

SEE **COURTHOUSE**, A3

SEE DIGGS, A3

SEE JOSEPH, A3

Silent Auction Raffles
5:30pm-7:00 pm

Live Auction
starts at 7:00 PM

Several additional raffles and games throughout the night!

OUR VIEW

Safety first, lower the legal alcohol level for driving

Significant progress has been made in combatting the war on drunk driving over the past 36 years. But even more progress needs to be made.

One way to make that happen is lowering the legal blood alcohol level for drivers from .08 to .05 percent. Last week a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine called on all states to lower the legal limit.

All states currently have .08 as their standard, but Utah will lower its blood-alcohol level to .05 at the end of this year.

The lower legal limit is needed to eliminate drunk driving deaths in the United States, according to the report. The report also calls for significantly higher alcohol taxes and tighter restrictions on alcohol sales.

A new call for tougher drunk driving laws makes total sense. Such a change could save thousands of lives on our roadways every year.

As we outlined in our special DWI campaign throughout 2016 and 2017, more than 10,000 drunk driving deaths still occur each year in the U.S. In Minnesota, about 33 percent of all fatalities are alcohol-related.

One death is too many. We need to find a way to make our roadways safer. We need to keep drunk drivers off the road.

And this is an issue that affects even rural Minnesota at alarming and frightening rates. One could reasonably conclude that drunk driving is vastly more prevalent in highly-populated urban areas, but statistics do not bear that out.

Seventy percent of all fatal crashes in Minnesota occur in rural areas of less than 5,000 population. Rural areas account for about half of all alcohol-impaired fatalities. This is as much of a rural issue as anywhere.

We have come a long way for nearly four decades at making our roads safer, but we need to go even farther.

Lowering the alcohol level is a sobering reality and a drive for change on the road. It's something Minnesota lawmakers need to implement to save more families from going through the heartache of losing a loved one.



BP city crews are dedicated

It's always gratifying to know that someone "has your back."

That is so true when it comes to looking at the dedication of our Blooming Prairie city maintenance crews.

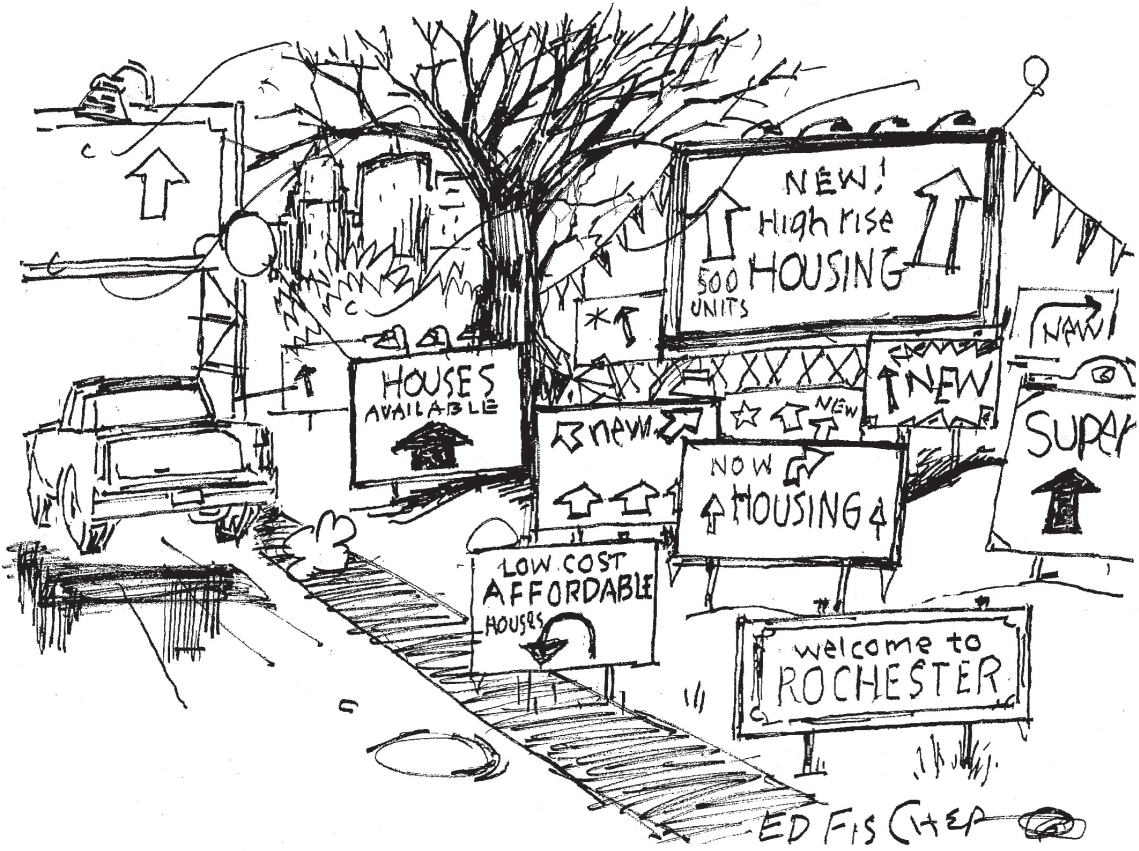
If there is a snowstorm, a water break or any other type of misfortune, the city crews of Blooming Prairie are professionally equipped to remedy the situation.

A real live snow blizzard struck the area early Monday morning and caused a slight paralysis of travel, just slight, however, as crews were out in earnest during the storm making some travel possible.

We Blooming Prairie residents are also very fortunate to have a power backup. When the power goes out, some reliable generators are put into action and keep the power supply alive and well.

Our city crews are always on the ready and willing to help city residents have a better day.

We can be very thankful for these unsung heroes and we should tell them THANK YOU for their dedication of service. The wheels of activity are always turning in Blooming Prairie because of our city crews and also because of our city government leadership.



Small town, big honor for Minimizer founders

In presenting the Citizen of the Year honor for Blooming Prairie last Thursday to a father-and-son duo, one of the presenters referred to it as a "small town, big honor."

Dick Kruckeberg and his son, Craig Kruckeberg, are the epitome of running a successful business while at the same time helping their community grow and prosper.

Blooming Prairie is fortunate to be on the receiving end of that in so many ways.

"They have kept Blooming Prairie in their hearts," said Keith Holman, a retired businessman who nominated the duo for the honor. "They have given this town something that has really grown."

Growth might be an understatement for Minimizer, which was founded by Dick in 1984. The company has flourished over the years, and it currently boasts 108 employees. Through all the growth, Minimizer has never forgotten its small town roots.

Holman shared how he recalled Dick's wife, Lorraine, commented how "it's like giving birth to your first child" when the first poly fender came rolling off the production lines. The story goes that Lorraine started the company when she accidentally backed over a garbage can. To this day, Craig credits his mother for starting the company.

For Holman, the idea behind nominating the Kruckeberts was to recognize the family for its charitable monetary contribution over the years to Blooming Prairie. Craig is a strong supporter of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, among several other projects in the community, most of which go unnoticed.

And Craig is appreciative of folks who volunteer for community causes.

"People who volunteer time, you cannot get it back," Craig said. "We can write checks all day, but the people who give their time are the ones who should be up here. So remember that for next year."

He reminded those in attendance at the banquet that he is not behind the success of Minimizer. He said it takes the entire team to make everything



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Annual Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce honored Craig and Dick Kruckeberg as Citizens of the Year for 2017. Craig accepted his award and sisters Candy, left, and Cindy accepted on behalf of their father, Dick.

work. "If I didn't have the employees and the family that I have, we wouldn't be able to do what we do for the community," Craig commented. The key to his success, Craig added, has been to surround himself with good people.

"We don't give because we want to, but because Dick instilled it in us," Craig said.

Craig is an extraordinary marketer. He knows marketing and knows how to push it well beyond anyone I have ever seen in this community or anywhere else for that matter. He has a vision, which has led to his company's success for many years.

During his acceptance last week, Craig challenged other businessmen to focus their efforts on marketing, pointing out that advertising and marketing should be the last thing for any business to cut. He reasons that without marketing, there will be no growth or very little.

Judging by Minimizer's success, Craig knows what he's talking about. Their success has allowed the entire community to benefit in ways most people have no clue about. And for that, Blooming Prairie residents should be forever grateful to the Kruckeberts.

Congratulations to Blooming Prairie's Citizens of the Year for going in hot pursuit of keeping the community strong for years to come.

GUEST COLUMN

Gratitude is important in the new year

With the barrage of news these days from the ongoing fires and flooding in California to the terror attacks around the globe and, of course, the consistent thrum of politic divide, it is still important to sit back and reflect on what to be grateful for at this time of year. And, there is so much for which to be thankful for this year.

For me, I'm thankful for my family, which has now grown with the addition of an eighth grandchild. Professionally, I am grateful for the donors and many partners who make possible the impactful work and accomplishments of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF).

At SMIF, we have the pleasure of working with many generous donors and collaborative partners who help us move the needle on a number of issues in southern Minnesota. Together we effect change and I saw that happen in December at FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace where local food producers connected with the public and buyers to launch new business relationships and open expanding markets. This annual event would not happen without our many partners such as Renewing the Countryside, Region Nine and the U of MN SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Our FEAST! donors

include Minnesota Department of Agriculture, The McKnight Foundation, Hormel Foods and Mayo Clinic among many others.

This past year SMIF has also rededicated its work to focusing on the vitality of our small towns and a commitment to rural. To do this we launched the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV), a unique, long-term project that focuses on developing processes and systems for sustainable economic growth. We selected five towns to participate in REV – Blue Earth, Lake City, Le Sueur, Lanesboro/ Spring Valley, and Spring Grove. In addition, through our new small town grant program, we also provided seven grants to communities under 5,000 totaling \$61,500. In 2018, we will launch a retooled version of this program.

Partnership and collaboration made all of



TIM PENNY

SEE GUEST, A6

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

CONGRESSMAN
Tim Walz

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2472

MANKATO DISTRICT OFFICE
527-1/2 South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
507-388-2149

TOLL FREE NUMBER:
877-846-9259

SENATOR
Tina Smith

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5641

ROCHESTER OFFICE
1202-1/2 7th Street NW
Suite 213
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-2003

SENATOR
Amy Klobuchar

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
302 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-2186

SOUTHERN OFFICE
1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,
Room 212
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-5321
Fax: 507-288-2922

TOLL FREE NUMBER:
1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE MAYOR
H. Peterson
507-583-7573

ELLENDALE MAYOR
Russ Goette
507-684-2681

HAYFIELD MAYOR
Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

MEDFORD MAYOR
Lois M Nelson
507-390-4553
dlnelson1167@q.com

OWATONNA MAYOR
Thomas Kuntz
507-774-7342
Fax: 507-444-4394
mayor@ci.owatonna.mn.us

A state and national award winning weekly



2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards,
8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards,
3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

COURTHOUSE: *Fully reopens Feb. 1*

FROM PAGE A1

size, Hoesley noted. She expressed appreciation to the county board for moving the probation department out of the courthouse. Probation has changed to community corrections and now has its own building in the downtown area. “It opened up more possibilities for us to have better use of the space,” she said.

In addition, the renovation has provided more space for court-related meetings and events. A new Jury Room 1 on the first level can be reserved for meetings and training when not needed for jury trials, according to Hoesley. She said a smaller Law Library Conference Room on the first level will be available as needed or by reservation. The Drug Court Conference Room on the second level can also be reserved on a limited basis.

One of the greatest struggles at the Fire Station, Hoesley said, was having no space for attorneys to confer with their clients. “It happened in the hallways,” she said. “You didn’t have the privacy you would expect.”

The decorum in the courtroom also proved to be a challenge during the transition, Hoesley said. “Our decorum suffered because we were in a normal room,” she said. “The decorum in a courtroom is having a judge on a raised bench. People didn’t know who was who.”

Safety also became a concern throughout the past year. “It was always something on our minds,” Hoesley said. “We weren’t in the most secure setting,” she said, adding the bailiffs were always mindful of being extra alert given the surroundings they were in with the temporary courtrooms.

All in all everything worked out in the end, Hoesley said. But, she quickly added, “I’m not going to paint a rosy picture that I want to go through this again.”

Hoesley is pleased that being temporarily forced out of the courthouse did not create a backlog of court trials. “We were able to keep on pace with the case load,” she said. “It’s a credit to our criminal justice partners that we stayed on task with cases.”

The majority of the moving has been completed. One of the last projects is moving paper files back, which should be done by the end of this week.

“We want to thank the many public officials and staff at city, county and state levels who rallied to the cause of justice after the pipe burst and everyone involved in the renovation project to make the courthouse more secure and functional for many years to come,” Hoesley said.

A special Law Day event will take place May 1 to celebrate the completion of the courthouse renovation. A formal rededication ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. Additional details will be released closer to the date.

Robin Hoesley
Steele Court
Administrator

BP Cancer Group donates \$70K to Eagles Cancer Telethon



BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“It was an incredible amount,” said Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group when reflecting on the Cancer Group’s \$70,000 donation to the Eagles Telethon in Rochester Jan. 13.

This amount is one of the largest in the history of the Cancer Group’s existence, Krejci said.

Philip Milton, Jennifer Milton and Connie Trom, all of the BP Cancer Group, presented the \$70,000 check.

Krejci was unable to make the telethon or the breakfast due to a bout with an illness.

In the same week, the BP Cancer Group also donated \$10,000 to the Hormel Institute.

More fundraising activities are planned by the BP Cancer Group yet this winter. A ham bingo is planned for late March before Easter.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
A large check in size and amount is held by Blooming Prairie Cancer Group members Philip Milton, Jennifer Milton and Connie Trom. They presented a \$70,000 check to the District Eagles Telethon in Rochester on Jan. 13.

DIGGS: *Autographed photo for BP Youth Bash*

FROM PAGE A1

bottle (could be expensive label) on the other half of the card is the bottle to be taken home. Everyone will get at least a \$5 bottle of wine. Last call is 6:45 p.m. Winners can pick up their bottles at 7 p.m.

- Pie in the face: Buckets with photos of board members will be displayed at the bash. Vote for your favorite Youth Club board member you wish to target with a pie in the face. Following the live auction, the board member with the most money in the bucket will get a pie in the face.

Other auction items expected to draw big bids include stays at hotels and casinos; quilts; baskets with variety of merchandise; Scentys basket; makeup basket; kids baskets; Cheri Krejci’s Christmas cookies; cabin rental at Brookside Campgrounds; birthday party for 12 donated by Blooming Prairie cheerleaders; gift certificates from local merchants and cash donations.

Anyone wishing to make donations may leave the items at the BP Youth Club or call Ashley at 507-440-9922 or Andrea at 507-993-0210.

Proceeds from the bash go directly back to the kids for youth programs, field trips, educational programming and summer activities.

Last year’s bash raised nearly \$20,000. This year’s goal is \$30,000. “We are hefty goal setters,” remarked Andrea.

Both Marquardt and Kvalsten encourage involvement from local volunteers. “Everyone has something to offer,” Andrea said. “I’m offering an authentic Mexican meal,” she related. Other food items will also be on the docket as will some secret recipes.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Six-month-old Stella Kvalsten helps mom Andrea, right, and Ashley Marquardt sort out some raffle tickets for the upcoming Blooming Prairie Youth Club Benefit Bash on Feb. 3.

CITIZENS: *Father-son duo honored*

FROM PAGE A1

company began and Lorraine remarked that, when the first product emerged, “it was just like giving birth to a baby,” Craig said.

In his remarks, Craig was adamant in giving credit to his employees and to all the members of the community who volunteer for the many projects and organizations that exist. That, he said, made him the proudest to live in the community and was a big reason for his love of this small town.

Chamber Director Becky Noble revealed the secret of how Craig received his nickname “Kegger” in high school, “and it wasn’t for his round figure,” she said. She also reminded him of the time he set off a whole display of fireworks, and the time he wondered what would happen if he shifted into park, while driving at a fast rate of speed. Somewhat surprisingly, both Craig and Becky are still here to recount the stories.

Emcees Keith Holman and President Johnson moved the program along, and Johnson used the opportunity to relate his own experience of moving to Blooming Prairie and express the love and gratitude he feels about the community. He moved to town in 2006 to take over the hardware store from a retiring Jeff Zwienen, and he and his wife maintain it changed their lives for good.

The evening ended as it had begun, with a lot of socializing among friends and acquaintances, the culmination of an uplifting and memorable occasion.

JOSEPH: *New administrator*

FROM PAGE A1

community where he and his future wife “can settle down for the long haul.” He is engaged to Dessie Westall of Pierre, S.D. They met at the USD.

Since his fiancé is studying to be an optometrist and will be working in the Albert Lea area for one of her rotations, Mason said he began searching for an advancement in Minnesota. Blooming Prairie became the answer.

Mason interviewed at Prairie Manor in early December. He was one of many candidates for the position.

The youngest of three, Mason said he was familiar with nursing homes because his mother worked in dietary and housekeeping departments at a facility in Iowa.

Prior to finishing his college studies, Mason interned at the Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa for four months.

At Prairie Manor, Mason will be wearing a number of different hats. He will be responsible for HR (Human Resources) matters and policies and procedures.

Mason is already in the process of making some

changes. “I want to achieve fiscal responsibility and make us efficient,” he affirmed.

Servant leadership is embraced by Mason. It means that he will lead by example.

“Our seniors have done so much for us and our country and civilization. We need to respect and protect their rights.”

Joseph Mason
Prairie Manor
Administrator

need to respect and protect their rights,” he emphasized.

Health care regulations are getting stricter and Mason said it is imperative that Prairie Manor

familiarize itself with the new rules outlined by the Center for Medicare and Medical Services. The vast majority revolves around emergency preparedness, Mason said.

Nursing home care revolves around culture changes. Mason said residents should have control of their care. Specific rules on this are spelled out in the CMMS and the Minnesota Department of Health. Lots of quality care measures are being changed, Mason said.

The health care industry is much more regulated than many other industries, Mason believes.

Before he accepted the Prairie Manor position, Mason said he did his own personal checking on the Prairie Manor facility. He was impressed.

In his spare time, Mason loves to be a musician and play the drums. He has an eight-piece set.

The drums prove to be a stress reliever for Mason as is his devotion to weight lifting, which he does at least five days a week.

Mason said there just isn’t enough time in the day for him to fit in his working hours and his hours of time off. He plans to circulate more in the community and hopes to become involved with the local Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

50th Wedding Anniversary
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Jan. 28 • 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Family and friends are invited!

Bruce and Rose Ann Kubicek will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an open house hosted by their children and their families. The Kubiceks were married at Holy Trinity on Jan. 27, 1968.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl
9946 SE 24th Ave.
Owatonna

NRHEG

PANTHER

of the Week

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

A salute to our most recent Panthers

ABBY

SCARLETT

ALAMAE

Sponsored by:

Steve's
SMOKEY
ACRES
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products
ESTABLISHED 1973

OBITUARIES

Belen (Zuniga) Calderon, 82
Albert Lea area



Belen (Zuniga) Calderón, 82, of the Albert Lea area, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 at her residence in Brownsville, Texas.

She was born on Aug. 15, 1935, in Valle Hermoso, Tamualipas, Mexico, the daughter of Aurelio and Aurora (Perez) Zuniga. Belen came to the United States while in her 20s. She settled in Minnesota where she worked for the Hollandale Marketing Association for many years.

It meant a lot to Belen that she received her United States citizenship. While living in Hollandale, she owned and operated the Tampico Bar for two years. After her retirement, Belen moved to Brownsville, Texas to escape the Minnesota winters and be closer to children who lived there.

She enjoyed gardening, cooking, dancing and watching Mexican soap operas on television. Belen especially loved to spend time with her family and friends.

Survivors include her children, Victor (Naomi) Garcia of Brownsville, Texas, Mario (Sylvia) Garcia of Brownsville, Texas, Melisanda (Rigo) Alvarado of Charlotte, N.C., Irma (Bernardo) Pinales of San Benito, Texas, Pablo (Lourdes) Garcia, Brownsville, Texas, Aurora (Francisco) Villalobos of Mexico, Adelina (Jesse) Tovar, Diana Perez of Albert Lea, John (Heidi) Sanchez of Hayfield, Delfino (Amy) Sanchez of Albert Lea, Bridget (Danny) Maulding of Parlier, Calif.; 45 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and she lived long enough to see the birth of her great-great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Agapito (Celia) Zuniga of Mexico, Carmela Zuniga of Mexico, Elida (Guadalupe) Reyes of Albert Lea, Olga (Reymundo) Meneses of Mexico and Maria Willborn of Albert Lea; a sister-in-law, Lydia Zuniga of Hollandale and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents Aurelio and Aurora and her brother Pedro.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment followed the service in the Blooming Prairie Cemetery.

The Worlein-Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs

We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

Registered Showroom

256-4712

Geneva, MN

THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER®

GRIEF RELIEF



Will children understand when a widowed person wants to begin dating? Children of all ages need to be included in all plans made after the death of a spouse. Reactions may be supportive, protective, jealous, or insecure. And all family members should be encouraged to discuss feelings about the new relationship and how it affects the family. Dating after the death of a spouse can be a positive step forward for everyone concerned.

Direction with dignity from
Michaelson Funeral Home
in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



Michaelson
FUNERAL HOME
Direction With Dignity

www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Bored? The library is the place to be



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

If you have some fourth, fifth and sixth graders who are getting bored this winter, check out two exciting opportunities offered to you on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school!

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 24 and going until the end of the school year is Bust Boredom Wednesdays at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library from 3-5 p.m.

Come and play Cribbage, Monopoly, Tri-omino, Scrabble, Battleship, Jenga, Mancala and Checkers or come and participate in one of our weekly Chess Tournaments. You can even bring one of your own games from home if you like!

From Jan. 25 to March 8 is Free Build Thursday in the B.P. Elementary School Library from 3-4 p.m. Come and explore the creations you can construct out of Legos and K-Nex.

All events are free of charge and there is no sign up or registration. Just drop in when you are ready to have a terrific time with your friends at Blooming Prairie's elementary school library and the public library.

And for the adults, we are beginning our annual Hot Reads for Cold Nights program. When you sign up you can choose a free book, plus get your name in drawings for cool prizes. See you at the library!

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
Ginger, Arugula, Lemon

Blooming Prairie
Elementary
School Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

Prices

Breakfast: Regular \$2.40, Reduced/Free \$0.00, Adult \$3.65, Milk (extra or with sack lunch) \$0.50

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Chicken Fajitas, Breakfast Burrito, Black Beans

Thursday, Jan. 25

Breakfast: Mini Donut, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk
Lunch: Chicken Nugget Basket, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Fish Sandwich Basket, Golden French Fries

Friday, Jan. 26

Breakfast: Banana Chocolate Loaf, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk

Lunch: Pasta w/Meat Sauce, Garlic French Bread, Yogurt Pak w/Bagel, Green Beans

Monday, Jan. 29

Breakfast: Grape and Cheese Cup, Graham Crackers, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: HOM Ginger, Soft Beef Tacos w/lettuce, tomato, and cheese, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Green Peas, Spicy Pinto Beans

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Breakfast: Brekkie, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk

Lunch: Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Beef and Broccoli Stir Fry, Brown Rice, Caesar Salad

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait with Fruit and Granola, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk

Lunch: Italian Meatball Sub, Tex Mex Bowl, Ginger Cookie

Breakfast: Milk choice of 1% White or Skim is included with breakfast. **Lunch:** Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate. Skim is included with lunch. Entree Salads are served with Dinner Roll.

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
Ginger, Arugula, Lemon

Blooming Prairie
High School
Lunch Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

CC = Classic Cafe

DC = Diner Cafe

GG = Chef Salad

CS = Creation Station

PP = Pizza Parlor

Wednesday, Jan. 24

CC: Chicken Fajitas, Black Beans DC: Corn Dog GG: Chef Salad CS: Taco Bar

Thursday, Jan. 25

CC: Pasta w/Meat Sauce, French Bread DC: Crispy Chicken Tenders PP: Cheese Pizza CS: Wing Bar

Friday, Jan. 26

CC: Cheese Bread, Green Beans DC: Max Stix CS: Breakfast Burrito

Monday, Jan. 29

CC: Beef and Broccoli Stir Fry, Brown Rice, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Ginger Cookie DC: Cheeseburger on Bun GG: Chicken Caesar Wrap CS: Pasta Bar

Tuesday, Jan. 30

CC: Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Garlic DC: Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun PP: Buffalo Chicken Pizza CS: Taco Bar

Wednesday, Jan. 31

CC: Tex Mex Bowl, Spicy Pinto Beans DC: Fish Nuggets GG: Ham Munchable CS: Sweet and Sour Chicken

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate, Skim is included with lunch. Entree Salads are Served with Dinner Roll

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

LOW BACK PAIN



Low back pain affects about 85% of people at some point in their life. Chiropractic can help!

Call for an appointment today

583-2271
1-866-5DR-CHAD

344 E. Main Street
Downtown Blooming Prairie
www.drchad.org

Prairie Family & Sports CHIROPRACTIC

THANK YOU

SPECIAL THANK YOU

I wish to thank everyone who in any way helped me recover from large B Cell Lymphoma. I so much appreciated my husband, Dennis, and granddaughter, Miranda, and other family members who took care of me so I could stay home. Also the cancer group who brought me gifts, Father Tom who spent time and gave me blessings, Pastor Heidi and Pastor Fennell who stopped by, the Meals on Wheels people and Prairie Manor, all of my friends who called, sent cards and flowers, and brought food. Thanks to special friends who gave me rides until I could drive. I know God listened to all the prayers said for me.

I also wish to thank Miranda, her friend, Kelly, and others who put on the lovely "Remission" party for me last June. It was a happy party with so many family and friends. If I left anyone out, I'm sorry. Just know I appreciated everyone. Love and blessings to all.

Fran Njos-Bramstedt
Blooming Prairie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 23

Loretta Wurst
Kim Hillson
Timothy Wacek
Jacob Krebs
Dorothy M. Johnson

Jan. 24

Tom Peterson
John Whiting
Paisley Wolf

Jan. 25

Collin Meiners
Becky Miner

Jan. 26

Bruce Wolf
Tom Blome
Justin Ingvalson
Melissa Machin

Jan. 27

Lisa Vaith
Lyle Swenson

Jan. 28

Jennifer Shaw
Katherine Kerrigan
Jonathan Heimgartner

Jan. 29

Zenobia Haberman
Kathleen Iversen
Samantha Iversen
Nicholas Iversen
Claire Schwarz

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 24

Dick & Lorraine Kruckeberg

Jan. 28

Craig & Rebecca Ingvalson

Sponsored by:



Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham	Thursday - Your Choice
Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

The Bakery

Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

SEMCAC Senior Menu

All meals subject to change

Wednesday, Jan. 24
Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Orange Slices, French Bread, Cream Puff

Thursday, Jan. 25
Ham Balls, Alt: Salisbury Steak, Fresh Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Cup

Friday, Jan. 26
BBQ Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, 7-Layer Salad, Carrot Cake

Monday, Jan. 29
Swiss Steak/Tomato Sce, Baked Potatoes/Sr Cream, Mixed Vegetables, Blushing Pears

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Beef Stew, Seafoam Salad, Batter Bun, Baked Apple



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

LICENSED BEAUTICIAN WANTED TO DO OUR RESIDENTS HAIR

16-32 hours a week

Pick up an application at the front desk or call 507-583-4434 for more information.

220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie



Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

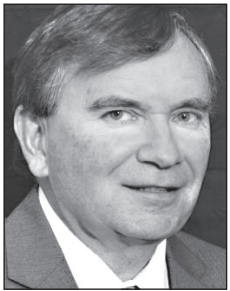
Prices Good 1/23 - 1/29

Zyrtec 24 Hour 14ct \$2.00 off w/20 points	Pepsi 20 Packs \$6.99
Gold'n Plump Chicken Patties 32oz \$1.50 off w/20 points	IZZE Sparkling Water 12oz 8 Pack 2/\$8
Dynamo Laundry Detergent 100oz \$1.70 off w/20 points	Mountain Dew Spiked 12oz 8 Pack 2/\$8



Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!
237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

The power of the word of God



PASTOR BOB BRAUER
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
OWATONNA

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host. . .
For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast. Psalm 33:6, 9

The Bible has a unique understanding of the power of words. It says that God made all things simply by the power of his word. We think we understand the power of words. We know they have power to heal and power to destroy. But our words only have this power when someone hears them. Of course, even saying words in an empty room has power to change your own outlook and your own emotions.

But God’s words have even more power. They can create something out of nothing. Now let us be clear, we are not talking about magic words. God does not have to be careful with what he says for fear of making

something by mistake. God’s words have power because they express his intention and will. But do not go to far in the other direction. Precisely because they do describe his intention and will, his words embody his power. So, every word of God is a description of the reality he wants to create for you and in you. That means that when I fulfill God’s conditions, his words will be fulfilled in my life according to his promise.

Steve Jobs use to say, “This changes everything.” Specifically, it changes the way we read and understand the Bible. Instead of reading it as simply a history of the past, it becomes a catalog of the things God wants to do today with examples from the past.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4 – 7

This short text has several promises. 1. God is near. God is with you when you sense him and when you do not sense him. 2. God is at peace. And you can share that peace and have it guard you from the trauma of all the hurts and slights the surround you.

So today, rejoice because God loves you and has given you thousands of promises to protect and guide you to the best life possible. And you will find them all in your Bible.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. Dec. 24 FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun. GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherdowatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun. REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS	1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun. RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Stolen 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sargeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN 5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of the month) TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauf, Associate Pastor 507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun. Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 203 Second Ave. NW., Medford 507-451-6353 Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Monday Mass: 9 a.m. CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider 507-451-1588 www.litomysl.webs.com Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Children's Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24 Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 150 NE Second St., Hayfield Father Thomas Niehaus 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun. SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org	MASS: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs. ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST 815 E. University, Owatonna Loren Olson, Pastor Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m. Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. NON-DENOMINATIONAL BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-721-1366 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun. SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday	PRAYER MEETING: 7:30 p.m. Wed. MORMON THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 404 31st St. NW, Austin Bishop Rick Bremner 507-433-9042 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Bob Brauer 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat. UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 S. Main St., Medford Pastor Louise Bender 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun. BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 p.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
---	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

www.minimizer.com

800-248-3855

Bloomington Prairie

“Creating Your Story in Stone”

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna

507-455-9551

www.owatonnagranite.com

LERBERG’S FITNESS CENTER

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale

507-684-2471

Andy & Mary Lerberg

Building Healthy Smiles!

132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613

FREE CONSULTATION

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER

Service Center:
507-528-2233

After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158

111 Front Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN

WANT TO SUBMIT SOMETHING TO THE WORSHIP SCHEDULE?

Contact us by email,
phone, or mail:

bptimes@frontiernet.net

507-634-7503

P.O. Box 247,
Blooming Prairie,
MN 55917

Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie

507-583-6671

Koster’s CAR KORNER

FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie

507-583-2018

FLOOR TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie

507-583-2276

FARMERS INSURANCE

Mike Bishman

121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna

507-451-0193

REALIFE COOPERATIVE

Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price

Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour

236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna



PHOTO SUBMITTED
A benefit is planned for Feb. 10 in Blooming Prairie for the Jon Carlson family. Carlson passed away on Dec. 23, 2017. Family members include Jon, son Brody, daughter Lila and wife Angie.

Benefit planned for Carlson family

A benefit for the Jon Carlson family of Blooming Prairie is planned for Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Cue Company in Blooming Prairie.

This is a Memorial Benefit for Jon Carlson, who passed away on Dec. 23, 2017, due to a heart arrest and oxygen loss to the brain. The heart arrest occurred because of a genetic heart defect. This benefit will help Angie Carlson pay for funeral and medical costs, as Jon was between health insurances, and did not have life insurance.

The benefit includes a free-will donation taco supper and a silent auction. Anyone having an item to donate for the auction, may drop it off at the Cue/Pizza Cellar after 5 p.m.

Have a note attached saying Carlson Benefit on it. Donations must be received by Feb. 5.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGERS

Weekend plunge to benefit Special Olympics

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Outdoor enthusiasts will be freezing for a reason this weekend at Lake Kohlmier in Owatonna.

The annual Special Olympics Minnesota Polar Plunge will be Saturday at 1 p.m. Registration takes place from 11 a.m. until plunge time.

This will be the fourth plunge in Owatonna. In past years, 165 plungers raised \$37,050 in 2015, 197 plungers raised \$32,467 in 2016 and 152 plungers raised \$30,798 last year.

Participants raise a minimum of \$75 and take a dip into a frozen lake.

“The Polar Plunge is the biggest fundraiser we do for Special Olympics,” said Molly Charbonneau, torch run coordinator with Minnesota Special Olympics. She noted that about \$4 million will be raised statewide between now and March 17 at various plunges around the state. This weekend’s plunges in Owatonna, White Bear Lake and Willmar kick off the plunge season.

Shuttle buses will be available to take plungers from the parking lot of Federated Insurance at 1929 S. Cedar Ave. to Lake Kohlmier. Shuttles will run continuously starting at 11 a.m. through the end of the plunge.

According to Charbonneau, every plunge makes a difference for more than 8,200 Special Olympics Minnesota athletes. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round sports training and competition, she noted.

Law enforcement officers across the state have been involved with the Polar Plunges for many years. The Steele County Sheriff’s Office and Owatonna Police have been

SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

Saturday
1 p.m.

Lake Kohlmier- Owatonna

Shuttles available from Federated Insurance parking lot at 1929 S. Cedar Ave.

Money raised benefits Minnesota Special Olympics

involved with the local plunges. “Law enforcement helps us out a lot with the plunges,” Charbonneau said.

As for the plunges, Charbonneau says they are “a very Minnesotan thing to do.” She said the plunges are fun to do during the cold winter months to help break up the winter.

Charbonneau has plunged into the freezing waters herself in the past and doesn’t mind one bit. “It’s cold, but not as bad as you think it would be,” she said. “It’s a good thing for a group to do and help an organization,” she added.

In addition to police officers and other community members jumping, there are Special Olympic athletes who also join in the excitement. “There are big smiles always,” Charbonneau said. “They are having a fun time, and they love it.”

Charbonneau pointed out that there is a “rubber chicken option” for those who would like to donate, but don’t have any desire to jump into the freezing waters. Anyone interested in donating can do so at the event Saturday or go on-line at plungemn.org.

GUEST: Gratitude is important

FROM PAGE A2

these programs and events possible. To advance Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s work, we have steadfast partnerships with many organizations. One example is Region Nine, who we honored as our Partner Of The Year at our Annual Luncheon this past year. Other partners such as the Mardag Foundation

stepped in to play an even larger financial role in our Quality Child Care Provider (QCCP) program. This program has trained over 500 early child care professionals in our region. Another partner, ABDO Publishing, generously supplied additional books for our QCCP program this past year. The Department of Employment and Economic Development

recently granted dollars to support our Prosperity Initiative program through 2018 and 2019 along with CliftonLarsonAllen Foundation, The McKnight Foundation and Fred and Shelly Krahmer of Fairmont, who provided gap funding for the Prosperity Initiative when we needed it. This vital program offers business training and mentoring to new immigrant and minority

entrepreneurs in our region. There are so many partners to be grateful for this year; together we are advancing the vitality of southern Minnesota.

Finally all of this work would not be possible without the support of SMIF’s many donors. In our efforts to make a greater impact on southern Minnesota we sought increased funding from both existing and new donors. Our goal was to raise \$300,000 by year’s end and thanks to our many supporters we have raised \$380,000! That total includes 54 new donors for the year and almost 50 of our current donors who increased their giving by 38 percent. I am thankful and humbled by their belief in what we do in partnership with others to invest in the future of our southern Minnesota region.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is a former U.S. Congressman and president/CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in Owatonna.

an Ag-focused Cooperative that turns **Progress** into **Powerful** solutions for our customers.

cfscoop.com

Agronomy • Energy • Grain • Feed • Financing

Earn \$44,000+ and travel the country with 12 weeks of training and a paid, four-week internship with Riverland Community College's Truck Driving CDL program

Benefits include direct job pathways with industry partners and training in five specialty areas: flatbed, tanker, van/refrigeration, doubles/triples, and motor coach. Financial aid and Workforce Development funding is available to those who qualify.

RIVERLAND
Community College

To learn more, call
Jonathan at 507-433-0608

TAX PREP GUIDE 2017

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that the nation’s tax season begins Monday, Jan. 29, and reminded taxpayers claiming certain tax credits that refunds won’t be available before late February.

The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on Jan. 29, with nearly 155 million individual tax returns expected to be filed in 2018. The nation’s tax deadline will be April 17 this year – so taxpayers will have two additional days to file beyond April 15.

Many software companies and tax professionals will be accepting tax returns

before Jan. 29 and then will submit the returns when IRS systems open. Although the IRS will begin accepting both electronic and paper tax returns Jan. 29, paper returns will begin processing later in mid-February as system updates continue. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically for faster refunds.

The IRS set the Jan. 29 opening date to ensure the security and readiness of key tax processing systems in advance of the opening and to assess the potential impact of tax legislation on 2017 tax returns.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that, by law, the IRS cannot issue refunds claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. While the IRS will process those returns when received, it cannot issue related refunds before mid-February. The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards starting on Feb. 27, if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with the tax return.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that they should keep copies of their prior-year tax returns for at least three years. Taxpayers who are using a tax software product for the first time will need their adjusted gross income from their 2016 tax return to file electronically. Taxpayers who are using the same tax software they used last year will not need to enter prior-year information to electronically sign their 2017 tax return. Using an electronic filing PIN is no longer an option. Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov/GetReady for more tips on preparing to file their 2017 tax return.

Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

607 East Main St. • P.O. Box 756 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Ellen Stebbins Phone: 507-583-6601
Accountant - EA,RAP, ABA 507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

Tax Time is Here!

For a name you can trust, call Allyson at

ARO ACCOUNTING

Two locations to serve you

Allyson Olson
Cell: 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com

217 East Elm Ave • Waseca 507-391-3738
32718 State Hwy 13 • Hartland 507-845-2763

FAST INCOME TAX, INC.

Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR ROUND

- TAX FOR FEDERAL & ALL STATES
- INDIVIDUAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, PARTNERSHIP, PAYROLLS & PAYROLL TAX
- CORPORATE & FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTING SERVICE

204 SW 12th Street, Austin **507-437-8511**

Locally Owned & Operated - Erik C. Newhouse, CPA - Quickbooks Pro Advisor

STOCKWELL ACCOUNTING

802 N Elm Ave
Owatonna, Minnesota

(507) 451-1873

Roger L. Borchardt

Yes - I am still in business and have not retired!
(Letters were not sent out this year.)

Borchardt’s Accounting and Tax Service

46 years and still going strong!

1345 Linn • Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: **(507) 451-7748**

WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE

Lisa Ackerman
Certified Tax Preparer/Accounting Services

1122 South Oak | Owatonna

wats@gofast.am | 507-451-3399

WRESTLING

Westfield Razorbacks wrestle to tournament win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Westfield Razorbacks (7-5) took the title at the annual Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Tournament at Hayfield on Saturday.

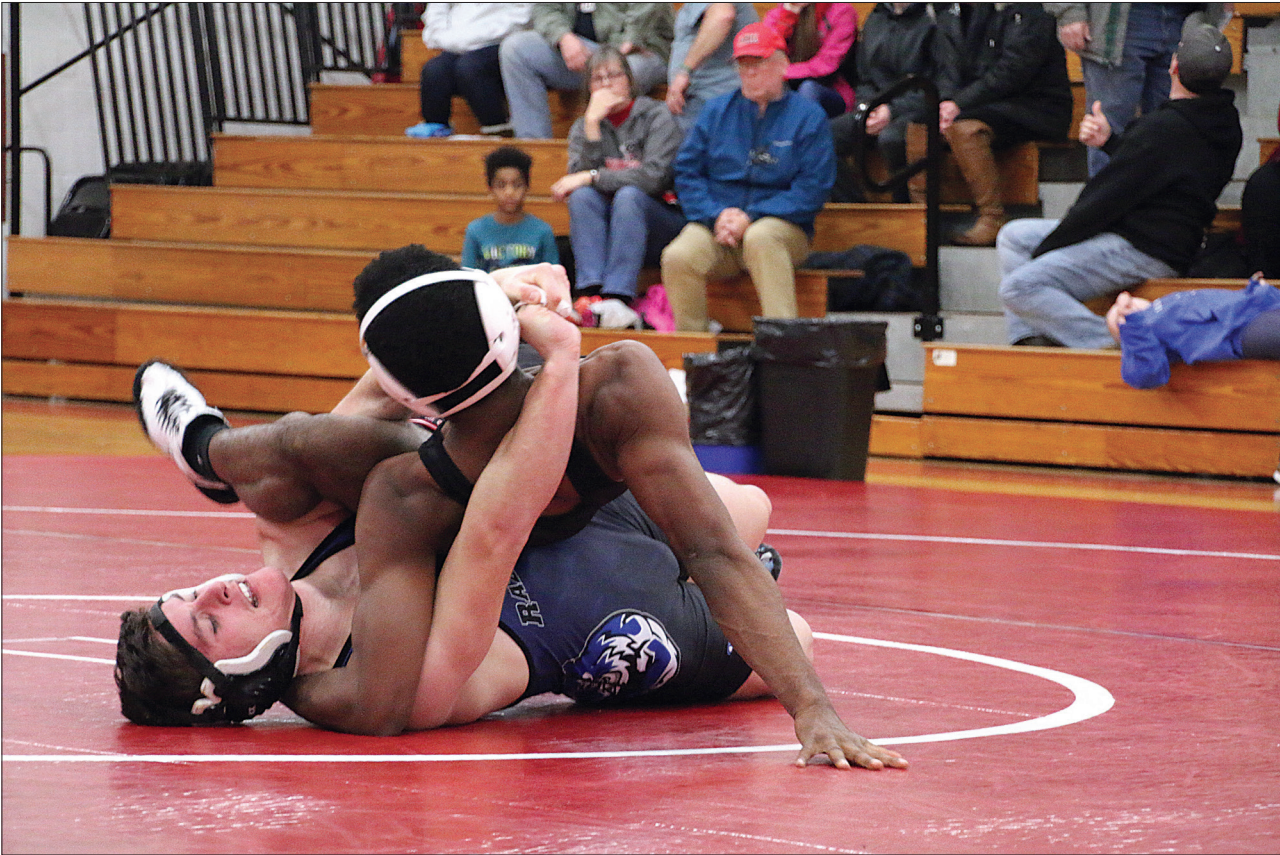
The Razorbacks finished first at the 12-team festivals. Byron placed second and Rochester Mayo earned third. They were followed by Cannon Falls, Waseca, Dover-Eyota, Austin, Saint Charles, Rochester John Marshall, Triton and Saint Thomas Academy.

The Razorbacks also had three individuals take home individual titles at the tournament.

Seth Peterson earned the crown at the 152-pound weight class. It took Peterson just 55 seconds to pin Grand Meadow's Josh Graves in the championship match. Peterson had earlier pinned Triton's Kaleb Storm in 43 seconds and earned a 5-2 decision over Rochester John Marshall's Justin Higgins.

Colton Krell, ranked No. 1 at 160 in Class A, was the champion in his respective weight class. He defeated Cannon Falls' Hayden Strain with a 3-1 decision in the finals. Krell opened the day with a two easy wins. He pinned Waseca's Buck Kuhns in 32 seconds and won by major decision over Rochester Mayo's Will Kruger 17-1.

Morgan Moreno, ranked No. 4 at 195 in Class A, won the third individual title for the Razorbacks at 195. He pinned Triton's Hunter Jennings at the 4:23 mark of the third period in the championship match. Moreno also pinned Grand Meadow's Tangen in 14 seconds and



Westfield's Cole Christianson attempts to pin NRHEG's Teddy Gushwa on Friday.

Austin's Phillip Zynda in 1:13. Mitchell Oswald, ranked No. 4 at 285 in Class A, settled for a second place finish at heavyweight. Rochester Mayo's Noah Carter defeated Oswald in the championship match by a 5-2 decision. Oswald pinned Dover-Eyota's Elijah Marks at the 3:08 mark of the second period in the semifinals.

Ethan Arett, ranked No. 4 at 113 in Class A, earned a third place finish for the Razorbacks at 106. Arett decisioned Jett Thoreson (Saint Charles) 11-2, lost to Erwin Strelow (Cannon Falls), pinned Colton Zwiefel (Saint Thomas Academy) in 26 seconds and then pinned Mason Gehloff (Waseca) at 2:15 in the third-place match. Isaac Fernandez placed fourth

at 170 and Tristen Rieken (182) and Dylan Nirk (220) each placed fifth for Westfield.

WESTFIELD BATTLE BACK

The Razorbacks won the final four matches in two different matches this past week to earn a pair of comeback victories.

Westfield trailed 36-24 after 10 bouts at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva on Thursday, Jan. 18 but Rieken, Moreno and Nirk all pinned their opponents to give the Razorbacks a 42-36 advantage. Oswald picked up a forfeit victory at heavyweight to make the final score 48-36.

Westfield co-head coaches Chad Gimbel and Shane Masching said they were still confident the Razorbacks would persevere despite being down 36-24 with just four matches remaining.

"We don't like being in that situation, but we know what we have on top," Masching said. "Those guys know their jobs and they know what they have to do to come through."

"We performed well," he continued. "I'm always happy to see the kids get wins. We asked some [junior varsity] kids to step up and fill some big shoes and they're doing a great job."

Rieken wrestled his first match of the season with the score tied 36-36. He suffered a knee injury on Sep. 29 while playing for the Awesome Blossoms' football team.

Rieken said it felt great to return to action with his teammates.

SEE **WESTFIELD, B3**

BASKETBALL



Owatonna's Dalton Kubista nailed a floater for the Huskies.

Huskies' increase streak to 6

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys basketball team picked up two huge Big 9 Conference victories over team with that have a combined record of 26-3.

The Huskies (9-4) won 72-61 over Austin (13-1) on Tuesday, Jan. 16 and 77-67 over Mankato East (13-2) on Friday to increase their current winning streak to six games.

Owatonna coach Josh Williams said the Huskies played a great 36 minutes against Austin.

"Austin is one of the best programs in the state," Williams said. "For us to go into their house and win it was a huge game for us. It was a huge confidence booster for us."

The Packers are currently the top team in the Big 9 and are ranked No. 2 in Class 3A.

The Huskies started the game strong and took an early 14-5 lead, but the rest of half was back and fourth and Austin took a 35-34 lead into halftime.

The Huskies went on a 14-2 run in the second half to regained the lead and extended their lead to double digits.

Williams said Owatonna maintained a six to 14 point lead for most the second half.

Abe Havelka hit a big 3-pointer with about four minutes remaining to extend the Huskies' lead from six to nine.

"We kept that lead for the rest of the game," Williams said. "We actually ended up winning by 11 because we made free throws down the stretch."

The Huskies had 13 turnovers against the Packers.

Williams said the Packers were forcing between 25 and 30 turnovers per game.

"They're a team that strives on easy buckets from causing turnovers," he said. "They get a lot of easy layups and they take a lot of 3-pointers."

"We did a good job of taking care of the ball and smart decisions," Williams continued. "It was good effort all the way around."

Owatonna approached the game against East with a much different gameplan because Austin is a more perimeter based team that strives on transition and 3-pointers, but Mankato East is a much more physical team that tries to pound it inside.

Williams said for the second time in week, the Huskies did an excellent job of executing their gameplan and the defense was the difference in the game.

Williams said the Huskies have to remain focused and stay hungry to keep the winning alive.

"Right now, the guys are very confident in ourselves as a team," Williams said. "They have to continue to come motivated everyday to get better and improve. They have put us into the position of be one of the front-running teams of the conference along with four or five other really good teams."



NRHEG's Argo Gushwa locks in cradle against Westfield's Payton Simon on Friday.

STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

BASKETBALL

Tough week for Blossom girls

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

In a game marked by alternating runs and too many turnovers by the Blooming Prairie girls' basketball team, Class 2A Tri-City United (9-6) edged the Blossoms 54-52 on Saturday, Jan. 20. The game was part of a girl-boy doubleheader against the Titans on the home court and resulted in a split for the two teams.

The visitors took advantage of numerous turnovers in the first half to forge a 10-point lead with just minutes to go in the half. BP put up a run in the final two minutes, however, to trail just 29-24 at the break. Sam Wurst made two layups and a short jumper by Megan Oswald instigated the late flurry.

It didn't take long in the second half for the Blossoms to make a comeback. After a short period of time when neither team could score, the Blossoms stormed into the lead. Baskets by Wurst, Ayren Ingvalson, Oswald and four straight free throws from Wurst erased the deficit and put BP up by seven points, 43-36.

However, the team then went into turnover-mode once again, turning the ball over on seven of their next eight possessions. Mattie



Blooming Prairie's McKenna Heindribble down the floor on Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Helland and Maggie Trnka nailed 3-pointers and three putback layups for Gabby Robinson gave the lead back to the Titans by seven points. A very late run by the Blossoms fell just short.

"We lost another tough game

tonight," BP coach John Bruns said. "After trailing the first half, we opened the second half very strong and were able to build a lead, but we hit a dry spell and didn't score on eight straight trips down the floor. That was the game."

The team shot just 34 percent from the field and turned the ball over 28 times. Gabby Robinson led all scorers, as she poured in 20 points for the Titans, many of them on putback baskets. Trnka had 12 points and Hellerud added 11.

Wurst led the Blossoms with 17 points, including 7-of-9 from the charity stripe. Oswald counted 13 points and McKenna Hein added 12 points and had four steals. BP dropped to 9-4 for the season, still 5-2 in conference play.

Tri City United took the JV game 51-28, although coach Cory Hendrickson commented that the team moved the ball well, and the final score didn't reflect how well the team played. Marenn Fforystek had six points and Riauna Bishop added five.

WEM OUTLASTS BP GIRLS

Having been hit with some illness and injury, the Awesome Blossom girls fell short at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (6-11) on Friday Jan.19 and lost to the Bucs 63-52. A 10-0 run for the home team to end the fist half put the Blossoms into a big hole, 31-21. They could never quite overcome that deficit.

"The girls gave great effort tonight," Bruns said. "But just couldn't quite get out of a hole we

SEE **BLOSSOMS, B4**

WHAT A WILD WEEK

Before most Vikings fans had still not gotten over the miracle win over New Orleans a week ago, hopes for a home appearance at the Super Bowl came crashing down in Philadelphia. The defense really let down and fans will be commiserating over the debacle for a long time. Now once again, it is wait until next year.

LAST WEEK IN SPORTS

Winter sports keep rolling along at a pretty fast clip and another month will bring us close to playoff competition for both basketball and wrestling. The Blossom girls got the week started on the right side with a close win over visiting Cleveland. The girls let a big lead slip away in the final minutes, but hung on for the victory.

However, the week turned a little sour as the team dropped two games in a row for the first time all season in back-to-back losses to WEM on the road and to Class 2A Tri-City United at home. Both defeats found the girls shooting poorly. The TCU game was marked by a plethora of turnovers, as well as another poor shooting effort. The week ended with a 9-4 overall record, though the team is still 5-2 in the conference.

The boys split a pair of games, losing a squeaker to WEM on the home court 56-54, but following that loss with a resounding victory over Tri-City United. The win over the Titans was part of a boy-girl double header on Saturday, and put the boys back to .500 for the season.

The wrestling team had success n the week, winning a pair of matches over NRHEG and LCWM. Several of the Blossoms went 2-0 n the met, including the three final competitors: Morgan Moreno, Dylan Nirk and Mitchell Oswald. Oswald continues to be one of the top-ranked wrestlers in the area.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

The BP Chamber of Commerce honored the father-son duo of Dick and Craig Kruckleberg as the Blooming Prairie Citizens of the Year at an impressive gathering this past week.

The two business owners certainly deserved the award. With Dick’s initial product on the market, the Minimizer Company has become an entity with a reputation recognized both in this country and even worldwide.

Before Craig Kruckeberg accepted his award, several of his employees and schoolmates took the opportunity to roast him with anecdotes from school days and the workplace. Amidst the humor, however, some high praise also went Kruckeberg’s way for his company vision and his business acumen in growing Minimizer from one of a half dozen workers to the present 100-plus employees.

Kruckeberg gave credit to his employees and the many volunteers in the community that make Blooming Prairie such a great place in which to reside and follow a vocation. He loves the local community. Craig’s sisters accepted the award for their father at the banquet.

BP Chamber President Greg Johnson echoed those sentiments, relating how his move to town to take over the local hardware store proved to be the smartest move of his life. He, too, remarked on the spirit and the volunteerism so prevalent in Blooming Prairie and encouraged everyone to check out the chamber’s activities and become a part of that fine organization.

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS

This is my last chance to urge residents to attend and support the annual BP Youth Club benefit on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the BP Servicemen’s Club. The fun begins with the silent auction at 5:30 p.m., with the live auction at 7 p.m. Food specials will be available from the club kitchen staff, several additional raffles and games will be ongoing, and admission is free. Bidding numbers will be available at the door.

This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the club and all profits from the event are used to continue the programming at the local youth club. That organization is vitally important to the community for giving kids a friendly and safe place to go after school and during the summer when school s not in session. Why not attend this event to help the youth of the community and have a great evening of fun and socializing.

The other event of note in the future will be the second Speakeasy night scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 3. The first such night proved very successful, and residents have already become excited for this year’s occasion. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Continue to enjoy winter, and we’ll talk again.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

NRHEG's Brady Agrimson skies for a layup in the Panthers' 60-53 win at WEM on Dec. 22

Panthers annihilate Cardinals

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys’ basketball team stumbled in the first half in a battle of the top team in the Gopher Conference, but the Panthers turned on the jets after halftime in a lopsided 58-27 victory over the Bethlehem Academy Cardinals (8-7) on Friday

NRHEG coach Pat Churchill said the Cardinals had very patient possessions while, despite being at home, the Panthers were rushing and out of rhythm offensively in the first half.

“To only give up 10 points in the first half is great,” Churchill said. “But we need to put the ball in the hole a little more. The second half we got a couple of turnovers and easy baskets to push the lead out to 10 right away and we never looked back.

“We were getting in the paint and making the right pass to wide open bigs for lay ups,” he continued. “Our offense was so much better in the second half.”

Ryan Hannegrefs was playing in his first game of season and led the Panthers with 13 points, Nathaniel Techau and Brady Agrimson had 12 each and Benji Lundberg added nine.

The win improves the Panthers to 13-1 on the year and 6-0 in the conference.

Razorbacks: Hall of Fame Tournament win

“I really missed it,” he said. “It’s something that I have really been looking forward to. It’s good to be back.

“I had a little bit of nerves going through me,” Rieken continued. “But when you see the score, you know you have to go out there and do something big for your team.”

Gimbel said Rieken’s return give the Razorbacks an instant morale boost.

Nirk pinned his opponent in just 34 seconds to put the Razorbacks back ahead for good.

Nirk said his teammates at 182 and 190 did a great job of relieving some of the stress by picking up pin fall wins in their respective matches.

“Coach really has us practice snap downs and wants us to stay aggressive the whole match” he said. “The upper half of our team is very strong and did that, but it could have been a lot better.”

Westfield’s Keegan Bronson began the match with a pin in



the final seconds at 106.

“That was big one,” Gimbel said. “[Bronson] a young kid who kind of flip-flopped between varsity and JV. He came up with a huge win for us. That got us started and it ended up being the difference in the match.”

Arett pinned Andrew Reich in the first period at 113, but the Panthers won the next five bouts for a 30-12 edge. Peterson got the Razorbacks back on track with a first period pin at 152 and Krell pinned Brendon Strand in 59 seconds at 160 to make the score 24-30. NRHEG’s Tyler Jacobson pinned Isaac Fernandez at 170 for the Panthers’ final victory of the meet.

Westfield also fell behind early in their second match of the triangular meet at NRHEG. The Razorbacks trailed Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 18-6 before winning the next four matches to retake the led and eventually went on to win 48-29.

Arett gave Westfield an early 6-0 margin with a pin over Tucker Wills in just 1:43 at 106, but LCWM won the next three bouts to lead 18-6. Ash Tyler pinned Bronson in the first period at 113 and Trayton Hewitt took Cody Nirk in just 24 seconds at 120.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Above: Westfield's Joe Pirkl attempts to hold NRHEG's Ralph Roesler down on Friday. Below: NRHEG's Teddy Gushwa escapes the grip of Westfield's Cole Christianson.

Caleb Clobes won by forfeit at 126.

Cole Christianson got the Razorbacks back into the match with a forfeit win at 132 and Joe Pirkl pinned Camden Ludeman in the second period at 138, Payton Simon pinned Brenden Jones in just 40 seconds at 145 and Seth Peterson took care of Dominic Rosin in 27 seconds to give Westfield a 30-18 margin after eight bouts.

Jeremiah Colon won a major decision over Krell 20-5 at 170 and Avery Northquest won by forfeit at 182 to close the gap to 30-29. That was it, however, for the Knights, as the final three bouts went to Westfield all by falls. Moreno needed just 11 seconds at 195, Dylan Nirk took 59 seconds at 220 and Mitchell Oswald used 16 seconds for his heavyweight win.

★

STARS OF STEELE

★

BOYS

Owatonna boys’ basketball player Dalton Kubista has been the leading scorer for the Huskies (9-4) this season. He led Owatonna to a 81-74 victory over Austin (12-1) on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Austin is ranked No. 2 in Class 3A.

Dalton Kubista

GIRLS

Betsy Schoenrock has been a standout for the New-Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls’ basketball team all season. The Gustavus Adolphus-commit scored 34 points, hauled in 13 rebounds, blocked seven shots and grabbed five steals in the Panthers’ 71-38 victory over Bethlehem Academy on Friday.

Betsy Schoenrock

Carpet • Vinyl • Wood

FLOOR TECH

Laminate • Ceramic

Your source for all your flooring needs

Call Us Now for a Consultation!

Tim Wacek • 583-2276 • 322 E. Main, Blooming Prairie | Derek Reichl • 552-1637 • 2201 E. Main St., Albert Lea

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
New Richland-H-E-G	6-0	13-1
United South Central	5-8	5-8
Bethlehem Academy	4-2	8-7
Blooming Prairie	3-3	7-7
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	3-3	5-7
Maple River	2-3	7-6
Medford	0-5	2-9

Tuesday, Jan. 16
Tri-City United 63, Medford 49

Thursday, Jan. 18
Medford 53, Madelia 49

Friday, Jan. 19
NRHEG 58, Bethlehem Academy 27
Maple River 72, Medford 60
WEM 56, Blooming Prairie 54

Tuesday, Jan. 23
Maple River at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Blooming Prairie at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 26
Medford at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Blooming Prairie at USC, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27
Blooming Prairie at Alden-Conger, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29
Medford at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
NRHEG at Le Sueur-Henderson, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Saint Clair at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Medford at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.
Bethlehem Academy at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Fairmont at NRHEG, 7 p.m.

Girls' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	9-1	12-3
Blooming Prairie	5-2	9-4
NRHEG	5-2	10-4
Medford	3-4	8-5
WEM	3-6	5-10
Bethlehem Academy	1-6	1-13
United South Central	1-11	1-11

Monday, Jan. 15
Medford 54, Le Sueur-Henderson 37

Tuesday, Jan. 16
Blooming Prairie 64, Cleveland 60

Friday, Jan. 19
NRHEG 71, Bethlehem Academy 38
Maple River 74, Medford 48
WEM 63, Blooming Prairie 52

Saturday, Jan. 20
Tri-City United 54, Blooming Prairie 52

Monday, Jan. 22
Schaeffer Academy at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 23
NRHEG at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 26
NRHEG at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
United South Central at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27
Blooming Prairie at Alden-Conger, 5 p.m.

Monday Jan. 29
Blue Earth at Medford, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Grand Meadow at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Blooming Prairie at LeRoy-Ostrander, 7 p.m.
NRHEG at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Blooming Prairie at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
United South Central at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Fairmont at NRHEG, 5 p.m.

Wrestling	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	5-1	5-1
United South Central	2-1	7-5
Medford	1-0	4-0
WEM	0-0	2-5
Westfield	0-0	7-5
NRHEG	0-1	1-5
WEM/JWP	0-2	0-2

Thursday, Jan. 25
NRHEG at LeSueur-Henderson, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27
Medford and Blooming Prairie at Lake City, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Mankato West/Saint Clair/TCU at Medford, 5 p.m.
Westfield at Maple River, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Medford at NRHEG, 5 p.m.
Westfield at WEM/JWP, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Medford at Madelia/Truman, 5 p.m.
Westfield at TCU, 5 p.m.

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK 15 JAN. 17, 2018

Team Standings	Won	Lost
1. J & H/Dairy Queen	5	3
2. Kosters' Kar Corner	4.5	3.5
3. F & M Bank	4	4
4. Epic Contracting	4	4
5. B to Z Hardware	3.5	4.5
6. Bunkies' Lanes & Grill	3	5

High Team Game –Scratch
F & M Bank 676

High Team Game- Handicap
Epic Contracting 579

High Team Series- Scratch
F & M Bank 1878

High team Series- Handicap
Epic Contracting 1708

High Game Individual
1. Jo Ann Nielson 203
2. Judy Esplan 179

High Series Individual
1. Jo Ann Nielson 530
2. Judy Epslan 471

BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Cole Volkmann attempts a finger roll layup for Tigers earlier this season.

Tigers pick up second win of the season

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford Tigers boys’ basketball team started fast and defeated the Madelia Blackhawks (0-14) on Thursday to pick up their second win of the season in a tight game, 53-49.

Medford coach Todd Schneider said the team needed the win after a rough week and a lot of players contributed to the victory.

The Tigers (2-10) led for most of the first half, but too many fouls and turnovers allowed the Blackhawks back into the game. Madelia led 30-27 at halftime.

Solid play and a fast start helped the Tigers retake the lead early in the second half.

“We made some adjustments in our defense giving us one of our better defensive games of the year,” Medford coach Todd

Schneider said. “We also showed some patience on the offensive end and only committed six fouls in the second half.”

Alex Gengler returned to the lineup for Medford and scored 16 points and grabbed three rebounds.

“t was great having Alex Gengler back,” Schneider said. “We’re a better team with him on the court.

Volkman finished with 13 points, Bryce McCarty scored eight points and had fiuve rebounds, Noah PirkI had five points and six rebounds, Brody Berg had four points and five rebounds, Jordan Edel scored three points and Jerone Chavis and Brett Johnson scored two points each.

Schneider said the entire team played great defense.

MAPLE RIVER HOLD OFF TIGERS

Medford traveled to Mapleton on Friday to take on Maple River (9-6) and came close to an upset but fell short, 72-60.

“A lot of guys played great tonight,” Schneider said. “Ror a while I thought we were going to get our first conference win. Even in the loss I'm very proud of these guys.”

Schneider said the game was a lot closer than what the score indicated.

The Tigers led 36-29 at halftime by playing one of its bets halves of the season but the much bigger Eagles fought back in the second half.

“We’re moving the ball better and we’re really starting to come together on defense,” Schneider said. “But we couldn't stop [Ethan Sindelir] in the second half. He scored 20 points all the paint.”

PirkI and McCarthy led the Tigers in scoring with 17 and 16, respectively. Volkmann added 11, Edel had six, Ben Sutcliffe scored four and Berg and Mac Schneider finished with three each.

Blossoms: Tough Week

FROM PAGE B2

dug ourselves into in the first half. We made some mini-runs in the second half, but the home team always answered with runs of its own. I was very proud of the way we battled, despite being a little banged up and having some illness”.

The team made just 35 percent of its shot attempts (20-of-56) and had a slight edge in rebounding with 36 boards. Julia Worke led the scoring with 15 points, including a pair of 3-pointers and Wurst collected another double-double with 12 points and a big 16 rebounds. Oswald also contributed 12 points and seven rebounds. Ingvalson counted seven points with an assist and six steals. The Blossoms had 16 turnovers in the game.

WEM never gave BP's JV team a chance in the prelim, holding the Blossoms to just five points in the first half of the Bucs' 49-16 win. WEM beat the locals in all phases of the contest. They were quicker and stronger all the way around. Ashley Alwes and Jillian Wigham each had four points for the Blossoms.

BP GETS WIN

Playing to a 17-point lead in the second half didn’t stop the Awesome Blossom girls from some anxious moments in their 64-60 victory over Cleveland (8-7) on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Clippers made a furious rally late in the non-conference battle to climb within three points with just over a minute remaining in the game. The locals, however, hung on and Wurst’s late free throw ensured the ninth win of the season for the Blossoms.

“We were able to hang on against Cleveland,” Bruns said. “We built that big lead midway through the second half, but the Clippers came back strong to whittle the margin to just three points in the final minute. We made some big stops and handled the ball well in that last minute to finish the game with the win.”

Rebounding gave an edge to Cleveland, but three Blossoms reached double figures and two recorded double-doubles. Wurst netted 23 points and pulled 10 rebounds off the boards. Oswald had 13 rebounds to go with her 13 points and Hein scored 14 points, had seven steals and handed out seven assists.

Crossword solution

			T	S	P				R	M	A				
		C	A	T	A	L	O	G	U	I	N	G			
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	I	S	T	I	C		
A	E	R	A	T	E	D		E	N	R	A	G	E	S	
M	D							G	E	E			D	O	
I	G	G	S			T	U	B		D	A	M	S	E	L
S	E	A	T			A	M	A	S		D	A	H		
		D	U	E		U	B	Y	K	H		M	I	L	
		D	N	B		O	L	E	A		A	N	E	W	
B	A	Y	O	U	S		E	G	G		S	A	N	A	
C	R				S	L	R							T	I
D	E	V	A	L	U	E			F	A	C	A	D	E	S
		A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T
			R	E	A	P	P	O	R	T	I	O	N		
			D	D	S					I	A	N			



Discover
Austin
Minnesota

AustinMN.com

Plunging for Pink – Jan. 27

Fishing for a Cure – Feb. 3

Pink Swing with Austin Big Band – Feb. 3

Paint the Rink Pink – Feb. 10

Smashing Cancer Demolition Derby – Feb. 11

FOR MORE INFORMATION [FACEBOOK.COM/AUSTINPTTP](https://www.facebook.com/austinpink)



MARKETING

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
WE CAN DO IT.

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

We are committed to service, eye-catching design, your satisfaction and growing your brand. Leverage our 30 years of business marketing experience and our state of the art equipment. We look forward to serving you.



 DESIGN.

 PRINT.

 WEB.

 PROMO.

 APPAREL.

 SIGNS.

 VIDEO.

 EVENTS.

110 Highway North, Blooming Prairie
(507) 583-7713 • www.usekik.com

What To Do When a Loved One Dies



**THE SAVVY
SENIOR**

Brought to you by:

**Prairie Manor Care Center
& Heather Haus**

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
This may seem like a strange question, but can you tell me what steps need to be taken after a loved one dies? My 80-year-old father has a terminal illness, and I would like to find out what I will need to do when he passes.
Only Daughter

Dear Only,
I'm sorry about your father's situation but this is a great question many families inquire about when a loved one's death becomes imminent. Here's a run-down of some things you can do now, and after his death, that can help keep a sad event from becoming even more painful.

Before Death Occurs
There are several tasks you can do now while your father is still living, that will make things a lot easier and less hectic for you after he dies.

For starters, find out where your dad keeps all his important papers like his will (also make sure it's updated), birth certificate, marriage and divorce certificates, Social Security information, life-insurance policies, military discharge papers, financial documents, and keys to a safe deposit box or home safe.

Also, if your dad doesn't have an advanced directive, help him make one (see CaringInfo.org for free state-specific forms and instructions). An advanced directive includes a living will that specifies his end-of-life medical treatments, and appoints a health-care proxy to make medical decisions if he becomes incapacitated.

In addition, you may also want to get a do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order, which will tell health care professionals not to perform CPR when your dad's heart or breathing stops. Your dad's doctor can help you with this.

You should also pre-arrange his funeral and burial or

cremation.

Immediately After Death
Once your father dies, you'll need to get a legal pronouncement of death. If no doctor is present, you'll need to contact someone to do this. So, if your dad dies at home under hospice care, call the hospice nurse, who can declare his death and help facilitate the transport of the body.

If he dies at home without hospice care, call 911, and have in hand his DNR document. Without one, paramedics will generally start emergency procedures and, except where permitted to pronounce death, take the person to an emergency room for a doctor to make the declaration.

If no autopsy is needed, you will need to call the funeral home, mortuary or crematorium to pick up the body. If your dad is an organ or tissue donor, contact the funeral home or the county coroner immediately.

Within a Few Days
If funeral plans were not pre-arranged, you'll need to make arrangements and prepare an obituary. If your dad was in the military or belonged to a fraternal or religious group, you should contact those organizations too, because they may have burial benefits or conduct funeral services.

Up to 10 Days After Death
To wind down your dad's financial affairs, you'll need to get multiple copies of his death certificate. These are typically provided by the funeral home.

If you're the executor of your dad's estate, take his will to the appropriate county or city office to have it accepted for probate. And open a bank account for your dad's estate to pay bills, including taxes, funeral costs, etc.

You also need to contact your dad's estate attorney if he has one; tax preparer to see if estate or final income taxes should be filed; financial advisor for information on financial holdings; life insurance agent to get claim forms; his bank to locate and close accounts; and Social Security (800-772-1213) and other agencies that provided benefits to stop payments and, if applicable, ask about survivor benefits. You should also cancel his credit cards and, if relevant, stop household services like utilities, mail, etc.

For more information on the duties of an executor, a great resource is "The Executor's Guide: Settling A Loved One's Estate or Trust" available at Nolo.com for \$32.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
Jan. 22, 2008
Dan Evans, Publisher
Bloomington
"officially" has a new Library Branch Manager. Nancy Vaillancourt was hired at the City Council Meeting held on Jan. 10. Nancy has been serving as the interim branch manager since Nov. of 2007 after Darlene Grams left the library. Nancy has served sporadically at the BP Library over the years when a fill-in person has been needed.
Gone are the days when a principal is just a disciplinarian within the school systems. These days the principal tends to spend more time working with the teachers, parents and students to come up with a direct course of education for each student. "Our biggest thing that we can do is lead the students by setting a good example for them," stated Mrs. Sandra Grenell, principal of BP Elementary.

50 Years Ago
Jan. 25, 1968
Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers
Stanley Muckle, 59 year old manufacturing executive from Owatonna was elected president of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, governing body of the Minnesota State Fair Jan. 17. The new president has been a member of the State's Fair Board of Managers, representing the first district since 1955. He has been associated with the State Fair since 1949, beginning as a member of the race department.
Three members of the Bloomington Future Farmers of America Chapter, together with Truman Tilleraas, advisor, went to New Ulm Jan. 16 to attend the annual meeting of the Minnesota Swine Producers Association. Representing the local chapter at the event were Clint Becker, president; Dean Ulland, reporter; and Leslie Hanson.

20 Years Ago
Jan. 20, 1998
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
Margo Meyerhofer was up all night with nerves the night preceding her trip to Germany alone. From her German teacher, Jerry Kokoshke, Margo found out that the Lion's Club sponsors students to attend its Youth Camp, which this year was held in Bergen, Germany. Mr. Kokoshke was very supportive of her going so she filled out the appropriate paperwork and was accepted, but she didn't know if she was going until she received a Christmas present from her parents...a camera and lots of film for the trip. Locally, she received \$200 from the Lions and \$300 was received from the organization nationally.

75 Years Ago
Jan. 21, 1943
Frank Krejci, Publisher
Brrr! The Russian steppes have nothing on the arctic cold wave that has this area in its grip this week. Al Smith, manager of Hayes-Lucas Lumber Co., here and owner of a good, reliable thermometer reports his instrument recorded -32 Tuesday morning; -30 below Wednesday morning. The cold wave is still in complete charge and the weatherman promises no relief.
George D. Carroll, Bloomington's postmaster will enter Uncle Sam's armed forces next week - Jan. 27. He will leave for Ft. Snelling on that date from Owatonna with Steele County's January quota of selectees. Supervision of Bloomington's postmaster will be under the direction of the postmaster's wife, Mrs. George Carroll after her husband's induction into army life.

Food trucks ready to go on the road

Minnesota (N)ice chosen as winner at BP School

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Kitchen #3 consisting of Zach Haberman, Brent Motl, Jayde Wacek, Gracie Rudlong and Emily Krampitz was chosen winner of the Creative Foods food truck project. It was named Minnesota (N)ice.

"What you makin'?"

It's a food truck and it's soon to be ready to go on the road, says a Bloomington High School creative foods student working on a class assignment of building a food truck.

The assignment is actually patterned from the television reality show, The Great Food Truck Race.

The 24 students in Jennifer Flemming's creative foods class were divided into five kitchens and then watched an episode of the TV show to gain some ideas on their creations soon to take place.

Flemming's students in grades 10-12 worked on their project over a time span of about three weeks. They developed a truck design and also came up with a theme and menu for their food truck.

Students of Flemming are nearing the end of this semester with students enjoying the opportunity to be creative and work with some of their favorite foods. Students made gingerbread houses and also participated in Cupcake Wars earlier in the semester.

Flemming said this was her third year that creative foods students worked on the food truck project.

The five trucks were completed this week and judged by three Bloomington High School staff members. Judges were Ali Mach, Jan Anderson and Janet Luick.

Team members cooked food for the trucks last week and made them available for judging.

"You need team work to make a dream a reality," said Trent Swenson of Kitchen #1. His team including Ryan Weinberger, Kaden Thomas and Heather Pirk created a taco truck with the theme of "Taco Lot."

Choco tacos were on the menu for Kitchen #3's truck named Minnesota (N)ice. Team members included Gracie Rudlong, Emily Krampitz, Zach Haberman, Jayde Wacek and Brett Motl. This kitchen was named the winner of the competition and will receive a special prize.

The "5 Fry Guys" was created by Kitchen #4 including Marti Snider, Bailey Sorensen, Slava Kritzer, Amy Peterson and Matthew Wurst.

All guys did Kitchen #5's "Big Burrito Boyz" truck. Kitchen members included Brad Staska, Lucas Nobile, Ryan Pena, Alec Ille and Austin Behne.

Flemming now switches curriculums and will be teaching sports nutrition and international foods next semester to new students.

**YOUR AD COULD
BE HERE!**

**Contact the Steele
County Times Today!**

STEELE
COUNTY

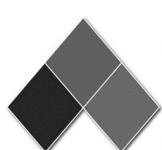
Times

507-583-4431



Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



**Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountant

Tamzen R. Johnson

319 East Main Street, Bloomington | 888-933-6828 | Fax: 507-583-2389

Automotive



ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners
Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317
Hwy. 218 • Bloomington
www.kostercarkorner.com

FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Construction



**Johnson Construction
& Tree Service**

Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMINGTON

Garbage



SKJEVELAND ENTERPRISES
YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
Sanitation & Recycling Services
Pride in service since 2007

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Sanitation & Recycling Services
- Roll-Offs & Dumpsters
- Rubbish & Garbage Removal

Contact Skjeveland Enterprises today!

507-528-9900



Construction



J.A. Gwilt Siders, Inc.

Siding, Windows, Gutters, Roofing & Decks

**Call 507-456-1504
for your FREE
estimates!**

Serving Steele County
for 20 years.



Known for our exceptional quality of material and labor.

Funeral Planning

**A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING**



507-583-7561
www.worlein.com

Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent • Purple Cross Plans

Worlein Bloomington Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S., Bloomington, MN

Recreation



**MINER'S
Outdoor & Rec**

Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,
Parts & Accessories

**Hwy 218 S.
Bloomington**

www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Bridal



Holiday Inn

507.446.8900
2365 43rd St. NW • Owatonna

Orthodontic Specialist



Dr. Deborah J. Lien, DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

132 2ND AVE. NE
BLOOMINGTON
FREE CONSULTATIONS



**Building
Healthy
Smiles!**

drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

507.583.6613

Have some fun on the ice

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The sound of motion on ice can be contagious.

What it means is that some of our young Blooming Prairie skaters draw others onto the ice at the Victory Field Ice Rink. There's plenty of room for all ages whether they are skating for fun, or to sharpen their hockey skills.

Jeremy Wangen has again taken the leadership role of being rink manager. He is being helped by high school students Kevin Doerhoefer, Brad Staska, Ian Wayne, Jack Abbe, Colin Lerum and Caleb Kubista.

Maybe hoping some day to play for the Minnesota Wild, Parker Blome attacks the net at the Blooming Prairie Ice Rink.



The rink's warming house is open from 4-8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 1-8:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

If school is closed due to weather, the ice rink will also be closed.

Some recent warmer weather has drawn more youngsters to the ice rink. Monday's



Part of the fun in winter is visiting the local ice rink. That's what these young hockey players do during their free time. They spend it at the Blooming Prairie Ice Rink. From left are Beckett Lea, Parker Blome, Alec Wangen, Brady Kittelson, Cole Wangen and Cale Braaten.

Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Yummy pancakes for church benefit



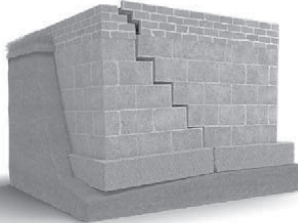
Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Lots of Minnesota Vikings fans showed their purple pride on Sunday, the day of the National Football Conference Championship in Philadelphia. Margaret and Billy Noble wore shades of purple to show their allegiance. That allegiance was dimmed by the outcome, an Eagles massacre of the Vikings, 38-7.



Some yummy pancakes were served on Sunday, Jan. 21 by the Columbanus Catholic Church of Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus. Gracelyn Anderson, 8, of Blooming Prairie, takes a big bite. Funds from the breakfast go to the elevator fund.

Foundation problems don't get better with time...
just more expensive



AMERICAN WATERWORKS
★ Basement Systems ★
Free Estimates! Call Today
1-800-795-1204

Radon | Foundation Repair | Basement Waterproofing | Crawl Space Repair



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

First Annual Coyotes Fur Cancer Fundraiser

Saturday, Jan. 27
6 p.m.
Cue Company- Blooming Prairie

Tickets- \$20

Tickets available for \$20 at
Cumberland's Northwest Trappers
Supply of Owatonna, The Cue Company
of Blooming Prairie, Dean's Smoke Shack
of Geneva and Coordes Guns of Lansing

Sponsored by **Krejci** 

The support you need to find quality

SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!
CALL (844) 347-2104
! We're paid by our partner communities



Back By Popular Demand!

SISTER ACT



“Heavenly... a must see!”
— Pioneer Press



952.934.1525 • 800.362.3515
ChanhassenDT.com

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections

• Aggregates • Hauling
• Washed Sand & Rock
• Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

507-583-2999
Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured



BISHOP
EXCAVATING, INC.
• EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
• DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK
Commercial & Residential Sitework

Truck Accessories



The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.

AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR
30 YEARS

Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Blooming Prairie

Collision

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150





CSI:
www.csiaustinmn.com

Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837

Tires



507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483
Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck

870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
Complete Truck Parts and Service
Mike Hartle
Owner

Pets



Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.
“Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet”
Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. County Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

Cell: 507-456-7977

Cleaning



COREY'S
CLEANING SERVICE
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Commercial Janitorial Cleaning

Lee Corey
22 E. Main St.
Dodge Center, MN 55927



507-374-6806
1-800-569-1331
www.coreysmn.com



Dave Neiman, owner of Arrow Ace Hardware, showcases some of the grill models available at the new store, located in downtown Owatonna. Ace has relocated from North Cedar Avenue to West Vine Street over the past few weeks as an ongoing effort to revitalize Owatonna's downtown area. Ace took over the former Arnold House.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

FIRE IT UP

Ace Hardware sparks a new location in Owatonna's downtown area

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

"I think you will see more local investment rather than big retailers, and that's a good thing."

Mike Schwertseger
Ace Hardware

In business, location can be everything. Dave Neiman, majority owner of Arrow Ace Hardware in Owatonna, knows this better than anyone.

It all started last October with a phone call from Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz. The mayor had a proposal for Neiman, who took him up on the suggestion and began work on a new site for his franchise.

Neiman worked closely with Troy Klecker, Owatonna Community Development Director, in an effort that sought to tear down the Arnold House, an old building which had fallen into disrepair, and begin construction of a new Arrow Ace Hardware store in downtown Owatonna.

The former storefront had been purchased by Neiman in 1991 and was located at 208 N Cedar Ave. in Owatonna. Its new location is just a hop away, on W Vine St., behind where

the old location had been. Both stores are currently operating, and the Arrow Ace team is still putting the finishing touches on the new store in addition to moving over product.

Arrow Ace is a member of Ace Hardware, the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the industry. Neiman, whose been expanding his business to include 10 stores, as he says "from St. Cloud down to Rochester," is aware of the positive effect this relocation and renovation could have on the city's downtown, and the economy at large.

When speaking of the city's downtown, Neiman said that "it's fun to see improvement being made rather than it going in the opposite

direction." He feels that "Owatonna has a large downtown area for retail space."

Neiman also lauds the work that the city and its administration do to help revitalize and promote their downtown. He explained that "I think if they didn't put a focus on their downtown, it would continue to fall apart." He added, "The snowball is going to roll in one direction, improvement or decay."

In Owatonna, local economic leaders are hoping for improvement. Neiman agrees with this prediction. When asked about

SEE ACE, C2

Warm December helps local bird count

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Perfect weather conditions helped area bird lovers enjoy a higher than normal bird count in mid December in Steele County.

According to Darryl Hill, coordinator of the bird count, local birdwatchers on Dec. 16 counted 7,368 birds, which is the fifth highest number for the Owatonna Christmas Bird Count over 46 years. This year's total contrasts sharply with last year's count of 4,025 during less than desirable weather conditions.

The highest count came in 1998 with 8,430 birds. There were 99 watchers involved in the count, which covered a 15 mile diameter circle with Havana as the center.

During this year's count, 49 different species were recorded, which ended up being the second highest number of birds seen on a count, Hill noted. "The warm weather helped us see more birds," he said. "Weather is generally a factor in the number of birds that we see."

Because it had been so warm for so long, parts of Lake Kohlmier in Owatonna were not frozen allowing thousands of geese and hundreds of Mallards to find a resting spot. "We spotted one coot and four Trumpeter Swans. What a thrill," Hill said.

The Canada Goose was the bird found the most often as it was sighted 3,872 times. The Mallard came up 466 times followed by the House Sparrow at 370, which was a record for the lowest House Sparrow count ever. The high for House Sparrows was 2,904 in 1985. The Sparrows have been trending downward for several years.

Other birds that have been declining over the years are the Ring-necked Pheasant, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Cardinals and American Crows, according to Hill.

Hill said the winter Prairie birds were very low this year as watchers saw no Lapland Longspurs or Snow Buntings.

Despite birds that are declining in numbers, there are some birds increasing. This year the local group saw a record number of nine Cooper's Hawks. Other birds that are gaining in numbers are Rock Pigeons, Eurasian Collared-Doves and Bald Eagles.

The National Audubon Society's Bird and Climate Change Report, Hill pointed out, shows that 314 species of North American birds on the brink of extinction. "Shrinking and shifting ranges could impact nearly half of U.S. birds within this century," Hill said. "This means that nearly half of all North American birds will be threatened by global warming."

Hill encourages people to do what they can to help resolve the problem of the shrinking numbers with certain species.

The scientific project of counting the bird population began 118 years ago.

The local group enjoyed 28 first time counters this year. They included: Betty Blankers, Cheryl Boettcher, Anna Marie Coleman, Coqui Conkey, Bob and Gloria Coulter, Juanita and Mike Drabek, Todd Hale, Joe Hegard, Darcy and Mike Iserman, David Jensen, Steve Miller, Joanne Peterson, John Schroeder, Tom and Stephanie Shea, Judy and John Sherrell, Nathan and Karen Sherrell, Matt and Lisa Sherrell, Earl Wheeler and Judith Youngman.

2017 Steele County Christmas Bird Count Highest totals by species:

Canada Goose	3,872
Mallard	466
House Sparrow	370
Rock Pigeon	336
Black-capped Chickadee	308
American Crow	275
Eur. Starling	245
House Finch	241
Dark-eyed Junco	169
Blue Jay	126
American Goldfinch	119
Red-winged Blackbird	100
Downy Woodpecker	105
White-breasted Nuthatch	99
N. Cardinal	95
Wild Turkey	91
American Tree Sparrow	65

TOTAL Species	7,368 49
---------------	----------



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Canada Goose was identified most frequently at 3,872 times.

Fair to interview manager prospects next week

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Seventeen candidates have emerged to take over the reigns of Minnesota's largest county fair.

The closing for applications was Friday afternoon. A new manager is needed in the wake of former manager Jim Gleason's bout with brain cancer. Gleason resigned from his position Jan. 1.

Dan Deml, president of the Steele County Free Fair, will be working on narrowing the list of candidates to four to six this week. Deml plans to invite the top candidates to interviews next week with the fair's executive and personnel committees, which consist of five members.

Deml plans to delay the monthly board meeting, which is normally held on the first Thursday of the month, to Feb. 8 in order for the hiring group to bring forth the top recommendation.

Of the 17 candidates, most are from the local area, but there are some from further distances, according to Deml. "We have a wide variety of applicants," he said. "I'm confident we will have a very qualified candidate for our manager."

In addition to local newspapers and the fair's social media avenues, the fair advertised the position with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, which gave the posting broader reach, and within the fair circles on the national level.

"Two or three of the candidates came from that posting," Deml said.

The fair's priority, Deml said, is to find someone with fair background. He said having fair experience is critically important because the manager deals with 500 vendors as well as about 120 sponsors. "They have to be familiar with sponsorships and have the ability to deal with our sponsors," he said.

Deml said other key attributes will be public relations and marketing experience. "We need someone who can market the fair in a positive light," he said, noting the past two managers—Elmer Reseland and Jim Gleason—did a great job with marketing the fair.

Benefits of using an Employee Assistance Program

Many businesses and industries, both large and small, recognize the importance of employee wellness and what results if employees have problems inside or outside of the work environment. Sometimes other work, family, or home life problems



Steele Talkin'
MARK SKRIEN

interfere with job performance at the work site. When job performance is poor, the employee and the employer suffer.

Employee Assistance Programs, or EAPs, are designed as an information and referral service to assist employees and their families with problems that

interfere with work or home life. It's about wellness and work performance. The employer will assume the costs, making it a free service to the employee. It is part of their benefits package. It is a way to assist an employee and/or their families to seek services for a variety of problems without the employer having to know any personal information about the problem. The employer cannot require an employee to use the EAP, but can only suggest it.

An example of the use of an EAP is a 44-year-old male that had been recently appointed as a new supervisor to some of the former line employees that he knew very well. He reported that he was not receiving enough help and was thinking that the newly hired employees were not "catching on fast enough." He was experiencing more work stress and stated that when he gets confronted he gets defensive and makes rude comments to others. His supervisor suggested he utilize the company's EAP.

Another example is a 24-year-old female presenting with depression symptoms, thinking that nobody cares about her. She cites conflicts with a parent, another friend, and her boyfriend. She claimed to be controlling at times with others, with jealousy and possessiveness toward her boyfriend. She denied suicidal plans and claimed that she wouldn't end her life, but was wondering about her purpose in life. She sought assistance with her company's EAP on her own, as she knew of the program being part of her benefits package with the employer.

In both examples, the employees were struggling with some aspects of their life, either at work or personally

SEE STEELE, C6

It's never too cold to golf in Blooming Prairie



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Aaron Ressler, owner of the Aaron Ressler Golf Academy of Blooming Prairie, takes a break from giving lessons to Cindi Hansen on Ressler's golf simulator.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie golf pro Aaron Ressler believes in making golf available the year round in Blooming Prairie.

The Blooming Prairie Country Club course may be covered with snow and temperatures are plummeting below zero, but avid golfers can still live out their dream of golfing in the Minnesota winter.

Ressler, owner of Bunkie's Grill and Lanes, is starting his fourth year with a golf simulator located right next door to the bowling alley and restaurant. He has golf leagues in

play already this year with six 2-person teams competing on Mondays and four 2-person teams playing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

A golf simulator allows golf to be played on a graphically or photographically simulated driving range or golf course, usually in an indoor setting.

Simulators have been available since the early 1970s, and systems range in cost from compact units costing well under \$200 that work with a computer or video game console, to sophisticated ones costing tens of thousands of dollars.

South Korea has the most golf simulators in the world, according to Wikipedia.

Simulator design is perhaps the most advanced in South Korea. In addition to tracking and analyzing factors such as projection and contact information of ball and club, simulators are now able to fully automate ball retrieval and tee height.

Other unique capabilities of the Korean simulators include multi-directional slope sensing that synchronizes the angle of the golfer's hitting position with the slope of the lie on a 3D interactive golf course.

Ressler brings a large dossier of golfing experience to the golf course, indoor or outdoor in Blooming Prairie, golfing at the local course since he was a youngster.

His love for golf continued as he worked as a golf pro in Aruba and at The Wilds in Prior Lake, Olympic Hills in the Twin Cities and a golf course in northeast Scottsdale, Ariz. He then landed back in Blooming Prairie.

Ressler has logged 25 years in the golfing industry and teaches lessons the entire year at the Aaron Ressler Golf Academy (simulator) and at the Blooming Prairie Country Club.

With his golf academy, Ressler is intent on starting youngsters on the basics of golf when they are in grade school. He also has a goal of keeping adults dedicated to the game.

One of those dedicated local golfers is Cindi Hansen, Blooming Prairie resident, who has been visiting Ressler's

golfing academy on a regular basis since the first of the year.

Hansen actually won a year's membership in the Ressler Golf Academy by buying a raffle ticket from the Blooming Prairie High School golf team last August and then finding out a few months later she had won the grand prize drawing.

"That's a good, bad shot," Ressler tells Hansen as she takes her swing.

Her caddy, husband Darrell, has been accompanying her to her lessons and said he is learning, too.

"It's your finish that is important," Ressler continues in his coaching mode. "Now, I can see what I am doing wrong," Hansen admits.

"You're miles apart from when you started," Ressler tells Hansen. "Understanding the basics is so important," he tells her. "I love it," she says about her addiction to the golf simulator.

Ressler is the first one to tell anyone that golf can be a frustrating game. "The more time you put into your game results in more improvement of your game," Ressler points out.

Most of Ressler's students come into the range in February.

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

We can also help you with:

- Aggregate Products
- Waterway Cleaning
- All Excavation Projects
- Hauling
- Septic

40 Years in Business!

LOKEN

Excavation & Drainage Inc.

Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!
507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568
3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net

ACE: New Owatonna downtown location

FROM PAGE C1

the continued emphasis on cultivating and maintaining the city's downtown, he says, "I think it will pay off in the future."

Mike Schwertseger, marketing and advertising manager for Arrow Ace Hardware, concurs with Neiman. "I think you will see more local investment rather than big retailers, and that's a good thing," he said. Schwertseger offers that this localized revitalization will "give the city's downtown more variety, which can help bring a lot of character."

According to Schwertseger, the move could begin a miniature domino effect within the city's downtown, which might help bring in more investors, and more sustainability to the location.

Of Owatonna's downtown, he says, "I think it's the heart of the city." He explained that cities which seek to invest more into their central space often see dividends returned as the city will generally thrive after those sort of efforts. "If your heart thrives, so does your city," Schwertseger said.

Although the Arnold House had stood there for 150 years, this once historic hotel had fallen into decrepitude and was much in need of renovation, or demolition. Schwertseger explained that "it just looked bad," reiterating that "it had become an eyesore."

Despite this, Schwertseger feels that "you always want to preserve historic buildings, but not when they are beyond repair." He said, "A project like this one, which removes an eyesore, can open up other opportunities, and return the area back into more of a destination downtown."

Brad Meier, president/CEO of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, says, "it's a big deal for Ace to invest in a new facility." He, too, thinks that the move, and its corresponding benefits, will positively affect the town.

There are already a few additional projects planned for the future. Meier explains that "we're beginning to see some good momentum," and mentions the apartments slated to go up on Pearl Street. He echoes sentiments similar to those of Schwertseger

and Neiman, saying that "there's a lot of interest in our downtown, and we're going to need investment to truly see our downtown thrive and grow."

Meier knows that the history of the city's downtown, as well as the inclusion of two large employers, J-C Press and Federated Insurance, have gone a long way in maintaining the space.

"That's where it all started," he says, adding that "Sullivan's bank is a great anchor, and it's just part of an amazing downtown with historical flavor."

According to Meier, the city has a great opportunity to build a downtown that really thrives. Although it is already feeling like a central locus for the town, and is composed of a variety of big and small businesses, Meier feels that "we can still do better."

With its acquisition and replacement of the Arnold House, the addition of this much larger, and much improved Arrow Ace Hardware facility might just go a long way in bringing Meier's vision to fruition. "We

have a lot of great history and character," he says, "and if you can couple those with investment and ideas, it can be a very powerful economic benefit to the city."

Ice Fishing

Ballard's Resort on Minnesota's Lake of the Woods offers cabins, fish houses, meals, beverages the works.

**Book your winter ice fishing adventure now...
SAVE \$100 or MORE per person!**

Call and ask about the "Winter Fishing Specials".

1-800-776-2675 FishBallards.com

mcAn

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

FARM EQUIPMENT

GOT LAND?

Our hunters will pay top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a free info packet & quote. 866/309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

MISCELLANEOUS

SPECTRUM TRIPLE PLAY

TV, Internet & Voice for \$29.99 ea. 60 MB per second speed. No contract or commitment. More Channels. Faster Internet. Unlimited Voice. Call 844/290-5838

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

Classified Advertising that is Easy!

THE MINNESOTA CLASSIFIED Ad NETWORK

Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 3 million readers!

Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.

A PLACE FOR MOM

The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is free/no obligation. Call 844/347-2104

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!

Save! Call our licensed Canadian & International pharmacy, compare prices & get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! Call 877/210-2257 Promo Code: CDC201725

ADVERTISE HERE STATEWIDE IN 260+ NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY \$279 PER WEEK! CALL 800-279-2979

Public invited to come out and support BP After Prom

BP AFTER PROM COMMITTEE

Italian Night & Silent Auction

Monday, January 29th, 2018
At the Pizza Cellar
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Menu includes:
Spaghetti, Alfredo, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert

This is a fund raiser to support the BP After-Prom activities
Free Will donation-Suggested price of \$10 per plate

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Measurement (abbr.)
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Sorting
- Attribute
- Poked holes in
- Angers
- Doc
- MLB journeyman pitcher Dillon
- Not don't
- Snubs someone
- Where kids bathe
- One might be in distress
- Chair
- Music industry honors (abbr.)
- Dash
- Owed
- Caucasian language
- One thousand (Span.)
- Musical style drum and bass
- Evergreen trees native to warm climates
- Begin __: start fresh
- Marshy outlets
- A chicken lays one
- Yemen's largest city
- Conversion rate
- Single Lens Reflex
- Atlanta rapper
- Reduce the importance of

CLUES DOWN

- Skater Lipinksi
- Data
- Single step

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65

13. Protected by balancing
14. Give up
17. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Extravagantly bright
23. Takes dictation
24. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
25. Rounded knob (biology)
26. French philosopher Pierre
28. Mothers
29. Dardic ethnic group
32. Supports the rudder
36. An ugly evil-looking old woman
38. Of a fasting time
40. Filled with passengers
43. Below the ribs and above the hips
44. Binary-coded decimal
45. 51 is a famous one
46. Goes into a funk
51. Chief O'Hara actor
54. Videocassette recorder
55. Scored perfectly
56. Type of tree
57. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
58. Popular commercial "pet"
59. Supreme god of Ancient Egyptians
60. Room in a home
62. __ and behold

Let's get you movin!

KELLER WILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY

Jennifer Walsh
507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com

STEELE COUNTY

Times

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT **Stuck Stunk: On Jan. 10 at 11:39 a.m., a motorist reported that a skunk with its head stuck in a can was causing traffic stop in the 10400 block of U.S. Hwy. 14 in Claremont.**

CRIME BRIEFS

Man faces 6 felonies after domestic turns violent

A man faces multiple felonies in connection with a domestic assault that turned violent Jan. 14.

Delmer George Weiss Robbins, 23, has been charged with attempted first-degree assault, first-degree aggravated robbery, second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon, kidnapping, terroristic threats and domestic assault by strangulation.

He is being held in the Steele County Detention Center on \$100,000 bail.

The investigation by Owatonna Police found a 20-year-old woman went to pick up Robbins from Buffalo Wild Wings. When Robbins became belligerent, the victim got out of the car to walk

to a friend's house. While she was walking, Robbins allegedly hit her with the car, according to police.

Once the woman got into the car, Robbins is accused of hitting her repeatedly in the arms, ribs and head. He is also suspected of choking her into unconsciousness, police said.

The victim regained consciousness and convinced Robbins to give her a ride to work, but not before he made her hand over her cell phone and threatened to kill her family if she told anyone.



Robbins



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Emergency personnel worked to clear up the wreckage of a semi-tractor trailer that crashed into a Chevy Blazer Saturday morning on Interstate 35 at Hoffman Drive in Owatonna. The driver of the Blazer received life-threatening injuries in the crash and was airlifted by medical helicopter from the scene.

A Saturday morning crash along Interstate 35 in Owatonna has left a man critically injured.

Robert Ree Johnson, 42, of Jamestown, N.D., sustained life-threatening injuries, according to the State Patrol. He was transported by air ambulance to North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale.

The crash happened at 11:25 a.m. on I-35 at Hoffman Drive when Johnson's Chevrolet Blazer was stopped on the southbound shoulder. As the Blazer started to move into the traffic lane, a semi tractor trailer collided with the vehicle, sending both of them into the west ditch.

The driver of semi, Travis Douglas Harbaugh, 41, of Muscatine, Iowa, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester with non-life threatening injuries.

The State Patrol reports that alcohol was detected on Johnson. It's unknown if either driver was wearing their seat belts. The road conditions were dry at the time.

The Steele County Sheriff's Office assisted the patrol at the crash.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 8 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding:

Krystal R. Laroque, 27, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault of peace officer and misdemeanor domestic assault. She was sentenced to \$131, 53 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

Jeremy A. Miller, 31, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. Miller was sentenced to \$406, 11 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, enter Steele-Waseca drug court and 7 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 8 – 12:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marissa E. Kratochvil, 24, St. Paul, suspended license, \$281; Scott J. Krull, 51, Austin, speeding, \$121; Alexander P. Schultz, 25, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$281; Jeffrey W. Stanton, 37, Lakeland, expired tabs, \$111; Montey R. Woodruff, 37, Lakemoor, IL, no license.

MN STATE PATROL BRAINERD

Edwin U. Gutierrez, 30, Faribault, invalid license and no insurance.

MN STATE PATROL GOLDEN VALLEY

Rafael Diaz Reyes, 29, St. Peter, no license.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Eric T. Alarcon Lopez, 25, Brooklyn Center, speeding and no license; Douglas J. Baker, 33, Rochelle, IL, speeding, \$121; Renee E. Baldwin, 36, Rosemount, speeding, \$121; Owen S. Basri, 17, Robbinsdale, speeding, \$121; Tanner K. Beddow, 25, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$281; Abhinav Bhandaram, 28, Denton, TX, seat belt, \$106; Debra L. Bishop, 53, Le Sueur, revoked license, \$281; Dennis M. Bishop, 29, Waseca, expired registration, \$111; Heidi L. Brown, 39, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Quintavius T. Coats, 26, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Jose L. Coyote-Franco, 35, Kansas City, MO, invalid license; Jonathan R. Denzer, 25, Chillicothe, IL, following vehicle too closely, \$131; Gary L. Fitzpatrick, 67, Waltham, speeding, \$121; Lili R. Flores, 18, San Diego, CA, speeding, \$221; Sergio G. Gomez, 36, Kansas City, KS, invalid license; Eloy F. Gutierrez, 40, Owatonna, invalid license; Jose L. Gutierrez, 32, Aurora, CO, invalid license; Janet L. Hackensmith, 77, Austin, speeding, \$131; Jessica R. Heise, 35, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Gloria R. Hernandez, 42, Maxwell, TX, no license, \$181; Takeya M. Hogan-Camp, 26, Des Moines, IA, speeding,

\$141; Brian L. Jensen, 67, Geneva, seat belt, \$106; Carlos J. Juarez-Escobar, 26, Crete, NE, invalid license; Pedro P. Jurado, 30, Kansas City, KS, possession of marijuana, \$131; Temur T. Kobaidze, 51, San Francisco, CA, move over law violation, \$131; Ervin M. Lopez-Agustin, 29, Brooklyn Park, invalid license; Ramior G. Marroquin, 37, Rockville, MD, invalid license; Jose B. Martinez, 25, Donna, TX, invalid license; Agustín Mata-Segura, 38, Calhoun, GA, invalid license; Michael J. McGoon, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Joshua T. Monahan, 31, Eagan, speeding, \$131; Anastasio F. Obispo, 36, Brooklyn Park, invalid license; Subash G. Patel, 59, Mankato, speeding, \$281; Manaswi Podaturi, 25, Ames, IA, seat belt, \$106; Britten K. Quam, 34, Claremont, revoked license, \$281; Jose J. Reyes Feliz, 29, Olathe, KS, speeding and no insurance; Raul E. Rodriguez, 34, Fort Worth, TX, invalid license and speeding; Lino Romero-Orozco, 43, Minneapolis, speeding and invalid license; Pascual C. Sanchez, 19, St. James, no license, \$181; Marcelo Sanchez-Espinosa, 38, Dallas, TX, invalid license; Cindy A. Smyth, 37, Mankato, cancelled license, \$281; Armando Solono-Gamez, 39, Hinckley, invalid license; Christopher M. Spinler, 36, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Kile S. Trevithick, 23, Blomer, WI, DWI, \$406, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Fredis N. Ulloa-Sanchez, 32, Willmar, invalid license; Keze Wang, 23, Ames, IA, speeding, \$131; Shanea A. Washington, 30, Luverne, invalid license, no child passenger restraint system, speeding and no insurance; Ryan E. Whelan, 35, Albert Lea, failure to yield and no insurance, \$5,131 and 90 days in county jail; Gregory T. Willaby, 51, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Ashley M. Williams, 32, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$221.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Alexis Alejo, 18, Austin, no insurance, \$281; Santana J. Alvarez-Guadarrama, 33, Minneapolis, no license and no insurance; John H. Bock, 55, Owatonna, improper change of course, \$131; Angelique J. Brown, 30, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Lamoine A. Busse, 55, Mankato, theft, \$194.33, 14 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jack M. Butler, 31, New Richland, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Gracia Carlos, 25, Owatonna, no license and no child passenger restraint system; Evan J. Cashman, 22, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Jose P. Curiel, 24, Owatonna, no license and texting while driving, \$231; Laura J. Dominguez, 25, Owatonna, no license; Susan L. Enzenauer, 54, Owatonna, failure to deliver title, \$281; Daniel Fajarto, 39, Faribault, no license and windshield violation; Jared K. Fett, 17, Owatonna, headlights violation, \$121; Trey T. Foreist, 24, Owatonna, no license and no insurance; James M. Fredricksen, 61, West Des Moines, IA, improper turn, \$131; Ashley E. Gald, 29, La Crosse, WI, theft, \$134.34 and 20 days in county jail; Marcos Galindo, 53, Rochester, no license and no insurance; Arthur R. Garcia, 33, Owatonna, no license; Adriana A. Guzman, 23, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Melody M. Hagel,

57, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Mark H. Hall, 68, Owatonna, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$181; Katelyn D. Hanneman, 22, Ellendale, no insurance, \$281; Dylan D. Hohenstein, 19, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Jennifer M. Johannsen, 35, Owatonna, disorderly conduct – brawling or fighting, \$131, 15 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tyjuan M. Lee, 22, St. Joseph, MO, no license; David Levasseur, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Cher M. Linzmeier, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Francisca Y. Martiz, 43, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Lucy Palacios, 33, Owatonna, no license; Teriann Powell, 35, Owatonna, revoked license and stop sign; Iris A. Ramirez de Reyes, 36, Claremont, no license and no insurance; Austin D. Ress, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Vanessa C. Rias, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, \$131, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Pascual A. Rodriguez, 40, Austin, no license and no insurance; Juan M. Ruiz Acevedo, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Vanessa C. Ruth Rias, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, registration violation, open bottle and bumper violation, \$531; Jose A. Salgado, 34, Northfield, speeding, no license and no insurance; Helena A. Shaw, 31, Owatonna, trespassing, \$131, 1 day in county jail and 90 days of unsupervised probation; Nicole B. Torrez, 32, Medford, no license and no insurance; Mireya Z. Verde, 32, Waseca, no license and no insurance; Victor H. Villa Marin, 32, Owatonna, no license and no insurance; Tara L. Wandrey, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Levi J. Westling, 25, Waseca, possession of hypodermic syringe or needle, \$131 and 79 days in county jail; Cindy S. Wierson, 40, Northfield, theft, \$381 and 1 year of supervised probation; Samantha R. Wilson, 39, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance; Deryck R. Witt, 24, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Hannah K. Wolters, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$181.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Clayton E. Aldrich, 20, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Shawn T. Anderson, 43, speeding, \$121; Alfredo Q. Badillo, 42, Austin, TX, speeding and no license; Isaiah K. Escobedo, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Nynique K. Fair, 41, Minneapolis, revoked license, speeding and no insurance, \$541; Lazaro G. Fernandez, 52, Albert Lea, speeding and no license; Abraham H. Fitch, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Stetson P. Fox, 31, Owatonna, speeding and no license; Randy P. Freid, 46, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Mark A. Heaser, 56, Medford, speeding, \$121; Mardoqueo G. Hernandez, 25, St. Peter, speeding, no license and no insurance; Dustin L. Laroque, 24, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Jason H. Manges, 26, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Edwin S. Moran, 33, Minneapolis, speeding and no license; Janaya L. Moss, 29, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$281; Blake A. Nelson, 26, White Bear Lake, speeding, \$121; Seth G. Nevala, 24, Farmington, escape from custody, \$131 and 91 days in county jail; Joseph R. Novotny, 34, Kasson, speeding, \$141; Ni-

kolle D. Pargo, 37, Des Moines, IA, no license and speeding; Koy D. Payne, 20, Elysian, speeding, \$131; Tiofila D. Persing, 46, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Veronica Rios-Gandara, 44, Faribault, speeding and no license; Amanda A. Starks, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Stephen C. Strommer, 32, Medford, suspended license, \$281; Sergio R. Vargas, 34, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Juan C. Vasquez-Lopez, 30, St. Paul, no license, speeding and no insurance; Tomas Vasquez, 31, Arcadia, WI, speeding and invalid license; Trai J. Wicks, 20, Hartland, speeding, \$221.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Jan. 12

Arrest: At 12:09 a.m., police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft: Officers took theft reports in the 300 block of School St. W. at 4:59 p.m. and the 300 block of 18th St. SE at 9 p.m.

Fraud: At 5:52 p.m., police received a report of a fraud incident in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S.

Jan. 13

Hit and Run: At 7:49 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Mineral Springs Road NE and Liebe Ave. NE.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 700 block of Oak Ave. N. at 12:08 p.m.

Thefts: Vehicles were reported stolen from the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 12:47 p.m. and the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 3:55 p.m.

Jan. 14

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Main St. W. at 8:18 a.m.

Crash: At 4:02 p.m., paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at State Ave. NW and 26th St. NW in Owatonna Township.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 7:07 p.m.

Assault: At 9:30 p.m., officers responded to an assault in the 500 block of 14th St. NE.

Jan. 15

Theft: At 10:26 a.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Highland Ave. NW.

Death: Police began a death investigation in the 800 block of Richway Lane SE at 10:39 p.m.

Jan. 16

Domestic: At 6:09 a.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. They made an arrest at the scene.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:22 a.m.

Probation: Police arrested a subject for a probation violation in the 1500 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 9:17 a.m.

Fraud: At 9:48 a.m., officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1200 block of Bellflower Lane NE.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject at the detention center at 2:53 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:17 p.m.

Theft: At 6:41 p.m., a vehicle

was reported stolen from the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S.

Jan. 17

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 3600 block of County Road 45 N. at 10:18 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 3:07 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Pearl St. E.

Theft: Police took theft reports in the 400 block of 14th St. NE at 3:18 p.m. and the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 4:59 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jan. 12

Warrant: At 5:29 a.m., deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center.

Jan. 13

Threats: A subject came to the law enforcement center in Owatonna to report a subject making threats at 9:38 a.m.

Jan. 14

Crashes: Deputies responded to four motor vehicle accidents resulting in property damage throughout the county.

Jan. 15

Accident: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at County Road 45 S. and Highway 14 E. in Owatonna Township at 4:52 a.m.

Crash: At 9:06 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford.

Jan. 16

Civil: Deputies assisted with a civil matter in the 500 block of 3rd St. NE in Medford at 11:17 a.m.

Jan. 18

Crash: At 8:14 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at 54th Ave. SE and Austin Road in Aurora Township.

Warrant: Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 14800 block of 72nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 7:30 p.m.

ARREST
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Tyler Lee Lockman, 29, arrested at 1 p.m. Jan. 13, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Delmer George Weiss Robbins, 23, arrested at 10:30 p.m. Jan. 14, felony domestic assault, assault, domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

Blendyger Javier Olais, 22, arrested at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 17, false name, possession and warrant arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Brandon Gene Schramm, 25, arrested at 6:20 p.m. Jan. 17, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Michael William Martin, 48, arrested at 7:57 p.m. Jan. 18, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 8 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Jacob J. Bigelow, 22, Anoka, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Bigelow was sentenced to \$1,155, 51 days in county jail, no possession of

firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, mental health screening, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Nina M. Jarrett, 33, Austin, previously appeared and was convicted of felony UI alcohol. She was sentenced to \$1,185, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, mental health screening, 100 hours of community service and 7 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 8 – 15:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tameaka L. Dunston, 30, Hayfield, revoked license, no insurance and operate unregistered vehicle without plates, \$580; Eugene Ford, 57, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280; Jared J. Gueci, 34, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Jessica R. Heise, 35, Claremont, domestic assault, \$205 and 1 year of supervised probation; Tanya L. McKinley, 33, Lonsdale, speeding, \$220; Christopher D. Tucker, 45, Kasson, speeding, \$280; Samuel Vigil Jr., 28, Mt. Lake, revoked license, \$280; Kevin O. York, 51, Dodge Center, possession of marijuana and DWI, \$1,055, 9 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 900 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Blake R. Klinger, 21, Kasson, suspended license, \$280; Lacy M. Munson, 26, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Eric D. Nelson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Walter R. Stevens, 76, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; John T. Thomforde, 38, Stewartville, cancelled license, \$280.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Perrin J. Barber, 18, Byron, speeding, \$220; Aaron D. Bertram, 28, Byron, speeding, \$140; Artisha N. Blackman, 21, Rochester, suspended license, \$280; Melody L. Dornink, 30, Hayfield, stop sign, \$130; Maria D. Floriano, 37, Kasson, no license, \$180; Gregory C. Giesler, 40, West Concord, seat belt, \$105; Sterling S. Larson, 81, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Mitchell P. Luckow, 47, Faribault, speeding, \$130; Michael D. Marquardt, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Dwight Myers, 50, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joshua L. Billings, 26, Faribault, revoked license, \$280; Alan J. Gilbertson, 39, Kasson, stop sign, \$130; Chet R. Meyer, 43, revoked license, 90 days in county jail; Nathan M. Noser, 20, Pine Island, suspended license, \$280; Thomas E. Olson, 38, West Concord, malicious punishment of a child, stay of adjudication, \$900, anger management, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Alejandro Ortiz Sanchez, 31, Kenyon, cancelled license, \$280; Renae R. Shadow, 35, Dodge Center, suspended license, \$280.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JAN. 24 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	JAN. 30 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
JAN. 27 Coyotes “Fur” Cancer Fundraiser, Cue Company	FEB. 3 5:30 p.m. – BP Youth Club Benefit Bash, Servicemen's Club



Dr. Deborah J. Lison
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
DDS, MBA

**GIVE THEM EVERY
REASON TO SMILE**

583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE | Blooming Prairie, MN

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

JAN. 24 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	JAN. 30 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
JAN. 27 Coyotes “Fur” Cancer Fundraiser, Cue Company	FEB. 3 5:30 p.m. – BP Youth Club Benefit Bash, Servicemen's Club



Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
www.minimizer.com

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 24 4:30 p.m. – Joint Board Meeting: City of Owatonna, Steele County and Owatonna School District, Owatonna School Admin Building	JAN. 27 Owatonna Winter Crazy Days Polar Plunge 2018, Lake Kohlmier 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Winter Weekend Out: Battleship, Junior High Pool 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Candlelight Ski, Hike and Snowshoe Event, Rice Lake State Park 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Winter Weekend Out: Rock of Ice, Morehouse 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Winter Weekend Out: Ice Bocce Ball, Morehouse
JAN. 25 Owatonna Winter Crazy Days 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library 5:30 p.m. – Let’s Re- energize Medford Bright Ideas Workshop, Medford Outlet Center 6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library	JAN. 28 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Winter Weekend Out: Family Ice Fishing, Lake Kohlmier
JAN. 26 Owatonna Winter Crazy Days 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Winter Weekend Out: Sledding and Movie Party, West Hills 6 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. – Steele County Clothesline – Come Fly with Me fundraiser, Owatonna Country Club	JAN. 30 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It’s Tale Time, Owatonna Library 10 a.m. – Community Health Board Meeting, OPU Morehouse Meeting Room

Owatonna Foundation
awards more scholarships

Four people have been awarded non-traditional scholarships from the Owatonna Foundation. They include:

- Joseph Nelson, Alexandria Technical and Community College, PowerSports, \$1,875;
- Leah Rieck, Rochester Community and Technical College, Veterinary Technician, \$1,875, parents Amy and Curtis Rieck;
- Samantha Schwartz, Riverland Community College, Associate in Arts, \$1,875, parents Les and Bridget Schwartz;
- Michael Thom, Riverland Community College, Automotive Technicain, \$1,875, parents Shane and Shelly Thom.

Since 1995 the Foundation has awarded 420 scholarships totaling more than \$550,000 for individuals preparing for technical careers. Recipients attend programs at technical or community colleges. During spring semester, the four chosen by the Foundation will use the scholarships to assist with their education.

Two types of scholarships available from the Owatonna Foundation include Nontraditional and Traditional. Nontraditional scholarships are awarded to individuals who are returning to college or continuing their education and graduated prior to 2018. Traditional scholarships are awarded to 2018 high school graduates.

For the 2017–2018 school year, \$15,000 remains for traditional scholarships and \$7,500 remains available for nontraditional scholarships. Traditional scholarships are due April 10, and nontraditional scholarship applications are due June 25.

Applications are available at the Owatonna Foundation office, 108 West Park Square, Foundation’s web page (<http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/>) Grants/Scholarships, or Jill Holmes at 507-455-3059. If you have questions, contact the Foundation office or Jill Holmes.

Crops day coming
to area

University of Minnesota Extension, KDHL Radio, and KRFO Radio are hosting the annual Steele and Rice Crops Day on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Crop producers and Ag stakeholders in Steele and Rice counties are invited to attend the event in Faribault at the Rice County 4-H Building, 1900 Fairgrounds Drive.

The morning portion will start at 8:30 a.m. featuring a strategic farming workshop entitled Growing Soybeans That Out-Compete Weeds, presented by University of Minnesota Extension Crops Educators Lisa Behnken and Ryan Miller. The morning session will provide up-to-date strategies to address current challenges in soybean production. Topics include:

- Impacts of row spacing, plant population, early canopy closure, and pest pressure on soybean competitiveness
- Weed biology and how to use it to our advantage
- Strategies for getting off the resistance treadmill

In the afternoon, Dean Malvick, UMN Plant Pathology Extension Specialist, will discuss soybean diseases along with results from his 2017 fungicide trials. The event will wrap up with a commodity market outlook with Gordon Kralovetz of Chiodo Commodities, Inc.

There is no fee to attend this event thanks to sponsorship from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated for a meal count. Please contact Claire LaCanne, extension educator for Steele and Rice counties at 507-332-6165.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TRAINING ABOUT THE
CAUCUS COMING TO THE
AREA

Free trainings will take place across Minnesota during the month of January and February to provide information about the caucus on Tuesday, Feb. 6. One will be in the area in Rochester on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

For locations and to register for these important, informative trainings, visit www.american-majority.org/training.

LAST CHANCE FOR NORWEGIAN EXHIBIT

“New Land, New Life: Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota, 1825 – 1925” will close on Jan. 27. The Steele County Historical Society partnered with the Sons of Norway Nortonna Lodge No. 1-638 to present this unique project, which offers 20 exhibit panels on Norwegian immigrant life. The panels include information on everything from why Norwegians immigrated to Minnesota, to farming, education and folk art. The text was reviewed favorably by historian-authors Dr. Odd Lovoll of St. Olaf College and Dr. Betty Bergland of UW – River Falls.

again this winter, including one at Rice Lake State Park on Saturday, Jan. 27. Drop by any time between 5 and 8 p.m. for an unforgettable experience of skiing, snowshoeing or hiking with stars twinkling overhead and candles flickering in the snow.

“Candlelight brings out winter’s soft side,” said Erika Rivers, director of the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division. “The flickering light against snow creates an unforgettable experience. An evening walk becomes so much more on a candle-lit trail aided by light from the moon and stars.”

The ½ to 1-½ mile trails start at the boat trailer parking lot and are suitable for beginner-level skiers, snowshoers or hikers of all ages. A very limited number of snowshoes will be available for rent at the park office on a first come, first serve basis. For ski rental information, you may contact Owatonna Park & Rec / Morehouse Chalet at 507-444-4321.

Visitors can warm up around a crackling bonfire at the parking lot or in the warming shelter, and enjoy a hot beverage and treats in the office.

SHRINE CLUB HOSTING
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Owatonna Area Shrine Club is hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Owatonna Eagles’ Club.

Pancakes, eggs and sausage will be served. Tickets cost \$6.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets are available at Kottke Jewelers, Costas, the Eagles Club or from Shriner members. You can also call 507-213-0575.

Proceeds benefit the Shrine Club, which has been helping area children obtain expert orthopedic medical care at not cost to the family for over 50 years.

AUDITIONS SET AT LITTLE
THEATRE

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) is pleased to announce auditions for the comedy by Erik K. Hatach, ‘My Man Godfrey’ on Feb. 18-19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Owatonna, 560 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna.

In the depths of the Depression, Godfrey, a “forgotten man,” is rescued from his packing-crate home by ditzy socialite Irene Bullock during the course of a scavenger hunt. Irene offers Godfrey a job as butler to the banking family of Bullocks. Godfrey tolerates their eccentricities, alcoholism and general nuttiness.

He cures hangers, dodges missiles thrown by Irene’s jealous sister, Cornelia, and charms matronly Angelica Bullock, who sees pixies every morning. Irene and Molly, the

pert Irish maid, both fall in love with Godfrey, but for Irene, it’s serious-and she’s determined to get her man. Falsely accused by Cornelia of stealing the famous Bullock Pearls “de bullock boils” according to the detective on the case), Godfrey uses the opportunity to recover his personal finances and when the Bullocks end up going broke, he rescues them by getting them all (gaspl) jobs in The Dump, a new nightclub Godfrey has built to provide work for his friends and for the Bullocks, too. Finally, Irene weds her man Godfrey, and it all works out in the end.

Audition packets are available at the Owatonna Public Library or by contacting Mary Butler Fraser at 507-455- 0125. Callbacks, if necessary, will held from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

There are 16 roles for both men and women with ages ranging from the 20s on up. Between 5-6 roles need to be 20-30 years old. There are a number of walk-on parts that only require being in 1-2 scenes. This would also be a good production for those interested in non-speaking roles or only a few lines.

The artistic director is Jon Terill and the technical director is Mary Butler Fraser. Performances of ‘My Man Godfrey’ will be 7:30 p.m. on April 20-21, 27-28. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on April 22 and 29.

‘My Man Godfrey’ is presented in special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Recipe Corner

Makes 8 servings

2 pounds trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1-inch cubes and patted dry	12 teaspoon cracked black peppercorns
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided	1 cup beef stock
2 onions, chopped	12 cup dry red wine
4 cloves garlic, minced	1 14-ounce can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, including juice
2 tablespoons ground cumin (see note 2 below)	2 bay leaves
1 teaspoon dried thyme	2 roasted red bell peppers, thinly sliced, then cut into 1-inch pieces
1 teaspoon grated lemon zest (optional)	12 cup sliced pitted green olives
12 teaspoon salt	12 cup finely chopped parsley leaves

1. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add beef, in batches, and cook, stirring, adding more oil as necessary, until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware as completed.

2. Reduce heat to medium. Add onions and garlic to pan and cook, stirring, until onions are softened, about 3 minutes. Add cumin, thyme, lemon zest, if using, salt, and peppercorns and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add beef stock, wine, tomatoes with juice, and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Add to slow cooker and stir well.

3. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours, until mixture is bubbly and beef is tender. Stir in roasted peppers, olives and parsley. Cover and cook on high for 15 minutes, until peppers are heated through. Discard bay leaves.

Sponsored by: **Krejci Ford**
15th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046



J&H LIQUOR

● **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.
● **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Meets Tuesdays at J&H Liquor from 7 to 8:30 p.m. On these dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March. 20, April 17 and May 8th/Season Finalē. Benefits the BP Youth Club.

2018 EVENTS

- **APRIL 7:** Customer appreciation day “32” years of business
- **JUNE 23:** Cruise for Cancer ride
- **JULY 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
- **JULY 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
- **JULY 21:** B.O.B. ride: “Toys for Tots”

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR RETIREMENT PARTY.

340 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie • 583-7557

BUSINESS FOR SALE:
Need a career change?
Be your own boss!
Great opportunity to own this hometown bar/off-sale.
Contact Harvey for details.

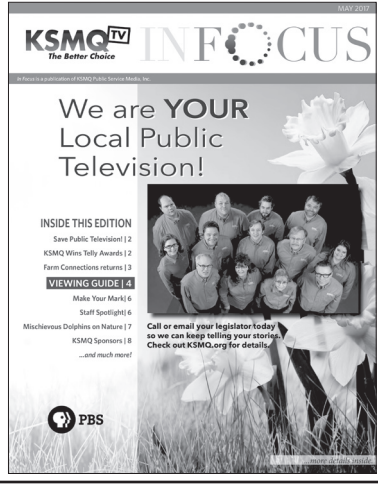
ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

Don't miss all the “Better Choices!”

Plan your viewing with the IN FOCUS Program Guide!
Delivered to you monthly • 1 Year Member Subscription \$35.
email: MBednar@KSMQ.Org or 507.481.2098

KSMQ TV

The Better Choice



INSIDE THIS EDITION
See Public Television 12
KSMQ Wins Telly Awards 12
Farm Connections returns 18
WINNING CHOICE
Make Your Mark! 6
Staff Spotlight 6
Misses/Doubles on Haves 17
KSMQ's Owners 18
...and much more!

We are YOUR Local Public Television!

Call or email your Region 10ary
We can help selling your region.
Check out KSMQ.org for details.

PBS





3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER



REACH OVER 17,000 IN
OVER 12 COMMUNITIES

To place an ad: Call: 507-583-4431, E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net, Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Paul & David Stanton Farms are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton 507-951-0915. 46tfc
Crop land to rent, sharecrop, or custom farm. Shamrock Farms: call Tim at 507-259-1169. 47tfc

FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc
GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for \$9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc

GARAGE SALES

Faith Lutheran Church. 308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center MN. Saturday, January 27, 8am-2pm. Faith Lutheran Youth Ultimate Indoor Garage Sale. All proceeds support ministries serving kids! 6c

Central Farm Service

is looking to hire
2 Fulltime Drivers
at our Blooming Prairie Location.

We have a Fulltime Fuel Driver and Propane Driver Position available.

Responsibilities include:
•Accurate and efficient delivery of Propane and Fuel.
•Minimum qualifications are a Class B CDL with Hazmat and current medical card.
•This position is fulltime with a full benefit package including health insurance, dental insurance, and retirement plan.

Please apply online
www.cfscoop.com
or contact Darin at
507-848-4331.
CFS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted: FT feeding, milking and other chores. Please call 634-4308.
Carr's Tree Service is seeking qualified individuals to help us grow our team in the Owatonna, South Metro, and Rochester areas. Competitive wages based on licensing and experience, four-day work weeks, full-benefit package, 401k, and paid vacation. Apply online at carrstreeservice.com, call 1.888.470.3355 or stop in at 605 Barbaree Lane, Byron, MN 55920. 4-7c
Earn \$44K+ and travel the county with 12 weeks of training and a paid, four-week internship with Riverland Community College's Truck Driving CDL program. Benefits include direct job pathways with industry partners and training in five specialty areas: flatbed, tanker, van/refrigeration, doubles/triples, and motor coach. Financial Aid and Workforce Development funding is available to

those who qualify. To learn more, call Jonathan at 507-433-0608. 5-10c
Do you like taking care of dogs and cats? Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Time frame is between 6am-7:30am and 3:30pm-5pm. Stop in and fill out an application at Carriage House Animal Hospital or call 634-6781. 6,7,8nc

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc
Hayfield, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc
KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc
For Rent Hayfield. 3 bedroom apartment includes;

all utilities, laundry on site, available immediately. Call Great Western Apartments (507)796-0152 or (701)330-9788. 2tfc
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!
bd apts in Kasson & Mantorville. Family & senior rentals. Rent from \$475 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. Minutes from Dodge Center & Byron! 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 4,5c; 6nc
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!
1 bd smoke fee apt in Blooming Prairie for 62+ or disabled persons. 2nd floor unit. Rent based on income. ALL utilities included! 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704. Equal housing opportunity. 4,5c; 6nc

MISCELLANEOUS

The Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) has amended its Five-Year Action Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at SEMMCHRA's Office located at 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981. SEMMCHRA's hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In addition, a public hearing will be held on February 21, 2018 at 10:05 a.m. at SEMMCHRA's office. Everyone is invited to attend. All interested parties will have the opportunity to comment on the Plan. 6c

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc
Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfrp
Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

NRHEG Public Schools

Special Education Paraprofessional
7hr/day Position for the remainder of the 2018 school year. The position will focus on providing students with reading, math and like skills interventions, as well as support in and outside the life skills classroom.

Online application can be found at (<http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG>).

Please send application and letter of interest to: Doug Anderson/Elementary Principal 600 School St. Ellendale, MN 56026 (507)684-3181/Fax (507)684-2108

Secondary 7 hr/Week Health Office Assistant Position
assists with duties assigned by the School Nurse and/or Building Principal to provide routine health services as directed by each school. Per hour: \$12.00-\$13.00.

Online application can be found at (<http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG>).

Please send application and letter of interest to: Dave Bunn/Secondary Principal 306 Ash Ave South New Richland, MN 56072 (507)465-3205/Fax (507)465-8633

COOK (PM SHIFT) 72 HOURS A PAY PERIOD. DIETARY AIDE (AM SHIFT)

We have current openings for an AM Dietary Aide and a PM Cook.

Please come in to apply or go to our website at: stewartvillecarecenter.com or email a resume to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com



Affirmative Action Employer
120 Fourth St. NE
Stewartville, MN 55976

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Fast growing local construction company has opening for A/R - A/P and Payroll positions.

- ◆Applicant should have accounting degree and/or 3-5 years of accounting work experience.
- ◆Must be proficient in Excel, Word and Outlook.
- ◆Previous construction accounting experience is a plus.
- ◆Paid vacation and profit sharing.
- ◆Salary is commensurate to education and experience.



Email resume and references to:
DIMS@KMTel.COM

ACTIVITY AIDE

Stewartville Care Center is seeking a full-time Activity Aide. Overall expectation is to work toward meeting our residents' emotional, spiritual, and social needs by leading and assisting with our activity program. Candidate will also conduct 1-1 visits with the residents of Stewartville Care Center.

Stop by the facility to complete an application, apply online at: stewartvillecarecenter.com or send an email of interest to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com



Affirmative Action Employer
120 Fourth St. NE
Stewartville, MN 55976

HOME HEALTH AIDES

Now Hiring: Home Health Aides
Part-Time (Day, Evenings & Nights)
Work Every Other Weekend and Holiday; Flexible Schedules

If you're interested, you can apply online at: stewartvillecarecenter.com or email a resume to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com



Affirmative Action Employer
120 Fourth St. NE
Stewartville, MN 55976

Full-Time Housekeeper

Stewartville Care Center has an opening for a Full-Time Housekeeper. Day shift hours.

Please stop in for an application, apply online at: stewartvillecarecenter.com or send an email to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com



Affirmative Action Employer
120 Fourth St. NE
Stewartville, MN 55976

KRUEGER TRUCKING

CDL driver over the road dryer van. Driver benefits included. Paid holidays, vacation pay, and 401K health plan.

Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
1-800-634-3317

Prairie Manor Care Center

Quality Care with Small Town Touch

Prairie Manor Care Center position available for
HOUSEKEEPING

- Part-time
- 2-3 days a week, 6 hours a day

Contact Ken Wilson at 507-583-3015, email: kwilson@prairiemanorinc.com or apply in person at Prairie Manor, 220 3rd St NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

Prairie Manor Care Center

Quality Care with Small Town Touch

Prairie Manor Care Center position available for CNA

- PT or FT Evenings & PT Nights
- New Competitive Wages, Excellent Health Benefits.
- Single Person Coverage for Health is \$84.76/month
- Sign On Bonus \$1,000

To apply, contact Allison Hensrud, DON at 507-572-6188, email ahensrud@prairiemanorinc.com, fax 507-583-2401 or in person at 220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)

Mantorville Location

We are dedicated to delivering quality care and services within our homes. This is where you can come in to help make a difference in someone's life while enjoying the work you do.

FAHI is seeking applicants for Program Coordinator - Full-Time Days, every other weekend



Please apply online at www.divinehouse.org/fourth-ave/ then click on the orange "Employment" box

For additional information call Mindy (507)429-8962

CASHIER/PREP/SERVING POSITIONS
BYRON SCHOOL DISTRICT



Resident Assistants Wanted
•PT 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. •PT 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
•PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. •PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

Dining Attendant Wanted
•FT position 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Apply at: www.oxfordmgmt.com/careers • EOE

Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)

Mantorville Location

We are dedicated to delivering quality care and services within our homes. This is where you can come in to help make a difference in someone's life while enjoying the work you do.

FAHI is seeking applicants for Human Service Technician - Part-time Various, every other weekend



Please apply online at www.divinehouse.org/fourth-ave/ then click on the orange "Employment" box

For additional information call Mindy (507)429-8962



PHOTO SUBMITTED

These two Blooming Prom goers from years past enjoy after prom activities. This year's BP prom is on Saturday, May 5.

Italian Night coming to BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Get your appetite ready for some delicious Italian food to be served by the Blooming Prairie After Prom Committee from 5-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie.

The menu includes: spaghetti, alfredo, salad, garlic bread and a tasty dessert.

This fundraiser supports the Blooming Prairie After-Prom activities.

A free-will donation is asked, suggested price of \$10 a plate.

Planning continues for the after-prom activities, report committee members Julie Noble and Jessie Christianson.

Blooming's high school prom is scheduled

for Saturday, May 5 at Blooming Prairie High School. The dance is planned for the Ressler barn and the after prom is planned for the school.

The mission of the After Prom Committee is to provide a safe, fun Prom experience for all BP students.

The after prom committee consists of Jessie Christianson, president; Calista Lembke, secretary; Sandra Basness, treasurer. Volunteers are Julie Noble, Ellen Sunde, Amy and Jeremy Simon, Jen Wayne Michelle Millam.

"We also accept any and all donations from individuals or businesses," Christianson said. Many local businesses have already helped "and we are thankful for that," Christianson added.

If anyone has a donation for After Prom (i.e. money, prizes, food or other), they may contact Christianson or Noble.

"We really believe it is important to keep our students safe on this very special event," Noble said. "We are very fortunate in Blooming Prairie to have adults who really care about the safety of our students and have worked hard to make After Prom a very successful event," added Christianson.

Other fundraisers planned include half court shots at boys and girls basketball games, bowling tournament, Tale of healing tickets and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Activities planned by the After Prom Committee include funding a band for the prom dance; have a hypnotist for after prom; inflatables; carnival games and food and prizes.

If anyone has questions, or wishes more information, please contact any board member or Jessie Christianson at 507-438-9706.

STEELE: Employee Assistance Program

FROM PAGE C1

outside of work. The employer expects the very best job performance from each employee. Their role is to ensure that employees are doing the best job possible at the work site. They are watching productivity and guiding the work flow. Their role is not to monitor behavioral or chemical health, legal issues, marital problems, gambling issues, or financial problems, etc. It is not to say that they aren't concerned about these issues, but their role is to monitor job performance. If an employee's job performance is down, they may suggest a referral to an EAP professional. The referral could come from the supervisor or human resources department, or simply be a self-referral.

An appointment with an EAP Provider can be made simply by calling the telephone number made available to them. The appointment will be scheduled usually within three

working days or the same day if it is an emergency. Once at the appointment the EAP Provider will listen, assess the issues presented, help create a plan of action, and make a referral if necessary. The EAP Provider may meet with the employee between one and three times for assessment and short term assistance. If further assistance is needed, a referral for more services or other resources may be made. The EAP Provider may give up to three options for other resources from which to choose.

Some of the types of problems that an EAP Provider can help with or refer include marital/relationship, family/parenting, depression, grief and loss, anxiety and stress, alcohol or other substance abuse, gambling problems, self-esteem, financial stress, legal problems, job stress, career concerns, and others.

Employee Assistance Programs present as Win-Win-Win for all involved. The employee gets assistance with personal issues

in their life, the employer gets an employee who is more productive without having to be intrusive, and the EAP Provider is able to assess problems and provide care in their area of specialty.

The South Central Human Relations Center provides several EAPs for businesses and industries in the surrounding area of southern Minnesota either directly or subcontracting with larger EAP Providers. All of the EAP Providers at SCHRC are experienced and licensed mental health professionals with licenses either in Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, or a related field.

Mark Skrien is a licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and clinical director at the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various authors representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

Owatonna Foundation awards scholarship

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to announce Valeria Olenka Garcia Tiza as a recipient of the June A Nelson Scholarship.

This scholarship is funded by a gift from Melanie Nelson and her late mother, June. A strong supporter of Owatonna and with a passion for women's education, Nelson stated, "My mother, June, and I were thrilled to be able to fund this scholarship. The money will be used to fund two annual non-traditional \$1,500 scholarships for women in either a two or four year technical or college program. It is so important to be an advocate for women's education; supporting them in any way possible to ensure their future success, whether financially, by mentoring, or other support. We know that thru the Foundation's well established scholarship program we will be able to help empower women with a better education."

Garcia-Tiza is enrolled at Mankato State University majoring in computer engineering with the goal of becoming a software designer.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 60th year of serving the Owatonna community, provides grants in Owatonna and its environs in four areas: Community, Arts, Recreation, and Education. The Foundation also provides both traditional and non-traditional scholarships for 2-year colleges and technical schools.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$11.8 million dollars in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students.

For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, or for an application, please contact us at the Owatonna Foundation office at 507-455-2995, the Foundation's web page (<http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/>) Grants/Scholarships, or Jill Holmes, Scholarship Coordinator, at 507-455-3059.

Senior Focus

RETIREMENT SAVING TIPS FOR LATE STARTERS

Despite countless television ads touting the virtues of retirement planning, it seems many people are not getting the message. According to a survey from GOBBankingRates.com, one-third of Americans have nothing saved for retirement. The picture is not any rosier in Canada, where Statistics Canada reports that just 65.2 percent of the country's 14 million households contributed to a retirement plan in 2015.

While it pays to start saving for retirement early, late bloomers who need to catch up should know that it's never too late to start.

- Sign up for an employer-sponsored retirement account. Many employers arrange for retirement savings accounts like a 401(k) for

their employees. Such accounts are typically tax-deferred. As a result, men and women likely won't even notice the money missing from their paychecks each month. Take advantage of such offerings if they exist. Such opportunities can be even more beneficial to late bloomers whose employers match contributions up to a predetermined percentage.

- Start saving as much as possible. Many people contribute 6 percent of their pay to a retirement savings account such as a 401(k). That rule of thumb may be enough for young workers, but late bloomers may need to contribute a higher percentage of their incomes if they hope to catch up. If 10 percent is

doable, then contribute 10 percent, being sure to diversify how that 10 percent is invested. Workers who can afford to contribute more might want to explore other retirement account options so they avoid putting all of their eggs into one basket.

- Avoid high-risk investments. Investors trying to catch up on retirement savings may be tempted to invest their money in high-risk funds with the hope of making up ground quickly. But investors typically want to reduce risk as they get older. That approach should still govern late bloomers' investing decisions, as high-risk funds that don't perform well could leave aging investors with little to nothing come

retirement. Prospective investors who need help choosing the right funds for themselves should contact a financial advisor.

- Cut spending. Men and women getting a late start on retirement saving should examine their monthly expenses, looking for places to cut costs so they can reallocate those funds for retirement savings. Some ways to considerably reduce monthly expenses include cutting the cord with a cable provider, driving a preowned vehicle instead of a new model and downsizing to a smaller home.

Men and women who have delayed saving for retirement should not panic. While it's always best to begin saving for retirement as

early as possible, there are ways for late bloomers to catch up and/or create a decent-sized nest egg for their golden years. on retirement savings may be tempted to invest their money in high-risk funds with the hope of making up ground quickly. But investors typically want to reduce risk as they get older. That approach should still govern late bloomers' investing decisions, as high-risk funds that don't perform well could leave aging investors with little to nothing come retirement. Prospective investors who need help choosing the right funds for themselves should contact a financial advisor.



Every life's story deserves to be told!

1180 Frontage Rd. E,
Owatonna, MN

507-455-9551
OwatonnaGranite.com





BONNERUP
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Albert Lea • New Richland • Ellendale

Proudly serving

*Albert Lea,
New Richland,
Ellendale &
surrounding areas*

Albert Lea, MN 56007 2210 East Main Street Phone: (507) 373-2461	New Richland, MN 56072 217 West Division Street Phone: (507) 465-8015	Ellendale, MN 56026 308 7th Avenue Phone: (507) 684-2881
--	---	--



THE BEACON

At Mapleton
206 3rd Ave NE, PO Box 365
Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-4990

At New Richland
113 SW 1st Street
New Richland, MN 56072
(507) 463-3565



Birchwood Cottages

At Birchwood Cottages Assisted Living in Owatonna, we offer memory support/care and also provide enhanced care. This provides peace of mind when moving in your loved one with goal being that this is their last move. We offer a smaller cottage setting specializing in care for seniors with either those in need of memory care or enhanced care. We provide a full array of personal care services, industry leading staff ratios as well as comprehensive social and recreational programs.

Call Natalie at 507-413-6783 or email natalieb@birchwoodcottagesmn.com; to check availability and set up a tour.

Visit our website for more information about Birchwood Cottages Assisted Living in Owatonna
www.birchwoodcottagesmn.com

Feel free to contact Birchwood Cottages with any questions

1845 and 1905 Austin Road, Owatonna • 507-413-6783

NEW RICHLAND
CARE CENTER



507 - 465 - 3292
312 1st St NE • PO Box 477
New Richland

President hopes to get younger people involved in chamber

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As Greg Johnson heads into his second year as president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, he has a dilemma on his hands that he would like to crack.

The dilemma is how to increase the number of younger people involved in the organization. “It’s the \$1 million question,” said Johnson, who owns B to Z Hardware on Blooming Prairie’s Main Street.

Part of the problem as Johnson sees it is the shift in working households. He noted it’s not like the 1960s or 70s where dad was the only one who worked outside the house. “Times have changed where both the husband and wife are working,” he said, adding it seems many people just stay put in their homes and don’t become involved.

“We’re trying to figure out how to get people to come out of their homes and get involved with their community,” Johnson said. “It helps us all out.”

There are currently 119 members in the local chamber. However, only about 15 members show up regularly to chamber meetings, according to Johnson. He pointed out years ago the chamber would typically have as many as 50 people at meetings.

This year, Johnson said, will be a time of “rebranding” for the chamber.

“We have to try to rebrand ourselves to get the younger ones involved in the chamber,” he said. “We have to find a different way to get people excited about the chamber.”

Blooming Prairie is blessed with a great school district and great industry, Johnson says. “It is a proud and strong

community that sticks together. What they do for each other is unbelievable,” he said. “I need younger people to come out and realize that,” he added.

In Johnson’s case, he moved to Blooming Prairie from Owatonna in 2007 after taking over the hardware store the year before. “I found Blooming Prairie people to be the greatest people around,” he said. “Moving here is one of the greatest things I’ve done. It’s one of the most blessed places to be.”

Johnson said it’s important to be a part of the community so that “we can all grow together.” He added the chamber promotes businesses and ideas.

The president said it’s vital for everybody to listen to each other so that “we know how to make things better.” Specifically, he hopes to find better ways to promote the chamber within the community.

He admits being the president of the chamber is outside of his comfort zone. “I’m built to be a hardware guy, not the president of the chamber,” Johnson said. “But we all need to do our part.”

“We have to try to rebrand ourselves to get the younger ones involved in the chamber.”

Greg Johnson
BP Chamber President

Thumbs Up for Blooming Prairie



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Little Maverick Miner of Blooming Prairie gives a thumbs up for Blooming Prairie during last summer’s 150th celebration in Central Park. Maverick, 2, is the son of Doug and Kristi Miner, who own and operate Miner’s Outdoor & Rec in Blooming Prairie. Chamber president Greg Johnson is launching an effort in 2018 to find ways to make the organization more appealing to younger people in the community.

Be a cheerleader for the Chamber



BECKY NOBLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

I missed the excitement of watching the Vikings game (on Jan. 14) as I was in my training session for Crew 52 (volunteer organization for the Super Bowl.) This was our second session together and both times have been upbeat and all about how we are going to welcome everyone to Minnesota before, during and after Super Bowl!

There is a lot going on in the Twin Cities in the upcoming weeks. There are concerts, ice castles, snowmobile jumping, cross-country skiing, skijoring, tubing and zip-lining across the Mississippi. These are just a few of the things taking place many in

downtown Minneapolis.

As part of the Crew 52, we are going to be there making sure people have a wonderful experience in Minnesota and go home telling their friends and relatives that winter in Minnesota doesn’t keep people inside. Although, it could be a very cold and not fun outside, we will make the best of it like we do with everything winter!

It has been a fun experience being a part of the Crew 52 because I as most people in this group, love Minnesota. We love living here, raising our families here, and showing off to strangers what we have here! We have spent our time together being positive not negative! Being cheerleaders for Minnesota and all it has to offer.

And as I drove home in the terrible weather, I was thinking, how can the Chamber members become better cheerleaders for Blooming Prairie businesses and all they have to offer? Why are we not tooting our horns more? Why do we not support each other by attending Chamber activities and meetings?

Our attendance has been going down and we need to bring that number up! We need to spread the positives, all the good things our Chamber members offer. Blooming Prairie is a great community to live in because of its businesses! Should our businesses start to fold or move out of town, we will not have the wonderful lifestyle as we do now.

So I am asking you to start this year 2018 by being a cheerleader for the Chamber! Come to our Chamber meetings, you need to eat lunch right? Or supper? Don’t miss the opportunity to tell other Chamber members what is going on in your business or family.

We care about your family, your business, because your happiness and success is reflected in all parts of Blooming Prairie. So let’s stick together, show we care and start tooting our horns for the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce! Be proud of where you live and what you do! This is who we are, a community full of great caring people!

GO Vikings! Go Minnesota!

And GO Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce!

Becky Noble is the executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

BP Chamber Schedule 2018

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Feb. 21 | Chamber Meeting at Dairy Queen (night) |
| March 21 | Chamber Meeting at Subway or City Center (noon) |
| April 18 | Chamber Meeting at George’s of Geneva (night) |
| May 12 | Citywide Garage Sales |
| May 16 | Chamber Meeting at Bunkie’s (noon) |
| June 20 | Chamber Picnic at Brookside Campground |
| July 3-4 | Fourth of July Celebration |
| July 18 | Chamber Golf Fun Day |
| Sept. 19 | Chamber Meeting at City Center (noon, catered by Casey’s) |
| Oct. 17 | Chamber Meeting at The Bakery (noon) |
| Nov. 1 | Wine Tasting at the BP Servicemen’s Club |
| Nov. 14 | Chamber Annual Meeting at Pizza Cellar |
| Dec. 7 | Holiday Dazzle |
| Dec. 12 | Business After Hours at F&M Bank |



DARRICK'S PREFERRED AUTO

FREE SERVICES

With service work

- Loaner Cars
- Nitrogen with Tires
- Alignment Checks
- Tire Rotation
- Battery Charging & Checks
- Pickup & Delivery within 15 miles
- Service Light Code Checks
- Towing Assistance Program (Call for details)

507-583-9994

24/7 Towing 507-440-0093

536 Highway 218 S.

Blooming Prairie

www.darrickspreferredauto.com

Express Pressure Washers, Inc.

15880 SE 74th Avenue
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
507-583-2703



**New & Used Pressure Washers,
Parts Washers, Heaters,
Sweepers and Scrubbers**



**Parts * Accessories * Soap
Repair * On-site Service**

Open Monday to Friday 8:00 to 5:00
Saturday 8:30 to 12:00 noon

www.expresspressurewashers.com
Join us on Facebook!

Chamber Members 2017

218 Liquor
A Touch of Charm
AgPower
AgStar
AJ Lynse Contracting Corp.
Arkema
Austra & Dale Hanson
Ayren Ingvalson
Becky & Mark Noble
Beede Apartments
Betty & Ken Behnken
Bio-Plastic Solutions, LLC
Bishop Excavating
Blooming Prairie Ambulance
Blooming Prairie Bus Co.
Blooming Prairie Country Club
Blooming Prairie Dental Center, PA
Blooming Prairie Veterinary Clinic
Boys & Girls Club
BP Cue Co.
BP Fire Department
BP Napa Auto Parts
BP Public Utilities
BP Servicemen's Club
Brookside Campground
Budach Implement, Inc.
Bunkie's
Bussler Publishing
B-Z Hardware
Carol & Keith Holman
Casey's General Stores
Cedar Travel
Central Farm Services
Cindi & Darrell Hansen
Connie & Paul Haberman
Darrick's Preferred Auto
Diane & Barry Olson
digiGLOW Marketing
Doerhoefer Printing
Doreen & Tom Blome
Easton Products
Express Pressure Washers
Extreme Powder Coating
Farmers & Merchants State Bank
First Lutheran Church
Floor Tech
Floyd Total Security
Friends of the Library
Geneva Lumber Co.
George's of Geneva
Gloria & Ken Trom
Heavy Metal
Henefield Law Office LLC
Home Sellers
Hometown Insurance
Ingvalson Farms
J & H Liquor's
Jackie & John Flor
Jean & H. Peterson
Jennifer & Bill Walsh
Jennifer & Philip Milton
Jensen Htg. & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Jo & Bruce Doerhoefer

Joanne & Bob Nahlovsky
Joanne & Roger Sorenson
Joe's Repair
Joe's Repair
Johnson Const. & Tree Service
Johnson/Doerhoefer/Miner PA
Judy & Howard Lestrud
Judy & Ken Esplan
Karen & John Fourage
Kay Noble
KDC, Inc.
Keith Johnson Const. Inc.
Kevin Mans-Cash
KIK Graphics
Koster's Car Korner
Krejci Ford, Inc.
KRFO
Lansing Corners Supper Club
LeMar Nelson
Limberg Productions
Main Street Dental Clinics
Margaret & Bill Noble
Martha & Tom Walters
Max Romeo
Metal Services
Mike's Repair
Miner's Outdoor & Rec.
Morsen Services, Inc.
National Coatings Restoration, inc.
New Geneva Meats
New York Life
Norma & Dick Hegal
Oak Glen Seed-Lois & Brian Nelson
Owatonna Groundsmasters Inc.
Owatonna Peoples Press/The BP Leader
Prairie Family Spts. & Chiropractic
Prairie Manor, Inc.
Prairie Plumbing & Heating
R & R Insurance
Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church
Ruby Miller
S&S Classic Motor Sports, Inc.
Salinas Auto Sales of BP
Samantha Wurst
Sandy & Mike Jones
Simplified Technology Solutions, LLC
Skjeveland Ent.
SMMPA
Southern Minnesota Electric
Sportstitch, Inc.
Spray Control Systems, Inc.
St. Columbanus Catholic Church
Steele Co. Historical Society
Subway
Superior Financial, LLC/Eaton Miller
Syngenta Seeds-Randy Klemmensen
The Bakery
TNT Body Shop
TT Motorcycles
US Bank
Vandal's Family Market
Worlein Funeral Home

Visit your hometown Bakery for all your baking needs!

Proud Chamber Member

The Bakery

507-583-4433

345 E. Main Street • Blooming Prairie

Tues - Fri 6am - 5pm | Sat. 6am - 2pm

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections

State License # 1844

• EXCAVATION
• DEMOLITION
• BASEMENTS
• DOZER WORK

Commercial & Residential Sitework Serving the Area Over 12 Years

BISHOP BE

EXCAVATING, INC.

507 583-2999

Aggregates • Hauling • Washed Sand • Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

We are proud Members of the
Blooming Prairie Chamber

Hwy 218 South - Box 878
Blooming Prairie

507-583-2712

www.minersoutdoor.com

STEELE
COUNTY**Times**

BLOOMING PRAIRIE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Executive Director: Becky Noble
 - 138 U.S. Hwy. 218 S.
(Located in the City Center)
- P.O. Box 805, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
 - 507-583-4472 Fax: 507-583-4520
 - bpcofc@gmail.com

Now Offering:
tuning technologies
STEINBAUER
PERFORMANCE

• Aluminum
Wheel Polishing
• Tracks

Ag & Truck Tire Sales & Repair

Heavy Duty Truck • Ag & Implement Tire Repair & Sales
Wheel Alignment • Tire Balancing

Mike's **REPAIR**

507-455-0388

870 32nd Ave NW, Owatonna, MN

Emergency **OR** On-The-Farm Repair

Featuring:

After hours
507-455-0483

NEED HELP GETTING
STARTED ON YOUR TAXES?

CALL US TODAY
FOR ALL YOUR TAX NEEDS!

*"Committed to our clients,
providing consistent, efficient and prompt service."*

Certified Public Accountants

507-583-7528

314 East Main St., Blooming Prairie

Bloomington Prairie Chamber Benefits:

- Information about businesses in response to requests
 - Information about the community in response to requests
 - New residential packets
 - Contacts with local businesses
 - Opportunities to serve the community
 - A voice with influence
 - Encouragement for local spending through promotions and BP Bucks
 - Fourth of July Celebration
 - Golf Fun Day
 - Citywide garage sales
 - Community social events
 - Organization and distribution of Christmas gifts for needy
- City Christmas decorations
 - Local beautification projects
 - A member of GROW MINNESOTA providing visits
 - A base for networking through meetings and social events
 - Coordination of efforts for networking for non-profits
 - Community calendar in City Center
 - Representation at state chamber meetings
 - Representation at Southeast Minnesota meetings
 - A resource center business information, customer inquiries, tourism, state government and agencies
- Programs with noteworthy and entertaining guests and valuable information
 - Featured businesses inform of local business activity
 - Business After Hours for members only
 - A link to the Economic Development Authority
 - Weekly emails with information of the events in the community
 - State Chamber opportunities such as Chamber Day at the State Capitol
 - Fun and fellowship with friends and neighbors



Bloomington Prairie Branch
236 East Main Street
507-583-6627
usbank.com
Member FDIC

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING



We proudly support the Bloomington Prairie Chamber

Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified
Preplanning Consultant
Licensed Agent -
Purple Cross Plans

www.worlein.com • 507-583-7561

Worlein Bloomington Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S. • Bloomington Prairie

Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

Locally owned and proud members of the Bloomington Prairie Chamber

Bloomington Prairie 405 E. Main St. 507-583-2141	Owatonna 1170 East Frontage Rd. 507-455-1000	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave. N. 507-463-0502
Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr. NE. 507-536-7700	Mankato 287 St. Andrews Drive, Suite 100 507-720-0250	

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

Proud to be a Chamber Member

We get to the bottom of plumbing problems

Locally Owned & Operated since 1978

Jensen Heating & Plumbing
507-256-4712 • 104 Central Ave. N Geneva, MN

BUDACH IMPLEMENT

Ag Parts & Service
(507)465-3237

219 3rd St. NE New Richland, MN

Proud supporters of the Bloomington Prairie Chamber

Prairie Plumbing and Heating
Serving Southern Minnesota for more than 30 years

507-583-7266

FLOOR TECH

Floor Tech in Bloomington Prairie, MN provides flooring products and services. We have built a reputation for great workmanship, quality, reliable, and affordable service. We have a wide assortment of samples available to choose from, so stop by our showroom and see what we have to offer.

Floor Tech Products and Services Include:

- Laminate and hardwood flooring
- Oak wood flooring
- Maple wood flooring
- Cork flooring
- Flooring installation
- Carpet and tile flooring
- Stain resistant carpet
- Commercial carpet
- Granite tiling
- Porcelain
- Vinyl
- Ceramic
- Environmentally responsible floorings
- Window treatments

Floor Tech Offer Brands Such As:

- Mohawk
- Stainmaster
- Fausfloor
- Congolium
- Shaw
- Hunter Douglas
- Kraus
- Cork Comfort
- Marazzi
- Greenworks
- Quickstep
- Ceramic Tile Works

Your source for all your flooring needs

Call Us Now for a Consultation!
Tim Wacek • 507-583-2276 • 322 E. Main, Bloomington Prairie
Derek Reichl • 507-552-1637 • 2201 E. Main St., Albert Lea

Proud supporters of our area Chamber

317 Hwy 218 S. Bloomington Prairie

507-583-2296

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times
507-583-4431

PROUD sponsors of the
BLOOMING PRAIRIE CHAMBER

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK
507.583.6688
245 East Main Street
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Make reservations for your...

**Wedding Reception - Bridal Shower
Bachelor Party - Rehearsal Dinner**

Seating up to 350 people - Ample parking
Stage with wing entrance doors - Dance floor
Great lighting & accoustics - Excellent food service
Alcohol and non-alcohol beverage service

Servicemen's Club
Bloomington Prairie • 507-583-7884

INNOVATIVE CHEMISTRY

We support local growers

by converting soybean oil into products used in lubricating oil formulations, plastics, and the cosmetic industry since 1969.

157 Hwy. Ave N • Bloomington Prairie MN

What's the big idea?

BP Education Foundation funds major projects

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What's the big idea?
It's actually called an investment in education, and it is continually made unselfishly by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. The investment in kids comes in the form of grants that the BP Education Foundation funds from monies raised by community fundraising activities.

Julie Noble, president of the Ed Foundation, said excess monies totaling \$40,000 were available left over from previous general allocations the past several years. The idea then, Noble says, was to create an effort called the Big Ideas Challenge.

Teachers were asked to submit major projects that will help them create better learning paths for their classroom students. These projects are over and above the normal allocation requests sent to the Education Foundation Board of Directors.

A March auction provides most of the funding for education grants given to both the elementary school and high school. Last year, \$70,000 was raised in the auction. That money was made available for the 2017-18 school year.

A record \$83,000 was raised in 2014. The 2018 auction is set for Saturday, March 24, and these monies will be dedicated to the 2018-19 school year.

Other monies are raised by the Ed Foundation from legacies and bequests.

The challenge to teachers was to come up with a Big Idea for the classroom and for schools in general. Noble, treasurer Lori Arndt and

secretary Karen Fourage made a formal presentation to teachers in August.

Nine Big Ideas were submitted by the end of October. The list was then narrowed to three challenges by the Ed Foundation Board. The remaining six ideas will be re-submitted into the normal allocation channels.

"We're just excited we can give extra funds over and above our normal benevolence," said Noble. "The schools need our support more than ever and these funds go directly back to our schools in special projects," Noble further explained.

General allocations in the past by the Ed Foundation have gone

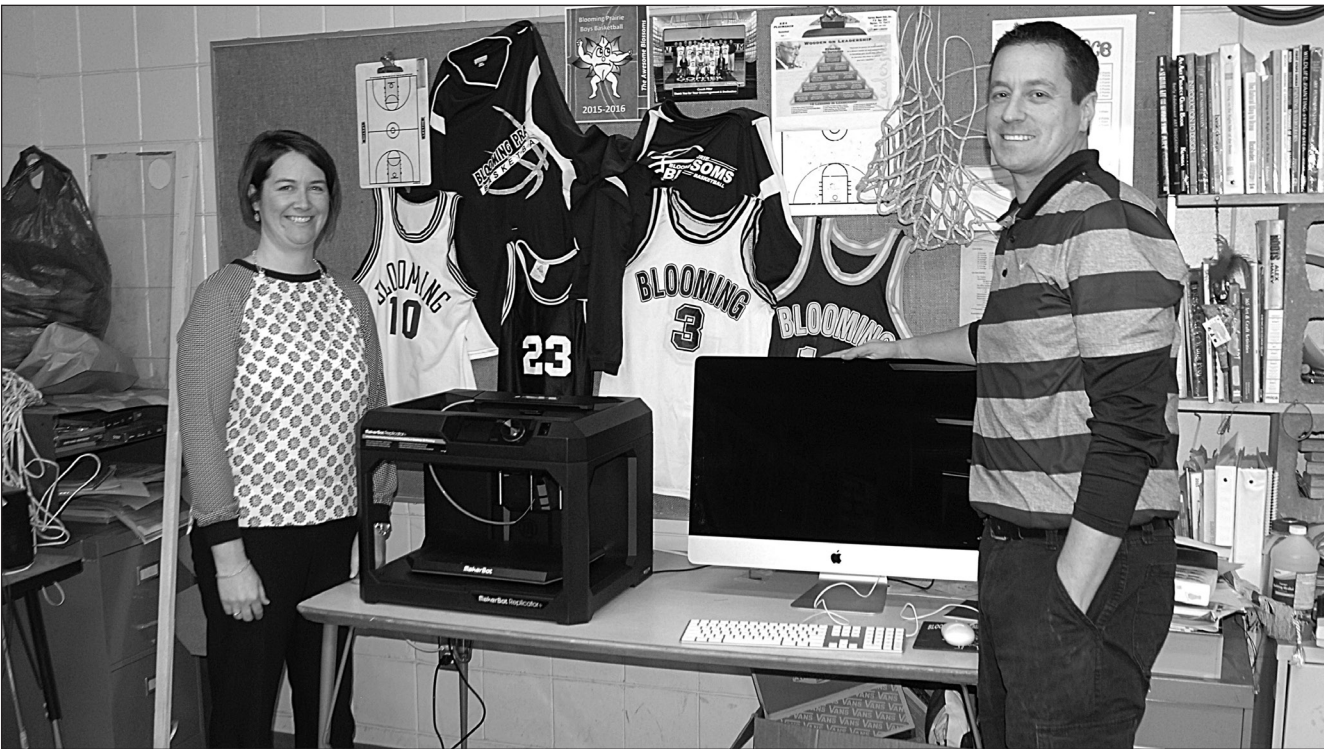
“We’re just excited we can give extra funds over and above our normal benevolence.”

Julie Noble
BP Ed Foundation

to robotics, field trips, physics lab equipment, flexible seating, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) and technology.

The three projects approved by the board are:

- 1) Purchase of two 3-D printers, one for the high school and one for the elementary school with the impetus being science. Cost is around \$12,000.
- 2) Designate \$25,000 to update the Blooming Prairie Elementary School's Media Center non-fiction area.
- 3) Implement an online book access program utilizing Stora E-Books. It is a 2 1/2-year project where 400 subscriptions



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A new 3-D printer has arrived and will soon be operational at the Blooming Prairie High School. Here, Ali Mach, associate principal, and Nate Piller, art instructor, study their newest technology acquisition.

are available. Users submit their password and login to access books from their iPads or computers.

Commenting on the purchase of 3-D printers, Blooming Prairie Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch believes this advance in technology will help students prepare for the work force.

"Incorporating the printers with science will prove to be fun and educational for our students," Staloch added. The use of the printer at the elementary school will be used in grades 4-6.

Ali Mach, associate principal and activities director at Blooming Prairie High School, after extensive research wrote the proposal requesting grant money for two printers and two computers. "We thought big and went for two," Mach said.

Mach says the 3-D printer is in the school and ready to be operational, first with the art department. "We will start small and do some basic designs," said art instructor Nate Piller.

Science teachers Sarah Oelkers and Jenda Cook were also involved in the vetting for a 3-D printer. The robotics kids at the high school have already done some work with a 3-D printer at Minimizer.

Many components of science could utilize the 3-D printer, Mach says. "It's limitless and kids find it easier to

understand than others," she said.

"It's really exciting on the elementary level seeing young minds creating something and seeing it come to life. This printer will challenge kids to be creative and think outside of the box."

Mach also expressed appreciation to the Ed Foundation for being willing to invest deeper into its kids and curriculum by trying new things.

Money is a big factor when it comes to improving curriculum and that's where the Education Foundation has played a key role.

The large grant of \$25,000 designed to update the elementary school's media center's collection of non-fiction books is welcomed by not only Staloch but also by media specialist Brenda Berg.

"This project will benefit our kids right away by giving them information that is relevant to where they live today," Staloch reasoned.

"We are proud of what our students learn and accomplish," Staloch continued. "I tell my kids that every day and tell them they are fortunate to be Blossoms."

Berg said she consulted with media specialists from other districts when writing the grant proposal. "We did a book analysis with a book company and also did an inventory," she explained.

The ordering process has already

begun and over 1,000 books will be updated. "Information changes so fast these days that we have to change with it to keep up," Berg commented. She is being assisted on the project by Kasee Schewe.

Non-fiction books, all hard cover, include technology, communication, sports, government and biographies. "Kids love non-fiction and are always looking for new information," Berg said.

This non-fiction update is a big project and one that will take about a year to complete. Part of the organizing process involves putting the books into groups and categories.

"The Ed Foundation is doing an outstanding job providing these funds and it will touch every student in the building now and in the coming years," Berg stated.

Teacher Natalie Sorenson is working on the Stora E-Books project. Students will be able to access books at school and at home on many different devices. This access will be given mainly to those in grades 1-6.

Information about the reading access program will soon be sent to parents. It will explain how books are accessed by reading ability and age.

"Our community is just amazing in how it cares for kids," Staloch concluded.

Come Fly with Me

Steele County Clothesline holds annual fundraiser Friday

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Everyone could use a decent pair of clothes.

The Steele County Clothesline, which provides local residents with both clothing apparel and basic household items, will be holding its second annual fundraiser on Friday.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. on at the Owatonna Country Club. This year's theme is "Come Fly with Me." The ticket price for the fundraiser is set at \$50 and purchasing a ticket will present guests with a mock boarding pass and passport.

Adhering to its chosen theme, the Clothesline's fundraiser is to feature four different "destinations," all of which guests will be required to visit in order to fill out their "passport," which enables them to be eligible for a drawing at the end of the evening.

Each destination is to be presented in a different room, and will showcase food and attractions from the various real world locations. The destinations include New England, New Orleans, Hawaii, and, of course, a Super Bowl room. Guests will be asked to visit all four locations where Steele County Clothesline board members will be situated to discuss the importance of the fundraiser, and also help fill out their "passport" so that they can be eligible for the raffle at the end of the night.

Maureen Schlobohm, the executive director of the Clothesline, describes the event as "a lot of fun," and says that the fundraiser is "very interactive." She explained that the Clothesline was looking to find a new and creative way to approach its fundraising, and thus the idea for the travel theme was born.

The money raised will go to benefit the Clothesline, and in turn help local residents find the necessary amenities they may be in need of. Schlobohm appreciates the generous support the Clothesline has received from the community, saying that "we get wonderful donations from people across the county."

According to Schlobohm, the Clothesline relies on these charitable donations. She attests that "we couldn't do any of this without donations and volunteers."

She explains that the Clothesline is generally looking for seasonal clothing, due in part to their limited storage space available. They also benefit from donations of regular household items, including pots and pans and kitchen utensils, as well as bath and bedroom amenities.

This year winter coats were an important item. Schlobohm figures that the Clothesline has provided around 1,000 winter coats for Steele County residents in 2017. As an organization, they've served over 3,000 local residents this past year, over 1,400 of whom were children 17 and under. Overall, numbers were up in 2017, including an increase in senior citizens registering.

But the Clothesline does more than just provide clothes and household items. They also work in close conjunction with the Steele County Food Shelf, which is attached in the same building.

On Wednesdays they work with Let's Smile, Inc. to provide clinical preventive dental services for children and adults 19 and under. If the patient has no dental insurance or coverage, Let's Smile, Inc. uses grants and donation funding when



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Sarah Palacios, operations manager at the Steele County Clothesline, and volunteer Frank Tubbs each hope for more donations and volunteers in the coming months. The Clothesline hopes this weekend's fundraising event will provide financial support for the organization throughout the year.

available.

Frank Tubbs, a volunteer at the Clothesline, has been working there since last October. He said, "Its people helping people, and I think that's good." With a smile, he reiterated that, "I think there should be more of that."

Tubbs explained that the Clothesline is always looking for additional volunteers and donations, but that regardless "we always find a way to come together and make it work to help people."

He said that having a good set of clothes can provide less fortunate people with confidence, warmth, and the ability to find good employment. Tubbs knows that "it feels good to help people."

Sarah Palacios, operations manager, explained that the Clothesline and the Food Shelf both benefit greatly from donations. Some of these are supplied by local stores, including Fareway, which Palacios feels "does a really good job" in this avenue.

She said that some of the items which people don't often think of donating include things like spices, which can last a long time, and other common items such as towels. Palacios emphasizes that, although they receive grants and funding, they are still in need of further donations and volunteers.

Palacios says of their current roster of volunteers, that "everyone here does what they can." She also said warmly that "although we need more helping hands, those we do have we cherish very much."

The Clothesline dates back to 1963, when it was called the Owatonna Women's Club. Back then the organization provided for the Minnesota State School Orphanage and its children. The organization evolved over time to become a non-profit in 1997, when it changed its name to the Steele County Clothesline.

"We've grown to better serve the families in our community," Schlobohm said.

The Clothesline is looking for both donations and volunteers. Steele County residents are asked to attend this Friday's fundraiser as a way to enjoy themselves as well as finding a way to give a little back this winter season.

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 30, 2004

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$163,920.00

MORTGAGOR(S): John Devetter and Colleen Devetter, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 1, 2004 as Document Number A000326156 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on July 11, 2011 as Document Number A000378974 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to GCAT Management Services 2015-13 LLC by assignment recorded on August 25, 2015 as Document Number A000403768 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by assignment recorded on October 18, 2017 as Document Number A000415351 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, thence running East 1545.7 feet which point is the true point of beginning, thence running North 340 feet, thence running East 384.3 feet, thence running South 340 feet; thence running west to the point of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5348 48TH STREET SOUTHWEST, OWATONNA, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$160,595.30

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Rushmore Loan Management Services, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-035-2204

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

100321500021405989

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagee(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 13, 2018.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Colleen Devetter a/k/a Colleen Ahern

Dated: December 15, 2017
MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P.
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-0377-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/19,12/26, 1/2
1/9,1/16,1/23

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 8, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$99,170.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy K. Rogness, a married person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 9, 2014 as Document Number A000398644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Three (3), Block One (1), in Stormo Addition to City of Owatonna, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1314 N CEDAR AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$96,964.55
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-157-0103
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100031200012152291
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 13, 2018.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
Dated: December 19, 2017
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.
By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Corbin C. Smith, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-1292-FC01)
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
12/26, 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/26, 1/30

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: December 19, 2017
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.
By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Corbin C. Smith, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-1292-FC01)
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
12/26, 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/26, 1/30

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 23, 2013
MORTGAGOR: Francis L. Pete and Louise Pete who acquired title as Louise M. Barker, husband and wife, as joint tenants.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Citibank,

N.A..
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed December 3, 2013, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000071027 on Certificate of Title No. 17106.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.. Dated January 5, 2016 Filed January 19, 2016 , as Document No. T000073389. And thereafter assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage d/b/a Mr. Cooper. Dated November 17, 2017 Filed November 27, 2017 , as Document No. T000075625. Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100011511237743902
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Citibank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1419 North Cedar Avenue , Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17-156-0209
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Nine (9); and Lot Ten (10), Except the South 70 feet of Lot 10, in Block Two (2) in Ochs' Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, County of Steele.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$156,500.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$161,662.64
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN
to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 16, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."
Dated: December 19, 2017
December 11, 2017
Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 21 - 17-005832 FC
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
12/19,12/26, 1/2 1/9,1/16,1/23

Dated: December 19, 2017
December 11, 2017
Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 21 - 17-005832 FC
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
12/19,12/26, 1/2 1/9,1/16,1/23
11-073286
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 1, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$89,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Paula L. Aldrich and Raymond P. Aldrich, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank,

N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 6, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 310176
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; running thence East 127.60 feet; thence South 66 feet; thence West 127.60 feet; thence North 66 feet to the point of beginning AND The E1/2 of the following described property: Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; thence East to a point 2 rods West of the East boundary of said SE1/4 of said SE1/4; thence South 66 feet; thence West to a point 2 rods East of the West boundary line of said E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4; thence North 66 feet to point of beginning
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1315 Bigelow Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.003.2207
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,766.35
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 22, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 22, 2018, or the next business day if August 22, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 2, 2018
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X Attorneys for Mortgagee Shapiro & Zielke, LLP 12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
1/9,1/16,1/23 1/30, 2/6,2/13

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-18-10

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of Carole Elizabeth Nordlie, a/k/a Carole E. Nordlie, a/k/a Carole Nordlie, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 5, 2018 at 3:00 a.m./p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at the Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated November 16, 1995, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of LaRae Nordlie , whose address is 401 Pebble Beach Drive NE, Owatonna, MN 55060, as personal representative(s) of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections

are filed or raised, the personal representative(s) will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real estate and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative(s) or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Joseph A. Buettel Judge 1/3/2018
Attorney for Personal Representative Mark M. Walbran WALBRAN & FURNESS 140 E. Main Street, P. O. Box 273 Owatonna, MN 55060 Phone: (507) 451-1173 Fax: (507) 451-8916 Attorney License No.: 113712 1/16, 1/23

POSTPONEMENT

17-107494

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 10, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$105,738.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Danielle Kay Strommer and Stephan Charles Strommer, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100603713070078628
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 12, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000392396
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 15,16 and South 14 feet of Lot 14, all being in Block 29 in Johnson and Company's Addition to Medford (said Block 29, being located in North part of SW 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 9-108-20)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 211 1st Ave NE, Medford, MN 55049
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-101-2915
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$103,204.26
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 19, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on April 19, 2018, or the next business day if April 19, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: August 25, 2017
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788

Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X Attorneys for Mortgagee Shapiro & Zielke, LLP 12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for October 19, 2017, at 10:00 A.M., has been postponed to November 21, 2017, at 10:00 A.M., and will be held at sheriffs main address Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by May 21, 2018. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: October 16, 2017.

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X 12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060 17-107494 Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for November 21, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., has been postponed to December 21, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., and will be held at sheriffs main address Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.
Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by June 21, 2018. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: November 15, 2017
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X 12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060 17-107494 Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee 1/23

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2018 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna on Tuesday Feb 6 with social hour at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00

Please Contact Kevin Johnson 455-0880

1/9 ,1/16 ,1/23

NOTICE TO FARMERS

Sealed bids will be received by the Steele County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, P. O. Box 890, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, until 10:30 a.m., February 13, 2018, for lease of approximately 20 acres of farmland located in the W1/2 of the SW1/4 Section 5-T107N-R20W in Steele County for the 2018 season.

Contact the County Engineer with questions regarding this lease opportunity at 635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, Telephone: (507) 444-7670.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any technical defects and to award the contracts to other than the highest bidder, or more than one bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the County will be best served thereby.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

1/23

BENEFIT BASH



— Blooming Prairie —
YOUTH CLUB



Saturday, February 3
Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

Free admission!
Food specials available!

Silent Auction Raffles

5:30pm-7:00 pm

Live Auction

starts at 7:00 PM

Several additional raffles and games throughout the night!

- Tribute to LeMar Nelson for his service to BP youth throughout the years
- Awards presented to community members for their dedication to BP Youth Club throughout 2017

Sponsorships and donations can be dropped off at BP Youth Club through February 2nd

Thank you to our sponsors:

Blooming Prairie Vet Clinic • KIK Marketing • Minimizer
Darrick's Preferred Auto • Krejci Ford

OUR VIEW

Safety first, lower the legal alcohol level for driving

Significant progress has been made in combatting the war on drunk driving over the past 36 years. But even more progress needs to be made.

One way to make that happen is lowering the legal blood alcohol level for drivers from .08 to .05 percent. Last week a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine called on all states to lower the legal limit.

All states currently have .08 as their standard, but Utah will lower its blood-alcohol level to .05 at the end of this year.

The lower legal limit is needed to eliminate drunk driving deaths in the United States, according to the report. The report also calls for significantly higher alcohol taxes and tighter restrictions on alcohol sales.

A new call for tougher drunk driving laws makes total sense. Such a change could save thousands of lives on our roadways every year.

As we outlined in our special DWI campaign throughout 2016 and 2017, more than 10,000 drunk driving deaths still occur each year in the U.S. In Minnesota, about 33 percent of all fatalities are alcohol-related.

One death is too many. We need to find a way to make our roadways safer. We need to keep drunk drivers off the road.

And this is an issue that affects even rural Minnesota at alarming and frightening rates. One could reasonably conclude that drunk driving is vastly more prevalent in highly-populated urban areas, but statistics do not bear that out.

Seventy percent of all fatal crashes in Minnesota occur in rural areas of less than 5,000 population. Rural areas account for about half of all alcohol-impaired fatalities. This is as much of a rural issue as anywhere.

We have come a long way for nearly four decades at making our roads safer, but we need to go even farther.

Lowering the alcohol level is a sobering reality and a drive for change on the road. It's something Minnesota lawmakers need to implement to save more families from going through the heartache of losing a loved one.



BP city crews are dedicated

It's always gratifying to know that someone "has your back."

That is so true when it comes to looking at the dedication of our Blooming Prairie city maintenance crews.

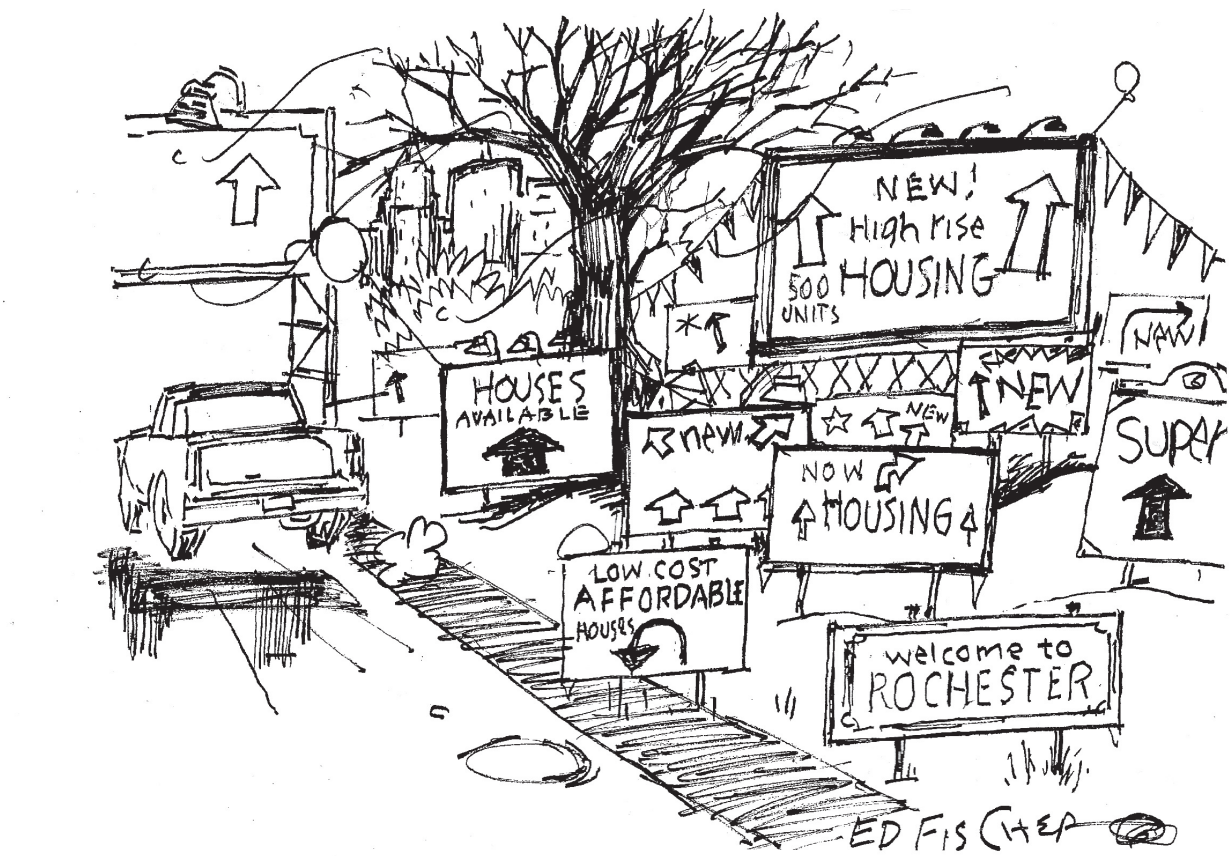
If there is a snowstorm, a water break or any other type of misfortune, the city crews of Blooming Prairie are professionally equipped to remedy the situation.

A real live snow blizzard struck the area early Monday morning and caused a slight paralysis of travel, just slight, however, as crews were out in earnest during the storm making some travel possible.

We Blooming Prairie residents are also very fortunate to have a power backup. When the power goes out, some reliable generators are put into action and keep the power supply alive and well.

Our city crews are always on the ready and willing to help city residents have a better day.

We can be very thankful for these unsung heroes and we should tell them THANK YOU for their dedication of service. The wheels of activity are always turning in Blooming Prairie because of our city crews and also because of our city government leadership.



Small town, big honor for Minimizer founders

In presenting the Citizen of the Year honor for Blooming Prairie last Thursday to a father-and-son duo, one of the presenters referred to it as a "small town, big honor."

Dick Kruckeberg and his son, Craig Kruckeberg, are the epitome of running a successful business while at the same time helping their community grow and prosper.

Blooming Prairie is fortunate to be on the receiving end of that in so many ways.

"They have kept Blooming Prairie in their hearts," said Keith Holman, a retired businessman who nominated the duo for the honor. "They have given this town something that has really grown."

Growth might be an understatement for Minimizer, which was founded by Dick in 1984. The company has flourished over the years, and it currently boasts 108 employees. Through all the growth, Minimizer has never forgotten its small town roots.

Holman shared how he recalled Dick's wife, Lorraine, commented how "it's like giving birth to your first child" when the first poly fender came rolling off the production lines. The story goes that Lorraine started the company when she accidentally backed over a garbage can. To this day, Craig credits his mother for starting the company.

For Holman, the idea behind nominating the Kruckeberts was to recognize the family for its charitable monetary contribution over the years to Blooming Prairie. Craig is a strong supporter of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, among several other projects in the community, most of which go unnoticed.

And Craig is appreciative of folks who volunteer for community causes.

"People who volunteer time, you cannot get it back," Craig said. "We can write checks all day, but the people who give their time are the ones who should be up here. So remember that for next year."

He reminded those in attendance at the banquet that he is not behind the success of Minimizer. He said it takes the entire team to make everything



Craig Kruckeberg of Minimizer fame was awarded the Citizen of the Year honor for Blooming Prairie last Thursday night. His father, Dick Kruckeberg, founder of Minimizer, also received the award, though he was unable to attend the banquet.

work. "If I didn't have the employees and the family that I have, we wouldn't be able to do what we do for the community," Craig commented. The key to his success, Craig added, has been to surround himself with good people.

"We don't give because we want to, but because Dick instilled it in us," Craig said.

Craig is an extraordinary marketer. He knows marketing and knows how to push it well beyond anyone I have ever seen in this community or anywhere else for that matter. He has a vision, which has led to his company's success for many years.

During his acceptance last week, Craig challenged other businessmen to focus their efforts on marketing, pointing out that advertising and marketing should be the last thing for any business to cut. He reasons that without marketing, there will be no growth or very little.

Judging by Minimizer's success, Craig knows what he's talking about. Their success has allowed the entire community to benefit in ways most people have no clue about. And for that, Blooming Prairie residents should be forever grateful to the Kruckeberts.

Congratulations to Blooming Prairie's Citizens of the Year for going in hot pursuit of keeping the community strong for years to come.

GUEST COLUMN

Gratitude is important in the new year

With the barrage of news these days from the ongoing fires and flooding in California to the terror attacks around the globe and, of course, the consistent thrum of politic divide, it is still important to sit back and reflect on what to be grateful for at this time of year. And, there is so much for which to be thankful for this year.

For me, I'm thankful for my family, which has now grown with the addition of an eighth grandchild. Professionally, I am grateful for the donors and many partners who make possible the impactful work and accomplishments of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF).

At SMIF, we have the pleasure of working with many generous donors and collaborative partners who help us move the needle on a number of issues in southern Minnesota. Together we effect change and I saw that happen in December at FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace where local food producers connected with the public and buyers to launch new business relationships and open expanding markets. This annual event would not happen without our many partners such as Renewing the Countryside, Region Nine and the U of MN SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Our FEAST! donors

include Minnesota Department of Agriculture, The McKnight Foundation, Hormel Foods and Mayo Clinic among many others.

This past year SMIF has also rededicated its work to focusing on the vitality of our small towns and a commitment to rural. To do this we launched the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV), a unique, long-term project that focuses on developing processes and systems for sustainable economic growth. We selected five towns to participate in REV – Blue Earth, Lake City, Le Sueur, Lanesboro/ Spring Valley, and Spring Grove. In addition, through our new small town grant program, we also provided seven grants to communities under 5,000 totaling \$61,500. In 2018, we will launch a retooled version of this program.

Partnership and collaboration made all of



TIM PENNY

SEE GUEST, A6

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

CONGRESSMAN
Tim Walz

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2472

MANKATO DISTRICT OFFICE
527-1/2 South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
507-388-2149
TOLL FREE NUMBER:
877-846-9259

SENATOR
Tina Smith

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5641

ROCHESTER OFFICE
1202-1/2 7th Street NW
Suite 213
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-2003

SENATOR
Amy Klobuchar

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
302 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-2186

SOUTHERN OFFICE
1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,
Room 212
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-5321
Fax: 507-288-2922
TOLL FREE NUMBER:
1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE MAYOR
H. Peterson
507-583-7573

ELLENDALE MAYOR
Russ Goette
507-684-2681

HAYFIELD MAYOR
Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

MEDFORD MAYOR
Lois M Nelson
507-390-4553
dlnelson1167@q.com

OWATONNA MAYOR
Thomas Kuntz
507-774-7342
Fax: 507-444-4394
mayor@ci.owatonna.mn.us

A state and national award winning weekly



MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards,
8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards,
3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

Have some fun on the ice

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The sound of motion on ice can be contagious.

What it means is that some of our young Blooming Prairie skaters draw others onto the ice at the Victory Field Ice Rink. There's plenty of room for all ages whether they are skating for fun, or to sharpen their hockey skills.

Jeremy Wangen has again taken the leadership role of being rink manager. He is being helped by high school students Kevin Doerhoefer, Brad Staska, Ian Wayne, Jack Abbe, Colin Lerum and Caleb Kubista.

Maybe hoping some day to play for the Minnesota Wild, Parker Blome attacks the net at the Blooming Prairie Ice Rink.



The rink's warming house is open from 4-8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 1-8:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

If school is closed due to weather, the ice rink will also be closed.

Some recent warmer weather has drawn more youngsters to the ice rink. Monday's



Part of the fun in winter is visiting the local ice rink. That's what these young hockey players do during their free time. They spend it at the Blooming Prairie Ice Rink. From left are Beckett Lea, Parker Blome, Alec Wangen, Brady Kittelson, Cole Wangen and Cale Braaten.

Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Yummy pancakes for church benefit



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Lots of Minnesota Vikings fans showed their purple pride on Sunday, the day of the National Football Conference Championship in Philadelphia. Margaret and Billy Noble wore shades of purple to show their allegiance. That allegiance was dimmed by the outcome, an Eagles massacre of the Vikings, 38-7.



Some yummy pancakes were served on Sunday, Jan. 21 by the Columbanus Catholic Church of Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus. Gracelyn Anderson, 8, of Blooming Prairie, takes a big bite. Funds from the breakfast go to the elevator fund.

Foundation problems don't get better with time...
just more expensive


★ Basement Systems ★
Free Estimates! Call Today
1-800-795-1204

Radon | Foundation Repair | Basement Waterproofing | Crawl Space Repair

The support you need to find quality

SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!
CALL (844) 347-2104


! We're paid by our partner communities

Back By Popular Demand!

SISTER ACT



On Sale Now!

Chanhassen
entertaining You

952.934.1525 • 800.362.3515
ChanhassenDT.com

Cancer Corner



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

First Annual Coyotes Fur Cancer Fundraiser

Saturday, Jan. 27
6 p.m.
Cue Company- Blooming Prairie

Tickets- \$20

Tickets available for \$20 at Cumberland's Northwest Trappers Supply of Owatonna, The Cue Company of Blooming Prairie, Dean's Smoke Shack of Geneva and Coordes Guns of Lansing

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Excavating


SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections
• Aggregates • Hauling
• Washed Sand & Rock
• Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel
507-583-2999
Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured


BISHOP
EXCAVATING, INC.
• EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
• DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK
Commercial & Residential Sitework

Truck Accessories


The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.
AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS
Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Blooming Prairie

Collision


THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150
www.csiaustinmn.com
Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837

Tires


Mike's
REPAIR
870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
Complete Truck Parts and Service
Mike Hartle
Owner

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483
Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck

Pets


Bennett's
PET HAVEN
CEMETERY, INC.
"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"
Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. County Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204
Cell: 507-456-7977

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times
507-583-4431

