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Schuster ...

continued from front

The amputation went well and he spent the next two months or so in Valley Transitions, a care unit connected to Altru Hospital. With that and continued therapy, Schuster now walks fairly easily on his prosthetic leg.

"Now I'm like the Bionic Man," he said. "I have an electronic leg. It can connect by Bluetooth to my phone, it has a hydraulic piston in the back. It learns how you walk, so you have to walk correctly. This is a leg that you don't want to learn bad habits."

Despite Schuster's situation turning out "as well as it could have," he still warns all farmers to take ex-

treme caution during both planting and harvest seasons. He said patience is key, although many farmers he knows are short on that attribute. And ample rest is the other factor. Even when anxiety is high and it's hard not to worry about everything, he emphasizes rest is important.

Schuster reiterated that the day of his accident, he not only had no patience, he was also exhausted due to lack of sleep. When you're in a rush, safety suffers. He said to always shut machinery off, and leave it off, before climbing onto it. When you have helpers in the field, make sure to get out and look around equipment to make sure the way is clear before starting your job.

"By god, don't rush. It all comes back to patience," he said. "The next guy may not be alive."

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Kittson SWCD offers several conservation grade trees

By Anna Jauhola

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District not only orders trees each spring for those who want to improve the land.

For those who ordered trees earlier this fall, SWCD will have them ready for pickup May 6, 7 and 8 at the office in the Kittson County Courthouse. They will have a few extra for those interested who did not order this winter.

"We try to stay within conservation grade trees," said Justin Muller, district technician. "We try not to cause competition for the nursery. If someone asks for landscape-grade trees, we send them to the greenhouse."

An example of trees SWCD orders include: Scotch pine, Black Hills spruce, green ash, common cottonwood, junberry, bur oak and paper birch. For a full list of trees, visit: <http://www.kittsonswcd.org/tree-plantings.html>. Any extra trees the SWCD has on hand are kept in a cooler for up to a month, Muller said.

"We might ask people to get in orders early in the winter so we have an idea of how many trees we need, so we don't have a huge surplus," he added.

Most potted trees come ready to be planted at 2 or 3 feet tall in 1 and 2-gallon buckets. The bare-root evergreens are 7 to 15 inches tall.