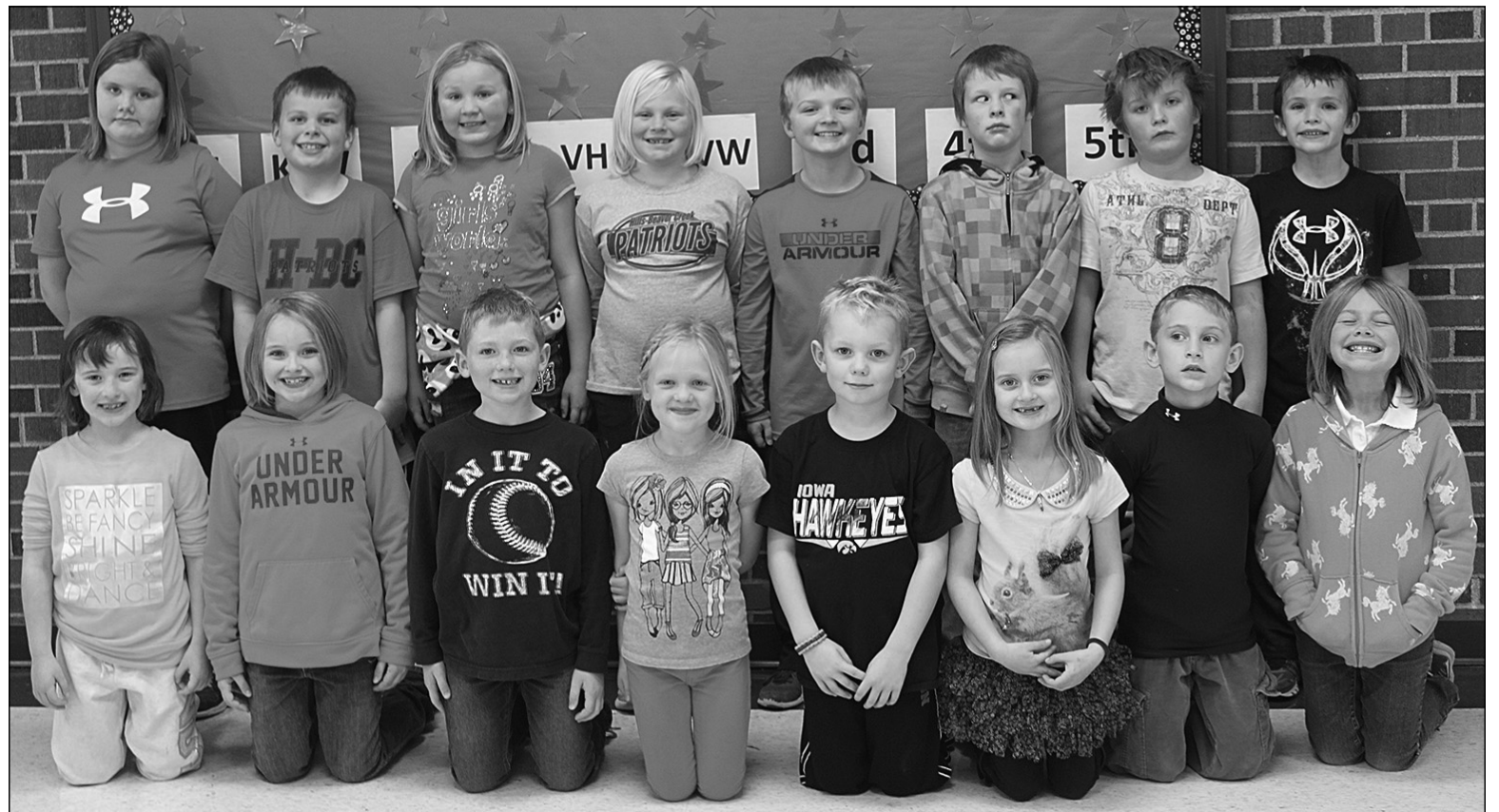
Dear Santa,
 I want an I-Pad mini. You should give it to me because I have been helpful and nice to my brothers. I think you should get my mom a new Kindle. She needs a new spare one because we play on it a lot.
 From your friend,
 Mya Erickson

Dear Santa,
 I want a guitar for Christmas. I have been really good this year. I want you to give gifts to the homeless kids so they can feel the joy at Christmas time.
 From your dear friend,
 Abby Hageman

Dear Santa,
 For Christmas I want Legos because I have been very, very good. I want them to keep me busy. A person who I think should have them is my brother if I can't have them.
 Love, Jack Kruger

Dear Santa,
 Please bring me an I-Pad because I have been good. Please bring my parents a new TV. They will be so happy!
 Love, Abigail Harris

Dear Santa,
 Please bring me an American Girl doll. I think I should get it because I will stay out of trouble. Please give my friend, Tessa, a lot of Shopkins for Christmas. Thanks!
 Love, Talya Shanahan



Students in Diane Vandenhoeck's H-BC second-grade class include (front, from left) Mya Erickson, Abbie Harris, Ethan Meinerts, Hadley Vanderburg, Quintice Susie, Tessa Clark-Crawford, Elliott Morris, Sarah Prohl, (back) Jayden Kueter, Jack Kruger, Talya Shanahan, Abby Hageman, Nate Van Maanen, Ziggy Nelson, Donovan Mess, Bode Kruger and (not pictured) Evan Gruis.

Dear Santa, I've been good...

Dear Santa,
 I want Minecraft Legos. I deserve them because I have been good all year. You should get Ninja Turtle Legos for Will, my best friend, because he has also been good.
 Love, Evan Gruis

Dear Santa,
 I want a pet dog because I have been good in school. I think my friend, Evan, should get a PS4.
 Love, Ziggy Nelson

Dear Santa,
 I want a Phineas, Ferb, Candice and their friends stuffed animals. I have been kind of good. Please bring my sister a Pete's Dragon stuffed animal because she is in love with that movie.
 Love,
 Your friend Sarah Prohl

Dear Santa,
 I want Shopkins. I have been good, kind of, because my

brother drives me crazy! I think I have been good to Josh. I want my brother Josh to get an airsoft gun.
 Love, Jayden Kueter

Dear Santa,
 I want a helicopter. I am very good. I want my friend to have a really fast RC car cause he was good.
 Love, Ethan Meinerts

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy! I want a bow and arrow! My dad should get popcorn because he loves popcorn and he was good this year!
 Love, Bode Kruger

Dear Santa,
 Can I have an I-pad? I think I need it to learn times. I want you to bring something to Melanie and Leslie because they moved and I think they deserve it. Thank you, Santa.
 From your dear friend,
 Hadley Vanderburg

Dear Santa,
 Please get me a Hot Wheel car garage for Christmas. I think I should get it because I have been good and I have a lot of toy cars. I think my dad should get a skateboard because he has been nice to me.
 Love, Elliott Morris

Dear Santa,
 I would like an Xbox for Christmas. I should have it because I have been very good. My dad wants Craftsman tools for Christmas so please give him that.
 From, Nate Van Maanen

Dear Santa,
 I want a new makeup kit and an American Girl doll for Christmas because my mom is painting my and my sister's room for our present. I want my sister to get train toys for Christmas.
 Love, Tessa Clark

Have a safe holiday season.
 Thanks for a great 2015!

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Hills Christian School students share thoughts on "What would it be like to be a shepherd and receive the news of Jesus' birth?"

I was watching my flock at night. Suddenly an angel appeared and gave great news. Jesus was born! Then the angels from heaven said to me, "And on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Then I left my flocks and tried to find a baby wrapped in cloths.

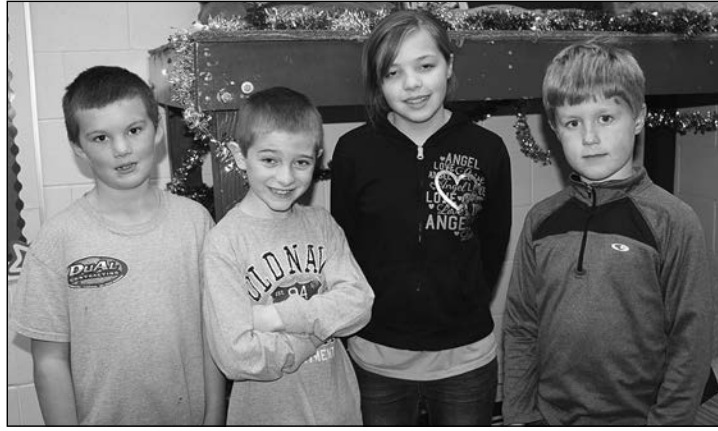
Matt Alons, third grade

As Elijah, Jacob and I were watching over our sheep at night, an angel suddenly appeared. We were so terrified! The angel told us to please quiet down because he had great news for us. "There has been a Savior born. He's in a stable in Bethlehem. That is where you'll find the baby." All of a sudden a bunch more angels came and said, "Glory to God in the highest!" As soon as we heard this we hurried to Bethlehem.

Olivia Bork, fifth grade

I was watching my sheep in a field. And suddenly an angel came! The angel said Jesus is born in Bethlehem! I found a baby lying in a manger.

Chase Jansma, fourth grade



Glenda McGaffee photo/1224 Hills Christian School students Hills Christian School students in third through fifth grades shared their thoughts on the question, "What would it be like to be a shepherd and receive the news of Jesus' birth?" Pictured in the school on Wednesday, Dec. 9, are (from left) Matt Alons, Chase Jansma, Olivia Bork and Case Van Dyken.

I was shepherding my flock at night and heard a wolf. I stood up to look. I was over the hill. I was scared that my sheep would get eaten. Then a bright light shone all around me. I looked up. It was as an angel. He told me that a baby was born in

Bethlehem. My heart jumped for joy! Then a bunch of angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." They went into heaven. I ran to Bethlehem to see this boy. When I saw him I thanked God for what He had done.

Case Van Dyken, third grade



By Glenda McGaffee

Last week standing in the checkout line at HyVee in Sioux Falls, I noticed a coloring book for adults which is the latest trend. The idea is that coloring will reduce our stress level. I find it hard to believe that sitting down and coloring will do this.

I decided to go online and check into this latest trend. This is some of the information I found.

Adult coloring books feature over 45 detailed patterns including flowers, animals and even butterflies. Designs range in complexity from beginner to expert level and provide hours and hours of stress relief. Coloring calms our minds and heightens our imagination.

Maybe Santa Claus will bring me a coloring book for Christmas and I can join the millions of adults around the world who are rediscovering the simple relaxation and joy of coloring. My only problem is when will I find the time to sit down and color.

This time of year most of our thoughts are about time — where to find it/ stretch it, and why doesn't someone give us another

week as a present. We look forward to reading cards from others, but how will we squeeze out the hours to address our own? Not to mention a shopping list that gets longer daily and family traditions that we keep up either to please our children or not to disappoint our other relatives. And yes, we survive. The shopping gets done, cards addressed and everything else on our list finished.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas.

Long, Long Ago

Long, long ago, on a silent night,
To some shepherds appeared a star in the east;
For unto the world that starlit night,
Jesus was born, the King of all;
Was born a baby in quaint Bethlehem.
Over all the world that same light shines;
And when Christmas comes we are happy
It gladdens the hearts of both rich and poor,
And brings peace on earth, good will and cheer.

Merry Christmas
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calendar

Christmas Eve meal
A free community Christmas Eve meal will be served at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, at the United Methodist Church in Luverne.

H-BC schools celebrate anniversaries
The Hills-Beaver Creek school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of the two districts and the 25th anniversary of the H-BC football team's state championship Dec. 29 at the high school. A meal will be served at 5 p.m. with a freewill donation. The program begins at 7 p.m. with Family Fun Night events following the program. Proceeds from the event support H-BC Foundation.

Caregivers Support Group meets Dec. 29
The Caregivers Support Group will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, in the conference room at Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Society. A video relating to caregiving and dementia will be shown. Anyone dealing with caregiving and available resources is encouraged to attend.

Fifth/sixth-grade basketball tourney
Luverne Community Education will sponsor an invitational basketball tournament for grades 5-6 boys' and girls' basketball teams Saturday, Jan. 30. Each team will play at least two games in pool play format. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Register online at www.isd2184.net under Community Education, or call 507-2833-4724.

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H-BC School Board meets Nov. 23

HILLS-BEAVER CREEK DIST. 671
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:00 pm in the High School Conference Room.

Board members present were Fick, Fransman, Gehrke, Kueter, Leuthold and Moser. LaRock was absent. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Phelps and Business Manager Kuehl were also in attendance.

Chairman Fransman called the meeting to order.

Visitors to the meeting were Glenda McGaffee (Hills Crescent) and Shari Doerr.

Motion by Kueter, second by Fick, and carried to approve the agenda.

Patriot Pride:

VFW Post #2757 Veteran's Day Contest Winners: Jr. High Winners - Aleigha Glidewell (1st place), Bryn Mongeau (2nd place), and Alli LaRock (3rd place); High School Winners - Mary Frances Ladd (1st place), Riley Boese (3rd place)

American Education Week Events

Band and Choir Concerts Success

Honor Choir: Mary-Frances Ladd has recently qualified for this honor.

Awards: Aleigha Glidewell won 1st place in the VFW District Competition. Mary-Frances Ladd won 3rd place in the Voice of Democracy Competition. Both girls and their families will be invited to attend the VFW District Meeting in January to receive their awards.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as sent out.

Motion by Moser, second by Leuthold, and carried to approve the bills.

Motion by Gehrke, second by Fick, and carried to approve the Student Accounts.

Motion by Moser, second by Gehrke, and carried to approve World's Best Work Force Annual Report for 2014-2015.

Motion by Leuthold second by Fick, and carried to accept the resignation of Lois Leenderts, district employee effective at the end of the day on December 11, 2015.

Mr. Phelps presented the Elementary Report.

Mr. Holthaus presented the Secondary / Superintendent report.

Dates to Remember:

November 25 Early Dismissal

November 26 & 27 No School

Dec. 4 Board of Education Meeting

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Set 2015 Pay 2016 Levy

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Lois Leuthold, Clerk
(12-24)

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**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DISPATCHER**

The Rock County Administrator's Office is now accepting applications for the position of dispatcher in the Rock County Sheriff's Office until January 11, 2016 at 5:00 pm. This is a full time position with full benefits. Minimum qualifications are a High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills, have the ability to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment. Starting hourly wage will be \$14.54-\$15.72 per hour DOQ. A detailed job description and an application for this position can be accessed at

<http://www.co.rock.mn.us/employment.html> or by emailing susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us or by phone at 507-283-5065.

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**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
ROCK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF**

The Rock County Administrator's Office is now accepting applications for the position of part time Intermittent Deputy for the Rock County Sheriff's Office until January 11, 2016. The position assists the Rock County Sheriff's Department in enforcing the law and the protection of life and property throughout the county. Work is performed on a rotating shift basis.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and a two-year degree in law enforcement, plus an eight-week skills course. Upon being hired, the officer must either be eligible to be licensed as a "part time licensed" or "full time licensed" Peace Officer in order to comply with the post standards in Minnesota. In addition, the applicant must have completed the following training: qualified in the use of firearms, First Responder course, possess a current CPR card and a valid Minnesota class "C" driver's license. The starting salary range is \$19.50 per hour. The application process will involve the creation of a list of qualified applicants that will be valid through June 30, 2016.

A detailed job description and an application for this position can be accessed at <http://www.co.rock.mn.us/employment.html> or by emailing susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us or by phone at 507-283-5065.

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