

Oklee Precipitation
By Einar Kvasager

	Rain	Snow
Dec. 23		0.25
Dec. 24		0.25
Dec. 28		0.125
Dec. 29		0.125
Total in.	0.00	0.75
December Total		8.75 inches

Oklee Herald

...AND CONTINUING THE PLUMMER PIONEER

OKLEE (RED LAKE COUNTY) MINN. 56742

www.TriCoCanary.com

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Vol. 106, Number 20

Year in Review

January 4, 2017

Nominee of Hotrod of the Year was featured in the Oklee Herald. Owner Rick Myrum was raised and attended Oklee High School until 1967. The Hotrod is a 1935 pickup owned by his Grandpa Qualley.

Sue Beaudoin graciously made and donated cooking aprons for the preschool room.

A new arrival at the Paradis family is Titan Jayce Paradis born on December 29th, 2016. Parents are Ryan and Kelsey Paradis.

Garden Valley Telephone Company announced that Minkota Technologies would now be part of Garden Valley Innovations, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Garden Valley Telephone Company.

January 11, 2017

Chuck Simpson and Ron Weiss were re-elected to the Red Lake County Commissioners Board.

City of Oklee raises their rates on sewer, garbage and water for 2017.

Red Lake County Central School Board members Darby Trontvedt, Marcella Melby, Danielle Paradis and Jason Cater are ending their terms of service to RLCC School District 2906.

An Open House was held at Ultima Bank in Plummer for Elinor Olson's retirement.

A retirement party was held in honor of Don Fox from the Plummer Creamery.

On January 9th, Eli Gindele will be assuming duties as the Extension Educator for Clearwater and Polk Counties.

Hunter Houle, a rising star on the cross-county racing scene, suffered fatal injuries in a pre-race crash on Pine Lake

Friday, January 6, 2017.

Zach Herfindahl big winner of \$10,000 at Gerald Dyrdaahl Memorial Pine Lake 200 which is part of the USXC, United States X-County Snowmobile Racing circuit.

January 18, 2017

Passing their snowmobile safety class was Kehan Nelson, Tyler Parsley, Jennifer Johnson, Keatin Goering, Nolan Magnell, Kia Bachand, Arianna Robinette, and Landin Robinette.

The Oklee Moonlighters Snowmobile Club will once again host their Snowmobile Safari, marking the 50th Anniversary.

Sixteen students in grades five through eight from Red Lake County Central attended the 2017 Creativity Festival. It was held at Bemidji State University on Thursday, January 5.

Ryan Trout took first place in the Semi Pro Stock in the Gerald Dyrdaahl Memorial Pine Lake 200 races that were held. He was presented a check for \$4,750 from Chad Dyrdaahl.

Bob Prudhomme of Crookston had been holding onto a \$100,000 winning Lottery ticket for almost two months. Prudhomme finally stepped forward on Jan. 9, 2017

to claim a \$100,000 prize that he won in the All or Nothing evening drawing on Nov. 15, 2016 by matching all twelve winning numbers drawn.

January 25, 2017

In January the ninth grade physical science class at Red Lake County Central High School designed and raced CO2 cars. They cut a triangular chunk of wood into tapered car shape, then drilled holes for the wheels and painted the cars. A track was set up including a starter box and fishing line connected to the box to race the cars on. At the end of the track there was a foam barrier to stop the cars when they got to the end. RLCC ninth grade physical science class C02 car race winners were Natalia Snegireff and Garret Qualley.

Sylvia Hilgeman was featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Sylvia is the daughter of Greg and Gayle (Lundeen) Hilgeman. After college she spent five years working for a consulting firm in Minneapolis before she joined the FBI to investigate bank fraud from New York City.

Ruth & Evan Fonder have become the new owners of Nords Pharmacy and Gifts, taking over the business from John and Julie Nord.



Santa had his hands full in Plummer.



Santa was busy in Oklee visiting with the children.



And in Brooks this little one thought Santa was OK!

American Indian nursing documentary receives multiple awards

December 27, 2017 – Fargo, North Dakota—A documentary film titled “Essence of Healing: Journey of American Indian Nurses” received the 2017 Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Media Award at the group’s 44th biennial convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in October and the Best Service Film Award from the 42nd American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco in November.

The documentary captures the journeys of 14 American Indian nurses from the Northern Plains as they follow their calling into the nursing profession.

STTI is an International Honor Society of Nursing that advances world health and celebrates nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The organization reports more than 135,000 active members in 85 countries. STTI honors healthcare professionals for their contributions to professional excellence.

“Our International Award recipients are recognized by their peers for their excellence and outstanding contributions to global health. I am honored to offer my personal congratulations on these achievements,” said STTI President Cathy Catrambone, PhD, RN, FAAN, in a news release about the event.

The American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, California is the world’s longest-running exposition showcasing independent films of U.S. American Indians and First Nations peoples of Canada. During the past 42 years, the American Indian Film Institute has celebrated generations of Indian filmmakers, performing artists and audiences with the best of the most current Indian Cinema.

Groups collaborating to develop the documentary that received the STTI and AIFI awards include:

- Loretta Heuer, professor and documentary executive producer, North Dakota State University
- School of Nursing, Fargo and Bismarck, North Dakota
- Cynthia Lindquist, president, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, North Dakota
- Candace Mugerud, executive producer; Greg Kasowski, content development manager; and Juan Thomas, videographer; KAT Communications, Bismarck, North Dakota
- Deb Wilson, director, and Barb Anderson, program coordinator; University of North Dakota Recruitment and Retention of American Indians into Nursing (RAIN Program), Grand Forks, North Dakota

“This joint project of multiple

institutions has improved education/awareness by the public and officials

about the ongoing inequities for nursing and American Indians,” said Cynthia Lindquist, president of Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, North Dakota. She hopes the work will spur continued improvement to recruit and retain Native American nurses.

“The American Indian nurses in this documentary have touched the lives of many and they make valuable contributions to the health and wellness of their communities,” said Loretta Heuer, professor at North Dakota State University, Fargo. “It is humbling that the film has received so many accolades. This demonstrates the need to promote the contributions of American Indian nurses, along with the unique perspectives and values they bring to the nursing profession.”

DVDs of the documentary have been provided to North Dakota Tribal Councils, Tribal Colleges, and high schools on the Tribal Nations or reservations. It has been archived in local, state, and national museums.

Film receives multiple awards

In addition, Essence of Healing: Journey of American Indian Nurses has received the following awards:

- Wales International Film Festival, Swansea, Wales, September 2017 Official Winner Documentary Feature
 - 2017 Oregon Film Awards – Gold Award for Documentary Feature Competition
 - Top Indie Film Awards, Online Festival, June 2017, Best Documentary Feature
 - Festigious International Film Competition, Los Angeles, April 2017, Best Documentary Feature
 - Highway 61 Film Festival, Pine City, Minnesota, 2017 Second Place Winner Documentary Feature
- The documentary was selected as a finalist or semi-finalist in the following film festivals:
- Hollywood International Independent Documentary Film Festival, Los Angeles, California, January 2017, Finalist
 - European Film Festival (Mainstream & Underground), Moscow, Russia, October 2017, Semifinalist
 - Film Festival of Columbus, Columbus, Ohio, 2017, Semi-finalist
 - Southern States Indie FanFilmFest, Biloxi, Mississippi, January 2018, Semi-finalist
- The documentary was selected for screening at the following film festivals:
- 2018 Flathead Lake International CinemaFest,

Polson, Montana, January 2018

- American Public Health Association Global Public Health Film Festival General Submission, Competent Workforce Category, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2017
- 12th Annual Central Florida Film Festival, Orlando, Florida, September 2017
- Canadian Diversity Film Festival, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, December 2016
- Cutting Edge Film Festival, Pompano Beach, Florida, October 2017
- Direct Monthly Online Film Festivals, Siracusa, Italy, June 2017
- Chandler International Film Festival, Chandler, Arizona, December 2016

Twenty-five public service announcements developed from the film aired on GoodHealthTV®, an American Indian health and wellness network that reaches more than 6 million American Indians annually.

Copies of documentary available

The documentary was screened at events including the NDSU Native Voices Exhibit, the North Dakota

Center for Nursing Culture of Health event, as well as a premiere at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

Copies of the film are available through the North Dakota State University Bookstore, Fargo and the North Dakota Heritage Center & Museum Store, Bismarck, North Dakota and online at www.ndsubookstore.com

Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, University Partnership Research Grant for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program, No. 90PH0019,

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families.

For information about Essence of Healing: Journey of American Indian Nurses, contact Loretta.Heuer@nds.edu or 701-231-8205.



Loretta Heuer is the daughter of Cecilia and the late Selmer Christianson of Oklee, Minnesota.

Pharmaceutical Disposal is available at Red Lake County Courthouse

The Red Lake County Environmental Office and the Red Lake County Sheriff's Office teamed up to provide a pharmaceutical waste collection site at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls. The waste receptacle is located on the ground floor of the Courthouse, in the hallway across from the Sheriff's Office entrance. Residents can now bring in pharmaceutical waste and dispose of it there. The north door of the Courthouse is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so waste can be disposed of at any time.

The Environmental Office purchased the disposal container and the Sheriff's Office will provide security and properly dispose of the collected waste. Items that can be collected in the receptacle are as follows: prescriptions, prescription ointments, pet medications, prescription patches, over the-counter medications and vitamins. Items that are NOT acceptable are: needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, hydrogen peroxide, thermometers, ointments, lotions or liquids.

The Environmental Office also purchased a Sharps Receptacle for the disposal of used needles. That container is kept inside the Sheriff's Office.

Any needles that need to be disposed of can be turned into the on-duty dispatcher at the Sheriff's Office. Needles must be in a puncture-proof container

or they will not be accepted.

Anyone who has questions about pharmaceutical disposal may contact the Sheriff's Office at 218-253-2996.



Church news

OKLEE LUTHERAN PARISH Zion and Salem Interim SAM Christy Klemz

Wed, Jan. 3: 6:00 p.m.
Chime Choir. 7:00 p.m.
Confirmation at Zion.

Sun, Jan. 7: 9:00 a.m.
Zion. 9:00 a.m. SS at Salem.
10:15 a.m. SS at Zion. 10:30 a.m. Salem.

Mon, Jan. 8: 9:00 a.m.
Quilting at Zion.

Tue, Jan. 9: 6:30 p.m.
Parish Council at Zion.

Wed, Jan. 10: 6:00 p.m.
Chime Choir. 7:00 p.m.
Confirmation at Zion. 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at Zion.

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF OKLEE, GRYGLA & GOODRIDGE

Fr. Adam Hamness

Sun, Jan. 7: 7:30 a.m.
Confessions 8:00 a.m. Mass at
St. Francis Xavier, Oklee; 10:00
a.m. St. Ann Parish, Goodridge;
11:45 a.m. St. Clement Parish,
Grygla.

BROOKS – RED LAKE FALLS

CATHOLIC PARISH

Fr. Bob Schreiner

Sat, Jan. 6: 5:30 p.m. RLF
Sun, Jan. 7: 8:00 a.m.
Brooks. 10:00 a.m. RLF.

IMMANUEL–EBENEZER LUTHERAN PARISH ELCA

Pastor Jonathan Dodson

Sun, Jan. 7: 9:00 a.m.
Worship at Immanuel.
10:15 a.m. Sunday School at
Immanuel. 10:30 am. Worship
at Ebenezer.

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH ELCA

Bethany–Ekelund–Faith

Pastor Kristen Ostercamp

Sun, Jan. 7: 8:30 a.m.
Faith, 9:45 a.m. SS; 9:45 a.m.
Bethany, 10:45 a.m. SS; 11:00
a.m. Ekelund, 9:45 a.m. SS.

Mon, Jan. 8: Faith Quilting
9:00a.m. 1:30 p.m. Ekelund
Ladies Aid.

Tues, Jan. 9: Shalom circle
6:00 p.m.

Wed, Jan. 10: Release
Time. 6:00 p.m. Faith WELCA.

Oklee Senior Site Dining

January 8 - 12

Call 796-5666 to order a
meal.

If you are over the age of
60 and would like to eat with
other seniors at the Senior Site,
please call the Café at 796-5666
to reserve your meal. A \$4.00
per meal donation is suggested.

Monday: ½ BLT,
hamburger vegetable soup,
and dessert.

Tuesday: Baked ham,
parsley buttered potatoes,
vegetables, and dessert.

Wednesday: Taco on fried
bread w/all the trimmings, and
dessert.

Thursday: Chicken broccoli
hotdish, tossed salad, and
dessert.

Friday: ½ Patty melt,
macaroni salad, vegetable,
and dessert.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH Mt. Olive – Nazareth Oak Park – St. Petri Pastor Jeff Merseeth

Wed, Jan. 3: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday School. 7:00 p.m.
LYS meeting.

Sat, Jan. 6: 9:00 a.m. Mt.
Olive.

Sun, Jan. 7: St. Petri 8:00
a.m., 9:15 SS; Nazareth 9:45
a.m., 8:30 a.m. SS; Oak Park
11:00 a.m., 9:45 SS.

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH

Josiah Hoagland, Pastor Tyler Stynberg, Youth Pastor

www.newjourneyfosston.com

Wed, Jan. 3: 6:00 p.m.
Alpha.

Thu, Jan. 4: 12:00 p.m.
Rotary.

Fri, Jan. 5: Release Times.
6:00 p.m. Holy Yoga.

Sat, Jan. 6: 9:00 a.m. Holy
Yoga.

Sun, Jan. 7: 9:30 a.m.
Worship. 10:40 p.m. Sunday
School.

Tue, Jan. 9: 10:00 a.m.
Quilting. 6:30p.m. Bible Study.

Wed, Jan. 10: 6:00p.m.
Alpha. 6:30 p.m. Awana.

GULLY-TRAIL PARISH

Bethany * Lund

Sand Valley

Dawn Hanson,

Lay Minister

Wed, Jan. 3: 6:00 p.m.
Confirmation.

Sun, Jan. 7: No Church in
the Parish.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY

Fosston

Seth Johnson,

Interim Pastor

Sun, Jan. 7: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School. 10:30 a.m.
Worship.

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:
I would like to wish
everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year. As this
year of 2017 comes to an end,
so does my first year of being
on the Oklee City Council.
As the other members of the
City Council and I began to
understand each other during
the last year, we began to work
well together to concentrate on
the task at hand which is to
achieve the goals to the City of
Oklee a safer, better place to
live for our citizens and your
children.

During my campaign for
City Council I made several
promises to you the taxpayers
of Oklee. My promises were
as follows:

To clean up the property
yards in violation of Oklee
ordinances;

To donate my Council pay
to the Oklee Community Club;

To reduce the debt loans of
the City which is a task that is
more involved than I expected.

I was able to secure funds
to redo the Volleyball Courts
to replace the old sand with
new beach sand. The Volleyball
Courts were also a concern

Now Taking Tree Orders for Spring 2018

Red Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District
(SWCD) is taking tree orders now for springs' tree planting
season. Anyone interested in purchasing trees from the Red
Lake County SWCD should have their order in by January
26th, 2018. Tree order forms are available at our office, on our
website www.redlakecounty.org click on Programs, Projects
& Services tab; and then on the District Tree Program tab
or we can mail you a form. The SWCD office is located in
the basement of the Wheat Grower's Building south of Red
Lake Falls.

If you are interested in placing a tree order, for springs'
tree planting season, please call the Red Lake County SWCD
office at (218) 253-2593 ext. 4. 041C

Red Lake Falls Library News

The library is open on
Tuesday from Noon until 7:00
pm, Wednesday from Noon
until 7:00 pm, Thursday from
Noon to 5:00 p.m.; Friday
from Noon until 5:00 pm, and
Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to
2:00 p.m. On-line patrons are
reminded that they can visit
www.nwrlib.org/rlf.htm at any
time, where they can create
their own patron accounts to
browse, request and renew
materials all from their home
computers.

Happy New Year to all
patrons of Northwest Regional
Library! We hope to see you
often in any of the 7 branches
and 2 links that make up
NWRL, one of Minnesota's
twelve regional library systems.

The "Hot Reads for Cold
Nights" Winter Reading
Program for adults is getting
underway at the RLF branch.
Designed to encourage adults to
make greater use of the library,
this program includes special
interest programs such as the

Sudoku Solution

3	4	5	6	2	1	8	9	7
1	8	2	7	9	5	3	6	4
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
8	2	3	4	5	6	1	7	9
4	5	9	8	1	7	6	3	2
7	6	1	2	3	9	4	5	8
6	1	4	9	7	3	2	8	5
2	3	7	5	8	4	9	1	6
5	9	8	1	6	2	7	4	3

of Councilwoman Melby,
who supported my quest to
accomplish this task.

Also with the permission
of the following people, Mr.
Earl Swenson, the Oklee
Community Club and the
City Council members who
approved the funding for
the project of two Christmas
Trees which stand behind the
Nativity scene on Main Street.

I want to thank the
City Council members who
supported my request for my
goals this year and I look
forward to the coming year,
working with my fellow council
members to achieve future
goals and improvements for the
City of Oklee and its citizens
and taxpayers. Please feel free
to make any suggestions or
ideas you may have.

It has been my honor and
privilege to serve the taxpayers
and the people who voted me
to the Oklee City Council.

God Bless you all
Matthew Genova

Official City of Oklee Minutes

City of Oklee Regular Council Minutes

November 18, 2017

Oklee Café 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: The meeting was
called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Burthwick, Geno-
va, Melby, Cyr, and Munt, also pres-
ent Deputy Roisland, Cross, Tougas
and Randy Mostrom.

Previous meeting minutes

Motion to accept by Melby and
seconded by Munt, motion carried.

Financials:

Motion by Genova and seconded
by Cyr, motion carried.

Bills

Motion by Cyr and seconded by
Munt.

Randy Mostrom

Randy asked if the City would
allow "space" for an A.A. meeting
to be held once or twice week, the
Council thought it was a good idea
and gave the go head.

Mostrom understood that the Hall
cannot be used if there is another
function in the hall, however the City
will try and be flexible.

Maintenance Report

Tougas reported on water tower
problems, the electronics telemetry
system is showing signs of age which
caused the water town to overflow
twice in the last few weeks. Get
quotes for fixing or replacing the
electronics.

Lift station power cord is perished
for one of the submersible pumps,
Tougas was given the go ahead to
get it replaced.

Johnson Jetting cleaned the out-
let into the primary pond and cleaned
the lift station too.

Flag pole has broken at the com-
munity center, 2 flags seems to be

too much for the pole, and Genova
offered to get a smaller flag.

Due to weather the road sweeper
will not be visiting the City this fall.

Christmas Decorations

Genova brought up the idea of a
Christmas tree on the corner behind
the Nativity Scene, Genova had
been in touch with the Community
Club and thought that inviting people
to donate Christmas lights and tree
might be a good idea.

The council liked the idea of the
Christmas tree on that corner.

Melby discussed new Christmas
lights for Main Street and along the
main highway.

Christmas Light replacement
fund for next year in the budget.

Regarding the sale of Lots on
Elm Street, it was decided that all
lots with water and Sewer hook ups
will be \$1,000.00.

Kurt Kasavan in hopefully holding
a water flood plain meeting in the
Hall, the Question of Wireless inter-
net in the hall came up and Cross
was instructed to get it organized.

Anonymous letter

Cross had added in the packet a
hand written letter that had been sent
to Mr. Nelson, Genova wished that
Cross removed his comments on the
writer of the letter from the packet,
as he thought they were worse than
what had been written in the letter
regarding Mr. Nelson.

Motion by Cyr to remove the line
and seconded by Genova, motion
carried. Melby did not vote.

Motion to close the meeting by
Melby and seconded by Cyr, motion
carried.

Meeting closed at 7:10 p.m.

Derek Cross, City Clerk

Mayor Burthwick
041C



These two children are anxious to try out their new
sled that one of them received in Oklee at Santa Day.

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Oklee Herald subscribers: Please check the address label in the upper right corner
of the front page. Be sure all the information is correct. If not, call the Oklee Herald office
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VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

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1-888-LINKVET

Email: kellefsoncvso@hotmail.com

012-14C

Common Banking Questions & Thoughts

- Is anyone signed on my account for Pay
On Death to Checking, Savings or Safe
Deposit Box?
- Do you know where your Save Deposit
Box keys are?
- Why do some checks not show up in
my statement?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
TO ALL OF THESE, ASK YOUR BANKER.



Oklee Herald papers
available at many
locations and online

Oklee: D & R Grocery,
Cenex C-Store, Oklee Herald
office.

Brooks: Brooks Travel
Center.

Plummer: Plummer Coop
Creamery.

Red Lake Falls: Eagle
Square.

Gully: Gully Tri-Coop.
And Online! Go to www.TriCoCanary.com.

If you already have a
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Herald, you can access the
online version free! Just call
Richards at 218-487-5225 to
get your Oklee Herald online.

Tri-Valley Public Transportation

T.H.E. Bus is available for
anyone. There are no age or
income guidelines. However,
children under the age of four
must be accompanied by an
adult and children under the
age of one must be secured in
an infant seat.

Curb-to-curb services is
available, allowing those with
special needs more comfortable,
safe and convenient method of
transportation. All of our buses
are handicapped accessible and
lift-equipped.

To reserve a seat, please
call one business day prior
to the scheduled trip - 1-800-
201-3432.

(U.S.P.S. 407-240)

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Newspaper Ass'n., 1962.

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Excellence, Minnesota
Newspaper Association, 1971.

**Winner 1st place Best Feature
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any monies paid
for the advertise-
ment.





MUSTANG STAMPED

RLCC Menus

January 8 - 12

Oklee

Monday: Breakfast: Ham and Cheese Croissant, cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken Fajita, refried beans, Spanish rice, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit and milk. **Lunch:** Corn Dogs, mac and cheese, vegetables, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: S'mores, cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch:** Ham Patty on a bun, curly fries, vegetables, fruit and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken strips, cheesy potatoes, vegetables, fruit, dipping sauce and milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon rolls, cereal, fruit and milk. **Lunch:** Chili with corn chips, bread stick, fresh vegetables, fruit and milk.

Plummer

Monday: Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, sausage, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Nachos, hamburger, chips, cheese sauce, lettuce, sour cream-salsa, veggies, PB sandwich, fruit and milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Egg wrap, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Toastie dogs, baked beans, smiles potatoes, fruit, cinnamon churro and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Cinnamon Coffee Cake, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Round Pizza, salad bar, fruit, Teddy Grahams and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: French toast sticks, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Chili, cheese, crackers, salad, cornbread, egg salad sandwich, fruit and milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Turkey – Ham Subs (cheese, lettuce and tomatoes), Sun Chips, green beans, Jello and milk.

Reminder – School Bus Safety - Let's keep our children safe

School is in session and that means drivers have to remember they are sharing the road with those big yellow buses.

You'd think it would be easy to safely travel in the same space with such a large and heavy vehicle. They're easy to see. They have flashing lights. We know they're carrying precious cargo. Motorists should proceed with caution, right?

Problem is, drivers are more distracted. So are the kids getting on and off those buses. Everyone is rushing from point A to point B. All the more reason motorists and students need to take bus safety seriously as the school year kicks into gear.

School bus crashes in Minnesota increased 14 percent last year, up from 690 in 2014 to 806 in 2015. Not surprisingly, 70 percent of school bus crashes last year happened between 6 and 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. during the months of September through May.

If you're the parent of school-aged children, you likely know the routine of watching their too-large backpacks disappear around the corner as they climb onto their school bus, only to see their faces reappear again in the window. Maybe, if it doesn't embarrass them too much, you blow kisses. Maybe it's just a tiny wave goodbye. No matter the routine, you've likely spent a slightly panicky moment or two worried about their safety as they get on or off the bus and ride to and from school.

Remember... Motorists
In Minnesota, motorists must stop at least 20 feet from

a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.

Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.

The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away.

Students
When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.

Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.

When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding

But it may be comforting to remember that another piece of that safety puzzle is school transportation regulation. After all, when you entrust your most precious commodities to a moving vehicle, you need to know said vehicle is as safe as it can be. The Minnesota State Patrol plays a major role in school transportation safety here in Minnesota, and we don't take it lightly. For starters, we inspect every school bus in the entire state every year. We also audit the bus driver files of school districts and contractors to make sure their drivers are properly trained and licensed.

So what exactly do we mean by "properly trained and licensed?" Yellow school bus drivers are required to have a Class B or C driver's license — that depends on the size of the bus they drive. They also need both a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement on the license, which they can get by passing a written test and a skills test. In

addition to the license with the proper endorsements, school bus drivers must be medically qualified and must pass a criminal background check.

Occasionally, DPS discovers violations of these school bus driver training and licensing requirements. When that happens, DPS can file charges against the carrier or district that made the violation. These violations get forwarded to the commissioners of public safety and education. And school transportation isn't only regulated at the state level. For example, there are federal sanctions if a school bus contractor or school district violates drug and alcohol testing and policy requirements.

If the worst happens and a school bus is involved in a crash, the law requires a post-crash inspection to take place if any vehicle has to be towed away from the scene or any person has to be taken from the scene for medical attention.

So next time you feel that concern in the pit of your stomach while you wave goodbye to the school bus, remember that there are laws and regulations in place to help ensure your children's safety.



This fellow was very smiley as Santa held him.



Santa had lots of children visit with him in Oklee.

Who's Dat?

Who's Dat

This week's photo is of two Oklee High School graduates from the area.

Last week's photo was of three ladies having fun in 1975 – Hawaiian Theme – New Years Eve party. Marge Stenberg, Shirley Cyr and Joan Bronken.

Everyone has a photo or two that would be great for this column. Please share them with our readers as it is one of most popular columns of the Oklee Herald. Thank you to all that have brought in photos.

If you email a photo, please scan at 300 dpi (high quality) if you can. You can email to okleeherald@gmail.com.

If you mail a photo to the Oklee Herald office, please enclose a self-address stamped envelope so the photos can be returned. Mail them to:

Oklee Herald
PO Box 9,
Oklee MN 56742

Or stop by the office and we will scan your photo while you wait.

Keep the photos coming, and thank you for bringing or sending them in to the Oklee Herald office.



Oklee Skating Rink

The Oklee Skating Rink is now open all day every day until further notice.



Open Gym, Saturdays in Oklee

By Abigail Walton

There is open gym at the Red lake County Central High School in Oklee on Saturdays from 1-3 pm. Children below seventh grade must come with an adult or guardian. If you have any questions, you may direct them to Kurt Halvorson at (612-247-0812).



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Santa had lots of children visit with him in Plummer and these three boys were full of smiles with Santa.

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Oklee Herald Early Files

Seventy Years Ago December 25, 1947

Estimated attendance at four showings of a free Christmas movie here Monday was placed at about 650 with 598 bags of popcorn distributed to those who attended.

Willard Lindquist who teaches at Ellendale, North Dakota, is here for the holidays.

Fred Bernier is spending the winter months in So. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Melby Bros. wishes a Merry Yuletide to all.

Sixty Years Ago December 26, 1957

The sixteenth annual 4-H radio speaking contest is open to any Red Lake County 4-H member between the ages of 14-21. Home Agent Eleanor Poltronetti announces.

Keith Pearson, Hallock, an officer in Minnesota Highway patrol, has been assigned to Red Lake Falls station, effective December 16.

Judy Rendahl celebrated her 11th birthday Tuesday, Dec. 10. Those who helped her celebrate were Patsy and Yvonne Good, Gerald, Dianne and Sharon Tasa and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Rendahl.

Fifty Years Ago December 28, 1967

Ray Lessard of Brooks was awarded 100 Oklee "trading bucks" in a drawing conducted here last week.

Mrs. Laura Cote visited on Christmas evening at the Mrs. Mary Rahier home and with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johnson.

Leslie B. Walker of Oklee will head the Red Lake County Crippled Children's Appeal for 1968, W. B. Schoenbohm,

executive director of the Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., announced recently.

Forty Years Ago December 29, 1977

The Oklee Herald Presents Our Youth Today: Jeremy, age 1 son of Gary and Sandy Lee and Lisa Lynn, 6 mo. old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Casavan.

Four former 4-H members from Minnesota have been honored as state winners in the 4-H alumni recognition program.

Bonnie, Alvin and Eric Jensen were brief visitors at the Roy Jorgenson home on Saturday afternoon.

Sharon and Diane Jensen visited Pauline Lindberg at the Roy Jorgenson home on Monday.

Thirty Years Ago December 30, 1987

Gladys Horstman, Eileen Olson, Delores Longtin and Fred Klasen were among the 17 lucky turkey winners named at the close of Santa Claus Day in Oklee. Red Lake County Central Mustang Cheerleaders for boys' varsity basketball team were Nicole Kruse, Lisa Chaput, Shannon Demarais, Shelly Larson, Tammi Johnson and Michelle Paquin.

The Minnesota Timberwolves unveiled their new team logo. The logo will be the symbol of the new National Basketball Association expansion franchise which will begin play in Minneapolis in 1989, bringing the NBA back to Minnesota after a 27-year absence.

Twenty Years Ago December 31, 1997

Lisa Rierson played the violin during the Oak Park Sunday School Christmas program.

The RLCC Mustang Wrestling Cheerleaders have brought home the Spirt Award from the Crookston Wrestling Tournament.

The Red Lake County Central Mustangs were the championship team of the NCTC-KTRF High School Girls Basketball Tourney.

Kayla and Conway Hamm told their Christmas Wishes to Santa Claus during Oklee's Santa Claus Day.

James Wright and Hannah Vettleson were two of the younger Oklee Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School students who spoke during the Christmas program.

Ten Years Ago January 2, 2008

Marcus Christensen and Taylor Klasen portrayed Abraham and Sarah at the Brooks Christmas Program.

The RLCC 7-12 choir went to Digi-Key to sing Christmas carols under the direction of Patty Mickelson.

Maureen Munt was among 103 students who participated in mid-year commencement exercises at Concordia College. Maureen is the daughter of Timothy and Kaye Munt, Oklee. Munt has earned the following majors: French, International Business.

Gunnar Sandeen had told Santa all about the fireman stuff he wants for Christmas at the Oklee Santa Claus Day.

Senior Site News & Other Things

By Volunteer Iona Berry

New Year's Day and we have a nice day. The temperature has finally improved after extreme temperatures the last few days.

I stay close to home when it gets too cold. Today I hope to catch up on some things that get set aside during the holidays.

Last week at the Site we had a nice donation of money from two little girls. It was Emma and Natalie Hendrickson. They wanted to give something to the Site and made and sold rubber band bracelets. After making them, they sold them to family, friends and their teachers. It is so rewarding to think that children do a project like this to donate their money received to a worthwhile project. It came as a big surprise to the Site and

we are very grateful for their generosity. Thank you Emma and Natalie.

We have been informed we will no longer have evening meals at this time. We hope when it is warmer, maybe we will again have them.

I didn't make any New Year's resolutions, but I hope everyone has a Great New Year!

I saw that Bjarne Kvasager had passed away last week. Bjarne had most of his meals at the Site when he was living in Oklee.

Dates to Remember

January 18: Site Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. We expect to have a guest from RSVP at the meeting (Weather

Permitting).

January 19: Birthday Meal.

Words of Wisdom

Luck may visit, but it's effort that makes it stay.

Don't trade education for common sense.

Joke Time

In the hospital, Joe told his longtime wife he was feeling much better since the operation except for the bump on the back of his head.

"Oh, that," said his wife. "They ran out of anesthetic."

How is it...some 70 year olds can polka for hours but can't bend over to pick up a gum wrapper?

Brooks - Terrebonne News

By Barb Novak 218-698-4296 novakbl@gvtel.com

Happy New Year. It is 2018, and it might take a while to remember that when we write our checks etc. but eventually it will sink in. We have a lot to look forward to this year, a booming economy due to the new tax code that was passed by the congress and signed by the president. Maybe new drug laws taking marijuana into the tobacco tax category, and many more taxes being collected from that. New insurance vistas for health care that are promised now that the ACA is not being funded as well, and the mandates taken off. Oh, there is so much good news for the new year. It is mind boggling.

The cold weather has taken a bad turn though, and it really dumped polar air on us for the holidays. It was 28 below yesterday for church. I wonder how they were able to make it in the days of horse and buggy. I bet they cancelled services

then too, like today they cancel services in the small churches. Our church still gathered for mass but it seemed that over half of the congregation was missing. The rest of us had warm garages, or head bolt heaters.

The rabbit is still in the yard, and has been brave in his wanderings. He is very cute and he looks like he is enjoying himself these days. He has tracked up a lot of the yard. It is fun to see him hopping around near the house.

Mundane everyday starts tomorrow and many mothers are very happy that school starts again tomorrow. The kids are probably tired of being bored anyway and are really happy to get back to school.

One bit of news that came across my desk is that Luverne Sevigny a former parishioner of St. Joseph's Church, who lived

near the county line south of town, died around Christmas. Her funeral is January 5th, at the Cathedral in Crookston. She was a hard worker and a quiet lady who was always there when needed. She and Wilmer moved from Brooks around ten years ago. She will be missed. Our sympathy goes to the family.

The Red Hats will meet again on Wednesday, January 10, at Carol's Cozy Bar and Grill in Brooks. If it is 20 below it will be cancelled and we will wait for warmer days. If it is a blizzard, we will cancel the date. I am a warm weather only kind of date maker. Alice Jobe will be notified in Plummer for all of you gals there. I hope to see all of you on that date, keep your fingers crossed for warmer weather.

I hope your New Year is full and prosperous.

Plummer News

By Alice Jobe
218-465-4402

On Tuesday, December 26th, there was a retirement open house for Debbie DuChamp at the Creamery (Cenex Station) from 1 – 4 p.m. They served hoagie sandwiches, cookies, cake, hot chocolate, and coffee. Debbie had served at the Creamery for 39 years. She was manager/secretary. There was a good crowd of people to enjoy this. Lorna Jesme came from Thief River Falls, as well as many patrons, friends and family. Congratulations, Debbie.

Roger Skjerven celebrated his birthday at Peggy and Kermit Genereux's home during Christmas with a supper. The family later played whist.

Anna DeHate had Christmas Eve supper at Marty and Linda Hogenson's in Thief River.

Jenny and Logan Wallace and four children spent Christmas weekend at Roger and Lynn Gallant's. Logan also visited his parents by Strathcona. They are from Killdeer, ND.

Cathy, Kevin and Brady Samuelson of Sarles came for Christmas to Bunny DuChamp's.

The groomer went by today (Thursday) for the snowmobile trails.

Brody Traxler enjoyed snowmobiling over Christmas vacation.

Becky and David Opatz and son of Kinsey, MT came for Christmas weekend to Karen Tvedt's.

Alice Jobe went to her brother Allan Kukowski's by Wannaska for Christmas Day dinner. There were about

sixteen in all. All the siblings were there and several nieces and nephews. They had ham and turkey, dressing, green bean casserole and other veggies, kolache, candies, cookies, pies, coffee and punch.

The weather has been horribly cold. However, Wednesday, it got up to 0 degrees. Then dropped like a rock with one half inch of snow overnight. Oh, well, we didn't get 5 feet of snow like Pennsylvania got. They got that snow in 3 or 4 hours, I think.

Soon, I guess we can take the Christmas stuff down. The outside trimmings can wait. Gee, the time went fast, December absolutely flew by.

Stay warm, be good and have fun!

Want all your pregnancy-related information in one place? There's an Essentia Health app for that

Finding out you're about to bring another life into this world can be an incredibly joyous and nerve-wracking experience. Between dozens of doctors' appointments and your ever-changing body, trying to remember everything relating to your pregnancy can be hard. That's why Essentia Health created the Essentia Oh Baby app available for free in the Google Play and iTunes store. Essentia Oh Baby is the



Essentia Health

surface, (2) reducing tillage to improve soil aggregation, (3) keeping cover for longer using cover crops and perennial crops, and (4) replacing shelter belts to reduce wind speeds. If you use practices to control wind erosion, you will inevitably control water erosion as well.

For more information: www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/tillage

www.ndsu.edu/soilhealth

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UMN Extension

Calendar of Events

January

9th: Pastor Renovation & Heard Health Program in Bagley at 5:00p .m. at the American Legion starting with

Reduce Wind Erosion for Long Term Productivity

Jodi DeJong-Hughes, UMN Extension, David Franzen and Abbey Wick, NDSU Extension

Why Worry About Wind Erosion? Soil is a non-renewable resource and cannot be built within our lifetime. When it's gone, it's gone. One hundred percent of our global food needs are farmed on only 11% of the world's land -- making soil protection crucial. While erosion is a natural process, cultivation of the prairie and the dominance of annual crops have significantly sped up soil loss.

Some estimate that as much as 19 inches of topsoil has been eroded from agricultural fields! This severely diminishes your soil productivity. In Minnesota, the average wind erosion rate is 5.2 tons of soil loss per acre per year (Figure 1). North Dakota is slightly lower at 4.7 tons and South Dakota is at 2.4 tons. While these levels have decreased in the past three decades, wind erosion is still occurring at detrimental rates. The most severe areas of erosion are well above the general estimates of 5 tons per acre per year.

To put it into context, 5 tons of soil across an acre of land is equal to the thickness of a dime. While the loss of a dime's thickness is scarcely noticeable over one year, it adds up over 5, 10, or 15 years.

Why aren't growers and landowners more alarmed about continual soil loss? Each year that there is topsoil loss, tillage masks the effects by mixing in subsoil. There are no 'untreated checks', so the resulting 'top soil' still looks dark. But it is not as dark as the year before.

Vulnerable Areas for Wind Erosion Certain areas of the US are predisposed to wind erosion. The Red River Valley area in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota is particularly susceptible. This is due to a combination of factors.

1. – wind is able to pick up speed and intensity along flat landscapes. Western Minnesota and the eastern half of the Dakotas are very level, with little change in topography, and few trees over a wide region.

2. – tillage increases and accelerates the breaking apart of soil aggregates into individual soil particles. Individual soil particles are lighter and more easily transported by wind than those that are aggregated.

3. – provide a physical barrier on the soil surface to protect against wind erosion. The more cover, the better the protection. Standing residue is more effective at slowing the wind than chopped residue. In

2007, one-third of Minnesota cropland was aggressively tilled leaving 85% of the soil predisposed to erosion.

4. – short season or rowed crops offer little soil protection until the crop has canopied. After fall tillage, a majority of the eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota fields are left unprotected for 6-9 months of the year. A perennial crop offers a dense mat and increased residue cover to protect the soil. In row-crop systems, inclusion of a cover crop in rotation offers a longer period of soil protection and offers other benefits.

5. – carbonates are natural in many of the soils in western Minnesota and in the Red River Valley. Carbonate minerals separate particles from each other, making the soils particularly vulnerable to wind erosion.

The heavier components of the soil, sand and silt, are moved to a lesser degree and are deposited shorter distances from the source. You'll see them accumulated in the ditch, along fence rows or anywhere the wind slows down. However, you will see little clay in the ditch because most of it is suspended in the air and transported greater distances. Clay is the dominant soil texture in the Red River Valley.

Can you afford \$55 in the ditch? The most productive soil, called topsoil, is near the surface. The loss of topsoil leads to less healthy and less fertile soil, resulting in lower yields and more commercial fertilizer needed to make up the loss. How much fertility is lost with wind erosion? To understand how much soil was being deposited in ditches, soil samples were collected in six field ditches across western Minnesota. Analysis shows a range in accumulation of 2.6 to 32.6 tons of soil in one acre of ditch (Table 1). The average nutrient content of the soil was 55 lbs. of total nitrogen (TN), 13 lbs. of total phosphorus (TP) and almost 37 lbs. of total potassium (TK). At 2014 fertilizer rates, that is a loss of almost \$55.00 into the ditch. This does not take into account the soil and nutrients that were blown further away with the clay, which is often at least ten times more fertile than what ends up in the ditch.

Other Effects

- When the soil is not protected either by residue or the crop's canopy, crops may be sand blasted by blowing soil. This can open up holes in the plant to allow for entry of diseases such as

Goss's Wilt. Blowing soil can also slice through young emerging plants, leading to a

replant decision.

Sand blasting of emerging corn plant.

- The immediate health hazard is the suspension and movement of very small particles in the air, which have been linked to increased asthma and other lung ailments in humans. Soil particles that are deposited in surface water contain nitrogen and phosphorus - causing algal blooms in lakes, rivers and bays. When algae die, they decompose and remove oxygen from the water (hypoxia) and cause fish kills.

Ditches filled with eroded topsoil restrict field drainage and can lower crop yields from higher water tables and increase soluble salts in fields. Dredging streams to ease this problem is costly and wreaks havoc on aquatic plant and animal communities.

Five Ways to Reduce Wind Erosion Keep your soil covered and reduce the wind speed to prevent wind from removing your valuable topsoil. 1. Reduce the number of tillage passes and intensity. Leaving residue on the soil surface protects the soil from blowing away. You can virtually eliminate erosion on most fields with sufficient residue levels (Figures 8 and 9).

2. Adding a cover crop after a short season crop is an excellent way to protect the soil through the winter and early spring months. Ryegrass is fairly inexpensive, easy to grow and provides excellent coverage from wind and water erosion.

3. Leave residue standing is an effective way to slow down wind speed. Examples are raising the cutting height for small grains and if chopping residue, leave alternating strips of un-chopped stalks.

4. Plant vegetative buffer strips in erosive areas to trap sediment and slow wind speeds.

5. Living windbreaks or shelterbelts are rows of trees and shrubs that effectively slow the wind. When taking out an old windbreak or farm site, plant a new windbreak elsewhere in the field.

There are government programs available to assist with establishment costs and rental payments for these conservation practices.

Summary Soil loss via wind erosion cuts your profits and reduces productivity by removing a nonrenewable crop production resource. Erosion is very costly in nutrient removal replacement terms. Additionally, it reduces the depth of productive soil lowering the water holding capacity. Concepts underlying reducing the impacts of wind erosion include: (1) maintaining residue to protect the soil