

HUNGER KNOWS NO ARMISTICE IN CAUCASUS

Colonel Haskell Reports to Near East Relief on Desperate Needs of Helpless.

"Peace may come elsewhere in the world, but hunger knows no armistice in the Near East," says Colonel William N. Haskell, Allied high commissioner in the Trans-Caucasus, in an appeal to Near East Relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York city, for food and supplies for the relief of the starving millions.

Colonel Haskell is in charge of all operations and disbursements of Near East Relief in the Caucasus.

There is no fuel or shelter for the greater part of them during the terri-



COLONEL HASKELL.

ble winter in the mountains," he says, "and the existing food supply is entirely inadequate for the great number of refugees without resources of any kind."

"By a recent agreement between the premier of the republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to cease hostilities and settle all differences by arbitration one obstacle to relief work in the Caucasus has been removed and makes accessible a great number of destitute people who otherwise would perish this winter."

"Two hundred thousand destitute Armenians and Tartars can now be reached in the districts of Karabagh, Shusha and Nakhichevan, in the south-east section of the Trans-Caucasus, and we are planning to extend our work there. The economic situation is so desperate and food supplies so scanty that the Georgians have ordered 100,000 persons, mainly Russian refugees without employment, to leave the city of Tiflis. About 45,000 workers in the oil fields of Baku have been ordered by the Azerbaijanese to leave the city because there is no work for them and food is scarce."

Around every station along the railway are gathered groups of hundreds of homeless people lying huddled together on the ground, the majority of them too weak even to try to help themselves. From time to time the stronger ones climb on freight cars and move elsewhere, always seeking better conditions, which do not exist. Two hundred and sixty-three thousand homeless refugees from Turkish Armenia are constantly milling about throughout Russian Armenia, making the relief work conducted by the Americans a problem requiring infinite patience and organizing ability."

"This is especially true in view of the existence of 248,000 destitute inhabitants of Russian Armenia who possess homes, but no food, as well as 150,000 Greeks, Russians, Persians, Syrians and Yezidis who have been driven out of parts of Transcaucasia."

"One hundred and forty thousand Moslems, whose villages were destroyed in the course of five years of constant warfare, are helplessly encamped in the open around villages of their former enemies, begging infinitesimal quantities of flour, which they mix with dirt to give the illusion of nourishment."

"These hundreds of thousands of suffering adults, mostly homeless and lacking every necessity of life, having nothing more to lose, are concentrated in a country as yet inadequately policed or governed. They constitute a fertile field for the seeds of Bolshevism or any form of anarchy, the spread of which once loosed would be impossible to predict."

"It is generally admitted in the Caucasus that the Americans of the Near East Relief already have saved the lives of at least 30,000 babies and children and of 500,000 adult refugees and destitute. This work still is continuing."

In an effort to procure funds to carry on the work and save the lives of these hundreds of thousands who otherwise will die of starvation and exposure Near East Relief, of which Cleveland H. Dodge is treasurer, is making an appeal to the American people."

WILL ORGANIZE COMMERCIAL CLUB

BUSINESSMEN MEET TO ORGANIZE A COMMERCIAL CLUB—LARGE ATTENDANCE AT ITS FIRST MEETING.

At a meeting held in the club rooms of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank on Friday evening of last week a commercial club was organized in Blooming Prairie.

About thirty representative businessmen of the village were in attendance and all were enthusiastic over the affair. Temporary officers were appointed as follows: Chairman, George C. Spriestersbach and Secretary, E. O. Habbestad. A committee was appointed by the chairman to look for suitable rooms for the meetings and another committee was appointed to draw up the rules and constitution for the club, both committees to report at the next meeting which will be held in the club rooms of the above bank on Monday evening February 9th at 8 o'clock.

The purpose of this club is to maintain better business and social relations with the surrounding farming community and to help build up the town in every way possible. The roads in this vicinity are in need of substantial repair, the park needs improvements, the paving question, and in fact many things which can be assisted and brought to a reality by the forming of such a club.

Considerable talk has gone the rounds of the businessmen to rent a large commodious room on the ground floor for the use of the club and to make this place a rest room for the farmers and their wives. This is much needed in Blooming Prairie and it is hoped that the club will be able to finance this proposition with the help of the village council. It will take some time to work out a program and it is sincerely requested by the officers that at its next meeting all businessmen will be present and help make this a grand success.

HOUSE BURNS TO THE GROUND

FIRE DESTROYS HOME & CONTENTS ON THE HANS JENSEN FARM LAST THURSDAY.

The house on the Hans Jensen farm took fire on Thursday of last week and destroyed the residence and all the contents.

The August Justeson family live on the farm and they were the heavy losers as they had no insurance on their household goods. Mr. Jensen carried insurance on the house and his loss will not be heavy.

It seems that the fire started from a defective chimney as far as can be learned. Mr. Justeson was in the barn milking and his wife was outside of the house when the blaze started. Several children were in the house and these were rescued but nothing of the household goods could be saved.

TAKEN ILL WHILE AWAY VISITING.

Edwin Meyers went to McComb, Illinois for a visit with relatives and friends. Friday he was taken ill with an attack of appendicitis at about noon time and was operated upon at five o'clock the same afternoon. Word received here by his parents states that he is getting along nicely.

BAPTIST AID TO MEET FEBRUARY 12.

Mesdames B. H. Morton, Peter Hanson, LeRoy Smith and Ingval Anderson will entertain the Baptist ladies aid on February 12th at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Smith. All are most cordially invited.

OLD PIONEER PASSES AWAY

HELGE A. PETERSON.

Helge A. Peterson was born in Rock County, Wisconsin, December 28, 1852. He was a son of Aslack and Seneva Peterson, who came from Norway in 1845. In 1875 he married Betsy T. Berg, who died in 1876, leaving one daughter, Betsy, who became the wife of O. H. Knudson in 1898 and passed away August 12, 1913.

In 1882 he left Wisconsin and came to Udolpho township, Mower County where he purchased a farm and where he had since resided.



Helge A. Peterson

On February 15, 1884 he was married to Helena Lewis a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lewis. The latter died in the civil war.

This union was blessed with nine children of which three are dead, Nellie J., Ralph A. and Agnes Helena; the latter passed away Sept. 28, 1916 at the age of 12.

Helge A. Peterson died Wednesday noon January 21, 1920 of diabetes from which he had been suffering about ten years. He was 67 years and 24 days old.

He was active in church work being a member of the Red Oak Grove Lutheran church for 37 years. He was chairman of Udolpho town board for more than 30 years. He was one of the originators of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie of which he was Vice-President.

The funeral was held on Sunday January 26, 1920 at the Red Oak Grove Church, Rev. H. J. Rasmussen officiating. The pallbearers were: T. A. Helvig, A. Solberg, K. T. Berg, O. G. Anderson, C. O. Christianson, and Olaf Grant.

He leaves besides his wife, six children: Arthur, Ormanzo, Mrs. Edwin Easton, Charles, Blanche and Signe; and 16 grand children all residing in this vicinity, except one grandson, Helmer Knudson of Brodhead, Wis.; four sisters, Mrs. Ostby and Mrs. Thompson of this village; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. Thostenson of Orfordville, Wis.; and three brothers, George A. of Blooming Prairie, Olaf of Orfordville, Wis. A brother P. A. Peterson died in 1903.

His brother, Olaf Peterson of Orfordville, Wis. was present at the funeral.

EDITOR FAGRE ILL.

On Sunday Theo. P. Fagre was taken ill with an attack of appendicitis and on Monday it was deemed necessary to take him to St. Lucas hospital at Faribault for an operation. At the present writing Mr. Fagre is progressing nicely under the circumstances.

GOES TO COLORADO.

Miss Rose Johnson departed Saturday evening for Denver, Colorado where she expects to visit for about two months.

RETURNS FROM IVANHOE.

Ivan Ingvalson returned Tuesday from Ivanhoe, Minn., where he has been visiting with relatives and also receiving treatment for his eyes.

FORMER RESIDENT DIES IN FLORIDA

MRS. ANDREW O'LEARY DIES IN FLORIDA.

Word was received here the fore part of the week that Mrs. Andrew O'Leary had passed away in Florida where she has been staying for the winter. Ed. O'Leary went there as soon as the telegram came, but arrived too late to see her alive. The remains are expected here Wednesday and the funeral will be held the same day. Next week we will be able to publish the complete obituary.

CALLED TO IOWA.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Robinson were called to Waterloo, Iowa last week on account of the serious illness of their son Ralph who has pneumonia. Mr. Robinson returned home Saturday.

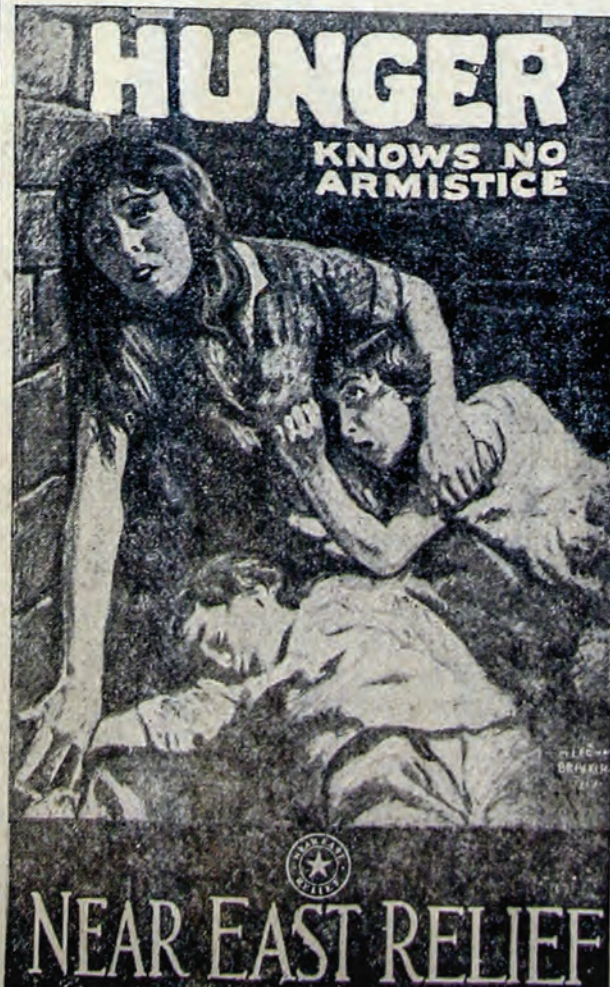
MASS MEETING BEFORE NEAR EAST DRIVE

In order to give everybody a chance to learn more concerning the desperate needs of the suffering people of the Near East, a Mass Meeting will be held on Sunday evening, February 8th, at eight o'clock at the Rex Theatre.

The Rev. Mr. Anton M. Hanson, pastor of the Associated Church of Owatonna, will speak at this meeting. His subject, "A Martyr Nation". This meeting is entirely free and for all. COME OUT and HEAR the great address and let our compassion extend to these unfortunate fellow human beings again, who without our aid will DIE.

Please reserve Sunday evening for attendance at this meeting.

Poster Tells Dramatic Story



This picture, painted especially for the Near East Relief by M. Leone Bracker, vividly portrays what words fail to express—the horrible suffering of the women and children of Armenia and adjacent countries. Peace has conditions more frightful than any war time experiences of the martyred populations of Belgium and France still exist. Thousands of women and children escaped massacre by the Turkish soldiers only to face the terrible agonies of death by starvation. At the present time it is estimated that 1,250,000 adults and fully 250,000 orphaned children are completely destitute and in imminent danger of death by starvation and exposure.

The Near East Relief, 1 Madison Avenue, New York, is at present the only organization giving aid to these suffering people and lack of funds still prevents the reaching of more than a small part of the stricken people.

RURAL MAIL SERVICE FACES CRISIS

Washington, Feb. 5.—Rural mail carriers are resigning at the rate of 50 a day, W. D. Brown, representing the National Rural Mail Carriers' association, told the Senate Postal committee yesterday, adding that the service faced serious difficulties unless financial relief was accorded the employees soon. He asked a permanent increase of approximately 60 per cent over the present base pay of \$1,200 per annum, with a minimum base of \$1,920. The increased annual expense would be about \$78,000,000 he said.

The carriers do not earn as much as farm laborers at the present time, Mr. Brown declared.

Chairman Townsend, republican, Michigan, said that in view of the condition of the treasury, he did not believe congress would be disposed to grant the increase asked until the joint committee on the reclassification of salaries had reported.

SCHOOL NEWS OF INTEREST

PARENTS-TEACHERS CLUB HAS ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

Monday evening, February second, was the occasion for the second meeting of the Blooming Prairie Parent-Teachers' Club. The program, prepared by Mr. H. Noble, chairman, Mrs. T. Cashman, Secretary and Miss Church proved to be full of debatable features and everyone joined in the discussion. Two very pleasing piano duets played by Mrs. Melvin Solberg and Miss Bernice Cashman were the first numbers on the program. Miss Hansley talked on "Departmental Work" in the school and stated many of the reasons therefor as advanced by those who prefer departmental work to the single teacher plan. Mrs. B. H. Morton called attention to the fact that high school pupils should be made to do their school work and do it well, or else be denied any credit for it. That is a good idea and of course it is the theory that all real teachers work out in practice, and it is well to have it emphasized. Mrs. Court was in favor of an intensive campaign to teach the children good habits and give them plenty of supervision even up to their homes after they leave school. Her talk seemed to arouse a great deal of interest and discussion. Mrs. Rask's illness prevented her from taking the part assigned to her on the program and the next number was the question box in charge of Mr. Roest. Mrs. Noble, Rev. Rasmussen, Mrs. Morton and Senator Rask helped to call attention to points that demanded enlightenment and thus helped to point the discussion to something definite. Senator Rask drew a generous round of spontaneous applause when he reminded the audience that we must not forget that Blooming Prairie's good points far outweigh its bad features and we can be proud of our community for a great many things accomplished here.

The plans for the new building were displayed to good advantage by the Senator and many stayed to learn more about the new Community Building which will mean so much to Blooming Prairie when it is completed.

The final number on the program was a group of songs by Miss Kubat. Miss Kubat furnished with two very pretty selections and her numbers were enjoyed very much.

As a committee for the next meeting, Mrs. T. J. Cashman was appointed chairman, Miss Church secretary, and Miss Marie Brainard as the third member.



MISS HERMINE DAKESIAN.

of the horrors of Turkish massacres and deportations. Saved by an American woman, she has come to this country and entered Oberlin College.

With her came fourteen other Armenian girls in charge of Miss Adelaide S. Dwight, a Near East Relief worker, who has been instrumental in helping to save hundreds of thousands of their people from death by starvation. Miss Dwight, who is not given to exaggeration and has seen conditions at first hand, says more than a million people are facing death by starvation in Armenia and will perish unless America aids.

Herself an eyewitness to the slaughter of hundreds of helpless women and children by the Turks and a victim of the deportations, Miss Dakesian, an unusually pretty girl, says there is untold suffering in Armenia and Syria. She praises the efforts of the Near East Relief, formerly the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, to save as many of these people as possible. At Erian, the capital of the Armenian republic, hot meal is given out daily, and by this relief alone a thousand daily has been cut from a thousand daily to an average of twenty. At Alexandropol, where the refugees from Turkish Armenia were driven by thousands, the situation is appalling, Miss Dakesian says. It is to avert these wholesale deaths that Near East Relief is making a nation-wide appeal for funds.

BOY SCOUTS IN YOUNG ARMENIA

Strangest Troop of All in Constantinople Being Made Into Good Citizens.

American Boy Scout training is aiding prominently in the rehabilitation of hundreds of little Armenian boy refugees from the Turkish massacres, who have been organized into a scout troop in Constantinople as the solution of one of the most troublesome problems that confronted the Near East Relief workers in that city.

Hounded and driven for four years, having seen their parents and relatives slaughtered or worse by Turks and Kurds and themselves forced to beg, steal or do almost anything to eke out the barest existence, these boys had completely lost their moral sense when they finally found refuge in the Near East Relief orphanages.

The boys had been clad in rags for so long that they had forgotten how to take care of clothes. This was a tragedy when the Near East Relief had need of every pair of shoes and of every suit of clothes for new boys constantly coming in.

Then the boys were organized as Boy Scouts and given their uniforms. They began to be careful of their school clothes as well as of their uniforms.

They had been so often hungry they had come to steal without compunction. When they first entered the orphanages they continued to steal. One boy stole a purse from his American teacher. For two or three weeks after he became a Boy Scout he was obviously uneasy. One day he came to her with the purse in his hand.

"I don't want to give it back," he said reluctantly. "But I have to." "You a Boy Scout now?"

To form more scout troops in Constantinople these little unfortunate little good citizens, is one of the reasons why the Near East Relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York city, is making its appeal for funds.



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Owatonna Bus Company



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B: 1B HOMETOWN LIVING
4B 4-H AWARDS

C: 1C SPORTS
4C FFA WEEK

D: 1D .. FARM PAGE
6D TAX WEEK

Opinion

Our view

A home run

The blizzard of 2017. Such a small swath of winter in the bigger scheme of life, but it affected all of us in its path.

It changed lives.
It brought death.
The Cities didn't see it, those to the south didn't experience it. A small band affected counties in Southeastern Minnesota and gave a special winter performance.

Growing up a hundred years ago, something like this would have devastated. But living here in this era of technology and knowledge, we knew it was coming. Oh, there were those who kept saying, "I don't believe the weathermen and the forecasts," but it came anyway.

Our words couldn't stop the wheels set in motion and the 36 hours of our destiny. There were cars stuck in ditches, stretches of roads totally impassable, accidents and even deaths.

Some things we could see coming. Others took us by surprise. And in a moments time, things were changed.

We would like to step out to send kudos to all those who couldn't take a snow day. The police officers who had to step out of cruisers into a blustery Minnesota night. The letter carriers who stayed true to their creed. The repair men who investigated furnaces without heat and homes without light. The ambulance drivers and first responders who somehow made it to the crashes. And the media who kept the streams of information coming, standing on icy overpasses and along roads which had disappeared under the mounds of snow.

Everyone has a story to tell about this past week. Some stories are magical, some are miracle and some are tragic.

The great thing about living in Minnesota is the attitude of people who do their jobs and others who do jobs that they are not necessarily called to do. People snowblowing a neighbor's driveway, checking on a shut-in to make sure they have heat and food and health. Braving the cold and snow to comfort someone who has just lost a loved one.

Heroes come forth in midst of adversity. Normal, everyday people who step up to become ordinary citizens in the face of extraordinary circumstances. There is a term that is passed around quite frequently here. Minnesota friendly.

That is all well and good, but in the wake of a storm, we want to thank God for the Minnesota strong. It is a comforting thing to live in a place where the people know how to hit curve balls out of the park.

A trying few days, Minnesota, but your people hit a home run.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

No sooner had the ink dried on our newspaper and the question came firing at us: Why did you publish public salaries?

A few weeks ago we published a rundown of the highest salaries of public officials in Steele County. In addition, we printed a complete list of all employees showing their monthly salaries for those working for county government.

The natural question directed at us was why did we do this.

Taxpayers are curious, for a variety of reasons, as to what public servants take home. In fact, our inquiry began because of a reader who contacted us and planted the idea to publish the salary information.

But perhaps more importantly, it is public information.

Government pay is public record because taxpayers pay the salaries.

Employee salaries often make up the single largest item in governments' budgets, just as they often are the largest expense for a private company. Examining the information can provide insights on how

Why we published public employees' salaries

Holding government transparent

fairly governments compensate public employees, how pay for public positions compares with pay in the private sector, how pay varies by position and more.

In addition, knowing how much money other people make benefits workers and makes the labor market more efficient. The theory is if people have more information, they can make better decisions. And that makes for a healthier, more efficient economy and better run government agencies.

For years pay has been something whispered from employer to employee. But keeping it secret might do a disservice to workers, managers and broader economy.

Government transparency is important. And putting out the salaries of employees helps build trust and transparency across the board.

In some states, all employee salaries are available online. In states like Minnesota where they're not available, newspapers have begun compiling public employee pay lists and publishing them either in the newspaper or online.

As you can imagine, making the list available was popular with most of our

readers. But some public employees weren't so keen about the idea. We went ahead with the list knowing that doing so would not compromise anyone's safety.

We included names, job titles and salaries, but nothing more. No one is at a greater risk of identity theft.

Some will make the argument that salaries of people working in non-government entities should also be published. The key difference is those people are employed by a private company, and salaries are not paid by taxpayers.

We had some readers, presumably county employees, raise the issue why they were signaled out and we didn't print salaries for Owatonna city employees. Good point. We are in the process of pulling together the city salary list and should have that ready to go in a couple weeks.

I feel it's important for people to read our coverage of the employee salaries. After all, it's your money and you deserve to see where it's going.

Holding government transparent and chasing down public information are key reasons why readers go in hot pursuit of enjoying our newspaper every week.

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Congressman Tim Walz

Washington D.C. Office
1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2472
Rochester Minnesota
Washington, DC Office

Mankato District Offi

527 ½ South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-388-2149
877-846-9259

Sen. Al Franken

Washington DC Office
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5641

Rochester Offi

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

Sen. Amy Klobuchar

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

Southern Offi

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

Toll Free Number:
1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

Blooming Prairie Mayor

H. Peterson
507-583-7573

Ellendale Mayor

Russ Goette
507-684-2681

Hayfield Mayor

Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

Medford Mayor

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

Owatonna Mayor

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



Letters to the editor

Transportation ideas for Owatonna

Dear Editor,

I happened to read couple columns of the papers, Steele County Times dated Feb. 14, 2017 that interest me so much.

I just want to have a suggestion in regards to transportation of the city of Owatonna, if they can afford to

provide couple units of Transit buses to run even within the city limits.

In order to serve the people in the community everyday including weekends, which can accommodate people, like senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those who would want to have a job but cannot drive because of some personal reasons, and which is much cheaper fares than having a taxi.

A transportation for people

who are employed during the day or working Day shift, Evening shift, and weekend shift.

Having an access to transportation is what the people need.

When people need to go buy their groceries, having their medical check ups or appointments, or go to get a haircut, and etc. especially the senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

For workers to go to work in order to provide the basic needs of their families.

And not only that, companies don't need to expand their parking areas to accommodate employees enough space where to park their cars.

In the long run, each individual members of the family can contribute to have a better life, and we can ensure a healthy and prosperous future in our community.

Liza Frisk
Owatonna



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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2017
2 State Awards

2016
6 National Awards
8 State Awards

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

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



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DEADLINE

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....\$42
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....\$44
Out of state.....\$46



March comes in like a lion



Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Winter came back in full force this weekend to Steele County. More than a foot of snow fell in Blooming Prairie alone. The field on the southern edge of Owatonna went from clear and free of winter to back under an icy blanket. Sporting events, theater performances, and school days were postponed, or even canceled, throughout the county on Friday, Feb. 24.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

A blizzard whipped through the county last weekend burying communities back in snow. Residents battened down the hatches and braced themselves for the storm.

Support your local school bus drivers



Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Mary Lou Thurnau was thanked by a state patrol officer when she was honored at a gathering of school bus drivers on The First Annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. She and her fellow drivers celebrated at a lunch provided by the Owatonna Bus Company. Full Story on 1B.

Courthouse renovations under consideration

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Repairs at the courthouse continue to move forward. Demo has been completed, and the electrical and building inspectors have made their rounds. The decision now needs to be made for how the county would like to move forward with restoring the courthouse to operational status. The county can simply do the strictly necessary repairs to bring the courthouse up to code and get it open again, or they can choose to take this as an opportunity to renovate some of the spaces inside. The issue was debated at a special meeting called by the county commissioners. The different departments inside the courthouse have put together a wish list of items they would like the commissioners to consider in

the coming renovations. “A lot of the requests have to do with making the building more functional,” County Administrator Elvebak said acknowledging the building is over 200 years old. “I think the main focus should be getting us back in the building,” said Commissioner Glynn. The county already knows it will need to update the bathrooms to make them handicap accessible, in keeping with ADA standards. An OSEA inspection also revealed the courthouse needs bat proofing, as well as a cleaning of the current installation. There will be an air quality test before people are allowed back in the building. One of the big concerns is the set-up of the three different courtrooms. County Attorney Dan McIntosh pointed out that

COURTHOUSE
Continued on page 10A



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

A special meeting was held by county commissioners to discuss the current status of the public works project and the courthouse renovations. Commissioner Gnemi is both caes urged for careful spending.

Funding for public works evaluated

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

County commissioners met last week to discuss the status of the current public works building project the county is undertaking. There was concern put forth by both the commissioners and those in attendance that the project is simply too expensive. The commissioners have been looking to scale back the project to a more manageable cost, but there are concerns about how that might affect other organizations that had agreed to help fund the previously established project cost. On a positive note, if the board chooses to scale down the cost of the project, the homeland security funding will remain the same. It’s funding from FEMA that remains uncertain. If they choose to downsize the project, the county would also need to make sure the

PUBLIC WORKS
Continued on page 10A

BP debates Predatory offenders ordinance

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At the January Blooming Prairie city council meeting, council members were presented with the possibility of an ordinance that would place restrictions on the residency of predatory offenders in city limits. The council moved to have a draft of the ordinance completed by the city attorney. The draft was presented to the council for consideration at the February council meeting. The proposed residency restriction makes it “unlawful for any designated predatory offender to establish permanent or temporary residence within 1,000 feet” of locations such as schools, childcare providers, parks, places of worship with educational programs, libraries, sporting facilities, etc. The idea is to limit them from living near anywhere children might reasonably be expected to frequent. There are several exceptions, such as the offender being a minor, that are included in order to maintain the ordinance’s constitutionality. Several other Minnesota communities’ restrictions were studied to draft the ordinance. Residency restrictions, while increasing popular in Minnesota communities, have come under fire in recent years for having no proven effect on whether or not an offender will reoffend, according to a study done by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. There is even fear that the instability it creates in an offender’s life may actually make them more likely to reoffend, making such restrictions counter-productive. The council decided to move forward with the ordinance, and the public hearing has been set for March 13 at 7:00 p.m. immediately before the next council meeting.



Area Church Spotlight

Streetfire Ministries, Blooming Prairie

Pastor's corner: Come out of the seed bag

“And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow.” In the gospel of Mark, Chapter 4, he gives us a great teaching on sowing. At face value, it is all about where the seed is sown, but if you go deeper into this parable, you will find that he is speaking specifically about seeds. Seeds are not dead. They are just dormant. Only when they are planted can they come alive and produce fruit. The kicker is not planting them in your pocket or in the seed bag with all the other seeds. There is a place they must be planted to produce

and to increase. The bottom line is, going forward in your life cannot be done in your dormancy. You must come out of the slumber of yesterday to be productive in your going forward. Now, there are places that God wants to plant us that are not pleasant, and good soil may be well fertilized. No need to explain fertilizer. It's adverse. Toward the end of the chapter in Mark 4, Jesus rises from his dormancy, planted right there amid the adversity of the storm and saves the day. Was He really that tired, or did he willingly become the illustrated ser-

mon of a man moving from slumber to power. Was He showing them how timely it was for them to move from the slumber of their religious nature to their ministry? And what did He accomplish that day other than the obvious fact of saving the lives of those disciples? He grew their faith. When we choose to rise and plant ourselves in difficult situations – we develop the power to produce. It's always been in you, but has remained dormant in the religious garb of the seed bag. It's not enough to sit IN a church – you must be planted outside of it. It's time to “come out from



among them” (II Corinthians 6:17) and let the sower plant you where He wants you. And... like the disciples in the boat who followed Him into the storm – when you are following, you have no choice as to where.

Rev. Mark DeLap
StreetFire Ministries
Blooming Prairie

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan 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 Buegler, 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
steolumbanuschurch.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 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel avail Mon-Fri
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CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.



Christian

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

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

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Methodist

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43089 180th St., Medford
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Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first
Sunday of the month through Dec.
2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
followed by the free meal at
11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
130 East Bridge St. Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Sundays 10:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship starts at 9:30 a.m.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings
Fridays at 7 p.m.

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

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

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods
building across the
freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

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

Mormon

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

Presbyterian

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

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

UCC

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

Assembly of God

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

Baptist

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



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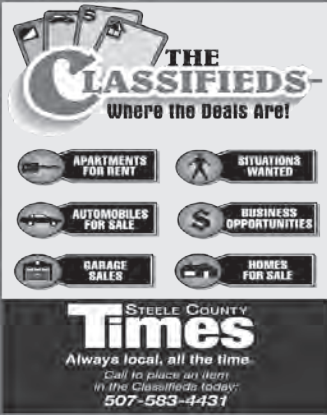


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Obituaries

Jill H. Haubenschild, 45 of Blooming Prairie

Jill H. Haubenschild, age 45 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died suddenly Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, after a brief illness in the comfort of her home.

Jill Hermine was born Sept. 17, 1971, in Rochester, to John and Jean (Ramsey) Haubenschild. She graduated with the class of 1990 from Blooming Prairie High School. Jill loved Blooming Prairie.

She worked in banking, crafts, waitressed and cooked at local restaurants, baby-sat, worked at Budget Mart, and often house sat and cared for the pets of several friends. Jill then began her career in health care at the Blooming Prairie Nursing Home.

It was at that time she returned to school and completed her training as a

certified nursing assistant (CNA) and Trained Medication Aid (TMA). She then worked at the Owatonna Hospice House, and did home health care through the Mayo Clinic Health System-Austin.

Jill was currently working as a CNA at Mayo Clinic Health System-Austin. She was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. She was also a life member of the Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She is survived by her mother Jean Haubenschild of Blooming Prairie; sister Jane Haubenschild of Farmington; honorary sister Nikki Bigbee of Farmington; Fur Baby Bug; dear friend Sherry Anderson of Austin; nephews Nathan,

Bradley and Lucas Retterath.

She was preceded in death by her father John Haubenschild on 6/3/2006; Fur Baby Barney; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment was at the St. Columbanus Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials in Jill's memory may be directed to American Red Cross, Humane Society or donor's choice. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Editor's Note: Due to an error in last week's layout, we did not run Ms. Haubenschild's obituary in full. We apologize to her loved ones for any stress this added in their time of grief. We offer our condolences and sincere prayers for their comfort at this difficult time.

Shirley I. Wanous, 98 of Blooming Prairie

Shirley I. Wanous, age 98 of Blooming Prairie, died Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, at the Heather Haus in Blooming Prairie. Shirley Ida Eaker was born Dec. 22, 1918, in the Bixby area to John W. and Rachel (Kruckeberg) Eaker.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at St. John's Evangelical Church in Havana Township, and attended District No. 27 School in Bixby before graduating from Owatonna High School in 1936. Immediately following graduation, Shirley went to work for M. Nelson and Company.

On Oct. 21, 1938, Shirley was united in marriage to Raymond J. Wanous at the Lutheran church in Northwood, Iowa. The couple made their home in Blooming Prairie. Shirley then went to work for Betlach Food Company until she and Ray purchased the Wagner Shoe Store in 1957, which she operated until Ray's health began to fail.

They sold the store so Shirley and Ray could spend more time together. The store spent 44 years on Main Street in Blooming Prairie. Ray died in 1982. Shirley served her church on the Ladies Aid

Board, the Altar Committee, and was chair of the Quilting Committee.

She also helped prepare and serve many lutefisk dinners and was a social member of the Blooming Prairie Country Club. She enjoyed her card clubs and truly loved her family and many, many friends. She will be dearly missed.

Shirley is survived by 11 nieces and nephews; She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Ray; sister Irene (Howard) Hanson; brother Herman (Esther) Eaker; three nephews.

Funeral services were held at

2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Reverend Chris Miller officiating. Interment followed in the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery.

Visitation was held Sunday and immediately preceded the service at the church. In lieu of flowers memorials in Shirley's memory may be directed to First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Sharon L. Eastman, 78 of Hollandale

Sharon L. Eastman, age 78 of Hollandale, Minnesota died peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, February 22, 2017 at her home.

Funeral services will be

held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27, 2017 at the Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin with Pastor Susan Li officiating.

Interment will follow at

Grandview Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 10:00-11:00 a.m., immediately preceding the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Sharon's family.

Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Anna M. Lamecker, 55, of Blooming Prairie

Anna M. Lamecker, age 55, of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully Friday evening, Feb. 24, 2017, surrounded by her loving family at St. Marys Hospital in Rochester. She was born Oct. 28, 1961, in Austin, to Lewis and Caroline (Hendrickson) Dunham.

Anna grew up in Austin and graduated from Austin High School in 1981.

She attended Riverland Community College and earned a Cosmetology Degree. Anna married John Alm. To this union three children were born. She enjoyed being a stay at home mother until her children were raised.

The couple later divorced. Anna began a new career at Hormel Foods and worked there 13 years before retiring in 2016. In 2005, she married

her soul mate, James Lamecker in Austin. They later moved to Blooming Prairie and instantly fell in love with the small community. Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in May 2015, she began the hardest fight of her life.

The doctors called her a miracle and her family called her Mighty Mouse. Anna's greatest joy was to be surrounded by family, friends and her dog Molly. She had a great sense of humor and was known for her giving nature. She created a home filled with love and laughter and always seemed to be able to lift the spirits of those around her.

Anna's interests included traveling, all kinds of shopping trips, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Anna was a guiding light of

strength and she will be dearly missed by all.

Anna's survivors include her loving husband James Lamecker of Blooming Prairie; her three children, Josh (Jen) Alm of Owatonna, Heather (Jeff Dudycha) Alm of Austin, Sam Alm of Owatonna, and three grandchildren. Her siblings are Vern (Roxanne) Dunham of Austin, Dennis (Wanda) Dunham of Elgin, Minnesota, Ron (Cherie) Dunham of Fridley, Minnesota, Debra (Walter) Britton of Brownsdale, and many wonderful nieces, nephews and dear friends.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 3, 2017, at the Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin. Visitation will be from 4:00 – 7 p.m. Thursday at Worlein Funeral Home and one hour



before the service Friday.

Interment will be in Grandview Cemetery, Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family Services performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:
28th
Douglas Novak
Tim Trotman
Mike Ingvallson
Amber Lonergan

4th
Phillip Milton
Gwen Klinger
Hunter Johnson
Jacob Weinberger

(29th) – Leap Day
Mary Wacek

5th
Ken Vermilyea
Dee Dee Machin
Sharon Glynn
Nicole Richards

1st
Barry Olson
Nikki Farr
Taylor Hagen

6th
Hannah Severtson
CJ Coleman
Sylvia Swenson

2nd
Kim Symes
Mark Anderson
Keith Thomas
Mason Simon

Anniversaries:
1st
Jeremy & Brianne Wangen

3rd
Jake Peterson
Sandy Shaw Kerrigan
Justin Krell
Norm Weinberger

4th
Richard & Imogene Symes

5th
Henry & Lucy Post

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SEMCAC senior menu

Feb. 28 Onion smthd Beef Steak Alt: Liver & Onions Baked Potato Caul/Broc Blend Orange Wedges Banana Cake	Dinner Roll Coconut Crumb Delight March 2 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Parslied Carrots Coleslaw Mixed Fruit Cup	Creamed Peas Apple Cake March 6 Pork Loin Steak Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Rice Krispie Bar
March 1 Sea shore Tuna Cass. Mar. Green Bean Salad Tomato Wedge	March 3 Salmon Loaf Alt: Hamburger Gravy Mashed Potatoes	March 7 Hamburger on a Bun Potato Salad Calico Beans Melon Wedge Cookie

GRIEF RELIEF



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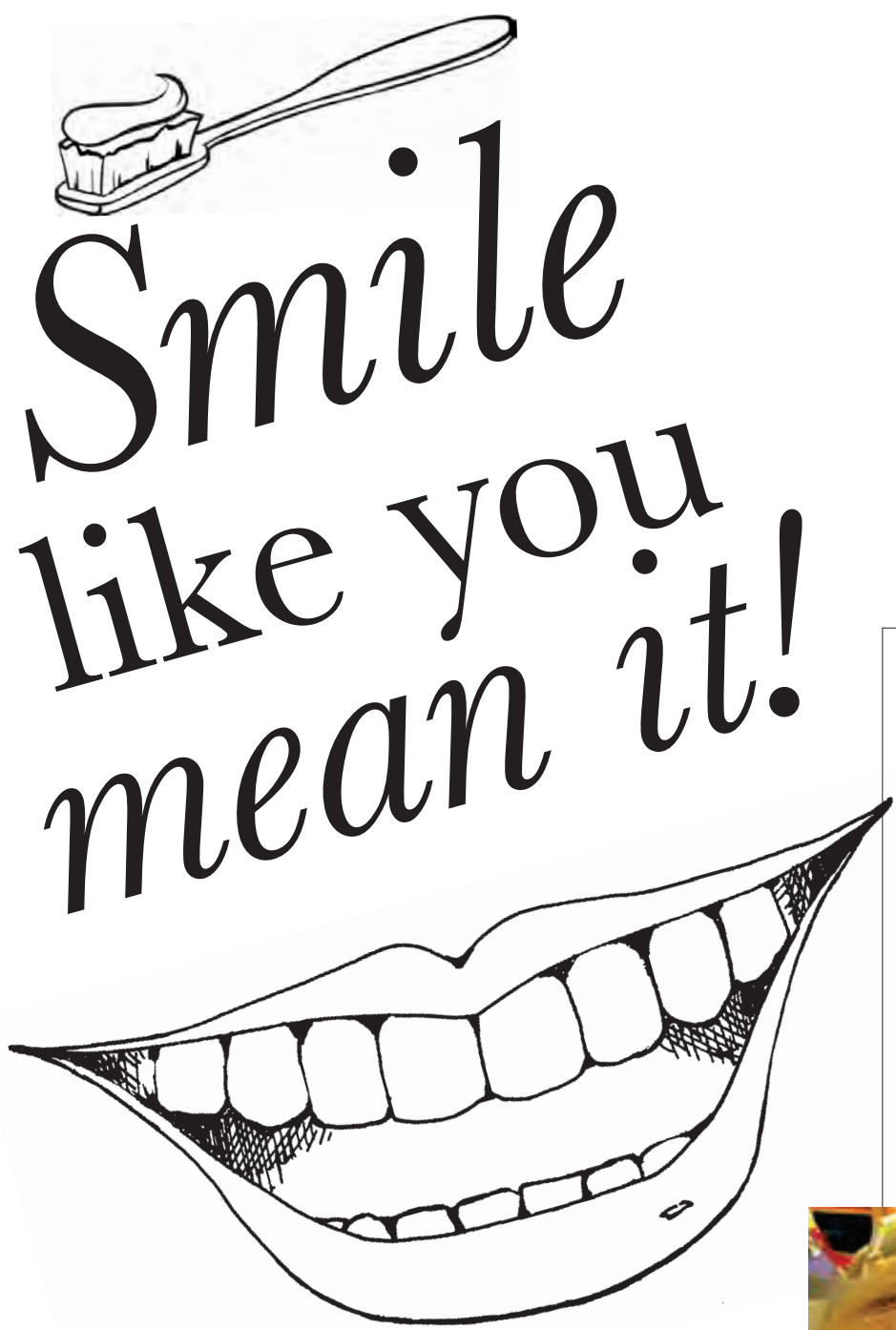
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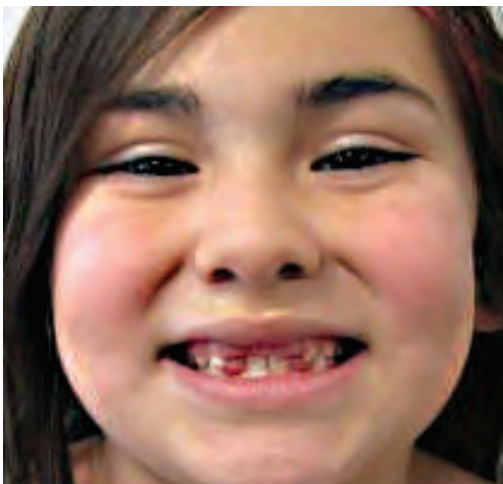
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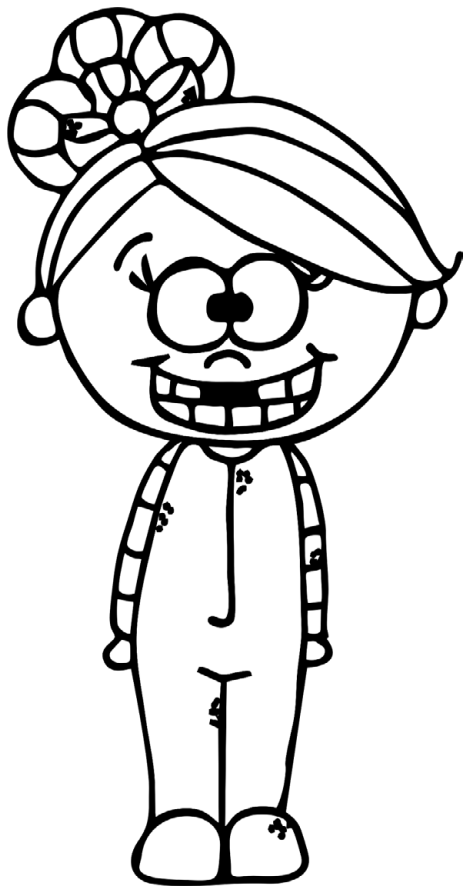
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HometownLiving Community Calendar

Steele County Times • Tuesday, February 28, 2017 • 7A

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Feb. 28th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
6pm - 7pm BPBL Book Club
March 1st:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
March 7th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

Event Spotlight: Murder mystery at the BP Servicemen's Club

A murder mystery dinner theatre production, "Pasta, Passion & Pistols" will be performed Saturday, March 18 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Only 200 tickets will be sold. All proceeds go to the BP Servicemen's Club.

This is the third annual mystery theatre production performed at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Posters around Blooming Prairie advertise the production as follows: The succulent aroma of home-cooked pasta is drifting from New York City's most popular Italian eatery, La Speranza, but something else is heating up the kitchen -- cold blooded murder. Restaurateur Pepi Roni has been shot in the back with his own pistol. Tonight, one of the guests won't be shedding any tears.

Eight local actors, under the direction of Kari Bottin, paired with an Italian feast and beverages to delight one's pallet.

Local actors are: Jaclyn Schlichter, Jessie Christianson, Judy Engelken, Joanne Sorenson, Justin Esplan, Jason Iacovino, H. Peterson and Jeff Zwiener.

The night starts cooking' at 5:30 p.m.
Get tickets at Farmers & Merchants State Bank or at the BP Servicemen's Club (507) 583-7884.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Feb. 28th:
10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Storytime, Austin Public Library
12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office
March 1st:
All day The Arc Mower County 22d Annual Rose Sale
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
March 2
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
10:30am - 11:30am Wake Up and Wiggle, Austin Public Library
5pm - 7pm First Thursdays - Dr. Seuss Reading PJ Party, SPAM® Museum
7pm - 8:30pm Keepsake Quilter's Guild Meeting, St John's Lutheran Church
March 3rd:
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
March 4th:
9am - 12pm Masonic Pancake Feed Where: Austin Masonic Lodge
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
10:30am - 12pm Kids' Studio - Watercolor Portraits, Austin ArtWorks Center
2pm - 7pm Bowling for the Battle - A Fight Against Prostate Cancer Where: Echo Lanes
6pm - 10pm Driller MMA Fights Where: Holiday Inn Austin Conferen
7pm - 9:30pm Northwestern Singers Winter Show, Historic Paramount Theatre
7pm - 9pm Riverside Figure Skating Club Presents "Blades on Broadway" Where: Riverside Arena
8pm - 9pm Sola Fide Observatory Viewing Where: Sola Fide Observatory
2pm - 4:30pm Northwestern Singers Winter Show
2pm - 4pm Riverside Figure Skating Club Presents "Blades on Broadway"
March 6th:
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
March 7th:
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time Where: Packer Dome, Wescott Field
10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Storytime
3:30pm - 4:30pm Staff Mentee Meeting (Secondary)

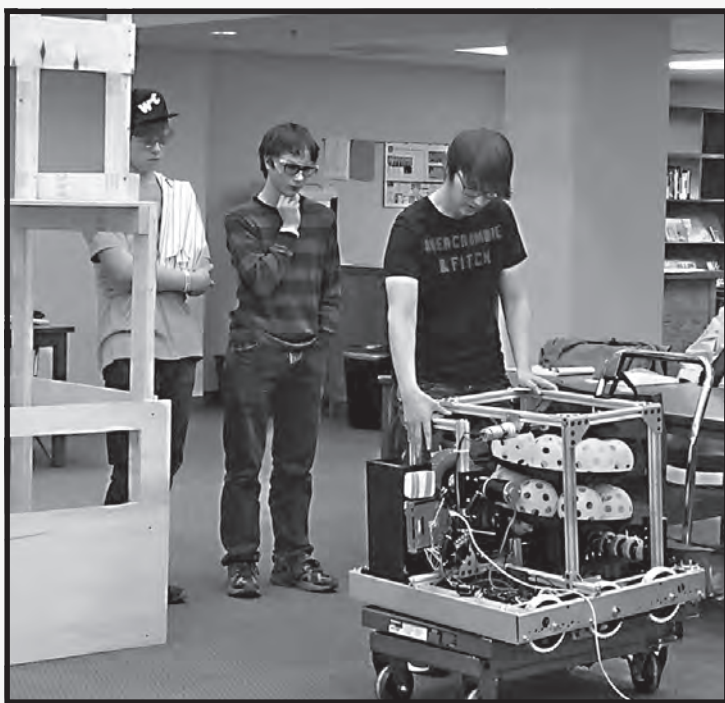
ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Feb. 28th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
March 2nd:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
March 6th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
March 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

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Feb. 28th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
March 2nd:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time 6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time 6:30pm - 7:30pm Triton Zumba, Multipurpose Rm
March 6th:
1pm - 2pm Owatonna, Woman's Club bridge group, SeniorPlace
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
March 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

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The Blooming Prairie Robotics Team, The Wrench Warmers, demonstrated their robot's capabilities for the BP school board on Feb. 21. The robot can shoot wiffleball into the air to make goals, one of the tasks the teams had to complete for competition.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Laura Berndt

Joe Pirkel participated in the pedal tractor races during lunch at Blooming Prairie High School. This was just one of the many FFA Week activities that took place at the school during National FFA Week last year.



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Event Spotlight: 2017 Road Trip Ice Show

Come join the Owatonna Figure Skating Club skaters cruise around the USA at the 2017 Road Trip Ice Show.

Music from our favorites musicians like Alicia Keys, KISS, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blues Brothers, Johnny Cash, Elvis, John Mayer, and many more!

Guest appearances include Rochester Theater On Ice, Professional Skater Amy Berglund, Choreographer Heidi Evers, and members of Owatonna Boys Hockey.

This is a show that you will not want to miss! Come sing along and enjoy a great performance by Owatonna's finest skaters!

Saturday, March 11th 2017 at 2pm
Four Seasons
Advance General Admission - \$7.00
Tickets at the Door \$10.00
Kids 5 and Under are Free
Tickets can be purchased online at www.showtix4u.com or locally at Court Sports in Owatonna.

Event Spotlight: International Women's Day Rally

Wednesday, March 8 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

A rally in celebration of International Women's Day will be held in Owatonna's Central Park featuring speakers and music honoring the women's voices and those of all humanity.

This patriotic, family event encourages all those who support progressive causes to attend, especially those concerning women's/human rights and the unity of the United States of America (US!) as outlined in the Women's March.

Speakers will include former Senator Vicki Jensen, Owatonna Pastor Coqui Conkey as well as voices from other ethnic backgrounds.

Positive and appropriate signs are also encouraged; we have many voices.

This event is sponsored by Steele County Indivisible.

Event Spotlight: Steele County Blood Drive Opportunities

Blooming Prairie
3/10/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Blooming Prairie High School, 202 4th Ave. NW

Owatonna
3/8/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.
3/9/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.
3/10/2017: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.
3/10/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Famous Dave's, 4355 W. Frontage Road
3/13/2017: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Ag Power Enterprises, 3555 18th St. SW

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HAPPY 2017!

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- **EUCHRE:** JAN. 14 FEB. 25 (1 P.M. 2 PERSON TEAM)
- **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB** TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H
- **FEE CHARGED.** 21 AND OVER.
JAN. 24 FEB. 7 MARCH 14 APRIL 4
MAY 9: **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT** 7-9 P.M. @ J&H

- **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY:** APRIL 1ST (31 YEARS IN BUSINESS) !
- **CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE...** JUNE 24
- **STREET DANCE:** JULY 3RD
- **JULY 4TH:** OPEN 10AM - CLOSE
- **B.O.B. RIDE:** "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 22

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Owatonna runs green



Photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Greg Lammers stands next to the propane fueling station at the Owatonna Bus Company. Installing fueling stations like this one is one of the challenges the company faces in its transition to more environmentally friendly fuel.

By **EMILY SCHOENBECK**
 News Editor
 bpemily@frontier.com

Spring is around the corner, and nature isn't the only thing embracing green. The Owatonna Bus Company is transitioning over to propane fueled buses, an alternative fuel or "green" option.

Greg Lammers, who started with the company in 1977 as a mechanic and has been fleet manager since 2004, is leading the charge on the change.

Lammers has written articles on the total cost of ownership for bus magazines and is a three time winner of the United Motorcoach competition, a national contest that tests maintenance skills and knowledge.

He said the company started looking into alternative fuel options in 2007 when stricter emission standards for diesel made alterna-

tive fuels a more practical option. Last fall, the company purchased 10 propane fueled buses. Seven are being used in its St. Louis Park location, while three remain in Owatonna.

Unlike propane, diesel, which the company is transitioning from, relies on heat to run efficiently. The stopping and starting of a school buses makes heat in the engine and transmissions lines hard to maintain. Not to mention, six months of the year, heat is a hard thing to come by in Minnesota.

The ability to start and maintain itself in cold is just one of the benefits that Lammers finds in propane. He says the fuel infrastructure is cheaper, the fuel burns cleaner, and the fuel itself is cheaper than diesel.

Though there are drawbacks the company had to weigh in as well. Propane use isn't as widespread as diesel, so fueling infrastructure is scarcer. Perkel Gas needed to

help the bus company build fueling stations at its Owatonna site, while the new buses in St. Louis Park are fueled off a truck.

There's also a difference in mileage. Diesel gets six miles to the gallon, while propane averages four, but Lammers reminded that propane fuel is cheaper. Propane is so much cheaper than diesel that even with the mileage difference its more cost-effective.

School buses usually last 10 to 12 years before rust and corrosion retire them. While buying propane buses is more expensive, Lammers said they have the potential to last much longer since their engines and transmission systems can be affordably replaced.

The bus company also has the option of pursuing CNG, compressed natural gas, as an alternative fuel option. This option has been favored by transit bus companies, who along with school buses and garbage trucks represent the biggest users of alternative fuels. Lammers, however, felt that propane bus motors were more durable than their CNG counterparts.

This weighing of the costs and benefits is known as the total cost of ownership, which is what Lammers specializes in. Propane buses are a long-term investment, according to Lammers, but one he believes will pay off for the company in the long run. When asked about how the transition is going, He replied, "so far so good."

The Owatonna branch of the bus company has 50 buses in its fleet, so the the three propane fueled ones are currently only a small part of the total.

"Four more on order for Owatonna," Lammers said looking to the future, "the plan is to expand."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Top business women honored in Steele County

Steele County is honoring top business women.

On Friday, the Owatonna Business Women's organization will be hosting a Woman of Achievement event at Pillsbury's Jeff's Hall in Owatonna beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Nominees for women of achievement are Cheri Krejci, Linda Hoffman, Amy LaDue, Kellyanna Moore and Kim Schaufenbuel.

Young careerists will also be recognized during the event. Nominees for that honor are Ryan Gillespie, Kate Harthan and Janie Roloff.

Women who are nominated represent the best of the best in Steele County communities rising to the top for their success in their chosen careers, support of their community through their

volunteering and non-profit support and dedication to their families and friends.

Tickets are available for \$25 from Kotike Jewelers or TriM Graphics in Owatonna.

Viracon employees donate to United Way

Employees of Viracon, Inc. in Owatonna have made generous donations to the United Way of Steele County.

The donations total \$108,692 to the 2016 campaign, which includes \$91,300 from payroll deductions, \$8,000 from fun workplace events and \$9,300 from corporate contributions. Veteran Workplace Campaign Chair, Viracon's Carla Kern, led an informative and fun filled campaign for her coworkers inspiring her colleagues to increase their

donations 12 percent over last year. Viracon finished at number two in United Way of Steele County's 2016 Top 20 Most Generous Workplace Campaigns.

"Viracon, Inc. is one of those workplace we know we can count on year after year to support the vital human services represented by United Way partners. They demonstrate their commitment to our community through their generosity," said United Way director, Kim Schaufenbuel. "Community leaders like Kelly Schuller and Carla Kern set examples for all of us to do the right thing locally."

The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year's funds raised of \$703,554 will fund 23 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies.

To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org or mail a check or pledge to United Way, Box 32, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Owatonna Foundation receives donation from Ameriprise

The Owatonna Foundation recently received a donation of \$1,000 from Dean Velzke at Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Velzke shared, "My wife Kelly and I are thankful for the many accomplishments of the Owatonna Foundation and appreciate the opportunity to support their goal to improve the quality of life in Owatonna."

Foundation executive coordinator Laura Resler said the organization is

New Food



new experience

By **RICHARD JOHNSON**
 Managing Editor

Old-fashioned car hops took food orders last fall as part of the 40th-anniversary celebration at Ginny's Drive-In on West Concord's north end.

They're returning this summer, along with a new look and new food items, to the tiny diner in the city of about 786.

Ginny's will open April 1, said William Schiell, co-owner with Lynn Nelson.

Look for a new fence, a new outdoor countertop, smoothies, boneless wings, California burgers, and those 1950s and '60s-era carhops, some of whom might wear roller skates as they take your order and bring the good stuff out on scheduled Saturdays from May through September, and possibly October.

"A few of them dressed up last year," Schiell said. "Some of them really got into it."

Schiell and Nelson are the fourth

set of owners in the history of the diner, opened in 1976 by Ginny and Bob Sindle.

They have about 12 employees. Schiell said the compact drive-in gets crowded with four or five people inside.

It should be a popular spot

"We get pretty busy," Schiell said. "You pretty much have to stay in your own area. But the week-ends get busy. That's when we have more people working."

With that in mind, he and Nelson hope to expand on the site when the mortgage is paid off in five or 10 years.

"Just cause we have that property," Schiell said. "Why not use it, too?"

Many customers drove up to Ginny's in classic cars when the place went retro in October.

Many of them are regulars

Some are super-regulars. Like the guy who orders the same food every time.

Schiell said he appreciates that small-town feel. "It's neat to own a place like that," he said. "It's just good to keep it in the community."

Ginny's will be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Call 507- 527-2010 or see the Facebook site for more information.



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during special weekends being planned for the annual Survivor Days celebration - set for the fourth weekend in July.



Ameriprise Financial Services has donated \$1,000 to the Owatonna Foundation. Trustees of the foundation accepted the donation from Dean Velzke of Ameriprise. Pictured from left to right are trustees Sharon West and Julie Rethemeier, Velzke and trustees Bob Heers, Tim McManimon and Kent Kienholz.

appreciative of this donation. "They have been long time supporters of the foundation and this support keeps

the foundation's mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting

Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education a reality for all of us," she said.

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Twins picked 3rd by Sporting News

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



**HOWARD
LESTRUD**

The sounds of spring have begun with the crack of the bat and the smack of the baseball hitting the catcher’s mitt. All 30 Major League baseball teams have begun spring training and are already playing spring training games.

All dedicated and loyal Minnesota Twins fans are gearing up for a season that they hope does not replicate last year’s 59-103 season, the worst in franchise history. It’s encouraging to realize that this year’s team will feature some young talent again, one year more experienced than last year. That talent includes youngsters Byron Buxton, Miguel Sano, Eddie Rosario, Max Kepler and newcomer Jason Castro behind the plate. The Twins kids will be anchored by veterans Joe Mauer and Brian Dozier at first base and second base, respectively. What is most heartening about the Twins going to have

a much more successful season is that the Bible of Baseball, Sporting News, picked the Twins to finish third behind Cleveland and Kansas City in the American League Central Division. They are picked in front of Detroit and Chicago (White Sox). The Sporting News has always been gospel to me and I have been a follower of this magazine for over 60 years. It was founded in 1886, the same year Coca-Cola was introduced and 10 years before the invention of Cracker Jack. This has got to be stellar years for Dozier and Mauer. Dozier had a career year last year, hitting 42 home runs and collecting 99 runs batted in. He

batted .268. Mauer, who earns (or should I say receives) \$23 million a year, is in the second to the last year of his huge 10-year contract. He batted .261 last year. Anyone who gets that kind of money should be a .300-plus hitter and should be an all-star. He has not met those expectations for three years now. Byron Buxton had a great September last year hitting nine home runs during the month. Dozier must be the team leader in 2017. Newly hired Twins special assistant Torii Hunter believes Dozier has the qualities to be the team leader. “I always felt Dozier was one of those guys who could

be the leader,” says Hunter. “He has the intangibles and is a great guy, always gracious and willing to listen to other players.” As with any successful Major League team, pitching and defense are keys to winning. It is hoped that pitchers Ervin Santana, Phil Hughes, Hector Santiago and Kyle Gibson lead the pitching squad to some success. A return to form by closer Glen Perkins will also be welcomed. What’s the bottom line? The Sporting News writes: “Even with three division rivals cutting payroll, the Twins still appear to be at least two years away from a return to playoff contention. Their Actions



in the interim will be made with an eye toward building a sustainable winner.” I’m going to take a tip from a friend, Linda Christianson, who said she moved all of her Twins shirts and jerseys to the front of her closet, getting ready for the upcoming season. WIN TWINS!

Commissioners to consult task force PUBLIC WORKS: from page 1A

legislature approves it, so the funding from them would remain. Commissioner Abbe would seek to keep the budget for the project under

seven million dollars. Commissioner Gnemi pointed out that 3 million has already been spent in the initial work, and that leaves four million for the building. He would like the board to look into purchasing a building instead. A public works representative pointed out that the four million the legislature allocated was for building. If they buy a complex, they could lose their funding. Changing the site of the complex could also endanger the funding from FEMA. The commissioners decided to reach out to members of the citizen task force that had worked previously on the project. The task force had made some of the original recommendations on building versus buying, and the commissioners wanted to know their reasoning.

“There’s been a lot of leg work already,” Abbe said, “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel.” “If they could at least come to an initial meeting or two,” Commissioner Krueger agreed it would give the commissioners a chance to find out why they picked out the options they did. The commissioners agreed reaching out to the task force and remaining in touch with the legislature and FEMA were the next steps. The funding provided by the legislature needs to be obligated by 2009; otherwise the funding must be requested all over again. Public Works will be added to agenda for next county board meeting.

Court staff seeks renovations of courtrooms COURTHOUSE: from page 1A

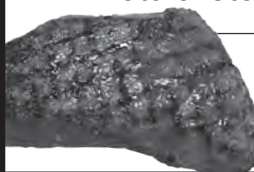
current set-up of courtroom C, where child custody cases are heard, is not as secure as it should be for what can be contentious hearings. When the floor was opened to public comment, Robin Husley, a court administrator, said she appreciated how helpful everyone has been in restoring operations in temporary locations. She wanted to head off any proposal of a new courthouse by saying the current one was convenient, it just needs a few changes. Updates, she said, should be done now. She pointed out, “Things rarely get cheaper over time.” She also wanted to remind the county that Minnesota statue states court and county must be in agreement on any relocation or restoration plans. She agreed that the courtrooms should be reconfigured for

safety and convenience. District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel told the commissioners it really does matter how you set up a courtroom. The configuration can help ensure authority and respect for the judge’s bench. Some of the different proposals put forward include adding seating for clerks in courtroom B, fixing security disadvantages in courtroom A by shifting the judge’s bench and jury’s box, and improving the function of courtroom C, so it can be used as a full-time courtroom. “What we did look at was the three courthouse spaces,” said McIntosh going over the proposed renovations, “Reconfiguring to make it more user friendly.” Commissioner Abbe was willing to consider renovations, but wanted to

know how much further this would push off the county needing to create more courtroom space. “How long into the future would this take us?” said Abbe. “We don’t control the case load,” said Husley saying the time would depend on how many cases the county needs to hear, but she added here is a need for more space and revamped courtrooms could push off major renovations for another 10 years. Commissioner Gnemi proposed \$50,000 might be a fair amount for renovations of the courtrooms. Commissioner Krueger also hoped they would look into possibly improving the sound system for the hearing impaired. The commissioners will continue to discuss the renovations at the next board meeting.

The 57th Annual Wells Rifle & Pistol Club Gun Show
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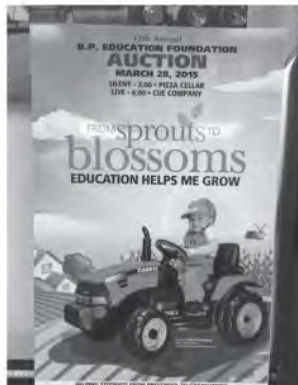
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OVERNIGHT FRENCH TOAST
Ingredients:
1 c. brown sugar 6 eggs, beaten
1/2 c. butter 1 1/2 c. milk
2 T. corn syrup 1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt
Loaf French bread, cut into slices
Instructions:
Combine sugar, butter, and corn syrup in saucepan and cook over medium heat until thickened.
Pour into bottom of 9x13" baking dish.
Combine eggs, milk, vanilla, salt in a bowl. Dip sliced bread into egg mixture and place on top of caramel mix.
Any remaining egg mixture; pour over bread.
Cover and chill 8 hours.
Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes until lightly browned.
BY SUE NELSON
Sponsored by: KREJCI FORD 15TH PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER Blooming Prairie 583-2046 RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

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Don't work alone

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in America. The risk of injury and fatality is high, and it is one of the few industries in which family members, who live and work on-site, are also at risk.¹

In an effort to help protect interests and minimize losses, we recommend that farmers make a three-word commitment to themselves, their families and friends – don't work alone. This pledge requires planning and discipline, but consistent adherence can help prevent severe injury and death.

THE RISKS

Family farm operations typically do not have federal oversight, which can tempt farmers to cut corners. Farmers put themselves at grave risk when they perform hazardous tasks alone, disregarding safety guidelines that require two or more workers, such as grain bin entry.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that fatalities among agricultural workers rose 22% in 2015, while fatalities among farm workers and laborers in crop, nursery and greenhouse operations rose 33% - matching the highest rate ever reported (in 2010) for that occupational group.² The Star Tribune's 2015 article, "Deadliest Workplace: The Farm," details several heartbreaking tragedies due to working alone and ignoring other safety guidelines.³

Entering a grain bin or other confined space should be at the top of the list of tasks to never do alone. Grain engulfment can happen in seconds and getting out without assistance is almost impossible. According to a study



by Purdue University, grain entrapments were the most common type of confined space incident in 2015. More than half of the grain entrapments resulted in fatalities.⁴

Grain bin hazards aren't limited to grain entrapment or grain engulfment. See other grain bin hazards.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

We strongly recommend that farmers strictly follow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) grain handling standards and safe-work procedures for grain bin entry. These guidelines are essential components of commercial grain handling facilities and they can afford the same safety benefits to grain farmers.

Also, farmers should strive to take advantage of new grain handling and storage technologies whenever possible. Innovative solutions, such as electronic monitoring and control systems or products that break up grain clumps, can help reduce the need for grain bin entry.

PLANNING AHEAD

It requires determination to avoid working alone when job duties seem urgent and no one is available to assist with grain handling duties. However, nothing is worth compromising safety, even if it means postponing certain activities until someone

else is present.

Farm operations require significant planning, from financial and marketing to agronomic and daily job duties. Developing a plan to help ensure no one works alone should be equally important. It plays a critical role in helping create a safe work environment and can help provide farmers with resources for assistance.

LABOR RESOURCE PLAN

The first step is to develop a labor resource plan. Your plan should list key individuals, such as family members, friends and current or potential employees, that can assist with grain handling duties. Their role would be simple, but tremendously important – to be present during hazardous activities, assist when needed and help ensure no one works alone.

The next step is to make sure the individuals receive proper grain safety training. This can be provided on-site or with the assistance of local resources, such as coops, university or extension services and agricultural organizations.

Additionally, farmers will need to discuss an efficient communication strategy with the individuals listed on their labor resource plan. This should be tested for effectiveness.

The labor resource plan will need to be updated routinely, utilizing experience, evolving levels of training and team feedback, to create the most effective plan possible for your unique operation. This will require more time in the initial phases, but it will set a plan in motion that can help equip farmers to keep their commitment to not work alone.



FARM SAFETY CHECK

Grain Handling Safety

Grain handling is a high-hazard activity, where workers face serious injury and death. Youth should not be in grain bins or silos or in/around flat storage structures unless they are empty, proper lock-out/tag-out and other safety procedures are followed, and the youth is at least 16 years old.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the blank lines to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your grain handling facilities and procedures. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Grain Bin/Silo Entry	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Has all mechanical and electrical energy been locked out? Pneumatic equipment locked out?	☐	☐	
Is there potential for combustible gas, vapors or toxic agents? If yes, has it been tested?	☐	☐	
Is there potential for the grain to be waist high? If so, has a method(s) been identified to protect workers from the engulfment hazard?	☐	☐	
If a worker enters, is an observer in communication?	☐	☐	
Is the observer trained and able to initiate rescue?	☐	☐	
Is rescue equipment provided and specifically suited for entry?	☐	☐	
Are there dust masks or respirators available?	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: ____/____/____

For additional Farm Safety Check forms and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Disclaimer: The facts and information listed above are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety.

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is a Center of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention funded by NIOSH cooperative agreement U54OH010170.

umash.umn.edu

THE BENEFITS

Making the decision to not work alone is a significant step toward a safer operation. Utilizing a labor resource plan including trained individuals can help enable farmers to enjoy the benefits of grain farming while helping minimize the risk of serious bodily injury or death during hazardous tasks.

- [1] "Agricultural Safety." NIOSH, Division of Safety Research, December 15, 2014.
[2] "Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2015." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 16, 2016.
[3] "Deadliest Workplace: The Farm." Star Tribune, October 4, 2015.
[4] "Purdue study: Fewer

grain entrapments reported in 2015." Purdue University, February 23, 2016.

- See more at: <http://www.ws4u.com/home/audience/farmers-ranchers/safety/grain-bin-safety-week/archives/INF/589E1EC6C257D#sthash.1Z2Zr1vc.dpuf>

Panel challenges factory farming in Minnesota

In an unprecedented action, a coalition of national and area environmental, religious and community groups are joining forces to challenge and question the social justice, environmental and animal welfare impacts of factory farming in Minnesota. An event entitled, "Factory Farming in Minnesota - Time for a Change?" will occur on **Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at Minnesota State University, Ostrander Auditorium in the Centennial Student Union, 640 South Road, Mankato, Minnesota.

The event is free and open to the public.

The event is the brainchild of Dr. Jeff Johnson, a frequent lecturer on the topic of animal welfare. Following a tour of factory farms in southern Minnesota, Dr. Johnson joined forces with other faculty members at St. Catherine University and Sonja Trom Eayrs. Sonja's parents are currently involved in a pending appeal before the

Minnesota Court of Appeals which challenges installation of the 11th swine factory farm within a three-mile radius of the Trom family farm in rural Dodge County.

Join panelists Dr. Jeff Johnson (Philosophy, St. Catherine University), Dr. Colleen Carpenter (Theology, Sister Mona Riley Endowed Chair of Humanities, St. Catherine University), Sonja Trom Eayrs (attorney and farmer's daughter), Tim Culver (Attorney & Legal Fellow, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy) and Chris Peterson, Independent Pig Farmer and Socially Responsible Agricultural Project Associate) for an informative and compelling discussion.

Sponsors of the event include:

Clean Water Action Minnesota
Environment Minnesota
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

The Humane Society of the United States
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
Compassionate Action for Animals
Birchwood Café
People's Food Co-op
Change Food
Earth Dance Farm
Dodge County Concerned Citizens
Celeste's Dream Young Adult Spirituality

Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota - Cascade Meadow Wetlands and Environmental Science Center
Center for Earth Spirituality & Rural Ministry, School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-350

Judge: Joseph A. Bueltel

Estate of
Delbert C. Johnson, also
known as Delbert Johnson
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of April, 2017 at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for a formal probate of the instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated September 12, 2005, and for the appointment of Darren Johnson, whose address is 1498 - 150th Street East, Faribault, Minnesota 55021, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in the unsupervised administration, and that any objection thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that 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,

Karen Ducan
Court Administrator/Deputy
2/22/2017

John A. Edman
Attorney at Law
53 Downtown Plaza
P.O. Box 318
Fairmont, MN 56031
507-238-4333
Atty, Reg. No. 25719

2/28, 3/7

Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
HARASSMENT

Notice of Issuance of
Harassment Order For Relief
by Publication

Court File Number:
74-PR-15-419

Kessa Jo Wallace-Barnett
Petitioner(s)

vs.

Darin Lee Waldhauser
Respondent(s)

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Harassment Order For Relief has been issued in the above matter.

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request For Hearing with the Court within 45 days of issuance of the Harassment Order For Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address: 107 West Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator / Deputy
2/22/2017

2/28

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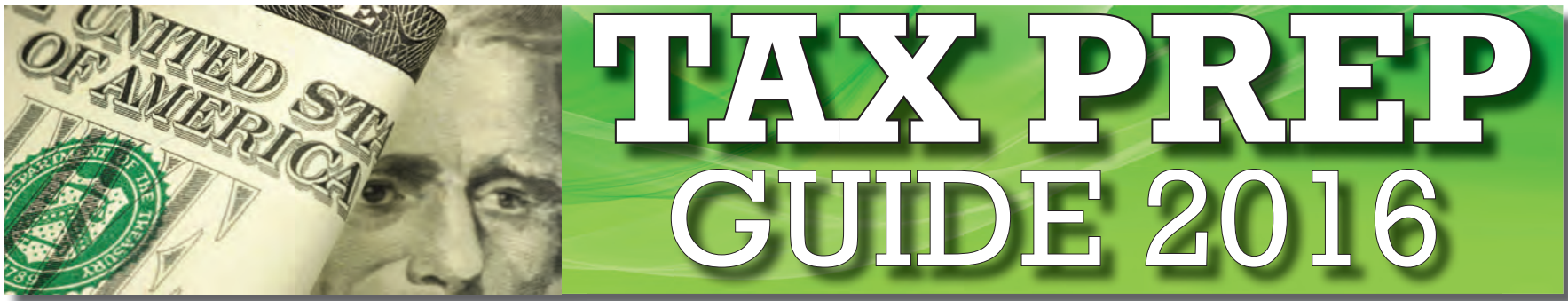
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IRS recaps “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams for 2017

IRS Special Edition Tax Tip 2017-04

Each year, the Internal Revenue Service issues a list of the top 12 tax-related scams it sees throughout the year. The IRS “Dirty Dozen” highlights various schemes that taxpayers may encounter anytime, many of which peak during tax-filing season.

Taxpayers need to guard against ploys that steal their personal information, scam them out of money or talk them into engaging in questionable behavior with their taxes.

Here is a recap of this year’s “Dirty Dozen” scams:

Phishing: Taxpayers need to be on guard against fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers via email about a tax bill or refund. Don’t click on emails or fake websites claiming to be from the IRS. They may be nothing more than scams to steal personal information. (IR-2017-15)

Phone Scams: Phone calls from criminals impersonating IRS agents remain an ongoing threat to taxpayers. The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent years as con artists threaten taxpayers with police arrest, deportation and license revocation, among other things. (IR-2017-19)

Identity Theft: Taxpayers need to watch out for identity theft, especially around tax time. The IRS aggressively pursues criminals that file fraudulent returns using someone else’s Social Security number. Though the agency is making progress on this front, taxpayers still need to be extremely cautious and do everything they can to avoid becoming victimized. (IR-2017-22)

Return Preparer Fraud: Be on the lookout for unscrupulous return preparers. The vast majority of tax professionals provide honest high-quality service. There are some dishonest preparers who set up shop each filing season to perpetrate refund fraud, identity theft and other scams that hurt taxpayers. (IR-2017-23)

Fake Charities: Be on guard against groups mas-

querading as charitable organizations to attract donations from unsuspecting contributors. Look out for charities with names similar to familiar or nationally-known organizations. Contributors should take a few extra minutes to ensure their hard-earned money goes to legitimate and currently eligible charities. IRS.gov has the tools taxpayers need to check out the status of charitable organizations. (IR-2017-25)

Inflated Refund Claims: Taxpayers should be cautious of anyone promising inflated refunds. Avoid preparers who ask taxpayers to sign a blank return, promise a big refund before looking at any records or charge fees based on a percentage of the refund. Fraudsters use flyers, advertisements, phony storefronts and word of mouth via community groups where trust is high to find their victims. (IR-2017-26)

Excessive Claims for Business Credits: Avoid improperly claiming the fuel tax credit. This tax benefit is generally not available to most taxpayers. The credit is usually limited to off-highway business use, including use in farming. Taxpayers should also avoid misuse of the research credit. Improper claims often involve failures to participate in or substantiate qualified research activities and satisfy the requirements related to qualified research expenses. (IR-2017-27)

Falsely Padding Deductions on Returns: Taxpayers should avoid the temptation to falsify deductions or expenses on their tax returns in order to pay less than they owe or receive larger refunds. Think twice before overstating deductions such as charitable contributions and business expenses or improperly claiming credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit. (IR-2017-28)

Falsifying Income to Claim Credits: Don’t invent income to erroneously qualify for tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit. Taxpayers should file the most accurate return possible because they

are legally responsible for what is on their return. Claiming false income can lead to taxpayers facing large bills to pay back taxes, interest and penalties. In some cases, they may even face criminal prosecution. (IR-2017-29)

Abusive Tax Shelters: Don’t use abusive tax structures to avoid paying taxes. The IRS is committed to stopping complex tax avoidance schemes and the people who create and sell them. The vast majority of taxpayers pay their fair share, and everyone should be on the lookout for people peddling tax shelters that sound too good to be true. When in doubt, seek an independent opinion if offered complex products. (IR-2017-31)

Frivolous Tax Arguments: Don’t use frivolous tax arguments to avoid paying tax. Promoters of such schemes encourage taxpayers to make unreasonable and outlandish claims, even though they have been repeatedly thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law or disregard their responsibility to pay taxes. The penalty for filing a frivolous tax return is \$5,000. (IR-2017-33)

Offshore Tax Avoidance: The recent string of successful enforcement actions against offshore tax cheats -- and the financial organizations that help them -- show that it’s a bad bet to hide money and income offshore. Taxpayers are best served by coming in voluntarily and taking care of their tax-filing responsibilities. The IRS offers the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program to enable people to catch up on their filing and tax obligations. (IR-2017-35)

Additional Resources:

- Choosing a Tax Professional

IRS YouTube Videos:

- Dirty Dozen – English | Spanish | ASL

**NOTICE OF MEETING
JOINT DITCH #24 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STEELE/ COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Joint Ditch #24 Board of Commissioners Steele/ Waseca County will be held at 2:30 p.m. on the 14th day of March, 2017, at the Steele County Administration Building located at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060

The Board will be meeting to discuss the petition for the following: Clinton Falls Township Bridge No. 74516 over Crane Creek is structurally deficient and in need of replacement. Project: S.A.P. 074-599-031 New Bridge No.74560 Road: TWP 37 over Crane Creek. Clinton Falls Township, Sec. 31 Twp. 108 N R. 20 W. The Board will also discuss any repairs that need to be made.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2017.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

Tammy Spooner
Waseca County Auditor-Treasurer

2/28

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LAWN MOWING PROPOSALS

Steele County is accepting proposals for lawn mowing and trimming at Beaver Lake Park, Hope School, Straight River Canoe Landing, and Crane Creek Park. Steele County is also accepting proposals for lawn mowing at the Steele County Landfill. Contractor must maintain bodily injury and property damage liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

Proposals shall list each individual park and the landfill separately, and the price to mow and trim per each time. Proposals shall be submitted to Steve Schroht, Four Seasons Centre / Park & Rec Director at 1525 South Elm Ave, P.O. Box 57, Owatonna, MN 55060. Proposals must be received by Friday March 10, 2017 at 3:00pm.

Parks questions may be directed to Steve Schroht Steele County Park and Rec Director at (507)451-1093 or Landfill questions may be directed to Bruce Holland, Landfill Supervisor, at (507)402-1719.

2/28

**NOTICE OF MEETING
COUNTY DITCH #22 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STEELE/ COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the County Ditch #22 Board of Commissioners will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the 14th day of March, 2017, at the Steele County Administration Building located at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060

That the Somerset Township road at a drainage pipe crossing CD 22 was washed out as a result of September 2016 DR 4290 flood event. Petitioner requests on behalf of Somerset Township that the CD 22 Ditch Authority makes its order allowing Somerset Township to replace the pipe and washed out roadway with a new bridge designed in accordance with the hydraulic analysis in Section 11-106-20.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2017

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

2/28

Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bootlegging days recalled with Speakeasy Night

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Many who are familiar with the history of Blooming Prairie know that the Prohibition era from 1919 to 1933 was a historic time for this small community.

Since 2017 is the 150th anniversary of Blooming Prairie, organizers of activities throughout the year are planning a Speakeasy Night Saturday, March 11 at three locations in downtown Blooming Prairie.

Check out Facebook or inquire at the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce for more details on the special event. Event locations will be revealed with ticket purchases.

Tickets can be purchased at J & H Liquors, Cue Company, Bunkie's, New York Life Insurance and Sportstitch.

A speakeasy was an illicit establishment selling alcoholic beverages. These establishments came into prominence during the Prohibition era.

Visitors to the Speakeasy locations will be encouraged to wear clothing of that era. The Speakeasy locations will not be revealed until the night of the event.

Bootlegging stories have been told for years but nobody in recent years has

chronicled that history better than Steve Wencl. He's a Blooming Prairie native who has studied the history of bootlegging in Steele County and has fact checked many of the happenings during prohibition.

Wencl has researched much of the prohibition history tied to this area by searching through old newspaper articles, court records and by talking to long-time residents who lived during that era.

Much of the illegal alcohol was reportedly manufactured at the "Big Still" located 6 1/2 miles west of Blooming Prairie on the Levy farm. Wencl has been especially interested in a raid that took place at the site of the still on Dec. 5, 1932. He tells the locals' side.

The raid was a staged job; it wasn't real. Sunday afternoon, certain people got a visit from Blooming Prairie locals with a very important warning that the still was going to be raided Monday night, Wencl says.

Those people fanned out to warn their neighbors living near the still to stay away and off the roads by the still on Monday morning. By late Sunday afternoon, everybody knew what was going to happen.

Monday morning, the still operator and his crew

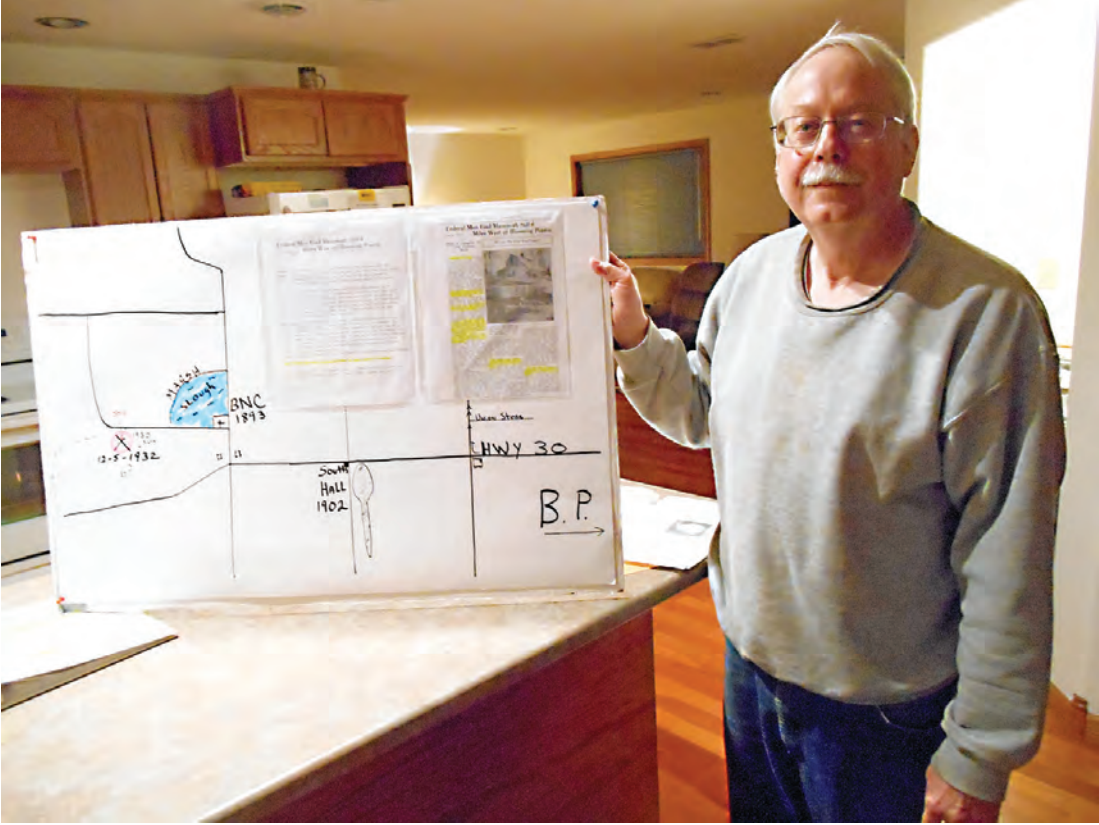
basically packed up and left in broad daylight with no law enforcement in sight.

The raid was well planned to avoid accidents, misunderstandings and arrests. This particular still is not mentioned in later legal proceedings.

Wencl tells one resident's reaction to the idea that federal agents found the "Big Still" west of Blooming Prairie. The resident mused: "Why would they have to find something that they were paid to stay away from? They were also paid to leave the trucks alone."

Another Blooming Prairie area resident's reaction to how the federal agents found the still was captured by Wencl: "Nonsense! What is the matter with these people? How do they think all that activity went on for so long out in the open like that? The answer is that the feds were paid off."

Let's take a look at the newspaper article without a byline in the Blooming Prairie Times on Dec. 8, 1932. It reads: "Six prohibition agents who long have watched the local alcohol situation and yearned to lay their hands on the sources of supply to dry up the traffic, swooped down upon a lonely farm home west of Blooming Prairie Monday evening and located



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie native Steve Wencl is a walking textbook when it comes to researching history on the bootlegging operations happening near Blooming Prairie in the 1930s. He is shown with a display he plans to have available at a Speakeasy Night on Saturday, March 11.

what they declared was the 'biggest still ever found in southern Minnesota.'"

The article said raids in Baraboo, Wisconsin had cut off one fourth of alcohol "but the flood continued."

Agents, under the cover of darkness, made their way to the old Levy farm where four years earlier a big still had been found.

Agents laid out their plans carefully and believed secretly but when they reached the Levy farm, no alcohol operators were in sight.

The planning for the raid started afar a highway patrolman and a truck driver hauling corn sugar through Mason City got into an argument. The angry patrolman contacted law enforcement outside of the "network" and in a short time, too many people knew about the truck as it left the Mason City area.

Repeal was near, and it was time to get out of the alcohol business.

Referring again to the Times article of Dec. 8, 1932, Wencl says federal

agents "upon entering the barn on the Levy farm, found a huge mixing vat, 16 feet in diameter, five feet deep, filled with 10,000 gallons of mash. Five other copper vats, bigger and each with a 12,000 gallon capacity fed two stills 23 feet high. Power was furnished by six steam engines and heat for the alike cooker came from two 40-horse power boilers.

"In addition the officers found a dynamo and an electrical system, storage tanks draining 60,000 gallons of mash and 2,000 gallons of alcohol poured from the stills. Alcohol ready for shipment in the gallon tin cans was discovered and the cans were piled high and fired. Two thousand empty cans were found and punctured by axes.

"Most supplies were destroyed including 7,500 pounds of corn sugar just shipped in from Milwaukee, and some yeast."

The article also made reference to a sawed-off shotgun left behind by the operator of the still. Every possible precaution was

taken by the alcohol cookers to hide their operation. They reportedly bought redemption rights on the deserted farm located west of a cemetery.

A lookout perch was built at the top of the barn and a danger of a raid was alerted by an individual pressing a button to ring a bell in the house or barn. This signal then allowed the still operators to go down a concealed tunnel underground behind a straw stack. They didn't have to use it.

The "Big Still" reportedly had a capacity of 1800 gallons of alcohol daily and it employed 12 men for the 24 hours of operation. The article concluded saying it was estimated that the plant cost "somewhere between \$20,000 to \$30,000."

If interested in this bootlegging history, join the Speakeasy visits on March 11. Steve Wencl will be there to share more stories and to dispel many myths that have been spread over the years about bootlegging in the Blooming Prairie area.

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Driving students to success



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Feb. 22 marked the first annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Drivers from around the county gathered at the Owatonna Bus Company to be honored and enjoy a lunch together.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

“I think it was high-time,” Bill Regan’s voice called over the speakers, as he addressed the crowd. Regan, owner of the Owatonna Bus Company,

was speaking to a collection of school bus drivers, as they gathered to celebrate the First Annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day on Feb. 22.

Regan thanked Governor Dayton for creating the day in

honor of some of Minnesota’s hardest workers, who often go unnoticed. Officers from highway and state patrol were in attendance and thanked the drivers for keeping kids safe.

The Owatonna Bus Company organized a lunch

for their drivers to mark the day, and also recognize a few special drivers among their ranks. Regan introduced Mary Lou Thurman as a woman with “a heart bigger than the bus she drives.”

Thurman has been with the

company 20 years and works as a driver for special needs students. Thurman, who had found out only the day before

APPRECIATION
Continued on page 4B

Walking on frozen water

LITTLE THOUGHTS
ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK
DELAP

We have been surrounded with history lately. Companies celebrating centennial anniversaries, people celebrating long marriages, towns celebrating long existences.

This past week, we hit the 37th anniversary of a miracle. It was dubbed, “The miracle on ice.”

It was a time when our country was going through great turmoil and duress, breaking forth from the “me decade” into the “yuppie decade.” There was the Iran hostage crisis, Chrysler needed a bailout and the loss of John Lennon wasn’t just something we “imagined.”

A lot of our boys from the upper Midwest played and enlisted in Minnesota native son, Herb Brooks’ hockey army. Hockey. Of all things. Considered at that time to be the little brother of almost all other sports. And a little child led them.

Fourteen members of that team were from Minnesota. Some were from obscure places like Babbitt and Roseau, Virginia and Warroad. And against all odds, in an impossible situation, the Minnesota connection was strong. 42.1959° - Not one of our skate-clad kids was born any further south than Scituate, Massachusetts.

Twenty years earlier, the Russians had been defeated by a U.S. Olympic hockey team. Herb Brooks, a graduate of the U of Minnesota was the last one cut on that team and not making the journey left a taste for determination in his mouth.

A third of all goals in that competition were made by Roger and Billy Christian, who went on to make Christian Brothers hockey sticks. They also lay claim to the largest hockey stick in the world which is on display in

MIRACLE
Continued on page 4B

Everybody in BP loves their kids

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The superlatives used to describe the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auction are many.

“Blooming Prairie is amazing,” says Sue Zwiener, one of the founders of the auction in 2004. “Everybody loves their kids,” she adds.

“It’s just gotten bigger and bigger every year,” remarks John Bruns, Blooming Prairie High School teacher and coach.

Both Zwiener and Bruns “were booted” off the board this year, chuckles Zwiener when saying they each served five three-year terms and according to BP Education Foundation by-laws, that’s the maximum time of service.

Zwiener says her involvement with the Ed Foundation is easily explained by the fact she has 12 grandchildren in the Blooming Prairie school system. “The kids are our future,” she

emphasizes.

With the auction just over three weeks away on Saturday, March 25, Zwiener, Bruns and other auction committee members are already seeing an avalanche of auction items coming into the New York Life Insurance Agency on Main Street.

“We have gotten over 100 items already,” says auction committee member Rachel Klemmensen who is inventorying the silent and live auction items.

Auction items are always welcome and can be dropped off at New York Life. The \$80,000 profited last year is only half of the story, says Zwiener. “It’s also the donors we must pay tribute to,” she said.

Donations come from all ages and all kinds of businesses. Sue tells of a youngster donating a newspaper subscription for the auction and of an elderly woman every year has donated a handmade quilt.

Zwiener and Bruns said the auction committee is hoping to have over 300 items. “We will take 400 if we get them,” Zwiener said.

Last year’s auction brought in the most funds ever, \$80,000. That total then becomes the Ed Foundation’s budget for the year. Funds are used for a variety of projects including iPads for elementary students, a high school robotics team, field trips and advances in technology.

Teachers and support staff come up with requests twice a year, February and October.

The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the educational experiences of the students in ISD 756.

Bruns and Zwiener have some favorite donation tales to spin for the 15 years they have served the board. “We had a live rabbit placed on the auction one year,” Bruns

FOUNDATION
Continued on page 2B



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Sue Zwiener and John Bruns have retired from the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation but they are still actively involved with the annual fundraising auction. They are shown with a couple of items recently donated for the upcoming March 25 auction. The gun cabinet was donated by Butch Anderson and the art print was given by an anonymous donor.

Little Mermaid makes waves at OHS



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Ian Crum played a commanding Triton next to a comical Sebastian by Andrew Wall.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Owatonna High School brought Disney’s The Little Mermaid to the stage in nothing less than spectacular fashion.

Its dedication to the wonder of undersea life was clear in every ocean scene. The iconic “Under the Sea” number in particular was a clear sign this production was going all in. A multitude of colorful creatures filled the stage and danced, while crewmembers moved a large whale through the auditorium aisles, and kites like giant squids were floated above the audience’s head from the balcony. Just when you thought it couldn’t top itself, it did.

When it wasn’t playing in the dazzling waters, the production pulled you into the depths of the sea witch’s cave. As Ursula sang about her quest for power, her eel sidekicks glowed in the dark, and whenever the light hit Ursula’s tentacles, they shimmered. Costumers Margaret Schlicker and Kjerstin Anderson clearly understood how to make the stage work in their favor.

If the show had one lower point in its design, it came when Ursula transformed Ariel into a human. Instead of practical effects, the cast cleared the stage and the clip of the transformation from the animated movie played on a large projector screen. It

MERMAID
Continued on page 4B



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Leah Moon’s Ursula was compleeing. Her sidekick eels, played by Bernadette Donlon and Lydia Weisenburger were equally eery.

Blooming Prairie Living

BP Veterans Memorial 33.4 percent to goal

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 recently donated \$3500 to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial project. The monies were gained from an auction in early January. The Lodge has been disbanded and holdings were sold in a public auction. Ken Trom, Burton Knutson and Marvin Ingvalson were instrumental in directing the auction monies to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The donation hikes the fundraising thus far to \$83,688.97, 33.4 percent of the Memorial group's \$250,000 goal. More fundraising is in the planning for Memorial Day with a Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Quilt Raffle to take place. A patriotic quilt has been finished and was pieced by Marilyn Meshke and quilted by Calico Hutch in Hayward, MN. The quilt is named "Stars of Freedom" and measures 101 by 110 inches. Raffle tickets will cost \$5 each. Three prizes will be given: first prize is the patriotic quilt, second prize is \$100 and third prize is \$50. You need not

be present to win. All proceeds from the quilt and monetary prizes raffle will be donated to the BP Veterans Memorial. The quilt raffle drawing will be after the Memorial Day activities on May 29 at the BP Servicemen's Club. The quilt raffle tickets will be sold at the Servicemen Club Foxhole, A Touch of Charm, and by the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee, Corporation members, Servicemen's Club members, the VFW, American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and Auxiliaries. Also contact the following for tickets or with questions: Marilyn Meshke, Sandy Jones, Doug Miner, Fred Vokoun, Tom Walters, Kenny Vermilyea, Keith Holman, Kurt Blome, Jaclyn Schlichter, or Tom Peterson. All five local service organizations are represented on the BP Veterans Memorial committees. They include American Legion Post 52 and Auxiliary, VFW Post 878 and Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. The memorial will be located to the east of the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

A patriotic quilt has been finished and was pieced by Marilyn Meshke and quilted by Calico Hutch in Hayward, MN. The quilt is named "Stars of Freedom" and measures 101 by 110 inches. It will be the first prize given from a quilt raffle with the drawing to be held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on May 29. Shown with the quilt, from left to right, are Memorial Committee members Ken Vermiljea, Sandy Jones, Marilyn Meshke, Tom Walters, Doug Miner and Tom Peterson.

Foundation turns rubble into riches

FOUNDATION: from page 1B

recalls. "I also bought a crocodile," Zwiener says. The crocodile was a log carving donated by Tom Jensen of Blooming Prairie. Billy Noble's pickled eggs have been popular auction items. A jar of the eggs one year was sold for \$200. The buyer then took out the eggs singly and sold each for a sizable amount. Bruns' girls basketball team and cross country runners volunteered their time to pick rocks on property near Blooming Prairie. Connie and Darrell Trom bought the package, saying they would have had to hire the job done

anyway. Sue also laughingly tells the story, a true one, about she and Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, picking up some unique items on their way back to Blooming Prairie from a meeting in Owatonna. "We came through Bixby and saw the aftermath of Zeiner's Ballroom after it was demolished. We flipped around and went over to the rubble and began pulling items out, including Grandma Zeiner's stool, a gift table and some other items. "The story got out that there were a couple old ladies going

through stuff once a part of Zeiner's." What did Sue and Becky do? They put the items on subsequent auctions and made about \$3,000 on various memorabilia items from Zeiner's, said Zwiener. The idea for an education foundation auction came from watching what other communities had done with an education foundation, Zwiener explained. In the early years of the Foundation since its beginning in 1999, various fundraisers were staged. One involved a house donated by Chuck Halstenson. The house was

owned by his parents. Steve and Lisa Vaith sold the house, which brought in \$90,000 to the Foundation treasury. After participating in a St. Mary's Catholic School auction and visiting auctions in Adams and Dover-Eyota, Sue said she and other Foundation board members thought, "Let's try an auction here," she said. It then began in 2004. In the first years of the auction fund-raisers, lots of data entry was required. It was supervised by Bruns. He later developed a special auction computer program on Excel. Sue said she was hopeful that the first auction would bring in \$10,000-\$12,000. It brought in \$30,000. The profits increased as the years advanced. Other communities including Ellendale, Triton, Faribault, BA and Waseca have watched Blooming Prairie's Ed Foundation success. Sue Zwiener and John Bruns have kind words for one another's contributions to the success of the auction. It just so happens that John is Sue's son-in-law.

Stix of Fury earn transportation money



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Drum Corps, Stix of Fury, hosted a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 26 at the Pizza Cellar to earn money for the group's transportation fund. Here, Stix member Aubrie Brandt, 11, brings more syrup to some hungry customers. Aubrie is a member of the group's color guard.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce 2017 schedule

JANUARY

19- 6 p.m., Annual Banquet, Servicemen's Club

FEBRUARY

15- 5:30 p.m., meeting at BP Dairy Queen

MARCH

15- Noon meeting at BP City Center, catered by Subway

APRIL

19- 6 pm., George's of Geneva

MAY

13- City-wide Garage Sales
17- Noon meeting at Bunkie's
23- 4-7 p.m., BP Ambulance Open House

JUNE

21- 6 p.m., Chamber Picnic, Brookside Campgrounds

JULY

2- 150th Anniversary Celebration
3-4- Old Fashioned Fourth of July
19- Golf Fun Day at BP Country Club

AUGUST

15-20- Steele County Free Fair

SEPTEMBER

16- Annual Car Show & Crazy Days
20- 6 p.m., meeting at Lansing Corners Supper Club

OCTOBER

18- Noon, meeting at The Bakery

NOVEMBER

2- 6:30 p.m., wine tasting at Servicemen's Club
15- 6 p.m., Annual meeting at Pizza Cellar

DECEMBER

1- Holiday Dazzle
13- 5-7 p.m., Business After Hours at F&M Bank

Next year's annual Banquet/Citizen of the year at Servicemen's Club on Jan. 18, 2018.

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BP Cancer Group reschedules Soup & Pickled Challenge

Bad weather led the Cancer Group to cancel their soup and pickled challenge on Friday, but don't worry you still have a chance to enjoy the fun and food.

They have rescheduled it for Saturday, March 4. They'll be serving from 6-8 pm.

Mark your calendars for that

evening and head down to the Cue Co.

You can sample different soups and pickled items and vote for the best one.

This is a free will donation and all proceeds go to the BP Cancer Group.

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Boy Scouts



Cub Scouts

BOY SCOUT TROOP 140

Blooming Prairie area

Scout Master- Dan PirkI
Cub Scout leader- Davin Johnson
Committee members- Corey Miller, Craig Schammel & Peter Graves

Contact information: Dan PirkI
507-583-7386

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WWW.Scouting.org



Area boy scouts enjoyed a trip to Yellowstone National Park. They included: on back of sign- Alex Miller; on front of sign- Alex Piller; front of sign (left to right)- Dylan Johnson, Cole Graves, Paul Sunde, David Kartes, Sam Skillestad, Lucas Schammel, Mitchell Fiebigler, Charlie Heimerman, Joe PirkI, Alex Riley, Drake Zilm, Sam PirkI and Tyler Miller.

Upcoming events

- Spring weekend campout
- Highway 30 Spring ditch cleanup with Lions Club
- Fall day hike
- Fall popcorn fundraiser
- 2018 week long summer camping adventure



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County Living



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

In addition to the Owatonna school district, the bus company also provides 15 drivers to ferry students to Medford public school. Many of the Medford drivers have country routes to pick up their rural passengers.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Mary Lou Thurnau was honored at the appreciation lunch for her 20 years of service. Owatonna Bus Company owner Bill Regan (left) and Mayor Tom Kuntz (right) gifted her a plaque on the occasion.

Drivers are watching out for students

APPRECIATION: from page 1B

that she was to be honored, was touched by the recognition.

Having injured her back last year, Thurman spent a few months laid-up and said she remembers watching the buses go by her house and itching to get back to work.

On the mend, Thurman is back at work helping students that are blind, wheelchair-bound, or

autistic get to school. Thurman is well loved by her students and will have former passengers come up and give her a hug when she's about town.

"They don't forget you," she said with a smile.

Kera Wertish started with the Owatonna Bus Company in 2002. She works all day helping special needs preschoolers come and go from school.

Wertish, who used to work with older students, loves her young charges.

"I'm taller than they are," Wertish quipped. She enjoys meeting the kids when they're very young, sometimes only two and watching them grow up and gain independence.

"Seeing their progress, that's what I do," Wertish said. She's touched by the trust parents put in her to

look after their kids.

Rick Culver, who's been with the company five years, has a more traditional route. Picking up students in the country, he drives them into school, sometimes 50 or 60 at a time. Talking about the challenges drivers face, he says, "Driving in the winter can be an adventure."

It's important he said to keep the kids upbeat. Every

day coming and going from school, bus drivers, he said, are the "first face they see. Last face they see."

Mark Lunde, a former farmer whose been driving for five years now, says the goal of all bus drivers is simple: get the kids to school "on time and safe."

Kathy Flicek, who's also been at Owatonna five years, says, "If I can make them smile, I'm doing my

job."

"I get attached to them," she continued. The kids, she said, appreciate you.

Whatever route they drive, the bus drivers of Steele County should be thanked for their hard work watching over students as they learn.

Music was magical

MERMAID: from page 1B

wasn't bad by any means, but after pulling out all the stops for previous scenes, it felt like a more inventive method could have been used, similar to her final transformation that did take place on stage.

The performances from the cast were spot on. The titular character played by Jenna McMains was delightful to watch. It's a tall order to find an actress who can act, sing, and play up the physicality of the muted mermaid, but McMains fit the bill.

Leah Moon's turn as Ursula was wonderfully wicked. It's stunning to find such a powerful voice in one so young. While Moon may not be a regular on the stage, audience members are sure to wish she'd grace it more often.

A standout performance by Andrew Wall kept Sebastian the crab in the audience's hearts even when he wasn't on stage. Wall's dedication to a Jamaican accent was well rewarded, as his dialogue was some of the funniest in the show.

The music, led by Chris Harris, swelled to fill the auditorium at the beginning of the show and never left the audience till the end. The orchestra should be congratulated for providing a flawless backdrop to the action.

The entire cast showed great musical skill, but a special nod has to be given to Ian Crum as Triton. Though he didn't sing often, Crum filled the king's voice with the depth such a character requires to be sympathetic.

If the music hit any snags, it was the volume of the orchestra occasionally competed with actors on stage, most likely a product of them sitting next to the audience in the auditorium instead of in a traditional pit.

The cast, crew, and director Erik Eirtheim achieved a show well done.

Next time you feel a hankering for theatre, skip the cities. There's plenty of talent right here in town.

MIRACLE: from page 1B

Eveleth, Minnesota. They also placed an heir apparent on the 1980 team – Davey Christian.

So, on that day in February where nobody expected the local boys to come out on top, my family was huddled around the television in Milwaukee watching that hockey game. I heard my dad say, "That's my Uncle Billy" as they panned the crowd.

"Oh, and there's Uncle Roger," said my mom. We'd been to Warroad many times when I was a young child and was always amazed by the gold medals and the hockey stick factory. And the little kid I used to play with and teased for playing a sport "other than basketball" was skating around an ice rink in Lake Placid.

My cousin, Davey. It was more intense for us. It was family.

We bit our nails that day. We cursed a little that day at the Russian horde who didn't get called for an illegal check. We walked away from the set on numerous occasions because we couldn't bear to watch.

But then it happened. So quickly and so late in the

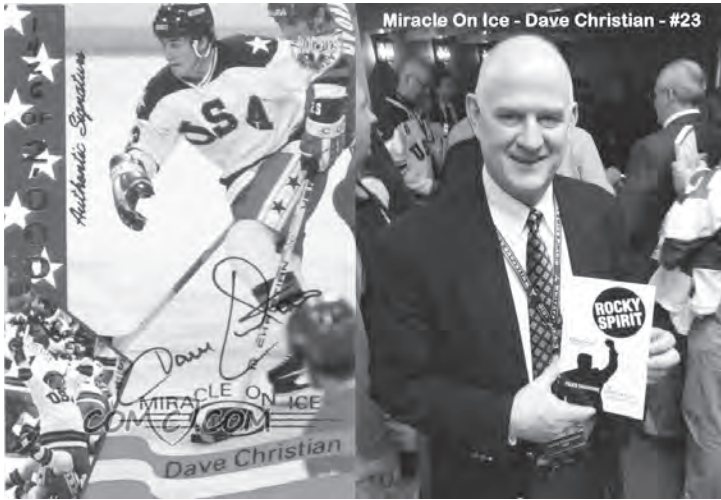
game. 10 minutes left and the United States led for the first time. Those last 10 minutes were the longest of our lives and we waited for another shoe to drop, but it never did.

And we all felt a little better about hockey that day. We all felt like we could "accomplish" anything after that. It was a victory for a country that had become an underdog in a world of hungry wolves. The chant, "USA" was reborn there and still resounds today not only against foreign competition, but ever in our hearts.

It is the fabric of our lives, the strands formed of immigrants finding a home here as they passed through Ellis Island, the flag being raised at Iwo Jima, the declaration that we've defeated polio, and that ever-present feeling that came from 9/11, "They cannot break our spirit."

We live in the greatest country in the world. And when you are purposed for greatness, there will always be those who seek to defeat. Because we are all, "born to the breed," our everyday situations and circumstances can make us feel the weight

Miracle was moving to witness



of the world on our shoulders and at times, we want to give up.

But. Remember the day that a three-inch diameter, vulcanized rubber disc passed by the mightiest country of the world, hit a nylon net, lit the lamp and caused an ear-piercing horn to be drowned out by the resounding thunder of a people united.

"The attacks of Sept. 11 were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic and

religious freedom, the rule of law and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom." — R. W. Giuliani

Where do we want to go today, Minnesota? Is there anything we can't accomplish?

Catch the image of a rubber puck resting safely on the ice just beyond that red line. Perhaps then you will be able to skate. On frozen water. And you will experience your miracle.

And wherever you go... be careful out there.

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Dear Searching,
There are two great resources you can turn to, to help you locate low-cost or discounted Internet services, but's what's available to you will depend on where you live and/or your income level. Here's where to begin.

Low-Cost Internet

Your first step to locate cheap-

er high-speed Internet is EveryoneOn, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to making affordable Internet services available to all Americans.

Through partnerships with Internet providers like Comcast, Cox, AT&T, T-Mobile, Mediacom and others, EveryoneOn can help you search for services in your area that provide high-speed (4G LTE) Internet at a very low cost. Most participating companies charge around \$10 per month, with no contract and no equipment fee. However, for non-income qualifiers, there may be a one-time setup/equipment fee of \$62. Data plans will vary too.

To start your search, go to EveryoneOn.org and type in your ZIP code and click on the

"Find Offers" button, or you can call 877-947-4321. You'll then need to answer a few questions regarding your household financial situation so the Internet services you're eligible for can be located.

Some providers offer their services only to people with limited financial resources, however there are others that offer low-cost deals to everyone regardless of income. What's available to you will depend on where you live.

Also note that in addition to the low-cost Internet services, EveryoneOn also provides referrals to affordable computers and free computer classes. Most of the companies they work with offer refurbished tablets usually for under \$100, and computers

for under \$160 that are available to everyone. And, they provide referrals to free computer classes, which are typically offered in public libraries across the U.S.

Discounted Internet

If you don't have any luck finding a low-cost service through EveryoneOn, and your income is low enough, another option is the Lifeline Assistance Program. This is a federal program that provides a \$9.25 monthly subsidy to help pay for broadband Internet service, or for a home or wireless phone. Only one benefit is available per household; either phone service (home or wireless) or Internet (home or mobile), but not both.

To qualify, you'll need to



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show that your annual household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines – which is \$16,281 for one person, or \$21,924 for two. Or, that you're receiving certain types of government benefits, such as Medicaid, food stamps, SSI, public housing assistance, veterans pension or survivors pension benefit, or live on federally recognized Tribal lands.

To apply, you'll need to contact an Internet provider in your area that participates in the Lifeline program and ask for

an application form. To locate providers in your area, visit LifelineSupport.org or call 888-641-8722. Once the provider verifies your eligibility, they will begin service. (NOTE: The Internet companies that partner with EveryoneOn do not currently accept the lifeline subsidy.)

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago Tuesday, March 6th, 2007

Ever since its inception in 1938, the minimum wage has had its influence felt throughout the entire country. Each change in these wages has a large impact on the economics at the time, for better or for worse

This past February, minimum wage bills passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1997 under resolution H.R. 2, raising the minimum salary from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour by early 2008.

The soon-to-be increase in pay is seen on some sides as a boon for those who work in the strain of poverty, while others see it as an unnecessary stress on small business employers and the economy in general.

With an increase in minimum wage soon approaching on the horizon, business, employers, and employees all have to ready themselves for the changes that will occur.

The fourth-annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Fundraising event is now within sight. On Saturday, March 24th, at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company you can come as early as 3:30 to place your bids for that silent auction that takes place until 5:30. At 7 PM the live auction kicks off with around 100 items a year.

Since 2004, the Foundation has held an annual auction of donated items and treasures created by the students from every class in the elementary school.

20 Years Ago Tuesday, March 4th, 1997

Steele County Commissioners found out that the enhanced emergency 911 system will be tested in late May or early June at their February 25th meeting, later than they hoped.

The board had expected it would be this month that services would be ready to try out. But a rush of counties utilizing phone companies time forced a first-come, first-serve basis.

The county however, have automatic number identification ability once the equipment is installed at the Steele County Law Enforcement Center. With ANI, the phone number of the caller would automatically show up on the screen for the dispatcher.

The police has a minimum requirements that communication companies would have to fulfill, but the county would still have the last say on the tower application.

Mike Caron, county planning and zoning, presented seven requirements his office would want fulfilled before the planning commission would consider an application to build

a tower.

50 Years Ago Thursday, March 3rd, 1967

Ten applications have been received for the position of night officer in Blooming Prairie, it was reported Tuesday afternoon.

In addition to local residents, applications have been received from Owatonna, Faribault, Albert Lea, and a town in Iowa.

The position to be filled has been held by Darrel Rouhoff.

No action will be taken on selecting a new night officer from the applications until the council meeting on Monday, March 7th.

Due to unusually warm spring-like weather, the ice skating pond has been closed for a year, it was announced this week by Glenn Dennis.

Youngsters in Blooming Prairie have had a short skating season, as it was not opened until after Christmas due to the warm weather.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department was summoned to the Fosteson home about 1:45 pm, Tuesday of this week when a "short" in a stereo set caused a minor smoke damage.

The set was carried outside of the house and the firemen used their smoke ejector to clear the home of smoke.

75 Years Ago

Thursday, March 5th, 1942

In an effort to get every Steele County co-operative creamery signed up for the "creamery check-defense bond purchasing plan". Officers and directors of all Steele county creameries are beating the highways and byways this week contacting all of

the patrons.

A preliminary meeting for all co-operative creamery officers was held at Owatonna last Friday evening when the plan was outlined in detail by Sen. Cashman and Rep. John Hartle.

The National Safety Council has just released to the Safety

Division of the State Highway department figures showing that 13,900 pedestrians were killed in the nation's traffic last year. Two-thirds of them, more than 9,000, met death because they were violating traffic laws made to protect them.



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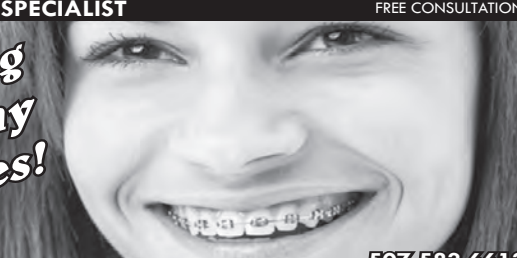
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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Fire. On Feb. 21 at 8:27 a.m., a shop with machinery inside caught fire in the 70200 block of 150th Ave. in Hayfield. Deputies, Hayfield Ambulance, Blooming Prairie, Fire, Claremont Fire, Dodge Center Fire and Hayfield Fire responded to the scene.

CRIME BRIEF

Repeat DWI offender busted again

A man with multiple DWI convictions has been arrested again for the same offense.

Owatonna Police arrested Taiwan D. McCain in the early morning hours of Feb. 22 in the parking lot of Wal-Mart. He has been charged with felony first-degree DWI and driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety, which is a gross misdemeanor.

An officer clocked McCain traveling at 84 mph on Interstate 35. He got off on Hoffman Drive before pulling into the Wal-Mart lot.

During the transport, the officer detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from McCain. While at the jail, McCain performed sobriety tests



Taiwan D. McCain

and the officer had probable cause to believe he was also impaired.

McCain provided a breath test, which revealed he was at .10, police said. He has three prior DWI convictions in the past 10 years. A fourth one qualifies him for the felony charge.

Police seized McCain's 2007 Chevrolet Impala for forfeiture.

block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 2:36 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:15 p.m.

Feb. 22
DWI. Officer made a DWI arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:21 a.m.

Warrants. Police made warrants arrests in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 8:15 a.m., in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 12:30 p.m. and in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 2:28 p.m.

Theft. A theft occurred in the 500 block of Rose St. E. at 9:05 a.m.

Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle resulting in property damage at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 southbound at 5:26 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Feb. 23
Shoplifting. At 6:49 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 13 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding:

James A. Olson, 59, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. He was sentenced to \$581, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, anger management, attend AA, alcohol monitor and 5 years of supervised probation.

Chad A. Smith, 29, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. Smith was sentenced to \$131 and 24 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 13 – 17:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Lisa M. Besser, 29, Ellendale, speeding, \$121.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Casey A. Adams, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Nathaniel R.

Beckendorf, 38, Fairmont, vehicle weight violation, \$281; Eugene N. Blakey, 75, Des Moines, IA, unsafe lane usage, \$131; Ashley N. Brant, 22, Maple Grove, speeding, \$131; Gerald R. Brown, 74, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Larry E. Calhoun, 24, Bloomington, speeding, \$141;

Felipe Castro, 26, Brooklyn Park, suspended license, \$281; Thomasina N. Garcia, 39, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, \$131; Eric M. Hancock, 40, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Chad R. Hein, 48, Blooming Prairie, careless driving, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brittany L. Hinman, 25, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, \$131;

Manuel Hinojosa, 33, Rochester, revoked license, \$281; Panya Kim, 37, Lincoln, NE, speeding, \$141; Carlos M. Lash, 55, St. Paul, revoked license, \$281; Antonio G. Moreno, 31, St. Paul, give peace officer false information and DWI, \$131 and 60 days in county jail; Jeffery D. Nelson, 41, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106;

Kenneth D. Palmer, 57, Norfolk, NE, speeding, \$121; Julius H. Powell, 26, Owatonna, no license and suspended license, \$381; Kaitlyn S. Schaefer, 20, Grafton, IA, speeding, \$141; Carla A. Schoenfeld, 30, Owatonna, no license in possession, \$101;

Glenda K. Shank, 40, Marshall, WI, speeding, \$221; Leyna Springwater, 30, St. Cloud, no insurance, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ramon H. Vasquez, 38, South St. Paul, giving peace officer false information, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Anna F. Wagner, 35, Morris-town, speeding, \$121; Shaquille D. Winston, 22, Lincoln, NE, speeding, \$121; Everett A. Wojtowicz, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Armando Almaguer Bacallao, 33, Albert Lea, theft, \$131; Jacob C. Carlson, 24, Owatonna, theft, \$186.44; Samantha J. Halvorson, 27, Owatonna, invalid license, \$131; Jeremy R. Haroldson, 31, Milroy, theft, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Victoria T. Heien, 24, Owatonna, neglect or endangerment of a child and DWI, \$381, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Manuel Hinojosa, 33, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Justin S. Krueger, 31, Owatonna, DWI, \$606, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 216 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Jeffrey S. Nelson, 25, Owatonna, theft, \$131; Billy J. Robinson, 56, Owatonna, theft, \$81 and 1 year of supervised probation; Yulissa S. Rocha, 19, Faribault, hit and run – failure to stop, \$131; David A. Villerreal, 34, Albert Lea, theft, \$81, 30 days in county jail; Neshon Wadley, 44, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131;

Heather M. Walters, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Gene P. Wells, 23, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$131; William R. Wheeler, 29, Waseca, theft, \$144; Linda M. Williams, 46, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Annette S. Adams, 55, North

Mankato, speeding, \$141; Chad M. Adams, 47, Medford, cancelled license, \$381, substance abuse subtle screening and 2 years of supervised probation; Dylan J. Arndt, 19, Brownsdale, speeding, \$121;

Christoph A. Bednar, 41, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Brooke A. Camerer, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Robert J. Capello, 63, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Sharon L. Clemens, 69, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Ricky H. Copp, 64, Faribault, speeding, \$121;

Jacob L. Deleon, 19, Medford, speeding, \$141; Scott C. Dorenkemper, 48, Elysian, speeding, \$221; Kelsey D. Eide, 29, Hollandale, speeding, \$121; Cedric A. English, 44, Owatonna, revoked license and speeding, \$331; Eugene O. Finch, 79, Kilkenny, speeding, \$100; Gary T. Hafstad, 66, Hayward, stop sign, \$131;

Michael J. Hambrick, 32, Owatonna, assault, \$381, 2 days in county jail, complete Domestic Abuse Diagnostic Diagram and 1 year of supervised probation; Christine M. Hoffmann, 35, Ellendale, speeding, \$121;

Michael D. Janke, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Coty W. Laroque, 24, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Amanda M. Molumby, 22, speeding, \$121;

Jill R. Olson, 48, Medford, speeding, \$141; Brian P. Penkert, 36, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Katie L. Plumski, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Deborah L. Pumper, 49, Faribault, sale of tobacco to minor, \$181; Juan C. Reyna, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Pedro A. Rodriguez Botello, 29, Faribault, speeding, \$131;

Cameron R. Schember, 42, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Tiana L. Sengchan, 18, North Mankato, speeding, \$141; Sierra D. Vick, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Samuel K. Williams, 48, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$381; Jack R. Zimmerman, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$141.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 182 complaints during the week of Feb. 15-21. Some of them include:

Feb. 15
Tobacco Violation. At 8:52 a.m., deputies responded to a minor in possession of tobacco at Hayfield High School.

Suspicion. A Claremont resident called deputies when his niece received strange text messages at 5:39 p.m.

Feb. 16
Larceny. Deputy took a report of the theft of a log splitter in the 11100 block of 585th St. in Claremont at 10:16 a.m.

Harassment. At 7:52 p.m., deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont.

Feb. 17
Theft. A truck was reported stolen from the 300 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 10:07 a.m.

Minor Possession. At 10:24 a.m., deputies responded to a minor consuming alcohol on Airport Rd. S. in Dodge Center.

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 8th Ave. NE in Kasson at 11:45 a.m.

Larceny. Deputies received a report of a past action burglary in the 18800 block of 560th St. in West Concord at 12:15 p.m.

Feb. 18
Disturbance. At 4:45 p.m., deputies responded to a disturbance of a verbal argument between two

neighbors in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

Feb. 20
Domestic Assault. Deputies responded to a physical domestic assault in the 200 block of 1st Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 9:45 a.m. They arrested one subject and transported him to the Steele County Jail.

Burglary. At 12:13 p.m., deputies received a report that people had kicked in a garage service door in the 20900 block of 601st St. in Dodge Center.

Feb. 21
Larceny. Deputy took a report of money stolen from a student in the girl's locker room at Triton Schools at 9:01 a.m.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect at 8:50 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 13 – 20:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Steven J. Brown, 24, Mantorville, snowmobile registration violation, \$130; Benjamin P. Cotten, 35, Cresco, IA, parking violation, \$32; Brandon J. Driscoll, 36, Kasson, revoked license and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$380; Bradley J. Kazos, 45, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Juan B. Ramos Rivera, 38, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Shanna J. Rose, 35, Shakopee, revoked license, 90 days in county jail; Sutton P. Schultz, 17, Dexter, speeding, \$140; Eric M. Thraenert, 34, Hayfield, disorderly conduct, 90 days in county jail; Shoua Yang, 33, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$255, domestic abuse evaluation, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation.

Kasson Police Department

Jacob J. Bigelow, 21, Kasson, theft of motor fuel and suspended license, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of probation; Monique E. Nelson, 17, West Concord, failure to yield right of way, \$130; Zachary C. Orth, 29, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Jorge A. Torres, 42, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jason C. Blum, 45, Oronoco, speeding, \$120; Darrel W.

Clapham, 63, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Cheyenne A. Kusick, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Gail A. Linse, 59, Mantorville, stop sign, \$130; Michael A. Mayhew, 43, Nichols, WI, speeding, \$130; Latonya D. McNeal, 39, Dodge Center, revoked license and speeding, \$420; Noe Ricardez-Carrasco, 50, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Tasha J. Sternberg, 29, Chaska, speeding, \$140; Arveta Walker, 39, Claremont, revoked license, \$280.

West Concord Police Department

Louise M. Carpenter, 56, Harmony, revoked license and registration violation, \$310; Shawn C. Northway, 39, West Concord, parking violation, \$32.

ARREST

Steele County

Owatonna Police

Jonelle Suezette Hill, 36, arrested at 12:46 a.m. Feb. 18, felony assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Tori Mae Keck, 18, arrested at 3:26 p.m. Feb. 19, domestic assault, held for court.

Damian Jacob Hortop-Rocha, 19, arrested at 7:55 p.m. Feb. 20, felony assault, burglary and drug paraphernalia, held for court.

Nicholas Tom Weed, 28, arrested at 10:36 p.m. Feb. 20, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Jewel Javonne Herrera, 20, arrested at 8:55 a.m. Feb. 21, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Nicholas Michael Moeller, 25, arrested at 9:01 a.m. Feb. 21, felony extradition hearing, held for court.

Tawna Marie Johnson, 41, arrested at 12:20 p.m. Feb. 21, felony assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Taiwain Dashaun McCain, 36, arrested at 1:34 a.m. Feb. 22, felony DWI and cancelled license, held for court.

Jennifer Lynn Marsolek, 32, arrested Feb. 22, probation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Matthew David Swenson, 35, arrested at 12:46 p.m. Feb. 22, felony probation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Nikita Marie Finley, 26, arrested at 4:19 p.m. Feb. 23, no insurance, revoked license, child restraint violation and possession, held for court.

Jeffrey Letray Jones, 29, arrested at 1:24 a.m. Feb. 24, felony possession, held for court.



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The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

- Joaquin Colin – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
- Calvin Collier – assault - \$1,000 bail
- James Collingwood – worthless check - \$2,000 bail
- Stephen Collingwood – worthless check - \$2,000 bail
- Robert Connell – theft, shoplifting - \$1,000 bail
- Abel Cordova – DUI – no bail
- Omar Cordova Jr. – stalking, revoked license – no bail
- Guillermo Cordova-Robles – license violation - \$500 bail
- Alberto Corona – DUI – no bail
- Harold Crafton – give false name - \$500 bail

- Elias Cruz – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jose Cruz – DWI - \$1,400 bail
- Stuart Culpepper – DWI - \$700 bail
- Joel Dahl – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- James Davis – domestic assault – no bail
- Lonell Davis – cancelled license – no bail
- Roderick Davis – motor vehicle registration - \$1,000 bail
- Jeanne Day – worthless check - \$10,000 bail
- Maurice Daye – burglary – no bail
- Federico De La Cerda Jr. – controlled substance - \$75,000 bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Multiple crashes send 9 to the hospital

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Nine people were injured in three separate weather-related crashes over the past week on Steele County roadways.

The first one happened Feb. 21 at 7:40 a.m. on U.S. Highway 218 near 118th Street SE north of Blooming Prairie. A Jeep Liberty was northbound on 218 when the driver lost control on the icy roadway and rolled over.

Djikoloum Tolde, 42, of Austin was transported by Blooming Prairie Ambulance to Owatonna Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The State Patrol said Tolde was wearing his seat belt and no alcohol was involved. The road conditions were snow and ice at the time, according to the patrol.

The sheriff's office and Blooming Prairie Fire assisted at the scene.

A passenger was injured in a rollover near Ellendale Feb. 23 at 9:39 p.m.

The State Patrol said Yande Musonda, 20, of Andover received non-life

threatening injuries and was transported to Owatonna Hospital by Ellendale Ambulance.

According to the patrol, a Mazda CX5 was on the ramp from southbound Interstate 35 to Highway 30 when it slid through a stop sign and rolled over on the south side of Highway 30. Road conditions were snowy and icy at the time.

Michael Paul Swinarski, 31, of Minneapolis, was driving the vehicle and was not injured. Both Swinarski and Musonda were wearing their seat belts. No alcohol was involved, the patrol said.

On Saturday, the State Patrol closed down southbound I-35 south of Ellendale after six vehicles crashed, injuring seven people. The crash happened at 9:28 a.m. on a snow and ice covered roadway.

The patrol said all vehicles were southbound in the left lane when a semi rear ended a Ford Expedition and started a chain reaction. The Expedition, which was stopped due to backed

up traffic, rear ended a Chevy Tahoe. The Tahoe rear ended a Toyota Camry, which then rear ended a Subaru Outback, pushing it to the right lane where it got by the semi and went into a Subaru Forester.

The following occupants were taken to the Owatonna Hospital with non-life threatening injuries: Adam John Flategraff, 24, Albert Lea; Lindsay Jo Lembke, 21, Albert Lea; Michelle Colleen Ternes, 36, Urbandale, Iowa; Jeanne Mathilda Bateman, 78, Bloomington; Kristin Marie Wiggs, 30, Minneapolis and Timothy Aaron Youtzy, 25, Arden Hills. A seventh occupant, Noam Brent Wiggs, 29, Minneapolis was airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Everyone except Flategraff and Lembke, who were in the semi tractor, was wearing their seat belts. The patrol said no alcohol was involved in the crash.

The sheriff's office assisted at both crashes.

Crossword solution

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Hayfield tractor fire

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Firefighters from Hayfield, Claremont and Blooming Prairie were all dispatched to a mutual aid call that reported a shop fire at 70244 150th Avenue in rural Hayfield a little after 8 a.m. last Tuesday morning.

A tractor that had recently

been parked in the former Franke Farm Trucking shop had caught fire and black smoke was billowing out from the overhead door. Bob Franke who noticed the smoke coming from the shop, immediately called 911.

"The fire was burning so hot," Franke said and continued, "that it burned out all of the oxygen in the tight shop and extinguished

itself."

With the amount of smoke, firefighters had to use oxygen to get to the point of origin. "We told the firefighters that they could use their oxygen in a downstairs room where there was a couch, and to our amazement, they brought up a cat."

The cat had no name until that day when Franke announced

that from that point on, would be called "Smokey."

Blooming Prairie Fire Chief, Dean Naatz said that Blooming Prairie fire department responded to the call, but upon arrival to the site, were released immediately. The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined, and though the damage was extensive, there were no injuries.



Staff photos by Mark DeLap

Smoke damage was evident above the overhead doors at the former Franke Family Trucking business in rural Hayfield. The fire was significant damage to property, but no injuries.



It is suspected that this tractor caught fire in the shop at the former Franke Family Trucking business in Hayfield. The fire departments were dispatched to the scene.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ fi (slang)
4. Carolina Panthers' Newton
7. Documented organizational practice
10. A way to change color
11. Boxing legend
12. Football coach Par-seghian
13. Rewards (archaic)
15. Colbert's network
16. Palm trees
19. Capital of N. Carolina
21. LA ballplayers
23. Does not sit
24. A way to intensify
25. Penny
26. Elements' basic unit
27. Muscular weakness (pl.)
30. Makes sense
34. Helps little firms
35. Go quickly
36. Found at the end of books
41. A way of carving
45. The back of one's neck
46. Israeli dance
47. They help golfers
50. Western landmass
54. Evokes
55. A Big Easy hoopster
56. Small valleys
57. Water in the solid state
59. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)

60. Don't let this get too big
61. Motor is one type
62. Negative
63. A hiding place
64. Negative
65. Excavated

CLUES DOWN

1. Upright stone
2. Beat
3. Intestines (informal)
4. Distinguishing marks
5. Clerical vestment
6. Give cards incorrectly
7. Underground construction worker
8. Japanese art form
9. Franz van ___, German diplomat
13. Wife
14. Consume
17. Curve
18. Midway between south and southeast
20. Unit of heredity
22. Upon
27. Pressure unit
28. Australian TV station
29. Cool!
31. A person's guardian spirit
32. French river
33. Body part
37. Gratify
38. Watertight chamber
39. Dueling sword
40. Term
41. Having an attractive shape
42. Togo capital
43. Island nation
44. Arctic deer with large antlers
47. Dishonorable man
48. Equal to 100 sq. meters
49. Administered
51. Cake topping
52. Car for hire
53. Autonomic nervous system
58. Intelligence organization

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PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Over a foot of new snow was recorded in Blooming Prairie overnight and into the morning hours of Friday, Feb. 24. Jeff and Sue Zwiener and family are always out and about removing snow soon after it falls. Here, Sue pilots a John Deere tractor, plowing out some local residents.

Tuesday

High: 41°
Low: 25°

Wednesday

High: 37°
Low: 24°

Thursday

High: 32°
Low: 17°

Friday

High: 38°
Low: 29°

Saturday

High: 53°
Low: 34°

Sunday

High: 51°
Low: 30°

Information provided by The Weather Channel

Pet of the Week: Rio

He does really well on a leash and loves going for walks. Rio is friendly with other dogs and children (not sure about cats). Rio has marked in the house before. (mostly outside) I'm not sure if this is just because of the other 2 male dogs in the house or not. I think he would do better with this if he were the only male though.

Rio barks very little and when he does it is to alert us that there is another dog or person near the house. Rio has a history of having seizures and takes medication for them twice a day. The vet felt that they could have been caused from his previous weight (28 pounds!). He currently weighs 19 pounds. The vet said if he gets down to 15 that could be a good weight for him. He eats 1/4cup of Fromm diet twice per day.

He would probably like any kind of treat but, they are limited because he is trying to get in shape. He seems to be house trained but is still learning how to alert us that he has to go outside.

He has only been with us for a short time so we are still getting to know him and his behaviors so we just let him out periodical-ly throughout the day. He has been clean in his kennel. He has not been aggressive towards people, with his food or toys.

Rio is overweight and isn't very active. His favorite activity so far has been to take naps! But, we are working on getting him out for short walks to help him get in shape. He especially likes his kennel and seems to prefer sleeping in there.

He is microchipped, current on all his vaccinations and heartworm negative . For more in-formation about adopting Rio visit our website: www.smalldogsmnnesota.org

Attention Golfers and Golf Fans

Single item Auction

Blooming Prairie Education Foundation
will be auctioning off two tickets to ...

THE MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
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The Tickets were donated by a BPHS Alumni
and will be auctioned and sold as a Set.
Lodging and airfare are not included

Any question please contact one of the following auction board members
Karen Fouarge 612-360-9939 , Julie Noble 507-456-2410 , Judy Bishop 507-456-7970

The dollars generated by the auction will be a very important part of our yearly budget . The money raised will continue to make a huge difference for the education of the children of ISD 756. A strong education program is a commitment to a strong and thriving community.
Thank you again for your continued support .

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Continued on page 10B



Owatonna 106-pounder Kaden Nelson celebrates after winning his first Section 1-AAA title over Rochester Mayo's Marshall Peters Saturday at the Rochester Civic Center. Nelson won the match 8-7 after recording a late takedown in the third period. Below: Cade King looks for the pin in the 152-pound finals match against Grant Hendren of Lakeville South. King won by pin at the 2:59-mark of the match.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

In the finals, Kaden Nelson

With a 7-2 late in the match to Elijah Hollins of John Marshall, Staska managed to hit a quick standup to cut the lead to 7-3,

"He's a kid that on the edge of the JV/Varsity range and he did a nice job filling in for us during the year when we had some in-

The state tournament will start Thursday with the dual tournament at the Excel Energy Center in St. Paul. Owatonna has the No.4 seed and will wrestle Hastings in the first round.



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Blossoms fall in finale

Blooming Prairie riding two-game losing streak into Section 1A tournament

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Awesome Blossom boys faced one of the season’s toughest opponents, and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown rode a scoring wave for a 70-41 victory.

The high scoring duo of Dallas McBroom and Zac Olson accounted for 48 of the Bucs 70 points. McBroom and Olson each scored 26 points.

McBroom piled up 21 of his 26 points in the first half, as the Bucs raced to a 37-14 lead at the break.

Meanwhile, the Blossoms looked inept in the half, as the offense just could never get untracked.

The Blossoms had no player reach double figures, as Kaden Thomas had nine points to lead the team.

Seth Bedenbaugh and Gabe Hagen each scored six points.

Prolific scoring not

enough for BP

Shooting beyond the arc from Bethlehem Academy led the Cardinals to scoring 36 second half points to defeat the Awesome Blossom boys 71-60 on Feb. 20.

The Cardinals jumped out to a 34-29 halftime lead on shooting accuracy by Jack Clark and Luke Dunkers who both counted six points in the half.

Jake Ressler’s eight points in the first halffed the Blossoms, but would not score in the second half of the game.

The game was tightly contested most of the way, but the Cardinals had an edge in rebounding, which likely proved the difference.

The game was tied at 45-45 early in the second half, but four treys, two each from Damon Trump and Avery Hunt moved the Cardinals ahead late in the game.

Hunt finished with 20 points

to lead all scorers, and Trump added 18.

Gabe Hagen led the Blossoms with 12 points, Max Romeo had 11 points, and Seth Bedenbaugh and Cameron Kubista added nine points each.

As Coach Nate Piller commented, “We were outrebounded, and that was probably the difference in the game. They had a slight advantage in free throw shooting, but some big time treys for the visitors allowed them a late lead, and we couldn’t respond.

“We did some good things tonight, and we need to keep building on the good things and squeeze the poor play out of our game. The guys have been working hard to get better, and with one regular season game left, credit goes to them for maintaining that goal.”

The Blossoms will travel to Bethlehem Academy for the opening round of the Section 1A tournament.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Kory Rafdal (24) of Blooming Prairie attempts a three-pointer during the Blossoms’ 70-41 loss in the regular season finale Thursday at BPHS Thursday. The Blossoms will play Bethlehem Academy in the opening round of the Section 1A tournament.

Prep sports round up

NRHEG girls down Blue Earth Area 62-43; No.1 seed in South

NRHEG’s basketball girls ended the regular season on a high note, defeating Blue Earth Area 62-43 on Tuesday Feb. 21. The victory upped the Panther record to 21-5 overall and a perfect mark in the conference.

NRHEG had a slim 24-19 lead at the half, but outscored the Buccaneers 39-24 in the second half to pull away. Betsy Schoenrock led the offense with 20 points and 10 rebounds for another double double. Kayley Camerer had 16 points, and Rachel Collins 9. Marnie Wagner added 7 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, and 5 steals.

“The girls are wring hard,” commented Coach Onika Peterson, “and we finished the regular season right where we wanted to. I am proud of what we accomplished, but playoffs begin next Tuesday, and we will need our A game every night out”.

The Panther JV team lost to Blue Earth Area 44-38.

The Lady Panthers will host St. James in the second round of the Section 2AA tournament on Feb. 28

Lady Huskies thump Packers; Host Farmington in section play

Syndey Schultz built off her performance against Faribault with a memorable performance for the seniors.

In Owatonna’s 85-74 win Thursday, the dominant junior dropped 36 points while three other Huskies reached double figures.

Stephanie Liebl and Ahnna Stelter each scored 11 points while Jenna Zeman scored 13.

Owatonna was awarded the fourth seed and will host Farm-

ington Wednesday night in Section 1-AAAA play.

Owatonna girls top Faribault

Faribault -- Sydney Schultz continues to have a stellar junior season.

In the Huskies’ 65-55 win, she had registered a double-double, scoring 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds.

Jenna Zeman also had a strong performance, scoring 21 points, four of which came beyond the arc.

Panthers crush Blue Earth Area 57-36; No.2 seed in South

Blue Earth -- Oakley Baker scored 15 points and Benji Lundberg added 12. Despite the 21-point win, head coach Pat Churchill noted that it could have been much better.

“We came out with no energy and kind of had a letdown game tonight,” he added.

NRHEG had a 24-point lead at the half. Brady Agrimson and Tyler Raimann scored eight and seven points respectively.

Lundberg scores 21 as NRHEG cruises past Maple River

In NRHEG’s 72-43 thrashing of Maple River, Benji Lundberg was on a different level from the Eagles.

Of his game-high 21 points, 15 came in the first half as the Panthers jumped out to a 20-point lead at halftime. Oakley Baker and Tyler Raimann also reached double figures, scoring 11 and 13 points respectively.

Defensively, NRHEG held the Eagles to 29 percent shooting for the game.

Mason Sohre was the lone bright spot for Maple River, scoring 12 points.

Medford’s VonRuden takes second, qualifies for state

Blue Earth -- After falling to Lincoln Arndt of Maple River in the Section 2A finals at 138 pounds, Medford’s Willie VonRuden was forced into a challenge for true second.

Defeating Dylan Pauly of Lesuer-Henderson 13-7, VonRuden solidified his place in the state tournament.

Medford’s Marcus Deleon placed fourth after falling to Westfield’s Colton Krell in the semifinals.

NRHEG fails to qualify grapplers for state tournament

Blue Earth -- At the Section 2A meet in Blue Earth Saturday, the Panthers ran into tough competition.

NRHEG had just five placers and failed to qualify a member to the state tournament, which starts Thursday.

Cole Staloch (152) placed third, but lost a challenge for true second to multiple state entrant Zach Buseman of Blue Earth 3-0.

Andrew Bailey (113) and Quiten Arndt (285) placed fifth while Austin Hill (120) and Agro Gushwa (138) placed sixth.

Huskies girls hockey coach honored

In a span of two weeks, Tim Husnt was named Big Nine Coach of the Year and had six of his players make All-Conference teams.

Wednesday, he won an award that is hits home.

It was announced by the MGHCA that Husnt was the 2017 reciepent of the Brano Stankovsky award.

The award stands for outstanding leadership and support for the growth of girls hockey.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Huskies’ forward Carter Broton (10) prepares to fi e a shot during the first period of Owatonna s 2-1 win over Rochester Century in the Section 1AA quartefinals in R chester Thursday.

Huskies fall in Section 1AA semifinals to top-seeded Panthers

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Rochester -- Every team in the Section 1AA tournament knew that all roads to the state tournament would go through Lakeville North.

The Huskies found out Saturday. With a five-goal first period, the top-seeded Panthers dominated the Huskies (15-12) 10-2 at the Rochester Recreation Center.

Kody Kiel and Nick Smith managed to get Owatonna on the board in the second period for the only goals of the game for the Huskies.

Dub shines in win

Rochester – Coming off a 9-0 win Over Winona, the Owatonna boys hockey team was carry the right amount of momentum into the Section 1-AA tournament.

There were also carrying a goaltender who allowed just one goal in 31 shots the last two games.

The Huskies needed both Thursday against Rochester Century.

Registering 19 saves on 20 shots faced, Jacob Dub shut the door on the Panthers, helping guide fifth-seeded Owatonna (15-11) to a 2-1 win at the Rochester Recreation Center.

“As long as I make that first save, I trust that my team will

get the second or maybe even the third one. That’s just the biggest thing for me,” commented the Huskies goaltender. “It doesn’t matter if it’s a one-on-zero, two-on-three; whatever the rush is, just make the first save.”

Dub may have only faced four shots in the first period, but arguably made the save of the year.

As Century was able to establish a presence in the offensive zone, Panthers’ forward Ben Haas quickly fired a centering pass to Will Zmolek, who appeared to have a wide-open chance on the backside. Just as Zmolek fired the shot, Dub made a diving save, managing to get just enough of the paddle onto the puck to deflect it. Owatonna head coach Josh Storm stated that the phenomenal play from his junior goaltender triggered from that big save.

“I think that kind of put some confidence in him and when he gets confident, he’s scary good,” commented Storm.

After killing a cross-checking minor, Mason Oland fired a quick pass to Cameron Trout at the point, sniping a quick wrist-shot that completely fooled Panthers’ goaltender Cole Walter.

Just minutes later, Oland registered his second assist of the game, finding Tyler Wencil in the slot who managed to just beat the glove of Walter to record the game-winning goal.

“I thought we were sweet, honestly,” he chuckled. “We executed our game plan to a T. We made a few adjustments because they changed some stuff, but the compete level from our guys tonight was through the roof.”

The Panthers would add a goal midway through the second period to cut the lead to 2-1 after Dub appeared to lose the puck through a screen. After allowing the goal, he was back to his dominating play, making clutch save after clutch save.

There was a moment early in the third period that provided a bit of fireworks and potential controversy. Just 21 seconds into the period, Owatonna’s Carter Broton seemingly put the game out of reach after his shot was mishandled and slide into the net. Unfortunately, the officials waved the goal off, stating this blew the whistle for a frozen puck.

“That’s the third one this year we’ve had waved like that,” commented Storm. “With that being said though, St. Francis was the first one, kids won that game. Northfield was the second one, kids won that game. Century, third one and kids won that game. It’s a huge blow, and for our guys to respond the way they do every time, it shows their character.”

Times to invade the X for state wrestling

STANCE: from page 9B

What makes it great is the interaction you have. It’s not like other sports where you may hold a clipboard and jump in every so often into a drill to show how its done. Wrestling, at least from the way I perceive it, is all hands on.

You are able to physically show the move or address a scenario with the kid being the opponent. Meaning, you’re not just teaching the kid how to set something else, but are also being able to allow him to feel how he can defend getting into a certain situation.

Life lessons are the best lessons

In wrestling, it’s just you against your opponent.

Aside from the rules, it’s practically a sanctioned street fight.

For six minutes, and potentially more, you and you alone are left to - metaphorically speaking of course - fight, scratch and claw your way to a win. There’s no teammate to point a finger at.

If you lose, it’s because of what YOU did. When the match is heading into sudden victory and your lungs are burning from the amount of effort exerted, you have to find a way to muster enough energy to finish that takedown, or being able to ride your opponent out.

The great thing is that it’s the same exact situations, although certainly a different context, in life.

If you make a mistake in a job, chances are you could

be reprimanded or even fired. Maybe you didn’t get enough sleep for whatever reason; you have to find a way to power through or again could suffer a consequence.

See, just like wrestling, there is no easy option in life.

There’s always a cause and effect.

There was a sign on the outer doors of my wrestling room back in high school that had a quote from wrestling legend Dan Gable on it. While the words were just words to me back then, thinking about it now makes me understand the true meaning.

“Once you wrestled, everything else in life is easy.”

It’s amazing how much you continue to learn from your past.

Huskies fall to Packers

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Austin -- Due to a severe snow-storm that blanketed most of southern Minnesota, Owatonna boys basketball's game against Austin was moved from Friday to Thursday night.

Despite missing the game up, Owatonna just didn't have an answer for Douth Gach.

Gach scored a game-high 26 points as the Packers managed to fend off the Huskies 73-62 Thursday night in Austin.

Owatonna lead just one time in the contest early as the Packers were able to establish an 8-point lead at the half.

For the second game in a row, the trio of Jay Sullivan, Dalton Kubista and Andrew Jackson the Owatonna offense.

Sullivan and Jackson each led the team in scoring with 15 points. Kubista added 14, three of which came from beyond the arc.

Both Gach and Kyle Oberbroeckling each reached double figures. Gach joined his brother, scoring 18 points while Oberbroeckling added 10.

Huskies escape over Falcons

The last time the Owatonna

boys basketball team faced Faribault, the Huskies came away a 63-60 winner. That was in Faribault back on Jan.13.

While Tuesday's night contest would end in regulation, the finish was one for the ages.

Owatonna's Jason Williamson managed to block a Faribault shot with roughly 10 seconds left and Dalton Kubista added a free throw with 6.9 seconds left as the Huskies (17-6, 15-4 Big Nine) held on to win 64-61 over the Falcons at the OHS gymnasium.

"Credit to Faribault No.1, I thought they played a great game," commented head coach Josh Williams. "No.2, it wasn't one of our better games defensively, but we made enough plays to win."

Owatonna's offense appeared to be firing on all cylinders after the Falcons scored the first basket of the second half to tie the game 36-36.

Guided by the crisp ball movement of senior guard Jay Sullivan and the smooth shooting of junior Dalton Kubista, the Huskies jumped out to a quick 42-39 lead.

Sullivan continues to string performances together, finishing the contest with 15 points and six assists. Kubista also finished the game in double figures with 15 points of his own.

Outside of Williamson game-saving block, the moment the floor shifted in favor of the Huskies was with 3:03 left in the first half.

After Andrew Jackson's short jumper tied the game 28-28, Williamson was fouled on the ensuing possession on a drive to the basket, generating a three-point play opportunity for the Huskies.

Despite missing the free throw, Huskies' guard Jadyn Gunderson came up with the rebound. After a few cycles of the ball, Sullivan hit a fade away jumper to give Owatonna a 32-28 lead late.

Jackson had a strong showing down low for the Huskies, scoring 12 points.

Much of Owatonna's success in the second half was generated off of stifling defense and dominating play on the glass.

The Huskies hauled in 30 rebounds while the Falcons were limited to just 19, a contributing factor to Owatonna scoring 16 second-chance points. Despite the size the Falcons boasted down low, the Huskies were able to match with length and athleticism.

"Part of our game plan coming in, we didn't want to let their shooters shoot. We knew they got some kids who can shoot it," commented

Williams. "We were going to leave our post to playing one-on-one and try to score. So, we had to be good inside because we didn't want to let them get going on the outside."

After a pair of Alex Raichle free throws, the Huskies held a 58-50 lead midway through the second half. Raichle, who finished the game with 15 points, scored half of his points on a fast-break after registering four steals.

Then Faribault struck.

After a 30-second timeout, the Falcons posted a 9-0 run with Cody Ehlers' trey in the corner cutting the lead to 58-57. Ehlers finished with a game-high 23 points. Williams noted that a lapse in focus late allowed Faribault to creep back into the game.

"I would have liked to see us have a little bit more drive and focus to close the game out. It was a time where I think it was the first time all game where we had a little bit of a cushion and I think we kind of let our guard down," he added.

The Huskies reestablished a four-point lead after Kubista connected on a deep three after missing the initial attempt.

Faribault forward Chase Ernste managed to cut the lead to 63-61 after an easy bucket off a turnover prior to Williamson's block.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Huskies forward Andrew Jackson (34) goes up for a layup during the first half of Owatonna's 63-60 win over Faribault on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at OHS. Jackson scored 12 points in the win.

Blossom girls fall in Sub-Section 1A play



Submitted photo

Blossoms center Marissa Larson (24) goes up for a shot during the first half of Blooming Prairie's 52-49 loss to Grand Meadow on Thursday in Sub-Section 1A play. Larson scored nine points in the loss.

Game-tying shot at the buzzer falls short

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Grand Meadow -- A three-point attempt that hit the rim handed No.3 seed Grand Meadow a 52-49 victory in Grand Meadow on Thursday. The loss knocked the Blossoms out of the Sub-section 1A tournament, falling to the No.3 seeded Super Larks.

The Blossoms played well and executed a good game plan, but they were thwarted by some poorer than usual shooting. The team made just 29 percent from the field in

the first half and finished at 30 percent for the game.

Bp had a 39-28 edge in rebounding and turned the ball over just two more times than Grand Meadow.

"We played a great game tonight against a very good Grand Meadow team," remarked Coach John Bruns. "We executed our game plan well, but we just couldn't get shots to fall at times. The girls kept battling down to that last second shot that rimmed out."

"I am proud of the way they played tonight and all through the season. They are a fantastic group of girls."

GM's Jordyn Glynn led all scorers in the game with 22 points, and Riley Queensland contributed 13.

Sam Wurst earned another double double, as she pulled down 13 rebounds to go along with 18 points. Marissa Larson and Megan Oswald each added nine points, and Julia Worke added eight. Ayren Ingvalson dished out six assists and had four steals in the game.

Blooming Prairie finished its season at 10-16, and the team played the last quarter of the season without senior point guard Kylie Forystek.

Five Razorbacks qualify for state tournament

Westfield has four crowned Section 2A champs

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blue Earth -- In its first year of co-op competition, Westfield continues to put together a memorable start to the program.

The Razorbacks will send five wrestlers to the state-wrestling tournament. The combined Blooming Prairie and Hayfield schools earned had four champions and one second place finish at the Section 2A individual tournament Saturday, at Blue Earth Area School.

For the five finalists, Ethan Arett was the lone Razorback to falter.

After falling by pin to top-seeded Blake Legred of United South Central in the finals, Arett was in a challenge for true second.

He would secure his spot at the state tournament after securing a pin at the 2:35-mark of the match against Trevor Pearson of Maple River.

Arett pinned Trayton Hewitt (LCWM) in just 55 seconds of his first bout and then won a wild 10-7 verdict over Bray

Olson of Kenyon-Wanamingo to earn the spot against Legred in the finals.

Westfield saw four Razorbacks crowned as Colton Krell, Morgan Moreno, Mitchell Oswald, and Trey Chatman all took the individual titles.

At 160, Krell got the win with a pin over Luke Wilson of Lesuer-Henderson at 3:06-mark of the second period. Earlier, Krell had decisioned Roger Ziegler of Blue Earth Area 14-10 and Marcus DeLeon of Medford 8-1.

At 170 pounds, Morgan Moreno took less than two minutes of the final bout to pin Jeremiah Colon of Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial earn the title.

Moreno began his day with a technical fall 15-5 over Dustyn Schmidt (Maple River) and then won a close 7-5 verdict over Matthew Houghlum (Kenyon-Wanamingo) to reach the finals.

Mitchell Oswald won a hard-fought 6-3 decision over Trenten Rogich of Lesuer-Henderson to take the 220-weight class champion-

ship.

Oswald pinned Nate McCarthy of Medford in just 24 seconds in the first bout and then pinned Jordan Huse (Blue Earth) in just less than two minutes of the semi-final bout.

Chatman won the heavy-weight class with a close 3-2 decision over Jesse Jackson of Kenyon-Wanamingo. Chatman drew a bye and won a 5-1 decision over Conner Thorn of Maple River to reach the finals.

All but one grappler placed for the Razorbacks Saturday.

Wyatt Brennan (113), Riley Schultz (120), Jackson Heydt (126) and Dylan Nirk (195) all took home third place finishes.

Quentin Kubista (132), Jordan Sullivan (145), Seth Peterson (152) and Tristan Riekan (182) all took home sixth place finishes after dropping their final two matches.

The Razorback coaching staff reacted positively to the team's success, and the team added three fourths to the winning day.

STARS OF STEELE

Kaden Nelson



Nelson captured his first Section 1-AAA title in a dramatic match. Dropping to 106 pounds, he defeated Rochester Mayo's Marshall Peters 8-7 after securing a late takedown in the final seconds of the match.

Samantha Wurst



In Blooming Prairie's Sub-Section 1A loss to Grand Meadow Thursday, Samantha Wurst certainly turned in a performance. She registered a double-double, after scoring 18 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

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MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 11c


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By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

“You have very white teeth” were the magical words that unlocked the future for Peter and Rita. And then, the unencumbered future began with a simple kiss and the premise from author, Craig Lucas as he penned, “Never to be squandered... the miracle of another human being.”

The Tony award winning play, written by Lucas in 1988 found its way to the Little Theater of Owatonna (LTO) in February to the delight of full houses during each performance with the exception of “snowstorm Friday” which produced 18 inches of snow and a performance cancellation.

Opening night in the 50th anniversary of the LTO began early as a steady stream of playgoers came in all abuzz and you could feel the excitement in the air. There is something about an opening night performance. The freshness, the uncertainty and the anticipation, impatiently waiting until the lights dim and stage right has filled with flurry.

This opening night was different.

Prelude to a Kiss in this quaint little theater was officially opened with a “director’s note.” Director Craig Berg who has been acting and directing for many years at LTO stood in the center isle directly in front of center stage and cleared his throat before he boomed out a resounding “Welcome to the Little Theater of Owatonna.”

Immediately, he grabbed the attention of everyone, announcing that after 29 years at LTO, he was stepping down from all theater production and as he pointed to the audience, remarked, “Now I will be a part of The Little Theater from where you are sitting.”

The positioning of the director was brilliant as he was actually offering us a live illustration of transition. A thespian moving off stage to take his place with the masses

that he has entertained for so long.

Berg has been battling cancer. He is fighting for his life.

Quoting again from the performance and the essence of the philosophy, “never to be squandered... the miracle of another human being” was being demonstrated live as he stood before us on that opening night. Apropos for his last series of performances was this play.

The tears in his eyes were evident and we didn’t quite catch on to the magnitude until one of the final scenes unfolded. The unnamed old man and Rita, having been taught a lesson in the paranormal about the precious nature of life that comes and goes so quickly.

In that scene, newcomer to the LTO and Owatonna resident, Emily Shoenbeck (Rita) gave a stirring performance with equally impressive actor Bill Wood who played a man with no name, sending a message that, in fact, that it could be any one of us.

In a play that had to come with a disclaimer due to the adult content and language, the first half of the play came off a bit course in language and situation, but the shock value written in by Lucas, paved the way to an understanding of the cynical Rita and the vulnerable and almost desperate Peter, played by Nate Chesney.

The early character study of both Peter and Rita was brief for the purpose of quickly getting into the crux of the ideology of the play. To those unfamiliar with this work, it may have seemed a bit sparse, but Shoenbeck and Chesney quickly get into the heart of the matter which may be more true to form in this day and age than anyone wants to admit.

They also endeared their audience with believable performances that did not seem staged or uncomfortable. They had a way of making the socially uncomfortable topics almost bearable and through it all, the viewer knew that Peter



Submitted photo

After their final performance, the cast and crew of *Prelude to a Kiss* gathered for a photo. The cast was made up entirely of community volunteers, who were everything from realtors to reporters to retired nurses.

wanted a love to enjoy and endure, while Rita just wanted to get it over with and head toward the finish line.

That finish line for Rita comes sooner than she realizes as a strange exchange into an old man’s body occurs while the elderly gentleman who loves his life too much to leave it, opts willingly to go into the young and perky body of Rita.

They switch places unknown to anyone but themselves, and eventually Peter. A man who loved the exterior had to love the soul suddenly clothed in an old and decaying garment. In the end, they are switched back and the prelude to the final kiss comes with lessons learned and a greater appreciation for what love is.

The switch comes with a dialogue that put tears into the eyes of the audience. With both characters speaking at the same time, there comes a realization that they acted in fear and took for granted the simple gift of who each was to the world and the world around them. Because of fear and bitterness, they almost lost the ones that they truly loved.

The line, “All you’ve got to

do is want it bad enough,” was the line that drew them away from what they loved and it was the same line that brought them back home to their full potential to love.

Shoenbeck who played the perky and precocious Rita said that the play had touched her in many ways. “I think that this play teaches. It shows how we can build barriers that keep people out,” she said. “Then in turmoil those barriers are washed away and we’re left with the people we have to love.”

Berg, going through a parallel struggle with terminal illness relates to the character of the old man in the play, wondering what it would be like to say “goodbye” and yet, there he was, saying farewell to the audience for a final time and taking on this play as his swan song.

“This play was about love,” Berg said. “Deep to the core love. Peter saw lost a part of his love, but the part that remained and was most important was still visible to him.”

Berg said that Peter had come to realize that the greater love wasn’t in the casing, but

within the casing.

The cast, led by Shoenbeck and Chesney were strong and powerful actors that brought our fears, our love and our mortality to center stage. With them was a very strong cast who injected the right amount of humor into the serious. Mrs. Boyle, played by Maria Diaz had one of those Jewish mothering characters and was written as the strong mother led more by her heart than her head.

Diaz had a death in the family on the week of the first performance and Rebecca Somers came to the rescue with only 36 hours before the curtain went up. A daunting task for any actor, it was pulled off brilliantly by Somers.

“I can’t say enough about the entire cast,” Berg said. “They simply blew me away with their performances.”

He then went on to say that Somers was “absolutely brilliant.” I tend to agree and would go so far as to say that she stole the show with her comedic timing and the flare and panache that she had on stage. Some are born into greatness, they say, but others, greatness is thrust upon them.

It truly was thrust upon her and as viewers, we also were anointed with the talents of not only Sommers, but the entire cast. The chemistry was genuine and not forced. The laughter was sincere and not simply gratuitous. The timing was perfection.

The night... was magical. It was an honor to be a part of Berg’s legacy and possibly the last performance of his career. I know that the lead actor earns the roses, but at the end of the night, I hope they were shared with this brilliant director.

Snow white was awakened by a kiss. Perhaps this play was the prelude to his miracle.

The Cast:

Nate Chesney as Peter, Austin Parrish as Taylor, Emily Schoenbeck as Rita, Jim Holten as Tom, Maria Diaz as Mrs. Boyle, Tim Fitzgerald as Dr. Boyle, Linda Karnauskas as the Minister, Kathy Purdie as Aunt Dorothy, Curt Jorgensen as Uncle Fred, Bill Wood as the Old Man, Waiter/Waitress tbd, Amber Boettcher as Leah.

Directed by Craig Berg and co-director Mary Butler-Fraser.

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