

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### 'Shop' at Operation HELP

Warm winter clothing is available for individuals and families in the Hudson area through Operation HELP. There are also boots, shoes, toys, bedding and small household items.

Distribution is open to the public and is set for Friday, Oct. 9, 2-7 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-noon at Trinity Academy, 1205 Sixth St.

Operation HELP president Monica Weekes said anyone is welcome to "shop" for what they need. All items are free.

### Enjoy Scandinavian food

Bethel Lutheran Church Scandinavian Food Fest is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16-17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The fest features a lunch of open-face sandwiches, including rullepølse on limpa bread, various Scandinavian foods and desserts, and beverages. Also featured are a bake sale, vendors with Scandinavian jewelry, clothing and gift items and Hardanger pieces made by women of the church.

Bethel Highlands Lutheran Church is located at 504 Frontage Road, just east of Target. The road runs parallel to I-94.

### Women's gun class set

The National Rifle Association's Women On Target program is sponsoring an instructional shooting clinic for women only at the Hudson Rod, Gun, and Archery Club, 285 Krattley Lane in North Hudson, Oct. 14, 15 and 17. This is one class, three-sessions

The first part of the class is on Oct. 14 and 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. Part two of the class is Oct. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$30 per person.

To register, contact clinic coordinator Tom Irwin at (715) 386-1020 or irwin1321@sbcglobal.net. All necessary equipment will be provided by the club, including firearms, ammunition and eye/ear protection.

### Energy help available

Applications for energy assistance will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis beginning Oct. 1 at the St. Croix County Economic Support office every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8-11 a.m.

Applications may also be mailed in for processing and applications may be requested by calling (715)246-8257. Eligibility is determined by the household size and the gross income received during the three months prior to application. Some examples include: household of one, three month gross income of \$5,859; household of two, \$7,611; household of four, \$11,267.

The office is located at 1445 North Fourth St.; New Richmond. For more information, call (715) 246-8257.

### Learn Spanish

Monday night Spanish at the intermediate level is available

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## Willis Miller Day, fall meeting set

Octagon House activities

Willis Miller Day at the Octagon House is Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

The museum is open for free tours as a tribute to honor the memory of Willis Harry Miller, local historian, newspaperman, author and co-founder of the historical society.

The event includes a special exhibit that will highlight Miller. Representatives from the St. Croix Valley Genealogical Society will be on hand to discuss the Hudson Area Biographical Index, compiled by Miller. Refreshments will be served.

### Fall meeting

Bill Leckey will give a presentation on the Civil War at the annual fall membership meeting of the St. Croix Valley Historical Society at the Hudson Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 22.

The meeting is open to the public and starts with a social hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30, followed by the Civil War program.

The cost is \$22 per person and includes dinner and program expenses. The meal will be sautéed chicken breast topped with prosciutto and sage, served with potato, seasonal vegetable, salad, rolls and coffee.

For reservations, call the Octagon House at (715) 386-2654 by Thursday, Oct. 15.

The Museum Gift Shop is now



Willis Miller (1918-2008) is dressed in a top hat and tie for the city of Hudson Centennial in 1957.



Hudson pioneer and Civil War veteran Captain Sidney R. Starr came to Hudson in 1855 as a civil engineer. In 1858 he was elected clerk of court and later served as treasurer. From 1858 to 1861 he published the North Star newspaper with J.S. Ellwell. At the beginning of the Civil War he was active in the old Hudson City Guards, and he enlisted but was not mustered into service until he was commissioned as quartermaster of the 30th Wisconsin Regiment. In 1864 he was assigned to the staff of General Grover and participated in numerous battles. In 1865 he was appointed to a position of great responsibility as quartermaster of the District of Savannah.

restocked for the season with fall merchandise and vintage reproduction decorations as well as linens, silver, decorative items for the home and garden, and Victorian-inspired gifts. The Gift Shop is open during regular museum hours and is located behind the Octagon House Museum at 1004 Third St.

For more information, call (715) 386-2654 or visit the society's Web site at [www.pressenter.com/~octagon](http://www.pressenter.com/~octagon).

## Classes offered for mom

Betsy Byker, a parent educator with the St. Croix Family Resource Center, presented the first in a series of four "Positive Parenting" classes to the Hudson Moms Group Oct. 1. The series is designed for all parents and covers the basics of nurturing discipline, effective consequences and protective strategies in parenting.



Betsy Byker

The following topics will be covered over the next four weeks: Parenting for Prevention (praise vs. punishment), Natural/ Logical Consequences, Media Violence & Children and Temperament and Parenting.

Current and prospective members are welcome to attend the classes, which are offered during the group's regular meeting time on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 502 County UU.

## HHS swing choir at Women's Club

The Hudson Women's Club members will be entertained by the Hudson High School Swing Choir at the meeting Tuesday, Oct. 20 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Phipps Center for the Arts.

Swing Choir is a curricular class that meets every other day, and members of the choir spend many hours outside of class performing throughout the community singing national anthems at events, performing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and singing at community events.

The choir is under the

direction of Kari Heisler who is in her sixth year of teaching at the high school, and is a cum laude graduate of the College of St. Benedict. She is a member of the Minnesota Music Teacher's Association as well as the American Choral Director's Association. The choir will perform a variety of musical numbers including Can't Buy Me Love, Happy Together, What a Wonderful World and selections from their upcoming fall musical "Beauty and the Beast."

The Hudson Women's Club meets the third Tuesday of each month.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Hudson High School Swing Choir will entertain the Hudson Women's Club Tuesday, Oct. 20 at The Phipps Center for the Arts. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the River Room with the Swing Choir following the business meeting. Choir members are, front from left, Kate Keller, Gretchen Pederson, Sarah Monette, Erin Bloomer, Noey Anderson and Director Kari Heisler; second row, Owen Metzger, Elizabeth Gagliardi, Reilin Weber, Kaitlyn McGinnis and Carter Johnson; back, Max Malanaphy, Sam Johnson, Ben Peters, Casey Hansen and Nathan Campbell.

## Hudson youth gain new opportunities

Minnesota-based ProAct has teamed with Hudson-area parents of young adults with disabilities to form a transition program for Hudson High School graduates.

Called "Life Opportunities," the program combines work, life skills training and recreation for the eight members ages 21 and over who are currently involved.

They participate in horseback riding, meal preparation and housekeeping, warehouse packaging work and healthy eating activities. In addition, they do weight training, basketball and swimming at the St. Croix Valley YMCA.

Hudson parents Jeff Hallbeck and Mary Lou Stuesser have daughters in the program. Hallbeck employs the participants in a variety of tasks at his restaurant supply business, Sorsa, in Hudson. After finding out how limited the post-high school employment prospects were for his daughter Lauren, he began meeting with other parents and teachers from

Hudson High School in October 2008.

Stuesser, who operates horse stables in River Falls, was involved in the planning and said, "We felt that ProAct had the resources to come over to St. Croix County and run the program." The young adults ride horses twice a week at Stuesser's stables. They also attend life skills classes, have meals and participate in other activities on the grounds.

HHS teacher Jim Schreiber, who works with children and young adults with cognitive disabilities, has also been involved in the planning meetings.

"I just wanted to have another option for these kids to go to," he said. "That's what my main intention was." He has taught many of the program participants for the past four to six years.

ProAct, based in Eagan, is a non-profit corporation that has served people with disabilities and other challenges for over 35 years. With



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lauren Hallbeck is among eight participants in a new program to provide work, life skills training and recreation to young adults with disabilities. ProAct Inc. operates the program.

facilities in Eagan, Red Wing and Zumbrota, ProAct serves people from the Twin Cities, southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.



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