

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TIMES.

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THE TIMES PRINTING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS.

VOLUME 2

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1895.

NUMBER 37.

NOW FOR BUSINESS

The holidays are over and we have a Few holiday goods left over, and for a Short time we will make ...

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Are naturally fond of pretty footwear. See the dainty styles we have for them.—French Kid, cloth top Booties, \$2.50.

Young Men and Boys:—

Like our "Royal Blue" Shoes at \$3 and \$4, because they fit perfectly, are light and durable. Kangaroo Hand-crowed, \$4. They are some of the shoes people buy year after year.

Over Shoes

If you want them, at less than general store prices.—Men's \$1.25, Boys' \$1.00, Women's \$1.00, Girls' 80 cts and Children's 65 cts.

Taylor's SHOE Store

Dan O'Connor, the famous detective, died at St. Joseph hospital in St. Paul last Saturday. He was one of the brightest of his profession, and his wonderful ability won for him a host of friends.

Information has been received at the State department at Washington that the Hamburg authorities have forbidden the importation of cattle and swine from England and Ireland. Inasmuch as a large portion of American cattle entering Germany go through England, this will be another severe blow to our cattle interests and trade with continental Europe.

Representative police of the state met at St. Paul last Saturday and organized what will be known as The Police Association of the State of Minnesota. The object of the association is to bring the police department of the state closer together, thereby bettering their own condition as well as benefiting the communities which they represent. The move is a good one and should be encouraged by the people.

Hon. Knute Nelson was elected United State Senator yesterday on the first ballot, receiving 102 votes. It is with a feeling of respect toward Mr. Nelson that we refer to the scandalous attacks by the press and public throughout the state. Petty politicians have through their eagerness for political plums hatched up an abundance of malicious lies. Perhaps no man of his high standing has ever been subjected to more untruthful slander than has he, and yet in the midst of all this he is the peer of all and the choice of the people as his handsome majority indicates. The personal achievements of Mr. Nelson are many. He is a man of broad and unbiased opinions and a man who in his public life has never forsaken the welfare of the people to the benefit of himself, and it is through these excellent qualifications that he has been chosen to fill the highest position in the gift of the state. The state has acted wisely in electing him and we may feel assured that he will always be on the alert for the welfare of the people whom he is to represent.

In a paper read before the American Economic association Labor Commissioner Carroll D. Wright pronounces the Chicago "combination strike and boycott" an epochal event in the labor movement and in the industrial development of this country. He says it was an incident in a revolution which is quietly taking place in this country, a revolution begun when congress passed the interstate commerce law in 1897. As to the Chicago strike, Colonel Wright says it demonstrated first the right of the national government while not interfering in the operation or control of strikers themselves to send troops into a state to protect its own interests, whether the state asked for them or not. It has shown the assertion of the right of the civil courts to expand the power of injunction and mandamus, to define crime under certain circumstances, "to execute their own views by legal process, to interpret their own acts and impose sentence." In brief, it has forced the recognition of the fact that railroads represent public as well as private interests, and that railway employees are quasi public servants. "But this is essentially state socialism and compulsory legislation." Colonel Wright further considers the interstate pooling bill now pending in the senate as a "socialistic measure equaling the compulsory insurance legislation of Germany."

A correspondent of the Des Moines Register suggests that there ought to be occasional newspaper readings in schools. It would be the best possible means of teaching young people current history. If there is not time for a regular reading each day, then the teacher ought to carefully sift out of the news the principal events and relate them to the pupils and comment on them. It could be done in five minutes. In country schools a weekly reading would suffice. But it would be necessary for teachers themselves to read the papers.

If Dr. Roux's serum remedy for diphtheria really effects a cure, that will be glory enough for France to close the nineteenth century with. The French chamber of deputies was evidently impressed with this fact when it granted without debate or question 200,000 francs to spread the remedy throughout France.

It is apparently impossible for some people to distinguish the exact difference between the truth and a lie.

The elephant is commonly supposed to be a slow, clumsy animal, but when excited or frightened can attain a speed of 20 miles an hour and keep it up for half a day.

NOT A BRIDAL PARTY.

Not the Massachusetts Man Wanted to Know All About It.

They were wandering up and down the waiting room of the Grand Central station, and neither seemed inclined to talk much, although from the glances they occasionally bestowed upon one another it was plain that there was a degree of relationship existing between them. Suddenly the young man left the young woman's side and crossed to the newsstand, where he purchased a paper. Returning, he conducted his companion to a seat.

Hardly were they seated before one of those inquiring individuals who must talk to somebody placed himself in the next seat and eyed them inquisitively, to their visible annoyance. He could not curb his propensity to talk, and thus began:

"Strangers in the city?"

"Yes," said the man shortly.

"Taking a train?" was the next query.

"Yes."

"Maybe you are going my way?" continued he of the inquiring turn of mind.

"Maybe. We are going to Boston."

"Ah, you belong there?"

"I do," was the man's answer.

"Fine city," went on the inquisitive one. "You don't see the papers filled up with divorces and scandals there as you do here. I belong to Massachusetts myself. Worcester is my home, and a divorce case or an elopement is a rarity. You seem to have gone into matrimony recently?" looking at them patronizingly.

"Rather," was the tired response.

"Might I inquire your business?"

"Certainly. I am a detective."

"On your honeymoon?"

"No," answered the detective, folding up his paper. "I'm taking back a prisoner."

"Why! You don't mean to say?"—looking at the woman in astonishment.

"I do."

"I thought she was your wife."

"So she is, and my prisoner. To save you inquiry, she eloped with another man the day I married her, and I tracked her here."

"And you are taking her back to justice?"

"No, to marry her. I guess the job wasn't properly done, so we're going to do it over again."

"Is she from Boston too?"

"No. From Worcester."

"Oh!" The inquisitive man said no more.—New York Recorder.

A FAMOUS NOVELIST.

A Graphic Pen Picture of Hall Caine and Something of His Character.

Hall Caine is said to resemble Shakespeare in the keen intelligence of his features and in the intellectual height of his prominent forehead. He possesses a highly nervous organization, and his first novel came near bankrupting him in health. His best work is done after midnight in the early morning hours. He is a native of the Isle of Man, a Manxman, and is 45 years old, or thereabouts. Much of his time is spent in travel, when he exerts his powers of observation and gathers material for future use. His home is in the English lake country, overlooking Derwentwater and above the town of Reswick. It is called "Hawthorns."

The novelist is also at times a poet, as he occasionally writes some verses for publication. He has decided religious tendencies, which take the form of investigation. He contemplates writing a life of Christ, and as he excels in terse, epigrammatic sentences his style would be in the direct line of Biblical truths. He is conscientious and painstaking in all his literary methods, and his readers recognize in him one who has sincerity as a superstructure for every romance of which he is the architect.—New York Advertiser.

Meant For the Minister.

A popular minister in Fifehire, in the good old times, used at Christmas to be inundated with hampers filled with good things. On one occasion an enormous turkey was sent to him by the thoughtful kindness of a neighboring farmer, but as the minister's family had already provided for the Christmas dinner the bird was sent to the market and sold.

A passerby, seeing this fine specimen of poultry, said, "What a splendid turkey! Just the thing for the minister's Christmas dinner!" To the minister it was again sent.

The provident wife sent it again to the market and sold it again for a handsome sum.

Another friend, similarly struck with the splendid proportions of the turkey, purchased it and sent it to the minister. The good woman, not wishing to fly in the face of Providence, said at last:

"It is clear that the Lord means us to have this turkey," and with the approbation of the family it formed part of the Christmas dinner.—Youth's Companion.

The Place For Shoppers.

"Please bother us! Bother us! Bother us!" is the earnest request which appears on the title page of the catalogue and prospectus of an enterprising firm of retail grocers in a southern city. "It is a bright idea. They can well afford to be pestered with inquiries as to quality, price, etc. The only thing that they fear is that they will not be able to supply the demand."

COMPETITION IN BABIES.

Wherein a Word to a Wise Papa Ought to Be Sufficient.

"I am getting to be the most bare-faced and versatile liar on earth," said the bachelor, "and it's all on account of two little innocent babies. Two of my friends at the office have recently been invested with the honor of paternity—both boys. Pronger papa, you never saw. One of them, Jones, is an amateur photographer, and the other day he took a picture of his baby and brought it to the office."

"Of course you know how intelligent a child of one month looks," continued the bachelor, stroking his bald head with the air of a connoisseur in infancy, "but the boys in the office were loyal. They swore it was the brightest looking kid they had ever seen and that it was the image of Jones."

"If it had been any one else's child, Jones would have knocked somebody down for the insult, but he took it as a great compliment and stuck the picture up in a frame on his desk."

"This was too much for Smith—the other papa. He hasn't any camera of his own, so he got a young man who lives next door to come in and take his baby's picture, and he brought it down to the office as an opposition to Jones'. Really I'm sorry for Smith if his baby looks like that picture, but I rather think the amateur artist libeled the child and made it the monster it appears."

"The picture was not focused properly. It represents Smith in the background holding on his knee a mammoth infant nearly as big as he is. The baby's hands are outstretched toward the camera and look as though they might belong to Mr. Fitzsimmons or Mr. Corbett. Smith thought it was beautiful, and when some one suggested that the boy looked just exactly like him he ordered drinks all around and put the picture up on his desk as a further opposition to Jones'."

"Every time I come into the office I have to stop and admire those pictures, and I'm acquiring great self control by keeping a straight face whenever Jones or Smith says, 'And still you will remain a bachelor, will you?'"—New York Herald.

BREAKFAST IN BED.

This Is the Way In Which to Enjoy the Height of Luxury.

There is nothing which gives one quite the same feeling of luxury and affluence as breakfasting in bed—that is, unless one is forced to do it. Then it seems merely an annoyance. But when the woman whom unkind fate and domestic or business duties usually force to be up with the lark can lie in bed and have a daintily appointed breakfast tray brought up to her she feels that the final joy of sybaritism is hers.

Sunday morning is the best time for the daughter of toil to indulge in this luxurious habit. If she is a church-going woman, she may manage by having breakfast at 9:45. If she desires to be both pious and lazy, there are those who compromise by reading morning service in bed, and their method is perhaps not to be despised.

The first step toward enjoying this luxury is to have one's warm bath, hair brushing and the like. Then slipping on a bath robe or a dressing sack, the seeker after luxury should slip back into bed, adjust her pillows comfortably and proceed to enjoy her breakfast. It should be an unusually dainty one and served with the most appetizing regard for appearances. The tray should be covered with a delicately embroidered cloth. The china pot in which the coffee comes up should be as pretty as coffee-pots can be, the sugar basin and cream jug the very perfection of daintiness. There should be a little glass bowl of mignonette or violets, or a couple of carnations, or even some fragrant green geranium stalks. A bunch of grapes, dusky purple or pink and opal, coffee clear as amber and fragrant as only coffee can be, toast, a slice of bacon and an egg or eggs boiled form a breakfast fit to serve on the pretty tray.

If the woman who breakfasts in bed will proceed to spend the rest of the day there, sleeping when she can, reading a little, entirely undisturbed by the cares of her household, she will ward off the approach of hideous old age half a decade.—Philadelphia Press.

She Listened.

Miss C.'s portrait hung on the wall at the exhibition. Miss C. hung around her portrait. Miss C. had lips that an able-bodied man would walk five miles to kiss. Her eyes were twin stars. Upon her forehead hung two beautiful curls—twin curls. Miss C. was delightful to behold.

She was immersed in the study of her catalogue. Of course she was not there to listen to the comments.

"Beautiful picture, isn't it?"

"Yes; I wonder if it's true to life?"

"I don't know. It's awfully pretty anyway."

"It is pretty. The features are perfect, but I don't think she looks very intelligent."

Miss C., with a crimson face, slapped her book shut and walked away.—New York World.

The journalists soon raised the boycott on Miss C. They couldn't stand it.

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Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

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Opinion

Our view

‘How many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn’t see’

So many tragedies in so little time. I don’t know if it’s the times we live in or the fact that with the internet we have a microscope on what’s happening. The microscope morphs into a microphone to this generation, especially with goals set to “viral.” By now, we realize that the internet is not going away and many things that were kept in the dark to previous generations are now into the light and this generation unlike any that has gone before is faced to confront.

We also must realize that some horrific events can be altered, and some are going to happen no matter what we do. As a society, we must not turn our heads away from the events or images we encounter. We can try to close our eyes and our mouths and our ears, but chimp-like behavior won’t help us going forward.

Only when things are brought into the light can we deal with them. It is the “dealing” that will determine the outcome for others who may face the same obstacles. We need to work to encourage, evaluate and educate to make a difference in altering a reoccurring event.

The tragedy of any person being bullied, abused or depressed to the point of choosing to depart from life is certainly a socially heinous event. We want to look away. We want to hush it up. We want it to go away.

But their voices are calling to us from the grave. The cries for help didn’t stop at their moment of death, and with that act of suicide they are pleading with us to do something. Peer pressure is just one button that is being pushed in our young people’s lives. There is pressure to succeed, pressure to find themselves in a world telling them how to fit in, pressures from relationships and thoughts that are sealed in their minds like a pressure cooker making things seem worse than they really are.

To educate the world is to provide life-saving knowledge. To put someone who is hurting with someone who has survived the hurt is invaluable. To help find a way is to help find a cure. Instead of silence, we need solutions. Instead of inflicting shame, we need to make a stand with those affected. Instead of an evasive nature, we need to be educators.

Someone loves them. Someone has gone through it. Someone has a solution. Don’t we owe it to those who sacrificed their lives to reach the next one in time... the next one in line?

A good start is finding proactive support groups. They are out there, we need not only to find them, but to better publicize the help options.

To the hurting, frustrated teen that is out there today who believes that there is no one who understands and no one who can help, we encourage you to reach out with a strong voice to make a difference not only in your own life, but in the lives of the millions of kids out there who are facing similar circumstances. Your voice from this side of the grave can be louder than those muffled in death.

The teen suicide hotline is 1-800-273-8255. It is a great place to start.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

A few weeks ago I fielded a complaint that has turned into action from our editorial department. “Where’s the births, deaths and marriages?” the angry caller asked. “It hasn’t been in for months and it’s one of my favorite sections to read.” And he wasn’t alone. We have had people tell us in the past that they subscribe to our newspaper just for that type of information. In amongst all the day-to-day chaos that is common in newspaper offices, we lost track of the feature called “Public Record.” Whether it’s new babies born, folks who have passed on, those who have tied the knot, or in some cases split up, the public record feature has them all listed. It’s simply a listing of births, deaths, marriages and divorces in Steele County as filed either with the courts or the county recorder’s office. For me, it’s always interesting to see what kind of unique names parents come

Periodic feature back by popular demand

up with for their children. I also take special note of the ages people die. We have run this feature monthly for many years, but fell off the wagon so to speak earlier last year when we had some staff changes. The good news is the feature came back last week when we published the records from last July. This week we have August (on page 3D) and we’ll run the feature every week, space permitting, until we get caught up. Once we’re up-to-date again, the feature will fall back to monthly.

Despite our temporary hiatus with the public record, the even greater news for readers is that they won’t have missed any of the information. We’ve gone back to where we left off and we’re getting all the info in so that readers won’t miss a beat. We’re thrilled that readers find this information useful. Sometimes we’re left wondering if anyone really cares, but obviously they have shown they do. Perhaps more important about this column this week is that we take reader com-

plaints and suggestions seriously. We want our readers to keep us in line. If we’re missing something or not doing something up to standard, we expect to hear about it in a respectable way, if possible. The Times is a community newspaper and we want our readers to take ownership in the content of what’s provided by our staff every week. We can’t always be all things to everyone or satisfy every last craving for information, but give it our best effort. Readers may not always agree with everything that we write or put in the paper, but that’s just fine. We know we’re not always going to make everyone happy. That’s just the reality of our business and in a lot of ways the society we live in today. It seems as if our country is divided in so many ways. I love to hear from readers, even if it’s a gripe about something. I at least know somebody is reading the paper. It’s time to go in hot pursuit of reading the public record feature.

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Letters to the editor

An open letter to Protesters

Dear editor,

Many of the protesters of Trumps presidency are women who fear they will lose the right to chose to end their babies life. They feel that because they must bear the burden it should be their choice alone and men should have no say. They contend that life begins at birth and until then it is a mass of cells and not yet human.

Many men and women disagree and believe their right to choose began with a yes or no. We also believe all life begins at conception.

Men are told they do not carry

the burden when in fact they do in providing food, clothing and shelter. Not only that they provide mentoring, guidance and love their entire life. Granted not all men live up to their obligation but the vast majority do.

Thousands have given the supreme sacrifice to give us all the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe this right extends to the unborn.

Many of the protesters believe their candidate had the election stolen by the Russians hacking emails, which is not proven. None dispute the emails are for real. They ignore the fact that China and Saudia Arabia contributed millions to the Clintons in order influence the election. Two countries that lead the world in human

and womans rights.

All these protesters will be joined by thugs hired by George Soros to cause chaos. That’s the same Alt-left Soros that has vowed to destroy our free enterprise system.

So yes you all have the right to protest, but when you look at Trumps record you are a joke at best. He has promoted more woman to high paying jobs than all the left wing politicians combined. The same for many minorities, which is why so many voted for him including M. L. Kings widow and son.

So cool your heels and give him a chance.

David Nielson
Owatonna, MN

My thoughts on KODA

Dear editor,

On Jan.12, I went to a meeting at KODA where the board members that make up SCCL/BHS (Steele County Communities for a lifetime/ Benedictine Health Care System) gave a pitch to the county commissioners.

In their slide presentation, I added up money they have lost since their opening and it would be over \$5.5 million in three years. Since SCCL/BHS are supposed to each own 50 percent, it was interesting that they now want the taxpayers write-

off \$2 million more of KODA debt.

During forbearance, the county is paying the bare minimum to the 18 banks involved. That interest is coming from the County reserve fund. Why are we taking all the pain and Benedictine takes none of the pain. Forget your 50-50 partnerships.

At the end of the meeting, no one from the public was allowed to speak. What a nice way to treat the people who you expect to bail you out.

Since I didn’t get to ask my questions, here is a sample of what I wanted to know. I caught Tom Shea after the meeting adjourned and asked who makes up this shadowy group called the SCCL.

He said, “ it is nine members of the board.” SCCL has no money, makes no money and any money they have comes from Steele County taxpayers.

With Tom on the board, no wonder we have trouble. Every time he had a vison that would save us money, it turned out to always cost multi-millions.

What does the CEO and CFO of BHS get paid? Are board members paid? They complained of workforce shortage. There was never a problem at Cedarview. Treat your help right and they will be loyal.

Marlene Nelson
Owatonna, MN



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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

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 Awards

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



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DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/ writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words.

The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

ETHICS

The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the managing editor.

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STEELE COUNTY

TIMES



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Tuesday, January 24, 2017

WINTER COUNT



Submitted photo

Bird observers got a surprise during the annual bird count in Steele County when they spotted a Short-eared Owl in a marshy area about one mile north of Rice Lake State Park right before sunset. It is quite unusual for these owls to be in this area, according to local bird expert Darryl Hill.



Submitted photo

The American Goldfinch was one of 44 birds spotted during the annual Christmas Bird Count in Steele County. Birdwatchers found the Goldfinch 144 times throughout the one-day count.

Wicked storm mix doesn't stop annual bird tally

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

It may have been less than desirable outside back in mid-December, but that didn't stop area bird enthusiasts from counting the feathery creatures that adorn back yards and other places throughout the year.

On Dec. 17, local birdwatchers counted 4,025 feathered friends during the 45th Christmas Bird Count in Steele County. Darryl Hill, coordinator of the count, reported 44 different species of birds during the one day count, which included 85 people keeping tabs at feeders and in fields.

The Lapland Longspur was the bird found the most often as it was sighted 494 times. The American Crow came up 457 times followed by the dark-eyed Junco at 447.

Despite the reported numbers, they were lower than in years past, according to Hill.

The average over the past has been 4,521 birds. This past year was the 11th lowest count. The highest came in 1998 with 8,430.

"The weather did not cooperate as we had a winter storm warning that advised no travel so this may have influenced our lower numbers of birds," Hill said, noting this year Lake Kohlmer was frozen over so no water fowl was spotted as they had an open patch the previous year. He added weather is generally a factor on how birds are spotted.

The count, Hill said, covers a 15-mile diameter circle with Havana as the center. The scientific project is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and began 117 years ago.

One of the surprises this year was a Short-eared owl spotted in Rice Lake Park. "It makes it extra fun when you see a bird that's

BIRD COUNT

Continued on page 6A



Feedlot fight set for next month

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The legal fight over feedlots in Dodge County is set to take center stage at the Minnesota Court of Appeals next month.

Oral arguments will be heard at 12:20 p.m. on Feb. 7 in the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul. Three judges have been assigned to the case. The hearing is open to the public.

Attorneys for both sides will present their arguments via interactive video from remote locations. The attorneys will be allotted 15 minutes each followed by a 5-minute rebuttal.

Lowell and Evelyn Trom, of rural Blooming Prairie, initiated legal action against the county in an effort to protect their land, home, health, livelihoods and the future of their family on a generational family farm where he was born 87 years ago.

The Troms are challenging a Dodge County District Court ruling that upheld Dodge County's issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to Masching Swine Farms for a hog feedlot on property adjacent to the Trom farm located in Westfield Township on the south end of the county.

In an unprecedented action, a coalition of the nation's leading environmental, public health and animal protection groups have joined Trom's legal efforts to address the what they consider the negative impacts associated with factory farms.

"The wrongful siting of this industrial-scale swine operation by Dodge County is considered of national importance," said James Peters, attorney for the Troms.

Professionals affiliated with John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Environment Minnesota, Food and Water Watch, the Humane Society of the United States and Animal Legal Defense Fund all have filed briefs with the Court of Appeals.

Peters said, "The amici volunteered their time to help inform the court about the multiple dangers posed by industrial-scale corporate factory animal-production operations like the facility at issue in this case."

The county's approval of the Masching facility paves the way for the 11th industrial-scale factory livestock operation to locate within a 3-mile radius of the Trom farm, according to Peters.

\$30,000 goal set for BP Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A line in the sand has been drawn and a \$30,000 goal has been set for a Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4.

Last year's Bash had a goal of \$30,000 and it was almost met, says this year's event chairs Lianna Doocy and Angie Carlson. "We are hopeful that we can meet the goal this year.

Doocy, Carlson and Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club director Marcy Sundine have been very busy in recent weeks, acquiring items for a silent auction and live auction to be held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. More than 100 items have already been received.

If interested in a three-day trip to Laughlin, Nevada at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino, make

sure to attend the Boys & Girls Club Benefit Bash on Feb. 4 as a date not to forget.

More hotel packages including the Lake of the Torches Resort & Casino of Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin, will be offered to auction.

Many handcrafted items will be placed on auction including a Dr. Seuss quilt made by John and Lisa Bruns and a quilt created by Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Quilters. Linda Christianson, well known artisan, is donating four hours of sewing.

Proceeds from the two auctions will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie. It is a unit of the Rochester Boys & Girls Club.

The Feb. 4 event starts at 5 p.m. with Boys & Girls Club kids putting on a skit. Boys & Girls Club children will then be transported from the Servicemen's Club to

the Boys & Girls Club for a special party featuring games and activities after the silent auction, or before the live auction starts. Adult supervision will be provided.

The kids party was such a success in its first year last year that it will be held again, Sundine said. Parents are asked to pick up their children at the Boys & Girls Club when the adult activities are concluded at the Servicemen's Club.

Many donations of auction items have been received but more are encouraged and are welcome, report chairs Doocy and Carlson.

Admission to the Benefit Bash is free with opportunities available to purchase special sponsorship benefits. Letters have already been sent to local businesses regarding sponsorships.

BASH

Continued on page 6A



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Desks containing handprints of Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club kids are displayed by staff member Katelyn Bjornson and Marcy Sundine, director. They will be filled with school supplies



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6B HEALTH & WELLNESS

C: 1C SPORTS
4C . BP CHAMBER

D: 1D .. FARM PAGE
3D TAX WEEK

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CommunityLiving

Obituaries

Georgia Jane Joachim, 68, of Owatonna

Georgia Jane Joachim, 68, of Owatonna, died Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, at her home after a 2-year courageous struggle with pancreatic cancer.

She was born Jan. 13, 1949, in Stromsburg, Nebraska the daughter of Robert and Betty (Gonnerman) Carlson. Georgia moved with her family to Minnesota as a child. She graduated from Hanley Falls High School and Southwest Minnesota State College with a bachelor's degree. After college, she taught second grade at Medford Public Schools for 21 years. While teaching in Medford, she married Gary Joachim Aug. 4, 1978, at the United Methodist Church in Owatonna. The couple farmed together for many years during which time Georgia also sold Discovery Toys and kept honeybees.

Georgia was an active member of the Owatonna United Methodist Church, was involved in state and local farm organizations, and served on the board of FarmConnect.

She enjoyed traveling, sewing, genealogy, antiques, family reunions and board games. Georgia also enjoyed playing the piano and clarinet. Georgia's nieces and nephews held a special place in her life.

She is survived by her husband Gary Joachim of Owatonna; brother, Wayne (and Deb) Carlson of Alexandria and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Theodore "Teddy" Carlson.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at United Methodist Church Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Funeral services will be held Jan. 26, 2017, at 10 a.m. at United Methodist Church with Linda Boorman officiating. Interment will be in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna. Memorials are preferred to Owatonna United Methodist Church or to the donor's choice.

Backpack program helps those who are food insecure

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Forming a partnership, Blooming Prairie Elementary School and First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie, are dedicated to helping those who are food insecure.

Chris Staloch, BP Elementary School principal, said a couple of his students' parents came to him recently lobbying for implementation of a program to help the food insecure mainly on weekends by providing healthy snacks and other good food choices.

Karen Peterson and Stephanie Bruggeman are the parents who brought the idea to the school's attention to the Backpack project.

Ranae Berg, elementary school counselor, did research on the Backpack Program, an outgrowth of the Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf, a certified member of Feeding America. The organization serves the mission to work in partnership with others to help people in need.

Channel One is a proud member of Hunger Solutions Minnesota, and a partner of the United Way of Olmsted County.

Berg's research involved contact with New Richland and Hayfield schools, both districts having this program. Austin and Owatonna are also supporters of the program.

Staloch said a survey was sent home with students to give to their parents. That survey helped identify 30-35 needy students.

Channel One has roots reaching to Gloucester, Mass. Rochester, Minnesota was chosen as a site for a Channel One program in 1979. With grant money from Prudential Life Insurance and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a group of local teen volunteers and adult leaders focused a program effort on establishing a food shelf for senior citizens, which began operations in 1980.

Channel One's umbrella grew to include the food bank. Today, Channel One is the largest hunger relief network in southeastern Minnesota covering 14 counties including Dodge, Steele, Mower and freeborn counties.

In addition to grant money received, the Channel One program receives donations from local food stores.

Staloch said the school then looked for a funding source and approached First Lutheran Church. The church council approved the partnership.

Blooming Prairie plans on implementing the program in early February. Food will be brought to the high school where the

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: 24th Tom Peterson John Whiting Paisley Wolf	29th Zenobia Haberman Kathleen Iversen Samantha Iversen Nicholas Iversen Claire Shwarz
25th Collin Meiners Becky Miner	30th Julia Manges Michelle Krell Ken Behnken Jess Motl Norah Savage
26th Bruce Wolf Tom Blome Justin Ingvalson Melissa Machin	Anniversaries: 24th Dick & Lorraine Kruckeberg
27th Lisa Vaith Lyle Swenson	
28th Jennifer Shaw Katherine Kerrigan Jonathan Heimgartner	

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SEMCAC senior menu

Jan. 24 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Spinach w/Vinegar Fresh Fruit	Jan. 26 Beef Stroganoff over Noodles Carrots Salad Roll Cookie	Jan. 30 Swiss Steak Baked Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Blushing Pears
Jan. 25 Meat Lasagna Tossed Salad Orange Slices French Bread Cream Puff	Jan. 27 BBQ Ribs Scllped Potatoes Corn 7-Layer Salad Carrot Cake	Jan. 31 Pork Roast Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Squash Fruit Cup

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Area Church Spotlight

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church, Medford, MN

Pastor's corner: Putting our hands to good work

Recently at Red Oak Grove, we read as Jesus called his first disciples. Jesus called them to follow him and become fishers of people. These first disciples were fishermen. I imagine what the hands of a career fisherman must look like. I imagine them cracked and dry from constant exposure to the elements. I imagine them strong with the ability to pull in nets filled with fish. I imagine them also able to do the nimble, tedious task of untangling nets when

they get twisted and knotted together. It was these men with these worn, strong, and nimble hands that Jesus called to first follow him. Now look at your own hands. Are they cracked, dry? Strong? Wrinkled? Nimble or barely able to bend? Jesus calls us too to follow him. To go fish for people. To use our hands in our daily vocations as disciples. To pat someone on the back after a job well done. To shake the hands of a new neighbor or coworker

or stranger. To wave in welcome to a newcomer. To hug and hold someone who is lonely or grieving or ill. To type kind words on social media instead of words that harm. Jesus calls us to follow him, to be his disciples, as he first called Simon and Andrew and James and John so many years ago. May we use our hands to uplift, support, welcome, include, and congratulate. May we use our hands to fish for people.



Peace,
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
Blooming Grove
United Methodist Church,
Medford, MN

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau, the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125
www.goodshepherdowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507)465-8366
Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474
Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemrowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadhead
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy
Communion, Sunday Morning at
10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday
of each month. Sunday School 9:00
a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM
TRINITY LUTHERAN



CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Bugler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Richard Sliper
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's
Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open
to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
7618 NE 84 Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666
(Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
(June - Aug. 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Family Faith Formation and Adult
Bible Study after Mass with noon
potluck; 2nd Sunday of month Fairh
formation for Kindergarten thru
Confirmation: every Wednesday
evening 6:30 p.m.
Annual turkey bingo, Sunday, Nov. 20
7 p.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Jose Morales,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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Fr. Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-5:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel avail Mon-Fri
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CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.



Christian

Christ Community Covenant Church
540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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http://streetfireministries.net/
Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
616-788-1044
www.streetfireministries.net

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkse
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
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2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
followed by the free meal at
11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday

Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
130 East Bridge St. Owatonna,
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CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10 a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 7 p.m. Saturday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
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Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Steven Robertson
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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Big items are up for auction

BASH: from page 1A

A \$1,000 Gold Sponsor will receive four complimentary bidding numbers with reserved seating for up to eight people at a premium table. Gold Sponsors will also receive recognition on all events materials prior to the event and following the event.

A \$500 Silver Sponsor will receive two complimentary bidding numbers with reserved seating for up to four people at a premium table. Silver Sponsors will also receive recognition in the

all events materials including advertising, programs, bidding cards, bidding sheets and press releases.

A \$250 Bronze Sponsor will receive one complimentary bidding number with reserved seating for up to two people at a premium table. Bronze Sponsors will also receive recognition in the events program.

A \$100 Star Sponsor receives one complimentary bidding number and recognition in the

event program.

To become a Benefit Bash sponsor, request a registration form from either Angie Carlson at 507-273-2207 or Lianna Doocy at 507-583-7096.

All proceeds will be channeled to the operating budget of the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie, said Doocy and Carlson. “These young people are the future of our community,” Doocy said.

Food basket specials will be available for purchase at the

Servicemen’s Club during the event.

In addition to the many attractive auction items, chances will be sold to win three prizes through a raffle. Prizes will include an iPad Mini 2, \$200 in cash and \$100 in cash.

Other headline items for the auctions include:

- Half hogs
- Minnesota Twins tickets (4) plus a bat autographed by Byron Buxton
- Photo autographed by

Minnesota Vikings receiver Stefon Diggs

- Size 15 shoe autographed by Timberwolves player Shabazz Muhammad
- Photo autographed by Jan McCarville of the Minnesota Lynx
- Blossom basket donated by Sportstitch
- 2 Renaissance Festival passes
- Ordway Theater tickets
- 18-hole golfing outing with cart for two at the Blooming Prairie Country Club

- \$40 gift card from Vandal’s
- Spam Museum basket
- Large Ninja action figure
- Homemade bird house donated by Richard Busho

Donations of items can be dropped off at the Boys & Girls Club. Two special awards of recognition will be given during the Benefit Bash to two key supporters who have been helpful to the Boys & Girls Club.

Count measures how climate affects birds

BIRD COUNT: from page 1A

not usually here,” Hill said.

Owatonna’s count had only one record broken this year. Birdwatchers found more Downey Woodpeckers than ever before in one year.

Other birds that had good increases included Mourning Doves, Northern Cardinal, Lapland Longspurs, House Finch and American Goldfinch. Some seldom seen birds included Oregon dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, American Kestrel, Red-head Woodpecker and Great Horned Owl.

Hill has been involved in every local count since it began 45 years ago. “I’ve always like birds,” he says. “I like to feed the birds.”

His favorite bird is the Black-capped Chickadee, which showed up 233 times during the count. “He’s not afraid of me,” Hill said of the

chickadee. “He talks to me and comes up to the feeders,” he added.

The count takes place across the entire county and must be done within a 2-week period beginning Dec. 15. Hill usually picks the first Saturday within the time period. He said the count is like “taking a snapshot” of the bird population to tell which species are going up or down.

Besides being a fun activity, Hill said there is a serious side to the count. “I’m more concerned about conservation and what we’re doing to our environment is most troubling,” he explained.

Environmental factors greatly affect what happens to birds, Hill said. For example, he said, the woods in Northern Minnesota won’t be what they are today in 100 years and that could severely impact the bird

population.

The counts also help scientists to determine how global warming is potentially affecting the bird population. “More birds are going extinct because of global warming than any other species,” Hill said. “We hope to do what we can to help them so they don’t go extinct.”

Asked what the normal person can do to help the bird population, Hill said people can plant more flowers and put out boxes to provide more natural environment.

Hill said the count has always focused in the Owatonna area, but he would like to see it expanded to other areas of the county in future years.

“It’s fun to do and we’re doing something for the birds,” Hill said.

2016 Steele County Christmas Bird Count Statistics by species:	
Lapland Longspur	494
American Crow	457
Dark-Eyes Junco	447
House Sparrow	414
Mallard	371
House Finch	237
Black-capped Chickadee	33
N. Cardinal	152
Am. Goldfinch	144
Downy Woodpecker	129
Blue Jay	125
Am. Tree Sparrow	121
Eur. Starling	103
Canada Goose	84
White-breasted Nuthatch	79
Mourning Dove	69
Wild Turkey	52
Horned Lark	47
Hairy Woodpecker	39
Red-bellied Woodpecker	38
Snow Bunting	31
Rock Pigeon	18
Total	4,025
Species	44

Steele County has 15.2 percent food insecurity for kids

BACKPACK: from page 4A



Submitted photo

Food can be donated in all sizes and quantities to the Backpack Program in the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. The program is coordinated by the Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf.

BPHS Student Council will pack the food into plastic bags.

The food will include produce, bread, Granola bars and boxed or canned foods. The high school will then deliver the food to the elementary school for delivery on Thursdays for grades pre-K to sixth grade.

In preparing to launch the program, Staloch said he learned that Steele County has 15.2 percent child food insecurity compared to 13.4 percent for Dodge County, 15.8 percent for Freeborn County and 16.1 percent for Mower County.

“Anytime a child is without basic needs, it is alarming,”

Staloch said. “We hope we can provide basic needs and thus help the kids do well in school,” he added.

To be eligible for the Backpack Program, students must be enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program.

“If there is any way we can serve kids and the community, we will make the schools and community stronger,” Staloch said.



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Cheri Krejci, treasurer for the BP Cancer Group, said the donation jar collected \$1,934.47 in 2016.

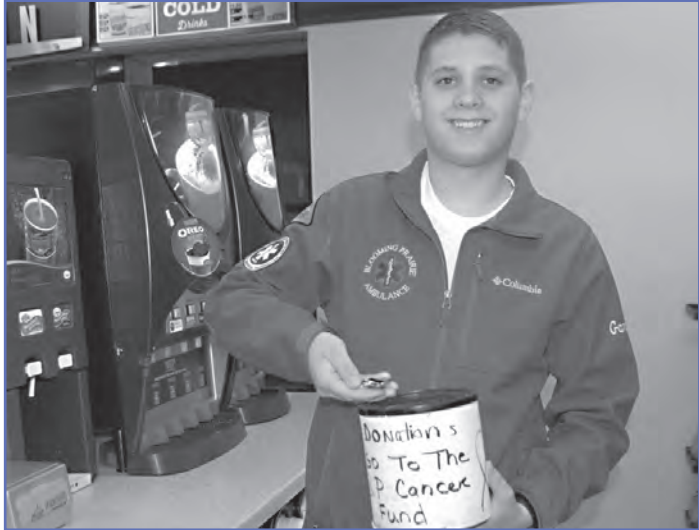
Garrett said cancer “hits close to home” for most people. He said his grandparents battled cancer. “It’s nice to help others before it is too late,” Garrett said.

Adding coins to the donation jar at Casey’s is one way to help but Garrett

reminds people they can also donate to cancer research online.

“Thank you to all of the people who have donated at Casey’s and it’s nice of the store to help fight cancer,” Garrett concluded.

Garrett currently works for Gold Cross Ambulance, serving Owatonna, Mankato and Fairmont. “I love it,” he said.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

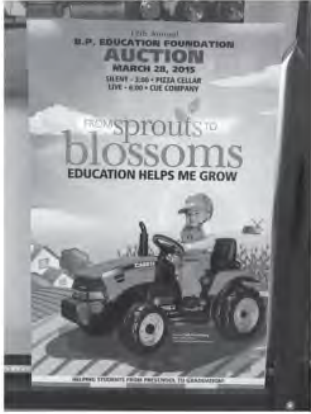
Former employee of Casey’s General Store in Blooming Prairie, Garrett Wradislavsky came up with the idea to put out a money donation jar to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Here, Garrett adds his own personal donation. Monies in the donation jar totaled \$1,934.47 in 2016.

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Tax help for caregiver of elderly parents

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are caregiving expenses tax deductible? I provide a lot of financial support to my elderly mother and would like to find out if I can write any of it off on my taxes.

Supporting Son

Dear Supporting,
There are actually several tax deductions and credits available to adult children who help look after their aging parents or other relatives. Here are your options along with the IRS requirements to help you determine if you're eligible to receive them.

Dependency Deduction
If you're paying for more than 50 percent of your mom's living costs (housing, food, utilities, medical and dental care, transportation and other necessities),

and her 2016 gross income (not counting her Social Security benefits) was under \$4,050, you can claim your mom as a dependent on your tax return, and reduce your taxable income by \$4,050.

Also note that your mom doesn't have to live with you to qualify as a dependent, as long as her income was under \$4,050 and you provided more than half her financial support.

If your mother does live with you, you can include a percentage of your mortgage, utilities and other expenses in calculating how much you contribute to her support. IRS Publication 501 (see irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p501.pdf) has a worksheet that can help you with this. To receive this, or other IRS publications or forms via mail, call 800-

829-3676.

Shared Support
If you share the financial responsibility for your mom with other siblings, you may be eligible for the IRS multiple-support declaration. Here's how this works. If one sibling is providing more than half the parent's financial support, only that sibling can claim the parent. But if each sibling provides less than 50 percent support, but their combined assistance exceeds half the parent's support. In that case, any sibling who provides more than 10 percent can claim the parent as a dependent. But only one sibling can claim the tax break in any given year. Siblings can rotate the tax break, with one claiming the parent one year, and another the next. The sibling who claims the par-

ent as a dependent will need to fill out IRS Form 2120 (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2120.pdf) and file it with his or her tax return.

Medical Deductions
If you can't claim your mom as a dependent, you may still get a tax break for helping pay her medical costs. The IRS lets taxpayers deduct money spent on a parent's health care and qualified long-term care services, even if the parent doesn't qualify as a dependent.

To claim this deduction, you still must provide more than half your mom's support, but your mom doesn't have to be under the \$4,050 income test. And the deduction is limited to medical, dental and long-term care expenses that exceed 10 percent (or 7.5 percent if you're 65 by Dec. 31, 2016) of your adjusted



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gross income. You can include your own medical expenses in calculating the total. See the IRS publication 502 (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p502.pdf) for details.

Dependent Care Credit
If you're paying for in-home care or adult day care for your mom so you are free to work, you may also be able to claim the Dependent Care Tax Credit, regardless of whether or not your mom qualifies as a dependent on your tax return. This credit can cut up to \$1,050 off your tax bill

for the year. In order to claim it, you must fill out IRS Form 2441 (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2441.pdf) when you file your federal return.

Check Your State
In addition to the federal tax breaks, more than 20 states offer tax credits and deductions for caregivers on state income taxes too. Check with your state tax agency to see what's available. For links to state tax agencies see taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, January 23rd, 2007
Marcus Zellmer, Report
When it comes to quality dental care, parents of children can't start too early to get their kids in the dental office. However, this opportunity is no always available to all families, a situation that the "Give Kids a Smile" program, being held at Main Street Dental, hopes to combat.

Working in coordination with the Main Street Dental Clinics in the surrounding area, the Blooming Prairie Clinic is hosting the "Give Kids a Smile" program Saturday, February 3.

"The program gives kids

a chance to have problems caught early," commented Dr. Bob Kess, a dentist at the local Clinic. "If we can catch pressing needs early, we can help the kids turn the corner and educate them on the right way to care for their teeth." The program is in its fifth year nationwide, and third year in Blooming Prairie. It has helped over 500,000 youths nationwide with free dental care.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, December 21st, 1997
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Bloomington Prairie City Council voted to raise the base

rate for sewer service in the city, citing a projected budget deficit in that area in 1997.

And Council members felt doing nothing would drive the city sewer department deeper in debt, so they passed an increase of \$1.50 for the base rate to households in town.

By raising the base rate, City Administrator Todd Praefke estimated raising \$14,000 with that slight increase. The base rate is currently at \$12, the increase pushes it to \$13.50. Household also pay an additional \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons over that base rate.

In other news, the county is set to vote on Cabela's. The agreement calls for a \$3.9 mil-

lion development that would include water, roads, sewer and electricity which would be tied into the city services. Cabelas is a large outfitter and with the Buzz Kaplan idea of a car museum, would call for a 200-acre tourism site northwest of Owatonna.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, January 20th, 1967
The Farmers and Merchants Bank, Blooming Prairie, announced that it will make non-profit loans to college students under the National United Student Aid Funds Program. Undergraduates from the Blooming Prairie area may

borrow up to \$1,000 a year, graduate students \$2,000 a year, to a total of \$7,500 to complete their education.

Complete details regarding this non-profit loan program may be obtained at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, January 22nd 1942
Rabbit hunt to be hosted by the Blooming Prairie Gun Club. It will be the largest rabbit hunt ever in Southern Minnesota.

All proceeds from the sale of both jacks and cottontails will be turned over to the Red Cross. Each jack will render

25 cents, and each cottontail will bring 5 cents each. A wholesale buyer will be on the spot to purchase the entire day's bag.

Also, the Lutheran Church congregation of the Red Oak Grove and Blooming Prairie have each contributed \$25 to the war fund drive. It has been announced by Rev. H. J. Rasmussen, pastor of both churches. The decision to make this contribution was decided at the annual business sessions held recently by the church officers.



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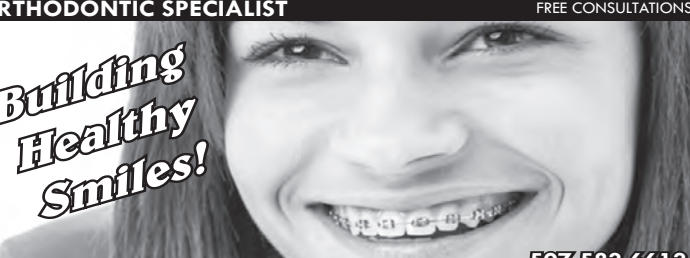
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1 T. lemon juice
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1 tsp. hot sauce
4 catfish fillets, 1/2" thick
1 med. onion, finely
chopped
2 med. tomatoes,

chopped
1 tsp. fresh, chopped
jalapeno pepper
1/2 c. grated cheddar
cheese
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper

Preheat broiler. In a small bowl, mix olive oil, lemon juice, and hot sauce. Brush both sides of catfish. Place on an oiled baking pan. Broil 4" from heat for 5 minutes. In a medium bowl, mix tomato, onion, jalapeno, and cheese. Spoon over catfish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Broil for an additional 5 minutes. Serves 4.

by
Roger Miner

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RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

Medford brings magic to the stage



Submitted photo

Self-proclaimed genius Charles Dabernow Schmendiman (Brandon Sisler) describes his invention that will change the 20th Century to bar owner Freddy (Dakota Wiersma), barmaid Germaine (Amber Sobrack), and painter Pablo Picasso (Jason Domstrand) in Medford high school's one-act, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin. The students, under the direction of Betsy Cole, will compete with the show at the 2A Sub-Section 6 One-Act Play Competition on Saturday, Jan. 28 at United South Central High School in Wells, MN. The play tells the story of an imagined meeting between Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso one evening at a bar in 1904 Paris, where they debate art vs. science, the 20th Century ahead, and the nature of genius and inspiration. There will be a free public performance of the comedy on Thursday, Jan. 26 in the Medford High School auditorium.

St. Columbanus nativity caretaker changes

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Every Christmas season for the past 30 years, St. Columbanus Catholic Church members Dale Underwood and Wally Wilkie have carried on a nativity scene tradition in front of the church on Main Street of Bloomington.

Underwood and Wilkie took down the nativity display this week and have turned over the annual project to Jared Brown of Bloomington. Brown will put up the display next December.

As members of the Knights of Columbus, Underwood and Wilkie started the nativity tradition in the mid-1980s. The Rev. Paul Halloran was the church priest at the time. KC members from Bloomington, Hayfield, Newry, Ellendale and Litomysl

"We started out with some paper-mâché figures," Wilkie recalls. "With weathering, the figures fell apart and we made plans to buy more durable statues," Wilkie said. These statues came from a company in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, related Underwood and Wilkie.

The nativity scene then began to shape up by securing two wise men, a camel, a cow, donkey, three little sheep and a ram and a ewe. "We had talked about getting a hog but no one wanted

to feed it," Wilkie joked.

Two shepherds, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus completed the manger scene. The stable was constructed of old lumber Wilkie confiscated from his son who demolished an old granary. A hay feeder was also built. "You can't have livestock without feed," Wilkie remarked.

Dennis Heimerman of Metal Services donated a star for the display. An electrical plugin was installed to give the display illumination.

"It was a community endeavor with donations coming from people outside of the Catholic church," Wilkie said.

The nativity display has been very meaningful to people of all faiths, Underwood and Wilkie claim. They said that people ask when the display will be put up for the holiday season. Many were concerned one year when the scene did not get put up until a week later than usual. It is typically placed in front of the church at Advent. It stays until mid-January.

It takes 10-15 persons to erect the nativity scene each year. Many are young bodies, needed to put the roof and walls of the stable in place.

Underwood and Wilkie have many stories to tell about their years of working with the nativity scene. Bloomington Police even



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dale Underwood and Wally Wilkie have been responsible for putting up a nativity scene in front of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church every Christmas season. They are relinquishing their duties next year and turning over the responsibility to Jared Brown, another parish member.

investigated what they thought might be the theft of Baby Jesus.

"I was going to be gone one weekend," Wilkie said, "and was carrying Baby Jesus to the home of Tom and Martha Walters for safe keeping. I was stopped by police who thought I might be stealing part of the nativity scene."

Wilkie and Underwood said it is important to them and to many others to put Christ back into Christmas with the display of the nativity.

"It's a pretty neat thing," said Underwood. "Yes, it's a good project," agreed Wilkie.

BP's top citizens fight for Stix of Fury



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Bloomington Area Chamber of Commerce President Greg Johnson presents the Citizens of the Year award to the husband and wife team of Alecia and Jake Peterson. The Petersons were honored at the annual BP Area Chamber of Commerce banquet on Thursday night, Jan. 19. Story on 2B.



Submitted photo

Students at Willow Creek Intermediate School display some of the 55 pairs of gloves and a dozen hats donated by the Owatonna Area Retired Educators. Project chairs Gary and Cherry Schwartz are also shown.

OAREA donates winter gear

The Owatonna Area Retired Educators Association (OAREA) delivered 55 pair of gloves and mittens along with a dozen hats to students at Willow Creek Intermediate School.

The items were purchased with donations from members and a grant from the United Educator's Credit Union.

Any student at Willow Creek who needs a piece of cold weather gear

should contact social worker Liz Morsching.

The OAREA is a local group of educators who have retired from area school districts.

They meet monthly to conduct business and interact socially. Membership is open to anyone who served as a teacher, principal, custodian, educational assistant, cook, secretary or any other educational position.

BP Masonic history preserved

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

Bloomington area resident Ken Trom is a proud man and happy to see history of the Bloomington Masonic Lodge shared with many individuals.

Trom, a longtime member of the Prairie Lodge 123 and three times its worshipful master, was a key component in an attempt to share history of the Lodge with others.

It took the efforts of Trom and some other Prairie Lodge Masons to organize a public auction of Masonic items on Jan. 7. It was the decision of the Masonic membership last October to close down the Lodge after 140 years of history in Bloomington. The city observes its 150th anniversary this summer.

Heartwarming it was, said Trom to see local people and others come to the auction at Lodge quarters across from the Bloomington Senior Center on Third Ave. SE.

Trom was extremely pleased to see over 100 bidders on a cold, wintry day to try to capture a piece of Bloomington history. He said the auction raised over \$5,000 which will be donated to the Bloomington Veterans Memorial to be constructed just east of the Bloomington Servicemen's Club.

It is very appropriate that one of the successful bidders on some of the pieces of history is a Prairie Lodge Mason and also is chairman of the drive to place a veterans memorial in the city. Peterson was the successful bidder one antique desk whose history dates back to the 1700s.

What really helped make the sale a success was the promotion of the auction by Lansing auctioneer David Thompson. He posted items on Facebook and drew not only local folks but many collectors.

Trom had his eyes on two Masonic bibles. He won the bid and brought them home.

Trom also linked two families with Masonic bibles that carried their names etched within. He delivered one bible to a family in Claremont and another to a family in Austin. "I knew these people would have sentimental value in the bibles," Trom said.

In addition to most of the items sold on auction, some historic items were pulled out and were donated to the State Masonic Lodge and to the Steele County Historical Society.

Doreen Blome, chair of the Servicemen's Club board of directors, was tickled pink to have bid successfully on a wooden podium and also won bids on some shiny silverware.

Mike Jones, city administrator, bought a portrait of our first president George Washington. "I didn't want it to go on E-bay," Jones said. He told the council at a regular meeting on Jan. 9 that the portrait should be placed in the BP City Center.

Trom deserves much of the credit for the public auction being so successful but he is quick to pass some of the credit to Thompson the auctioneer. Thompson is a Mason and was a member of the Prairie Lodge.

Thompson donated his services for the auction. "It is comforting to see these historic items find a good home," Thompson said.

Using a fun, joking sense

MASONIC

Continued on page 2B

County Living

Owatonna Foundation announces non-traditional scholarship recipients

Since 1995 the Owatonna Foundation has awarded 403 scholarships, totaling more than \$528,000, for individuals preparing for technical careers. Recipients attend programs at technical or community colleges. During spring semester 2017, six individuals will use Owatonna Foundation Non-traditional Scholarships to assist with the costs of their education.

Spring 2017 Nontraditional Scholarship Recipients

- Cari Jessop, Riverland Community College, Nursing, \$1,500, spouse Wade Jessop
- Santana Liverseed, South Central College, Accounting, \$1,500, parents Phil & Jamie Liverseed and Denise & Brian Bronner
- Chris Reinhard, The Travel Academy, Flight Attendant, \$1,500, spouse John Reinhard

- Greg Selk, South Central College, Automotive Service, \$1,500, spouse Gena Liming
- Michael Thom, Riverland Community College, Automotive Service, \$1,500, parents Shane and Shelley Thom
- Alex Wolf, Riverland Community College, Diesel Technology, \$1,500, parents DeAnn & Ken Wolf

Two types of scholarships are available from the Owatonna Foundation--Nontraditional and Traditional. Nontraditional scholarships are awarded to individuals who are returning to college or continuing their education and graduated prior to 2016. Traditional scholarships are awarded to 2017 high school graduates.

For the 2016 – 2017 school year, \$15,000 remains for traditional scholarships and \$9,000 remains available for

nontraditional scholarships. Traditional scholarship applications are due April 10, 2017, and nontraditional scholarship applications are due June 25, 2017. The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to make these scholarships available as supporting education is part of the Foundation's mission of "Improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation and education"

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 455-3059. If you have questions, contact the Foundation office or Jill Holmes.



Submitted photo

Straight River Women gift money to Owatonna Park and Rec

Straight River Women of Today donated \$2,900 to Owatonna Parks and Recreation for the scholarship fund, therapeutic recreation, flowers and picnic tables at Jaycee Park last week. Pictured from left to right, back row: Gary Schwartz, Tim Truelson and Walt Spindler; front row: Joan Spindler, Gerry Wacek and Cherry Schwartz.



Cari Jessop



Santana Liverseed



Chris Reinhard



Greg Selk



Michael Thom



Alex Wolf

Movie Review: Monster Trucks



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Monster Trucks is a Frankenstein of a film, a few good parts, a few bad ones.

The movie focuses on high school student Tripp, played by Lucas Till, who discovers a giant squid-like creature in the junkyard where he works. The monster, accidentally released from an underground lake by oil

drillers, is being hunted by the villainous oil company. When it crawls inside and takes over Tripp's truck, they're off on a pedal-to-the-metal adventure.

Considering how little effort is often put into shooting kids' films, the shots are clean and often go above and beyond what's necessary. The special effects on the monster go awry once or twice, but on the whole it's well designed and is given a variety of expressions. The thrills of the movie are fun. The good cinematography lends an extra level of adrenaline to scenes where characters' driving leaps over obstacles and down mountains.

What's troubling about this movie, however, isn't the surface; it's what bubbles up from beneath. Tripp isn't an ideal role model for kids. He complains about the shallow rich kids only to turn around and belittle a chubby less popular student.

The car chase scenes are

filled with Tripp recklessly side-swiping other innocent drivers, destroying property, and presumably killing several henchmen in car wrecks. All of which is usually followed by a cheer or laugh from the main character.

The movie also seems confused on whether of not it's environmentally friendly. Oil companies are bad and destructive, but oil and giant trucks are awesome. It's disingenuous of the movie to tell the audience that big oil companies are the problem, while everything the audience might do, like buy a large fuel-inefficient truck is okay.

In the end, the movie probably won't turn your child into a bully or someone inconsiderate about nature, but with all the effort being put into family films these days, you and your kids can do better.

Rated: PG

Residents can still register for disaster relief

If you suffered losses or damage in the September 21-24 severe storms and flooding, the time to register for federal disaster assistance is now. Minnesota officials and FEMA are urging eligible residents in designated counties to apply for assistance as soon as possible. The registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 30.

Many residents affected by the September storms and flooding in Freeborn, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties may be eligible for assistance but have yet to seek help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Some homeowners and renters who may qualify for assistance miss out on receiving aid because they are mistaken or misinformed about applying. All one needs to do is to register with FEMA to begin the process. Call 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may also call 800-621-3362. You may also apply online with any computer, smartphone or tablet at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Some survivors mistakenly think that if they have cleaned up or made repairs themselves they cannot apply for assistance. Others worry that accepting money from

FEMA may affect their Social Security checks or that a FEMA grant would be taxed as income by the IRS. Neither of these assumptions is true.

Still others may hesitate to accept taxpayer money as they think their neighbors are more in need. But everyone, regardless of income or financial status, is eligible to apply for FEMA help. And sometimes survivors assume that once they collect their insurance payments they are no longer entitled to federal help, even if the insurance settlement fell short of covering the damages. Also untrue.

But the most common

reason that people do not apply for FEMA assistance is their supposition that since they have alerted local, county or state officials about their damage, they are automatically registered with FEMA. They are not.

A free multilingual guide to the types of available assistance is online at fema.gov/pdf/assistance/process/help_after_disaster_english.pdf. For more information on Minnesota recovery, visit the disaster webpages at fema.gov/disaster/4290, Ready.gov/Minnesota and dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem. Follow FEMA on Twitter @femaregion5 or @MnDPS_HSEM.

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Animal. On Jan. 15, deputies received a complaint of a subject shooting at least one of his dogs in the 57100 block of 145th Ave. in West Concord at 1:15 p.m.

CRIME BRIEF

Crash leads to pot arrest

A 21-year-old man is facing a felony after crashing his vehicle into a house in Owatonna.

Police responded to the 1600 block of Mosher Ave. where they found a vehicle crashed into a house early Friday. Two occupants were seen walking away from the scene around 2 a.m.

Investigators noticed significant damage to the house foundation and broken water lines inside the home. No one was home at the time and no one was injured, police said.

Police found the driver a short time later. Brandon Wencil of Owatonna was arrested for a

felony amount of marijuana and leaving the scene of a property damage crash.

Wencil admitted to officers that he was driving too fast and had been drinking at a bar just before the crash, police said.



Brandon Wencil

ed to a disorderly conduct incident in the 1000 block of 28th Ave. NW at 10:56 p.m. They transported a subject to the scene.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Owatonna Police Jan. 13
Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 9:26 a.m.
Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 4:31 p.m.

Jan. 14
Shoplifting. Police responded to a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4 p.m.
Warrant. At 5:16 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 800 block of 25th St. NE.
Mental Health. Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 6:19 p.m.
Theft. Officer took a report of theft in the 500 block of 13th St. NE at 6:48 p.m.

Jan. 15
DWI. Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 18th St. SE and Cedar Ave. S. at 12:45 a.m.
Shoplifting. At 4:16 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.
Theft. Police received a theft report from the 300 block of 18th St. SE at 6:48 p.m.

Jan. 16
Death. Police began a death investigation in the 300 block of 23rd St. NW at 11:03 a.m.
Fraud. A citizen reported being a victim of a fraud incident in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 4:11 p.m.
Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:30 p.m.
Theft. Police responded to the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW for a theft at 6:28 p.m.
Arrest. At 8:25 p.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. S. and Main St. E.

Jan. 17
Suspicion. Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1900 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:36 a.m.
Traffic. Police made a traffic-related arrest in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 9:33 a.m.
Domestic. At 1:17 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Rice St. E. They made an arrest at the scene.
Disturbance. Police responded

R. Larson, 29, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$121; Everado R. Reyes Del Rio, 30, Minneapolis, no insurance and no license, \$381; Dakota L. Zimmerman, 21, De Witt, IA, speeding, \$141.

Owatonna Police Department
Samantha A. Bill, 24, Albert Lea, theft, \$181; Christian S. Crandall, 24, Owatonna, no license, no insurance and texting while driving, \$431; Victor Guerrero, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jeffrey V. Kubat, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Marcus W. Leith, 39, Redwood Falls, theft, \$100.99 and 90 days in county jail; Rodolfo Moncada, 36, Waseca, no license and speeding, \$321; Maria E. Solis, 46, Owatonna, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jaimie L. Sorvaag, 28, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281;
Anthony D. Stapleton, 31, Cedar Falls, IA, suspended license, \$281; Denasha R. Sutton, 20, Owatonna, expired license and no insurance, \$381.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Jeffrey A. Anderson, 45, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Lucas N. Berndt, 32, Waltham, stop sign, \$131; Natasha L. Chavez, 26, Owatonna, suspended license and speeding, \$331;
Kristine K. Fischer, 61, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Bremer L. Glidden, 40, Windom, revoked license, \$281; Jeffrey C. Grandstrand, 53, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Tayler J. Jongbloedt, 23, Hayfield, speeding, \$121;
Jonathan F. Kottke, 34, Kasson, speeding, \$121; Alisha M. Kramer, 28, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Bernard J. Mach, 54, Owatonna, revoked license and failure to signal for turn, \$331; Steviann M. Mann, 29, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Brenden M. McMann, 16, Ellendale, speeding, \$281; Jerry J. Nix, 25, Minneapolis, permit violation and no insurance, \$331; Zaw Nyeing, 32, Austin, speeding, \$121;
James M. Preston, 59, speeding, \$121; Gilberto M. San Miguel, 34, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 179 complaints during the week of Jan. 11 – 17. Some of them include:

Jan. 11
Burglary. Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 62000 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 8:33 a.m.
Explosion. Deputies responded to a paint building explosion in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center at 10:32 a.m. Thirteen agencies responded to the scene.
Suspicion. Deputies received a complaint of a subject in all black walking along Hwy. 56 at 720th St. in Hayfield at 9:44 p.m.

Jan. 12
Vandalism. Deputy took a report of vandalism on Hwy. St. E in Dodge Center at 9:37 a.m.
Disturbance. At 9:32 p.m., a disturbance occurred in a parking lot in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Jan. 13
Vehicle. A citizen reported an abandoned vehicle with slashed tires at 1st St. NW and 5th Ave. NW in Hayfield at 1:43 a.m.
Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity regarding a person in a vehicle in the 24900 block of 710th St. in Hayfield at 8:08 a.m.
Domestic. At 1:25 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of 1st St. W. in West Concord.
Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 5:59 p.m.
Tampering. At 7:10 p.m., deputies took a report of a motor vehicle being tampered with in the 300 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Jan. 14
Disturbance. At 2:43 p.m., a citizen called deputies for help with removing a male subject from his home in the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont.

Jan. 15
Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 4:27 p.m.

Jan. 16
Disturbance. At 8:23 a.m., a West Concord citizen reported that someone was trying to break into her home in the 100 block of South St.
Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 12:46 p.m.
Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield at 8:53 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide. Deputies responded to a carbon monoxide alarm activation in the 200 block of 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 10:29 p.m.
Off the Road. Police responded to 17 vehicles that ran off the road due to icy roads throughout the county.

Jan. 17
Welfare. Deputy completed a welfare check in the 300 block of 1st St. NE in Hayfield at 9:03 a.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 9 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Stenward H. Hanson, 59, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Hanson was sentenced to 1 year in St. Cloud State Prison.
The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 9 – 16:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Daniel T. Andola, 45, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Conner A. Breitbarth, 24, Claremont, DWI, \$1,005, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Craig D. Cornell, 53, Spring Valley, parking violation, \$32;
Terry L. Dahl, 37, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$280; Jeffrey K. Freeburg, 44, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Jessie M. Glahn, 31, Marshfield, WI, parking violation, \$32; Daniel L. Greene, 63, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Katie J. Grobe, 33,

Dodge Center, speeding, \$120;
Megan J. Hagen, 22, Garden City, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, 38 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, obtain GED, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation;
April M. Hurley, 42, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Jason J. Jennings, 48, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Roger R. Johnson, 45, Dodge Center, DWI, \$1,005, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Elizabeth H. Olevson, 68, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Elsa A. Ortega, 32, Claremont, revoked license, \$280;
Rhonda K. Ryg, 46, Claremont, disorderly conduct, \$100; Casey L. Sommers, 25, Hayfield, domestic assault by strangulation, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, 52 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, no contact with victim, domestic abuse counseling, anger management, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain GED, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Lynnette M. Starkey, 38, Waterloo, IA, parking violation, \$32; Allen E. Starkson, 57, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Martet L. Urquhart, 30, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$120; Benjamin R. Wilen, 25, Hudson, WI, parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police Department
Lynette M. Laures, 48, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Christopher A. Nelson, 35, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Ruben M. Calderon, 47, Rochester, suspended license, \$280; Jaymie L. Livingston, 20, Faribault, no insurance, \$280; Robert W. Marcellais, 61, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Juan F. Mendoza-Negrete, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$280; Lewis A. Smith III, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Peggy A. Witt, 45, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105.

West Concord Police Department
Peggy A. Witt, 45, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Ruben M. Calderon, 47, Rochester, suspended license, \$280; Jaymie L. Livingston, 20, Faribault, no insurance, \$280; Robert W. Marcellais, 61, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Juan F. Mendoza-Negrete, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$280; Lewis A. Smith III, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Peggy A. Witt, 45, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105.

West Concord Police Department
Peggy A. Witt, 45, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32.

ARREST Steele County

Owatonna Police
Joshua Douglas Watkins, 27, arrested at 5:36 p.m. Jan. 14, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.
Mustafa Said Hassan, 28, arrested at 9 p.m. Jan. 16, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.
Natalie Ann Moe, 31, arrested at 9:43 a.m. Jan. 17, cancelled license, held for court.
Daniel James Stockwell, 29, arrested at 1:57 p.m. Jan. 17, domestic assault, held for court.
Christopher Jay Labs, 33, arrested at 3:37 p.m. Jan. 18, warrant arrest, body only.
Bradley James Richards, 31, arrested at 11:43 a.m. Jan. 19, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.
Michael Rodney Brown, 50, arrested at 10:38 p.m. Jan. 19, felony domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Brandon David Wencil, 21, arrested at 3:30 a.m. Jan. 20, possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Matthew John Peters, 29, arrested at 9:03 p.m. Jan. 13, probation violation warrants arrest, body only.

Chad Merle Adams, 47, arrested at 12:03 a.m. Jan. 16, cancelled license, speeding, no insurance and open container held for court.

Savanna Jean Guerrero, 18, arrested at 8:51 p.m. Jan. 17, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Mark David Matthews, 41, arrested at 9:16 a.m. Jan. 19, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.
Tommy Cedric Hondel-Reid, 24, arrested at 9:28 a.m. Jan. 19, felony domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

MN State Patrol
Grecia Felix, 23, arrested at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 19, felony possession of narcotics, held for court.
Felipe Castro Jr., 26, arrested at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 19, felony possession of narcotics, held for court.
Paulette Argentina Valdez Martinez, 22, arrested at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 19, felony possession of narcotics, held for court.

OWATONNA FIRE

Jan. 13
Smoke. Fire personnel assisted with smoke or odor removal in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:45 p.m.
Fire. At 1:10 p.m., fire fighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire on Interstate 35.

Jan. 14
Gas Leak. Natural gas leaks occurred in the 1300 block of Jaden Lane SE at 4:38 a.m. and on State Ave. at 8:09 p.m.

Jan. 16
Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 600 block of Broadway St. E. at 4:45 p.m.

Jan. 17
Medical. Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 9:23 a.m.

Jan. 18
Spill. At 11:28 p.m., fire fighters responded to a gasoline or other flammable liquid spill in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W.

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The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County. The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

- Dennis Weber – no insurance - \$6,000 bail
 - Paul Wechtuor – stalking - \$3,000 bail
 - Eric Weiser – theft by check - \$3,000 bail
 - Jeremy Werchowski – DWI – no bail
 - Jimmy Wermter – cancelled license – no bail
 - Jonathan Werstein – traffic - \$500 ba
 - Charles West – theft - \$20,000 bail
 - Levi Westling – restraining order violation - \$6,000 bail
 - William Wheeler – fleeing an officer – no b
 - Darnell Whitner – drug possession - \$200 bail
- Joshua Wiedemann – drugs – no bail
 - Danny Wiles – DWI - \$12,000 bail
 - Bernice Williams – driving without license - \$1,000 bail
 - Deangelo Williams – suspended license - \$500 bail
 - Erika Williams – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
 - Kelly Williams – theft - \$500 bail
 - Carnell Williamson – fleeing officer - \$300 b
 - Theodore Wilson – DWI, no license - \$3,000 bail
 - Darryl Winford – DWI - \$750 bail
 - William Winters – violation of conditions of release – no bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification & apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

**ACTIVE
WARRANTS**

Residents march in Minneapolis



Submitted photo

Nineteen women and men chartered a bus from Owatonna to join an estimated 90,000 to 100,000 others at an energetic and peaceful Women's March and rally held in St. Paul at the Minnesota Capitol on Saturday, Jan. 21. Ranging in age from 13 to senior citizens, and with many donning the signature pink Pussycat hats, this local group marched and chanted alongside people of all ages, colors, sizes, abilities and genders to support causes important to women. Colorful handmade signs abounded as a record number of marchers participated on a damp January Minnesota day, a scene replicated throughout cities in the U.S.A., most of which held the largest rallies ever. People in dozens of countries throughout the world participated in similar rallies.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

Recently, we've done some training that has gained local media attention: The Active Shooter Training we did in the Dodge County Courthouse in December, and the Simulation Training (shoot/no shoot scenarios) that we did last week.

The majority of responses we heard about our efforts were very positive. However, I also heard a few critical of our training – that we should focus on more realistic training for our area, on crisis intervention training, or training on mental illness response.

While we certainly appreciate hearing the positive comments, I think it's also important we respond to those questioning our efforts. First of all, let's address the "realistic" comment.

In our Active Shooter training, we focused on the challenges of responding to a mass shooting (4+ victims injured or killed excluding the subject/suspect/perpetrator, one location). In the first 15 days of 2017 there were 13 Mass Shooting incidents recorded nationwide – from Winstonville, Miss. (population 191) to Chicago, Ill., an average of nearly one a day.

We've had officer-involved shootings in Mankato, Austin, Fillmore County, and here in Dodge County in Hayfield. So to suggest that officer-involved shootings aren't realistic here in SE Minnesota is unfortunately not true. In 2016, there were 16 fatal officer-involved shootings in Minnesota. While these numbers are a far cry from the numbers seen in states like Illinois, they are still concerning for everyone. When you look at the facts, you'll see it's training like this that can help prevent fatal officer-involved shootings.

Let's address the comment regarding our needing to focus more on mental illness response. In Simulation Train-

ing, we put our deputies in real life scenarios to learn how to safely respond to high stress situations, often where mental illness is a factor, and where weapons may be involved. More importantly we focus on alternative techniques and options available to de-escalate and avoid having to shoot a suspect – with communication and/or less lethal force options. Our deputy's most important tool or weapon isn't found on their duty belt, it's between their ears - their communication skillset. We call it "verbal judo" - using one's words to prevent, de-escalate, or end an attempted assault or attack.

The simulator provides our deputies realistic training where we can coach them on verbal de-escalation, while also training on how to respond when there is either no time for "verbal judo", when it may be ineffective, or simply when use of force is necessary to protect the deputy or others involved or in the area.

Do we send our deputies to Crisis Intervention Training to learn how to deal with mental illness? Sure we do. But this training puts our men and women in situations where they have to make split second decisions, deciding how to best react and end a volatile and dangerous situation. You don't get this kind of training in a book, classroom, or table top discussion. This gives us and our deputies an opportunity to see how they handle stressful situations like this first hand.

Too often we see emotional responses to law enforcement tactics and training without any facts to back them up. We recently observed how our Active Shooter Training, which included multiple agency response tactics, incident command training, and mass casualty recovery - really helped in our response to the McNeilus explosion in Dodge Center.

Before you so quickly criticize law enforcement, a profession often twisted and misrepresented in the main stream media and in Hollywood, I suggest a better alternative might be to educate yourself first. Talk with your local law enforcement and ask questions, sit in on training

that you question, participate in a ride-along, etc. Our tactics and training tools that are most often criticized may someday save your life.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose has been the sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. He writes a monthly column in this newspaper and the columns can also be found on the county's website.

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- Makes less intense
- Forced to take refuge
- Campaigner
- Special security team
- Egyptian city
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- What newlyweds just said
- Pain
- Norwegian village
- Produced on paper
- Acceptance
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- Detective Ventura
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CLUES DOWN

- Fathers
- Region
- The Great Barrier ____
- Father
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Health & Wellness

Simple ways to stay fit all year long

Many people find it easier to maintain their beach bodies during summer than they do throughout the rest of the year. Summer weather encourages people to get off the couch and enjoy the great outdoors, and many people prefer to eat lighter meals during the summer to combat the heat and humidity.

But once the dog days of summer give way to autumn, the motivation to stay in beach shape tends to wane.

Couple that dwindling motivation with the tendency to eat larger, heartier meals as the weather gets colder, and it's easy to see why so many people gain weight over the last several months of the year and into the new year.

But maintaining a healthy weight year-round promotes long-term health and reduces a person's risk for various ailments and diseases, including heart disease and diabetes.

The following are a handful of strategies men and women can employ as they try to turn their beach bodies into the bodies they see in the mirror all year long.

- Keep setting goals. As winter heads toward spring, many people set short-term goals to motivate them to get back into beach shape.

That's a highly effective strategy that need not be exclusive to late winter. Setting short-term fitness

and dietary goals throughout the year can keep you from falling back into bad habits.

Tie your goals into the season to increase your chances for success.

For example, resolve to run outdoors or cycle a certain number of miles each week in autumn, when the weather is still conducive to physical activity and the scenery is idyllic. When winter arrives and exercising outdoors is no longer viable, commit to attending a few fitness classes per week at your gym.

- Switch up your workout routine every few weeks. Boredom also can affect people's ability to maintain healthy weights year-round.

Adhering to the same exercise routine for months on end can grow tedious. The body can even grow accustomed to the same workout routine, meaning you won't be getting as much out of your exercise sessions as you might if you switch things up.

If you find your daily workouts taking a turn toward the mundane, switch up your routine by changing exercises or signing up for classes that interest you.

- Find healthy seasonal foods. Many people prefer to buy locally sourced and/or in-season foods, recognizing the positive impact that such dietary habits can have on the environment.

That commitment to

buying healthy, locally grown foods can be tested as the seasons change and the offerings at your local market change along with them.

Educate yourself about which foods are in-season in your area throughout the year, opting for the most nutritious foods you can find. Buying in-season foods saves you money, and you will also feel good about staying on a nutritious, eco-friendly track.

- Join an exercise group or sports league. The buddy system is an effective way to stay committed to a fitness regimen, but if you cannot find a friend or family member to brave cold winter treks to the gym with you, then consider joining an exercise group or competitive sports league.

As summer turns to autumn, join a road runner's club to motivate you to run. When harsh weather makes running outdoors too difficult, sign up for a winter sports league. Such groups or leagues get you off the couch and provide great opportunities to meet like-minded men and women who have made their own commitments to staying fit.

Staying fit all year long is a challenge for many people. But maintaining that beach body even after summer has come and gone need not be so difficult.



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Huskies clip Wingers



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Kodey Kiel (12) fires a wrist shot on net in the second period of the Huskies' 5-2 Big Nine Conference win over Red Wing Saturday at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. The Huskies exploded for three goals and 11 shots on net in the period.

Broton, Wencl each register two goals in 5-2 win

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

In the opening minutes of the Owatonna boys hockey matchup against Big Nine Conference foe Red Wing Saturday, it appeared that there was still some lingering effects from the crushing 5-4 loss to Rochester Century Thursday.

After allowing a goal late in the first period, the Huskies needed to respond. And respond they did. Powered by a trio of goals in the second period – two of them coming from senior Carter Broton – the Huskies (7-7, 4-3 Big Nine) topped the Wingers 5-2 on Hockey Day Minnesota 2017 at the Four Seasons Centre. “The way they bounced back was what I was more impressed

with in the second period,” commented Huskies head coach Josh Storm. “They dominated the heck out of that period. They (Red Wing) couldn’t skate with us.” Despite being on the penalty kill after Nate Smith was assessed for a two-minute minor penalty for hooking, Owatonna’s aggressive attack kept its intensity. Every time a Winger’s

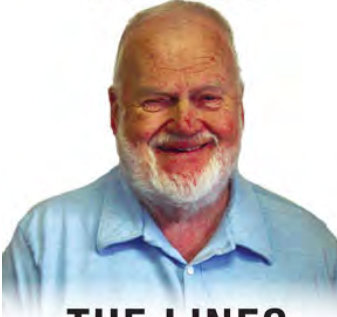
player entered the Huskies’ zone, they were swarm, often being dislodged from the puck or were forced to try and make a nice move to create an open shot. After creating a turnover in the neutral zone, defenseman John Swenson fired a quick wrist-shot that skipped just under the glove of the goaltender to tie the game 1-1.

When Owatonna’s defense managed to force yet another turnover in the neutral zone, Broton wrist-shot just beat Zachariah Harding’s glove on the breakaway at the 4:54-mark of the period to quickly tilt the ice in Owatonna’s favor. The se-

HOCKEY

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

This week in local Sports

A big event coming right around the corner is the annual Benefit Bash in support of the local Boys and Girls Club on Feb. 4. This affair in February is one of the two major fundraisers each in support of the club, the other being the ribfest on the Fourth of July weekend. Last year the bash generated almost \$20,000 to help fund the club’s programming and activities, and this year the planning committee has set an ambitious goal of \$30,000. With community support the club feels that this is an obtainable goal. Many contributions have already been consigned to the event, including casino stays, sports’ teams memorabilia, handcrafted articles, and many other silent and live auction items will be available. The annual raffle will be on the event, with those tickets selling for \$5 each. Ticket holders need not be present to win, and an iPad Mini 2 is the first prize, with \$200 and \$100 for second and third. The prizes and other information about the bash have been posted on circulars all around the community. A kids’ party will be held at the B & G Club during the live auction part of the bash, with transportation back and forth to the Servicemen’s Club. We encourage everyone to support the event and enjoy the interaction and socialization on tap for this very worthwhile event.

The week in sports

Once every two or three seasons, a game come along that provides such high drama and excitement for players and fans that it promotes memories to last for a long time. Kylie Forystek’s three-pointer at the buzzer last Friday night against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown certainly ranks as one of those moments. The victory against one of the top teams in the conference was, as Coach John Bruns said, a real tremendous win against a very god team. The win demonstrated that the Blossoms could play with good teams and should inspire the girls the rest of the season. It gave the girls a split in two games last week and left them 3-3 in the conference. On the other hand, it looked like the boys left their basketball desire at home, as the Bucs carved them up good at Waterville. It left the boys with a 7-6 record after a busy week and a 2-4 mark in the conference. The wrestling team split a pair of matches in two triangulars, but they are still wrestling quite strongly. Happy reading!

*Editor’s note

There is no Tiger’s round up this week due to scores not being reported prior to press. Attempts to reach out to Medford coaches were unsuccessful. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Titans pluck Blossoms

Blooming Prairie dropped three of last four



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie’s Max Romeo (23) attempts a lay up during the Blossoms’ 53-41 loss to Tri-City United Saturday in Montgomery. With the loss, the Blossoms have now dropped three of their last four contests. For more photos from the Blossoms’ games at TCU, check out the Steele County Times on Facebook.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Montgomery - In a boy-girl doubleheader against Tri-City United at Montgomery on Saturday, the Awesome Blossoms fell 53-41 despite keeping the game close for much of the contest.

BP stayed competitive for most of the game, but the Titans managed to grab a double-digit lead and hold it most of the second half. Gabe Hagen led the Blossoms with 16 points, but no other Blossom could reach double figures in scoring.

Bucs 69, Blossoms 38

As a disappointed Coach Nate Piller succinctly stated, “There is not much to say. We just weren’t ready to play.” That was obviously the case as Waterville-Elysian-Morristown held the Awesome Blossom boys to just 14 points in the first half, as they coasted to a 69-38 conference victory at Waterville on Friday.

Blooming Prairie was never in the game, as the Bucs jumped to an early double-digit lead and never let up. WEM had three players in double figures, while

the Blossoms had no one reach that mark.

Zac Olson scored a game-high 25 points, while Dallas McBroom and Bladun Bartlett scored 15 and 10 points respectively. WEM shot over 40 percent from the field for the game. Jake Ressler, scored nine points to pace Blooming Prairie.

Boys edge St. Clair

The Awesome Blossoms outscored St. Clair 26-18 in the second half and pulled out a 51-48 non-conference win over the Cyclones at St. Clair Thursday, Jan. 19. Blooming Prairie trailed 30-25 at the break, but came back strong in the second half.

Gabe Hagen’s late free throw tied the game at 48-48. On the ensuing Blossoms possession, center Jake Ressler calmly stepped back and drained a three-pointer with less than three seconds left.

“This was a great game,” remarked Coach Nathan Piller. “The team really competed with the best performance of the season. I was extremely proud

BOYS

Continued on page 2C

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Blossoms fall to Titans



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms guard McKenna Hein (23) fights for a loose ball during the first half of Blooming Prairie's 69-49 loss to Tri-City United Saturday in Montgomery. Hein scored seven points, grabbed seven rebounds, dished six assists and registered five steals in the loss.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Montgomery - in the opening game of the double-header at Tri City United on Saturday, the Awesome Blossoms girls basketball squad struggled to keep up with a potent Titans attack.

Guided by 22 turnovers, the Titans downed the Blossoms 69-49 in a conference tilt Saturday.

The Blossoms played without Kylie Forystek, who broke her nose in the win over the Bucs. Even with that, coach Bruns commented that the team stayed competitive at stretches and played pretty well overall.

Tri-City led 38-25 at the high-scoring first half, but the edge in rebounding for the Titans (45-28 really spelled the difference). Tri City-United shot 39 percent for the game, compared to 36 percent for BP. One of the major differences in the game was that the Titans had just 13 turnovers to 22 for BP.

Marissa Larson scored 21 points to lead the Blossoms. Ayren Ingvalson and McKenna Hein had seven points each. Hein alsopulled down seven rebounds, had six assists and five steals for her night's work.

BP beats the buzzer

The Awesome Blossom girls picked up their biggest win of the season in dramatic fashion on Friday, Jan. 20.

A three-pointer from Kylie Forystek in the deep corner with 1.8 seconds left earned the Blossoms a 59-58 conference victory in a hard-fought struggle for both teams.

WEM scored with ten seconds left in the game, but the Blossoms moved the ball up quickly and set the stage for the Forystek winner as time ran out.

Larson recorded another double-double for the Blossoms, adding 10 rebounds to 23 points (including 13-of-14 from the free throw line). Forystek had 13 points, including three treys.

"This was a huge win for us," concluded Bruns. "The Bucs were one of the conference leaders, and we proved that we could play with the better teams. The game has to rank right up there in terms of excitement."

NRHEG pulls away late

A 15-0 run of points to open the second half doomed the Awesome Blossom girls, as NRHEG ran away to an 81-59 victory on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

"They have so many weapons," remarked Coach John

Bruns, "and they got rolling in the first four minutes of second half play. We just didn't have an answer for awhile.

"That was frustrating, because we had played a very good first half. We controlled the play and did the things we knew we had to do. That all disappeared in the first minutes of the second half.

BP took a 17-16 lead midway through the first half and trailed just 32-29 at the break. Kylie Forystek counted eight points and four assists in that half, and Marissa Larson also played well and got to the free throw line frequently before the break.

"The Panthers were doing most of the damage inside," continued Bruns, "and we had no answer. We did find out that we can play with them, and we can remedy some of our mistakes. That is a good thing."

BP shot a credible 37 percent from the field, but the Panthers shot better at 45 percent. Larson led the Blossom offense with 15 points, including 9-of-13 at the free throw line, but NRHEG's big three scorers all finished in double figures.

Maddie Wagner scored 19 points, Marnie Wagner counted 15, and Betsy Schoenrock added 13 points.

Westfield earns split

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Hayfield - Westfield's wrestling team spit matches in a triangular on the home mat Thursday, Jan. 19. Maple River handed the Razorbacks just their third dual loss of the season with a 39-21 win in the opening match, but the team rebounded t defeat Twin City United 47-24 in the nightcap.

In the Maple River match the Eagles' Trevor Peterson set the tone early when he upset No.3 ranked Ethan Arett with a fall late in the second period of the 113 weight. That put the Razorbakes down 9-0, and they wrestled from behind all match.

Two straight decisions - an 8-3 verdict for Riley Schultz, and a close 4-3 decision by Jackson Heydt - edged Westfield within three, but Quentin Kubista suffered a fall to Wyatt

Simon, Dillon Schmidt pinned Joey Baker in just 52 seconds of the first period, and suddenly the Eagles mounted a 21-6 margin.

A forfeit and Nathan Moore's pin of Jordan Sullivan in the first period increased the lead to 33-6.

Colton Krell earned a 12-5 decision over Jared Moore at 160, and Morgan Moreno won a wild 17-9 verdict over Bustyn Schmidt at 170, but Maple River pulled away again when Noah Decker pinned Tristen Reicken in the second period at 182.

Dylan Nirk took a 3-2 decision over Logan Ziegler, Mitchell Oswald pinned Ethan Coven in the second period at 220, and Trey Chatman decisioned Connor Thorn 4-2 at heavyweight.

Against The Titans, Westfield fell behind again 9-0, when Arett lost his second bout of

the night 8-3, and Nick Johnson pinned Alex Phair in the first period.

Riley Schultz and Jackson Heydt put the Razorbacks up with pins in the third and second periods respectively, but Brandon Balm restored a lead with a decision over Quentin Kubista.

Justin Kopet increased the lead to 19-12 with a pin over Joey Meyer in the first period.

Jordan Sullivan recorded a first period pin, and Zach Mikel won a10-3 decision over Sutton Schultz for Tri City, but then Krell won a 20-5 decision, and Moreno pinned Mason Butt in the second period.

Reiken followed with another pin, Nirk dropped a close 5-2 decision, and Oswald and Chatman closed out the victory with a first period pin and a forfeit respectively. That earned the split for the matches.

Blossoms drop three of last four

BOYS: from page 1C

of our effort in a very fun environment.

"We had pretty good decision making, some key free throws, the game winning basket from Ressler, and some key stops when we had to have them."

Ressler led the offense for the Blossoms with 14 points while Hagen scored 13 and Max Romeo added 10 points.

Panthers stomp BP

NRHEG led the Awesome Blossom boys 16-1, surrendering just five points in the first nine minutes on the way to a 72-53 victory at New Richland Tuesday, Jan. 17.

BP had no answers to the initial onslaught and trailed by 17 points by halftime.

Three Panthers led the winners in double figures, with Tyler Raimann doing much of the damage inside for 20 points. Oakely Baker accounted for 15 points, and Benji Lundberg contributed 12.

Senior Seth Bedenbaugh had his best night for the Blossoms, scoring 16 points, including 4-of-6 at the free throw line. Max Romeo and Gabe Hagen each added 13 points for the Blossoms.

After that disastrous first half, NRHEG outscored Blooming Prairie by just one point 32-31 in the last 18 minutes. BP crept to within 13 points midway through the second half, Despite Hagen and Ressler sitting out much of the first half in foul trouble.

As Coach Nate Piller noted, "That first half took away any chances if a victory, but the team did a good job to regroup in the second half.

"Against the sixth ranked 2AA team, the boys never gave up, and we found that we can play with a very good team."



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms guard Tim Wolf goes up for a lay up in Blooming Prairie's 53-41 loss to Tri City-United Saturday.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

NRHEG guard Sam Prigge (10) attempts to stop Bethlehem Academy guard Damon Trump (10) in the first half of the Panthers' 59-49 win Friday night in New Richland.

Panthers move to 15-0

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

New Richland - Minutes into its home contest with Bethlehem Academy, the NRHEG boys basketball team was in a tightly contested game.

Then Benji Lundberg provided the jolt.

Coming off the bench to score 17 points, Lundberg guided the Panthers (15-0) to a 59-49 win over their Gopher Valley Conference foe.

"He's been that for us all year," commented head coach Pat Churchill. "He's comes off the bench and gives us a spark."

Lundberg scored eight of his 17 points in the first half, propelling the Panthers to a 21-13 lead. Offensively in the first half, NRHEG was about as close to clicking on all cylinders as you would get. When the Cardinals started to shift to compensate for the aggressive attacks to the rim by Lundberg, the Panthers talent down low took over.

Oakley Baker scored 12 of his game-high 18 points in the first half to keep the lead at 10 just before half. The Cardinals, led by their big man Alex Bongers generated a 6-2 run to end the half to cut the lead to 34-24.

In the second half, the Cardinals defense started to cause

problems for the Panthers offense. NRHEG struggled to establish any momentum on the offensive end of the court, often taking errant shots or rushing passes that were often intercepted.

"When teams play good defense on us, sometimes we get into rush mode and take the first shot, rather than moving the ball side to side," added Churchill. To add insult to injury on the offensive end, NRHEG struggled to eliminate Bongers in the paint. Of his 16 points, eight came in the second half, which slowly chipped away at the Panthers' 12-point lead.

After a Panthers timeout - which was called after a Cardinals' run cut the lead to six - Lundberg connected on a long jumper before creating a turnover on the defensive end.

NRHEG finished the game on a 8-2 run, which included two separate attempts from the charity stripe after the Cardinals intentionally fouled Baker with less than 30 seconds remaining.

NRHEG 55, St. Peter 45

New Richland - The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball continues to show teams why the Panthers are the No.6 ranked team in Class AA.

Powered by Oakley Baker's

game-high 19 points, the Panthers (14-0) managed to keep enough distance from St. Peter to win 55-45 Thursday night at NRHEG High School. NRHEG went on a 8-0 run early in the first half that lengthen the Panthers' lead to 10, according to head coach Pat Churchill. On the defensive end, coach Churchill noted that in the last eight minutes of the first half, NRHEG did not allow a single point.

Girls basketball

NRHEG started out hot and the heat only intensified running to a 82-51 win.

A 50-25 halftime lead would only grow as the Wagner sisters of Marnie and Maddie continue to have strong seasons for the Lady Panthers. Maddie scored a game-high 23 points while Marnie recorded a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

**Editor's note: In the first dual, the Panthers lost 51-28 to Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial, 51-25 to Norwood Academy, and St. James Area 67-12. Head coach Shawn Larson noted that Quinten Arndt was the lone Panther to go 3-0 in the duals.*

To read results from the weekend contest, go to www.steelsdodgenews.com.

Lady Huskies limit Heise, tie Red Wing

Owatonna picks up two points in Big Nine Conference tilt

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Red Wing - Heading into Saturday's matchup with the Wing-ers, there was a lot at stake for the Huskies. A loss would end of streak of six games without a loss, to include four straight wins, but more importantly, it would drop the Lady Huskies from the top of the Big Nine. The biggest factor was the ability to limit future Golden Gopher Taylor Heise. Owatonna goaltender Laura Ebleing did just enough. A 0-0 tie into the third period would end with a 1-1 tie after each goaltender surrendered goals midway through the pe-riod. Margo Achterkirch gave the Huskies an early 1-0 just min-utes into the third period. It would last just four minutes as Heise found the back of the net at the 7:21-mark of the third pe-riod. The 1-1 tie keeps Owatonna at the top of the Big Nine and more importantly, gave the team a much-needed two points, ac-cording to head coach Tim Hunst.

Owatonna 6, Roch. Century 3

Playing host to the Rochester Century Panthers, the Lady Huskies were looking to extend the win streak to four and make it six games without a loss. Despite a dominating first period where Owatonna out-shot the Panthers 15-6, early goal just minutes into the game gave Century the early 1-0 lead.

Then the Huskies' offensive at-tack woke up. Powered by a pair of goals from captains Margo Achterkirch and Jenna Bogen, the Huskies (12-5, 11-0 Big Nine) topped the

Panthers 6-3 at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna.

"We felt like in the first two minutes we were sleep walking and it's a problem that has to be fixed," commented Huskies head coach Tim Hunst. "Af-ter that, I felt like we were in control. There was no sense of panic."

Achterkirch's two goals in the second period to give the Huskies a two-goal lead was part of a three-goal, 10-shot second period for Owatonna. Maylynn Prokopec scored the first goal at the 7:32-mark of the period to tie the game at 1-1.

After Century was able to add a goal with just 36 seconds left in the period, the Huskies were back to a tie game.

"We knew win the third pe-riod, win the game," added Hunst. "We weren't going to be denied."

Owatonna dominated the third period, out-shooting the Panthers 9-1. More importantly, they found the back of the net. Bogen's two goals were just five minutes apart in a three-goal pe-riod for the Huskies. Her goal at 2:37-mark of the period proved to be the game-winner. In a 6-on-5 situation, Owatonna forward Jamie Davison added an empty net goal with just less than two minutes left.

Owatonna 3, Mankato East 1

Mankato — Sometimes in sports, luck is just on your side. It can certainly be used figu-ratively and physically for the Owatonna girls hockey team Tuesday. Originally scheduled to face Big Nine Conference foe Faribault, the game was can-celled due to an ice storm that has sweep the southern half of the state.

As luck would have it, Mon-day night's game against Manka-



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna captain Margo Achterkirch (23) flicks a backhand shot toward the net during the first period of Owatonna's 6-3 win Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. Achterkirch scored two goals against the Panthers and now has three in her last two games.

to East — which was cancelled for the same reason — was scheduled to play after Rochester cancelled travel.

"It worked out perfectly," commented Huskies head coach Tim Hunst. "It was the first time that we ever had a game can-celled because of weather, where we made up another game on the same day, which was cancelled for the reason."

The luck stayed with the Hus-

kies and their captain Jenna Bogen late into the contest.

Off a Grace Wolfe one-timer, Bogen managed to redirect the puck just below the blocker of Mankato East goaltender Andrea Schreiber at the 4:07-mark of the third period for the game winner in Owatonna's 3-1 win over the Cougars in Mankato. The win marks the third game in a row and the fifth straight game with-out a loss for the Huskies.

Bogen recorded her second straight multi-point after scoring two goals against the Cougars. Her first goal, which came at the 5:07-mark of the first period, was part of a 12-shot effort for the Huskies in the first period.

According to Hunst, the lone hiccup came in the second period. Despite outshooting the Cougars 10 to 8, Mankato East was able to knot the game 1-1 late in the period. The Cougars were able to

slow the Huskies' attack by being aggressive along the edges.

"Mankato East did a heck of a job beating us along wall some-thing that doesn't happen too of-ten," he said.

After the Mankato East pulled the goalie as a last-ditch effort to tie the game, Owatonna's May-lynn Prokopec was able to net an insurance goal.

STARS OF STEELE

Tyler Wencil



Maddie Wagner



In Owatonna two Big Nine Conference games last week, Tyler Wencil was a big reason that the Huskies were in the two games right until the end.

The junior scored four goals,two in the 5-4 loss to Rochester Century and two in the 5-2 win over Red Wing.

Wagner has been on fire for the NRHEG Lady Panthers.

In two contests last week, the senior had two double-figure performacnes, scoring 19 in a 81-59 win over Blooming Prairie and 23 points in the 82-51 win over Bethlehem Academy.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:



Husky round up

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Looking to extend thier con-fence record to a perfect 6-0, the Huskies played host to Roch-ester John Marshall at the OHS gymnasium. After jumping out to a quick 24-0 lead, Owatonna cruised to a 52-22 win over the Rockets. Head coach Scott Seykora noted that there was an emphasis on attention to details heading into the matchup.

"We wanted to stay sharp. We knew they had five or six guys that posed a threat in thier line-up at the lighter weights and our lighter weights came through," he said.

Outside of three forfeits, the Huskies won five of the 14 matches by pin with falls coming from Landen Johnson (106), Kaden Nelson (113), Parker Westphal (152), Brandon Moen (182), and Goy Tut (285). Owatonna would not drop a

match until 132 pounds, where the Higgins brothers of Con-nor and Justin would give the Rockets thier first points of the dual. Conner won by pin at 132 pounds while Justin won by ma-jor decision (12-0) over Trevor Schroeder at 138.



There was a chance for an upset at 195 pounds, where Owatonna's Griffin Thorn had state-ranked Montie Ridley on his back early in the first period before Ridley was able to roll through and receive the win by pin fall.

**Editor's note: The Owatonna wrestling team competed at the Zumbrota-Mazeppa duals and*

went 3-0.

Boys Basketball

In a Big Nine Conference matchup with Mankato East, the Owatonna basketball team kept the win-streak alive.

Dalton Kubista scored a game-high 18 points to lead the Huskies to a 61-49 win over the Cougars.

Andrew Jackson also reached double figures, scoring 15 points.

Girls basketball

Mankato - Sydney Schultz continues her string on dominant performances with a 30-point performance in Owatonna's 80-43 win over Mankato East.

Head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa noted that it was a total team effort and highlighted Megan Peglow's defense for the Huskies.

HOCKEY: from page 1C

senior would then display his fast hands, putting a pair of fancy moves on Harding just minutes later to score the game-winner minutes later, giving the Huskies a commanding 3-1 lead.

"We've been struggling on breakaways all year and for him to make that pretty of a move, I'm truly just impressed with it," added Storm.

When a pair of minor penal-ties was assessed on Red Wing toward the end of the second period, the Huskies started the third period with a 5-on-3 ad-vantage for just over a minute. Tyler Wencil needed just 33 sec-onds.

Quickly establish a presence in the offensive zone; Wencil quickly snapped a wrist-shot that would beat the blocker of Harding to extend Owatonna's lead 4-1. Red Wing answered nearly a minute later to pull the game back within two, but the physical play of the Huskies ap-peared to start to take its toll.

The Wingers struggled to es-

tablish any attack in the third pe-riod, often clearing the puck out of the zone. As Red Wing started to slow down, the Huskies' at-tack continued to increase.

"It's nice when you have a two-goal lead to be able to hold them down on their end," Storm noted afterward.

After maintaining the puck in the offensive zone for nearly a minute, Wencil was able to con-trol and deflected puck only to turn and connect on his second goal of the game at the 15:37-mark of the period, sealing the win for Owatonna. Huskies goalie Ryan Johnson was strong between the pipes for Owatonna. Despite allowing a pair of goals, the junior goaltender stopped 20 of Red Wing's 22 shots on goal.

With the win, the Huskies return to .500 on the season and pick up a much-needed win in the conference heading into Monday's showdown with Faribault.

Panthers 5, Huskies 4

Rochester - On the road at the Rochester Recreation Cen-ter, the Huskies dropped their third Big Nine Conference game of the season in a 5-4 defeat to Rochester Century.

Owatonna was in control in the first period after goals from Nate Smith and Braeden Meier gave the Huskies the early 2-1 lead.

The lead would be short last-ing as the Panthers managed to tie the game 2-2 two minutes into the second period. Jon Thorvilson's even strength goal at the 1:27-mark of the first pe-riod was part of a four-goal spurt for Rochester Century.

Facing a 5-2 deficit in the third period, the Huskies attempted to battle back, scoring a pair of goals on the power play from Nate Smith and Carter Broton. Smith's goal at the 16:51-mark of the third period was able to cut the lead to 5-4, but was un-able to leave enough time on the clock for a empty net situation.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Carter Broton (10) fi es a shot while a Red Wing defender attempts to block his stick in the second period of the Huskies' 5-2 win over Red Wing Saturday. Broton added two goals in a three-goal period for the Huskies.

Chamber of Commerce

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber continues to grow

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce has long arms and draws members from the immediate Blooming Prairie area and from other surrounding communities.

New Chamber President Greg Johnson and Vice President Dan Peach hope to grow the membership in 2017.

The membership currently stands at 65 members with renewal letters just going out to existing members. Dues are based on number of employees for each business.

Johnson said one of his and Dan’s goals is to enlarge the membership of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce.

Another goal of Johnson and Peach will be to “showcase” Blooming Prairie during its Sesquicentennial (150th) year. Both are encouraging people to step forward to help the city observe this milestone.

Becky Noble has been director of the Chamber since 2001. The BP Area Chamber originated in the 1980s with Jean Peterson as its first executive director.

Director Noble says anyone interested in becoming a Chamber member can do so by calling 583-4472. It is not necessary to own a business to become a member. “You just need to really care about Blooming Prairie and its business community,” she said.

The chamber’s Mission Statement is “to provide a framework for community growth and development by encouraging financial investment, coordinating business activities, promoting commerce and fostering a

sense of community pride.” Noble says her main duties are to promote Blooming Prairie and its businesses “and this is easy to do with such great people who live here.”

The chamber office located in the Blooming Prairie City Center and it shares the office with the Economic Development Authority staffed by Tom Monson who is in the office on Wednesdays. Noble says she and Monson work closely helping existing businesses and working to help people start a business or give them assistance in dealing with expansions and other challenges.

Noble keeps a community calendar, started for all who would like to hold an event. Event organizers can check with her to see that their event will be the main focus on a certain day.

The Chamber office also

houses Channel 12 in Noble’s office and tries to keep up on events by putting them on that channel for all to watch at home who have Mediacom. Every morning First Lutheran Church has Noble put a DVD on of their Sunday morning worship service for all to watch. Noble also has a daily radio show promoting Blooming Prairie events.

Her other duties include being a part of all the events we put on such as, July 4th celebration, City Wide Garage Sales, Golf Fun Day, Holiday Dazzle etc.

The Chamber is a member of GROW MN and once a year Noble has a representative of that organization come to town to visit businesses in our Chamber. “This is a great way for our businesses to share any concerns they may have in trying to do or stay in business in MN. I also go to state meetings to find out

what the MN Chamber is doing to help our business climate in the state.”

“The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce makes a big impact on the community because it represents who and what this community is” emphasizes Noble.

Noble says she always encourages newcomers to become involved in Blooming Prairie activities. “You need to become involved to truly appreciate all there is in this town,” Noble emphasized.

The BP Chamber’s Mission Statement reads: “To provide a framework for community growth and development by encouraging financial investment, coordinating business activities, promoting commerce and fostering a sense of community pride.”



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Becky Noble has served as the director the chamber of commerce since 2001. She encourages any citizen of Blooming Prairie with an active interest in the community to become a member.

Greetings from the chamber president

I’d like to introduce myself, Greg Johnson, aka the “Hardware Guy” from B to Z Hardware, as the new president of the Blooming Prairie Chamber.

I would also like to introduce our new vice president, Dan Peach, who wears many hats in this community as you may know. We would like to thank Luke Swenson, who has been president for the last two years, and for what he has all done for the chamber such as creating the junior chamber members that are high school students.

Dan and I are looking

forward to the 150th birthday of Blooming Prairie. There will be many events from July 1-4, including a birthday party Sunday, July 2 starting at 12 p.m. in central park. There is a lot of time and effort to planning this event and we sure encouraged everyone to come out. We are also looking for people to volunteer to help us make these events memorable for our community.

The chamber is also looking to increase its membership. As a chamber we help promote and strengthen the businesses of the community. We also help

spotlight special events for the people of the community. We are always looking for new members, regardless if you have a business or not. You can also become a member being a resident of Blooming Prairie.

The chamber would like to thank everyone for their support and we’re looking forward to taking our turn and helping the businesses of Blooming Prairie grow and prosper. If anybody has any ideas, please contact Dan or I. You can also contact Becky Noble, our chamber director at the chamber office.

Greg Johnson just took over as chamber president this month. He will be serving in that role for the next two years. He is owner of B to Z Hardware in Blooming Prairie.

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Chamber of Commerce

Year in Review



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce led a ribbon cutting for Home Sellers of Owatonna. Owners/brokers Lisa and Steve Vaith cut the ribbon with the help of Chamber members Tiffany Peterson, far left and Jeremy Wangen, far right. Also helping with the ribbon cutting were agents Jennifer Fisher and Daniel Gullickson.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities (BPPU) General Manager Jerry Mausbach joined the local utilities entity last Jan. 4. He is shown above with office employees Ana Trom and Katie Wencil.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance of Austin maintains the grounds of Minimizer in Blooming Prairie. Here, Jose Macias and Terrance Plath take care of lawn work at Minimizer.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Kevin Mans is one of the more recognizable people in Blooming Prairie as he delivers daily newspapers and weekly shoppers. He has been in the delivery business since 1987. Mans is a BP Area Chamber of Commerce member.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Mohs Contracting of Owatonna is the general contractor for a major remodeling project for the new home of Eagle Prairie Insurance and Klemmensen Creative. The husband and wife team of Jay and Jamie Klemmensen are moving their businesses to the new location early this summer.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Director-	Located in City Center	P.O. Box 805, Blooming
Becky Noble	Building at 128 U.S. Hwy.	Prairie, MN 55917
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Chamber of Commerce



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Jay and Jamie Klemmensen stand in front of a new sign for their business that is now located at 311 Highway Ave. S. in Blooming Prairie. The Klemmensens also unveiled another sign depicting the bald eagle and an American flag, two American symbols.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie was recently notified that it earned the prestigious Pursuit of Excellence Award given annually by the National Funeral Directors Association. Worlein Funeral Home is located at 418 Highway Ave. S. in Blooming Prairie and at 1801 4th St. NW in Austin.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Margaret and Billy Noble of Blooming Prairie were two of more than 50 guests at First Lutheran Church's Business After Hours reception on Wednesday, May 25. This event marked the first time First Lutheran has hosted the reception.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dr. Chad Hanson came to the Main Street Dental Clinic in Blooming Prairie a month from his graduation in May of 2002 from the University of Minnesota. Main Street Dental also has offices in Rochester, Owatonna, New Richland and Mankato.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Gary Noble, president and CEO of Bio-Plastic Solutions, LLC, holds a plastic extruded product created at his plant located on the northeast side of Blooming Prairie. He has owned the company for 16 years.

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- New resident 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, bringing in thousands.
- Golf Fun Day for fun and profit.
- Citywide garage sales, bringing in outsiders.
- Community social events.
- Organization and

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- distribution of Christmas gifts to needy people.
- City Christmas decorations.
- Local beautification projects.
- A member of GROW MINNESOTA.
- 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 SE MN meetings.
- Monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

- A resource center business information, consumer 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.
- State chamber opportunities such as Chamber Day at Capitol.
- Community update meetings for clubs, churches and civic groups.
- Fun and fellowship with friends and neighbors.

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HometownLiving Community Calendar

Event Spotlight:

Austin Area Grief Support Group

A five week bereavement support group for those who have experienced loss began on Jan. 17 and will continue through Feb. 14.

The group meets weekly at the Mower County Senior Center. The meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week followed by an informal lunch.

The group is open to anyone who feels this might help their healing, and anyone who is supporting them is also invited to attend.

For more information call, 433-5000 or 583-7561.

PHOTO MEMORY



LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

Archived submitted photo

Ellen Hansen's second-grade class, along with the rest of Medford School, wore hats on Jan. 21 to support their classmate Daniel Dut, who has a brain tumor that has been infected with Fiber Dysplasia, a rare bone cancer.

FOR THE RECORD



HAPPENING NOW

Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Despite a bad ice storm on Jan. 16, schools in the area remained open with only a few delaying their start. Several families in the country decided to keep their children at home anyway.

OWATONNA/MEDFORD/HOPE

Jan. 24th:

9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts
4pm - 5pm OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall

Jan. 25th:

All day WC American Legion Auxiliary, Quilting
Wed Jan 25, 2017 - Thu Jan 26, 2017

Jan. 26th:

2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
3pm - 4pm Chess, Elem Library
5:30 - 6:30 Medford EDA meeting, Our Home South
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
7pm - 8pm Medford High School One-Act performance, High School auditorium

Jan. 27th:

1pm- 4pm family sledding, West Hills
7pm - 8pm Movie Night, New Beginnings Church, Owatonna

Jan. 28th:

11am - 3pm Bridal Show, Holiday Inn, Owatonna
4pm Andrew Lawrence memorial Chilli Cook-off, Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
7:00pm Rock on the Ice, Morehouse Park

Jan. 30th:

2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

Jan. 31st:

9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Jan. 24th:

9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time, Packer Dome, Wescott Field

Jan. 25th:

11:30am - 12:30pm Tator Time, Mower County Senior Center

7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin

Jan. 26th:

2pm - 3pm Mower County Historical Presentation: Henry H. Sibley, Minnesota's First Governor Where:

Mower County Senior Center
3pm - 6pm Ski and Snowshoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center

6:30pm - 7pm Twilight Tales: Evening Storytime, Austin Public Library

Jan. 27th:

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12pm - 4pm Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Janesville Jets, Riverside Arena

7pm - 8:30pm Cinderella, Historic Paramount Theatre, 125 4th Ave NE, Austin, MN

Jan. 28th:

8am - 1:30pm Dammen Cross Country Ski Race Fundraiser, Jay C Hormel Nature Center

10am - 11am Saturday Morning Sweet Stories, Sweet Reads Books and Candy, 407 Main St N, Austin

10:30am - 12pm Kids' Studio - 3D Valentines Cards, Austin ArtWorks Center

1pm - 3pm Author Visit - Lydia Emma Niebuhr, Young Adult fictions, Sweet Reads Books and Candy

1:30pm - 4:30pm Cross Country Ski Lessons, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

2pm - 3:30pm Cinderella, Historic Paramount Theatre

5:30pm - 9:30pm National Wild Turkey Federation Fundraising Dinner, Holiday Inn Austin

7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Janesville Jets, Riverside Arena

Jan. 29th:

8:30am - 12:30pm Gourmet Pancake Breakfast, Jennings Hall, St. Augustine Catholic Church

1pm - 2pm Bruins Book Time Out, Sweet Reads Books and Candy

2pm - 3:30pm Cinderella, Historic Paramount Theatre

2pm - 4pm The Creative Kitchen, Hormel Historic Home

Jan. 30th:

All day Paint the Town Pink

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House

1pm - 7pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, Austin Armory

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

Jan. 31st:

12pm - 6pm American Red Cross Blood Drive ,Austin Armory

4pm - 5pm Mary Sue Hormel Harris Piano Concert, Hormel Historic Home

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Jan. 24th:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Jan. 26th:

5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm

7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga and Zumba, DAPE Rm

7:30pm Ellendale City Council, City Clerk's office

Jan. 30th:

6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

Jan. 31st:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl



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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Jan. 24th: (All day BP Card Club & Luncheon)

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
6pm - 7pm BPBL Book Club

Jan. 25th:

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Jan. 31st:

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

Event Spotlight:

Valentine Dinner at the Holy Trinity

Take your sweetheart to the annual Valentine Dinner at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Saturday, Feb. 11. Social hour is at 5:50 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The menu will include a Windsor chop dinner with all the trimmings.

Adult singles and couples are welcome. Tickets cost \$20 and must be purchased by Wednesday, Feb. 1. No tickets will be available at the door.

Tickets are available at Hometown Insurance Agency, Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie, Sacred Heart Church of Owatonna and from Laurie Spindler (451-2001) and Carol Prokopec (583-7848).

Door prizes will be given and entertainment is planned.

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APRIL 4

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- JULY 4TH : OPEN 10AM - CLOSE

-B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 22

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Jan. 24th:

2:30pm - 3:30pm Basic Email
3:30pm - 4:30pm Let's Draw & Paint, Southwest Middle School
6pm - 8pm Beginning Crochet, Brookside Education Center
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea
6:15pm - 7:30pm Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church, 204 Fountain St, Albert Lea
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center
8pm - 8:55pm Yoga Nidra: Sleep & Deep Relaxation, Brookside Education Center, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea

Jan. 25th:

4am - 6:30am Soccer Skills & Games(3rd-7thGrade), Albert Lea Family Y, 2021 W Main St, Albert Lea
2:30pm - 3:30pm Intro to Facebook
4:15pm - 5:15pm Beginning Yoga, Sibley Elementary School

Jan. 26th:

10:30am - 11:15am Music & Movement, AL Public Library
5:30pm - 6:30pm Shell Rock River Watershed Board Special Meeting
6pm - 7pm Night-time Storytime, Albert Lea Public Library
6:30pm - 8:30pm Rag Quilting, Brookside Education Center

Jan. 27th:

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea

Jan. 28th:

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea

Jan. 30th:

10am - 11:15am Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church, 204 Fountain St, Albert Lea
10:30am - 11:15am Storytime, Albert Lea Public Library
6pm - 7:15pm Yoga For Beginners, Sibley Elementary School, 1501 W Front St, Albert Lea

Jan. 31st:

8am - 9am Social Media Breakfast
3:30pm - 4:30pm Let's Draw & Paint, Southwest Middle School
6pm - 8pm Beginning Crochet, Brookside Education Center
6pm - 7pm Ceramic Heart Ring Holder, Simply Charming Ceramics, 1657 W Main St, Albert Lea
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, Albert Lea
6:15pm - 7:30pm Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Olivia Berg is NRHEG's Panther of the Week. She is the daughter of Shane and Brooke Berg of Geneva.

She is the 2nd grade student of Mrs. Dutton. Olivia has two older brothers and a younger sister and participates in the NRHEG Wrestling Program.

Mrs. Dutton nominated Olivia because she really

appreciates how kind Olivia is to everyone. She also works hard in class and is a great helper.

Olivia is a bookworm and has been known to say, "I was born to read!" Her favorite book is Double Fudge and her favorite place to read is a little spot behind the couch! Olivia's favorite movie is Jurassic World. Congratulations Olivia and keep up the great work!



PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

An icestorm rocked Steele County last Monday night with freezing rain turning to sheets of ice on sidewalks and cars. The trees outside of St. Columbanus Church in Blooming Prairie took on a second skin of ice.

Tuesday



High: 34°
Low: 31°

Wednesday



High: 33°
Low: 22°

Thursday



High: 23°
Low: 16°

Friday



High: 22°
Low: 17°

Saturday



High: 23°
Low: 14°

Sunday



High: 21°
Low: 16°

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Cell: 507-456-7977

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Jeff Ingvalson 507-456-1439
jeffingvalson@hotmail.com



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USDA expands grasslands conservation program to small-scale livestock producers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini has announced that USDA will accept over 300,000 acres in 43 states that were offered by producers during the recent ranking period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands enrollment with emphasis placed on small-scale livestock operations. Through the voluntary CRP Grasslands program, grasslands threatened by development or conversion to row crops are maintained as livestock grazing areas, while providing important conservation benefits. Approximately 200,000 of the accepted acres were offered by small-scale livestock operations.

“Producers of all sizes are interested in USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program,” said Dolcini. “This latest round of CRP Grasslands enrollment, where much of the acreage comes from small-scale livestock operations, shows that our nation’s family farmers and ranchers can have a big

impact on environmental conservation.”

The most recent ranking period closed on Dec. 16, 2016, and included for the first time a CRP Grasslands practice specifically tailored for small-scale livestock grazing operations to encourage broader participation. Under this ranking period and for future periods, small-scale livestock operations with 100 or fewer head of grazing cows (or the equivalent) can submit applications to enroll up to 200 acres of grasslands per farm. Larger operations may still make offers through the normal process. USDA met its goal of 200,000 acres under this small-scale initiative. The new practice for small-scale livestock grazing operations encourages greater diversity geographically and in all types of livestock operations. Visit <http://go.usa.gov/x9PFS> to view the complete list of acres accepted by state.

Participants in CRP Grasslands establish or maintain long-term, re-

source-conserving grasses and other plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. CRP Grasslands participants can use



the land for livestock production (e.g. grazing or producing hay), while following their conservation and grazing plans in order to maintain the cover. A goal of CRP Grasslands is to minimize conversion of grasslands either to row crops or to non-agricultural uses. Participants can receive annual payments of up to 75 percent of the

grazing value of the land and up to 50 percent of the cost of cover practices like cross-fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

USDA selects offers for enrollment based on six ranking factors: (1) current and future use, (2) new farmer/rancher or underserved producer involvement, (3) maximum grassland preservation, (4) vegetative cover, (5) environmental factors, and (6) pollinator habitat. Offers not selected in a ranking period are rolled over into the next ranking period.

Small livestock operations or other farming and ranching operations interested in participating in CRP Grasslands should contact their local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about FSA’s conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands

of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation’s land is owned and tended to privately, and America’s farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA’s support, they work to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide. Read more about USDA’s record conservation outcomes under this Administration at Caring for our Land, Air and Water: Preserving Precious Natural Resources for Tomorrow.

Buffer alte natives: Finding the right conservation ‘fit’ for each far



Minnesota’s buffer law was created to protect state water resources from erosion and runoff pollution. While Minnesota farmers agree with the intended outcomes of the buffer law, many are concerned that what is prescribed in the legislation will not achieve the intended results.

That’s why the law was also written to give farmers and landowners ‘alternatives’ in cases where the vegetative buffer won’t work or where there might be an even better way to achieve the same water quality benefit

But what are those alternatives? Are they all effective? And what happens when various practices like cover cropping, reduced tillage or saturated buffers are used in combination?

The grower leaders at Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council (MCR&PC) and Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) saw an opportunity to fund research answering these questions.

A conversation with leaders at Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which has been given the task of putting the buffer law into effect as of Nov. 1, 2017, has led to a partnership between Minnesota Corn, the University of Minnesota (UMN) and BWSR.

With support from Minnesota’s corn organizations, researchers at the University of Minnesota are working to identify a matrix of ‘alternative’ best management practices for water quality. UMN is collaborating with BWSR on this project to ensure that these identified practices will, not only help water quality, but will also be accepted alternatives under the buffer law.

“This is a working-together endeavor,” says John Jaschke, executive director of BWSR. “That’s important for all the aspects of making this buffer initiative work. The practical part of this is what we are most interested in, and what I think the farmers are most interested in—to come up with some options for circumstances on a producer’s land, where a buffer strip, or filter strip as it is often called,



may not be the one that will do the most good. We are looking for ways for people to look at the alternatives and find the one that may work better than or instead of the buffer of the prescribed dimensions set out in the law.”

According to Jaschke, based on preliminary assessments, approximately 80 percent of the land in question is already in compliance with the buffer law. An inventory conducted by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) points to lands along designated waters where buffers or buffer alternatives are needed.

Professor Dave Mulla, a soil scientist, and Professor Chris Lenhart, a water resources scientist, are leading the research project at the University of Minnesota.

“We are going to do a literature review of the effectiveness of best management practices, and then we are going to do some evaluation of a few types of practices using water quality models, to evaluate what is the impact of the vegetative buffers in terms of their water quality benefit, and then what is the effectiveness of these different alternatives,” says Mulla, a faculty member of the UMN Department of Soil, Water and Climate. “The modeling will help us determine which practices could supplement a narrower buffer, or which ones could replace the buffer.”

The co-investigator, Lenhart, is a faculty member of the UMN Department of Bio-Products and Bio-Systems Engineering. Together, Mulla and Lenhart have assembled a team of eight researchers with expertise in nutrient loss reduction in agricultural systems.

“They are currently reviewing literature,” says Paul Meints, MCGA research director. “There are existing practices where we already have the scientific research showing they work as alternatives to a buffer. We know that individual practices have an

impact, but what we haven’t done is to look at the summation of those practices and how they work together.”

The final outcome of this research project would be a decision matrix of alternative practices that farmers could use to build upon and improve their current conservation efforts. Farmers would then be able to work with their local SWCD to develop a more specific design of how these practices could actually be implemented.

“Ultimately, we are going to develop a simple decision tool, based on the literature and on the modeling, that can be used to help farmers identify which practices could be used as alternatives,” says Mulla. “This decision tool will start out by asking some simple questions... what is the existing management system, what type of tillage is used? Is there any cover cropping? What is the crop rotation? Then we will ask about the soil, is it sandy, is it clay? Is the slope flat or steep? Ultimately, we will be able to provide a series of suggestions for alternative practices and their combinations that could be used to give you water quality protection.”

A little hotdish for everyone

ON THE FARM



Kendra Schroeder

Would you rather have brussel sprouts or pizza? What about ice cream or cooked carrots? People know which foods taste good, so how surprising would it be to find out that cattle can also be picky eaters?

We all know that to maintain a healthy lifestyle we need some balance in our diet, but dairy cows don’t understand these concepts as well as we do; it’s our job as farmers to help our cows eat a healthy and balanced diet.

One of the most effective ways to ensure that your dairy cows are getting a balanced diet is to feed a total mixed ration (TMR). A TMR is like a hot dish for cattle. In a hot dish, there may be some ingredients that you don’t prefer, but because it’s part of the meal, you eat and enjoy the dish anyway; similarly, the feeds in a TMR are thoroughly combined to create a tasty “tater-tot cow dish”. By feeding a TMR, dairy cows are able to produce higher yields, have an increase in their overall health, and decrease the risk of gastric problems like acidosis. Dr. Jim Linn from the University of Minnesota says, “With a TMR, a cow eats a nutrient balanced ration in every bite or mouthful she consumes.” If you’re feeding a TMR but still have some picky-eaters in your herd, here are some reminders to

make sure everyone is getting full nutritional value from their cow-casserole.

1. Know the group you’re feeding. What stage in lactation are the cows you’re feeding? Fresh cows to dry cows, each stage of lactation requires a different amount of energy. Properly grouping your herd to feed modified rations is essential, and can make a big difference in not only your milk yield, but also your feed costs and herd health. Dr. Linn suggests having at least three lactating cow rations and one dry cow ration. Talk to your nutritionist to decide what’s best for your herd.

2. Consistency is key. How can you be absolutely sure that you’re feeding the same ration to your animals each day? Feeds are measured by the amount of dry matter that they contain, or in other words, how much of that feed holds nutrition, and isn’t just water. There are simple tests you can do on-farm with something as low-tech as a microwave, or there are options to utilize new technology to determine the dry matter value of your feed. The dry matter content should be checked daily before it is added to the TMR; a feed can lose or gain water content based on the weather, humidity level, or even where

it’s stored.

3. Make sure your equipment is doing its job. The quality of your TMR is at the mercy of your TMR mixer. Over mixing a ration can cause the cow to digest the feed too fast resulting in acidosis, but mixing for too short of a time can allow the cow an opportunity to sort the TMR. Proper feeding requires proper mixing, so make sure the blades on your TMR mixer are sharp, you mix the feed for an appropriate amount of time, and the mixer itself is efficiently turning the feed inside. Don’t be afraid to watch your TMR mixer while it is mixing from time to time, but always remember to consider your safety first

It’s not always easy to manage the nutrition of your herd, but it is important. Feeding a balanced TMR can increase milk production, decrease feed costs, and overall improve your herd’s health! If you have further questions about TMR, please visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/dairy/feed-and-nutrition/feeding-total-mixed-rations> or talk to your nutritionist about what’s best for your cows.

Kendra Schroeder is the interim county agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She will be in the position until spring.

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

16-105134

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 27, 2010

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$167,638.00

MORTGAGOR(S): John C. Ress, an unmarried man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 100039032239395920

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Quicken Loans, Inc.

SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 28, 2010, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000371393

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, Block 1, Radel's Francis Addition

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1030 Hemlock Ln, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0104

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$155,321.59

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 10, 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 August 10, 2017, or the next business day if August 10, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal

Dated: December 15, 2016

Nationstar Mortgage 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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/20,12/27,1/3
1/10,1/17,1/24

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: August 6, 2014

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,329.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Corey Aldrich and Jayna Aldrich, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed September 5, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000398583

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Nine 9, in Block Ten (10) Village of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 112 E Main Street, Blooming

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2017 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna on Tuesday, Feb. 7 with Social hour at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.

Please join us to hear what we have been doing this year, waht we have for future plans and projects and our election of officers for the upcoming year. If you would be interested in becoming a board member please contact President Josh Hobart at 456-4213 or just show up as we always tak nominations from the floor. We have several vacancies on the board and would like ot see some new faces along with new ideas.

1/10, 1/17, 1/24

Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-1009

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$82,943.47

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: March 16, 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 September 16, 2017, or the next business day if September 16, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Upcoming Community Education Classes

Defensive Driving

Eight Hour Beginning Class:

fee \$26

March 28 and 30, 2017

6 - 10 p.m. both nights

HS Room 210

Four Hour Refresher Class:

fee \$22

February 1, 2017

12 - 4 p.m.

Blooming Prairie City Center

March 2, 2017

6 - 10 p.m.

HS Room 210

April 17, 2017

6 - 10 p.m.

HS Room 210

May 18, 2017

12:00 PM - 4 PM

Blooming Prairie City Center

Hardanger

February 16, 23,

March 2, 9, 23

6:30 - 8 p.m.

BP Elem. Library

Materials Fee - \$12

Class Fee - \$10

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Dated: January 19, 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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/24, 1/31, 2/7,
2/14, 2/21, 2/28

Blooming Prairie Community Education

Michelle Southworth
Community Ed Coordinator

STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That on Monday, February 6th, 2017 starting at 7:00 pm., the Steele County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Commissioner's Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN, to receive comments on the following permit application.

Glass House LLP has requested to construct and operate a commercial greenhouse facility to be located in the East 1/3 of the SW ¼, Section 20, Clinton Falls Township.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearings and be heard on these matters.

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

1/24

NOTICE TO MATERIAL SUPPLIERS

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 11:30 a.m., January 27, 2017, for seasonal material requirements for the following:

Plant Mixed Bituminous Material and Aggregate Materials.

Bids are to be submitted on the prepared proposal forms which can be secured at the Office of the County Engineer, 635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, Telephone: 507-444-7670 or on the Steele County website at www.co.steele.mn.us

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 lowest 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

1/10, 1/17, 1/24

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Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

1/10, 1/17, 1/24

Geneva Township Board of Supervisors Request for Quotes

Year round road grading, plowing and road maintenance

The Board of Supervisors of Geneva Township is requesting quotes for road grading, plowing and road maintenance for 34.4 miles of township roads.

Full specifications can be obtained by contacting the clerk at 507-473-0184 or e-mail genevatownship@outlook.com.

Quotes, along with proof of insurance, must be submitted to the clerk no later than February 6th, 2017 to be considered.

Quotes can be mailed to Geneva Township, 28499 800th Ave. Hollandale, MN 56045 or e-mailed to genevatownship@outlook.com.

The Geneva Township reserves the right to accept or reject any and/all quotes and further reserves the right to award the contract in the best interest of all township.

Geneva Township
Dawn Loverink, Clerk

1/17, 1/24

August public records for Steele County

Steele County Births August 2016
Reed Tyler Schmidt, Parents: Laurie and Luke, Aug. 1.
Easton Roger Ditlevson, Parents: Michelle and Christopher, Aug. 1.
Jaxdon Ryan Noble, Parents: Sarah and Ryan, Aug. 2.
Brantley David Ryan Kaiser, Parents: Latricia and Jacob, Aug. 2.
Ella Elizabeth Lundeen, Parents: Kelly and Evan, Aug. 3.
Madelynn Jovie Pilcher, Parents: Kelsey and Josh, Aug. 3.
Macee Lyn Richer, Parents: Melissa and Mathieu, Aug. 4.
Temperance Lena Litke, Parents: Deborah and Travis, Aug. 4.
Paisley Ann Cassen, Parents: Maggie Kingery and Anthony Cassen, Aug. 5.
Cruz Joseph Reyes, Parents: Erynne and Steven, Aug. 9.
Dallas Jon Hansen, Parents: Tara and Tyler, Aug. 9.
Scarlett Emelia Kjersten, Parents: Alyssa and Kevin, Aug. 10.
Mohamed Ahmed Abdulkadir, Parents: Najma Abdi and Ahmed Abdullahi, Aug. 10.
Gracelynn Marie Krienke, Parents: Alexis and Justin, Aug. 11.
Royalty Royce Powell, Parents: Rhonda and Patrick, Aug. 11.
Kensi Pearl Jacobson, Parents: Cheri and John, Aug. 12.
John Arthur Bulfer, Parents: Briana and Robert, Aug. 16.
Drayton Michael Schafer, Parents: Kelsey and Daniel, Aug. 18.
Georgia Janice Courtney, Parents: Jill and Kyle, Aug. 18.
Kinsley Marie Larson,

Parents: Karen and Nathan, Aug. 18.
Zander James Davis, Parents: Jyne and Adam, Aug. 22.
Elijah Clarence Hornes, Parents: Elisabeth and Darien, Aug. 24.
Dean Joseph Arens, Parents: Amanda and Derek, Aug. 24.
Paige Marlys Carpenter, Parents: Brooke and Michael, Aug. 26.
Maxwell George Snyder, Parents: Jeana and George, Aug. 26.
Hudson Dean Silva, Parents: Tiffany Peterson and Michael Silva, Aug. 26.
Emma Jean Gerdes, Parents: Amber and Joseph, Aug. 28.
Livinia Grace Leavstrom, Parents: Carissa and Seth, Aug. 29.

Steele County Deaths August 2016
Dorothy Mae Wavrin, 94, Owatonna, Aug. 1.
Dorothy Elizabeth Buecksler, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 1.
Lorraine Justine Hanson, 92, Owatonna, Aug. 2.
Jeanne Karon Voll, 72, Owatonna, Aug. 2.
Elaine Susan Trevis, 91, Faribault, Aug. 3.
William Jerome Ashton Jr., 90, Owatonna, Aug. 4.
Meredith Anne Skalicky, 71, West Concord, Aug. 5.
Jenelle Ann Dow, 81, Owatonna, Aug. 5.
Darlene Marie Beaupre, 74, Faribault, Aug. 5.
Vera Louise Swanson, 92, Owatonna, Aug. 6.
Margaret Ann Gauthier, 75, Owatonna, Aug. 8.
Kassondra Lynn Sage, 19, Delano, Aug. 10.
Michael Andrew Opland, 72, Faribault, Aug. 10.
Ruth Maxine Reese, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 12.

Louis Randolph Hahn, 92, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Jesse Hernandez, 79, Blooming Prairie, Aug. 16.
Marie Louise Johnson, 73, Owatonna, Aug. 17.
Francis Eugene Motl, 92, Blooming Prairie, Aug. 19.
Marie Dolores Introne, 93, Owatonna, Aug. 20.
Sharon Jean Rohwer, 75, Owatonna, Aug. 22.
Bret Alan Running, 55, Owatonna, Aug. 23.
Janet Dorothy Walterson, 68, Ellendale, Aug. 26.
Margaret L. Thompson, 83, Faribault, Aug. 28.
George Francis Caron, 79, Owatonna, Aug. 29.

Steele County Marriages August 2016
Travis Tony Ripka and Samantha Alexandra Simmons, Aug. 1.
Bryanna Laysha Stewart and Samuel Richard Timothy Rowley, Aug. 1.
Michael John Werner and Tana Lee Hagedorn, Aug. 5.
Matthew Brent Melius and Krystal Annette Burggraff, Aug. 6.
Derek William Breezer and Afton Cristine Bohlen, Aug. 6.
Mathew Ryan Stephens and Aliyah Chasia Ruble Waypa, Aug. 6.
Patrick James O'Connor and Krystal Marie Klemmensen, Aug. 6.
Alexander John Hruska and Kami Marie Krautkremer, Aug. 6.
James Anthony Wilkins and Shelly Lynn Allen, Aug. 12.
Michael George Widdersheim and Alexandria Marie Rosendahl, Aug. 12.
Melissa Lynn Knish and Juan Rafael Carrasco, Aug. 12.
Brandon Edmond Halstead and Courtney Alicia Madsen,

Aug. 13.
Brian Keith Wobschall and Janet Eileen Strain, Aug. 13.
Cody James Haberman and Samantha Ann Miller, Aug. 13.
Bryce Edward Bauman and Michelle Jean Littlefield, Aug. 13.
Salena Phommahaxay and Anthony Dexter Wayne Francis, Aug. 17.
Dale Leroy Calhoun Jr. and Amanda Mae Kreeger, Aug. 20.
Rachel Marie Fosse and Phillip Michael Czarnecki, Aug. 20.
Donovan Patrick Judkins and Renae Elizabeth Dulac, Aug. 27.
Daniel Patrick Hinkle and Brandi Nicole Wilker, Aug. 27.
Michael Andrew Meger and Destinee Rio Zamzow, Aug. 27.
Eric Frank Anderson and Karen Marie Pfarr, Aug. 27.
Jessica Elise Reneau and Bruce John Arens, Aug. 27.

Steele County Divorces August 2016
Kim Louise Simon and Michael E. Simon.
Jennifer Jean Fielding and Mark Fielding.
Kevin Stewart Nieman and Nancy Jane Nieman.
Nichole Ann Schiell and Shane Scott Schiell.
Michelle Bernice Spinler and Christopher Michael Spinler.
Sheri M. Schroer and Andrew J. Schroer.
Brian Keith Wocelka and Rhonda Marie Wocelka.
Cassandra Joan Noble and Ricky Scott Steele.
Rebecca Mae Mensing and Richard Carl Mensing.

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The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in

questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

Before going to a VITA or TCE site, see Publication 3676-B for services provided and check out the What to Bring page to ensure you have all the required documents and information our volunteers will need to help you. *Note: available services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the

tax law expertise required for your return.

Some VITA sites offer CAA service to taxpayers along with their VITA program.

Find a VITA or TCE Site Near You

VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, use the VITA Locator Tool or call 800-906-9887.

When looking for a TCE site keep in mind that a majority

of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide program. To locate the nearest AARP TCE Tax-Aide site between January and April use the AARP Site Locator Tool or call 888-227-7669.

At select tax sites, taxpayers also have an option to prepare their own basic federal and state tax return for free using Web-based tax preparation software with an IRS-certified volunteer to help guide you through the process. This option is only available at locations that list "Self-Prep" in the site listing.

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Minimizer places two products in TP&S top ten of 2016

There's a new number one in town, and it belongs to Minimizer.

Truck Parts & Service released its top ten aftermarket products of 2016, and Minimizer's name appears twice on the list – Fast Flaps at No. 10 and the new Minimizer Long Haul Series of Heavy Duty Truck Seats at No. 1.

“This honor is another feather in the cap, but it also shows how committed we are to innovation,” Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg said. “You can expect us to come out with more never-before-seen products in 2017.”

The Minimizer Seat System was developed over several years, with many features unique to the Long Haul Series.

“Since our seats line launched in July, the top four watched videos on our Facebook page are all seats-related,” Kruckeberg said. “The reviews have been fantastic.”

Fast Flaps also made a huge dent on Minimizer's Facebook page when they were released last March. To date, the initial Fast Flaps video has more than a million impressions.

“Both products have surpassed our expectations,” Kruckeberg said. “They're flying off shelves and showroom floors. We're really excited about the response.”

About Minimizer

Leveraging almost 40 years of manufacturing expertise at its state-of-the-art facility in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Minimizer is not only the leader in poly semi truck fenders - we invented the category. Minimizer poly fenders and integrated bracket kits are nearly indestructible and are guaranteed for life.

Our research and development team constantly

“tests and tortures” each of our products to make sure what goes on, in or is used to fix the truck meets the rigors of our tough industry.

We also manufacture industry-leading light kits, mud flaps, tool boxes, tire masking kits, work benches and other accessories. Our most recent innovations include the world's ONLY custom molded floor mats for semi trucks, as well as the revolutionary “whole body” Minimizer Truck Seat System.

Minimizer has been family owned and operated for three generations. The company manufactures its products in the USA and makes everything tough enough to please tough people in a tough industry.

For more information or to contact a Minimizer distributor, call us at (800) 248-3855 or email us at info@minimizer.com.

Hy-Vee voluntarily recalls candy products due to possible health risk

Hy-Vee, Inc., based in West Des Moines, Iowa, is voluntarily recalling several candy trays because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella.

The voluntary recall includes selected products produced between Oct. 20, 2016, and Dec. 9, 2016, and shipped by Palmer Candy Company to grocery, convenience store and wholesale customers nationwide for repackaging.

Below is the product description, size and UPC number that can be found on the label of each candy tray that is being recalled.

Description and UPC:

Chocolate Almond Bark, 4 oz. 026133400000

Chocolate Almond Bark, 12 oz. 026133300000

Chocolate Almond Pretzels, 4 oz. 026131900000

Chocolate Almond Pretzels, 12 oz. 026131800000

Crème De Menthe Almond Bark, 12 oz. 026266300000

Dazzled Peanut Brittle, 12 oz. 026267400000

Dazzled Peanut Brittle Tub, 8 oz. 026267300000

Holiday Candy Tray, 10", 16 oz.

026139100000

Holiday Candy Tray, 12", 32 oz. 026139300000

Holiday Candy Tray, 16", 48 oz. 026139500000

Holiday Candy Tray, 18", 64 oz. 026139700000

Peppermint Bark, 4 oz. 026133800000

Peppermint Bark, 12 oz. 026133700000

Peppermint Bark Tub, 9 oz. 026267900000

9" Candy Tray, 16 oz. 026138000000

12" Candy Tray, 32 oz. 026138100000

16" Candy Tray, 48 oz. 026138200000

9" Cookie & Candy Tray, 16 oz. 026138600000

12" Cookie & Candy Tray, 32 oz. 026138700000

16" Cookie & Candy Tray, 48 oz. 026138800000

The candy trays were distributed to all of Hy-Vee's 242 grocery stores across its eight-state region of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The product comes in a plastic container with a clear lid.

The sell-by date range for all items is between Jan. 26, 2017 and Feb. 23, 2017. The sell-by date can be found at the top of the product label.

To date, no illnesses have been reported in connection with these products. Salmonella is an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

Out of an abundance of caution Hy-Vee has decided to recall all candy trays that include products in the recall. Customers who purchased this product should dispose of it or return it to their local Hy-Vee store for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Hy-Vee Customer Care representatives 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-772-4098.

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Looking for someone with a snow blower to blow my driveway. Eleanor Stapleka-mp. Call 634-4085. 6p

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Blood Clot patients, if you have experienced any serious problems with an IVC filter, call 507-201-8964 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. ttc

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Applications can also be picked up at PossAbilities main office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m



New church plant celebrates 30 years in corporate ministry

Streetfire Ministries is a full-gospel, Spirit-filled ministry located right here in Minnesota.

Streetfire Ministries was incorporated in 1987, and in 2016, God had put it on the hearts of the Streetfire Ministries board to relocate to Minnesota, and start a new church plant into an already blooming prairie.

The vision is to one day have an **international spiritual medical center** that is 24/7 and ministers to the hearts, souls, minds and bodies of those in need.

We pray that you will be welcomed and ministered to – regardless of your income, your race or your spiritual condition.

There will be no Christian infomercials or pleas for money and no hidden agendas. Freely we’ve received and freely will we give back to a community that has opened its arms to us. We believe that God is the same yesterday, today and forever is still working in a mighty way with a practical and powerful word that is accompanied by signs and wonders following.

If you need a change. If you need a word of encouragement. If you are seeking to go deeper with God. If something inside of you has said that it’s time... we welcome you and remind you to “come as you are.”

Many of you may know Mark and Robin DeLap from their business ties to the community, and for the work that they do in both Steele and Dodge Counties.

After two years of preparations, prayer and fasting, God has finally established Streetfire Ministries in Blooming Prairie.

Mark DeLap has been an ordained Pastor since 1985 and has been in full time ministry for almost 40 years. He is a world-renowned teacher of theology as well as a Christian recording artist. Robin DeLap was ordained as a Pastor since 2012 and has been anointed as an international singer and conference speaker.

Our grand opening and first official service will be held at our new location at 568 4th Place SW in Blooming Prairie on Sunday morning, February 19th. We welcome you to come visit us as we celebrate 30 years of corporate ministry. Our Sunday morning worship service is at 10:45 a.m. and we have a Wednesday night Bible study at 7 p.m.

For more information about Streetfire Ministries and to view teaching videos, past services and future events, please visit us at: <https://streetfireministries.net>



Advice for aging athletes

Retired professional athletes often speak about the difficult moment when they knew it was time to retire from professional competition. The transition can be easy for some but far more difficult for others. But aging amateur athletes know you need not be a professional to realize there comes a time when your body is telling you it’s time to ease up.

Athletes are used to pushing themselves and stretching their limits, but some limits are best not pushed. Such is the case with the limits posed by aging. While athletes don’t have to completely fold up shop and hang up their cleats, tennis shoes or other athletic equipment as they approach senior citizen status, there are steps aging athletes can take to ensure they aren’t pushing their bodies too far as they grow older.

- Recognize your new recovery time. Veteran athletes tend to have a sixth sense about their bodies, knowing how long they need to recover from common ailments like ankle sprains, knee pain, back pain and shin splints. Despite the body’s remarkable ability for recovery, it’s not immune to aging, and that recovery time will increase as the body ages.
- Whereas a sprained ankle might once have been as good as new after a few days or rest, aging athletes must recognize that the same ankle sprain now might require more recovery time.
- Returning too quickly from an injury can only make things worse for aging athletes, so don’t push yourself.
- Take more time to warm up.

As the body ages, its response time to exercise increases. This means the body needs more time to prepare itself for cardiovascular and strength training exercises.

Increase your warmup time as you age, gradually increasing the intensity of your warmup exercises until your body feels ready for more strenuous exercise.

- * Focus on flexibility. The more flexible you are, the more capable the body is of absorbing shock, including the shock that results from repetitive activities. But as the body ages, it becomes less flexible, which makes it less capable of successfully handling the repetitive movements common to exercise.

Aging athletes should focus on their flexibility, stretching their muscles before and after a workout. In addition, activities such as yoga can work wonders on improving flexibility for young and aging athletes alike.

- Don’t stop strength training. Some aging athletes mistakenly

feel they should stop strength training as they get older.

No longer concerned about building muscle, aging athletes might feel as if they have nothing to gain by lifting weights and continuing to perform other muscle strengthening exercises.

But the body gradually loses muscle mass as it ages, and that loss puts the joints under greater stress when aging athletes perform other exercises. That stress can put people at greater risk for arthritis, tendinitis and ligament sprains.

While you no longer need to max out on the bench press or challenge yourself on the biceps curl, it is important to continue to make strength training a part of your fitness regimen as you age.

Aging athletes need not associate aging with ceasing their athletic pursuits. But recognizing your limitations and the changes your body is going through is an important element of staying healthy as your approach older adulthood.





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