



Tri County Canary

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



Earl & Bergit Swenson (2015)

Earl & Bergit Swenson, a lifetime of accomplishments

Editor's Note: As this story is going to print, we received notice that Earl passed away. He has left behind a great legacy. See Earl's obit on page 7.

This story is written by Earl's son, Curt Swenson

Bergit was born in 1923 and grew up near Hill City, Minnesota. She raised animals on the farm of her parents, Olaf & Carrie Jellum. Bergit graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1941.

Earl was born in 1921 five miles north of Oklee, and he grew up on farms north and south of Oklee. He attended school at Bucktown School, a 2-room schoolhouse in Lambert Township. At age 14, he graduated from 8th grade and worked full time on the farm of his parents, Selmer & Synneva Swenson. After farming and being in business for many years, Earl was awarded a GED in Oklee at age 60.

In the early 1940s, Earl farmed and also drove busses for Oklee Public Schools and McIntosh Public Schools.

Earl & Bergit met at a church convention in Emo, Ontario in 1942. Bergit was an avid horse rider, and Earl visited her on his Indian and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Earl & Bergit were married in Grand Rapids on November 10, 1944 and made their home on a farm five miles south of Oklee. Later, they moved into Oklee, and they have resided for the past 20 years in their house in Oklee on "Sunset Corner".

Earl & Bergit have five children, all of whom graduated from Oklee High School: Karen Carlson (husband Doug) in Round Rock, Texas, Curt Swenson (Caroline) in Burr Ridge, Illinois, Tim Swenson (Donna) in Marshall, Minnesota, Don Swenson (Cheri) in Ramona, California, and Sherry Dake (Larry) in Oklee, Minnesota. Earl & Bergit have 13 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.

Earl was an entrepreneur and was engaged in many dif-

ferent business ventures in the Oklee area over the past 80 years – including driving school bus, raising mink, grain farming, raising livestock, selling petroleum products, trucking (hay, straw, grain, livestock, gravel, cars, spare parts), running a restaurant, and selling and servicing farm machinery, cars, trucks, snowmobiles, recreational equipment, and trailers.

In addition to raising five children, growing a beautiful vegetable garden, and supporting Earl's business ventures, Bergit drove school bus in Oklee for 40 years through all the weather conditions of northern Minnesota, including bitter cold and drifting snow. She took a great interest in the Oklee-area children whom she drove to school and to special events.

Bergit also was trained as an EMT and drove the Oklee Ambulance whenever needed. During the years that Earl sold farm machinery, Bergit was often on the road getting spare parts that were needed by farmers.

No one kept a tally of Earl & Bergit's millions of miles of safe driving.

Open for Business in Oklee

In 1952, Earl & Bergit traded their farm and their livestock for a service station and a house in Oklee. The station was located at the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue where Earl has been in business for most of the past 67 years. On January 2, 1953, Earl opened for business as a Massey Harris farm machinery dealer as well as a Cities Service station with bulk fuel delivery. He expanded the original building several times in subsequent years.

At that time, gas and fuel oil came to Oklee via the Soo Line Railroad and was pumped into storage tanks along the tracks. Earl then pumped the gas and fuel oil into his bulk truck for delivery to the service station and to customers in town and in the country. In the 1960s, the Cities Service brand was

changed to Citgo. Then Citgo was bought out by Gulf Oil, and subsequently the brand was switched to Conoco.

Earl also provided AAA Garage and Road Service, including towing services, for many years.

Trucking

In 1954, Earl started S&L (Swenson & LiaBraaten) Trucking. They hauled cattle to the stockyards of South St. Paul, horses to the port of Duluth, and hay to Kansas and Nebraska. They hauled spare farm machinery parts and used cars back to Oklee. This later became S&S (Swenson & Sorenson) Trucking.

Selling Farm Machinery

When Earl started the Massey Harris farm machinery business in 1953, Oklee already had numerous farm machinery dealers. Earl recalled that the following brands were sold in Oklee about that time: John Deere, Allis Chalmers, Case, Ford, Minneapolis Moline, Oliver, Cockshutt, International, Co-op, and Minnesota. Nevertheless, Earl developed a customer base that extended across a large area of northern Minnesota.

By 1956, Earl was the 2nd largest Massey Harris dealer in Minnesota. That year, Earl and his crew sold more than 50 new and used combines.

Massey Harris did not have a self-propelled grain swather at that time, so Earl added Owatonna swathers to his business. He also added Ferguson tractors, and then Ferguson and Massey Harris merged to become Massey-Ferguson.

The boom did not last. Farmers struggled with unusually wet weather in 1957. Also, the federal government came out with the Soil Bank program in which farmers were paid to not raise crops. In northern Minnesota, many farmers signed up for 10 years of Soil Bank. Earl had an auction sale to dispose of his large inventory of used farm machinery.

Selling Automobiles

In 1954, Earl started selling Plymouth and DeSoto automobiles. Soon after that, he also became a dealer for Dodge automobiles. In the 1950s and 1960s, car styling changed every year, and Earl always had a few of the latest new models on hand at his small dealership.

A larger part of Earl's au-



Standing: Tim, Curt, and Don, Sitting: Sherry, Earl, Bergit, Karen (2008).

tomobile operation was selling and servicing many brands of used cars and trucks. This also led Earl into the salvage business. Many old cars and trucks were put in a salvage yard on the west edge of Oklee, and these vehicles were a source of used engines and other parts for many years.

Selling Trucks

In 1956, Earl added GMC trucks to his list of business ventures. He sold and serviced GMC trucks of all types, including school busses with GMC chassis for Oklee Public Schools and other schools in northern Minnesota.

After the farm machinery business died, the new and used truck business became an important part of Earl & Bergit's livelihood. A key part of this business was selling and installing Grainmaster truck boxes and hydraulic hoists. Earl sometimes traveled to the Twin Cities or Chicago and purchased used trucks that were capable of providing many more miles of reliable service. Earl installed new boxes and hoists on these trucks for local farmers.

Snowmobiles

One of the most successful of Earl's business ventures was

Swenson...
continued on page 2



Earl's first business in Oklee (1953).



Earl and employees Darlene Enerson (now Sollie), Truman Thompson, Albert Boucher, Bill Champagne, and Larry O'Neill (1956).



Earl with a 1957 Dodge Station Wagon.



Trucks for sale in Oklee (1981).



Clare and Grace Roed and Heidee Smeby round out buckets full of candy and surprises as they play fun games at the Win-E-Mac Halloween Party held on October 27th at the school.



There were a lot of activities and games at the Win-E-Mac Halloween Party held on Sunday, October 27th. Here, Divinity Hedlund is off to another game.



Earl & Bergit's Wedding (1944).



Happy Halloween from everyone at Team Nord's! Nord's Pharmacy & Gifts in Fosston.

Do you Qualify for a Reduction in Property Taxes?

Disabled Veterans' Homestead Property Tax Exclusion
Who is eligible?

This program provides a property tax exclusion for the homestead of:

1. an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 70% percent or higher
2. surviving spouses of certain qualifying veterans and service members
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How do I apply?
Applications are available in your County Assessor's office. You must apply by December 15 to qualify for the exclusion on the current year's market value for taxes payable next year (except for manufactured homes assessed as personal property, which are taxed in the same year they are assessed).



Earl in International 500 Race (1977).

Swenson... continued from front

selling and servicing snowmobiles for 28 years, from 1968 until he sold the business in 1996. Earl started as an Arctic Cat dealer, and in 1972, he signed up as a Polaris dealer, and many of his customers continued to come to him for snowmobiles, clothing, and service.

For Earl & Bergit's children and grandchildren, a trip to Oklee in the winter always included riding snowmobiles. It didn't matter if the temperature was 30 degrees F below zero, Earl was ready to lead the

snowmobile riders over fields and hills and down the frozen river. Bergit always had an abundant supply of warm snowmobile clothing and warm food and beverages when the riders returned.

In 1976, Earl rode a Polaris snowmobile in the International 500 Race from St. Paul towards Winnipeg, but he and others got lost in a snowstorm and were disqualified. The next year, 1977, when the race went in the opposite direction from Winnipeg to St. Paul, Earl ran the complete race and was the oldest finisher at age 56.

Arcady Inn

In 1970, Earl purchased the Corner Café, which gave him more space to park cars and trucks near his dealership. He had not planned to run a restaurant, but like his other ventures, he jumped in with both feet. He purchased the former Oklee Post Office building next door and used it as a dining room for the restaurant, which he renamed Arcady Inn. He also added a buffet line to the restaurant. Bergit was able to help at the restaurant between school bus routes. In 1985, Arcady Inn was sold to one of the employees.

Mayor of Oklee

In the period 1979 to 1984, Earl served as a Councilman and then was elected as Mayor of Oklee. According to Earl, projects and issues during that time included remodeling of the Inter-County Building in Oklee, the conversion of Oklee's seldom-used golf course into a housing development, and the usual problems with "cats and dogs".

BG Products

In 1974, Earl started selling BG lubrication products, which were marketed to extend life and improve efficiency of engines, transmissions, and cooling systems. In 1979, Earl became the BG distributor for north Minnesota, North Dakota, and 13 counties in South Dakota, an area of 180,000 square miles. Earl and his employees spent a lot of time

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Oklee Mini Storage on Main Street (2015).



Earl & Bergit on the road selling BG Products (1984).



Arcady Inn in Oklee (1974). More photos on pg. 7

HUNTERS SUPPER!

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Gully Town Hall

Come as you are.
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Dear Romance advisors from Ron's Barbershop.

I'm so thankful that you are there for us, so we can come to you for these hard Questions on romance. Ron is an all right guy but when it comes to romance, he certainly does not seem to know much. Anyway, this is my problem in thinking about matrimony. Should a person buy an expensive ring and go on a less expensive honeymoon or should I buy a cheaper ring and have more money for a wild honeymoon, maybe even to go out of state to Fargo or something.

Perplexed

Dear Perplexed,

We here at the "Romance Division of Ron's barbershop" feel your pain and this our advise. We suggest with questions like this - never act too hasty. Think about it for a long time. A snap decision you should not make. In the mean time, "keep your money in the bank" and maybe buy a good fishing rod. If we can be of more help let us know in the future.

NEWS Alert: Melford Grudyn has now joined our team of experts at the romance center.

Plan on attending

The Clearwater Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club will be meeting on Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30 pm at the clubhouse in Leonard. All trails will be discussed.

Sons of Norway meeting

Sons of Norway Granlund Lodge #240 will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 Thursday evening, November 14, at the Embassy Center in Fosston. After the business meeting, members will trim stamps for the TUBFRIM organization in Norway that helps children and youth with disabilities and handicaps. The Tubfrim organization has from the start in 1928, donated over 2 1/2 million dollars to charity. Guests are always welcome.

Women of the ELCA to gather

The Conference Two Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, November 2nd at the Gully Community Center, Gully Minnesota. Everyone is welcome. Registration will be held from 8:30 to 9 a.m. with morning coffee. The program begins at 9 a.m.

A morning fellowship and inspiration has been planned. Olive Wiskow from Goodridge will be speaking about her diagnosis with cancer and having been given a short time to live years ago. We also will be entertained with the Gully Parish Youth group skit "Dr. Armstrongs Desk".

Contact Gelene, geldeen@gvtel.com, if any questions.

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FAMILY PACK

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FAMILY PACK

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R33-34C



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R33-34C



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Application and position specific information, including job duties, salary and educational requirements are available on our website at www.intercountycc.org. Send completed application and resume to Inter-County Community Council, attn.: Human Resources, PO Box 189, Oklee, MN 56742 or hr@intercountycc.org. Applications must be received by **Tuesday, November 12 at 4:30PM**, unless listed as open until filled. Call 218-796-5144 x. 1028 for more information.

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Nursing Assistant Faculty (Unlimited Full-time)

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Appointment date: January 7, 2020

If you have questions, contact Michele Brielmaier,
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R32-33C



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R33-34C



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O27Hc

Custodian I Facilities Management Department

The Polk County Facilities Department has an immediate opening for a full time, benefitted Custodian I position. This position performs a variety of custodial duties including emptying trash, sweeping, mopping and vacuuming floors, cleaning restrooms, and ordering and stocking supplies.

This position will be assigned a primary location, however, will be required to work at multiple facility locations as needed and assigned; including the jail. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Previous custodial experience is preferred but not required. A valid driver's license is required for this position. Wage range for this position is \$15.16 - \$19.27/hour; DOE and qualifications. An application and job description can be found on Polk County's website: www.co.polk.mn.us or contact the Polk County Administrator's Office at (218) 281-5408. Please send your completed application along with a cover letter and resume to the Polk County Administrator's Office, 612 N. Broadway, Room 211, Crookston, MN. Applications will be received until **4:30 p.m., November 13, 2019**. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment. EEO.

M32-33C

Polk County-Service Desk Technician

Polk County is seeking applicants for a full-time Service Desk Technician in the IT department, performing a variety of communication, documentation, troubleshooting, installation, configuration, and end user education/training tasks related to multiple IT equipment and systems. Post-secondary education and specialized training required. Wage range: \$22.79 - \$28.97/hour; DOE and qualifications. A full job description and application can be obtained online at <http://www.co.polk.mn.us> click on Careers or by contacting the Polk County Administrator's Office at 218-281-5408. Applications for this position will be received in the Administrator's Office, Polk County Government Center, 612 N. Broadway, Room 211, Crookston, MN until 4:30 p.m., November 20, 2019. EEO

M33-34C

Maintenance I - Facilities Management Department

The Polk County Facilities Department has an immediate opening for a full time, benefitted Maintenance I position. This position performs technical work performing building maintenance & remodel projects. Performs semi-skilled repair of electrical, plumbing, carpentry, boilers & HVAC systems. Primary work location is in a jail setting at the Justice Center. 1-2 years of experience in repairing & maintaining water pipe fixtures and other plumbing as well as upkeep of light commercial equipment and boilers. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and moderate experience in building maintenance, boilers and construction or equivalent combination of education and experience. A valid driver's license is required for this position. Wage range for this position is \$16.07 - \$20.42 /hour; DOE and qualifications. An application and job description can be found on Polk County's website: www.co.polk.mn.us click on Careers or contact the Polk County Administrator's Office at (218) 281-5408. Please send your completed application and resume to the Polk County Administrator's Office, 612 N. Broadway, Room 211, Crookston, MN. Applications will be received until 4:30 p.m., November 20, 2019. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment. EEO.

M33-34C

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R29Hn

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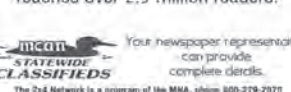


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Nov. 16th**

**Friday Night
Nov. 8th**
Hunters Ball
GUN RAFFLE
WILD WES 9PM-1AM

DINNER SPECIALS
Thursday Nov. 7th
Klub dinner w/side pork & dessert
11am-until gone Eat in or take-out
Broasted Pork Chop
comes with salad,
potato, roll & dessert
LUNCH & DINNER WITH DESSERT
Deer HUNTERS SPECIALS
Sat Nov. 9th lunch Hot Beef w/mashed
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Sun Nov. 10th lunch Hot Beef with Mashed
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potatoes & gravy

JOIN US SUNDAY 7:20, Nov. 10th
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Happy hour during the game, food
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R33C

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My Younger Days

Norris Syverson, a man with many memories, came to us at Richards Publishing and asked if we could make a book for him. He wrote the stories, and Carolyn (Finseth) Nelson typed what he wrote. It has been quite a journey through life for Norris and being the man that he is, he wants to share with folks his memories of days gone by. Over 200 pages! Over 100 pictures! Over 500 different topics! Some include: Drought Years; Sheep Shearing; Old Fashioned Haying; Our Buggy Rides.

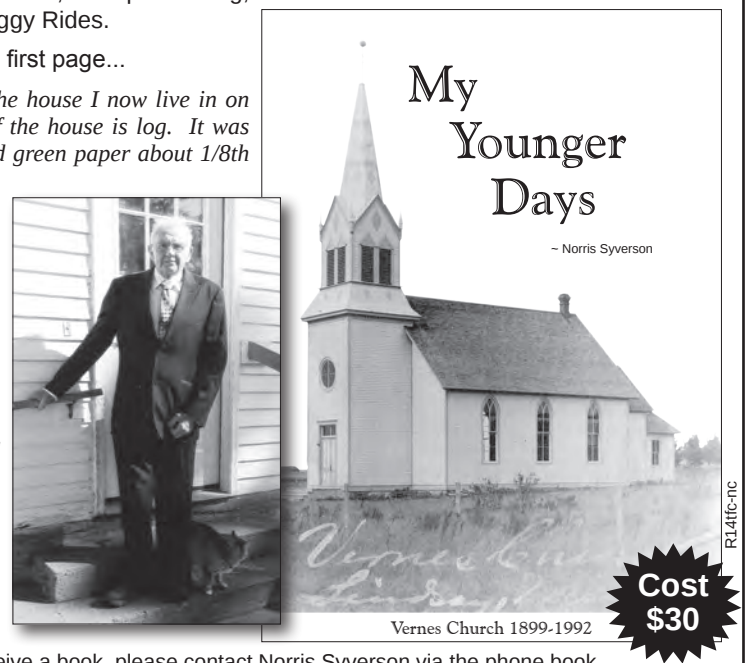
Here is just an excerpt from his first page...

I was born in the front room of the house I now live in on December 24, 1933. This part of the house is log. It was covered with some kind of pressed green paper about 1/8th of an inch thick, now it is covered with 1/2 inch thick celotex.

This house had only two rooms downstairs, each one about 12 feet by 14 feet, with low ceilings about 7 1/2 feet high...There were 5 boys and 5 girls aging from 1 year to 16 years old, plus Ma and Pa living in this small house at that time...

"I hope every reader will seek the Lord and make sure you have the Lord Jesus deep in your heart for this is the Will of God."

Thank you. Norris Syverson



If you would like to receive a book, please contact Norris Syverson via the phone book.

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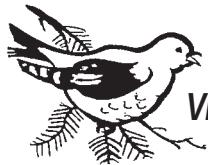
Answers on page 6

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I Refuse

I refuse. Flat out, I refuse to buy into what this world is selling. No, I'm not buying into the negative that all is doom and gloom. It is not. You see...I view things differently. Trust me when I say that I know it's not always a bed of roses because when I look out my kitchen window, I see mums. Literally, there is one big mound of these bright yellow potted plants and next to it another vibrant purple bunch in full bloom upon my front porch. It's a beautiful view. That is literally what I see and how I see things.

I decorated accordingly because it makes my corner of the world just a little happier, a tad more peaceful, and flat out brightens my day each time I look out my room with a view.

My front porch mums I did not plant from seed...but if I did not seed them, who did?

Driving past an outdoor shop set up seasonally for such a time as this is where I first spotted them in full bloom. This is where I bought them. Funny thing it is to buy mums at a place called "The Red Poppy Greenhouse" along main in a small town just down the road. The beautiful plants are arranged and rearranged daily alongside pumpkins from local

growers. Behind the pumpkins next to the colorful array of mums are large silken tasseled corn stalks brought in by yet another local farmer. Next to that are straw bales and did I mention you can purchase them in two different sizes? Someone took time to not only create larger bales with which to decorate around town and country, but smaller ones just in case the big ones did not fit the need.

Did the seasonal shop owner plant and seed the mums? She did not, but literally has her hand in it, so to speak, as she knows well the lineage from whence they came. Closely and carefully...she nurtures each step.

Soon, the truck driver delivers the beautiful mums with his beautiful big truck to the beautiful shop owner's seasonal space so that I could buy the mums to make my own space upon the front porch a little brighter. So did the truck driver plant and seed the mums? He did not.

If the truck driver did not plant and seed the mums, who did?

Shoulder to shoulder and hand to hand the seasonal shop owner works diligently with those who seed and grow. Once

grown, they load them into the truck to deliver the mums near enough for me to purchase.

And now, I wonder. I wondered where the growers got the seed in order to plant and grow?

Going back to the root of it all...this is what I discovered. "Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:11-12).

I take note about His thoughts on that which He created. What did He have to say about it? "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

As the seasonal shop owner made mention her thoughts...perhaps like the producer and the consumer, maybe it's not all that far between the seed maker and that which we behold...her words laid bare spoke truth.

It just doesn't get more locally grown than that...and I refuse to see it any other way...for it is not only good, but it is very good. Amen.

Coping with fewer hours of daylight

Daylight saving time comes to an end each fall, at a time when the hours of available sunlight already are beginning to decline.

Some people are more accustomed to darkness than others. Norwegians, Swedes and people living in Alaska and the upper reaches of Canada near or above the Arctic Circle may go through a period when winters can be especially dark. Fairbanks, Alaska, gets just three hours and 42 minutes of sunlight on the winter solstice. Those in Barrow, Alaska, will endure a period of 67 days of darkness, according to Alaska.org. Residents of Seattle, which is even further north than cities such as Fargo, North Dakota, or Portland, Maine, deal with more darkness than those living outside the city may know.

Although much of the rest of North America doesn't experience such profound periods of darkness, when the darkness of fall and winter arrives, it can be difficult to maintain a positive outlook. Borrowing some of the coping mechanisms relied on in northern latitudes can help many people to see the dark in a different light.

Be aware of SAD. Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is defined by the Mayo Clinic as a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons, beginning and ending at about the same times each year. Symptoms tend to start in the fall and continue into the winter, sapping energy and making a person feel moody. As with other types of depression, SAD can get worse and lead to severe problems if left untreated. Light treatment, talk therapy and medication can help people who



are susceptible to SAD.

Make daylight hours count. Spend time outdoors while the sun is bright in the sky. Make an effort to switch your schedule if work interferes with getting outdoors, even if all that can be managed is an outdoor walk at lunch. Sit by a bright window and soak up rays whenever possible.

Celebrate winter activities. Go skiing, snowboarding, outdoor ice skating, or snowshoeing. Look forward to winter for what can be done, rather than what can't.

Socialize more often. Instead of holing up indoors alone, frequent the places that become indoor gathering spots for locals. These can include coffee houses, breweries, restaurants,

or even the local church. Plan more social occasions with friends and families so everyone can collectively shoo away the winter blues.

Exercise more. Use the darker hours as an excuse to exercise more, be it at the gym or outside. The Mayo Clinic says that exercise and other types of physical activity can relieve anxiety and depression, lifting an individual's mood as a result.

Light a fire. Set the kindling ablaze in a fire pit, fireplace or woodburning stove, or just light a handful of candles. Flames can be soothing and less harsh on the eyes than artificial light.

Fall and winter darkness does not have to send a person into the doldrums if he or she embraces the right attitude.



Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

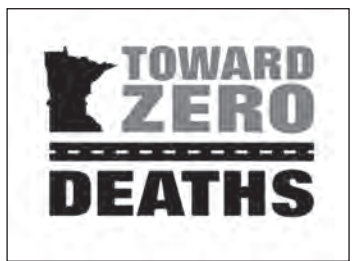
Question: I hear you mention TZD and how law enforcement works with them. Can you explain what TZD is?

Answer: TZD is an initiative and stands for Towards Zero Deaths. Minnesota's TZD program was launched in 2003 by the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Health in hopes of reducing traffic fatalities on Minnesota roads.

The name speaks for itself, even one traffic-related death on our roads is unacceptable. The idea was first adopted in Sweden in 1997 and since then has evolved to several state DOTs, including Minnesota, that have identified zero deaths as a core objective in their Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

Minnesota's TZD program is considered a national model. Leadership has presented in numerous states looking to add similar programs.

The TZD leadership team looks at areas for improvement from crash data and uses education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services (the "4Es"). A combination of strategies from different focus areas is often



most effective in an attempt to reduce the number of crashes and save lives.

One of my job duties as the northwest regional public information officer, is to provide the public with traffic safety messages. The Minnesota State Patrol and the other Minnesota law enforcement agencies work with nine TZD regional coordinators across the state to provide education and community outreach.

Promoting safe driving behavior such as buckling up, driving at safe speeds, paying attention, and never driving impaired is key to reducing traffic fatalities. Since TZD began in 2003:

- The number of motor vehicle occupants killed who were unbelted decreased by 63%
- The number of people killed in alcohol-related crashes decreased by 52%
- The number of people

killed in speed-related crashes decreased by 42%

- The number of drivers under the age of 21 killed in speed-related crashes decreased by 63%

- The number of drivers killed in distracted-driving-related crashes decreased by 74%

TZD regional coordinators also work very closely with the roadway engineers from MNDOT, county and city officials in an effort to improve our roadways and with the emergency medical and trauma organizations to help reduce life altering injuries and deaths.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

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).

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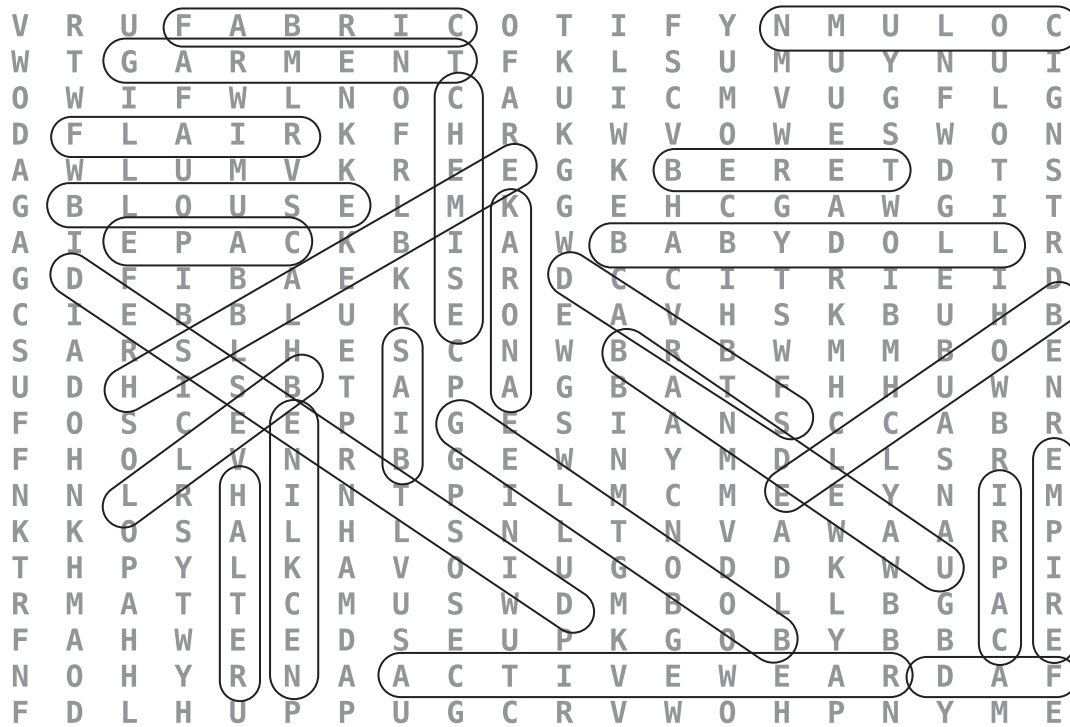
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Word Search Answers



The Russell Tractor

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

After a busy weekend I came home on Sunday evening, sat down on the couch, and reached for the remote. I went to the DVR and searched the most recent episode of my favorite show, Classic Tractor Fever. I came across an interesting story about the Russell Tractor. The fellow in the show owned a Russell model 12-24. He claimed it was the only one in existence. So I had to do some research!

I have seen pictures of Russell tractors before. The Russell Company began in the late 1800's starting out making Threshing Machines and Steam Tractors. Around 1915 they started producing gasoline/

kerosene powered tractors. They produced the 12-24. It weighed 4800 pounds and was rated as a 2 plow tractor. The next model was the 15-30. This one was also called the Little Boss. Model number 3 was the 20-40 which was also referred to as The Big Boss. The granddaddy of them was the 40-80 which had a shipping weight of 24,000 pounds.

Maybe you have seen pictures of the Russell Company before. The Little Boss, and The Big Boss did you guess the symbol of the Russell Tractor Company? It was a Holstein Bull!

Maybe it is starting to come

together now why the Russell Tractor caught my eye. If you were a farm boy like me, who grew up on a dairy farm with black and white Holstein cows, and you love tractors.....tell me how could you NOT do anything but love a Russell tractor!

How about a little tractor trivia:

1. Where was the Russell Tractor manufactured?

- A) Madison, WI B) Minneapolis, MN C) Massillon, OH D) Dearborn, MI

2. The 15-30 was called the Little Boss. The 20-40 was called the Big Boss. The 40-80 was called the _____.

- A) Bull B) Giant C) Big Boss D) Field Boss

3. The 12-24 featured _____ engine.

- A) Continental B) Wisconsin C) Buda D) Waukesha

4. All the Russell models featured a _____ cylinder engine.

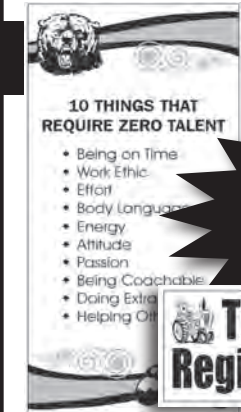
- A) 2 B) 4 C) 6 D) 8

5. The Russell Tractors were advertised as The Old _____ Line. (name the word that begins with R)

- Answers 1. C. Massillon, OH
2. B. Giant 3. D. Waukesha 4. B. 4 cyl. 5. Reliable



The Russell Tractor Symbol!



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OBITUARIES



Services for Harry Sandeen

Harry Sandeen, age 64, of rural McIntosh, MN, passed away on Thursday, October 31st, at Essentia Health Hospital in Fosston. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7th, at the Carlin Funeral Home in Fosston with the Rev. Gordon Syverson officiating. Interment will be in Asphult Cemetery in Hill River Township at a later date. Family will greet

friends for one hour prior to the service on Thursday at the funeral home. Messages of condolence may be sent at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Harold Dean Sandeen was born on August 28, 1955 in Crookston, Minnesota to parents Lowell and Jean (Halvorson) Sandeen. He grew up in Hill River Township and graduated from McIntosh High School.

As a young man, Harry worked on ships near the Louisiana coast and was able to travel throughout the world for several years. He returned to his home area and worked as a welder at Erskine Manufacturing and then, most recently, at Peatland Reds north of Trail, Minnesota. Harry retired because of ongoing health issues and has continued to live at home in Hill River Township.

Survivors include one uncle and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lowell, in December of 1996, his mother, Jean, in January of 2012; his brother, Howard; and sister, Connie McLinn.



Services for Maureen C. Johnson

Maureen C. Johnson, age 82, of St. Cloud, passed away on Friday, November 1, 2019 at her home.

Maureen was born July 23, 1937, to Gilbert and Gena (Baglien) Saxum in Winger Township, Polk County, Minn.

She grew up on the family farm in Winger. She later moved to Bemidji, where she worked for the Employment Office. There she met the love of her life, Duane W. Johnson. They were united in marriage on August 23, 1957 at the Dovre Lutheran Church in

Winger Township. Together, they moved to International Falls, where they owned and operated BJ Music and raised their four children; Dave, Susie, Doree and Heidi. In 1985, they moved to St. Cloud, where she worked for the IRS in the St. Cloud Federal Building until she retired.

Maureen was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She had a great love of the outdoors and enjoyed tending to her immaculate gardens. Maureen's love of the outdoors extended to spending time at the family cabin in Big Falls. She also enjoyed sewing, crocheting, traveling and baking, especially cookies and her famous chocolate cake.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Duane; children Dave, Susie LeMoine, Doree (Otto) Sturzebecher, and Heidi (Brent) Boerger; seven grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Maureen is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Gordon; son-in-law, Dave LeMoine; and her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Max and Corky Brindos.

Private Memorial Services will be held at a later date.



Services held for Geraldine Vallee

Geraldine Vallee, age 91, of Fosston, MN, passed away on Sunday, October 27th, at Essentia Health Living Center in Fosston. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1st, at the Carlin Funeral Home in Fosston with Ronald Skallet officiating. Interment in Storelvedalen Cemetery, rural Winger, MN. Visitation was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 1st, and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the Carlin Funeral Home in Fosston. Messages of condolence may be sent at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Geraldine Hope Smith was born on December 16, 1927 in Los Angeles, California to parents Frank and Margaret Caillouette Smith. She grew up in California and went to school in Venice, California through the eighth grade. She

worked at See's Candy Company as a chocolate candy dipper until she was 21 years old.

She was married to Richard Bishop and they had one child, Janet Louis Bishop. They divorced after three years.

Geraldine married Armand Robert Vallee and they were married for over 48 years. They moved to Fosston in 1980. Armand passed away on November 16, 2000 and Geraldine continued to live in Fosston.

She enjoyed gardening, collecting dolls and in her later years, found much joy and talent in painting.

Survivors include three grandchildren, Armand Robert Mazzucco (Aline) of Limon, CO, Paulette Simon (Kelan Bruggeman) of Oklee, MN, and Antonette "Toni" Burthwick (George) of Oklee, MN; great grandchildren, Kyle Mazzucco, Kayla Mazzucco, Samantha Gerholdt, Elizabeth Fox, Robert Fox, Alex Mazzucco, and Sara Simon; step great grandchildren, Austin, Justin, and Katie; great great grandchildren, Raven, Gage, Payton, Isaac, Spencer, and Liam; step great great grandchildren, Tristen, Kiran, Austin, and Chloe. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter, Janet, in 1981; brother, Frank "Cookie" Smith; sister, Renee Smith; half-brother, Larry Smith; and best friend, Marie Sorensen.

Submit Obituaries & Memorials to Richards Publishing at richards@gvtel.com



Services for Earl Swenson

Earl Bernell Swenson, age 98, passed away November 4, 2019 at his home in Oklee, Minnesota.

Earl was born January 15, 1921 five miles north of Oklee, and he grew up on farms north and south of Oklee. He attended school at Bucktown School in Lambert Township. After being in business for many years, Earl earned a GED in Oklee at age 60.

On November 10, 1944, Earl married Bergit Jellum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. They made their home on a farm five miles south of Oklee. They moved into Oklee when Earl started his business there in 1952, and they resided for the past 20 years in their house in Oklee on "Sunset Corner".

Earl was an entrepreneur and was engaged in many different business ventures in the Oklee area over the past 80 years – including raising mink, grain farming, raising

livestock, selling petroleum products, trucking, running a restaurant, and selling and servicing farm machinery, cars, trucks, snowmobiles, recreational equipment, and trailers. Earl was active in his business in Oklee until the past three months. Earl also served as a Councilman and Mayor of Oklee.

When Earl was a teenager, he chose to serve God and he was true to his convictions until the end of his life. Both Earl and Bergit encouraged their children and others to put God first in their lives.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents Selmer and Synneva Swenson, brother Silas Swenson, sister Lavina Swenson, and infant grandson Brian Carlson. He is survived by his wife Bergit, to whom he would have been married 75 years on November 10, and survived by brother Ray Swenson (Barb) and sister-in-law Polly Swenson. Earl is also survived by his five children, Karen Carlson (Doug), Curt Swenson (Caroline), Tim Swenson (Donna), Don Swenson (Cheri), and Sherry Dake (Larry), as well as 13 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 PM on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at the Oklee School. This will be preceded by a visitation at 12:30 PM at the Oklee School. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, rural McIntosh.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice Red River Valley at www.hrrv.org or 800-237-4629.

Swenson...Continued from front



Mayor Earl Swenson and grandchildren (1984).



Earl at Swenson Equipment on Oklee's Main Street (1993).



Earl with restored Massey Harris 44 Diesel.



Bergit's school bus (1994).

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Volunteers needed for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation's largest volunteer-run tax preparation service

Bagley, MN –AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking to expand its team of volunteers in Bagley for the upcoming tax season. The program was brought back to Bagley last year and was very successful. In order to offer help to more people, we are in need of several more volunteers.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, visit aarp-foundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

Tax-Aide, celebrating its 50th year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned.

Since its inception, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has served more than 68 million taxpayers. The program is seeking volunteer tax preparers, client facilitators, those who can provide technical and management assistance and interpreters. Every level of experience is welcome. Volunteer tax prepar-

ers complete tax preparation training and IRS certification.

Last year, 996 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 115,054 people file their federal and state tax returns. The program is offered at approximately 132 sites in Minnesota, including senior centers, libraries and other convenient locations.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968. The program now involves 35,000 volunteers and serves over 2.5 million taxpayers annually at nearly 5,000 sites nationwide. In 2018 taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received \$1.3 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$213 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). Taxpayers do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use Tax-Aide.

About AARP Foundation

AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable older adults build economic opportunity and social connectedness. As AARP's charitable affiliate, we serve AARP members and nonmembers alike. Bolstered by vigorous legal advocacy, we spark bold, innovative solutions that foster resilience, strengthen communities and restore hope.

To learn more about AARP Foundation visit aarpfoundation.org.

Let's not limit our options on CWD

To the editor,

I recently attended a joint House and Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee meeting on Chronic Wasting Disease. The main takeaway for me is there still may be far more questions than answers on this issue.

CWD was first labeled as such in the early 1960s. Most of the research is focused on studying prions – diseases which can affect both humans and animals, sometimes spread to humans by infected meat products. Although millions of dollars have been funneled into research labs, little progress has been realized.

Funding has, however, created what seems to be redundancy with the University of Minnesota continuing to conduct the same or similar research being done by multiple universities across the country. Colorado, reportedly, has been looking into CWD for 40-50 years. These institutions appear to only share information after they publish and patent papers and there doesn't seem to be concern with redundancy as long as the money continues to flow in. But, are there other options?

Last February, a neuropathologist from the University of Louisiana had what he believes is a breakthrough. Dr. Frank Bastian has been working on the theory CWD is caused by bacteria. According to this research, the bacteria could be affecting the prions in these animals.

I am told Dr. Bastian offered to come up and be a guest speaker at one of the classes at the U of M (with an association paying his expenses), but nobody took

him up on it. I also am told he offered to "co-op" his work with a grad student and walk him through the whole process. This could be an incredible project for a student – potentially Nobel prize-winning stuff – but, again, no takers.

Dr. Bastian continues to explore a cure and claims he may have a solution within months, but the U of M has not looked into Dr. Bastian's work. In other words, our flagship institution has chosen to not explore what could be a simple and less expensive solution to CWD that is within reach.

I don't know whether Dr. Bastian is right or wrong, but it is rather concerning that our "houses of higher learning" can be so closed-minded.

It is disappointing that we don't do more to bring in some outside sources with different perspectives to share regarding CWD. There is a lot of CWD talent out there, yet we always hear controlled testimony, with the DNR spoon-feeding us whatever messages the agency wants us to hear.

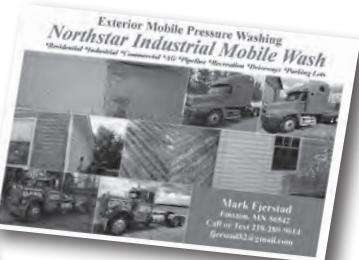
Another interesting bullet point from the recent joint meeting is the Federal Drug Administration has prevented deer farms from using antibiotics that may have been holding CWD at bay in the past. And, through artificial insemination, these farms could potentially breed disease resistant animals.

I will be digging deeper into these solutions and hope to have hearings on bills during the next legislative session.

Sincerely,
State Rep. Steve Green, R-Fosston

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Former WWE Wrestling Champ to Speak at High School, UMC

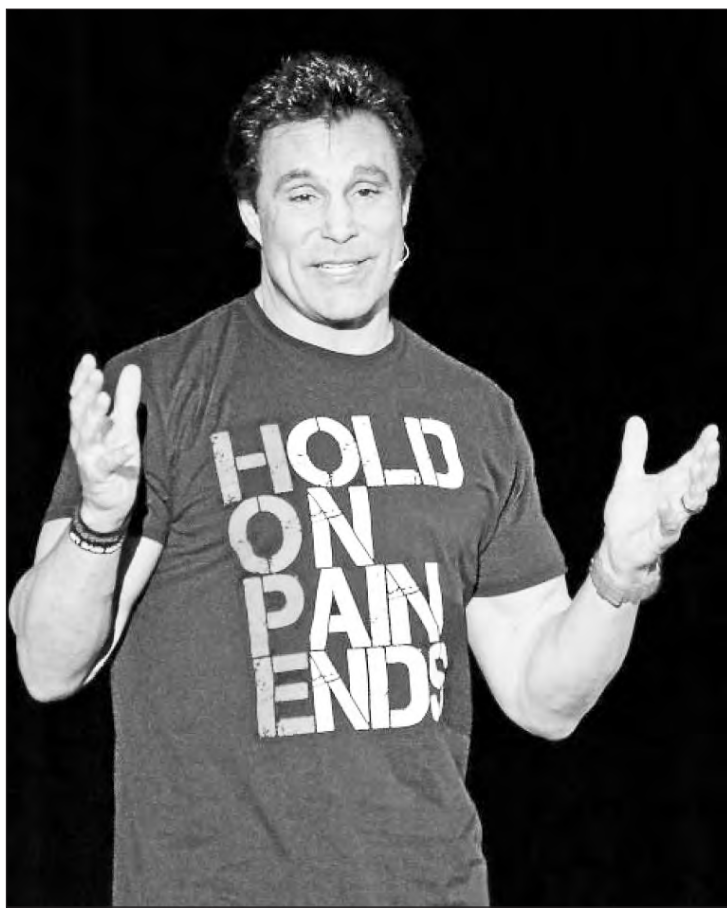
Crookston, MN – Area organizations and individuals have joined forces to bring school presenter/former wrestling champion Marc Mero to the community to speak to students and the public on a variety of issues affecting today's youth. Mero will present at the Crookston High School and University of Minnesota-Crookston on Wednesday, Nov. 13th.

For 14 years, Mero traveled worldwide as WWE wrestling champion "Johnny B. Badd", "Wildman" Marc Mero, and "Marvelous" Marc Mero. Today, he travels the country as a Christian speaker inspiring others to examine their own life choices and make positive changes.

Mero's presentation is geared toward middle and high school students. In his hour-long presentation, he'll cover:

- Substance abuse prevention
- Suicide prevention
- Bullying/cyberbullying/violence prevention
- Dream big – goal setting
- Achieving your highest potential

The event is free to the students and public thanks to the hard work of Crookston's Melanie Lessard. Lessard was very moved by Mero's story and believes he can help build a stronger community through respect to others, anti-bullying,



Former wrestling champion Marc Mero.

and suicide awareness and prevention.

"When he speaks, it is totally from the heart. There will not be a dry eye in the place," she shared. "Life is not easy, but any

help we can get with raising our children to be respectful adults will be huge."

Lessard said she feels compelled to help area youth through trying times; her

17-year-old daughter has helped several friends contemplating suicide. Then, when an area youth committed suicide earlier this year, Lessard said, "enough was enough". She also shares that all three of her daughters have been bullied at some point in their lives, so having Mero share his message is very personal to her.

"Our youth are our future and if this event saves one person, then I have succeeded in what my intentions are, to help."

The following is a list of the free presentations:

• 9 am: Crookston High School, 402 Fisher Avenue. This presentation is for Crookston High School students in grades 7th-12th and homeschooled students.

• 5 pm: Kiehle Auditorium, UMC Campus, 2900 University Avenue. This event is for UMC students and the general public.

• 7 pm: Crookston High School. This presentation is for the general public.

Funds from last year and this year's Ms. Tootsie Pageant, which Lessard spearheads, were donated to the Mero presentation. Other sponsors include RiverView Recovery Center, Glenmore Foundation, Northwestern Mental Health Center, Drug Task Force and area anonymous donors.



Hayden Wilde, daughter of Eric and April Wilde had a successful Youth Deer Hunt shooting this 9 point buck. Grandpa Arlan Fore is very proud of her.

Farm and Ranch Women Are Decision Makers – Annie's Project Prepares Them Well

Farm and ranch women are generating a cultural tide in American agriculture that is moving management, assets and opportunities to a new wave of farmers across the country. At Annie's Project courses, farm women become empowered to be better business partners or sole operators through networks and by managing and organizing critical information.

Annie's Project is a six-week course that is a discussion-based workshop bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing and the legal field.

There's plenty of time for questions, sharing, reacting and connecting with presenters and fellow participants. It's a relaxed, fun and dynamic way to learn, grow and meet other farm/ranch women.

Whether new or experienced, understanding the five areas of agricultural risk, knowing how to analyze agricultural spreadsheets and other necessary skills are vital. Learning them in a friendly environment where questions and discussion are welcomed, allow the learning process to flourish.

Annie's Project courses have successfully reached more than

9,000 farm and ranch women in 33 states. The next one in your area begins on November 4 in Blackduck, Minnesota.

The cost for the course is \$50 per person, which includes a workbook and support materials for all sessions. A light supper will be served before each class at 5:30 p.m. Course size is limited, so please register soon.

Linda, an Annie's Project alumna says, "I took the class to gain a better understanding about agribusiness and how financial decisions impact our farm operation. I have a better understanding of balance sheets and the futures market...this

class has improved communication with my spouse on concerns he works with on a daily basis."

For more information, contact Heather Dufault, Polk/Red Lake/Clearwater County Extension Educator at 218-280-1129 or pohl0024@umn.edu. Online registration is available at <https://extension.umn.edu/event/annies-project-blackduck>. More information can be found on the Annie's Project website at www.AnniesProject.org or on the University of Minnesota Extension website for Women In Ag Network at www.extension.umn.edu/business/women-ag-network.

Senator Johnson Calls for Disaster Declaration to Address Northwest Minnesota Harvest

(St. Paul, MN) State Senator Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks) and DFL colleague Kent Eken (D-Twin Valley) sent a bipartisan letter today to Governor Walz requesting an executive order declaring an emergency to deal with the extensive flooding causing financial and logistical challenges for Minnesota farmers. The letter also requests that the administration works with federal authorities to seek a secretarial disaster designation through the United States Department of Agriculture, as well as a presidential disaster declaration. North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum signed a similar executive order in Mid-October.

"Since the rain began in

early September, our farmers across Northwestern Minnesota warned about the catastrophic impact would have their harvest if it continued. After nearly two months of poor conditions, they are hurting," said Senator Johnson. "Issuing an executive order is of the utmost importance, and I'm working with this administration to secure all available resources needed to support our farmers and local communities."

An executive order, paired with the federal declarations, would give farmers access to critical financial assistance and help communities.

In the 2019 session, Senator Johnson worked with environment officials who predicted severe flooding for parts of the

state. Senator Johnson played a critical role in securing funding to replenish Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account, which at the time stood empty.

In addition to requesting emergency executive action, Senator Johnson and the Senate's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will be holding a hearing in Crookston on November 8th to address the flooding and highlight the catastrophic harvest conditions across the state. The event will also provide residents of Northwest Minnesota additional information on ways the state may be able to help.

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Jayden and Kota Hillstad enjoy some Halloween activities at the Win-E-Mac Student Council Halloween party held at the school on Sunday, October 27th.

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