

Oklee Precipitation
By Einar Kvasager

	Rain	Snow
Jan. 20	Trace	Trace
Jan. 22		0.25
Jan. 23		0.25
Jan. 24	Trace	Trace
Jan. 25		Trace
Jan. 26		.025
Total in.	0.00	0.75

Vol. 104, Number 28

Oklee Herald

...AND CONTINUING THE PLUMMER PIONEER

OKLEE (RED LAKE COUNTY) MINN. 56742

www.TriCoCanary.com

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Calendar of Events

Wed, Mar. 2:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Bridge.
-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.
Thu, Mar. 3:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 12:30 p.m. – Bingo.
Fri, Mar. 4:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news.
Sat, Mar. 5:
-Support your local business – Shop Locally!
Sun, Mar. 6:
-Worship at the church of your choice.
Mon, Mar. 7:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
Tue, Mar. 8:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Cards.
Wed, Mar. 9:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Bridge.
-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.
Thu, Mar. 10:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 12:30 p.m. – Bingo.
Fri, Mar. 11:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news.
Sat, Mar. 12:
-Support your local business – Shop Locally!
Sun, Mar. 13:
-Worship at the church of your choice.
Mon, Mar. 14:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
Tue, Mar. 15:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Cards
Wed, Mar. 16:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Bridge.
-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.
Thu, Mar. 17:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 12:30 p.m. – Bingo.
Fri, Mar. 18:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news.
Sat, Mar. 19:
-Support your local business – Shop Locally!

Tri-Valley Public Transportation

To reserve a seat, please call by 3:00 p.m. the day before - 1-800-951-9363. All routes will arrive approximately between 10 and 11 a.m. at the destination. All routes need at least five persons signed up.

Wed, Mar. 2: *Thief River Falls/Seven Clans Casino* – Crookston, Fertile, Winger, Erskine, Brooks.

Thu, Mar. 3: *Bemidji* – Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Plummer, Oklee/Brooks, Trail/Gully. *Fargo/Moorhead* – Thief River Falls, St. Hilaire.

Fri, Mar. 4: *Crookston* – Thief River Falls, Plummer, Red Lake Falls.



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

RLCC Girls Basketball Parents Night



Seniors with their parents on Girls Basketball Senior and Parents Night: Taylor Klasen, daughter of Angie Klasen and Ryan Gryskiewicz (not pictured); Holly Vettleson, daughter of Alan and Chris Vettleson; Michelle Sundquist, daughter of Tracy and Randy Finseth and Kurt Sundquist; Brandi Jensen, daughter of Jason Jensen and Carrie Jensen; Katheryne DeHate, daughter of Jill and Bernie DeHate, and Morgan Bushelle, daughter of Jesse and Tiffany Bushelle.



Juniors with their parents at Parents Night on February 19, 2015: Ashley Longtin, daughter of Michelle and Lonnie Longtin; Nikki Schmitz, daughter of Nancy and Bud (not pictured) Schmitz and the late Jake Schmitz; and Taylor Bushelle, daughter of Jesse and Tiffany Bushelle.

Red Lake County Central sophomores and parents at Parents Night: Hannah Kolstoe, daughter of Matt and Lisa Kolstoe and Billie Jo Gryskiewicz, daughter of Ryan Klasen and Ryan Gryskiewicz.



RLCC Mustangs girls' basketball Parents Night was February 19. Freshmen included Zoe Russillo, daughter of Magen Anderson and Rob and Kellie Russillo; Marie Johnson, daughter of Pam and Jeff Johnson; Sarah Christensen, daughter of Anders (not pictured) and AnnaMae Christensen; and Julia Bernstein, daughter of Krista and Mitch Bernstein.



Eighth grade basketball girls Tanisha Srnsky and Jenna Pahlen with their parents, James Srnsky and Jennifer Srnsky, and Stacy Pahlen and Steven Pahlen, during RLCC's Parents Night.

Project to create City of Oklee “Coat of Arms”

In November or earlier, Matthew Genova came before the Oklee City Council and asked why the City didn't have a Coat of Arms Flag. He wanted to start a project with RLCC School to create a Coat of Arms for the City of Oklee. This project would involve the students and the City of Oklee, creating the Coat of Arms, which could be something to be proud about for the City and the students. The City Council had no opinion for him and actually, had never been approached about a City Coat of Arms.

The question of what a Coat of Arms is came up and Genova explained very simply, that it is a flag that represents a city.

The Council asked if it would cost the City anything, and Genova said it wouldn't. The Council said to go ahead with the project. Genova said when the design is completed, he will bring it to the Council for final approval.

Genova then approached RLCC School in Oklee and Superintendent Jim Guetter replied in a letter to the City of Oklee that he thought it would be a “project that could be very interesting educational process for the students, from the artistic side, a cultural and historical perspective and also because it involves pride, values, and the future.”

Since then, Genova has set up an account at Security State Bank, “Oklee Flag Fund.” The account has two signers and donations will be used for the flag and pole, the monies left over, will be donated to the RLCC Art program.

Genova has been updating the City Council of the project monthly. Genova has been asking for donations and so far donators include: Cenex (Brooks), Seamless Texturing (Oklee), Harriet Ross (Oklee), Matt Genova (Oklee), Gavin & Lilly Hager (Oklee). Everyone is welcome to donate, any amount is welcome.

Coat of Arms (a short

history): In this area of the country, there haven't been many coats of arms that most can remember seeing, other than the Minnesota State flag. They are comprised of unique heraldic designs that represents an individual person or family, corporation, city or state. Coats of arms came into general use by feudal lords and knights in battle in the 12th century according to Wikipedia and said that by the 13th century, coat of arms had spread to become a flag or emblem for families in the higher social classes of Europe. There were rules or laws about who had a right to use arms and the rules varied between countries. Eventually, the use of arms spread to the clergy, to towns as civic identifiers, and to royally chartered organizations such as universities and trading companies. Today, one way to look at them is that they are your town's logo, just like a school has it's school colors and signage.

Heraldry has remained consistent across Europe, where tradition alone has governed the design and use of arms. In Britain the granting of arms is and has been controlled by the College of Arms. In the present day, coats of arms are still in use by a variety of institutions and individuals and many European cities and universities have guidelines on how their coats of arms may be used, and protect their use as trademarks.

The French were greatly influenced the British and Western European coats of arms and in France are considered an intellectual property of a family or municipal body.

In the Nordic countries, provinces, regions, and cities have coats of arms. They are posted at the borders and on buildings containing official offices, as well as used in official documents. Arms can also be used on souvenirs if it has been granted by the municipal council.

Red Lake County Commissioners meeting

On February 2, 2016, the Red Lake County Commissioners met at the Courthouse meeting room. All members were present. The pledge of allegiance was spoken and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

County Engineer Korky Kleven was first on the agenda with a few items. First he discussed the quotes on the mower he had received. The best option was to stay with the John Deere since there will be parts available and the board agreed. Commissioner John Lerohl made the motion, Chuck Flage seconded. Carried.

Kleven continued with a acknowledgement of project completions and also discussed road improvements in the industrial loop in Red Lake Falls. The City of Red Lake Falls is eligible for state aid project funds. The City engineer is looking in the utility status, what needs to be updated before re-tarring the roads. There will be matching funds required by the City and the City has passed a resolution to work with the County to be the fiscal agent on this project. Asphalt is at a 10 year low and interest rates are low. Expected to be done with the utility part in 2016/17 and then tar in 2018. The prospect of natural gas coming into Red Lake Falls next fall was mentioned. Garden Valley is doing utility work in same area. Another example of City and County working together.

County Attorney Mike LaCoursiere had a resolution that needed to be signed by the board to allow his office to access the Minnesota Government Account electronic records and documents. Lerohl and Ron Weiss made the motions, carried.

A Joint Powers Agreement needed to be approved for the Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force. It was approved by a motion from Lerohl, seconded by Flage, carried.

The minutes were approved with a motion by Flage, seconded by Weiss, carried.

Expenditures were looked at and approved with a motion by Lerohl and seconded by Flage, carried.

Committee reports were given starting with Weiss reporting on the Area on Aging meeting he attended. Flage was next and he had been to a safety meeting that morning. The tornado drill will be held on April 16th.

Commissioner Dave Sorenson reported on the Tri County Corrections meeting he attended. There was 172 persons incarcerated, only 2 from Red Lake. The per diem have been down, but right on budget. There was seven new admits in January. A lot of the person at TCCC are from other than the 3 counties. Sorenson had also attended a MRCC meeting and a Northwest Mental Health meeting.

Lerohl had a Red Lake County Fair Board meeting. Talked about grants for a fair building from the Legacy funds. There will be a raffle and mud run, Baja, and dance. Lerohl also attended the Futures Task Force meeting. The speaker was talking about generational changes between builders, baby boomers, gen-x, and millennials. It was very interesting. Lerohl had a phone meeting with the RDC.

Commissioner Chuck Simpson reported that he had only the Fair Board with Lerohl and had nothing additional to add to Lerohl's report.

Kleven has issues with the natural gas lines coming in town. Not enough information yet on pipe diameters. Right of way issues, they like to put in ditches so they don't have to deal with landowners, how deep are the lines going to be. Lots of questions. Kleven also mentioned drain tile policy. Farmers sometimes do their own ditching. Kleven will be talking to Polk County to visit with them before signing the permits.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.



MUSTANG STAMPED

RLCC Menus

March 7 - 11

Oklee

Mon: Breakfast: Apple turnover, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Hot subs, chips, fresh vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Tue: Breakfast: Muffins, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Ribettes, oven fries, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Wed: Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Chicken strips, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Thu: Breakfast: Smores, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger patty, some kind of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Fri: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Tomato soup, grilled cheese, vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Plummer

Mon: Breakfast: Egg wrap, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, buttered bread, fruit, and milk.

Tue: Breakfast: Cinnamon streusel coffee cake, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Chicken noodle dumpling soup, Ritz Bitz, salad, salami sandwich, fruit, and milk.

Wed: Breakfast: Grab & Go Bag: Nutri Grain bar, cereal, Go-Gurt, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Cripito's, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, Smiles potatoes, refried beans, fruit, and milk.

Thu: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, craisins, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Hotdog on a bun, hash browns, carrots, fruit, and milk.

Fri: Breakfast: Bagel, strawberry cream cheese, cereal, fruit, juice & milk. **Lunch:** Cheese pizza, salad bowl, veggies, chilled cantaloupe, and milk.

Skating Rink in Oklee open

The Skating Rink in Oklee is open Monday through Friday 3:30-8:00 p.m., Saturday around 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 8:00 pm. Closed during home events at the school.



Jayden Fore, Sydney Melby, Jade Person, Lilly Guillemette, and Carly Williams (not pictured) from the RLC Rebels speech team placed in the speech meet held in East Grand Forks.

RLCC Knowledge Bowl

By: Nicholas Plante

Red Lake County Central Knowledge Bowl team went to Bemidji on February 18. The teams were Ana Almeida, Lynsey Morris and Tera Qualley on the RLCC Blue team; Nikki Schmitz, Kelsie Sirjord and Angel Auman on the RLCC Silver team; Seth Paradis, Makay Burns and Shelby Gunderson on the RLCC Black team; and Nick

Pahlen, Nick Piersol and Jade Person on the RLCC Red team.

The RLCC Red team took 14th place with 51 points, RLCC Silver 19th place with 43 points, RLCC Blue 20th place with 41 points, and RLCC Black 23rd place with 38 points. Bemidji Blue took 1st with 129 points, Crookston Gold took 2nd with 82 points, and Bemidji Red 3rd with 81.5 points.

Knowledge Bowl in Thief River Falls

By: Katie Pendelton

The Red Lake County Central Senior High Knowledge Bowl students went to a meet held Wednesday, January 24 in Thief River Falls. Mr. Bryan Paskvan is the team coach.

Red Lake Falls Purple placed first, Tri-County Red placed second, and Thief River Falls White placed third.

RLCC had four teams participate. The RLCC Silver placed 18th and included Angel

Auman, Kelsie Sirjord, and Ashley Longtin. The RLCC Black placed 22nd and included Taylor Bushelle, Megan Berberich, Seth Paradis, Austin Waliser, and Makay Berns. The RLCC Blue placed 23rd and included Katie Olson, Nick Pahlen, Kara Longtin, and Sydney Melby. The RLCC Red placed 26th and included Dede Walton, Tera Qualley, Lynsey Morris, and Ana Almeida.

Coach's Classic Speech Meet

By Ana Almeida

The Red Lake County Rebel Speech Team went to the Coach's Classic meet at East Grand Forks Saturday, February 20. Out of 11 teams, the Rebels finished in sixth place.

RLC individual awards were Second Place to Lilly Guillemette in the Poetry category, Third Place to Sydney Melby in the Humor category, Blue Ribbons to Jade Person and Carly Williams both in the Humor category and Red Ribbon to Jayden Fore in the Creative category.

Section 8A Individual Wrestling Tournament

By: Taylor Klasen

There was a two day tournament held Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20 at Dilworth for the Individual Section 8A Wrestling. To advance to the state tournament wrestlers had to place the top two in each weight class.

Tristan Larson placed fourth for heavy weight, Dylan Gustafson placed sixth at the 126 lbs, and Nick Pahlen also placed sixth in the 195 lbs weight class. Bryce Bergerson 106 lbs, Tyler Sandahl 120 lbs, Tristyn Ferguson 152 lbs, Kyle Gagner 160 lbs, and Alec Castaneda 220 lbs also wrestled but did not place.

RLCC girls lose by one

By: Nick Plante

Red Lake Country Central girls' basketball team faced Goodridge-Grygla girls at Oklee February 19, 2016. The first half score was 21-25 with Goodridge-Grygla ahead. The game ended in a close battle with a score of 42-43 with a win by Goodridge-Grygla.

The leading scorer for RLCC was Ashley Longtin with 13 followed by Taylor Bushelle nine, Kat DeHate six, Michelle Sundquist five, Brandi Jensen five, and Julia Bernstein four. The leading scorers for GG were Hannah Dietsch and



Faithful Fans: RLCC Boosters recognized and treated two fans who attend most every home game. Don and Alma Stenberg were pictured February 19 at the last home game in Oklee.

Madison Bakken both with eight. Allison Satre had six, Mariah Coan five, Shantel Verbout five, Ashley Moe five, Ashlyn Hendrickson four, and Brooke Anderson two.

RLC defeats

Fertile-Beltrami

By: Nicole Riendeau

The Red Lake County boys' basketball team played against Fertile-Beltrami in the Section play-in game Thursday, February 25th at UMC in Crookston. In the first half Fertile-Beltrami was up 40-32 and in the second half the Rebels outscored them 33-25. The Rebel's won with a final score of 65-64.

The RLC's scoring included Drake Engelstad with 31 points, Will Duden with 23 points, Austin May with six points, and Wyatt Waldal with three points and Austin Waliser with two points. Engelstad had a double-double with 10 rebounds and 31 points as well as two steals and was 11-14 in free throws. Waliser had seven rebounds.

Fertile-Beltrami scorers

included Brady Steffes with 28 points, Jordan Leiting with 26 points, Tanner Solie with six points, Dylan VanDerEinde with two points, Ryan Benson with one point and Garrett Dufault with one point. Steffes had nine rebounds and Dufault had one steal.

The RLC Rebels advanced to the Section Quarterfinals

RLCC girls win over Mahnomen

By: Ethan Vettleson

Red Lake County Central Mustangs played their last game of the regular season in Mahnomen on Monday, February 22. Mustangs beat the Indians 44 to 30. Ashley Longtin led the Mustangs with 12 points followed by Brandie Jensen 11, Julia Bernstein eight, Kat DeHate six, Michelle Sundquist four, and Holly Vettleson three.

For the Indians Kiki Keezer led the team with 11 points, Lindsey Thompson nine, Lilly Walker six, Syndey Clark three, and Maggie Hedstrom one.



Junior Taylor Bushelle making a free throw for RLCC during their final home game February 19th.



RLCC's freshman Julia Bernstein puts up a shot at the February 19th girls' basketball game.

RLCC 5th Grade Girls Basketball team took 1st place in Goodridge this past Saturday, beating Fosston 23-7 and Goodridge in the Championship game 22-6.

Top Left to right: Coach Jason Jensen, Marissa Thomas, Aurora Mitzner, Marin Peterson, Middle: Carlee Whalen, Mireya Gibbs. Bottom: Shawna Majeres, Arielle Rude, and Paige Olson. Good Job Little Lady Mustangs!!!



Mustang basketball players Ashley Longtin, Michelle Sundquist and Brandi Jensen helping their teammates against Goodridge-Grygla.

Oklee Herald Early Files

Seventy Years Ago

February 28, 1946

Pfc. Raymond Thorpe of Fort Snelling spent the weekend here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Thorpe.

Miss Aldia Paquin, daughter of Mrs. Abraham Paquin, was married to Harold Westby of Forrest Lake at the Catholic Rectory in Oklee on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. A.N. Lefebvre are the proud parents of an eight pound baby boy on Saturday, February 16th.

Bobcats closed the regular season with a win over Goodridge on Monday evening.

Harold W. Lerohl, seaman first class, son of Rev. and Mrs. J.K. Lerhol, arrived here on Wednesday of last week from Minneapolis, where he received his discharge.

Sixty Years Ago

March 1, 1956

A Monday evening blaze all but destroyed a warehouse in Oklee owned by Red Lake County and used for storage of the road patrol gasoline, fuel and tools.

On Monday, February 27th, grades 4, 7, 9, 12 were given Mantoux tests by Doctor Flancher of the Sunnyrest Sanatorium of Crookston. The test will be taken every three years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Greenwald observed their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary quietly at their home on Monday.

Fifty Years Ago

March 3, 1966

March weather is cause for many conditions. Any summary of weather conditions in this area in the past few days would have to include a comment on the numerous decision that must be made. The variations from balmy

to freezing temperatures occur with sun unpredictable irregularity as to confound the forecasters, thus making early morning decisions on what to wear is usually wrong.

Mrs. Dick Radniecki and Becky and Beth Radniecki attended the horse show at the Winter Shows on Saturday.

A bridal shower was held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fulton who were recently married at the Plummer Hall.

Forty Years Ago

February 26, 1976

Congratulations to senior Lloyd Bergeron and junior John Larson, the two Bobcat matmen representing Oklee in the State Tournament in St. Paul.

The St. Johns Hospital in Red Lake Falls is having visitor restrictions due to the outbreak of the flu.

The Oklee Bobcats win first round in District 30 Tournament beating the Halstad Pirates at Fertile.

There will be a bridal shower for Miss Leona Berger on Monday at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer.

Ramona Chervestad is a patient at the Midway Hospital in St. Paul with a broken leg.

Thirty Years Ago

February 26, 1986

Three letters of resignation were received and accepted by the Oklee School Board – Mrs. Janis Rahier (38 years), Mrs. Joan Bronken (29 years) and Superintendent Marv Bronken (30 years). 97 cumulative years between the three.

Kelly Ray, infant son of Arlan and Debbie Brekke was baptized on February 2nd at Clearwater Lutheran Church.

A baby shower was held for Kay Melvie and daughter Jamie on Monday evening at

the Dr. and Mrs. Peter Johnson home in TRF.

Three Oklee/Plummer Mustang Wrestlers will be wrestling in the High School Wrestling tournament in St. Paul. They are Todd Bergeron, Rodney Duden and Greg Bishop.

Twenty Years Ago

February 28, 1996

Nate Lundeen achieved 100 wrestling wins and that is not easy to accomplish.

The Oklee JETS (Junior Engineer Team) did well in competition that was held at UND in Grand Forks, February 20th.

Leaders in the Red River Valley Dairy Industry were honored and included Arlan and Barb Weiss of Red Lake Falls.

Jim DuChamp who normally sports a beard this time of year paid off his promise that if the Mustangs won their game in Gary, he would shave it off and he did.

Ten Years Ago

March 2, 2006

Tony & Sheila Gerardy were honored as Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award this past weekend.

Stumpf and Lieder held a town meeting in Oklee at the Inter County Community Council building.

Jeremiah Willett is headed to the State Wrestling tournament for the second year in a row.

Chris and Robyn Morinville of Fargo, are the proud parents of a baby girl, born January 30 She was named Keira Ann.

Dale Rystad, a senior at RLCC High School is the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship from St. Cloud University for the 2006-07 academic year.

Senior Site News and Other Things

By Volunteer Iona Berry

We had such a beautiful day yesterday so today turned out to be the opposite with a cold north wind. I stayed mostly indoors today so I could keep warm.

I attended a meeting in Brooks last week concerning Red Lake County Dementia Friendly Community Project. I received some information which I will share with anyone who is interested. They want volunteers to help with the project. Stop at the Senior Site and look through the information. I will have it at the evening meal this week also.

Dates to Remember

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Party at Site.

March 17: Site Council Meets at 10:00 a.m.

March 18: Birthday Meal.

Words of Wisdom

Whatever you write, consider it to be on permanent display.

Today look for someone who needs encouragement.

Joke Time

An acquaintance once pushed Mark Twain into an argument on the issue of polygamy. After long and

tedious expositions justifying the practice, the Mormon demanded that Twain cite any passage of Scripture expressly forbidding polygamy.

"Nothing easier," Twain replied, "No man can serve two masters."

After a political rally, a wife came home late and sank into a chair.

"Everything is going great. We are going to sweep the country."

To which her husband responded, "Why not start with the living room?"

Brooks - Terrebonne News

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

The weather has been really nice for February. In a normal winter we would be freezing and complaining. I guess once in a while we need a break and it looks like this is the year. The temps in the 40's over the weekend was really a treat. It seems though that many people would still like to snowmobile ride but that is what trailers were made for. Go where the snow is. This week promises to be colder so dress for the weather.

Some of you may know Monsignor Bill Mehrkins who pastored the Red Lake Mission for many years and founded Laketrails in Warroad. He has passed away and his funeral is Wednesday in Bemidji. He also will have a memorial service in Red Lake Mission, and his burial will be there at St. Mary's. He will be missed by all. He was a man of peace and lived that throughout his life.

On Tuesday Mary Schindler and Barb Novak went to a meeting about dementia. There were several people from all over the county, mostly social services and human services people there. It pointed to the need for people to help others who have diminished capacity due to age and forgetfulness. Many people can live alone with certain types of help in areas that they can't do. Just ask what they need in many cases they will say I need my sidewalk shoveled or needs of personal nature. It does take a village to make a community work and work well. There is also help within the social services community so call if you know someone who needs help.

Elaine Radniecki has been busy making bread pudding. She shared some with Inez and Harvey Riendeau last week, and Inez hopes that she shares again. It is one of her favorite dishes and she said it was wonderful.

On Sunday Harvey and

Inez went to see her son Gene Lenhart and Toni. They visited the day away and enjoyed their visit.

Harvey and Inez and the family went to Pee Wee basketball tournaments in Goodridge on Saturday. Her grandchildren were in the game and the team that, Jonathon Lenhart of Lancaster, was on, took the gold. They were the champions of the district. Congratulations to the Lancaster team.

We hope that you were able to partake in the caucus on Tuesday. It is the backbone of our democratic process. Those not interested in the process of choosing our candidates, should not vote in the general. It seems we have let someone else do it for too long, and the system is showing the lack of good candidates. We do need to get more involved.

Have a great week. People of the week are all of you who read this column. You are the best.

Plummer News

By Alice Jobe 218-465-4402

The Plummer Firemen put on a pancake feed on Sunday at the Plummer Hall. Pancakes, link sausages, fruit, juice, and coffee were served. They sold chances on a CO² detector.

Kim and Minette Carpenter of Hawley, were weekend guests of Jean Carpenter.

Alice Jobe visited Arlene Zimpel on Friday afternoon.

A birthday party was held at the Legion in Plummer Saturday evening for Melvin Hesse, who was 86 on Saturday and his sister Doris Malwitz, who was 90 on Friday. A supper was served with birthday cupcakes, punch and coffee. There was a huge crowd of relatives and friends. Kevin and Gloria Malwitz came up from Arizona. Diane Grinde of Elk River. Jackie and Donnie Hesse also of Elk River came for the party. Donnie stayed longer and went ice fishing at Lake of the Woods.

A suprise birthday party was given Sunday afternoon for Tiffany Dugstad at Karen Tvedt's. Carl Dugstad and kids were there with about 35 in all.

Pete Gerardy, of Fargo, came for the weekend to visit Carol and Jerry Gerardy and other family.

Roy Westlake passed away Monday, February 22nd. My sympathy to the family.

Les and Alice Hofstad returned recently from a visit to Yuma, Arizona.

Sunday night, Alice Jobe and Ann Traxler attended the concert at Lincoln High School. It was called "California Dreamin'." Pop-rock hits of the 60's. Songs from the Mama & the Papa's, Simon & Garfunkel, Peter, Paul and Mary, Burt Bacharach, and The Carpenters. I was excellent.

Tuesday morning, I went to the school and did 13 talks to the K-6th grades about respect for the flag. February is Americanism month.

Tuesday, I visited Jean Matt and Fern Eskeli at Oakland Park.

Monday afternoon, I watched the funeral on TV for Jason Moszer, the Fargo cop. It was very moving ceremony. The Emerald Bagpipes of Minnesota played "Danny Boy". His best friend spoke, that was so special. Jason has requested Bon Jovi's song, "Wanted Dead or Alive" as they left in procerSSION with the casket. "Amazing Grace" was played and then the bagpipes played another song. The flag was folded and presented to his wife and one for his parents. Taps were played. It was held at the Alerus Center.

Red Lake County Extension Educator

Curtis W. Nyegaard - 218-253-2895

Animal Welfare on Large Dairies

Recent trends in dairy farm structure in the United States include a decreasing number of operations while farm size has increased, especially the share of milk production from very large farms(greater than 2,500 cows). The upper Midwest has shown recent growth in the share of milk production coming from larger farms. From 2000 to 2012, the percent of state milk production coming from farms with more than 500 head increased nearly threefold in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin- from 8.5 to 32.6% in Minnesota, 5.0 to 44.1% in Iowa, 26.0 to 75.2% in South Dakota, and 9.0 to 38.1% in Wisconsin (USDA, 2014). Very large operations (more than 2,500 cows) have also begun to make an impact on milk production in the upper Midwest. In 2012, these operations accounted for just 0.2% of the total number of operations in these states, but were responsible for over 11% of total milk production that occurred in the four state region (USDA, 2014). Cost advantages of larger farms appear to be driving the consolidation within the dairy industry.

These large dairy operations are sometimes referred to as factory or mega farms by activists instilling an image of a place that is not good for cows. Are cows living in large dairies at risk for more disease and poor welfare? Are these dairies economically different from smaller dairies? Marcia Endres, U M Extension Dairy Scientist and graduate student Tyler Evink conducted a cross sectional study with 15 dairies with more than 2,500 cows in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Iowa that was completed in 2015. At the time of the study, these herds represented 33% of the operations of this size in the four state region. The study was conducted to learn about their housing and management practices, evaluate animal welfare and get an idea about their economic profile. So, what were the results?

Housing and Herd Performance

Seven of the operations housed cows in freestalls with deep bedded sand, seven used deep bedded recycled manure solids(RMS), and one farm used 2 to 3 inch RMSlayer on top of mattresses. Within farms that utilized sand, three had a mechanical separation system while the other four farms had sand settling lanes. Methane digesterswere operated by six of the eight farms that housed cows on RMS and two of the farms that housed cows on sand. Eight of the farms housed the majority of cows in mechanically ventilated (i.e.

cross ventilated or tunnel ventilated) free stall barns, whereas seven farms housed cows in naturally ventilated free stall barns.

The average herd size for the farms in the study was 4,972 cows(ranged from 2,606 to 13,266). In terms of breed composition, 12 of the operations had Holstein, 2 had Jersey, and 1 had predominately Holsteins and Jersey crosses. The daily milk production per cow averaged 70.3 pounds (61.1 to 80.8) with 3.85% fat and 3.15% protein. Bulk tank somatic cell count averaged 190,000 (133,00 to 245,00) and 21-day pregnancy rate averaged 21.7%.

Animal Welfare

Various process and outcome based measurements were taken, but the focus was on lameness, hock lesions and hygiene, which are the three key animal measures used to evaluate animal welfare. These farms have specialized labor on site, including in house hoof trimmers, veterinarians and others, which is hard to do with smaller herd sizes. All 15 farms in the study utilized employee training and retraining protocols, and every farm also offered some form of 3rd party training for their employees. The prevalence of lameness was low-16.7% overall, 5.1% severe (cows scoring 4 or greater), which is less than previous studies. Farms with well trained on farm hoof trimmers had lower lameness prevalence than those farms that hired outside hoof trimmers. It is likely that the lower prevalence of lameness on farms with an on site hoof trimmer could be

due in part to the fact that lame cows can be treated right away after they are observed. Hock lesion prevalence was 22.8% and severe hock lesion was only 2.3%. Hygiene score averaged 2.5 (ranged from 2.0 to 2.9), which is also good compared to previous research. In conclusion, these results indicate that cow welfare is not compromised in large dairy operations in the Upper Midwest.

Economic Observations

Cost of production for the year averaged \$17.88 per hundredweight (cwt) of milk produced whereas milk price averaged \$19.02 per cwt. By category, feed costs were the highest at \$9.47per cwt, followed by labor at \$1.90 per cwt, interest and depreciation at \$1.76 per cwt, and replacement cost at \$1.70 per cwt. These costs accounted for 83% of the total costs. Feed was the highest category as it is in dairy farms across the country accounting for 53% of total costs. Milk sold per employee was 2,471.242 pounds (amazing!) and the number of cows per employee was 15.1. The farms in the top 50% profitability averaged 122 cows per employee whereas the bottom 50% averaged 92.

In conclusion, these farms were profitable and provided an environment and management that resulted in good animal welfare. For more information about this study or to have questions answered; contact Marcia Endres, U M Extension Dairy Scientist by e mail at miendres@umn.edu.

Source: Marcia Endres, U M Extension Dairy Scientist.



Attending the Dementia seminar in Brooks on Tuesday were Polly Purath, Ruth Gackstetter, Evelyn Glass Patty Purath in foreground, and at back table Ione Berry, Joanne Delage, and Kathy Schmitz.



Kristi Nelson (left), from Red Lake County Social Services, presented the facts of dementia to the attendees of the Dementia networking seminar on Tuesday at the Brooks Hall. The meeting was to kickoff the forming of a network to help dementia patients. Sometimes the needs of someone who has dementia are very simple, and a neighbor or friend can help them, it lets them stay in their own home longer. The purpose of the meeting was to get everybody to think of networking friends neighbors and family to help those who need help, if it only means shoveling someone's sidewalk, or cleaning someone's house once a month or taking them to the doctor for appointments.



Who's Dat

This week's photo is of a group of gentlemen. The year is 1951 and many of the men should be from the area. Once again, I have some of the names but not all of them. If you recognize any of them, please give me a call.

Last week's photo was Kayla (Hamm) Knutson. News is - She is going to be a mommy in March. Congratulations!

The photo from the 1985 celebration celebrating Oklee's 75th anniversary. I don't know all the folks in the photo, but the ones I do know are: Mayor Shirley Cyr, Senator LeRoy Stumpf, Coya Knutson, and Birdie Gunderson. Callers have added Sam Plante, Morris Hendrickson and Wallace Nelson. And on the stage next to Stumpf, Wally Sparby who was a legislator. If you know more of the folks in the paper, please contact Bonny at the Oklee Herald office. 218-796-5181 or email: okleeherald@gmail.com



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