



STEELE COUNTY TIMES



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Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Plane Crash in Ellendale



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Investigators with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Steele County Sheriff's Office survey the wreckage of a single-engine plane Friday morning in a farm field just north of Beaver Lake near Ellendale. The plane crashed Thursday night while flying from Duluth to Winona. The pilot, Daniel Bass, 39, of Winona is expected to make a full recovery after being seriously injured in the crash.

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

"He beat the odds for sure."
That's how a plane crash survivor's wife described the harrowing experience her husband went through Feb. 2 when his plane crashed into a Steele County farm field.

Deanna Bass of Winona was counting her blessings from a hospital room at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester Saturday as her husband, Daniel Bass, 39, recovered from the injuries he sustained in the crash. Daniel Bass suffered serious injuries, but Deanna declined to reveal

them. However, she said he is recovering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Daniel Bass is an experienced pilot who has been flying for many years, according to his wife. He was piloting a single-engine Mooney M20M aircraft that had taken off from Duluth and traveling back home to Winona.

During the flight, the plane veered off course and disappeared from radar around 8 p.m. The Federal Aviation Administration reported the aircraft missing at about 8:15 p.m. to the Rice-Steele Dispatch Center,

according to Sheriff Lon Thiele. The sheriff's office received a 911 call reporting the plane crash just north of Beaver Lake outside of Ellendale around 9:10 p.m. after Bass walked to a residence seeking help.

North Memorial Air Ambulance responded to the scene and transported Bass to St. Mary's Hospital.

Ellendale Fire and Ambulance, Minnesota State Patrol, Blooming Prairie Police and sheriff's deputies from Steele, Freeborn and Mower counties responded to the crash. The public had been asked by Steele County

officials to avoid the area and deputies secured the scene until FAA investigators arrived the next morning.

It's unknown exactly when the plane went down.

On Friday, FAA investigators began piecing together what happened. A sheriff's deputy assisted the FAA by taking photos of the crash scene.

The heavily damaged plane was removed from the farm field late Friday afternoon. The FAA is continuing its investigation, which typically takes several weeks to complete.

While there is no official

cause, Deanna Bass told the Times that the plane likely developed mechanical problems with the heater in the engine area. She said carbon monoxide fumes came into the cabin, causing her husband to become disoriented and the plane to veer off course. She did not know if he was unconscious when the plane went down.

As of Saturday, Bass was in stable condition, though Deanna did not have any idea how long before he would be released. "He's having a good day," she said.

Said Sheriff Thiele: "He's a very, very lucky guy."

Damages at \$1.4M in train derailment

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Last fall's train derailment outside of Ellendale caused nearly \$1.4 million in damages, mostly to equipment, a railroad report shows.

Union Pacific Railroad was required to file a report with the Federal Railroad Administration as part of the overall investigation, according to Desiree French, a spokesperson for FRA. However, FRA's final report is still not complete. "This accident is still under investigation by FRA," French said, noting the final report could come in March.

In Union Pacific's report to the FRA, the railroad noted \$1,378,253 in equipment damages from the Nov. 11 early morning derailment about a half-mile south of Ellendale. Besides equipment, there also was \$14,632 in damages to the tracks, the report said.

The derailment caused the entire community of 700 people to be evacuated for nearly six hours. Union Pacific reports the 146-car train, including eight cars with hazardous materials, was traveling at 37 mph at the time of the derailment. There were 22 cars that jumped the tracks. One of the cars had hazardous materials leaking into the atmosphere.

Investigation by the railroad ruled out train handling from locomotive as the cause, Union Pacific said. Mechanical defect also had been ruled out by the railroad.

"All mechanical components were retrieved and no wheels were condemnable, no wheels or cars indicated abnormal patterns of wear and there were no indications of broken mechanical components on any cars," the report said.

Most track components were recovered as indicated by

DERAILMENT

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Helping to make a difference

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The scene is a first grade classroom at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

The players are fellow first graders of Eli Johnson, Eli himself and Eli's aunt Anna Peterson, a Dodge County Deputy Sheriff.

Deputy Peterson and Blooming Prairie Police Officer Dan Peach recently made an appearance at the elementary school to read to the first graders and also acquaint them a bit more with law enforcement work.

Little Eli was beaming from ear to ear as he told fellow first graders that the deputy sheriff was his aunt.

Anna has been a patrol officer part time for the Dodge County Sheriff's Department since August of last year. Her goal is to get a full-time police position and maybe with the Dodge County department.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dodge County Deputy Sheriff Anna Peterson gets some close family time with nephew Eli Johnson while visiting him and his fellow first graders recently at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Deputy Peterson, a Blooming Prairie High School graduate, began work with Dodge County last August.

Peterson, 24, is a native of Blooming Prairie, graduating from Blooming Prairie High School in 2010. She then attended Hamline

University for two years, studying criminal justice. She

DEPUTY

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Gov. Dayton invited to celebrate Blooming Prairie's 150th birthday

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton has been invited to attend a special 150th birthday celebration of Blooming Prairie on Sunday, July 2.

That news was related at a Blooming Prairie Sesquicentennial Committee meeting held Thursday, Jan. 26 at the BP City Center.

The Office of Gov. Mark Dayton acknowledged the invitation and said the invite is on his list, Howard Lestrud, committee member reported. A decision of whether Gov. Dayton will attend or not will be conveyed to the Blooming Prairie Sesquicentennial Committee about four weeks before the event.

Blooming Prairie librarian and committee member Nancy Vaillancourt chaired

the regular planning meeting.

Vaillancourt reported that BP historian LeMar Nelson is continuing to make progress in writing submissions for a Blooming Prairie Sesquicentennial book.

It was also reported that high school and elementary school students and staff are submitting writings about their Blooming Prairie memories.

Committee member Sarah Esplan circulated a copy of a letter that will be sent to local businesses and non-profit organizations, asking for their involvement in the big celebration on July 2.

It was noted that BP Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble will invite chamber members who sell food to set up at Central Park on July 2. The chamber may also set up a food booth at the park.

Carol Iverson has created art work for birthday posters to be printed at KIK Graphics.

Howard Lestrud reported that he has been working with Diane Bergstrom of the BP Post Office to set up a special 150th postal cancel to be made available on Friday, June 30 during regular post office hours.

A time capsule may be buried somewhere in the city. Mary Kittelson is consulting with Mayor H. Peterson on a suitable location.

Souvenirs commemorating the 150th birthday will still be available leading up to the July 2 celebration. Sun catchers, beer mugs and cake pans will be available.

Planning will continue to set up a speakeasy this spring,

DAYTON

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WHO

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Opinion

Our view

And the tear in our fabric widens

According to the Huffington Post, 48 percent of Americans approve of Trump’s executive order, banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries. 44 percent disapprove. After a year that witnessed political campaigns that resembled hot knives through American butter, many hoped that things would calm down and America could take some time to breath. To relax. To heal.

Instead, Old Glory is being ripped asunder by the dissension. Like a cavern, ever widening in the quake of the world’s unrest, there is a great gulf that is separating states, communities and families.

It is not the time to jump into the fray with declarations and definitions of what America once was. Neither is it a time to rehash history lessons or educate people on human nature. And most of all, it’s not a time when America needs to learn fresh and clever insults to further drive the wedge.

If you will take a step back and open your eyes, you will see that there is a big picture here. It’s not the picture of President Trump, it is not the picture of the bloodied angry masses in the protests. It’s the fact that those who hate America have accomplished a mission. America is in shambles and nobody wants to see it. The thing we should have a focus upon, and do not.

Our enemies couldn’t defeat us militarily or with atomic power, but they have managed to inject a fear-based hatred into the fountains of our liberty. Families are pitted against one another, couples are divorcing, sparing co-workers are affecting the productivity of business, neighbors are putting up higher fences and you can’t go into a local coffee shop without being inducted into the war.

But it’s the wrong war.

As in a feuding couple, the battle is not for the money or the right to be right or the indiscretions that have wounded. The battle is for the family.

The question remains, “how can we win the battle for our family?”

You don’t need another point of view or another convert to your way of thinking. You need to find a way to fix this rift that is now just about out of control.

There is point in every disastrous fire where a decision needs to be made whether to continue to fight to put out the flames to save a structure or to step away and let it burn because it’s too far gone. At that point, there is no finger pointing, no blaming, no right or wrong. There is only an urgency to conquer the flames.

If America is not at that point, we are certainly close. It’s not a time to fight the ones who ignited the disaster. It’s time to quench the violence of the flame.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Corporate America seems to be eating away our small communities in ways that are troubling to say the least.

How often do we see corporate giants taking over small town businesses and not always doing some pretty things?

It’s happened in the media business with big corporates buying up the small town newspapers and most often gutting the staffs to barebones. I know of several small towns in our region that still resent the corporate media conglomerates that have taken over their newspapers.

And it has happened in just about every other kind of industry.

The reality is mom and pop shops are being flung into the rearview mirror in droves and sadly forever forgotten.

Ever since giant Walmart came along years ago, the landscape of towns all across the country has drastically changed. The mentality seems to be ingrained into the minds of many that better is always better.

Not so fast. Maybe that’s not the case after all.

Mom and pop dealer takes over corporate dealership

It’s rare to see a small town family take over a business that has had corporate ownership.

I was pleasantly surprised in last week’s announcement that Walsers Automotive dealership in Owatonna has been sold to a “mom and pop” dealer from Stewartville, a small town just outside of Rochester. Julie and Greg House have taken over the Owatonna auto dealer after nearly five years of corporate ownership by the Walser group. Greg is a third generation car dealer that has the smarts of dealing with small towns and the importance of community involvement. Julie grew up in rural Kasson.

“I’ve worked with cars since knee high,” said Greg, whose grandfather started the Stewartville dealership in 1923. “Washing cars, cleaning cars, I’ve done all of it.”

As I sat down with them late last week, they were busy catching their breath after a busy week of transitioning the dealership into their name. Julie said every time she walked by the fax machine there was a new piece of paperwork that needed to be filled out with their information.

Even though Greg has been around cars his entire life, the same isn’t exactly true for Julie, who will be operating the Owatonna dealership, of course with the help of her

husband. She spent many years as a hair dresser and most recently worked at the DMV in Rochester handling title work and registration of vehicles.

When I pressed them about any changes they were planning to make, Greg sighed and said, “We’ve only been here a week.” Added Julie: “I’m still trying to get my feet wet.” They assured me no changes were imminent, however.

The Houses are set on running the Owatonna location, in addition to keeping the Stewartville dealership going. They said at least one of them, mostly Julie, will be in Owatonna on a daily basis as opposed to corporate owners who seldom are around. Julie said she is proud that they will be able to offer the personal touch of having family at the store on a regular basis.

What is impressive the most about the Houses is their devotion to small town values. Greg has been actively involved on the civic front in Stewartville for much of his life. “I’m cut out for small town,” he says. “We’re heavily involved in the community.”

And folks can expect much of the same as the Houses become entrenched in Steele County.

It’s about time small town entrepreneurs rise up and go in hot pursuit of taking down the corporate giants.

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Ellendale Mayor

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Medford Mayor

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

Owatonna Mayor

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

Letters to the editor

Let’s not get in a big hurry to spend big money

Dear editor,

I feel the county should abandon the property site located on old Highway 14.

Have you gone out there to see this swamp?

It looks like the county had to build a large moat around the site in order to drain it. Many dollars have been spent so far on this property while there are good solid existing buildings more than adequate for the Steele County Highway Maintenance Department.

The former Blount building is vacant and available for sale. And, What about the fromer Siddell building which has been rented out by Chart?

This would cost the county far less money to purchase and occupy one of these properties.

The complex Anita Benson, the Steele County Engineer, wants to have the built will end up costing the taxpayers far more. In my opinion, she has made bad decisions that have already cost the county large sums of money.

The former Board of Commissioners basically gave her an open spending account. She insists on having a huge

private office now in this complex. Why?

Anita Benson, in my opinion, does not seem to care how much money she spends of Steele County funds.

She does not live in Owatonna and does not pay Steele County real estate taxes.

She pays her real estate taxes for another county.

She drives a Steele County vehicle back and forth to work each day.

Wouldn’t that be nice for everyone who had a job in another county?

Frances Rassman
Owatonna

A nod to the sports editor

A big thank you to the Steele County Times and the Sports Editor Josh Zimmer for doing such a great job of covering the Owatonna Boys hockey games.

We appreciate the coverage the boys get on their games.

Diane Rehman
Owatonna

Guest column

New is not always better

By Marlene Nelson

Responding to Tom Shea’s guest column that was in the Times last week, I want to thank him for taking my letter apart line by line. He provided some information that I had not had before. It will further back up my claim that because of some of his ideas we have lost multi-millions of dollars.

Tom said, “So, it is with a segment of our community, led by Marlene Nelson. Mrs. Nelson’s letter which appears on this page deserves some context for your consideration.” First

I thought to lead a community you must be in an elected position. His comment came as news to me.

Then Tom says SCCL/BHS has had an operating loss of \$5.1 million since opening. I stand corrected as I thought it was \$5.5 million. He goes on with some alphabet soup, EBIDA, Earnings Before Interest Depreciation and Amortization. Earlier in the paragraph he stated an operating loss of \$5.1 million. They are just now showing a slight profit. So how then will they ever get caught up with the \$5.1 million loss on just a slight profit? They certainly can’t

COLUMN

Continued on page 4A

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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Elsewhere in Minnesota.....\$44
Out of state.....\$46

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Second Front

Steele County Free Fair going forward

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

“An investment for our future” is the way Kory Kath painted the picture for Steele County Free Fair board of directors Thursday night in his presentation given at their monthly meeting at the Steele County fairgrounds.

Kath, a representative for Owatonna Forward, which is a local grass roots coalition, explained their purpose as finding the assets of a community, locating the drivers (doers) and creating the investment

by implementing a plan to bring the future into a prosperous focus.

Owatonna Forward has set up three informational meetings to be held at the Morehouse Room at Owatonna Public Utilities where residents can learn more about the vision and how to be a part of growing Owatonna. The first meeting is set for today from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. The second meeting is slated for Feb. 15 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. and the final meeting will be held Feb. 21 from 12 to 1:15 p.m.

At those meetings, people

will be encouraged to add their opinion by way of a survey, as to which are the greatest assets in Owatonna and targeting undeveloped assets. The survey takes about three minutes to complete and can also be taken online for those who are not able to attend the meetings.

The deadline for completing surveys is Feb. 28. March will be the crucial month for the coalition as they will pour over the surveys and determine a course of action going forward. They are hoping for 5-6,000 surveys to be

filled out.

Additional information concerning Owatonna Forward and the survey can be seen at www.owatonnaforward.com.

Following the presentation by Kath, the meeting continued with progress reports on both the beer garden and grandstand lineups which have not yet been finalized, but progress is being made and a full lineup will be released as it becomes available.

The board also reviewed and provided information on the annual “conflict of interest” form which insures

the interests of the 501 c3 and acts as a safeguard for both the corporation and those doing business with the SCFF.

The annual Hy-Vee fundraiser to be held March 17 was announced by SCFF secretary-manager, Jim Gleason. Gleason also informed the board of a Zone 4 meeting March 20-22 which is to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Bloomington. In addition, the board entertained discussion dealing with eliminating the Battle of the Bands competition. In light of the sponsor dropping out

and the perennial struggle trying to get bands to sign up, the board supported the recommendation to pull this event from the entertainment lineup.

The racetrack renovation update was given and discussion was held as to future plans. John Glynn, Steele County Commissioner suggested that the project solicit bids for submission to the county board.

The next meeting was set for March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Derailment second in a week

DEPUTY: from page 1A

transferred to Minnesota State University at Mankato for her final three years of schooling.

Her parents are Brian and Laura Peterson and they reside in Blooming Prairie. A sister Elizabeth also resides in the Blooming Prairie area.

Anna and Dan Peach graduated together, thus she said it is very rewarding to connect with a fellow student on the professional level.

Anna's interest in law enforcement actually started in ninth grade. Her interest

was sparked from a feeling of wanting to help others. She did that initially in college, working at the Mankato hospital.

Anna said it is very rewarding to know that you are helping someone and making a difference.

“I’ve always respected law enforcement and built a relationship with law enforcement while working at Casey’s General Store in Blooming Prairie,” Anna relates.

It’s an honor to wear the police uniform, says Peterson.

“Our role is to be a vital part of the community and be a positive influence on kids.

Anna picks up shifts as needed, mainly working Hayfield which is under contract with the Dodge County Sheriff’s Department. Her work includes responding to calls which may be medical, domestic or a business alarm.

“We also create work for ourselves by doing business and church checks to see they are locked and secure. Community engagement is also important being present

in the community and letting people know you are in town. A lot of it is presence.”

With the image of police officers becoming less favorable in some parts of the country, Anna said it is comforting to see the “tons of support” shown by Dodge County residents.

Dodge County communities often sponsor thank you dinners, Peterson said.

A concern about a positive image, Deputy Peterson said this forces her to work harder and try to make an impact,

especially on younger children.

It is encouraging, Peterson said to see more people going into the law enforcement field in Minnesota. She said the Mankato school now has 85 students in law enforcement, compared to 60 when Peterson attended. “Minnesota has one of the toughest and strongest law enforcement programs in the country,” Peterson has been told.

Deputy Peterson is constantly in tune with training programs, recently finishing training on domestic situations. She has

also been firearm trained. Other training covers field sobriety testing and familiarizing herself with seat belt and child restraint laws.

When not in uniform, Anna likes to hang out with family. “Police officers need strong support and I get that from my family,” she said. Anna and her dad drag race competitively in the summer.

“I would love to stay in this community as a patrol officer,” Anna affirms.

Snow Week Schedules

Owatonna Tuesday, Feb. 7: Dress-up Day- Minnesota nice (fancy clothes day) Lunch activities- Teacher Lip Sync Wednesday, Feb. 8: Dress-up Day- Twins day (dress with a friend or MN twins gear) Lunch activities-3 Legged Races Snow Queen and King announced Thursday, Feb. 9: Dress-up Day- Lake clothes day Lunch activities-Bean Bag Toss Friday, Feb. 10: Dress-up Day- Lumberjack day Lunch activities- Flapjack Eating Contest Blacklight Dance	Medford Tuesday, Feb. 7: ESPN Dress-up Day Wednesday Feb. 8: Bachelor/Bachelorette Dress-up Day Dodgeball Tournament Thursday, Feb. 9: Grey’s Anatommy Dress-up Day Brainiac Bowl Friday, Feb. 10: The Wiggles - Dress in the color of your grade 2:20 p.m. Pep Fest Saturday, Feb. 11: 8 p.m.-Snow Dance (\$8.00 per person. Need permission for outside guests)	NRHEG Tuesday, Feb. 7: Toga Dress-up Day Wednesday Feb. 8: Winter Dress-up Day Thursday, Feb. 9: Twin Day Dress-up Day Friday, Feb. 10: Freaky Friday Dress-up Day 2:15 p.m. - Talent Show Saturday, Feb. 11: 7:30-10:30 p.m.-Snow Dance (\$3.00 per person. \$5 per couple.)	Blooming Prairie Tuesday, Feb. 7: Jersey Day -Hats must match Jersey Wednesday Feb. 8: Colorful, Bright Day -wear as many colors as possible - Only theme hats Thursday, Feb. 9: Crazy Hair Day - NO HATS Friday, Feb. 10: Spirit Day - Only Blooming Prairie, Black or White Hats 2 p.m.- Pep Fest Lip Sync Contest Saturday, Feb. 11: 8-11 p.m.-Snow Dance, HS Commons (\$4.00 per person admission) Sunday, Feb. 12: 3-4:30 p.m. Fire and Ice, Blooming Prairie Ice Skating Rink - NO CHARGE Ice Skating & Camp Fires
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Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

The Owatonna Huskies build up to their snow week included a pep rally on the morning of Feb. 3. The royalty candidates performed comedic skits for their peers, featuring a dance-off and a Disney-inspired musical number. The band and cheerleaders closed it out with the school song.

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COLUMN: from page 2A

charge more than they now do. People are paying up to \$10,000 per month. One commissioner said they have the highest rates in the state. I can't see how you could possibly get dug out of the current hole you are in. You have a full house and are doing the best you can.

Since we have only been making interest only payments, they have been using money from the county reserve fund. Tom says that is only partially true. He states BHS is also paying. On Jan. 12, Jim Abbe asked BHS what they brought to the table.

They said nothing as they hadn't been asked. If you are 50/50 partners should you need to ask? I would think not.

SCCL was hinting strongly that the county could write off \$2 million so they can borrow more money to repurpose the old Cedarview building. They are trying to say they didn't appraise Park Place and Cedarview to save the cost of an appraisal. They just came up with \$2 million value for both building. I never saw a time when Tom or the old county commissioners concerned themselves with sav-

ing us money. I defy you to rebuild those two buildings for a sum of \$2 million.

Tom talks about the county reserves are coming out of the Community Wellness Fund. The original \$1 million development came from the Wellness Fund. They county has used \$3.5 million in cash from that fund. That money was profit from Park Place and Cedarview. Since that was a county asset, shouldn't that money have gone into the county's general fund?

I know Cedarview and Park Place had made profit, but I

didn't know it was as much as \$3.5 million. Now when we had something that was always free, had a waiting list, a good physical therapy department, why would we close it to put ourselves into something that has lost \$5.1 million? If something isn't broken, don't fix it. We lost 60 long term care beds in the process. Baby boomers are retiring at a rate of 10,000 per day for 19 years. If you have nursing home insurance, where will you find an empty bed?

Cedarview retained help until BHS took over. They lost ben-

efits—no more PERA, lost sick leave, etc. We had people who had worked there for decades. It isn't that way any longer. As I said treat your staff right and they will stay.

So if you take the \$3.5 million and \$5.1 million, I stand by saying we have lost multi-millions of dollars. I didn't get an answer on what the BHS pays the CEO or the CFO. I guess we don't want to talk about that.

So now folks I rest my case. It's in your hands to decide if we should have built KODA or not. New is not always better. If

the county wanted to get of the nursing home business then go completely 100 percent out. No more of this convoluted partnership stuff. Thank you Tom for letting us all know how profitable Cedarview and Park Place were. We need to work with the banks to locate a new partner for BHA and the county needs to split away.

Marlene Nelson has been openly critical of county government for years in Steele County. She lives in Owatonna.

Walk to celebrate

DAYTON: from page 1A

the committee said. Several locations have been suggested as sites for the event.

A 150-mile walk is also planned. The walk would span several weeks, May 1 to July 31.

Many events are planned for July 2 including a kiddie parade, balloon release, community blessing and participation of non-profit organizations in promoting themselves at Central Park. Leanne Hanson of A Touch of Charm said she will donate the balloons for the event.

The Blooming Prairie

Servicemen's Club will be a backup location in case of inclement weather on July 2.

Attending the Jan. 26 Sesquicentennial Committee meeting were: Carol Iverson, Sandy Jones, Sarah Esplan, Leanne Hanson, Nola Wradislavsky, Karen Fourage, Holly Naatz, Nancy Vaillancourt and Howard Lestrud.

Next meeting of the committee will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 at J & H Liquors.

DERAILMENT: from page 1A

by measurement of track footage with the exception of 71-feet of rail, according to Union Pacific.

The derailment location, Union Pacific said, was on a high fill location and did not want to disturb the roadbed any more than we had to from rerailing and clearing operations by digging out

the compacted right-of-way looking for the broken rail.

Union Pacific concluded, "By the catastrophic nature of the derailment pile and the recovery of all mechanical components and re-creation in the simulator, it was determined that this derailment was caused by a rail defect."

Derailment second in a week

The Steele County derailment was the second derailment in Minnesota within the same week for Union Pacific. Just three days earlier, seven cars derailed near Stillwater. A broken air hose is believed to have been the cause in that derailment, which caused about \$124,000 in damages.

No deaths or injuries were reported in either derailment.

Federal regulations require railroads to self-report derailment information. The railroad report does not, however, represent official findings of railroad incident investigations completed by FRA.



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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Fighting workplace mandates on two fronts

BY DOUG LOON
Guest Writer

The Minnesota Chamber continues to challenge workplace mandates at the Legislature and in the courts. A recent court ruling underscores the importance of our parallel efforts.

A Minneapolis ordinance is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2017, that requires businesses to provide paid sick time to employees. St. Paul has a similar ordinance scheduled to take effect the same date. Duluth is considering enacting its own set of workplace regulations. It's only time before similar measures come to a city near you.

In October 2016, the Minnesota Chamber brought a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis asking the court to do two things: No. 1, issue a temporary injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing its "paid sick and safe time" ordinance on any businesses; No. 2, permanently rule the ordinance unlawful.

The Hennepin County District Court delivered a mixed ruling on January 19. Judge Mel I. Dickstein said Minneapolis may not enforce its ordinance on employers "resident outside the geographic boundaries of the city of Minneapolis." He also ordered that, for now, the city could enforce the ordinance against employers within the city. We are appealing the decision.

The judge's mixed ruling underscores the importance of our efforts at the Capitol to pass the Uniform State Labor Standards Act, which would prohibit local governments from passing their own mandates on wages, benefits and scheduling. The Act would keep Minnesota's laws uniform, our communities open for business, and our economy thriving for all.

The legislation is being spearheaded by the United for Jobs Coalition, a broad-based coalition of local chambers of commerce and business associations led by the Minnesota Chamber.

We do not believe the state should dictate private-sector employee benefits. The only thing worse than state government dictating one-size-fits-all mandates on all employers is for local governments to do so, thus creating a patchwork of local laws for businesses to navigate across the state. Minnesota's economic strength is due to a diverse business landscape. Distinctive operations and workplace needs require that employers have the flexibility to develop wages and salaries, benefits, policies and procedures that best serve the mutual needs of employer and employees.

Borrowing a sports phrase, the best defense is a strong offense. Minnesota employers consistently receive national recognition for providing tremendous workplace environments. We will continue to challenge workplace mandates. At the same time, legislators also need to hear about the voluntary wages and benefit plans employers use to attract and retain employees in this competitive marketplace. Minnesota businesses increasingly are offering leave plans that meet the needs of employees such as offer paid maternity and paternity leave, paid sick and safe leave, and other benefits—without state or local mandates. Please share your best practices by contacting Jennifer Byers at 651.292.4673 or jbyers@mncchamber.com.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

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Do You Need To File a Tax Return in 2017?

*Dear Savvy Senior,
What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? My income dropped way down when I retired last year in 2016, so I'm wondering if I need to even file a tax return this year.*

New Retiree

Dear New,
There are several factors that affect whether or not you need to file a federal income tax return this year including how much you earned last year (in 2016), and the source of that income, as well as your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's (2016) IRS tax filing requirement thresholds. For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2016 gross income

— which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately — was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

•Single: \$10,350 (\$11,900 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2017).

•Married filing jointly: \$20,700 (\$21,950 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$23,200 if you're both over 65).

•Married filing separately: \$4,050 at any age.

•Head of household: \$13,350 (\$14,900 if age 65 or older).

•Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$16,650 (\$17,900 if age 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements,

along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "Tax Guide for Seniors" (publication 554), or see IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf.

Special Circumstances

There are, however, some other financial situations that will require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirement. For example, if you had earnings from self-employment in 2016 of \$400 or more, or if you owe any special taxes to the IRS such as alternative minimum tax or IRA tax penalties, you'll probably need to file.

To figure this out, the IRS offers an interactive tax assistant tool on their website that asks a series of questions that will help

you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes about 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at IRS.gov/filing — click on "Do you need to file a return?" under the Get Ready tab. Or, you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040. You can also get face-to-face help at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. See IRS.gov/localcontacts or call 800-829-1040 to locate a center near you.

Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency be-



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fore concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see Taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies.

Tax Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can get help through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TEC provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpay-

ers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep to locate a service near you.

Also check with AARP, a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at more than 5,000 sites nationwide. To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call 888-227-7669 or visit AARP.org/findtaxhelp. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, February 6th, 2007

The word came this last week from the MSHSL that all wrestling competition and contact will be suspended for an 80 day period in the entire state of Minnesota.

Teams are allowed to continue conditioning programs. However, coaching staffs have been instructed to perform daily skin checks and refer any suspicious lesions to appropriate medical personnel.

This ban came after an outbreak of what is called Herpes Simplex. The virus has been reported from 24 wrestlers in the state. Left untreated, the infection can lead to more serious consequences.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, February 4th, 1997

It's been almost a year since Marion Mast opened Buy Design Time in Bloomington. To

celebrate that recognition and the move to his new location, BDT will have an open house Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Everyone is invited to see what we have to offer and to see our new facility," said Mast, who now is one door south of The Bakery in the former First Bank building at 345 East Main.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, February 5th, 1967

The Productions Credit Association of Bloomington will hold its 32nd annual stockholders meeting on Saturday this week. A fine program, highlighted with special speakers and entertainment, has been planned and a record number of stockholders are expected to attend.

The speaker at the event will be well known lecturer, Jess Cornish. Mr. Cornishh has been traveling

into the heart of Africa in search of rare carvings and art work, his speech should hold a high amount of interest to everyone in attendance.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, February 4th, 1942

Our soldier boys want books, lots of them!

To supply them, a campaign is underway throughout the nation to collect new and used books suitable for the boys. Bloomington Prairie is now enlisted in the campaign work.

The books will be received at the school library from 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. daily except for Sundays. The books wanted are good fiction novels and historical travel novels. Don't give junk books or books that you know the boys wouldn't like to read.



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CommunityLiving

Obituaries

Constance “Connie” Haberman, 73 of Blooming Prairie

Constance “Connie” Haberman, age 73 of Blooming Prairie, died Friday evening, Feb. 3, 2017, at the Owatonna Hospital. Constance Ann Ryan was born June 14, 1943, in Austin, Minnesota, the daughter of John and Norma (Hanson) Ryan. She attended school in Blooming Prairie, graduating in 1961. On April 11, 1964, she was united in marriage to Robert Haberman at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. The couple lived and farmed near Blooming Prairie where they raised three children. After the children were older, Connie began a banking career first as a teller at First National Bank, Peoples Savings and Loan and later Metropolitan Bank all in Blooming Prairie. She retired from the First National Bank in Hope, Min-



nesota where she was a loan officer. Connie loved to sew and quilt and enjoyed traveling to Branson, Missouri and to local threshing shows. Connie especially loved her family and she made sure to attend any of the

events or games her grandchildren were involved in. She was an active member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church and the CCW. She also was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, serving in many offices including as President. Survivors include her husband, Robert Haberman of rural Blooming Prairie; three children, Kelli (Jim) O’Connor, Joe Haberman and John (Katie Zipse) Haberman all of Blooming Prairie; five grandchildren, Katie (Sam) Wencil, Patrick (Krystal) O’Connor, Megan (Jake Lightly) O’Connor, Anna Haberman and Lacey Haberman; one great-grandson, Bennett Wencil; two brothers, Michael (Lois) Ryan of Montgomery and Joseph (Jill) Ryan of Maple Grove and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Norma Ryan. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, with Father William Kulas, officiating. Interment will follow the service at the Czech National Cemetery near Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, and for one hour before the service Thursday at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. The Worlein - Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Death Notice

Dale Hensrud, 63 of Blooming Prairie

Dale Hensrud, age 63 of Owatonna, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died

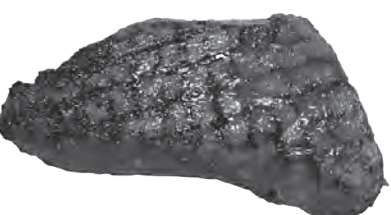
Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at his home. The Worlein - Blooming

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Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



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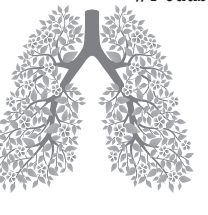
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Lucas Swenson
Gloria Trom
Julie Horn
Pete Kittelson

8th
Jaxon LaMotte
Brent Weinberger
Janelle Morem
Rick Krejci

9th
Dawn Harshbarger
Holli Naatz
Gina Hendrickson
Luke Winzenburg
Stacy Johnson

10th
Corey Butera
Anthony C. Nelson

11th
John Konecner
Weston Fiebiger
Steve Drexler
Kim Trotman
Kristen Krell

12th
Adam Esplan
Emily Trihus
Justin Esplan
Alan Schaefer
Gary Polinder

13th
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Feb. 7 Chicken parmesan cheese scalloped potatoes brussel sprouts fresh fruit	carrots tossed salad french bread hawaiian cake	Feb. 13 BBQ meatballs baked potato green bean casserole oranges
Feb. 8 Bean-lentil soup tuna sandwich fruit cup starburst cake	Feb. 10 seasoned baked cod ALT: Pork steak fresh dilled potatoes broccoli dinner roll strawberry shortcake	Feb. 14 Beef stroganoff carrots tossed salad roll cherry crisp

GRIEF RELIEF



Sometimes children don't seem to care. It's not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child's honest expression and don't make the child feel guilty or pressured.

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Pastor's corner: Do something good

Thank you. That was good. I really enjoyed that. Aren't those kind of statements fun to hear?

Encouragement is the sunshine to one's soul. It is the vitamins and minerals for your body. It puts the joy in your step and the desire to keeping going.

Many, many years ago when I was in elementary school, I can still remember a sign that hung in the principal's office. Don't ask me to recall why I was in his office. The sign was golden colored and the title was THE GOLDEN RULE. I read it. I thought it was good.

Although I grew up in the

church and learned so much, I did not comprehend the Golden Rule was actually Jesus' words, right out of the Bible. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31.

All of us, truly all of us enjoy hearing something good. My mother in her nineties told me she feels worthless because she cannot do anything for others. I said, "Oh mom. I see you smiling and thanking the people around you. I have even heard you pray with some of them. Mom you possibly do more for some people than other people do." All of us with our smiles, with our

thanks, with our wave of the hand can encourage others.

When was the last time you or I bought a card and mailed it to someone? There are many cards under a dollar.

When was the last time we called anyone just to simply thank them for something? What about Facebook? I truly enjoy hitting the like button and letting someone know I appreciated what they posted. But then I notice others seem to never say they like something. And you can find out they are still reading because every once in a while they will sure tell you when they don't like something.

I would like to encourage myself and you to think more about spreading more cheer. Let's help create some smiles. Let's help reduce anxiety and help people to fall asleep easier with a smile on their face. Let's pay it forward. I'll scratch your back, and maybe I'll get my back scratched. Let's get rid of the coulda, woulda, shoulda and the excuses and grudges that might be holding us back. Thanks for reading. I am imagining your smile and that makes me smile

Pastor Todd Lundgren,
Simple Church,
Owatonna

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Pastor Stephanie Wood
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9:15 a.m. Sunday School

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Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(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 Faith
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.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna • 507-451-4845

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
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. key fob
required after hrs or wknds

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.



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Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day February 21

The Rice and Steele Counties annual Crops Day will return to Owatonna in 2017. A long-time staple of local Extension programming, this workshop will be held at the Steele County Community Center on Tuesday, February 21st, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thanks to our partnership with KDHL and KRFO, the meeting is free of cost and a meal will be provided.

For those involved with crop production, it is no secret that each year brings new developments and considerations for a successful growing season. The Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day aims to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools to successfully combat the 2017 growing season. A full agenda, complete with lunch from the CashWise Food - Owatonna, includes the following topics and speakers:

■ **Emerging challenges for insect pest management in soybeans:** Bob Koch, Extension Entomologist



■ **Herbicide resistant weeds: *we really sprayed ourselves into a corner***; Ryan Miller, Crops Extension Educator

■ **Herbicide resistant weeds: *developing effective weed management strategies***; Lisa Behnken, Crops Extension Educator

■ **What is a fair farmland rental agreement?** Dave Bau, Ag Business Management Extension Educator

■ **2017 Market Outlook:** Gordon Kralovetz, Choido Commodities, Inc.

Spring will be here before we know it and the tractors will soon be rolling across the fields, don't miss this year's Rice and Steele Counties Crops Day! From an update on weed management, to a look at the 2017 commodity crop markets, this workshop is filled with some of the industry's most up-to-date information. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, but not required by contacting the Steele County Extension Office at 507-444-7685. In case of inclement weather, please contact the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077.

For more information, contact: Kendra Schroeder, Extension Educator UMN Extension- Ag Production Systems in Rice and Steele Counties 507-332-6109 (Rice) 507-444-7685 (Steele) schrl123@umn.edu

Rural finance authority bill passes ways and means

On Jan. 31, a bill (HF 14) containing appropriations for the Rural Finance Authority's agricultural loan system passed out of the Minnesota House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Jeanne Poppe (DFL-Austin) voted in favor of the bill, which uses user-financed bonding to provide up to \$35 million for the program. It will be heard on the House floor on Thursday, where it is expected to pass.

"These agricultural loans are a major boost to our farmers in

Greater Minnesota," said Poppe. "I think it is important for us to move this bill along and I appreciate the urgency."

There are numerous programs under the RFA loan umbrella, including the Basic Farm and Seller-Assisted programs, Agricultural Improvement, Livestock Expansion and more.

"Not only is this a great program for our farmers, but it also creates a positive impact for our local lenders who participate as well," said Poppe.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Matt Wohlman, the amount invested in participants in RFA loan programs is well over \$200 million.

"This was created in 1986. It came out of the farm crisis and for the last 30 years has been a key tool in providing credit to farmers in rural Minnesota," said Wohlman. "One of the most important and time-sensitive parts of this is providing loan restructuring opportunities. Farmers are facing a downturn in the

economy and some are struggling to make their cash flow worksheets actually work. This provides opportunities to help farmers out."

RFA loan participation interest rates were lowered in August 2016.

For more information on these or any other programs under RFA, please visit this website.

Rep. Jeanne Poppe can be reached at the Capitol by phone at 651-296-4193 or email at rep.jeanne.poppe@house.mn.

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Variable-rate seeding might improve the return on seed investment slightly, but without knowing what the weather will bring, it doesn't make sense to push seeding rates to 40,000 or higher, or to drop seeding rates below 30,000 or so, at least in productive fields, says Emerson Nafziger, University of Illinois agronomist.

"Of course, if we get great weather nearly every field can be a productive field, so we don't want to drop

Optimize your soybean planting population and fertility.

It appears best to plant 140,000 to 150,000 seeds per acre in order to establish stands of 120,000 or so, according to Emerson Nafziger, University of Illinois agronomist. Anyone planting much more than that can probably cut back some, especially if they are using a planter that produces more than 80% plant establishment.

Most of the soybeans that yielded in the 80s or 90s in 2016 did not have N fertilizer applied to them, and Nafziger's research continues to show that this practice seldom produces a yield increase, and even less often

an increase that would pay for the input. That's especially the case in soils with more organic matter, from which N is released and can help supplement N that is fixed in soybean nodules

Re-evaluate your seed technology.

Seeds with fewer GMO traits are usually less expensive," says Barry Ward, agricultural economist, Ohio State University. "But planting these will require more management time, as you



may have more weed pressure or more insect pressure. You need to weigh the pros and cons. And if you've done some on-farm evaluation, you will know what works and is worth the investment."

Scouting the field

Use IPM tools and scouting for cost-effective in-season strategies for pests and diseases.

Re-evaluate crop production inputs

Re-evaluate crop production inputs such as prophylactic fungicide applications and specialty fertility products.

Know your cost of production, then lock in your grain prices.

With tighter profit margins, it's more important than ever to know your cost of production then lock in the grain prices.

February Weed of the Month: The cut-flower pathway

By: MARGARET WIATROWSKI, Minnesota Department of Agriculture



INDEPENDENT |
Photo courtesy of
keepingwiththetimes.com

A flower bouquet made with common tansy.

INDEPENDENT |
Photo courtesy of
beckyredbarn.com

A decorative wreath made with invasive Oriental bittersweet vines.

There are many different ways that plant, insect, and disease pests can enter Minnesota. The particular method of introduction for a pest is called a pathway. This month, as folks go to the florist to get Valentine's Day arrangements, it is an appropriate time to explore the cut-flower industry. This is a potential pathway for noxious weed introduction. Most people would not think of a floral arrangement as being a possible source of a new weed infestation, but this can and does occur.

There are a couple of ways that plants used in floral arrangements could become problematic invaders. First, the arrangement itself could contain propagative material, such as seeds or pods that, upon being thrown out, may germinate and grow. A good example of this can be seen with Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) vines, which in the past had been grown for ornamental use. It is occasionally still grown today, mistaken for American bittersweet. There are documented cases in Minnesota of Oriental bittersweet infestations that got their start from holiday wreaths containing bittersweet vines and berries.



The second way would be if growers or gardeners start to grow the plants commercially or for personal use. These plants could then easily escape cultivation and invade surrounding natural or agricultural areas. Good examples of

this phenomenon in Minnesota are baby's breath (Gypsophila spp.) and Queen Anne's lace, Daucus carota. We will take an in-depth look into Gypsophila next month.

If you find a noxious weed in Minnesota, please report it by calling the Arrest the Pest at 888-545-6684 or emailing arrest.the.pest@state.mn.

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Community Calendar

Steele County Times • Tuesday, February 7, 2017 • 9A

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Feb. 7th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Feb. 8th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
Feb. 9:
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6 pm Owatonna Izaak Walton League, Godfather's Pizza
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
6:30 pm - South-Central Catholic Young Adult bowling night, Spare Time
Feb. 11:
6:00 pm Valentine's dinner, Litomysl church
Feb. 12:
3 pm - Call To Be Catholic Speaker: Dcn. Stephen Najarian, MD, presenting on Physician-Assisted Suicide, Sacred Heart Parich Center
Feb. 13th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
4:30pm - 5:30pm Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Couse or City Park
Feb. 14th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church

Event Spotlight:
VFW Auxillary
continuing education scholarhsip

The VFW auxiliary is pleased to present scholarships to assist members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older, a current VFW Auxiliary member or spouse, son or daughter of a member. They must submit a brief essay (no more than 300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help attain those goals. Deadline is February 15th. For further information and application please contact Julie Kriesel, 451-0325 or Kriesel@charter.net.

ALBERT LEA/FREEBORN Co

Feb. 7th:
3:30pm - 4:30pm Staff Mentee Meeting (Secondary)
3:45pm - 4:30pm Book Pals (3rd & 4th Grade), ALPL
5:15pm - 5:45pm Yoga Nidra for Children, Brookside Education Center
5:30pm - 6:30pm AL Planning Commission, City Hall
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba, Lakeview Elementary School
6pm - 8pm Beginning Crochet, Brookside Education Center
6pm - 8pm Key to My Heart Canvas, Simply Charming Ceramics, 1657 W Main St, Albert Lea
6:15pm - 7:30pm Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center
Feb. 8th:
4am - 6:30am Soccer Skills & Games(3rd-7thGrade), Albert Lea Family Y
4:15pm - 5:15pm Beginning Yoga, Sibley Elementary School
Feb. 9th:
10am - 11am Fountain Lake Readers Book Club
4pm - 7:30pm Quarter 3 Conferences
Calendar: Albert Lea High School
5:30pm - 6:30pm Council Workshop, City Council Chambers, City Hall
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba Where: Lakeview Elementary School, 6pm - 7pm Mom's Night Out Yoga, Essence of Yoga, 136 S Broadway Ave, Albert Lea
6:30pm - 8:30pm Essential Oils Albert Lea Senior High School
Feb. 10th:
3:30pm - 5:30pm Henna 101, Albert Lea Senior High School
Feb. 13th:
5:15pm - 6:15pm AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba Toning, Lakeview Elementary School
7pm - 8pm City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Feb. 14th:
8:30am - 9:30am Shell Rock Watershed Board Meeting
5:30pm - 6:30pm Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba, Lakeview Elementary School
6pm - 8pm Love Canvas Painting
Where: Simply Charming Ceramics, 1657 W Main St, Albert Lea, MN 56007, USA
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Feb. 7th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
Feb. 8th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
4:30 pm Economic Development Authority Meeting, City Center
Feb. 9th:
2:30 pm BPPU Commision Meeting, City Center
4:30 pm Police Comission Meeting, City Center
Feb. 13th:
7:00 pm City Council Meeting, City Center
Feb. 14th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:30 pm Fire Comission Meeting, City Center

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Feb. 7th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
Feb. 9th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30pm - Ellendale City Council
Feb. 13th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Feb. 14th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Event Spotlight:
Owatonna Forward

On Feb. 2 at 6 pm, Owatonna Forward will be conducting its first of three “public input sessions” to engage all community citizens - to help gather different perspectives and dreams from everyone and use this information to help define the community’s desired future – its vision. Owatonna Forward is seen as a vital grassroots initiative seeking to assure the city of Owatonna continues to be a great city for years to come; a place where all citizens and business can connect, grow and thrive. Individuals helping to lead the process understand the importance of collaborating to promote a healthy community, creating a culture of inclusivity and nurturing leadership opportunities to connect and engage all citizens to advance the betterment of the community.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Feb. 7th: (All day Paint the Town Pink)
9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time, Packer Dome, Wescott Field
Feb. 8th:
10am - 3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, Riverland Community College
7pm - 8pm Nat’l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin
Feb. 9th:
10am - 1pm Discover the River, Riverland Community College
10:30am - 11:30am Wake Up and Wiggle, AP Library
3pm - 6pm Ski and Snowshoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
Feb. 10th:
9am - 3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, YMCA
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12:30pm - 1:30pm Valentine’s Lunch with Chef Jack Where: Mower County Senior Center
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
6pm - 8pm Date Night on the Wheel, Austin ArtWorks Center
7pm - 9:30pm Stride Piano - Stories and Song with Paul Asaro, Knowlton Auditorium, Austin High School
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Coulee Region Chill - Paint the Rink Pink, Riverside Arena
Feb. 11th:
All day 2017 Harris Piano Contest, Hormel Historic Home and Historic Paramount Theatre
10:30am - 12pm Kids’ Studio - Z Puppets Shadow Puppet Cell Science, Austin ArtWorks Center
10:30am - 11:30am Saturday Science Experience - Building a Board: Contents Count, APL
11am - 3pm American Legion Post 91 Dart Tournament
11:30am - 2pm Fishing For A Cure, East Side Lake
6pm - 8pm Valentine’s Dinner Party, Christ Episcopal Church
Feb. 12th:
11am - 4pm Family Fun/5K/Smashing Cancer Demo Derby, Mower County Fairgrounds
2pm - 3:30pm Paramount Jazz, Historic Paramount Theatre
Feb. 13th:
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
5:30pm - 8pm History Happy Hour - For the Love of Old Books, Hormel Historic Home
Feb. 14th:
9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast, Mower County Senior Center
10am - 5pm Second Floor Gallery Show - Paul

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Illustrator Mike Wohnoutka talked to BP elementary school students about his work as a children’s book author. He drew a monster for the students and asked for their help in drawing the grumpy eyes.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Laura Berndt

Ashton Arends, age 9, gives Jade Hanson two thumbs up for her face-painting artwork during the Wilson Elementary School PTO Carnival.



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MAY 9: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT
7-9 P.M. @ J&H

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- JULY 4TH : OPEN 10AM - CLOSE
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Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

St. Mary's School in Owatonna celebrated Catholic Schools Week with daily events at the school. The events kicked-off with a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast and an open house in St. Mary's gym, where students could play games and color while learning about different school services. Throughout the week, different grades marked the occasion with dress-up days and service projects, like valentines for veterans.

STEELE TALKIN'

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

As parents we are concerned about not only the oral health, but the overall health of our children. We try to serve them healthy, well-balanced meals when we can. But as busy parents that reality is difficult to achieve on a daily basis.

Many chose to supplement by giving their children chewable vitamins. The gummy vitamin market has boomed in recent years as they look and taste more like "candy" than other options.

Along with this increase we have also noticed an increase in dental decay. The fact is, gummy vitamins contain sugar, citric acid and are sticky. These qualities make for a dangerous combination and increased risk of dental decay.

If you chose to give your children gummy vitamins there are a few things to keep in mind.

It is a good idea to give them at meal time while chewing other foods and drinking water.

When we chew food, saliva is produced and helps neutralize the acid in the vitamins. Try to avoid giving gummy vitamins, or any sugary food, after brushing.

And probably one of the most important tips is to check ingredient labels. Some brands of gummy vitamins have fewer grams of sugar than others. It is important to be an informed consumer and be aware of the foods we purchase and bring into our homes for our families.

As a Dental Hygienist with the non-profit Healthy Smiles, I work in collaboration with Steele County Public Health and the W.I.C. program.

Here I have the privilege of working with children starting at a very young age. It's wonderful because the parents/caregivers are present and we get a chance to discuss hygiene habits and dietary habits. The parents are always surprised to hear that the majority of tooth decay is attributed to just a few bad habits.

Please feel free to contact me at Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.

We provide preventive services for children and offer help finding a Dentist that meets your needs.

Shannon Kruckeberg
Executive Director, CEO
Healthy Smiles, Inc.

Corporate dealership sold to small town owner

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Smaller car dealerships are falling by the wayside and often replaced with corporate ownership. But a reversal of that trend is happening in Steele County as a family dealer with strong small town connections takes over a prominent dealership.

Greg and Julie House of Stewartville have bought the Walser Automotive Group's Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac dealership in Owatonna. The couple also operates House Chevrolet in Stewartville, a dealership that has been in the House family since 1923. Greg House is the third generation of his family in the auto business.

"We're small town people," said Greg House. "We like the size of the community (Owatonna) and we like the openness of the people."

Julie House will operate the Owatonna dealership as general manager. The Houses have retained the staff of about 20 employees that previously worked for Walsers. She said they will be in the dealership on a day to day basis as opposed to corporate owners who rarely are

on the premises. Walser, which is primarily focused in the Twin Cities metro area with various dealerships, took over the Owatonna dealership from the Hursh family in December 2012 and built a modern facility along Interstate 35 between Owatonna and Medford in 2013.

No major changes are planned at this time other than a heavier emphasis on community involvement.

Greg House indicated they had been looking for a while to acquire another dealership and sought out the Owatonna location. Exposure, location, the community and facility compliant are what drew them to Owatonna.

He said it's nice to buy a new facility so they don't have to worry about making it compliant.

"We hope to carry on the tradition," Greg said.

Walser has shifted its focus and resources on expanding in the Twin Cities and Wichita, Kan., markets. "Their vision is bigger than what they could be here," Greg explained.

Julie House will have a bit of a learning curve as she has previously not been involved in the car business. But the auto

business isn't totally foreign to her. She worked at the Department of Motor Vehicle in Rochester for 18 years handling title and registration work of vehicles. She also has worked in a consulting role for Tom Kadlec Honda dealer in Rochester with its vehicle titling work. "That's where I come into being comfortable with vehicles," she said.

And she'll have the best teacher in her husband to teach her the business. Greg plans to commute between the two stores as needed.

"It will take a while to get it meshed together, but we're confident that it can be done," Julie said.

Greg's expertise in the auto business runs deep. He serves on the board of the Minnesota Auto Dealer Association. Just a few weeks ago he was honored in New Orleans as one of 49 recipients across the nation with Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award. A large basis of the award stems from community accomplishments.

In Stewartville, Greg has served on the fire department for 38 years. He has also served on the Stewartville City Council



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Julie and Greg House of Stewartville have taken over the Walser automotive dealership in Owatonna. The dealership's name will change to House Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac. The Houses also own a Chevrolet dealership in Stewartville. Julie will operate the Owatonna location while Greg will commute between both dealerships.

for eight years. In addition, he is engaged in various chamber boards, including the Rochester Chamber where he will be president next year.

Julie hopes to bring a special personal touch in dealing with customers. Asked how she accomplishes that, she smiled,

"Well, I gave a guy a hug the other day."

"We are heavily involved in the community," Greg said. "We care about our presence in the community, being visible and involved. I'm cut out for small town."

Boys and Girls Club annual bash scores big



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

A near capacity crowd fled the BP Servicemen's club Saturday, Feb. 4, for the annual Benefit Bash to provide funds for the BP Boys and Girls Club. A social and financial success resulted.

The evening began with three tables of silent auction with gift certificates and baskets of products up for auction. That bidding began at 5 p.m. and the last table bidding closed at 6:30. A brief program followed, and the kids were transported to the club for a party, while the live auction went into gear.

Club directors awarded three honors during the program. LeMar Nelson received the 2016 Awesome Advocate Award, Arkema Company, represented by employee Jon Swenson, received the Awesome Corporation award, and Greg Johnson of B to Z Hardware was honored with the Awesome Contributor award.

The raffle and 50-50 awards followed, and a group of five club members presented a lively dance,

with a cowboy song for background. Then the kids adjourned to the club for games, and the live auction began.

Some of the more expensive auction items included a hand-crafted patio bar and grill, a three-day stay at Laughlin, Nevada, a family trip package to Wisconsin Dells, hand-crafted bird houses, an electric motor scooter, Minnesota Twins tickets, and several home-made jars of pickles and plates of bars and cupcakes. It truly represented a cornucopia of products and services.

An accurate count of profit won't be available for several days, but an estimate lists a probable total at approximately \$20,000, or similar to last year's total. Final remarks by event organizers Lianna Doocy, and Angie Carlson and Unit Director Marcy Sundine thanked many people who had been involved in the planning and organizing the event, the auctioneers, and the large audience of bidders who attended this annual benefit. Proceeds from the occasion are used to fund the yearlong program for the almost 100 members of the local club.

Putting their hands on a desk that featured handprints of Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club members, are Jasper Doocy and Jazlynn Kapsch. More than \$25,000 was raised at a benefit bash fundraiser Satu day night, Feb. 4 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Education

Contender for teacher of the year



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Scott Noet's homeroom class loves doing projects with him. Numerous students of his talked about how much they loved the interactive projects he puts together, especially when it came to their recent unit of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Students gave presentations on the cross-contiental trip.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Scott Noet is in his twentieth

year of teaching in Owatonna, and it that time he's become beloved of his students. A junior high social studies

teacher, Noet is currently a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. He was already honored as Owatonna's

Teacher of the Year last May.

Noet originally studied History and German at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. When a friend of his who taught asked Noet to come in and talk to his class about a history unit they were covering, Noet found himself hooked. He spoke to the students about the great Northern migration in the United States and connected it to the rise of baseball and blues music. Looking to put his history degree to work, Noet discovered teaching was his calling.

Studying the differences between cultures has always peaked Noet's interest. Social Studies was the prefect fit. It allowed him and his students to explore how different cultures approach the same problems and challenges and the different solutions they find. He likes that it shows students there's more than one way to do things.

His philosophy toward teaching is straightforward; it's all about the kids. He believes

teamwork is important, as it teaches kids soft skills as they learn their regular lessons. They're able to communicate better with others.

Most importantly, learning should be fun. "We can have fun, while we get the work done," Noet said.

Noet loves his time in the classroom and everyday something good happens. The best times are often when the students are creating things for class, and they get opportunity to be creative.

He's amazed at the way lessons stick with the students. One day he got a call from a girl he used to teach, now in college. She studied Rachel Carson, an early environmentalist in his class, and she wanted him to know that she was doing a senior project on Carson for her major. She credited the presentation she had done for his class with jump-starting her interest.

Several of his students talked about how much they enjoyed having Noet as their

teacher.

"It's pretty cool. He's fun," said Makalia Szymanski. Brody Jensen and Joab Sanchez both said Noet was one of their favorite teachers, while Omar Muktar and Destinay Roseland said he was really interesting.

Kendra Klocek talked about how funny Noet is, and that he tells the class a different long joke every week. Her friend Brianne Hinchley agreed.

When asked what advice he had for other teachers, Noet said there are so many good teachers out there he didn't have much to give, but he hopes every teacher enjoys their kids.

And for those are considering becoming teachers, Noet says you've "got to be yourself in the classroom," because "kids pick up on your passion."

"Don't be sacred," Noet said, "it's about relationships."

The winner of Teacher of the Year will be announced in early May.

Focus is stronger in flexible classroom

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: More teachers are thinking out of the box and have chosen different teaching methods. Flexible seating has been endorsed by Blooming Praire English teacher Gina Hendrickson. In the second of a two-part series, we take a peek into her classroom.)

The bell rings for the end of the class period, and less than a minute later sophomores enter Mrs. Gina Hendrickson's English classroom and begin to find their seats.

"I have very few tardies because students are intent on choosing their favorite place to sit," Hendrickson said. She said it is an educator's challenge to get the kids started at the beginning of class.

Students have an option in Mrs. Hendrickson's classroom to pick a standard desk, a couch, a huge soft chair, the floor, a high table, a lower table or a podium.

"I was like a warden in the traditional setting, walking up and down the seating rows," Hendrickson relates.

Mrs. Hendrickson implemented the flexible classroom seating concept at the beginning of this school year after consulting with Principal John Worke. "This variety in the

classroom is a trend right now," Worke said.

Worke continued: "There is a lot of research showing how students can benefit with a variety of seating options. We understand that students learn in all different ways; this is just one strategy that can benefit our students.

"Although this is an option, I understand it doesn't fit every teacher, curriculum, or discipline style. It is nice to have a variety of classrooms available to our students in our system."

"We started out small at the high school allowing the teachers to put together their own furniture by adding inexpensive pieces to provide flexibility seating for the students," commented Principal John Worke." If they like how things are going, we can always look at purchasing furniture. The BP Ed Foundation has always been there for our staff and students. Anytime trends in education come through, we can always rely on the BP Ed Foundation to help us out. It has been a great relationship over the years."

Mrs. Hendrickson, in her 19th year of teaching, teaches five classes of English, two rounds of sophomores in the morning and three rounds of eighth graders in the afternoon. Since Hendrickson's classes discuss

a lot, she thought it would be suitable to move the students into pods.

"We had a cemetery look before and flipped our seating chart only once a quarter," Hendrickson said.

Hendrickson's students are given a seating survey each month and asked to rank seating options from 1-5: floor, regular desks, couch, regular tables and high-top tables.

One student said flexible seating is relaxing, less stressful and enables the student to listen when not worried about another class.

Another student said regular tables provide "a good place to sit and pay attention."

Still another student says, "I am comfortable, so that means I can put my focus on learning and paying attention."

With the flexible seating, Hendrickson said she can now move around the classroom rather than standing up front and lecturing. Students use their tablets to follow their instructor's lessons.

Flexible seating has opened up options not available in seating in rows, Hendrickson said. Flexibility was limited with the traditional seating, she remarked. "We would put the shorter kids in front and taller kids in the back. Now, we can have taller

students on the floor, and shorter students at a high-top table."

Students have been part of the decisions to change seating. "We made furniture fit our class," Hendrickson said. Some of the furniture came from other classrooms. Small carpet squares are also used. "We have a zero budget but the administration has been very supportive," Hendrickson said.

The program has been "kind of experimental," Gina said. She pointed out that students are more active in discussion with flexible seating. "They are more social," she said.

The students do not want to go back to traditional seating, according to Hendrickson. "They can stay on task longer with flexible seating; it is more sustainable," she added.

The soft seats are reportedly suitable for reading. A drawing is held to see who sits in the big, fluffy chair.

Students are allowed to move often and thus, have some choice and say. Gina's regular polling has showed that only four students out of 110 choose to stay in the traditional student desk.

If the flexible seating were taken away, one student said jokingly, he wouldn't show up for class.

Because Hendrickson's



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The couch is a favorite place to sit in Gina Hendrickson's English class for these sophomores (left to right), Jackie Hyland, Matthew Wurst and Antonia Zamarripa. The flexible class oom concept was implemented in all of Hendrickson's five classes. She teaches eighth grade and tenth grade English.

students use tablets, their study habits in the flexible seating arrangement are copied at home with many students using a couch, dining room table or bed for a study aid.

Hendrickson said teachers are thinking out of the box and she expects other educators to be more creative in respect to student seating. "This didn't

evolve over night; we started small," she continued.

The goal is to achieve student centered learning or cooperative learning, Hendrickson says. Students are more attentive and more active in discussions, she pointed out. "Kids are happier and appreciate they were consulted with this plan."

Reading month kicks off

I Love to Read Month is celebrated at NRHEG Elementary School each year during the month of February. This is in conjunction with the National Education's Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day celebrated on the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 2.

Mr. Anderson, the principal, at NRHEG Elementary states,

"During the month of February NRHEG Elementary School students will celebrate with its "I Love to Read" program. Students in grades Pre-K-Grade 5 will be invited to participate in activities and events devoted to reading. As elementary principal it is my hope and desire that all of our students develop a love of reading and a love for books, at an early age, and the activities and events planned by the "I Love Read" Committee will hopefully do just that."

Many fun reading activities are being held throughout the month which includes: Buddy Reading, Community Readers, Dr. Seuss Art Day, Pajama Day where student's read "good night stories, CLIMB Theatre is coming to present interactive theater presentations to teach students about empathy, plus more. On Friday, March 3, will be our annual Green Eggs

and Ham breakfast in the morning, serving is from 7:00-8:15 a.m. Parents and community members are invited. This year tickets need to be purchases ahead of time. PRESALE Tickets ONLY this year. Green Eggs and Ham breakfast tickets will be on sale in the office through Mon, Feb 27th. They will also be on sale at conferences on Mon. Feb. 27th near the office. Advanced tickets are necessary to help plan for the breakfast. Prices: Adult tickets-\$1.75 Preschool ticket-\$1.25 School age students use their lunch number to eat No tickets will be sold at the door. Also, on March 3 starting at 1:15p.m. will be our second annual "Battle of the Books". This is an extraordinary event where fourth and fifth grade student teams go against each other answering question about a number of specified wbooks they have all read. Parents and community members are also invited to attend this fun and exciting afternoon with us! The month has begun and the student's and staff are all enjoying reading not only during the month of February but all throughout the year!

Barbara Handahl,
Family Services Coord.
NRHEG Elementary



Name: Abigail Aldrich
Grade: 7
Siblings: twin brother, 18 year old sister
Interests: Abi likes to draw and sketch during her free time. She enjoys going to the ice rink and hanging out with friends.
Favorite Class: Obviously, with drawing being an interest, Abi's

Blooming Prairie February Students of the Month

favorite class is Art. She especially likes to work with the oil pastels – a unit they just finished.

Statements from the staff:

•Abby Aldridge is a very caring student. She cares about others and she cares about her homework and grades. Abby is a gem to have in class!

•Abigail Aldrich is a very polite and respectful young lady. She is fun student to have in class.

•Abi Aldrich: Abi used some time when she finished early to clean counters and tables in class.

•She has good attendance and is prompt with her materials, so you could say she is responsible.



Name: Connor Getchell
Grade: 12
Siblings: 12 year old sister
Pets: dog "Odie"
Interests: Connor is interested in graphic-design, he likes the creativity and making things out of nothing. Connor also enjoys sports specifically baseball and football.

Favorite Class: Graphic Arts

Statements from the staff:

•In football he had a fantastic senior season. He outperformed our expectations. His efforts were a big reason for the success we had. He showed great heart, will, toughness, and determination. We will miss him next season.

•Connor finished the quarter strong finding several projects which inspired him to be a good self-starter, maintain effort throughout the class period, and clean up regularly. I also watched as Connor helped others clean up in a timely manner.

•Connor is a very soft-spoken, kind-hearted person that is willing to help people in need.



Valentine's Day

YOUR GUIDE TO A ROMANTIC NIGHT



How chocolate became tied to Valentine's Day

Heart-shaped boxes filled with decadent treats are coveted gifts on Valentine's Day. Chocolate lovers typically have a favorite type of chocolate, whether it's creamy filled truffles or chocolate pieces with fruit or nut fillings.

The tradition of gifting chocolate is anything but new. Chocolate and other sweet treats have been offered for centuries as prized gifts. Even ancient Aztecs and Mayans celebrated chocolate and saw it as a hot commodity. Drinks made of cacao beans would be given as presents to people of high status. Chocolate also would be offered to the gods as a token of appreciation. Cacao beans were even used as a form of currency at one point.

During the 17th century, chocolate consumption grew considerably across Europe. Chocolate houses cropped up in London, and the French elite often indulged in chocolate. Chocolate's popularity continued to grow, but the dessert was not linked to Valentine's Day until nearly 200 years later. In the mid-1800s, an enterprising individual named Richard Cadbury was looking for a way to make chocolate even more popular than it already was. He sought out a method to make drinking chocolate more palatable and created "eating chocolates." These chocolates were packaged in decorative boxes. Eventually, Cadbury saw the benefit of putting images of cupids and roses on the boxes. Cadbury even designed chocolate boxes in the shape of hearts that could be saved as mementos. These chocolates soon became intertwined with Valentine's Day celebrations.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Milton Hershey dabbled in commercializing chocolate as well. Hershey began as a caramel maker, but experimented with covering the caramels in chocolate in 1894. Hershey would go on to develop one of the most successful brands of chocolate in the United States, which included the famous Hershey bar. In 1907, Hershey launched production of tear-drop shaped "kisses." (The chocolates were given their unusual name because of the "smooching" noise made by the chocolate when being manufactured.) The kisses became wildly popular and made for affordable chocolate gifts on Valentine's Day.

Many other chocolate manufacturers soon began packaging their chocolates in special boxes for Valentine's Day. Russell Stover and Whitmans are two such manufacturers who have long specialized in heart-shaped boxes or other decorative Valentine's gifts.

Traditionally, men have gifted women with boxes of chocolate for Valentine's Day. However, that role is reversed in other areas of the world. For example, in Japan, women give gifts — namely chocolates — to the men in their lives to express love, courtesy or social obligation. This tradition first began in 1936 when confectioner Morozoff Ltd. ran the first ever Valentine's Day ad in Japan through a local English newspaper. By the 1950s, other Japanese confectioners were following suit.

Chocolate has long been tied to Valentine's Day gifting. Whether one believes that chocolate symbolizes heightened status, acts as an aphrodisiac or is just a special treat, chocolates will likely always be associated with the day of love.





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While that is an impressive number, Valentine's Day actually comes in second as the most popular card-giving occasion. Christmas tops the list with some 1.6 billion cards purchased, including boxed card varieties.

Other popular occasions to send greeting cards include Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and St. Patrick's Day.



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Valentine's Day

YOUR GUIDE TO A ROMANTIC NIGHT



Make the most of your night out this Valentine's Day

Chocolates and flowers may be staples of Valentine's Day, but many couples take it one step further and dine out on February 14.

According to the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association's Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey, 34.6 percent of respondents indicated that dining out would be part of their Valentine's Day agenda.

A romantic dinner is an ideal capper for a day geared around love and affection. But Valentine's Day is a busy night for many restaurants, so it pays to heed the following advice to ensure this special night is memorable for all the right reasons.

- Make reservations well in advance. Dining out is especially popular on Valentine's Day, so call

several weeks in advance to secure your spot. Also, do not underestimate the draw of all types of restaurants on Valentine's Day. People who were not able to get a table at their first choices may trickle into chain restaurants or smaller establishments in search of an easy meal. If you think your lesser-known haunt will not be packed, think again. Always play it safe by making a reservation early.

- Expect some crowding. Restaurants tend to add extra tables on Valentine's Day, when they expect an influx of customers. Dining rooms may be more packed than usual, and you may not have a choice of where you will be seated. Even a reservation does not guarantee you won't have to wait for a table. Be

patient upon arriving at the restaurant, and consider wait time when factoring in childcare.

- Be flexible with the menu. Price-fixed menus are commonplace on nights when there will be a large turnover of customers in a short amount of time. These menus allow restaurants to stock up on the necessary ingredients and cook en masse. Diners may find that price-fixed menus offer a limited selection, and their favorite dishes may not be available. But knowing this in advance can reduce feelings of disappointment. Rest assured there should be several options that appeal to different palates.

- Be patient with servers. Valentine's Day is a busy night for staff at the restaurant, particularly servers who must

be the liaison between the kitchen staff and diners. The sheer volume of customers can test the skills of even the most veteran servers. Many Valentine's Day diners do not eat out regularly and will need extra guidance. Servers may be called on to snap photos of couples with cell phones or linger at certain tables. Use idle time at your table to engage in romantic conversation and plan the rest of the evening.

- Consider your budget. Diners can expect to pay a premium for dining out on Valentine's Day. Select a lower-priced restaurant if your budget is on the smaller side.

- Be on time. Being respectful of your reservation will not only benefit you, but also it is a courtesy to fellow

diners who will be sitting at your table later in the evening. While you may want to linger over dessert, try not to linger too long.

- Promptly store leftovers. If you take a doggie bag home from dinner, stash it in the refrigerator as soon as possible to prevent foodborne

illnesses. If you will be going out dancing or to a movie after dinner, it may be best to skip the doggie bag altogether.

Valentine's Day is a busy night for dining out. Patience, courtesy and flexibility are traits that can keep your evening moving along smoothly.



Valentine's night out planning pointers

Many couples go out for a night on the town in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Romance typically prevails on such nights, but there's more to planning Valentine's Day dates than just roses and chocolate.

The following are a few tips to make sure this year's Valentine's Day date night goes off without a hitch.

- Make a dinner reservation. Restaurants fill up on Valentine's Day, so make a reservation no matter how frequently you may patronize the place you want to go to.

Nothing derails a dinner date more quickly than being told there are no tables available.

- Cancel the reservation

if you must. If plans change and you cannot make it, be respectful of the restaurant and call to cancel your reservation. No-shows cost restaurants substantial amounts of money, especially on popular dining out nights like Valentine's Day.

- Arrange for transportation. If you plan to open a bottle of wine or make a champagne toast while out on the town, arrange for a car service to pick you up after dinner or use public transportation.

Drinking and driving is dangerous, and local law enforcement may even have checkpoints set up to protect residents from drivers who might have celebrated a bit too much.

- Bring cash. Few restaurants remain cash-only, but bring cash with you anyway just in case your card won't swipe correctly.

You don't want to embarrass your date by leaving the restaurant to go get some cash, so prepare for this in advance.

- Review the menu. If you or your date has special dietary needs, peruse a restaurant's menu before making a reservation so you know there's something for both of you.

If Valentine's Day is a first date, ask your date in advance if he or she has any food allergies or dietary restrictions.



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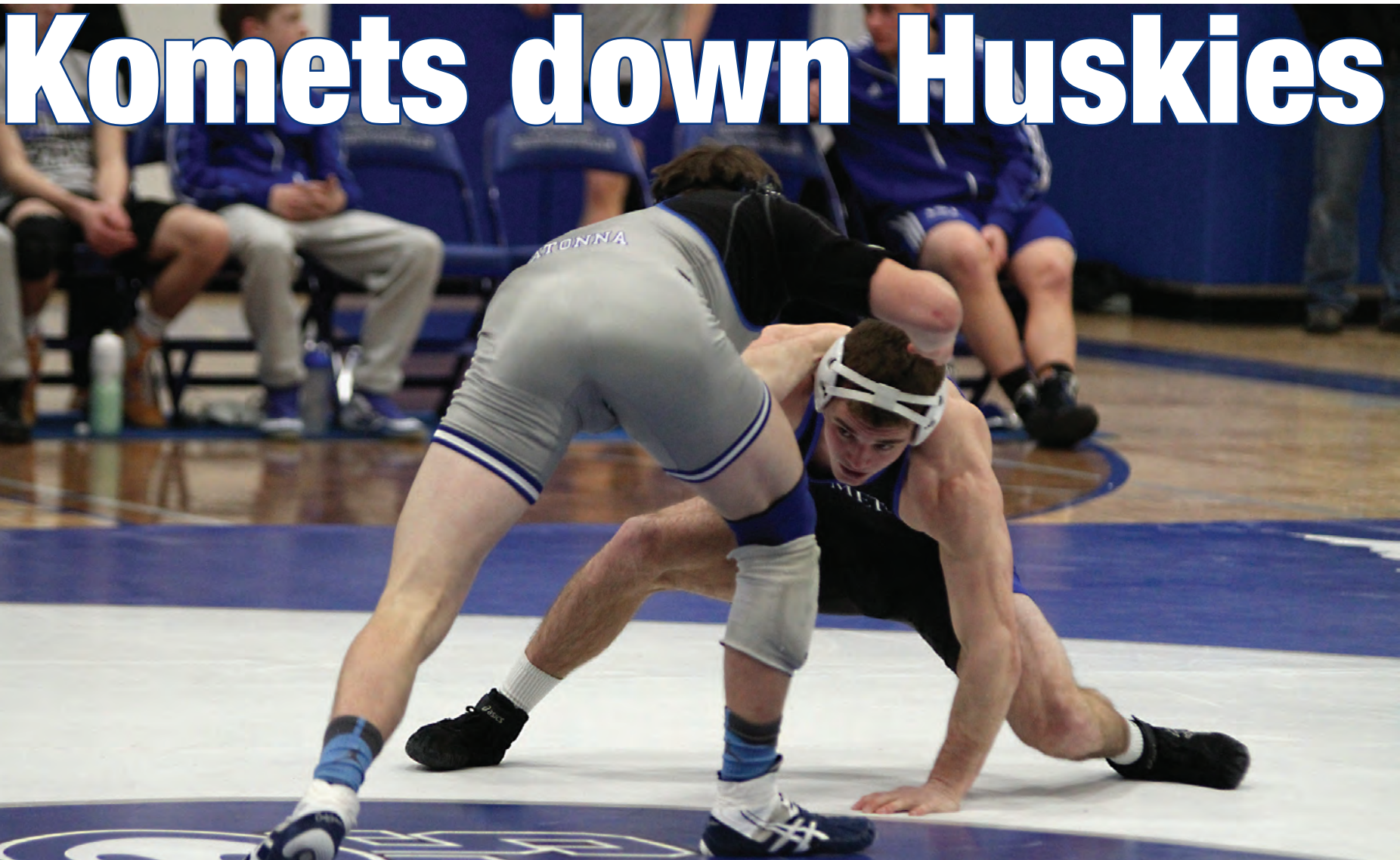
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Komets down Huskies



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Cade King blocks a shot from the nation's top 160-pounder Brady Berge of Kasson-Mantorville during the second period of the 160-pound match in the Huskies' 50-9 dual loss to the Komets Friday in Kasson. Berge won the match by technical fall 21-8.

Nationally-ranked Kasson-Mantorville cruises to 50-9

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Kasson – The Owatonna High School wrestling team has been a force in Class AAA over the past few seasons, accumulating numerous tournament wins, most outstanding wrestler

awards and state champions. The Komets of Kasson-Mantorville have been just as dominant at the Class AA ranks, winning the Minnesota State wrestling championship in 2016. Aside from being the top-ranked team in Class AA this season, they are currently ranked No. 26 in the country.

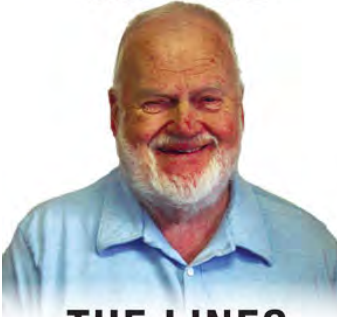
Friday night, the two teams met. And it wasn't what Owatonna fans are used to seeing. Despite not allowing a pin until the 138-pound weight class, the talented Komets were too much for the No.6 ranked Huskies and came away with a 50-9 win at KMHS.

"Their almost ranked at every single weight and they got some tough kids out there," commented head coach Scott Seykora. "But, we battled. The first couple weights we got underclassmen; seventh and eighth graders out there and both the kids they wrestled are ranked, but they battled."

Of the first six matches, Kasson-Mantorville had five state-ranked grapplers step onto the mat. Owatonna had none. Despite that, the Huskies gave the Komets everything they could

WRESTLING
Continued on page 3C

OUTSIDE



THE LINES
LeMar Nelson

Simply a bad week

It is no secret that the blossom basketball teams suffered through their worst week of the 2016-17 season last week. The two teams lost a combined five games in five days against some very good teams and some less than stellar ones. Both need to regroup to continue competitive the rest of the way.

The boys lost to Hayfield, and that is always a tough game for them against annually strong Viking squads, but I thought they had a chance at Faribault. Turnovers and many missed shots dictated the eventual loss on some second half hot shooting by the Cardinals.

It seems in the last few games for both the boys and girls that the opposition has been particularly proficient in three-point shooting.

The girls lost to very good teams the first part of the week, but they will have to admit that they gave a game away to Bethlehem Academy. If the girls had made even 50 percent of their free throw attempts, they would have earned an easy win over the Cardinals. That was a bad loss, and the team will have to retrench in a hurry.

There is no doubt that the girls miss the senior leadership of Kylie Forystek, as she battled illness. But, that should inspire the other teammates to work even harder. The season still has games to play, and it is hoped that both the boys and girls can turn things around a little in the next few weeks leading up to the playoffs.

Teams should be playing their best when tournaments begin, and that is a goal for which to strive.

The one team that continues to have a great deal of success is the Westfield wrestlers.

Last week, they routed NRHEG in a conference dual match, and then traveled to Madelia Truman and vanquished three teams in a quadrangular meet.

Bash a roaring success

The people attending seemed to have a very good time socializing and participating in the activities. Bidders generated several high amounts for some of the items, and the kids who went to the club for games gave high marks to the time spent there.

Proceeds from the benefit won't be available for several days, but by all accounts, it was a very successful evening. The funds generated by the event provide the major source of the year's program and scheduled activities.

Right now almost 35 kids attend club each school day, and participate in all-day programming in the summer. The club has almost 90 members at the present time, and unit director Marcy Sundine has done a very creditable job in keeping interest in the club and its activities at a high level.

That is something with which the local club and the community can take immense pride.

Shooting hampers Blossoms

Blooming Prairie now .500 in Gopher Conference

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The week ended badly for the Awesome Blossom boys, as they dropped a 56-40 conference decision to Bethlehem Academy in Faribault Feb. 3.

The loss evened Blooming Prairie's season record to 9-9 and the conference mark to 4-4.

The Blossoms had a 12-point lead halfway through the first half, but a series of careless mistakes and woeful shooting allowed the Cardinals back into the game.

Despite the slew of struggles, the Blossoms held a 27-25 edge at the break. In the second half, the Cardinals took control early with some good shooting and never looked back.

In the second half, Bethlehem Academy outscored Blooming Prairie by a whopping 31-13 margin.

"We had a nice lead midway through the half," commented Coach Nate Piller, "but numerous turnovers and poor shooting let them close to two points at the break. The second half belonged to the Cardinals."

Seth Bedenbaugh proved the only Blossom to reach double figures, finishing with 14 points.

Nick Thompson contributed 8 and Gabe Hagen added 6 points for the Blossoms.

Damon Trump and Avery Hunt scored 19 and 13 points respectively for the Cardinals.

Hayfield duo too much for Blossoms

Hayfield - The one-two punch of Mason Tapp and Trace Tebow led Hayfield to a 61-45 victory over Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Jan. 31, in Hayfield.

The Vikings upped the season record to 10-9, while BP fell to 9-8 for the year.

The Blossoms forged a 14-14 tie early in the game, but Tapp drilled three treys in a row to put the Vikings up 29-16.

A 14-3 run to open the second half began and ended with Tebow three-pointers, opening up the lead to 44-22. That was more than enough to wilt the Blossoms.

Hayfield shot well from the field, while BP had trouble making shots fall.

As Coach Piller commented, "Great shooting by Hayfield, and a strong defense as well."

"Our boys worked hard and gave good effort all the way through, but the hot shooting by the Hayfield duo proved more than we could handle."

Tapp finished with 22 points, and Tebow 20 to lead the Vikings.

Kaden Thomas and Gabe Hagen counted 13 and 10 for the Blossoms. BP had a slight edge in rebounding, but the hot Viking shooting spelled the difference.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms forward Seth Bedenbaugh (1) takes a contested shot during the first half of Blooming Prairie's 61-45 loss to Hayfield on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

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Blossom girls lose three



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie's McKenna Hein (23) prepares for a Hayfield inbound during the second half of the Blossoms' 79-43 loss to the Vikings Tuesday, Jan.31 in non-conference action. Hein scored a combined 19 points in three games, to include 11 Tuesday.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Free throws. Or rather a lack of free throws. The Awesome Blossom girls made just 13-of-32 free throw attempts and handed Bethlehem Academy a 52-46 conference victory on the BP court Friday, Feb. 3.

Blooming Prairie took an early 12-8 lead after 5 minutes, but The Cardinals used three-pointers to eventually grab a lead. B.A. went up 26-24 at the break, as the Blossoms kept missing free throws. BP played from behind most of the second half, as the team seemed to be stuck in mud all night.

“Missed free throws came back to haunt us tonight,” remarked coach John Bruns. “The girls got to the line all game, but just couldn’t capitalize on all the opportunities. We played without senior guard Kylie Forystek, who is out with illness. We are now 5-4 in the conference and 9-11 overall.”

The Cardinals shot 38 percent from the field, including 8-of-19 from three-point range, while BP made only 31 percent on 16-of-51 tries.

The Blossoms couldn’t get

any scorer into double figures, as McKenna Hein counted nine points and seven rebounds, and Ayren Ingvalson also had nine points, three assists, and two steals. BA. had 16 turnovers to just 10 for Blooming Prairie.

Marissa Larson had eight points and seven rebounds, and Julia Worke added seven points and eight rebounds.

For B.A. Kallie Donahue made two of her three-pointers in the last three minutes, and Shelby Meyer led the Cardinal scoring, including five-straight free throws in the last minute to ice the win.

Vikings, 79, Blossoms 43

A 10-0 run by the Vikings to open the second half put distance between them and the Awesome Blossoms, and Hayfield went on to a convincing 79-43 non-conference victory on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Blooming Prairie. The win gave Hayfield a sparkling 16-3 season record and dropped the Blossoms to 9-10 for the year.

Maggie Streightiff had the hot hand for Hayfield, scoring 28 points, and Carrie Rutledge contributed 16. The Vikings made 11 three-pointers in the game.

Wurst counted 18 points for the Blossoms, with McKenna Hein adding 11. The Vikings

had a 32-25 edge in rebounding, and BP turned the ball over 21 times.

Super Larks 71, Blossoms 53

Grand Meadow - The Grand Meadow girls won their fifth victory in a row with a 71-53 non-conference victory over BP on their home court Monday Jan. 30. The win left the Super Larks with a 13-5 record overall and pushed the Blossoms back to 9-9.

Poor shooting and numerous early turnovers put the Blossoms behind early, but the hot-shooting home team didn’t help. Grand Meadow made 54 percent of their shots in the first half, as they raced to a 45-22 lead at the break. BP shot just 26 percent in the first half and finished at 38 percent for the game.

Jordyn Glynn led all scorers in the game with 18 points for the larks. Sam Wurst countered with 17 points and 11 rebounds and a double-double for the Blossoms.

Kylie Forystek had 11 points, and Larson contributed eight points. Ingvalson added six points, three assists and a steal. BP had a wide edge in rebounding 41-25, but the shooting of GM made up for the rebounding deficit.

Westfield wins BOLD invite

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Madelia - After dispatching NRHEG with ease earlier in the week, Westfield followed that with a three-match sweep in the BOLD Invitational at Madelia on Friday Feb.3.

They won all three matches with a winning margin of at least 18 points to up the season record to 13-4 in duals.

The Razorbacks defeated New Ulm 48-30 in the first match, took down BOLD 63- 14, and then allowed Madelia-Truman just 15 points in a 60-15 third match victory.

Seven Razorbacks won all three bouts, and two more finished 2-1 in the tournament.

At 106, Ethan Arett barely broke a sweat, as he pinned all three opponents in just minute and 35 seconds with fastest a pin in just 29 seconds. At 145 pounds, Jackson Heydt recorded a pin in 10 seconds of his first bout, won by a fall in the second period of his second bout, and then used 12 seconds for a pin in his third bout.

Colton Krell won his first two bouts by forfeit at 160 pounds and then pinned his opponent in the second period of his third bout.

Morgan Moreno won his first

two bouts by fall in the second period and then took 44 seconds to get the pin in his third bout at 170 pounds.

Tristen Reicken won his first two bouts by fall in 39 and 44 seconds and then took his third bout by a forfeit.

Quentin Kubista won by pins in the second period and 30 seconds of the first period, but then suffered a fall in his third bout to go 2-1 for the day. Heavyweight Trey Chatman also settled for a 2-1 day, when he recorded pins in the second period of his first two bouts, but then lost a 3-2 verdict in his third bout to Derek Federer. Federer recorded a takedown in the last minute of the third period to edge Chatman.

Westfield will entertain JWP/WEM in a conference match on the home mat Thursday, Feb 9.

Westfield 52, NRHEG 18

NRHEG tied the score 18-18 after seven bouts, but that proved the last points for the panthers, as the Westfield razorback proceeded to win the final seven bouts straight. Westfield won the conference battle 52-18 Thursday, feb.2, on the BP mat.

BP took a 9-0 lead when Ethan Arett pinned Andrew Reich in just 34 seconds of the first period, and Tyler Archer used two takedowns

in the third period to cement a 10-5 decision over Andrew Bailey. The Panthers got six points back in an Austin Hill pin over Joe Pirkil.

Jackson Heydt took an 8-2 verdict at 126, and Quentin Kubista pinned Thor Routh in the first period, but Arlo Grossman and Tyler Jacobson recorded two straight pins for the 18-18 tie. That ended the Panther scoring for the match.

In the seven straight wins, three came by decision, two by forfeit and two came on pins. Sutton Schultz won 11-7 with two takedowns in the third period.

At 152, Colton Krell decisioned Cole Staloch in a wild 13-10 bout with six takedowns against six escapes for Staloch at 160, and the third decision went to Dylan Nirk at 195, when he outpointed Alex Buckmeier 10-2, with 3 takedowns and a near fall.

Morgan Moreno and Tristan Reicken benefited from the forfeits, and Mitchell Oswald and Trey Chatman both won by falls. Oswald pinned Carter Halen in just 26 seconds of the first period at 220, and Chatman went into the second period before turning Quentin Arndt on his back at heavyweight.

Prep basketball round up

Girls Basketball

Owatonna 68, Winona 73

Despite shooting 51 percent from the field, the Huskies (13-5, 11-4 Big Nine) dropped a Big Nine Conference matchup against the WinHawks Friday at OHS.

Sydney Schultz scored a game-high 35 points as Owatonna held a two-point lead at the half.

Owatonna 70, Northfield 74 OT
Northfield - Schultz scored 28 points as Owatonna battled back after trailing by 10 at halftime Monday in Northfield.

NRHEG 81, Triton 54

Dodge Center - NRHEG got at least 6 points from seven different players and had no trouble defeating Triton at Dodge Center 81-54 Thursday, Feb. 2. The nonconference victory upped the Panther record to 15-5 for the season.

Maddie Wagner and Kayley Camerer both scored 16 points to lead the Panthers, but Betsy Schoenrock had 15, and Marnie Wagner and Rachel Collins added 12 and 9 points.

Schoenrock, Marnie Magner, Maddie Wagner and Camerer

led a dominance in rebounding over the Cobras with 15,14, 11 and 10 boards. NRHEG led 47-32 at the half in the high-scoring contest. The Panther JV team lost to Triton 43-39 in the pre-lim.

NRHEG 74, Waseca 59

Three Panthers reached double-figures as NRHEG blew out the Bluejays Tuesday.

Rachel Collins led all scorers with 19 points while Betsy Schoenrock and Maddie Wagner scored 18 and 16 respectively.

Boys Basketball

Looking to rebound after suffering its first loss of the season Tuesday, the NRHEG boys basketball team played host to Triton.

Lead by Oakley Baker’s game-high 24 points, the state-ranked Panthers (18-1) escaped with a 54-51 win over the Cobras.

Head coach Pat Churchill noted that Triton managed to fire a potential game-tying three at the buzzer, but the shot bounced off the side of the backboard.

According to Churchill, the Cobras were always in striking distance. NRHEG jumped out

to an early eight-point lead, but Triton was able to rally, cutting the lead to a single possession midway through the half.

Waseca 65, NRHEG 49

Waseca - In a battle of state-ranked teams, the NRHEG Panthers were on the road to face Class 3A No. 8 ranked Bluejays. Despite Baker’s team-high 20 points, the Panthers (17-1) dropped their first contest of the season.

NRHEG held a 35-30 lead at the half, but turnovers in the second half led to easy baskets.

The Bluejays were lead by Malik Willingham and Jake Guse. Willingham scored a game-high 22 points while Guse added 19.

**Editor’s note: Finals stats were not reported to the Steele County Times Sports Department prior to press after attempts to retrieve were unsuccessful.*

Medford girls lost 63-49 to Randolph (Monday) and 56-51 to Bethlehem Academy on Friday.

Medford boys lost to United South Central 65-45 Friday and 72-51 to Kenyon Wana-mingo Thursday.

Huskies win two in conference

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Owatonna 64, Winona 60

Winona - On the road for a Big Nine Conference match against the Winhawks, the Huskies looked to get back on the winning track.

Led by Jason Williamson’s team-high 14 points, Owatonna (13-4, 11-3 Big Nine) managed to pull away from a 30-30 tie at halftime.

It was a cold night for Dalton Kubista - scoring 11 points - as he went just 3-for-12 from the field.

Owatonna 62, Austin 72

Looking to make it 10 wins in a row, the Owatonna boy basketball team hosted Austin in a pivotal Big Nine Conference matchup. A win would give the Huskies sole position of second place behind Rochester John Marshall.

Both Gach had other ideas.

Scoring a team-high 21 points, Gach lead the Packers to a 72-62 win over the Huskies (12-4, 10-3 Big Nine) Thursday night at OHS.

Owatonna managed to jump out to an early lead as junior Dalton Kubista continued his scoring surge, scoring most of

his game-high 26 points in the first half.

Behind the scoring of Oman Oman, Gach and Douth Gach, Austin was able to claim the lead late in the first half and never looked back. Oman and Douth Gach finished with 13 points apiece.

After shooting just under 70 percent in Tuesday’s win over Northfield, Owatonna went cold, shooting just 46.2 percent for the game. Along with Kubista, Andrew Jackson was the lone Husky to reach double figures, scoring 15 points and grabbing seven rebounds.

Owatonna 73, Northfield 57

The last time the Owatonna boys basketball team faced Northfield, the Huskies came out on the wrong end, falling 80-67 in Northfield. Tuesday, the Huskies hosted the Raiders and showed the growth that has been made since that Dec. 13 matchup.

Powered by a quick 12-2 run to start the game, the Huskies (12-3, 10-2 Big Nine) mauled the Raiders 73-57 in Big Nine Conference action at the OHS gymnasium.

“Confidence-wise it was huge,” noted Owatonna head coach Josh Williams on the

quick run to start the game. “Northfield’s one of the best team we played, they’re a great team. to come out of the gates like we did, getting stops, making shots it really set the tone for the game.”

After Jason Williamson was able to come up with a loose ball, the sophomore’s slam gave the Huskies a 10-2 run and forced the Raiders to call a quick timeout.

On the ensuing possession, the pace of the game drastically changed as the Raiders switched to a zone defense, making the pace on the offensive end for Owatonna slow. As Williams noted afterward, the Raiders were forced into a similar situation as the Huskies focused on just being solid and not giving up easy buckets.

Despite the slowed tempo, Owatonna made the most of the shots they took. In the first half, the Huskies shot 69.6 percent from the field, connecting on 16-of-23 while Northfield shot a dismal 37.5, making only nine shots in the half. Owatonna would finish the contest shooting 64.4 percent from the field compared to just 44 percent for Northfield. Much of the Huskies success came from the hot hand

of junior Dalton Kubista.

Prior to Tuesday night’s contest, the junior has averaged 24.3 points per game during the Huskies’ winning streak. Despite only taking 12 shots, Kubista connected on seven on his way to a game-high 22 points. 14 of which, would come in the first half.

Coming out of the half with a large deficit, the Raiders would quickly go on a 7-1 run that cut the lead to 53-41 just minutes into the first half. If not for the large Owatonna run to start the game, it may have been a closer contest. Owatonna and Northfield would play almost even in the second half as the Huskies would outscore the Raiders just 35-34.

Much of the Huskies’ success came from the crisp ball movement on the offensive end. Jay Sullivan and Raichle each scored 10 points on a combined 9-of-16 while Andrew Jackson added 11 points and six rebounds. The difference was at the line in the second half.

The Huskies shot 72.7 percent from the charity stripe after having 17 attempts from the line – much of which came in the final minutes of the second half – while the Raiders were a mere 60 percent.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Dalton Kubista (20) takes a three-pointer in the first half of the Huskies' 73-57 win over Northfield on Tuesday. The junior continues his hot streak, connecting on 7-of-12 from the field on the way to a game-high 22 points.

Huskies stay hot

Owatonna picks up a pair of Big Nine Conference wins



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Huskies forward Adam Rehman (17) fires a shot at the top of the circle during the first period of Owatonna’s 4-1 win over Rochester John Marshall Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Rochester - After falling behind 2-0 after two periods, the Owatonna boys hockey team had one period left to respond. And respond they did.

Scoring a trio of goals in the third period, the Huskies downed the Spartans 3-2 Saturday in Big Nine Conference action. Mitch Weise put the Huskies on the board at the 10:10-mark of the period. In a span of two minutes, Tyler Wencil and Carter Broton scored the final two goals, with Broton’s at the 16:30-mark of the third period being the game-winner.

Huskies 4, Rockets 1

Coming off a thriller 3-2 victory in overtime against Northfield on Tuesday, the Owatonna boys hockey team was back in action on its home ice against Rochester John Marshall.

Tuesday’s overtime hero Tyler Wencil was looking to make it back-to-back wins for the Huskies.

Scoring the game’s first goal, Wencil led the Owatonna Huskies (10-8, 7-4 Big Nine) scoring surge in the first period to down the Rockets 4-1 Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre in a Big Nine Conference tilt.

“I thought we played a smart game tonight,” commented Huskies head coach Josh Storm. “I thought we had good energy in the first, thought the second was not our best period, but we kind fought through. We’re short right now; got alot of key injuries, but alot of guys stepped up

today. Between (Luke) Kubicek playing his first real minutes of varsity hockey in a big Section 1AA matchup like that; Landon Thyrnau setting up, all of our defensemen stepping up, it was a great day and I’m really proud of our guys.”

Despite the early presence within each opposing team’s zone, few shots actually reached the net. In fact, through the first 10 minutes of play, Owatonna held a slim 5-4 advantage in shots on goal.

The Huskies’ sixth shot wouldn’t miss.

After penetrating the offensive zone, Owatonna’s Carter Broton chipped the puck to a circling Adam Rehman. Rather than attempting the reach-around, Rehman fired a centering pass to a charging Wencil for the game’s first goal. In the last two games, Wencil has now scored four goals. Coach Storm noted that this was the first time that Broton and Wencil have been on the same line together.

“I’ve been keeping Tyler (Wencil) and Carter (Broton) apart for a while; you know some of the injuries brought them together because it just gave us more depth,” noted Storm. “That first goal was pretty special today. That was a heckuva pass from all three of those guys. It’s hard to separate them when they play like that.”

Just a minute later, Owatonna extended the lead to 2-0 after Nick Smith found his brother Nate, who then fired a laser to the far corner of the net.

The Huskies would have a minor letdown in the second period

as Rochester managed to dominate the offensive zone, firing 11 shots on net. One of those 11, one would find the back of the net after Jason McGinn fired a shot from the point at the 9:34-mark of the second period. The one-point contest would last roughly four minutes as Broton found the back of the net for his first of two goals at the 12:51-mark of the period to reclaim a two-goal lead. Broton would also add the game’s final goal in the third period.

The second period was the only time in the contest that Owatonna would not hold the shots on goal advantage. Storm did mention however, that the shots on goal margin could have been far greater if not for the effort to block shots on the penalty kill.

“I challenge to find any team in the state of Minnesota that blocks more shots than us. It’s a mentality and our guys have completely bought in,” he added. “We got guys diving in front of pucks all the time and it’s a special thing. These guys cared and they want to win.”

After coming off a 39-save performance against Northfield, Jacob Dub put together another strong performance in net stopping 22 of the 21 shots he faced. **Owatonna 3, Northfield 2 OT**

Tyler Wencil scored all three of the Huskies’ goals, to include the game-winner in overtime as Owatonna managed to split the regular season series with the Raiders. Jacob Dub was in net for the Huskies and stopped 39 of the 41 shots he faced.

Huskies fail to record a pin in loss

WRESTLING: from page 1C

handle. Landen Johnson (106) and Riley Becker (120) each lost by major decision while Haden Fox (126) fell 23-8 to state-ranked Robby Horsman. Kaden Nelson (113) and Trevor Schroeder (132) were the lone Huskies to lose by a decision in that span, falling 9-3 and 4-0 respectively.

The Huskies would not record a takedown until 138-pounds, when Bryce Goodwin managed to establish the early 2-0 lead on a nice double-leg on the edge of the mat. The match would quickly turn sour as Goodwin was caught in a scramble and ultimately pinned at the 1:44-mark of the first period.

“Keaton Schorr is one heckuva wrestler and Bryce (Goodwin) took him down right away and he was setting the pace. He just got out of position unfortunately and got pinned because of it,” Seykora added.

In what turned out to be the most exciting match of the night, Peyton Robb – who was

wearing a mask due to a broken nose – gave Huskies’ fan a little scare late. With the major decision already secured, the two-time defending state champion looked for more. As he went to a quick takedown, his mask appear to catch the mat, stopping his momentum and leaving him on his back. Robb was able to fight off his back and hold on for the 13-10 decision.

Seykora noted afterward that Cade King, who is ranked No. 3 in Class AAA at 152 pounds, told coaches that whatever it took he wanted to wrestle up at 160.

His opponent, the nation’s top-ranked wrestler and Penn State recruit Brady Berge. Despite lasting all three periods, Berge would not surrender an earned point, winning 21-6.

“None of our kids were afraid to back down. He told me ‘find a way to match me up with Berge because I want to wrestle the best; If I want to get better I have to wrestle the best.’ And that’s one thing with

a lot of these guys is that they aren’t afraid of that competition,” Seykora noted.

Owatonna would only have three grapplers earn wins in the dual, all be close decisions. KM would bump the top-ranked 170-pounder in Class AA to 182 to face Owatonna’s Brandon Moen. While a 5-2 decision may indicate it was close, Seykora stated at Moen controlled the entire match, securing a pair of early takedowns and an escape. Griffin Thorn at 195-pounds would give the Huskies their final win of the night, earning a 6-1 decision over Jim Paulson.

After forfeiting 220 pounds to the Komets, increasing the lead to 46-9, Kasson-Mantorville bumped top-ranked Noah Ryan to heavyweight to face Goy Tut. Scoring only off of controlled escapes, Tut surrendered a 11-3 major decision.

Owatonna will be back in action on Thursday for the regular season finale against Faribault at OHS.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna eighth grader Sydney Hunst (3) battles for a puck in the Huskies’ offensive zone during the first period of the Huskies’ 3-1 season finale loss to Rochester Mayo on Saturday at the Four Seasons Centre.

Huskies lose third straight

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

After falling to Rochester John Marshall 5-4 in overtime on Thursday, the Owatonna girls hockey team was back at the Four Seasons Centre to try and stop a two-game losing skid. Rochester Mayo, on the other hand, looked to make it six wins in a row.

The Spartans made the most of their chances.

Megan Adair’s game-winning goal at the 12:06-mark of the second period lead the Spartans to a 3-1 win over the Huskies (15-8-2, 13-3-2 Big Nine) on senior night Saturday.

“Our last two games, I felt like we played well enough for three periods to win. Tonight I did,” commented head coach Tim Hunst. “So, that’s the toughest part of it.”

With the Huskies on the powerplay late in the first period after minor penalty was called for interference, Mayo’s Brooke Leone managed to deflect a pass before speeding into the Husky zone to knock in the game’s first goal. Struggles on the power play

continued for the Huskies, going 0-for-4 tonight. Much of the issues were due to the pressure from the Spartans early, which Hunst said attributed to errant passes or even missed opportunities to pass.

“They play very similar to us in that aspect. Their forecheck, they have their defensemen pinching hard like we do. We missed windows to pass and that’s where the pressure kept coming,” he added.

There was a breakaway chance for Jenna Bogen midway through the period after creating a turnover as the Spartans entered the offensive zone. As she was attacking the net, Adair managed to hook Bogen, breaking up the play.

“I asked the referee and he saw it that the defensemen got far enough to the side that she wasn’t completely behind,” Hunst added. “And, that’s why he didn’t call the penalty shot. To be honest, if I’m the referee I probably make the same call.”

Just as both teams were back to full strength after coincidental minor penalties were assessed, Adair fired a shot that beat the pad of Owatonna’s Laura Ebel-

ing to extend the lead 2-0 late in the second period. Between the two teams, only eight shots on goal were registered.

It would take the Huskies just over three minutes to cut the deficit to one as Rilee Schmidt fired a shot from the top of the point, beating Mayo’s Skylee Hughes’ glove at the 3:07-mark of the third period.

A scary moment for both teams occurred midway through the third period when Owatonna’s Jamie Davison caught an edge while poke the puck away, sending herself and her Mayo opponent into the boards head first. Davison was assessed a five-minute major for boarding. Luckily, no one was seriously injured on the play.

In a last ditch effort, Hunst pulled Ebeling to give the Huskies the 6-on-5 advantage with just under a minute left in the period. After Hughes slapped away a Bogen shot, Adair corralled the peuck and sailed it down the ice to get the empty net goal.

Owatonna will host Waseca in the first round of the Section 1A tournament Wednesday.

STARS OF STEELE

Carter Broton

In the Huskies’ three game-winning streak, Carter Broton has been a key piece. In Thursday’s home game against Rochester John Marshall, Broton tallied Owatonna’s final two goals and assisted on the first to help guide the Huskies to a 4-1 win.

Sydney Schultz

In two games, Schultz recorded 28 and 35-point performances. Her 28 points were in a 73-68 home loss to Winona while her 35-point performance came in a 74-70 overtime loss to Northfield.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

From Husky to Maverick



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

(From left to right) Dan and Tamara Hoy, along with their two sons, sit next to their son Chandler Buckhalter as he signs his letter of intent to play college football at Minnesota State University-Mankato Wednesday at Owatonna High School.

Winning tradition will remain with Owatonna’s Buckhalter

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

In mere months, everything that Owatonna’s Chandler Buckhalter knew about football is going to change.

From the colors of the Huskies’ blue and silver, to the defensive schemes, opponents and even the game speed, there will be an abundance of change when he makes the jaunt to Mankato for fall practices. The only connection between his high school program and his college destination next season?

A tradition built around winning.

On Wednesday afternoon in the OHS commons area, with his family be his side, the senior defensive tackle signed his national letter of intent with the

Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks, a Division II powerhouse in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

“Going into the decision process, it was a lot about the program and how run they run it,” commented the 6-foot, 280-pound defensive tackle. “It also went to the academics and stuff because that is obviously important. I plan on going into a sports management degree and so I looked into the program there and they have a really phenomenal sports management program as well as a phenomenal football program. So, those were the two factors that really played into it.”

Since transferring from Triton as a freshman, Buckhalter has been a mainstay on the defensive line. Despite missing a few games over the last two seasons

with a shoulder injury, he was a two-year starter at defensive tackle, to include being a starter on the Huskies’ state semifinalist squad this season. In that Class 5A state semifinal game, Buckhalter and the Owatonna defense held Elk River to its lowest offensive output of the season. The newly-signed Maverick also noted that he had offseason shoulder surgery to fix a torn labrum that should be ready by the time he is required to report to camp.

When asked about playing for Mavericks head coach Todd Hoffner, Buckhalter noted that he still can’t wrap his head around it.

“It’s crazy. He’s had a lot of background, transferring from different schools and what not.

“The future is bright. It was a very dominant recruiting class, so hopefully we get some hardware in the case.”

- Chandler Buckhalter

So, he knows a lot about the sport and knows everything that goes into it,” commented Buckhalter. “I’m going from (Jeff) Williams, who’s a phenomenal coach to Todd Hoffner. So, I’m really excited to see about ev-

erything is actually ran.”

He is expected to redshirt his first season on campus, seeing most of his time on the scout team defense, which is a fairly common practice among Division II programs. As for when the redshirt is pulled, Buckhalter believes that he will fit right into Mankato’s vaunting 4-3 defense. He noted that the scheme calls for two big interior defensive linemen that will mainly serve the purpose of being “gap eaters” and keeping the linebackers free to roam.

Buckhalter’s defensive line coach Delles Solie mentioned that from the moment he arrived to OHS as a sophomore that he was going to have this opportunity someday.

“He came in right away as a sophomore and he showed that he was going to be something

special. He was just a pup, but you could see his attitude, his work ethic and also how well he molded with his teammates,” he added.

Joining Buckhalter in the NSIC will be some familiar faces as the conference continued to reap the benefits of the talent-rich Big Southeast. One face will now be a teammate as Mankato West’s standout running back Charles Terry also signed with the Mavericks. While seeing Terry on the offensive side of the ball in Mankato will bring flashbacks of the days at OHS stadium, he said that he’s excited that they are going to be teammates in college.

“The future is bright,” added Buckhalter. “It was a very dominant recruiting class, so hopefully we get some hardware in the case.”

Six Huskies to further athletic careers

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

National signing day can be considered one of the best moments for a high school senior who is a student-athlete.

For six seniors at Owatonna High School, Wednesday marked the moment that all of their hard work and dedication paid off.

In front of members of the student body, teachers, school staff, coaches and family, Toria Koch,

Ethan DeKam, Lexi Langeland, Cali McCauley, Chandler Buckhalter and Brandon Moen all solidified their commitments to play at the next level.

Prior to the ceremony, Owatonna A.D. Ryan Swanson welcome everyone to the joyous occasion with a brief speech.

“Good afternoon. I want to welcome everyone here. We have a number of students committing to colleges, and signing national letters of intent. Although the signing itself is

short and sweet, the thought and consideration put into this decision was quite significant; this signature is a big step in your athletic lives and future careers.”

With Division III having no official letter of intent, Koch, DeKam, Langeland, and McCauley were honored prior to Buckhalter and Moen announcing where they will be attending school.

Koch and McCauley, both standout soccer players for the Huskies, announced that they

both will be playing soccer within the same conference. Koch chose the University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh and plans to major in Radiologic Technology while McCauley will be heading to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to pursue a degree as a vet tech or in business.

DeKam, the only other football to announce his commitment, will be continuing his football career at St. Johns University and plans to major in biology with a sports medicine

minor.

Langeland will continue her volleyball career at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. She is currently undecided on what she will study.

As the lone student-athlete required to sign letters of intent, defensive tackle Chandler Buckhalter announced that he will be continuing his football career at Minnesota State University-Mankato, a Division II powers that has a long and storied winning tradition. He plans to study sports management.

Defending state champion and Class AAA’s top-ranked Brandon Moen decided to solidify his commitment to Eastern Michigan, a Division I wrestling program. This past fall, Moen announced his verbal commitment to the university.

Swanson noted that there are still a handful of athletes that have yet narrowed down their decision, but will provide information the moment the official decisions of the athletes are announced.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna wrestler Brandon Moen will wrestle at Division 1 Eastern Michigan after signing his national letter of intent Wednesday at OHS.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

(From left to right) Cali McCauley, Lexi Langeland, Ethan DeKam and Toria Koch were recognized prior to the ceremony for committing to continue their athletic careers at the Division III level.

CRIME BRIEF

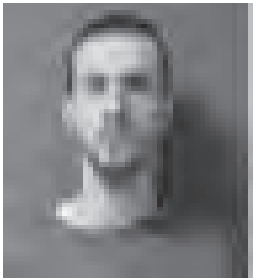
Man faces drug charge at hotel

A man faces a felony charge after a drug sting in Owatonna. The Steele County Attorney’s Office has charged Jamie Carey, 30, of Owatonna with third-degree controlled substance in connection with the bust.

In late January, drug investigators were doing surveillance on a hotel room in Owatonna. During the operation, a vehicle pulled up and agents saw Carey allegedly make a drug transaction with the driver.

The vehicle left the area and was stopped by police. The driver admitted to police of buying a bag of methamphetamine from Carey.

Agents drafted a search warrant and went to the hotel room where they found drug paraphernalia and more meth, police said. Officers took Carey into custody.



Jamie Carey

Sex offende coming back to area

Community notification meeting set in Owatonna

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A high-risk sex offender is moving back to the area. Richard Villarreal is set to move into Owatonna where he has lived off and on for many years. The Minnesota Department of Corrections indicates that he has been under supervision out of state since last July.

as well as the DOC will be on hand to present information on the state’s Predatory Offender Program. They will also answer any questions or address any concerns that the public may have about Villarreal.

While in Owatonna, Villarreal had previously lived in the 100 block of East Rice Street

Sex offenders who are believed to be the most likely to reoffend are assigned the Level III ranking.

Villarreal has been convicted of criminal sexual conduct three times, once as a juvenile and twice as an adult. In 2003, he was sentenced to 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to criminal sexual conduct. In 2004, he was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to another count of criminal sexual conduct. He was sent back to prison in 2010 for failing to register as a predatory offender before being placed on supervised release in 2011.

DOC officials say he has a history of sexual contact, including fondling and penetration, with juvenile female victims between the ages of 8 and 13. In the past, Villarreal has known his victims.

There are currently five other Level 3 offenders living in Steele County. They include: Philip Louis Davis, Curtis Lavern Enzenhauer and Benny Ledesma, Sean Patrick Mckee and James Peter Zylstra.



Richard Villarreal

Villarreal will be moving back in mid-February, according to detective Christian Berg of Owatonna Police. “This individual has served his sentence imposed by the court and is transitioning into the community,” Berg said.

Police will be holding a community notification meeting on Monday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. Representatives from the police department

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Owatonna Police Jan. 27

Disturbance. At 4:24 a.m., officers responded to disorderly conduct in the 2300 block of 7th Ave. NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Main St. E. at 7:56 a.m.

Arrests. Officers arrested motorists following traffic stops in the 900 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 11:12 a.m. and at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 12:10 p.m.

Theft. A theft occurred in the

600 block of Agnes St. E. at 12:31 p.m.

Warrant. Police made warrant arrests in the 600 block of Bridge St. at 1:34 p.m. and in the 400 block of North St. W. at 9:01 p.m.

Trespassing. Officers responded to a subject trespassing in the 200 block of Florence Ave. NW at 1:53 p.m.

Jan. 28

Drunken Driving. At 12:25 a.m., police arrested a juvenile for driving while intoxicated at Oak Ave. S. and School St. W.

DWI. Officers arrested an adult subject for drunken driving at Oak Ave. S. and School St. W. at 4:16 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 400 block of

Icy roads cause rollover, driver injured

Icy road conditions contributed to a rollover crash that injured the driver on U.S. Highway 218 about three miles north of Blooming Prairie Jan. 28.

Karla Marie Rader, 35, of Northfield, was transported to a hospital in Owatonna for non-life threatening injuries. She was driving a Dodge van with two children, 8 and 10, in the vehicle. They were not injured.

The crash happened in Blooming Prairie Township at about 11:30 a.m. The State Pa-

trol said Rader’s van was south-bound when she hit the brakes as a car in front of her was slowing down. Rader lost control on the icy road and rolled into the ditch.

Blooming Prairie Fire, Blooming Prairie Ambulance and Steele County Sheriff’s Office assisted the State Patrol at the scene.

All occupants in the van were wearing their seat belts and no alcohol was involved, according to the patrol.

Mound St. SW at 7:41 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1600 block of Bigelow Ave. NE at 3:13 p.m.

Theft. Police received a theft report from the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:38 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 6:48 p.m., police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Burglary. Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 9:43 p.m.

Arrest. At 10:45 p.m., officer arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 100 block of Pearl St. E.

Jan. 29

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:19 p.m.

Jan. 30

Restraining Order. Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE at 10:04 a.m.

Shoplifting. At 10:58 a.m., officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:15 p.m.

Jan. 31

Fight. Officers responded to a fight in the 300 block of School St. E. at 8:20 a.m.

Theft. A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 3:11 p.m.

Restraining Order. At 5:42 p.m., officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Grove Ave. S. at 6:14 p.m.

Feb. 1

Burglary. At 8:04 a.m., officers responded to a burglary in the 100 block of Rose St. W.

Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:30 a.m.

Theft. Officer took theft reports in the 2500 block of Harvest Lane NW at 2:58 p.m. and in the 1200 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 10:55 p.m.

Threats. At 3:27 p.m., police arrested a subject for making threats in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 1100 block of Robinhood Lane SE at 3:36 p.m.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a juvenile for shoplifting in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:57 p.m.

Feb. 2

Domestic. Officers arrested subjects following domestic disturbances in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 4:27 a.m. and in the 200 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 1:51 p.m.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 9:06 a.m.

Suspicion. Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 9:55

a.m.

Theft. At 4:29 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 26th St. NW at 11:43 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 23 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

William D. Beyer, 25, Northfield, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of stolen property and controlled substance crime (stay of adjudication.) He was sentenced to \$6,263.07, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Beth A. Lamont, 30, Morris-town, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to \$13,675.50, 1 year in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim and 5 years of supervised probation.

Emilie K. Perkins, 22, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime – possession. Perkins was sentenced to \$181, 55 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation.

Richard R. Rodriguez, 27, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI-refusal to submit to chemical test and gross misdemeanor cancelled license. He was sentenced to \$5,081, 97 days in county jail and 60 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 23 – 27:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Da S. Htoo, 24, St. Paul, suspended license, \$281; Dennis R. McHenry, 53, Claremont, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

MN Dept. of Transportation

Kathryn M. Kreutter, 54, Owatonna, no log book in possession, \$181.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Mark D. Bolinger, 17, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Anthony M. Bowers, 43, N. Webster, IN, suspended license, \$281; Lisa-Mae S. Boyd, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Daja Coffee, 20, Villa Park, IL, speeding and no license, \$241; Jose L. Contreras, 39, Estherville, IA, no license, \$181; Marlon F. Garcia Vaires, 43, speeding, \$121;

Katie L. Kolterman, 36, Morris-town, speeding, \$121; Michael L. Lane, 51, Norwalk, IA, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey A. Lembke, 46, Geneva, illegal change of course, \$131; Kelli L. Liesener, 46, Prior Lake, speeding, \$121; Amy C. Nelson, 32, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Zachary S. Newton, 20, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Kiana G. Palileo, 19, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$131; Sierra N. Peterson, 17, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Mario Rembao, 32, Austin, speeding, \$121; Reyna Resendez, 43, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Wyatt P. Robinson, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Richard R. Rodriguez, 27, Owatonna, DWI-refusal to submit to chemical test, \$3,081 and 1 year in county jail; Julie K. Seymour, 40, Burnsville, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Antonescu I. Barbu, 25, Oklahoma City, OK, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation;

Joaquin Benitez Jr., 23, Des Moines, IA, counterfeiting of currency, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Lucas J. Boelter, 36, Waseca, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Martin D. Carter, 32, Owatonna, DWI, \$706, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 3 years of supervised probation; Matthew D. Chandler, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, no insurance and speeding, \$281;

Shaun R. Fedder, 39, Owatonna, domestic assault (four counts), \$1,081, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, complete diagnostic assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Mario A. Fernandez-Guerra, 31, Owatonna, no license, no insurance and suspended license, \$581;

Terry L. Fink, 44, Minneapolis, disorderly conduct, \$381 and 90 days in county jail; Amy J. Garza, 35, Owatonna, theft and give peace officer false information, \$1,281.98, obtain license and 1 year of supervised probation; Jessica R. Heise, 34, Claremont, violation of no contact order, \$181, 5 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, continue therapeutic sessions or programming and 1 year of supervised probation; Jayme C. Joel, 31, Eagle Lake, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131;

Syria Z. Johnson, 33, Waseca, no insurance and revoked license, \$481; Adreana M. Laabs, 23, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Jessica J. Laird, 39, Chatfield, theft, \$480. 97, 36 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment and 1 year of supervised probation; Jayne A. Loftness, 48, Faribault, theft, \$294.71 and 1 year of supervised probation; Rosalinda E. Martinez, 35, no insurance, \$281;

Juana E. Nin, 35, Claremont, theft, \$381, 1 day in county jail, complete programming such as budgeting class and 1 year of supervised probation; Ryan O. Olson, 38, Nerstrand, cancelled license, revoked license, speeding and no insurance, \$81;

Patrick D. Powell, 43, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Joshua T. Rainone, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Reyna Resendez, 43, Owatonna, no license and window tint violation, \$231;

Stacey S. Thomas, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Trevor D. Twite, 19, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Nicholas L. Willis, 21, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

Leonardo Avalos, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Jason R. Buendorf, 31, Alden, speeding, \$121; Shayne T. Fort-hun, 29, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Christopher T. Goodwin, 57, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Jocelyn M. Heyer, 35, Waseca, speeding, \$121;

Benito Juarez Torres, 26, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381; Mohammed S. Khayat, 26, Tinley Park, IL, speeding, \$221; James R. Lisowski, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Michael W. Martin, 47, Ellendale, revoked license, \$381, 6 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation;

Molly K. Mews, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Alexandria J. Morgan, 25, Medford, speeding, \$121; Lori A. Nelson, 56, Ellendale, speeding, \$221; Travis S. Niskala, 24, Cambridge, speeding, \$171; Angela K. Schmidt, 43, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Gregory E. Spence, 53, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Jordan R. Swanson, 20, Austin, speeding, \$131;

Cole J. Volkmann, 16, Medford, speeding, \$121; Taylor J. West, 24, Duluth, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Victoria G. Wildung, 45, Cologne, speeding, \$121; Jamie A. Witt, 32, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Margarito Zaratevillegas, 55, Waseca, stop sign and no license, \$231.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office handled 186 complaints during the week of Jan. 25 – 31. Some of them include:

Jan. 25

Medical. At 12:16 p.m., deputies responded to a juvenile getting hit in the face with a shovel in the 500 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

Counterfeit. At 3:06 p.m., deputies found a counterfeit bill at the Courthouse.

Jan. 26

Suspicion. Deputies responded to a report of three suspicious vehicles in the 68000 block of 160th Ave. in Dodge Center at 9 a.m. They found that the parties were coyote hunting.

Snowmobile. Deputies, Kasson Fire, Dodge Center Ambulance and Mayo One responded to a snowmobile accident in the 25800 block of 670th St. in Kasson at 12:50 p.m. One subject was transported to the hospital.

Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter over a van in the 16500 block of State Hwy. 30 in Hayfield at 1:20 p.m.

Jan. 28

Domestic. At 12:21 p.m., deputies received information regarding a past action domestic in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont. They completed a welfare check.

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 5th St. in West Concord at 9:49 p.m.

Jan. 29

Suspicion. At 3:44 a.m., a male party was seen in an unoccupied trailer in the 400 block of East St. N. in Claremont.

Harassment. Deputy took a report of a harassment incident in the 500 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 7:57 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 74100 block of 240th Ave. in Hayfield at 10:16 p.m.

Jan. 30

Trespassing. Deputies responded to a trespassing incident in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 8:02 a.m.

Civil. At 10:47 a.m., a property dispute occurred on 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center.

Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 60000 block of 160th Ave. in Dodge Center at 11:43 a.m.

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

- Norman Anderson – assault - \$2,000 bail
- Darla Andrews – theft by check - \$19,000 bail
- Andrew Anzaldua – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Aquilas – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- George Arcos – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jorge Arias – DWI – no bail
- Michael Armstead – DWI - \$500 bail
- Mariia Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail
- Christopher Asplund – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail

- Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
- Thomas Baker – theft - \$10,000 bail
- Lionel Baldwin – weapons - \$3,000 bail
- Jesus Barrera – controlled substance - \$100,000 bail
- Kelly Barry – burglary – no bail
- Kristopher Barta – false name - \$500 bail
- Claudia Bautista – theft - \$10,000 bail
- Jesus Bazzara – DWI – \$1,000 bail
- Shawn Beaulieu – forgery – no bail
- Gary Bechtel – DWI - \$12,000 bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

PUBLIC SAFETY: from page 5C

Jan. 31
Suspicious Activity. At 1:12 a.m., a woman called deputies when she found four juveniles going through her car in the 400 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 55000 block of 110th Ave. in West Concord at 1:20 a.m.
Civil. Deputies responded to a report of a subject breaking into an apartment in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 2:25 p.m.
Animal. While on another call, deputies witnessed a dog attack another dog in the 100 block of 1st Ave.

NE in Hayfield at 3:30 p.m.
Larceny. At 4:32 p.m., a laptop was stolen from a vehicle in the 200 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Vandalism. Deputies took a report of slashed tires in the 1000 block of 3rd St. NW in Dodge Center a 6:11 p.m.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 23 with Judge Jodi L.

Williamson presiding:
Tyler H. Tottingham, 30, Savage, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. He was sentenced to \$205 and 49 months in St. Cloud State Prison.
The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 23 – 30:
Dodge County Sheriff’s Office
Hanna J. Bongers, 26, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Jacob M. Bramm, 21, Andover,

possession of marijuana and DWI, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Jessica J. Elhmke, 33, Hayfield, suspended license and speeding, \$320;
Brian C. Giner, 39, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Emily K. Gunderson, 20, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Jesus Gutierrez, 31, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$130; Shannon L. Hairsine, 34, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Kristopher K. Hinck, 29, Waltham, parking violation, \$32; Cole W. Kremers, 19, Mankato, fleeing a peace officer, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Scott A. Krook, 45, Byron, speeding, \$130;
Siobhan M. McKee, 24, Garden City, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Drew N. Miller, 23, Rochester, suspended license and no insurance, 90 days in county jail; Jeremy L. Parker, 27, Mantorville, suspended license, \$280; Tyler W. Pederson, 29, Hartland, stop sign, \$130; Laveme H. Peterson, 69, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Hector Rocha, 24, Owatonna, use fictitious personal information, 90 days in county jail; Gina A. Schuette, 21, Welch, parking violation, \$32; Noah E. Schutte, 20, Byron, fleeing a peace officer, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Gabriel J. Shea, 19, Mantorville, fleeing a peace officer, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication;
Kevin W. Smith, 47, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Nicholas C. Terry, 18, Mantorville, fleeing a peace officer, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Aleshia L. Winsky, 31, Stewartville, parking violation, \$32; Jonathan J. Zuk, 32,

Hayfield, speeding, \$120.
Kasson Police Department
Brandon W. Abernathy, 19, Kasson, possession of paraphernalia and turn signal violation, \$180; George S. Budihas III, 62, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Dakota P. Delzer, 20, Mantorville, revoked license and expired registration, \$310;
Kyle M. Halseth, 21, Otsego, parking violation, \$32; David J. Moldenhauer, 54, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Richard J. Morrison Jr., 20, Rochester, open bottle, \$180; Kayla A. Peterson, 17, seat belt, \$105; Tanor D. Quam, 23, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Brian P. Truelson, 38, Kasson, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$300, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.
MN State Patrol Rochester
Annette M. Carlson, 42, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Samuel M. Godfrey, 16, Byron, speeding, \$220; Allison C. Howell, 32, DWI, \$980 and 1 year of probation; Cody J. Kunkel, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$140;
Jared J. Maes, 36, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Larry M. OMalley, 62, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Michael L. Rink, 35, Byron, seat belt and gross weight violation, \$505; Nathan R. Sande, 35, Brownsdale, cancelled license and drive through barricade, \$320.
ARREST Steele County
Owatonna Police
Jamie Lee Carey, 30, arrested at 3:42 p.m. Jan. 27, felony sales and possession of marijuana, held for court.
James Jacob Voracek, 52, arrested

at 11:05 p.m. Jan. 28, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Justin Robert Luhman, 26, arrested at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31, felony possession of stolen property, held for court.
Yves Stephane Eveillard, 37, arrested at 6:13 p.m. Jan. 31, violation of conditions of release, held for court.
Mitchell Tony Cowens, 21, arrested at 3:46 p.m. Feb. 1, felony terroristic threats and trespassing, held for court.
Dena Marie Lundell, 45, arrested at 3 p.m. Feb. 2, domestic assault and assault, held for court.
Andrew James Bogenschutz, 35, arrested at 2:17 p.m. Feb. 2, domestic assault, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Kathryn Michelle Lundstrom, 35, arrested at 8:26 p.m. Jan. 28, warrant arrest, body only.
Colton Paul Heilman, 19, arrested at 1:40 a.m. Jan. 29, intent to escape motor vehicle tax, held for court.
Travis Jay Troska, 37, arrested at 8:51 a.m. Jan. 28, warrants arrest, \$50,000 bail.
Wesley William Griffith, 31, arrested at 7:03 a.m. Jan. 29, DWI, held for court.
Rogelio Ramon Aguilar, 23, arrested at 10:09 a.m. Jan. 29, criminal damage to property, held for court.
Miranda Lynn Hald, 23, arrested at 4:35 p.m. Jan. 30, felony possession of dangerous weapon in court, possession and warrant arrest, held for court.
Jamal Anthony Cobb-Ferba, 22, arrested at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 31, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.
Andrew Neal Lewis, 33, already in custody, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.
Jordan David Lindeman, 19, arrested at 12:45 p.m. Feb. 1, probation violation warrant, body only.

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Public Records

Steele County Births October 2016
Kinzie Kay Ulrich, Parents: Christine and Cody, Oct. 1.
Ainsley Joy Cochran, Parents: Leah and Tyler, Oct. 1.
Mikayli Fhay Davis, Parent: Magdaline Abrams, Oct. 3.
Mikaiya Rhay Davis, Parent: Magdaline Abrams, Oct. 3.
Eleanora Rey Christesen, Parents: Beth and Gilbert, Oct. 3.
Wesley Lawrence Linares Capouch, Parent: Misty Herrley, Oct. 3.
Mylah Ann Anderson, Parents: Kelli and Andrew, Oct. 3.
Karina Isabella Reyes, Parents: Lucero Herrera and Victor Reyes, Oct. 3.
Macie Jane Doring, Parents: Amanda and Craig, Oct. 5.
Amyah Jean Bice, Parents: Rubely and Timothy, Oct. 6.
Axel Ryan Angelow, Parents: Jennifer and Ryan, Oct. 7.
Sophia Rose Love, Parent: Mackenzie Plummer, Oct. 10.
Jaxon Anthony Anderson, Parents: Jessica and Bradley, Oct. 10.
Teresa Isabel Acosta, Parents: Sheila Vasquez and Juan Acosta, Oct. 12.
Micah Daniel Cartwright, Parents: Megan and Daniel, Oct. 12.
Carter Louis Schultz, Parents: Megan and Michael, Oct. 13.
Miley Mae Nelson, Parents: Katie and Patrick, Oct. 13.
Shivansh Jay Bhatnagar, Parents: Sonali and Jay, Oct. 13.
Emilie Ann Gerber, Parents: Angelina Rodriguez and Michael Gerber, Oct. 14.
Bennett Daniel Fierst, Parents: Natasha and Chad, Oct. 14.
Bree Michelle Holland, Parents: Erin and Matthew, Oct. 14.
Juan Mateo Barajas, Parent: Diana Esparza, Oct. 17.
Tenley Jay Watje, Parents: Amy and Jay, Oct. 17.
Benjamin Robert Kuhlman, Parents: Jamie and Justin, Oct. 18.
Hamza Abdirashid Mohamed, Parents: Rahma Sheikhamin and Abdirashid Osman, Oct. 19.
Piper Madison Tirrel, Parent: Sheila Jones, Oct. 20.
Martin Cabezas, Parents: Nayla Morua and Ismael Cabezas, Oct. 20.
Rayan Ali Bashir, Parents: Quresho Ali and Ali Hussein, Oct. 21.
Lydia Lee Holland, Parents: Paige and Taylor, Oct. 21.
Lincoln William Conner, Parents: Tiffany and Forrest, Oct. 21.
Marrick Lee Boeckman, Par-

ents: Daisy Barrington and Joshua Boeckman, Oct. 22.
Harrison Michael Ellis, Parents: Mary and David, Oct. 23.
Jaxson Dean Harriman, Parents: Brittany and Jeffery, Oct. 23.
Parker Allen Bartz, Parents: Emily and Jacob, Oct. 24.
Nathan Gregory Prestegard, Parents: Amanda and Thomas, Oct. 25.
Nora Rose Ringhofer, Parents: Amber Willert and Dean Ringhofer, Oct. 26.
Avin James Wolters, Parents: Amber and Aaron, Oct. 26.
Mayson Jay Donovan, Parents: Toni and Jay, Oct. 28.
Abdimalik Noor Mohamud, Parents: Uud Abdullahi and Noor Said, Oct. 28.
Logan Brian Joseph Chelmo, Parents: Sarah and Brian, Oct. 30.
Maddox Dean Stevenson, Parents: Molly and Jeffrey, Oct. 31.

Steele County Deaths October 2016
Jon Paul Homuth, 37, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Nancy Ann Sobolik-Pettis, 57, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Darrell R. Hanson, 54, Faribault, Oct. 3.
Patricia Ann Kettwig, 83, Owatonna, Oct. 4.
Margaret Ann Williamson, 93, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 5.
Larry Gene Bluhm, 71, Albert Lea, Oct. 9.
Berneice M. Eichman, 101, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Elfrieda Magdelina Eiseman, 75, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Florence Helen Rye, 95, Owatonna, Oct. 13.
April Marie Harmdierks, 41, Albert Lea, Oct. 13.
Richard Gene Keller, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 15.
Thomas Edsel Kingland, 69, Ellendale, Oct. 17.
Jerry Howard Grayson, 72, Medford, Oct. 19.
Mary Eleanor Simon, 91, Owatonna, Oct. 21.
Roselyn Rysavy, 97, Owatonna, Oct. 21.
Louis Martin Hagel, 57, Faribault, Oct. 21.
Eleanor F. Kalien, 90, Faribault, Oct. 23.
Gordon Dale Hofius, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 31.

Steele County Marriages October 2016
Benjamin James Maas and Stephanie Kenna Kulseth, Oct. 1.
Johnathan Amandus Smith

and Hallie Jean Janning, Oct. 1.
Brandy Lanelle Thompson and Nicholas Michael Graupmann, Oct. 1.
Jacob Thomas Jirele and Caitlin Marie Keller, Oct. 1.
Justin John Dean Bucholz and Eddy Elizabeth Tyler, Oct. 1.
Nicole Lyn Johnson and Julio Caesar Letona III, Oct. 1.
Antonio Taylor and Jessica Ann Schwartz, Oct. 1.
Colten Donald Tlusty and Jenna Nicole Cliff, Oct. 1.
James Herbert Buzick and Gloria Ann Brekke, Oct. 1.
Derek Steven Sorenson and Megan Lenae Kelling, Oct. 1.
Shawn Rory Dahl and Denise Ann Willsher, Oct. 1.

Keith Allan Rosendahl and Harleigh Rayne Yvonne Hartsook, Oct. 6.
Jennifer Lynn Hagel and Kenneth John Frazier, Oct. 7.
Trevor Alan Johnson and Allison Marie Du Lac, Oct. 8.
Scott Edward Prestegard and Wendy Christine Ayotte, Oct. 8.
Christopher Scott Goodew and Kylie Alexandra Grosso, Oct. 8.
Colin James Stroup and Autumn Marie Leva, Oct. 9.
Jordan Joseph Nankivil and Natasha Ann Hemann, Oct. 15.
Bryan Richard Duncan and Annette Marie Frank, Oct. 15.
Perry John Rathbun III and Monique Lynn Kraay, Oct. 15.

Brian Thomas Swanson and Judy Kay Gallagher, Oct. 15.
Jorge Lopez Angel and Carolina Echeverri, Oct. 20.
Chelsey Paige Fogarty and Joshua Terrance Johnson, Oct. 22.
Derick Joseph Ryg and Lori Maria Kambourian, Oct. 22.
Chad Thomas Bretl and Jennifer Judith Oeltjenbruns, Oct. 22.
Nicholas Wayne Lesley and Emily Grace Burley, Oct. 22.
Devin Theodore Zilm and Ashley Nicole Halverson, Oct. 22.
Erik Wright Diley and Alison Jane Galzki, Oct. 29.

Steele County Divorces October 2016
Kain David Melby and Alejandra Melby.
Mary Ann Sahagian and Kenneth Orville Wagner.
Tyler Dylan Burke and Lauren Burke.
Mary Louise VanRavenhorst and Brian Emory VanRavenhorst.
Maria Luisa Tinajero and Gustavo Martinez Carrillo.
Nicole Marie Peterson and Casey Eric Peterson.
Todd Galen Deming and Michelle Dorraine Deming.
Kenneth Frank Owens and Gloriana Sherrel Morris.
Jesse Paul Wegener and Andrea Marie Wegener.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dignified
7. Where to get a pint
10. Broken down
12. Peruvian city
13. Expressed grief
14. Isaac’s mother (Bib.)
15. Sizing up
16. Form of Hindustani
17. ___-de-sac
18. Greek sophist
19. Greek portico
21. Christian Television Network
22. Attractiveness
27. The man
28. Home of the Cowboys
32. Home to Hollywood
33. Be later in time
36. Woman
37. A type of protection
38. Conservative people
39. Bela __, Hungarian Leader
40. Rodent
41. Gloss or sheen
44. Looks good in clothes
45. Stephen Malkmus’ band
48. Org. of C. American States
49. Doorways are some
50. Cattle genus
51. Rock bands play them

CLUES DOWN

1. Indigenous people of Norway
2. Not odd
3. Ring
4. Adam is one
5. Champion Volunteer QB
6. The smartest Ed
7. Fast cats
8. Two-toed sloth
9. ___ humbug!
10. Investigator
11. Explosive warhead
12. Wrap
14. Hidden meaning
17. Reciprocal of a sine

18. Go with pains
20. Small constellation
23. Prohibited
24. Blocks
25. Home to Boston (abbr.)
26. Small viper
29. Toward
30. Promotional materials
31. Plundering and destroying
34. Provokes
35. One point north of due east
36. Freshwater fishes
38. Male parents
40. Little (Spanish)
41. Sean __, actor
42. Bowfin fish
43. Large integers
44. An association of criminals
45. Genus of grasses
46. Annual percentage rate
47. Mechanical belt

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



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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. tfc

KASSON, 1 br apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc

2 bdrm apt in West Concord, util. included, \$600/mo. 507-358-6293 6nc, 7, 8c, 9nc

1 & 2 BD~ CLAREMONT Rent based on income. Free applications & tours! Minutes from Dodge Center & Owatonna. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 8,9c,10p

1 BD~ MANTORVILLE Avail March! Clean & quiet! Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. Minutes from Kasson & Byron. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 8,9c,10pd

1BD~ DODGE CENTER Available NOW! \$600p/mo. Spacious units, large closets, AC, DW, blinds and much more! 507-633-2178 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO. 8,9c,10pd

SERVICES

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Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfc

Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. .tfc

NEW child care in Kasson has openings for all ages. Open 24/7. 507-301-2810 (call or text) crystalkay110@gmail.com 6,7c,8nc,9c

WELLINGTON ADULT CARE

has a full time day position available working with elderly residents.

- We are a home and community based facility.
- We provide 24 hr care.
- Applicant must be 18 years old, have a valid drivers license and pass a background check.
- Experience preferred but will train the right person.

**For application and interview
Call Bill or Janie Hill at
507-374-2198 or 507-319-4521**

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Young farmer looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area, call David Stanton, 507-951-0915 38tfc

EMPLOYMENT

Wellington Adult Care has a full time day position available working with elderly residents. We are a home and community based facility. We provide 24 hr care. Applicant must be 18 years old have a valid drivers license, and pass a background check. Experience preferred but will train the right person. For application and interview Call Bill or Janie Hill @ 507-374-2198 or 507-319-4521. 5tfc

Part time bartender/ waiter to work flexible hours Mon.-Sun. Must be at least 18 yrs. of age and able to start work at 4 p.m. Will train. Pick up application at 505 Frontage Rd NW or send application/ resume to Byron American Legion. P.O. Box 687 Byron, MN 55920 6tfc

Part time help needed. 12:30-5:30 M-Fri. Must be able to do bookwork & lift. P&P TV and Appliance. Call 634-7007. 7-9nc

Person wanted to run truck pumping for septic tanks, and drain cleaning, must be used to hard work. CDL required, A or B, must be able to lift 90 lbs. Contact Leth Sewer Service, 507-635-5590. 7tfc

PT bus driver needed in Kasson area, must have CDL license. M-TH 5 hrs/day. If interested call Mike at 507-634-4330. 8tfc



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For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134

20tfc

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EMPLOYMENT

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Legal Notices

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: 122 E Main Street, Blooming 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.

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

CITY OF BP

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda February 13, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of January Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports

1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A.
3. B.P. Fire Commission
4. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business

1. Request for an Exempt Gambling Permit – BP Cancer Group
2. Request for an Exempt Gambling Permit – Blooming Prairie Public School Foundation
3. Request for an Exempt Gambling Permit – American Legion Post 52
4. Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission Annual Report
5. Close Industrial Park Debt Service Fund
6. Liability Insurance Waiver
7. Speed Signs in School Zone
8. Resolution Supporting State Funding for City Streets
9. Predatory Offender Residency Restriction Ordinance
10. Advertise for and Hire Pool Employees

City Administrator's Report

1. Building Purchase & Demolition
2. APPA Rally February 25-March 2, 2017
3. Water Tower Historic Register?

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

2/7

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, February 16, 2017 Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Informational Presentation by Mike Hoheisel from Robert W. Baird & Co.-High School Media Center 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Open Public Forum–High School Media Center 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

Dated: January 19, 2017

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559 Diane F. Mach - 273788

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Consent Agenda Minutes Bills Treasurer's Report Resignations Employment Donations
B. Final Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff
C. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Education Programs and Positions

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports
B. Enrollment Data
C. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-171

Estate of Connie Jorene Gray, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 20, 2017, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 107 W. Main Street, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, December 19, 2016, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Eydie M. Hauer, whose address is 2927 Rose Street, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,
/s/ Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
1/26/17

Erin Veiths
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@owatonnaattorneys.com

2/7, 2/14

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, December 15, 2016 Regular School Board Work Session –High School Board Room 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 Open Forum – High School Media Center 5:15 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting – High School Media Center 6:00 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 Budget/Levy Review and Discussion

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland

Those Present:
Those Absent:

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED:

A. Consent Agenda

Minutes
The minutes of the November 17, 2016, regular school board work session and the November 21, 2016, regular school board meeting are in need of your approval.

Bills
The following bills are presented and attached for approval:

December bills in the amount of \$1,075,006.17
December regular payroll in the amount of \$484,147.73
November handwritten checks in the amount of \$150,117.90

Treasurer's Report
Transfer made on 11/25/16 in the amount of \$152,563.45 to cover Elem HVAC expenses from GO Facilities Bonds (MSDLAF MAX)

Resignations
Emily Heimer has submitted her resignation as of 12/22/16.

Employment
None at this time.

Donations
No personal donations in excess of \$1,000.00 have been received within the last month requiring formal acknowledgement.

Discussion. A motion is in order approving the above consent

agenda items.

B. World's Best Workforce Annual Report

Ms. Mach has submitted this annual report to MDE. The deadline requires the annual report be submitted by December 15, 2016. Discussion. A motion is in order.

C. School Calendars

Superintendent Olson will review calendar information with the Board. Original calendars for 2016-17 and 2017-18 were approved on December 21, 2015. No action required.

D. ZED Facility Resolution

A resolution requires approval by all seven member districts in order to proceed with the proposed facility project. Hayfield has given their approval on December 12, 2016. Discussion. A motion is in order with a roll call vote.

6:00 p.m. – Budget/Levy Review and Discussion Taking Place Prior to Final Levy Certification

E. Final 2016 Payable 2017 Levy Limitation

The final levy limitation for 2016 payable 2017 must be certified to the home county auditor by school districts no later than December 30th. Attached is the summary page of the levy certification. Discussion. A motion is in order.

F. Snow Dance DJ

Kyle Johnson has agreed to be the DJ for the Snow Dance on February 11, 2016, at a cost of \$400.00. Discussion. A motion is in order.

VIII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY:

A. Rotation of School Board Officers

Discussion to be held regarding procedure of selecting officers and/or committee assignments.

B. Committee Reports

Ag/Industrial Trades	Krell	Hameister (alternate)
Building/Grounds/Facilities	Sunde	Hameister (alternate)
Communication	Braaten	Thurnau (alternate)
Community Education	Ille	Hameister (alternate)
Education Foundation	Hameister	Vigeland (alternate)
Finance	Krell, Thurnau	Sunde (alternate)
Greenhouse	Thurnau	Krell (alternate)
Meet and Confer	Thurnau	Braaten (alternate)
MSBA & MSHSL	Ille	Vigeland (alternate)
Needs Assessment	Braaten	Sunde (alternate)
Negotiations		Sunde, Krell, Thurnau
Staff Development	Hameister	Krell (alternate)
Steele County Collaborative	Krell	
Technology	Sunde	Braaten (alternate)
Transportation	Krell	Vigeland (alternate)
Wellness	Vigeland	Braaten (alternate)
ZED	Vigeland	Hameister (alternate)

C. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year as of December 14, 2016, is 407 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 319 at the high school (grades 7-12) (313 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 3 juniors with attendance being full-time.

Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year as of June 3, 2016, was 411 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 303 at the high school (grades 7-12) (297 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 2 seniors and 4 juniors which all attend full-time.

D. Dates to Note

December 15
School Board Work Session in the High School Board Room at 6:00 a.m.
December 19
School Board Meeting in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.)
Budget/Levy Review and Discussion at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center
High School Band Concert in the High School Gym at 7:00 p.m.
December 22
Student's dismissed at 1:00 p.m. for a Teacher Inservice
Dec. 23-Jan. 2
Christmas Holiday Break
January 11
Spelling Bee at 1:00 p.m. in the Elementary Gymnasium
January 12
School Board Work Session in the High School Board Room at 6:00 a.m.
January 16
Teacher Inservice – No School for Students
January 17
World's Best Workforce public presentation at 4:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center
School Board Meeting in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.)
January 20
End of Second Quarter. Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
January 23
Start of Third Quarter

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA December 15, 2016

A regular school board work

session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rodney Krell

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the December 19, 2016, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

He is the man who can turn it around

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



HOWARD
LESTRUD

Give Mark Coyle a chance. He is a veteran already of seven months on the job as athletic director at the University of Minnesota. In that short time, he has already fired two major sports coaches and has hired a new leader for the football program. That makes him a veteran as far as athletic decisions are concerned. He has also had to wade through the suspension of 10 football players connected with an alleged violation of college standards of conduct.

I had a chance to meet Mark Coyle following his talk to a group of 400 men who gathered in Oakdale recently to consume some torsk at a Torske Norske Club meeting. After listening to Coyle recite his experience and after shaking a firm hand, I believe Coyle can turn things around at the U. I have more faith in him than I do in University President Erik Kaler. Iowa native Coyle, 47, served as Associate Athletic Director for External Relations at the University of Minnesota from 2001 to 2005, where he was responsible for managing the marketing and sales unit, athletic communications, the ticket office and licensing. Under his guidance, the marketing staff was recognized as the top marketing staff in the Big Ten Conference. Coyle also served as Athletic

Director at Boise State and at Syracuse University, two highly visible positions. "Life was good," Coyle said, but the Minnesota call to him meant he was going to assume his "dream" job. "I wanted to be here," he said. He quickly volunteered that the past seven months at the University have been the toughest seven months of his life. The University has had four athletic directors since 2012, Coyle pointed out. In spite of recent negative publicity, Coyle said the U has the highest rating for student academics behind Duke, Stanford and Notre Dame. In running an athletic program, Coyle said he believes in being truthful with coaches and student athletes. The focus is on student athletes, he said. "We need to win," Coyle said matter of factly, pointing to football, men's basketball and men's hockey. Of course, the University has already snared three national championships in women's hockey in recent years.

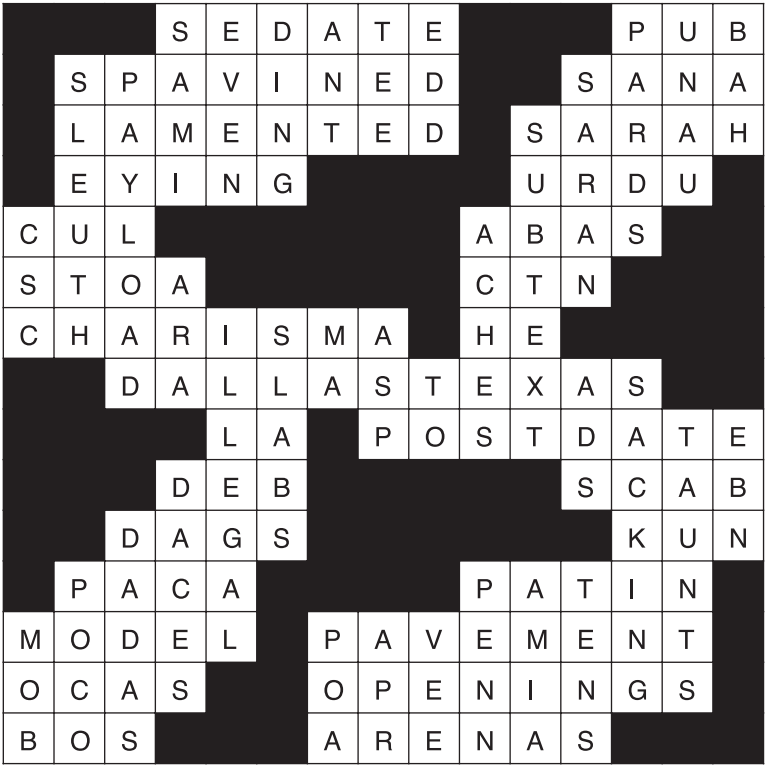
Coyle said he believes in accountability for student athletes. He said he will visit the classrooms of his athletes. "We ask them to be respectful and paying attention in the classroom," Coyle said. Further explaining the goal of University athletes, Coyle said they should focus on getting a degree and competing for championships. "It should be a real privilege for the University athlete to put on that M jersey," Coyle said. "If you win, they will come," Coyle said about future recruits. In attracting student athletes to Minnesota, Coyle said it is necessary to communicate, communicate and communicate. The gap between what you say and do will then be very small, Coyle remarked. "The last five weeks have rocked me and has been a game changer for me but I still want the people of Minnesota to know how proud I am to be the athletic director of the University of Minnesota."

Eagles host auction for cure



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The Owatonna Eagles hosted their annual auction to fund cancer research on Feb. 3 and 4. Over \$52,000 was raised this year from the auction alone. The club is still adding up the direct donations that were recieved. Large items auctioned off included an eight-foot handm de walnut table donated by Merle Erdman and tickets to the Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon dpnated by KTTC TV.



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TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

What should I do if I made a mistake on my federal return that I've already filed?

Answer: It depends on the type of mistake you made: Many mathematical errors are caught during the processing of the tax return and corrected by the IRS, so you may not need to correct these mistakes. If you didn't claim the correct filing status or you need to change your income, deductions, or credits, you should file an amended or corrected return using Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. When filing an amended or

corrected return: Include copies of any forms and/or schedules that you're changing or didn't include with your original return. To avoid delays, file Form 1040X only after you've filed your original return. Generally, for a credit or refund, you must file Form 1040X within 3 years after the date you timely filed your original return or within 2 years after the date you paid the tax, whichever is later. Allow the IRS up to 16 weeks to process the amended return.

Is there an age limit on claiming my child as a dependent?

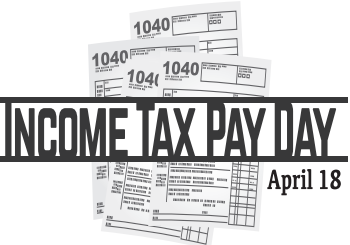
Answer: To claim your child as your dependent, your child must meet either the qualifying child test or the qualifying relative test: • To meet the qualifying child test, your child must be younger than you and either younger than 19 years old or be a "student" younger than 24 years old as of the end of the calendar year. • There's no age limit if

your child is "permanently and totally disabled" or meets the qualifying relative test. In addition to meeting the qualifying child or qualifying relative test, your child must also meet all of the other tests for claiming a dependent: 1. Dependent taxpayer test 2. Citizen or resident test 3. Joint return test

Can I receive a tax refund if I owe for a prior year's federal taxes since I am currently making payments under an installment agreement or payment plan?

No, one of the conditions of your installment agreement is that any refund due to you, the IRS will automatically apply against taxes you owe. Because your refund isn't applied toward your regular monthly payment, continue making your installment agreement payments as scheduled until you pay your liability, including accrued penalties and interest, in full. If your refund exceeds your total balance due on all outstanding liabilities including accruals, and you don't owe certain past-due amounts, such as federal

tax, state tax, a student loan, or child support, you'll receive a refund of the amount over and above what you owe. For more information on these non-IRS refund off-sets, you can call the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS) at 800-304-3107 (toll-free).



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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Elsie Schultz is NRHEG's Panther of the Week. She is the daughter of Matt and Emily Schultz and she is in Mrs. William's 5th grade class. Elsie was chosen for helpfulness and kindness to others. She goes out of

her way to make sure her peers get the help they need. She always gives her best effort and does very well academically. Elsie really enjoys gymnastics, writing, and math. Her favorite movie is Suicide Squad and her favorite food is sausage pizza. Keep up the great work Elsie!



PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Warmer tempertaures over the weekend were met with mixed reactions. While the sun is always nice, it did thin the ice at popular skating sites like the Straight River in Morehouse Park in Owatonna.

Tuesday  High: 35° Low: 6°	Friday  High: 47° Low: 32°
Wednesday  High: 15° Low: 4°	Saturday  High: 40° Low: 30°
Thursday  High: 24° Low: 19°	Sunday  High: 37° Low: 26°



Blossoming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Educating young women about breast cancer

At the age of 12 to 15, many young women are experiencing the body and life changes that accompany adolescence. It can be difficult to imagine that breasts that are just beginning to develop may contain cancer. But such is the reality for some girls.

The majority of women who receive a breast cancer diagnosis are over the age of 40. Experts at Monroe Carell Jr. Hospital at Vanderbilt University note that only 5 percent of breast cancer cases are found in women under the age of 40. However, the hospital recently treated a 14-year-old girl who found a lump and learned she had a rare form of breast cancer called a phyllodes tumor. In 2009, a 13-year-old from Little Rock, Ark. found a quarter-sized lump in her right breast, while a 19-year-old student at the College of New Jersey was diagnosed with cancerous cells and underwent a bilateral mastectomy.

Though such cases are rare, it behooves teenage and adolescent girls to familiarize themselves with the disease and be mindful of their breast health.

Some organizations have increased breast cancer messages for young girls, and it is not uncommon to find young women participating in runs and fundraisers for breast cancer research. Some organizations even conduct breast cancer workshops to educate young women about breast health. Dorothy Paterson of Texas, a former Girl Scout leader who was diagnosed with breast cancer herself, began conducting workshops for Girl Scouts in 2007.

The idea isn't to scare girls into believing they have the disease, but rather to increase their awareness of changes in their bodies that may or may not be normal.

Some parents worry that educating children about breast cancer may cause them to worry unnecessarily, especially considering a young girl's risk of developing breast cancer is so minimal. However, others see the importance in

schooling girls early on about a disease that is so common. Advocates of teaching young girls about breast cancer often note that any effort to help save lives and promote health is worthwhile.

Just as with older women, adolescents and teens should realize that eating healthy foods, exercising, avoiding alcohol and tobacco, and maintaining annual physical exams with a doctor are key ways to reduce the risk for cancer.



Sponsored by **Krejci Ford**

Movie Review: The Space Between Us



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Some romances are written in the stars. Others just start there.

The Space Between Us follows the journey of Gardner, the first person born on Mars. The child of an astronaut who's unknowingly pregnant when she goes into space, Gardner's existence is kept hidden from the world as he grows up on the first colony on Mars. Raised by scientists, his only friend is Tulsa, a girl back on Earth

he knows only through video chat. Things change, however, when Gardner decides it's time he visited Earth and meets the girl of his dreams. Unfortunately, Having grown up on Mars, Gardner's body is ill equipped to handle life, particularly gravity, on Earth.

Any teenager can feel out place in the world, and Gardner's journey is a poignant reminder of how desperately we all want to connect with others, especially as we enter adulthood. His romance with Tulsa is endearingly awkward as he attempts to "court" her with little understanding of how things are done on Earth.

The film is wonderfully shot, as it's told from Gardner's perspective and shows just how incredible he finds Earth. Everything from rain to horses to hot air balloons is all met with equal fascination that invites the audience to see Earth through new eyes.

Asa Butterfield, who plays Gardner, is in ideal choice for the role. His open face and intense eyes give us a clear window into Gardner's mind, while he carries his gangly limbs in way that reminds us Earth isn't Gardner's home planet.

The sci-fi elements are also impressive. The plot travel from space shuttles to the Mars colony and back to Earth. All of it feels real. We may not be on Mars yet, but the movie does a good job of constructing what it will probably look like when we are.

If the movie has a weak point, it comes in the third act. It devolves into a more traditional twist-ending and action-based climax that the movie really didn't need. After touching earlier moments, it's a rather unnecessarily big ending. Not bad, just an odd fit for what had been a character driven story.

Ending aside, if you're sick of the usual rom-com beats, this is a love story that takes romance to a whole new world.

Rated: PG-13

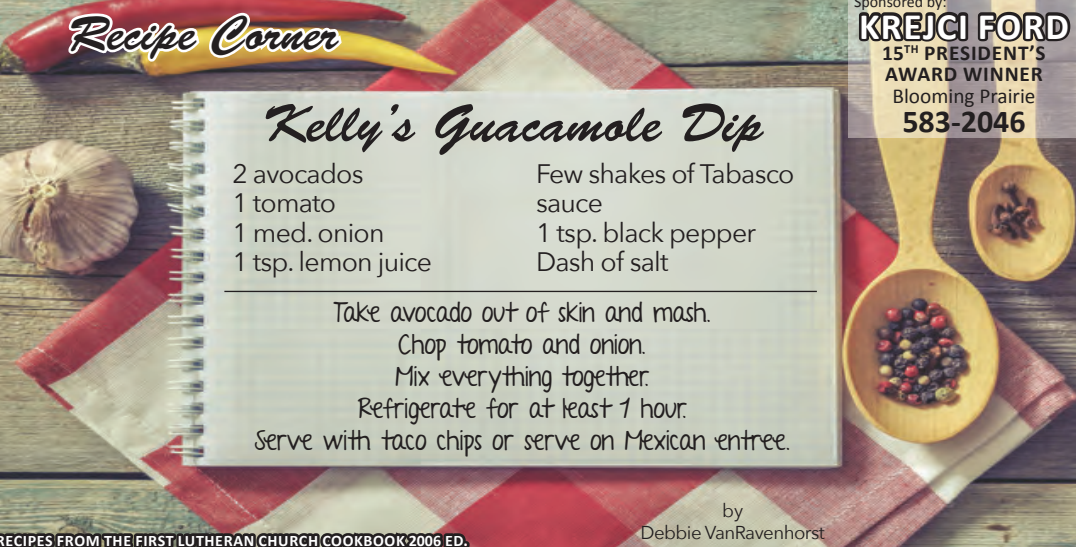
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Recipe Corner



Kelly's Guacamole Dip

2 avocados	Few shakes of Tabasco sauce
1 tomato	1 tsp. black pepper
1 med. onion	Dash of salt
1 tsp. lemon juice	

Take avocado out of skin and mash.
Chop tomato and onion.
Mix everything together.
Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
Serve with taco chips or serve on Mexican entree.

by Debbie VanRavenhorst

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