



scooping indecision

WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager
Tollefson Publishing

Each morning as I look out the kitchen window, I see the grill. I feel bad for the grill. The grill looks cold covered in the most recent snowfall. That snow sits on top of the grill cover that has protected it from the winter elements.

A couple of weeks ago on one of the all too rare nice days, we did grill some hamburgers. It was one of those days that gave us some hope that nicer days are coming sooner rather than later — I hope — but they are coming.

Schear thanks Schomacker for RCO help

To the Editor:

People with disabilities rely on organizations like Rock County Opportunities (RCO) to live meaningful and productive lives.

RCO and other nonprofits like it together employ thousands of Minnesota citizens, both with and without disabilities. Unfortunately, if things don't change, these will experience significant revenue cuts from the state that will force us to make some very tough decisions.

Despite this uncertainty for our financial future, I would like to stay as positive as possible. Our struggle has been to attract and keep our staff, and funding cuts will only make things worse. I'm writing this letter to thank Rep. Joe Schomacker for helping to bring some stability.

To eliminate the back-and-forth, he authored a bill that would create a new state fund — the Competitive Workforce Factor — in order to make up what employees can't

receive for inflation.

"This will allow for a steadier funding source for those providing care, and should create a smoother process for businesses running facilities that care for the disabled," Schomacker said in a recent press release.

The bill was recently approved in the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Reform Committee.

Some of the state's decisions can have a detrimental effect across our community.

I know the people in Rock County and the surrounding area want what is best for all of our citizens and want to see our community continue to flourish.

Thank you, Rep. Schomacker, for doing your part to represent our community's needs in St. Paul.

Elizabeth Schear, Luverne
Executive Director
Rock County Opportunities Inc.