

Opinion

Our view

Making the best decision

Choices. Everyday in many situations they must be made. Sometimes you find that you made a good choice, sometimes you find out if you made a bad choice. Can you tell ahead of time... before you commit to a choice – which decision to make?

Absolutely. And this goes out as a handy-dandy guide to our new graduates who are about to go into the world and begin to make a lot of their own decisions. Up until you are on your own, parents have a tremendous hand in making decisions and although rebellion at times comes in, others making decisions for you can be the best of times and the worst of times.

Some can remember more than once, while in school, using a parent's decisions as shields, keeping them from doing something that just didn't feel comfortable. But once all on your own, you made decisions that brought consequences. And sometimes those consequences were not good.

If you can learn to see into a future of possible scenarios and play out in your mind the consequences those scenarios will yield, it could make the decision making process so much more fruitful.

With the clichés out there now like “yolo” (you only live once) and “leave no regrets on your plate” it makes it difficult to see that they are only meant to cause “snap decisions.” A “dare” if you will to do something you don't have to think about or a rationalization for “just in case” the decision goes south.

Experience tells us that the burns on our hands are from placing those hands upon a hot stove. Experience can be a great teacher. Wisdom comes after experience. Wisdom speaks loudly into the decision making process. Wisdom gives you the possible outcome for an action. “Last time you touched the stove, you were severely burned.”

Wisdom makes you stop, think, and confront the consequences. There are times when snap decisions today can create uncomfortable situations tomorrow. The answer to being comfortable, to being successful and to being happy is the moments you spend with wisdom before you make a decision.

A moment is all it takes. The moment to text someone while driving, for instance. Let wisdom share with you for a moment the possible outcomes. Let wisdom flash the images into your mind of “what if.”

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.” -Confucius.



Innocent soul taken far too soon

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Lukas Wharton didn't have a care in the world.

That's certainly what we would wish for with any child, especially at the tender age of 5 years old. After all, how can life be any more carefree at that age?

Lukas was just out enjoying a late afternoon ride in his play wagon when, sadly, our troubled and broken world caught up with him before he was ever really able to live life.

Suddenly out of nowhere a vehicle came along and crashed into Lukas Wharton's play wagon, critically injuring him, on a gravel road on the Dodge-Olmsted County line. For the next eight days, Lukas gave it the fight of his life, attempting to battle back from traumatic injuries.

But after a vigilant fight, Lukas came up on the short end and passed from this earth.

Through this ordeal, his parents, Josh and April Wharton, have remained incredibly strong. They haven't publicly spoken, but through social media postings, they have shared some insight into their true feelings.

“You have given us great strength,” April wrote referring to the supporters who

have reached out. “Thank you everyone for praying, supporting and sending us love. He was such a joy to us and we will continue to love him every day.”

Many hearts have been shattered through this tragedy with great pain to bear. His grandparents, Joe and Lynn Honermann, are reeling from the loss with enormous anguish.

Said Lynn: “Our hearts are so broken with unbearable pain. We will always have this hole in our hearts.”

I can't begin to imagine experiencing the loss of a young child. But I do have some insight. Through my previous life as a police officer, I came across many death scenes and was forced to make notifications to surviving family members. Outside of losing a loved one, there is no worse feeling in the world than telling someone they have lost a loved one. The sheer emotion of it all is unbearable.

Tragedy has a way of finding positive things in life. In the case of Lukas, several area groups, including the Salem Sailors 4-H Club, held a benefit for him this past weekend at Christ the King Catholic Church in Byron. This had been planned even before he died. What a credit to these young 4-H members and others who came together to help a family in crisis.

This is a horrible tragedy that should touch all of our lives. Besides losing such a young child, the circumstances surrounding this incident are in question.

It appears Lukas' death may have been alcohol-related, which makes this tragedy even harsher to endure. Sheriff's investigators are awaiting the results of a blood test

from the driver involved in hitting Lukas' wagon before the county attorney makes a decision on charging.

The statistics regarding alcohol-related driving deaths are staggering. It plays out far too often on roadways across America. As a society, we need to find a way to make this nonsense stop. Until we do, tragedies are going to continue grabbing the headlines and destroying families.

Sadly, our little Lukas could become one of those stats depending how the investigation ends up.

But no matter what happens, one thing is for sure. Lukas is no longer around to play Iron man, Batman, Superman, Legos or any other activity little boys like to play.

An innocent soul has been taken from this earth far too soon.

We all need to search inside of our own souls to make sure we go in hot pursuit of making sure tragedies like this don't take place again.



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REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

“It's the only way to go,” proudly says Blooming Prairie Lions Club member Paul Dale when talking about his new partner, a seeing eye guide dog.

Lkon Paul has had some mis-

‘It's the only way to go’

fortunes, losing two guide dogs in less than two years. Maci Grace died of a heart attack in November of 2014 and Shadow died from cancer in January of 2016. Both were Golden Retrievers who were trained at the Leader Dogs School for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Lion Paul now has a third Leader dog, this one named Summit (see May 17, 2016 issue of The Times).

Being a Lion myself, I have known about Leader Dogs for the Blind for some time. My former club in Forest Lake once purchased a Leader Dog for a club member's son.

Lion Paul and Maci were the first Lion and guide dog that I met in Blooming Prairie at a regular Lions club meeting.

Lion Paul has retinitis pigments, an inherited, degenerative eye disease that causes severe vision impairment and often blindness. He was first diagnosed with the disease at age 18. His sight became more severely impaired in the early 1990s necessitating help of a Leader Dog.

I feel fortunate to have become a friend of Lion Paul and his wife Laura. I also am fortunate that I met all three of his dogs. I didn't know Maci well but got to know Shadow

when I volunteered to be Lion Paul's walking mate, with the help of Shadow.

Shadow was a hard working dog and took Lion Paul over the streets of Blooming Prairie on many occasion. I followed along and last winter, even ran into some obstacles (snow drifts) on our walk back from downtown BP.

Shadow loved to bring Lion Paul to Lions club meetings and was happy to ride in fellow Lion Paul Stender's vehicle.

REFLECTIONS

Story on Page 3A

Reunion, reflection and wonderment

This past Saturday I watched as one of my sons officially began his family. It was a time for reunions, a time for reflections and a time for wondering. The reunion of family. The reflection of what has gone forth, and wondering about the future.

As I looked into his eyes from the parent's row, I noticed how much he had changed since the days when I actually had to “change” him. I suddenly remembered that calendar he made in elementary school with his picture at the top of “July” and a tear came to my

eyes as I remembered cheering for him at his basketball games.

But this was not a basketball game, although I was a spectator with a chosen seat. In my heart I was cheering him on as he stood watching his grooms-men come to his side and come to his aid. It reminded me of the times he used to need me. When a band-aid was called for to his skinned knee or a pizza was in order after a brutal high school practice.

LITTLE THOUGHTS

Story on Page 3A

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016 8 State Awards	2011 4 National Awards
2015 4 National Awards 7 State Awards	(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)
2014 3 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2012 2 State Awards	


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DEADLINE

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....\$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....\$40
Out of state.....\$42

Second Front



Submitted photo

Messing around in the dirt is just one of the many activities for area children at the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club this summer. More than 50 youngsters are enrolled in the program.

Summer fun kicks into high gear at local kids club

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Although the calendar tells us that summer is still a week away, one would never know it by the weekend temperatures and the bustle of activity that began at the Boys & Girls Club in Blooming Prairie.

With more than 50 youngsters accepted into the summer program, several projects and leisure time hobbies are in full swing at the club.

Once the club settles into a routine, classes in many skills, in learning exercises and in free-time activity will be on the schedule each week. To manage all of this activity and provide meals for the members, Unit Director Marcy Sundine has recruited several student staff members, as well as a couple

of full-time employees. It is hoped that the upcoming Ribfest will provide enough profit so that all of the staff members now working can continue through the summer months.

As part of the weekly schedule, a trip to the library will be on one day and one to the swimming pool on another day will be available. In addition there are some courses at the club that will be available for a certain number of members. Those wanting to be a part of those classes need to check at the club for applications to those specialized courses.

The Ribfest committee had a final meeting last week at which time several sponsors were announced, the games to be offered selected, and details on raffle tickets and wristbands for entry to the celebration finalized. Posters are being distrib-

uted around the community and wristbands and raffle tickets are available at several BP businesses, including Vandals, the Servicemen's Club and both banks, or from board members.

Also last week approximately a dozen staff members and board directors, along with many board members from the parent Rochester Club, attended an informal gathering and awards program at Forager Brewery. Several Rochester board members were presented with years of service honors, and it is anticipated that BP staff will earn some of those awards in another year.

It is relatively easy to see that things at the local club are hopping, and that summer is now in full swing as far as club members are concerned.

REFLECTIONS

Continued from Page 2A

Lion Stender was always there with a ride for Lion Paul and his dogs. There were times, too, when Shadow nearly pilfered a Lion's meal plate as it sat on the dining table of the Servicemen's Club.

The skills acquired by these Leader Dogs are amazing. They become another set of eyes for their master. The dogs have given Lion Paul the freedom he desires to live a normal life, as normal as can be for an unsighted person.

The success of a Leader Dog is not only incumbent upon having a trainable animal but upon having a trainable human.

Lion Paul is that trainable human and he is a very courageous sort. "I could just sit around and do nothing but I do not choose to do that" Lion Paul says. He has a knack of being able to look right at you like a fully sighted person. "I can see some light," he says.

Lion Paul even recently told fellow Lion and Mayor H. Peterson that he was going to watch a NASCAR race on television. "Paul, how are you going to watch the race?" Mayor H. asked. "The same way you do, sitting in front of the television." He said he can hear the race.

Lion Paul is a good sport and gets ribbed often by his fellow Lions. Taittwister Harlan Hinzman recently was going table to table, fining Lions for various discretions. Shaking his can partly full of money, Lion Harlan stood by Lion Paul, asking for money. Lion Paul ignored him. "You maybe can't see, but you can hear," Lion Harlan joked.

A sense of humor and a devotion to family have helped carry Lion Paul through his adversity. Man's best friend has definitely helped.

Paul has been most generous in inviting me to go walking with him. I made my maiden voyage with Summit just the other day. She is younger than Paul's other two dogs and much spunkier. She is methodical in walking the curbs and the streets. She walked right through a "tackle strip" at an intersection downtown and Lion Paul had a little talk with her. She didn't miss a "tackle strip" the rest of the walk.

Lion Paul uses an audio GPS of Blooming Prairie's streets to make his path downtown.

It's quite humorous, Paul says, that some motorists motion him to go across an intersection. "He can't see and thus has to rely on Summit and on his walking mates.

Summit is sidetracked momentarily when meeting another dog on the sidewalk, or when hearing a loud bark. Squirrels are the worst disruption. They taunt Summit by climbing a tree and playing peekaboo.

Lion Paul is good at praising Summit and also gives her well deserved treats.

When she graces the front door, Lion Paul removes her harness and gentle bite mechanism. The transformation is made. Summit is now a "goof-ball and a regular dog," says Laura, Paul's wife.

Mantorville Theatre kicks off summer seaso

The Mantorville Theatre Company is ready to kick-off its 44th Summer Melodrama Season with an all-new Melodrama, "Jack Eagle: A Real American Hero" or "Eagles May Sore, But Veisels Never Fall From The Sky."

The show made its debut last Friday at the Mantorville Opera House, and runs every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., through July 3.

Jack Eagle is a Real American Hero -- or so all the dime novels say. But when he arrives in a small Midwestern town while on one of his Public Appearance tours, some of the local residents may soon discover that there is more to Jack Eagle than what appears in print. Will this "Real American Hero" live up to his reputation and save the day? Or will his dime novels suddenly experience a drastic decline in sales?

Written and directed by Denise Ruemping of Rochester, the show features the talents of Mikala Metzger (from Mantorville) Jack Harrington, Andrew Arndt, Ian Gill, and Anastacia Bolkwadze (all from Rochester), and Alicia Frarck (from Dodge Center) on the piano. Suitable for all members of the family, this show is sure to please.

Adult admission to the show is just \$10, and \$8 for those entitled to our "Reduced Rate



Admission" including MTC members, students, and seniors. Reserve your tickets at 507-635-5420, or buy tickets online and view the entire schedule at www.mantorvillain.com. And

don't forget to like the theatre on Facebook to stay up to date with all the latest Mantorville Theatre Company news.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Pine Springs Swimming Pool open in BP

Brent Weinberger and his three children escaped the heat and headed for the Pine Springs Swimming Pool in Blooming Prairie last weekend. Brent is shown with his three children on the sandy beach: Jacob, 11; Cooper, 2 and Fariah, 3.

LITTLE THOUGHTS

Continued from Page 2A

And there in that moment in time, he had to stand alone and wait. Wait for the love of his life. Wait for his future. Wait for his passion. And as a dad, I wondered if I had taught him to wait with joy. To wait with patience. To wait with perseverance.

And then the music began to play a new melody and we all realized that my son's life was about to change in just moments. The ring bearer came down the isle with the rings, but his bride was coming down an isle with his heart.

I watched the tears in his eyes as she approached and I knew. The most important thing was not his waiting with joy or his waiting with patience or his waiting with persistence... but

that he truly learned how to wait upon his bride with love.

Seven years ago he came to me and asked, "Dad, what do you think about this girl?" And as she took his hands and promised to love him with all of her heart, I felt a peace inside, knowing that a dad who finds a woman for his son that, above all will love him unconditionally is the confirmation of true happiness.

And as they were "pronounced" and walked away down that path I realized that I watched my son come to that altar as a little boy, but witnessed him walk away from it, very much a man.

As they disappeared into that wooded setting, far from the eyes of the spectators, I felt the

reunion of family as we cried and laughed and embraced and cheered the addition of another DeLap. I reflected on how this all happened in seven years. And I wondered no more if I had taught my son all he needed to know before that day.



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STEELE COUNTY
Times

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Public Safety

Crime Brief

BP woman faces drug charges



Alwes

A Blooming Prairie woman faces felony drug charges in connection with an incident at the Burger King lot in Owatonna.

Jessica Alwes, 25, has been charged with fifth-degree controlled substance crime in Steele County District Court. If convicted, she would face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Police came across a vehicle with its windows

covered with blankets around 1:15 a.m. June 8. An officer saw two people inside the car.

According to police, the officer made a quick observation and saw drug paraphernalia in the car and a search was conducted. As Alwes exited the passenger’s side, a pipe with white residue was left on the seat and tested positive for methamphetamine, police said, adding officers found a butane torch and a glass bowl with marijuana in Alwes’ purse.

Police said Alwes admitted to owning the pipe that was used to smoke meth and was in the process of cleaning it.

FIREARMS ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

According to the criminal complaint, at around 4:15 p.m. on June 4, a Steele County Sheriff’s deputy was traveling northbound on Highway 218 when a motorcyclist, later identified as Kirven, passed two SUV’s at a high rate of speed. The rate of speed was clocked to be 81 miles per hour, or almost 25 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

The deputy executed a U-turn, activated his lights and pursued the motorcycle, which was observed to be a Harley Davidson with no valid license plate or visible permit. The driver of the Harley slowed to a stop near the intersection of Highway 218 and 68th Street SE. During standard the traffic stop questioning, Kirven said he did not think he

needed a license, and needed to contact a third party on the phone to provide proof of insurance.

After checking Kirven’s driving status the deputy found not only was his license suspended, but he had violations for failing to face charges the past three years. At this point, the deputy placed Kirven under arrest for driving with a suspended license. Since the motorcycle was going to be transported to a local towing company, deputies searched the vehicle.

Deputies were first tipped to the possibilities of drug possession by the strong odor of what was suspected to be marijuana. During the search, three distinct green leafy substances were found in Kirven’s motorcycle.

The first was a quarter-sized bag hidden in a rolled up tent, the second was in a cigarette container, and the third was in the bottom of a locked saddle bag, the complaint said, adding the substance weighed around 18 grams.

In the bottom of the saddle bag, deputies unwrapped a handkerchief to find a .357 Smith and Wesson pistol revolver, according to court documents. The revolver was loaded with six bullets.

Kirven was transported to the Steele County Detention Center. A check of Kirven’s criminal history revealed 15 prior convictions, including a felony for carrying a pistol in 2014.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

June 5 Theft. Officer took a theft report at 6:35 p.m.

Owatonna Police

June 3 Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 18th St. SE and Cedar Ave. S. at 7:02 a.m.

Property. Property was recovered in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 12 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 6:43 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

June 4 Domestic. At 5:48 a.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 16th St. NE.

Drugs. Police received information regarding drug activity in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 10:13 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 12:17 p.m. and in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:58 p.m.

Fight. Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of 26th St. NE at 3:12 p.m.

June 5 Property. At 10:11 a.m., property was found in the 300 block of Elm Ave. S.

June 6 Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 7:45 a.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 1500 block of Bigelow Ave. NE at 9:18 a.m.

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 400 block of South St. E. at 10:02 p.m.

June 7 Domestic. At 1:30 a.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of McKinley St. E. They took a subject into custody.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of School St. W. at 3:45 p.m.

June 8 Suspicion. At 1:15 a.m., police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 700 block of Bridge St. W. They made an arrest at the scene.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of School St. W. at 8:39 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 9:59 a.m.

Steele County Sheriff

June 3 Warrant. Deputy took a subject into custody for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 2:37 p.m.

June 4 Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 8300 block of 78th St. SW at 9:10 a.m.

Arrest. Deputy arrested a motorist at 68th St. SE and Hwy. 218 at 4:15 p.m.

DWI. At 6:14 p.m., deputies pulled over a motorist in the 600 block of Main St. S. He or she was found to be intoxicated and taken into custody.

Threats. Deputies responded to a threats incident in the 4700 block of County Rd. 45 N. at 4:33 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

June 5 Threats. A threats incident occurred in the 400 block of 2nd St. NW at 11:13 a.m.

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 8600 block of 30th St. NW at 2:29 p.m.

Suspicion. At 7:39 p.m., deputies responded to a suspicious activity report in the 10800 block of 89th Ave. SE.

Warrants. Deputes made warrant arrests at the detention center at 9:15 p.m. and at 10:17 p.m.

June 6 Crash. Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 500 block of Central Ave. W. at 5:45 p.m.

June 7 Drunken Driving. At 1:30 a.m., deputy made a DWI arrest in the 5000 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Warrant. Deputies took a subject into custody for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 4:32 a.m.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 100 block of 3rd St. SE at 9:49 a.m.

June 8 Crash. Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident on Interstate 35 northbound. No injuries were reported.

June 9 Theft. At 1:43 p.m., deputy took a theft report in the 9100 block of 37th Ave. SW.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 30 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Leah S. Jones, 26, White Bear Lake, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. Jones was sentenced to \$2,081, 58 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, mental health program and 5 years of supervised probation.

Tara M. Saltou-Olson, 19, Albert Lea, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime – possession. The defendant was sentenced to \$81, 83 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain GED, mental health screening and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 30 – June 3:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Thomas J. Houston, 57, Blooming Prairie, cancelled license, \$381, 30 hours of community service and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Brett M. Baumgartner, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Eddie Boone, 49, Minneapolis, speeding, \$281; Briana M. Brantner, 19, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Andrew D. Calmer, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Adam J. Churchill, 31, Clarks Grove, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Xavier P. Coats, 27, Waseca, DWI, \$506, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Keith M. Cunningham, 38, Farmington, speeding, \$121; Ryan C. Earith, 19, Papillion, NE, speeding, \$141;

Hector Guerrero, 23, Albert Lea, expired registration, \$111; Ron H. Jaeger, 33, Rochester, revoked license, \$281; Ernest C. Kraudy, 71, Claremont, seat belt, \$106; Tyler D. Kruckeberg, 26, Blooming Prairie, stop sign, \$131;

Alan W. Lewis, 25, Cresco, IA, illegal U-turn, \$131; Carlos H. Lewis, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Jaky Lor, 19, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Kathryn P. Maresh, 25, Omaha, NE, speeding and no

Blotter spotlight: Fireworks. On June 1, deputies received a complaint that someone was walking around lighting fireworks off in the streets in the 200 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 4:25 a.m.

Fire destroys Hayfiel area family’s house

An early morning blaze has destroyed a rural Hayfield home.

Dodge County deputies and Hayfield firefighters responded to a house fire on 220th Avenue and County Road 9 around 2:30 a.m. June 8. When they arrived, they found the home engulfed in flames.

The Hayfield Fire Department received assistance from neigh-

boring Kasson. They remained on the scene until 6 a.m.

Sheriff Scott Rose said deputies arrived in time to check the home, but no one was located inside. He added the homeowners were later located in northern Minnesota on vacation.

“There were no injuries during this incident and it appears the home is a total loss,” Rose

said.

The family is in need of girls clothes size 4 and boys size 7. If you have anything to donate, they can be dropped off at Citizens State Bank in Hayfield.

The State Fire Marshall is investigating the cause.

Fire department seeks public’s help on updating records

An area fire department is seeking the public’s help in updating its records.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department wants families to contact them about any retired or former firefighter that has passed away and would like a marker placed on their grave-

stones, according to Mike Hoffman, secretary of BPDFD.

The information can be left on the fire department’s answering machine at 507-583-2088. Because the office is not normally manned, people will need to leave a message so that fire officials can get back to them and

get the required information.

“For Memorial Day weekend, we put BPDFD flags on these marked graves much like veteran organizations do with U.S. flags,” Hoffman noted.

BP police continue investigation of car breakins

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Chief Greg Skillestad said if anyone noticed anything suspicious the early morning of June 2 in the North Center Ave. area

to “come in and talk to us.” He said police are looking at an image recorded from a store security camera in the area.

Thieves apparently ransacked four unlocked vehicles on North Center Ave. Two laptops, valued

at \$2,000 each and a cell phone valued at \$800 were stolen.

Chief Skillestad urged residents to keep their homes and cars secure at all times.

license, \$231; Logan M. Morrey, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Mallory R. Myer, 25, Brownsdale, no license, \$181; Amos T. Nagbe III, 27, Ames, IA, seat belt, \$106; Kaitlyn A. Nelson, 18, Moline, IL, speeding, \$131; Kelly L. Quiram, 29, Le Center, suspended license and seat belt, \$306; William P. Sanson, 54, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$106;

Hisayo Sugaya, 44, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Htoo Wah, 56, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Matthew S. Wilkenson, 39, New Richland, seat belt, \$106; Amber N. Will, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Trey M. Williams, 24, Raytown, MO, speeding, \$121; Xiangzhen Zhang, 20, Champaign, IL, speeding, \$221; Veronica J. Zvorak, 23, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281.

Owatonna Police Department

Shelly L. Barnes, 41, Winona, financial transaction card fraud and possession of stolen or counterfeit check, \$281, no contact with victim, diversion program and 2 years of unsupervised probation;

Jon A. Berg, 64, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,081, 6 days in county jail, complete Steele Waseca Drug Court and 3 years of supervised probation; Dyreese K. Brown, 20, Rochester, theft, \$131, 5 hours of community service and 1 year in county jail; Rylee L. Burns, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Bernice C. Cardona, 22, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Juan R. Carrasco, 38, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281;

Amie M. Chambers, 35, Faribault, use of wireless communications device, \$131; Tristen D. Deters, 43, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Bryan A. Dupris, 18, New Richland, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jennifer D. Eckart, 36, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$481;

Cedric A. English, 43, Owatonna, theft, \$581, 1 year in county jail – work release; Tanner J. Erler, 19, Owatonna, headlights violation, \$121; Jared W. Farwell, 23, Burnsville, speeding, \$221; Nikita M. Finley, 26, Claremont, false name and possession of Marijuana, \$131, 4 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Debby P. Funes Ventura, 27, South St. Paul, suspended license, \$281; Steven A. Hamson, 56, seat belt, \$106; Keith D. Haskell, 54, Owatonna, no MN license and improper information on license, \$201; Isabell G. Hernandez, 64, Blooming Prairie, no insurance, \$281; Davina N. Herron, 24, no license, \$181;

Verdel L. Houston, 36, Minneapolis, revoked license and possession of Marijuana, \$331; Abdifatah A. Issat, 26, Owatonna, no MN li-

cense, \$181; Patrick M. Jacobs, 18, Owatonna, reckless driving, \$481; Elsa A. Janson, 26, Duluth, theft, \$1,641, diversion program and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Joshua D. Killen, 41, Owatonna, DWI, \$606, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation;

Martin J. Klaustermeier, 21, Geneva, seat belt, \$106; Nicole K. Lien, 23, Rochester, suspended license, \$281; Pedro J. Munoz Cobos, 49, Owatonna, no insurance and no license, \$381; Cody J. Parkos, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, underage possession of alcohol and possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$431; Patrick D. Powell, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Denise A. Rodriguez, 19, Faribault, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Crystal Ruiz, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Mary L. Sanborn, 57, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Drew L. Schrodt-Fuller, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Anthony M. Schuda, 25, Bloomington, prohibited passing and speeding, \$431; Frank E. Springer, 59, Owatonna, failure to obey lane marker, \$131; Justin B. Steinbauer, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;

Alexandria J. Thompson, 22, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Nicole B. Torres, 21, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Janeen R. Wolters, 23, Owatonna, use of wireless communication device while driving, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

Ahmed T. Alsagri, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$281; Tyler L. Baka, 30, Madison Lake, speeding, \$121; Samuel N. Brandriet, 27, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Alejandro Cruz, 36, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$121; Tiffany T. Davis, 19, Sanborn, speeding, \$121; Christopher W. Edmond, 26, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Stacy M. Erickson, 31, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Diane R. Hansen, 63,

Delano, expired tabs and speeding, \$151; Yovana K. Hernandez Cortes, 19, Lakeville, speeding, \$481; Liliana R. Izquierdo Rocha, 21, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Rachele E. Kruse, 40, Geneva, speeding, \$121;

Jacob A. Lembke, 33, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Jeffrey S. Matteson, 31, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$121; Ismail A. Mohammed, 22, Edina, speeding, \$121; Dylan P. Norre Nielsen, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131; Tami M. Ongoto, 39, Maple Grove, speeding, \$141; Ryan J. Orning, 25, Northfield, no insurance, \$81 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Lawrence L. Oyoyo, 45, Waseca, speeding, \$121;

Matthew R. Petsinger, 38, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$121; Pete Reyes, 18, Austin, speeding, \$121; Raul L. Robles, 46, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Gretchen E. Sadaka, 45, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Tyler C. Schell, 24, New Richland, speeding, \$141; Kylie F. Schroeder, 20, East Bethel, speeding, \$111;

Larry A. Schultz, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Carter M. Tollefson, 22, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Gabriel A. Torres, 31, Coon Rapids, DWI, \$1,081, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Bradley G. Vought, 59, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Ina L. Warren, 76, Medford, speeding, \$221.

ARREST

Steele County

Owatonna Police

David Ortiz, 38, arrested at 6:19 a.m. June 4, felony domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

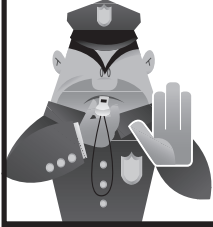
Derek James Kelling, 19, arrested at 10:10 p.m. June 6, warrant arrest, \$3,000 bail.

ARREST

Continued on Page 5A

SHERIFF’S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



If you have information about any crimes in Steele County, call the sheriff’s tipline. You may remain anonymous.

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

- Jeffrey Moran – no license - \$500 bail
- Bryce More – arson - \$500 bail
- Kaleb More – collision unattended - \$1,000 bail
- Joshua Moreno – domestic assault - \$3,000 bail
- Jose Mota – theft - \$1,000 bail
- Dylan Mott – vehicle registration violation - \$300 bail
- Emira Muminovic – minor consumption - \$500 bail
- Enrique Munoz Jr. – theft – no bail
- Guadalupe Munoz – false name - \$3,000 bail
- Ricardo Munoz – DWI - \$6,000 bail

- Charlene Murry – DUI – no bail
- Deq Mursal – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- Olvidio Narraez – DWI, no license - \$1,000 bail
- Jennifer Nekolite – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
- James Neubauer – traffic - \$500 bail
- Can Nguyen – revoked license - \$1,000 bail
- Dai Nguyten – drugs – no bail
- Benito Nieto – terroristic threats – no bail
- Brandon Nisly – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
- Jason Nolan – theft by check - \$5,000 bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

News

ARREST

Continued from Page 4A —

Christopher Michael Powers, 40, arrested at 2:11 a.m. June 7, felony domestic assault and drug paraphernalia, held for court.

Jessica Linn Alwes, 25, arrested at 2:01 a.m. June 8, felony possession of controlled substance crime and possession of drug paraphernalia, held for court.

Adam Joseph Balzer, 36, arrested at 9:05 a.m. June 9, domestic assault, held for court.

Candy Lynn Wuderlich, 54, arrested at 1 a.m. June 10, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Amanda Kay Preble, 20, arrested at 2:15 a.m. June 10, felony aggravated assault extradition hearing, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Dean Donald Drager, 30, arrested at 2:25 p.m. June 3, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Cody Lane Luchi, 19, arrested at 3:33 p.m. June 3, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Andrew Kirven, 25, arrested at 4:43 p.m. June 4, felony carrying a weapon without a permit and revoked license, held for court.

Trace Michael Stanley, 18, arrested at 10:25 a.m. June 5 felony violation of conditions of release, held for court.

Han Nicholas Vorwerk, 34, arrested at 10:16 p.m. June 5, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Justin Joseph Huisman, 25, arrested at 4:30 a.m. June 7, cancelled license warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.

FIRE

Owatonna

June 3
Alarm. The fire department responded to a fire alarm at 730 Cedar Ave. S. at 5:24 p.m. There was no fire and the alarm had been unintentionally activated.

June 4
Alarm. At 11:41 p.m., firefighter handled an alarm at 334 Cedardale Dr. SE. No fire was reported and it was ruled unintentional alarm.

June 6
Smoke Detector. Fire responded to a smoke detector activation at 616 Bridge St. W. at 4:16 p.m. Upon arrival, no fire was found

June 8
Alarm. An alarm system activation sent the fire department to 2365 43rd St. NW at 6:09 a.m. There was no fire

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

June 1
Disturbance. At 12:02 a.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the 600 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a civil fraud incident in the 21300 block of 740th St. in Hayfield at 8:43 a.m.

Disturbance. At 5:13 p.m., a Mantorville woman called deputies because she was fighting with her husband and wanted him removed from her home in the 800 block of Clay St.

June 2
Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraudulent check in the 70200 block of 160th Ave. in Hayfield at 9:52 a.m.

Fire. Deputies responded to a fire in the 64900 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 10:10 a.m.

Disturbance. At 8:24 p.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Front St. E. in Claremont.

June 3
Disturbance. A disturbance occurred on 1st St. NE in Hayfield at 1:31 a.m.

Fraud. A Dodge Center resident reported fraudulent credit card use in the 100 block of Hwy. St. W. at 10:11 a.m.

Narcotics. Deputies responded to a narcotics incident in the 700 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 11:20 a.m.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of a child abuse case in the county at 12:02 p.m.

Assault. At 7:48 p.m., a Dodge Center resident reported that his daughter assaulted at school.

June 4
Harassment. At 8:55 p.m., deputies took a report of harassing threatening calls in the 24000 block of 720th St. in Hayfield.

Narcotics. Deputies made a traffic stop at 3rd Ave. SW and South St. in Dodge Center at 9:10 p.m. Two subjects were transported to the Steele County Jail for narcotics.

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault on Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center at 11:08 p.m.

June 6
Fraud. A Hayfield citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. at 3:46 p.m.

Juvenile. At 5:40 p.m., deputies received a complaint of juveniles smoking in the 20900 block of 601st St. in Dodge Center.

June 7
Sexual Assault. Deputies began an investigation of a past action sexual assault in Hayfield at 10:43 a.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance at Front St. E. and Davis St. in Claremont at 7:48 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 30 – June 6:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Corey L. Ausrud, 40, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Marlon T. Collins, 24, Moose Lake, revoked license, 90 days in county jail; Gregory G. Gross, 34, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Ryan A. Jacobsen, 32, Rochester, revoked license and speeding, \$330; Chrissie J. Jurens, 36, Pine Island, speeding, \$140; Marlon D. Kinsey, 41, Rochester, invalid license, \$180; Michael J. McCary, 31, Madison, WI, speeding, \$140; Lonny L. McKay, 60, Kasson, possession of Marijuana and speeding; Alexandra M. Prigge, 16, Byron, speeding, \$140; Jacob K. Schandorff, 19, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280; Daniel T. Vrieze, 25, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280.

Kasson Police Department

Cassandra R. Buck, 31, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Justin L. Holtan, 41, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Kyle C. Lentz, 24, Mantorville, failure to yield, \$180; Cayla A. Loy, 18, Mantorville, unlawful passing, \$130; Daniel M. Mogren, 56, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$105; John E. Steele, 53, Gahanna, OH, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Nicolas P. Demartini, 21, Zumbro Falls, speeding and revoked license, \$330; Alexander R. Grant, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$140; Janet L. Hackensmith, 75, Austin, speeding, \$140; Andrew L. Jech, 28, Kasson, suspended license, \$280; Derek D. Jensen, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Tabettha L. Knutson, 23, Winona, speeding, \$130; Mustafa M. Qulaten, 52, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Ashley R. Rohwer, 33, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Mark E. Siebels, 52, St. Peter, suspended license, \$280; Ryan J. Sivesind, 24, Byron, speeding, \$130.

Logan's Message: Protect yourself and your family

SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

Your son is a senior in High School, some of the best years of his life. He is doing very well in school, he's active in his community, and he's planning on going into the Marines in the fall. You've got a graduation to plan. A Grad Party to get ready for. Your son, who has also been serving as a volunteer fire fighter, has decided to do his senior project on the dangers of distracted or impaired driving. Things couldn't be better. It's going to be a great year.

Then you get that phone call—your son is gone.

The Maas Family in Dodge Center lived this nightmare this year when their son Logan was killed in a car accident last winter. He was not wearing his seatbelt—which would have saved his life.

The effects of his loss could be seen throughout Triton High School on June 5, graduation day. His classmates wore an orange cord in his memory and released orange balloons after the ceremony. His diploma and orange cord were presented to Matt and Julie, his parents. His absence was felt by everyone.

As the Maas family goes thru the grieving process trying to figure out how to move on with their lives without Logan, one fact is very clear to them—Logan would want them to use his story to remind everyone the importance of

seatbelt use. He would want his story to be used to help save lives.

In 2015, Logan and 90 other unbelted motorists lost their lives on Minnesota Roads. While we have a 94 percent compliance for front seatbelts, we obviously still have a lot of work to do.

Logan was a rear passenger in the vehicle he was riding in. In Minnesota, the seatbelt law is a primary offense, meaning drivers and passengers in all seating positions—including the back seats—must be buckled up or in the correct child restraint:

- All children must be in a child restraint until they are 4'9" tall, or at least age 8
- Newborns to at least 1 year old and 20 pounds must be in a rear facing child seat
- Age 2 until around age 4 should be in a forward facing child seat
- After outgrowing forward facing harness restraints, booster seats should be used

Law enforcement will be out in force this summer looking for seat belt violators. Drivers will be ticketed for unbelted passengers ages 14 and under. Unbelted passengers age 15 and older will be ticketed directly. We've heard all the excuses.....

I buckle up most of the time, but not if I am just going a few blocks to the store.

FACT: The majority of motor vehicle crashes occur within 25 miles of home in areas where the speed limit is 40mph or less. A crash at only 12 mph can be fatal.

We'll never have a crash—I'm a good driver.

FACT: Good drivers can be hit by bad drivers, distracted drivers, intoxicated drivers, aggressive or inattentive drivers. Wildlife or other sudden hazards may be impossible to avoid.

My baby was crying, so I was

holding her. I could protect her in a crash.

FACT: In a 30 mph crash, a 10 pound baby can suddenly be ripped from a belted adult's arms with a force of over 300 pounds and launched into the dashboard or windshield. No matter how strong you are, you cannot hold onto a baby in a crash.

I knew someone who died in a car crash because they were wearing their seatbelt.

FACT: If someone wearing their seatbelt dies in a crash, it certainly wasn't because they were buckled up. The crash was most likely so severe and devastating that only not being in that car at that moment would have prevented a fatality.

This summer will be a busy one for family and friends—outings with friends, family vacations, working hard and playing hard. Sit down and talk with your family and kids about the importance of seatbelt use and be sure to lead by example and always wear your seatbelt.

Logan's message: Protect yourself and your family by buckling up—every seat, every time.

Pass it on!

Scott

Scott Rose has been sheriff of Dodge County since January 2015. His column appears in the Times monthly. His columns are also available on the Dodge County Sheriff's Office website in the Sheriff's Blog section.



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

Fighting cancer takes a community

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



ASHLEY VALEK

ka and for the last eight years at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Ashley says she joined the BP Cancer Group because like most people, cancer "has touched my life." At the time she joined, her father was battling cancer "and I wanted to get involved in something to help raise funds and hopefully bring us closer to a cure," she said. Unfortunately her father passed away two years ago

after a lengthy battle with leukemia and lymphoma.

"I also wanted to be a part of something that not only donated to research, but also helped the community," Ashley says.

"I believe the community aspect of our group is huge; being able to help people when they are facing such a scary diagnosis is well worth the effort. Our hope is that our community knows that they are not facing it alone and we are here to help if we can, whether that is monetarily with bills or groceries or just a ride to an appointment.

"We try to help as many people as we can. As for what to look for in the future, my hope is that we continue to be a group that the community feels is important and worth supporting. We couldn't do any of it without community support."

Ashley and her husband Glenn reside in Blooming Prairie with their two children, Easton, 4 and Skylar, 2.

Ashley loves working out and running. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends.

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ter, speeding, \$130; Mark E. Siebels, 52, St. Peter, suspended license, \$280; Ryan J. Sivesind, 24, Byron, speeding, \$130.

West Concord Police Department

Lindsey A. French, 29, Minneapolis, no insurance, \$85, 15 days in county jail.



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RECIPE CORNER

Oreo Hot Cocoa

• 10 Oreo cookies, coarsely chopped

• 1/2 c. mini marshmallows

• 1/2 c. chocolate flavored syrup

• 3 c. milk

By Kayla Wacek

Blend chopped cookies, milk and syrup in a blender until smooth. Pour into a 2 quart saucepan. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring frequently until hot. Ladle into 4 mugs. Top with marshmallows; serve immediately. Serve with Oreo cookies.

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Community

Obituary

Helen V. Campbell, 79, Blooming Prairie



Helen V. Campbell, 79, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Monday, June 6, 2016 at her home.

Helen Virginia Wiese was born May 11, 1937 in Austin, the daughter of Fred and Mildred (Myster) Wiese. She attended Hayfield and Blooming Prairie schools.

On September 26, 1959, Helen was united in marriage to Maynard Campbell in Mason City. Helen enjoyed her years as a homemaker and

raising three daughters with Maynard, living in Blooming Prairie over 30 years before moving to Dexter in 2005. Her favorite pastimes included embroidery, dancing, shopping, and lunching with her best friend Avis. Helen followed Maynard's stock car racing career for over 25 years, and was formerly part-owner of the Cubby Hole in Albert Lea. She especially loved spending time with her family and her little dog Chi Chi, her very best companion.

Helen would like to be remembered as a mom, a friend, and for helping her family whenever she could. She will be dearly missed.

Helen is survived by her daughters Pam (Rick) Gunderson of Rochester, Debra (John) Newman of Austin, and Linda (William) Nelson of Dexter; her special friend Gary Christiansen of Blooming Prairie; 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and her brother Arnold Wiese of Blooming Prairie.

She was preceded in death by her parents Fred and Mildred Wiese, her husband Maynard Campbell in 2000, her sister Catharine, her sister-in-law Esther Wiese, her best friend Avis, and great-granddaughter Kayleigh.

Funeral services were held June 9, 2016 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, with Reverend Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Interment was in First Lutheran Cemetery. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home.

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



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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- June 15**
Hailey Hensrud
Karen Kruckeberg, Tommy Meyer
June 16
Jason Hoveland
Michael Hines, Daniel Hanson
Paul Haberman
June 17
Colin Campbell, Doug Miner
Nancy Vaillancourt
Logan Konz, Cierra Coughlin
June 18
Chris Klemmensen
Emma Kormann
June 19
Anthony Sorensen, Sarah Krell
Courtney Easton, Roger Amundson
June 20
Carter Bumgarner
Brooklyn Simon, Sue Zweiner
June 21
Jeff Kramer, Andrea Miller
Allan Benson
June 22
Joe Gardner
Randy Klemmensen
Barb Coleman, Jane Prihoda
Ryan Srsen, William Hines
- Anniversaries**

June 15
Mary Ann and Ernie Betlach
Frank and Norma Henefeld
Bob and Diane Hanenberger
Joe & Lisa Kubista
June 16
Jim and Kristi Fiebiger
Bruce & Tammy Wolf
Gloria & Ken Trom
June 18
Paul and Haley Tollefson
Herman and Connie Lembke
Pat (Buck) and Julie Cochlin
Jared and Kristine Smith
June 19
Aaron and Ashley Anderson
Nathan and Lori Arndt
June 20
Tom and Tammy Harber
Josh and Ellie Jones
June 21
Nick and Sami Nelson
Greg and Kathy Johnson
June 22
Brian and Sandy Kerrigan
Chris and Amy Staloch

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2:00-6:00 pm

Friday, June 17th
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday, June 18th
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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SEMCAC senior menu

June 14:
Pork Steak, Dressing, Oriental Blend Veg, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Brownie
June 15:
Chicken ala King over Biscuit, Peas, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit
June 16:
Sliced Ham & Cheese ALT: Turkey & Cheese, Potato Salad, Tomato Wedges, Peach Half, Dinner Roll, Dessert
June 17:
Brats & Sauerkraut ALT: Hamburger, Oven Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans, Dessert

June 20:
Sweet Pepper Steak, Brown Rice, Cauliflower, Tossed Salad, Fresh Banana
June 21:
New England Boiled Dinner, ALT: Beef Steak W/Veg, Seafoam Salad, Lemon Bar
June 22:
Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Cali Blend Veggies, Citrus Fruit Cup

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD
Solution on Page 4D

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. The woman
- 4. New Rochelle college
- 8. If not
- 12. Rotating mechanism
- 13. Strong sharp smell or taste
- 14. Squash bug genus
- 15. Eggs
- 16. S. African Anglican bishop
- 18. Draws taut
- 20. One who tears down
- 21. Killed
- 22. Focus during yoga
- 26. Boxing referee declares
- 27. Morning
- 28. Make very hot and dry
- 29. At right angles to the keel
- 31. Basalt layers of earth
- 35. Most abundant rare-earth

CLUES DOWN

- 1. People of the lochs
- 2. Czech playwright Vaclav
- 3. Gave forth
- 4. Frozen drinks
- 5. Many not ands
- 6. Matchstick game
- 7. Embellish
- 8. Goes into
- 9. Twin Peaks actress Piper
- 10. Very fast airplane
- 11. Cologne
- 13. Benign glandular tumors
- 14. Used to cut and shape wood
- 17. ___ King Cole
- 19. Japanese deer
- 22. Vitrines
- 23. Princely area
- 24. Mother-of-pearl
- 25. A ___ - is in accord
- 29. Get ___ of
- 30. Bay of All Saints state
- 32. Supernatural forces (N.Z.)
- 33. Promotional material
- 34. Rubicund
- 38. 12th Greek letter
- 39. Military weapon
- 43. No. diving sea birds
- 45. Place emphasis on
- 46. P. Reubens' Herman
- 50. Dawdles
- 51. 1st Japanese Prime Minister
- 52. Ruth's Mother-in-law (Bib.)
- 54. "Socrate" composer Erik
- 55. African antelope
- 57. Ice hockey fake
- 58. Expression of triumph
- 59. Dandy
- 60. Actor Aykroyd
- 61. Microgram

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Area Church Spotlight

Pastor's corner

If a dandelion can possess its own natural beauty



Every Mother's day my family would trek to the local nursery for my mom to pick out her new flowers. As we walked among the varied blooms and shrubs my Dad always teased, "It looks like weeds to me." After receiving a playful wag of the finger and a bit of the stink eye my Dad would raise his hands in defeat.

This week I was reminded of his comments as I looked out into my backyard speckled with little yellow flowers. This is my first home and having not seen the lawn during the summer I was unsure about what I was

seeing. These flowers were not here yesterday and it seems as though they blossomed overnight!

As I inspected the sea of yellow more closely I realized that it consisted of weeds, commonly known as dandelions. From a distance the many yellow blooms were colorful and vibrant. Yet I felt ashamed to have this weed so prominently in my yard.

Out of fear of being a terrible neighbor I began to Google dandelions. Instead of ways to kill dandelions the first thing that popped up in my search about dandelions was wine and tea. I discovered dandelions have health benefits and some people eat them, use them as a garnish or drink them in teas.

This weed was a weed because at some point I had been told it was undesirable. It may not fit the image of a well-manicured

lawn but it does possess other talents. If I hadn't been told to kill the dandelions for a lovely green grass backyard, I would even say they were beautiful and reminded me of the natural, unaltered, beauty of nature.

I certainly don't mean to diminish the impact of toxic or abusive people or place them in this comparison but are there perhaps some people whom we have judged too quickly? If the dandelion can possess its own natural beauty and benefits as made by the Creator, perhaps we can dig a little deeper to discover the beauty in those around us.

*Pastor Stephanie Wood
Aurora Lutheran Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Owatonna*

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Summer Worship:
9:00 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125
www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507) 465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.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'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
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The Rev. Alan Broadwell
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19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning
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2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each
month. Sunday School - starts
Sept. 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
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.

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Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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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
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM

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

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2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 10:30 AM

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Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
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10:15 am Sunday School
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Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
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to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

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The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Tuesdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com

Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Adoration: Mondays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Sunday Mass: 9:15 a.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomyisl.webs.com

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday

Family Faith Formation and Adult
Bible Study after Mass with noon
potluck: 2nd Sunday of month
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Wednesday evening

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Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 1 p.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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Rev. Edward F. McGrath, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
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10 a.m. Sunday
Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
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Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.
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Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
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Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
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Pastor Aaron de Neui
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www.cedarcreekchurch.org
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Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
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10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

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Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

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Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Sunday School: 9 a.m.
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QUILTS OF VALOR
Continued from Page 1A



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Kurt Blome, Blooming Prairie, was one of 14 who received a Quilt of Valor on Memorial Day at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie. Wife Barb and Bev Hoveland are at Blome's right.

The last time was at the Memorial Day potluck picnic where 14 veterans received the one-of-a-kind quilts.

The Quilts of Valor program all started with a dream Founder Catherine Roberts had about her son Nat, who was deployed in Iraq, being in pain. This dream left Roberts with the clear message, that "Quilts = Healing."

The first quilt the foundation made was for a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost his leg in Iraq in 2003. In those days, Roberts said, the program was small and "everyone did everything," but when the foundation moved to a national foundation in 2005 more organization took place.

Originally, the program was called Quilts of Soldiers, because Robert's son was in the army. After getting "straight-

ened out" by a former marine on different military titles, Roberts changed the name to Valor.

Since 2003, the program has exploded in popularity. More than 138,000 quilts have been given out over the last 13 years, according to the foundation's website. Just in the past week alone, 648 quilts have been given out.

The first quilt Butler ever made was for fellow BP resident John Whiting. The quilt was tan and burgundy with other dark and navy patches. She said giving the quilts give her a wonderful feeling because sometimes veterans tell her that, "Nobody ever said thank you."

For more information on Quilts of Valor, visit www.qovf.org.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Opportunities at preserving old buildings and landmarks in Blooming Prairie were discussed at the luncheon table Wednesday, June 8 by BP Area Chamber of Commerce members and local business owners.

Becky Noble, executive director of the BP Area Chamber, says she has been trying to get a meeting arranged on this topic for some time.

It was a time to share information brought in by Sarina Otaibi, Minnesota Main Street Coordinator.

SAFETY AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

percent better than the industry average, and a score between 75 and 90 on the safety program evaluation scale.

• Award of Honor (39 winners): Incidence rates at least 91% better than the industry average, and a score between 91 and 100 on the safety program evaluation scale.

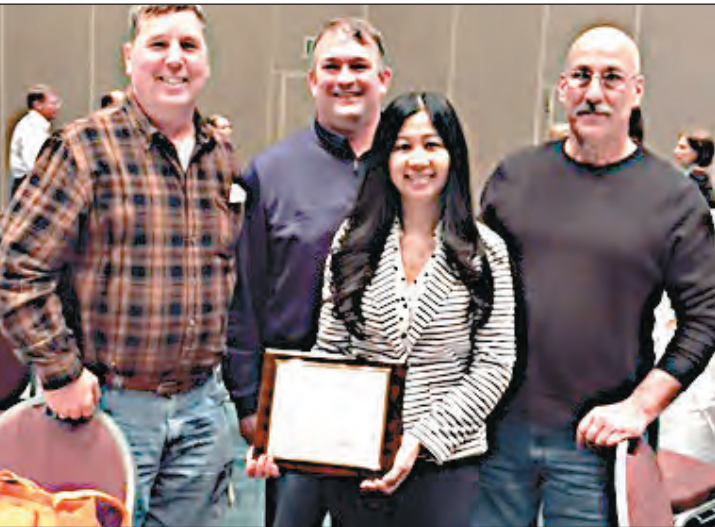
The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon is part of the 82nd Minnesota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated

Those attending the meeting indicated an interest in how they would be helped by either receiving tax breaks or grants. Historic preservation is about preserving and protecting places of importance "to you," Otaibi said.

The downtown area of Blooming Prairie is a National Historic District, it was pointed out. Preserving the historical value of a building or property protects the public's investment and can promote tourism, Otaibi said.

All those in attendance were asked to sign an e-mail directory to keep linked to any future discussion on preserving the vi-

by the Minnesota Safety Council. The conference is the oldest and largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The Minnesota Safety Council, founded in 1928, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Minnesota by preventing unintentional injuries ("accidents").



Submitted photo

Arkema of Blooming Prairie came away as a big winner May 5 at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon in the Twin Cities. The company won an outstanding achievement award. Safety representatives accepting the award on behalf of Arkema were (left to right) Bill Newman, Joel Kubista, Loan Trinh and Gary Radtke.

BP businesses look at historic preservation

tality of local communities existing assets including people, businesses, places and unique stories.

Preservation can lead to development, Otaibi told those in attendance.

She spoke briefly about the Minnesota Main Street project which currently includes Faribault, New Ulm, Owatonna, Red Wing, Shakopee, Willmar and Winona. These communities have started initiatives to improve their community's economic well being.

Coordinator Otaibi said she was pleased "to see so many business owners in Blooming Prairie" show an interest in improving their access to tools for historic preservation.

Otaibi and Noble said they are hopeful a followup meeting can be held to further discuss preservation strategies. Otaibi said she will stay in contact with the BP Chamber and with those businesses who are interested in improving preservation opportunities. She said she will send website links outlining

steps to be taken toward preservation.

Attending the preservation meeting were: Marilyn Witzel, Tess Koster, Dr. Chad Eischens, Sue Zwiener, Tamzen Johnson, Nancy Vailancourt, The Rev. Matt Fennell and Tonya, Tom Wilson, Becky Noble, Leanne Hansen, Gregg Fristedt and Collette Lea.

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Gardening Tip of the week:

As the weather warms we start to pull our favorite pots and containers out from storage. To have a successful growing season take a few extra steps this year. Make sure you emptied all old soil from your containers. This could be added to your garden area and tilled in. Next wash the pot inside and out with a mild dish soap and finish with a rinse of 1T of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Let them stand empty until dry. Now you are ready for the potting soil.

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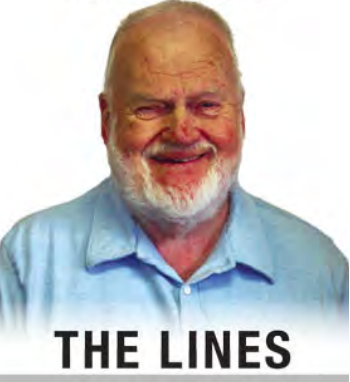
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES
LeMar Nelson

Good luck golfers

The only spring sports team still in competition is the boys' golf team and the only individual is Taylor Christianson. Those athletes are playing at Pebble Creek Golf course today and tomorrow. All we can do now is wish them the best of luck as they vie for honors in that sport. A tip of the hat to those athletes.

Time goes by

It has been almost 25 years now since I left the ranks of public school teachers and the Blooming Prairie High School, but I still get those familiar feelings of relief, yet sadness at the passing of another school year. I have always maintained that the best times of my life occurred in my college years, as there was the sudden feeling of no responsibility, but all the freedom of making my own choices.

But I also admit that my teaching career is a close second to those college years. I can't think of any career I could have chosen that would have been more demanding, yet more rewarding. I certainly am not discounting a wife and children, as they obviously rank number one in importance in my life.

I also am not minimizing the role education and teaching occupied. I guess what I am trying to say is that I still have those same feelings now that another class has graduated, and it will probably be the same after the next one is gone, as well. One never gets too old for those memories to arise each year, and this particular year was no different.

A Garden of Eden?

In this area, the weather has not been of much concern, but I think we live in a veritable Garden of Eden, compared to the rest of the country and even the world. We have occasional rain and a couple of hot days, but we certainly are fortunate in comparison. When reading the paper, listening to the radio or watching TV, we have tornadoes in Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma; flooding in Texas and parts of Florida and the Gulf Coast; and violent storms in other parts of the country.

Why, even in other parts of the world, the weather poses big problems. In Paris they had to move some of the priceless art works out of the Louvre, and some other parts of Europe were dealing with the so-called 100-year storms. I don't know what it all means, but it makes me more thankful each day that I live in Minnesota. How about you?

Another great gone

Like Prince's death a month ago, the death last week of Muhammad Ali shocked and stunned everyone, yet was not completely unexpected. Ali had suffered from Parkinson's Disease for several years, and had been in relatively poor health, although he maintained an optimistic outlook on life to the end.

Ali probably inherited the mantle once owned by the great Joe Louis and probably will go down in the history books as the greatest fighter ever. He was as quick a fighter as a lightweight, but as strong as the heavyweight that he was. His most famous

Johnson hurdles to second place at state



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Owatonna's Jacob Johnson competing in the finals of the 110-meter hurdles Saturday at the MSHSL Track and Field Championships at Hamline University.

Huskies 4x200 relay takes third place

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

In the 2015 Minnesota State High School League Track and Field Championships, Owatonna's Jacob Johnson pulled off a fourth place finish in the 110-meter hurdles with St. Paul Como Park's Trevon Clay coming away with the title.

Johnson and Clay returned to Hamline University Saturday at the 2016 Minnesota State High School League Track and Field Championships with Johnson hoping to claim Clay's crown. In Friday's prelims, Clay ran the fastest time at 14.31 with Johnson and St. Michael-Albertville's Isaiah Weston each clocking a 14.51 time for third fastest.

Johnson had three goals in Saturday's final: 1- record his personal best time, 2- beat Clay, and 3- take home the gold. By race end, he would achieve two of his three goals.

The Owatonna senior ran hard down the stretch to defeat Clay in a personal best time of 14.28, but Weston eclipsed everyone out of the blocks and held off the field to win the race in a time of 14.06 leaving Johnson as runner-up.

"I was like, if I beat Trevon, I'll be pretty good," said Johnson. "Then Isaiah just had the start of his lifetime. He came out of the blocks like a bullet and by the second hurdle I was already down. By the end I caught up to him, but it wasn't enough."

Johnson, who will be running track at the University of South Alabama next season, set another personal best in his final high school race as his time of 38.47 in the 300-meter hurdles was good for fourth.

"For the 300s, when I started to see the competition, I thought if I go top five, I'll be happy. I got that, got a PR (personal record) in that, so I'm happy."

Johnson was Owatonna's only competitor on the boys' side in Saturday's finals. In Friday's prelims, senior Nick Raichle ran a time of 50.71 in the 400-meter dash, missing out on the finals by three-tenths of a second. Raichle and Johnson later teamed with Ryan Guenther and Jaden Dowhaniuk to run a time of 3:25.67 in the 4x400-meter relay.

Sophomore Margo Achterkirch was Owatonna's only entrant on the girls' side in last year's state meet as she competed in the 200-meter dash. This year she was joined by her relay teammates.

At the previous week's Section 1AA Track and Field Championships, Achterkirch anchored both the 4x200 and 4x100 meter relay teams that set new section records.

After Friday's prelims, the quartet of Steph Kretlow, Sydney Schultz, Karissa Gregory, and Achterkirch were in prime

position to take home a state championship as their 1:42.53 time was second fastest among all entrants.

The time improved to 1:42.21 in Saturday's finals, but Waconia improved on their prelim time by over two seconds to claim the championship with a time of 1:40.79. Champlin Park placed second with Owatonna's four-some placing third.

For Achterkirch, running at last year's state meet was great, but being able to enjoy this with her teammates makes it so much better.

"I was lucky enough to have the experience last year," she said. "But, it's so much a better experience to have it with more of my teammates. I couldn't ask for better teammates."

Kretlow, Schultz, Gregory, and Achterkirch returned to the track moments later to run in the 4x100-meter relay and pulled off an eighth place finish with a

time of 49.28.

Despite the season now over, there's a lot to look forward to for Achterkirch and her teammates.

"(Senior) Steph Kretlow leaves, but all the rest of us are back," said Achterkirch. "Syd Schultz ran the 100 and did an awesome job. Karissa Gregory will be a senior next year. I'm hopeful that me and Karissa can come back for the 200 and Syd can come back for the 100 and we can come back for both relays."

On Friday, Schultz ran a time of 12.54 seconds in the 100-meter dash and freshman Syd Kretlow missed out on qualifying for Saturday's finals in the 800 meters by the narrowest of margins. Kretlow and Bloomington Jefferson's Molly Roach ran virtually the same time of 2:18.23. The tie-breaker had to be broken down by thousandths of a second and Kretlow was edged out by .004.



Staff photos by Joe Tischler

Members of the Owatonna 4x200-meter relay team: Top left- Steph Kretlow storms out of the blocks. Top right- Sydney Schultz hands the baton to Karissa Gregory. Bottom- Margo Achterkirch runs to the finish line in the state finals Saturday at Hamline University.

LINES

Continued on Page 3B

Gopher road trip makes stop in Owatonna



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Members of the University of Minnesota coaching staff and new athletic director, Mark Coyle, rode the bus down to Owatonna Wednesday to visit with fans at the Owatonna Country Club.

By **AHREN BACKMAN**
County Staff Writer

The gymnastics coach did a “more difficult than he thought,” headstand; the hockey coach took home the softball coaches clothes; and the Gophers mascot “Goldy” spun his head an unreasonable amount of times during a laughs-filled stop for the Gopher Road Trip: “Chalk Talk 2016,” at the Owatonna Country Club on Wednesday.

The one person who was strictly business at the event was recently hired athletic director Mark Coyle. Coyle, 47, said in a press only, pre-event interview that he began his new job early, after being hired in May, specifically so he could go on the eight-day roadshow.

“When they (fans) buy a ticket they are making an investment in us,” said Coyle.

This kind of commitment is certainly encouraging to see considering Coyle is stepping into a job that was vacated in 2015 by former AD Norwood Teague in the midst of sexual misconduct allegations.

Coyle said listening will be his primary concern coming into the season especially in this unstable transition period.

“It is important for me to get a feel for what is going on in the department, obviously there is lots of stuff going on. We just need to do whatever we can to support our student athletes,” he said.

In his last job, Coyle was the Director of Athletics at Syracuse University, but previously working at the University of Minnesota was not the only factor in his decision to move further north. Coyle said his wife is from Iowa and both of his children were born in Minnesota, so roots and home have always been in the Midwest. He said to be invited back to Minnesota was a “humbling” experience.

Considering the road trip is Coyle’s first real assignment, the new AD said he has had, often nontraditional, opportunities to get to know his staff. One meet-up, with head football coach Tracy Claeys, took place on the road at a Dairy Queen presumably over an ice-cream



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

University of Minnesota athletic director Mark Coyle speaks with reporters prior to the Gopher Road Trip presentation Wednesday in Owatonna.

cone or chicken strip basket.

When asked about early conversations with head basketball coach Richard Pitino, Coyle

said the road trip has provided the two with time to connect about restoring the program to the highest level of competition

after the rough 2015-16 season where the team won only eight games.

“I have enjoyed getting to know Coach Pitino,” said Coyle. “I have been around basketball programs at the highest level and so has he.”

Coyle was employed with college basketball powerhouse Kentucky from 2005-11.

During his roadshow speech, Coyle sent a special shout out to the event sponsor, Federated Insurance. Coyle said in his days serving as the associate athletic director with Minnesota from 2001-05 he was assigned to help marketing staff find sponsors and Federated was one of the first major business partners. In an interview after the speeches, Federated CEO Jeff Feters thanked Coyle for the kind words and spoke highly of attending the roadshow.

“My favorite part is what they talk about with the kids, and how they are excelling as human beings, and how they are excelling in the classroom,” said Feters.

Also announced was a com-

mitment by Federated that for every turnover forced by the Golden Gophers football team, \$1,000 would be donated to the Boys and Girls Club.

Other than having fun and introducing their new boss, several of the Gopher’s staff mentioned the \$165 million dollar “Athlete Village” that is currently under construction. According to the University of Minnesota promotional website on the project, “Nothing Short of Greatness,” the project broke ground on October 30. The complex will include: an indoor football facility, basketball practice facility, and a multi-use facility known as the Land O’Lakes Center for Excellence. The center will house an academic center, leadership center, and nutrition center. In his address, new football coach Tracy Claeys said the facility may be the key to pushing athletes to the next level. Interested parties can watch the construction live at gophersports.com.

There will be more about the Gopher Road Trip in next week’s edition.

Huskies baseball falls in section final



Staff photos by Joe Tischler

Above- Clay Leidall delivers a pitch in last Tuesday’s Section 1AAAA championship against Lakeville North. Above right- Eli Havelka scoops up a throw at first to retire North’s Drew Stewart.



By **JOE TISCHLER**
Sports Editor

Facing elimination, Owatonna needed their best pitcher on the mound even though he had pitched only three days prior.

Senior Clay Leidall gave it everything he could, and then some, on just two days rest, but the Owatonna bats could not get any runs across as Lakeville North took the Section 1AAAA baseball championship, 2-0, last Tuesday at Memorial Park in Dundas.

On Saturday, June 4, against this same Lakeville North squad, Leidall tossed four shut-out innings before running into trouble in the fifth when the Panthers scored all of their runs in the 4-2 win.

The same story played out on Tuesday, although it was not

what Owatonna head coach Tate Cummins expected.

“Our plan was to get him (Clay) one time through the lineup and he was able to work ahead and be able to be Clay Leidall, the same Clay he’s been all year,” he said. “He really surprised us that he gave us more innings than he did.”

Leidall came out like someone coming off regular rest as he quickly retired the side in the first striking out the first two batters looking. He sent down North in order again in the second before allowing his first base runner in the third.

After one time through the lineup, Leidall went past the plan and went out for the fourth where he again allowed only one base runner before retiring the side.

Leidall went back out for the fifth before finding trouble again

just like in the previous game against the Panthers. With two of the first three batters reaching base, Leidall was pulled in favor of Alec Holcomb.

“He ran into a little bit of a problem,” said Cummins. “He probably could have finished that inning, but with what happened the previous game, we just wanted to shake it up a little bit.”

The first pitch Holcomb threw was laced to right for a single by Nick Fossey, loading the bases with one out. Holcomb then struck out Joey Larson before Michael Dooney delivered a 2-run single to center to break the scoreless tie.

The Huskies had a threat going in the sixth as they loaded the bases with two outs. Eli Havelka hit a deep blast to left that was tracked down by Dooney in foul

territory to end the frame.

Owatonna went down in order in the seventh and North celebrated their section championship with a dogpile on starting pitcher Ross Bastyr who tossed a complete game gem allowing four hits while striking out nine.

For the Huskies, this marks the second straight season where their season ends in the section championship; last year, they fell to Northfield in the Section 1AAA title. Getting this far in consecutive postseasons says a lot about the quality of this program.

“The boys are learning from one another that we play best when it matters the most,” said Cummins. “It’s not easy to get here in back-to-back years. Our hope is we continue to knock on the door and eventually maybe walk through it.”

NRHEG recognizes spring sports athletes

By JESSICA NAFE
Staff Intern

Dozens of talented athletes on the baseball, softball, track and field, and golf teams from New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School were recognized at the annual spring athletic banquet held Wednesday in the high school gymnasium.

John Cole and Hailey Schuller were given the Outstanding Senior Athlete Awards, a prestigious recognition that is given to one male and one female senior at the conclusion of each school year. The recipients must be involved in three sports and show success within each activity. Cole participated in football, basketball, and track and field during his high school career, and Schuller was in volleyball, basketball, and track and field.

Head coach Drew Paukert spoke of the baseball team's

season, with an overall record of 9-13, and recognized the team's three captains Dempsey Tucker, John Hubly, and Cole Staloch. Tucker was named MVP, and he was given the Golden Arm award. The Golden Glove was awarded to Palmer Peterson, the Golden Bat was given to Staloch, and the Panther Award went to Hubly. Staloch made the All-Conference Team, and Tucker was an honorable mention.

The softball team's season was reviewed by head coach Wendy Schultz, and each of the players were credited for a great ending record of 16-7. Grace Johns was named MVP, Rachel Collins was given the Golden Glove, and Kayley Camerer was awarded the Golden Bat. The Most Improved Player was Gabi Muri, and Anna Lundberg earned the Oil Can Award. Paige Knutson was recognized for making the All-Section Team, and Knutson, Camerer, Johns,

and Collins made the All-Conference Team. Lundberg, Johns, and Collins served as captains this past season.

Duey Ferber, head coach of the track and field teams at NRHEG, recognized Schuller, Katharine Lewer, Emily Eder, Cole, Zeke Erickson, and Tyler Schlaak for their service as captains. MVP in track events was given to the boys' 4 X 800 team, made up of Cole, Nate Krause, Josh Flemming, and Schlaak, and Marnie Wagner. Erickson and Maddie Wagner were named MVPs in field events, and Brady Agrimson and Schuller were given the MVP track and field events awards. Most Improved went to Agro Gushwa and Sophia Fischer. Lucas Hermann and Caitlin Goette were named Rookies of the Year. Erickson and Marnie Wagner were honorable mentions for the All-Conference Team, and Maddie Wagner, Schuller, and Fischer were recognized for making All-Conference.

Head coach Brad Root gave credit to the boys' golf team for a good season and recognized the girls' team for winning the Gopher Conference. Most Valuable golfers were Kyra Possin, Jessica Nafe, and Atom Oquist. Possin and Chris Stenzel were named Most Improved. Tali Wayne and Nick Shultz earned the titles of Most Dedicated golfers. The boys' captain was Nick Shultz and the girls' captains were Nafe, Bayli Possin, and Grace Logan.

Numerous athletes from each of the sports teams earned the Spotlight on Scholarship Award for a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and the Gopher Conference Academic Award for a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Although numerous senior athletes will be missed, more success is sure to come for the NRHEG sports teams with talented underclassmen ready to step up to plate and start again next season.



Submitted photo

The Gopher Conference champion NRHEG girls' golf team was one of the teams recognized at the NRHEG spring athletic banquet Wednesday. Pictured- Kyra Possin, Maci Surat, Kallie Spooner, Grace Logan, Bayli Possin, Jessica Nafe, and Tali Wayne.

LINES Continued from Page 1B

quote said, "I float like a butterfly, but sting like a bee. He became almost as famous for his preponderance of dialog, as he was for his fighting prowess.

After converting to Islam in his early twenties, he renamed himself Muhammad Ali (he was born Cassius Clay) and lost three years of fighting for refusing to be drafted into the Vietnam War because of that religion. It would be presumptuous of me to try to add anything about him that hasn't already been lionized in print and in the media outlets, but he certainly will be remembered for his fighting ability, his adherence to principles and equality, and his continual conversation in any situation. He will also be remembered by a legion of fans, and not just boxing fans!

Late last week another sports legend died, this time Hockey Hall of Famer Gordie Howe, certainly one of the greatest hockey players ever. Howe was born in Canada, but died in Toledo, Ohio, at the age of 88. Howe scored 20 or more goals in 22 consecutive seasons from 1949 to 1971, a mark that still stands today. He was nicknamed Mr. Hockey and his wife Mrs. Hockey. Early in his career, he was noted for his penchant to fight, and a gag was that a Gordie Howe hat trick was a goal, an assist, and a fight. Hockey fans around the world, as well as in Canada and the U.S, will sorely miss Howe.

The date nears

The ribfest committee for that big event on June 25 finalized plans for the event last week, and it promises to be a fun-filled entertaining celebration. Featured by the Potluck String Band from the Cities, the 3 to 7 p.m. affair will have plenty of ribs to taste, entertainment and activities, for kids, a raffle, and several honors for the cooks to be awarded.

Entry to the event is by wristband, and they are available in advance for just ten dollars. It will be \$15 the day of the ribfest. Raffle tickets for cash and a half processed hg are also on sale. Wristbands in advance can be purchased at either bank or at the club, and raffle tickets are on sale from the club or any one of several board directors. SAVE THE DATE!

We are also reminded that the big Fourth of July celebration is right around the corner, and several volunteers are needed to continue making this one of the biggest celebration sin all of southeastern Minnesota. See Becky Noble at the chamber office, if you are willing to spend a couple of hours working at this annual spectacular event. Enjoy the warm weather, and we'll talk again.

TISCH DISH

JOE TISCHLER

Andrew Wiggins or Kevin Love?

After playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers, his home state team, for seven seasons without a championship, LeBron James signed with the Miami Heat prior to the 2010-11 NBA season to form a "Big 3" union with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in that quest for an elusive title. That union was satisfied as in their four seasons together, Miami reached the NBA Finals every season and claimed back-to-back championships in 2012 and 2013.

James returned to the Cavaliers in July 2014 in hopes of bringing a championship to a northeast Ohio region starving for a championship of any kind; the 1964 Browns was the last professional team to win a league title.

All-star Kyrie Irving was already installed as the team's bright, young star. When James came aboard, the duo was in search to bring in another superstar to form a new "Big 3." James and the Cavs set their sights on Timberwolves' star forward Kevin Love who ex-

pressed displeasure with his situation in Minnesota.

Having won the NBA Draft Lottery for the second straight season, Cleveland had the pieces to offer Minnesota to complete the blockbuster trade. A month after James' signing, a trade was finalized that would send Love to Cleveland to form a new huge trio. Minnesota received No. 1 overall pick Anthony Bennett and 2014 No. 1 overall pick Andrew Wiggins in return.

Two full seasons have been played since the trade, so it begs to question, which team got the better deal? Numbers and critics suggest, it's Minnesota.

Bennett turned out to be a flame out who played on three different teams in his three NBA seasons and was released by Toronto in March and is looking for a new team. Wiggins, on the other hand, is a potential superstar in the making. The University of Kansas product was a near unanimous selection for Rookie of the Year after averaging 16.9 points and 4.6 rebounds

and started all 82 games in 2014-15. He increased his scoring average to 20.7 points a game as he started all but one game this season.

Love was the "go-to guy" in his six seasons in Minnesota where he earned three all-star nods. Twice he averaged over 26 points a game and was considered one of the game's most dominant rebounders and lead the league in that category in 2010-11. In his final season with the Timberwolves (2013-14), Love averaged 26.1 points, 12.5 rebounds, and 4.4 assists. His numbers have gone down considerably in two years with Cleveland. While being the "third option" with the Cavaliers, Love is averaging 16.2 points, 9.8 rebounds, and 2.3 assists a game.

Love is having his troubles adjusting to being the third wheel. With Irving and James being the main ball handlers, Love has been relegated to a perimeter player which is negating his rebounding presence. In Minnesota, the offense ran through him

where he could utilize his passing and decision making skills. His game does not flow well with other guys that dominate the ball like Irving and James do in Cleveland.

Wiggins is a better defender with superior athleticism than Love. He's proven he can attack the basket from the wings and has better ability to move without the ball to get open and then drive in and kick out when defenders collapse. Defensively, Wiggins can guard multiple positions whereas Love can be a defensive liability.

Cleveland has made two NBA Finals appearances with the "Big 3" of James, Irving, and Love. Would they have won one or both of them with Wiggins instead of Love? That is up to speculation, but many would say "yes."

If there's a question as to which team has the better future, Minnesota or Cleveland, there's no question in mind, it's Minnesota. So, for once, Minnesota actually made a great trade.

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More rain at Chateau

By MATTHEW GRACE
Guest Writer

After two weeks off because of cold, rainy, spring-like weather, it looked like action would resume Friday night at Chateau Raceway in Lansing. A sunny day and summertime temperatures in the 90s most of the day gave way to gray skies and more rain as

Mother Nature claimed a third straight race night. There have been just three nights of action so far this season while poor weather has claimed five nights since the season opener ran. Including the two-week delay to the start of the season by weather conditions, that now makes it seven nights lost so far this year.

These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 10

No results due to being rained out

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Deciding what to do in retirement

Dear Savvy Senior,
I just turned 62 and am financially prepared for retirement, but I'm less certain about how to spend my time after leaving work. Can you recommend some resources or tools that can help me with this?

Feeling Lost

Dear Lost,
This is a great question! Many people, when asked what they want to do when they retire, will say they want a mix of travel, play and meaningful work. Specifics, however, tend to be few and far between. But planning how to fill your time in retirement is just as important as the financial planning aspect.

Here are some resources that can help.

Online Tools
A good starting point to figuring out what you want to do in retirement is at LifeReimagined.aarp.org. This is an AARP website (you don't have to be a member to use it) that can help you rediscover what truly matters to you and focus on what you really want to do. It offers a variety of online exercises and programs that will hopefully spark some ideas and give you inspiration.

Encore.org is another good resource that helps people who are seeking work that matters in the second half of life.And, if you've never taken a personality

test before, this too can be a good tool to help you figure out what type of activities or work you'd like to do.

Personalized Guidance
If you want personalized help, you can also get one-on-one guidance from a retiree or life planning coach. Some resources that can help you here include LifePlanningForYou.com, which has a free exercise called EVOKE to help identify a path that might suit you best in later life, and provides a directory to registered life planners to help guide you.

Also see
RetirementOptions.com, which will connect you with a retirement coach who will give

you an assessment to help reveal your attitudes and opinions about work, family life, relationships, leisure time and more. And the LifePlanningNetwork.org, which is a group of professionals and organizations that help people navigate the second half of life. You can also find life and retirement coaching at the International Coach Federation at CoachFederation.org.

Coaching sessions typically range from \$75 to \$300 or more, and usually require four to six sessions to get the most out of the process.

Other Resources
If you're primarily interested in volunteering, finding a retirement job or even starting a business



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when you retire, there are lots of resources that can help here too.

To look for job ideas, sites like RetirementJobs.com, Workforce50.com and RetiredBrains.com list thousands of jobs nationwide from companies that are actively seeking older workers.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, June 20, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher
The old Ressler Lanes will become Bunkies Grille & Lanes with new owners Mike and Melissa Ressler taking over. Since 1947, George and Tillie Ressler and David Ressler have been running the facility, and Mike and Melissa decided to purchase the business as of June 1 to keep it in the family. Some updates are in the planning process, including remodeling the front, upgrading the kitchen, and presenting new automatic lanes.

In 1957, Richard Svoboda was filling in for the janitor at Blooming Prairie High School when his class ring fell off of his finger and onto the floor. Svoboda searched the hallways, to no avail, and eventually gave up on ever finding his class ring again. This past May, he received a phone call about an old class ring being found at the high school. Sure enough, the ring was Svoboda's, and soon the class ring was back on his

finger, forty-nine years after he thought it was lost forever.

Tyler Bass, a graduating senior of Blooming Prairie High School, has been selected to represent the Out-state team in the 32nd Minnesota High School All-Star Football Classic. Nominated by his high school coach Chad Gimbel, Bass was chosen by the All-Star committee for his football skills following such an impressive season last year. Bass will report to football camp at Gustavus Adolphus College, attending a week of practice, and enjoy an awards banquet at the end of the week. During the game, Bass will sport an All-Star jersey and wear his BPHS helmet with great pride.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, June 18, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor
The first Little Miss Firecracker was crowned Friday June 14, and six-year-old Alyssa Habberstad will reign on the Blooming Prairie Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration. Habberstad

competed against 10 other girls ranging from 5 to 10 years old. First runner-up went to Stephanie Madsen, 7, and second runner-up was Amanda Larkin, 5. Jill Trotman, 7, was honorable mention. Besides a large trophy for winning, Habberstad will serve as ambassador during the Fourth of July parade here, and all of the contestants will ride on a float in the parade. The girls were judged on poise, grace, talent, interview, manners, and presence.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, June 16, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 878 and its ladies Auxiliary conducted this year's Poppy Day sale, and sold \$131.10 of the little red flowers.

Brookside Camp Grounds, located near Blooming Prairie, will officially open for business this week, and an "open house" with cookies and coffees will take place. The campground

accommodates trailers or tents with electricity and water available.

Kenneth L. Jacobson, 22, Blooming Prairie, and Dora E. Lund, 59, rural Ellendale, were injured in a two-car accident on June 11. Jacobson suffered from facial bruises, knee lacerations, and a cerebral concussion. Both Jacobson and Mrs. Lund were still hospitalized at Owatonna as of Monday. Both vehicles were demolished in the crash.

Richard "Dickie" Vaith and Donald L. Ingvaldson miraculously escaped death in a one-car accident on June 10. While attempting to pass another vehicle, the men's vehicle went out of control and into the ditch on the left side of the road, striking a farm in-drive and flying end-over-end. Fortunately, the two were wearing seat belts, which saved their lives and limited their injuries to minor cuts and bruises. The Corvette sports car that the men were driving was a total wreck.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, June 19, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher
The Blooming Prairie Gun Club was awarded the Minnesota State Championship Trap Shoot for 1942 Sunday when the state association voted in favor of holding the shoot here. Ray Sziener, president of the state association in 1940, was again elected president for the coming year. At the state shoot held last Sunday in St. Paul, Otto Nelson of Albert Lea won the state championship in the 200-target event, with a score of 198.

Martha's Caf , owned and operated by Martha Wondra, was sold Tuesday to Mrs. Claude Cleveland of Sac City, Iowa. The Cleveland family has been making their home at Sac City since leaving Blooming Prairie about a year ago. Mr. Cleveland formerly was part owner of the Blooming Prairie Caf . Some remodeling and rearranging will be done before Mrs. Cleveland takes possession.

Mrs. Jane Cochlin, 75 resi-

dent of Blooming Prairie for 36 years, died Saturday evening at her home here after a long illness. Her death takes one of this community's fine old pioneer women. She was born in Blooming Prairie Township in 1866, where she grew up on a family farm. She married Michael Cochlin in 1884, and after he passed away Mrs. Cochlin moved in with her son, Michael, where she spent the remainder of her life.

William Schallert, mathematics instructor at Blooming Prairie High School, left here Monday for Fort Snelling, where he formally enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps. "Bill" had already registered last week at the University of Iowa summer session, where he was to have completed his residence work on his Master's degree. However, his work was cut short when he was notified by the war department to report to Fort Snelling at once.

Steele County Times Professional Directory



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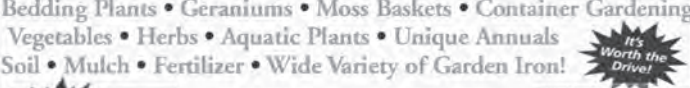
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Updated junk ordinance sends clear message to Ellendale residents

By **AHREN BACKMAN**
County Staff Writer

Residents will need to be more aware when they are abandoning their cars or “junk” after the Ellendale City Council Meeting on June 9.

The council unanimously passed an ordinance that will allow the city to order a tow on any “junk vehicle” in city

limits that meets certain criteria. This means that if a “junk vehicle” sits 10 days after a citation is issued, the city has the right to remove and sell the vehicle or equipment at the expense of the owner.

According to the ordinance, the definition of “junk” includes any vehicle that “serves no purpose that it was originally manufactured or made.” The ordinance went on to define “junk” as a

vehicle or piece of machinery that “may have an adverse effect upon the neighborhood or property values, health safety or general welfare of the community.”

The owner of a vehicle must move the vehicle to a “duly licensed junk yard” within 10 days of being issued a city citation, the retooled ordinance reads. If the 10 days passes after the notice, the city will take action to move

the vehicle. The action will be using a local towing service to remove and sell the vehicle. Mayor Mark Skroch said he anticipated there will be some “real kick back” to the abandoned vehicle ordinance. He cited several cars that have been sitting abandoned for several years.

Also passed was approval of the hiring of a part-time seasonal maintenance person to assist in the upkeep of several

different aspects of city infrastructure. The part-time person will assist the current staff with duties like lawn mowing, weekend water testing, and other odd jobs. Council member Stephanie Lageson Kibler said the idea was brought up by the current maintenance staff indicating they needed help, especially in

CITY COUNCIL
Story on Page 3C

Celebration time in Medford

Straight River Days marks nearly a half century

By **AHREN BACKMAN**
County Staff Writer

One of the first participants in Straight River Days was a carp on a skateboard, according to longtime Medford resident Marilyn Warner. During a phone interview with The Times, Wagner said that the skateboarding carp took place during the Medford summer celebration that started it all, also known as the “Pep Parade” in 1971.

“We all dressed up in crazy costumes and kids would bring animals to walk,” Warner said, “one boy was on a skateboard, and when we told him to find an animal, he caught a carp and pushed it on the skateboard.” Back in those days, the Thursday parade was small, around a dozen people. Now, 45 years later, the parade remains is still going on and a few more people are expected.

Day’s Organizer Erin Sammon was optimistic that more than a dozen people would be on their way to Medford Days. Sammon is in her second year as president of Civic Club, which has been organizing Straight River Days for the last three years. This year the festivities will start out with a Miss Medford Pageant at 7 p.m. on June 16. The pageant contestants

will be in four different categories. These are Tiny Miss, ages 3-6, Little Miss, ages 7-10 and Junior Miss, ages 11-14, and Miss Medford ages 15-18. All are currently attending Medford schools, or in the case of the Tiny Miss, are planning on attending Medford schools.

On Friday June 17, the real action begins, with the 2016 incarnation of the “Pep Parade.” According to Medford Days website, straightriverdays.com, the parade will “Start at old football field, continue down 2nd Street SE, left on 2nd Avenue SE, right on Main Street S, right on Central Avenue E, right on 3rd Street SE and ending back at old football field.” The parades grand marshals will be the ladies who made the parade happen from 2000 to 2010. These include: Judy Bauer, Jackie Butler, Mary Kramer, Dyann Reinhard and Marilyn Warner with honorary members Joyce Wald and Wilma Mueller.

For the musical entertainment on Friday night, the club booked the country band, Diesel Drive while they were on tour in Minnesota.

STRAIGHT RIVER DAYS
Story on Page 4C



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Winding down the school year

Blooming Prairie High School senior Noah Crabtree kept up a long-time tradition of driving a tractor to school on one of the last days of the school year. The school parking lot resembled an implement lot with all sorts of tractors. Crabtree drove this Farmall M road grader to school May 27. He lives five miles south of Bloom ng Prairie in Mower County. “The grader really runs smoothly,” he said.

Water scarce at sweltering Owatonna graduation

Graduates, families keep cool under the heat

By **AHREN BACKMAN**
County Staff Writer

Hy-Vee employee Parker Holton said he was not planning on working during Owatonna High School’s 2016 graduation.

“I was here already, because some of my friends are graduating,” said Holton, who is going to be a junior next year at Owa-

tonna. The time was around 2:30 p.m. Sunday, or in the middle of the senior high commencement address, which had started about a half hour before. That’s when the call came from Holton’s boss asking for help delivering 40 cases of water to Four Season’s Arena, because the vending machines had ran out of bottled water.



Staff photo by Ahren Backman

Honors graduate Salman Omar gives school officials a hug smile after receiving his diploma. Also pictured: graduate Elise Oppegard.

Not much of a surprise the machines couldn’t handle the demand with temperatures in the high 80’s where around 2,000 friends and family packed the arena to see the over 500 strong graduating class of 2016 take the next step in their life.

Based on the amount of programs being used as fans, the spectators of the graduation felt the heat more than the graduates did. Despite the heat, two graduates who shined were Cheyenne Krampitz and Ava Stockwell. The pair shared the special duty of giving the 2016 class address.

Krampitz, started with telling the audience a theory that high school had made her less smart. This was a bit of a surprise for the commencement attendees, since Krampitz is a high academic honored student-athlete. After the misleading intro, Krampitz explained how the struggle, which she thought was making her less smart, was actually making her a stronger student and person.

Stockwell, who also received high academic honors, spoke on redefining character, and how now after high school, students can expand the depth of their character. “Good character is like good vinyl siding, it has lots of depth,” Stockwell said. She ended the address by saying all the things graduates should be proud of including the school not burning down sophomore year. This referenced back to June of 2014, when an accidental fire caused the evacuation of the entire school.

GRADUATION
Story on Page 8C

NRHEG junior ranks high in national essay contest

By **JESSICA NAFE**
Staff Intern

Ben Witikko, a junior at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School, finished seventh place in the nationwide InvestWrite student essay competition.

Witikko completed the essay in LaDona Flowers’ Internet Investing class at NRHEG High School, and each was awarded a \$100 gift card for Witikko’s placing.

“I was excitedly exuberant when I learned that Ben placed,” Flowers said. “I located Ben as soon as possible to congratulate him.”

The InvestWrite competition is the final activity in the Stock Market Game, in which stu-

dents were hypothetically given \$100,000 in an online portfolio in January and had until May to invest their money and increase their portfolio. The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) foundation sponsors the competition.

Students in grades 4-12 analyze an investment scenario and write an essay offering investment advice for InvestWrite. For their essay, students consider real-world economic events and trends, conduct online research, and develop investment recommendations.

In addition to placing seventh nationally, Witikko claimed the top prize in Minnesota’s high school division for the spring 2016 competition. More than 5,000 essays were submitted at

the high school level.

In his essay, Witikko wrote about important life lessons in investing, as well as a potential board game that reinforces these life lessons. The essay was judged by teachers and industry professionals, who evaluated the student’s analysis of asset allocation, overall understating of the stock market, and expression of ideas.

The Stock Market Game and InvestWrite are offered in Minnesota by BestPrep, a Minnesota nonprofit whose mission is to prepare students with business, career, and financial literacy skills.

ESSAY CONTEST
Story on Page 3C

Electric co-op marks 80th year

By **AHREN BACKMAN**
County Staff Writer

A once-in-lifetime acquisition of another area energy co-operative highlighted the annual meeting of the Steele-Waseca Cooperative last week.

General manager Syd Briggs spoke about the December acquisition of Alliant Energy during the meeting at Steele-Waseca’s headquarters in Owatonna June 7. He described the takeover as a “huge accomplishment” for the co-op.

Alliant previously served much of Steele County, including Medford, Hope, Ellendale, and parts of Owatonna. The ac-

quisition, which completed last July, increased Steele-Waseca’s customer base by around 18 percent, which, Briggs said, would allow the energy co-op to better serve its members with a “bigger base to divide the costs over.”

Although this acquisition is not bring rates down, Briggs said the increased coverage area will allow future proof costs to stay low for the coming years.

Solar energy availability was the name of the game for the second report from the GM. Brigg’s outlined a new solar accessibility program that allows members to get in on the renewable resource now before costs go up.

Right now, Brigg’s said members can sign up for a co-op controlled water heater for a discount on one of Steele-Waseca’s solar panel array. Each solar panel generates about 45 kilowatt hours a month.

The integration program will not, however, lower rates on members energy bills. “Originally, it was not to save money on energy costs, it was for customers to take part in any kind of renewable program. In 20 years of the price goes up you will be making money.”

STEELE-WASECA
Story on Page 8C

Blooming PrairieLiving

Learning is powerful for BP fourth graders

Area students among 10,000 benefiting from MMPA's energy education Program

Fourth graders from Blooming Prairie Elementary School recently got an up-close view of an operating power plant during a visit to the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's Faribault Energy Park in May.

The visit helped push MMPA's Energy Education Program past a participation milestone of 10,000 students

since the program's inception in 2010. Blooming Prairie is home to MMPA's Oak Glen Wind Farm.

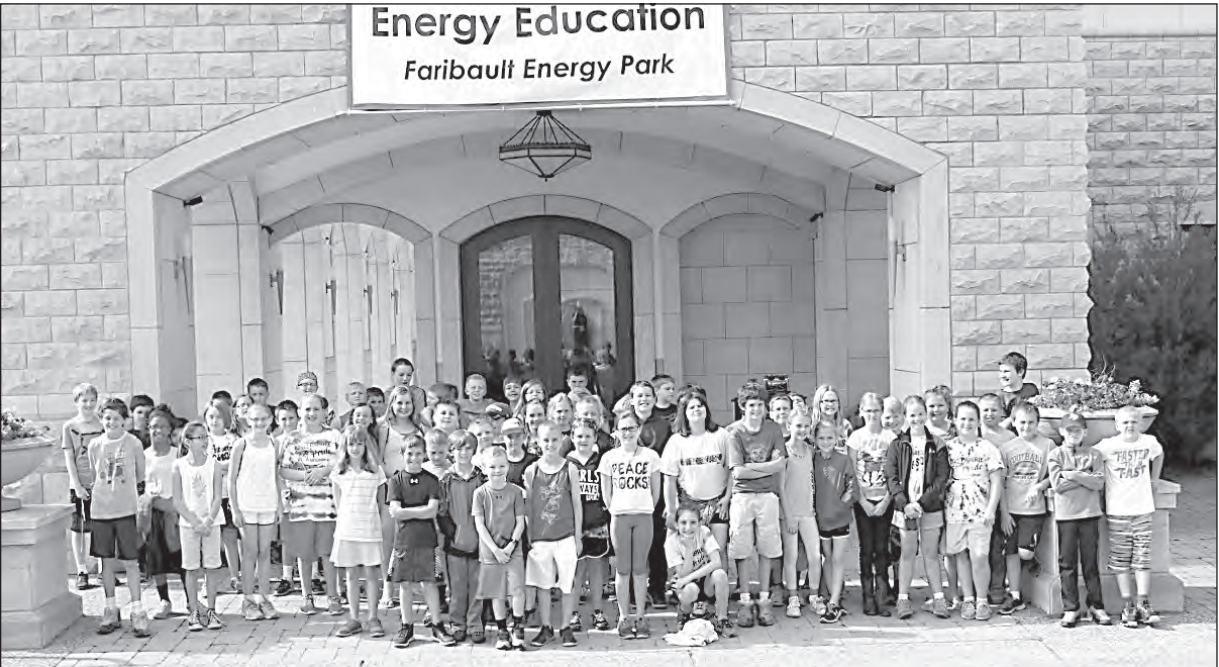
While touring the facility, students learned how the energy park's three power sources generate electricity. From an observation room, they learned how the combined-cycle turbines with generation capacity of 300 MW generate electricity from natural gas and steam. From there, students traveled to educational stations in the wetlands park to learn how FEP's wind turbine and solar array produce renewable power.

In addition, students learned how electricity is transmitted over power lines and delivered to their homes.

This year the program expanded to include hands-on activities and tips for conserving energy from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The field trip is part of MMPA's commitment to support its member communities and project host communities. The program aligns with Minnesota's fourth grade science standards and includes an educational workbook, interactive tours and in-school educational assemblies.

For more information, visit mmpa.org.



Submitted photo

In May fourth graders from Blooming Prairie learned how a power plant operates by visiting the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's Faribault Energy Park. BP's visit helped push past a milestone of 10,000 students who have visited the park since the program began in 2010. The MMPA also operates the Oak Glen Wind Farm located north of Blooming Prairie

Blooming Prairie businesses look at historic preservation

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Opportunities at preserving old buildings and landmarks in Blooming Prairie were discussed at the luncheon table Wednesday, June 8 by BP Area Chamber of Commerce members and local business

owners.

Becky Noble, executive director of the BP Area Chamber, says she has been trying to get a meeting arranged on this topic for some time.

It was a time to share information brought in by Sarina Otaibi, Minnesota Main Street Coordinator.

Those attending the meeting

indicated an interest in how they would be helped by either receiving tax breaks or grants. Historic preservation is about preserving and protecting places of importance "to you," Otaibi said.

The downtown area of Blooming Prairie is a National Historic District, it was pointed out. Preserving the his-

torical value of a building or property proects the public's investment and can promote tourism, Otaibi said.

All those in attendance were asked to sign an e-mail directory to keep linked to any future discussion on preserving the vitality of local communities existing assets including people, businesses, places and unique stories.

Preservation can lead to development, Otaibi told those in attendance.

She spoke briefly about the Minnesota Main Street project which currently includes Faribault, New Ulm, Owatonna, Red Wing, Shakopee, Willmar and Winona. These communities have started initiatives to improve their community's economic well being.

Coordinator Otaibi said she was pleased "to see so many business owners in Blooming Prairie" show an interest

in improving their access to tools for historic preservation.

Otaibi and Noble said they are hopeful a followup meeting can be held to further discuss preservation strategies. Otaibi said she will stay in contact with the BP Chamber and with those businesses who are interested in improving preservation opportunities. She said she will send website links outlining steps to be taken toward preservation.

Attending the preservation meeting were: Marilyn Witzel, Tess Koster, Dr. Chad Eischens, Sue Zwiener, Tamzen Johnson, Nancy Vaillancourt, The Rev. Matt Fennell and Tonya, Tom Wilson, Becky Noble, Leanne Hansen, Gregg Fristedt and Colette Lea.

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Kicking off summer reading

Summer is off to a fast start at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library!

Please add these dates to your calendars for Pony Tales with Stephanie Bruggeman of SKM Stables. They will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays June 15, June 29, July 20, July 27, August 3, and August 24. We will enjoy horse stories, crafts and real ponies!

All youth, ages 10 and older are invited to join us on Wednesday, June 15 from 3-6 p.m. at the Disc Golf course by Victory Field. Tony Patino who has won several regional disc golf tournaments, will be teaching kids how to play Disc Golf. Discs will be available for use that day. We are fortunate to have the course here for this popular sport.

The Bakken Science Museum will be here on Thursday, June 16 at 1 p.m. to present "Shocking News about Your Heart." This is the third year the Bakken Museum has been here. We have learned about nano technology and electricity with fun skits and demonstrations. Come and learn about something we all have in common – our hearts!

Adventure Club begins on Wednesday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. for a 4-H Great Summer Campout. This program is put on by the University of Minnesota Extension Office and includes science, fun, and hands-on activities. It is geared for ages 5 and up.

Join us for these and more fun days all summer long

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT Welcome Home Sellers to Owatonna

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

The welcome mat was officially put out at Home Sellers of Owatonna with back to back chamber of commerce ribbon cuttings on Thursday, June 2 at the 203 N. Elm St. location.

Twelve ambassadors of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce at 9:30 a.m. participated in a ribbon cutting with Home Sellers brokers/owners Steve and Lisa Vaith and their staff.

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber representatives Jeremy Wangen and Tiffany Peterson led the second ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Steve and Lisa cut the ribbon with the help of sales team members Jennifer Fisher and Daniel Gullickson. Bob Remker is also a sales representative and was unable to make the ribbon cutting.

An open house for the Owatonna office is planned sometime in early fall, the Vaiths said.

Home Sellers also has an office in Blooming Prairie at 423 E. Main Street on the corner of Main and Highway 218. The Vaiths started the Home Sellers business in Blooming Prairie 17 years ago.

Providing real estate services for all of Steele County, it made sense to add an office in Owatonna, the Vaiths said. "Everything fell into place for us to expand," Lisa said. Jennifer joined the firm 1 1/2 years ago and has an office in Owatonna.

The two-story Owatonna Home Sellers office was the former home of a Mercedes Benz office, a real estate office (former Mayor Wayne Klinkhammer), an eye care office and an attorney's office.

Steve, who has logged over 40 years of experience in construction, remodeled the main floor of the 203 N. Elm build-



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

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

ing which dates back to 1890. He worked weekends and nights on the project. New windows were installed. Two one-bedroom apartments are located on the top floor.

"We have a lot of family in Owatonna and it was always in the back of our minds to expand into Owatonna," Steve said.

Home Sellers is a full service real estate company that represents buyers and sellers. As a full service agency, Home Sellers will help you with pricing your home properly by providing a CMA (Competitive Market Analysis), staging your home and using all our resources to get your property the highest exposure.

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companies, Home Sellers of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie is unique in that it does not have a franchise fee & extra brokerage fee like the bigger companies.

Lisa has served on the MLS board and is currently on the board of directors for the Southeast Minnesota Association of Realtors (SEMAR).

Search listings by finding Home Sellers at www.HomeSellersMN.com or check out new listings, the latest real estate tips, and more by going to Home Sellers' Facebook pages at www.Facebook.com/HomeSellersMN. Call the Home Sellers office in Blooming Prairie at 583-7233 and in Owatonna at 507-214-7233.

Steve and Lisa said financing rates are currently very attractive. New home construction has slowed down but it is still a strong suit of Home Sellers as is remodeling.

As Home Sellers continues to grow, more agents may be added in the future, the Vaiths said.

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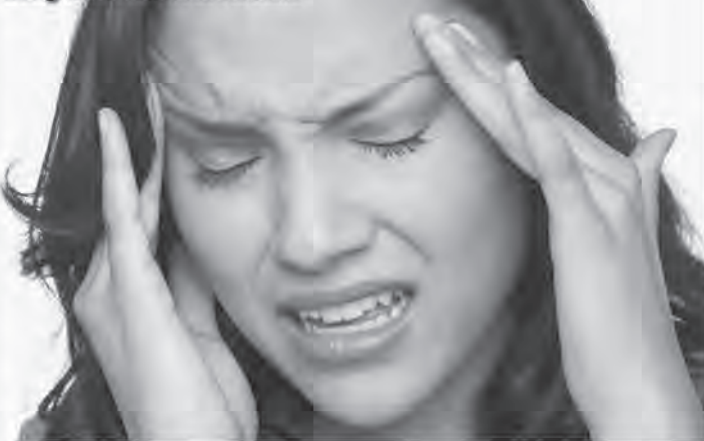


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Ellendale Living

The end at NRHEG for 63 graduating seniors

By JESSICA NAFE
Staff Intern

Sixty-three students from New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School walked across the gymnasium stage to receive

their diplomas at the 2016 commencement ceremony held on June 5, marking the end of a successful chapter at NRHEG and the start of a new one beyond the classroom walls.

The commencement ceremony began with the graduates' proces-

sional, set to the NRHEG band's rendition of "Pomp & Circumstance" under the direction of Jacob Bender. High school principal David Bunn welcomed family and friends to the ceremony and gave a short speech focused on the class motto: "Together we have

experienced life. Separately we will pursue our dreams. Forever our memories will remain."

Following tradition, the high school band performed a song picked by the graduating seniors. The piece of music selected is usually a song previously played by the seniors; one that the graduates want to play just one more time. "Clash," last played when the graduating seniors were freshmen, was the band members' song of choice.

Three speakers, selected by their classmates, discussed the past, present, and future of the class of 2016. John Cole spoke of the past, including the memories, the lessons learned, and the bonds formed. Comically sighting an incident during a class trip in eighth grade, Cole declared that the class of 2016 is a class that cares for one another through thick and thin, a trait that carried them through high school and will continue for years to come.

Cole Ignaszewski, speaking on the topic of the present, discussed the mixed emotions that are felt during graduation. Confidence, pride, and excitement mixed



Submitted photo

It wasn't hard to find a smile on the faces of graduates. Lizzy Hagen, left, and Anna Bailey shared big smiles as they walked into commencement exercises. They were among the 63 seniors who graduated from NRHEG.

with fear of the unknown are a few that Ignaszewski listed. No matter what emotions filled the graduates, Ignaszewski assured his classmates that the future holds the promise of good times to come and that fear is unnecessary. With much gratitude, he thanked the entire NRHEG community for teaching, guiding, and caring for each member of the class of 2016 during the road to graduation.

Abby Christopherson gave a message regarding the future that lay ahead of each graduate. She wished each of her classmates to live a life filled with happiness, excitement, love, and mystery. No matter where life may bring each of the graduates, Christopherson encouraged her classmates to always remember that the road leads back home.

Dr. Dale Carlson, superintendent of NRHEG, gave congratulations to the class of 2016, thanking them for their contributions to the community and wishing them great success in the years to come.

After Jessica Nafe gave a short message thanking the graduates' parents, Rascal Flatts' "My Wish" filled the gym as students delivered roses to their parents in the crowd. Nearly everyone in attendance had a few tears to wipe away as the song came to a close and Nicole Wallin began her vocal performance of "O Lovely

Rose."

Principal Bunn awarded Nicole Edon and Torrie Stencel with Co-Salutatorian plaques and spoke highly of the two girls' heavy involvement in and positive influence on NRHEG.

Nafe was given the Valedictorian award from Principal Bunn after he spoke of Nafe's successful high school career, in academics, extracurricular, and comradery.

Superintendent Carlson, Principal Bunn, and school board chairman Rick Schultz congratulated each of the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Class officers Nafe and Anna Baily read announced their classmates as diplomas were awarded.

Diplomas in hand, tassels moved, and hearts filled with excitement for their past, present, and future successes, the class of 2016 proceeded out of the gymnasium and into the world anxiously waiting beyond.

Juniors Rachel Collins and Luis Gaona served as the honor escorts. The class of 2016 chose purple, silver, and black for their class colors, and a purple gerbera daisy served as the class flower. Class officers were as follows: Nafe, Bailey, Dempsey Tucker, Sophia Fischer, Christopherson, and Anna Lundberg.



Submitted photo

Valedictorian Jessica Nafe shared some thoughts during the parent appreciation at graduation. She specifically thanked the parents for all their work in helping the seniors get to graduation day.



Submitted photo

Years of hard work have paid off for these graduates at NRHEG. They are the 21 female honor graduates for the Class of 2016. They took a moment to pose together at graduation on June 5.

Correction

In the May 31, the Times published a special graduation section. Unfortunately, the photo of Nicholas Shultz was omitted from the information he provided because of technical difficulties. We apologize for this omission. Nicholas graduated from NRHEG High School.



Nicholas Lee Shultz

Parents: Wendy and Marty Shultz
Plans: Riverland Community College to major in Business
High School Activities: Basketball, Choir and Golf
Hobbies and Pastimes: Golfing, fishing, hanging out with friends
On Your bucket list: Go fishing in the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota

Best Advice to Underclassmen: Give 100 percent effort on everything you do
Favorite High School Memory: When Brody Hanson slid into mud during gym
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Economy
Favorite High School Activity: Basketball
Favorite Movie: The Thin Red Line and Quantum of Solace
Favorite Song: Animal I have Become - Three Days Grace
Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo
City you want to visit: Rome, Italy because it has so many famous, historic sights to see!

ESSAY CONTEST

Continued from Page 1C



Submitted photo

Ben Witikko proudly shares his InvestWrite award that he recently won during a national student essay competition. His instructor, LaDonna Flowers, is shown along with Witikko. They both won \$100 gift cards for his seventh place finish

CITY COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1C

the case of emergency like the storm that downed several trees last month. "It makes more sense to pay a (part-time) person to do things like mowing," Kibler said.

Earlier in the meeting, the council was addressed by Steele County Health Educator, Jane Nyquist, about the need for a tobacco-free law in Ellendale parks. Nyquist said the city

council could either declare a policy or ordinance to accomplish the goal of getting smoking out of public parks. The difference, Nyquist said, is that a policy is not enforceable by police action, but an ordinance can be. The council agreed that, overall, less smoking is better than more smoking and was in wide support of the updated policy.

Kibler gave a glowing approval of the policy saying, "It is the city council that sets the standard for the community." Although no action was taken on a parks police, a policy is expected to be drafted in time to be voted on at the next meeting.

In a lighthearted end to the meeting, Council person Scott Groth suggested the purchasing of a municipal personal computer or tablet to cut down on the amount of time and money staff spends on city council agenda and packet paper. Most of the council seemed receptive to the idea, but Mayor Skroch brought up the danger of additional spending. Kibler responded saying the cost of such an electric device would be minimal and joked, "we are bringing you (Skroch) in the 21st century.



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MedfordLiving

A New Addition for Vets Memorial



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Flying high over the Medford Stone is the newest addition to the memorial. It is a bronze eagle that was purchased from Owatonna Granite & Monument Company from Owatonna.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Veterans Memorial in Medford has continued to grow and change with new landscaping, two cement eagle sentries, and a new bronze eagle over the Medford Stone.

Lainie Rahn wins Steele County Times Journalism Excellence Contest

Social media



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Medford Elementary School sixth grader Lainie Rahn was the first place winner in the First Steele County Times Journalism Excellence Contest. She enjoys a submarine sandwich in the classroom the day awards were given.

It was inadvertently reported in last week's Steele County Times that Brielle Smith and Piper Hill won the first place award in the Steele County Times Journalism Excellence Contest. More than 100 students in grades 4-6 at the Medford Elementary School participated in the contest. First place winner with her piece on social media was Lainie Rahn. Brielle Smith and Piper Hill were pictured in a photo accompanying Rahn's story. Here's her award winning story on Social Media.

By: LIANI RAHN
It seems like everyone is on their phone these days. Reading, texting, or even posting pictures on social media. When asked questions about social media, similarities were shown from the younger age to the mid-

dle aged. All of the participants had a phone that had some kind of social media on it. And funny thing is, they all checked their social media daily! When they were asked to name as many social media apps as they could, the younger generation stated an average of 6 different types while the middle aged participants came out with an average of 4. Here are some facts about social media worldwide:

- The top category of posts on Pinterest takes up 57 percent of all posts- which is food.
- Everyday about five million photos are uploaded on Instagram which is the 6th choice in America for social media apps.
- Based on visits, Facebook is the most popular social media app in the United States as of February 2016.

- The most popular user on You Tube goes by the name PewDiePie and had over 12.1 billion channel views.
- Out of Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google Plus, and LinkedIn, 56 percent of the users are women and 44 percent of the users are men.
- As of May 2016, Snapchat had 130 million users who posted and shared daily.

As you see, some people are addicts for anything social on their phones. If you are a parent, please take control and research the social media app your kid wants. Vine for example has very inappropriate videos, words, and people that kids don't need influence from. Snapchat can also be dangerous. People can put posts up about anything. Suicide, rumors, and bullying can happen over social media. Participants were asked if the posts they saw were more positive or negative. 73 percent said positive, while 27 percent said negative. Social media can make friends, or enemies.

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STRAIGHT RIVER DAYS

Continued from Page 1C



Times file photo

The Albert Lea Area Shrine Club enjoyed scooting around in their little cars and performing various driving routines during the 2015 Straight River Days in Medford.

The smooth country band has stops in Grand Meadow and Stewartville in the next several weeks after Straight River Days. This will be the bands second year preforming at the days after a show stopping performance in 2015. After extensive YouTube research, one Times reporter has approved of Drive's ability to cover AC/DC songs, among many others.

If the nightlife isn't your cup of tea, a Fire 5k run/walk will take place at 7:30. The 5k will just be the first in a full Saturday of fun, from sun up to sun down. The sun down event will be Muni Street Dance with Copperhead Creek. The dance is a 21 and over event, and will cost \$10 admission. According to

their official website, Copperhead Creek is a country cover band from the Twin Cities area. The band will be covering the music of Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, and many more.

Squashed in between the 5k and Copperhead Creek is a bevy of events including: volleyball tournament, kiddie tractor pull,

bean bag tournament, bean bag tournament, and two different derbies. If you were at the original "Pep parade" in 1971 and happen to enjoy a slower paced weekend, there will be city-wide garage sales on both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 8 am.

Crossword Solution

Puzzle on Page 6A

B	A	T	T		S	A	M	B	A		D	E	B	T
E	M	I	R		K	R	A	A	L		A	D	O	R
D	E	L	I		R	O	R	E	M		D	O	D	O
E	B				M	I	L						G	A
W	A	T	E	R	M	A	N			P	A	S	S	E
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B	E	A	R		C	O	R	E	R		D	I	N	E
T	O	I	L		A	D		N	E		D	R	A	B
U	N	D	O		B	E	S	E	T		L	A	B	S
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R	E	C	E	D	E		R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R
A	X						M	I	A				A	I
B	O	M	B		B	A	N	G	S		B	A	G	S
A	N	O	A		A	N	G	E	L		B	R	A	E
T	S	A	R		B	A	S	R	A		C	A	N	S

Straight River Days CELEBRATION

June 16- June 18 • MEDFORD



STRAIGHT RIVER DAYS

is an annual community celebration held in Medford, Minnesota in June. Straight River Days was first celebrated in 1971 and due to its abundant resource, it was almost called "Gravel Days". The first Straight River Days event celebrated the opening of the new waste water treatment facility and included a parade, a carnival, canoe derby, street dance, and the Miss Medford Beauty Pageant.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 16

7 p.m. Miss Medford Pageant

Friday, June 17

8 a.m. City-Wide Garage Sales

7 p.m. Parade

8 p.m. Music in the Park with Diesel Drive

Saturday, June 18

7:30 am Fire 5 – 5K Run/Walk

8 a.m. City-Wide Garage Sales

9 a.m. Volleyball Tournament

10 a.m. Garden Tours

10 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull

11 a.m. Food Stands Open

Noon Bean Bag Tournament

1 p.m. Bingo

1 p.m. Power Wheels Derby

2 p.m. Penny Dig sponsored by First State Bank of Red Wing

3 p.m. Rubber Duck Derby

9 p.m. Muni Street Dance with Copperhead Creek

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OwatonnaLiving

Incumbent makes another run for board

Editor's Note: This is the second half of features on the upcoming Steele County Commissioner's race. Last week the Times interviewed Jim Abbe, who is challenging long-time commissioner and current board chair Corky Ebeling for the District 4 seat in November.

By AREHN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

Under the shade of the Fairgrounds Park Pavilion in Owatonna, a veteran commissioner seeks to keep a position that he has held for the past eight years.

James “Corky” Ebeling didn’t waste time in letting his intentions known as he filed on May 17, the first day of filing. “I actually drove four hours from vacation to be the first one to get in,” Ebeling said.

Transparency was a constant theme for the interview, and Ebeling started with his own life.

“I picked this site for the interview because this is kind of where it all started for me,” said Ebeling of the softball fields that surround the Pavilion. At the age of 18, Ebeling was elected as President of the Softball Association.

After his early start in sports leadership, Ebeling began climbing the ladder of community leadership through the Owatonna Park and Recreation Department where he was the Park Director for more than 34 years.

In the background of the softball fields, loomed the Steele County Free Fair-



Staff photo by Ahren Backman

Steele County Board Chair Corky Ebeling is seeking to keep his District 4 seat in this fall's election.

grounds where Ebeling took another step in his leadership journey as the fair president for over 30 years. The only thing that has been a more consistent part of Ebeling’s life than public leadership has been his family. He has been married to his wife for 38 years, has two adult children, and has two grandchildren.

In his first term as commissioner, Ebeling said he is most proud of the improvements the county has made in transparency. “The county board, eight years ago, was kind of hidden. People didn’t know who was representing them.” Ebeling mentioned now the meetings are being streamed live on “Owatonna Live” and increased newspaper coverage.

If elected, Ebeling said he would continue steps to make county government more accessible, through steps like making budgets easier to understand, and getting more public input.

With transparency almost always comes increased accountability, and Ebeling said he was welcomed this challenge.

He hopes the local election and concerns don’t get mixed in with the state and national

elections and concerns. “In the end you can’t make everyone happy. That is the part you battle as an incumbent,” Ebeling said.

Ebeling ended the interview declaring, if elected, he would be looking to retire from the city to give the county board spot his full attention.

Outside of District 4, two other races for commissioner spots are set. In District 3, Rick Gnemi will challenge incumbent Mark Schultz, and in District 5, incumbent Nina Huntington will be facing off against challenger Greg Krueger.

On the economic side of county government, three locals have filed for office. All will be candidates for the Soil and Water Supervisor. David Meldy of Owatonna filed on May 24 in District 2. Ellendale resident Dan Hanson is the only non-Owatonna resident filed so far and he will be looking to take the office in District 4 after filing on May 18. As for District 5, Owatonna resident James Klecker filed on May 19.

The filing period for the upcoming election closed May 31.

Wine tasting corks cash for area community group

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

A wine tasting event at an area funeral home has corked some cash for a community group.

The Owatonna Foundation received \$1,420 donation from a Wine and Beer Spring Tasting event held at Michaelson’s Funeral Home in Owatonna.

Funeral home owner Cory Michaelson said he is excited to present this new fundraising opportunity at his venue. “We want people to think of us as more than a funeral home,” he said.

Michaelson said, “With a facility such as ours there are many opportunities to host social functions and being able to support

the Owatonna Foundation was a wonderful way to show our facility in a new way and also benefit the fine work that the Foundation does supporting projects in Owatonna. The community has been so good to us over the years and by supporting the Foundation we have a way of giving back, and thanking, the people of Owatonna.”

Foundation president Dave Einhaus said he is appreciative of the donation from Michaelson’s and for their efforts with the wine event.

“It was lovely evening with great food, beautiful decorations, and an attentive staff,” Einhaus said. “Support such as this keeps the Foundation’s mission of im-

proving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, the arts, education, and recreation a reality for all of us,” he added.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$11.5 million in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students.

For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit the website at: www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call 507-455-2995.

Local business grants \$20K to help tackle worker shortage

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has awarded \$20,000 worth of grants to four different projects that have been identified as important to helping the current labor shortage in southern Minnesota. Over the next 20 years there will be a predicted 45,000 worker shortage in southeastern Minnesota.

“A vibrant regional economy needs more than jobs: it needs quality, affordable housing, easy transportation, good education, and things for people to do,” said Vice President of Economic Development Pam Bishop.

The grants were chosen during a special set of meetings in fall of 2015 called Southeast MN Together. Grants were awarded to projects best demon-

strating: collaboration, benefit to multiple communities, leveraging of the work of the DMC and Journey to Growth, innovation/transformation, and ability to be executed within 9 months.

Grantees include:

- \$5,000 awarded to Project FINE for a Discovering Diverse Workforce Solutions project. This project will bring together resources and workforce solutions from across the 11-county southeastern Minnesota region that have demonstrated positive results helping diverse individuals find jobs and increase inclusiveness in the workplace. As a result of this “diversity inventory,” employers across southeastern Minnesota will have tools to help attract and retain a more diverse workforce.
- \$5,000 awarded to the City of Albert Lea for its Southeast

Minnesota Housing Initiative project. Inadequate affordable housing arose as a concern at all SE MN together community meetings. Housing summits and workshop will be conducted in communities throughout south-east Minnesota to engage community partners to solve their housing needs through collaborative planning and use of a toolkit to be created by the committee. The intended outcome is an increase in housing units to meet each community’s needs.

- \$5,000 awarded for a video project, “An Introduction to the Community.” Youth in different communities will help create videos highlighting the community they are from. Once completed, these video projects will be put on YouTube and will be used for marketing with the goal of attracting families, workforce personnel, and others to the region.
- \$5,000 first phase of the Southeast Minnesota Regional Transit project. The first phase of the project will consist of meetings including area transit providers to share data among each other, map out current routes and then add this information to Google Transit. These meetings will encourage collaboration among transit providers. The project as a whole aims to provide better and more comprehensive transit services to rural southeast Minnesota and drive economic development efforts for employers, employees, educational institutions and regional retail services.

GRIEF RELIEF



Will children understand when a widowed person wants to begin dating? Children of all ages need to be included in all plans made after the death of a spouse. Reactions may be supportive, protective, jealous, or insecure. And all family members should be encouraged to discuss feelings about the new relationship and how it affects the family. Dating after the death of a spouse can be a positive step forward for everyone concerned.

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Cory Michaelson

Steele County Public Records

Steele County • January 2016

❖ ❖ Births ❖ ❖

- Isabelle Rose Rosecke, Parents: Melissa & Jeremy, Jan. 2
- Lincoln Everett Lageson, Parents: Hope & Benjamin, Jan. 3
- Emmalea Riann Wilkemeyer, Parents: Jessica & Francis, Jan. 4
- Oliver Thomas Ewert, Parents: Heather & Thomas, Jan. 5
- Rayannah Louise Gunther, Parents: Andrea & Ryan, Jan. 8
- Nolon Ryan James Hodge, Parent: Faith Cowan, Jan. 8
- Jessica Rose Holmquist, Parents: Crystal & John, Jan. 12
- Emma Rosalie Proenza, Parents: Yainelis Pena & Rubelys Hernandez, Jan. 13
- Reid Austin Sullivan, Parents: Jessica Biesterfeld and Stephen Sullivan, Jan. 14
- Logan James Determan, Parents: Alexandra & Matthew, Jan. 15
- Emma Rose Burr, Parents: Amanda & Christopher, Jan. 15
- Hannah Rose Alsleben, Parents: Holly & Peter, Jan. 15
- Spencer Roy Newman, Parents: Jennifer & Jacob, Jan. 16
- Owen Dean Sorensen, Parents: Shannon & Joshua, Jan. 16
- Bexleigh Jules Moen, Parents: Jacquelyn & Joshua, Jan. 18
- Noah Jason Brandvold, Parents: Terry Duban & Jason Brandvold, Jan. 18
- Nehemiah Lee Hodges, Parents: Shavon & Dinah, Jan. 18
- Brody Michael Miller, Parents: Alexandra & Brian, Jan. 18
- Aisha Fahad Mohamed, Parents: Khadro Hersi & Fahad Nur, Jan. 19
- Marina Trinity Ramirez, Parents: Heidi & Nicholas, Jan. 19
- Averi Jo Van Veldhuizen, Parents: Mary Ann & Eric, Jan. 19
- Elliot Rae Gorden, Parents: Roshana & Jonathan, Jan. 20
- Ntsaiiab Yang, Parents: Kazoua & Tong, Jan. 20
- Latifah Abdirisak Raghe, Parents: Saeda Moallam and Abdirisak Bullo, Jan. 21
- Milo James Kasper, Parents: Betsy & Anthony, Jan. 24
- Hassan Ahmed Disukni, Parents: Amal Abdule & Ahmed Munye, Jan. 24
- Andrew James Wilson, Parents: Jennifer & Jacob, Jan. 27
- Kylie Ann Handshoe, Parents: Emily and Michael, Jan. 27
- Calvin Lair Swanson, Parents: Katelin and Christopher, Jan. 28
- Nash Rhett Shumski, Parents: Bambi and Shane, Jan. 29
- Kenidy Rose Halla, Parents: Suzann and Kyle, Jan. 29
- Namine Marie Melendez, Parent: Tiffany Nelson, Jan. 30
- Lincoln Michael Olvera, Parents: Caitlin Needham and Samuel Olvera, Jan. 30

❖ ❖ Deaths ❖ ❖

- Martha Mathilda Stursa, 86, Owatonna Jan. 2
- Heimer William Swanson, 93, Owatonna Jan. 2
- Evan Myron Oldefendt, 92, Owatonna Jan. 5
- Lois Jean Palmer, 71, Faribault Jan. 6
- Charles Robert Johnson, 91, Owatonna Jan. 6
- Rose Lorraine Techau, 101, Owatonna Jan. 6
- Mary Agnes Sisler, 91, Owatonna Jan. 6
- Thomas George David, 71, Owatonna Jan. 7
- John Lloyd Williams, 93, Owatonna, Jan. 9
- Dorothy Fischer, 84, Owatonna, Jan. 10
- Melvin Eugene Lund, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 10
- Philip Walter Reb, 63, Owatonna, Jan. 11
- Ronald Victor Rasmussen, 76, Owatonna, Jan. 11
- Harold Sylvester Kanne, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 13
- Ronald Ray Mens, 75, Owatonna, Jan. 15
- Jerry Paul Rysavy Sr., 99, Owatonna, Jan. 15
- Edwin Sylvester Snider, 81, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 16
- James Luke Krause, 81, Owatonna, Jan. 17
- Eunice Esther Seykora, 90, Owatonna, Jan. 17
- Sachiko Cameron, 82, Owatonna, Jan. 17
- Shirley Ann Severson, 91, Owatonna, Jan. 17
- Cyril Anthony Jandro, 92, Faribault, Jan. 18
- Eddie Columbus Kroll, 86, Owatonna, Jan. 18
- Anh Thi Luong, 73, Owatonna, Jan. 20
- Patricia Ann Pichner, 73, Owatonna, Jan. 22
- Alton Adolph Johnson, 86, Owatonna, Jan. 23
- Robert Alvey, 94, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 24
- Arlan Lorenz Brase, 75, Owatonna, Jan. 25
- Jane Elizabeth Ostlund, 91, Medford, Jan. 26
- Diane J. Briggs, 61, Brookings, SD, Jan. 26
- George Paul Musil, 93, Owatonna, Jan. 28
- Darrel Lemar Iverson, 80, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 28
- Alvinae Frances Riehm, 92, Owatonna, Jan. 28
- Mark Gerard Mullenmaster, 58, Waseca, Jan. 28

❖ ❖ Marriages ❖ ❖

- Richard John Gagnier & Jessica Janae Abraham, Jan. 2
- Amy Charlene Brandt & Chad Chester Bethke, Jan. 9
- Matthew David Cloutier & Melissa Ann Bird, Jan. 15
- Matthew Allen Madsen & Tracy Lynn Hanson, Jan. 16
- Janice Lynn Ling & Michael Gene Sheid, Jan. 16
- Jamie D. Robertson & Valery Ann Grinnell, Jan. 22
- Brent Michael Reinhard & Kara Marie Welinski, Jan. 23

❖ ❖ Divorces ❖ ❖

- Ruth Ann Swift and Dennis Wayne Swift
- Joshua Scott Lyman and Katrina Monique Lyman
- William W. Taylor and Kelly Rae Taylor
- Amalia Schweim and Paul Schweim

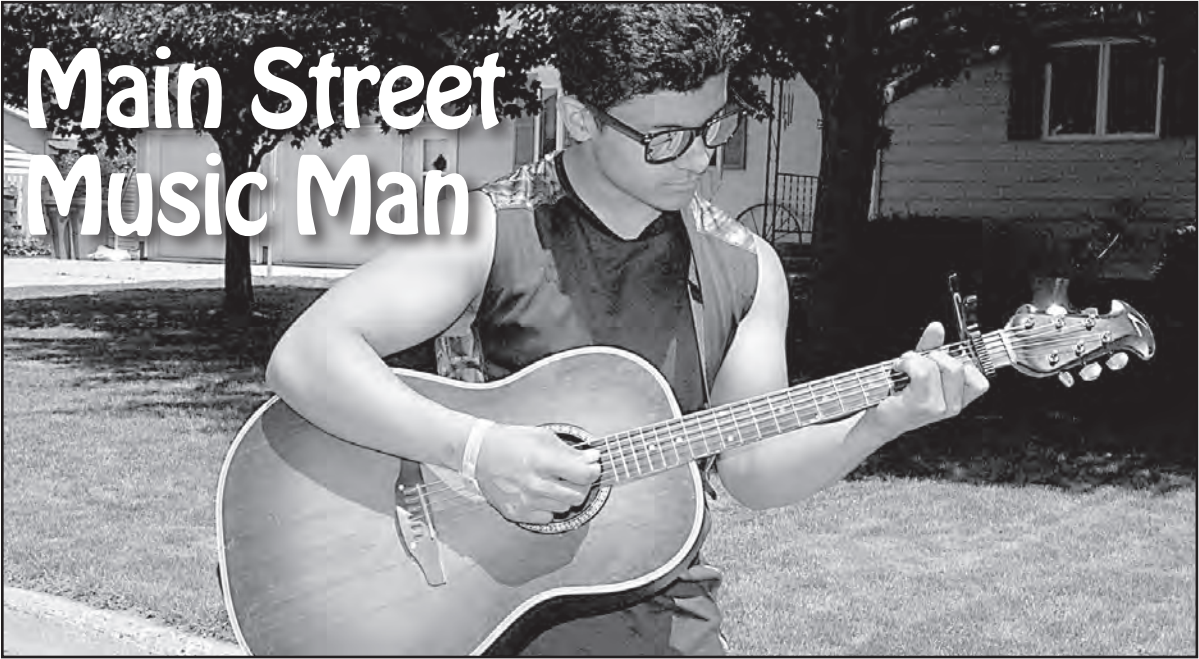
HometownLiving

Community Calendar

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

June 14
BP Card Club and Luncheon, BP
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime,
Bloomington Prairie
4-7 p.m. 75th Annual Strawberry Festival
Red Oak Grove Church
June 15
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime, BP
6 p.m. Chamber Picnic,
Jeff and Sue Zweiner's Cabin
June 16
7 p.m. Apoge Singers - Red Oak Grove
Lutheran Church
June 20
7 p.m. City Council Meeting, BP
June 21
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime, BP
2:30 p.m. BP Public Utilities
4:30 p.m. Fire Comm Mtg
4:45 p.m. BP Boys N Girls Club
Board Meeting, Bloomington Prairie
5:30 p.m. Ambulance Comm Mtg
June 22
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime,
Bloomington Prairie

Main Street Music Man



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Taking a walk down a Bloomington Prairie street after graduation last week is Jon Hansen, 18, Bloomington Prairie. As he strolled, he played his guitar for a listening audience. He has been playing guitar for 11 years.

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REG: 9-10:15 AM AT J&H

LEAVES: 10:30 SHARP • FEE: \$10 PER RIDER

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June 14
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North
Ellendale
June 15
Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Ave,
Hope
June 16
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
June 18
7-8 p.m. Brooke Lundberg. Outdoor
Concert Series.
June 20
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center
Ellendale
June 21
Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Ave,
Hope
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North
Ellendale



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MEDFORD

June 15
7 p.m. Ft Robert Carlin Knights of
Columbus Council, Medford
June 16
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation:
Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle
Stop Diner, Medford
June 20
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation:
Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle
Stop Diner, Medford
June 21
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic
Daughters Meeting, Medford

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OWATONNA

June 14,
Steele County Board of Commissioners
9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
7 p.m. Steele County: Co Board Meeting,
Admin Center, Board Room, Owatonna
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Good
Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owa, 2nd
Tues Sept – Jun
June 15
4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers,
City Hall, Owatonna
June 16
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films,
Owatonna Public Library, Owatonna
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time, Ow
June 20
6 p.m. Sons of Norway, Nortonna Lodge
1-638 Annual Midsummer Picnic, Jaycee
Park, 631 Rice Lake St, Ow.
LOCATION CHANGE.
June 21
9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books... So
Little Time Book Club, Owatonna
4:30 p.m. OPL Board Meeting, Gainey
Rm, Owatonna
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council Meeting,
Council Chambers, City Hall, Owatonna
June 22
7 p.m. National Catholic Youth Choir,
Sacred Heart Church, Owatonna

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AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

June 14
8th Annual Gifted and Talented Symposium,
Riverland
Community College, 1900 8th Ave NW, Austin
Austin Youth Hockey Camp Riverside Arena,
501 12th St. NE, Austin
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting City Of Lyle
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery - Cedar River
Watershed in Art Austin ArtWorks Center, 300
Main St N, Austin
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling
Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the
Bakken
Museum, Mower County Historical Society
10:30 a.m. Mower County Traveling Art Studio,
Brownsdale Public Library, 103 E Main St,
10:30 a.m. Summer Reading Club - Wake Up and
Wiggle Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave NE,
Austin
11 a.m. Read Any Good Books Lately? Austin
Public
Library, 323 4th Ave NE, Austin
6 p.m. Grand Meadow City Council Mtg
6:30 p.m. Lion's Club Meeting, Lyle Community
Center, Lyle
June 15
8th Annual Gifted and Talented Symposium,
Riverland
Community College, 1900 8th Ave NW, Austin
Austin Youth Hockey Camp Where: Riverside
Arena, 501 12th St. NE, Austin
Mayo Clinic Health System - Austin, 1000 1st Dr
NW, Austin
9 a.m. Teddy Bear Tour Hormel Historic Home,
208 4th Ave NW, Austin
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery - Cedar River
Watershed in Art Austin ArtWorks Center, 300
Main St. N, Austin
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling
Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the
Bakken Museum Mower County Historical Society
10 a.m. Mower County Traveling Art Studio,
Lake Louise State Park, Le Roy Township
11:15 a.m. Mower County Traveling Art Studio,
Lake Louise State Park, Le Roy Township
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House City
of Lyle
2 p.m. Meet the Author/Book Reading - "I Do"
Mower County Senior Center, Austin
5:30 p.m. Uncork and Create: Peacock Austin
ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin



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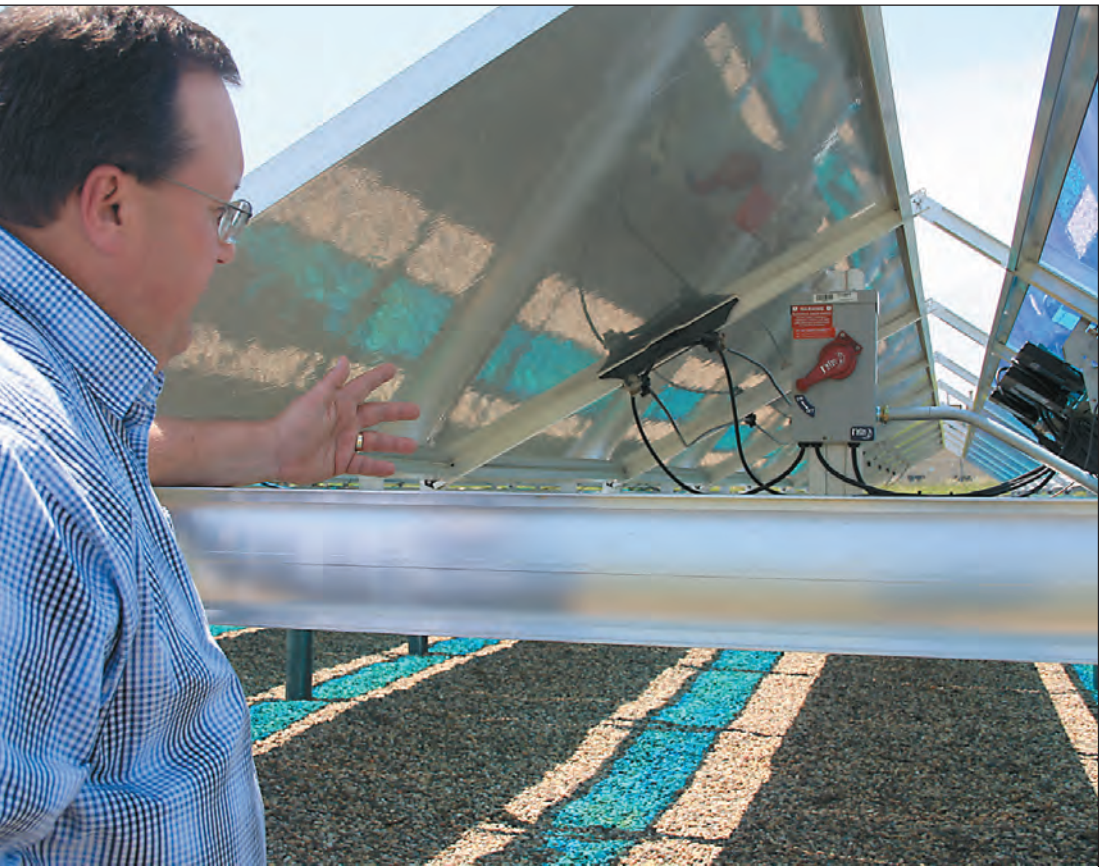
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STEELE-WASECA

Continued from Page 1C



Staff photos by Ahren Backman
Steele-Waseca rep. Randy Sobrack explaining how the control box works on the Sunna Solar Array.



The Sunna Solar Array was named after, Sol, the Norsh goddess of the sun.



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THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

LeMar Nelson

STAFF SPORTS WRITER

MEET LEMAR:

Born and raised in South Dakota. Undergraduate college at Dakota State University in Madison (formerly General Beadle State Teachers College). Masters degree at South Dakota State College in Brookings and Admin Certificate at the University of Minnesota.

Teacher and coach at Chester, SD for three years and 35 years at Blooming Prairie. Assistant football and basketball for 9 years, high school principal for five years, remainder of time English and Journalism instructor. Speech director annual and school paper advisor.

Directed several class plays. Was a teacher of the year top ten in 1966, state journalism advisor of the year, and Blossoms Forever distinguished service recipient.

Three daughters, all raised and educated here. My wife and I were married 45 years until her death from cancer in 2004.

Avid reader, coin collector and musical play attendee.



STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

The 118 gallon water heater would be refilled on none peak usage hours, and Briggs said he has heard no complaints on running out of hot water.

In a post-event phone interview, the first thing Brigg’s brought up was not the two large accomplishments, but the personal stories from some of the elder members. One 80-year-old member Briggs highlighted, could tell his birthday by the age of the co-op.

In addition to reporting the yearly accomplishments on the co-op’s 80th birthday, the Steele-Waseca’s 2016 youth delegates were recognized. They included: Abigail Hanson of Owatonna and Karsten Singh of Northfield.

Briggs estimated this year’s annual meeting had around 180 people more than 2015.

GRADUATION

Continued from Page 1C



Staff photo by Ahren Backman
Graduates Jaylin Evert and Mark Hanson walk to their seats places during the opening processional.



Staff photo by Ahren Backman
Honors graduate Terran Madson, as he flips his tassel f om right to the left of his graduation hat.

Before the graduates took the microphone, Principal Mark Randall gave an introduction address, and the Owatonna High School Symphony Orchestra provided music for the processional.

Moving on is the priority for another musically-inclined graduate, Luke Berkley, who said he will enjoy having the freedom to choose an area of study. Berkley said he will be going to college next year with the goal of being a musician in his chosen instrument, the French horn.

Music for the recessional, the “Owatonna School Hymn,” was again provided by the orchestra under the direction of Sandra Justice.

The commencement wrapped up later that afternoon with the graduates headed back into the sun to celebrate with family.

STEELE TALKIN’



Patty Hocking

Medications for mental health

Mental illness, not unlike physical illness, can affect you or your loved ones quality of life if left untreated. As with treating most medical illnesses, mental illness can also be successfully treated and is a part of taking care of your overall health.

If you or a loved one is struggling with symptoms of: persistent sadness, anxiety, experiencing unwanted, frightening, obsessive or ruminating thoughts, are hearing voices, have lost the ability to perform self-cares, have an eating disorder, have addictive behaviors or thoughts of self-harm, are unable to regulate your emotions or behaviors, you may be exhibiting symptoms of a mental illness. There is a wide range of mental illnesses and they have their own specific pattern of symptoms and can vary in severity.

Medications can play a very important part in the treatment of mental illness and are often the most helpful when they’re a part of an overall treatment program that may include Psychotherapy, Rehabilitative and/or Community Services.

Medications for mental illness fall into the following categories:

Antidepressants -Work to improve symptoms of sadness, depressed mood and anxiety and thoughts of self-harm. Medications for depression impact the brain chemicals associated with emotion, such as serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine.

Antipsychotics- May reduce or eliminate symptoms of psychosis such as hearing unwanted voices or having fearful thoughts. These medications can help you have clear thoughts, stay organized and calm. Antipsychotic medications impact the brain chemical called dopamine.

Mood Stabilizers- Reduce extreme mood swings and have been proven effective in treating Bipolar Disorder. Mood stabilizers can also be used to treat depression.

Anti-Anxiety- Reduce the physical and emotional symptoms of anxiety, can help with social phobias and panic attacks and can aid with insomnia and help to make you feel more relaxed.

Stimulants and related medication- Can be helpful in reducing the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorders such as hyperactivity and impulsiveness and may improve concentration and attention spans.

- Before starting a medication:
- Talk with your prescriber and be honest about all the symptoms you have been experiencing.
 - Tell your prescriber about any and all drugs, alcohol, herbal supplements, over the counter or other prescription medications you are or have been taking.
 - Discuss your concerns and ask about your options to create a plan that works well for you.
 - Ask about the potential benefits, as well as potential side effects, and ask whom you should contact should you experience unpleasant side effects.
 - Be persistent until you find the medication or combination of medications that work for you.
 - Work with your prescriber if you wish to discontinue your medication as stopping abruptly can often lead to unpleasant side effects or withdrawal symptoms.
 - Take your medication as prescribed even if your symptoms improve unless your physician discontinues them.

Patty Hocking RN, is Director of Nursing South Central Human Relations Owatonna

HOMETOWNEXTRA

Berne Concert

SWISS

tradition lives on

Tiny Southern Minnesota church finds hidden success with pizza

It makes me really proud. I have pride knowing how much money is going back into the community.

— Angela Organ
Wood-fired pizza coordinator

A slice of Swiss heritage is being carved into the fabric of Dodge County life through slices of wood-fired pizza and other entertainment during the summer months.

Pizza after pizza gets cooked up in two large wood-burning ovens. By the end of summer, thousands of people from all over southern Minnesota will flock to the grounds of the Zwingli United Church of Christ in tiny little Berne located in northern Dodge County to get a taste of wood-fired pizza.

Each Wednesday night throughout the summer months throngs descend on Berne as volunteers crank out the wood-fired pizza. As many as 2,000 people have come shown up in one night waiting as long as two hours to get pizza.

Marilyn Goff of Pine Island is bound by a wheel chair, but that doesn't stop her from getting out to enjoy pizza at Berne. When asked if she came every week, she laughed and replied, "If I can find someone who will put up with me."

On this particular evening, Goff's friend, Nancy Ronningen, brought her to the pizza celebration. "It's wonderful to have friends like that," Goff said.

For Goff, coming out to Berne holds a special spot in her heart. She was baptized at the church 86 years ago.



Staff photo by XXX

And what about her favorite pizza? "My favorite is bacon bleu," Goff said, quickly adding, "They are all good."

It's not all about pizza, however. The Berne wood-fired pizza events have become quite the social gathering and there is entertainment to boot on a stage created years ago for Swissfest. It has been somewhat modified since Swissfest ended.

Asked what her favorite is about the event, Ronningen, who lives in Pine Island, said, "It's a three-way tie. The people, the pizza and the entertainment." Added Goff: "It's so much fun to sit here. It's the camaraderie. Talking to people I know and haven't seen for years. An evening like this is wonderful."

A hot job

Armed with fire gloves, Rick Braithwaite of West Concord Fire Department is one of five volunteers manning the hot ovens and shoving pizzas in and out nearly as fast as one can say pizza. It takes about four minutes to cook a single pizza and each oven holds six at a time.

But it isn't as easy as it looks. Two volunteers at each oven switch off moving the pizzas around to make sure they don't burn.

"It's a hot job," Braithwaite said as he removed yet another

pizza from the oven that gets up to nearly 800 degrees.

And what's the secret behind successfully cooking wood-fired pizza?

"Do not mess them up," Braithwaite says with a chuckle. "We have to keep them rotated around the fire and keep the fire hot."

Braithwaite, who volunteers every other week throughout the 14-week series, is attracted to volunteering because "I want to give back and help the community." He added, "It's good for us to be out helping the community."

By day Ken Schuck is busy fighting crime in near-by Kasson as the city's police chief, but come night time, at least on Wednesdays during the summer, he leaves his handgun and Taser behind and grabs a large pizza peel shoving hundreds of pizzas in and out of the oven.

"My favorite thing to do is cooking pizzas," Schuck said, who married a Swiss gal.

Schuck swells with pride as he helped build the large ovens with brick that his father saved from his house, which used to be a creamery, located just a few doors down from the church. When the idea came up five years ago to have this pizza event, he didn't hesitate to donate the brick for the ovens.

"I'm kind of proud of my dad that he told me to save the bricks," Schuck said.

As Schuck looked out at the crowds waiting for pizza, he can't believe it. "I am amazed," he said. "It has gone crazy. It's really a feather in Dodge County's cap."

Swissfest becomes pizza

The Berne church held Swissfest for 58 years before cancelling it in 2012. Organizers saw a dip in attendance largely attributed to tour buses that used to come to Swissfest, but now opted for heading to the casinos for gambling.

Angela Organ, who has Swiss heritage and is a third generation family member of the church, came up with a new format to carry on the Swiss tradition.

She pitched the pizza concept

to church officials and they agreed to run with it.

"I went to a pizza farm in Wisconsin where they had no parking and limited seating," Organ said. "We saw how neat it was. I thought if it's that popular there, it could work here as well."

The church had six pizza events during the first year. It has now grown to 14 weeks.

"I was nervous that first year because I was asking to spend someone else's money," Organ admits. But she quickly found out the wood-fired pizza would be a big hit.

A whole pizza costs \$22 with proceeds from the sales going to help keep the church alive and benefiting various community organizations. The church donates "tens of thousands of dollars" to various non-profit groups, according to Organ.

For Organ, it's all about pride and giving back. "It makes me really proud," she said. "I have pride knowing how much money is going back into the community."

Organ hopes the wood-fired pizza will remain popular. "We want to keep the elements of our Swiss heritage," she said.

But pizza?

"We know pizza started in Italy, but we think the borders crossed over into Switzerland," Organ said.

Ray Palm, who immigrated to the United States from Germany, had been one who came out to Swissfest for years after moving to Pine Island in 1997. Three years ago Palm joined the church and now he's up to his elbows in pizza dough helping out every week tossing pizza and more.

Palm misses the old Swissfest celebration, but he credits the church for keeping the Swiss-type atmosphere alive with the wood-fired pizzas.

"It's not the Alps, but it's the pizza, cooking and camaraderie," Palm said of the pizza event. "It's the people that make it the Swiss atmosphere," he added.

Berne Concert Series

June 22- The Lost Faculties
June 29- Barbary Coast
Dixieland Band
July 6- PopRocks
July 13- After School Special
July 20- Incognito
July 27- The Gopher Tones
Aug. 3- Swissfest Tribute
and The Flemming Fold
Aug. 10- Hitchville
Aug. 17- Six Mile Grove
Aug. 24- Suite
Aug. 31- The Rutabaga Brothers

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza

Wednesdays throughout the summer
5-8 p.m.

Zwingli United Church of Christ
23148 County Highway 24
Berne (North of Kasson)

Story and photos
by Rick Bussler



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Minnesota crops make good progress and so do the weeds

Occasional rain showers limited Minnesota farmers to 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending June 5, 2016, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. With most of Minnesota's corn crop emerged, corn condition rated 77 percent good to excellent, up 6 percentage points from the previous week. Eighty-five percent of the soybean crop had emerged, about equal to last year and 12 days ahead of the five-year average. The first soybean condition rating of the year was estimated at 0 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Fifty-nine percent of the spring wheat acreage was at or beyond the jointing stage, 3 days behind last year, but 2 weeks ahead of average. Spring wheat condition rated 74 percent good to excellent, up 4 percentage points from the previous week.

Giant Ragweed in Minnesota: An Increasing Weed Species

A recent survey of certified crop advisors published in the WSSA Weed Science Journal 2016 64:361-377 in which respondents rated giant ragweed as the most or one of the most dif-

ficult weeds to manage in 45% of 421 U.S. counties responding in the corn belt, and 57% of responding counties reported giant ragweed populations with herbicide resistance to acetolactate synthase inhibitors, glyphosate, or both herbicides. Results suggest that giant ragweed is increasing in crop fields outward from the east-central U.S. Corn Belt in most directions.

Where giant ragweed is already established in crop fields,



grower should consider including a more diverse combination of crop species, tillage practices, and herbicide sites of action which will be critical to reduce populations, disrupt emergence patterns, and select against herbicide-resistant giant ragweed genotypes.

Crop producers need to un-

derstand that early crop planting favors giant ragweed, one of the first weeds to emerge after the crop is planted. Currently, giant ragweed is moving into the exponential growth stage, and will pass the ideal 2-4 inch weed height for good control very soon. Once past this ideal size it becomes more challenging to control, especially if the biotype is herbicide resistant. In corn, there are several good options for post emergence control, but

application needs to occur soon. Unfortunately, the wet fields may give the advantage to the giant ragweed. In soybeans, be vigilant. There are not as many options for post emergence control of giant ragweed, plus it may become difficult to hit the optimum herbicide timing for ideal control. This is especially true if you have herbicide resistant giant ragweed.

Recently a University of Minnesota Crop E News article outlining Giant Ragweed Control Options was published on-line at <http://z.umn.edu/giantragweedcontrol> If you are dealing with glyphosate resistant giant ragweed in RoundupReady soy-

bean, those seedlings need to be targeted at 2-3 inches with a Site of Action (SOA)-2 or Site of Action (SOA)-14 herbicide. Examples include FirstRate (SOA-2), Flexstar GT, or Cobra (SOA-14). However, if the giant ragweed is also SOA-2 resistant, FirstRate will not work and SOA-14 herbicides become the best option. See PRE and POST Herbicide Diversification Options at <http://z.umn.edu/herbicidediversification> for Glyphosate-Resistant Corn and Soybean for additional information.

If you planted LibertyLink soybeans, and there wasn't an opportunity to get a preemergence herbicide on, the first glufosinate (Liberty) application should be targeted when the ragweed is small. Include a residual, such as Reflex or Flexstar (NO FlexstarGT) with the glufosinate to help control the last flushes of giant ragweed and other weeds, such as waterhemp, that will become troublesome as the season progresses. Note, adding a Group (SOA) 15 herbicide such as Dual II Magnum, will assist with later season waterhemp control.

The University of Minnesota has produced a very good educational Giant Ragweed Management video series, Herbicide resistant giant ragweed, on the U of M Crops YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UMNCrops> Additional information is available on the University of Minnesota Extension Weeds website: <http://z.umn.edu/weeds>

Online soils resource tool

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

Whether you want to evaluate a property to purchase or are trying to plan how best to use your fields or farm site, the USDA Web Soil Survey is a good place to start. Web Soil Survey is a website that provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and provides access to the largest natural resource information in the world.

The USDA Web Soil Survey is designed to be used for planning on your farm or future property.

This tool provides information on soil types, productivity rating and much more. To watch a short tutorial on how to use the Web Soil Survey tool, please visit the University of Minnesota - Small Farms page. Under the "Tips, training and resources" tab, Extension Educator Jacob Overgaard has created a Farmbytes video explaining how to navigate the Web Soil Survey tool. In the Farmbytes: Introduction to using the USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey, you will learn:

- How to navigate to the land you're interested in
- How to select field
- Important data outputs
- How to export reports

Feel free to contact Karen Anderson, Agricultural Extension Educator at the Steele County Extension office for more information about navigating the USDA Web Soil Survey tool.

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.



 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

U of M Field Tour at Waseca to be held Tuesday, June 21

The Agronomy Field Tour will be held on Tuesday, June 21 at the SROC in Waseca. Registration begins at 8 a.m., in the administration building with field tours departing at 8:30 a.m. A lunch (with time for Q & A) will bring the event to a close at 11:30 a.m. The \$35 registration fee includes handout materials, morning refreshments and lunch. CEUS for certified crop advisers are available.

The program will be held rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, all topics and speakers will be held in the administration building at the Southern Research and Outreach Center. The Center is located at the west edge of Waseca, across from Loon Lake. For more information, visit the SROC Web site at <http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu> or call (507) 835-3620.

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Minnesota Crop Report:

Nearly one-fifth of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was harvested during the 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending June 12, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The first cutting of alfalfa hay continued to progress over a week ahead of the five-year average. Field activities for the week included haying, spraying, and side-dressing nitrogen.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus.

Minnesota's corn condition rated 78 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from the previous week. With 96 percent of the soybean crop emerged, soybean condition rated 77 percent good to excellent, up from 74 percent the previous week. Twelve percent of the spring wheat acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 3 days ahead of the five-year average and 5 days ahead of last year. Spring wheat condition rated 68 percent good to excellent, down 6 percentage points from the last week. Twenty-three percent of the oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 4 days ahead of average, but 3 days behind last year. Oat condition rated 80 percent good to excellent, down 4 percentage points from the previous week. Ten percent of the barley crop had headed, with condition rated at 71 percent good to excellent. Dry edible beans were 88 percent emerged, 10 days ahead of average. Dry edible bean condition rated 60 percent good to excellent. Potato condition rated 88 percent good to excellent. Sugarbeet condition rated 90 percent good to excellent.

The first cutting of alfalfa hay was 68 percent complete, 8 days ahead of average. All hay condition rated 85 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from last week. Pasture condition rated 82 percent good to excellent, up 2 percentage points from the previous week.

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 25, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$108,314.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Eric Mullenmeister and Jennifer Mullenmeister, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 3, 2012, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000384444
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Federal National Mortgage Association
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the Southeast Quarter Section 11, Township 108 North, Range 19 West, Steele County, Minnesota, Described by: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 13 seconds West, assumed bearing 374.00 feet along the East line of said Southeast Quarter; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 33 seconds West 574.00 feet along a line parallel with the North line of said Southeast Quarter; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes 13 seconds East 374.00 feet to the North line of said Southeast Quarter; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 33 seconds East 574.00 feet to beginning Steele County, Minnesota.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 8339 71st Street NE, West Concord, MN 55985
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 10-011-2102
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$114,353.57
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 28, 2016, 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 December 28, 2016, or the next business day if December 28, 2016 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: May 6, 2016

Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") 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
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12550 West Frontage Road,
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Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/10, 5/17, 5/24
5/31, 6/7, 6/14

Estate

District Court Third Judicial District Court File No: 50-PR-16-1075

State of Minnesota
County of Mower

Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and notice to creditors

In Re: Estate of
Michael R. Morehouse,
Aka Michael Romaine Morehouse,
Decedent

Notice is given that an Application for informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Karena K Tufte, whose address is 17250 533rd Ave, Austin, Minnesota, 55912, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objections.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 6.1.16
Christine Zahiadrik

Kristine M Bartness
Court Administrator

Brain L. Weber, #114996
Weber, Leth & Woessner, PLC
P.O. Box 130
Dodge Center, MN 55927
Attorney for Personal Representative

6/14, 6/21

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): Randy Bladine and Bobbette Larson, both single people

MORTGAGEE: Bank of America, N.A.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Federal National Mortgage Association by assignment recorded on September 22, 2014 as Document Number T000071844 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$144,688.59

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 16, 2010

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 27, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17848 as Document Number T000066775 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$147,595.53

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Six (6) and the North Five (5) feet of Lot Five (5), Block One (1), of Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota

REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1019 TRUMAN AVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota

TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Bank of America, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-188-0106

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: August 2, 2016 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 February 2, 2017.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Randy Bladine

Dated: June 7, 2016

FEDERAL NATIONAL
MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP,
P.A.

By: Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-0825-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

6/14, 6/21, 6/28
7/5, 7/12, 7/19

Summons & Complaint

District Court Third Judicial District

State of Minnesota
County of Steele

Court File No.: _____
Case Type: Contract

SFM Mutual
Insurance Company, Plaintiff

vs.

SUMMONS

Benjamin Zane
Spurgeon, Defendant

To the Above-Named Defendant,
Benjamin Zane Spurgeon:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the undersigned attorneys for Plaintiff SFM Mutual Insurance Company an Answer to the Complaint, which is herewith served upon you, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice provides for use of alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") in most cases. After this action is filed, the Court Administrator will provide, notice of the ADR Processes.

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG &
ASSOCIATES

Dated: 1.28.16

Thomas P. Davern (#0386481)
Attorney for SFM Mutual Insurance Company
PO Box 9470
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9470
(952) 838-4473

District Court
Third Judicial District

State of Minnesota
County of Steele

Court File No.: _____
Case Type: Contract

SFM Mutual
Insurance Company, Plaintiff

vs.

COMPLAINT

Benjamin Zane
Spurgeon, Defendant

SFM Mutual insurance Company, for its Complaint, states and alleges as follows:

1. On or about January 1, 2010, Timothy D. Blum sustained a work-related personal injury (as defined by Minn. Stat. 176.011, Subdivision 16) while employed by Southpark Lanes, LLC,

2. On or about January 1, 2010, Southpark Lanes LLC was insured for

Minnesota workers' compensation liability by SFM Mutual Insurance Company.

3. On or about January 1, 2010, Timothy D. Blum was working as an employee for Southpark Lanes LLC. Due to the intentional infliction of harmful bodily contact by Benjamin Zane Spurgeon, Timothy D. Blum sustained personal injuries.

4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 176, the Minnesota Worker's Compensation Act, SFM Mutual Insurance Company has paid workers' compensation benefits to and on behalf of Timothy D. Blum for the injuries he sustained on or about July 1, 2010, all as set forth in the attached itemization of benefits.

5. SFM Mutual Insurance Company will continue to pay future benefits to and on behalf of Timothy D. Blum in conformity with the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act.

6. Due to Benjamin Zane Spurgeon's actions on January 1, 2010, criminal charges alleging assault were filed under steele County Criminal Case No. 74-CR-10-25.

7. In recognizing its status as a victim in the criminal matter, SFM Mutual Insurance filed restitution claiming payments of \$48,569.70 made on or on behalf of Timothy D. Blum.

8. On or about October 4, 2012, SFM Mutual Insurance and Benjamin Zane Spurgeon contracted for the release of SFM's subrogation and restitution interest in consideration of payment of \$35,000 payment from Benjamin Zane Spurgeon. Payments were to be made in the amount of \$5,000 payable on October 4, 2012 and 60 equal monthly payments of \$500 payable on the first of every month commencing on November 1, 2012.

9. The agreement between Benjamin Zane Spurgeon was reduced to writing and signed on October 4, 2012, by Benjamin Zane Spurgeon and on October 23, 2012 by a representative of SFM Mutual Insurance Company.

10. On or about October 23, 2012, Benjamin Zane Spurgeon made the initial payment of \$5,000 as mandated in the signed contract

11. No further payments have been received by SFM Mutual Insurance from Benjamin Zane Spurgeon.

12. Benjamin Zane Spurgeon is in breach of contract reached and signed on October 4, 2012 and October 23, 2012 b the parties.

13. SFM Mutual Insurance Company hereby claims damages in the amount of \$30,000 from Benjamin Zane Spurgeon as set forth in the contract signed by the parties on October 4, 2012 and October 23, 2012, along with prejudgment interest as allowed by Minn. Stat. 549.09 (2012.)

NOW, THEREFORE, SFM Mutual Insurance Company requests that i be granted judgment in its favor on its Complaint aainst Defendant Benjamin Zane Spurgeon together with prejudgment interest, its costs, disbursements and reasonable attorneys fees incurred herein, and such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable in the circumstances.

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG &
ASSOCIATES

Dated: January 28, 2916

Thomas P Davern (0386481)
Attorney for SFM Mutual
PO Box 9470
Minneapolis MN 55440-9470
(952) 838-4473

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 549.211, sanctions may be imposed.

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG &
ASSOCIATES

Dated: 1/28/16

Thomas P. Davern (#0386481)

6/14, 6/21, 6/28

Proposed Agenda

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda June 20, 2016 • 7:00 P.M.

- Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of May Regular City Council Meeting
Financial Report
Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A.
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission
Business
1. 2015 Audit Presentation and Approval
2. 2016 B.G.O. Utility Revenue Bond Issuance
3. Application for Exempt Gambling Permit - Blooming Prairie Cancer Group
4. Sewer Purchase of 1996 Vactor 2100
5. Payment Request No. 5 – 6th Street NW Project
6. Development Agreement &

- Sale of Lots – Industrial Park
7. Set Date for Public Hearing – Vacating Easement Industrial Park
8. Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
9. Approve Welcome Signs Purchase and Installation
10. Approve Victory Field Sign and Installation
11. Approve 2nd Street Reclaim and Repave Plans & Specifications
12. Set Date for Public Hearing for the Update of the Five Year Reconstruction Plan
City Administrator's Report
1. Blooming Prairie Park and Recreation Building
2. 2017 LGA
City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports
Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

6/14

Estate

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No: 74-PR-16-1095

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

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

Estate of
June F. Trom,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 12, 2016, at 10:45

BY THE COURT
Dated: 5.26.16
Joseph Buellet
Judge of District Court

Senia Kasher
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Craig M. Byram
Hoversten Johnson
Beckmann & Hovey, LLP
807 West Oakland Avenue
Austin, MN 55912
Attorney License No: 0248654
Telephone: (507) 433-3483
FAX: (507) 433-7889
Email: cbyram@hoverstenlaw.com

6/14, 6/21

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES 74557 & 74558 OVER JOINT COUNTY DITCH NO J24, STEELE & WASECA COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF LETTING

Bids will be received on June 21, 2016 until 2:00 p.m., at the office of the County Auditor of said Steele County, at the Steele County Administration Center at 630 Florence Avenue in the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, on a complete contract for the construction of the Bridges 74557 & 74558 to Joint County Ditch No. J24, Steele and Waseca Counties, Minnesota, at which time the bids will be opened by the Engineer and Steele County Auditor in the Board Room. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The project consists of constructing the following quantities of work:

4,198 SY Bridge Slab Concrete (3Y43)
86 CY Structural Concrete (3Y43)
346 LF Type Curb Railing Concrete (3Y43)
36,240 LBS Reinforcement Bars (epoxy coated)
672 FT Prestressed Concrete Beams 36M
600 FT Steel H Piling 10 inch
840 CY Riprap
3 EA Bridge Removal
2,860 FT Access Road

Bids are invited for the entire work as one job and it is deemed advisable to let the entire project at one time. The Contractor will be required to guarantee and the contracts and bonds shall guarantee the work covered by the contracts against any fault or negligence on their part.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. Each bid shall be accomplished by a certified check or bid bond payable to the /county Treasurer of Steele County, Minnesota, for not less than 10 percent of the bid, as security that the bidder or bidders will enter into the contract or contracts and give bond as is accepted without their approval as to compliance with the plans and specifications. The letting may be adjourned from time to time.

Project documents are available at: <http://www.questcdn.com>. You may download the complete set of digital bidding documents for \$30 by entering eBidDoc #4516490 on the "Search Projects" page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Project document may be obtained from the Engineers, Jones, Haugh & Smith Inc, 515 South Washington, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007, by payment of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for each set obtained.

Dated: May 27, 2016

By: Steven J. Penkava P.E.



Steele County employmentconnection





The next step after graduation

Graduation is an exciting time in the lives of students. After years in the classroom preparing for life after school, graduation marks a time when students are finally ready to enter the “real world” and land their first professional job.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics advises that earning a col-

lege degree can greatly improve a person’s chance of landing a job. The more education a person receives, the lower his or her prospects of being unemployed become. The BLS said that, as of 2014, individuals with a bachelor’s degree could earn on average \$1,101 per week, compared to

\$668 for persons with high school diplomas. Those with bachelor’s degrees had a 3.5 percent unemployment rate compared to 6 percent for those with only high school diplomas.

The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that roughly two million students earn bachelor’s degrees each year. Many others will go on to earn master’s or doctorates before entering the workforce.

As the economy continues to improve, job prospects follow suit. According to a job outlook from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, employers had plans to hire 8.3 percent more new college graduates in 2015 than in 2014. The growth of businesses and the rising rate of retiring Baby Boomers has spurred employment prospects.

Landing a job post-graduation requires diligence on the part of new grads, and the following are a handful of ways to make those pursuits more successful.

- Hit the ground running. It’s tempting for recent grads to take the summer off and have a lax approach to job hunting after all of the hard work they put into their education. But recent grads can get a head start on their competition by beginning their searches immediately after earning their degrees. Create a list of a few target companies you have your eye on, and then tap into your network to find a contact at each company and reach out to that contact directly.
- Focus on a career path. Prospective employers prefer that applicants have some certainty regarding the types of jobs they are looking for. Take a career assessment test or work with a career counselor to narrow down

the fields and positions that speak to you. Avoid the “I’m willing to do or learn anything” approach to job applications. Employers may see that as desperation.

- Don’t rely entirely on the Internet. Oftentimes, landing a good job requires reaching out to people in person. In a MonsterCollege survey, 78 percent of job-seekers said networking was a factor in their job searches. Standing out from the crowd may involve physically standing out. Attend conferences or speeches from people who work at the companies you’re investigating. Don’t be afraid to shake some hands and introduce yourself to others.
- Think about what you can offer to prospective employers. Narrow down your specific skills and customize your résumés or cover letters to the specific talents you can offer each potential employer. Use examples that illustrate these skills from past school courses, volunteerism or part-time jobs. Your “quirks,” like being the most punctual person in your group of friends, may turn out to be the skill an employer admires the most. Consider developing a career portfolio that highlights your past achievements.
- Do your homework before an interview or networking opportunity. Always be prepared before an interview or when meeting with someone you are soliciting for job help. Research the company and know its background so you have an idea of how the company runs. Keep a list of questions at the ready. A knowledge of the company can help you stand out from other applicants.

FOR RENT

3 Bedroom Home, 4 miles northeast of Blooming Prairie, MN, on Hwy 30 in Dodge County plus a barn, machine shed & poultry house. Immediate occupancy available. Phone 816-853-2697.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - POSITION OVERVIEW

In cooperation with and under the direction of the Steele County Food Shelf (SCFS) Board of Directors, the Executive Director will provide overall management, planning and leadership of the Steele County Food Shelf, Inc. The Executive Director reports to the SCFS Board of Directors.

The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, including supervision of staff and volunteers, operational planning, financial management and public relations. The Executive Director is to set and achieve quality in every aspect of the SCFS operations.

Experience and/or Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, Non-Profit Management, and/or Food and Nutrition is highly preferred; or similar degree or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in a similar role of responsibility.
- Knowledge of nutrition and food resource management with professional certification (Nutrition Specialist or Registered Dietitian) is highly preferred.
- Exceptional interpersonal communication skills; written and verbal.
- Skills in leadership, supervisory management and human resource development to promote a positive working environment for staff, volunteers and clients.
- Strategic planning experience.

HOW TO APPLY:

Go online to: <http://steelecountyfoodshelf.org/> to review position requirements and submit your resume/application to:

Attn: SCFS Executive Director Position:
kathy.schroeder@ExpressPros.com

POSTING IS OPEN THROUGH JULY 15, 2016.

FOR SALE

SHAKLEE PRODUCTS
Get your organic Basic H. Call
Shelley. 507-219-4282.

Hiring?

Call Kim
TODAY!

To place your ad



507-583-4431

bpkim@frontier.com

STEELE COUNTY Times

LEGAL ASSISTANT WANTED

Henefield Law Office is looking for a legal assistant to work 20-32 hours per week

Knowledge of Windows Office and strong typing/dictation skills a must. In addition, Estate Planning, and City Attorney is preferred. Salary depends on experience and qualifications.

Start date approximately August 1.
Mail resume to P.O. Box 818, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or email to jason.bplaw@gmail.com.

PART-TIME SHIFTS AVAILABLE

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS - For independent and assisted living residents. Ideal candidate enjoys working with seniors and a making a difference in people's lives.
*Must be 18 with GED or High School Diploma.

COOKS - part-time with hours that may vary. We encourage retirees to apply!

Stop in with questions or to use our computer to apply!

Apply online: www.ecumen.org/careers



ECUMEN
Brooks & CountrySide

2480 St Paul Rd
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507-446-5855

650 El Dorado St SE
Owatonna, MN
507-446-8334

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\$7,500 Sign-On-Bonus

MCLANE IS HIRING CDL A DRIVERS TO OPERATE UNDER ONE OF THE NATION’S LARGEST & MOST MODERN PRIVATE FLEETS!!

Need a NEW BOAT this Summer? Family Vacation?

- Guaranteed Pay and Earn \$65k+ in your FIRST YEAR!
- Full Health Benefits on **Day 1**
- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- 401K with Company Match
- Life Insurance and Disability

HIRING EVENT

June 15th, 16th, 17th 7AM to 5 PM
June 18th 7 AM to Noon

McLane Company, Inc,
1111 W 5th Street • Northfield, MN

Visit driveformclane.com/goto/minnesota
or Call Hollie Now! (507) 664-3038

Eligible CDL Applicants:
21 Years of Age HS Diploma
50,000 Safe Driving Miles





“Quality Care with a Small Town Touch”

Prairie Manor Care Center has the following openings:

❖ Full Time / Part Time CNA Evening Shifts ❖
Includes every other weekend and holiday

❖ Full Time / Part Time LPN Evening Shifts ❖
Excellent Health Benefits - Single employee \$75 per month!

To apply, contact Allison Hensrud, DON 507-572-6188
ahensrud@prairiemanorinc.com • fax 507-583-2401, or in person
220 3rd St NW Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Classifieds

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Dodge County
ADvantage
Steele County Times

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



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

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

EMPLOYMENT

Growing Dental Practice is looking for an energetic, friendly and self-motivated person to join our team, many benefits and perks. Dental experience preferred, contact Lori with Byron Dental Group at 775-6445 25-27c

Caregiver position available at Wellington Adult care. Working with elderly clients, experience preferred but will train. Must love elderly people and enjoy working in a home setting. Applicant must be 18 years old, have a valid drivers license, and pass a background check. If interested please call please contact Janie or Bill at 507-374-2198 or 507-319-4821. 23tfc

Job opportunities at Erdman's County Market. Deli clerk position (starting at \$10/hr for 18 yrs. & older). Cashier/Baggers (starting at \$7 to \$8 / hr for under 18 yrs. old). Pay dependent on experience. Apply on-line or in person at 19 2nd Ave NW, Kasson. 24-26c

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Nick's Lawn Mowing Service, weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed, seven yrs. exp., free estimates. 507-696-3849 leave a message. 21tfc

Brianna's Lawn Care Services, mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup, weekly or on call. Free estimates. Satisfaction guaranteed 507-421-7945. 21tfc

College student looking for yard jobs; lawn mowing, gutter cleaning, junk removal, landscaping, and window washing, many years of experience, provide quality workmanship at a fair price! Call/text Ryan at 507-259-2860 References available, FREE estimates. 22tfc

FOR SALE

Closed guitar store, must sell! Guitars, amplifiers, cordless and regular microphones, mic and guitar cords, stand, strings, guitar picks, many sound mixers, new Co2 BB guns, too much to mention. Call for an appointment, keep ad. 3 people at the most at one time. Cash only, guitars start at \$100 to \$800, call 507-527-1014 leave a message, West Concord, Don 25,26,27c

FOR RENT

Dodge Center, 2 bedroom JUST renovated apartment in 4-plex. Stove, fridge, and water furnished, NP, NS, \$695 deposit and \$695 rent. Available now, 507-374-6747 25tfc

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

Prime office spaces for rent on Main Street, Kasson. High traffic location. Call 634-4307 for more information. 37tfc

Spring Rent Sale- Great Western Apartments, Hayfield, will reduce your rent by \$100 per month with a one-year lease. Newly renovated with large rooms, hardwood floors, and utilities included. We have the 1, 2, or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Call (507) 796-0152 or (701) 330-9706 for sale details 12tfc

SERVICES

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

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

GARAGE SALES

805 5th Ave. NW Dodge Center (by the water tower), Thursday 1-8 and Friday 9-5. Garage items/tools, electric chainsaw, clothes (teen girls and womens), shoes, wolf décor, kitchen items, knick-knacks, Christmas, electronics, lots of misc. 26p

32 E Main St. Dodge Center (right next to Harold's Club), Saturday 10-4. 50% off all house items and 25% off all consignment items, lots of new items. Just in: Video game set, ladies clothing, purses and much more! 26p

101 7th Ave. NE, Wednesday 2-6, Thursday 2-6, Friday 10-4. Furniture, misc. household, Legos, boys clothes (size 10-12), Nike clothes all sizes and much more. 26p

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN EXCITING CAREER? JOIN THE CLEARY TEAM!!

CLEARY BUILDING CORP.

NOW HIRING CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN
\$17-\$30 per hour PLUS FULL BENEFITS!
We are seeking hard working people looking for a career and advancement opportunities in our family owned business! Prior experience and the ability to read blue prints required. Drug screen and valid driver's license is mandatory. **APPLY TODAY!!**
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Kasson, MN 55944

KRUEGER TRUCKING

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

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

MOWER COUNTY LEGAL ASSISTANT (PARALEGAL)

Starting wage is \$19,115.3 - \$21,217.7 based on training and experience (Full-time union position). The Legal Assistant is responsible for performing paralegal responsibilities within the office of the County Attorney which requires specialized training and knowledge of legal terminology, court procedures, and office administration. This includes assisting attorneys in trial preparation; assembling, researching, evaluating and obtaining court documents, and evidence through interactions with law enforcement agencies, witnesses, or state computer databases; preparing writs, motions, court orders, documents, disclosures or other materials. The position requires an Associates Degree in Paralegal or Legal Assistant and a minimum of one year legal experience. Employment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

Mower County offers full-time employees an excellent benefit package including health, life, disability, retirement, and paid time off.
To apply qualified applicants may obtain application at www.co.mower.mn.us or at **Mower County Human Resources, 201 1st Street NE, Suite 12, Austin, MN 55912.** Resumes will not be accepted in place of application forms. Open until filled with a priority deadline of 12:00 p.m. June 24, 2016.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



McAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



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LAND FOR SALE

HUNTING AND RECREATIONAL LAND FOR SALE
Parcels selling for \$300-\$400 per acre. 555 acres selling in 5 tracts, Waubesa; 69 acres on the Big Fork River. Wirt; 66 acres on Mississippi River, McGregor; 160 acres, Milaca; 33 acres on St. Louis River, Floodwood. Auction June 21. Better Home & Gardens Real Estate; Lic. #86-79; www.BHGBid.com; 763/300-5055

MISCELLANEOUS

GEOTHERMAL HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS
Commercial, residential & shop buildings. Economical heating & cooling. Federal tax Credits/electric rebates. Earthloop Geothermal Systems, Foss-ton 218/435-6379 or 218/230-5533

PROTECT YOUR HOME

with fully customizable security and 24/7 monitoring right from your smartphone. Receive up to \$1,500 in equipment, free (restrictions apply). Call 800/203-6905

MISCELLANEOUS

GOT KNEE PAIN?
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

DONATE YOUR CAR

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Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096

108 3rd St. West Concord, Friday-Sunday 9-4. Metal fence posts, knicks-knacks, movies, lawn mowers, shovels, forks, lawn furniture, and scooters. 26

512+514 3rd St. SE Dodge Center, Thursday and Friday 8-6. Lots of household items, kids, womens name brand clothing, Harley Davidson items, plants, shoes, purses, brand new mens jackets, chairs, something for everyone. 26p

576 Towne Drive NE Byron Towne Village, Friday and Saturday 8:30-6. Baby gear, toddler clothing, womens clothing, household goods and other misc. 26p

Riverside Park, Tuesday 11-5 through October, Farmers and Artisans Market, Arts and crafts, Watkins products, baked goods, plants, produce and flea market, vendor fee \$5/wk. 507-635-5554, www.mantorvilletourism.com 25tfc

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Wellington adult care has trained staff who work 24 hrs. a day to provide you with services such as prepared meals, medication management, personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special diets are not a problem. We also arrange transportation to and from medical appointments accompanied by staff or family. We supply laundry services, and housekeeping. Our home is wheelchair accessible. We have a 1 to 5 staff to client ratio. All rooms are private. We serve a variety of clients over the age of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota. For more information please contact Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134 20tfc

Kasson-Mantorville School

has an opening for a **Kindergarten Teacher** beginning August 2016.

Please complete application on-line at:
www.komets.k12.mn.us
before June 17 and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and reference letters.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - POSITION OVERVIEW

In cooperation with and under the direction of the Steele County Food Shelf (SCFS) Board of Directors, the Executive Director will provide overall management, planning and leadership of the Steele County Food Shelf, Inc. The Executive Director reports to the SCFS Board of Directors.

The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, including supervision of staff and volunteers, operational planning, financial management and public relations. The Executive Director is to set and achieve quality in every aspect of the SCFS operations.

Experience and/or Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Non-Profit Management, and/or Food and Nutrition is highly preferred; or similar degree or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in a similar role of responsibility.
- Knowledge of nutrition and food resource management with professional certification (Nutrition Specialist or Registered Dietitian) is highly preferred.
- Exceptional interpersonal communication skills; written and verbal.
- Skills in leadership, supervisory management and human resource development to promote a positive working environment for staff, volunteers and clients.
- Strategic planning experience.

HOW TO APPLY:

Go online to: <http://steelecountyfoodshelf.org/> to review position requirements and submit your resume/application to:
Attn: SCFS Executive Director Position:
kathy.schroeder@ExpressPros.com
POSTING IS OPEN THROUGH JULY 15, 2016.

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- 419 ac. m/l cropland, PI 77.3
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- 5 miles m/l river frontage
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MOWER COUNTY

Breakfast on the Farm

GENE ANDERSON FARM • 30111 620TH AVE, WALTHAM



Photos from 2015
Breakfast on the Farm



Come join us for some fun!

Date: June 18
Time: 7:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: Gene Anderson Farm,
30111 620th Ave, Waltham

Cost:
Adults: \$3 (Family Rate \$12)
Children: 6 and under FREE

Menu:
Chris Cakes pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee

Activities: Farm tours, scavenger hunt, horse drawn wagon rides, educational agriculture displays, milk “Star” the cow

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CENTRAL FARM SERVICE



Thanks to farmers & dairy farmers for all they do for our community



Jeanne Poppe
291 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
651-296-4193 or 888-682-3180
rep.jeanne.poppe@house.mn



Darrell B. Ingvaldson, LUTCF
(507) 567-2296
100 S Mill Street
PO Box 298
Brownsdale, MN

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