



STEELE COUNTY TIMES



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Tuesday, May 9, 2017



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The newly completed memorial now contains five slabs bearing the names of veterans from different conflicts and branches of the military. Members of both the Medford and Owatonna communities are recognized.

Medford Veterans Memorial completed

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

After three years of planning, fundraising, and construction, the Medford Veterans Memorial was completed last Wednesday with the installation of the last

two memorial slabs.

Members of the five-person committee who organized the memorial were present to watch its completion. Butch Schultz, an army veteran who sits on the committee was glad to see the project done.

“We got it all paid for and some in the kitty,” he said. He was grateful for all the support from the community and the city that had made the project possible. The memorial cost \$80,000 in total.

Fellow members of the

committee include Roger Hagen, John Hager, Vern Jen, and Steve Clark, who works for the city.

Sunburst Memorials, which operates out of Saint Cloud, did the memorial. The initial names were all done in shop,

but according to Schultz, a new name can be added for \$200.

The completed memorial makes a charming reminder of the gratitude felt by the Medford community for its veterans.

Officers sworn in



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Captain Eric Rethemeier hands out certificates to the newly sworn in officers. His fellow officers stood around the council chambers to watch the swearing in.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

When the Owatonna city council convened last week, it was to a larger crowd than usual. The Owatonna police force swore in eight officers and promoted one officer to sergeant.

“This is one of the most favorite things I get to do,” Police Chief Hiller said as he looked over the newest members of his force. Before he welcomed in the new officers though, he took a moment to recognize a veteran officer. Retired sergeant John Kristoffersen, 93, served on the Owatonna police force for 25 years and was present for the ceremony. Chief Hiller thanked him for his long years of service to the community.

When the official swearing got underway, Judge Joseph A. Bueltel came forward to officiate the new officers’ oaths. With the oath complete, a loved one came forward to pin each officer with their badge, and a blessing for safety was said over them.

After the swearing in, Chief Hiller

recognized Jay Matejcek for his promotion to sergeant. Chief Hiller also handed two different commendations to officers who had done exemplary work.

Officer John Petterson was recognized for his actions in Mankato on October 3, 2016. While off-duty, Peterson saw a suspect acting aggressively toward a lone member of the Mankato police department. He intervened and helped subdue the suspect. Chief Hiller said, he was “to be commended for selflessness.”

Officer Travis Ardolf received the second commendation. On July 10, 2016, Ardolf pulled a woman over for a DUI. Noting an empty car seat, he made inquiries about any children, which led him to visit the woman’s home. He found a toddler in its crib left alone in the house. He stayed with the child and provided comfort, while protective services were on their way. Chief Hiller commended him for “due diligence and compassion”, as well as his “child first approach.”

After the commendation, the officers and the public were invited to a reception to celebrate.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Dan Boeke’s owned Harland’s since he bought it from his father-in-law 25 years ago. Gina and Trent Larson will be the new owners.

Harland’s changes hands

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Dan Boeke is selling Harland’s Tire and Auto to Trent and Gina Larson of Inver Grove Heights. The reason? It was on his to-do-list.

“Always been in the back of [my] mind,” Boeke said when asked about selling the shop. Then one Sunday, he came home to his wife’s usual to-do-list for him. Everything looked normal until he got to item three: sell the store.

The following Tuesday a couple walked into his store telling him they’d like to expand and asking if he’d consider selling. Boeke said that he as a matter of fact he would and showed them the note.

The couple was the Larson’s, and they came to a deal with Boeke that he says works out nicely for both sides. The Larson’s are expanding to Owatonna because of family connections in the town.

This sale will mark the first time since 1952, when the store

was opened, that it will no longer be in the same family. Harland Strohschein opened the store back in the fifties. He worked in the shop 40 years before he sold it to his son-in-law Boeke, who also worked there. Boeke noted symmetry in his decision to sell, as this will also be his fortieth year of working in the store.

Boeke doesn’t know what the future will bring now. He says he’s too young to retire, so he’ll probably take a month or two off before finding something to keep him busy again. He said he might even be back in the store selling tires, as the Larson’s have expressed interest in keeping him on.

“I’m grateful for all the customers I’ve had,” Boeke said looking over his time in the store. He appreciated the support of the community and of his crew. Asked if he had any advice for people in business, he simply said, “Work hard. Treat people fair, but have some fun too.”

Tryouts for Snow White play in BP

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie PTO and Prairie Fire Childrens Theatre from Barrett, MN are bringing the story of Snow White to the Blooming Prairie community.

Tryouts for the BP Elementary School production will be Mon-Wed (May 15-17) with practices to be held at the BP Elementary School. Thursday and Friday (May 18, 19) practices will be held at the High School.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, May 19th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 20th at 1 p.m. in the BP High School gym.

Nicki Bishop of the BP PTO offered a thank you to the Blooming Prairie PTO for organizing and fundraising for the upcoming play.

Kari Bottin is volunteering and providing sound for the play, Haley Tollefson is donating and designing the posters and programs, US Bank donated printing the programs, and Eaton Miller provided affordable housing for the play directors at his Airbnb located on Main Street in Blooming Prairie.

Bishop also thanked all volunteers during the week who help walk the students safely to the high school for practices, and for adult volunteers who help with monitoring practices during the week and performances, and to volunteers who help out with makeup, taking tickets and helping with costumes.

Cost for the play will be adults \$5, students \$3, Pre-k and under are Free.

Play directors this year are Derek Brookens and Shannon Fields.

Brookens is making his first tour with Prairie Fire and is sure to delight audiences as The Huntsman in Snow White.

Fields is originally from Madison, Wisconsin and she recently earned her BFA in musical theater with a Spanish minor from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill.



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Opinion

Our view

Community supports its own

Cancer hides in dark crevices and doesn't announce itself until many times, it's too late. It's a disease that doesn't take a day off or a "breather," but fights with every ounce of energy it has, 24/7/365. It not only ravishes the body, but engages in a fight where the healing methods can be equally as brutal.

And it works overtime on the mind. The mind of the victim and the mind of the family. It has become a dark legend where people are afraid to speak its name. Although they are making great strides and have come a million miles in the last 10 years, cancer's reputation precedes it.

This is a generation that must remain positive in the "good fight of faith" when battling this kind of Goliath. Polio was the monster of the 20th century and the headline of its eradication was a victory for mankind.

The hope is that the headline for cancer eradication would come in our lifetime before the lifetime of even one more soul is stolen.

"From The Heart" is a local organization that is not changing the world as a whole, but is changing the world of individuals here in our own backyard. This is an annual event that honors local families who are experiencing the physical, emotional and personal journey in the fight for their lives.

Founder of this organization is Beth Svenby, elementary principal in Owatonna had a rough start to her own life, but through the adversity she grew and she gave of herself in very unselfish ways. From The Heart was a seed planted into her heart when she saw a young mother battling cancer while bringing up three children.

Svenby couldn't sleep and told her husband that she needed to do something to help. The night after she was told she already did enough and had too much on her plate, she had a dream where the From The Heart organization was laid out for her including the name and the logo.

Bravo to a woman from our own community who had the boldness to make her dreams come true. As she stood in the midst of over a thousand people last Saturday for the ninth annual From The Heart Run/Walk, she was truly a woman who witnessed what one person can do when she follows her heart and turns her dreams to reality.

She found a community with the same heart and the same passion to go on the offensive against a disease that touches us all indirectly or indirectly.

Last week belonged to this organization and the families that it honors and the warriors that come along side of it to battle this sinister sickness. People ran, walked, wheeled and cheered at the ninth annual "From the Heart Run/Walk" in Owatonna. There were over 800 participants and spectators most likely boosted the number of people at Lake Kohlmier to well over 1,000.

After the cleanup from year nine, the organization looks forward toward the decade celebration. The event was formed not only to bring a renewed awareness to the fight, but also to bring to light, families who are engaged in this war and has successfully created a support system for our own in Steele County.



Elisabeth Svenby takes time for a photo in front of the From The Heart banner at Lake Kohlmier. From a dream, she birthed the vision for this organization and last Saturday with well over 1,000 people present, she watched as the reality changed the world for so many people.



HOT PURSUIT

RICK BUSSLER

It's one of the nastiest habits I've ever known. I don't understand the glamorization around it. To me there is nothing more disgusting that a person can do to their body. Without question, it's probably one of the unhealthiest things in life. If you haven't guessed it yet, I'm referring to smoking. And if it's not obvious to you already, I think puffing away on a cancer stick is the grossiest thing in life. I'll admit I've tried smoking (just a few cigarettes) a couple times in my younger years, but quickly found it just wasn't for me. I just never understood the attraction behind lighting one up. As I grew older, I absorbed the health benefits of staying smoke-free. For several years I lived with a smoker. I will never forget how annoying and irritating it was to inhale second-hand smoke and have stinky clothes all the time. I just can't imagine what all that nicotine does to a smoker's lungs. Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals. Smoking cigarettes is the number one risk factor for lung

Butt out tobacco purchases until 21

cancer. But it's not only the lungs you have to worry about. Smoking can harm nearly every organ of the body. It causes nearly one of every five deaths in this country every year. Just last week Edina became the first Minnesota city to raise its tobacco sales age to 21. The Twin Cities suburb's new ordinance, known as Tobacco 21, will raise the purchasing age for all tobacco-related products, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco and e-cigarettes. Supporters say raising the minimum sales age will remove tobacco from the high-school environment. I think it's time for other communities around the state, including those in Steele and Dodge counties, to do the exact same thing. By working together, we can protect generations to come from these dangerous and deadly products. Let's start the public discussion in our communities about doing the right thing for our youth and limiting access to tobacco until 21. Kids may not like it now, but they may actually thank us when they grow older. While grown adults can puff away as much as they want, it seems reasonable to me that we need to do everything we can to curb access to teenagers. If we can prevent teens from lighting up, there will be a better chance that they will live a smoke-free life. A national consensus is growing to prevent addictions and future health problems by raising the sale age of tobacco products to 21. California and Hawaii and more than 220 cities and counties throughout the U.S. have raised the tobacco age. Nearly 95 percent of adult addicted smokers start before age 21. The logical thinking would be that if young people make it to 21 without smoking, chances are they will never start. Research shows that increasing the tobacco age in Minnesota would prevent 30,000 kids from becoming smokers over the next 15 years. The tobacco industry heavily targets 18-to-21-year-olds with candy flavoring, magazine advertisements and event sponsorships. For years we've all heard about the harmful effects of smoking. I always remember my oldest daughter and how proud I was of her when she put together an anti-smoking presentation for a school project several years ago. I believe we need to do everything to help teens make better choices in life. Going in hot pursuit of enacting Tobacco 21 would be a step in that direction. Let's keep today's youth from becoming a tobacco casualty in the future.

Guest column

It's time to craft a compromise budget

By: JOHN PETERSBURG

In order for a bill to become law - or in the case of our budget, several spending bills - the House, Senate, and governor all must agree on the bill's language. Currently we are in a situation where the House and Senate have negotiated budget bills so we can conclude session on time, and we remain well ahead of schedule. Gov. Dayton has finally begun to participate. In the House, we approved our omnibus bills three weeks ago and

we had a commitment from the governor to get involved in negotiating, especially when it came to final spending targets. Up until this point, the governor had chosen to remain silent and had not allowed his commissioners to negotiate either. These lost weeks would have given us more time in trying to accommodate some of the governor's requirements. With his reluctance to participate, we are finding the remaining weeks critical in moving along the crucial negotiations. I am sure he would prefer to sign the bills that pass, but we have to remember the legislature is responsible for actually passing the bill, so we need to have everybody on board. It appears incremental progress

is being made and I'm hopeful things will continue to intensify over the coming days. Our conference committees have completed their work, and with his full participation we could certainly send him bills that he can sign very quickly. We're eager to begin working toward three-way targets and hope the governor is prepared to compromise and establish targets with the legislature so we can finish our work. With the clock ticking, and with all sides now apparently ready to sit at the table, it's time to craft a compromise budget and get the job done. **John Petersburg is the state representative for District 24A, which covers Steele and Waseca counties.**

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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.

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2016 6 National Awards 8 State Awards	2011 4 National Awards (Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)
2015 4 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2014 3 National Awards 3 State Awards	
2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	

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ETHICS

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

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Second Front

Hodgman maintains fight to improve Highway 14

“I just want it to happen. If Scott had to die, I wanted to make it for a reason. That something good can come of something so bad.”

- Beth Hodgman

By **RICHARD JOHSON**
DCI Managing Editor

Beth Hodgman continues pushing to make Highway 14 safer.

The West Concord woman spoke with reporters last week in Rochester, urging lawmakers to include funding for improvements on the highway, which shrinks from four lanes to two lanes between Dodge Center and Owatonna.

“There’s \$106 billion in surplus, and I think that it’s time southern Minnesota gets our transportation needs met,” said Hodgman, whose

husband, Scott, and two other people died in a car accident in 2012 on a two-lane stretch near Dodge Center.

“For years we’ve stood by and watched the Minneapolis-St. Paul area receive funding after funding for their transportation needs, and we haven’t, and I think it’s time that it happens,” she said after speaking at Rochester’s city bus line headquarters. “We must be heard.”

Legislators are still negotiating on a transportation bill, said Sen. Dave Senjem, R-Rochester, adding its passage is the main priority for Senate Republicans.

He said lawmakers differ on how much money would be allocated to the Corridors for Commerce program (see related article), which applies to transportation corridors with substantial commercial activity – including the area from Dodge Center to Owatonna.

Gov. Mark Dayton has said he does not want to earmark specific highways for funding. “It’s been problematic so

far,” Senjem said. “It’s about as warm a climate for getting that done as it has been so far this session. I’m hopeful that all works out. It’s such a vital subject.”

Senjem said he knows two people who have died in accidents between Dodge Center and Owatonna – including Scott Hodgman.

They are among more than 145 people who have died in more than 110 accidents on Highway 14 since the mid-1980s, and more than 21 have died in 16 fatal crashes since 2000, according to the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership, formed in 1998 to expand the highway to four lanes from Rochester to New Ulm.

It said 75 percent of the deaths between 2000 and 2005 occurred on two-lane stretches.

The group includes cities, counties, townships, chambers of commerce, businesses and individuals impacted by U.S. Highway 14, according to ushighway14.com.

Members lobby at the state and federal levels to secure



Archived staff photo

Despite patchwork repairs over the last few years, southern Minnesota residents continue to advocate for real changes to Highway 14 in hopes of making it safer for drivers. Hodgman is one of those advocates.

funding for the project and ensure public input into the expansion process.

Minnesota faces a \$2.8 billion transportation funding shortfall in the amount needed for necessary repairs, which will lead to

increasingly deteriorated and congested roads, said Rocky Moretti, director of policy and research for TRIP, a national transportation research group based in Washington, D.C.

Moretti, who also spoke last week, said the state’s transportation system shortfall will increase from \$400 million in 2018 to \$800 million by 2021, according to a study by TRIP.

He said the travel statewide is increasing at about 2 percent a year, which reflects economic growth but is adding wear and tear to the transportation system.

“We also point out in the report very critically that in Minnesota, on the state’s rural roads, the traffic fatality rate is approximately 3 ½ times higher than on all other roads,” Moretti said. “And it’s critical that the state and local governments increase their investment to make sure that those roads are as safe as possible.”

He said he joined Hodgman in Rochester “because she has such a challenging but important safety message, and a very personal message, having lost her husband.”

“We felt it made the message more personal. We get away from statistics and talk to real people who have, unfortunately, been very much impacted by traffic safety,” Moretti said.

“I just want it to happen,” Hodgman said. “If Scott had to die, I wanted to make it for a reason. That something good can come of something so bad.”

Christian Holter, Rochester City Lines’ commuter services division manager, also spoke last week.

City Lines buses travel Highway 14 west from Winona, west to Byron, Kasson, Dodge Center, Claremont and Owatonna.

“It’s time to get this done,” Holter said.

Partnership goal: finish highway expansion

Members of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership say additional funding for the Corridors of Commerce program is their top legislative priority for 2017, according to a Jan. 13 news release at ushighway14.com.

Corridors of Commerce, established in 2013, is a statewide program designed to fund transportation projects that reduce barriers to commerce by expanding capacity and/or improving freight movement.

Several U.S. Highway 14 projects have received funding through the program, including the newly opened expansion of Highway 14 from North Mankato to Nicollet, the two-mile expansion west of Owatonna, and significant land acquisition, according to the news release.

The Highway 14 Partnership is seeking \$350 million for Corridors of Commerce in the 2017 legislative session, including \$300 million in one-time trunk highway bonding and ongoing funding of \$50 million a year from the state’s general fund in years that the state runs a budget surplus.

Partnership members said a key component of their Corridors of Commerce proposal is that it is not dependent on the legislature passing a larger, more comprehensive transportation bill.

“We continue to support a comprehensive, long-term transportation plan, but based on all the recent discord at the Legislature over transportation issues we felt it was key that we pursue legislation that can run independent from a major transportation bill,” said Owatonna City Councilor Kevin Raney, the Partnership’s newly elected vice president.

“Even if lawmakers can’t agree a long-term transportation plan, they should be able to pass meaningful funding for Corridors of Commerce,” he said.

The U.S. Highway 14 project, which seeks to expand the highway to four lanes from Rochester to New Ulm, is nearing completion. Two portions remain – 12.5 miles from Dodge Center to Owatonna, and 12 miles from Nicollet to New Ulm.

Partnership members hope Corridors of Commerce funds can be a major component in financing the final stretches of the project.

“We have made great progress on Highway 14 over the years, but we are all eager for entire whole project to finally be done,” said Mankato City Councilor Karen Foreman, president of the Highway 14 Partnership. “Additional funding for Corridors of Commerce would be a big step toward getting us there.”

Meals in Motion helps BP area residents

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

The Steele County Meals in Motion makes visits to the Blooming Prairie Senior Center the first and third Fridays of each month from noon to 1 p.m.

This service is for those who cannot afford to get to the food shelf, or for those who have no transportation.

If the residents cannot make it to the Senior Center on the designated dates, Meals in Motion will deliver, says Rich Pettet, Meals in Motion coordinator.

Pettet says Meals in Motion is serving nearly 20 individuals in the BP area.

“We are excited to

distribute food to other cities in the county, including Ellendale, Medford and other rural areas.

Meals in Motion will be distributing fruits and vegetables every other week and a 10-day supply of canned and boxed foods, milk, eggs, and meat once a month to those who meet the income guidelines.

Guidelines for maximum annual income are: family size -- one, \$23,760; two, \$32,040; three, \$40,320; four, \$48,600; five, \$56,880; six, \$65,160; seven, \$73,460; eight, \$81,780.

Add \$8,320 of allowable income for each additional family member.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

FRED is the newest associate at the Steele County Food Shelf. FRED is actually a delivery van purchased by the Steele County Food Shelf to deliver food to the needy in Steele County. Pictured by the van are program coordinator Rich Pettet and Food Shelf executive director Nancy Ness.

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CityWide

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2017 Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Spring City-Wide Garage Sales Saturday, May 13

1. Michael Woods-643 2nd St. NE-Barn Wood, Flower Planters and Miscellaneous.

2. Glenn Bostrom-204 Main St. W.-Aluminum Snow Shoe, Rocking Chair, 3 horse outboard motor, Abeka and lifepack home school books, dining table with four chairs and lots more.

3. BP Cancer Group Luncheon- First Lutheran Church-434 1st St. S.W. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

4. Prairie Manor Care Center-220 3rd St N.W.-Beds, Furniture, Dispensers, (soap and paper towel) Misc.

5. Robin Christensen “Robins Crafts”- In front of B-Z Hardware Main St.-Barn Wood Crafts, Corner Cabinet, Dishes, Misc

6. Steven Ashton-456 4th St. SW-2003 Ford Focus, Mini-Bike, Cabin tent, 30” Elec. Stove, Air Compressor

7. Carlson/Jones-462 Center Ave. S-Lots of clothes-(girls, women’s, plus-sz.) Man Stuff (tools, hunting, fishing)

8. Marion + Joan Mast-214 2nd Ave. NW-Odds and Ends, Rocks and Gems

9. Stacy Magnus-424 3rd St. SW-Oak Desk, Kids Clothes, DVDs, Puzzles, Home Décor

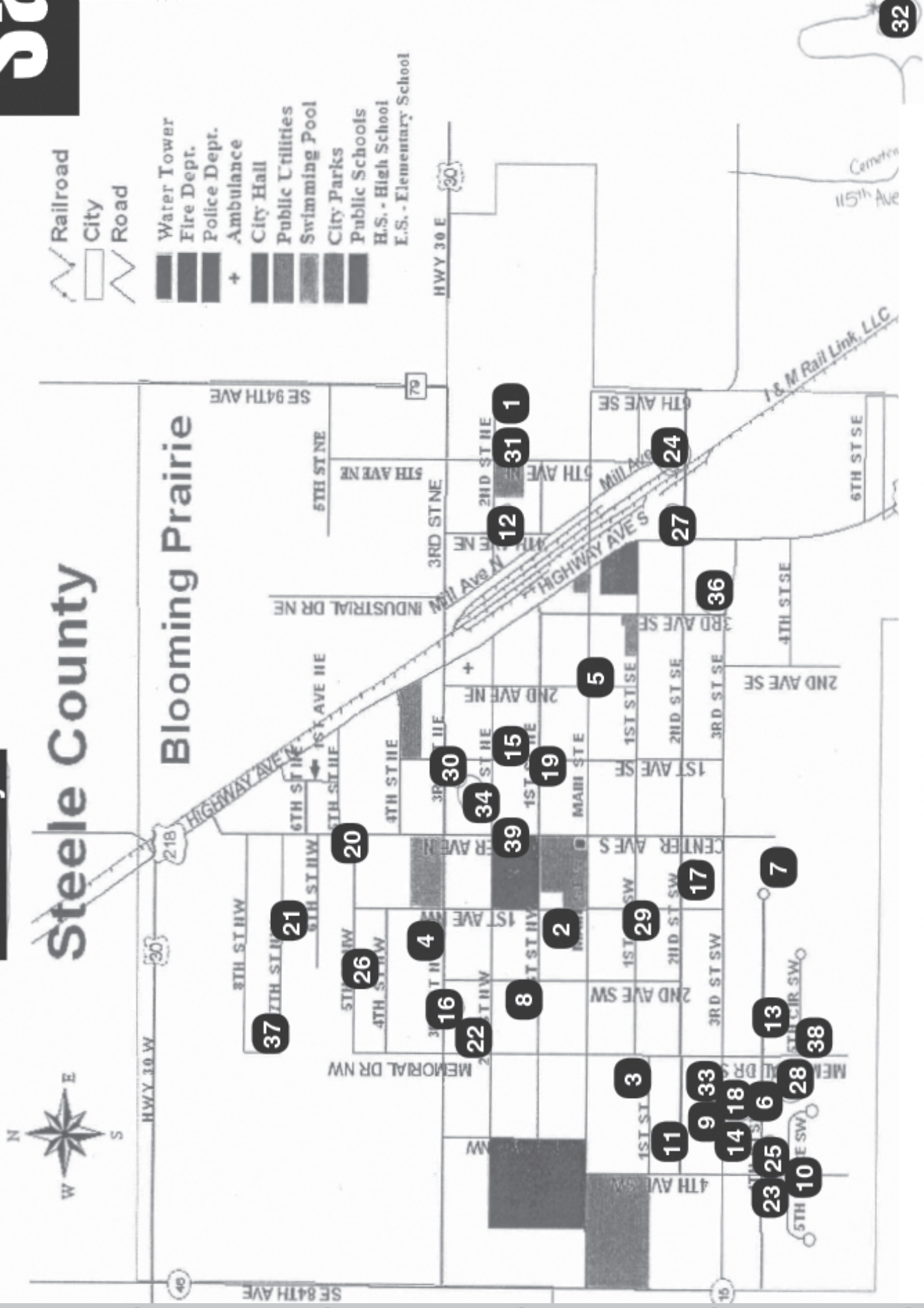
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11. Kristin Kreil-460 2nd St SW-King Sz. Head + Foot Board, Clothes, Living Room Set, Couches, Coffee Tables

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- Perennial garden plants (\$1.00 each)
13. Johnson-333 4th St. SW-Tools, Patio Furniture, Household, Miscellaneous
14. Dale Bublitz-453 3rd St SW-Collectibles, Garage,Hsehd, Guns, Ammo, Griswold Cast Iron Pots and Pans, Much Misc.
15. Carol Iverson-213 1st St NE-Antiques, Furniture, Hsehd Misc. Newer Schwin Bike, + many, many treasures.
16. Darwin+Becky Johnson-321 3rd St. NW-Lawn Furniture, Lawn Mower (21 inch), Tools.
17. Chelsea Rowland-127 2nd. St. SW-Girl Clothes sizes Newborn to 6T, Cars/Vehicles, girl baby toys/room décor, misc.
18. Marcy Sundine-443 3rd St. SW- Motorcycle, Sewing Machine
19. S. Christanson-141 1st St NE-Bike Trailer, Furniture, Clothing, Household Items. Still Cleaning!
20. Becky Johnson+Kristin Romeo-606 Center Ave. N-Lots of Kids Clothes (boys and girls), Womens’ Clothes, Home Décor
21. DeeDee Machin-174 7th St NW-Sol. Wd. China Cab.\$700,Oak Bath Van.\$400,Kirby Vac.\$100,Coll. Bryer Hrses, Misc.
22. Cheryl Paulson -346 2nd St NW- Multi Family, JD, LittleTykes Toys, Nascar,Fridge,Freezer,750 Honda, Much Misc.
23. Darrell Hansen, Bishop, Lestrud -520 4th Ave. SW-Huge Multi-Family Sales-Lots of Treasures. Friday + Saturday
24. Krystal Johnson, Jodi Green -232 Mill Ave S.-Arts +Crafts, Mens + Womens Clothing, Baby, Housewares.
25. Swenson +Swenson-463 4th St SW- Baby Crib, Toys, Stroller, Willow Tree items, Much, Much More.
26. Randy Manske -239 5th St NW-Mini-

- Huts for Dogs, Microwave
27. Vandal’s Family Mrkt- 237 Hwy Ave S-Multi-Fam. Employee Sale in Prkng Lot Brats, Hot Dogs, Chips, Beverages.
28. Gillette/Klocke/Prihoda-514 Memorial Dr. SW-Girls 2T-4T,Boys 6-S,Wmns-S/M
29. Linda Kittelson-206 1st Ave. SW-5 Fam.- Furniture, Area Rugs, Motorcycle Clothing and Equipment
30. Crystal Nelson-342 1st Ave. NE- Clothes: Girls(18 mth), Boys, Women XL, Furniture, Camp/Fishing Gear, Bks, Movies
31. Krohnberg -640 2nd St NE-Lrg. Dog House+Kennel, Bikes of all sizes, Trampoline, Desk, Misc. Hsehd, High Chairs
32. Bishop/Fate-11806 751st ST Whitetail Estates II- Clothes (Grl to 3T+Mat.), Cribs, H-Chairs, Toys, Bikes, Baby Gear, Antiques
33. Ashley Valek + Mandy Doocy-416 3rd St SW-Girl Baby Clothes, Boy Toddler Clothes, Other Household Items
34. Chris Sheward-228 2nd St. NE- Miscellaneous Items
35. Judy+Ed Lee-10292 Bixby Place- Garden Tractor, Snow Blower, Lawn Mower, Golf Clubs
36. Lois Friesner -440 3rd St. SE-Lots of Purses, Mens’ Pajama Bottoms, Knick Knacks
37. Heather Schiller+Sandy Bass -322 7th St NW-Everything Baby to 3T, Lots of home items, Adult Clothing.
38. Nels Lee-525 Memorial Drive-Lots of Bikes
39. Sandy Holmes-141 Center Ave N-Ex. Equipment, TV Stand, Clothing, Baby Things, Miscellaneous household items.





carpet and upholstery cleaning

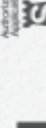
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Flower talk

Mother's Day is an annual holiday that honors motherhood and provides an opportunity for men, women and children to show their mothers how much they appreciate them.

The tradition of Mother's

Day in the US dates back more to 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial service to honor her mother and all mothers in Grafton, West Virginia. Mother's Day would ultimately become a national holiday in the United

States in 1914, thanks in large part to Jarvis' campaigning.

While Mother's Day traditions have changed since Jarvis first proposed the holiday, many people give mothers gifts on Mother's Day. Flowers make for popular gifts, and well-wishers can consider a host of varieties.

Carnations

Carnations are popular Mother's Day flowers, perhaps because they are available in a number of colors. That means it's highly likely sons, daughters, husbands and others gifting moms this Mother's Day can find some carnations in Mom's favorite color. Ask your florist about what each carnation color symbolizes, as each has its own unique meaning. Pink carnations, for example, are believed to symbolize a mother's love.

Roses

Few mothers can resist roses, making them one of the more popular flowers come Mother's Day. Roses are symbolic of love and make the perfect floral gift for mothers who like traditional flowers. If you want to spice things up, order a bouquet made up of roses of various colors.

Daffodils

Yellow is synonymous with spring, and daffodils can highlight the season in which Mother's Day takes place while also providing a cheerful look that's perfect for Mother's Day floral bouquets. Daffodils can be given on their own or added to mixed bouquets. Daffodils also last quite a while when cared for correctly, giving moms more than just a few days to enjoy their bouquets.

Freesia

Like daffodils, freesia are long-lasting, meaning mothers will still be enjoying them long after Mother's Day has come and gone. The inviting fragrance of freesia makes bouquets of these flowers popular choices for Mother's Day gifts. Freesia also come in many colors, proving Mother's Day gift gives a greater chance of finding flowers their mothers will love.

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6.5" Cyclamen Upgrade w/Butterfly	\$13.88
8.0" Geranium Planter	\$9.88
Mom's Garden Bouquet	\$9.88
4.5" Gerbera Daisy Watering Can Upgrade .	\$13.88
10"Gerbera Daisy Planter.	\$16.88
6.5" Begonia Upgrade w/Butterfly	\$13.88
6.5" Cyclamen Upgrade w/Butterfly	\$13.88
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Area Church Spotlight

St. John Lutheran Church, Claremont, MN

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Pastor's corner: Easter hope

The other day a faithful member of the church had a question about Easter, “How did the Easter bunny become a part of the celebration of Christ’s resurrection, there does not seem to be any connection? This of course raised my curiosity about a question to which I had no idea how to answer.

My only thought was that it was somehow related to some pagan belief that morphed into a custom which no one knew how it started. Sure enough the origin comes from a pagan festival of Eostre, a goddess of fertility, who’s animal symbol was a bunny which is known for its ability to multiply.

The more interesting explanation; comes from German Lutherans the “Easter Hare” originally played the role of evaluating whether children were good or disobedient during the season of Eastertide. We can guess that if you were good, you got a reward from the rabbit’s basket.

Eastertide of course is real, it is the season of Easter the forty days from the resurrection to ascension. According to the first chapter of Acts the time Jesus presented himself alive after his passion, speaking about the kingdom of God.

Easter has nothing to do with symbols or rewards for being good. It is about God taking control of his creation and his work of restoring a badly broken world. Easter is about a risen savior declaring sins are forgiven and welcome into the kingdom of God that has no end.

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Easter has nothing to do with symbols or rewards for being good. It is about God taking control of his creation and his work of restoring a badly broken world. Easter is about a risen savior declaring sins are forgiven and welcome into the kingdom of God that has no end.



Blessed Eastertide,
Rev. Alan Broadwell
St. John Lutheran Church, Claremont, MN

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sundays at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 10:15 am

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 am

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.rogllutheran.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

Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinyc.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.

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.

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.

Full Gospel

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.destinyc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Pentecostal

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF OWATONNA
230 Locust Ave, Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
(507) 363-3046
www.upcowatonna.com
Sundat Service: 10am

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 Cirkse
(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
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www.owatonnaumc.org

Methodist

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkse
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www.ellendaleumc.org
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OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
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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.
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The Rev. Jose Morales,



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CommunityLiving

Obituaries

Lorraine A. Butler, 92, of Blooming Prairie

Lorraine A. Butler, age 92, of Blooming Prairie, died Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Lorraine Agnes Hartle was born July 18, 1924, in Steele County, the daughter of William P. and Mary F. (Seykora) Hartle.

She attended school in Owatonna, and was employed at Josten's before her marriage. On June 25, 1946, she was united in marriage to Howard T. Butler at Borinquen Air Base in Puerto Rico where Howard was serving in the United States Air Force.

After the war ended, the couple returned to Minnesota where Lorraine was a homemaker for her husband and family on the family farm in Newry Township.

Lorraine moved into Blooming Prairie in 1974. She was a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church and Altar Society, National

Catholic Order of Foresters, a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary, and a past board member of the Blooming Prairie Country Club. Lorraine's hobbies included playing bridge and 500, golfing, bowling, and socializing with her Red Hat friends.

Survivors include her children, Thomas (Christine) Butler of Blooming Prairie, Jeanne Harmon of Highland, Michigan, Rita (Lloyd) Peterson of New Brighton and Gregory (Madeline) Butler of Chaska; 10 grandchildren, Jason Pence, Howard, Meghan, Carl, Jonathan, Brandon, Ashley and Stephanie Butler, Joel and Katelyn Anderson.

Further survivors included 19 great-grandchildren; brother, James (JoAnn) Hartle of Owatonna; two sisters, Lucille Peterson of Blooming Prairie and Ruth (Norman) Grunklee of Red

Wing and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Mary Hartle; her husband, Howard T. Butler; sisters, Rita Marie Hartle and Alice Henry; sons-in-law, Dr. Douglas Anderson and Dr. Lewis G. Harmon.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, with Father Bill Kulas officiating. Interment followed the service at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Newry Township, Geneva, Minnesota.

Visitation was held from 4:00 to 7 p.m. Monday, May 8, with a C.C.W. Rosary at 3:45 p.m. at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Memorials may be directed to the St. Mary's Cemetery Fund or recipient of donor's choice.

Services prearranged and per-



formed by Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Mathilda “Tillie” Minto, 78, of Austin

Mathilda “Tillie” Minto, 78, of Austin, died peacefully at her home Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Mathilda Hensena Pfeifer was born Nov. 8, 1938, to Frank E. and Malvina (Madson) Pfeifer in Blooming Prairie.

She attended Blooming Prairie schools. On May 18, 1956, Tillie married Carmie Fett. The couple had nine children and raised dairy cows on the family farm. Carmie died April 10, 1986.

On Dec. 29, 1989, Tillie married Robert Minto. She worked as a nursing assistant for many years and was a past President and past District President of the VFW Auxiliary Post 1216. Tillie enjoyed being with her family on the family farm where she resided for over 60 years.

Survivors include seven children, Richard (Cindy) Fett of Austin, Kathy (Greg) Nash of Canton, Minnesota, Ronald (Susan) Fett of Stillwater, Kristine Fett (Roger Hildreth) of Brighton, Colorado, Brian (Sara) Fett of Rochester, Kellie (Ben) Pugh of Cape Coral, Florida, and Karie (Dennis) Reimers of Austin.

Further survivors include daughter-in-law, Anita Fett of Bruno, Minnesota; four stepchildren, Robyn (Elias) Flores of Austin, Wayne (Betty) Minto of Dodge Center, Tina Wiersma of Waltham, Minnesota, Jason (Tashma) Minto of Conway, South Carolina, brother Roger (Jan) Pfeifer of Blooming Prairie, and sister-in-law Betty Pfeifer of Buffalo.

She is also survived by 27

grandchildren, 12 step-grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren, and six step great-grandchildren. Tillie was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Carmie; two sons, Randy and Carmie Jr; siblings, Melford, Anna, Florence, Margaret, Marvin, Frank, and sons-in-law Leo Kuisle and Allen Holliday.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6, 2017, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in rural Waltham, Minnesota, with pastor Dwight DoBell officiating. Visitation was held Friday, May 5, 2017, from 5:00-7 p.m. at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin, and one hour before the service Saturday at the church. Burial was held in the church cemetery.



Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Lynn Rodney Christianson, 69, of Burnsville

Lynn Rodney Christianson, age 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 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 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, Minnesota. 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 day care children and 30 foster care children, including Ricky, Jerry and Sheila, with whom they maintained a special lifelong relationship. Charlene died Jan. 2, 1994.

Lynn is survived by two brothers, Alan (Lois) Christianson

of Surprise, Arizona, and Brian (Donna) Christianson of Seven Lakes, North Carolina; three sisters, Ann (David) Bardouche of El Paso, Texas, Jean Lee of Blooming Prairie and Sharon (David) Fogal of Laguna Woods, California.

He is further survived by 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



before 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.

James William Gwilt, 77, of Blooming Prairie

James William Gwilt, age 77 of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, May 1, 2017, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. He was born Dec. 31, 1939, in Olmsted County, Minnesota, the son of James F. and Dorothy (Peterson) Gwilt.

On Jan. 10, 1959, James married Evelyn Callahan in Rochester, Minnesota. The couple made their home in St. Charles before moving to Austin, and then to Blooming Prairie in 1971. James worked for many years as a master mechanic for Ulland Brothers Construction.

He enjoyed the outdoors, especially camping and fishing. One of his favorite pastimes was working in his shop with his sons. His family will miss him dearly.

James is survived by his wife



Evelyn of Blooming Prairie; his children Richard Gwilt of Blooming Prairie, Lloyd Gwilt of Zumbrota, James “George” (Laura) Gwilt of Blooming Prairie, and Jeff (Jelaine) Gwilt, also of Blooming Prairie.

He was also survived by 13

grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Michael Gwilt in 2002, his brother Bill Gwilt, his sister Virginia Stortz, his half brother and sister David and Keta Balcom.

At James' request, no formal services will be held. Burial will be at a later date at Union Cemetery, Pleasant Grove, Minnesota. Cards may be sent to Evelyn Gwilt at 6811 SE 158th Street, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, 55917.

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



Mark and Karen Thoen
of Blooming Prairie
&
Marc and Kim Savaria
of Andover

are pleased to announce the engagement of their children.

Emily Jean Thoen and Andrew Marc Savaria.

Emily is a 2007 graduate of Blooming Prairie High and a 2011 graduate of Winona State University with a BS in Human Resources and Business Administration. She is currently employed at Loram Maintenance of Way in Hamel as a Senior International Marketing Analyst. Andrew is a 2007 graduate of Andover High and a 2011 graduate of Northwestern College with a BS in Finance. He is currently employed at Federal Package in Chanhassen as an Accounting Supervisor.

The wedding date has been set for June 3, 2017 to be held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

May 10
Lisa Kubista
Rosalie Shaw Kerrigan
Deanne Harshbarger
Jason Manges
May 11
Natasha Smith
Joann Borchert
May 17
Michelle Vigeland
Ashley Schmeling
Nicholas Hanson
Thomas Shawback

Anniversaries

May 10
Sean & Kristian Robbins
Eddie & Nelda Haberman
May 11
Thomas and Shirley Schneiderit
May 17
Jason & Kaylene Jensen

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SEMCAC senior menu

May 10 Chicken Romaine Salad Melon wedge Batter bun Rhubarb cake	May 15 Moon Cake Swiss Steak/gravy Mashed Potatoes Carrots Fruited Coleslaw Batter bun Peach crisp
May 11 Pork Roast Sauerkraut Corn Casserole Dilled Carrots Apple Cranberry Crisp	May 16 Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Peas Cucumber Salad Cranberry Mold
May 12 (Mother's Day Recognition) Chicken Pasta Salad Melon Wedge Sliced Tomato	

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Harassment. A citizen called deputies at 10:33 p.m. when an intoxicated male was harassing their dog in the 200 block of Elm St. N. in Claremont.

CRIME BRIEF

Suspected drunk driver crashes into power pole

A driver who is alleged to have too much to drink came to a crashing stop right into a power pole.

Owatonna Police arrested Timothy Kong, 24, for third-degree DWI, which is a gross misdemeanor. The charge comes after Kong crashed his vehicle into a power pole on Hoffman Drive near Walmart around 3:30 a.m. April 30.

According to police, the power pole was snapped and leaning toward the vehicle when officers arrived. The power pole was reportedly supporting many power lines and some were on the ground. Owatonna Public Utilities responded to the area to make the scene safe.

While officers dealt with Kong, he allegedly told them, “I



Alexander Alvarez, 22, arrested May 4, felony domestic assault and false imprisonment, held for court.

Angela Rose Herplinck, 34, arrested at 4:02 p.m. May 4, felony assault, false name, and possession of marijuana, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Casey Joe Eggum, 30, arrested at 4:35 p.m. April 29, warrant arrest, held for court.

MN State Patrol
Jonathon Wayne Walker, 28, arrested at 3:24 a.m. May 4, felony DWI, held for court.

OWATONNA FIRE

April 29
Accident. Fire personnel assisted with cleanup after a vehicle accident on Broadway St. E. at 12:06 p.m.

May 1
Building Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 3200 block of Austin Road at 8:21 a.m.

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Februrary Public Record

Steele County Births February 2017

Nicolas Elliott Rodriguez, Parents: Anna and Remigo, Feb. 1.

Anas Mohamed Aden, Parents: Sahro Ashkir and Mohamed Awale, Feb. 1.

Elianna Marie Ramon, Parent: Maria De La Rosa, Feb. 1.
John Mark Tindal, Parents: Ashley and Michael, Feb. 2.
Jude Christian Barrett, Parent: Jessica Bruessel, Feb. 3.

Landon William Thomez, Parent: Meredith Sidla, Feb. 3.
Ethan Charles Selvik, Parents: Meghan and Todd, Feb. 5.

Penelope Dee Hellman, Parents: Dana and Jeffrey, Feb. 5.
Gabriel John Ellis, Parents: Elizabeth and Kevin, Feb. 5.
Jackson Henry Loeffler, Parents: Nicole and Jonathon, Feb. 6.

Jack Robert Schiller, Parents: Kira and Gregory, Feb. 7.

Maaqid Abdirizak Ali, Parents: Ifrah Abdirahman and Abdirizak Ahmed, Feb. 8.

Ezekiel Kenneth Valdez, Parents: Caitlin and Abraham, Feb. 10.

Ryker Richard Barnett, Parents: Kayla and Tyler, Feb. 11.

Kaylee Mae Lewis, Parents: KC Zeller and Brandon Lewis, Feb. 14.

Johnathan James Alm, Parents: Jennifer and Joshua, Feb. 14.

Mubarak Ibrahim Kero, Parents: Bushra Ali and Ibrahim Abdi, Feb. 14.

Pieper Lucille Jimenez, Parents: Melinda Johnson and Wesley Jimenez, Feb. 15.

Akram Hanad Abdi, Parent: Leyla Abdulle, Feb. 15.

Caleb Albert Swenson, Parents: Katrina and Kyle, Feb. 17.

Paul Joseph Croke, Parents: Sarah and Andrew, Feb. 17.

Wyatt Axel Kline, Parents: Katie and Andrew, Feb. 19.

Aubrey Anne Timmerman, Parents: Danielle and Michael, Feb. 20.

Maddison Althea Rey Wade, Parents: Alyssa and Brandon, Feb. 20.

Max Joseph Gibbs, Parents: Heather English and John Gibbs, Feb. 20.

Milo McLain Schiltz, Parents: Jana and Bradley, Feb. 22.

Asher William Hansen, Parents: Chelsea and Joel, Feb. 24.

Paul Angelo Introne, Parents: Amy and David, Feb. 25.

Gavin Glen Proehlabott, Parents: Shannon and Eric, Feb. 26.

Astyn Todd Haessig, Parents: Desiree and Zachary, Feb. 26.

Rosalie Grace Escoto, Parents: Dusty and Andrew, Feb. 28.

Steele County Deaths February 2017

Evelyn Mae Urch, 90, West Concord, Feb. 1.

Jacqueline Lucille Payne, 90, Dodge Center, Feb. 1.

Constance Ann Haberman, 73, Blooming Prairie, Feb. 3.

Cynthia Langer, 64, Faribault, Feb. 3.

Jacqueline Rae Jensen, 63, Owatonna, Feb. 4.

Clara Margaret Risberg, 93, Owatonna, Feb. 4.

Syvilla Marie Stenzel, 74, Freeborn Township, Feb. 4.

John Alexander Buse, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 5.

Dale Eugene Hensrud, 63, Owatonna, Feb. 6.

Irene May Wiesjhan, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 8.

Phyllis Kathleen Wencl, 66, Owatonna, Feb. 8.

Evelyn Marie Malone, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 8.

Peter Andrew Kalan, 57, Owatonna, Feb. 9.

Thomas George Effertz, 77, Owatonna, Feb. 9.

Richard Joseph Fedder, 63, Owatonna, Feb. 9.

Mary Costas Boosalis, 79, Owatonna, Feb. 12.

Karl-Heinz Nilsson, 87, Owatonna, Feb. 14.

Artys Viola Cole, 98, Ellendale, Feb. 14.

Carol Jean Fitterer, 77, Owatonna, Feb. 14.

Brandon Wayne Beman, 17, Owatonna, Feb. 16.

Warren Hugo Schley, 71, Owatonna, Feb. 16.

Patricia Marie Luedtke, 90, Owatonna, Feb. 17.

Shirley Ida Wanous, 98, Blooming Prairie, Feb. 21.

Lucile Schlueter, 90, Waterville, Feb. 22.

Mary Mercedes Standke, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 23.

Mildred Helen Prestegard, 84, Owatonna, Feb. 27.

Dallas David Howell, 81, Owatonna, Feb. 27.

Joann Roberta Smith, 57, Owatonna, Feb. 27.

Shirley Ruth Winter, 68, Ellendale, Feb. 28.

Daniel Raymond Buskovich, 72, Owatonna, Feb. 28.

Connecting the dots with the brain and traffic safety

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

Safety advocates from southeastern Minnesota are learning how to connect the dots between brain science and risk-taking behaviors in adolescence as it relates to traffic safety.

As safety professionals try to keep teenagers from being killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes, Erin Walsh, an expert of the adolescent brain with Mind Positive Parenting, said first and foremost they need to be self-aware that the teenage brain is still developing. “The brain is not a finished product until mid-20s,” she said.

Walsh spoke during the annual regional workshop of Toward Zero Deaths in Rochester May 3. About 200 police officers, public health educators, engineers and EMS workers came together to find ways of enhancing traffic safety across the region.

With the adolescent brain being “under construction” well past teenage years, Walsh said it’s important for safety experts to educate young people about how their brain works. The portion of the brain considered to be still developing is the prefrontal cortex, which undergoes a major growth spurt during the late teenage years.

Teenage boys often surge with testosterone while girls are flooded with serotonin, according to Walsh. “Often we think of teens

as a loose cannon,” she said, noting the prefrontal part of the brain helps smooth out the emotional surges teens encounter.

She said people often ask, “How can such a smart kid do such a stupid thing,” when it comes to driving behavior. “It’s not about smarts, but it has everything to do with the growing brain,” Walsh said.

Teenagers, Walsh said, need to learn how to filter out distractions and stay focused when it comes to driving. “Adolescents think they are amazing with multitasking. Teens are no better at it than adults. We are all very bad at it,” she said, adding humans just can’t do two things at the same time.

Walsh also stressed the importance of parents in their teen’s lives. “Parents have a lot of influence over teens,” she said. But she warned there really isn’t a roadmap for parents and it’s not easy.

Along those lines, Walsh complimented law enforcement officers in the audience for giving out safe driving tickets when they witness teens practicing safe behaviors. She said that is an “incredibly positive thing to do,” for teens. “We need to reinforce positive behavior,” she added.

What often leads to trouble behind the wheel is when multiple teens get into a vehicle. “Any time you increase the number of peers in a car, risky behavior

increases,” she said. “Young people are more likely to engage in risky behavior.”

Walsh’s goal is for parents and anyone who works with youth to use this information to understand, communicate with and stay connected to their kids.

The mission of TZD is to move southeast Minnesota toward zero deaths on roadways using education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical and trauma services.

Statewide, TZD hopes to reduce traffic fatalities to 350 or

fewer by 2020. Although traffic-related deaths have continued to rise throughout the U.S., Minnesota’s deaths have plateaued. To decrease these numbers, the state is focusing on long-term methods of changing culture.

“A cultural action team has been established to come up with positive social change,” said Kristine Hernandez, TZD program coordinator. She added that families are also encouraged to develop their own traffic safety rules.

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
I	D	E	S			S	O	U			T	A	K	E

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Elephant’s name
- Support
- Mures River city
- Bastard wing
- One was named Desire
- PGA Tournament prize
- A way to leave unchanged
- Unchangeable computer memory
- Harangues
- 6th Hebrew letter
- Well informed
- Turfs
- In a way, obeyed
- Lawyers group
- Increases motor speed
- Political action committee
- Light pokes
- Struck down
- Central Philippine Island
- Japanese sash
- Afresh
- Bluish green
- Inspire with love
- Without (French)
- Counterbalance container to obtain net weight
- Express pleasure
- Cheap wine (Br.)
- Signing
- ___ compilation, compiling computer language
- Have surgery
- Being trompe-l’oeil

CLUES DOWN

- Cry
- Wings
- Baseball play
- Flower petals
- Drive against
- Velikaya River city
- A single unit in a collection
- Stray
- 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

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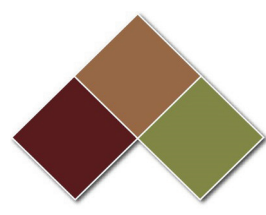


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Books for sale

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NANCY VAILLANCOURT

hardcover, but all donations are accepted.

Tables full of books will be set up in the City Council room at the City Center, 138 Highway Avenue South. The sale will be held Friday, May 12 from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the final two hours of the sale, pay a dollar and fill a bag with books!

All money raised from the book sale will be used by the Friends group to enhance the library and add programs to our schedule. Thanks to the Friends members who volunteer to help set up and staff the book sale. Just a reminder that May is the month to join the Friends group. For an annual fee of \$5.00 you can show your support for the library, receive monthly updates of events, and volunteer at the library. See you at the book sale!



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Park Place Senior Living
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Owatonna

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Students display art

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Writer

BPHS art students competed in the annual MSHSL art exhibit on Saturday, Apr. 29, and did well in the event. The local school submitted the maximum 18 examples and earned four superiors, 14 excellents, and one Best in Show at the exhibit, this year at Rochester Century High School. A number of area schools entered work in the competition.

Senior Jake Hyland received a superior in his computer-based artwork "Untitled", which also gave him the Best in Show award. Other superior ratings went to Aaron Fennel's "Winter's Gale", and Jake Hyland's "Night of the living Bed" and "Smooth jazz". All of these works were computer-based.

Seniors Elijah Baker, Aaron Fennel, and Alicia Ptacek all rated excellent on a painting, a computer-based artwork, and a mixed medley collage respectively. Sophomore Amy Peterson received two excellent ratings for two mixed medley collages, and 7 ninth graders also returned to BPHS with an excellent rating. Chase Peterson's display was a mixed medley collage; and Hazel Michaud entered six drawings, all of which were judged excellent.

As BPHS art instructor commented, "The students had another successful year at this contest. Hyland's Best in Show award was quite an honor, and the other displays all showed creativity and hard work in their examples. It was good to see the seven ninth graders all do well"



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
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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Corn planting begins in Steele

With the nice change in weather, dry conditions made it possible for farmers to get into the fields. Here, Patrick O'Connor does some calibrations on his 24-row corn planter. Farmers are hopeful to get their crops in the ground in the next few weeks. Steady rains forced farmers to wait for dryer conditions.

May is national mental health month

STEELE TALKIN'



CAROLYN WHEELER

Each year, May provides an opportunity for us to join local and national partners to raise awareness about mental health and to reduce stigma. Children and youth experience the same types of mental health challenges as adults and may often display variations in behavior, feelings, social relationships and academic achievement. During National Mental Health Awareness Month, South Central Human Relations Center encourages everyone to join with us to promote positive mental health.

This year for National Mental Health Awareness Month, Mental Health America is talking about Risky Business. They have an updated Toolkit for 2017 to educate people about habits and behaviors that increase the risk of developing or worsening mental illnesses, or could be signs of mental health problems themselves. Risk factors such as risky sex, prescription drug misuse, internet addiction, excessive spending, marijuana use, and troublesome exercise patterns are identified in the materials.

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/mental-health-month-2017-toolkit-download>

Please explore and share these tools and resources help individuals and communities to raise awareness of the risks that these types of behaviors present—especially to young people—and help people who may be struggling to detect early warning signs and seek help early, before Stage 4. Among children and youth, number affected by mental challenges is significant. Estimates suggest that as many as one in five children and youth, from birth to 18 years of age, experience a diagnosable mental health challenge that requires treatment.

The signs of mental health challenges are not always as obvious as broken bones, but treating them is just as important to ensure that children and youth can live a

MENTAL
Continued on page 7B

‘With A Little Help from My Friend’

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Former United States Congressman Tim Penny turned in his political hat, strapped on an acoustic guitar and sang a Beatles tune to the enjoyment of Ellendale citizens starting a foundation to benefit its community.

His song, “With A Little Help From A Friend” was made popular 50 years ago by the Beatles on their Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts album.

The stage was the Ellendale Municipal Building, soon to be a recipient of some renovation made possible by the newly formed Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE).

An estimated 50 supporters of Ellendale’s community growth attended an event on Friday night, May 5 to kick off its existence.

Penny served the southeastern Minnesota First District from 1982 to 1994. Since that time he has edged away from politics and gotten involved with the

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF).

SMIF is a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

The foundation has helped found 26 foundations in 120 small towns in southeastern Minnesota.

The Foundation has provided more than \$100 million in grants, loans and programming within the region during the past 30 years into this region.

Penny is president and CEO of SMIF.

Prior to his singing a Beatles tune, Penny talked about community growth and praised leaders of the City of Ellendale for wanting to improve its economic standing.

The Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE) is a local non-profit organization whose mission, striving to strengthen and enhance the Ellendale area community today and for

future generations.

Ellendale’s community foundation must raise \$2500 to be eligible for a \$10,000 grant from SMIF. This is the start of building an endowment.

The Ellendale foundation’s board of directors has identified the community building renovation as its first project. Main thrust of the project will be to provide easier accessibility to the front entrance of the building, especially to make it more handicap accessible. New doors will be installed.

Other upcoming projects identified by the board include replacing the carpet, renovating the council room, updating the bathrooms and giving a new look to the kitchen.

Board member Pete Paulson said requests for assistance have been made to the Ellendale City Council, “but the city just doesn’t have money for this,” he said.

Board member Stephanie Kibler welcomed guests to the Foundation’s first fund-raising event. “We are thrilled



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Former U.S. Congressman Tim Penny, right, was a keynote speaker and musician at the kickoff for the Community Foundation of Ellendale on Friday night, May 5. He donated \$100 to the foundation. Penny is the CEO and president of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

to have all of you here,” she said. Kibler is also a council member. She said the work of the foundation will bring the municipal building back to life.

Penny was billed as the guest speaker for the foundation’s

event and surprised many by showing off his musical talent. He is also a member of a band called “Led Penny.”

“This is where my roots lie,”

ELLENDALE
Continued on page 7B

Prayers for a nation

Staff photo by
Emily Schoenbeck

Since the Truman Administration, The United States has celebrated a National Day of Prayer. Navy veteran Chaplain Gene Kispert led a prayer for members of the military and their families outside of city hall. Fellow pastors and clergy from churches around Owatonna joined him. Prayers were also said for the community, public safety officials, schools, Steele County, Minnesota, and the nation at large. Mayor Kuntz gave the official proclamation of the day, while the Lights of Litomysl performed praise songs throughout the program.

Over 60 people were in attendance and joined in for a recitation of the Lord’s Prayer and a closing song of “God Bless America.”

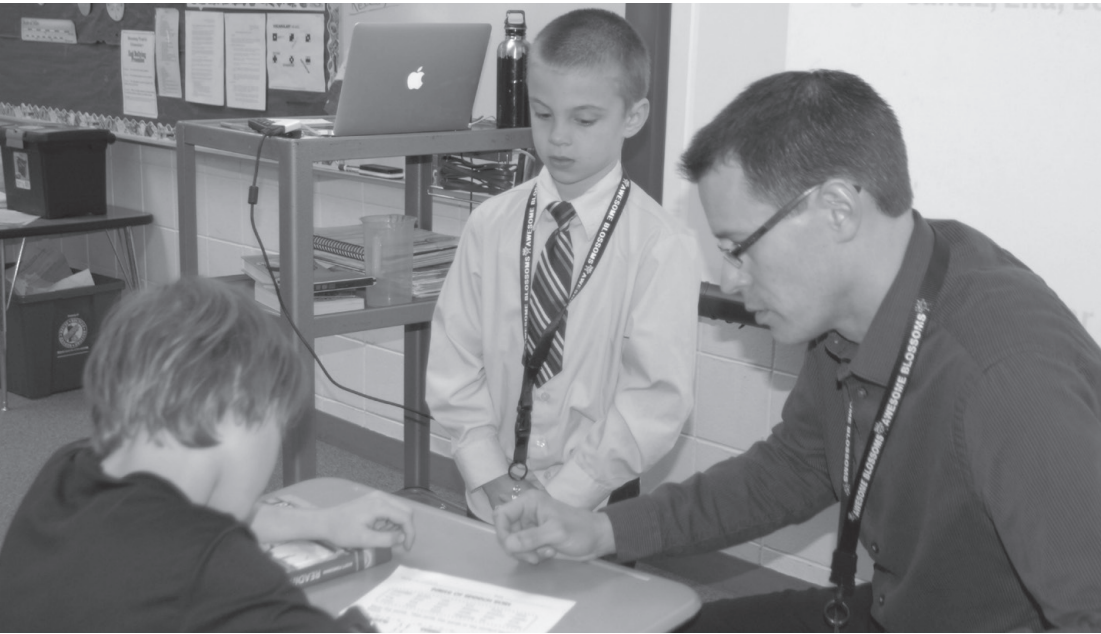


Staff photo by Lori Wagner

Blessing the bikes

Over 200 motorcyclists turned out on Sunday for the Blessing of the Bikes. The event, formerly known as the Daybreak Blessing of the Bikes, has been going on for 21 years. It’s a chance for riders to have their motorcycle blessed prior to the start of summer. The event, which takes place rain or shine, had beautiful weather this year, and gave riders plenty of time to mingle with old friends and meet new ones.

Blooming Prairie Living



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Visiting Mr. Kittelson’s fourth grade classroom, Principal for the Day Talon Arndt, helps student Colton Braaten with an assignment. Talon was recently Principal for the Day at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

First grader is the boss for the day

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

“Good morning Mr. Arndt.” That refrain was heard over and over as Blooming Prairie first grader Talon Arndt made his classroom rounds as principal for the day at Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

Thanks to his parents, Lori and Nate, Talon, 7 was given the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the “real” Principal at BPES, Mr. Staloch (Chris). Talon’s parents, Bixby residents, were the successful bidders (\$375) on the BP Education Foundation Principal for the Day prize auctioned off on March 25.

On this particular day, Wednesday, May 3, Talon showed up with a flashy looking tie and a new, light blue sport shirt. The tie was loaned to him by his cousin Lane Arndt, a third grader.

Talon’s mother brought him to the principal’s office where he was welcomed by administrative staff.

One of his first experiences as principal for the day was to answer some questions from a snoopy newspaper reporter. Talon showed some shyness and stayed close to his mother during the early going.

“He was really excited when he heard we won the auction item and he wanted to schedule his day the very next day,” Lori related.

Asked what he thought the elementary principal did, Talon quickly responded: “Too much.” The question about the principal’s duties was asked of all the classrooms Mr. Staloch and Mr. Arndt visited.

First actual duty was to stand next to Mr. Staloch in the hallway and greet all of the elementary students as they passed to their classrooms.

Next, Mr. Arndt read the morning announcements over the public address system. “Did you get nervous?” Staloch asked Talon. “I did when I first made the announcements,” Staloch told Talon.

It was then off to the classrooms. “This is my favorite part of the day, meeting with the students,” Staloch confessed to Talon.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Elementary School’s Principal for the Day, Talon Arndt (light blue shirt) gets high fives from his classmates in Mrs. Schiller’s (Heather) room during his visit as principal on Wednesday, May 3. Talon became principal after his parents purchased the honor in the Blooming Prairie Education auction on March 25.

Staloch also said he tries to learn all of the names of the school’s 412 students. He also knows the names of many of the 100 pre-schoolers enrolled at the elementary school.

Talon didn’t even get out of the principal’s office before his buddy Landon Olivo spotted him and gave him a friendly hug.

Talon and Mr. Staloch visited pre-schoolers, first graders, second graders, third graders and fourth graders, asking students what they thought the principal’s role really is.

Many of the students said the principal must make sure everybody is safe and does not get hurt. “He looks just like you,” a second grader told Mr. Staloch.

Other students said a principal must “be nice” and must know everyone’s name. A principal “must be responsible,” a first grader told the two principals on duty this day. Always respect others, Kylynn Johnson said. Another student said, “Make sure everyone is happy.”

“Be a friend,” a third grader said she thought was an important part of being a principal. “Be nice,” another said. “Everybody listens to the principal,” Melanie said. “Have a great smile,” Alex said.

A fun part of visiting the classrooms came when he visited his own first grade classroom. “Why are you not wearing a tie?” Mr. Staloch was asked. A teacher told Talon he was “dressed for success” and that he looked “pretty sharp.”

Talon’s kindergarten teacher last year, Mrs. Bruns greeted the young principal: “You were my student last year and now you are my boss; wow!”

As the two principals left the classrooms, all students wished them a great day. “Being with all of the kids is my favorite part of the day,” Staloch told Talon.

To break up their class visits, Mr. Staloch brought Talon to his personal office where he had the chance to sit in the chair of authority, the principalship.

Mr. Staloch also treated

Talon to a huge donut covered with chocolate and sprinkles. During that time, Mr. Staloch and Mr. Arndt shared fish stories.

Talon loves to fish, he said, mostly with his grandparents at their cabin “up north.” Talon said the biggest fish he caught was a 35-inch pike. Mr. Staloch then scrolled photos on his phone to find a photo of himself with a 31-inch northern.

Staloch also took time to show Talon the principal’s album which included photos of all elementary students. “This is my bible,” he said.

It was then back to the classroom, Mr. Kittelson’s (Matt) fourth grade room. While there, the two principals helped teach the class some of the finer points of language arts. Talon reminded all students to put their names at the top of their assignments.

As the day continued, Talon helped Principal Staloch distribute thank yous to staff. Staloch told Talon that he hands out three thank yous a week to a staff member and they then pass it on to another staff member.

Talon drew the Caught Being Awesome winners for the week.

Another fun part of the day was joining his class for recess.

Talon sat at a special table in the lunchroom with Mr. Staloch. Talon was able to invite two of his friends to enjoy pizza with him.

Following lunch, the principals sat in on an administrative meeting designed to come up with ways to improve the BP elementary school.

Talon helped with recess supervision from noon to 12:30 and then returned to his class to finish the day.

Praising the BP Education Foundation’s efforts, Staloch said “it’s great fun” to participate in the Principal for the Day. “It’s very gratifying to have so many people support us,” Staloch said.

“Blooming Prairie is a great place to be, right Talon,” Mr. Staloch said to him while walking the halls near the end of the day.

Blooming Prairie May students of the month

Junior High: Emily Miller



Grade: 7

Siblings: Shelby 25, Adam 25, Brian 32, Natasha 35, Alex 14

Pets: 1 dog –Buddy, 2 Horses – Spirit and Ruby, 5 cats

Interests: Sports and 4-H

Favorite Class: Math – Emily feels she is good at it

Statements from the staff: “Emily Miller is an extremely kind and easy-going person. She likes to have fun but she is always respectful of her fellow students and school staff. She is also a very hard worker who really wants to succeed in the classroom!”

“Emily Miller is truly a wonderful choice for Student of the Month. She is bright, works hard, always has her assignments completed, and takes part in class discussions. She is a great Math student. And overall, she is a respectful and a nice person.”

“Emily Miller is an incredibly engaged student in class. She adds a great deal to any class discussion. Emily has a great positive aura about her.”

Senior High: Wyatt Grundmeier



Grade: 12

Siblings: Raeann 10th grade, Justin 5th

Pets: 3 dogs – Macy, Dash, and Diesel

Interests: Hunting, Fishing, and Construction

Favorite Class: Independent Study – Shop Class, Wyatt gets to work with his hands

Statements from the staff: “Wyatt is a very hard worker, responsible, a good student, and has a lot of common sense.”

“Wyatt, the true definition of an All-American – boy

next door kind of kid! Very respectful, kind, mature and very likable! I’ve never heard anyone say a negative comment about Wyatt in the past 5 years.”

“Wyatt is a very respectful student with a positive attitude who works well with his peers to understand the content in class.”

“Wyatt is a hardworking and dedicated student. He is a great role model for younger students.”

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lion Jerry Ingvalson receives legacy award

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A legacy of service was celebrated with the Blooming Prairie Lions on a recent membership meeting night at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club.

District 5M-2 Gov. Steve Wasserman of Faribault told BP Lions members that “A Legacy of Service” was his theme for the Lions year of 2016-17.

In outlining ways to capture a club’s legacy, Gov. Wasserman paid tribute to Lion Jerry Ingvalson by giving him an appreciation plaque for his involvement and dedication to the Gopher 50 car race during the past 37 years.

Gov. Wasserman reminded BP Lions that Lions International is celebrating its Centennial year (100) this year. He saluted the BP Lions for its 62 years of building and celebrating its legacy.

“Let’s enhance that legacy by finding a new mountain to climb,” Wasserman said. He mentioned youth, hunger and vision as ways to build a club’s legacy.

Gov. Wasserman saluted the BP Lions for working with the Boy Scouts, for collecting eye glasses and for protecting the environment by adopting a highway.

The 5M-2 district governor recognized many of the BP Lions for their years of service. The club has 58 members. He thanked Lion

Bob Nahlovsky for being a Lions member since 1974.

Find ways to celebrate the Lions legacy in Blooming Prairie, Gov. Wasserman told the BP membership. “Tell people what Lions do in Blooming Prairie,” he said. He said the community’s 150th birthday this year and its 4th of July celebration are ways to celebrate the community’s legacy.

“Build the legacy, celebrate the legacy and enhance the legacy,” Wasserman said. He pointed to the dining tables at the BP Servicemen’s Club as ways the Lions are continuing to build their legacy by helping other community organizations.

Lion Ken Behnken said the BP Lions have built a legacy in supporting an invitational track meet since 1986. Blooming Prairie Lions and other volunteers helped with the track meet on Tuesday, April 25.

He praised the BP Lions for taking in four new members. “New members and new leadership bring new ideas and new projects,” Wasserman said.

Gov. Wasserman also saluted BP Lion Paul Dale on his first anniversary with his Leader Dog Summit.

Years of service awards were announced by Gov. Wasserman:

30 years, Dick Kruckeberg and Jim Fiebigler; 20 years, Larry Christianson and Kurt Blome; 15 years, Frank Williamson, and 10 years, Steve Vaith, Gary Thorson, Carl Peterson and Chad Eischens

In club business, a slate of officers for 2017-18 was accepted.

The officers slate for 2017-18 includes: president, Per Kvalsten; first vice president, Greg Skillestad; second vice president, Chris Staloch; third vice president, Jerry Mausbach; treasurer, Waco Vandal; secretary, Paul Fiebigler; tail twister, Harlan Hinzmann; assistant tail twister, Phil Milton; lion tamer, Dean Zilm; assistant lion tamer, Troy Barth and membership, H. Peterson.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Gov. Steve Wasserman, left, of District 5M-2 saluted the Blooming Prairie Lions for their many examples of legacy for the community. Recognized for his involvement with the Gopher 50 auto race was Lion Jerry Ingvalson.

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Blooming Prairie

third quarter honor roll!



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud



Blooming Prairie Junior High School Third Quarter A Honor Roll

Front Row: Rachael Riley, Emily Kubicek, Bradley Simon, Reese Millam, Lauren Schammell, Asha Lighthizer Back Row: Melanie Winzenburg, Maggie Bruns, Ashleigh Alwes, Megan Oswald, Marquette Millam, Josie Lorenz, Bobbie Bruns

A honor roll

BOBBIE	BRUNS	7	MEGAN	OSWALD	8
ASHA	LIGHTHIZER	7	RACHAEL	RILEY	8
JOSIE	LORENZ	7	BAYLEE	SORENSEN	9
MARQUETTE	MILLAM	7	RILEY	MILLAM	10
LAUREN	SCHAMMEL	7	RACHAEL	OSWALD	10
BRADLEY	SIMON	7	SETH	PETERSON	10
MELANIE	WINZENBURG	7	PAYTON	SIMON	10
ASHLEIGH	ALWES	8	ETHAN	ARETT	11
MAGGIE	BRUNS	8	JEREMY	HOCKING	11
EMILY	KUBICEK	8	MITCHELL	OSWALD	11
REESE	MILLAM	8	ELIJAH	BAKER	12
MEGAN	OSWALD	8	THOMAS	BRAATEN	12
RACHAEL	RILEY	8	CAMDEN	HEIMERMAN	12
BAYLEE	SORENSEN	9	JAKE	HYLAND	12
RILEY	MILLAM	10	ROSE	JOHNSON	12
RACHAEL	OSWALD	10	RACHEL	KUBICEK	12
SETH	PETERSON	10	CARTER	MILLAM	12
PAYTON	SIMON	10	ALISON	PRYOR	12
ETHAN	ARETT	11	ALICIA	PTACEK	12
JEREMY	HOCKING	11	LEAH	SCHIEFERT	12

B+ honor roll

TYLER	ARCHER	7	JESSICA	GWILT	10
Tyler	Iverson	7	HANNAH	KINNY	10
ADRIANNA	BERMEA	8	CALEB	KUBISTA	10
COLE	GRAVES	8	COLIN	LERUM	10
SHYANE	JORGENSEN	8	Jeannette	Lozano	10
ALLISON	KROHNBERG	8	TRENTON	Swenson	10
JESSICA	RESSLER	8	LINNEA	BYERS-SUNDE	11
CHRISTOPHER	SHEPARD	8	JONATHAN	HERRON	11
MICALYN	TRIHUS	8	AYREN	INGVALSON	11
TAYLOR	WURST	8	RACHEL	PIRKL	11
JESSICA	GWILT	10	ASIA	THOSTENSON	11
HANNAH	KINNY	10	Alexander	Dessner	12
CALEB	KUBISTA	10	KYLIE	FORYTEK	12
COLIN	LERUM	10	WYATT	GRUNDMEIER	12
Jeannette	Lozano	10	COLIN	NELSON	12
TRENTON	Swenson	10	RACHEL	PETERSON	12
LINNEA	BYERS-SUNDE	11	ZACHARY	PILLER	12
JONATHAN	HERRON	11	MARNIE	REESE	12
AYREN	INGVALSON	11	ELLY	STRUNK	12
RACHEL	PIRKL	11	COURTNEY	WOBSCHALL	12

A- honor roll

Ethan	Ehlers	7	GABRIEL	HAGEN	9
Isabella	Heiber	7	GEMINI	JOHNSON	9
Colin	Jordison	7	Adam	Larson	9
DAVID	KARTES	7	MAYA	LEMBKE	9
PARKER	KUBICEK	7	Hazel	Michaud	9
EMILY	MILLER	7	MATTHEW	PRYOR	9
GUSTAO	OGREN	7	MARTI	SNIDER	9
Xavier	Rennie	7	VIRIDIANA	VILLARREAL	9
SAMUEL	SKILLESTAD	7	JAYDE	WACEK	9
ISABELLE	SUNDE	7	JULIA	WORKE	9
CARSON	WACEK	7	WILLIAM	CARDENAS	10
MAREN	FORYTEK	8	COLTON	IVERS	10
CHARLIE	HEIMERMAN	8	Micah	White	10
LUKE	LARKOSKI	8	TIMOTHY	WOLF	10
MACKENZIE	MADSEN	8	KATHRYN	BORCHERT	11
Rose	Michaud	8	MCKENNA	HEIN	11
JOSEPH	PIRKL	8	JERRIN	JAX	11
GRETCHEN	SUNDE	8	MAXWELL	ROMEO	11
KIYA	THOMPSON	8	SAMANTHA	WURST	11
RACHEL	THOMPSON	8	LAURA	GRANT	12
WYATT	VOSS	8	LEAH	INWARDS	12
Isabella	White	8	SASHA	KATZUNG	12
Kisha	Aquino	9	HAILEY	NAATZ	12
RIAUNA	BISHOP	9	TAYLOR	PETERSON	12

B honor roll

ABIGAIL	ALDRICH	7	Samuel	Fennell	9
Lindsey	Baltazar	7	CHASE	PETERSON	9
CARSON	BRENNECKE	7	KADEN	THOMAS	9
Jaydon	Brown	7	KARSON	VIGELAND	9
GARRET	FARR	7	Jillian	Wigham	9
PAYTON	FRISTEDT	7	MCKENZIE	JENSEN	10
PIPER	LUND	7	JACK	ABBE	11
ALIVIA	SCHNEIDER	7	KYLE	BRAMSTEDT	11
BRENNAN	TAPP	7	EMMA	CHRISTIANSON	11
ADAM	WALSH	7	KYLER	CHRISTIANSON	11
ABBY	BRAATEN	8	THOMAS	ERICKSON	11
Thomas	Donnelly	8	JACOB	GWILT	11
MITCHELL	FIEBIGER	8	JAKE	RESSLER	11
ETHAN	GRANT	8	BRADLEY	STASKA	11
BRIANNA	HENSURD	8	JASMINE	ANDERSON	12
Brian	Jimenez	8	BRIA	BALDWIN	12
DYLAN	JOHNSON	8	THOMAS	BURKE	12
Grace	Magnuson	8	LUKE	DE LA CRUZ	12
ALEXANDER	MILLER	8	KAYLEIGH	DOUGLASS	12
Maggy	Motl	8	NATHANIEL	ERICKSON	12
CHRISTOPHER	NAATZ	8	Richard	Feeney	12
JACOB	NAATZ	8	ZACHARY	SISLER	12
HALLE	STRUNK	8	BENJAMIN	SMITH	12

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From The Heart Run / Walk

“I’m very fortunate to have a very loving family through this and I couldn’t have done it without them.”
-Matt Ratzloff



The Ratzloff family from Owatonna, banding around Matt Ratzloff who is currently battling leukemia and is set to undergo a stem cell/bone marrow transplant. From left: Joshua, Sami, Matt, Maya, Jeff, Kelly and Ben. Ratzloff and his family all participated in the From The Heart Run/Walk last Saturday at Lake Kohlmiere.

The lions of Owatonna

Cancer has no mercy. It has no dignity. It has no preference as to age, race, nationality or religious persuasion. It’s deceptive, tireless, has an insatiable work ethic and it’s persistent. To defeat it, one must possess not only the heart of a lion, but also must have a pride of lions surrounding. And even then, to underestimate it, would be foolish.

The battle for a life is one of the most intense wars that a person, a family and a community can fight. Cancer is relentless. There lives a young man in Owatonna with the heart of a lion and a family with a devastating roar. At first glance, cancer may not fear them, but it should. This family does not know how to run from a conflict and they do NOT know how to give up.

Matt Ratzloff, 21 years old, a 2013 OHS graduate and a recent graduate of Winona State University was diagnosed with mono Jan. 12, 2017. By the end of that month the mask came off the actual disease and this young man was toe to toe with leukemia.

The illness which had cloaked itself in mono and pneumonia, finally made a desperate attempt to take Ratzloff out before the truth came forth. In the Owatonna urgent care, his fever spiked to 107 which puts most human beings somewhere between life and death.

While in ICU, the morning of Jan. 26, the correct diagnosis was finally revealed. “Jeff and I weren’t even there,” Kelly Ratzloff, Matt’s mom spoke through tears. “We had gone home to get some clothes and my mom called and said we needed to get back there right away, and so we did.”

Jeff and Kelly Ratzloff walked into the room to the diagnosis while their son lay almost comatose in a deteriorating condition. Still, now four months later, they find it hard to be away from their son for any period of time.

As the doctor came in and the news came forth, Kelly said, “I just put my hands over my face and I thought I was going to pass out and wasn’t sure if I was going to get sick.”

Shortly thereafter the ambulance arrived and they had decided to take him to Rochester. “The ambulance passed us on (highway) 14,” she said. “That was a difficult moment too, because we could see Matt in the ambulance and he was so sick.” Jeff Ratzloff a seargent with the Bloomington Police Department said while wiping tears from his eyes, “I’ll be honest. I can still picture it in my head. I looked at him and I saw fear and I saw shock there, but I knew that as a parent, you need to be the strong one at that point, that’s your kid.”

He looked at his wife in that moment and told her that they needed to be strong for him. He also vowed from that point on that it was time to think positive. From the side effects from the chemo to the obstacles in the testing, the family has had plenty of chances to question and complain and give up, but they

have not.

“It’s been quite a journey since January already,” Jeff said. “but to be able to sit here and see how well he’s doing, it’s just phenomenal.”

The road trip to Rochester that day was described by both Jeff and Kelly as quiet. They were not only trying to process the new diagnosis, but were already making plans as to their next steps. Matt, as sick as he was, managed to tell his mom to call his girlfriend, Sami Leininger, who is currently a student at Winona State.

“I don’t like to remember the ride to Rochester,” Kelly said. “I can remember getting there and just begging and pleading for this to be me.” Do not get between a lioness and her cub.

There is a well-known quote that says, “The hardest part of being a parent is that you can’t stop the world from hurting your child. You can only be there to ease the pain.”

When they had finally made it to Rochester and got to Matt’s room, there was already a team of doctors surrounding his bed and it made the family begin to feel some relief as the team assigned to Matt was efficient, they had a plan in place and they began to execute the plan.

“I knew,” Jeff said, “that we were in the right place at the right time. I kept thinking that this was the place to be to make him better.”

Even at Rochester Methodist with all the medical attention, nobody had yet given a positive confirmation as to the diagnosis of leukemia. More testing and a biopsy had finally confirmed within 48 hours that it, in fact, was Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

“When I found out Matt’s subtype (of leukemia), it came back as a 5,” Kelly said. “That was Matt’s number. He was a ‘5’ in every sport he’s played in. Subtypes don’t mean anything to us, but that number just stood out to us.”

Matt’s older brother, Joshua began to speak about how and when he heard the news. At first, he broke down and could hardly speak, but as he recovered, he said, “It doesn’t all really set in until you’re there, and you see everyone and you realize... it’s real. It all happened so quick.”

Joshua who at the time was interviewing for a new position at the company he works for, took a week off to be with his brother and make a life-changing choice that a promotion wasn’t as important as his little brother. Another young lion backing up the roar.

In a role model to other siblings who may be facing this, Joshua offers this advice, “You can’t let your emotions or the emotions of others get in the way of the one who’s in trouble. Everyone has to band together and be there for each other.”

Matt’s little sister, Maya, who is in the eighth grade spoke up loudly as Kelly was describing Matt as the strong one who always ate right and exercised fiercely. “He’s ripped,” Maya said with admiration that made you know, without a doubt that

he was her hero. Even the little lions roar.

“When this happened, we all looked at each other and said, he’s the strongest of all of us. He’s up for challenges as we all have, but Matt takes it to a further extent,” Kelly said.

Little brother Ben was the one who thought it was an honor to be a runner at the hospital going for this and getting that, taking clothes back and forth for cleaning and seeing to Matt’s every need. And Sami who lived in the recliner beside his hospital bed and although not married, lived the vow of loving him in sickness and in health even when she didn’t have to. The roaring must have become intimidating to this sickness.

“I just graduated college in December,” Matt said. “In January I was planning on starting my police academy in Rochester because I graduated with a law enforcement degree. I thought I had strep throat at Christmas, but that test came back negative and like my mom said, we were back and forth to the urgent care six times.”

Within a month from the initial onset of the sickness to the end of January, the sickness progressed unchecked and it seemed as if his future of following in his dad’s footsteps were in jeopardy.

“My dad and I are super close,” Matt said. “He coached me in all my sports growing up and I followed in his footsteps. He instilled in me that you don’t stop fighting until a battle’s done which is kind of the mindset you have to have as a cop too, because in an instant you could be in a shootout for your life.

“So that has been my mindset throughout this whole cancer journey is don’t quit until I’m finally cured.”

Matt is fortunate to have the pride of Ratzloff (and Leininger) lions supporting him and cheering him on to victory which is what they did last Saturday at the For The Heart Run/Walk in Owatonna. Matt, lying in a bed in January walked the 5K with his entire family. The roar was deafening – especially when the group crossed that finish line.

“My whole family being there for me in just the simple things gets me through it,” Matt said. “From doing my laundry to simple texts to sitting up late watching TV. I’m very fortunate to have a very loving family through this and I couldn’t have done it without them. It’s been a journey, but hopefully we’re almost done.”

Matt still has quite a bit of this journey ahead of him with radiation therapy and a stem cell/bone marrow transplant on the schedule. There has been a donor accepted from Germany and Matt is eagerly anticipating a healthy recovery and then back to finish up at the police academy.

And of course, continuing to live in this fierce pride of lions, protecting their own and hungry for life.

The full video interview with the Ratzloff family can be found at <http://www.bloomingprairieonline.com/>



The Fenske family from left, Sam, John, Marcy and Jacob. Missing, son Peter who is in the process of becoming an Alaska State Trooper. A family of faith that have been brought closer by fighting cancer together.

“My dad died of cancer and I have friends that have, but you don’t think it’s going to be you that has it.”
-Marcy Jo Fenske

A daughter of the king

Two decades in Owatonna have provided Marcy Jo Fenske and her family with some precious memories. Along with those came some stiff challenges. None more intimidating than the most recent in which they had to come face to face with a giant who is notorious for creating funeral processions.

Cancer. A monster that plays no favorites in who it attacks, and due to its reputation, most won’t even speak its name for fear of summoning it. There is one common statement that ultimately occurs each time the disease comes out of nowhere and rears its ugly head.

“You don’t think it’s ever going to be you,” Fenske said, “My dad died of cancer and I have friends that have, but you don’t think it’s going to be you that has it. But I will say that I have a strong faith and I’ve told people that I’m a woman of faith and a daughter of the King who promises me to walk with me through this whole thing.”

This “whole thing” began in July 2016. Also enlisted to walk with her through the ordeal was her family. Faith and family are the foundations of the Fenskes. Both were to be tested beyond measure.

Fenske’s husband, John was in Alaska to visit their middle son, Peter (23) who resides in Kenai. The other two boys, Jacob (24) and Sam (21) were about to fly north to join them for a week of fishing. A few days before she had to drive the boys to the airport, she detected a lump in her breast.

Although she hadn’t received any confirmation as to the seriousness of its presence, she was quietly concerned. After she took care of her family, kissed them goodbye and sent them off so they could enjoy a week of fishing, it was then that she called the doctor and scheduled an appointment.

Classic Marcy Jo Fenske. Concerned with making sure her family was taken care of before she had to take care of business. Not wanting to alarm them or taint the father/son bonding that was taking place. Little did they know; it was a bonding that was needed for the boys to recharge their batteries as the lights back home were just about to go dark.

“I went to Rochester right away to get a mammogram and an ultrasound,” she said. “They

actually took a biopsy at the same time. I waited four days for the results and after work I went to get a pedicure to take my mind off things and it was there that I got a call from the local doctor. I found out that what indeed they biopsied was cancer.”

They knew nothing else at the time.

The boys were fishing. For four days she waited and hoped and prayed. Something inside was preparing her during that time alone with the Lord. Making her ready to face the biggest challenge of her life in that it concerned her very life.

After the doctor had hung up, there was an awareness that the battle was already raging inside. Not wanting to call her family and take away their time together, she felt that there had to be a better timing to tell them.

“I called a very dear friend on my way home,” she said with tears, knowing that there were times to face things alone, but this was not one of those times. “She came over to my house because I crying and wasn’t able to talk. She came in and I told her. She prayed with me and stayed with me the next five hours.”

Following the news, there were more tests and the official diagnosis that she had stage three Invasive Ductal Carcinoma and had spread to the lymph nodes and was heading toward the collar bone.

“I felt that my whole life was just at a standstill,” she said. “I know that I put my trust in Him (God) and He takes me through this and at times He’s had to carry me through. It’s the faith community and the prayers that have for not just me, but our whole family gotten us through.”

Though she had prayer and she knew that God was with her, she admitted that her mind wanted to go to the worst-case scenario. Her faith caused her to embrace her spirituality even though her mind wanted her to embrace her humanity. On our best days in the battle, the enemy still can appear larger than life.

The task at hand and the time came when she had to find that right moment to tell her family. John was first.

“I was pretty surprised,” he said. “My first thought when she first said that we had to talk was, ‘Are you leaving me?’ I thought that maybe she had enough of

me, and then she said, no it’s not that, and I need you.”

A numbness set into his heart and his body as an anesthetic to try to calm the brutality of the moment. He says that he just didn’t know how to process it on the heels of a long trip mixed with the serious nature of the battle itself. This trip had been the longest that the couple had ever been apart.

“We prayed together,” he said. And then he admitted that he had so many questions and didn’t have a definite path going forward. She stepped into his answer and said with a smile on her face, “I had a plan how we needed to proceed.”

Crisis always brings change. Change of heart, change of perspective, change of plans. And through the changes, things grow in all of us. This biggest change, perhaps is the respect for the days given and the time allotted.

“I don’t take a day for granted,” she said. “Every day I get up, I thank God that I have air in my lungs and I say, ‘Thank you God for giving me another day.’ None of us is promised tomorrow.”

And so the Fenske family is learning to live in the moment of today.

The surgery came rather quickly for the family and while the daughter of the King was under the knife, the men of faith took over and prayed and spoke life into her ravaged body. Before it was all said and done, she had undergone a bilateral mastectomy and they also took 23 lymph nodes.

An interesting and most likely miraculous fact about the nodes was that, when they examined them, there was an evidence that cancer “was” there at one time, but had been eradicated, leaving only a shell of evidence that it once existed. At times God leaves footprints of where He’s been and fingerprints of what He’s done

2017 is a year when this family will pray her through reconstruction surgery. There is now, the normal recurring three-month check for any reoccurring cancer, but at this point, the giant has fallen and although the battle was fierce and the sacrifice was great, she has been declared cancer free.

“Our community, people we know and people we don’t know,” she said “It’s overwhelming, the support and we need to pay if forward now too. I’ve been a part of From the Heart from the beginning, on the other side of the table, handing out bags as a volunteer. They are very supportive and although honored, we never felt worthy.”

Going forward, the family looks to continue to make a difference in the Owatonna community and most likely you will see Marcy Jo Fenske again next year returning to the other side of the table where she will again take the role of a volunteer and cheering on next year’s honorees who at this moment may be entering into their battle.

A family of faith, hope and love. The emphasis being on the greatest of these.

The full video interview with the Fenske family can be found at <http://www.bloomingprairieonline.com/>



Marcy Jo Fenske who has battled cancer within the last year was one of From The Heart’s honored recipients for this year’s event. Shown congratulating Bryce Knutson who had won a second place finish in his division.

Stories and photos by Mark DeLap

Superman

“The oncologist and urologist who came in kept saying, we just want to prolong his life,” she said. “We were like, what do you mean prolong his life?”
-Niki Larson

“From the heart shows us we are not alone,” said Nick Larson and as most good couples do, his wife Niki completed his sentence. “Hearing the other people’s stories and struggles and knowing we are not the only ones going through this,” she said. “And the outpouring of support from the Owatonna community is amazing.”

The ninth annual “From The Heart Run/Walk” is officially in the history books, but the families that were honored this past weekend continue to run their marathons. They are weary and beaten down from the battle, but they are still running their race.

“I had gotten a phone call from Beth Svenby, who is the creator of the event,” Niki Larson said. “We had always heard about the event and our kids would come home from school with information about it. We bought T-shirts in the past, although we had never participated in the race.”

When Niki responded to a voicemail left by Svenby, she found out that Nick was one of four local people fighting cancer, nominated to be honored by “From The Heart.”

“At that point, I didn’t know how the process worked or that we were even nominated,” said Niki.

Later that week, Svenby actually met with the Larsons at their kitchen table and after hearing about the nomination, they still didn’t know if it was something they wanted to do.

“Nick’s a very private person,” she said. “At first he said, ‘absolutely not, I don’t want to do it.’”

At the “Svenby summit,” Niki said that they were just going to listen to what she was proposing, but had pretty much figured that Nick was going to say “no.”

“I was OK with whatever he decided,” she said.

“I didn’t want any recognition for something I’m not proud of,” Nick added.

“After talking with Beth for about an hour and hearing her whole story,” Niki said, “Nick said he’d have to think about it.” The Larsons commented that Svenby confided in them that Nick was her hardest sell and she had never had to sell it that hard to anyone else before him.

But then again, he was “Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!” At least, that’s what his family thinks of him and most others who have ever crossed his path.

“My dad is Superman,” said the Larson’s youngest daughter Ellie. He is a quiet, unsung hero who has

always outrun adversity, was powerful enough to tackle any job given him and had the ability to leap through life carrying his family on his shoulders and anyone else that needed help.

Until a cancerous Kryptonite came and withstood him.

“The thing that got us was when Beth said, ‘somebody bigger than any of us understands put me here at your kitchen table today.’” Niki said with tears. “She said some stuff that we needed to hear.”

“That was the hard part, I guess (asking for help),” said Nick. “cause I normally just do it on my own, and don’t want help, but it’s nice to see your family and friends support you. It’s what you need.”

As Nick accepted the help and the responsibility, somewhere deep inside he knew that as a chosen warrior for From The Heart, he would be a support and an encouragement to all those who would come after him. With his journey, he would lead many other embattled souls upon his back and take them through the grueling process with his “never give up” attitude.

Some would call it the ultimate sacrifice of laying down everything including his own conceptions on help for those he has yet to meet. For others like Ellie, he’s just... Superman.

2015. Ten days before Christmas. A pain almost leveled Nick Larson. It was serious enough that he left the jobsite where he was pouring concrete in Mankato and began driving to the Owatonna emergency room. Apprehensive about letting him drive himself, Niki Larson felt a dark intuition in her spirit.

Nick isn’t a man who enlists help. Especially in driving himself to a hospital. His family sees him as a superhero because of his nature to work alone to get things done and because he does – get things done with his tremendous body strength, his mental attitude and his heart to go that extra mile to bless others.

But this giant of a man was in trouble that day and Niki tracked him on her iPhone to make sure he arrived safely. Something in his tone registered alarms in the heart of his wife.

He called when he arrived at the Owatonna ER to let her know that he had made it safely.

Normally that would have been sufficient, knowing her husband, but she hadn’t heard from him, and that inner voice spoke loud and clear, admonishing her to go to the hospital to find out what was going on. Her timing was spot on as she got there 10 minutes before the doctor came in and

met with them.

It wasn’t the Christmas present they had anticipated.

“I’ve got bad news,” the doctor said. “You have what we call renal cell carcinoma. You have a huge mass on your kidney and we need to take you over to Rochester by ambulance right now.”

A doctor telling you there is bad news is one thing, but those in southeast Minnesota know that an ambulance ride to Rochester is quite serious.

“We both kind of just looked at each other,” she said.

As Niki was speaking, Nick was already finishing her sentence. Again. “At that point we weren’t clear on exactly what it was. It was more shocking when we got to Rochester and the next day, and they finally told us what it was.”

It’s gut-wrenching when you hear it from the doctor, but Niki then took another step into the darkness and called her employer and told them that she wouldn’t be able to come in that week because “Nick has cancer.” Those words, published from your own lips the first time, brings a sinking and terrifying confirmation that the reality of being drafted into this war is set in stone.

And the battle began.

Within 15 minutes, the ambulance was there, taking her husband away. A kryptonite that put that big man down. And in moments, he was gone.

It’s hard to explain what the moments are like to someone who is left behind. Suddenly the agendas change. The schedule written on the calendar in the family kitchen is literally tossed aside and her mind scrambled to organize, strategize and recover from the reeling blow of this ill-fated, cruel storm.

Once in Rochester, there were a lot of tests and what Niki described as “a whole lot of waiting.”

“We sat around and waited and waited,” she said. “The doctor came in at about 2:00 in the morning.”

Of the three scenarios given to the family before the testing began, the doctor told them that it was the worst-case scenario. Although they didn’t give the exact progression or stage of the cancer, they found out that it was, in fact, kidney cancer. Tucked away in the quiet, early morning hours, they couldn’t speak. It started to sink in that a long winter conflict was upon them.

“The oncologist and urologist who came in kept saying, we just want to prolong his life,” she said. “We were like, what do you mean prolong his life?” As the winter equinox was



Nick Larson who is fighting lung cancer is called “Superman” by his family. Shown from left to right is Braydn, Kiya, Niki, Ellie and Nick Larson.

focused on stealing light from another December day, a chill had settled into their souls, intent on stealing years.

The doctors didn’t divulge much information in those early morning hours and left the young couple to face the morning surgery. The surgery itself took six hours and they removed his right kidney, his right adrenal gland, and 17 lymph nodes that they thought looked suspicious.

“The lymph nodes all came back clean,” she said. “They were perfectly fine. The adrenal gland came back clean, but the tumor itself was 12 x 12 x 12 centimeters. When the doctors came in to speak to us, they said that he had some suspicious spots on his lungs.”

The surgery was followed by eight weeks of monitoring the lungs, hoping that the elimination of the main cancer source would be enough to enable the body to fight and eradicate the smaller cancerous spots. By the end of February, the family decided to take some time to relax and vacation, taking the kids and Nick’s parents to visit his grandparents in Arizona.

While out west, Nick developed some abdominal spasms that progressed in intensity and after the second day of the spasms, he began to develop some depth perception problems.

The next morning after returning from a trip to the Grand Canyon, the symptoms turned into a nightmare. “About 7:00 in the morning I woke up to him screaming my name,” she said, “and he began having a seizure.”

Another ambulance. Again, Superman was in peril. He had a grand mal seizure and in an instant, didn’t even recognize his wife when he came out of it. The ambulance ride was a half-hour to Mayo in Phoenix. As the ambulance was pulling up to the emergency entrance, he began having another seizure.

“They did a CT scan,” she said, “and we found out that he had a one centimeter tumor on his brain.”

“It was on the left side of the brain,” Nick said. “It controlled the right side of my body.”

The medical staff then put him on seizure medication and a high dose of steroids to reduce the swelling in his brain. The seizures didn’t not return while on the trip and Nick commented that he went out and golfed the next day. With a 3-wood in his hand and a big smile on his face, that big “S” was shining brightly on his chest in the Arizona sun as he conquered another foe.

Gotham City, for the time being was safe from harm.

In the hospital one night and on the golf course the next day. “Why not,” said Nick with his patented wry smile.

Of the options for removal of the tumor on his brain, they got back to Minnesota and he underwent a treatment called the Gamma Knife which is an alternative to traditional brain surgery. He was put into a “halo” to hold his head steady and then he was dosed with a high-powered chemo laser. The tumor was “zapped” as Nick recalled the ordeal.

Going forward, the doctors have tried three different medications and procedures to eradicate the cancer in the lungs, but to no avail. Last Thursday the family found out that the third medication, Votrient, has not been effective and the tumors have continued to grow. Other options are now being considered.

The battle continues.

Nick claims that he is doing OK, but Niki says that he is in denial. “His body is a lot weaker than it used to be,” she said, to which Nick made a quick comeback and said, “I’ll be in denial forever.”

Somewhere in the background, his daughter, Ellie blurts out proudly, “He’s our Superman.”

The positivity of a 10-year old who will never stop believing is echoed by the Larson’s other two children, Braydn, 16 and Kiya, 11.

Obstacle after obstacle this man and his family have faced together.

“It’s shocking at first,” Nick said. “You just have to stay positive and adopt the cliché one day at a time, but yeah, everybody is different and no case is the same. I try not to think about

it, but then I look in the mirror and my hair is white.”

To others that may be facing this or a similar battle, Nick Larson offers some wisdom as a man who has faced every battle with courage and tenacity and the mindset of a real-life superhero. “There’s always one more day,” he said. “I would never give up. Look at all the good stories out there and don’t listen to the bad ones.

“At first I did a lot of research and that is the worst thing I could ever do. You see odds, but just because the book says this, it doesn’t mean it’s going to happen.”

Niki adds, “I had to ban him from the internet.” Nick smiles, knowing only a wife has carte blanche to suppress some of his super powers.

It’s normal to want to understand and to try to figure out where you are and how to get through it, but the negativity of much of the information out there can be devastating. The Larsons have dug in as a family, staying positive and they have not given up on their superhero dad.

And Nick, in spite of still facing the monster, retains his sense of humor in the midst of it. The Larsons have been married for over 17 years and they both admit that this new normal has changed them, matured them and caused them to be more conscious of each other.

“It was an easy transition for us,” Nick said with a smile. “She was always my care giver anyways.”

Niki said, “Our lives were moving at such a fast pace that you take things for granted. This has kind of forced us to slow down even though our life is nothing but slow. We appreciate the little things more.”

From The Heart needs a champion to step up from this year’s class. One success story that will boast the miracle as a victory over cancer and hope for all others. “One?” Nick asked. “How about four?”

Nick concluded with a statement toward a very persistent enemy as he proclaims with his quiet confidence and determination, “I’ll never give up.”

Fighting to live and teaching strength

“I said, Di, I don’t want to die.”
-Terri Grose

The sweltering and bipolar late summer weather patterns in Minnesota took a soggy turn during the Steele County Fair last August. On that Thursday night, the skies began to quickly reveal ominous clouds and brought rains that were so torrential that it left a river of water flowing through the fairgrounds and sent people scattering for cover.

The next day, clouds had gathered and another dark storm was on the personal horizon for St. Mary’s physical education teacher, Terri Grose.

“In my abdomen area, I was feeling off,” said Grose. “I was feeling like I was eight months pregnant.”

Her stomach area had become distended and she had not been able to eat or drink very much. When she would walk, her stomach would hurt. She decided to consult with her family physician and friend, Dr. Diane Wallner.

With an initial meeting, it was thought perhaps that there was a gall bladder problem and Wallner ordered an ultra sound. Grose was then called into the office and informed that it was not a gall bladder problem, and was, in fact, very serious.

“I can remember it like it was yesterday,” Grose said. “Aug. 19, 2016, I had seen my family doctor, Diane Wallner, and she was ordering blood tests and a CT-scan.”

It didn’t take long for Wallner to get the results, but sharing those results with a good friend took some thought. Laying a solid foundation for receiving news of this kind, Wallner decided to call Jodi Callister who has

been with Grose for 22 years. The doctor was creating a support system before delivering the catastrophic news to Grose.

Terri Grose is an Owatonna girl, born and bred. She left Minnesota only briefly to attend and graduate from The University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. She did her student teaching for six months at Rochester and then back home to Owatonna where she replanted herself and found a job teaching at St. Mary’s. She held that position as a physical education teacher for 37 years.

She is all about home; all about stability and all about family. As a physical education teacher, she is tough as nails, but the news that was forthcoming would alter everything she had learned about life.

Callister, who received the initial call, said, “I was leaving work and noticed that Diane (Wallner) had called my cellphone. She doesn’t just call me out of the blue for anything, so I called her back and that’s when she told me that Terri had ovarian cancer.”

Through her tears, Wallner delivered the message to Callister and they both knew that the one they loved was going to have to be the next to know.

“I said, what is it,” Callister recounted. “And she said, ‘It’s bad.’ I asked, ‘how bad?’ And she said, ‘It’s the worst.’”

Wallner then informed Callister that the prognosis was two more years of life. “I said, OK, so you’re saying that in two years, I’m going to lose her,” Callister said. “Yes, she said.

“It’s so surreal that you don’t have

time to process it.”

The doctor hung up and sitting there in the car, Callister was left in a quagmire of thoughts and fears. She was numb and paralyzed as to making a move or contemplating a next step.

The ringing of her cellphone broke through the silence and she received a call back from another doctor who said that the cancer was stage C-3 rather than stage four which was initially diagnosed. The doctor also said that there have been a lot of advancements over the last few years. The clouds parted momentarily as the new prognosis offered a ray of hope.

Callister asked Wallner to be the one to tell Grose about the results and assured her that she would be there for support after the punch had landed.

“Diane then called me,” Grose said. “She said, I have your results back and then she said, ‘you have ovarian cancer.’”

“I said, ‘no’ and she said, ‘you do,’ and we both were crying. I said, Di, I don’t want to die. She said, ‘you’re not going to.’ That was pretty much it. And Jodi came into the doorway and I said, ‘I have cancer,’ and she said (in a broken whisper), ‘I know.’”

The women then faced this challenge head on as they had many others in the past 22 years. They discussed the diagnosis and then began the battle plan and the next steps that were needed to conquer the cancer. The questions still lingered as to how far advanced the cancer was, and the fear was an ever-present nemesis as to whether it was treatable.

“I have five sisters,” said Grose. “After my mom died, I was kind of the glue that held the family together, and so I had the fear of not makin’ it.”

Grose, even in contemplating

her own situation, put the feelings and needs of everyone else above her own. She was more worried for everyone around her and how they would handle it.

The progression of the steps to healing began quickly as surgery was planned for Aug. 29. The surgeon who consulted with both Grose and Callister explained that he would determine during surgery, if he would be able to get 99.9 percent of the cancer, the operation would continue as planned. If they were not able to get that much of it, they would then suspend the procedure and begin chemo treatments. Surgery would then be set for a later date.

The surgeon was able to successfully complete the surgery that day and he did a complete D&C. One of the tumors taken was the size of a softball. Callister explained that during the nine-hour surgery, they additionally took Grose’s spleen, her appendix, a foot of her colon, her omentum, a portion of her stomach, a few layers of diaphragm, and six of the 33 lymph nodes.

Further complications had arisen after surgery where Grose’s blood was not clotting and the journey became very dark and critical as they almost lost her there in ICU. Between 10:30 p.m. and 4 a.m. she had received 22 units of blood product by way of multiple transfusions.

A day after surgery and Grose was beginning to stabilize.

The doctor deemed the surgery a success and four weeks later, Grose began chemo treatments. On her follow-up after final chemo in February she was declared “cancer free.”

Grose and Callister have set a goal to walk together as survivors at next

years From The Heart Run/Walk.

They explained that they were overwhelmed with the events of last Saturday’s race/walk and were so thankful for the outpouring of support of the people and the organization.

“They are an inspiration,” Grose said. “They are just a wonderful group of people. I was honored that I was selected and chosen as one of the recipients for From The Heart. It’s an honor to know that the committee is backing you and helping you. I’m speechless.”

Coming to the end of this chapter, Grose reflected on the experience. “You’d never think that this journey would do so much for you,” she said. “You learn a lot of patience, you learn a lot of understanding, and you can never take for granted the caring. And

you learn to take one day at a time.”

Many have spouted that cliché while healthy, but it was in the adversity that Grose has learned to live in that moment as she offers advice for those facing similar battles.

“You take life for granted and you have to quit doing that,” she said. “Taking one day at a time, and us four (From The Heart honorees) this year, we’ll make it. Just be positive and strong and take advantage of all the support.”

And just perhaps, St. Mary’s needs to keep that physical education job open just a bit longer as Terri Grose is beating the odds.

The full video interview with Terri Grose and Jodi Callister can be found at <http://www.bloomingprairieonline.com/>



Jodi Callister and Terri Grose are amazed at the overwhelming support that they witnessed firsthand at the ninth Annual From The Heart Run/Walk held last Saturday at Lake Kohlmier in Owatonna.

HometownLiving Community Calendar

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

May 9th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shepard Lutheran Church

May 10th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

May 11th:
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

May 15th:
1pm -1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
7pm - 8pm Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City Hall

May 16th:
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, Council Chambers, City Hall

May 17th:
4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

Parks & Recreation
"Your Best Investment"
City of Owatonna

FREE Event!

UNPLUG & PLAY

PARTY In the PARK

Saturday, May 20
11:00am—1:00pm
Manthey Park

Bounce House

Nature Hunt BINGO

Pickleball Demonstrations

Papa Murphy's Pizza

Kona Ice

May 20th is National Kids to Park Day and we're celebrating with a PARTY in the PARK! Enjoy FREE activities in Manthey Park - take your turn in the bounce house, play Nature Hunt BINGO and learn how to play Pickleball! Fill up for lunch with Papa Murphy's Pizza and Kona Ice (normal rates for pizza & Kona Ice). Come and celebrate with us!

Event Spotlight: Geneva Meatball Dinner

The Community Lutheran Church of Geneva on Sunday, May 21 will be celebrating 15 years of serving what it calls the best meatballs around.

The meatball dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Community Lutheran Church in Geneva.

A freewill offering is asked. Worship is at 10 a.m.

The menu includes meatballs, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn, coleslaw, rolls, pie (dessert) and a beverage.

Quilt raffle tickets will be available at the door for \$1 each. Jan Bartsch of Geneva made the quilt.

Event Spotlight: Rice County Historical Society Flea Market

The Rice County Historical Society will be hosting its Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 8:00 am-2:00 pm, rain or shine.

Flea Market vendors will bring a great variety of items to shop for including; antiques, collectibles, crafts, glassware, kitchen appliances, wood benches, and more.

The Rice County Historical Society would like to invite vendors of any experience level to sell at the Spring 2017 Flea Market. Spots available are 10'x20' stalls and can be reserved for \$20 prior to the day of the event. If there are any spaces remaining, they will be available for \$25 on the day of the event. Vendors will be able to set up starting at 5:30am.

The Flea Market will be in the Museum's front parking lot as well as behind the RCHS Museum of History, at 1814 NW 2nd Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021.

The RCHS will have bottled water and coffee available for purchase. The RCHS Museum of History will be open to the public during the Flea Market free of charge. There is free parking available for the event.

Please contact the Rice County Historical Society at (507) 332-2121 with any questions.

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

MAY 9: WINE TASTING "GALA"
(BENEFITTING 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

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

May 9th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

May 11th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

May 15th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

May 16th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
Tue May 16, 2017 - Wed May 17, 2017
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

HAPPENING NOW

BP Elementary 4th, 5th, 6th graders present spring concert



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Elementary School fourth, fifth and sixth graders presented an All American Spring Concert on Friday, May 5 at the elementary school.

A packed gymnasium was on hand for the choir and band concert. Directors were Kari Bottin, Kristen Reeder and Ross Reishus.

The fifth and sixth grade choir performed three numbers: "Catch a Falling Star," "Clever Chameleon" and "Pocahontas."

The fifth and sixth grade band numbering 39 performers presented "March of the Cyclops," "Anasazi," "Dragons of Komodo" and "Liturgical Fanfare."

The fourth grade choir presented an American Music medley, "Green Sally Up & Juba," "Follow the Drinking Gourd" and "Spiritual Rondo."

Fifth grade choir members performed "Sandcastles" and "Down by the Riverside."

Last on the program were sixth graders who performed "Siyahambua," "Seize the Day," "How Far I'll Go," and "Play Ball!"

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Howard Lestrud

District 24A Rep. John Petersburg wore two hats last year, one as a legislator and another as a Lutheran delegate to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly in Rochester. Petersburg shows off a plaque he received for serving as Synod treasurer for six years.

Dr. Deborah Lien

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

May 9th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

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

May 16th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg

May 17th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Event Spotlight: Cancer benefit for Owatonna teacher

The benefit for Terri Grose will be held on May 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Owatonna. There will be a spaghetti feed from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. as well as a silent auction.

Grose has been fighting ovarian cancer since last August. She underwent extensive surgery to remove as much cancer as possible. After surgery she went through 18 weeks of chemotherapy, including a week stay in the hospital.

For 37 years she has taught physical education at St. Mary's School in Owatonna. She does not have disability insurance and has been without pay since her sick days ran out.

Organizers hope people will support Grose to pay her medical bills and living expenses after she has given so much to the community.

Tickets are available at KC Hall, St. Mary's School, Kottke Jewelers and committee members. They will also be available at the door. Tickets are \$8.

Folks interested in making donations for the silent auction should contact Jodi Callister at 507-456-6833 or Donna Nelson at 507-456-3826.

Event Spotlight:

2017 Visit Owatonna Tourism Awards Luncheon

The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism will be holding the 2017 Visit Owatonna Tourism Awards Luncheon on May 11 at the Steele County History Center.

Six local individuals who have provided outstanding service in the Owatonna tourism industry will be recognized.

When visitors come to Owatonna they spend time at our attractions, restaurants, lodging, retail and events. Whether through direct customer service or behind-the-scenes organizing and management, there are countless tourism partners who work hard to ensure visitors have a positive experience in Owatonna.

The following outstanding individuals will be presented with awards for their dedication to Owatonna tourism:

Attraction: Jerry Ganfield, Steele County Historical Society

Customer Service: Vicki Lysne, Comfort Inn

Events: James "Corky" Ebeling, Owatonna Parks and Recreation

Lodging: Jack Spitzack, Baymont Inn & Suites – Owatonna

Restaurant: Nancy Morness, The Kernel Restaurant

Retail: Tom Brick, Owatonna Shoe

The luncheon will be held on Thursday May 11 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Steele County Historical Center. To attend this event, please RSVP to Katie Godfrey at kgodfrey@owatonna.org or 507-451-7970 by May 2. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Event Spotlight:

“What are we facing in the Middle East in the next four years?”

Speaker JoAnn Magnuson, an evangelical Christian on building Jewish-Christian relations

Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Owatonna VFW Hall, 135 Oakdale

FREE OF CHARGE

•Why do we need to keep a relationship with the only democracy in the Middle East?

•What role does the Middle East play in a Trump White House?

•Why is it important for someone in Steele County to pay attention to something that seems so far away?

JoAnne is an excellent speaker and has led 67 tours to Israel since 1977.

I know you will come away with new appreciation for Israel! Hope to see you there.

Sponsored by Steele County Republican Party



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ELLENDALE: from page 1B

He said it is important for community foundations to find local, ambitious people to serve on a board of directors. These people identify the needs of a community, whether they be

Showing happiness with the turnout and with Penny's message, board member



“He came across as a very

The Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE) is a local non-profit organization whose

MENTAL: from page 1B

Editor's Note: Carolyn Wheeler is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, and Executive Director at South Central Human Relations Center.

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This Memorial Day, let us pause and reflect.

In the May 24 edition of The Times, there will be a special tribute to relatives and friends that have passed away. You can place an "In Memoriam" ad in this special section for only \$10.

Choose from one of the following styles:

In loving memory of
John Smith
 who passed away
 March 3, 2004
 Sadly missed by
 Sally Smith

In Memoriam
John Smith
 who passed away
 eight years ago.
 Sadly missed by
 Sally Smith

Gone but not forgotten
John Smith
 who passed away
 March 3, 2004
 Dearly missed by
 your family

Include one of the symbols below.












In Memoriam
John Smith
 who passed away
 eight years ago.
 Sadly missed by
 Sally Smith

Actual Ad Size

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Name of person(s) dedicating _____

**Mail to P.O. Box 247 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
 or drop off by Thursday, May 18**

'Small Town, Big City'



Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck



Clockwise from upper left
1: On May 6, family and friends turned out in large numbers to watch the prom grand march in the Medford high school auditorium. Rachel Bluhm talks with hers afterwards.
2: Isabel Brady and Alex Gengler pose for photos outside the school with their families. After the grand march, students attending the prom dinner had 15 minutes to take photos and talk with their families before boarding the busses to The Wilds Golf Course in Prior Lake for the meal.
3: Jager Roehrick and Tye Devoe wait in white tuxedos as the students are lined up for grand march. They were one of two pairs of guys to walk together in grand march.
4: Many couples ended their promenade with a big finish. At the end of their walk, Trevor Spatenka pulled his date Shelby White in for a kiss.
5: Attendees to the Medford prom can walk the grand march in a variety of combinations. Dani Morgan, Amanda Litsheim, and Mikayla Spinler entered together before striking a Charlie's Angels pose.
6: Justice Roehrick and Spencer Peck, clad all in white, walked the promenade together, while pausing to make several goofy faces and gestures.
7: Outside the high school, Katla Michaelson and Tyler Stenzel stand together for photos. Once photos were done, it was onto the dinner and then the after prom at Spare Time Entertainment in Owatonna.
8: Rocking "Prom 2017" sunglasses, Skye Kirby and Ethan Spindler pose for pictures at the end of their promenade. They were two of 119 prom attendees this year.



Congratulations to Prom committee members Becca Edel, Amber Sobrack, Isabel Brady, Callie Nagel, and Rachel Bluhm for helping plan a successful 2017 prom!





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Softball: Strunk records career-high 17 in win, 2C



Huskies win fifth-straight, 4C

Corky's Softball Classic

C Section

www.steeledodgenews.com

Tuesday, May 9, 2017



Tournament results

Tier 1:

1. H. Auto/Resmondo/OA Apparel (FL)
2. WC Monsta (CA)...
3. T's 13/Monsta (NE)
4. Comatose (WI)

Tier 2:

1. Tryon Gym (SD)
- paid state berth
2. Elite Sports (IA)
- national berth/paid state berth
3. 3X Gear/The Box (ND)
- national berth
4. Red Stars (IA)
- T5. Jacks (MN)
- T5. Silverbacks (MN)

Tier 3 Owatonna Division:

1. Shameless/Budweiser (MN)
- paid state berth
2. Frank's Butchers (NE)
- national berth/paid state berth
3. Malecha Construction (MN)
- national berth
4. 63 Club (MN)
- T5: EAI (MN)
- T5: Coors Light (MN)

Tier 3: Faribault Division:

1. Outdoorsman (MN)
- national berth/paid state berth
2. WSSS (MO)
- national berth/paid state berth
3. Bat Shack (IL)
4. IHT (NE)
- T5. J&J Sports (IA)
- T5. Willie McCoy's (MN)

Hometown Tournament:

1. CWS - Faribault, MN
2. Ellingson Drainage - Owatonna, MN
3. Federated Insurance/IFACS/CarTime - Owatonna, MN

COED Tournament:

1. MN Softball (MN)
2. Hang Rite (IL)
3. Mahany Law (WI)

Playing for the future



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Corky's Tournament Director Loren Dietz (center) cuts the ribbon on diamond one to cap the dugout dedication ceremony Friday at the ballfields in Fairgrounds Park. The ceremony ended a four-year, \$54,000 project for the four diamonds in the park.

Corky's softball tournament helps fuel ballfield renovations

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Playing for the future.
It's exactly how it sounds.

For nearly 200 teams competing in Corky's 38th Annual Men's Softball Classic, berths to state and national tournaments are on the line for the winners.

However, for tournament director Loren Dietz and tournament founder James "Corky" Ebeling, the teams are playing for the future of Owatonna ball-

fields.

"Hopefully we can say in 20 years that we left a good legacy for the next generation," Dietz commented on Saturday.

Over the last seven years, funds that have been raised by Corky's tournament have gone into the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund and renovations for the ballfields that are filled with hundreds of player throughout the weekend and thousands through the entire summer. In

fact, Dietz noted that the fields that some of the country's top teams are playing on today, look drastically different than the previous year.

The first renovation was to the outfield fences, making them a 10-foot fence rather than the previous 6-foot they used to have. Compared to other fields across the country, the previous set up was 290 feet at the corners, making it a little shorter for some of the bigger players. With a 10-foot fence, players now

certainly have to earn the right to "touch them all."

"You'd be amazed at how much of a difference there is," added Dietz. "Balls go off the fence now instead of for home runs."

On Friday, another renovation was completed as the tournament director held a dedication on field one which was donned with new dugouts just prior to the start of the tournament. Dietz noted that it was a project that took nearly four years to com-

plete all four ballfields that are located on the fairgrounds and nearly a total cost of \$54,000.

Dietz also noted they made upgrades to the backstops and new fencing was put in along the sides of the fields mostly because the old fence that was there was uneven and could have been a potential safety hazard. With numerous ballfields being used in both Owatonna

RENOVATIONS

Continued on page 5C



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Jordan Selnes of Owatonna, plays a game of cornhole with a few of his teammates while waiting for thier next softball game inside the SMC tent at Corky's Early Bird on Saturday in

Cornhole for a cause

Bean-bag tournament debuts at Corky's Early Bird

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Every year, hundreds of softball players flood Owatonna to play in Corky's Annual Men's Softball Classic.

This year, however, there was a smaller tournament being played on the grounds of the fairgrounds ball parks that tournament director Loren Dietz noted may turn into an annual affair.

Always looking for ways to add new and exciting activities to the event, Dietz and other members of the tournament staff started asking teams for ideas. He noted that they were looking for ideas that would keep teams at the park and make them enjoy the tournament experience the most.

After receiving the replies, Dietz mentioned that they all wanted to have some sort of game. That's when the idea of a bean-bag tournament was presented.

Bean-bag, or corn hole as it's also been called, consist of two slanted boards roughly 15 to 20 feet apart with teammates on opposite sides of the boards. The object of the game is to throw the

three bags into the hole that is cut in the upper middle of the board. Dietz said that he had a contact that was able to deliver four sets of boards for the tournament.

After receiving the boards, he threw together a quick bracket and started to contact teams for interest.

That's when he knew they were onto something big.

He noted that within 10 minutes, 40 teams signed up for the tournament that Dietz noted was free of charge.

Due to the bracket, each team would play six games with the top four teams playing in a playoff bracket. Dietz noted that the top three teams would receive prizes. The attraction was so great that he was caught off guard.

"I didn't think it would fill in 10 minutes. Maybe a couple weeks or something like that," added Dietz. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh.'"

He also noted that 20 other teams contacted him in hopes of receiving a slot for the tournament but with it only being a two-day event, he didn't believe that they would have the time to increase the teams.

With the strong response for involve-

ment, the idea was brought to the tournament director to do the game as a charity event for Mike Como, a former Owatonna man who used to play softball who now lives in Mankato. He was diagnosed with Huntington's disease.

"It sounded like a great cause and a great idea so I approached the teams to see if they wanted to do twenty dollars a team," added Dietz.

The response was unanimous and just like that the tournament was able to raise \$800 for the Mike Como Family Benefit. Dietz mentioned that teams were all-in on the idea and noted that's just what the softball community is all about.

"The softball community and all the teams around this area especially, they really band together and if there's somebody in need, they definitely try to help them out," he added. "It makes this just a little more special because I know Mike personally and played probably five years with him. It makes me feel better knowing we can raise money that fast."

Dietz said that the percentage that the softball tournament will chip toward the Como family has yet to be determined.



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Huskies win sixth-straight

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Rochester - Playing in Rochester for a Big Nine Conference matchup against Mayo, the Owatonna girls lacrosse team continues to show that they are a formidable force in the conference.

Led by Sophie Amundson’s five goals, the Huskies dominated the Spartans for a 20-7 win Thursday.

Eight different Huskies recorded a goal with five players scoring multiple times. Joining Amundson with multiple goals was Skylar Eaton (4), Taylor Woltman (3), Jasmynn Stechmann (3) and Laura Ebeling (2). Cassie Bremer, Kenna West and Bekah Bendorf each scored a goal.

Nine players also recorded assists led by Stechmann, Eaton and Amundson each recording three for the game. West was the other Husky to record multiple assists, having her hand in a pair of goals.

Goaltender Maddie Seykora stopped 10 of the 17 shots she faced.

Huskies top Rockets

Looking to make it five-straight and keep an unblemished record against Big Nine opponents, the Owatonna girls lacrosse team played host to Rochester John Marshall Tuesday night.

After Huskies’ forward Lauren Arthur was lost to an injury, head coach Dan Paur told his team in a timeout to rise to the occasion.

They did just that.

Scoring four goals in the second half, Owatonna (5-3, 5-0 Big Nine) coasted to an 8-2 win over the Rockets Tuesday night at OHS Stadium.

“I think there was a lot of adversity in this game. From the physical play to the couple of injuries, that’s hard to see your teammate go down with an injury like that. It’s hard to keep your head in the game,” Paur said afterward. “They were the ones that had to execute it. Kudos to every one of those girls that was able to keep their head in the game because it would’ve been easy for them to get down.”

It was a rather strong start defensively for each team, allowing just a total of two shots

in the first eight minutes of the game. However, that second shot managed to give the Rockets an early 1-0 lead after Hannah Morehart was able to slip one past Huskies’ goaltender Maddie Seykora.

The deficit seemed to flip the switch as it was all Owatonna for the remainder of the half.

After a reset of play in the offensive zone, Cassie Bremer fired a weak wrist shot that just bounced under the stick of Rockets goaltender Anysia Heimer to tie the game at 1-1. Luara Ebeling would add her name to the scoresheet with a light redirect of Lyric Broton’s pass behind the net to give the Huskies a 2-1 lead with 9:31 left in the first half.

Much of Owatonna’s success in the offensive zone was due to the ramped up pressure of their transition defense. In fact, after play was stopped due to the injury, Owatonna managed to stay in the offensive zone for the final seven minutes of the half while adding goals from Taylor Woltman and Broton.

“We needed more intensity in the transition game, we needed to fight a little more for those ground balls,” added Paur.

“When Lauren went down with her injury, we talked about keeping the intensity up and things really changed. They played hard for her.”

The Rockets managed to cut the lead to 4-2 early in the second half after Clare Brunn managed to connect on a redirected pass from behind the Huskies net. But by that time, Owatonna simply had too much momentum.

After the Rockets were assessed a penalty, the Huskies went to a grueling and yet, methodical attack in the offensive zone, cycling the ball numerous times. In fact, a span of nearly nine minutes was spent in the Rockets’ zone, which led to Jade Huseby extending the lead to 5-2.

“When we’re up three to four goals, scoring a goal isn’t necessarily priority number one. It’s really tiring out that defense for the final seven, eight minutes of the game and that’s kind of our motive on offense,” added Paur.

In the final six minutes of the contest, Bremer and Broton added their second goals of the game after Sophie Amundson extended the lead to 6-2.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna’s Cassie Bremer runs upfield during the Huskies’ 8-2 win over Rochester John Marshall Tuesday at OHS Stadium. The Huskies have won six-straight games.

Owatonna softball gets back on track



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Jenna VonRuden throws the ball to first base during the Huskies' 4-1 loss to Rochester Century Tuesday at Morehouse Park.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Austin - Playing in Austin for a Big Nine Conference matchup against the Packers, the Owatonna softball team was able to get back on track with a 7-2 win Thursday.

The Huskies managed to crank out nine hits with Tori Buck leading the barrage with three hits in four appearances at the plate. She would also record three RBIs. Jenna VonRuden, Tiana Blazek, and Samantha Hager each registered an RBI in the win.

Rilee Schmidt also had a good showing at the plate, going 2-for-4.

Liv Larson received the win in the circle for Owatonna, going all seven innings while allowing just three hits. She would also strikeout four.

Roch. Century 4, Owatonna 1

Just a day removed from having a contest cancelled due to rain, it was a perfect day for the Owatonna softball team to host Kids Night at Morehouse Park.

If only there would have been a perfect ending.

Mustering just four hits, the Huskies were unable to battle back from an early deficit, falling to Rochester Century in Big Nine Conference action Tuesday.

“She’s a good pitcher,” commented Huskies head coach Brian Pilcher. “She mixes up her speeds and we couldn’t adjust to it.”

Owatonna pitcher Alexa Sommers got into trouble early as Century managed to move runners into scoring position after giving up a pair of singles. Luckily, she managed to surrender just one run as second baseman Ellie Rohman managed to throw out Annika Zimmer at home on a fielder’s choice.

After allowing three hits in the first inning, the junior appeared to get into her groove, surrendering just one hit in the following two innings. In fact, in the first three innings, six of the seven Century runners to reach scoring position were left stranded.

“She settled down and actually was able to get some strikeouts there. I’d have to go back and look, but Lexi does a good job of not walking batters, which we struggled with earlier in the season,” added Pilcher.

As for the Huskies’ bats, they were simply unable to get into a rhythm against Erin Ziebarth. Through four innings, Owatonna managed just two hits, while managing to walk a total of 14 batters to the box. Pilcher noted that it was a case of being too

OHS Track and Field results

Big Nine Triangular (Winona)

Team Scores: Owatonna 104, Winona 44, Albert Lea 38

Boys results

100-meter dash: 1. Jason Williamson, 11.53, 2. Alex Raichle, 11.64. **200-meter dash:** 1. Williamson, 23.55, Brandon Schmidt, 23.97. **400-meter dash:** 2. Jaden Dowhaniuk, 55.2, 5. Roosevelt Rios, 58.18. **800-meter dash:** 3. Jaden Rosacker, 2:13.48, 4. Bretton Ruiter, 2:15.28. **1600-meter run:** 1. Braydon Kubat, 4:44.71, 2. Ross Stevensen, 4:49.84. **3200-meter run:** 1. Bryce Knutson, 10:56.05, 2. Evan Steiger, 11:05.28. **110-meter hurdles:** 1. Andrew Jackson, 16.50, 2. Zach Barrett, 17.09. **300-meter hurdles:** 1. Andrew Jackson, 44.66, 2. Keenon Young, 44.69. **4x100-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 46.71. **4x200-meter relay:** Owatonna, DQ. **4x400-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 3:42.64. **4x800-meter relay:** 2. Owatonna, 9:30.76. **High Jump:** 1. Jayden Gunderson, 5-08, 2. Scott Kingland, 5-06. **Pole Vault:** 3. Colton Kamholz, 10-00. **Long Jump:** 2. Williamson, 19-00, 3. Steven Ekard, 18-04. **Triple Jump:** 1. Dalton Kubista, 41-04, 3. Ekard, 36-10. **Shot Put:** 1. Darik Elstad, 50-01.5, 2. Ethan DeKam, 48-08. **Discus:** 1. Elstad, 139-09, 3. Chandler Buckhalter, 118-10.

Big Nine Triangular (Albert Lea)

Team Scores: Owatonna 112.5, Winona 40.5, Albert Lea 30

Girls results

100-meter dash: 1. Margo Aetherkirch, 13.5, 3. Janessa Moore, 14.18. **200-meter dash:** 1. Sydney Schultz, 27.48, 2. Karissa Gregory, 27.76. **400-meter dash:** 1. Sara Anderson, 1:03.59, 2. Nyakhor Godoar, 1:04.34. **800-meter dash:** 1. Syd Kretlow, 2:24.19, 3. Emily Rahrick, 2:32.33. **1600-meter run:** 2. Catrina Herr, 5:48.42, 4. Emma Maher, 6:06.45. **3200-meter run:** 1. Delilah Baedke, 13:02.48, 2. Sarah Kingland, 13:22.06. **110-meter hurdles:** 1. Ali Golberg, 17.49, 5. Emilee Zimgible, 20.50. **300-meter hurdles:** 1. Amelia VandeZande, 50.57, 2. Golberg, 50.67. **4x100-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 52.54. **4x200-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 1:48.5. **4x400-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 4:13.18. **4x800-meter relay:** 1. Owatonna, 10:25.87. **High Jump:** 2. Kretlow, 4-08, 4. Caitlyn Anderson, 4-06. **Pole Vault:** 1. Heidi Lundberg, 8-05, 2. Lydia Weisenburger, 8-00. **Long Jump:** 1. S. Anderson, 16-01, 3. VandeZande, 15-01.25. **Triple Jump:** 1. Emma Zimmerman, 32-04.5, 3. Callie McCauley, 30-05.5. **Shot Put:** 2. Lexi Langeland, 32-03.5, 3. Mallory Olson, 30-10.5. **Discus:** 1. Langeland, 106-04.75, 2. Rilee Wickman, 102-07.5.

Dick Norman Invitational (Rochester)

Team Scores: Owatonna 1036, Andover 971.5, John Marshall 874.5, Forrest Lake 727, Mayo 713, Red Wing 688, Park 610, Mankato West 576, Winona 566, Schaeffer Academy 234.

Boys results

100-meter dash: 7. Jason Williamson, 11.42, 10. Alex Raichle, 11.58. **200-meter dash:** 6. Williamson, 23.54, 8. Brandon Schmidt, 23.70, 21. Young, 24.85. **400-meter dash:** 5. Jaden Dowhaniuk, 53.67, 15. Roosevelt Rios, 57.00, 16. Owen Koslosky, 57.05. **800-meter dash:** 4. Jaden Rosacker, 2:09.07, 8. Bretton Ruiter, 2:12.42, 14. Logan Bauer, 2:15.68. **1600-meter run:** 7. Ross Stevensen, 4:51.79, 9. Caeden McCartney, 4:54.01, 16. Talis Alwes, 5:05.5. **3200-meter run:** 2. Braydon Kubat, 10:08.47, 10. Bryce Knutson, 10:49.56, 13. Evan Steiger, 10:58.40. **110-meter hurdles:** 4. Andrew Jackson, 16.54, 5. Zach Barrett, 16.55. **300-meter hurdles:** 2. Jackson, 43.55, 3. Cole Deason, 43.62, 4. Keenon Young, 44.08. **4x100-meter relay:** 7. Owatonna, 45.91. **4x200-meter relay:** 3. Owatonna, 1:34.01. **4x400-meter relay:** 3. Owatonna, 3:38.76. **4x800-meter relay:** 2. Owatonna, 8:38.89. **High Jump:** 4. Jayden Gunderson, 5-08, 6. Scott Kingland, 5-08, 7. Dalton Kubista, 5-08. **Pole Vault:** t7. Colton Kamholtz, 10-00, 11. Cory Ulrich, 9-00. **Long Jump:** 7. Williamson, 19-01, 12. Steven Ekard, 18-00.75, 13. Deason, 18-00.5. **Triple Jump:** 2. Dalton Kubista, 40-00, 7. Ekard, 37-01.75, 11. Kingland, 35-08. **Shot Put:** 3. Darik Elstad, 45-10.5, 5. Andy Jensen, 44-00, 8. Ethan DeKam, 41-08.5. **Discus:** 1. Elstad, 156-01, 6. Chandler Buckhalter, 126-07, 9. Jensen, 123-02.

**Owatonna’s Darik Elstad was named the invite’s Most Outstanding Field Event Athlete.*

STARS OF STEELE

Tyler Wencl

During the Huskies current five-game winning streak, junior Tyler Wencl has been a scoring machine.

In three games, he has registered 16 goals, including a seven-goal performance against Rochester Mayo on Saturday.

Elly Strunk

In the Blossoms’ extra-inning win over Kenyon-Wanamingo, senior pitcher Elly Strunk had a career performance.

In eight innings, she retired a career-high 17 batters which included the final three batters of the eighth inning.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

Huskies in mid-season slump



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Abe Havelka prepares to catch the ball prior to tagging out an Austin runner during the Huskies' 14-2 loss to the Packers Thursday in Big Nine Conference action at Darrrts Park.

Owatonna drops a pair of Big Nine conference games, fall to 5-3 on year

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Just a day removed from being the victim of a no-hitter, the Owatonna baseball team was looking to regroup and get back to on track against Austin Thursday.

The Packers, winners of their last two, were looking to make it three in a row.

Austin didn't just win, they dominated.

Nursing a 6-0 lead, the Packers crushed seven hits for eight runs in the top of the third inning as they cruised to a 14-2 win over the Huskies (5-3, 1-1 Big Nine) at Darrrts Park in a shortened Big Nine Conference game.

"We're in a funk right now," commented Huskies skipper Tate Cummings. "Guys are thinking and pressing, game becomes really challenging when you're in that mindset."

The Huskies struggles started

early and like a papercut, slowly lingered for the vast majority of the game. Despite opening the game with a strikeout, junior Abe Havelka got into trouble early, giving up a pair of walks in the four batters faced to have the bases loaded. On a full count, the junior surrendered the first run of the game with his third walk of the game.

A throwing error by second baseman Kodey Kiel would allow two more runs to cross the plate. In just 1 1/3 innings of work, Havelka gave up five runs on four hits and walked three. He would be relieved by Brady Schuster in the second inning. Schuster would face just four batters before Brock Hanson would enter in relief with a bases loaded situation in the top of the third inning.

That's when the wheels feel off.

Hanson allowed four runs before registering his first out on the mound that came by way of

a strikeout. Austin seemingly had the jump on the Owatonna bull pen's breaking ball, patiently sitting on it before ripping hit after hit.

The Packers would register eight runs on seven hits while also batting through the lineup. The Huskies bullpen allowed 12 hits and walked six. In fact, through three innings, Austin recorded as many hits as Owatonna had in their last two games.

As for Owatonna, they managed to register just one hit through three innings – a hard chopper by Kiel that was just out of the reach of the shortstop. When asked, Cummings noted that they don't really have a dial on what the problems may be.

"We hit the ball so well in practice," he added. "I think guys are thinking a little bit and it's extremely challenging when that happens; it's a funk."

The Huskies managed to show a little life in the bottom of

the fourth, as Hanson delivered an RBI single that was immediately followed by Nolan Malo's sacrifice fly to deep centerfield. However, those would be the final hits for Owatonna.

Century's Horevath tosses no-hitter

Rochester - Throwing just under 108 total pitches, Rochester Century freshman Mac Horevath did not allow a hit through five innings to help guide the Panthers to a 1-0 win over Owatonna Tuesday in Rochester.

Horevath pitched 6 1/3 innings while striking out 11 and allowing six walks.

Owatonna had some fine pitching of their own from Jacob Gauthier, who allowed the game's only run in the first inning.

In 5 1/3 innings of work, he allowed seven hits before Kodey Kiel came in relief.

Area sports round up

Owatonna boys tennis swept by Century

The Owatonna boys tennis team has had a hot start to the season, having just one loss on the year.

Rochester Century, the No.3 ranked team in the state, looked to cool off the Huskies Tuesday in Rochester.

They may have given them frostbite.

The Panthers made quick work of Owatonna, cruising to a 7-0 sweep.

No.1 singles player Eden Mrozek ran into a tough match falling 6-1,6-0 in straight sets to sophomore Varun Iyer while Matt Christensen swept Derek Thada in straight sets at No.2 singles. In fact, the lone contest that seemed to be a battle was the first set of No.4 singles players Evan Huemoeller and Century's Hunter Thamert. The Owatonna freshman pushed Thamert in the first set before falling 7-5. He would lose the second set 6-3.

Doubles action was just as smooth sailing for Century as it was in singles play. No.1 doubles pair of Spencer Intriss and Ben Denio fell in straight sets 6-1,6-1 and the pair of Dan Keller and Lincoln Maher fell 6-1,6-4.

Owatonna falls to 8-2 overall and 5-1 in the Big Nine Conference.

During the Rosemount Invitational Saturday, the OHS boys tennis team won three matches to take the team title sweeping St. Thomas and Simley 7-0 before beating Rosemount 5-2.

The only two losses on the day came from No.1 singles player Eden Mrozek and No.1 doubles pair Spencer Intriss and Ben DeNio. Mrozek fell 6-1,6-4 and the pair of Intriss and DeNio fell 6-0,6-1.

NRHEG softball falls to WEM

NRHEG scored three runs in the seventh inning, but it wasn't enough, as Waterville-Elysian-Morristown edged the panthers 9-7 at new Richland Thursday, May 4. The loss left NRHEG 3-9 overall and 2-6 in the conference.

The home team scored four runs in the third inning to take a 4-2 lead it held until the fifth. The Bucs counted two runs in that inning to tie the game and then added three in the sixth and two more in the seventh for a 9-5 cushion.

Trista Hering picked up the

win for the visitors, while Sophie Stork took the loss in relief. Natalie Aaseth allowed seven hits and six earned runs, but Stork got the loss in relief, giving up two earned runs in her one inning of work.

"Unfortunately" remarked Coach Wendy Schultz, "we lost another close game that we felt we had a chance to win. We had a few missed chances in this one, and we hope we can turn some of these losses into victories soon."

Kayley Camerer had three hits and three RBIs in the game. Gabby Muri and Sheila Lembke both had two hits, and Sarah Johns and Rachel Collins both chipped in singles.

WEM had nine runs, nine hits, nine errors; NRHEG had seven runs nine hits, two errors.

NRHEG gets third win

NRHEG girls scored five runs in the third inning on the way to an 11-4 win over United South Central Tuesday, May 2, at Wells.

Panther hurler Natalie Aaseth allowed just two hits in the victory and gave up only two earned runs. She walked eight batters and struck out three.

"Paige Knudson returned after an injury," commented Coach Schultz, "and she made an immediate impact with a three-hit game."

"Eighth grader Sarah Johns also hit the first home run of her career, and that was exciting to see. It was a complete team win."

Knudson had a double and triple in her three hits, and five other Panthers had two hits each. Gabby Muri had a double in her two hits plus two RBI's, and the team had five stolen bases as well.

NRHEG had 11 runs, 14 hits, and three errors; USC had four runs, two hits, and an error.

BP's Braaten third at invite

In a conference invite at Maple River Tuesday, May 2, the Blossom boys had to settle for third place in this meet, trailing both Maple River and USC. NRHEG finished fourth, ahead of Bethlehem Academy.

The Eagles carded a 162, USC a 183 and Blooming Prairie a 187.

Mason Sohre earned medalist honors for Maple River with a fine 37, and teammate Andrew Hoppe took second individual a stroke behind at 38.

Blooming Prairie's Tommy Braaten trailed another stroke behind with 39. The other

Blossom boys had an off day, with Jake Ressler shooting a 46, and Lucas Noble and Austin Behne both carding a 51. Kollyn Alwes and Collin Jordison both shot 53.

Atom Oquist led the Panther scoring with a 45, and Oakley Baker added a 48. Ross Lenort and Brett Kubiatowicz both had a 54, and Noah Sletten and Jacob Lerberg had a 58 and a 65 respectively.

BP's Christianson wins invite

A Gopher conference girls' meet on the Blooming Prairie course found United South Central besting Maple River for first place in the meet. The Rebels shot a team total 229 to 257 for the eagles. NRHEG finished third, as the three teams made up the only teams with a full complement of golfers.

Individually, BP's Taylor Christianson took medalist honors with a 43 score. USC's Kate Koestler claimed second with a46, and Jessica Ressler carded her best score of the season with a 47 good for third place.

Jill Jongbloedt shot a 52 to lead the NRHEG competitors, andKyra Possin had a 63. Sydney Koziolk shot 68, Katie Spooner a 76, and Grace Cummins a 92.

OHS girls play in Northfield

Marie Otterson shot a team-low 95 as the Huskies finished ninth of the nine teams at the Northfield Invite on Thursday.

Red Wing took home the team title after scoring a 329.

Ally Lenz (115), Greta Korbel (121), and Katie Ihrke (125) also competed.

Wall medals for OHS boys

Andrew Wall shot a 69 to finish in second place of the Jewel Invitational in Lake City May 3.

Rochester Lourdes captured the team title with a 297 and Owatonna finished sixth with a 322.

John Swenson finished in a tie for 10th place after shooting a 74.

Head coach Mark Langlois said that Wall, Swenson, Mac Baumgartner and Cory Gander all had thier competitive low round of the year. Baumgartner shot an 84 and Gander carded a 95.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Ryan Johnson runs with the ball during the second quarter of the Huskies' 20-10 win over Rochester Mayo Friday at OHS Stadium. The junior goaltender stopped 23 of the 33 shots he faced.

Owatonna wins sixth-straight

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Facing a 3-1 deficit just minutes into the first quarter, the Owatonna boys lacrosse team was looking for the spark that could ignite the comeback.

Junior Tyler Wencel didn't just provide the spark. He was the surge.

Scoring seven goals, Wencel (6-2, 5-1 Big Nine) led the Huskies to a 20-10 regular season sweep over Rochester Mayo Friday night at OHS Stadium in Big Nine Conference action.

"We had quite a few guys score," noted Huskies head coach Scott Seykora. "I was happy with our offensive performance."

The scoring barrage started early and often as each team recorded a pair of goals just three minutes into the contest. Mayo's Jacob Aglin fired a wrist shot from the high slot that just beat the stick of Huskies' goaltender Ryan Johnson. Just minutes later, Nate Smith scored after a nice feed from Mitch Wiese to tie the game at 1-1. In a span of two minutes following Smith's goal, Aglin and Andrew Cramer gave the Spartans a 3-1.

That's when Wencel found his groove.

The Owatonna junior was able

to fire a laser from deep to cut the lead to 3-2 at the 3:31-mark of the first quarter. Just a minute later, Josh Nelson made a sharp pass to Walker Nelson, who was able to just flick the ball in.

In fact, with just under two minutes left in the half, Wencel would give the Huskies a 4-3 lead prior to Josh Nelson netting the first of his five goals on the evening. Nelson would net his second just seconds into the second quarter to give the Huskies a commanding 6-3 lead. Seykora noted that the Wencel's threat is a compliment to the guys he plays with.

"He's a go-getter," he added. "One thing that has really helped his play is the other guys around him. They understand how important it is to have a lot of off-ball movement and to make yourself busy."

After Smith's second goal of the game, the Spartans managed to cut the lead to 7-4 after AJ Mercurio was able to go coast-to-coast for the goal. That would be the closest the score would ever get since the 1-1 tie in the first quarter.

In the final six-minutes, 17-seconds of the first half, Owatonna would continue to build on their lead. Walker Nelson would net his second goal of the game off an intercepted pass before Wencel

would find the net twice, one of which came with 13.2 seconds left in the half.

The Huskies had a balanced attack through the entire contest, with five players recording goals and four having multi-goal games. Joining Wencel was Josh Nelson and Nate Smith, who each scored five goals. Walker Nelson also had a pair of goals. One of those five would net his first goal of the season. After taking a pass from Johnson, Brett Solie cruised across the field before firing a hard wrist shot just feet from the net just prior to the end of the third quarter.

"You want everyone you put on the field to be a threat to score," noted Seykora. "When you move the ball around and you get four or five guys having multiple-goal games, the defense can't just worry about one guy, they have to worry about more and that's how you win games."

In the final quarter of play, the Spartans managed to record a trio of goals to cut the lead to 19-9. However, the game ended from the stick of the Husky who opened the scoring in the game as Smith would tally his fifth goal of the game with 56 seconds left.

Owatonna will host Eagan on Tuesday.

FOUR-POINT
STANCE



JOSH
ZIMMER

Now, this column may peak your interest if you happen to be a fan of the NFL.

It could entice you if you were or still are a fan of Washington State University.

If you don't fall into either category, then maybe you're just a fan of a good ole fashion story about making the most of a second chance.

With the NFL Draft now come and gone, I want to go back to earlier in the week leading up to the draft to talk about something I read. Yes, something I read.

For those who have never heard of the Players' Tribune, it's a media company founded by former Major League Baseball star Derek Jeter that gives professional athletes a platform to tell their stories first-hand.

I have personally become a fan of the work that is created from the site, often sharing them both on Twitter and Facebook if they happen to peak my interest. I've had some favorites, like the one from Andrew King, an Army linebacker who wrote about his teammate who tragically past away.

However, on the eve of what has grown into a three-day spectacle that is the NFL Draft, Ryan Leaf, the No.2 overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft shared his contribution to the site called, "Letter to my younger self."

It became arguably the best piece that I have read since I started following the site's work and for good reason.

I became even more proud to be a native of Great Falls, Montana.

That's right.

This Sports Editor grew up in the same city as the No.2 overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft.

To a Montanan - especially a native of Great Falls - the story of Ryan Leaf was one that you couldn't escape. Let me put this in perspective for you. Great Falls is known because of the Lewis and Clark expedition. It's actually how it received its name.

However, growing up in the 90's, it was Lewis and Clark then Leaf. Depending on who you talked to, some might say it was the other way around. He was the prodigal son, the hometown hero. He was going to put the city on the map.

I remember as a kid before the story - a story that ultimately led to him having a short NFL career - unfolded of the one time I even saw him.

I was at the Great Falls Dodgers game, a Minor League affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, with my father and brother in 1998. As I'm scarfing down a hot dog, my dad immediately turned to me and said, "That's Ryan Leaf. Go over there and see if he'll sign your hat."

So I walked nervously with each step. Not because I was afraid of my dad being wrong, but that believe it or not, I was a pretty shy kid. Sure enough, it was Leaf, sitting with what I guess to be friends. Before I could even ask, he simply grabbed and signed my hat. To Josh: Ryan Leaf No.16.

In fact, I still have that hat to-

Ryan Leaf making the most of a second chance makes this Montanan proud

day as a keepsake.

Despite being a diehard Vikings fan, it gave me the slim-mest of reasons to root for the Chargers. Even if there wasn't a lot to really root for. I took it as far as playing with them on the Madden video game franchise just because of the fact that the starting quarterback was from Montana.

Growing up on Malmstrom Air Force Base, it was practically set in stone that when I was to go to high school, I would go to C.M. Russell High, which just happened to be the alma mater of Leaf. In fact, when Leaf's little brother Brady was a senior, I was in the stands with my dad watching the Rustlers win a state championship against Helena High.

As I became older and due to moving off the base, was able to attend Great Falls High School - the crosstown rival of Leaf's C.M.R. - the hometown hero turned into the villain, partly due to a fallout that was pointed out in Butte Sports Columnist Bill Foley's column "Hey Ryan Leaf, welcome back to Montana."

It was noted that Leaf considered Pullman, Washington to be his hometown rather than Great Falls. However, it was largely due to a failed NFL career that led to a prescription pill addiction.

In fact, one of my teammates at Minot State University was from C.M.R. and we would routinely have one-liners tossed our way in the locker room, especially around the time that he was fired from West Texas A&M. There was really nothing else you could do but shrug it off. I've always believed that you should be proud of your roots, where you came from.

But, to be honest, to have your hometown linked to a NFL bust that started a downward spiral was certainly not ideal. Rather than having a little pride that he came from our hometown it became almost a burden.

During my junior year of college, I was required to give a report in one of my public relations classes about a book that you could connect with. Since I knew my teacher's stance on me using military books - mostly because I chose the ones that really painted the picture - I bought his book, "596 Switch, The improbable journey from the Palouse to Pasadena" which covered the four years he was in Pullman playing for Washington State University. I highly recommend you read it, for the story of how the Cougars reach the Rose Bowl more than anything. It's actually a really good book for football fans.

That's the thing with Montanans though; we always keep track and support those that come from the Treasure State. And, that exactly what I did.

I've been blessed enough to grow up watching numerous Montana-born athletes go on to

have professional careers. From Colt Anderson, Marc Mariani, Dane Fletcher and other notable former Montana prep stars; I tried to keep tabs on all of them. Some even made a few of my fantasy football teams.

Heck, I've even got to compete against a few like Brock Osweiler, Brock Coyle and Jordan Tripp during my high school days. Two of which (Coyle and Osweiler) were on Super Bowl teams.

The one guy, over any that I named, that people would always look back to was Leaf. It didn't matter who you were, if you were even whispered about making it, you were compared to Leaf. He set the standard at the time.

After serving a 32-month sentence, he became the ambassador for the Transcend Recovery Community. In fact, he even started his own foundation called, "Focus Intensity Foundation" which will help those who are unable to receive help for mental illness and addictions.

Talk about doing a complete 180 in life.

This past Christmas, the NFL on Fox ran a feature of Leaf's newly discovered life and I can't lie, it was pretty cool to see shots of my hometown played on national television. Only this time, it was for the right reason.

Watching it with some friends, I was proud to share it over all of my social media platforms and comment it with the "hometown hero." That's what he was. Everyone knew of him, and if you didn't, you weren't really from Montana.

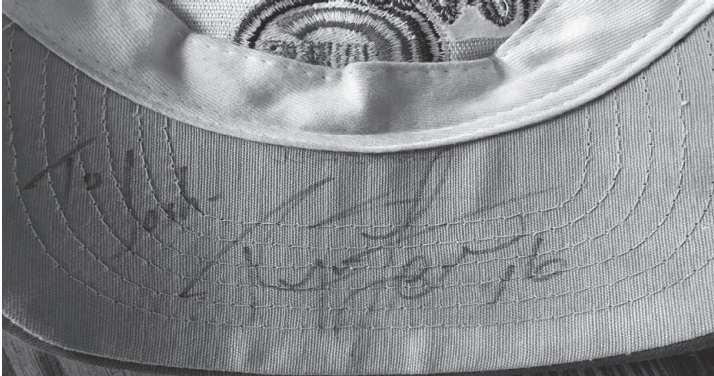
But, what was great about the piece wasn't about talking about his failed NFL career, but rather how he was able to get his life on track.

To hear him talk about the feelings of being arrested in the place where he was nearly bigger than life was astounding. As I noted, it wasn't ideal for me personally to even have my hometown linked with him and there he was on national television, explaining just how embarrassing it was for him. I can't speak for every one when I say this but to me, that's when you know he understood.

Since the airing of Fox's special, he's been on just about every major show you can think of, to include Ellen DeGeneres and the Dan Patrick Show. And each time, I'm blown away about how he can talk about his past, from the attempted suicide to even the fallout of his NFL career with acceptance.

Whatever the future holds for Mr. Leaf, I can say that as a fellow Montanan, a native of Great Falls, and as that chubby 7-year-old kid at the baseball game who nervously asked for an autograph, it's great to see the hometown hero was able to become just that... a hero.

How 's that for a story about making the most of second chance?



Dedication caps four-year project

RENOVATIONS: from page 1C

and Faribault, he said they Lincoln Elementary and fields in Faribault have also received upgrades. Money didn't just go to infrastructure renovations, but also the field itself.

"We recut the infields using GPS to make sure they were totally uniform," he added. "So behind each base it's almost circular so you don't have an odd-shaped infield."

As of right now, the ballfields have what Dietz estimated at roughly \$150,000 worth of renovations. The next big project that they are planning for is to replace the lighting for the each of the four fields. The project, which

could cost \$650,000 to \$700,000 to complete per field, is to replace the light poles and install LED lighting. However, Dietz did say that they have quotes for without LED lighting as well.

"Right now, the poles are too short, so the angle the lights go are pretty much right in the face of the outfielder," he added. "So when you're playing ball, you're looking right into the lights."

Although the reason for LED lighting is that there is plenty of perks that come with the upgrade. The first would be that bulbs have to be replaced far less than the traditional bulbs that are used right now and they

are cost effective; especially when the lights are on roughly four nights of the week during the season. In terms of playing however, it gives a baseball stadium feel as you can get really good uniform lighting without shadows according to Dietz.

No matter how long it takes to finish the latest project for the future of Owatonna's softball fields, Dietz noted that if it wasn't for the money raised from the tournament, they wouldn't have the facilities they have now.

"I don't think they would ever happened," he said.

Start your engines

Racing season kicks off at Lansing

By MATTHEW GRACE
Racing Correspondent

A beautiful sunny Friday finally greeted fans, drivers and officials as everyone was anxious to get the new season underway.

One thing that's always interesting to look at in the early part of the season, and especially opening night is to see which drivers have decided to move up to a new class and who the new drivers are who have decided to take up the sport.

Two of the six defending track champions were among those drivers who have moved up in class. Jason Newkirk of Austin who was coming off his third Championship season in the last seven years in the Pure Stock Class has made the move up to the WISSOTA Street Stock class.

Bobby Blowers of Waseca who has taken two of the last three Hornet Track Championships made the move up to the WISSOTA Street Stock class as well.

Caylie Blowers of Waseca grabbed the early lead off the pole with Pat Wells of Waseca keeping the pressure on sticking his nose inside and than outside letting her know he was right there. The pressure seemed to work as about mid-race Caylie spun the car out bringing out a caution and sticking her to the back of the field on the restart. Wells inherited the lead but didn't hold it long as Brian Adams of Shakopee who started tail end in the race had been working his way to the front.

Adams started third on the restart with Tommie Cruz of Janesville in between him and Wells. The trio went three wide on the restart with Adams on the bottom and using that line to his advantage as he moved to the front, Wells won the battle for second with Cruz falling in line third.

The three road out the race in that order the rest of the way with Cody Hyatt of Waseca taking fourth and Blowers rebounding for a fifth place finish. With the win Adams added his name to the list of drivers with at least one feature win in the history of Chateau Raceway. Two more drivers would add their name to that list as well before the night was done.

The Chateau Pure Stocks were next to roll onto the track for their main event. After picking up a heat win earlier in the night Jesse Stahl lined up outside of Beau Stevens of Albert Lea on the front row.

The nights other heat winner, Chris Hotovec of Dodge Center, sat outside of row two and on the drop of the green the two heat winners jumped to the front running one-two.

In WISSOTA Midwest Modified action, Jason Vandekamp of Scandia who has made a name for himself in the National WISSOTA Points Standings over the last several years made an appearance at the track and wasted little time in showing what he had.

In his heat event he drew outside front row and jumped straight to the front and ran away from the field. The classes other heat win went to Dan Wheeler of Savage who was making his first trip to the track since his season was cut short last year by some health issues.

At Feature time the two heat winners started midpack with Dan in row three and Jason right behind him in row four. Garritt Wytaske of Austin and Ryan Wetzstein of West Concord lead the field to the green.

Wetzstein had the advantage on the first lap but Garritt came back around him to take the lead on lap two. Wheeler made his way up to fourth right away and Vandekamp followed him up to fifth.

Next on the track were the WISSOTA Street Stock drivers who reeled off a nice feature that was marred by just one yellow flag. Kyle King of Hastings sat on the pole and

lead the field to the green. Kyle used it to his advantage to grab the early lead. Noah Grinstead of Austin who sat right behind him on row two followed him right up into second.

The two had a nice duel with Noah getting the better of the action on lap six as he moved to the lead. Defending Track Champion in the class, Mike Blowers of Waseca, who took eight of the classes thirteen feature wins last year had moved up to second and was in position to take advantage of a line up error that had him start the race in row three instead of back in row six.

Mike moved up to third on lap six and was up to second when the caution came out on lap nine. Noah kept his car to the bottom of the track protecting the inside line as he tried to hold off the hard charger.

Blowers got along side and actually lead at the line as the two came by to complete lap thirteen but as they came back around to take the white Grinstead moved back to the point and held on for the win. King came home in third.

Kadden Kath of Owatonna had lady luck on his side to start the season as he drew pole position for both his heat and feature and lead flag to flag in both races to claim a clean sweep to kick off the season. Kath had some company down the stretch in the feature as Jayden Larson of Mankato put on one of the finest runs of the night as he came from the back of the field in the caution free 18 lap main event to push Kath to the finish line.

Larson went from outside row six (the 12th starting spot) up to fourth in just three laps and was up to second just past the halfway point of the race when he sat to reeling in Kadden.

But as they say "catching somebody is one thing, passing them is another" and Lar-

son was unable to make the winning move. Jett Sorensen of Rochester came home in third ahead of Matt Brooks of Austin and Nate Chodur of Lake Mills Iowa. Chodur had the classes other heat win.

The final race of the night was the USRA A Mod 25 lap main event. Heat winners Greg Pfeifer JR of Austin, and Jason Cummins of New Richland started in the front rows along with Keith Tourville of Webster Wisconsin, and the trio laid down some exciting early laps with some three wide action off the drop of the green.

Tourville lead at the line to complete lap one with Pfeifer coming back to take the lead on lap three.

His time at the front lasted just one lap however as Cummins took over the top spot on lap four. But if the three of them had rear view mirrors in their care they would of seen Dustin Sorensen of Rochester fixing to break up their little party.

One more caution about 10 laps into the race bunched the field again but Dustin was up to the task and went back out to building his lead up.

Steve Wetzstein of West Concord was starting to make some moves of his own and after starting back in row five he moved up to third after the restart. As the laps wound down Cummins car seemed to be getting stronger and he reeled Sorensen back in but could never make the move to get back to the front. With the win Dustin became the third driver on the night to make his first career visit to Victory Lane at Chateau.

Racing action will resume Friday night with the first green flag set to drop at 7 p.m. Joining the action next week will be the Liquid Nitro Outlaw Mini Mod Series.



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of May 5

Results

Chateau Pure Stocks:

Feature: Jesse Stahl-Austin, Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center, Brady Krohnberg-Walters, Daniel Guttormson-Austin, Beau Stevens-Albert Lea, Tyler Nelson-Albert Lea, Dalton Ludington-Zumbrota, Troy Maas-Faribault, Brandon Dunbar-Zumbrota, Jim Briggs-Waseca, Danielle Maas-Owatonna, Jack Dunbar-Zumbrota, Cole Kroneman-Zumbrota

Heat 1: Stahl, T Maas, Krohnberg, Briggs, Stevens, Ludington, J Dunbar

Heat 2: Hotovec, Guttormson, B Dunbar, D Maas, Kroneman, Nelson

WISSOTA Midwest Modified

Feature: Jason Vandekamp-Scandia, Garritt Wytaske-Austin, Dan Wheeler-Savage, Ryan Wetzstein-West Concord, Jeremy Misgen-New Richland, Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA, Jesse Hernandez-Bloomington Prairie, Casey Trom-Zumbrota, Brayten Cisneros-Bloomington Prairie, Scott Simmons-Lakeville, Brad Minske-Northfield, Noel Hoppe-New Richland, Brady Larson-Amery WI, Luke Hainka-Wannamingo, Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo (no show: Harland Morehart-Rochester)

Heat 1: Vandekamp, Wytaske, Wetzstein, Trom, Misgen, Minske, D Hainka, Larson

Heat 2: Wheeler, Cisneros, Goergen, L Hainka, Simmons, Hoppe, Morehart (no show: Hernandez)

WISSOTA Street Stock

Feature: Noah Grinstead-Austin, Mike Blowers-Waseca, Kyle King-Hastings, Kory Adams-Stacyville IA, Blake Adams-McIntire IA, Stacy Krohnberg-Walters, Bobby Blowers-Waseca, Ken Adams-Stacyville IA, Fred Prudoehl-Winona, Jason Newkirk-Austin, Brent Holland-Glenville, Cody Hyatt-Waseca, Jacob Bennett-Austin

Hornet (Single Feature Event)

Feature: Brian Adams-Shakopee, Pat Wells-Faribault, Tommie Cruz-Janesville, Cody Hyatt-Waseca, Caylie Blowers-Waseca, Corbin Giesler-West Concord, Tyler Wright-Grand Meadow, Dallas Burris-Altura, Cale Giesler-West Concord, Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake

Heat 1: Cummins, Wetzstein, Sorensen, Karau, Jensen, Wytaske JR

Heat 2: Pfeifer JR, Hillson, Horgdahl, Tourville, K Wytaske, Steinberg

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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): 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'Briens 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

Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number:
74-CV-17-607
Case Type: Harassment

Notice of Issuance of Harassment Order For Relief by Publication

Kimberly Gaalawyk O/B/O Minor Children

Petitioner(s)

vs.

Jarrod Stencel

Respondent(s)

To Respondent named above:

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

A hearing is scheduled for _____ at _____ .m. at _____.

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

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

Kim Wobschall 4.26.2017
Court Administrator/Deputy

5/2, 5/9

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

NOTICE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-676

Estate of
Phyllis D. Reynolds
AKA Phyllis Delores Reynolds
Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated February 25, 2010, and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statutes section 424.2-513 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Richard Dean Peterson, 6649 Harlan Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representatives has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

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

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

BY THE COURT,

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
4/18/2017

5/2, 5/9

Probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-770

Estate of Willard L. Ehrich, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on June 26, 2017, at 10 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at Owatonna Fire Hall, 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, December 12, 2003, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Laurel B. Ehrich, whose address is 385 22nd Street SE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT,

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
5/1/2017

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator
5/1/2017

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnaattorneys.com

5/9, 5/16

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 16, 2017

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Sunde, Steve Ille

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent

of Schools; Elementary Principal

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the March 20, 2017, regular school board meeting.

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

5/9

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 20, 2017

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m.
(Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Steve Ille

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Members of the BPTA MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Sunde

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch and Mr. Worke.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Employment, Donations
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, employment, and donations. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Spanish Trip
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the upcoming Spanish Trip from June 19th through June 30th. Spain and Italy will both be visited by sixteen individuals (eleven students and five adults). Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Timeline for Food Service Bids
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a timeline for the food service bid process which is required every third year by the

MN Department of Education for a food service management contract. Successful bid to be awarded at the May 15, 2017, regular school board meeting. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve a resolution relating to the termination and non-renewal of a teaching contract of a probationary teacher. (Roll Call
Vote: 6 Aye-Krell, Braaten, Hameister, Vigeland, Thurnau, Ille /0 Nay/1 Absent-Sunde).

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

Operating Levy
Discussion held regarding operating levy options.

Committee Reports
A report update was given on the committees: Education Foundation; Technology; Wellness; and ZED.

Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year as of March 15, 2017, is 408 at the elementary school and 314 at the high school (308 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 3 juniors with attendance being full-time.

Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Operating levy discussion. Legislative update. Thank you from Cheri Krejci.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, April 17, 2017, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

5/9

Legal Notice

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 1st day of May 2017, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 18.83 subp. 1 (2009), that all persons in Steele County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagation parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2009) will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located.

Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. The statewide noxious weed list provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is for the following weeds: State Prohibited Noxious Weeds, Eradicate list; Yellow Starthistle, Grecian Foxglove and Oriental Bittersweet. State Prohibited Noxious Weeds, Control list; Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Wild Parsnip, Common Tansy, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle and Plumeless Thistle. State Restricted Noxious Weeds; Common or European Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn. State Specially Regulated Plants; Poison Ivy. In addition to the statewide listed noxious weeds; Velvetleaf, Common Cocklebur, Black Nightshade and Wild Proso Millet have been approved for listing by the county board of commissioners as County-Listed Noxious Weeds in Steele County as permitted by Minnesota Statutes Section 18.79, Subdivisions 13 and 14. Local weed inspectors are township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds and the Steele County noxious weeds list, the appeals committee members, the Minnesota Noxious weed Law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors can be obtained by contacting the Steele County Agriculture Inspector or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web site at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>.

Dan Vermilyea
Steele County Agricultural Inspector
630 Florence Ave.
Owatonna, MN. 55060
Telephone: 507-444-7488

Should All Baby Boomers Get Tested for Hepatitis C?

Dear Savvy Senior,
I've recently read that all baby boomers should get tested for hepatitis C. Is this really necessary, and if so, what are the testing and treatment procedures?
Healthy Boomer

Dear Healthy,
It's true. Both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that all baby boomers – people born from 1945 through 1965 – get a hepatitis C test. The reason is because baby boomers account for 75 percent of the 3 million or so hepatitis C cases in the U.S. Those that are infected are at very high risk of eventually developing liver cancer, cirrhosis or other fatal liver diseases.

Most hepatitis C infections occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, before there were tests to detect them and before the nation's blood supply was routinely screened for the virus. Hepatitis C is transmitted only through blood, so anyone who received either a blood transfusion or an organ transplant prior to 1992 is at increased risk too. So are health-care workers exposed to blood, and people who injected drugs through shared needles. The virus can also be spread through microscopic amounts of infected blood that could occur during sex, from sharing a razor or toothbrush, or getting a tattoo or body piercing at an unsterile shop. Most people that have hepatitis C don't know they're infected because there are

no symptoms until their liver becomes severely damaged. It can actually take 30 years for people to show any signs of the virus, but by then, it may be too late to treat. But if it's detected in time, new treatments are now available that can cure it. Testing and Treatment If you're between ages 52 to 72, or fall into one of the previously listed high risk categories, you should see your primary care doctor for a basic blood test to determine whether you have ever been infected with hepatitis C. This is a relatively inexpensive test and typically covered by health insurance under routine medical care. If the test is negative, no further tests are needed. But, if the test is positive, you'll need another test called HCV RNA, which

will show whether the virus is still active. If you test positive, you have chronic hepatitis C and will need to talk to your doctor about treatment options. If you're infected, but have no liver damage, your doctor should monitor your liver at your annual physical. The main treatments for chronic hepatitis C today are several new FDA approved antiviral medications that have a 95 percent cure rate. Compared to older treatments, these new medications have minimal side effects. Unfortunately, all the new drugs are very expensive – a 12-week treatment course can cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$90,000. Not all health insurance plans, including Medicare Part D plans, cover all pre-



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scribed medications for hepatitis C. And due to the expensive nature of these medications, most insurance plans require that you meet several requirements in order to get coverage. If your insurance provider doesn't cover the antiviral therapy your doctor recommends, there are financial assistance options available. To look for help, visit HEPC.liverfoundation.org and put your cursor on "Resources" and click on "What if I need Financial Assistance to Pay for Treatment?" And for more hepatitis C information, along with a quick online quiz you can take to determine your risks, see CDC.gov/knowmore-hepatitis. You can also get information over the phone by calling the national toll-free HELP-4-HEP helpline at 877-435-7443. 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

May 15, 2007
Elise Slinger, Editor
From the United States Supreme Court to the Library of Congress to Gettysburg National Cemetery, on Blooming Prairie young man will be exploring the nation's capitol with nearly 200 students his age this Fall. Victor Peterson, a fifth grader at Blooming Prairie Elementary School, is participating in the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. this coming October.

The tradition of youngsters driving around town at all hours of the night looking for something to do is something that has been a staple of growing up for generations. However, this right of passage for 16 year olds could be coming to an end if current legislation in the Minnesota Legislature passes through. The Minnesota State Bill R 313 would prohibit drivers with professional licenses from carrying more than one passenger under 20 years of age for the first six months of driving.

20 Years Ago

May 13, 1997
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
If you're a teenager, you need to hear what Pam Stenzel has to say. Her 'Straight Talk'

shot from the hip to Blooming Prairie High School students last Wednesday, frankly telling them facts and fiction about sex in to-day's society. And her content was terse at times, but a message local leaders thought needed to be heard. Stenzel is a counselor for troubled teens and most likely has seen or heard it all. It saddens her to see youth taken away through an unwanted pregnancy or sexually-contracted-diseases, she's vowed to do what she can. Amber Epps of Zumbrota, was recently awarded top honors at Michael Beatty Talent & Modeling Expo in Dallas, Texas, April 1-13. She was named Female Model of the Year for 1997 at the National Convention. Amber is the daughter of Robert and Sherrie Epps of Zumbrota. Amber is planning on working with an agency in Dallas, Texas this summer to further her career.

50 Years Ago
May 11, 1967
Victor, Vernon, & Vyrle Krejci, Editors
Twenty-one young boys and girls received their first communion at the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl, on Sunday, May 7th. A breakfast was served following the Mass by Our Lady of Nazareth Guild. It was an-

nounced that on Sunday morning, May 21st, the May crowning and graduation for seven students of St. Isadore School will take place at Litomysl. Mrs. Al Jorgensen was installed as Grand Chaplin of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, Order of Eastern Star, last Friday evening, May 5th, at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Those in attendance at the ceremony from this area included Mrs. Sanford Nelson, Mrs. V. Rogers, Mrs. Donald Bakke, Mrs. John Brainerd, Mrs. Harold Brainard, Mrs. Claude Grandprey, and Mrs. Allen Johnson were also present at the installation.

75 Years Ago
May 14, 1942
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
Fishing fever hit an unhealthy high this week as Friday, the opening day on walleyes and northern pike, approached. Practically all the confirmed fisherman of this community have plans for being on some lake over the weekend, and some are making plans to go for the first day Friday, May 15. Rain and cool weather hasn't made the prospects too good this week, but regardless of weather most of the boys will be out Sunday, rain or shine. Mrs. Lloyd Kaldor will leave

here about June first to accept a stenographic position in Washington D.C., office of Senator Joseph Ball, of Minnesota. Mrs. Kaldor will first spend a week in St. Paul getting some special training for the work she will do in Washington. Mr. Kaldor,

high school principal, has no definite plans for the immediate future pending his military status or possible enlistment in some branch of the armed service.



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If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc
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Blood Clot patients, if you have experienced any serious problems with an IVC filter, call 507-201-8964 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc
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Commercial store front / retail/ office in downtown Kasson, approx 4000 sq. ft., call Pat 507-319-6782. 18tfc
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2 bdr home, \$950/mo. Call Pat 507-319-6782. 19tfc
SERVICES
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Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfp
Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

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
Rock picking south of Kasson 1.5 miles, jr. high to adults, flexible hours. 507-273-9678-Joe. 18-20p
Concrete/cement workers needed; 1 concrete laborer, \$17-19/hour, and 1 experienced cement finisher, \$20 hour, KM area, start immediately. Call or text Steve at (507) 272-6292. 20-22c
Dobbs Construction hiring concrete workers immediately. Call or text Luke @ 507-259-9180. 10tfc
Looking for part-time help milking in a parlor. Call 634-4308. 18, 19c, 20p
Full time warehouse position to handle freight, heavy boxes, and package and deliver lubricants. Mon-Fri 9:00-5:30. Benefits include Employer Retirement contributions, Group Health Insurance and Paid Time Off. **Must be 19+, HS graduate, non-smoker, neat appearing, and have valid driver's license & excellent driving record to apply.** ADVANTAGE LUBRICANTS, 507-289-5555/RICH. 20,21p

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Old Town/Concord 55304-201 St. Avenue West Concord. Saturday 7am-2pm. CASH ONLY! SPRING SALE! SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Mother's Day Succulent arrangements/perennials! Variety of household/tabletop, popcorn popper/decor/vintage jewelry! Exercise equipment: Max Ultra by Weider/Weslo Pursuit 360R/EMR Stamina Programmable Elliptical/Bicycles! Motorcycles with accessories! Computer parts/printers! Gently used riding lawn mower/various hand tools! Hamster cage/ children's toys! Crafty items and supplies! 20p

409 8th St NW, Kasson. K-M Nursery Group. Sat 7am-1pm. **4th Annual Kids Sale@ KMNG.** Lots of boy & girl clothes priced to sell, shoes, coats, exersaucers, high chairs, strollers, puzzles, books, MUCH more. Entire gym is full! Last hour is \$5 fill a bag! 20p
207 4th St. NE Byron. May 4th,5th,6th & May 11th,12th,13th. 9am to 7pm. Sat. 8:30 to 4pm. Play pen-suitcase-high chair-clothes-men-woman-kids-new vacuum cleaner-misc. 20,21pd
1008 6th St. NW Kasson. Thur. 4-8 & Fri. & Sat. 8-4. Man garage sale, tools, fishing and hunting items, band saw, drill press, decoys, traps, knives, shop vac, deer stands, mens clothing, XL-3XL, large new never used aquarium, pen sets. 20p
1003 Parkview Ave. NW, Kasson (north past the LD's church). Thurs. (12-4) Fri. (8-4) & Sat. (9-11). "Precious Moments" yard decor, other yard decor, seasonal/holiday. Boy & girls kids' clothes. 12-18 mo., lots of misc. 20p



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Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134 20tfc

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- Availability for on call, primarily by phone

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Melissa Christianson at 507-696-2678. 

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Northland Farm Systems, Inc., located in Owatonna, is looking for a full-time General Laborer with mechanical skills to assist in assembling and repairing farm equipment.

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Cover crops, soil health focus of Field Day on May 26

With grant, Mower SWCD offering free tour of 3 farms in Mower County

Three area farms that use cover crops will be part of a free bus tour May 26 offered by Mower Soil & Water Conservation District through a grant promoting the importance of soil health.

Mower County farmers Tom Cotter, Tom Finnegan and Terry & Cindy Hamilton each will host registered participants on the first Mower Cover Crop Champion/Soil Health Team Tour, covering topics that include harvesting and grazing cover crops; no-till and strip-till planting into terminated cover crops; and herbicide options for conventional corn and soybeans.

“This is a great opportunity to see and hear about cover crops from farmers who are very involved with them,” said Steve Lawler, Mower SWCD’s resource specialist and soil scientist. “There are many benefits to farming, the environment and wildlife that come from cover crops.”

Registration is required for the free Field Day tour that will provide busing and a boxed lunch. Those interested need to RSVP by May 22 to Mower SWCD by either calling 507-434-2603 or sending an email to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org.

Cover cropping involves planting a second, unharvested crop in coordination with regular cash crops, such as corn and soybeans. Interest is growing in cover crops throughout Minnesota, and Mower County is helping to highlight their benefits when incorporated into agricultural practices.

Registered participants should arrive about 9 a.m. in the Riverland Community College’s east campus parking lot in Austin along 14th Street Northwest. Attendees will board a school bus about 9:30 a.m. to travel to the farms of Tom Finnegan (Red Rock Township); Terry & Cindy Hamilton (Marshall Township); and Tom Cotter (Austin Township). Each site will have one hour to showcase its use of cover crops in the field and – at the Cotter and Finnegan farms – how they help with producing beef cattle.

After Cotter farm, the bus will depart about 1:45 p.m. to head back to Riverland.

The Field Day event is part of an \$8,740 grant awarded this year to Mower SWCD by the National Wildlife Federation, which named Lawler of Mower SWCD as a Cover Crop Champion for outreach. The grant also named Cotter and Finnegan as Cover Crop Champion farmers. The duo has kept a busy schedule the past few months giving presentations on cover crops to farmers and non-farmer groups throughout the region.

Lawler, who also will be a presenter at the Field Day tour, has worked closely with Cotter, Finnegan and the Hamiltons since the Mower Soil Health Team formed in early 2016. Formed as part of Mower SWCD’s new soil health initiative, the Mower Soil Health Team consists of producers and agricultural professionals who farm and work in Mower County. Members have working knowledge of cover cropping and reduced tillage systems and are committed to providing one-on-one outreach to other area producers seeking to learn more about those and other management practices.

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program says cover crops offer economic and ecological benefits:

- Reducing fertilizer costs.
- Improving crop yields by enhancing soil health.
- Reducing the need for herbicides and pesticides.
- Preventing soil erosion.
- Conserving soil moisture.
- Protecting water quality.
- Helping to safeguard personal health.

Mower Cover Crop Champion/Soil Health Team Tour
Who: Mower Soil & Water Conservation District.
What: Field Day tour of farms using cover crops.
Where: Three farms in Mower County (start/end at Riverland Community College’s east parking lot along 14th St NW in Austin).
When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 26.
Why: Raise cover-crop awareness for farmers and others.
Cost: FREE with busing and boxed lunch provided to registrants.
RSVP by May 22: Call Mower SWCD at 507-434-2603 or send an email to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org.
Online: www.mowerswcd.org
CONTACT: Tim Ruzek, Mower SWCD
507-434-2603; tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org



**COVER
CROP
CHAMPIONS**

For more information, join the Mower County Soil Health Group’s Facebook page (just search for that specific name) or visit Mower SWCD’s Cover Crop Champion grant webpage – www.mowerswcd.org/CoverCropChampion2017.html.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District
Since 1953, Mower SWCD has provided land and conservation services to Mower County landowners to help manage lands in a way that promotes a sound economy as well as sustains and enhances natural resources that are key to the state’s environmental health. Mower SWCD is one of Minnesota’s 91 SWCDs each are governed by an elected board.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District 1408 21st Ave. N.W. Austin, MN, 55912 (507) 434-2603 www.mowerswcd.org

Feeling blue when you’re not seeing green

ON THE FARM



Kendra Schroeder

I remember an instance a few years back when I went to dinner with a friend. We enjoyed a nice meal, dessert and all. When our bills arrived, my food turned into a rock in my stomach as I realized I was a few dollars short of what I needed to pay for my meal. I remember being extremely embarrassed having to ask my friend to borrow some money to cover my shortage. My friend insisted that it wasn’t a big deal, but the embarrassment and stress I felt in that moment will stick with me for the rest of my life.

In Extension, we work with many types of farmers who are in all kinds of different situations. We keep up to date with the current markets, and are familiar with what’s going on in the agricultural world; we know, and many times understand first hand, that farmers’ wallets have seen better days. Some farmers may find themselves facing difficult financial situations right now, feeling much more stress than I felt after dinner that night. Due to these tough times, the University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension has started a free program that offers one-to-one financial counseling for farmers in distress.

The UMN Extension has hired a group of financial analysts to help farmers work through their financial situations. This group of analysts is made up of retired agricultural

business professionals from UMN Extension, banks, and other organizations that have worked with and supported farmers through tough times in the past. The analysts are spread throughout the state, and cater to all types of commodities for both big and small operations. You do not need to meet a certain “bracket” of financial stress to qualify for this program; you simply need to feel as though you are financially stressed, and need some advising. These meetings are one-on-one, and are both confidential and free.

“Compared to the 1980s, the magnitude of the financial stress on Minnesota farms is not as widespread. That’s good news, but it may also keep the many farmers in difficult circumstances from seeking the kind of help that they need,” said Extension agricultural economist Kevin Klair, who leads Extension’s Agricultural Business Management program. “That’s why we’re working with a variety of agriculture interests in Minnesota, including the banking industry, to reach out and let farmers know we can help them explore their options.”

If you or someone you know is struggling financially and needs some help, call the farm information line at 1-800-232-9077 and ask about the financial counseling program. UMN Extension wants to see farmers overcome their challenges and succeed in these tough times. For more information about this program or other financial mediation programs, contact Kendra Schroeder at schr1123@umn.edu or call your local extension office.

Kendra Schroeder just completed a four month stint as interim extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She is now serving in the same role on a temporary basis for LeSueur and Blue Earth counties. She grew up on a dairy farm in Steele County.

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Beef home study courses

The University of Minnesota Beef Team is offering three online Home Study Courses in Summer 2017, titled “Introduction to Cow/Calf Nutrition”, “Health Management for the Cow/Calf Herd” and “Introduction to Cattle Feeding”.

Courses focus on practical applications of topics. Each lesson will include online activities designed to encourage participants to become familiar with electronic resources and an online forum gives participants the opportunity to connect with other producers.

Following completion, participants will receive a certificate of completion and the opportunity to highlight their continuing education through a LinkedIn Certificate Badge.

The first lessons will be available June 7, 2017 and the following lessons will be posted every 2 weeks. The fee for course registration is \$75.

Registration is open through June 14, 2017. Internet access and Microsoft Office software are required.

Contact Nicole Kenney Rambo at nmkenney@umn.edu or 320.235.0726 ext 2009 with questions or visit www.extension.umn.edu/beef for further details and a list of lessons offered within each course.

RSVP by May 22, 2017
Lunch and busing provided

AGENDA

9:00-9:15 AM – Registration
Riverland east lot, 14th St. NW, Austin (Park near bus)

9:15-9:30 AM – Introduction
Steve Lawler, *Mower SWCD resource specialist and soil scientist*

9:30-9:45 AM – Board bus
Travel to Tom Finnegan Farm in Red Rock Township.

9:45-10:45 AM – Finnegan Farm
Topics: Harvesting and grazing of cover crops; no-till planting into terminated cover crops.

10:45-11:15 AM – Board bus
Travel to Terry & Cindy Hamilton Farm in Marshall Township.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM – Hamilton Farm
No-till and strip-till planting into terminated winter wheat; herbicide options for conventional corn/beans

12:15-12:45 PM – Board bus
Eat boxed lunch on bus enroute to Tom Cotter Farm (Austin Township)

12:45-1:45 PM – Cotter Farm
Topics: Cover crop harvesting and grazing; strip-till into terminated cover crops.

1:45-2:00 PM – Board bus
Travel back to Riverland’s east lot.

FREE event with lunch and busing to 3 cover crop farms in Mower County from 9 AM to 2 PM May 26.
Event parking at Riverland’s east campus in Austin to ride the bus.
RSVP by May 19 to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org or 507-434-2603

PARKING MAP
Riverland east lot in Austin

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



This week's Panther of the Week is Lucas Degen. He is the son of Eric and Dawn Degen and they live in New Richland. He is in Mrs. Buendorf's Kindergarten class.

Lucas is always showing Panther Pride and is a great example to his peers. He is

a wonderful friend and is willing to help in any way he can to make NRHEG an AWESOME school!

Lucas enjoys recess and learning new things. He also enjoys farming with his dad, playing with his siblings and cousins, and playing basketball.

Keep up the great work Lucas!



Recipe Corner

North Dakota Dip

2 c. real sour cream	1/2 c. chopped green olives
1 1/2 c. mini shredded Cheddar cheese	1 sm. onion, minced
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	1 tsp. salt
Dash of paprika	1 sm. green pepper, chopped
2 T. real lemon	

Mix everything together. Serve with crackers.

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Movie Review: Guardians of the galaxy Vol. 2



are a lot higher and, well, creepier.

While the overall tone of the film is still space adventure, it does occasionally swerve into horror territory. That uneasiness marks so many sci-fi films is present here as well. It surprisingly doesn't jar with the lighter moments. It grounds the film with a real sense of fear for the characters. In the first film, audiences knew the guardians would rise victorious and largely unscathed. It was just that kind of movie. As the bodies start to pile up, you realize this might not be that kind of movie.

A word of warning to parents, while the movie has the same PG-13 rating as the first. This is a much harder PG-13. There's no dismembered bodies popping out, but there's several moments that will either disturb kids or lead them to ask awkward questions about what that man is doing with that lady robot.

If you're ready for a superhero movie that takes you to the edge of your seat, buckle up. It's one of the better blockbusters this side of the galaxy.

Rated: PG-13

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

It's time to save yourself a seat at the theater for Guardians of the Galaxy. Again.

Everyone's favorite sometimes superheroes are back in an even edgier volume two. This time around the guardians are saving the galaxy from a monstrous conquer, while also confronting fears closer to home and their hearts.

The humor that made the first volume a success is back. The wisecracks and irreverent tone that's become the guardians' calling card is especially necessary in this outing, because the stakes

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Cancer Corner

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

B. P. Cancer Group Luncheon

Sat., May 13th
10 am - 2 pm

First Lutheran Church
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