



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:
Leader-Record * Oklee Herald * McIntosh Times * Grygla Eagle

Gully Tri-Coop Association meeting held March 12th

Gully Tri-Coop Association held their Annual Meeting March 12, 2016 with an outstanding member turnout.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President David Olson. David introduced the board members as well as the CPA Carol Boehland, General Manager Russ Crawford and asked department heads along with present employees to stand.

Minutes from last year 2015 were read by Secretary Steve Hughes. CPA Carol Boehland with Hennen & Associates read the 2015 Audit report for the Gully Tri-Coop Association. Starting with the Statement of Operations Total Sales \$13,212,174 less Cost of Sales \$10,726,572 equals a Gross Margin of \$2,485,602 less Total Expenses of \$2,398,315 for a Local Net Savings of \$87,287 add in Patronage received of \$256,286 equals a Net Savings of \$343,573. Of that \$240,000 to be in Patronage and \$84,000 35% paid in cash.

General Manager Russ Crawford thanked Carol Boeh-

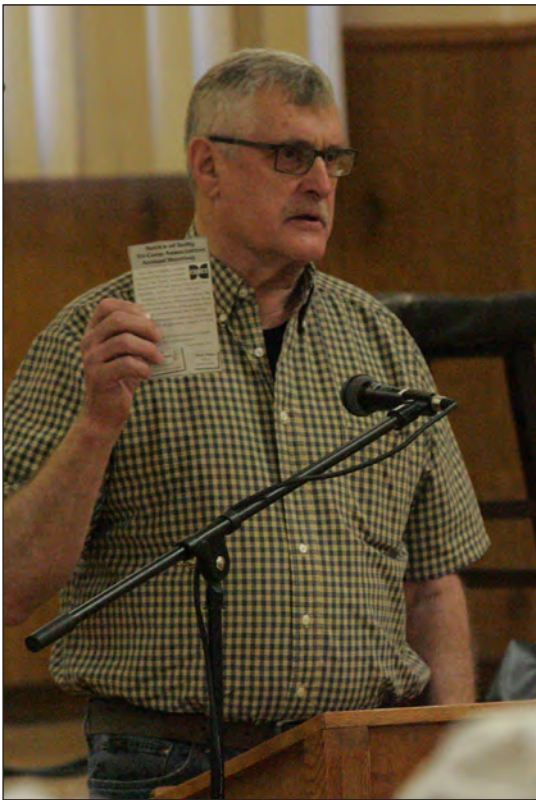
land for presenting the Gully Financial Report. Russ discussed what the Gully Coop had planned for upcoming Capital expenditures; the first was a Grain Handling system. Which would start this spring and be completed by mid-July. This update would add another 20,000 bu space for grain, plus the safety for both our customers and employees. Russ explained the effects that supply of grain affects the price of grain as well as the weather will affect markets. And thinking of the warm weather and the long storage of the grain, be sure to check your bins. Russ referred to the Gully Coop as the "best kept secret in Minnesota".

Adrienne Hanson reported on the Patronage checks that were distributed to most of the attendees. Of the \$240,000 we paid out 35% or \$81,160.25 in Cash patronage. We also wrote checks for stock retirement of \$53,045.55 and we paid out \$27,133.81 in Estate retirements. Adrienne also reminded the members to sign up for stock retirements when they reach

the age of 67. The Gully Coop is offering a Credit Financing opportunity for Producer farmers. Easy forms to fill out, NO up-front costs to the Producer Farmer and low interest rates on the borrowed money. If you would like to honor someone in our community for a "job well done", check out our "Tanks of Thanks". The recipient would receive a \$50 Cenex Gift Card with recognition given back to you as the sender. Register at tanksofthanks.com. Farm Service Day will be held in Mid-April. Announcement of date and time, to follow in paper, Web site and Facebook page!

GM Russ Crawford introduced Ryan Rude as our New Station Manager – Bulk Truck Driver. Ryan announced the Spring oil and filters sale going on now thru Mid-April. Ryan also discussed briefly the Oil warranty Program that is available for most farm equipment. Don't miss this opportunity to be covered for unexpected breakdowns!

.....Gully Tri-Coop continued on page 10



David L. Olson (left) and Steve Hughes (right) called the Gully Tri-Coop Annual meeting to order. David, who is President, and Steve, Secretary, provided proof of notice and the previous years minutes.



Tim Johnson and Steve Rasmussen provided good old country music before the Gully Annual meeting.



There was a good turnout for the Gully Annual meeting. More pictures on page 8.

4-H Members honored at Polk County 4-H recognition event

Over 100 4-H members, parents, volunteers, and community members attended the Polk County 4-H recognition event on February 28th, 2016 held in Bede Ballroom at the University of MN, Crookston. This event served to recognize and award youth, adults and friends of

the 4-H program for their service, contribution and support through the past year. Through its pledge of "hands to larger service," 4-H members give back to their communities by being involved. In 4-H, service to the community helps young people learn caring, leadership and citi-

zenship. Being active, engaged citizens at a club level, helps to improve and enhance the County 4-H program as a whole.

Every summer, thousands of young people participate in the program, which provides opportunities for them to strengthen their communication, leader-

ship, and citizenship skills on a national level, understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate

to the development of better citizens and leaders, exchange ideas, practice respect, and form friendships with other youth

from diverse backgrounds, and experience hands-on learning using the historical backdrop of Washington, DC.



The next award is the Most Enthusiastic Award. These young people have an energy and excitement about 4-H that is contagious! They are welcoming and encouraging to everyone at any club event, and they maybe even bring new people along to see what 4-H has to offer.

1. Grant Balstad, Fertile 4-H (not pictured); 2. Sidney Erickson, Fertile 4-H; 3. Wesley Ramberg, Fertile 4-H; 4. Genivive Rue, Pine to Prairie 4-H (not pictured); 5. Adelle Erickson, Fisher/Climax, 4-H; 6. Kristine Bernd, Paws and Pals 4-H; 7. George French, North Star 4-H.



Livestock Scholarship award winners: Livestock Scholarship award winners: The following youth received a \$200 check to get started with their livestock project, thanks to a scholarship from the Premium auction held last year during the Polk County Fair.

1. Sydney Erickson, Fertile 4-H; 2. Kerra Ramsey, Fertile 4-H (not pictured); 3. Gretchen Theis, North Star 4-H; 4. Adelle Erickson, Fisher/Climax 4-H; 5. Trinity Erickson, Fisher/Climax 4-H.



The next award is the Outstanding Service/Youth Volunteer award. This award goes to youth who are always available and willing to lend a hand, be it for a community pride project, fundraiser or club meeting. They give the most precious thing they can, their time, and they are making their community a better place because of it.

1. Jared Theis, North Star 4-H; 2. Mallorie Sundeen, Paws and Pals 4-H; 3. Emery Erickson, Fertile 4-H; 4. Samuel Larson, Fertile 4-H (not pictured); 5. Courtney Vatsnesdal, Fisher/Climax 4-H; 6. McKinsey Rosendahl, Pine to Prairie 4-H.



Sydney Balstad from the Pine to Prairie 4-H club, received the citizenship award. She represented Polk County 4-H at Citizenship Washington Focus last year. Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a week-long 4-H citizenship program for youth ages 14-19 that takes place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, just 1 mile from the Washington, DC border.



The first award is the Youth Mentor Award. This award goes to youth who have taken leadership to a new level. They may lead project talks, demonstrations and encourage and empower younger members to get involved and stay involved in 4-H.

1. Trinity Erickson, Fisher/Climax 4-H; 2. Sydney Balstad, Pine to Prairie 4-H; 3. Catie Erickson, Fertile 4-H; 4. Emma Erickson, Fertile 4-H; 5. Jordan Lessard, North Star 4-H; 6. Linnea French, Paws and Pals 4-H.



Four Siblings Celebrate a Milestone Birthday

373 collective years of life experiences! Reuben Rydeen (89 yrs) Lucille Rydeen Aasland (82 yrs) Martha Rydeen Johnson (100 yrs) and Edna Rydeen Dahlke (102 yrs) celebrated Martha's 100th birthday at the Lewiston Community Center, Lewiston, MN on Saturday, March 19, 2016, hosted by her family and friends. Many neighbors, friends and relatives gathered together to observe the special occasion. Martha lives in her home at Utica, MN where she owns and operates the Fremont Store.



DFL endorsed candidates, Jerry Loud State Rep 2A, Senator Rod Skoe, and State Rep 2B Bryan Klabunde.

Senate District 2 DFL Endorsing Convention Held Contest for State Rep 2A, Jerry Loud wins over Roger Erickson

Story and Photos By Michael Meuers
Organizers were pleasantly surprised when a larger than expected 150 delegates traveled to Ogema (Chief in Ojibwe) on the White Earth Indian Reservation for the Senate District 2 DFL endorsing convention. The convention was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at the Ogema Community Center in Becker County.

District 2A registered 89 delegates plus five alternates, while District 2B registered 49 delegates and 1 alternate, with a total of eight guests. The Red Lake Indian Reservation sent 27 delegates and three guests to the convention.

Senate District 2 DFL Chairman, Ted Fiskevold of Detroit Lakes called the convention to order at 10:30 a.m.

The main order of business was to endorse a State Senator and two State Representative candidates to carry the DFL banner into the 2016 general election.

But before that agenda item came some routine party business and the election of Senate District 2 DFL officers. Ted Fiskevold of Detroit Lakes was reelected Chair. Pam McCrory of Bemidji was elected Vice-Chair replacing Sandy Eaton from Lake of Woods who did not seek reelection. Elected Secretary was Becky Colebank of Clearbrook, elected Treasurer Lou Engberg of Detroit Lakes, Monaya Lund of Frazee was elected data Secretary, and Sam Strong of Red Lake was elected Outreach Officer. (Formerly Affirmative Action Officer)

After nomination and seconding speeches by Tim Sumner of Red Lake and LuAnn Hurd-Lof of Park Rapids, incumbent State Senator Rod Skoe of Clearbrook was endorsed by acclamation by the entire convention body. Though there was no contest, Skoe still stood for a ten minutes question and answer period. Paul Utke of Park Rapids is seeking the GOP Senate District 2 endorsement to run against Skoe.

Next up was the nomination and seconding of Bryan Klabunde for State Representative 2B by Becky Aastad and Paul Benson. Klabunde, a farmer from Waubun, was unopposed for the DFL House 2B endorsement. Having no opposition, he was also endorsed by acclamation by delegates from District 2B only who were seated on the right side of the room. He will face incumbent Rep. Steve Green, GOP Fosston, in the November election.

Next DFL Chair Ted Fiskevold called for nominations for District 2A which includes Lake of the Woods County, Hubbard County, Clearwater County, and most of Beltrami County except the Bemidji area.

Sam Strong and Stephanie Cobenais both of Red Lake nominated Jerry Loud, a Red Lake member from Puposky. Next Michael Stillday of Red Lake nominated Roger Erickson of Baudette.

There being no further nominations, each candidate took four minutes to introduce themselves, then stood for a 30 minute question and answer period, followed by a three minute closing.

Speeches made and questions answered, it was now time for the delegates to vote. Ballots were distributed to 89 delegates from District 2A. Appointed tellers collected the ballots and the count began. Somehow a mistake was made with 90 ballots somehow received from only 89 delegates. A candidate must have 60% of the vote to attain endorsement or it goes to a second ballot, and continues with subsequent ballots until one candidate receives the required 60% plus one.

The body would have to vote again because one of the candidates must have been very close to the 60% threshold. If whoever was ahead was ahead by more the a couple votes there would have been no need to revote, as only a one vote would make a difference. So the ballot was spoiled and the delegation voted again. Another example of how one vote can indeed make a difference.

Delegates held up their delegate badges to make sure an accurate count of delegates was made. The ballots were collected, and the tellers counted the votes twice. With 89 delegates, the magic number to be reached would be 53.4 votes, so in effect the winner would need 54 votes to gain endorsement.

Chair Fiskevold announced the winner, Jerry Loud winning with exactly 54 votes. Had he gotten just one less vote he would have been shy of the 60% needed and a second ballot would have had to be taken. Loud and Erickson shook hands before Fiskevold called upon the three candidates to come before the convention.

"Ladies and Gentleman, I present to you the DFL endorsed candidates for SD2. For State Rep 2A Jerry Loud, for Senate Rod Skoe, and for State Rep 2B Bryan Klabunde," said Fiskevold. Many expressed sadness that someone had to lose when there are two such good candidates. Erickson was thanked for his service to much applause.

Loud, a newcomer to politics is the executive director of Oshkii-Maajitahdah (New Beginnings). Loud is a BSU graduate and spent 10-years in the US Navy.

Loud does not know who he will face in the general election yet as incumbent District 2A Rep. Dave Hancock, GOP of

Bemidji, recently announced he would not seek re-election. In 2012, Erickson defeated Hancock and Hancock then won the seat back in 2014. The Senate District 2 GOP Endorsing Convention is set for 7 to 9 p.m. March 28 at the Clearwater County Courthouse in Bagley.

A lunch of sloppy joes, pickles, chips, beverages and deserts were served throughout the proceedings as fundraiser for the endorsed candidates. Skoe, Loud and Klabunde were each given a \$500 donation from the Senate District to begin their campaigns before heading home.

Beltrami County Convention

The Beltrami County DFL Convention will be held at Red Lake Nation College on Sunday, April 10, 2016. Registration begins at noon, convention is at 1 pm. The main order of business includes election of party officers, discussion of platform resolutions, and electing delegates to the next two levels of convention, the Congressional District 7 (Collin Peterson) in Moorhead and State Convention in Minneapolis. It is at these two conventions that delegates will be selected to attend the National Convention in Philadelphia.

The Motor Vehicle Office,
In Fosston,
will be **CLOSED** on
Friday,
March 25th -
Good Friday.

College News



Knutson receives MSU Moorhead scholarship

Moorhead, Minn., March 17, 2016 — Katherine Knutson has received an \$8,000 President's Honors Scholarship from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Knutson is the daughter of Dean and Tresa Knutson, Clearbrook, Minn., and intends to major in English.

The President's Honor Scholarship awards \$2,000 for the freshman year and requires a high school class rank in the top five percent and a score of 28 or above on the ACT exam. It's renewable for four years with a 3.5 GPA.

Minnesota State University Moorhead is a comprehensive regional university enrolling approximately 6,300 students. MSU Moorhead is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

For more information about MSU Moorhead, visit www.mnstate.edu.

Photo credit: Starkey's Photography

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Easter service
Sand Valley Lutheran Church in Gully/Trail will have an Easter Sunday Service on March 27th at 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast (coffee, juice, rolls and fruit) will be served at 8:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

**THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU**

to Susan Sandland and Betty Johnson (Duane, too) for all the hours of planning and creating each of the beautifully designed unique table centerpieces for the Lady of the Year reception. Awesome!



Schmitz Seeking GOP Endorsement For MN Senate Race

Roger Schmitz of rural Newfolden, MN has announced his intention to seek the Republican endorsement to run for MN state senate seat for Senate District 1. Senate District 1 takes in the six counties of northwest MN which are Polk, Kittson, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall and Roseau.

Schmitz is a lifelong resident of northwest MN being born and raised on a dairy farm at Red Lake Falls in Red Lake county. Over the years he has worked in many areas of agriculture and business in the area. He has been a local assessor in Red Lake and Pennington counties for the past thirty years. He and his wife, LaVonne, have been pastors of Eagles View Church in Thief River Falls since 1999. They have been and are business owners in the area including a greenhouse and commercial garden.

Schmitz has run for this office twice before in 2006 and 2010 and is looking forward to this opportunity to again meet so many of the residents of northwest MN and discuss the conservative approach government we in this area certainly look for our leaders to have. He has a website set up at www.rogerschmitz.com for the public's information.

SCHOOLHOUSE GROCERY
GULLY, MN

NEW STORE HOURS!
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm,
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 9:30am-12:30pm

HAPPY EASTER FROM SCHOOLHOUSE GROCERY!!

- JOHN MORRELL 1/2 OR WHOLE Bone in Hams LB. \$2.09
- Bake It Easy Chickens..... 3.5 LBS. \$5.29 (LEMON PEPPER, MESQUITE, BBQ, PESTO)
- Sweet Potatoes LB. \$.99
- 1 LB. PACKAGE Baby Carrots\$.99
- ALL NABISCO - 6.0 OZ - 12.9 OZ Crackers\$2.99
- NABISCO CHIPS AHOY! ALL VARIETIES Cookies.....\$2.99
- CAMPBELLS CREAM OF MUSHROOM OR CREAM OF CHICKEN Soups.....10.5 OZ. 4 for \$5
- ALL MALT O MEAL BOXED Cereals..... 12.4 OZ.-16 OZ. 2 for \$4
- Roma Pizzas..... 12" 4 for \$10
- TAI PEI Frozen Dinners..... 2 for \$5

Be Sure to Pick up your Easter Goodies and Greeting Cards at Schoolhouse Grocery!

We will also have Fresh Flowers for your Easter Celebration!!

Candidates File for Red Lake Tribal Election

Election to be Held May 18, 2016

By Michael Meuers
Nineteen candidates have filed for four district representative seats on the Red Lake Tribal Council. The deadline for filing was Saturday, March 19, 2016, at 4 p.m.

After passing a criminal background check, the candidates will be certified sometime in April. Then, according to the Tribal Secretary's Office, the election will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

If a candidate receives 50% of the vote plus one, they are the declared winner. If no one attains this threshold in any or all seats, a run-off election will be scheduled sixty days after the conclusion of all certifications, challenges or recounts... probably in late July or early August.

Incumbent, Randall Kingbird, has filed for reelection as Ponemah District Representative, along with challengers Daniel C. Johnson, and Glenda J. Martin.

For Red Lake Representative, Incumbent Robert "Bob" Smith has filed for reelection. David F. Desjarlait, Nolan Desjarlait, Donald L. Good, Sr., Lee Lussier, Jr., Greg Stately, and James "Jim" White will challenge Smith.

Incumbent Redby District Representative, Allen D. Pemberton has filed for reelection, along with challengers Darrell "Ragg" Johnson, Kevin Lee Jones, Jr., David "Dave" Loud, Maureen Thunder Lyons, and Rodney Prentice, Jr.

For Little Rock Representative, current office holder Richard W. Barrett, Sr., is being challenged by William F. "Billy" Greene, and Harlow Spears.

Dairy Queen owner named Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Andrew Peralta, owner of Thief River Falls Dairy Queen, is Minnesota's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The 26 year old has been in business owner since age 13 when he and a friend started A&P Lawn Service to earn money after school and on weekends. He began working at the Dairy Queen when he was 15, working his way up to general manager in 2013. Under his management, the business went above the \$1 million sales mark for the first time ever in 2015.

Peralta currently employs 35 full and part time workers and has a goal of owning several more Dairy Queens in Northern Minnesota. His other entrepreneurial successes include buying, fixing and reselling houses for a profit, which helped him raise the capital to be able to



Tribal Secretary Donald Cook.

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

May 18, 2016 General Election Preliminary Candidates List:

• PONEMAH DISTRICT

Randall Kingbird, Incumbent

Daniel C. Johnson

Glenda J. Martin

• RED LAKE DISTRICT

Robert "Bob" Smith, Incumbent

David F. Desjarlait

Nolan Desjarlait

Donald L. Good, Sr.

Lee Lussier, Jr.

Greg Stately

James "Jim" White

• REDBY DISTRICT

Allen D. Pemberton, Incumbent

Darrell "Ragg" Johnson

Kevin Lee Jones, Jr.

David "Dave" Loud

Maureen Thunder Lyons

Rodney Prentice, Jr.

• LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT

Richard W. Barrett, Sr., Incumbent

William F. "Billy" Greene

Harlow Spears

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Fosston, Minnesota
Double Coupon Sunday
through Wednesday

ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY
LARGE EGGS
99¢
LIMIT 2 PLEASE
ADDITIONAL FOR \$1.09

REGULAR OR LIGHT
**COOL WHIP
TOPPING**
99¢
8 OZ

SHARP CHEDDAR REGULAR SHREDED;
SHARP CHEDDAR, MILD CHEDDAR, COLBY JACK
OR MOZZARELLA FINELY SHREDED
**KRAFT
SHREDED
CHEESE**
4/\$9
8 OZ

REGULAR OR CALCIUM PLUS
**CASS CLAY
ORANGE JUICE**
2/\$4
1/2 GALLON



ASSORTED
TONY'S
PIZZA
4/\$10
12" ROUND

VANILLA CARAMEL CREME, LEMON MERINGUE, KEY
LIME, TURTLE, HERSHEY'S CREME, REESE'S CREME,
COOKIES & CREME OR GEORGIAN STYLE PECAN
EDWARDS PREMIUM PIES 23.5-36 OZ **\$4.99**



**CRYSTAL
SUGAR**
\$1.99
4 LBS

LIGHT BROWN, DARK BROWN OR POWDERED
CRYSTAL SUGAR 2 LBS **3/\$5**

CLASSIC ROAST, BREAKFAST, BLACK SILK,
100% COLOMBIAN, HOUSE BLEND,
FRENCH ROAST OR GOURMET SUPEREME

**FOLGERS
COFFEE**
\$6.99
24.2-33.9 OZ

PLAIN OR KOSHER
**GEDNEY
BABY DILLS**
\$2.59
32 OZ

ORIGINAL
**KRAFT
MIRACLE WHIP**
\$2.79
30 OZ

**CREAMY JIF
PEANUT BUTTER**
\$9.99
2-40 OZ
JARS

FAMILY PACK 85% LEAN GROUND BEEF LB \$3.49	FAMILY PACK BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS LB \$2.39	GOLD N' PLUMP LEMON, MESQUITE, SWEET BBQ WHOLE SEASONED CHICKEN 3.25 LB \$5.99	ORIGINAL, BUN LENGTH OR JUMBO JOHN MORRELL FRANKS 12 OZ 99¢
ANGUS BEEF BONELESS EYE OF ROUND ROAST LB \$3.99	BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN ROAST LB \$2.29	GOLD N' PLUMP WHOLE CHICKENS 3.5 LB \$4.99	ASSORTED VARIETY OSCAR MAYER BACON . 12-16 OZ \$3.99
ANGUS FARMS BEEF BONELESS FAMILY PACK EYE OF ROUND STEAK LB \$4.29	FAMILY PACK BONE-IN PORK COUNTRY STYLE RIBS LB \$1.29	FAMILY PACK CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS OR THIGHS LB 89¢	ASSORTED FLAVORS JIMMY DEAN PORK SAUSAGE ROLLS 16 OZ 2/\$7
ANGUS FARMS BEEF BONELESS FAMILY PACK BALL TIP STEAK LB \$4.99	FAMILY PACK BONE-IN PORK SHOULDER STEAK ... LB \$1.89	PGP IQF BONELESS, SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS 3 LB \$4.49	BEEF, POLISH, CHEDDAR OR SMOKED BRATS OR SAUSAGE HILLSHIRE FARMS 13-15 OZ 2/\$5
ANGUS FARMS BEEF T-BONE STEAK LB \$9.49	JOHN MORRELL SMOKED WHOLE HAMS LB \$1.89	ALL SIZES JENNIE-O TURKEYS LB \$1.29	ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY TURKEY OR HONEY HAM LUNCH MEAT 10 OZ 2/\$5
ICELANDIC COD FILLETS LB \$3.49	JOHN MORRELL SMOKED HALF HAMS LB \$1.99	BLUEWAVE BUTTERFLY CUT ORIGINAL OR COCONUT BREADED SHRIMP 9-10 OZ \$3.99	JOHN MORRELL DICED OR CUBED HAM 8 OZ 2/\$5



WHOLE, 2%, 1% OR SKIM
**CASS CLAY
MILK**
\$2.99
GALLON

WHOLE, 2%, 1% OR SKIM
CASS CLAY MILK... 97OZ **4/\$9.50**



FRUIT LOOPS, FROSTED FLAKES
OR RICE KRISPIES
**KELLOGG'S
CEREAL**
4/\$9
8.7-10.5 OZ

ORIGINAL, LITE OR BUTTER LITE SYRUP
AUNT JEMIMA 24 OZ **\$2.59**



Frito Lay
Good fun!
ASSORTED
DORITOS 9.5-10 OZ
LAY'S POTATO CHIPS 7.75-8 OZ
LAY'S KETTLE CHIPS 8 OZ
2/\$5



**HEINZ
KETCHUP**
\$2.59
38 OZ

FRENCH'S
YELLOW MUSTARD ... 20 OZ **\$1.49**



ASSORTED
**COLGATE
TOOTHPASTE**
\$1.99
6.4 OZ

ORIGINAL, WATERMELON, MANGO OR SUN DEFENSE
CHAPSTICK..... 15 OZ **99¢**



**LAND O LAKES
HALF & HALF**
5/\$4.50
PINT

CASS CLAY
WHIPPING CREAM..... 16 OZ **\$1.99**



SEMI-SWEET, MINI, MILK OR DARK
**NESTLE
CHOCOLATE MORSELS**
\$1.99
10-12 OZ

MILK CHOCOLATE
HERSHEY'S BARS..... 6 PK **2/\$5**



ORIGINAL, RIP-L, SOUR CREAM & ONION OR DILL PICKLE
POTATO CHIPS (7-7.5 OZ) OR ARRIBA NACHO OR
SRIRACHA TORTILLA CHIPS; ARRIBA SOUR CREAM &
ONION RINGS; ARRIBA CHEDDAR BACON CHEESE STIX
OLD DUTCH
2/\$4
8 OZ

ASSORTED
OLD DUTCH RIPPLES 8 OZ **2/\$4.50**



HOMESTYLE
**BETTY CROCKER
STUFFING MIX**
\$1.49
6.2 OZ

RED LOBSTER CHEDDAR
BISCUIT MIX 11.36 OZ **\$2.19**



NEW ENGLAND SPRINGS, POMEGRANATE
SPLASH, ORIGINAL, APPLE BLOSSOM, ORANGE
SCENT OR MEDITERRANEAN LAVENDER
DAWN DISH LIQUID
\$2.39
18-21.6 OZ

HEAVY DUTY 10" DINNER PLATES (22 CT)
OR 6.785" DESSERT PLATES (48 CT)
SOLO PLATES **\$2.79**



ASSORTED
**LAND O LAKES
COTTAGE CHEESE**
\$1.99
16 OZ

CASS CLAY
BUTTER..... 1 LB QUARTERED **\$2.99**



CRISPY FILLETS, CRISPY TENDERS,
CRUNCHY FILLETS, CRUNCHY STICKS,
X-L CRUNCH STICKS OR BEER BATTERED FILLETS
VAN D KAMP'S FISH
\$3.39
18.1-24.6 OZ

ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY BROCCOLI CUTS, PEAS,
CORN, GREEN BEANS OR MIXED
VEGETABLES..... 32 OZ **\$1.99**



**ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY
MANDARIN ORANGES**
5/\$3
11 OZ

WATERMELON, CHERRY, TROPICAL PUNCH
OR STRAWBERRY KIWI
KOOL-AID GELATIN 3 OZ **2/\$1**



**CARNATION
EVAPORATED MILK**
2/\$3
12 OZ

VEGETABLE OR CANOLA
CRISCO OIL 48 OZ **\$2.99**



FEBREZE SPRING RENEWAL, DOWNY APRIL,
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Challenges facing farmers today and tomorrow

Though farming was once big business in the United States, by 2012 less than 1 percent of Americans were professional farmers. Many challenges face today's farmers, many of which are largely unknown to the general public. Many people have an outdated view of a farm as a small, family-owned and operated parcel of land where livestock is raised in open pens and crops are hand-harvested when ripe. The reality is that modern-day farms have had to overhaul operations to meet demand and remain competitively priced while adapting to the ever-changing ways technology infiltrates all parts of life. Each of these factors present obstacles for today's farmers.

TECHNOLOGY

Rural farming communities are expected to make an effort to integrate modern technology into an industry that has been around for centuries. But such a transition in rural areas, where communications systems may not be as up-to-date as those in urban areas, is not always so easy.

A shift from a resource-based to an information-based economy, compounded by the rapid introduction and expansion of new technology in the workplace, has altered farm operation and the skills in demand. Older workers who have been schooled in one way of agriculture may have a significant impact on labor supply and the vitality of farming as a career. Younger adults who are knowledgeable in technology may no longer seek out agricultural careers.

REDUCTION IN FARMING AS AN OCCUPATION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency says that only about 960,000 Americans claim farming as their principal occupation. As that figure has dwindled, the average age of farmers continues to rise, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that roughly 40 percent of the farmers in this country are 55 years old or older. This has led to concerns about the long-term health of family farms throughout the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Many farmers have come under scrutiny for how farming impacts the environment. A growing emphasis on sustainability and conservation has led many people to protest certain farming practices. Protesters claim that certain practices, such as raising livestock, can pollute water, while the use of fertilizers and chemical pesticides is bad for the environment. Many farmers, however, have altered their methods to be more environmentally friendly and self-sustainable in the process.

Climate change is another environmental issue farmers must deal with. Strong storms and severe droughts have made farming even more challenging.

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CLASSIFIED ADS!

Red Lake County Seasonal Environmental Assistant

Red Lake County is accepting applications for a **Seasonal Environmental Assistant**. The duties include but are not limited to: assist in spraying operations, operate spray truck, assist as rodman for surveying, maintain cleanliness and organization of recycling sites, and operate and maintain various equipment as needed.

This is a Seasonal full-time position. The position works May 1st - Nov. 1st, Mon.-Thurs. 40 hrs./wk., length of hrs./day are subject to change based on business needs. Candidates must be able to lift 50 lbs. and have a valid MN Class B Commercial driver's license. Candidates may obtain a MN Class B CDL within 1 month of their hire date. If qualified, employee could be eligible for unemployment after season ends. Wage starts at \$14.83 per hour.

Applications are available at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/employment. For further information contact Angie at 218-253-2590 or email hr@co.red-lake.mn.us. Applications will be accepted through April 4, 2016.

052-1C

GROUND SUPERVISOR TWIN PINES GOLF COURSE

Twin Pines Golf Course is now hiring a ground supervisor for the 2016 season. Duties will include, but not limited to:

- Supervise grounds crew (mostly youths) • Maintain equipment • Develop work schedules and oversee golf course maintenance.

This position is for 20 to 25 hours per week. Pay is dependant upon qualifications. For details or to apply contact Jamie Grover 281-743-1277 or email: jgrover@slb.com

R48-52C

AIS Tech - Temp/Seasonal - Polk County, MN

Polk County Environmental Services has an opening for a temporary AIS Tech position, working at public water access sites doing monitoring and education on AIS as well as assisting the department with multiple projects. Eligible candidates will have either a Bachelor's Degree in natural resources, biology, environmental science or a related field or be enrolled in a related post-secondary degree program and seeking an internship opportunity. A valid driver's license is required. Wage for this position is \$13.15/hour. Interested individuals may contact the Polk County Administrator's Office at 218-281-5408 or go online to <http://www.co.polk.mn.us> to view this job description and application. Applications for this position will be received until April 8, 2016.

M52-2C

Help Wanted

Part time at the Gully Tri-Coop fertilizer division and Clearbrook division. To drive tender truck, floater, and help with other activities at the fertilizer plant.

Call Lloyd at (218) 268-4185, Russ at (218) 268-4188, or stop in and talk with us.

R51-2C

HELP WANTED

The Fosston A&W is now accepting applications for our spring and summer seasons. We are looking for full and part-time cooks and cashiers. Adult and student applicants may apply.

Please apply in person or call **218-280-0559** for more information

R52-3P

HELP WANTED

Rosemary's Garden, Fosston, is looking to fill a full and part-time florist position. We are looking for a creative personality with a flair for design.

Apply in person or call **218-280-0559**

R52-3P

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Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Carpentry/concrete helpers. Call Faldet Construction, Ben or Dave, 218-280-0661, 218-280-1689.

R51-2C

PART-TIME HELP WANTED at Schoolhouse Grocery in Gully. Stop in for an application or call Tamara, 218-268-4551, for more information.

R51-52C

Farm Equip.

WANTED TO BUY: 10-1/2' Tandem Disc with hydraulics, in good working condition. 218-556-1231.

R51-4C

TRANSPORTATION GENERALIST (TG)

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The Minnesota Department of Transportation currently has a vacancy for a permanent, full-time Transportation Generalist at the Grygla Truck Station. This position performs all activities for roadside/roadway repair and maintenance as well as snow and ice removal. This includes the operation, servicing and making minor repairs to a wide variety of heavy equipment. The position requires a Class B CDL with no air brake restriction and tanker endorsement.

The State of Minnesota has a benefit package that includes: Health, Dental, Short-Term, Long-Term and Life Insurance as well as Retirement Benefits.

Go to www.mn.gov/careers and select job number **3765** to see the full posting, minimum qualification and testing requirements.

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We all have a stake in A to B

G52C

Positions Open in Mahanomen

Self-starting individuals with positive attitudes, strong teamwork skills and dedication to life-long learning and improvements wanted in the following positions:

AG RETAIL-PRECISION AG SALES PERSON: Familiar with precision ag and large ag equipment is preferred, but we can train the right individual through JD University and on-the-job training.

TRUCK DRIVER: Transports equipment to/from customers and/or between Evergreen Implement Company facilities. 1+ years of experience preferred as a semi-trailer truck operator. Must have a CDL License. Excellent customer service skills. Willingness to work flexible hours during peak seasons. Mechanical aptitude to perform routine maintenance. Willingness to assist with service department work load as necessary, which may include equipment assembly and/or servicing of farm and turf equipment.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN: Individual with strong mechanical aptitude in diesel engines, hydraulics, A/C and electrical. Willingness to work in the shop or on the road. JD University training available.

These positions offer excellent wages and benefits. Applications can be picked up at Evergreen Implement Company in Mahanomen, or can be found online at www.evergreenimplement.com. Resume and/or employment application can be mailed to: Gale Pawlowski, Evergreen Implement Company, 300 US Hwy 59, Mahanomen, MN 56557. For additional information, contact Gale at 218-935-2241, or email gale.p@evergreenimplement.com.

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R52C

Teller Needed

First State Bank of Clearbrook has an excellent opportunity for a full-time Teller. The work schedule for the position is M-F, and some Sat. mornings. The teller is responsible for servicing customers' needs by performing teller and personal banking duties efficiently, professionally and accurately.

The successful candidate will:

Be an excellent team player with a strong work ethic and customer service skills.

Have strong written, verbal and listening skills.

Be able to maintain a high degree of accuracy with attention to detail.

Be able to maintain strict confidentiality at all times.

Prior financial institution experience and a high level of computer skills is preferred but not required. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Qualified candidates should submit their resume to: First State Bank of Clearbrook, P.O. Box 27, 123 Main St., Clearbrook MN 56634, Attention: Kathryn Klasen. Or alternatively, you may obtain an application, complete & submit to the above.

"First State Bank of Clearbrook is an Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities."

R51-52C

Early Childhood Positions Available

Do you like working with young children & their families? Are you looking for a flexible schedule? Would you like to work in a family friendly environment?

Inter-County Community Council is accepting applications for openings in our Head Start program:

EHS Home Based Educator: 30 hours a week, 50 week position working with families with children birth to 3 yrs, early childhood education or experience preferred, but willing to train

Health Coordinator: full time, year round position as a member of our management team focusing on the areas of health, mental health, nutrition and safety, seeking a candidate with a background in health/nursing and early childhood education

Application and position specific information, including job duties, salary and educational requirements are available on our website at www.intercountycouncil.org. Send completed application and resume to D'Anne Johnson, ICCC Head Start Director, PO Box 189, Oklee, MN 56742 or djohnson@intercountycouncil.org. Applications must be received by 4 pm on March 24, 2016. Call 218-796-5144 x. 28 for more information.

ICCC is an equal opportunity employer.

R51-52C

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Job Title: District Technician
Location: 240 Cleveland Ave., P.O. Box 57, McIntosh, MN 56556
Classification: Regular Full Time (40 hours per week)
Salary Range: \$16.00 - \$19.00/hour, dependent upon qualifications and experience
Benefits: Health Benefit, Paid Time Off, Holidays, Retirement Benefits
Closing Date: March 25, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

The East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for a District Technician. This position will be under the general supervision of the District Manager, and will promote conservation efforts, execute the buffer, tree, and County Feedlot Programs, coordinate the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program, as well as other duties. The position requires working with landowners and community groups as well as local, state, and federal government to build partnerships and implement conservation programs.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Two year post-secondary education in the natural resources, environmental education or related field; or two years of experience in the field of resource management.
- Demonstrated experience coordinating projects with multiple stakeholders.
- Understanding of conservation and agricultural practices.
- Excellent communication, writing and organizational skills; good sense of humor, self-motivated, outgoing, and ability to work independently as well as a team.
- Experience with computers and Microsoft Office programs.
- Physical ability to work effectively in various field conditions, as well as lift up to 60 lbs.
- Willingness to travel for training, and possibly attend evening/weekend events.
- Must possess a valid driver's license.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in natural resources, environmental education or other related field.
- Familiar with ESRI's ArcGIS software.
- Experience mapping with GPS.
- Understanding feedlot rules and regulations, buffer statute, and other state statutes and local ordinances.
- Experience with native and noxious/invasive plant identification.

Conditions of Announcement:

The East Polk SWCD reserves the right to extend or make changes to the content of this position announcement without notification and may at any time withdraw the announcement.

The job description can be obtained at the East Polk SWCD office or on the website: www.eastpolkswcd.org. Please mail cover letter and resume to: East Polk SWCD, P.O. Box 57, McIntosh, MN 56556 or email to lisa.newton@mn.nacdn.net. East Polk SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

R48-52C

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\$8.99

THURS., MARCH 24
LAYARNA
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FRI., MARCH 25
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EAT IN or TAKE OUT
BROASTED CHICKEN
served daily

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BINGO: Sat., Mar. 26th

Weekend Specials
* Ribeye Steak Dinner
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3 baskets to choose from:
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MAIN EVENT AUCTIONS
- SPRING CALENDAR 2016 -

Sales are coming in faster than we can answer the phone. Here are some that are coming right up, and there are several more in the works. Stay tuned for future announcements!

April 9th: Tentative date. Watch for more info. Rick Becker • Lake Julia, MN. Executive quality lake home furnishings.

April 16th: Gary and Sandy Drellack • Fosston, MN. IH semi, grain trailer, 23 guns, like new vehicles, shop, tractor, farm equip, fine furnishings.

April 23rd: Steve Gulbranson Estate • Shevlin, MN. Guns, tractor/loader, farm equip., boat, camper, shop tools. More.

April 24th: Dick Sands • Solway, MN. Fine furnishings, top quality wood-working & shop equip.

April 30th: Glen Anderson Estate • Lengby, MN. Real Estate, fuel trucks, hoist, shop tools, guns, tractors, farm equip.

May 7th: George Cadwell Estate • Shevlin, MN. Woodworking and shop tools, tractors, antiques, pontoon, sawmill.

April 14th-15th: No sale ... Gone Fishing! And Mother's Day.

April 21st: Don Sumstad • Menahga, MN. Guns, gun safe, tools, Can Am 3 whlr. Much more.

May 28th: Verlin and Arlene Skersick • Bemidji, MN. Possible real estate, D6 Cat, collectible '59 Chevy 4wd PU, guns, tractors, shop tools, antiques, quality household, much more.

June 25th: David Nelson Estate • Clearbrook, MN. Large farm sale, with many tractors and a field full of equipment.

We're still bookin' 'em fast as we can go. Give us a shout and we'll be happy to reserve a date for you.

At MAIN EVENT AUCTIONS we make YOUR sale
"THE MAIN EVENT"!!

MAIN EVENT AUCTIONS
Darin Lee, Professional Auctioneer • 218 358 1168

Rummage Sale

"EARLY BIRD" GARAGE/CRAFT SALE: Multi-Party. Sat., Apr. 2, 8:30-noon, Clearbrook-Gonvick School. Clothing, toys, bake sale, more. Room for more. Call Judy at 776-3112, ext. 102.

Recreation

FOR SALE: '83 Chevy motorhome, 23', \$3800. Call evenings, 218-487-5260.

FOR SALE: 14' Lund boat, 30 hrs., Honda trailer, like new. Call evenings, 218-487-5260.

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'02 Chevy Trailblazer 4x4 T15257B V6, Moonroof, 25, 119k... \$192/30 m... \$5,899

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'09 Ford Fusion SE C15248A 4 Cyl, Cloth, Auto... \$164/36 m... \$5,999

'05 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 B1073A V6, Leather, 136k... \$192/36 m... \$6,999

'06 Chrysler Pacifica AWD S1076 Touring, Moonroof, Leather, 98k... \$204/42 m... \$8,499

'12 Ford Focus 4 Door C15256A SE, Cloth, 4 Cyl... \$213/48 m... \$9,999

'14 Ford Fiesta 4 Door SE C15091A Cloth, 4 Cyl, Remote Start, 25k... \$225/60 m... \$12,999

'13 Ford Focus 4 Dr SE T16022A Cloth, 4 Cyl, 38k... \$239/60 m... \$13,599

'08 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 S1082AV8-STX, 108k... \$297/48 m... \$13,999

'10 Ford Explorer XLT AWD B1084A V6, Cloth, 7 Passengers, 105k... \$297/48 m... \$13,999

'08 Ford F150 Crew Cab 4x4 T15258A XLT, 5.4L, Cloth, 98k... \$319/48 m... \$14,999

'07 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab 4x4 T16094B V8 LT Z71, 101k... \$339/48 m... \$15,999

'10 Ford F150 Crew Cab 4x4 T15259A 5.4L, Long Box, XLT, 123k... \$339/48 m... \$15,999

'13 Chrysler 200 Limited B1055, V6, Leather, 45k... \$289/60 m... \$16,499

'07 Chev Silverado Crew 4x4 T15123B V8, LS, Cloth, 123k... \$325/54 m... \$16,999

'12 Chev Equinox AWD T16074A LT, Leather, 43k... \$297/66 m... \$18,499

'12 Ford Escape 4x4 XLT T16021A Leather, Moonroof, 36k... \$305/66 m... \$18,999

'12 Nissan Murano AWD T16075A V6, Moonroof, Leather, 80k... \$313/66 m... \$19,499

'14 Ford Escape SE AWD T16095 2.0 EcoBoost, Cloth, 46k... \$296/72 m... \$19,799

'13 Ford Escape SE AWD B1085 1.6 EcoBoost, Cloth, 38k... \$294/72 m... \$19,999

'14 Ford Escape SE AWD B1086 1.6 LT, EcoBoost, Cloth, 20k... \$329/72 m... \$21,999

'13 Ford Edge SEL AWD B1083 V6, Heated Leather, Rear Camera, 31k... \$391/72 m... \$26,999

'13 Ford Explorer XLT AWD T15238A V6, Heated Leather, 59k... \$392/72 m... \$26,999

'12 Buick Enclave 4 Door AWD T16102A Heated/Cooled Leather, 31k... \$405/72 m... \$27,999

'12 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 T16076A Lariat, Moonroof, 3.5 Eco, 77k... \$399/72 m... \$27,499

'13 Ford Explorer Limited AWD T16058A Leather, Navigation, 44k... \$435/72 m... \$29,999

'13 Ford F-150 Super cab 4x4 T15164A XLT, EcoBoost, Cloth, 37k... \$421/72 m... \$29,999

'13 Ford Edge Limited AWD S1081 Leather, Navigation, Moonroof, 19k... \$435/72 m... \$29,999

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Minnesota Small Business Week Winners Named.... continued from page 2

Ten Chosen for Business Success and Community Involvement

MINNEAPOLIS – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Minnesota District Office announced this year’s state winners of National Small Business Week. Held annually to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from across the nation, this year’s theme is “Dream Big, Start Small,” and will be held from May 1-7, 2016.

“Every day we work with new and existing small businesses across the state. Once a year we take time out to celebrate the best of the best,” said Nancy J. Libersky, District Director, SBA’s Minnesota District Office. “These ten business owners demonstrate the drive to succeed coupled with the determination to help others that we see in so many Minnesotans.”

The SBA, along with the SCORE Association and the Small Business Development Center, will honor the winners listed below at the Minnesota Small Business Week Awards program on May 4, 2016, at the Doubletree in Saint Louis Park, Minn. Registration is open for the event until April 29 at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ceh08cz5eca8b09&llr=atpeqtcb>

Exporter of the Year
David Q. Ma and Amy X. Li, president and vice president of Kingnote LLC., were co-chosen as the Exporter of the Year. Kingnote is a Saint Paul based exporter of used copiers to Southeast Asia. Due to the determination of its owners and use of the SBA Export Working Capital program, Kingnote has increased revenues by 246% since 2009. The company has been in business for nearly eight years and has 10 employees.

By developing close relationships with buyers and banks in Asia, Kingnote LLC has not only been able to expand its sales to that region but also mitigate its non-payment risks. This has led to a healthy return on investments. Going forward, they are working with another potential exporter of women’s fashion products and building a partnership with Asian entrepreneurs to build an online store for Minnesota-made products.

Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

Independent Packing Services Inc., in Crystal, Minn., was chosen as the Family-Owned Small Business of the Year. Founded 39 years ago by president Joseph Wallace’s parents, the company provides packaging and crating services in Minnesota, with major clients throughout the country. Joseph Wallace has presided over the company during a five-year 35% revenue growth period, including expansion into a facility 100% larger than previously occupied. Andrea Burns, Wallace’s sister, is currently the General Manager overseeing Sales / Customer Service, and Design. The senior family members, Prince and Sandy Wallace, serve in an ongoing consulting relationship around the strategic direction of the business.

Independent Packing Services Inc. was nominated by Meda and received SBA assistance from the Small Business Development Center.

Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year

Immanuel Dental, Inc. in Farmington has been named Minnesota’s Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year. Linden Dungy, CEO, founded the company in 2005 and quickly outgrew the space he had leased. Growing the business in the recession, Dungy constructed a new office and increased sales by 22% in the first year in the expanded location. Employing eight and donating thousands in free dental services annually, in addition to various other contributions to church, school and events, Immanuel Dental is a proven asset to its community.

Nominated by the 504 Corporation in Rochester, Minn., Immanuel Dental has benefited from SBA loan products, including a loan in 2012 to construct a new dental facility and purchase equipment.

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Uri Camarena has been named Minnesota’s Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. As a business consultant for Meda in Minneapolis, Mr. Camarena has been able to use his vast corporate experience to help other entrepreneurs with their businesses.

A native from Mexico, Camarena came to the Twin Cities after graduating high school in Guadalajara, Mexico. Retired after 30 years with UPS corporate, Camarena has advocated for minority entrepreneurs for almost nine years. Services offered include legal, legislative, immigration and employment

policies. Financially, Camarena has helped clients access funding and grants that the clients could have a difficult or no opportunity of obtaining.

Camarena’s community involvement goes far beyond his job responsibilities. He is a member of the Latino Economic Development Center’s credit committee, co-founder of the VocalEssence program Cantare!, which is designed to bring the talents of Mexican music composers directly into Minnesota classrooms and much more.

SBDC Excellence and Innovation Center of the Year

For its efforts to help 19 new businesses add nearly \$13 million to the economy in the southeastern part of Minnesota, the Southeast Small Business Development Center at the Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn., was chosen as Minnesota’s SBDC Excellence and Innovation Center of the Year.

Each year the Small Business Development Center in Rochester provides approximately 3,000 consulting hours to more than 300 companies in eleven counties. Helping small business grow in their area, they help them with SBA loan products, local incentive programs, micro-loans and investor groups.

Small Business Person of the Year

Gloria Freeman, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Minneapolis-based Olu’s Home, Inc. and Olu’s Center, was chosen as Minnesota’s Small Business Person of the Year.

Founded in 1999, Olu’s Home provides residential and in-home services to the elderly and persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness. The company operates nine group homes and has over 100 employees in the Minneapolis area. The newest venture began last year when Freeman opened the intergenerational care center, Olu’s Center, which provides a day program for children and seniors where they can interact with each other.

While developing her business, Freeman received SBA loans and participated in the SBA Emerging Leaders Program, an intensive, MBA-level training program for executives of high-potential, small businesses in America’s underserved cities.

Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year

Azule Staffing in Eagan has been named as the Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year for Minnesota. Nominated by the MN Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), Owner Michael Wolbrink, is a former U.S. Army Airborne Ranger with a proven commitment to the veteran community.

Founded in 2012, Azule Staffing’s primary mission is to put veterans to work in lucrative, rewarding vocations outside of the military. In addition to helping his fellow veterans find jobs, he offers job coaching, mentoring, resume refinement and more.

Wolbrink received significant assistance from SBA’s partner PTAC, including mentoring, Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business certification and more.

Veterans Small Business Champion of the Year

Patricia Dotter, Veterans Small Business Champion of Year, has gone above and beyond to increase business opportunities for veterans in Minnesota. Through her position at the MN Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Dotter has helped veteran-owned small businesses to learn about upcoming contracting opportunities, respond to solicitations and market their business to the government.

To get more businesses certified as Veteran-Owned, Dotter co-founded the Veteran Verification Clinic (which recently received national recognition) to help veterans qualify for government and private business contracts. In the past year, Pat has assisted 55 veteran and service disabled veteran-owned companies. Those businesses have gone on to report nearly \$12 million in government contracts.

Women-Owned Small Business of the Year

The Coffee Hag in Mankato has been named the Women-Owned Small Business of the Year in Minnesota. Owner Jennifer Melby-Kelley has worked to ensure that the business remains profitable while it focuses on promoting diversity, inclusivity and community. A popular destination for coffee lovers, the Coffee Hag is one of the area’s only venues to enjoy live music in an all-ages, alcohol-free, environment.

A strong advocate for women and minority businesses, Melby-Kelley leads by example, participating in women’s entrepreneurship panels and

leadership programs, speaking engagements and mentoring. She offers a great example to other business owners of what mixing vision, dedication, talent and genuine caring can do to improve their chances of success.

Nominated by the South Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Melby-Kelley has received a SBA loan and business counseling from the SBDC including help with business operations, cash flow man-



Eric Mickelson and his 1937 John Deere A at plow days in Oklee, August 2011.

The John Deere Model A

By Auctioneer, Eric Mickelson

If someone were to ask me what is your favorite tractor, I would probably answer the model R or the model G. But really the two cylinder tractor I have spent the most time driving is the model A. Growing up we had a 1952 that was purchased new at Rolandson Implement, in Oklee, MN, by my grandfather, Clarence Ellickson. When I started farming, one of the first tractors I bought was a 1950 wide front model A. My dad gave me a 1937 A, and since then I have purchased 1947, 1948, and a 1949 models. So I would claim to be familiar with the model A tractor.

The model A went into production in April of 1934. John Deere needed another model to go with the D and GP. International Harvester was introducing the F-12 to go with the already popular F-20. The early 1930’s was not a great time for tractor companies. Many were going out of business. John Deere needed to find a model to keep their tractor division alive. They did, the model A! The model A came off the assembly line with three main configurations. The typical two wheel tricycle narrow front. The A was also available with a single front wheel(called the AN), and a wide adjustable front(called the AW).

From 1934 to 1938 the model A tractors were unstyled. This means the radiator and steering column were exposed, as most tractors of the time were. The model had given John Deere a

agement, business valuation, financial/capital management and Quickbooks.

Minnesota Small Business Week Awards Program will be held on May 4, 2016, at the Doubletree in Saint Louis Park, Minn. Registration is open for the event until April 29 at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ceh08cz5eca8b09&llr=atpeqtcb>

For more information on Small Business Week, please visit www.sba.gov/NSBW.

new weapon in the competition with International Harvester’s Farmsll tractors. Although introduced into a poor farm economy the model A was very successful. Now Deere and company engineers started looking for a way to “style” their models A and B. Automobile companies were very much into styling their cars with curved fenders and other ways to improve their appearances. To accomplish this Deere and Co. turned to Henry Dryfess, an industrial designer. By 1937 Dryfess had about six designs ready. In 1938 John Deere unveiled their new styled look! This is the design that says JOHN DEERE to me!!!

How About a Little Tractor Trivia

1. What does the model AN stand for?
2. What does the model AW stand for?
3. What does the model AR stand for?
4. The first experimental model A’s were called Model _____.
5. The John Deere model A production run lasted from 1934-_____.

Answers: 1. A narrow 2. A wide front 3. A standard tread 4. “AA” 5. 1952

Be aware of bears this spring

Anyone living near bear habitat is reminded to be aware of bears this spring and check their property for food sources that could attract bears, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said.

“With a warm spring so far, we’re already getting calls about bears out rummaging for food,” said Eric Nelson, wildlife animal damage program supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “However, leaving food out in yards that can be eaten by bears sets the stage for potential property damage and presents dangers to bears.”

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up and they will begin looking for food at a time when berries and green vegetation can be scarce. Bears may be tempted by dog food, livestock feed, birdseed, compost or garbage.

Only black bears live in the wild in Minnesota. They normally are shy and usually flee when encountered. Never approach or try to pet a bear. Injury to people is rare, but bears are potentially dangerous because of their size, strength and speed.

The DNR does not relocate problem bears. Relocated bears seldom remain where they are released. They may return to where they were caught or become a problem somewhere else.

The DNR offers some tips for avoiding bear conflicts:

Around the yard
Do not leave food from barbeques and picnics outdoors, especially overnight. Coolers are not bear-proof.

Replace hummingbird feeders with hanging flower baskets, which are also attractive to hummingbirds.

Eliminate birdfeeders or hang them 10 feet up and 4 feet out from the nearest trees.

Use a rope and pulley system to refill birdfeeders, and clean up seeds that spill onto the ground. Where bears are a nuisance, birdfeeders should

be taken down between now and Dec. 1.

Store pet food inside and feed pets inside. If pets must be fed outdoors, feed them only as much as they will eat.

Clean and store barbeque grills after each use. Store them in a secure shed or garage away from windows and doors.

Pick fruit from trees as soon as it’s ripe, and collect fallen fruit immediately.

Limit compost piles to grass, leaves and garden clippings, and turn piles regularly. Do not add food scraps.

Harvest garden produce as it matures. Locate gardens away from forests and shrubs that bears may use for cover.

Use native plants in landscaping whenever possible. Clover and dandelions will attract bears.

Elevate bee hives on bear-proof platforms or erect properly designed electric fences.

Do not put out feed for wildlife (like corn, oats, pellets or molasses blocks).

Garbage

Store garbage in bear-resistant garbage cans or dumpsters. Rubber or plastic garbage cans are not bear-proof.

Keep garbage inside a secure building until the morning of pickup.

Store recyclable containers, such as pop cans, inside.

Store especially smelly garbage, such as meat or fish scraps, in a freezer until it can be taken to a refuse site.

People should always be cautious around bears. If they have persistent bear problems after cleaning up the food sources, they should contact a DNR area wildlife office for assistance. For the name of the local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit www.mndnr.gov/contact/locator.html to find a local office.

For more information about avoiding bear conflicts, visit www.mndnr.gov/livingwith_wildlife/bears.

Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I recently broke my foot and have it in a cast. Am I still allowed to drive? Does it matter which foot it is?

Answer: There are not any blanket restrictions, but a physician may restrict a patient “for a temporary condition” on a case-by-case basis. A physician who diagnoses a physical or mental condition that will significantly impair the person’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may voluntarily report the person’s name and other relevant information to the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.



Every driver is responsible for maintaining control of their vehicle at all times and must use due care in operating a vehicle.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

Obedience Training

It came to pass one day that this teacher of reading received notice that she was needed elsewhere in the building. With great urgency she, meaning I, was mandated to teach another’s class. My role is flexible within the school, and so I flexed.

By noon my new pupils and I were gathered round the rug as the chosen read aloud was from “Little House in the Big Woods” by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Astute listeners sat at attention not missing a beat as the next chapter was read. The vocabulary expanded their minds, the words formed pictures, and they were caught up in a time long ago...thoroughly enjoying each scene unfolding.

In this chapter Pa had taken a little one, who had disobeyed, to the woodshed so to speak. A switch was brought out to teach the little lad a lesson. As the character in the story had left early to get the cows and thought there was room for dawdling along the way, he did just that. It turned dark sooner than later, and the problem was that the he couldn’t locate the cows. He spent precious time in the dark woods searching for them. When he had not found a one, he headed back home only to find them already waiting at the gate.

However, the boy had disobeyed and needed to be reprimanded accordingly. And, like a proof in math that explains why you do what you do, pa began the explanation as to why his son was about to get “the switch.”

“It’s for your own good,” he stated.

The inference was that the child was too inexperienced to see the dangers, too young to understand financial investments or the intricacies involved in providing for the family, and too little to see the dangers that lie in wait that could bring harm.



“Going Green”

You have probably noticed that “Going Green” is everywhere and being applied to all aspects of our lives. If you google this phrase, you will quickly be overwhelmed with the amount of ways to apply this to your life. You don’t have to be a tree hugger to “Go Green” and you most certainly don’t need to do everything on every website to “Go Green”. It really is as easy as picking three things you would like to do differently that would have positive impacts for our environment.

The Go Green Initiative which is all about helping schools create a campus-wide culture of conservation defines “Go Green” as the following:

What does it mean to “Go G.R.E.E.N.?”

Generate less waste
Recycle everything that cannot be reused

Educate the community on eco-friendly options
Evaluate the environmental impact of actions

Nourish discussions and activities that integrate environmental education into existing curriculum

The WorldWatch Institute provides a few simple ideas on how you can begin your journey into “Going Green”:

1. Save energy to save money.
 - Set your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer to save on heating and cooling costs.
 - Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible. As much as 85 percent of the energy used to machine-wash clothes goes to heating the water.
 - Use a drying rack or clothesline to save the energy otherwise used during machine drying.

The son needed to obey because the father required it...for the little guy’s own protection, “for his own good.”

The lad did not intentionally go looking for trouble, but trouble was a heartbeat away for all concerned. And as difficult as it was, a reminder needed

to be given. The switch was brought out and as the eyes of my little audience before me got bigger and bigger, I had to take pause in order to explain what a “switch” was. Silence abounded as I tried to liken it to something familiar and sure enough, plenty a hand went up when I mentioned “love taps” or in my day and age and apparently theirs, “spankings.” They could understand it on their terms and many a head bobbed in recognition.

Truth-be-told, I hadn’t thought that a “proof” needed to be used in order to understand obedience and wondered of I hadn’t possibly missed a teachable moment among those I’d raised. Certainly obedience and respect was taught in our home, but I’m not sure I got the message across as clearly as it was told in the chapter book upon the rug. However, His word doesn’t miss the mark and gives living proof...or reasons why we need to obey. Flat out...it’s so harm will not intentionally be invited into our lives. And, with promises like the one below, who wouldn’t want a little “obedience training.” After all, “it’s for our own good.”

Proverbs 9:9-11 states it clearly. “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.” Amen.

2. Save water to save money.
 - Take shorter showers to reduce water use. This will lower your water and heating bills too.
 - Install a low-flow showerhead. They don’t cost much, and the water and energy savings can quickly pay back your investment.
 - Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your garden. Many plants need minimal watering. Find out which occur naturally in your area.

3. Less gas = more money (and better health!).
 - Walk or bike to work. This saves on gas and parking costs while improving your cardiovascular health and reducing your risk of obesity.

4. Skip the bottled water.
 - Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water. Not only is bottled water expensive, but it generates large amounts of container waste.
 - Bring a reusable water bottle, preferably aluminum rather than plastic, with you when traveling or at work.

5. Borrow instead of buying.
 - Borrow from libraries instead of buying personal books and movies. This saves money, not to mention the ink and paper that goes into printing new books.

6. Keep electronics out of the trash.
 - Donate or recycle electronics responsibly when the time comes. E-waste contains mercury and other toxics and is a growing environmental problem.

7. Make your own cleaning supplies.
 - The big secret: you can make very effective, non-toxic cleaning products whenever you need them. All you need are a few simple ingredients like baking soda, vinegar, lemon, and soap.

For more information on these efforts you can visit their websites at: www.worldwatch.org or www.gogreeninitiative.org

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OBITUARIES



Services held for Eugene Melander

Eugene Richard Melander, 86, of Gonvick, MN, died on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at the Good Samaritan Center in Clearbrook, MN.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Samhold Lutheran Church in Gonvick, MN. Interment at United Lutheran Cemetery in Berner, MN. Military rites were accorded by the American Legion Post No. 304 of Gonvick, MN. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Gene was born on March 25, 1929 to Gustave and Caroline (Gomsrud) Melander of Berner, MN. They had 12 children; 10 survived to adulthood.

Gene married Darlene Rouland of Gully and they had 5 children, Jeff, Darla, Joni, Jayson, and Joel. They have

11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Gene was a life-long horse enthusiast and cattle-man. As a mid-west cowboy, he farmed/ranchd south of Gully. He rode and participated in Gonvick Saddle Club events, and later in life continued to assist and organize Gonvick Lion's Club Rodeo events. He was a member of Gonvick American Legion Post #304 and very active for many years.

He was always very welcoming and generous to his nieces, nephews, and siblings who loved spending holidays and summers at his farm. And all of his children are aware of how proud he was of them and how much he loved his grandchildren.

Always quick to smile, he enjoyed the ranching and cowboy ways. He loved to dance, attending many local events. This is he "Last Cowboy Waltz". May God bless his memory and his family legacy.

He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey (Linda) Melander, Jayson Melander, and Joel (Becky) Melander; his daughters, Darla Melander and Joni (Lyle) Swanson; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Gustave and Caroline Melander; his brothers, John, Robert, Phillip, and Roger Melander; and his sisters, Leola Brandon, Grace Nyland, Natalie Haugen, June Neal, and Muriel Wagner.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneral-home.com.



Services held for Verna Blaha

Verna Louise Blaha was born on March 20th, 1922 in St. Louis, Missouri, the only child to Gustav and Freda (Schwend) Mecklenburg. Raised in Henderson, Minnesota, Verna graduated Valedictorian from Henderson High School and attended Mankato State College. She played the Alto Saxophone in the Henderson Community Band where she met her future husband, Christian Joseph Blaha, who played the Tenor Saxophone. Married on June 29, 1939, Verna was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Blessed with 7 children, Barbara Jean, Mary Jane, Elizabeth Ann, Janet Lee, Veronica Lou, Kenneth David and Christine Mae, as well as 26 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, Verna leaves behind a legacy of faith, hard work, and love that will long outlive her in the years to come.

Throughout their married life, Verna and Chris embarked on several career changes including both working on the factory line at the Minnesota Valley Canning Company, better known to many as the beloved icon, Jolly Green Giant. For many years, Verna and Chris worked the family farm in Henderson, with Verna becoming a Stanley Dealer and working for 60 years as an enthusiastic branch manager for Stanley Home Products. She started in sales and was quickly promoted to a branch manager position. This promotion meant a move for the Blaha family in 1958 to Hopkins, where they continued to live for the next 42 years. All seven children, and many of Verna's grandchildren, still recall vivid memories attending Stanley parties in addition to packing Stanley

orders in the office of the family home in Hopkins. Verna demonstrated to her children such confidence and courage to stand before hundreds of women teaching them how to clean their own homes using the Stanley products. A successful working woman with grace, tenacity and incredible energy.

In 2000, at the age of 76, Verna sold the family home in Hopkins and moved with her daughter, Christine, and family to Annandale. Finally, eight years later, she moved one last time, with the family, to Clearbrook, where she lived the remaining years of her life. In the 16 years between Annandale and Clearbrook, Verna had the opportunity to enjoy her love for gardening even more by spending countless happy hours with her flowers and plants all summer long. Possessed with a tender heart for animals, Verna was an avid reader, appreciated and enjoyed every moment she was with family and never refused a treat of ice cream, cookies or cake. There was always room for something sweet.

Verna was the kindest, most loving, conscientious woman, ever active with her family. We her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, pray that we can carry on each day this remarkable woman did, looking forward with a strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and making every day brighter and more blessed for every life we touch just as mom taught us through the legacy of her faith, hard work and love. She passed away peacefully in the traditional Catholic faith on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 surrounded with loving family, blessed with grace.

She is preceded in death by her Husband, Christian J. Blaha; Parents, Gustav and Freda Mecklenburg; and Grandson, Cody J. Mack. Survived by her children: Barbara (Don) Rebertus, Mary Laux, Elizabeth (Walt) Baird, Janet (John) Krawczak, Veronica (David) Decker, Kenneth Blaha, and Christine (Andrew) Mack; and many grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 AM on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at St. Anne's Traditional Roman Catholic Church. Interment in St. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, Belle Plaine, under the direction of the Honsa Family Funeral Home, White Bear Lake, Minnesota.



Services held for Evelyn Hanson

Evelyn Marie Hanson, 92, of Clearbrook, MN, died Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at Sanford Bagley Medical Center in Bagley, MN.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM, Monday, March 21, 2016 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Clearbrook, MN with Reverend Bob Kirchman officiating. Interment at Silver Creek Cemetery in Clearbrook, MN.

Evelyn was born November 9, 1923 in Equality Township near Oklee to Edward and Margit (Nereson) Erickson, the youngest of six sisters. Evelyn was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church North of Oklee. She graduated from Oklee High School and

married Walter Hanson in Oklee on July 2, 1946. She held several jobs over the years, including being a telephone switchboard operator in Oklee, and working as a nursing assistant and laundress/ housekeeping at Good Samaritan Center in Clearbrook for over 40 years.

Evelyn enjoyed playing guitar and singing. She was known for her delicious homemade buns; she had her own special recipe. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Lyle (Vicki) Hanson of Clearbrook, MN; her grandchildren, Heather (Troy) Sawyer of Albertville, MN, Alison (Chad) Boutet of Monticello, MN, and Lindsey (Christopher) Lloyd of Ramsey, MN; and her great grandchildren, Ben and Maddy Sawyer; Blair and Colton Boutet; and Jasmine, Christian and Olivia Lloyd. Walter's sister, Louella Arveson; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Margit Erickson; and her husband, Walter Hanson; her sisters, Annie, Selma, Hannah, Laura, Caroline, and Laura; and Walter's siblings, Gertrude, Sanna, and Harry.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneral-home.com



Services held for Ellen Beggs

Ellen Mary Beggs, 58, of Crookston, MN died Tuesday, March 8, 2016 in the comfort of her home after a short, but courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

She was born at Herts and Essex General Hospital in Bishops Stortford England on October 30, 1957 to Richard and Pamela (Lee) White. Ellen lived in several countries and states as her father was in the Air Force. She graduated High School in Rantoul Illinois in 1975, and attended UMC in Crookston, MN. Ellen was blessed with three daughters, Rachel, Dana and Krystal with her first husband David Wilkens. On September 6, 1986 she was united in marriage to Randy Beggs.

Ellen was a beloved day-

care provider for 19 years in Crookston, her daycare kids knew her as 'the good cooker'. She worked briefly at Dahlgrens then for 18 years at New Flyer of America. Ellen was a dedicated member of the Crookston Eagles #873, serving as madam president from 2008-2009. She was also a member of the Presbyterian Church of Crookston. Ellen had many hobbies throughout the years including softball, darts and bowling. She enjoyed spending time with her many grandchildren, at the lake with her family and friends, and long motorcycle rides with her husband.

Ellen is preceded in death by her infant son, her mother-in-law Mary Beggs and her best friend Betty Boyd. She is survived by Randy, her husband of 29 years, daughters Rachel (Chuck) Davis of Savannah GA, Dana (Zebadiah) of Fargo ND, and Krystal (Jonathan) Noyes of Erskine MN. She is also survived by ten grandchildren - Dante, Jabree, Isabella, Caleb, Owen, Felix, Jacob, Axel, Elvis and Abel. Other survivors include her parents Richard and Pamela White, four sisters - Ruth, Amy, Bertha and Colleen, brother Nelson and many, many, friends and relatives.

Memorial services were at 1 p.m. Monday, March 14, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church, Crookston.

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Death notice for Ethel Fisher

Ethel C. Fisher, 88, of Long Prairie, MN, died on Friday, March 18, 2016 at CentraCare Health in



Long Prairie, MN.

Arrangements are pending with Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley, MN.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneral-home.com.

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EGRESS WINDOWS

RiverView Health CEO/President Carrie Michalski one of the top 25 women in business

RiverView Health CEO/ President Carrie Michalski was recently named one of the top 25 women in business.

"Prairie Business is pleased to present its Top 25 Women in Business, a list of female role models who exemplify motivation, determination and ambition," said Prairie Business Editor Lisa Gibson. "They are leaders in their careers, in their families and in their communities. Congratulations to all of them."

Honorees were selected through a nomination process that emphasized professional achievement, community contributions and work-life balance from 150 nominees from North Dakota, South Dakota and western Minnesota.

"I am honored to be included in this recognition of a group of highly driven and successful women in the region," Michalski shared. "Reading through the biographies, I felt that there are certainly some common attributes for the group, including having impactful career mentors and a deep support of their families. I know for me both of these things are especially true. Without the wisdom and guidance of the Jenny Amon's and Sandy Benson's of the world early in my career and the support of my husband Jay, my mother and my mother-in-law, increasing my leadership responsibilities at RiverView Health would not have been possible. I am blessed to work with a talented team and for



an organization that continues to support my professional development."

Michalski, an Argyle native, has been with RiverView Health for more than 20 years. She started her RiverView career as the administrator of Hillcrest Nursing Home when RiverView operated the facility in Red Lake Falls. In 2004, she became the vice president of Senior Services, adding Home Care and the Care Center in Crookston to her list of duties as administrator. She was named vice president of Operations in 2010. During that time, she also served as interim president/ CEO of RiverView for many months before taking the role on permanently. Michalski has a degree in Healthcare Administration from Concordia College, Moorhead. She and Jay, who owns and operates a family farm east of Argyle, have three daughters: Paige, 11; and twins Danielle and Erin, 10.

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Beyond the Gap

By *Johnathan Hladik, johnathanh@cfra.org, Center for Rural Affairs*

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law six years ago this month. The uninsured rate is now 11.9%, the lowest ever recorded. Approximately 17 million more Americans have health insurance today than before the law was passed. Hospitals across the nation have saved tens of billions of dollars on uncompensated care.

Despite this progress, over 5 million Americans remain unable to access health insurance because they fall into the "coverage gap." These individuals make too much income to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to be eligible for the tax credits that make private health insurance affordable.

While 80% of this group live with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level, over 70% have at least one full-time worker in

their family. Nearly one-third of these households carry medical debt, the primary cause of bankruptcy in the nation.

Everyone stuck in the "coverage gap" lives in one of 18 states; the other 32 states have expanded Medicaid.

It's clear the Affordable Care Act has made a positive difference. But challenges remain. A minority of states have stubbornly chosen to leave hard-working residents without access to health care. Those elected leaders have sacrificed the health of their constituents in pursuit of individual political goals.

Legislation is under consideration in the 18 states yet to expand health care access. If you live in one of those states, take this opportunity to tell your representative where you stand. Let's work together to make the "coverage gap" a thing of the past.

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R26TFC



Registration began for the Gully Tri-Coop Association Annual meeting at 9:30 am. Adrienne Hanson, Bookkeeper and Office Manager, with the help of Linda Godtland, were very busy getting everyone signed up for the day.



Left to right: GM Russ Crawford, Jared Hoeft, Trent Dyrdaahl, Cory Carlson, Steve Hughes, Paul Rydeen, Dean Hanson, Lon Vettleson.

Gully Tri-Coop continued from front page.....

Hardware/Lumber Manager Rick Bjerklie talked about both Lumber and Steel is down about 10%. And if you are interested in doing any buildings, crews are available. We have a good supply of tillage in stock and ready to go. Rick did discuss a new carbide tip for chisel plow teeth are very good, but they do cost more, since they need to be welded on. Stop in to discuss your needs with Rick before you really need them.

Agronomist Cam Schafer wasn't able to be at the meeting but he typed up a report for Lloyd Godtland Agronomy Manager to read. Cam is excited to get going on the New Seed Treater that was the 1st season last spring. We have completed most everything that needed to get done. And we feel ready to take care of all the farmer's Seed treater needs. Be sure to contact us and make plans ahead of the game. This will be our 1st season with working with the R7 tool. This is referred to as "eyes in the sky", this will help with satellite view of fields. Any other questions please call the Gully Coop and talk to Cam.

Agronomy Manager Lloyd Godtland said that the pricing for Fertilizer is down about 25% from last year. Last August we sustained storm damage at our Clearbrook location. That has been taken care of along with an updated unloading system and updating bins; we have added 3 new pull type spreaders and a tender truck. Since Yvonne Hetland left in October we hired Ashley Hoffman to work in our Clearbrook office.

Wesley Griggs of CoBank spoke to the assembly and congratulated the Coop for another great year. He told a little back ground of the CoBank Agri business and the Cooperatives that they do business with. Mr Griggs talked about the monies that CoBank is able to give back in Patronage and the patronage that Gully would receive.

President David Olson called for Nominations of 3 - 3 year terms for Board of Director. An unanimous ballot was cast for Steve Hughes, Paul Rydeen and Jared Hoeft.

President David Olson thanked everyone for their Patronage to the Gully Coop. Vice President Dean Hanson got up and Thanked David Olson for his years of serving as Gully's Board of Director which was up this year. As David has completed his 3rd 3 year term as Director.

Winners this year were: 4



Waiting for the annual Gully Tri-Coop Association meeting held on Saturday, March 12th to begin were employees who were helping that day. From left: Matt Schmit, Elevator Operator, Lloyd Godtland, Agronomy Manager and Kory Solberg, Clearbrook Operations Manager.

burner Gas Grill – Dennis Erickson: Gift Certificates: Fay Bjerkie, Danny Paulson, Bloyd Ness, Larry Berg, Steve Rasmussen, Roger Rinkenberger, Helen Sordahl, Jerome Schmit. Hat: Diane Sundrud, Winfield – Cornerstone: Jim Solien, Bev Anderson, Lawn Chair: Stanley Solhiem, Grill Tools: Vernon

Voeltz, Pail: Marvin Berg, Red Pen/Blue Pen: Arlis Mathis. Lunch was served by United Ladies Aid and Entertainment was provided by Tim Johnson and Steve Rasmussen. Potatoes Donated by Peatland Reds.

Submitted by
Adrienne Hanson.

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AgCountry Farm Credit Services Distributes \$15 Million to Member-Owners

AgCountry Farm Credit Services recently paid \$15 million in cash patronage to their member-owners based on the company's 2015 earnings. The distribution was announced in January, and was paid out to member-owners this March in proportion to their 2015 eligible loan business.

"We work hard to maintain a strong cooperative, and being able to share a portion of our income is something that gives us great pride," says Bob Bahl, AgCountry President & CEO. "We're owned by the farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses that we serve, and paying patronage is an important part of the value we deliver."

"It's a great feeling knowing that a portion of this went

to our producers right here in northwest Minnesota," adds Kevin Geerdes, Senior Loan Officer/Branch Manager of AgCountry's Fosston and Thief River Falls offices. "We're very happy with the Board's decision."

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2016 Mille Lacs regulations designed to keep walleye fishing open

Regulations designed to protect the fish needed to rebuild Mille Lacs Lake's walleye population will require that walleye anglers use only artificial bait and immediately release all walleye when Minnesota's 2016 fishing season opens Saturday, May 14.

"A catch-and-release walleye season allows us to protect future spawners yet acknowledges the desire that fishing remain open," said Don Pereira, fisheries chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Not allowing harvest is a difficult decision but it provides our best option."

From May 14 to Thursday, Dec. 1, anglers targeting walleye must use artificial bait and immediately release all walleye caught. Anglers targeting northern pike and muskellunge may possess and use sucker minnows longer than 8 inches but all other anglers must not possess any other bait that is live, dead, frozen or processed.

Other changed regulations for the 2016 season on Mille Lacs include:

- **Walleye:** Night closure beginning Monday, May 16, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and continuing through Dec. 1. Muskellunge anglers may fish at night but all baits, live or artificial, in possession must be at least 8 inches long.

- **Northern pike:** Five fish with only one longer than 40 inches. All northern 30-40 inches long must be immediately released.

- **Bass:** Four fish with only one longer than 21 inches. All fish 17-21 inches long must be immediately released.

"These new regulations reflect the DNR's commitment to continue providing world-class fishing at one of Minnesota's premier vacation destinations," Pereira said.

Last year on Mille Lacs, walleye anglers could use live bait and keep one walleye 19-21 inches long or longer than 28 inches. Walleye fishing closed in August when fishing pressure, the number of fish caught and temperatures combined to push the state over its 28,600 pound walleye limit. Fishing re-opened on Dec. 1, 2015, with a walleye limit of one 18-20 inches or one longer than 28 inches.

This year's safe walleye harvest level established by the DNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission remains at 40,000 pounds, with 28,600 allocated to state anglers and 11,400 to tribal anglers. Allowing fishing beyond those limits puts the walleye population at risk and a federal court decision requires that walleye fishing be suspended.

"The possibility of closing Mille Lacs to walleye fishing is greater this year than it was last," Pereira said. "Even with our catch-and-release approach, the risk remains considerable."

Concern stems from the additional pressure that hooking

mortality – an estimate of the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water – has on walleye harvest. Hooking mortality rates also increase as water temperatures warm. Both factors are at play in Mille Lacs this year.

The DNR expects more small- and intermediate-sized fish to be caught, including fish hatched in 2013 that biologists are counting on to rebuild Mille Lacs' walleye population. These immature fish, which are approaching a more catchable but comparatively small size of 14 inches and longer, need to be protected so they can spawn. Ice is opening on lakes earlier this year, increasing the likelihood that water temperatures will warm faster and sooner.

"A low level of allowed harvest doesn't necessarily mean slow walleye fishing," Pereira said. "As we saw last year, factors can combine to alter estimates and require adjustments. We believe that allowing no walleye harvest through catch-and-release is a reasonable yet cautious response based on in-depth analysis and citizen input from the Mille Lacs advisory committee."

As part of a more comprehensive study to better understand and estimate hooking mortality, the DNR will collect a variety of fishing information on Mille Lacs this summer. Temperature sensors will be placed in different parts of the lake at different depths to more accurately record temperatures where walleye congregate. Information on fishing methods and catches will be collected, too. Part of the information collection aspect of the research program will allow Mille Lacs' fishing launches to be exempt from the live bait restriction.

"Anglers fish close together on launches, making it extremely difficult to safely cast artificial lures rather than dropping baited lines into the water," Pereira said. "Since the DNR needs more data to refine its hooking mortality standards, asking launches to provide this data will allow a traditional, popular and enjoyable method of fishing on Mille Lacs to continue."

Launch operators receiving a permit can use live bait provided they agree to participate in efforts to collect data from fishing trips, launch customers and cooperate with the hooking mortality study. Their permits would be suspended if walleye fishing on Mille Lacs has to be closed.

Bass regulations compromise

Anglers can keep four bass in any combination of largemouth and smallmouth, down from last year's limit of six fish. The new regulations add a requirement that all fish 17-21 inches be immediately released, and

the length restriction for the largest fish an angler may keep increased from 18 to 21 inches.

The early harvest offered on Mille Lacs also was eliminated, requiring that – like the rest of the state – all bass caught during the first two weeks of the season be immediately released.

Mille Lacs' exemption to the statewide fall closure of the smallmouth bass season remains, meaning that anglers may keep smallmouth bass they catch on Mille Lacs through Feb. 28, 2017.

DNR changed the regulation to balance bass angling groups' call for stricter regulations to protect Mille Lacs Lake's world-class smallmouth fishery with the desire and need to provide anglers opportunities to harvest fish.

"Bass regulations are a compromise," Pereira said. "Last year's regulations were biologically sound but it was important that DNR also factor in the emerging social aspects in this year's regulations."

The ability to exempt large bass tournaments from the size regulation and bag limits remains.

Northern pike regulations change

Mille Lacs anglers can keep five northern pike, only one of which can be longer than 40 inches. All fish 30-40 inches must be immediately released.

The five-fish limit was initially enacted last December. The protected slot limit replaces the provision that allowed anglers to keep only one fish longer than 30 inches.

The earn-a-trophy provision that required anglers to harvest two smaller pike before one larger one was eliminated for the 2016 open water season.

More information about Mille Lacs is available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake.



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