

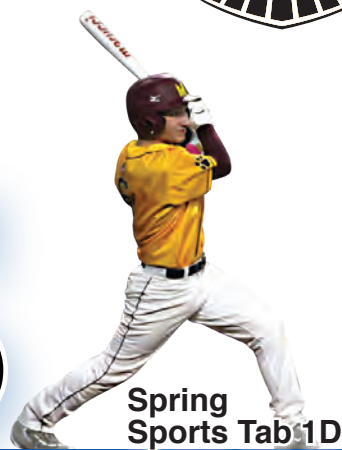


Blooming on the Prairie
for a century and a half!

Minimizer
Proud sponsor of
BP's 150th year!



STEELE COUNTY TIMES



\$1

www.steeledodgenews.com

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

A sinking concern over public works



Staff Photo by Mark DeLap

The canning pond is alleged to have food waste water pumped into it. With a heavy rain, the runoff of the water goes directly under the proposed new building site for the proposed Public Works Complex.

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

In light of the recent developments with the Public Works Complex, some issues apparently continue to arise.

In the last episode of the saga, questions were raised concerning the land being designated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as unbuildable. The county responded with documents refuting the claims, and although there was a “agree to disagree” from both sides, the project continued.

After the commissioners visited several other facilities in our region, the board came back to the table and decided to cap the cost of the building project at \$5 million. Of course that doesn’t include the costs already incurred in the project which is somewhere around \$3.5 million.

The newest red flag that has gone up has been posed by Steele County resident, Brian Kosel who was an ag teacher for Owatonna public school. Kosel has degrees in soil management and has brought up some claims concerning the irrigation, runoff and the building site that has been saturated with water.

“Looking out for the

taxpayer’s interests isn’t a waste of my time, and I will keep at it regardless of misguided attacks on my motivations or mischaracterizing of my efforts,” said Kosel.

One of the claims comes against Public Works Director and County Engineer Anita Benson.

“The Farmland Protection Agency, was not signed off on by the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District and Anita Benson remarks that there will be no problem,” said Kosel. “This is a required document by FEMA and is very similar to the “no net loss wetlands policy” that is fully criminalized by the DNR and Soil and Water Conservation Department.”

Another point of contention is a questioning of the Cumulative Impacts section IV of the environmental assessment for the Public Works Complex.

“Anita Benson states in the FEMA document that “ALL” surrounding property is city developed,” Kosel states. “and that all land surrounding this County Shop is fully developed. There is a holding pond, farmland and a food grade irrigated waste water field that doesn’t look urbanized or

COMPLEX

Continued on page 3A

Dahman resigns

Rich Dahman is resigning as Medford school’s superintendent. He has been hired to take over as superintendent in Winona school district and will be starting there after he finishes out his year with Medford at the end of June. He is currently completely his fourth year with Medford.

“I’m excited about the opportunity in Winona, but sad to leave Medford,” Dahman said, “Medford has been a wonderful place with a strong staff and supportive community.”

During his time as superintendent, Dahman was credited with doing excellent work for the school and keeping the Medford school board well informed for the decisions they needed to make.

The school board will now have to decide whether they will hire a new superintendent to immediately replace Dahman or a set-up an interim one to allow more time to search for a replacement. They’ll make their decision at a special board meeting this Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Good time approved

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Business moved quickly at the Blooming Prairie City Council.

The BP Serviceman’s Club had two temporary liquor licenses approved. One is for Sunday, May 7 and the other is a four-day license for July 1 - 4. The Chamber of Commerce likewise had a temporary liquor license approved for its Beer Garden in the Central Park for July 2 - 4.

The council approved a donation from the Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce of \$1,000 dollars for the promotion of 150th celebration.

City Administrator Mike Jones passed along a reminder about the city sirens. As the county enters tornado season, he reminded people that if they hear the tornado siren it is a signal to head indoors. It does not mean they need to take shelter in their basements, but they should tune into radios or TVs so they can receive further recommendations as the storm develops.

The city financial report showed the city’s largest expenditures were updating the BP cemetery book and \$3,000 spent on a housing survey in partnership with Owatonna.

In closing remarks, Mayor Peterson commented on the state legislature being in session saying nothing was safe. “They’re not being very supportive of cities,” he warned.

Hero firefighter dies of 9/11 illness

One of the heroes from the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and who gained notoriety locally last year for his heroics has lost his battle with a 9/11-related illness.

James Lanza, a retired New York firefighter, helped pull 16 survivors out of “miracle stairwell B” following the World Trade Center attacks. He was prominently featured in videos produced by the Steele County Times last summer when he traveled to Kasson for the traveling 9/11 tribute during the Dodge County Fair.

Times managing editor Mark DeLap is traveling to New York City this week after being asked by New York City firefighters to speak at Lanza’s funeral. DeLap produced a video showcasing an extensive interview with Lanza for the Times’ website last summer.

“When you found a body part or a body, we would put it on the stretcher, cover it with the American flag and march it out with honor to a temporary morgue that the city had set up,” Lanza recalled in the video interview with the Times. “The rewarding part of that... it may sound crazy to somebody else... was that we knew we were giving closure to a family member or a parent or a daughter.”

Less than four months into the year, Lanza, 71, of New York is the 10th firefighter to die of 9/11-related cancer



so far this year. In November, Lanza was diagnosed with metastatic brain cancer.

At fire headquarters in downtown Brooklyn, a memorial for firefighters who died of 9/11-related illnesses has 126 names on it. More than 1,100 retired and active firefighters have been diagnosed with a disease linked to their time at Ground Zero. When the towers fell, 343 firefighters had died.

The Times will share more about Lanza’s funeral on its website at steeledodgenews.com throughout the week and in next week’s print edition.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

LETS PLAY BALL!

Warming up in the bullpen as a future Minnesota Twin is Levi Staska, 5 of Blooming Prairie. This little hurler was showing his stuff at a recent Blooming Prairie-Triton baseball game. With a new Twins hat, he looks to be a true fan.



FAREWAY
FOOD STORES

Order your favorite cuts of meat and have them *delivered to your home for dinner!*

831 S. Oak Ave, Owatonna • Grocery - 507-451-1550 Meat - 507-451-0071



INSIDE **A:** 2A OPINION
8A ... 150TH CELEBRATION

B: 1B HOMETOWN LIVING
3B SEVERE WEATHER

C: 1C SPORTS
4C .. FARM PAGE

D: 1D - 8D SPORTS TAB

Vol. 125, No. 37

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Thank you for your letters and likes

We have gotten a lot of feedback of late concerning things we have covered both in print and on the web, and we are so grateful that you would share your thoughts with us.

A newspaper that is on the grow is always concerned with the thoughts and opinions of our readers. Sometimes the comments are critical, sometimes they are filled with ideas and insights and sometimes praise.

That being said, we love all comments with the mindset that the criticism is constructive and we can learn from it. The ideas are wonderful and from time to time, we have implemented them as our time and budget can afford. And of course, the praise is warming and humbles us.

When you read a newspaper, it's important to know that each word written, whether it is a story, a cutline or a headline, doesn't come from a company or a big organization or a cookie-cutter template. We are a small-town paper that has a small staff with a big heart and a huge vision.

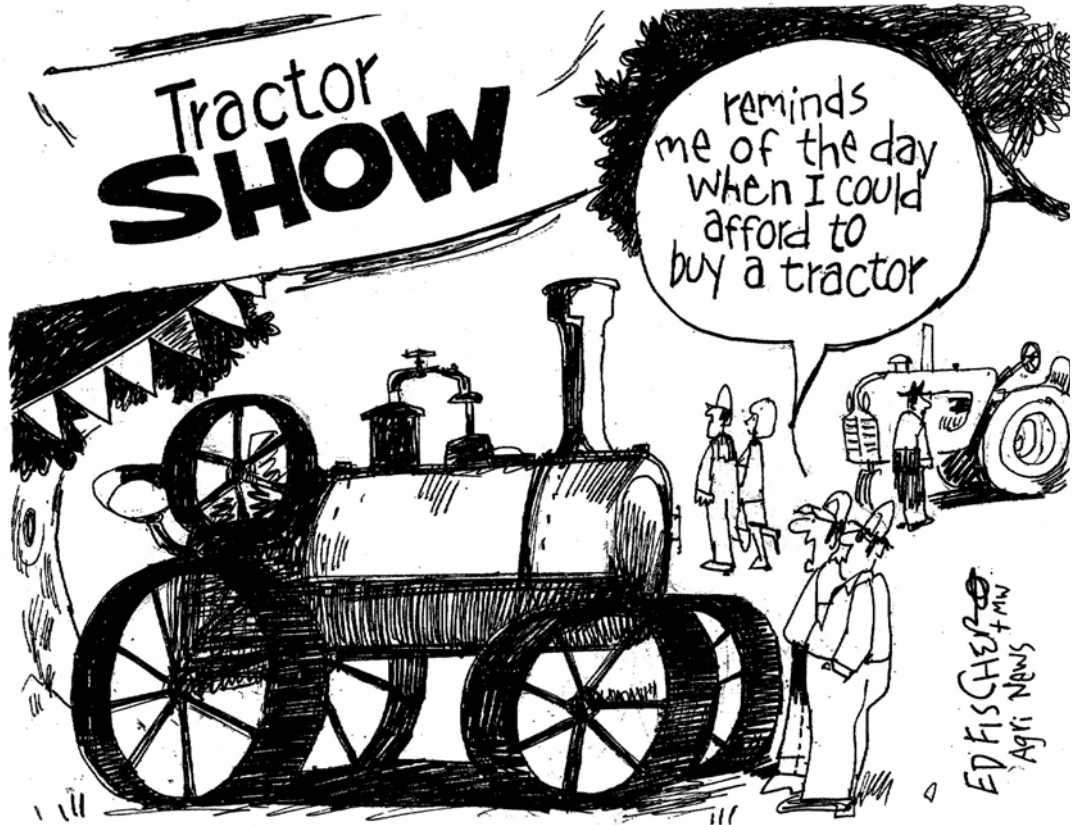
And each word comes from the heart of a person dedicated to their craft and their passion. A real live person with real life emotions and feelings. When we receive your comments or your likes, it makes us feel like we've made a difference. It lends to our sense of purpose, which is to inform the readers concerning the events that make up our lives. Ours and yours.

And, trying to be objective in the midst of today's problems can, at times, be a challenge. It's like setting a thermostat in a room full of people. One-third will say it's too hot – turn it down, one-third will say it's too cold – turn it up, and the final third say it's just fine – don't touch it.

And we do our jobs, not for fame or fortune, because, frankly, if we wanted a bigger stage, we wouldn't be here in Steele County. If we wanted more money, we wouldn't have chosen journalism. It's something we do because we feel called to it. And we've chosen this county because it is a labor of love.

From the well-crafted stories featuring the people, to the legals to the news and intensive sports stories, it is our lot in life to sow into you, Steele County. We have chosen to live among you and become a part of you and to be the watchmen on your walls.

It's not always popular, it's not always gratifying, it's not always easy delivering what we have, but we have put together an award-winning paper in a very small corner of the world. You may not know it, but when we get a letter or comment or critique, we share it with all of our newspaper family. It means the world to us. You are why we're here.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

As memories fade of the horrifying 9/11 attacks with many people, the lingering effects continue to take a toll on the public safety heroes who handled the search and rescue efforts.

When the towers fell in New York City back on that fateful moment in history on Sept. 11, 2001, 343 firefighters died. But, sadly, the death toll keeps climbing even now nearly two decades later.

At fire headquarters in downtown Brooklyn, a memorial for firefighters showcases 126 names of those who have died of 9/11-related illnesses. The memorial was last updated in September.

More than 1,100 retired and active firefighters have been diagnosed with a disease linked to their time at Ground Zero. As of March, nearly 59,000 people suffering a 9/11-related illness have registered with the feral Sept. 11 Victims Compensation Fund.

Last summer I had the opportunity to interview Jimmy Lanza, a retired New York firefighter who traveled to the Dodge County Fair for a 9/11 traveling

Remembering the fallen heroes of 9/11

exhibit. Lanza was part of the team that ran into the World Trade Center's destroyed north tower after two hijacked jumbo jets slammed into the twin towers. He helped pull 16 survivors out of "miracle stairwell B."

Lanza was in good spirits when he recounted the gloom and doom of 9/11. Just a few months after our interview, he was diagnosed with metastatic brain cancer. Last week he lost his battle with the fast-moving cancer. He is the third firefighter in New York to die this month.

After my interview with Lanza, it became clear that what many people don't realize is the emergency responders who survived the horrible tragedy that killed thousands of others are just now beginning to suffer devastating diseases from the aftermath.

Another firefighter I talked to with Lanza told me that 2,000 rescuers are now battling cancer.

In Lanza's case, he retired 10 years ago after serving as a firefighter for 28 years. What made his story even more remarkable is that it was his day off when the 9/11 attacks happened and he responded to the firehouse immediately after seeing the horrible events unfold on live TV.

Lanza recalled firefighters responding to the attacks with

no real breathing protection on the first day. He said the air was filled with asbestos, mercury, powder, cement dust and many other dangerous toxins.

He also remembered vividly finding body parts throughout the rubble. "It's gruesome when you find a body part, but it helped give a family some closure," Lanza commented.

He also had some terse words about the tragedy itself and how Americans should respond.

"If you forget history, it's doomed to repeat itself," Lanza said. "It's a tragedy that should have never happened. Terrorism needs to be stopped before it happens."

For most of us, including Lanza, it's difficult to come to grips with the enormity of what happened on 9/11. "I didn't expect something like this to ever happen on American soil," Lanza told me.

Lanza and many other firefighters and police officers are truly heroes. They died trying to help people in distress with one of the worst acts of evil ever committed in America.

Though the tragedy is long over, we all need to go in hot pursuit of remembering the fallen first responders of 9/11 for the sacrifices they made in keeping America a great place to live.

Guest Column

Top five ways the chamber brings visitors to Owatonna

By KATIE GODFREY

At the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, a major part of our mission is to bring visitors to Owatonna. Visitors support our local businesses by spending money on food, retail, lodging, recreation and fuel. According to Explore Minnesota Tourism, the average per person per day spending for day travelers is \$52, or \$89 for overnight travelers.

1. Marketing
Marketing Owatonna to visitors is at the core of what we do in our tourism efforts. We utilize the local lodging tax to purchase advertising that appears on digital platforms

like Facebook and common websites, and publications like the Minnesota State Travel Guide and AAA magazines. We promote our unique attractions like the Orphanage Museum and the Louis Sullivan-designed bank, and we typically target audiences from the major cities in the Midwest. We also develop visitor guides, maps, and our tourism website, www.visitowatonna.org, which is our most important tool for visitors to use while planning a trip to Owatonna. In nearly all of our marketing, our goal is to drive visitors to our website where they can learn about things to do, attractions to visit, and places to shop, eat and stay.

2. Regional Partnership

In early 2016 a new tourism partnership was formed between the Owatonna, Faribault and Northfield Chambers called the Minne-Roadtrip. The Minne-Roadtrip is an umbrella brand to promote the three communities together. Many potential visitors find the idea of a multi-community road trip more appealing than visiting a single community. We purchase advertising together and we also attend tradeshows, furthering our marketing dollars and strengthening our brand. The Minne-Roadtrip recently won a 2016 Explore Minnesota Tourism award of excellence for our marketing efforts.

3. Direct Sales

We also do direct sales to

bring group tours, conventions and leisure travel to Owatonna. So far this year we have attended home shows in Des Moines and Rochester (as the Minne-Roadtrip), and a group tour tradeshow in Green Bay. We will be attending a tradeshow in May that is focused on convention sales.

4. Product Development

We market Owatonna as a destination, and it is important that it continues to grow with amenities that will appeal to visitors and locals alike. Through local partnerships and a close relationship with our MainStreet program, we support

TOURISM

Continued on page 3A

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 Office

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 Office

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 Office

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

Letter to the editor

Play was a job well done

The Steele County Times lived up to its reputation of covering events throughout all of Steele County when Mark DeLap reported on his reaction to the production of The Wizard of Oz at Medford School.

His description of the play was so detailed and vivid that if the reader was not fortunate to have been there it would have stimulated their imagination. Personally, I had attended for the final performance on Sunday and it had captivated audiences in attendance.

Obviously, there were many

months spent on all the aspects putting it all together, but the end result deserves congratulations on a job well done!

**Luella Heim
Medford**

Notice:

While we're always happy to receive mail from our friend "concerned citizen," we cannot print letters that do not come with a full name and address.

**STEELE COUNTY
TIMES**
Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.
USPS 058-340

Published weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address
changes to: Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: (507) 583-4431
Fax: (507) 583-4445
bptimes@frontiernet.net

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)

**MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION**

STAFF

PublisherRick Bussler
Managing Editor.....Mark DeLap
Marketing/Sales.....Lori Wagner
Office Manage.....Nancy Prizler
Sports Editor.....Josh Zimmer
Staff Writer.....LeMar Nelson
News Editor.....Emily Schoenbeck
Graphic Design.....Michael Anderson
Sales Associate.....Jenna Spaeth

DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays. Web: 11 p.m.
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

Second Front



Staff Photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Senator Jasinski and Representative Petersburg answered questions submitted on cards by attendees. Numerous cards were marked with questions about the fate of Highway 14’s funding.

Representatives talk transportation at town hall

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Last Saturday, Representative John Petersburg (D. 24A) and Senator John Jasinski (D. 24) hosted a town hall at Owatonna Public Library. Transportation was the first question on everyone’s mind. The representatives fielded concerns about projects like Highway 14. Jasinski and Petersburg are the vice-chairs of their respective chambers’ transportation committees.

The major issue they were questioned about was the status of Highway 14’s funding. Jasinski said the first bill he introduced to committee was a measure to provide \$183 million for the project. Another \$90 million has also been proposed in the senate omnibus bill. Jasinski told the crowd that those numbers will likely be bargained down as part of the legislative process, but he’s confident that progress will be made. Petersburg said there’s a bill

in the house that has \$2 billion allocated to transportation. He said because Highway 14 receives no funds from the gas tax or the auto sales tax, it requires separate funding. “All of us have a stake in our roads and infrastructure,” he said. Both representatives said they are always happy to talk to people with questions or concerns about policy issues. Petersburg was especially adamant in wanting to hear from people.

Customer service key to Owatonna’s image

TOURISM: from page 2A

efforts like the restaurant and retail challenges that will help grow tourism opportunities in Owatonna.

5. Customer Service

Now that we have convinced people to visit Owatonna, what happens when they arrive? We want to be sure the customer experience is top notch so that visitors spread the word about our community in a positive way. At the Chamber we answer calls daily and assist walk-in visitors with questions about Owatonna. We also have a 24-hour information center in our vestibule that has a robust supply of brochures and maps, and we distribute

our guides and maps around town to make sure information is available wherever people go. Our tourism partners (local lodging, attractions, Parks and Recreation, retail and restaurants) provide positive experiences for visitors on a daily basis as well. How do we know if our efforts are working? We can tell if our advertising is working by looking at our website analytics. In 2016 we had a 35% increase in sessions to our website from the previous year. Our lodging tax increased 7.5% (slightly higher than the state average), and the occupancy at our local

lodging properties increased by 4%. Overall, 2016 was a healthy travel year and 2017 is looking to be good as well. We will be celebrating outstanding individuals from our local tourism industry at the Tourism Awards Luncheon on May 11 at the Steele County History Center. For details contact Katie Godfrey at kgodfrey@owatonna.org or 507-451-7970.

Katie Godfrey is the Director of Conventions and Tourism for the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Kosel concerned over drainage at new public works site

COMPLEX: from page 1A

developed at all. In fact, the irrigated land by NRCS survey is not compatible to dumping food grade waste on this soil.” Kosel submitted a photograph citing specifically “a concrete culvert” that allows food waste water to flow out of the pond into a farm drainage tile when they pump too much waste water into the pond. “This is to keep the pond from over flowing and running south through the County Public Works site’ and running through the site, over Crane Creek road which is old high way #14 and way down to Mills Fleet Farm at the on ramp to 35W South,” Kosel said and then asked, “Who allowed this overflow pipe to be installed?” Commissioner Jim Abbe commented concerning some of the past and present issues raised by Kosel and his response was, “I personally spoke with Mr. Kosel for more than one hour on this very subject. I have read the Federal Emergency Management Agency report and would ask that the press or any concerned tax-paying citizen please direct us to what state and/or federal regulation has not been adhered to so we can follow up further. “When Mr. Kosel addressed the board with this, we were there to hear him out and investigate further, which we

immediately asked our County staff do. Unfortunately, we as a new board do not get to go back and question why this site was selected, but only find a solution that is workable for the taxpayers.” It is evident that there are yet bugs to work out concerning this project, and there are yet differing views on whether to proceed or to go back to section IV, alternative IV of the assessment that would be the option of renovating an existing building and selling the property that has been partially developed. The completion of this ground to make it buildable is still an estimated \$300,000 in upcoming costs which may or may not be a low estimate considering what has to be done. Commissioner Gnemi who is a licensed appraiser offers what may be the biggest red flag to the project. “Regarding the water flow issues as they relate to the parcel of land on which the proposed building for the county highway building are concerned and the issues raised by Mr. Brian Kosel at the last county commissioner meeting, I can only state that I have visited the parcel several times over the past few weeks and it remains to be very wet. As an appraiser, I would be raising that concern to the owner and/

or potential builder based upon my observations of that parcel. “I have been of the opinion before I was elected, during the campaign and after I was elected that the county should be pursuing the purchase of an existing commercial building which would be thoroughly adequate, suitable, and compatible with the needs of the county highway department versus the building of a newly constructed building. That position has not changed even with my visitation to several other counties and the buildings they have in place for their county highway departments. “The county will still have to bring in more sand for the proper drainage of the parcel of land in question resulting in more taxpayer dollars to be spent on this unfortunately. Whether the county should pursue building on this parcel is still a major question in my mind given the wetness of this parcel. Even if the county ends up constructing a new building for the county highway department, I believe given the information from Met-Con, the county would end up spending significantly less than what the prior commissioners proposed, and the county would have a very suitable, functional and adequate building.”

Valesano meets with representatives in D.C.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Last week, Rachel Valesano had a longer commute to work than usual. Valesano is Owatonna school district’s Director of Nutrition Services, and she attended the annual conference of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) in Washington, D.C. The conference, which ran the weekend and ended on “the hill” on Tuesday, was a chance for nutrition professionals to discuss changes in school lunch nutrition standards and speak with their congressional representatives.

Valesano has been the director Owatonna’s nutrition services for nine years, and this was her seventh time attending the conference. Thousands of people were in attendance this year, and Owatonna was one of nine Minnesota school districts represented.

The highlight of the week for many is meeting with their congressperson to discuss changes the school districts would like to see to nutrition standards and school lunch funding.

Due to busy schedules, the nutrition professionals sometimes can only meet with congressional aids working for their congressperson. Valesano and the other Minnesota delegates, however, were able to meet with Representative Tim Walz directly. “It went wonderfully,” Valesano said, “He was very familiar with our concerns.”

One of the most pressing concerns for the SNA is the possibility of block granting school meal programs. Valesano expressed her



Staff Photo by Emily Schoenbeck

This was Valesano’s seventh time in attendance to the D.C. convention in her nine years with the Owatonna school district. She was one of more than 1,000 SNA members present.

concern that block grants could cut funding and endanger school districts’ ability to provide meals, especially to lower income and at-risk students.

The second concern is the current rigidity of federal nutrition standards that Valesano says hinder the practical considerations of providing meals to large numbers of students.

Under Obama, new nutrition standards were implemented, Valesano said, “the general intent of the law was great.” It did, however, introduce a few nutrition goals that the SNA is concerned are neither practical nor necessary.

One such goal is a major reduction in sodium in school meals. While lower sodium levels overall are better for a healthy diet, Valesano pointed out that lowering sodium levels too much makes preserving

and shipping food to schools difficult and can make the food tasteless enough students won’t eat it.

The benefits of lowering sodium levels even further might not even have significant health impacts. “We don’t think enough science has been done,” Valesano said.

Nutrition standards on the whole Valesano and the SNA readily support. Healthy meals are critical to a child’s mental development and preventing health problems later in life. Investing in a child’s nutrition saves everyone more in the long run.

Valesano, former public policy chair for the Minnesota School Nutrition Association, believes it’s important to advocate on behalf of students. “If we aren’t telling our story,” Valesano said, “someone else will be.”

USEKIK

MARKETING

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, WE CAN DO IT.

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

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

DESIGN.

PRINT.

WEB.

PROMO.

APPAREL.

SIGNS.

VIDEO.

EVENTS.

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

Coping with ringing in your ears

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any new treatments you know of that can help with constant ear ringing syndrome known as tinnitus? I've had it for years but it's gotten worse the older I get.

Ringin' Louder at 62

Dear Ringing,

Tinnitus is a common condition that affects around 45 million Americans, but is usually more prevalent in the 60-and-older age group. Here's what you should know along with some tips and treatments that may help.

What is Tinnitus?

Tinnitus (pronounced tin-NIGHT-us or TIN-a-tus) is the sensation of hearing a ringing, buzzing, roaring, hissing or whistling sound in one or both ears when no external sound is present. The sounds, which can vary in pitch and loud-

ness, are usually worse when background noise is low, so you may be more aware of it at night when you're trying to fall asleep in a quiet room. For most people tinnitus is merely annoying, but for many others it can be extremely disturbing.

Tinnitus itself is not a disease, but rather a symptom of some other underlying health condition. The best way to find out what's causing your tinnitus is to see an audiologist, or an otolaryngologist – a doctor who specializes in ear, nose and throat diseases (commonly called and ENT). The various things that can cause tinnitus are:

- Age-related and noise-induced hearing loss – this is most common cause.
- Middle ear obstructions, which are usually caused by a build-up of earwax deep in the ear canal.

• The side effects of many different prescription and nonprescription medicines like aspirin, ibuprofen, certain blood pressure medicines and diuretics, some antidepressants, cancer medicines and antibiotics.

• Various medical conditions such as high blood pressure, vascular disease, diabetes, allergies, thyroid problems, ear or sinus infections, Meniere's disease, Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, otosclerosis, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder, a tumor, an injury to the head or neck, traumatic brain injury, depression, stress and more.

Treating the Causes

While there's currently no cure for tinnitus there are some ways to treat it depending on the cause. For example, if your tinnitus is caused by a wax build-up in your ears or a medical

condition (high blood pressure, thyroid problem, etc.), treating the problem may reduce or eliminate the noise. Or, if you think a medication you're taking may be causing the problem, switching to a different drug, or lowering the dosage may provide some relief.

Other Treatments

Another treatment option for tinnitus that can help suppress or mask the sound so its less bothersome are "sound therapies." These can be as simple as a fan or a white noise machine, or something more sophisticated like a modified-sound or notched-music device like Neuromonics (neuromonics.com) or the Levo System (otoharmonics.com) that actually trains your brain not to hear the tinnitus.

Or, if you have hearing loss, hearing aids can help mask your tinnitus by improving your abil-



THE SAVVY SENIOR



Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie

583-4434

ity to hear actual sounds. There are even hearing aids today that come with integrated sound generation technology that delivers white noise or customized sounds to the patient on an ongoing basis. Your audiologist or ENT can help you with these options.

There are also certain medications that may help. While currently there's no FDA approved drugs specifically designed to treat tinnitus, some antianxiety drugs and antidepressants have been effective in reliving symptoms. Behavioral therapies, counseling and support groups can also be helpful.

Other things you can do to

help quiet the noise is to avoid things that can aggravate the problem like salt, artificial sweeteners, sugar, alcohol, tonic water, tobacco and caffeine. And protect yourself from loud noises by wearing earplugs.

For more information on tinnitus treatment options, visit the American Tinnitus Association at ata.org.

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
April 17, 2007
Elise Slinger, Editor

This past Tuesday, the question of whether or not to approve a property tax increase for the purpose of improving the facilities of Blooming Prairie High and Elementary school came before the voters in the Blooming Prairie School District. The voters have spoken on both issues, passing approval in the \$14 million dollar bond for refurbishment and remodeling of the schools, but saying no to the proposal to build a new gym and renovate the old gym into an auditorium.

With dirt track car racing season almost upon us, we found among those who have gone around the track a few times, a former local resident who has raced in many a state with more than a few names under his belt. Eaker, now a resident of Mechanicsville, Iowa will be inducted this coming summer into the National Dirt Lane Model Hall of Fame in a special ceremony August 11th at Florence, Kentucky Speedway during the annual running out of previous North-South 100.

20 Years Ago
April 15, 1997
Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Elementary students had a chance first hand to meet an author Monday, April 7th, and also get to purchase one of her books with an autograph. Carol Gorman, an author who has published 32 books as well as many articles, visited Blooming Prairie and was on her way to other Zumbro Education District Schools as part of her trip. Gorman graduated from the University of Iowa with degrees in theatre, English and music. She taught language arts for seven years before writing full time.

Jason Iacovino, BPHS senior, kept a local high school record intact when he won the right to represent the school in the state speech contest this weekend. Iacovino took the first place medal in Creative Expression at the Section 2A contest in St. Peter on Saturday, April 12, to advance to the next level. This will be the third state trip for Iancovino after taking second as an 8th grader and then competing at the state in the Great Speeches division as a sophomore.

50 Years Ago
April 13, 1967
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The Blooming Prairie High School track team will open its 1967 schedule at home next Wednesday, April 19, in a meet with squads from Hayfield, Ellendale, and New Richland. The squad has been preparing the past several weeks for their opening meet and prospects point to a winning season. The community is urged to support the track team as they were Gopher Conference and sub-district champions last year and with the encouragement from fans can again regain these titles.

Baseball practice has been underway for sometime at Blooming Prairie High School and Coach Jerry Peterson and his squad are hard at work preparing for this year's area competition. A nucleus of eight lettermen provide a good start for a strong team, according to Coach Peterson, The returning lettermen are: Larry Worke, Lee Ingvalson, Bill Peterson, Greg Hansen, John Weiss, Dan Harms, Bruce Krejci, and George Hansen.

75 Years Ago
April 16, 1942
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher

Walter Rutzen, Dodge County youth, was arrested in Steele county Wednesday by Sheriff Helgeson, on a charge of failing to comply with selecle service regulations. He has been turned over to a United States Marshall. The youth, who registered in October, 1940, claimed exemption because of a rating by his minister. He was given time by the Dodge County Selective Service Board to prepare papers to support his claims but it was charged, left the country and failed to reply.

Perfect shooting weather greeted the grand opening of the 1942 trapshooting season for the Blooming Prairie Gun Club here Sunday. Although spectators were not as numerous as at some shoots held here, and excellent field of crack shooters from all parts of the state were on the grounds to warm up their shooting eye. Numerous trapshoots in other parts of the state prevented shooters to attend the shoot here.

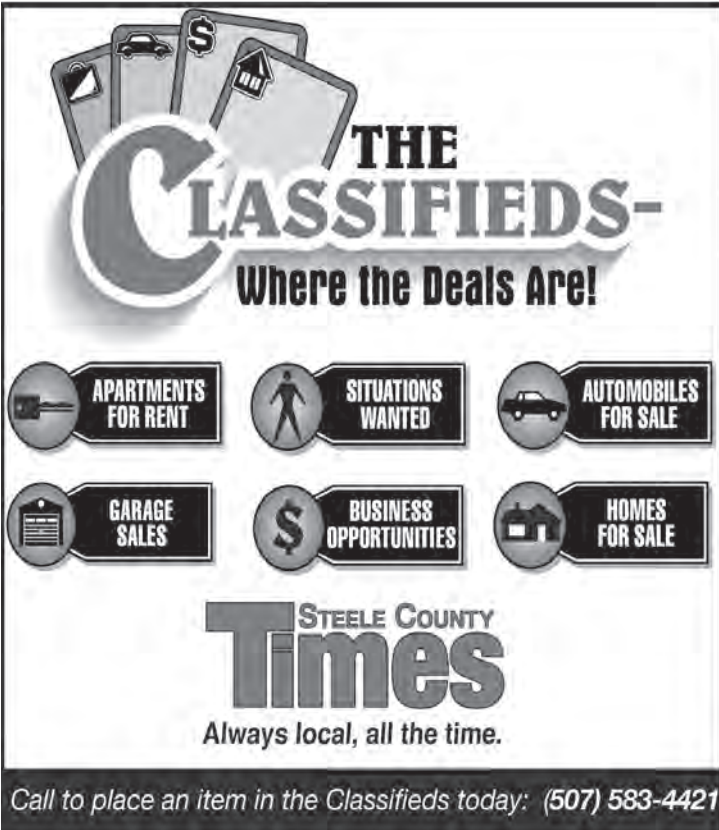
Help Wanted

RDS Trucking Inc.

- Belly Demp
- End Dump
- Dump Truck
- FT or PT Mechanic
- Machine operator

RDS Trucking Inc.

507-433-1177



THE CLASSIFIEDS-

Where the Deals Are!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SITUATIONS WANTED

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE

GARAGE SALES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

HOMES FOR SALE

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

Call to place an item in the Classifieds today: (507) 583-4421

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountant

Tamzen R. Johnson

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

Automotive



ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners

Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317

Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie

www.kostercarkorner.com

FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Construction



Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving

Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction

24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592

AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Garbage



YOU CAN COUNT ON US!

Sanitation & Recycling Services

Pride in service since 2007

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

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

Contact Skjeveland Enterprises today!

507-528-9900

Bridal



507.446.8900

2365 43rd St. NW • Owatonna

Funeral Planning



A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring

PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING

507-583-7561

www.worlein.com

Mary Kittelson

NFPA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home

418 Highway Ave S., Blooming Prairie, MN

Recreation



Outdoor Power Equipment,

Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,

Parts & Accessories

Hwy 218 S.

Blooming Prairie

www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service



SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.

656 3rd St. NE

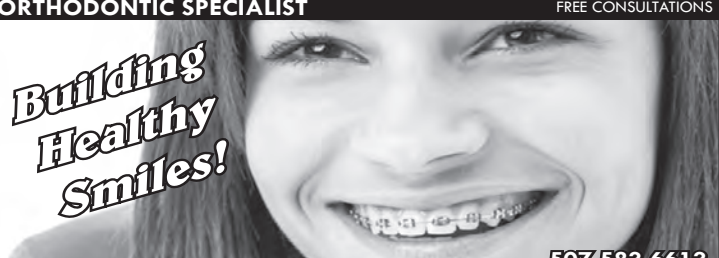
Blooming Prairie, MN

Robert Salinas

Family-Owned

583-6620

Orthodontic Specialist



Dr. Deborah J. Lien, DDS, MBS

132 2ND AVE. NE BLOOMING PRAIRIE

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

FREE CONSULTATIONS

Building Healthy Smiles!

drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

507.583.6613

Siding & Windows



J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.

Siding & Windows

Lic. #20533878

- Maintenance Free Siding
- Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
- Custom Trim Work
- Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
- Lifetime Warranty

For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413



Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselfers!

Taxes



Borchardt's Accounting and Tax Service

46 ye s and still goi g str g!

1345 Linn • Owatonna, MN 55060

Phone: (507) 451-7748

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Steele County Times • Tuesday, April 11, 2017 • 5A

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

April 11th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 12th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

April 13th:
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time

April 17th:
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor

April 18th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, City Hall

April 19th:
4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

April 11th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
2:30p.m.BPPU Comm. Meeting, City Center
4:30pm Fire Commission, City Center

April 12th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
4:30p.m. Economic Develop. Authority Meeting, City Center

April 18th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg

April 19th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

April 11th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

April 13th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

April 17th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

April 18th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

April 19th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

Event Spotlight:
Kiwanis Clubs Belgian waffle brunch

A breakfast brunch, featuring all-you-can-eat Dad's Belgian waffles and sausage, will be served as a Kiwanis fundraiser from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sunday, April 23 at the Owatonna VFW Club, 135 Oakdale St.

Proceeds will benefit student scholarships and many local community service needs. Clubs serving are the Kiwanis Golden K, Kiwanis Noon Club and the Owatonna High School Kiwanis Key Club.

Advance sale tickets at \$7.00 are available from Kottke Jewelers and Kiwanis Club and Key Club members. Tickets sold at the door are \$8.

Kiwanis International is a world-wide service organization that's celebrating the 102th anniversary of its founding. Its primary focus is to serve the development of young children and youth in health, reading and leadership initiatives.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

April 11th:
All day Calico Hutch Quilt Caboose Retreat, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center
9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast, Mower County Senior Center

April 12th:
9am - 5pm Mayo Clinic Health System Auxiliary Purse Sale, Mayo Clinic Health System - Austin
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12pm - 1pm Austin Page Turners Lunch and Learn - "Good Afternoon, Riverland, Good Night Mr. Wodehouse: A Facilitated Discussion", Riverland Community College library
7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin

April 13th:
9:30am - 10:30am Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Mower County Senior Center
6pm - 8pm Family Movie Night, Salvation Army Church, 409 1st Ave NE, Austin
6pm - 9pm Junk to Gems, Austin ArtWorks Center

April 15th:
10am - 3pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Tom Hormel and Chad Augustin, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N
10:30am - 12pm Kids' Studio: "Ish" Art, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin

April 16th:
11am - 2pm Grand Easter Brunch, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center, 1701 4th St NW, Austin

April 17th:
10am - 3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, Mower County Senior Center
4pm - 5pm Literary Landmark for Richard Eberhart, Austin High School, 301 3rd St NW
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
6pm - 8pm Eberhart Night of Poetry, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin

April 18th:
10am - 11am Hearth and Home Series - Flood Walls in a Former Swampland, Hormel Historic Home
7pm - 8pm Stan Tekiela - Birds' Nests: Amazingly Ingenious and Intricate, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

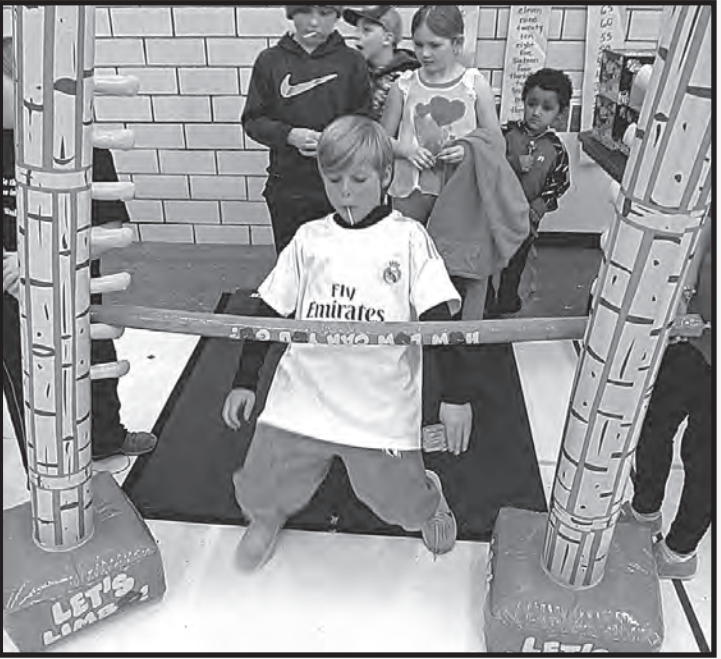
HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Kolby Vigeland of Blooming Prairie shows off his winnings from The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's Ham Bingo event on Thursday, April 6. Kolby won a ham, four pounds of Hope butter and a variety box of chicken. Nearly 60 persons played the fun game of Bingo with all proceeds going to the BP Cancer Group. Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg donated the hams.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Anna Segner

Brandon Schulz of Owatonna, enjoys the tropical taste of his sucker as he tries to go as low as he can go at the limbo game at the Washington Elementary School PTO Carnival in Owatonna Friday night.



Dr. Deborah Lien
DDS, MBS

FREE CONSULTATION
132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613

www.drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

Event Spotlight:
Nominations for
Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame

Deadline date for nominations for the 2017 Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame is May 1.

The Livestock Hall of Fame is based on impact/influence upon the livestock industry in the county, state and national level (County and State being the priority).

Also to be considered is the nominee's leadership in the livestock industry in county, state and national (County and State being the priority).

Also to be considered will be length of livestock and/or community service and other relevant contributions or accomplishments of the nominee.

Nomination forms are available at the fair office and on the fair website.

Event Spotlight:
Poetry Writing Workshops

A free writing workshop spanning five Mondays and beginning April 24, will be offered by the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt said the writing sessions, emphasizing poetry, will last two hours each Monday night from 6-8 p.m.

The workshops are entitled: "Writing Memoirs and Personal Stories." Registrants will learn how to turn an idea, image, or emotion into an effective and engaging poem. Each class in this series stands alone and includes two hours of lecture, writing exercises, and small group discussions.

Following each 2-hour workshop, participants can take part in a 30- minute "Writer's Roundtable" where they can bring 1-2 pages of written work to read and get feedback from the group.

The workshops are geared for participants ages 10-14 (with a parent) and age 15-adult.

Here's a summary of the sessions:

- April 24 -- Introduction to Poetry
- May 1 -- Playing with Forms (Haiku, Cinquain, Sonnet and Sestina)
- May 15 -- Free Verse Isn't Free (but it is fun)
- May 22 -- Editing and Preparing Your Poems for Publication
- May 22 -- 8 p.m. Volunteer Poetry Concert

The workshops are made possible by voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota States Arts Board, the appropriation coming from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Event Spotlight:
Community of Wellness Health Fair

Rochester Clinic and Lotus Health Foundation are pleased to present The Community of Wellness Health Fair, a series of public and private events, on April 18-25.

Public events begin on Thursday, April 20, with a CHIP information session at Rochester Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, beginning with a presentation at 7 p.m. and culminating in a Lifestyle Medicine Symposium: A Holistic Approach to Healthcare, on Tuesday, April 25, at RCTC Heintz Center.

A highlight of the week will be the Community of Wellness Celebration Banquet – The Blue Zones, at the Kahler Apache, Saturday, April 22 at 5:30 pm. The Blue Zones are distinct locations where people tend to live longer and healthier. Come to learn how lifestyle medicine can help you create Blue Zones from individual to the community. Registration is required.

For more information on Rochester Clinic and to see a full list of date, time, and locations of the Community of Wellness Health Fair events, go to www.RochesterClinic.com, www.LotusHealthFoundation.org or e-mail us Health@RochesterClinic.com, call 507-218-3095.

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

APARTMENTS
FOR RENT

SITUATIONS
WANTED

AUTOMOBILES
FOR SALE

BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES

GARAGE
SALES

HOUSES
FOR SALE

STEELE COUNTY
Times

Always local, all the time.
Call to place an item
in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

Minimizer

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

J&H LIQUOR'S:
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN• (507)583-7557

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
-BAR BINGO MONDAY @6:30 PM

MAY 9: WINE TASTING "GALA"
(BENEFITING THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB)
7-9 P.M. @ J&H
TICKETS : \$12.00 ADVANCE/ \$18.00 DOOR
GREAT WINES, APPETIZERS & MYSTERY PRIZES

JUNE 24: CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE.

JULY 1: PARKING LOT DANCE
8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT NO COVER CHARGE
DJ MUSIC... JOE OLIVO

(21&OVER) ID REQUIRED

JULY 3: STREET DANCE
8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT
\$5 COVER CHARGE (21&OVER) ID
REQUIRED
CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL/ COUNTRY

JULY 4TH : OPEN BAR / OFF-SALE
9 AM- CLOSE

JULY 22: B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS"
ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR'S

off
90

PRAIRIE
SPORTSMAN

R TOWN

Don't miss all the
"Better Choices!"

KSMQ
IN FOCUS

UNDER THE STREET LAMP

Coming soon to our area!
Watch this dynamic world
grow inside our dynamic
drive on KSMQ TV

KSMQ TV

The Better Choice

Plan your viewing with the IN FOCUS Program Guide!

Delivered to you monthly • 1 Year Member Subscription \$35.
email: MBednar@KSMQ.Org or 507.481-2098



Area Church Spotlight

Seven Day Adventist, Owatonna, MN

Pastor’s corner: The inheritance of Christ

This week is Holy Week. For some that means Chocolate candy. For others it means special services at church. It can mean a new dress or a new suit for a child. But these are just the trappings. They are supposed to help us remember the deeper meaning of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We rejoice that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection our sins are forgiven and we have the hope of eternal life with Him. These are His great love gift to us. Purchased at the price of his shed blood and His broken body and given freely to us. But precisely because they are free to us we can easily begin to forget the great cost involved in getting them for us.

It reminds me of a gift from my dad a few months ago of part of my inheritance. I used it to help my daughter refinance her home. It brought the blessing of getting her finances on a stable platform. But while it did not cost me anything, I remembered how my mom got that money. That \$ 25000 dollars took her almost ten years to save from her work as a Secretary. She would work all day typing letters and filing papers at an office and then come home to prepare supper for 4 starving boys and wash their clothes and keep the house clean and read us our bedtime stories and have family worship. Then early the

next morning it would start all over again. She had very little free time. Four boys just produce too much work.

Of course, we had our chores and were expected to help. And my dad had his duties. But those years of work by my Mom made the difference in saving up the money for their retirement. So, while I got the money as a free gift, I understand its value because of how long it took my Mom to put it aside.

So it is with what we receive so lovingly and freely from Jesus. He takes away our sins that were killing us and gives us instead His righteousness that gives us joy, peace and eternal

life. This week we take extra time to remember what He did. This week don’t forget to thank Him for what He did 2000 years ago and for what He is doing for you each day through His Spirit now.

My mom is resting in Jesus now. But the love she poured into her daily toil back then is still giving to her family. Jesus is sitting at God’s right hand now and He is still ministering to us the benefits of the great salvation that He won for us.

Pastor Robert Brauer
Seven Day Adventist,
Owatonna

Area Church Schedule

LERBERG’S FITNESS CENTER
118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471
Andy & Mary Lerberg

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

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

ALYSNE CONTRACTING CORPORATION
3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna
507-451-7121

GARLICK’S WATER CONDITIONING
Kineticco
Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing
800-722-1282
www.garlickswater.com

Koster’s CAR KORNER
FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH
Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
411 East Main Street
507-583-4431

KERNEL Restaurant
1011 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna
507-451-2585
www.kernelrestaurant.com

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
Jeff Sandgren, Interim Pastor
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
stcolumbanuschurch.com
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomyslwebs.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.
Wednesdays during Lent: 6:15 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration; 6:45 p.m.
Stations of the cross.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.



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

Full Gospel

Streetfire Ministries
Blooming Prairie, MN
http://streetfireministries.org/
Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
616-788-1044
www.streetfireministries.net

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

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

Vandals FAMILY MARKET
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
411 East Main Street
507-583-4431

Dr. Deborah Lien
DDS, MBS
Building Healthy Smiles!
132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613
FREE CONSULTATION

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
Service Center:
507-528-2233
After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158
111 Front Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN

Lansing Corners SUPPER CLUB
Open daily at 11:am
27017 US Highway 218 • Austin
(507) 433-7841

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT
“Creating Your Story in Stone”
1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com

REALIFE COOPERATIVE
Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price
Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna

FARMERS INSURANCE
Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

Obituaries

Berniece Grace (Duken) Nelson, 83, Blooming Prairie

Berniece Grace (Duken) Nelson, age 83 of Blooming Prairie, peacefully entered the Gates of Heaven, Sunday, Jan. 8, after spending the past 7-½ years at Prairie Manor Care Center. Berniece was born April 18, 1934, to Herman and Marie (Anderson) Duken in Austin.

She attended country school south of Blooming Prairie, graduated from Austin High School, and went on to receive her nurse’s training in Rochester. Berniece was a registered nurse at Saint Marys Hospital-Rochester, St. Olaf Hospital-Austin, and Prairie Manor Care Center-Blooming Prairie.

Berniece fell in love with Mervin E. Nelson and they were married Dec. 15, 1957, at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie, where the Nelsons remained members. To their union of 59 years, three rambunctious boys were born, Brian, Rodney and Bruce, whom they lovingly raised.

Berniece and Mervin enjoyed

the warmth of Arizona winters for many years during retirement, as well as trips to Germany and Alaska. Berniece was a loving wife, an amazing mother and an extraordinary grandmother. She loved and treasured her family and prayed for them regularly.

The legacy she left her family was a gift. Known for her excellent cooking and baking, Berniece would spend hours in the kitchen making meals and delights for her family. Her peach pie and homemade rolls were second to none.

She loved to serve delicious meals in her home and was a meticulous house keeper, as well as an avid window washer with never a streak or fly speck left behind. Gardening and her beautiful flowers brought Berniece much joy.

She quietly waged a long and weary battle with Lewy Body Dementia. As she lay exhausted and vanquished, she gracefully slipped away from us. Her suffering finally ended as God carried her home to where her body and mind could be restored.

All the while, she trusted in God’s promise of salvation and looked forward to entering her eternal home. She was a faithful daughter of God. Berniece always had a gentle spirit, filled with graciousness and a deep consideration of others.

Precious moments and memories were made in her home that will always remain a part of her memory. Berniece’s faith and love left an incredible mark on those she met. We have lost her, but we know right where she is and we are thankful for the promise of Heaven.

Berniece was preceded in death by a baby boy and her beloved son Rodney Nelson, her siblings and her parents. She remains loved by her husband Merv, her sons, Brian (Lois) and Bruce (Amy) along with Rozann and her grandchildren Amber, Ashley, Alicia, Jenna, Lynnae, Anthony and her great-grandson



Owen.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2017, at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie. The family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service at the church. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Lynn Christianson, 69, Burnsville

Lynn Rodney Christianson, 69, of Burnsville died Thursday, April 6, 2017, at his home in Burnsville.

Lynn was born March 23, 1948 in Austin, the son of Almer and Stella (Johnson) Christianson. He was baptized and confirmed at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. He attended school in Blooming Prairie graduating in 1966. He then attended the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, to become an electrician. He was an active member of IBEW Local Union 292 and worked for various firms around the Twin Cities, on everything from power plants to doorbells.

On Aug. 2, 1969, he was

united in marriage to Charlene Cummings. They made their home in Burnsville. Lynn enjoyed all things electrical and loved to ride his Harley Davidson motorcycle. He was an active member of his Harley Owners Group. The couple shared many enjoyable trips to Disney World in Florida where they owned their condo. Over the years, they had 70 daycare children and 30 foster care children, including Ricky, Jerry and Sheila, with whom they maintained a special lifelong relationship. Charlene died on January 2, 1994.

Lynn is survived by two brothers, Alan (Lois) Christianson of Surprise, Ariz., and Brian (Donna)

Christianson of Seven Lakes, N.C.; three sisters, Ann (David) Bardouche of El Paso, Texas, Jean Lee of Blooming Prairie and Sharon (David) Fogal of Laguna Woods, Calif.; several nieces, nephews; great-nieces and nephews and an aunt, Ethel Christianson of Blooming Prairie. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Charlene and two sisters, Ramona Mace and Phyllis Jacobson.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at the Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service at the funeral



home. Interment will follow the service at Grandview Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: 11th Micah Andrews Jeremy Cochlin Carol Kirkebon Katelyn Eichens Anita Angell Greg Skillestad	Asher Miller Karson Vigeland Anna Thorson
12th Riley Johnson John Dean Olson Joshua Winn Galen Peterson Kaiden Alwes Jay Klemmensens	16th Clinton Christianson Richard Schwartz
13th Joel Invalson Zoe Ehlers Suzy Kramer	17th Angie Avery Jesse Christiansen Kathryn Piller Timothy Adam Greene Matt Braaten
14th Lynn Borchert Linda Wolf Jayden Schewe Jaqueline Werks	Anniversaries: 11th Lloyd & Jane Prihoda Mr. & Mrs. Bob Haberman Gale & Rick Miller
15th Pat Ingvalson (Mrs. Steve)	12th Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Johnson Troy & Candace Anderson Doede & Eleanor Harms
	14th Joe & Kaylee Farr

Milestones is sponsored by:

Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

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

The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

SEMCAC senior menu

April 12th Hawaiian Chicken Confetti Rice Asparagus Carrot Rasin Salad Fresh Fruit Cup	April 17th Meatloaf ALT: Liver & Onions Parslied Boiled Potatoes Carrots Fruit Cup
April 13th Chili Blanca Crackers Tomato/Cuke Salad Pumpkin Crisp	April 18th Pork Steak/Dressing Oriental Blend Veg. Romaine Lettuce Salad Dinner Roll BP Cookie
April 14th Baked Fish Alt: Beef Patty Oven Brown Potatoes Beets Mand Orange Dessert	April 19th Chicken Ala King over Biscuit Peas Craisin Coleslaw Fresh Banana

Engaged

Nikole Lyn Prins of Owatonna is newly engaged to Johnathan Edward Manges of Ellendale.

Nikole is the daughter of Marty and Karla Prins of Morristown. Johnathan is the son of Roger and Shari Manges of Blooming Prairie.

Congratulations to both families and best wishes to Johnathan and Nikole!

Dean's SMOKE SHACK

Marinated Tri-Tips

ONLY \$6.99 LB.

Awesome on the grill

104 E. Main St. • Geneva, MN • 507-256-0025
www.deanssmokeshack.com

Part time bartender

Must be available evenings and weekends.
Must be 18 years old.
Applications at the servicemens club.

★ **583-7884** ★

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

Jensen Heating, A/C, & Plumbing

Registered Showroom

24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs

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

THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**

256-4712
Geneva, MN

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

Prices Good 4/11 - 4/17

Sugardale 12oz Bacon 2/\$7	Valley-Maid Sunday's Best Pit Quarter Ham \$3.99/lb
Valley-Maid Smoked Whole or Half Hams \$2.49/lb	Sugardale Sliced Ham 2.5lb \$7.99
Valley-Maid Sunday's Best Pit Half Ham \$3.89/lb	

Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!

237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

Grease

Now Playing!

Chanhassen DINNER THEATRES
entertaining You

952.934.1525 • 800.362.3515
ChanhassenDT.com

PASS TIME IN LINE.

READ

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

The Steele County Times

Subscribe today and stay connected with your community.
www.steeledodgenews.com

See us on Facebook!

Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Flood waters hit county



Archived photo

Back in 2010, crews of volunteers turned out in force to help sandbag in the city of Owatonna and surrounding communities. After two snow storms and a series of tornadoes earlier that year, the flooding was Mother Nature's latest test of endurance for Steele County residents.

The whirlwind events of 2010

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

While 2009 brought a little faster rhythm of events and news items to the community, 2010 saw Mother Nature hogging the spotlight and bringing to the area several unusual and, in some cases, tragic events.

Two snow storms, one in January that dumped several inches of the white stuff on the community and rapidly wiped out the city budget for snow removal, and another in mid-December that left 8-10 inches of snow on the surroundings provided just two of the unique weather events.

In June, a series of tornadoes swept the area, destroying property in Hollandale, rural Ellendale and rural Blooming

Prairie, and narrowly spared the life of Judith Kollar, whose house was destroyed by the destructive force of nature. The entire community banded together to initiate clean up that went on for weeks. The county was eventually declared a disaster area.

In September, 8-10 inches of rain inundated Owatonna and the area that caused major flooding in that city and caused some hardship in Blooming Prairie and the community around. Cleanup from that event also went on for weeks. Those events generally were labeled one in a hundred years' storms, and to have several in one year certainly classified them as very unusual. Other news, however, reached the community besides the

ravages of Mother Nature.

Larry Wurst took over the Highway 218 Off-Sale, and police officer Mark Lang and John Sime's quick work in putting down a kitchen fire in Paula Sime's home probably saved the structure from major damage. Claudia Jan Miller had the honor of the first baby of the year to parents Matt and Stephanie Miller, and the local Minimizer Company had the distinction of providing strong poly fenders to Army vehicles in Afghanistan.

Blooming Prairie had the dubious distinction of having two residents on America's Most Wanted fugitive list. Dale Harvey Batt made it, and a little later Oscar Trevino joined him on that infamous list. Heavy snow collapsed a cattle barn on the Steele County fairgrounds. Dan

McIntosh became the Steele County district attorney, and the Southeast division of the Red Cross sent volunteers, including some community residents, to Fargo to help battle floodwaters from the Red River.

A fifth and sixth grade triathlon team from BPES won that event in the ZED district and advanced to the state triathlon tournament. Steve's Meat Market won Reserve Champion honors in state competition at St. Cloud. Gary Ringhofer officially retired in April, and local policemen Mark Lang and Jake Peterson joined comrades from all over the state in attending the funeral of an officer killed in Maple Grove.

For the third straight year, the Steele County

detention center was named the best jail in Minnesota by the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. The BP Trading Company opened its door in April, and TT Motorcycles held an open house in its new location on Main Street Blooming Prairie. The BPHS team defeated Hope Lutheran 4-0 to win the section 1A championship and advance to the state softball tournament. The team lost both games, the last on a very controversial umpire decision.

Casey's renovated store held a grand opening in June, and Mark Lang, Jake Peterson, and deputy sheriff Tony David received life-saving medals for their action in the tornado that struck the community. Two vehicles originally stolen from Koster's Kar Corner were located on a

ship bound for Ghana. BPHS student Jordan Ressler lost his life in a car accident in early November that threw the entire community into shock and a long period of mourning his passing.

Lon Thiele assumed the position of Steele County Sheriff, after winning the November election. The BPHS football team lost its bid for a second straight state appearance, when Goodhue edged the Blossoms in the section finals; and the Mower County new jail was set to open in December.

It was doubtful that 2011 could match in drama and excitement what 2010 had offered, but the community would probably welcome a little slower rhythm. The big birthday celebration of 150 years drew ever closer.



Blooming Strong



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

314 E Main St, Blooming Prairie 507-583-7528

A BP ANCHOR SINCE 1997





ANCHOR OF
BUSINESS &
INDUSTRY

JOHNSON,
DOERHOEFER
AND MINER P.A.



MY BP RECOLLECTIONS

In honor of Blooming Prairie's 150th anniversary, the Times is looking for reader submissions detailing life in the community.

Help us celebrate Blooming's rich heritage!

One winner will be chosen every month and awarded a pair of tickets to the **Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!**

- No more than 300 words
- Signed with contact info
- Submit to the Times
- E-Mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net

- Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- In Person: 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie



STEELE COUNTY
TIMES
Always local, all the time.



Blooming on the Prairie for a century and a half!



Minimizer
Proud sponsor of
BP's 150th year!



Trapper Jack Bruns is for hire

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

He's always been that outdoors kind of guy. We are talking about 10-year-old Jack Bruns of Blooming Prairie. He has acquired quite a reputation already at such a young age. Jack, a fourth grader is known to many of his friends and family members as Trapper Jack. Jack lives on a three-acre hobby farm just south of Blooming Prairie with his older sisters Maggie and Bobbie and with his younger brother Jeffrey. The Bruns family lives next door to Jack's grandparents, Jeff and Sue Zwienen. "We don't know what he would be like in town," said Jack's mother Lisa, a kindergarten teacher at BP Elementary School. The ever-smiling Jack was recently a donor of services for the BP Education Foundation annual auction. He donated a month of trapping and it fetched \$150 from a lucky bidder. Lisa said her family grew up

Jack was first introduced to trapping gophers by his grandmother Sue who Jack said was taught how to trap by her grandfather. Jack's gopher trapping skills have netted him bounty money from the local township. Jack's friends, Cade and Cole Christianson encouraged him to turn in his gophers for bounty. With five live traps and 10 rat traps, Jack traps gophers, rats and chipmunks. He also traps raccoons, rabbits, opossum and squirrels. He releases some of his critters caught in live traps by taking them to an area near the Cedar River. Love of the outdoors cultivated Jack's interest in trapping at the young age of four. "I remember him sitting for hours with a bird cage, hoping a bird would fly into his cage; it didn't happen," relates Jack's mom. Jack shot a tom turkey last hunting season and is going again this month. He hunts with Craig Anderson. Jack plans to go deer hunting this fall.

with hunting. Jack has been in the woods on deer hunts with his mother. "Jack is a pretty patient dude out there," she says. Jack recently went on a trapping expedition in town, helping Chad and Tara Gimbel remove a muskrat from a window well. Jack set a live trap for the muskrat, caught him and released him by the Cedar River. Jack also trapped a woodchuck near the Gimbels. Grandpa Jeff offered Jack \$5 for each woodchuck he could trap on the Zwiener farm. Visiting with his grandparents one day, Jack observed an entire family of woodchucks traveling across the lawn. "Yes," Jack uttered as he witnessed the woodchuck parade. He earned \$35, trapping the family members and releasing them by the river. Jack doesn't always get what he sets out to trap. Grandpa Jeff was mowing near one of Jack's traps and learned quickly there

TRAPPER
Continued on page 2B



Submitted photo
Ten-year-old Jack Bruns of Blooming Prairie is known to many of his family members and friends as Trapper Jack. He is also known as Hunter Jack and is shown with a tom turkey he shot during last year's season. Jack is hunting turkey again this year.

Can the homeless find joy



JERRY F. ZETAH

Today, I will introduce you to a friend who is a treasure. This friend has no address until you decided to invite him in to your home and give him a place of honor. I was recently introduced to this friend and more accurately, to two friends. These friends, through reading, one His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tuto. In 2015, they spent some time together in India in order to celebrate the 80th birthday of the Dalai Lama. During this time they were interviewed by an author as they pondered a deep question: "How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?" Their gift to the world is "The Book of Joy." <http://bookofjoy.org/> The essence of the book focuses on the eight Pillars of Joy, that is, the qualities required for lasting happiness. The Pillars are not rocket science. Instead, each one is attainable in our daily life. The Pillars are: Perspective, Humility, Humor, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion and Generosity. What a foundation they provide. If the Pillars of joy are not rocket science, neither are the obstacles: Fear, Stress and Anxiety, Frustration and Anger, Sadness and Grief, Despair, Loneliness, Envy, Suffering and Adversity, and Illness and Fear of Death. In order to determine what the Pillars and Obstacles might mean to the man in the pew, as it were, the men at the Hospitality House were asked to respond to two questions: Where do you find joy and what obstacles block you from finding joy? Their responses included:

- While fishing, helping people, working
- While camping, being with friends
- While being outdoors
- In learning and meditating on a positive future
- In being able to sleep
- In being silly with others
- In recognizing my blessings
- In experiencing intercourse
- In studying and applying my skills

Unfortunately, roadblocks and obstacles surface frequently and joy gets lost. The following obstacles were identified:

- Procrastination
- Not having a job or no housing
- Drugs get in the way, relapses with alcohol
- Distrustful people
- Negative thinking
- My own behavior
- Overthinking at times

Allow me to focus on one Pillar and see how it applies to the Hospitality House. Without the Pillar of generosity being lived out in our community, the Hospitality House would not be available to the men who are homeless. Because the House is available, up to 18 men can call 250 East Main their place of refuge each night. To the community, thank you for your sustaining gifts. Please continue to give and to experience true joy. *Jerome F. Zetah, Ph.D., is a board member of Hospitality House in Owatonna and a former therapist at South Central Human Relations Center.*

Sweet photography on display at bakery



Submitted photo
Mark DeLap stands by his array of photographs on display at Perfect Day Cakes. His artwork can be viewed at the bakery through May.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Perfect Day Cakes isn't just tickling the taste buds, but creating a feast for all the senses. Owner Thea Farrington invites artists to display their artwork in her bakery. She gets unique decorations, the artists get a chance to show off their work, and her customers get to see the art that's living all around them. For over a year now, Farrington has been displaying the work of local artists, usually for two months at a time. "I love art," she said as she explained her excitement for going to different art galleries in the cities. "I wanted to bring a little bit of the cities to Owatonna." To become a part of her exhibit, artists need to show a portfolio of their work, so Farrington can decide if it's right for her shop. Photography, mixed media, acrylics, oils, pottery - if it fits on the shelves, Farrington is open to displaying it. "Art is everywhere, and art is everything," Farrington said.

The artwork on display for April and May was done by Mark DeLap. Farrington met him when he came to interview her about her shop, and the two quickly discovered a mutual love of art. While his photography is mostly on show, Farrington has his books for sale as well. "He truly has so many forms of art," she said. "It's exciting for me to show what I see through the lens of a camera," said DeLap, "They say a sunset is more beautiful if shared with someone else." All artists who display at Perfect Day Cakes have the option of selling their art to interested bakery customers, but Farrington says DeLap is a little unique in that regard. He told Farrington she's welcome to sell any of the pieces, but he doesn't want any money from the sales, so she's decided she'll donate any money his art makes to charities. Perfect Day Cakes holds an artist reception for every artist they display, and DeLap's will take place this May. Any artist who would like to display his or her artwork at Perfect Day Cakes is invited to get in touch with Farrington.

Once a railroad man, always a railroad man

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



HOWARD
LESTRUD

"There's another familiar face," shouted 41-year railroad man Jerry Bakken of Northwood, Iowa, as he recognized fellow Rock Island railroad man Dale Mowers of Albert Lea. It was a night of remembrances and reflections when 25 former Rock slant railroad men met at the 37th annual Rock Island reunion of Minnesota and Iowa railroaders. "Once a railroad man, always a railroad man," someone commented as he consumed some delicious cod

loins at the reunion held at the St. Paul Park American Legion Post 98. I'm not a railroad man but have a definite interest since my father-in-law (Dale Mowers) logged 37 years in railroading, 32 of those years with the Rock Island. My wife Judy and I chauffeured Dale to the Rock Island memories event on Friday, March 31. We attended a reunion two years ago and wished to hear about more memories. My interest in railroading also exists because my two uncles and a grandfather worked for the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad in Albert Lea. My grandfather was actually killed at a very young age by a railroad crane. My father-in-law at 91 was the second to the oldest attending the Rock Island reunion. The eldest Rock Island at the reunion was George Hargis of Inver Grove Heights. He was a former conductor for the Rock Island. "I remember doing a lot of business at the Rock Island Depot in Ellendale where Dale was the depot agent," Hargis



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
About 25 former Rock Island Railroad workers got together at their 37th annual reunion in St. Paul Park on Friday, March 31. Most of the attendees worked for the Rock in Minnesota and Iowa. The reunion was held at American Legion Post 98 with some delicious cod loins being served.

said. Mowers also said he recalls working with Hargis and held him in highest regard. Dale had the opportunity to brush shoulders with a couple of Rock Island guys from Bolan, Iowa. This small community is the home of Dale and of a close friend, Joe Nydegger who worked part time as a switchman for the

railroad. "They're all dying on us," said Jerry Bakken, longtime Rock Island rail worker. History remains important for these railroad guys and they shared it by talking about memories and by bringing some memorabilia in the form of railroad photos and relics. Gary Pike of Cottage Grove

brought some antique railroad lanterns and placed them on reserved tables. He also brought a map showing the Rock Island coverage over the years. Pike, organizer of the reunion event, worked for the

RAILROAD
Continued on page 2B

Blooming Prairie Living

Women of First Lutheran Church make 232 quilts for Lutheran World Relief

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Hours and hours of handiwork by women of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie results in love being shared around the globe.

Since early January of this year, First Lutheran Church Women have been meeting weekly on every Monday to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Kaye Toquam, coordinator of the church quilting project, says 232 quilts were produced by local quilters during the first three months of this year.

All quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief with the exception of nine that are kept back.

One is kept for the BP Cancer Group auction in September, one for the BP Education Foundation auction in March and two for the Boys and Girls Club auction in February. Five are also designated to be sold at the Country Store during the day of the Lutfisk Dinner in October.

The homemade quilts were displayed by the church women on Wednesday of Lent and on Palm Sunday. The quilts were draped attractively over the church pews.

The quilts were dedicated during a special ceremony at church services on Palm Sunday.

On Monday, the quilts will be boxed and ready for shipment to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul.

Local trucker Rick Hansen, also a member of First Lutheran, transports the quilts free of charge.

Upon arrival in St. Paul, the quilts are removed from the boxes, bailed and labeled for shipment to wherever Lutheran World Relief finds a need, Toquam said. Two years ago, many of the quilts went to Haiti

which was devastated by a hurricane. The quilts also go to refugee camps.

In 2016 346,170 quilts were donated by churches throughout the nation to Lutheran World Relief were valued at \$13.3 million, with 534,144 beneficiaries in 16 countries.

Quilts went to Angola, Burkina Fao, DRC, Georgia, Honduras, India, Mali, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

In addition to quilts donated to Lutheran World Relief, blankets, school kits, personal care kits, fabric kits, baby care kits and soap are collected and sent to LWR.

Quilters routinely arrived for quilting duty at 8:30 on Monday mornings and worked on their project until 3:30 p.m. On a very productive day quilters produced 20 quilts, each measuring 60 by 80 inches.

Fabric squares brought to the church by the quilters are part of the process which may include 12 21-inch squares or 48 11-inch squares.

Some of the fabric brought for the project may be fabric from a quilter's mother or grandmother, Toquam said.

No pattern is used during the work project. "We use whatever fabrics and colors that are available," Toquam commented.

The quilt bottoms are made of old sheets. The middle is a poly filler which is purchased by the quilting group. The top is donated fabric sewn together and hand tied.

Two sewing machines are in action most of the days with Bev Hoveland and Diane Boullion working the machines on this particular day. Kaye Toquam's husband Orlo cuts out the donated fabric squares at home and brings them to church

for quilting action.

Quilter Kaye Toquam said the Blooming Prairie quilters have been active in this project since 1985 when they made 67. First Lutheran quilters, one year in the 1990s, made 302 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, a record number for the church.

Lots of years of quilting experience are evident during a regular Monday quilting day. Quilters Marilyn Heinz, Phyllis Peterson and Bernice Stender are longtime First Lutheran quilters.

Peterson said she became involved in quilting 20 years ago as a favor to the late Virginia Anderson. "She convinced me to start quilting," she recalls.

In addition to Heinz, Peterson and Stender, quilters are; Connie Habermann, Joyce Johns, Marilyn Witzel, Doreen Blome, Bev Hoveland, Gwen Kubista, Diane Boullion, Kaye Toquam, Donna Maixner, Joanne Sorenson, Dona Gullickson, Carol Kirkebon, Vikki Wacek, Judy Bishop, Karan Heather, Marilyn Meshke, Austra Hanson and Nancy Hansen.

"I bring my own tools of the trade with me," laughs quilter Dona Gullickson, pointing to a small pliers she uses to do the tying of the quilts.

Working on her masterpiece, Gullickson says, "This is kind of an ugly quilt but I guess they're all pretty in their own special way."

Dona says she started quilting on her own and joined the First Lutheran quilters as a social activity 12 years ago.

"We can work and visit at the same time," Gullickson confesses. "Everybody knows what they are supposed to do; it's quite a system."

Fabric can be very expensive and also very reasonable, said quilter Gwen Kubista. "I picked up some material for a dime a



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Top: Phyllis Peterson is one of 21 women quilters who had e been busy since the first of the year, making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. She is busy tying parts of the quilt. The quilts were dedicated on Sunday during regular services. Bottom: A large portion of quilts made by First Lutheran Church women quilters were draped over church pews for a Wednesday night Lenten service and for Palm Sunday's dedication service.

yard," she said. The material comes in bolts. Some is even as expensive as \$14 a yard, said fellow quilter Donna Maixner.

Some of the quilters do sewing on their quilts at home. "I hide out in the fox hole of my basement and do my sewing," Connie Haberman related.

On an average, it takes First Lutheran quilters about three hours to finish a quilt. That time can be extended depending on the design of the quilt.

Quilter Maixner just recently finished two dignity quilts to

be given to the Prairie Manor Care Center and to the Worlein Funeral Home. It took her 23 hours for Maixner to make each stained glass quilt.

A label on the dignity quilts credits the quilters of First Lutheran. A message sewn into the quilt reads: "May God's loving arms embrace all who are touched by this quilt and all who mourn their loss."

The First Lutheran quilts have been blessed and are on their way to be distributed to some happy owners.

Colorful labor of love

By **KAYE TOQUAM**
Quilting Coordinator

EDITOR'S NOTE: When parishioners of First Lutheran Church attended services on Palm Sunday, they were greeted by a very colorful sanctuary decorated with quilts made by women of First Lutheran Church. Kaye Toquam delivered the following message about the quilts.)

Did you notice a difference in the sanctuary when you came in this morning?

These colorful quilts, a labor of love, were made by a dedicated group of about 20 women who have been meeting every Monday since January. I suggest that it wasn't just 20 women who were involved in this effort, but many of you.

Some of you donated fabric and perhaps many of you donated still serviceable sheets. The sheets are used for the backs of the quilts. Others of you donated money to the quilt fund. About \$1,000 was spent for batting that goes in the middle of the quilts which makes them warm and soft.

I thank all of you who have had a part in this effort. These quilts will soon go on a journey to far countries where the need is great.

Behind me are two special quilts which are not part of the 200 that will be packed up tomorrow (April 10) and sent on their way. These are called Dignity Quilts. They are made for a specific purpose. One will be donated to Prairie Manor and one to Worlein's.

The quilt will be draped over the body of someone who has recently died. During that short trip from the room at Prairie Manor and the waiting vehicle, a ceremony of respect is held. This quilt will be part of that ceremony of remembrance. These two quilts were pieced and assembled by Donna Maixner.



Cancer Corner

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

21 volunteers provide cancer cab services

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

More volunteers are always in need to provide transportation to treatment for cancer patients residing in the Blooming Prairie area.

Just over four years ago the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group began offering transportation to treatment for cancer patients.

Becky Braaten is the coordinator of the program and currently says she has 21 volunteer drivers. Most of the drivers are women and Becky says she would like to recruit more men drivers.

An appeal for drivers has been made to members of area churches and also through the newspaper.

If in need for a ride or willing to be a volunteer driver, contact Becky (phone number is in the phone book under Steve Braaten).

Many of the drivers are from First Lutheran Church, Becky says. "We need more Catholics to volunteer," she says.

Marion Mast is one of the volunteer drivers and said he volunteered because many people have helped him with various needs. "It's my way of being a blessing to a blessing," Mast said.

He encourages others to help cancer victims through rides and also with prayers. "Be a person to them because they need a handshake, hug, a smile and a chance to talk," Mast said.

Mast says it is very rewarding to be able to help cancer patients in need. "It makes you aware of the grace and mercy handed to us," he added.

The needs for rides goes in spurts, says Cheri Krejci of the BP Cancer Group. The transportation service is provided through the BP Cancer Group's community fund, Kejci says.

Ed Lee of Blooming Prairie said he called Becky a few years ago to put his name on the volunteer list. He said he was helped by friends taking him to doctor appointments when he was hurt at work. "I'm just trying to be helpful," Lee said.

Cancer has touched both Mast and Lee. Mast said he lost a sister-in-law and a couple of cousins in the past month and a half. Lee said he knows "quite a few" people who have cancer, his cousin's wife recently dying from cancer.

Those being treated by

Becky Braaten is always looking for drivers to transport cancer patients to treatment. She spends a lot of time on the phone coordinating rides for patients. She has 21 volunteer drivers on her roster.

cancer "need a break, too," Lee said in offering his services as a driver.

Volunteer Paul Habermann said driving patients to treatment "is not complicated at all." He invites potential drivers to ride with him to a treatment.

People may be reluctant to volunteer as a driver," Habermann says. "It's very simple and quite quick," he explained. He said he had a friend ride along the other day, "and we had fun."

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

Jack hires his skills out to farmers

TRAPPER: from page 1B

was a skunk in the woodchuck live trap. The skunk shared his perfume with Jack's grandpa.

Fishing is another hobby Jack enjoys. He fishes at his grandparents' cabin on Beaver Lake near Ellendale.

When not trapping or hunting, Jack plays basketball, football and baseball, and also runs cross country. His favorite sports celebrity is University of Minnesota women's basketball player, Carly Wagner.

Jack is also a studious kid, choosing math as his favorite subject.

Last year, Jack learned how to drive the family lawn mower. He will do that again this summer when not checking his traps. Brother Jeffrey, 6, is Jack's shadow in the summer and helps him check traps.

Jack has his pocket gopher trapping down to a science.

He digs the hole, finds the runways, digs a little deeper, places the trap below the runways and then covers the hole with a license plate and grass. "I don't want any sunlight coming in," Jack says.

His gopher trapping skills have been in demand by local farmers. He recently set a bevy of traps on a farm field infested by pocket gophers. His buddy, Carter Bishop, a fellow fourth grader, often helps Jack check his traps.

Jack said he had a streak of 10 days, catching an entire family of opossum. "They are good animals because they eat bugs and mosquitoes," Jack said.

Jack is a farmer of sorts, too. He owns 13 chickens and markets the eggs to family and friends. He sold two dozen eggs on the BP Ed Foundation auction and netted \$15 for them.

When he turns 11, Jack will be able to take his gun safety training online. He will then receive his safety certificate at age 12.

Craig Anderson has shared a lot of hunting and trapping secrets with Jack. Anderson lives in the Waltham area and is very familiar with the ways of animals, Jack says.

Jack loves to read books about animals when he is not tending to his traps.

It's not just Jack who has a corner on a love of nature. His older sister Maggie shares that love of nature. Sister Bobbie cooks while her brother is trapping and hunting.

Jack enjoys eating wild game. "I liked the turkey and have also tried rabbit and squirrel in bite-size pieces," Jack said.

The interview is over. Jack had to go check his traps.

Railroad disbanded in 1980

RAILROAD: from page 1B

railroad for over 40 years, 17 years with the Rock Island.

Nydegger said he is proud of his railroad heritage and much of it is being preserved by his daughter Lori Willert who he calls the mayor of Bolan, Iowa.

"My grandfather and great grandfather, both named Joe worked as fireman/engineers on the railroad," recalls Nydegger.

He said he has located lots of documents pertaining to safety board records of years ago.

"Those were quite the days back then," said Nydegger.

"Did you know my dad bought the old Northwood, Iowa depot and tore it down?" Dale asked Nydegger. "Nope, didn't know that," he replied. "He took the lumber from it and

built a two-story chicken house," Dale related.

The Rock Island was incorporated as the Rock Island and La Salle Railroad Company in 1847. It was disbanded in March of 1980.

Many of the relics of the Rock Island past are gone, but some of the history remains in the sharing of memories by these railroad men. Time chugs on.

Thanks guys.

Severe Weather Week

Tornado

• Go to a basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Get under a table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

- Put on sturdy shoes.
- Do not open windows.
- If you are not in a sturdy building, immediately get into a vehicle, and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
- Take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- Lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

Lightening

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are OK to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach or a boat on the water.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Avoid contact with anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends.

Driving in Rain

- Slow down. Wet roadways cause tires to lose traction, as friction is reduced between the rubber and the asphalt. It's possible to lose up to one-third of traction in the rain. To compensate, slow down to reduce sliding and stopping distances.
- Improve visibility. Turn on windshield wipers and lights when it is raining. This makes it easier to see the road and makes your vehicle more visible to other motorists.
- Leave more distance between cars. In addition to improving your reaction time, giving others more space can improve visibility by reducing the amount of mist or splashing caused by other vehicles.
- Stick to daytime driving. If possible, when it is raining, drive only during the day. Glare from wet roadways and headlights at night can further compromise poor visibility.
- Watch for wind gusts. Anticipate gusts when traveling through windy road corridors or over bridges.

Sponsored by these following area businesses:

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.
656 3rd St. NE • Blooming Prairie, MN
Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
507-583-6620

BLOOMING PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER P.A.
"Where the Individual and the Comfort, come first"
Dentistry for the entire family
Jeffrey A. Schwert DDS
507-583-6613
132 2nd Ave. NE

Blooming Prairie Bus Company

"Safety First!
Be on Time!"

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET
237 Hwy Ave. S • Blooming Prairie 583-6671

You Are Looking at a Revolution In...
Water Conditioners
Call today!
Authorized Independent Kinetic Dealer
Garlick's Water Conditioning
507-526-3616 or Toll Free 1-800-722-1282
www.garlickswater.com
Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing

Hope CREAMERY
TRY HOPE BUTTER FOR YOUR BAKING!
507-684-2019

Your ad could be here!
STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

DARRICK'S PREFERRED AUTO
Darrick Schewe
Owner
507-583-9994
Located in NAPA Auto Parts Building

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

CASH WISE
Employee Owned
www.cashwise.com
LARGE SELECTIONS LOW PRICES
495 West N. St.
Owatonna
507-451-7220
facebook

Dr. Deborah Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST DDS, MBS
Building Healthy Smiles!
132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613 * FREE CONSULTATION

Mike's REPAIR
Ag & Truck Tire
870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna
Emergency or on the farm repair
507-455-0388
(After hours 507-455-0483)

Sorenson's Appliances & TV
GE, Frigidaire, Direct TV, Danby, Crosley, Broan, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, Maytag, Panasonic, RCA, Samsung, Toshiba, Whirlpool
Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

misgen auto parts
507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES



Have a Blessed Holy Week!

IT'S A PARTY!

Come join us for our *Easter* celebration!

This Easter at Cornerstone Church, it's a party! At this Easter party, you'll even find baby chicks, bunnies, cotton candy and an Easter Bunny. Kids classrooms will be available for kids birth - 4th grade. We'd love to have you come be with us.

Saturday and Sunday
April 15th 5pm April 16th 9am
10:30am 12pm

 CORNERSTONECHURCH
www.cornerstoneaustin.org

First Lutheran Church

THE WELCOME PLACE

434 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie
507.583.6621 • FirstLutheranBP.com

Holy Week 2017

Maundy Thursday (4/13) - 7 pm
Good Friday (4/14) - 12pm & 7 pm
Easter Sunday (4/16) - 6:30 am, 8:30 am & 10 am
Easter Breakfast (4/16) 7:30-9:30 am

Pastors: Senior Interim Pastor Jeff Sandgren
Associate Pastor Heidi Heimgartner

* Coffee Served Between Services

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
7:30 P.M. First Communion

Good Friday
7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross

Saturday Easter Vigil
8:30 PM

Easter Sunday
8:15 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.
Holy Communion



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1909 Saint Paul Rd., Owatonna, MN 55060
507-451-4853

Holy Thursday:
Sacred Heart, Hayfield, 7:00 pm

Good Friday:
St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie, 12:00 pm
St. John Baptist de la Salle, Dodge Center, 3:00 pm

Easter Vigil:
St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie, 8:30 pm

Easter:
St. John Baptist de la Salle, Dodge Center, 6:30 am
Sacred Heart, Hayfield, 8:30 am
St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie, 10:30 am

Easter Sunday April 16th

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with Communion
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Communion

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church
30456 Mower - Freeborn Road, Austin



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 9
Worship: 8:15, 9:30 & 10:45 am
Congregational Brunch: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 13
Worship: 12:00 pm (lunch to follow)
Worship: 6:00 pm (dinner, 4:45 pm-6:30 pm)
Worship Services with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 14
Children's Service: 11:00 am
A visual worship event for children of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens (held indoors)
Tenebrae Worship: 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil with Holy Communion, April 15
Worship: 5:00 pm

Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion, April 16
Worship: 6:00 am

Easter Festival with Holy Communion, April 16
Worship: 8:15, 9:30 & 10:45 am
tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule

 **TRINITY**
Lutheran Church

609 Lincoln Avenue
Owatonna MN
507.451.4520
tlcowatonna.org

**Building a family in Christ...
to reach families for Christ.**

Maundy Thursday
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM
Service at 6:30 PM

Good Friday
Service at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday
Pancake breakfast at 8:00 AM
Service at 9:00 AM



Holy Week & Easter



1500 18th St. SE
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-446-5850
www.cornerstoneowatonna.com

RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICE



Please join us:
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Service: 10 a.m.



130 W. Bridge St. • Owatonna
(507) 215-2249

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

17-105521
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 20, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$118,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Corey R. Winter and Nicole M. Winter, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1001625-0005863524-5
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Sterling State Bank
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 23, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 311960
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4 in Block 14, In the original town (now city) of Owatonna, Minnesota, subject to easement dated the 1st day of September, 1982, and recorded on the 2nd day of September, 1982, in Book 170, Page 488 as document #184321 covering the West 9 Feet of Lot 4 in Block 14 in the original town (now city) of Owatonna, Minnesota
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 221 Main St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-1404
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$96,911.10
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 23, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 23, 2017, or the next business day if November 23, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 31, 2017

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/4, 4/11, 4/18
4/25, 5/2, 5/9

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald G. Dagit and Shirley A. Pichner, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as successor-in-interest to all permitted successors and assigns of JPMorgan Chase Bank as Trustee for MASTR Alternative Loan Trust 2003-5, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2003-5 by assignment recorded on January 3, 2017 as Document Number A000411299 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$37,350.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 25, 2003
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on March 26, 2003 as Document Number A308726 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$31,390.95
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: N 1/2 of Lot 26, Block 3, E. Abbott's Second Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, except the East 7 feet of said N 1/2, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 327 GROVE AVE N, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-108-0326
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 27, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 27, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE

MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 29, 2017

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO ALL PERMITTED SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF JPMORGAN CHASE BANK AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2003-5, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2003-5
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-0368-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/4, 4/11, 4/18
4/25, 5/2, 5/9

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Margaret A. Gauthier and Joseph G. Gauthier, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$187,500.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 20, 2010
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 14, 2011 as Document Number A000376625 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$94,225.34
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at southeast corner of Lot 12, in east half of Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, (said point of beginning being in the center of Lincoln Street); thence north 107 feet; thence west 101 feet; thence South 107 feet; thence east 101 feet to the place of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 826 LINCOLN AVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-015-4203
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE:

May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 2, 2018.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1786-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy L. Bruce and Jeffrey S. Bruce, wife and husband and Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Netbank
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on June 2, 2016 as Document Number A000407852 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$115,608.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 7, 2005
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2005 as Document Number A000337053 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$102,496.32
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 5, in Crooker and Parkers Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 807 N ELM

AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1738
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Netbank
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-105-0502
T R A N S A C T I O N AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100014440002491538
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1553-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

17-106085

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 26, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$122,604.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Carolee R. George, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 27, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000354404
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 2, Country View Estates, City of Ellendale
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 602 Dutton Drive, Ellendale, MN 56026
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-115-0202
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,528.57
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 12, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 12, 2017, or the next business day if November 12, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 13, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank,
N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/21, 3/28, 4/4
4/11, 4/18, 4/25

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Josh Dale and Holly L. Dale, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 27, 2011 as Document Number A000380851 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$189,560.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 7, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 21, 2009 as Document Number A000368421; as amended of record by document recorded on November 8, 2011 as Document No. A000381093 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$218,820.12 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the North Half of Southwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 105 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East, assumed bearing, 468.00 feet along the West line of said Southwest Quarter to the True Point of beginning; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 202.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 58.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 100.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 0 minutes 115.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 124.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 86.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 178.00 feet to the West line of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East 259.00 feet to said True Point of Beginning. Containing 1.42 acres, more or less. Containing 1.13 acres, more or less, excluding highway easement. Subject to a public highway easement along the West line thereof. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 16411 SOUTH WEST 52ND AVE, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-3064 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-036-3101 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100052221010839741 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Josh Dale Dated: March 6, 2017 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A. By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-0279-FC01) THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Curt N. Trisko, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (16-1415-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28 4/4, 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Steven W. Davis, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$109,382.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 18, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 21, 2009 as Document Number A000366739 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$99,423.50 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The West 1/2 of Lot 1 of the Extension of Block 22 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota. AND All that part of the East Half of Lot 1 in the extension of Block 22, Original Town (now City), Owatonna, Minnesota, described by: Beginning at the southwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00' 00" E, assumed bearing, 2.40 feet along the south line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 00° 13' 07" E 132.49 feet to the north line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00' 00" W 3.00 feet to the northwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence S 00° 02' 27" E 132.49 feet to beginning, Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 231-233 RICE ST E, OWATONNA, MN 55060-3012 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2207 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 13, 2017 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-0279-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/21, 3/28, 4/4 4/11, 4/18, 4/25

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-527 Estate of Lester Joseph Imker, Jr, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 8, 2017 at 10:45 a.m. ,a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main, Owatonna , Minnesota, on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the decedent's Will dated July 6, 2016 , and for the appointment of Brenda Lee Budde , whose address is 7149 SW 92nd Avenue, Ellendale, MN 56026 as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate. Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,

/s/ Joseph A. Bueltel Judge of District Court 3/24/17

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator 3/24/17

SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS Benjamin M. Cass (#353279) 108 W Park Sq., Ste. A ~ P.O. Box 271 Owatonna, MN 55060 Telephone: (507) 451-6540 Facsimile: (507) 451-1846

4/4, 4/11

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Benjamin T. Flemke and Nicole L. Cunningham a/k/a Nicole L. Flemke, both single people MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$105,650.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 16, 2004 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2004 as Document Number A000327386 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$86,860.07 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 18 in Block 1 in O'Brien Addition to the City of Owatonna Minnesota. Except; the North 50 feet of said Lot 18, intending to release the South 8 1/4 feet of vacated alley and North 41 3/4 feet of said Lot 18, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 508 MOUND STREET, OWATONNA, MN 55060-2828 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-127-0121 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been

instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 30, 2017 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 5, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-0408-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/11, 4/18, 4/25 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Public aid sought for county multi-hazard mitigation plan update

Steele County - The Steele County Emergency Management Department is currently working with the University of Minnesota Duluth – Geospatial Analysis Center (GAC) to prepare an update of the County’s “Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan” (MHMP). The plan is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and must be updated every five years in order to maintain eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding programs.

Development of the plan is under direction of the County’s Emergency Management Director in cooperation with a planning team of representatives from County departments, local municipalities (city and township), school districts, and other key stakeholders such as utility providers. The planning team is responsible to provide feedback required for the plan update, including the ranking of hazards and identification of strategic, cost-effective mitigation activities that may reduce future losses for the County and individual jurisdictions. Some mitigation activities may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding, such as: localized flood reduction measures, property acquisition and relocation/conversion to open space, infrastructure retrofits, wildfire mitigation, and safe room construction or retrofits to provide immediate life-safety protection for people vulnerable to tornado and severe wind events.

About the Plan The Steele County MHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Steele County, including the cities of Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford, and Owatonna. The Steele County MHMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other stakeholders participating in the plan.

Steele County is vulnerable to a variety of potential natural disasters, which threaten the loss of life and property in the county. Hazards such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, blizzards, straight-line winds, ice storms, and droughts have the potential for inflicting vast economic loss and personal hardship.

According to Steele County Emergency Management Director, Mike Johnson, “Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program. Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of

future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county.”

Examples of hazard mitigation include actions such as improvement of roads and culverts that experience repetitive flooding; construction of safe rooms at campgrounds, parks, trailer parks or schools to protect lives in the event of tornados or severe wind events; burying powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice or wind storms; ensuring timely emergency communication to the public through warning sirens and mass notification systems, and conducting public awareness and education campaigns to help people to be prepared to take safe action before, during, or following a hazard event.

Public Feedback and Participation is Encouraged

As part of the planning process, gathering input from the public is an important and required step. Steele County seeks to gather feedback from residents and businesses from across the County to incorporate into the plan:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
- Have you experienced a previous disaster event?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of mitigation actions or projects do you feel would help to reduce the damages of potential future events for your personal property, your community, or the County as a whole?

The public is strongly encouraged to submit your comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and potential mitigation actions to be included into the plan update process.

Please submit your feedback to Steele County Emergency Manager, Mike Johnson: (507) 444-2454 or mikej@ci.owatonna.mn.us. Comments may also be submitted via Steele County’s Facebook page where this release is posted.

The public will have a continued opportunity to participate in the MHMP update in the coming months. A draft of the plan will be posted on the County website for public review, which will be followed by two public meetings held within different parts of the county. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of these opportunities.

TURN OFF the television...



TURN ON THEIR MINDS!

The newspaper is a textbook for life!

Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Popular items that can be purchased locally

Many consumers prefer to buy locally when shopping. There are several advantages to choosing local products, including the benefit of aiding your local economy by supporting a business with roots in your community. Dealing with an individual or small enterprise instead of a billion-dollar operation is another reason people are drawn to local stores and businesses.

Spring and summer are great times of year to shop locally, as the warmer weather facilitates strolling community shops and business districts. The following items are popular among consumers who emphasize buying local when making their purchases.

Produce

If you desire fresher fruits and vegetables, then shopping locally is the way to go. According to Local Harvest, most produce in the United States is picked four to seven days before it reaches the supermarket shelves, and it might have traveled thousands of miles before landing on those shelves. A lot of produce is grown and imported from South and Central America, and such produce can take even longer to arrive on supermarket shelves. As a result, the flavor and freshness of fruits and vegetables shipped from afar might be compromised. The best way to get peak-season produce is to buy items that come from local providers.

Home services

If you're in the market for a new air conditioning unit or are considering a home renovation, using a local, licensed contractor is often the smart way to go. Rather than dealing with the red tape of a larger outfit that may subcontract its work, local businesses are often more customer-service driven.

What's more, if ever a problem arises, it's much easier to go into a local business and discuss concerns face-to-face instead of dealing with an unknown person answering phones at a corporate call center.

Crafts

The home-based arts and crafts industry has undergone a rebirth thanks to sites like Pinterest, Craftsy and Etsy. Many of the items offered

in local craft shops are handmade by local artisans and not mass-produced in overseas factories. Local artisans may be your best bet when shopping for unique arts and crafts full of detail and quality.

Food

Dining out is a different experience when you select independent restaurants over national chains. Chefs at independently owned restaurants have a greater say over ingredients and menu choices than those at franchise establishments, and you may be introduced to foods you had never before dreamed of trying.

Restaurants that team up with local food suppliers offer a double-dose of regional commerce and fresher ingredients. If you're new to the area, browse the local newspaper, community direct-mailers and coupon books to find dining establishments in your area.

There are numerous benefits to shopping locally and ideal ways to get started in your town or city. Take in a farmer's market or street fair to get started.

Blooming Prairie April student of the month

Kaiden Finley



Grade: 9
Siblings: 25 year old brother, 23 year old sister, and 20 year old brother
Interests: Hands-on activities, 4-H, FFA

Favorite Class: Applied Ag – working with stuff he is familiar with

Statements from the staff:

“Kaiden is always willing to help his peers and teachers. He often sees small jobs in the classroom (something that needs to be picked up or someone needing something) and he will complete the job without being asked. Kaiden is kind to all.”

“Kaiden Finley is a great student to have in class. He is positive, inquisitive, and an all-around nice guy.”

“Kaiden is a great kid

who is very polite. He does very well in situations where he has to solve problems or think outside the box. He is firm in his convictions and has a great deal of integrity for his age.”

“Kaiden is a great worker, always willing to help out where needed. He has such a happy demeanor and is a friend to all.”

“Kaiden is a great student to have in class. He always shows up with a smile on his face. He is very polite and respectful and is friendly to everyone.”

Anna Kittelson



Grade: 8
Siblings: 7th grade brother, 4th grade brother
Pets: 1 dog – Tucker
Interests: Being outside, playing sports like track,

volleyball, and basketball

Favorite Class: English – enjoys reading

Statements from the staff:

“Anna is a naturally curious student and great athlete in track & field. I enjoyed my semester with her in Careers where she demonstrated creative thinking and a good sense of humor.”

“Anna is a sensitive kid and looks out for others; she would do something if she saw someone alone or having a difficult time. She takes class seriously and studies hard for her tests.”

“Anna is always very respectful. Her attitude towards her teachers and classmates is positive and encouraging.”

“Anna is a kind-hearted student with a fun-loving personality. She is an absolute joy to have in the classroom. At first glance, Anna may seem shy, but once she is comfortable she really adds a lot to the classroom mix. She is helpful, cooperative, and funny.”

WE UNDERSTAND SMALL BUSINESS
BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS.

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
583-7528
314 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie
WWW.JOHNDOERCPA.COM

TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

IRS assigns some old debts to private collection agencies

Starting this month, the IRS has announced they will be sending letters to a small group of taxpayers whose overdue accounts are being assigned to one of four private-sector collection agencies.

In an effort to help consumers understand this process better, Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota (BBB) offers insight, based on IRS materials, on what taxpayers, particularly those with outstanding debts, should know.

“This is something a bit new,” said Susan Adams Loyd, President and CEO of Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota. “For a long

time, we’ve told consumers the IRS wouldn’t call them. Though that’s changed somewhat, some of the information we regularly give out remains the same – such as calls threatening debtors with arrest not being legitimate. That will still hold true.”

The new program, authorized by a federal law enacted by Congress in 2015, enables these four designated contractors to collect, on the government’s behalf, unpaid tax debts.

According to the IRS, these are unpaid tax obligations not currently being worked by IRS collection employees. These debts are often ones

that were assessed by the tax agency several years ago. This program begins this week and will expand later in the spring and summer.

Like the IRS, BBB has concerns this change might lead to scammers using the new program to try to defraud people. However, there are many ways to determine whether contact you receive in regard to claimed tax debts are legitimate.

According to the IRS, people with overdue taxes will always receive multiple contacts – letters and phone calls – from the IRS first, not private debt collectors. The IRS will always notify a

taxpayer before transferring their accounts to a private collection agency.

In addition, the IRS says the process will work like this:

- The private debt collection company will send a letter to the taxpayer, and the IRS will send a letter to the taxpayer.

Consumers who are still living at the address where the letters are sent will be clear on the process.

However, if the taxpayer has moved and hasn’t notified the IRS, they may get calls from the private debt collection company their account has been assigned to, if the collection agency is able to locate them through other

means. Taxpayers can use Form 8822 to update the IRS with their new address; <https://www.irs.gov/uac/form-8822-change-of-address>.

- Private debt collectors will be able to identify themselves as contractors of the IRS collecting taxes.

These employees must follow the provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and like IRS employees, must be courteous and respect taxpayers’ rights.

- Consumers with outstanding tax debts will pay money directly to the IRS, not the private debt collection company. They will be given options shown on this page: <https://www.irs.gov/payments>. Private debt collectors will not ask and cannot accept credit card information over the phone.
- Taxpayers can ask for their account to be transferred from the private debt collection back to the IRS, if they prefer.

The IRS adds that private collection firms will only be calling about tax debts individuals have had – and been aware of – for years,

debts which they have been contacted about previously by the IRS.

Taxpayers can verify they have an unpaid tax debt from a previous year by visiting www.irs.gov/balancedue.

BBB reminds all consumers, particularly those who have outstanding tax debts, that the IRS will explain this new process clearly and will make every attempt to work with them as far as setting up payment plans.

They will also give taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

For more information on this change, including the names of the debt collection firms the IRS has contracted with, see:

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/private-debt-collection>

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/new-private-debt-collection-program-to-begin-next-spring-irs-to-contract-with-four-agencies-taxpayer-rights-protected>

STRUSS CPA

420 N Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

(507) 451-0611

WWW.STRUSSCPAS.COM

FAST INCOME TAX, INC.

Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR ‘ROUND

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

We offer **electronic tax filing** (federal & state)
204 SW 12th Street, Austin **507-437-8511**

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

Ellen E. Stebbins LLC

Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

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

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

STOCKWELL ACCOUNTING

802 N Elm Ave
Owatonna, Minnesota

(507) 451-1873

WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE

LISA ACKERMAN
Certified Tax Preparer/Accounting Services

1122 South Oak, Owatonna MN
507-451-3399 | wats@gofast.am

In a time of uncertainties...

TRUST.

stick with your loyal companion.
Your community newspaper is still the leading source for everything you need to know.

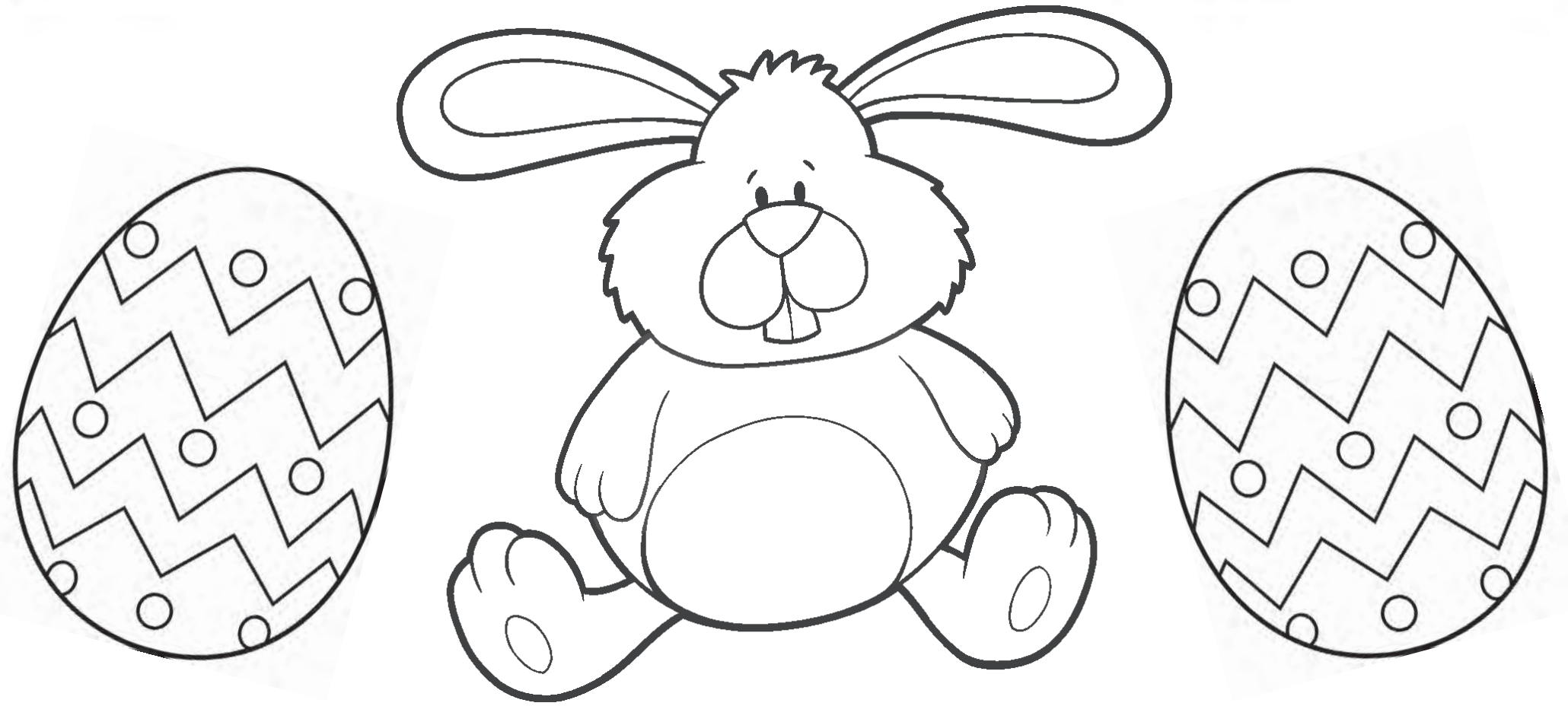
87% of all Minnesota adults read a paper each week. Want trust? Look no further.

E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net • www.bloomingprairieonline.com

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

411 E. Main Street | PO Box 247
(507) 583-4431 | Fax (507) 583-4445



This fun Easter coloring page is brought to you by the following sponsors:



Blooming Prairie



The ultimate mix of hot and cold!

Easter Egg Hunt 2017

Blooming Prairie Women of Today's 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Blooming Prairie City Park
April 15th at 11am
Kids ages 10 and under
Candy, Fun and Lots of Prizes!!



Thank you to ALL who have helped Sponsor this Event

Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

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

The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

Koster's

CAR KORNER

507-583-2018
Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com
ALL VEHICLES UNDER BOOK



CashWiseDelivers.com

Large Selection & Low Prices
Right To Your Door!

495 West N. Street, Owatonna
507-451-7220 • www.cashwise.com





King Orthodontics
KingBraces.com

SMILE!
LOWEST FEES
EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS
BEST FEE GUARANTEE

Did you know AGE 7
is the recommended age for
A CHILD'S FIRST
ORTHODONTIC EVALUATION?
Schedule your child's **FREE** smile evaluation today!

Faribault 507.332.0022 • Owatonna 507.446.9000 • Rochester 507.424.3632



Hometown Sports



HUSKIES RALLY 3C

C Section

www.steeledodgenews.com

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

postseason nods continue

Both of the daily papers in our area have published their All-Are Basketball teams in the last week, with the boys' team just released over the weekend with Oakley Baker from NRHEG being pegged as the Player of the Year from one publication, and the Panthers' Tyler Raimann and Benji Lundberg joined him on the first team.

Both freshman Gabe Hagen and junior Jake Ressler also received nods in both papers. Hagen averaged 11.3 points per game, 6.3 rebounds, and 2.4 assists. Ressler averaged 10.3 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 3.8 blocks per game. He also averaged almost 4 blocks per game and shot 3-pointers at a 38.8 average.

Both the area daily newspapers have now also published their All-Area girls' basketball teams. BPHS forward Marissa Larson did better in this listing, moving up to first team on this roster.

Larson averaged 14 points per game and nearly averaged a double-double in points and rebounding. She started all 26 games in the season and led the team in scoring, rebounding, and free throw shooting. She made the Gopher All-Conference team and received the team Ms. offense.

Both junior forwards Sam Wurst and McKenna Hein made the second team, with Wurst averaging 12.3 points per game and 7.9 rebounds, and Hein counting 7.7 points and 7.8 rebounds.

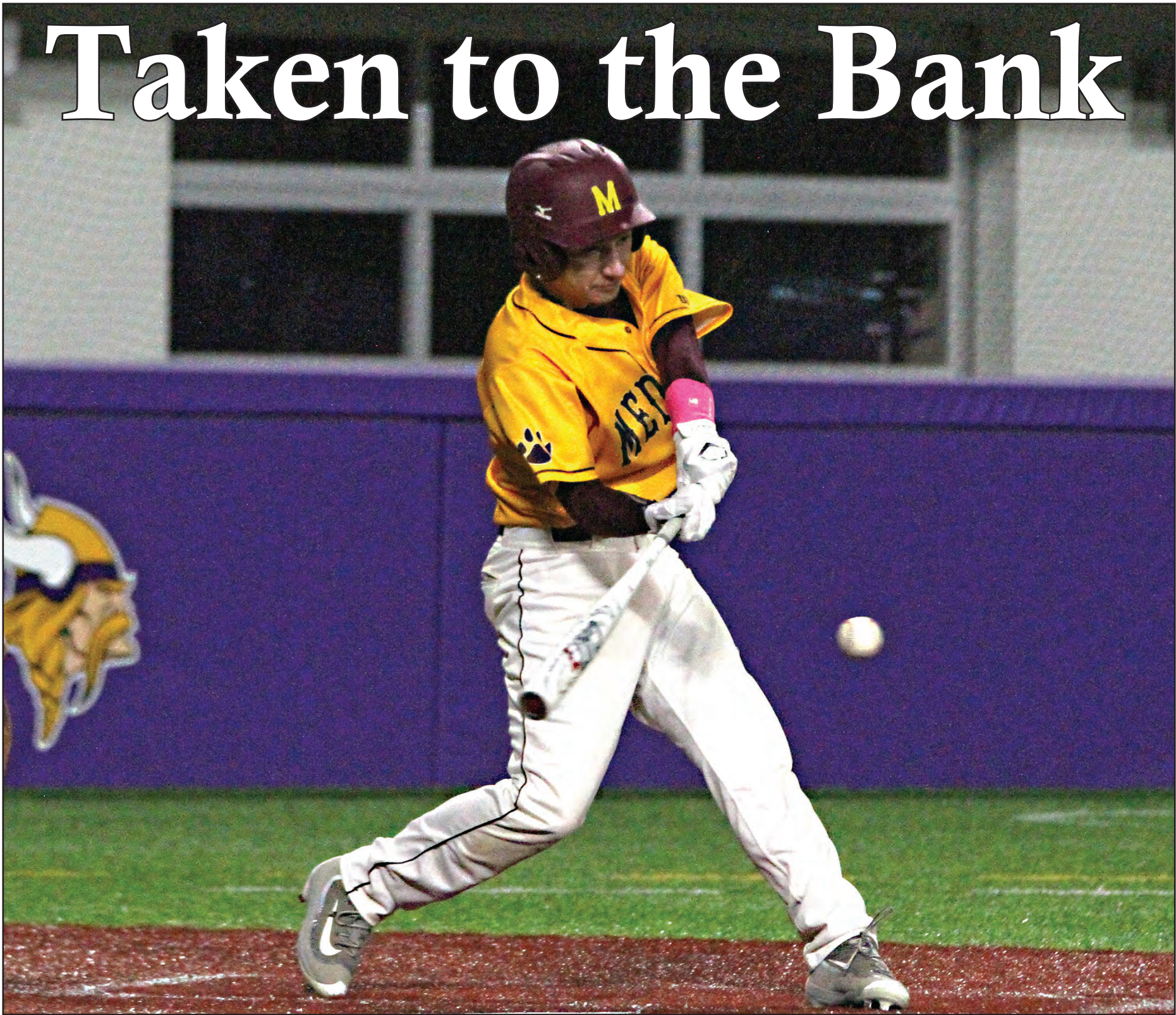
Mach's tenure featured

Sports writer Rocky Hulne of the Austin Herald had an excellent article on retired softball coach Ali Mach recently, in which he detailed mach's stellar career as the Blossom softball mentor. Mach compiled a 212-100 record in her thirteen-year career, which included four trips to the state tournament and a state championship in 2013.

Those trips proved significant, as the team improved its record with each trip. A first round loss the first year, fourth place the second year, and second place the third year led to the final success in the fourth trip. As Mach commented, "I coached a lot of games and all proved memorable, but the state title certainly capped my coaching career."

Enjoy spring and the spring sports.

Taken to the Bank



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Top: Medford second basemen Ian Gillis (6) swings at an incoming pitch during the bottom of the third inning in the Tigers' 14-1 loss to Kenyon-Wanamingo at U.S. Bank Stadium Tuesday night. Gillis was 0-1 on the evening after receiving two walks. Bottom: Cole Volkman throws a pitch in the first inning.

Kenyon-Wanamingo dominates on the mound, register eight runs in fifth inning to down Medford at U.S. Bank Stadium

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Minneapolis – Just a day removed from its season opener that ended in the game being suspended due to darkness, the Medford High School baseball team was taking its talents to U.S. Bank Stadium for a Section 2-AA matchup against Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The Tigers were in striking distance through four innings.

Then came the pitching woes.

Walking five batters, the Tigers surrendered nine runs in the top of the fifth inning to fall 14-1, activating the 10-run mercy rule Tuesday afternoon at U.S. Bank Stadium. The game was ended after five innings.

"It's early in the season. We're still trying to find ourselves, we have different guys playing different positions," commented Medford's skipper Jon Chappuis. "One thing we need to do when we face adversity is stay positive. It's the same thing in life as baseball."

The Tigers were the final game of the day inside the home of the Minnesota Vikings as two prep games were played prior to the slated 7:15 p.m. start. Chappuis noted that despite the way the game was played, for his team to have a memory like playing inside a stadium of this magnitude is something they'll remember forever.

"We try to pick one thing out every year, give these kids and experience and this was it," he added.

In his first three innings of work, Medford's Cole Volkman allowed just two runs on just two hits. While Volkman was strong from the mound through three innings, Medford's bats suffered through the first three innings as Jarvis VonRuden delivered hard single for the only hit.

"He was scheduled to go only pitch three (innings) and he went out there in the fourth, faced adversity and battled through it," the Tigers' skipper added. "That's an example."

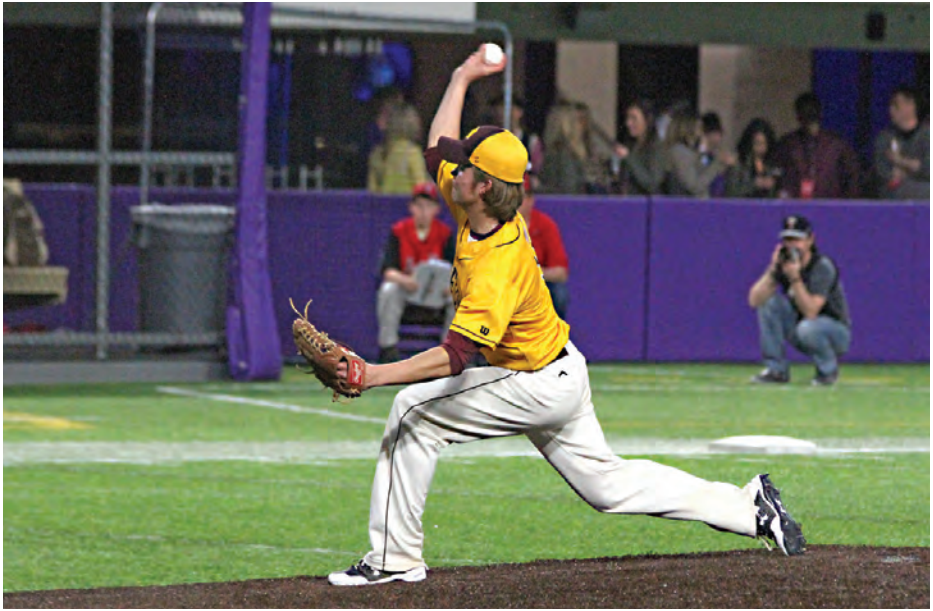
After getting into a jam midway through the fourth inning, Chappuis opted to send Alex Gengler to the mound to relieve Volkman. He needed just four pitches to get out of the inning. Volkman would pitch 4 1/3 innings with a pitch count of 68.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Tigers appeared to show some signs of a rally after Jon O'Daffer managed cross home-

plate on Willie VonRuden's long single in left-center field. The rally ultimately was shut down as Willie's brother Jarvis, hit a hard ground ball to the third baseman for the final out of the inning, leaving the bases loaded.

As Gengler took the mound for the fifth inning, the Knights' offense woke up, extending a 5-1 lead to a commanding 14-1 lead. In their final at-bat, Kenyon-Wanamingo managed to bat through the order and register five hits. The two-sport star for the Tigers registered just 29 pitches in 1.3 innings of work before Ben Borash was called in relief.

The Tigers fall to 0-1 on the year.



FREE CONSULTATIONS

Dr. Deborah J Lien

132 2nd Ave NE •
Blooming Prairie, MN

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

DDS, MBS

583.6613

Transform Your Smile!



GOOD LUCK TEAMS!

Owatonna Bus Co., Inc.

Safety First! Be on Time!

Huskies rally to down Wingers



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior Kodey Kiel connects on a pitch in the bottom of the fifth inning during the Huskies 7-3 win over Red Wing in Big Nine Conference action at Dartts Park in Owatonna. Kiel went 3-for-3 with four RBI's at the plate.

Kiel records 7 K's, goes 3-for-3 at the plate

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

It took a while to happen, but the bats woke up for the Owatonna High School baseball team at the right time.

And when it did, the result was demoralizing.

Led by Kodey Kiel's bases-clearing double, the Huskies managed to register six runs on five hits in the bottom of the fifth inning to rally from a 3-0 deficit to down the Red Wing Wingers 7-3 Thursday night at Dartt's Park in Big Nine Conference action.

"To be down in any game, when you're down 3-0, 4-0, its difficult," added Huskies skipper Tate Cummings. "We're pretty optimistic; it's a testament to their work ethic and having great at-bats we were able to have that late-game rally."

Kiel was the catalyst for the Huskies' late-game surge. Only it didn't start with his bat, but rather his arm. After being sent in to relieve Matt Bothun just three batters into his duration on the mound, Kiel struck out the final two batters of the innings.

When it was Kiel's turn at the plate, the senior drive a hard line-drive into the gap in left-center scoring Spencer Glynn and Dawson Leer to tie the game at 3-3. Kiel finished the contest with 3-for-3 with four RBIs. When asked about his senior's performance, Cummings simply noted that it's just who he is.

"That's Kodey. He's our bull-

dog, he's our player. He can definitely make this team go in a hurry and that was an example of that tonight; he's a player," added Cummings.

In Owatonna's monster fifth inning, the Huskies rolled through the order with third baseman Abe Havelka delivering a two-run double that bounced on the warning track in centerfield as the final hit in the inning for the Huskies. The junior third baseman rebounded from a strikeout in his first at-bat to go 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles and two RBIs.

Through the first four innings the Huskies managed just three hits, in large part to getting under the ball too much. While the Huskies only had four strikeouts on the day, they had seven fly balls that delivered easy outs. A pair of them didn't even leave the infield.

Despite a throwing error with one out in the bottom of the seventh, Kiel managed to record the final two strikeouts for the win. In three innings pitched, he recorded an ERA of 0.0 and collected seven strikeouts.

Owatonna's starter, Jacob Gauthier, was relieved by Bothun to start the top of the fifth. In his first start of the season, the senior had a few moments that were joyous and a few that tested the team's ability to face adversity. In four innings of work, Gauthier collected an ERA of 6.0, allowing two runs while surrendering six hits. he also walked three batters as well.

Owatonna will be in action again April 11 in Winona.

Box Score

Red Wing	1 0 1 0 1 0 0	3 7 2
Owatonna	0 0 0 0 6 1 x	7 11 3

WP: Kiel, 3 IP, ERA: 0.0, 7 K
Batting: Kiel 3-3, Havelka 2-4, Hanson 1-2, Leer 1-2, Budach 1-1, Glynn 0-2, Alstead 1-2, Deason 1-3, Staska 0-3, Mensink 0-3.

Steele County Times to conduct coverage of area spring games

With numerous local athletes now starring at area colleges, Sports Editor Josh Zimmer is set to start a two-week tour of area spring games.

"For me personally, I'm extremely excited," he said. "I played my college football in the NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference), so I've become fairly familiar with some of the programs here, but more im-

portantly, it's something that prior to me coming here in July was not done before."

He added that being familiar with the area schools isn't the half of why he's starting it.

"It's about the athletes and their families.

"We spend so much time covering them in high school, the community deserves to hear first-hand how they are faring at

the college ranks. The athletes deserve the coverage and we will do everything in our power to deliver it."

Zimmer will be taking in the Gophers spring game Saturday at TCF Bank Stadium with an update on former Owatonna standout Andrew Stelter before heading up to Winona State to see former Blossom quarterback John Rumpza on April 22.

Huskies Round up

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

The results from below are from Owatonna's co-ed relays at OHS Stadium on Friday.

Team scores: Owatonna 185, Park Center 112, Albert Lea 89.

Boys individual results

300-meter hurdles: 1. Bryce Goodwin, 44.8, 2. Cole Deason, 51.4. High Jump: Dalton Kubista, 5-04, 1. Scott Kingland, 5-04, 3. Jaydn Gunderson 5-02. Pole Vault: 2. Colton Kamaholz, 10-06, 3. Carlos Beascoche, 10-00, 3. Cory Ulrich, 10-00. Long Jump: Jason Williamson, 18-07, 4. Goodwin 17-10.25. Triple Jump: 1. Kubista 40-11. Shot Put: 1. Darik Elstad, 47-06, Ethan DeKam 45-01, 4. Chandler Buckhalter 38-07.25. Discus: Elstad, 139-04, 4. Buckhalter 101-07.

Girls individual results

300-meter hurdles: 2. Callie McCauley, 53.7, 4. Amelia VandeZande, 55.29. High Jump: 3. Caitlin Anderson, 4-08, 4. Madeline Koslosky,

4-04. Pole Vault: *1. Heidi Lundberg, 8-00, *1. Erica Svenby, 8-00. Long Jump: 2. Sara Anderson, 14-08, 3. Emma Zimmerman, 13-10, 4. Karissa Gregory, 13-07.5. Triple Jump: 3. McCauley, 30-05, 4. Zimmerman, 29-10.5. Shot Put: 1. Lexi Langeland, 41-04.25, Mallory Olson, 30-01.5. Discus: 1. Langeland, 107-03.5, 3. Rilee Wickman, 88-01.25, 5. Olson 72-01.

Relay results (co-ed)

4x100 relay: 1.Owatonna, 49.23. 4x200 relay: 1. Owatonna, 1:42.08. 4x400 meter relay: 2. Owatonna, 3:56.05. 4x800 relay: 1. Owatonna 10:05.61. 4x1600 relay: 1. Owatonna, 22.26. 800-meter sprint medley: 1. Owatonna, 1:48.03. 1600 spring medley:

1. Owatonna 4:34.95. Mixed distance medley: 1. Owatonna, 6:53.6. Mixed 4x100 meter shuttle hurdles: 1. Owatonna, 1:13.88.

Softball opens season with 15-7 win over Red Wing

Red Wing - Despite allowing seven runs, the Huskies started their season with a fairly dominant performance. led by Emma Rohman's five RBI night, Owatonna exploded for 15 runs on 15 hits. Rohman went 3-for-5, boasting a OPS of 1.467. Tiana Blazek, who was also in the circle for Owatonna, chipped with with a 3-for-4, two RBI showing at the plate. She went the distance pitching, allowing three earned runs on three hits. She also recorded 11 strikeouts. Owatonna moves to 1-0 on the season. Their game that was to be played in Owatonna on Saturday was moved to a later date.



Owatonna Athletic Trainer to receive Fred Zamberletti award

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Owatonna's head athletic trainer Terry "TC" Carlyle was named the Fred Zamberletti award winner for the Minnesota Football Honors.

The event is in its 10th year and will be held Sunday, May 7 at U.S. Bank Stadium.

In a press release, it was stated that: College and professional

Hall of Fame inductees are scheduled to attend the premier football awards event celebrating the top award winners in Minnesota football.

The Minnesota chapter of the National Football Foundation event is presented by the Minnesota Vikings and is the largest football awards event in Minnesota.

It was also stated that the Vikings will present thier team awards at the event.

Turn to us for the best

Local Sports Coverage All year long

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

www.steeledodge news.com

STARS OF STEELE

Kodey Kiel



Elly Strunk



Trailing 3-0, senior Kodey Kiel proved to be the catalyst for a Huskies' comeback Thursday. Connecting on a 2-2 pitch, Kiel registered a double and two of his four RBI's. On the mound, he struck out seven in three innngs of work.

In Friday's 2-1 win over J-W-P, Strunk was stellar within the circle. Pitching all seven innings, the senior allowed one hit while registering nine strikeouts. She also recorded a pair of hits for the Blossoms.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

Owatonna BUS COMPANY



YOUR AGRI
CONNECTION

FARM LIVINGPLUS

www.steeledodgenews.com

USDA warns it only takes one person to spread harmful invasive pests

April is Awareness Month for Invasive Plant Pests

Each year, harmful invasive plant pests and diseases cost the United States about \$40 billion in crop losses, damage to forests and vulnerable ecosystems, and expensive eradication and control efforts. It only takes one person who moves one piece of infested firewood, one infected plant, or one piece of infested fruit to spread these invasive pests to a new area. That's why USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has designated April as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. Spring is the perfect time to remind everyone of the simple steps they can take to prevent the spread of harmful invasive plant pests.

"People wonder if their individual actions really matter. The answer is yes," said APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Deputy Administrator Osama El-Lissy. "If you're not careful, you can unknowingly spread invasive pests by simply taking firewood on a camping trip, buying plants or seeds online, or mailing a friend a gift of home-grown fruit."

For example, USDA believes Huanglongbing (HLB, or citrus greening) was spread from Florida to California by one person

who likely mailed an infected plant to that state. HLB was first detected in Florida in 2005 and has since spread rapidly. A concerted effort by USDA, states and the citrus industry is underway to find new strategies in the fight against HLB

The good news is that individuals can also stop the spread of invasive pests by looking for and reporting suspicious insects or signs of damage. For example, USDA detected the Asian longhorned beetle in Boston in 2010, when a single groundskeeper with a keen eye noticed and reported an unusual dime-sized hole in a tree. That one call provided early warning to jumpstart an eradication effort that quickly eliminated this destructive pest from that city.

Here's what you can do to help keep invasive pests from spreading as spring gets underway and all year round:

- Spring is a busy time for buying plants. Buy yours from reputable nurseries or online

businesses. Ask if they comply with federal and state quarantine restrictions to ensure their plants are pest-free.

- Planning to travel? Whether it's between states or to another country, check with your local USDA office before you bring back fruits, vegetables or plants, so you know what's allowed. And when returning from abroad, always declare all agricultural items to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, so they can make sure items are free of harmful pests or diseases.

- When enjoying the great outdoors, don't move untreated firewood. Instead, buy or responsibly gather firewood near the place you'll burn it. Or, take certified, heat-treated firewood on your trip with you.

- If you live in an area under state or federal quarantine for an invasive pest, don't move produce or plants off your property. Call your local USDA office to find out how to safely dispose of yard debris like trees and

branches. Also, allow authorized agricultural workers access to your property for pest or disease surveys.

- Make sure to clean outdoor items before moving them. Wash dirt from outdoor gear and tires, before traveling long distances to or from fishing, hunting or camping trips. If relocating to a new home, clean lawn furniture and other outdoor items before placing them in a moving van or storage pod.

- Finally, report any signs of invasive pests by going to www.HungryPests.com.

To learn more, visit www.HungryPests.com or join the conversation on Facebook or Twitter. The website includes photos and descriptions of 19 invasive pests that can be moved easily by people, an online federal quarantine tracker by state, and phone numbers for reporting signs of invasive pests. Questions? Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd to find contact information for your local USDA office. Or call USDA's Customer Service Call Center toll-free at 1-844-820-2234 (open Mon. through Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern).



MDA launches new Cropland Grazing Exchange

Program connects crop and livestock farmers to improve soil health



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has just launched the Cropland Grazing Exchange. The new online tool seeks to connect crop farmers and livestock farmers to improve soil health.

Livestock are an integral part of achieving optimal soil health. They convert forages to more available forms of nutrients and help break up residue material and stimulate soil microbial activity. As crop production has become more specialized, the lack of livestock impact has become evident in declining soil health.

"The Cropland Grazing Exchange is a simple solution to a sometimes complex issue," said MDA Program Administrator Kelly Anderson. "Modern agri-

cultural tools like portable watering systems, temporary fencing, and remote solar energizers make it possible for livestock producers to graze their herds on a short-term basis. That gives livestock farmers more grazing options, and it also helps stimulate soil health for crop farmers. It's a win-win."

The online tool allows crop and livestock farmers to register their location by township and provide basic information about their fields or livestock. An interactive map shows available grazing sites and livestock herds. Registered users may contact each other to initiate a conversation about grazing agreements.

Visitors to the Cropland Grazing Exchange website will also

find information about writing a grazing lease, guidelines on herbicide restrictions, and other considerations for custom grazing.

For more information and to register, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/cge or contact Kelly Anderson at 320-808-4424.

The Cropland Grazing Exchange was created in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota.

Spring is in the air

ON THE FARM



Kendra Schroeder

The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, and spring is in the air!

Everyone is excited to get back outside to start their favorite summer activities—everyone including farmers. As the weather gets warm, farmers spend much of their time outside in the fields planting their crops. With increased activity everywhere, spring planting safety practices should be reviewed so everyone can have a safe and successful spring.

First and foremost, always let someone know where you are going, and keep them updated when you change locations. Whether you're fixing something on your planter in the back shed or working in the field across the road, it's always a good idea to have someone know where you are, should something happen. All it takes is a call or text to keep your loved ones updated on your current spot.

Use lights and flashers to protect yourself and others when traveling on roads, and always be aware of your surroundings. With the fast pace of everyday life, many drivers don't use nearly enough caution when traveling around farming equipment. Be proactive by using lights and flashers to bring attention to

yourself on the road, especially at night. If you have equipment that has poor or no lights, have someone follow behind you in a vehicle with their flashers on.

What's more exciting for children than big tractors? Kids love to help with things, and are constantly learning by watching. Sometimes the correct way isn't the easy way, and although you may know the risks in a potentially hazardous situation, your children probably don't; when lacking experience, skill, and sometimes common sense, children will mimic what you are doing, not knowing the consequences or dangers. Children are watching your every move, so make sure every action is a safe action!

Finally and most importantly, eat, drink water, and sleep. Fatigue can sneak up on any one, and before you know it, it could be you napping behind the wheel of your tractor; studies show that it is equally as dangerous to drive tired as it is to drive drunk! If you feel sleep creeping up on you, don't fight it—take a 20-minute power nap to stay refreshed. Keep a jug of water in the cab to stay hydrated or wash your hands. Remember to take breaks for lunch and dinner, or have someone bring it to you, and always have some snacks in the tractor to keep your energy boosted. Keeping your body fueled and rested can prevent mistakes and accidents, and is essential to your health!

The University of Minnesota Extension wishes all farmers a safe and successful planting season!

Kendra Schroeder is the interim extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at 507-444-7685 or schr1123@umn.edu.



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

cfscoop.com



Agronomy • Energy • Grain • Feed • Financing

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

We can also help you with:

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

LOKEN

Excavation & Drainage, Inc.

Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!

507-451-2873

Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568

3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net

41 Years in Business!

Classifieds

Dodge County
Independent
Dodge County
ADvantage
Steele County Times

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$30
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE

AUTO

**REACH OVER 17,000 IN
OVER 12 COMMUNITIES**

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

FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. ttc

GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for \$9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc

Pies for Easter: Frozen take and bake pies by the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Ladies Aid- apple, triple berry, peach, and blueberry for \$8. Call Madelyn at 507-633-2887. 15-17c

Must sell-too much stuff. 12 string guitar, alto sax, banjo, 2 pedal steel guitars shobuds with cases, 50 watt amp, 18 watt amp, stereo amps, speakers, microphones, Kustom power mixer, other mixers, cords etc. West Concord 507-527-1014. 16-18p

For Sale: Small wood stove with blower- \$45, 32" white storm door with all hardware- \$20, 2-man portable fish house with bench set- \$75, phone 507-634-6225.. 17p

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Hayfield, 1 br apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc

Blood Clot patients, if you

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

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

Great Western Apartments, Hayfield. 2 bedroom apartment, 2nd floor, includes utilities, laundry onsite. Available immediately. Call (507) 796-0152 or (701) 330-9788. 9tfc

DODGE CENTER, 2 bedroom main floor apt. Available now. Stove, refrigerator, water, and garbage pickup furnished. No pets. Non smokers only apply. \$650 dep. & \$650 rent. 507-374-6747 or 507-374-2281. 15tfc

Prairie Villa I ~ Blooming Prairie Open waiting list for 1 bd smoke free apts. Must be 62+ or disabled. Rent based on 30% of income. Includes off-street parking w/plug-ins, on-site laundry, all utilities & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 17c

Greenfield Manor ~ Kasson Open waiting list for 1 & 2 bd smoke free apts. Must be 62+ or disabled. Includes off-street parking, on-site laundry, community room, controlled entrances, heat, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 17c

Claremont Manor ~ Claremont Open waiting list for 1 & 2 bd apts. Includes off-street parking w/ plug-ins, on-site laundry, community room, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 17c

Chestnut Apts ~ Mantorville Open waiting list for 1 & 2 bd apts. Includes off-street parking w/ plug-ins, on-site laundry, playground, heat, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 17c

Dodge Center- 1 bdrm senior apt., 55+, nice quiet bldg, util. included, laundry on site, off street parking, NP, NS, HUD vouchers accepted, call 952-334-8369. 17-19c

Greenfield Village ~ Kasson Open waiting list for 1, 2 & 3 bd apts. Includes off-street parking w/ plug-ins, on-site laundry, playground, heat, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 17c

MOVING SALE

April 20, 21 & 22, 10-5. Furniture: desk, entertainment center, coffee table, dining table & chairs, recliners, couch, lots of misc. 519 6th St., West Concord, MN. 17&18p

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

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

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

Dave Stevenson Sharpening Service- Sharpening everything that cuts! Drop off/pick up available at Kasson & Dodge Center Hardware Hanks. Phone or text 507-269-9601. 10tfc

Will clean & maintain flower beds, etc., one time or for the season, limited openings and private customers only, 507-272-0530 15-17p

EMPLOYMENT

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

Now accepting applications for the spring season for cashiers and customer service. Please inquire at Houston's Greenhouse, 507-634-7113. 16-17c



KRUEGER TRUCKING

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

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



WELLINGTON ADULT CARE POSITION AVAILABLE

- Full time evening caregiver position working with elderly clients
- Must love elderly people and enjoy working in a home setting
- Experience preferred but will train
- Applicant must be 18 years old, have a valid drivers license and pass a background check

If interested please contact Janie or Bill Hill at 507-374-2198 or 507-319-5134



MANTORVILLE Restoration Association

Incorporated under the laws of Minnesota on October 19, 1963
PO Box 311 MANTORVILLE, MINNESOTA 55955

Part-time pull tab sellers wanted

- Mantorville area.
- Weekends and evening hours required.

**Apply in person at
Harold's Club in Dodge Center
or the Mantorville Saloon.**

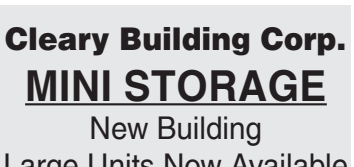


Kasson-Mantorville Schools

have the following positions available:

MS Health Teacher (.302 FTE) HS Social Studies Teacher (1.0 FTE)

Please complete an application on-line at www.komets.k12.mn.us and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and reference letters.



Cleary Building Corp.

MINI STORAGE

New Building
Large Units Now Available

10 x 24....\$70.00/month

Weekday hours:

**8-12:00 & 1-5 p.m.
Saturday hours:
8-12:00**

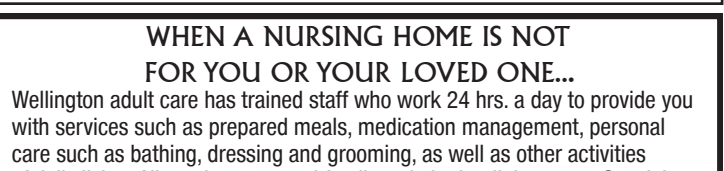
**Excellent Location
At Cleary Building Corp.
702 7th St. Circle SE
Kasson, MN
(507)634-6640**



Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School

is seeking a **Part-Time Evening Cleaner.**

Please complete an application on-line at www.komets.k12.mn.us and include a resume, application letter and reference letters.



WHEN A NURSING HOME IS NOT FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE...

Wellington adult care has trained staff who work 24 hrs. a day to provide you with services such as prepared meals, medication management, personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special diets are not a problem. We also arrange transportation to and from medical appointments accompanied by staff or family. We supply laundry services, and housekeeping. Our home is wheelchair accessible. We have a 1 to 5 staff to client ratio. All rooms are private. We serve a variety of clients over the age of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.

**For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134**



Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING

800 5th Ave. NW • Kasson • 634-9500

submit resumes to careers@oxfordmgmt.com

Prairie Meadows Senior Living is looking for passionate caregivers to join our Kasson, MN location! We specialize in assisted living and memory care for the senior community. Prairie Meadows offers a great team environment, competitive benefits, and opportunity for growth!

We are looking for caring individuals to fill a variety of positions, including **RESIDENT ASSISTANTS**

For the following shifts:
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM • 10:00 PM - 6:00 AM

Full-time benefits package available including health, dental, vision, PTO and more.

EOE.



New Restaurant Now Hiring

all positions. Mail resume to: Misplaced Magnolia, 111 West Main St., Kasson, MN 55944 or email to: email@misplacedmagnolia.com 17c



Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)

Rochester and Mantorville Locations

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

FAHI is seeking applicants for part-time positions. Positions require every other weekend. EOE

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

For additional information call Mindy (507)429-8962



SKJEVELAND ENTERPRISES

Sanitation & Recycling Services
Pride in service since 2007

Full time driver needed immediately for local Sanitation Company.

- Must possess a valid A or B CDL.
- Job responsibilities would include collection of residential and/or commercial garbage and/or recycling and transporting to designated site.
- Sanitation experience helpful but not required.
- Ability to lift 50-75 pounds and have a good driving record.
- Responsibilities include reading route sheet, follow map and service each customer as identified on the route sheet or as assigned.
- Excellent time management skills along with customer service skills are a must.
- Basic knowledge of truck upkeep a plus.

Contact 507-528-9900 for more information.

skjevelandenterprises@msn.com



Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: On April 1 at 2:36 a.m., deputies made a traffic stop at Central Ave. N. and 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center. They found narcotics and arrested a male and female subject.

CRIME BRIEF

No April Fool’s prank at local store

It may have been April 1, but a woman allegedly stashing bras in her purse didn’t appear to be playing a prank on April Fools.

Owatonna Police responded to Walmart for a shoplifting-in-progress during the evening hours of April 1. When the officer arrived, he discovered a woman had been suspected of concealing some bras in her person. The officer also found a meth pipe that supposedly belonged to her son, police said.

Police arrested Tina Gilbertson, 49. She had an outstanding warrant out of Ramsey County. When the officer searched her purse, he saw a small purple case that



Tina Gilbertson

contained a smoking pipe, according to police.

While at the jail, detention officers found a plastic baggie of methamphetamine inside Gilbertson’s coat pocket.

She has been charged with fifth-degree controlled substance, which is a gross misdemeanor, and theft, a misdemeanor.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Because of technical difficulties within the Steele County Law Enforcement Center, no police reports were available to the media for this week’s blotter. We hope to have the information again next week.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 27 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding:

Tanya M. Ackerman, 44, Minneapolis, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. She was sentenced to \$131, 94 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation.

Travis W. Jackson, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation, felony DANC violation and misdemeanor violation of no contact order. Jackson was sentenced to \$381, 185 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, domestic abuse counseling, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, attend AA and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 27 – 31:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Jesus Rodriguez, 41, Lansing, cancelled license, \$581 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Andrea V. Allen, 33, Eyota, no license, \$181; Aaron A. Amundson, 24, Glenville, speeding, \$121; Jose M. Arriaga, 45, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Michael B. Astrup, 29, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Nicholas M. Auchstetter, 24, Hospers, IA, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Glenn J. Cobb, 46, Austin, inspection decal violation, \$181; Jason C. Cyphers, 43, Arlington, TX, no license, \$181; Evan C. Kratochvil, 19, Firestone, CO, speeding, \$221; Joseph A. Murphy, 22, Coon Rapids, possession of paraphernalia, \$181; Can H. Nguyen,

en, 36, Duluth, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Ann E. Oslund, 48, Prior Lake, speeding, \$121; Margarita R. Padilla, 57, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Gwyn B. Quiram, 47, Geneva, no insurance and suspended license, \$481; Robert A. Racek, 65, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Edwin V. Romero, 17, Roseville, seat belt, \$106; Steven W. Schultz, 68, Greenfield, WI, speeding, \$121; Dustin L. Stewart, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jordan A. Tabor, 22, Mankato, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, \$271; Otis E. Woodson, 35, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$421; Jennifer J. Young, 37, Welcome, unsafe lane usage and no insurance, \$331.

Owatonna Police Department

Brendan A. Beaulieu, 20, Cass Lake, theft, \$102.99, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Diane D. Christopherson, 49, Austin, speeding, \$141; Howard P. Domeier, 52, New Ulm, careless driving, \$181;

Jay B. Fuentes, 20, Owatonna, assault, stay of adjudication, \$81, diversion program, domestic abuse evaluation, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation;

Kiyle A. King, 28, Faribault, theft, \$131 and 23 days in county jail; Sarah R. Kruger, 45, Waseca, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Theresa M. Schoolmeesters, 22, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Oscar Trevino III, 28, Owatonna, criminal sexual conduct, stay of adjudication, \$381, 60 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim, attend sex offender program, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of pornography, no access to Internet without approval, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 10 years of supervised probation; David L. Wangen, 51, Albert Lea, trespassing, \$131 and 2 days in county jail;

Brett W. Warner, 28, Owatonna, assault, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; William I. Wilson, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

Jehangir N. Ahmed, 30, Austin,

Area highways to get higher speed limits

Motorists traveling along Highway 56 in Dodge County will be able to push it a little faster after the state raised the speed limit last week.

Meanwhile, plans are also in the works for drivers using Highway 30 in Steele and Dodge counties.

Last week MnDOT posted new speed limit signs along Highway 56 from Randolph to the Iowa border. The speed limit along that stretch will now be 60 mph instead of the previous 55 mph.

The speed limit changes come after MnDOT’s study of each highway segment, which included access points, shoulder width, roadway alignment, assessment of roadside hazards, crash rates and history and an analysis of motorist

speeds.

“A properly selected speed limit can increase the safety of the roadway by reducing the variation in actual vehicle operating speeds, and by setting realistic driver expectations for motorists trying to cross or enter a roadway,” said Michael Schweyen, transportation engineer for MnDOT.

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature directed MnDOT to evaluate its two-lane, two-way 55 mph highways to determine whether speed limits could be reasonably and safely increased on its 55 mph, two-lane segments. The statewide study will end in 2019.

MnDOT spokesperson Michael Dougherty expects the signs along High-

way 30 from Ellendale to Rochester to be changed within the next month. He warned that until the signs are changed, the speed limit remains 55 mph.

Other highways in the region to be changed to 60 mph are Highway 13 from Albert Lea to Waseca and Highway 60 from Waterville to Zumbro Falls.

MnDOT says not all highway segments will be raised to 60 mph. Only segments where the criteria are met will be raised, according to MnDOT.

Transportation officials urge motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

speeding, \$121; Theeb M. Al Rizq, 26, Mankato, cancelled license, \$281; Scott A. Baum, 54, Hudson, WI, speeding, \$141;

Jan C. Hinkle, 29, Medford, speeding, \$121; Patrick M. Jacobs, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Tyler D. Karge, 21, Waseca, burning of rubber, \$281; Brian J. Kosel, 68, Owatonna, damage to property and violation of cease and desist order relating to use of wetlands, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jeffrey J. Larson, 49, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121;

Brenden M. McMann, 16, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; Katelynn K. Miller, 27, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Alex J. O’Brien, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Kevin C. Olson, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Gary L. Padilla, 37, Faribault, DWI, \$581, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend AA and 3 years of supervised probation; Benjamin I. Peterson, 34, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141;

Britta E. Ryan, 30, Owatonna, expired registration, \$111; Derrick D. Southwick, 18, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Collin R. Standke, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Shelley M. Tenlen, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Joshua F. Weller, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation; James A. West, 57, Faribault, speeding, \$121.

block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 1:17 a.m.

Sexual Assault. Deputies began an investigation of a sexual assault in the county at 1:45 p.m.

Civil. At 2:37 p.m., deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 400 block of 1st St. NW in Hayfield.

Sex Offense. Deputies responded to a sex offense on County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 6:49 p.m.

April 1

Noise Complaint. Deputies received a noise complaint of music from the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 12:19 a.m.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 12000 block of U.S. Hwy. 14 in Claremont at 2:18 a.m.

Disturbance. A citizen called deputies at 5:52 p.m. when her daughters were fighting in the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont.

Environment. Deputies found a couch in a ditch at 750th St. and 180th Ave. in Hayfield at 7:18 p.m.

Medical. At 7:31 p.m., deputies and West Concord Ambulance responded to a subject receiving burns from a propane grill flare up in the 14300 block of 565th St. in West Concord.

April 2

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint regarding guardianship of a child in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield.

Narcotics. Deputies responded to a narcotics incident in the 100 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Hayfield at 6:34 p.m.

April 3

Juvenile. Deputies received a complaint of juveniles knocking on doors in the 600 block of 4th St. SE in Dodge Center at 2 a.m.

April 4

Narcotics. At 9:57 a.m., deputies responded to a report of stolen narcotics in the 700 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 14800 block of 530th St. in West Concord at 7:24 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 27 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Joshua D. Peterson, 35, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault and petty misdemeanor animal at large. He was sentenced to \$1,255, 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, maintain employment, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 27 – April 3:

Dodge County Sheriff’s Office

Jennifer G. Beetch, 34, Rochester, speeding, \$280; Brandon J. Gregerson, 29, Grand Meadow, speeding, \$120; James M. Hall, 20, Zumbrota, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Freddie L. Littrel III, 51, Rochester, revoked license, stay of adjudication, 6 months of probation; Talon R. Odgen, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Gary L. Olson, 41, Dodge Center, stop sign, \$130; Logan J. Onken, 25, Owatonna, suspended license (2), revoked license, no insurance (2) and speeding, 90 days in county jail; Tabitha L. Skogen, 31, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Christopher J. Watts, 24, Byron, speeding, \$380; Makenzie L. Zelinske, 25, Hayfield, speeding, \$120.

Kasson Police Department

Jodie L. Bartz, 41, Mantorville, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Sean M. Chvatal, 48, Kasson, theft, \$180; John L. Gergen, 45, Mantorville, failure to stop for school bus, \$280; Roberto A. Reynolds, 44, Kasson, DWI, \$235, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 3 years of supervised probation; Benjamin R. Rikhus, 29, Rochester, DWI, \$480, chemical assessment, chemical awareness class, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Dylan F. Timm, 33, Kasson, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$180; Jonathan A. Timm, 27, Kasson, revoked license and stop sign, \$330; Jonathan M. Tompkin, 29, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Thalamus H. Wilson, 38, Kasson, suspended license, \$280.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Bradley P. Breutzman, 55, Rochester, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; Rodrigo R. De Luna, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$380; Marcus R. Frick, 23, Oronoco, speeding, \$280; Aaron R. Kern, 38, Ramsey, speeding, \$220; Mustafa M. Qulaten, 53, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Rigoberto Sahugan-Hernandez, 20, West Concord, seat belt, \$105; Michael P. Spielvogel, 20, Appleton, WI, speeding, \$120; Amie N. Van Zuilen, 35, West Concord, seat belt, \$105.

ARREST Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Kevin Roy Peterson, 52, arrested at 7:30 p.m. April 1, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Owatonna Police

Tina Lin Gilbertson, 49, arrested at 9:30 p.m. April 1, possession, held for court.

Bryan Anthony Dupris, 19, arrested at 3:05 a.m. April 2, assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Jarod James Fuller, 18, arrested at 10:55 a.m. April 2, felony assault and damage to property, held for

court.

Linda Santibanez, 30, arrested at 4:36 p.m. April 2, domestic assault, held for court.

Branden Anthony Hendrickson, 18, arrested at 12 p.m. April 3, felony motor vehicle theft, held for court.

Natalie Ann Moe, 31, arrested at 5:14 p.m. April 3, cancelled license and obstruction of legal process, held for court.

Deon Marshall Grunwald, 40, arrested at 11:09 p.m. April 3, possession, held for court.

Aana Elizabeth Garner, 30, arrested at 12:09 a.m. April 4, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Joshua Douglas Watkins, 30, arrested at 2 p.m. April 4, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Bryant Anthony Reyes-O’Connor, 29, arrested at 7:09 p.m. April 5, interference with 911 call and domestic assault, held for court.

Danyelle Raymon Williams, 35, arrested at 11:45 p.m. April 5, cancelled license, held for court.

Christopher John Johnson, 52, arrested at 3:55 a.m. April 6, false information and probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Kevin Wayne Webster, 32, arrested at 12:47 p.m. April 6, domestic assault, held for court.

Travis Jay Troska, 37, arrested at 7:46 p.m. April 6, no insurance and revoked license, held for court.

Brandi Lynn Von Rump, 30, arrested at 1:42 a.m. April 7, DWI, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Jamie Lee Carey, 30, arrested at 3:14 p.m. March 31, felony drug court apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Nicholas Lee Willis, 21, arrested at 1:54 a.m. April 4, DWI, held for court.

Isaiah Hayden Coffey, 19, arrested at 12 p.m. April 4, warrant arrest, body only.

Natalie Marie Loes, 25, arrested at 4:52 p.m. April 4, felony possession of legend drug, possession, introduction of controlled substance into correctional facility and DWI, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Scott A. Mittelstadt, 47, arrested at 9:30 p.m. March 31, DWI, \$12,000 bail.

Douglas Gordon Moore, 43, arrested at 11 a.m. April 3, felony extradition hearing for non-support, held for court.

Phillip Anthony Smith, 27, arrested at 9:13 a.m. April 5, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

OWATONNA FIRE

April 1

Dumpster Fire. At 11:44 p.m., fire fighters responded to a dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire in the 600 block of Mound St. SW.

April 3

Extrication. Fire rescue extricated a victim from a vehicle on Cedar Ave. N. at 12:37 p.m.

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

- Brandi Junak – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jordan Kane – DWI – no bail
- Sara Katra – theft - \$500 bail
- Marie Kinard – DWI – no bail
- Ceirra King – suspended license, no insurance - \$300 bail
- Georgia Kingswan – DUI – no bail
- Larry Kittelson – DWI – no bail
- Vern Klostrieck – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jacob Knutson – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
- William Knutson – DWI - \$3,000 bail

- Timothy Koger – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Eric Kovacevic – traffic - \$300 bail
- Kyle Krause – burglary – no bail
- Jessica Laird – theft – no bail
- Anthony Lake – false name - \$500 bail
- Vu Lam-Truong – open bottle - \$2,000 bail
- Kenneth Lane – false name - \$1,000 bail
- Shatoria Lane – assault - \$300 bail
- Michael Laursen – theft - \$10,000 bail
- Larry Lester – burglary – no bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

MnDOT donates snowplow to Riverland College

A snowplow donation from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to Riverland Community College’s truck driving program is expected to aid students and the state’s transportation department.

Officials from MnDOT joined leaders of Riverland on the Austin campus Thursday afternoon in a ceremonial exchange of the keys for a snowplow. MnDOT was replacing the vehicle in its fleet and donated it to the Riverland truck driving program.

The snowplow equipment adds depth to a strong Riverland program that offers hands-on and classroom training for careers in the transportation industry. The equipment gives the students in the program additional exposure to equipment used in the field and provides them a greater range of experiences prior to seeking employment.

MnDOT, in turn, will work with Riverland to help students learn about careers at MnDOT, as it continues to build a strong and diverse talent pool of employees.

“We see this as an opportunity for both of our organizations to benefit,” said Jeff Vlaminc, district engineer for MnDOT District 6 in southeast Minnesota. “MnDOT is proud to be to partner with Riverland, because so much of our culture is about learning, training and improving. This is a strong connection to our mission.”



Submitted Photo

Riverland Community College President Adenuga Atewologun, center, holds the keys to the 2000 Sterling snowplow donated to the college’s truck driving program by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. MnDOT District Engineer Jeff Vlaminc is directly left and Jonathan Rymer, the truck driving program director is directly right of Atewologun. Students and staff of the program gathered for the photo by the snowplow.

Riverland president Adenuga Atewologun said, “One of Riverland’s key strategies has been to build strong partnerships with businesses, industries and agencies that employ our students. We shape our training around the needs in our state and region. This donation and partnership is a prime example of two organizations working together to provide best in class training and better employment for students who graduate from our program.”

The 2000 Sterling snowplow was being replaced in MnDOT’s fleet as part of the normal replacement cycle. The manual transmission vehicle provides the truck driving students with a machine that’s still in good working order. MnDOT puts some of its snowplows on the state auction or works on a transaction with other governmental bodies, such as townships that are seeking a snowplow.

Riverland has offered a truck driving program on its

Austin Campus for 30 years. Commercial truck drivers in high demand throughout Minnesota. Long distance truck drivers make an average \$30,000 - \$39,000 salary in their first year and more than \$40,000 the second year, according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Riverland’s 16-week training program starts in August or March each year.

Crossword solution

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



Submitted Photo

Winner at home show

At the Kowz Home and Recreation Show this year, Linda Stockwell won a car in a give-away hosted by Aaron’s Automotive Towing and Repair of Owatonna.

The car, a 2002 yellow Pontiac aztek, is actually a restored car from a wreck off the interstate. Aaron’s Automotive towed the car in, and the driver decided it wasn’t worth the money to repair, so they gave it up.

Not about to let it go to waste, the automotive crew cleaned it up and gave it away at the home show two weeks ago.

“He did a really nice thing,” said Stockwell when she talked about Aaron’s generosity to his community.

Pharmaceutical bill backed by consumer groups

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar’s (D-MN) bipartisan legislation to crack down on anti-competitive pay-for-delay pharmaceutical deals has received support from several major pro-consumer groups. The Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act that Klobuchar introduced with Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) earlier this year would stop anti-competitive pay-offs in which branded companies pay their generic competitors not to compete as part of a patent settlement. Klobuchar’s bill, which has been incorporated into the prescription drug package that was introduced today, has received support from major pro-consumer groups like AARP, Consumers Union, and Public Citizen.

“Outrageous pay-for-delay pharmaceutical deals thwart competition and raise prescription drug prices for consumers,” Klobuchar said. “My bipartisan legislation – which is supported by major pro-consumer groups – would put an end to this harmful practice that keeps generic drugs off the market. I’ll keep fighting so that consumers can fill the prescriptions they need at prices they can afford.”

The AARP has expressed support for pay-for-delay proposals. “AARP believes that eliminating pay-for-delay agreements will result in additional savings for consumers and taxpayers,” said Robert G. Romasco, former President of AARP during an antitrust subcommittee hearing in 2013.

“Pay-for-delay deals cheat consumers out of having more affordable generic alternatives for the prescription drugs they need,” said George

Slover, senior policy counsel for Consumers Union, the policy and mobilization arm of Consumer Reports. “This bill would give the FTC a clearer enforcement pathway to take action to stop these anti-competition and anti-consumer deals. We thank Senator Klobuchar and Senator Grassley for leading this bipartisan effort.”

“We support this legislation that was introduced by Senator Klobuchar and Senator Grassley that will help crackdown on pay-for-delay deals and lower costs for consumers,” said Peter Maybarduk, Director at Public Citizen.

Consumer groups like Campaign for Sustainable RX Pricing, which is a coalition of hospitals, physicians, employers, consumers, pharmacists and health plans, also favor increased oversight of “Pay for Delay” Settlements, stating that “policymakers should encourage robust oversight and opposition to settlements that are deemed anticompetitive and prevent generics from entering the market in a timely manner.” They continue, “these patent dispute settlements – often referred to as “pay for delay” – result in a generic company agreeing to refrain from marketing its generic product for a specific period of time in return for compensation (often undisclosed) from the branded company.”

The legislation would stop these anti-competitive pay-off agreements to keep more affordable generic equivalents off the market and make sure consumers have access to the cost saving generics they need.

Got a scoop for us?



New tips welcome at: <http://steeledodgenews.com/news-tips>

Trapper Jack on the job with his family



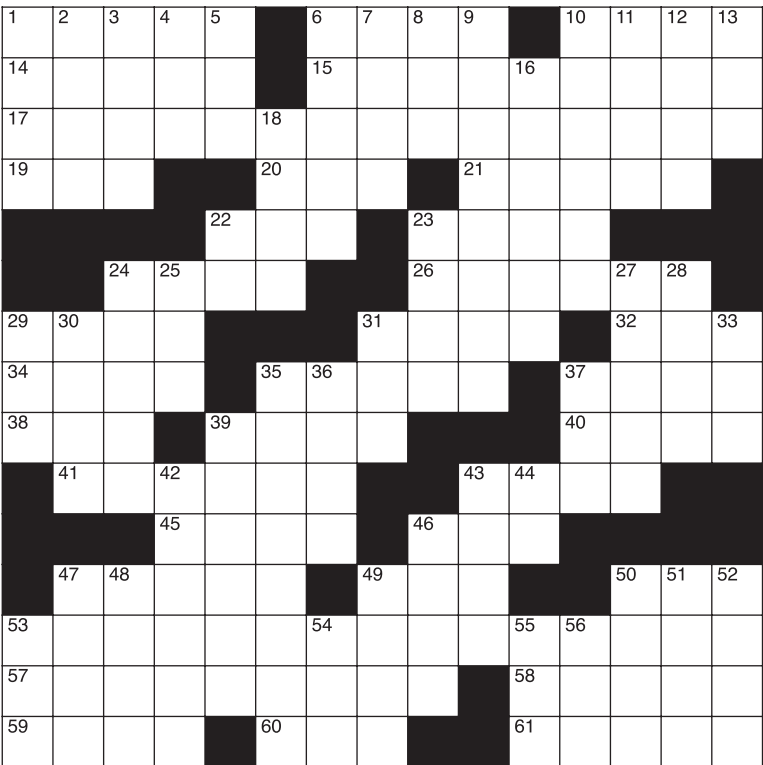
Submitted Photo

Trapper Jack Bruns is shown at a younger age when he became an active trapper. He is shown with sister Maggie and his grandmother, Sue Zwiener, admiring Jack’s trapping success.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Elephant’s name
- 6. Support
- 10. Mures River city
- 14. Bastard wing
- 15. One was named Desire
- 17. PGA Tournament prize
- 19. A way to leave unchanged
- 20. Unchangeable computer memory
- 21. Harangues
- 22. 6th Hebrew letter
- 23. Well informed
- 24. Turfs
- 26. In a way, obeyed
- 29. Lawyers group
- 31. Increases motor speed
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Light pokes
- 35. Struck down
- 37. Central Philippine Island
- 38. Japanese sash
- 39. Afresh
- 40. Bluish green
- 41. Inspire with love
- 43. Counter (French)
- 45. Counterbalance container to obtain net weight
- 46. Express pleasure
- 47. Cheap wine (Br.)
- 49. Signing
- 50. ___ compilation, compiling computer language
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Being trompe-l’oeil



- 58. Extremely mad
- 59. Day
- 60. Small coin (French)
- 61. Snatched

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cry
- 2. Wings

- 3. Baseball play
- 4. Flower petals
- 5. Drive against
- 6. Velikaya River city
- 7. A single unit in a collection
- 8. Stray
- 9. Bring back

- 10. Repented
- 11. Receipt (abbr.)
- 12. Expresses pleasure
- 13. Not wet
- 16. In a way, takes off
- 18. Macaws genus
- 22. “Fast Five” star’s initials
- 23. Sharpen a knife
- 24. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 25. Former CIA
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Aba ___ Honeymoon
- 29. Bustle
- 30. Minor
- 31. Propel a boat
- 33. Passage with access only at one end
- 35. Underwater airways
- 36. Small, slight
- 37. Box (abbr.)
- 39. ___ Blake, actress
- 42. Repents
- 43. Merchandising
- 44. Exclamation of surprise
- 46. With fireplace residue
- 47. A small lake
- 48. Bait
- 49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
- 50. K___: watercraft (alt. sp.)
- 51. Norse variant of “often”
- 52. Adolescent
- 53. Visual metaphor (Computers)
- 54. River in Spanish
- 55. Cowboy Carson
- 56. Powerful gun lobby

Let’s get you movin!

KW KELLER WILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY

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



PANTHER OF THE WEEK



in class. She has shown huge improvement in both math and reading this year. She always wears a smile and has a wonderful sense of humor! A joy to have in class!

Emilee enjoys playing softball and volleyball. Her favorite book is Island of the Blue Dolphin, her favorite movie is Home, and her favorite food is lasagna. Keep up the great work Emilee!



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

Celebrating 22 years of helping people live pain free



NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$22

Includes Consultation, Complete Examination and X-Rays!

Valid April 10-21

All additional services billed at our customary fees.

Chad M. Eischens, D.C.
Doctor of Chiropractic
Certified Medical Examiner

Prairie Family & Sports CHIROPRACTIC

www.drchad.org

866-5DR-CHAD OR 507-583-2271
344 E. Main Street, PO Box 395 Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Little Theatre of Owatonna

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

A ROMANTIC COMEDY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Online ticket sales begin April 15th: LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org

APRIL 21, 22, 28 & 29 AT 7:30 PM
APRIL 23 & 30 AT 2 PM

West Mills Auditorium: 560 West Mills Drive | Owatonna, MN
LTO Box Office Opens APRIL 17TH | 507-451-0764

DIRECTED BY JEFFREY JAKSICH (THEATRICAL DIRECTOR) BY SARAH HANSEN-PRASERT (ASSISTANT THEATRICAL DIRECTOR) BY NICHOLEE PETERSON, CHICAGO/CHICAGO BY DAVID SWALA

f t i s

April is Child Abuse Prevention month.

BLUE MONDAYS!!

The Exchange Club of Steele County invites you to participate in Blue Mondays in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Wear the color blue every Monday in April!

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE

A place for all kids to feel welcome.
A place that nurtures kids—a place where they can grow.
A place that gives them every opportunity to be their best.

The Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie is the place for everyone.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE
401 4th St SE,
Blooming Prairie MN 55917
507.583.6699
msundine@bgclubbroch.org
www.bgclubbroch.org

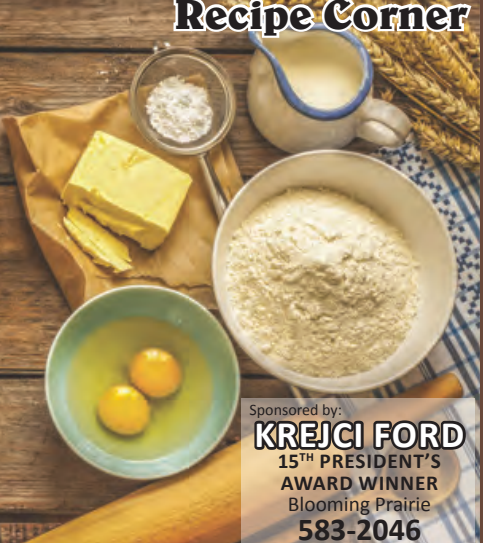
Mallow Fruit Dip

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened	1 tsp. grated orange peel
7 oz. jar Kraft marshmallow creme	Dash of ground ginger (optional)
1T. orange juice	

Beat ingredients at medium speed with electric mixer until well blended.
Yield: 1 1/2 cups.
Serve with assorted fruit.

by Joyce Johns
RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

Recipe Corner



Sponsored by:
KREJCI FORD
15TH PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER
Blooming Prairie
583-2046

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections

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

507-583-2999

Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured



BISHOP BE EXCAVATING, INC.

- EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
- DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK

Commercial & Residential Sitework

Collision

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



ASSURED PERFORMANCE™ COLLISION CARE

CSI: Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837
www.csiaustinmn.com

Electrical

AMERICAN ENERGY LLC 507-383-1547

Jay D. Peterson
Electrical Contractor email americanenergyllc@gmail.com
www.americanenergyllc.us

Geothermal | Solar PV
IR Thermal Imaging | 3D Concrete Imaging

Tires

Mike's REPAIR

870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Complete Truck Parts and Service

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

Mike Hartle
Owner

Truck Accessories

Minimizer

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

AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS

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

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

Steele County Times 507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Farm

Mike & Jeff Custom Farms

Mike Ingvalson 507-456-1436
mikeingvalson@hotmail.com

High Yields Start Here

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

We offer:

- Seed
- Chemical
- Fertilizer
- Custom Farming
- Crop Scouting

MJC Farms, LLC
13324 89th Ave SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Fax 507-572-1337

Pets

Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.

"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"

Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. County Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

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

Cell: 507-456-7977

Sanitation & Recycling

STEWART'S RECYCLING

Locally Family Owned and Operated Since 1994

507-451-0976

Your Local Choice!

When you have had it with the Large Corporate Companies, We offer you a friendly Small town way of doing business. Unlike our World Wide Competitors who rely on a contract to ensure your patronage, we earn it the old fashioned way!

Or Toll Free 1-888-451-0976 • P.O. Box 321 • Owatonna
email: info@stewartsanitation.com



Steele/Waseca Coop
2411 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna
507-451-7340

Ellis Body Shop
1231 Brady Blvd. NW
Owatonna
507-451-0845

Farmers Insurance
121 W Broadway
Owatonna
507-451-0193

Geneva Bar & Grill
101 West Main Street
Geneva
507-256-7278

Groundsmasters
1520 State Ave NW,
Owatonna
507-455-0081 • 800-238-1767

Jostens
148 Broadway St,
Owatonna,
507-455-6100

Owatonna Granite
1180 E Frontage Road
Owatonna
507-455-9551

Lerberg's Fitness
118 W 5th Ave
Ellendale
507-684-2471

Four Seasons Electric
5978 Havana Rd,
Owatonna,
507-446-8415

Ed's Repair Service
1750 State Ave
Owatonna
507-451-3816

Hometown Insurance
348 Main St. E
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6691

Darrick's Auto
540 US 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-9994

Car Time
1150 Hoffman Dr. NW
Owatonna
507-446-9218

Misgens
12880 SW 72ND Ave
Ellendale
507-684-2100

Express Pressure Washers Inc.
15880 SE 74th Ave
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2703

Groundsmasters
1520 State Ave NW,
Owatonna
507-455-0081 • 800-238-1767

R&R Insurance
236 Main St. E
Blooming Prairie
507-583-7991

Straight River Cable
1872 NW 70TH St.
Medford
507-455-4255

Cutting Edge
128 SE 158TH St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2304

Jeno Welding & Mech.
1878 NW 69th St.
Medford
507-444-0882

Kik Graphics
110 Highway North
Blooming Prairie
(507) 583-7713



Cumberland's

Northwest Trappers Supply, Inc

- Large Selection of
TRAPS & TRAPPING SUPPLIES

- Snow Shoes/Lacrosse Pac Boots
- Huge Selections of TANNED FURS

**We buy Deer, Beef Hides, Wool & Wild Fur*

507-451-7607
4707 Cedar Avenue N. Owatonna
www.nwtrappers.com
email: trappers@nwtrappers.com





Spring into action

2017

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
SPORTS PREVIEW

STEELE COUNTY
TIMES
Always local, all the time.

A look at area
high school
baseball, softball,
track& field, golf,
lacrosse & tennis.



BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASEBALL



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

YOUTH AIMS TO TURN THE CORNER

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

After two losing seasons and a 3-18 record last year Coach Matt Kittelson is hoping that a number of returning starters will translate into more baseball victories in the 2017 season. That becomes a modest goal for the Awesome Blossoms.

The loss of All Conference and All-Section catcher Riley Olson will leave a big hole to fill, but the starters who return give the team a little confidence and Coach Kittelson some reason for optimism. Twenty-nine hopefuls reported for baseball this season, and Kittelson commented, “We will still be relatively young, but a lot of the players have played varsity for two years. Our goal is to go out and work hard in every single game, get better each day, and compete for a conference title.”

Returning seniors include Camden Heimerman, Connor Getchell and Ben Smith. Heimerman and Smith both played outfield positions last season, while Getchell held down an infield position.

Juniors Max Romeo (outfield), Brad Staska (infield), and Ethan Arett (infield) return as starters, as do sophomore infielder Seth Peterson and sophomore outfielder Payton Simon. Luke De La Cruz, Colin Lerum, and Dylan Nirk also earned letters last year.

The Awesome Blossoms compiled a 3-18 record last season, with a heartbreaking loss to Bethlehem Academy ending the season in the sub-section finals. The team went winless in the conference. WEM won the conference and is expected to be the favorite again this season. Maple River and USC will also be contenders. Wabasha-Kellogg and Randolph both are strong in the section.

“Our biggest strength this season,” remarked Kittelson, “will be the experience we bring. We have eight starters back, and although we will be still fairly young, the varsity experience should help us in competition.”

In looking at the weaknesses for the team”, Kittelson concluded, “breaking in new catchers will definitely be a problem, and the other problem will be finding pitchers to fill the rotation.

“We will need a few young players to step up and contribute n that area. Our infield and outfield bring a lot of experience to the game, but it will take some time for the catchers to adjust to varsity competition.. The kids are excited to get the season underway and working hard in practice. That is good to see.”



GOOD LUCK TEAMS!

Over 40 years of Bus Service

The Blooming Prairie Bus Co., Inc.

Safety First! Be on Time!

OWATONNA SOFTBALL



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

EXPERIENCE TO FLOOD HUSKIES’ ROSTER

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Entering his fourth year as the head coach of the Owatonna High School softball team, Brian Pilcher has letterwinners returning from last season’s 11-11 team.

He will also have to try and replace four starters from last season’s squad.

Millie Wanous, Kayla Johnson, Kirsten Pumper and junior Riley Sheehy all have since moved on. Wanous, Johnson and Pumper have all graduated while Sheehy moved to Pennsylvania prior to the school year.

Luckily, Pilcher will have an experienced roster to deal with the losses as the roster is loaded entirely of juniors and seniors.

Seniors Braelyn Johnson, Ellie Rohman and infielder

Erin Steffenson will be looked upon to lead the Huskies this season.

Junior Tiana Blazek, Jamie Davison, McKenzie Karsten, Erin Peterson, Hannah Fisher, Samantha Hager, Jenna Von-Ruden, Rilee Schmidt and Alexa Sommers are all returning letterwinners.

Blazek will also be looked upon to keep opposing teams’ batters in check in the circle.

As for the members slated to play in their first season on the varsity, Megan Medvec, who will serve as a utility player, will be joined by Steffenson and catcher Tory Buck.

Johnson, Rohman, Steffenson and Schmidt were tabbed as the captains for this season.

After an 11-11 performance a season ago, Pilcher noted that the goals for this year’s squad are to finish in the top

four of the Big Nine Conference, but to really strive to win the conference.

“We know we can do it,” he added.

He also said that with an abundance of juniors on the roster, that he wants the team to establish the team chemistry that will help when section play begins.

“If we play to our ability, this team can compete for a spot in the state tourney,” he said.

Pilcher said that the conference should be fairly competitive as numerous teams has the talent to win the conference.

“I would say defending state champs Mankato West and runner-up to Wet in state, Winona, are two of the top teams,” he added.



Wagners

Lunch & Pool

222 N CEDAR AVE • OWATONNA, MN



WAGNER'S
LUNCH & POOL

507-451-0931

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TRACK & FIELD



Spring**2017**



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

YOUNG SQUAD FOR BOYS

By: **LEMAR NELSON**, Staff Sports Writer

Coach Ryan Slack starts his fifth year as the boys’ track coach at BPHS with another young team of competitors. With only two seniors and three juniors returning from last season, the team will depend on two sophomores and 21 junior high athletes for any success the team may have.

Last year the team finished fourth in the conference meet, and the hope is that a like result at least will be in the works this season. As with the girls, coach slack, a Winona state college graduate, will have Lauren nelson and Stephanie Nelson to assist in working with the team.

The team will be without the standout athlete from last year, with Anthony Nelson moving on to College.

“Last year we finished in the middle of the pack in the conference”, remarked Coach Slack, “and that was pretty good for us considering the young team we fielded

We hope to continue improving this season, moving our young athletes into scoring positions and finishing strong n the conference.’

Among the returnees on the team, a standout again will be junior distance runner Alec Ille. He timed a 4”34 in the 1600 last season and a two mile in just over ten minutes.

Senior Elijah Baker is looking very competitive this year, especially in the 800. Senior Quentin Kubista made a trip to the section meet last year and is excited for continued improvement in the pole vault.



PLENTYY OF TALENT RETURNS

By: **LEMAR NELSON**, Staff Sports Writer

Bloomington Prairie’s track girls team lost only one senior from last year, but Lauren Larkoski definitely served as the leader for the squad and will be sorely missed.

“We only lost one senior,” commented Coach Kari Bottin, “but she was one of a kind as a leader and a competitor. We will have a great deal of trouble trying to replace her. We have 26 hopefuls in grades 7 through 12, including four seniors who will have to step up and be leaders this season.”

Seniors Kylie Forystek and Leah Schiefert returns to bolster the sprint competition, and Schiefert placed sixth in the section pole vault event.

Junior Asia Thostenson will continue to run the hurdles and aid the relay teams, and junior Sam Wurst will run mid-distance events and high jump as well. Freshmen Gemini Johnson and Jayde Wacek will both help in horizontal jumps and sprint events, and Baylee Sorenson and Viridiana Villareal will help in the throwing field.

Bottin remarked, “ Our conference, as usual, is very strong. WEM, NRHEG, and USC all have great programs and have been tough in the conference meet. We finished seventh last year, but we have most athletes back, and we are looking to continue the progress that we made last year and build the program. The conference is a real challenge when it comes to track, but we definitely have hopes to make a mark this season.”

Leah Inwards should score well in the shot put and discus, and Sam Wurst is really coming on strong in the high jump.

OWATONNA TENNIS/GOLF



Spring**2017**



Archive photo

GOLF: 8 RETURN FOR HUSKIES

By: **JOSH ZIMMER**, Sports Editor

In his first year as the Owatonna High School boys golf coach, Mark Langlois will have the pleasure of returning and reloading rather than rebuilding.

Despite the losses of seniors Gage Schuster and Isaac Smith, Langlois has eight members returning from a season ago and notes that the strengths of his new mix is that they are coachable, hard working and they are always prepared.

Seniors Andrew Wall, John Swenson, Joey Howell, Jesse Swedin and Aiden Ebner wil be joined by juniors Spencer Steckelberg, Mac Baumgartner and Matt Steel as the returner for the Huskies. Sweson and Wall were

also named the captains for Langlois this season.

As for the reload, the first year head coach will have 15 players compete on the varsity this season. Juniors Evan Hackerson and Corey Gander will be joined by sophomores Jonny Hernandez, Nolan Jacobson, Michael Bangs, Ben Skalicky and Michael Meyer. Freshman Hunter Martin, Zach Jerp-bak, Ryan Rohwer, Nicholas Meneguz-zo and Joey Brueggemeier will be joined by eighth graders Sam Snitker, Jonny Wall and Brody Homan as first-year varsity members.

He noted that Red Wing is the favorite in the Big Nine this season and that the Cougars of Lakeville South could finish as the top team in the section.



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

TENNIS: ABUNDANCE OF TALENT RETURNS

By: **JOSH ZIMMER**, Sports Editor

Entering his 21st year as the head boys tennis coach at Owatonna High School, Curt Matejcek is hoping that despite the losses to his team this season, there’s still a top five finish in the Big Nine Conference in the future.

No.1 doubles Reed Tucker and Jack Redman, No.2 doubles player Mark Hanson, and No.3 singles player Noah Velasquez all received All-Conference nominations in their senior seasons for a Huskies’ squad that finished 10-5 overall and 8-3 – good for fourth place – in the Big Nine Conference. Tucker and Redman were the lone All-Conference nominees while Hanson and Velasquez received honorable mention.

Luckily for Matejcek, there is still some strong talent left over heading into the 2017 season. Three All-Conference performers return for the Huskies led by seniors Eden Mrozek (No.1 singles) and Derek Thada. Mrozek (No.2 singles) received an All-Conference nod while Thada was recognized as an honorable mention performer.

No.3 singles player Ben DenNio is the lone junior returning. A pair of sophomores in Spencer Intress (No.4 singles) and No.2 doubles player Cody Bussert look to improve from last year’s performance. Bussert, who earned an honorable mention nod last season, will also be playing with a new partner with Hanson graduating. The lone freshman on the squad is Evan Huemoeller. He will play No.3 doubles with DenNio.

After a year absence, senior Dan Keller will be returning to the lineup this season. Keller, who was also named a captain, missed all of last season after having wrist surgery.

FOUR SEASONS
Electric

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL

3127 S County Road 45 • Owatonna MN 55060

507-446-8415 fax 507-455-1305

Ryan Spindler - Owner - 507-456-1613 • ryan@fourseasonselectric.com

First Lutheran Church 434 1st St. SW Bloomington 507-583-6621	Ellis Body Shop 1231 Brady Blvd. NW Owatonna 507-451-0845	Sweet Towing & Repair 215 Cedardale Dr SE, Owatonna 507-451-3424	Abraham Consulting Technologies 1850 Austin Rd. Suite 103 Owatonna 507-451-0570	Cumberlands Trappers Supply 4707 N. Cedar Ave. Owatonna 507-451-7607
--	--	---	--	---

NRHEG BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



Spring**2017**



Staff Photos by Josh Zimmer

BASEBALL LOOKING UP

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

With some quality players coming back this season and a few nice younger prospects, Coach Drew Paukert is cautiously optimistic about the coming baseball season. Seven letter winners return for the Panthers, including three seniors, two juniors, and two sophomores.

Dempsey Tucker will be the graduate most difficult to replace. Tucker led the pitching staff last season, compiling a 5-6 record and a 2.6 ERA.

Paukert's team went 9-14 overall last year and was 4-9 in conference play. Paukert starts his 3rd season at the helm, and David Lassahn and Jake Staloch will assist with the JV and junior high teams. Paukert is a Winona State graduate

"We hope to make a jump in the conference," commented Paukert. "Some quality players return and some good looking underclassmen show promise. We had some success this summer and also played very well the last few weeks last year."

Senior Jack Schultz will be the workhorse on the mound. Sam Prigge is another senior who will be a leader and will be the No. 2 starter. He also batted leadoff last season and had some success pitching this past summer.

Junior Cole Staloch will play shortstop and also do some pitching. He has been a starter since his freshman year and led the team in hitting last season with a .338 average. Sophomore Sawyer VanMaldegham became a starter midway through last season and hit at the top of the lineup by year's end. He is a gifted athlete who will be a big key to the team's success. Coach Paukert expects Fairmont, TCU, and Belle Plaine as teams to watch, with WEM the favorite to win the conference.



SOFTBALL RETURNS EIGHT

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

Coach Wendy Schultz begins the second year of her third stint as NRHEG's softball coach, and she brings 19 years of experience to the position. She also brings a successful winning overall record of 214 wins against 133 losses. Panther softball continues in good hands under her leadership.

Gone from last year's team that took second in the conference and compiled an overall 16-7 record is All-Conference pitcher and Oil Can award winner Anna Lundberg. Center fielder Torrie Stencil has also graduated, but eight letter winners return for Coach Schultz, including several starters.

Among the returnees, senior Rachel Collins won the golden glove award and was named an All-Conference shortstop. Senior catcher Grace Johns earned the team MVP honors and also made All-Conference. Two more senior starters- Kayley Camerer and Natalie Aaseth- also are back. Camerer, the Panther first baseman, took the team Golden Bat award, and was a third All-Conference pick. Aaseth had some stints in the circle and also played the outfield. Junior letter winner Gabby Muri earned Most Improved honors and spent time as catcher and at second base.

Other letter winners last season included freshmen Paige Knudson and Skylar Lembke. Knudson earned a fourth All-Conference choice for the Panthers at third base, and Lembke saw action in the outfield. Sarah Johns, just an eighth grade, played on both the varsity and JV teams during the season. Makenzi Rhodes and Emily Crabtree have good prospects, and some of the underclassmen may surprise as the season rolls along.

OWATONNA LACROSSE



Spring**2017**



Staff photo by Seth Bedenbaugh

SEASONED GROUP RETURNS

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Scott Seykora is entering his 14th season as the head coach for the Owatonna High School boys lacrosse team and is looking to make improvements from an 8-6 season that ended at the hands of Farmington a year ago.

Luckily for Seykora, his roster is littered with returners who received post season recognition. Landon Thurnau and Mitch Wiese were the lone returners to receive a nod on the All-Section team for Section 1. Wiese and Thurnau were joined by Walker Nelson in receiving nods on the All-Big Nine Conference teams. Jacob Dub and Tyler Johnson were named to the conference's honorable mention squad.

Despite losing seniors Austin Abbas

and Zach Korpi to graduation, the Huskies have 15 letterwinners returning to the field this season led by their lone senior in Blake Pfeiffer. Juniors Dub, Wiese, Johnson, Nelson and Thurnau will be joined by Nicholas Sande and Braeden Meier.

Rounding out the returners are sophomores Noah Brandy, Joe Edel, Ryan Heberman, Jacob Stoykovich, Dominique Wondra, Tommy Wall and Alex Tyrhus. Wiese, Nelson, Dub and Pfeiffer were named captains. The lone newcomer to the varsity is football standout Brett Solie, who Seykora says will be an attacker.

Seykora noted that the team's goals for this season are to improve from last season, win a Big Nine title and win a section game, something the Huskies haven't accomplished since 2009.

PAUR TO LEAD OHS GIRLS

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

In his first year as the head coach for the Owatonna High School girls lacrosse team, Dan Paur is bringing a lot of experience to the sidelines.

In his eight years of coaching experience, lacrosse has taken Paur all across the state, having spent six years at the high school ranks at Bloomington Jefferson and Cansayapi – a newly formed program near the Lower Sioux Indian Reservation near Morton, Minnesota. Paur has also spent a year as the defensive coordinator at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

As if the resume wasn't strong enough for the first year head coach, he also spent 2014 as a member of the Czech Republic Men's National Lacrosse team's staff. As the offensive coach the squad finish 14th in

the World Championships out of 39 nations. Losing 12 seniors from the 2016 squad, Paur will have a quick adjustment in not only conforming connections with his new players, but will also have to try and find players to fill the void. He has noted that he is unsure of just how the new lineups will look, but has named returners Ashley Beckman, Amy Oldenburg and Jade Husbey as his captains.

Paur also stated that the biggest strength of his squad this season is a strong returning skill-set on the attack and the return of senior goalie Maddie Seykora. Both should play a factor in competing for a conference title, something he notes makes him believe that Owatonna is the favorite.

He also believes that the Huskies should be the favorite in the Section along with Lakeville South.

How can birds SAFELY sit on a power line?

It's NOT because the wires have a protective coating that prevents shocks. They DON'T.

The bird is safe because it is sitting on a single wire and is at one point of contact — and one electrical potential.

Electricity is always looking for a path to ground. With just one false move that connects different potentials, the bird could sadly be electrocuted.

Be aware of the location of overhead power lines, and stay at least 10 feet away at all times.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna MN 55060
507.451.7340 • 800.526.3514
swce@swce.coop • www.swce.coop

Proud Husky fans!

Owatonna 455-9551

1180 Frontage Rd. E

NRHEG GOLF



Spring2017



Staff Photos by Josh Zimmer



Not pictured: Boys- Tyler Raimann, Collin Christensen, Aaron Olson, Rob Jewett, Brett Kubiawicz, Ross Lenort, Atom Oquist. Girls- Jill Jongbloedt, Kallie Spooner, Krya Possin.

GOLFERS REGROUP FOR PANTHERS

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

After claiming the conference title last season, the NRHEG girls have some big spots to fill this year, while the boys return all three starters from last year’s team. For Coach Brad Root, season number seven will provide plenty of excitement, as he works with a smaller than usual number of candidates for the teams.

“For the girls, I expect a good showing in the conference and sub-section,” commented Coach Root. “We finished 9-2 overall last season, with a first in the conference and a 6th in sub-section 2AA. We are counting on continued improvement in all the girls, and they will need to be mentally tough and focused this season.”

All-conference pick Jessica Nafe provided the biggest loss from last year, but Bayli Possin, Grace Logan, and Ryley Kozilek will also be missed. Seniors Jill Jongbloedt and Kallie Spooner return for another year of competition, as do Kyra Possin. Grace Cuming, Aubrey Johnson, and Sydney Koziolek also are varsity candidates.

Making sure the girls are prepared for whatever weather conditions exist,” continued Root, “will be a priority. We want our student athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun, while representing our school well. We will be working on the rules of golf and golf etiquette.”

The team hopes to finish first or second in the conference and as well in the sub-section.

For the boys, Coach Root has three returning letter winners, as no seniors were on the team. Root has been in the NRHEG staff for 29 years and is in his seventh year as the golf coach. Pat Churchill and Al Schultz will assist Root in working with both the boys and girl golfers. Ethan Thompson, Rob Jewett, and Adam Oquist all return to the team that compiled a 5-7 overall record, a 4th

in the conference, and a 7th in the sub-section tournament.

“We had a good season last year,” commented Coach Root, “and the boys earned some valuable experience we are pretty well set on the top three varsity spots. We didn’t have many JV matches last year, so someone may hopefully emerge as a surprise to help us out on varsity.”

Course management is a huge part of the game, and the boys need to move from being practice players to match players. Making sure the boys are prepared for whatever weather conditions or course conditions pop up will be a priority for the team. The team has few numbers out for golf, and all golfers will play on the varsity.

Besides the three letter winners, seniors Tyler Raimann Jacob Lieberg, and Oakley Baker return, as do juniors Aaron Olson, and Tyler Mithon; sophomores Atom Oquist, Jadya Surat, and Michiah Van Sykel; and freshman John Hoelsher.



• *Full Service Yard*

• *U-Pull Parts*

12880 SW 72nd Ave.
Ellendale

507-684-2100
www.misgen.co

MEDFORD BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



Spring2017



Staff Photo by Seth Bedenabugh



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

BASEBALL: BE THE FROG

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Entering his sixth year as the skipper for the Medford High School baseball team, Jon Chappuis enters the 2017 campaign with the optimism of improving from an 11-9 campaign last season.

“We believe that we have the opportunity to improve every day,” he said.

The Tigers will be entering the season looking to replace a handful of key seniors from a team that fell 6-1 to United South Central in the opening round of the 2-AA tournament. Chappuis loses Nicholas Meixner, Wyatt Volkmann, Reid Grayson, Cody Rehmann and Tyler Stenzel to graduation. Although, the skipper did note that he believes the biggest strength for his club this season is the togetherness.

“We believe that the strength of our team is the chemistry that we have,” he noted. “We believe in each other, never doubting each other and we have the ability to pick each other up when bad things happen.”

That chemistry is supported by the fact that Chappuis has 10 players returning this season. Two-sport stars Javis VonRuden, Nathan Meixner, Alex Gengler, Cole Volkmann and Jon O’Daffer are joined by Ian Gillis Cael Kavitz, Ben Sutcliffe, Dominc Panos and Jesse Oatway as the Medford players returning for competition this season. Ben Borash, who has seen time in the outfield and in the pitching rotation, will be one of the newest members of the varsity squad that the staff is excited about.

SOFTBALL: YOUTH TO LEAD

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

For Medford High School softball coach Alyssa Strunk, her first season may have been filled with a few struggles, but also gave the Tigers’ staff a glimpse of the future.

Despite losing to Fairmont in the first round of the Section 2-AA tournament to finish 5-15, it was still considered a good season for Strunk’s young squad.

“Last season we tied the school’s record for win in a season, the second year coach noted. “That was a good accomplishment for this young team, which is only to improve as they get older.”

When Strunk notes that she had a young team, she means it, saying that they could have been the youngest team in the state. Last year’s squad boasted six

eighth graders in the starting lineup for the Tigers last season.

Eight letter winners return from a season ago led by the lone senior in Kori Dodge. Dodge was also named the captain this season. Sophomore Journey Anderst is joined by freshman Madison Klein, Emma Kniefel, Mackenzi Paulson, Jordyn Stadler, Isabel Reuvers and Kiley Nirhart as the remaining letter winners from a season ago.

Strunk said that the goals for this season are simple. They want to be better than last season.

“We want to set a new school record for wins in a season,” she added. “We are still a very young team and program. We aim to be competitors in every game we play.”



People you know! Cars you’ll like! Prices you’ll LOVE!

1150 Hoffman Drive • Owatonna • 507-446-9218
www.cartimeofowatonna.com

OWATONNA Hours: M. - Th. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

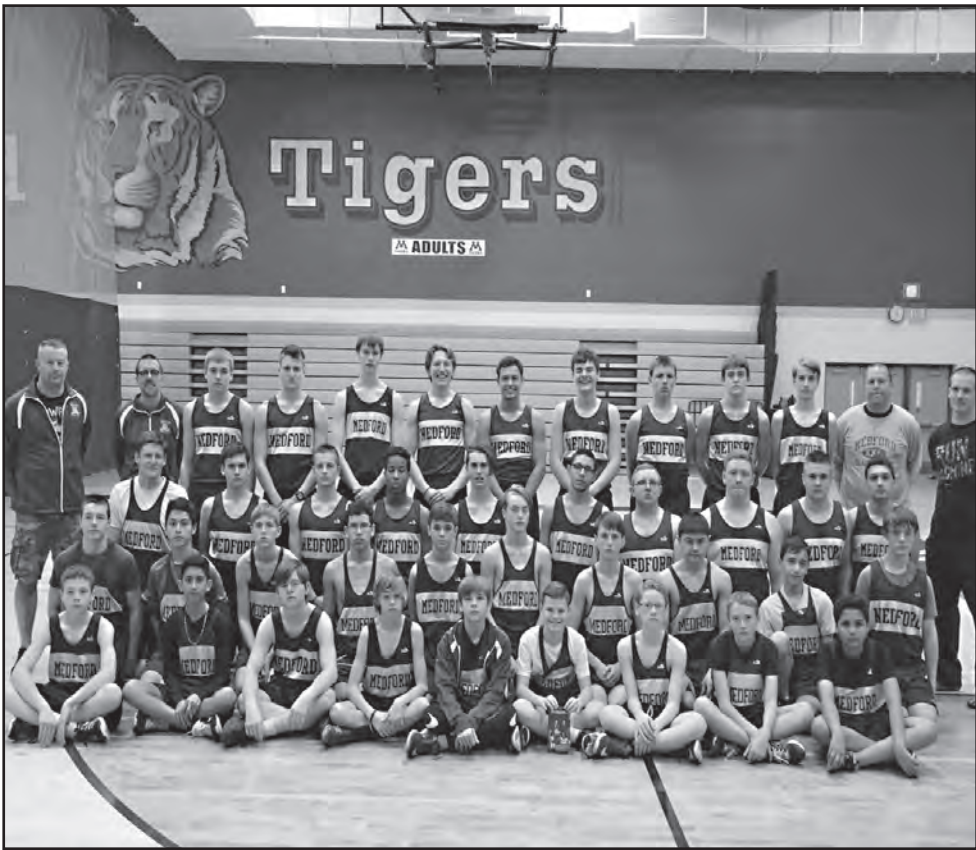
MEDFORD TRACK & FIELD



Spring2017



Staff Photos by Seth Bedenbaugh



TIGERS LOOK TO ASSERT STRENGTH

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Despite losing six seniors between both track and field teams for Medford High School, head coach Kevin Werk will have a great deal of talent returning for the 2017 season, meaning that the goals remain the same. “Our goal is to improve our conference placing and qualify as many athletes as possible to sections and the state tournament,” he added. A fifth place finish in the Gopher Conference last year has the sights set on being in the top three for Medford this season. Although, the Tigers will be looking for someone to fill the void left by departed seniors Preston Hanson and Alex Goetze, who both placed in the top-10 in the section last season.

Hanson was a standout thrower, placing ninth in the dis-

cus and was just shy of qualifying for state in the shot put. He took fourth. Goetze placed ninth in the 3200-meter. Fortunately for Werk, nine members of his squad who earned letters last season will be returning. Standout running back Marcus DeLeon will be joined by Josh Schauer, Greg Larson, Brett Johnson, Devan List, Jacob Gasner, Joey Schull, Noak PirkI and Ryan Hermanstorfer. Former football standouts Tye Devoe, Marcus DeLeon and Josh Schauer were named the captains for Werk’s boys squad. **Girls look to continue dominance in field events** Also coming off a fifth place finish in the conference, Werk’s girls squad is returning six athletes who competed

in the section meet last season. Rachel Luebbe, Ashley Gilbertson, Jenna McCarthy and Payton Powers all placed in the top-15 in the section last season. Luebbe took home sixth and 11th place honors in the high jump and 200-meter dash while Gilbertson took home top-10 finishes in the shot put (fifth) and discus (sixth). McCarthy finished 13th in the pole vault and Powers 11th in the 300-meter hurdles. Despite losing Cassie Borwege and Sarah Manderfield, 10 letterwinners return for the Tigers with the four section qualifiers leading the charge. Seniors Callie Nagel, Mikayla Spinler, Gilbertson and Sobrack were named captains for the 2017 season. Werk noted that the field events have been good for both teams, stating ‘we have always been strong there.



GOOD LUCK TEAMS!

Over 40 years of Bus Service

Medford Bus Co., Inc.

Safety First! Be on Time!

NRHEG TRACK & FIELD



Spring2017



Staff Photos by Josh Zimmer

NRHEG SQUADS LOADED WITH TALENT

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

With many returning letter winners anchoring a team that had their best finish in the last five years, The NRHEG track teams look poised for another banner season. Both the boys and girls took second in the conference a year ago, and Coach Duey Ferber is optimistic for the same or even better results this year. Some important athletes were lost last year, both on the boys and girls’ side. John Cole, Tyler Schlaak, Zeke Erickson, Jorey Fscher Lucas Hermann, Nathan Krause, Aaron Seath and Zach Mely all graduated for the boys; Emily Eder, Sophia Fischer, Kathrine Lewer, Hailey Schuller, and Nicole Wallin left the girls’ team. “We hope to finish near the top on both the conference and the sub-section for both the boys and girls,” commented coach Ferber. “The boys will be strong in the throws, jumps, and vault. We have a lot of younger

guys who have grown up from last year. They will have to step up and be leaders. “The girls should be solid in field events and sprints. We need to develop some of our mid-distance runners and distance kids. We are hoping some of the younger athletes step up into leadership roles.” Coach Ferber enters his 27th year as the head coach and he will have expert assistance from Chuck Crabtree, Jay Crabtree, Corrine Schuller, Larry Nydegger, and Raece Johnson. Ferber’s teams have won nine conference titles, nine sub-section titles, and earned three trips to state True-Team meets. Letter winners returning for the boys include senior Josh Fleming; juniors Ben Lewer, Brendan McMann, Nathaniel Techau, and Jarret Utpadel; sophomores Alex Buckmeier and Jacob Schuller; and freshmen Ma-

son Ferber, and Agro Gushwa. The Girls return seniors Gretchen Ramaker, Maddie Wagner, and Marnie Wagner; juniors Katie Crabtree and Emily Prigge; sophomores Madyson Buettel, Catlin Goette, Sydney Schlinger, and Hailey Westrum; and freshmen Katie Cliff, Grace Kofstad, Maggie Maloney, Jade Mely, Anne Prigge, and Mia Williams. “The key to our success this season,” concluded Ferber, “will be the ability to step up and challenge ourselves each day. We need to try new things and push ourselves out of the comfort limit. That will lead to success in track.” Maple River will be the conference favorites for the boys, while WEM gets the nod for the girls. Fairmont and Blue Earth Area get tabbed for both sub-section and section crowns.

MIKE BISHMAN

www.farmers.com



FARMERS

INSURANCE

121 W BROADWAY ST

OWATONNA

(507) 451-1168

OWATONNA TRACK & FIELD



Spring2017



Staff Photos by Josh Zimmer

LOOKING FOR A REPEAT

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Coming off a Big Nine Championship season just a year ago, Head coach Kevin Stelter and the Owatonna High School boys track and field squad are in the hunt for a repeat.

Led by All-Conference performers Jaden Dowhaniuck, Braden Kubat and Darik Elstad, the Huskies will arguably be the top team in the conference.

Stelter also noted that eight returners who played a strong role in 2016 will again be asked to lead the charge. Dalton Kubista, Scott Kingland, Jayden Gunderson, Jason Williamson and Bryce Goodwin are all back competing in the jumping portions of the field events. Kubista, Kingland and

Gunderson compete in the high jump while Goodwin and Williamson will be competing in the long jump. Kubista will also showcase his leaping ability in the triple jump while Goodwin will also compete in the 300-meter hurdles. Newcomer Andrew Jackson will compete in the long jump.

As for the strength competitions, Elstad is joined by Chandler Buckhalter and Ethan DeKam for the shot put. Elstad and Buckhalter will also compete in the discus. Dowhaniuck, who will compete in the dash events, will also be a leg on the 4x100 team. Alex Raichle, who is also a standout football and basketball player, will also compete in the dash events. Kubat and Brandon Schmidt will compete in the distance events.



STRONG DEPTH FOR LADY HUSKIES

By: JOSH ZIMMER, Sports Editor

Despite losing four key seniors from last season's team, Owatonna high school girls track and field coach Ann Christensen will have a handful of key returners back in 2017.

Christensen, who has 32 years of coaching experience and 25 as a head coach, not that leading the charge for the Huskies in 2017 will be three members of last year's 4x100 and 4x200-meter relay team that placed third at the state tournament. Sydney Schultz, Karissa Gregory and Margo Achterkirch will be searching for the final member of their team as Steph Kretlow has graduated.

Kretlow who also competed in the 800

meters was the lone senior from last season's squad to qualify for the state tournament. Carli Langeland and Mary Biegar were the other two losses from last year's squad.

Christensen noted that while the team is still being finalized, the biggest strength is that depth of the overall roster and the mindset of her team, stating that they are highly motivated individuals.

Seniors Caitlin Anderson, Sydney Bartz, Mariah Dant and Gregory were named the captains for the squad this season. She also stated that as a team goal, they hope to finish in the top three of the Big Nine Conference and hope to send as many individuals and relay teams as possible for the state meet.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GOLF



Spring2017



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

GOLF AIMS TO BE STRONG

By: LEMAR NELSON, Staff Sports Writer

Last year found BPHS co-coaches Cory Hendrickson and Carl Peterson a compatible duo, and the pair returns again this year to oversee the fortunes of the Blossom golf teams. Their accomplishments included guiding a pair of golfers to the state golf tournament in the persons of Tommy Braaten and Taylor Christianson and watching the boys' team capture a section 1A championship.

Coach Hendrickson has been on the staff at BPHS for 17 years and is in his second year as co-coach. The boys' team looks strong again this season, while the girls

continue to struggle to find enough competitors to field a full time. That may be the case again this year, although he girls have one top-notch player in senior Christianson. She won the Gopher Conference title last year, finished second in Section 1A competition, and capped off a sparkling season by placing sixth at the state golf tournament.

An eighth grader, Jessica Ressler, made tremendous improvement last year and earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention. Seventh graders Bella Heiber and Hailey Finholdt will join Christianson and Ressler and will hope to help make a team. Three varsity golfers return this year for

the boys, including senior leader Braaten. He made the All-Conference team, won the section title and then finished fourth at the state tournament in June. Junior Lucas Noble made All-Conference Honorable Mention last year, and junior Jake Ressler golfed as the other returning regular.

As Coach Cory Hendrickson remarked recently, "As coaches, we feel we have several golfers with the ability to do well in conference and section meets.

"We also expect our two state entries to work hard to repeat at state and may bring a few other golfers along. The boys' team advanced to the state for the first time in school history and placed fifth.

In addition the returning regulars, several other returnees should compete for varsity action. Seniors Austin Christians and Evan Doerhoefer return, as do juniors Austin Behne, Jon Herron, Zach Weise, Nick Thompson, Timur Kritzer, Kyler Christianson, and Payton Hatch. Kollyn Alwes and Tommy Donnelly compete as eighth graders, and seventh graders Colin Jordison David Kartes, Isaac Smith, and Adam Walsh will take their first swings in competitive golf.

The first action for both the girls and boys will be Thursday, Apr. 6, when the teams will host Triton. It should be a most exciting season!



Residential Lawn Care
Commercial Grounds Maintenance
Beautiful Landscape Enhancements

1520 State Ave NW
(507) 455-0081

Best Tire Service in the Field



Personal • Farm • Business • Tires • Brakes • Road Service • Exhaust



211 W. Main • Owatonna • 507-451-3084
www.Harlandstire.com
email: harlandstire@gmail.com
Open Mon.-Fri. 7-5:30; Sat. 7- Noon

OWATONNA BASEBALL



Spring**2017**



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

HUSKIES IN SECTION TITLE HUNT

By: **JOSH ZIMMER**, Sports Editor

After suffering a 4-2 loss to Lakeville North in the Section 1-AAAA championship game last season, Owatonna High School baseball coach Tate Cummings is looking to be back in 2017.

Cummings, who is entering his 11th year as the Huskies' skipper and 15 years of experience overall noted that they look to get atop the Big Nine Conference as well.

"We were in the runner-up in the conference. Losing a tight end of the year game

to Rochester John Marshall," he added. "We finished second behind Northfiel

Despite losing a pair of arms out of the bullpen in Alex Holcomb and Clay Leidall, as well as starting centerfielde Blake Westphal, the Huskies return a handful of talent for the 2017 campaign.

Seniors Jacob Gauthier, Ben Staska, Brock Hanson, Matt Bothun, Kodey Kiel and Nate Deason are joined by juniors Brady Schuster and Noah Budach as the returning letter winners for Cummings this season.

Newcomer receiving the call-up to

the varsity level this year should heavily fortify the infield. First basemen Abe Havelka and Nolan Malo are joined by utility player Noah Hudrlik, Dawson Leer and catcher Tucker Alstead. Leer was noted as being a player capable of playing both second base and shortstop.

Malo and Havelka should help fill the void of the two arms lost to graduation. Zach Mensink, Parker Westphal, Payton Simon and Spencer Glynn will showcase their ball-tracking and arm strength in the outfield this season

With the amount of multi-sport stars lit-

tering the lineup, its easy to immediately point out one of the strengths.

"They are an athletic group that enjoys the game of baseball," he added.

He also noted that the love of baseball is shown in their strive to play at a high level, noting that 'not all teams are built this way. We are fortunate to have players out that want to spend time at the ball-park.

Cummings noted that the conference favorite this year is Rochester John Marshall and that the section favorite is Lakeville North.



GOOD LUCK TEAMS!

Owatonna Bus Co., Inc.

Safety First! Be on Time!

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SOFTBALL



Spring**2017**



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

POTENTIAL IS PRESENT

By: **LEMAR NELSON**, Staff Sports Writer

Second year coach Lonnie Lembke sees a lot of potential in his Blossom softball team, but young players will have to step up to make that potential a reality.

The team graduated three seniors last year, all of them infielders. First baseman Kalyn Naatz, second baseman Abby Wayne, and part-time starter at third base, Anika Nowlan, are all now attending college.

"The team has a lot of potential," remarked Coach Lembke. "They may be young, but they are hard workers and are really playing together as a single unit for this early in the season. The senior leadership and work ethic has really driven the girls to become better ball players."

Three seniors return for the Blossoms. Outfielder Bria Baldwin has started every game since she was an eighth grader and has been the team anchor the last four seasons. She is a two-time All-Conference selection, was voted the team MVP last year, and led the team in hitting at .448.

Pitcher/infielder Elly Strunk has been the No.1 pitcher for three seasons and will also play the infield when not in the circle.

Juniors McKenna Hein, Linnea Sunde, Jerrin Jax, and Emma Christianson played essential roles last year. Hein is also part of the pitching staff and the leader of the infield and earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Sunde trailed Baldwin in batting by just one percent-

age point at .447. She received all-Conference and all-Section honors.

Christianson also returns as a starter and is part of the strong outfield. She is a good team player who will also see some time the infield. Jax is a letter winner and a late season starter. She is a highly appreciated utility player and will play multiple positions this season.

Freshman Maya Lembke caught every game last year and had a breakout season as an eighth grader. She earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention honors.

Allison Krohnberg is a promising eighth grader for both infield and outfield position

Coach Lemke looks for Maple River and NRHEG to fight for top honors the conference, with Hayfield favored in both the sub-section and the section.

Garlick's Water Conditioning

Sales • Service  **Kinetic** Rentals • Leasing

800-722-1282 home water systems www.garlickswater.com