

Oklee Precipitation
By Einar Kvasager

	Rain	Snow
Dec. 4		0.25
Dec. 5		Trace
Dec. 6		4.00
Dec. 7		3.00
Dec. 8		1.00
Dec. 9		Trace
Total in.	0.00	8.25

Oklee Herald

...AND CONTINUING THE PLUMMER PIONEER

OKLEE (RED LAKE COUNTY) MINN. 56742

www.TriCoCanary.com

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Vol. 105, Number 17



Elizabeth Follmann, Laura Ingalls Wilder Historian, gave a presentation to Eric Mickelson's fifth grade class in Goodridge, MN. The class just completed a Laura Ingalls Wilder Unit in reading class. Pictured left to right: Lily Beavis, Spencer Coan, Donny Johnsrud, Carson Rubischko, Dominic Wilson, Hannah Lovly, Elizabeth Follmann, Carter Johnsrud, Shylie Moen, Tiana Banasau, Caden Marquis, Emilea Johnson, Nick Hagen, Hunter Kiesow, Chase Manderud. Absent: Kennedy Panek, and Sophia Brown

Youth Snowmobile Training

Oklee Moonlighters Snowmobile Club is sponsoring the Youth Snowmobile Training to be held Sunday, January 8th, 2017. Youth must register and complete the online portion of the class by the class date. Class is open to youth 11 years and older. Go to one of these two websites to complete the online portion of the class: snowmobilecourse.com (\$29.95) or snowmobile-ed.com (\$29.50). Youth may register in the RLCC school office or by calling Shelly Flatgard-218-686-8627.

Annual Christmas Lighting contest

Annual Christmas Light Decorating Contest, sponsored by the Oklee Activity Club for the Oklee and rural Oklee residents. Club members will be going out before Christmas to select the winners. They try to find and look at everyone's lights, but if you would like to nominate someone's lights you can call 796-5394 or 796-5000.

Calendar of Events

Wed, Dec. 14:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Bridge.
-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.
Thu, Dec. 15:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 12:30 p.m. – Bingo.
Fri, Dec. 16:
-LSS Sr. Meals 11:30 a.m.
-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news.
Sat, Dec. 17:
-Support your local business – Shop Locally!
Sun, Dec. 18:
-Worship at the church of your choice.
Mon, Dec. 19:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
Tue, Dec. 20:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Cards.
Wed, Dec. 21:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 1:30 p.m. – Bridge.
-7:00 p.m. Bingo at Plummer Legion.
Thu, Dec. 22:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Senior Site Activity: 12:30 p.m. – Bingo.
Fri, Dec. 23:
-LSS Sr. Meal 11:30 a.m.
-Noon deadline for Oklee Herald news.
Sat, Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve
-Support your local business – Shop Locally!



Commissioner's meeting

Red Lake County Commissioners meeting was held on December 8th at 4:00 p.m. The reason for the time change was that after the regular board meeting, the Truth in Taxation meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were: Chuck Simpson, John Lerohl, Ron Weiss and Anthony Flage. Dave Sorensen was absent.

Chairperson Simpson opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There were no changes or additions to the agenda and it was approved as is.

County Treasurer Nick Knott came before the board to report on the investments he manages for the County. The Bonds and CD's have been performing well.

The LELS Union contract was presented to the board and it was approved with a motion by Weiss and seconded by Lerohl.

County Attorney Mike LaCourse had looked over the paperwork concerning the VEBA plans and he recommended that the County not sign the VEBA request to accept risk if other persons in the family of the VEBA owner use the funds. The IRS is leaning toward family use will be not allowed. Lerohl and Flage motion to not sign. Carried.

The Commissioners gave their committee reports. Weiss was at the NW Regional meeting with Lerohl and was going to let Lerohl report on it. The other meeting he had scheduled for the 1 Watershed, 1 Plan, was canceled due to weather conditions.

Flage had attended an Extension meeting, where evaluations were performed. 4-H Director Sharon Weiss had a printout of the year's events. The RLC Fair Board President reported that there will a rodeo this year.

Lerohl had attended an Inter County Community Council (ICCC) meeting and there was not much to report. Grants are coming in. ICCC is looking at buying the SuperOne

building in TRF to use for Head Start and also to rent out offices to PIC, DEED, and Pennington County offices. The Holiday Train is coming once again to Plummer on Monday, December 12th. Lerohl also attended a NW Regional meeting. They reorganized and the only changes was that Kevin Harmoning is now off the board since his position was for the Mayor of RLF, and his term is over.

One other meeting Lerohl attended was the AMC Convention. The keynote speaker was Andrew Fastow, who was the chief financial officer of Enron Corporation. He thought his job was to make people think they were a #1 company and he knew it wasn't, and hid that fact. Other things at the Convention were the many booths with information on all kinds of items counties would be interested in. Lerohl passed around items and information and was going to bring information to the county departments it pertained to.

Simpson did not have any meetings to report on.

The expenditures were looked at and approved with a motion by Weiss and seconded by Flage.

Jennifer Maleitzke, from Enbridge Energy Company, came to the meeting to update the commissioners on Enbridge's projects. The Sandpiper project was canceled in August and is temporarily shelved for now. They are now moving forward with a Environmental Impact Statement on Line 3 and have applied for a certificate of need and a route permit from the Minnesota Public Commission to construct and operate the line replacement. Maleitzke handed out a packet of information that detailed the project and other items of interest for the commissioners.

Korky Kleven joined Maleitzke to discuss the Eco FootPrint program Enbridge offers. The program is selecting projects in March/April to pursue to help local communities. The Eco FootPrint

project Kleven has put together is to open up access to the local rivers that flow into the Red Lake Corridor. Starting in Oklee at the Omar Sundrud Park the plan would widen the road entrance and add gravel to the roadway, install a seasonal dock and to build a 16' x 24' concrete covered structure, bring electric and lights and a shallow well. In Plummer at People's Park the road would be widened, add gravel, put up a 16' x 30' covered structure, adding electric and lights, shallow well, seasonal dock. At two bridge sites in the county, one near Terrebonne and one near Plummer, the road entrance would be widened, gravel and parking installed. And one would get a seasonal dock. The final two place are in Red Lake Falls. The Swimming Beach site would get a widened road entrance, gravel, parking, and a seasonal dock. The Sportsman's Park would get gravel added, a 24' x 30' covered structure, lights & power, improved boat ramp, seasonal dock, and additional camp sites. All the projects would cost \$125,000 . Kleven was looking of a resolution to put the project in for the Eco FootPrint program. There was a concern about county costs, and was explained other than some county labor, it would only be the normal maintenance of the parks/docking areas. Brooks, Oklee and Plummer are all ready on board and willing to maintain the projects once completed. Weiss and Lerohl made the motion for a resolution for support.

Auditor Robert Schmitz had a couple of items for the Commissioners to decide on. First as a Procurement Policy, which is the same as Beltrami County. It has a protection clause where bids are needed on any project over \$100,000. Lerohl and Flage made the motion.

The Contract for Coroner Service was renewed with a motion from Weiss and Lerohl. The GIS system needed to be renewed – Lerohl and Weiss made the motion.

Little Bobby & his band performing at TJ's in Oklee

On December 17th Little Bobby will be at TJ's in Oklee Minnesota.

Little Bobby is known as one of the best guitar players to ever come from the state of Minnesota. Originally born on the Red Lake Indian Reservation, Little Bobby, aka Robert Houle, has been a part of the music industry for the past 15 years.

The talent for music must be strong, since his grandfather is in the Country Hall of Fame.

His accolades include 5 Native American Music Awards in 2012. His band along with Nora Jean Bruso we're up for artist of the year.

In more recent times, Little Bobby is playing guitar on Blues album of the year. In Canada he played on Sunday Wild's record, "He Digs Me." Also is playing guitar on the number one country blues record in the United States

with Ellen McKnight.

For the past 15 years, Little Bobby has been touring and playing his guitar around the world not only being the only Minnesota artist to be on the largest radio show Beale Street. And he has also been on some of the top blues records in the past 5 years. Blues Blast magazine says that Little Bobby is going to be one of the greatest guitar players who ever lived. He's also known as one of the greatest unknown artists of our time.

If you would like to see how talented Little Bobby is, just go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSYD0ia9Fjw>

He not only plays his guitar with with so much passion, heart, and pride, that you can't help but be drawn into his performance, so make sure you come out to this one night only event at TJ's Tavern in Oklee, it'll be a memory that you won't soon forget.



Little Bobby will be at TJ's in Oklee.

USDA Invests \$33 Million to Improve Water Quality in High-Priority Watersheds

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced an investment of more than \$33 million in 197 high-priority watersheds across the country to help landowners improve water quality through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).

The NWQI helps farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation practices, such as nutrient management, cover crops, conservation cropping systems, filter strips, terraces and buffers, which protect and improve water quality where it is needed most. Conservation practices enhance agricultural productivity and profitability while also improving water quality by enhancing soil health and optimizing the use of agricultural inputs.

"USDA is committed to working hand-in-hand with farmers, ranchers, and landowners to address water quality issues and provide the tools necessary to ensure clean, safe water for communities and wildlife," said Cathee Pullman, NRCS state conservationist in Minnesota. "This latest investment is yet another example of how voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs are benefitting both producers and our natural resources."

This year, NRCS added 42 new watersheds to the NWQI and selected 21 watersheds for new assessment projects, including 3 of watersheds in Minnesota. These assessment watershed projects span 17 states and include a variety of land uses and water quality issues. NRCS will provide resources for these assessment projects to leverage existing plans, data, and information, and fill gaps needed to complete watershed assessments and develop outreach plans. Experience and data gained from several studies, including the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), have shown that improvements in water quality are more likely to be detected when

conservation systems are placed in the most vulnerable areas of a watershed.

The goal of the NWQI is to implement conservation practices within a local area to protect water bodies within priority watersheds. NRCS works closely with conservation partners and State water quality agencies to select watersheds where on-farm conservation can deliver the greatest benefits for clean water. State water quality agencies also work to align U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding with these priority watersheds.

This targeted approach to improve water quality is working across the country. Conservation work on seven watersheds in Texas contributed to positive results and improving trends in water quality in Chambers Creek. With continued conservation efforts, Chambers Creek will not be added to the State's Clean Water Act list of impaired waterbodies due to agricultural impacts.

Since 2012, conservation systems have been placed on almost 600,000 acres in priority watersheds through NWQI, supported by approximately \$125 million in USDA investments. Now in its sixth year, NWQI has expanded to include more small watersheds across the nation, and it builds on efforts to deliver high-impact conservation in areas such as the Mississippi River basin, Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes.

Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect over 400 million acres nationwide, boosting soil and air quality, cleaning and conserving water, and enhancing wildlife habitat. For an interactive look at USDA's work in conservation and forestry over the course of this Administration, visit <http://medium.com/usda-results>.

Mrs. Clause and Santa visiting with many children in Brooks. More photos on page 5.

Church news

OKLEE LUTHERAN PARISH
Zion and Salem
Pastor Margaret Jacobus
Wed, Dec. 14: 6:30 p.m.
Confirmation Classes.
Sun, Dec. 18: 9:00 a.m. SS at Zion – Program Practice. 9:00 a.m. SS at Salem – Program Practice. 10:30 a.m. Zion Christmas Program. 4:00 p.m. Salem Christmas Program.
Mon, Dec. 19: 9:00 a.m. Quilting at Zion.
Wed, Dec. 21: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH OKLEE
Fr. Adam Hamness
Sun, Dec. 18: 7:30 a.m. Confessions 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BROOKS – RED LAKE FALLS CATHOLIC PARISH
Fr. Bill DeCrans
Sat, Dec. 17: 5:30 p.m. RLF
Sun, Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. Brooks. 10:00 a.m. RLF.

IMMANUEL-EBENEZER LUTHERAN PARISH ELCA
Pastor Jonathan Dodson
Wed, Dec. 14: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation at Immanuel.
Sun, Dec. 18: 9:00 a.m. Worship at Immanuel. No SS at Immanuel. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Ebenezer.
Wed, Dec. 21: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation at Immanuel.

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH ELCA
Bethany-Ekelund-Faith
Pastor Kristen Ostercamp
Wed, Dec. 14: 7:00 p.m. Advent Services at Bethany.
Sun, Dec. 18: 8:30 a.m. Faith, 9:45 a.m. Bethany, 11:00 a.m. Ekelund. 6:00 p.m. 5th grade communion meeting.
Wed, Dec. 21: 7:00 p.m. Advent Services at Ekelund.

Dec. WIC Schedule
The Women, Infants and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Education Program (WIC) is being held the month of December 2016.

Infants, children up to the age of 5, and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be eligible for the program. We are very interested in enrolling pregnant women in the program. We feel that the prenatal nutrition is a vital part of producing a healthy baby. Therefore, it is important to apply for WIC early in your pregnancy. We need no proof of pregnancy.

All potential clients must contact the WIC Program to schedule an appointment.
December Schedule Dec. 14, 15 & 16:
TRF Redeemer Luth. Church
For further information concerning the WIC program, call or write WIC Quin, PO Box 248, Newfolden, MN 56738. 1-800-223-1591, or e-mail at quinchs@wiktel.com.
North Valley Home Health offers immunizations, dental varnishing & blood lead testing at the Newfolden and Warren clinics. Arrangements should be made prior to clinics, call North Valley Public Health. at 1-800-950-6986.

Quilting at Zion

Quilting at the Zion Lutheran Church has begun. It starts at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays. Coffee break at 10 & pot luck lunch. This is a community project. If you like to quilt, this is for you. Everyone welcome to attend.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
Mt. Olive – Nazareth Oak Park – St. Petri
Pastor Jeff Merseeth
Wed, Dec. 14: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday School/Confirmation. 6:00 p.m. LYS Caroling.
Sat, Dec. 17: 9:00 a.m. Mt. Olive. 9:00 a.m. Oak Park SS program practice.
Sun, Dec. 18: 10:00 a.m. Nazareth SS; 11:00 a.m. Nazareth. 4:00 p.m. Oak Park/ St. Petri SS program.
Wed, Dec. 21: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday School/Confirmation.

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH
Josiah Hoagland, Pastor
Tyler Stynberg, Youth Pastor
www.newjourneyfosston.com

Wed, Dec. 14: 6:30 p.m. AWANA. 6:30 p.m. Youth Group.
Thu, Dec. 15: 12:00 p.m. Rotary meeting.
Fri, Dec. 16: Friday School.
Sun, Dec. 18: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Program.
Tues, Dec. 20: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study. 10:30 a.m. Quilting.
Wed, Dec. 21: 6:30 p.m. Community Youth Christmas Caroling.

GULLY-TRAIL PARISH
Bethany * Lund
Sand Valley
Dawn Hanson, Lay Minister
Wed, Dec. 14: 2:00 p.m. Lund WELCA.
Sun, Dec. 18: 9:00 a.m. Lund. 10:30 a.m. Bethany.
Wed, Dec. 21: 2:00 p.m. Sand Valley WELCA.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY Fosston
Seth Johnson, Interim Pastor
Sun, Dec. 18: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship.

ADDRESS CHANGES

CONTACT THE
OKLEE HERALD AT
218-796-5181
OR
EMAIL:
okleeherald@gmail.com

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. All of our drivers are trained and certified.

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

The schedule is different starting December 2016.

For Polk, Red Lake and Clearwater county stops:

Every Monday – Grand Forks.
Every 2nd Tuesday – Mahanomen.
Every 4th Tuesday – Thief River Falls
Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday – Fargo/Moorhead.
Every 2nd & 4th Friday – Bemidji.

WONDERING ABOUT BUFFERS?

The Red Lake Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a public meeting regarding the new buffer legislation that will be going into effect in November of 2017. The Buffer Law requires 50 ft. of perennial vegetation along Public Waters and 16.5 ft. of perennial vegetation along all public ditches. A map of Public Waters and Ditches is available on the MN DNR website and at the Red Lake County SWCD. Tom Gile, with the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources, will be speaking at this event. The meeting will be held at the City Hall in Red Lake Falls at 10 A.M on Wednesday, December 14th.

Sudoku Solution

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

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Red Lake Falls • 218-253-2128
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Monuments
www.johnsonfuneralservice.com

Accepting Applications

Quin County Community Health Services WIC is accepting applications for a part-time WIC Support Aid. Position will include greeting participants, scheduling, answering phones and various clinic duties. Looking for a kind and caring individual with good communication and computer skills, must have the ability to lift up to 50 lbs., travel to clinic locations in Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake and Roseau Counties, and work varied hours. Experience working with pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children preferred.

Send resume to PO Box 248, Newfolden, MN 56738 or e-mail quinchs@wiktel.com. Phone (218) 874-7845 for more information. Position open until filled.

NOTICE OF FILING FOR CHESTER TOWNSHIP ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Chester Township, Polk County, State of Minnesota, that filing for town office will be held for a two week period beginning January 3, 2017. Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at Clerk's home at any reasonable hour from January 3, 2017 to January 17, 2017.

Filing will close on January 17, 2017, @ 5:00p.m.
Filing fee-\$2.00
Offices to be filled at the March Annual Election are:
1-Supervisor for a Three Year Term
1-Treasurer for a Two Year Term

Pam O'Neill, Clerk, Town of Chester

NOTICE OF FILING FOR GARNES TOWNSHIP ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Garnes Township, Red Lake County, State of Minnesota, that filing for town office will be held for a two week period beginning January 3, 2017.

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at Clerk's home at any reasonable hour from January 3, 2017, to January 17, 2017.
Filing will close on January 17, 2017, at 5:00p.m.
Filing fee-\$2.00
Offices to be filled at the March Annual Election are:

1- Supervisor for a Three Year Term
1- Treasurer for a Two Year Term

Diane Kolstoe, Clerk, Town of Garnes

Oklee Area Veterans'

Memorial Update

A donation to the Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial was received this week from Alvin and Bonnie Jensen, Oklee in memory of Clay Haugen.

Clay was an active duty member of the military for 22 years. He is remembered by the Jensens for his service in the Navy and the Coast Guard.

A blanket of snow covers the grounds at the Memorial Park, and the volunteer committee thanks the public for taking care to not drive over the grounds at the Veterans' Memorial with snowmobiles. Traffic from the machines could cause damage on the granite blocks in the walkways placed there to honor area veterans.

Donations to the Oklee Area Veterans' Memorial may be sent to Security State Bank, Box 69, Oklee, MN 56742, attn: Lori Melby. Please direct questions to Mary Lynn Bachand at bachand@gvtel.com.

Oklee Senior Site Dining

December 19 - 23

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: Hamburger patty, fried onions, hash browns, vegetable and dessert.

Tuesday: Grilled chicken breast, American fries, vegetable, and dessert.

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

Thursday: BLT, macaroni salad, and dessert.

Friday: Cold ham sandwich, broccoli cheese soup, and dessert.

Red Lake County Commissioners Minutes

RED LAKE COUNTY Regular Meeting Held November 11, 2016

Pursuant to adjournment of its regular meeting the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on November 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Chair Simpson called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Lerohl moved, seconded by Sorensen and carried to approve the agenda with the addition to go into closed session after regular meeting business is completed.

Social Services Director Kristi Nelson met with the board seeking approval of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Red Lake County on behalf of its Social Services Agency and the State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The agreement will allow the local Social Service Agency to access systems and tools that are available over the state's criminal justice data communications network. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 11-01-16 approving the agreement. The Board Chair and County Auditor were authorized to sign the agreement. A complete document is available at the County Social Services office.

The board reviewed the document for completion of three gravel shouldering projects by Thygeson Construction on CSAH #1, CSAH #6, and CSAH #10. Commissioner Sorensen moved, seconded by Lerohl and carried unanimously to approve the "Certificate of Final Acceptance" for completion of the project.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Weiss and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2016 regular board meeting.

The following commissioner/ committee reports were shared:
Commissioner Meeting/Report Weiss Area Agency on Aging: meal site information, The Live Well at Home Grant, Aging Eyes Initiative Grant, minority report, budget and work plan review. LELS union negotiations.

Flage None.
Sorensen AMC District III meeting in Thief River Falls: discussed County Program Aid,

mental health, broadband, and land-fill regulations. LELS union negotiations.

Lerohl NW Council of Collaborative's meeting. NW Regional Development: approved personal Policy changes, salary adjustments, and website changes. NW Private Industry Council-Local Government Officials Board meeting: discussed strategic planning and aging. AMC District III meeting in Thief River Falls.

Simpson None.
Commissioner Lerohl moved, seconded by Sorensen and carried by unanimous vote to approve the expenditures for the period as follows:

Revenue:	\$12,987.00
Road & Bridge	\$18,704.24
Social Services	\$300.00
Ditch	\$2,109.44
Forfeited Tax	\$280.00
State	\$1,124.00
Total	\$35,504.68

The motion includes the following additional bills: \$44.25 to Rod Duden; \$101.91 to Farmers Brothers; \$40.00 to Insight Technologies; \$629.00 to Rogers Two Way Radio; \$350.00 per diem and \$186.84 expenses to John Lerohl.

The board reviewed a request from Veterans Service Officer Kurt Ellefson to re-new the billboard lease on Highway 59 near Brooks. Grant dollars cover the cost of the 12 month lease. Commissioner Lerohl moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to approve the lease and issue payment of \$2,400.00 to Premier Signs of Mentor, MN.

The regular meeting was closed at 10:45 per statute 13D.05, sub 2(b) for an employee issue, and to discuss LELS union negotiations as per motion by Commissioner Weiss, seconded by Sorensen and carried unanimously. The meeting re-opened at 11:16 a.m.

The board acknowledged correspondence from the Minnesota DNR regarding the fall GIA meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned until November 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the courthouse board room.

Attest:
Robert Schmitz,
County Auditor

Chuck Simpson, Chair,
Board of Commissioners
O38C

City of Oklee Minutes

City of Oklee Regular Council September 12, 2016 Oklee Cafe, 6.00pm

Meeting was called to Order at 6.00pm

Roll Call: Mayor Burthwick, Melby, Munt and Jensen, also present Cross, Tougas, Schmitz and Sherriff Bernstein.

August meeting minutes: Motion to accept by Melby and seconded by Jensen, motion carried.

Sheriffs Report: Bernstein reported the Zarkoff Court Case has been dismissed regarding 504 Main St, as they have removed the pick-up truck and appliances from the rear yard.

Martushoff failed to appear in Court regarding 506 Main Street
Baxter Property sold to Brad Butane.

There has been some vandalism at the lumber yard by some young children and Bernstein is aware of who they are and it is nothing to worry about.

Financials: Motion by Munt and seconded by Jensen, motion carried.

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

Maintenance Report: Tougas reported we have been spraying on average twice a week and we are now in need of more chemical spray, we have used twice as much as last year, the spray is expensive (around \$1800 per 35 gallons), the council felt for health and safety reasons to order some more, the good news is it will not be wasted as it will not deteriorate over the winter so any leftover will be used next year.

Dulka Property still not fixed, when the front of the property was dug up a drainage tile from the old storm sewer was uncovered and started to drain into the hole that had been dug, this water smelled of fuel (Diesel), possibly coming from the

old fuel tanks at the Laundry Mat or another potential problem could be from possible buried fuel tanks at the Johnson Funeral home site, as that was once a gas station also.

Possibly add dye into the tile to see if we can see where it is draining to. River outlet of the old storm sewer has been found. The road will be left gravel until we are confident the problem has been fixed.

Issues with sewer, tree roots and rocks was found by the televising of the Sewer, roots into the sewer system at the Southview Apartments(High Rise)....Tree to be removed and the roots dug up this year.

Cost of fix per problem will be around \$3500, this will be put on hold for now.

Water Tower external clean and paint, discussion at the budget meeting to finalize how to finance this project.

Audit proposals was discussed and Cross is to talk with other Cities before a final decision is made.

Matthew Genova asked to Speak and reported that the Flag raising Ceremony is set for 30th September 2016.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Melby seconded by Jensen, motion Carried

Meeting closed at 6.55pm
Derek Cross/City Clerk
Mayor Burthwick
O38C

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

Oklee Herald

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RLCC Sports Schedules

RLC Rebel Varsity Boys Basketball

Thu, Dec. 15: Against BGMR in *Greenbush* at 6:00 p.m.

Fri, Dec. 16: S-A in *S-A* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Dec. 20: Against Warroad in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Sat, Dec. 31: G-G in *G-G* at 2:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 3: Against East Grand Forks SH in *Plummer* at 6:00 p.m.

Mon, Jan. 9: Against Sacred Heart in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 10: W-E-M in *WEM* at 6:00 p.m.

Fri, Jan. 13: W-A-O in *WAO* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 17: Against Climax-Fisher in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Jan. 19: Against Fosston in *Plummer* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 24: Against Roseau in *RLF* at 5:00 p.m.

Sat, Jan. 28: Against Waubun in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 31: Against Northern Freeze in *Plummer* at 6:00 p.m.

Fri, Feb. 3: Parent's Night; Against W-A-O in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Feb. 9: Against C-G in *Oklee* at 6:00 p.m.

Mustang Wrestling

Dec. 16-17: Big Bear Tourney in *Cass Lake* at 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 20: Against Crookston in *Oklee* at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 3: Mayport-Roseau Tri in Mayville at 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 6: Mahnomen/Wauban in *Mahnomen* at 4:00

Jan. 7: Pine-to-Pine in *Fertile* at 11:00 a.m.

Jan. 17: Against Mahnomen/L.P. in *Oklee* at 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 20: Against Park Rapids in *Oklee* at 2:00 p.m.

Jan. 21: TRF Tourney in *TRF* at 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 31: Against BGMR Tri in *Oklee* at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 4: Northwest Tourney in *Fertile* at 11:00 a.m.

Lady Mustang Varsity Basketball 2016-17

Thu, Dec. 15: TBD at TRF NCTC

Mon, Dec. 19: Against Fosston in *Plummer* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Dec. 22: Against Mahnomen in *Mahnomen* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 3: Against Goodridge-Grygla in *Oklee* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Dec. 5: Against Red Lake in *Red Lake* at 6:00 p.m.

Sat, Jan. 7: Against Stephen-Argyle in *Oklee* at 1:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan 10: Against Red Lake Falls in *Plummer* at 6:00 p.m.

Fri, Jan. 13: Against Fosston in *Fosston* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Jan. 19: Against Laporte in *Oklee* at 6:00 p.m.

Fri, Jan. 20: Against W-A-O in *Warren* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 24: Against W-E-M in *W-E-M* at 6:15 p.m.

Thu, Jan. 26: Against Cass Lake-Bena in *Oklee* at 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Jan 31: Against Fertile-Beltrami in *Fertile* at 6:00 p.m.

Thu, Feb. 2: Against Red Lake Falls in *RLF* at 6:00 p.m.

Sat, Feb. 4: Against Lake of the Woods in *LOW* at 1:00 p.m.

Oklee Open Gym

Start December 3

Oklee Gym will be open on Saturdays open gym time. The gym will be open from 1:00-3:00 pm. All ages are welcome but anyone sixth grade and under must be under adult supervision.

There will be **no open gym** on Christmas Eve, December 24th or New Year's Eve, December 31st.

For more information call Curt Halverson at 612-247-0812.

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

RLCC Menus

December 19 - 23

Oklee

Mon: Breakfast: Biscuit with gravy, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Cold subs, chips, fresh vegetables, fruit, and milk.

Tue: Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll, fruit, and milk.

Wed: Breakfast: Muffins, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Chicken burger, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, fruit, and milk.

Thu: Breakfast: Bakery rolls, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Pizza, lettuce salad, fresh vegetables, fruit and milk.

Fri: No School.

Plummer

Mon: Breakfast: Apple strudel, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Chili, Ritz Bitz w/cheese, salad, croutons, cornbread muffin or bread, fruit, and milk.

Tue: Breakfast: Waffles, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Tacos (hamburger, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce), yogurt, PB & J's, fruit, and milk.

Wed: Breakfast: Yogurt parfaits, Nutri Grain bar, cereal, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Cheese garlic French bread, salad, veggies, Christmas sugar cookie, fruit and milk.

Thu: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch:** Hamburger gravy, potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, fruit, and milk.

Fri: No School.



November Students of the Month for RLCC: Mr. Mike Swenson nominated Ashley Longtin, and Tristyn Ferguson was nominated by Ms. Shelly Steva.

RLCC November Students of the Month

By Marie Johnson

Ashley Longtin and Tristyn Ferguson were nominated for the November Students of the Month at Red Lake County Central High School. Longtin was nominated by Mr. Mike Swenson and Ferguson was nominated by Ms. Shelley Steva.

Ferguson is 14, in eighth grade, and the son of Troy and Nicole Ferguson. He has two other siblings, Damon and Molly Ferguson. Ferguson is involved in football, wrestling and trap shooting at RLCC. Some things he enjoys doing in his free time is playing with Legos and hunting. This year the eighth grade science has split into two groups and Ms.

Steva recognized that Ferguson has started to answer more questions that are hard. She also recognized that he is very helpful to other students in his class. Steva commented she understands that he was a good leader in football and is also in wrestling. Steva said, "His passion shines through."

Longtin is 17 and in 12th grade. Longtin is the daughter of Lonnie and Michele Longtin. She has two siblings, Kevin and Chris Longtin. Longtin is involved in many activities at RLCC including volleyball, basketball, track and field, Knowledge Bowl, Student Council, Envirothon, and also the North West Division

Executive Board of Student Councils. In her free time she enjoys hunting, fishing, hanging with friends and family, and watching Norskie hockey. According to Swenson, "Ashley has been recognized for her outstanding leadership and academic performance during her high school career." For leadership he commented that she is a class officer and Student Senate officer. Academically she excels in her high school classes as well as her college in the high school classes. Swenson stated that "She is an excellent student who will go far in whatever career she chooses."

Spotlight on Scholarship Certificates



The volleyball Spotlight on Scholarship recipients at RLCC were (Back row): Shelby Gunderson, Hannah Kolstoe, Sydnie Gunderson, and Julia Bernstein. (Front row): Ashley Longtin, Megan Berberich, Nikki Schmitz, and Calyssa Eskeli. Not pictured: Sarah Christensen.



Red Lake Country Rebels football players from RLCC receiving Spotlight on Scholarship certificates were (Back) Talon Porter, Ethan Vettleson, and Derek Peterson, Christopher Longtin, Dylan Gustafson, (Front) Dawson Rystad, Matthew Vettleson, Makay Berns, and Brandon Lee. Not pictured: Connor Lambert.

Sign up for Youth Snowmobile Safety Training.

By: Julia Bernstein

Youth Snowmobile Safety Training will be held Sunday, January 8th at the Red Lake County Central High School library in Oklee from 1-4 p.m. The class is open to youth 11 years and older. Participants must register and complete the online portion for the class before taking the safety class. To complete the online part of the class go to one of these two websites: snowmobilecourse.com (\$29.95) or snowmobile-ed.com (\$29.50). Youth may register for the safety training in the RLCC school office or by calling Shelly Flatgard 218-686-8627.

The safety class is sponsored by the Oklee Moonlight Snowmobile Club.

RLCC girls played at Sanford Center

By: Sarah Christensen

Red Lake County Central Mustang Girls Varsity Basketball played in Bemidji at the Sanford Center on December 2, 2016. They lost 45-62 to Fisher-Climax.

The Mustangs highest scorer was Julia Bernstein with 17 points. Also scoring for RLCC were Ashley Longtin with nine points, Jenna Pahlen with eight, Taylor Bushelle with five, Nikki Schmitz with four, and Calyssa Eskeli with two points.

The Mustangs highest rebounder was Pahlen with 11. Also rebounding for RLCC were Longtin with 10, and Bernstein with seven rebounds. Bernstein had two steals, and Longtin and Schmitz both had one.

Fisher Climax's high scorers were Sophia Love with 15 points and Mikayla Vasek with 13 points.

By: Hannah Riendeau

Spotlight on Scholarship certificates recently were presented to 20 students at Red Lake County Central High School. Students who are involved in league sponsored activities and maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point are eligible for the Spotlight on Scholarship.

The Spotlight on Scholarship is year round program. It is put on by the Minnesota State High School League. Spotlight on Scholarship program gives out certificates to students who participate in activities and who have "B" or better grade point average.

Congratulations to the following students who received Spotlight on Scholarship certificate for fall activities. Those in football were Seniors Makay Berns, Brandon Lee, Dylan Gustafson, and Talon Porter; Juniors Matthew Vettleson, and Ethan Vettleson; Sophomores Connor Lambert, and Dawson Rystad; and Freshmen Derek Peterson, and Christopher Longtin. Those in volleyball were Seniors Shelby Gunderson, Megan Berberich, Ashley Longtin, Nikki Schmitz, and Kelsie Sirjord; Junior Hannah Kolstoe; Sophomores Julia Bernstein, Sarah Christensen, Sydnie Gunderson; and Freshman Calyssa Eskeli.

Congratulations to all of the people who got a certificate for Spotlight on Scholarship for the fall sports.

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RLCC Seniors Dylan Gustafson and Brandon Lee were named to the All Section 8 team for football.



Named Honorable Mention NW District for football from RLCC were Matt Vettleson, Brandon Lee, and Dylan Gustafson.

Bonny's Bits...

okleeherald@gmail.com

Many years ago, when I first took over the Oklee Herald, I ran in the issues the month of December, different versions of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Here is a new one I found and want to share with you.

Tis the Month Before Christmas

Tis the month before Christmas, we're all going nuts;

With so much to do, there's no ifs, ands or buts.

Buy presents, hang tree lights, pop cards in the mail,

Send gift packs, thread popcorn, find turkeys on sale.

Decorations need stringing up all through the house.

And you haven't a clue what to buy for your spouse.

School concerts, receptions, open houses with friends,

Long lineups, short tempers, tying up the loose ends.

With all our mad dashing, we're reeling from shock;

Let's stop for a minute and really take stock.

It's crassly commercial, the cynical say;

If that's true, that our fault-it's us and not they.

Take time for yourself-though hard as that seems—

Enjoy your kids' laughter, excitement and dreams.

Take a moment out now, don't get overly riled,

Instead make an angel in snow with your child.

The shortbread can wait, and so can the tree;

What's important to feel is a child's sense of glee.

The holidays aren't about push, rush and shove;

They're for friendship and sharing and family love.

Hear the bells, feel the warmth, light up with the glow

Of a message first sent to us so long ago:

Peace, love and goodwill, and hope burning bright.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

This week is a busy one for me with extra events to attend, taking photos. I plan on doing some shopping on Friday, since I haven't started yet.

I was at Plummer on Monday night and it was colder than what we have had the past couple of years.

But at least the polar vortex (according to the weather man) is not hitting full force until later this week.



Senior Dylan Gustafson broke two Red Lake County Rebels records in football: the Most Rushing Attempts in a Career with 349, and the most Kick Returns for Touchdowns in a Career with three.

Dylan Gustafson took fourth place at the Alfred Olson Memorial Wrestling Tournament December 3 in Fosston.

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 anytime, where they can create their own patron accounts to browse, request and renew materials all from their home computers.

The holiday schedule for library hours at the Red Lake Falls branch will mostly remain the same, with the exception of being closed on Saturday, Dec. 24. Regular hours will be observed the weeks prior to

and following Christmas Day. Schedule changes, events and other announcements can be found on the Red Lake Falls Public Library Facebook page for the Northwest Regional Library.

Right around the corner in January is the "Hot Reads for Cold Nights" adult reading program, which is designed to encourage adults to make use of library materials, services and programs. Several Legacy programs are planned for the RLF branch during this time. Mark your calendar for Monday, January 9 at 1:30 when the a bagpipe concert will be performed by the Macalester College Pipe Band of Saint Paul.

Feeding Beef Cows in Winter

Most producers put up one of their largest crops of hay they've ever had this year in northern Minnesota, but with large yields often comes lower nutritional quality for much of that hay or at least of some of the lots stored. Winter is now upon us with our first real cold spell, so hopefully the cows came of pasture in good to excellent body condition. Understanding the body condition of your cows, the quality of feed available, and the weather conditions that this winter might present, all will factor into the success of profitability of the cow herd next spring. Below is an article from Mark Landefeld, Ohio State Agricultural Educator in Monroe County on Winter Feeding of beef cows.

Feeding beef cattle during the winter can be a challenging experience if being profitable is also one of your goals. Proper nutrition is a key component for a successful cow/calf operation. Cows go through many physiological changes during a year. The winter/early spring feeding period is one of the most critical times to provide adequate nutrition for the cow because of her needs at calving time.

Feed usually accounts for the single largest input cost associated with beef cattle. The winter feeding period generally becomes the largest portion of this cost. Stored feeds such as hay normally cost producers 3-5 times as much as grazing a summer pasture or stockpiled feed in a paddock, when cost is calculated. It's therefore critical to keep the amount of stored feed fed to an acceptable minimum so costs are kept under control, but you must still feed enough hay to meet the nutritional needs of the cow. We must maintain the cow's dietary needs if strong healthy calves are to be born in the spring and also get cows rebred in a timely manner to maintain acceptable calving intervals.

So, we quickly see how over feeding becomes costly, but don't ever forget that under nourished cows may be a disaster. Under nourished cows are ones not receiving enough nutrients from their feed. Notice I did not say, its cows not being fed enough hay. Cows can be under nourished even though they are eating all they can eat. Feeding the correct quantity of hay is important, but feeding the correct quality of the hay during each production stage is the key.

We often use the figures 2.5 - 3% of a cows body weight as the amount of dry matter (DM) a beef animal needs per day. So, a 1300 lb. cow would require approximately 33-39 lbs. of DM each day. Don't forget this is a DM calculation. To calculate the amount of hay we must actually feed we must account for the moisture in the hay. Most stored hay will be roughly 90% DM so we divide our 33-39 lbs. by 90% (.90) and get an as fed amount of 37-43lbs. of hay per day for our 1300 lb. cow.

Here's the catch. Doing these calculations still does not assure us the proper amounts of nutrients are being fed. Remember we said cows can starve eating all they could eat. Quality of hay must be accounted for to ensure the nutrients being fed are adequate. Poor quality hay has high percentages of non-digestible (neutral detergent fiber-NDF) material in it. Because of this a cow cannot eat more than about 1.5% of her body weight in NDF. Poor quality forage does not pass through the rumen as quickly as high quality forage, hence the cow is full but still lacks the nutrients she needs to maintain productivity.

Laboratory forage analyses I've had done sometimes reveal that hay does not contain the nutrients I thought it might. Sometimes this happens because of unexpected changes in weather conditions that delay making hay, but other times it's because of management decisions. I've heard some producers boast of how many round bales they rolled up in one day or how well their round bales keep their shape and not sag after baling. However, what they really may be saying is that they have a lot of poor quality hay, which was made after it was very mature (with a high NDF value), and it won't be able to meet the nutritional needs of their livestock during the winter feeding period.

Many factors must be taken into consideration when feeding cows. Frame size, body condition, age of the cows, time of the year, stage of gestation, types of feed, feed quality, fluctuations in air temperature, mud, rainfall and the list could go on. Animals require energy for maintenance, growth, work, and milk or meat production. Feeds are evaluated in terms of the amount of energy and crude protein the animal can obtain from them.

Providing the correct quantity and quality of feed,

at the proper time, is what producers must do to maximize production, maintain cows in proper body condition and keep costs under control. Remember we said feeding beef cattle during winter can be a challenging experience. While we certainly want to feed enough nutrients, likewise we do not want to feed too many expensive nutrients if the hay is above average quality or very high in quality.

Knowledge of your hay's quality, the amount consumed and nutrient needs for all classes of livestock in your operation is essential to make the best use of forages available. Nutritional needs for cattle of various ages, weights and production stages are published in numerous places and easy to obtain. Accurate nutritional data of your hay lots will only be known if you have laboratory analyses done.

Laboratory forage testing results are often returned within one week. It's not too late to take samples and have an analysis done to calculate if you're livestock can get enough nutrients from the hay you are feeding.

Whatever method one uses to determine quantities of feed fed, producers should regularly monitor body condition of all livestock. This will help verify if nutrients being fed are calculated properly, distribution among all animals is adequate and boss cows are not keeping timid cows from eating enough forage, causing them to lose weight. A body condition scoring chart that shows pictures and lists body condition descriptions may be found at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/l292/index.html>

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Oklee Herald

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Commissioner John Lerohl was attending the AMC Conference on December 4th to the 6th. One of the many booths he visited was the Extension Booth where he posed for a photo opportunity to show his support of the Minnesota Extension.



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Oklee Herald Early Files

**Seventy Years Ago
December 19, 1946**
Toyland, 1946 style, is geared to reproduction of America's peacetime living with Cowboys and Policemen making a comeback as popular choice for toys.

Here's hoping the snow plow will get active as we have received plenty of snow for a white Christmas and also a bunch of cold weather.

Gunnuf Gunstenson, who has operated the Highlanding Creamery for the past 21 years, has sold his interest to a New York firm. He will continue to make his home in Highlanding for the time being and Nester Austen, who has served as buttermaker for the past five years, will be the operating-manager for the new owners.

**Sixty Years Ago
December 13, 1956**
Army Pvt. Delano H. Fore, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Fore of Oklee, recently was assigned to the 385th Military Police Battalion in Germany. Lou Horstman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Horstman of Oklee, arrived home last week after completing his two-year tour of duty with the armed forces.

David Johnson celebrated his 6th birthday on December 9th. His grandmother, Mrs. E.A. Lechron brought a birthday cake to the first grade room on Friday for a birthday treat for all the first graders.

**Fifty Years Ago
December 15, 1966**
The Oklee Bobcats trounced the Plummer Cardinals by a score of 58-36 on the Plummer court.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Bergeron of Oklee on Monday, December 12th at St. Francis Hospital in Crookston.

Prices from Melby's: Northern Bathroom tissue – 12 rolls for 99 cents; Folgers Coffee 3 lb. tin, \$1.99; Chiquita Banana's – 10 cents a pound.

**Forty Years Ago
December 16, 1976**
All that remains of the West Side Hartz Market in Plummer is a pile of ashes and debris after a fire destroyed the store last Wednesday night.

Debra and Dianne Qualley of Plummer were weekend guests of their parents, Gloria and Alfred Qualley.

Little Ryan Nelson had a birthday gathering featuring a special decorated birthday cake made in the form of a train by his mother.

**Thirty Years Ago
December 17, 1986**
Ron Paradis hosted a venison steak fry and potluck at the Cozy Lounge on Saturday evening.

A benefit is planned for Kyle Arveson, son of David and Linda Arveson of Trail, who has had a liver transplant to help pay for expenses.

Postmaster Clarence Gagner will be honored at

an open house in recognition of his service to the Oklee Community for the past eight years.

**Twenty Years Ago
December 18, 1996**
Sheriff Al Morken assured the Oklee City Council that the county will not be without police service while the County Board decides about contracting with another county or not.

Charity Wicks, an 11th grade Oklee student, competed in the St. Paul Piano Teacher's Association concert on November 16th and was named a finalist.

Congratulations to JoAnn Hanson and Gary Lundeen who were united in marriage on Friday, November 23rd at Oak Park Lutheran Church.

**Ten Years Ago
December 14, 2006**

On Friday night a house fire in Oklee took the lives of three people, Keith and Darlene Peters and daughter Bree.

Students who collected more than \$100 or more for the American Heart Association at the Elementary School were Holly Vettleson, Karleigh Sorenson, Kayltin Trontvedt, Cameron Lundeen, Matthew Vettleson, Julia Bernstein and Kayla Olson.

Parenteau's Oof-da Tacos of Erskine was recently awarded the Food Concessionaire Award for Excellence in Food Presentation at this year's Annual Norsk Hostfest celebration in Minot, ND.

Senior Site News and Other Things

By Volunteer Iona Berry

It's a snowy Sunday morning. Temperature is better than the last few days, but after the snow, we are promised cold "Brrr" temperatures again. We were so spoiled by the warm weather in November, so it is hard to accept the icy temperatures.

It was sad to hear Margaret Johnson had passed away. It always seems there are deaths before Christmas. She was such a nice lady and always smiling when she greeted you.

This week we will be having a Christmas Party on Thursday following Bingo. We also will be having a Senior Site Council

meeting that morning. If you have something you would like to discuss, please tell one of the members or come in person and state your ideas.

**Dates to Remember
December 15:**
10:00 a.m. Council meeting.
12:30 p.m. Bingo. Please bring an item worth about \$5.00 to be used for a bingo prize. -- Christmas Party following Bingo. Treats at the Christmas Party.

December 16:
Birthday Meal.

Words of Wisdom

Plummer News
By Alice Jobe 218-465-4402

Clayton Larson celebrated his 95th birthday on Saturday, December 3rd, at Immanuel Church. Many friends and relatives came. A lunch of ham or turkey sandwiches was served. Also, a macaroni salad, chocolate bar and coffee. Birthday cake was served after they sang "Happy Birthday". Glen Larson, Clayton's younger brother from Spokane, WA came. Also sister Eileen Johnson from Seattle, WA and his sister Ardelle Daly of Virginia. And a cousin Karen Dalager of Grand Forks.

Tri River Pioneers met on Monday at 7 p.m. Jim DuChamp came to talk about the Holiday Train evening. He said the food – canned goods for the food shelves would be brought to the Plummer Hall and also to the Museum. RLCC carolers were also coming to the

museum. After the meeting, the white tree was put up, decorations were up. There was some discussion about the 4th of July celebration. The Woodpicks would be hired to play. Temperatures are going to fall dramatically by Monday, which could affect the attendance for the Holiday Train.

Since the Red Hats outing was canceled for Wednesday, December 7th, it was decided that some of us would go to the Cozy after all. So, Anna DeHate, Jean Carpenter, Bunny DuChamp and Alice Jobe went. Two had hamburgers with chicken dumpling soup and two had scalloped potatoes & ham, corn, and a roll. A huge chocolate chip cookie was dessert. It was fun!

Now, that we got around six

Present a no-nonsense attitude when defending your values and your family.

Happiness is like Jam - You can't spread even a little, without getting some on yourself.

Joke Time
Atheist: Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of a whale?

Preacher: I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven I'll ask him.

Atheist: But suppose he isn't in heaven.

Preacher: then you ask him!

inches of snow, there's snow to shovel and blow, etc. We were lucky we didn't get more, as Grand Forks got 12 inches and North Dakota has way more. Also the winds were bad for two or three days.

It was the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. One veteran went back to visit. He was 20 when it happened. That must have been quite an experience to go back.

The first snowmobile went through Plummer on Tuesday. They should be happy now.

And Wednesday, about 125-150 geese flew over around 9 a.m. Another came an hour later, also a big flock. They are late.

Thank you Mary Lynn Bachand, for helping me on Thanksgiving up at Salo. You were my guardian angel.

Red Lake County Extension Educator

Curtis W. Nyegaard - 218-253-2895

Why All The Talk About Cover Crops?

Cover crops are a current hot topic-why all the hoopla? The term "Cover Crop" can be confusing since some people utilize cover crops as pasture, others harvest them for forage, some plant cover crops in a "prevented plant" situation and others just terminate the cover crop and seed the next regular crop. Some farmers also plant various combinations of plant species; so what is the common thread in this cover crop discussion? The term "Cover Crop" means that we plant something to "Cover" the ground during times when there is normally not something growing growing in the field after a regular crop such as corn silage, soybeans, corn or small grains that is not a nurse crop. One of the other latest hot topics in agriculture is "Soil Health". Soil health includes many practises including diverse crop rotations, minimum tillage, livestock manure use, and cover crops. Recent research indicates that soil is healthier when something is growing in it for as much of the year as possible. Barren or fallow ground does not provide for a healthy soil. Of course, we do not want weeds to take over, so we must control what is growing in the soil. Two cornerstones of soil health are livestock manure; a natural output of livestock operations, and cover crops. This situation naturally brings up the question: is it possible to timely integrate liquid manure incorporation and cover crops in the same system?

Another hot topic that comes into this situation

is "Water Quality", so the question that naturally comes up is; can cover crops improve water quality? Reducing soil erosion to minimize nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment from entering any of our surface waters can be a direct benefit of cover crops. When nitrogen leaches, it can contaminate the ground water and/or surface water. Can cover crops decrease nitrogen leaching? Desired results of using cover crops are less wind and water erosion, increased soil organic matter, reduced soil compaction, and less nutrient loss to the environment, while maintaining or increasing crop yield.

For many dairy farmers, their crop rotation is corn silage and alfalfa with some corn grain or soybeans as well. Dairy farmers frequently plant small grains for a alfalfa nurse crop; thus the small grain functions as a cover crop in the spring and alfalfa becomes the cover crop that fall. In addition to wind and water erosion protection, alfalfa provides biodiversity in the rotation and fixes nitrogen making established alfalfa an excellent cover crop.

With corn silage or small grains, the nominal plant residue left on the soil and the relatively early harvest exposes bare ground to the elements for an extended period allowing the opportunity for significant wind and water erosion. The greatest opportunity for utilizing cover crops on most dairy and small grains farms is after the early harvest. The most commonly used cover crop for this type of early harvest is small grains. Oats, spring

wheat, spring rye, and spring triticale will usually grow if they are planted in September or October. They will not survive winter, eliminating the need to terminate the cover crop. However, in the spring, protection is lost from wind and water erosion and are unable to produce nitrogen. Other research indicates that most leaching losses happen in the spring. Winter cereals have a benefit of providing cover both in the fall and early spring; however you must terminate them before planting a spring crop or harvest it as a forage in May, and therefore delaying the seeding of a spring crop. The most economical and toughest of these winter cereals appears to be cereal rye. Winter triticale tends to more digestible than winter cereal rye, but winter triticale is more expensive and not as winter hardy as cereal rye.

Research is currently being done in several locations in Minnesota with the seeding of winter cereal rye immediately after a early harvest. Then liquid manure is injected into the growing winter rye when the soil temperature is less than 50 F to help prevent nitrogen losses. The rye is killed about one week before spring planting takes place. This has been done the last two seasons with a 24" soil nitrate test showing that there is less nitrate under the winter rye than with no cover crop. Previous trials with commerical fertilizer showed less nitrogen loss under winter rye. Therefore it appears that less loss of nitrogen would also occur with the injection of the liquid manure under the cereal rye. How did the winter rye survive the injection of the liquid manure? Better than expected, provided the injection tool was not simultaneously performing a major tillage operation. The intent of the research is to see if the winter rye has any positive or negative affect on the spring seeded crop. What about the economics? The research study will need to be concluded before the result will be known. For more information or questions that you might have; contact Randy Pepin, U M Crops and Livestock Extension Educator by e mail at pepin019@umn.edu. (This is the first of a series of articles on "Cover Crops".

Source: Randy Pepin. U M Crops and Livestock Extension Educator.

Oklee Herald Office Hours

This weeks hours:

Thu, Dec. 15 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.
Fri, Dec. 16 Closed
Mon, Dec. 19 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Oklee Office Phone: 796-5181

Gonvick Office Phone: 218-487-5225

Or by email at either:

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ATTENTION

**RED LAKE COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS AND
POTENTIAL STARTUP ENTERPRISES**

The Red Lake County Economic Development Corporation can help you start your own business or expand an existing one. We are here to assist with a five (5) year loan for an amount up to \$20,000 at 2% APR. The business must be located in Red Lake County.

For more information, contact the Red Lake County Economic Development home office at 1-218-253-2897.

Or call David Ste. Marie, Red Lake Falls, 218-698-4279; Mike Spurgin, Red Lake Falls, 218-465-4648 or Leo Olson, Oklee, 218-796-5656.

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Wednesday, December 14, 2016

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