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STEELE COUNTY
Times



LETTERS TO SANTA: AREA KIDS MAKE THEIR WISHES KNOWN D2

www.steeledodgenews.com | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

A Christmas miracle prompts joy for teen battling cancer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Logan Pleschourt, middle, is surrounded by love with his stepfather, Shannon Lique and mother, Heather Lique.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Logan Pleschourt and his family may have experienced their own "Christmas Miracle."

On Oct. 4, the Medford High School sophomore was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. For the past four months, he has underwent intense chemotherapy treatments and, amazingly, doctors no longer see any cancer in his body.

"They aren't ruling that he is cancer-free yet," Pleschourt's stepfather Shannon Lique said. "But there's absolutely nothing. He just has to finish out all the rounds now."

Lique said doctors have told the family that Pleschourt still has a challenging road ahead.

"They said the next few months after his last round [of chemo] it's going to kind of be like coming off a drug or

SEE **LOGAN, A4**

Holiday bonus:
Good news prevails throughout Steele County this Christmas

In the first of its kind effort, staff members of the Steele County Times are offering readers an extra special bonus this holiday season. The entire front page, as well other pages inside, is being devoted to "good news" holiday stories.

We are making a special effort to deviate from presenting the type of stories that often end up on our front pages throughout the year. In a world often filled with negativity, we want to share stories that are inspirational, hopeful and uplifting.

There is no shortage of holiday cheer and spirit being shared around the area this Christmas season. We attempted to catch a sampling of how people are spreading the good news of Christmas and doing things to improve our society.

We hope you enjoy our holiday gift to you this week. Merry Christmas from all of us at the Times. We wish all of you a joyous holiday season!

Rick L. Bussler
Publisher



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Sheriff's deputy Mike Smith took a break from patrolling Steele County Dec. 13 to shop with Eathan Buck, 7, of Owatonna at the Target Store. The pair had some assistance from Whitney Waknitz, a Target employee. Law enforcement officers from the county assisted 16 children in the Shop with a Cop program coordinated by the Salvation Army of Steele County. Target donated $2,000 to the program.

Target helps provide a 'Christmas miracle' for area needy children

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In the spirit of the season, children from Steele County were left with big smiles and gifts to boot after a shopping experience they're likely not going to forget any time soon.

Sixteen families are going to have a more joyous holiday season thanks to multiple organizations that paired police officers with small children at the Target Store in Owatonna Dec. 13.

Target donated $2,000 to the Salvation Army of Steele County for the program. Shop with a Cop provides a fun-filled day for children in need while creating positive relationships with law enforcement.

Uniformed officers from Owatonna Police, State Patrol and Steele County Sheriff's Office volunteered their time to be with the children for shopping, gift wrapping and refreshments.

With the help of the Salvation Army, 16 children were identified and paired up with police officers to purchase gifts for themselves as well as their families. Each child was allowed to spend $125 for gifts with the officers guiding their selections.

"This is a Christmas miracle for the kids," said Zeb Schultz, who coordinated Target's involvement with the program. "That's what this is about helping out kids. We want to make sure they have opportunities afforded to them."

Sheriff's deputy Mike Smith was paired up with 7-year-old Eathan Buck. They made their way into the toy aisle as well as the book section. "Let's go back and get something for

SEE **COP, A4**



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Abbey Johnson, 6, found Santa Claus and his trusty elf at the Blooming Prairie Police Department one day last week. The BP Police Department sponsored Santa's visit at the police station.

Santa with his elf swoop into BP early
Police department hosts holiday festival for 200

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Reports were circulating last Tuesday night about Santa Claus' sleigh being double parked in front of the Blooming Prairie Police Department.

Could that be true?

It indeed was true, said Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad. "I gave Santa a pass by ripping up a traffic ticket," he remarked.

> "I gave Santa a pass by ripping up a traffic ticket."
>
> **Chief Greg Skillestad**
> Blooming Prairie Police

While the sleigh was double parked out front of the PD, Santa Claus and his elf greeted more than 100 youngsters and their parents.

With about half kids, more than 200 people attended the special Blooming Prairie Police Department Christmas Party for kids.

As kids and adults entered the front door, Santa Claus and a trusty elf were waiting near a lighted Christmas tree to offer greetings and also to give kids a free gift, a candy cane and a Christmas card from the Blooming Prairie Police Department.

Chief Skillestad and police officers Dan Peach, Rick Ellingson and Jake Peterson coordinated this second annual event. Two Explorer Scouts, Tristen Kern and Jackson

SEE **SANTA, A3**



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS BALDWIN

For 46 years, Darryl Hill of Owatonna has organized the annual Christmas Bird Count in Steele County. On Saturday, he made a stop at Lake Kohlmier to count a large flock of ducks.

FOR THE BIRDS
Just in time for Christmas, birds spotted in Steele County during annual count

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

For 46 years Steele County residents have been counting birds, and for 46 years the birds have always been there. The Christmas Bird Count, which is held annually by the Audubon Society, has been in existence internationally for 118 years.

The count lasts all day, and the teams work during daylight hours to ensure that the count is both accurate and steady. They spread out from the center of the count's radius, located in Havana Township, and from there reach across Steele County. The diameter of their circle covers 15 miles of Minnesota land, and the final count reaches an average of 4,521 birds.

Darryl Hill, who has been participating in the bird count for the 46 years Owatonna has been holding it, expects that they will see

SEE **BIRDS, A3**

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INSIDE

Classifieds....C7
Community Calendar..C5
Farm Living....B5
History....A5
Hometown Living....C1
Hometown Sports....B1
Community....A6
Opinion....A2
Public Notices....C6
Public Safety....C4
Worship & Faith....A7
Greetings....D1

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OUR VIEW

Most reprinted editorial answers important Christmas question



Virginia O'Hanlon, a real girl, wrote a real letter.

The most famous editorial in American journalism was published 118 years ago in the New York Sun, as a reply to a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanion. The editorial was titled "Is there a Santa Claus?" and its most memorable passage was this reassuring declaration: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."The editorial was written in less than a day by a self-effacing journalist named Francis P. Church, who was a veteran editorial writer at the Sun. The response from Francis Pharcellus Church to Virginia O'Hanion's letter has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial. It is with great pleasure that the Steele County Times presents it here. Merry Christmas!

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 W. 95th St.

Is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of

YOUR VIEW

Dodge County doesn't play by the rules

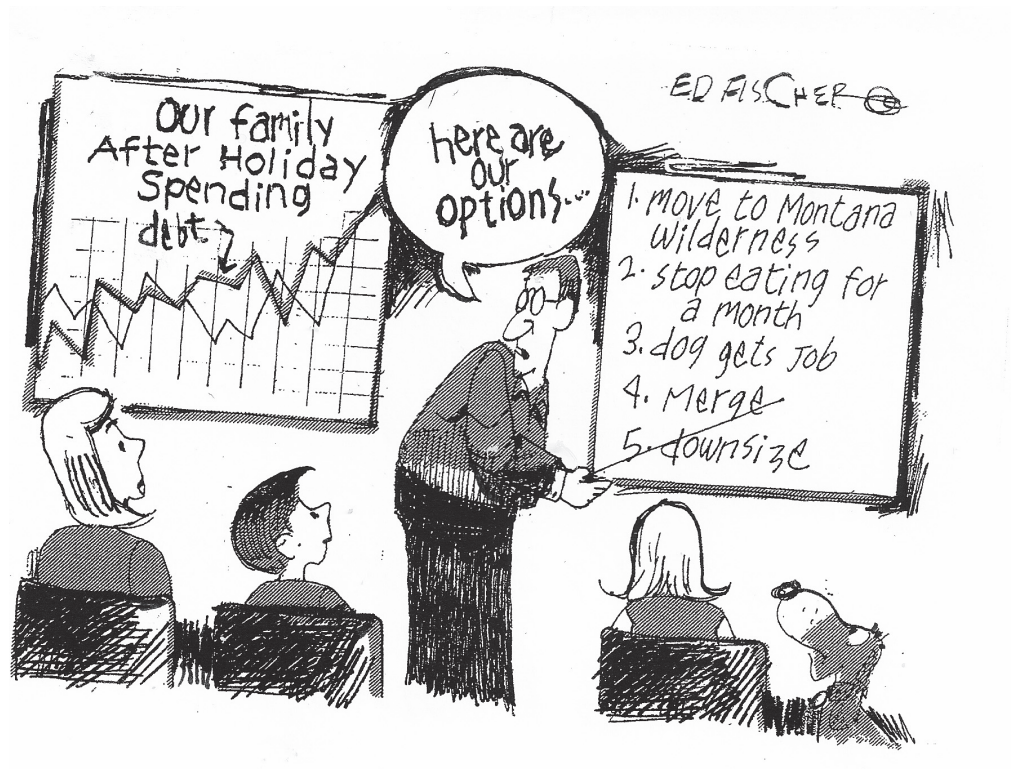
To-the-Editor:

It's suspect that the county changed the local ordinance in February 2015 following conclusion of my parents' first lawsuit.

It's even more suspect that the county proposes additional changes to the local ordinance now that my parents' second lawsuit has been concluded.

Dodge County has no intention of playing by the rules, so they are again changing the rules. These rule changes favor the industry, not long-standing farmers who have been on the land for generations.

Sonja Trom Eayrs
Dodge County Concerned Citizens



All the GOOD NEWS that's fit to print



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

'Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the newsroom, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

Wait, I see a publisher and his assistants scurrying around to make an impression on their readers. The stories were being crafted with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The readers were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of newspapers featuring good news danced in their heads.

When all of a sudden on the presses there arose such a clatter, readers sprang from their beds to see what was the matter. They ripped into the newspaper with ink still drying to see what the commotion was all about.

With just days to Christmas, much of this week's Steele County Times is focused on good news of the holiday season. As everyone scurries around making last-minute gift selections, we're committed to filling the newspaper with mostly stories showcasing good news of the festive holiday season.

This is our chance to remember to thank those who continue to make our communities great. There is no question that good news prevails throughout Steele County and other surrounding counties this holiday season.

Covering the news of the community can be a tough balancing act at times. We are challenged each week to report the news no matter if it's good, bad, ugly or indifferent. At times things may seem to be a little out of sync as readers challenge us with the stories we cover. But no matter what's going on, we always try to find a balance of covering the news.

Earlier this year our newspaper, along with hundreds of others across the state, attempted to make a bold statement by leaving the entire front page blank for one week. It wasn't that we were lazy in getting news, but rather we wanted readers to understand the value of community newspapers and what it would be like without a newspaper.

So as we began developing ideas for our holiday edition, we thought it would be fun to put a little different spin on things by showcasing all "good news" on the front page. We wanted to deviate from the normal news that often grabs the headlines, and sometimes makes our readers uncomfortable.

We've heard the complaints from time to time saying that "Why don't you focus on more good news? The paper is always negative."

At times I think the mantra about doing too much bad news in the local newspaper is blown way out of proportion. But nevertheless it's a perception that we as journalists are left to fight.

Some people don't realize we have an obligation to share the news that may not always be the most positive. What people don't understand is that we don't always like covering some of the stories we're thrust into.

For this week's "good news" paper, we have come up with a variety of stories, columns and photographs that we hope will uplift and inspire our readers over this holiday season. It's our holiday bonus to each and every reader.

As you enjoy our good news this week, we hope it proves to be a good time for peace on Earth in your life as well as the lives of your loved ones.

It's our privilege this holiday to share with you all the good news that's fit to print. We hope you will go in hot pursuit of enjoying a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas!

GUEST COLUMN

Owatonna is in the top 20 nationwide

BY SHIRLEY SCHULTZ

The DELUXE Small Business Revolution has selected Owatonna as one of 20 lucky communities from thousands of applications across the nation, to move forward in the Deluxe Small Business Revolution Season 3. Congratulations Owatonna!

The winning community will be awarded a $500,000 makeover and be featured in an eight part series on www.smallbusinessrevolution.org. In the last three years there have been over 30,000 nominations from the country, Canada and Puerto Rico as well. Check out the website and watch Season 1 & 2 series. See how much they helped those businesses and towns with a freshening up of businesses, downtowns, business skillsets and marketing. You may get some ideas for your own business or group and it will help you tell your story. Deluxe and the Main Street Revolution work with the whole community with a focus on downtown revitalization.

The DELUXE Small Business Revolution involves surveys, social media, visiting businesses, the vote, a $500,000 makeover for a community and selected businesses and filming the Small Business Revolution makeovers.

We are into the third phase of the process where they narrow the competition down from 20 to 10 communities on Dec.12. Deluxe asked for short surveys from all our businesses and nonprofits community wide in Owatonna to get a feel for the businesses community. Business got busy completing surveys by Dec. 4.

What are your biggest business challenges? Getting found online; Finding new customers; Managing social media; Managing your website; Budgeting & planning; Sales; Marketing & Accounting Technology; HR & Hiring; Identifying your target Market; Building your brand and others. They also wanted to know what makes your business or non-profit unique in our community. From these, they select which towns to move forward and which businesses to visit when they come to the Top 10. Our fingers are crossed as we wait for the announcement.

This says a lot about Owatonna and business community to be in the top 20! Owatonna is a great town and is ready for the next phase, social media. We will be reaching out to get people connected, sharing why they love Owatonna.

Owatonna will need your help. We will reach out to connect by Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others with photos, stories and videos, which we hope you will like and share. During this time, the Small Street Revolution will be visiting the Top 10 towns in January, deciding who will make it to the final five and the big vote in February. The winning town will be announced the end of February. That's when the real work for the winning town begins. Filming will take place March to June. Series 3 will be released fall of 2018.

The love and revolution has begun, winner or not! Watch for news! Happy Holidays! Spread the word.

Shirley Schultz is the Main Street director with the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce. She may be reached at 507-451-7970 or sschultz@owatonna.org.

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

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Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $42
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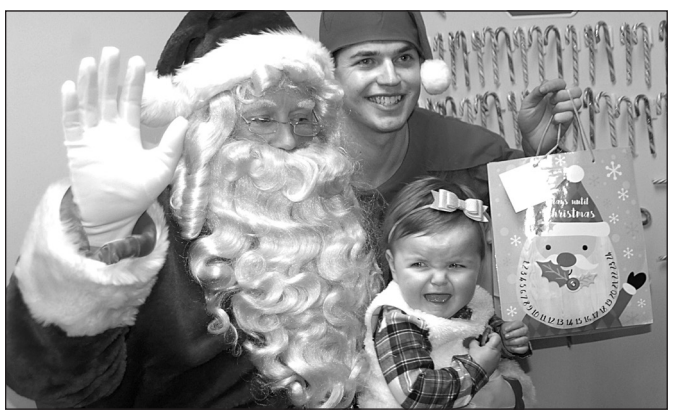
A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards, 8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards, 7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards, 3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards, 7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

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

SANTA: *Visits police department*





STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

At left, Tiny Lauren Robbins, who will turn one on Dec. 27, wasn't too happy on Santa's lap but she did manage to get a nice gift from the jolly old fellow at the BP Police Department on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Below, Santa Claus played peekaboo for the camera with his trusty elf. Here, he poses with Harlee Doocy, 6 and Linkynn Doocy, 3.

FROM PAGE A1

Stauffer, also helped with the event.

The police headquarters were decorated with plenty of Christmas flavor and featured some surprises this year, a police uniform cutout that enabled youngsters to portray a police officer's role and a jail that youngsters could visit and be released immediately.

Plenty of other activities took place in the police garage including crafts and an opportunity to leave a letter for Santa Claus. A special mail box was made available for the Santa letters.

Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen donated 15 dozen cookies for the party. Kids and adults enjoyed M & M cookies and old-fashioned sugar cookies and specially decorated sugar cookies. "We gave them all away," said Peterson, wearing her own colorful Santa hat.

"We thank the community for coming in to visit Santa, his elf and police crew," said Chief Skillestad.

"It's fun to see the kids have fun and have a chance to visit with Santa," Skillestad said. He added that not all youngsters were smiles. Some kids cried but that did not stop their parents from getting a photo of them with Santa and his elf.

Skillestad emphasized that no city funds were used for sponsorship of the Santa visit.

Next year's Christmas get-together with Santa may go to a different location, a larger one, Skillestad and Peach hinted.

Skillestad said he and his fellow police officers heard lots of thank yous as kids and their parents left the police station to venture out into the coolish Tuesday evening air.



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Lisa Bruns, left, and her daughter, Bobbie Bruns, teamed up to find the hidden chamber medallion on Dec. 9 by Victory Field in Blooming Prairie. They won $50 in BP Bucks, which they plan to use to purchase Christmas gifts for a family who has a child battling cancer.

Medallion winner brings joy to a family in need

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It isn't so much the Chamber Medallion has been located that is noteworthy, but rather what the family who found it is planning to do with the prize.

No sooner had eighth grader Bobbie Bruns received $50 in BP Bucks for her efforts in finding the hidden medallion that she announced she is purchasing Christmas gifts for a family in need this holiday season. The local family has a child battling cancer.

"I like buying gifts for people around Christmas time," Bobbie said. "We thought it would be a good idea for the family who has a kid with cancer."

The teenager went in search of the medallion with her mother, Lisa Bruns, on Dec. 9 after the two set out for a shopping trip to Rochester. "We went to Blooming Prairie to look for the medallion prior to the shopping trip," Bobbie said, adding they spent about 20 minutes looking before hitting the jackpot.

The mother-daughter duo located the medallion by the disc golf area on Victory Field by the high school. They initially looked under the disc golf, but did not locate it. Lisa gave a glance above and found a sparkle of the gold medal.

"We almost walked away from it," Bobbie said, giving her mother credit for locating the medallion. "It was exciting for us to find it."

Bobbie said the clue "throw it around" made them focus on the school area. They gave four places a real hard look before coming up with the medallion.

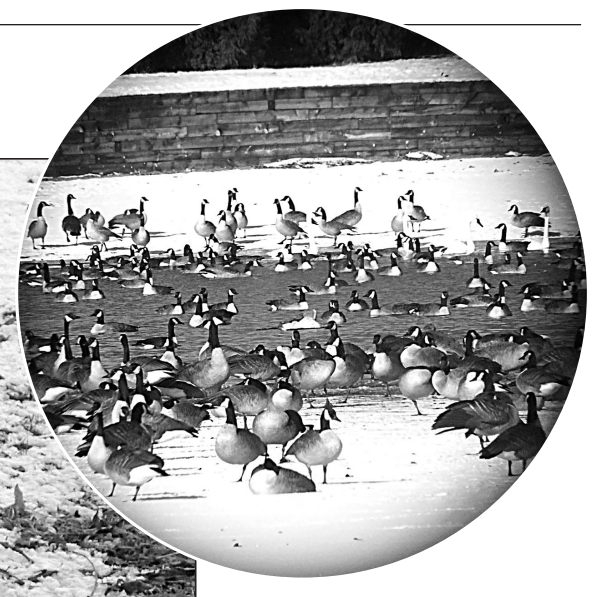
This isn't the first time the Bruns family has been involved in finding the BP Medallion. About six years ago more extended family members joined in on finding the medallion. "We made it a family year," Bobbie said.

And it's not the first time the family has been in the giving spirit over the medallion prize. Last time they donated the prize to First Lutheran Church, Bobbie noted.

This year the Bruns family is looking forward to bringing joy to a family experiencing a hardship.

BIRDS: *Steele County annual count*





STAFF PHOTOS: CHRIS BALDWIN

At right, Through a looking glass, Darryl Hill and other bird counters use scopes like this to zero in on their target birds from greater distances. Above, Mallards were one of many birds counted at Lake Kohlmier and Morehouse Park in Owatonna Saturday. Lake Kohlmier was one of many regions around Steele County included in the bird count.

FROM PAGE A1

more birds this year than in previous ones. During their best years, they've counted upwards to 8,000 birds, and there have been low years as well. Although it is difficult to determine whether a low bird count indicates a declining bird population, or if it has to do with other factors. Hill explained that these might include the prevalence of open water, the weather, and, of course, the number of people participating in the bird count.

He says that they would like to get more people involved, and would hope to have around 100 bird spotters for an accurate count. According to Hill, the count began through the National Audubon Society around 1900 after an Ornithologist, seeing the success yet minor environmental distress that the annual New York Field Hunt produced, decided that the hunt was a good idea in its essence, but suggested that they count the birds rather than shoot them.

The Audubon Society designates circles for the count all across the world, including Canada and South and Central America. In Minnesota they have around 60 to 65 circled regions selected for the count, including Owatonna's. Due to this organized and widespread effort, the Audubon Society's bird count is actually the largest volunteer citizen science project in the world.

The data collected will not only tell scientists about the birds and their migration, but also reveal certain environmental information.

Gary Johnson, who has been doing the bird count for around 15 to 20 years, said that the count and its resultant data pooled over a long period of time is really "a great barometer of the health of our environment." Johnson and Hill also admit that the bird count might be evidence for warming trends, as the birds seem to be shifting north. For instance, birds that had previously flocked to Iowa are now finding their home in the waterways and wetlands of Minnesota.

The count is held during daylight hours, generally between 8 a.m. to around 4:30 p.m. when the sun begins to dip below the horizon, and birds are more difficult to both spot and count. The counters take a lunch break at Culvers in Owatonna around 11:30 a.m. to discuss their findings. After lunch many will return back to their counting, usually heading towards more rural sections of their designated circle.

> "It's a great barometer of the health of our environment."
>
> **Gary Johnson**
> Avid Bird Watcher

In past years the count has seen around 25 to 26 different species being spotted. This year, before lunch, Hill's team had already counted 19, including a bald eagle, and a large turkey stalking through someone's yard. Johnson explains that the count is more about individual numbers than how many species they find, but that they still appreciate having a wide variety of bird species tallied. A detail which can emphasize the health and diversity of local bird populations.

At Lake Kohlmier, one of the stops along their way, Hill's team counted between 200 and 250 mallards, four trumpeter swans and a single coot, otherwise called a "mudhen." This rare bird is often thrown away by hunters, and is a small, dark colored fowl. In Lake Kohlmier, most of the birds' traffic is relegated to an area where there's open water.

Both open water, as well as snow cover, are important for the bird watchers, who rely on the white snow to spot and identify the birds while the open water offers the fowl a home atop the lakes and rivers at which they might rest their weary wings. Hill said that in years when the water is frozen over there are significantly less birds counted, seeing a drop of about a thousand or so.

During the count, avid bird watchers can count in two ways. One is feeder counting, which is easier and only requires someone to have a bird feeder, some free time, and some paper. The other method, field counting, requires teams to circulate the diameter that the Audubon Society has consigned them to.

The bird count, Hill says, is a great way for Minnesotans to experience and understand their local wildlife. It also gives people more of an appreciation for their surrounding environment and its fauna, as well as helps aid in a system of worldwide data collection that benefits scientists around the globe. In that sense, it is not just about the relaxation of bird watching, but something a little more important.

RECIPE CORNER

Special K Bars

1 c White Karo Syrup
1 c Sugar
Heat over medium to medium high heat until full rolling boil.
Stir Constantly! Remove from heat and stir in PB
1 1/2 c Creamy Peanut Butter
Pour over Special K or Rice Crispies. Mix Well. Press into 9x13 pan
6 c Special K or Rice Crispies

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The gift of giving

BP FFA chapter donates toys to Ronald McDonald House

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Christmas time is a giving time and that's something the Blooming Prairie FFA (Future Farmers of America) recently accomplished with a successful toy drive.

The third annual toy drive was completed on Dec. 10, bringing in the most toys ever. The toys were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester last weekend.

The Ronald McDonald House is a facility made available to families with youngsters visiting the Mayo Clinic with life threatening diseases. Families can stay on the Ronald McDonald premises.

"We are very thankful to the Blooming Prairie community for its generosity at Christmas time," said FFA advisor Bill (Rink) Ringenberger.

Rinkenberger, who also is an agricultural education instructor at BPHS, said the project was something he thought about implementing many years ago and finally made it a reality in 2015.

Donations included toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, cleaning supplies, etc.

The idea came to Rinkenberger 15 years ago when he was undergoing treatment for cancer at the Mayo Clinic. He toured the clinic during one of his first visits and ended up in the children's wing. He saw youngsters fighting cancer and other critical illnesses.

Since Christmas was right around the corner, Rinkenberger thought it would be a good idea to provide gifts to kids fighting medical issues.

Kaiden Finley, local FFA chapter treasurer, was lead chapter member on the project. He said it is rewarding to place smiles on kids' faces by giving them gifts at Christmas.

Most of the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter's 43 members actively worked on the project.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie FFA chapter members aggressively collected toys and other gifts to be given to Mayo Clinic young patients staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Advisor Bill Rinkeberger said this year's drive was the most successful in the project's three-year history.

LOGAN: *A Christmas miracle*



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Logan stands with his support team.

FROM PAGE A1

quitting smoking, his body will go through a very hard course," he said. "[His body] literally has to start from scratch. It has to push all the chemo out and just basically start all over again."

Pleschourt's mother, Heather Lique, said she took him to emergency room back in September because he was suffering from chest pain and an elevated heart rate.

Doctors told the family that something in Pleschourt's blood wasn't right because his platelets were high and his hemoglobin was low.

Lique said doctors believed he was possibly anemic, but then he started having fevers that were as high as 103 degrees. Pleschourt's primary care doctors sent him to Saint Mary's in Rochester on Sept. 21.

Upon arrival, Pleschourt received an ultrasound, CT Scan and more blood work.

"[The doctors] told me that night they were thinking he had cancer,'" Heather said. "They just didn't know what, and they weren't for sure."

Shannon said the Medford community and school has been phenomenal throughout everything.

"The night we came back from him finding out, he sent a message to one of his friends and he was very desperated,' he said. "By time we got home, just about everyone on the football team had messaged him with support.

"It made a night and day difference," Shannon continued. "He was cheered up, in good spirits and he wasn't as down as he was. All those boys and coaches have been there for him the whole time."

Approximately a week later, Pleschourt had a five-hour surgery to biopsy a lymph node from his neck, a bone marrow biopsy from his hips and had chemo port inserted into his chest.

"It was very long day." Shannon said. "But it was a blessing that we're able to find it when we did."

Before starting chemotherapy a Pet Scan revealed the cancer was at Stage 4B, which means it had spread to go one or more organs.

Heather said the family established a plan of action within a week of receiving the diagnosis.

Pleschourt has undergone four cycles of chemotherapy so far with the final round scheduled for New Year's weekend.

"[The doctors] said the first two years afterwards, he has to go in every three months to get checked out," Shannon said. "We have been very fortunate. He's been a good kid through all of this. He's never got sick and suffered any weight loss from any of the chemo."

Pleschourt weighed 97 pounds when was diagnosed. He currently weighs 128 pounds.

Even though he hasn't experienced a lot of sickness or weight loss, Pleschourt has still had to deal with some side effects from the medication.

"One of the side effects was massive jaw pain," Shannon said. "He got that first treatment on a Friday and by Monday he couldn't even open his mouth. We had to take him back over to the hospital and he was there for a day and half."

Pleschourt, who played wide receiver for Tigers' football team, said he started to notice there was something wrong with his body during practice.

"I lost breath really quick," he said. "I was always tired and I couldn't really keep up with the team."

He said it was tough to process everything when he first found out his diagnosis, but he believes that his involvement in athletics was ultimately beneficial throughout this process.

"I felt like if wasn't in football then things would have been worse," he said. "Like my body started here and dropped, but I feel like if I wasn't in sports then the starting point would have been lower and it would have dropped completely and stayed low and I wouldn't have been able to do much."

Shannon said even though Pleschourt was not able to compete, he attended nearly all of the Tiger's football games and activities.

"I tried to be there as much as possible just to watch and support the team," Pleschourt said. "The only parts I really missed was going to lift with everybody."

Pleschourt said doctors have told him he could potentially return to competing in athletics once the port is removed from his chest.

Doctors will perform another Pet Scan three weeks after Pleschourt's final round of chemotherapy, and come up with a plan of action based on those results.

> "He misses having a normal life. He just wants to be a kid again."
>
> **Shannon Lique**
> Stepson battling cancer

"They are going to determine when they will remove the port a few weeks after his Pet Scan," Shannon said. "Then he has to go back in for surgery so they can take it out."

Shannon said there has been a couple times where Pleschourt has broken down emotionally because he wants desperately for things to go back to normal.

"He misses having a normal life," Shannon said. "He misses being able to go hang out with friends and do what he wants, when he wants and not have to worry about getting sick. He just wants to be a kid again."

Medford Athletic Director Kevin Werk said he's proud of the way Pleschourt has battled through everything.

"It just really puts football in perspective," he said. "Wins and losses don't mean anything compared to someone battling cancer."

One of the things the school has done is hosted a Tackle Cancer football game against United South Central to raise money for Pleschourt on Oct. 18.

"We played really well that night and dedicated the game to [Pleschourt]," Werk said. "He was able to be at the game and be on sidelines and be a part of the whole night. It was great way to end the regular season and do something positive for family.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Logan Pleschourt

LOGAN PLESCHOURT CANCER

Donations to help family:
Gofundme.com/benefit-for-logan-pleschourt

HOPE FOR CURE BENEFIT AND AUCTION

Saturday, Jan. 27

American Legion- Faribault

"Our schools has been really good at rallying around him and doing different benefits," he continued. "It's not like it was one-time deal and we just kind of forgot about him. It's a continuous thought in a lot of people's minds in this school. We all want support him the best way we can."

Pleschourt said every athletic team at Medford has shown their support one way or another, but the strongest show of support in his eyes was his friends and teammates who shaved their heads.

He said the most challenging part of the experience for him was losing his hair, and it meant a lot to him for those individuals to go through that with him.

"We have been fortunate and had great support from all of our family, friends and the community," Shannon said. "We are very blessed."

There will be a Hope for the Cure Benefit and Silent Auction on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the American Legion in Faribault to help support the family and Pleschourt will be a sponsor at the Tigers Tackling Childhood Cancers fundraiser on March 15 at Medford High School where volunteers will have their heads shaved to raise money for children diagnosed with cancer.

Anyone interested in helping the family alleviate some of the financial burden can donate at https://www.gofundme.com/benefit-for-logan-pleschourt.

COP: *Shopping for needy children*



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna police officer Travis Ardolf brings a smile to a youngster as they pick out gifts together at the Target Store during the Shop with a Cop program.

FROM PAGE A1

Josiah (Eathan's brother). He got the short end of the stick," Smith said to Eathan as they loaded up the shopping cart with gifts.

After Eathan indicated he liked cars, Smith asked, "Are you going to be a race car driver when you grow up?" Eathan shook his head yes.

"It's the camaraderie to watch the officers shop with the kids," Ratzlaff said. "Some probably don't shop with their own kids," she added.

Target operations manager David Henson said Target is always looking to support the communities where they have stores. "The more support we can give, the better off we'll all be," he said. "We want to become more involved in the community," he added.

As the children shopped with the officers, Corrine Ratzloff, a board member with the Salvation Army, stood by at the wrapping station waiting to wrap their purchases.

"These are 16 children who haven't gotten assistance from us previously," Ratzloff said. "We've never done this before. This is very exciting for us. It's wonderful to help more people."

Ratzloff said the children participating in the program may have parents who lost jobs, family illnesses or single parent families. "This is based on need and family circumstances," she said, adding it wasn't hard finding families who needed assistance.

The Salvation Army works with area social workers in the area schools to identify children for the program.

Sheriff Lon Thiele coordinated the law enforcement officers who shopped with the children. There were nine Owatonna officers, five county deputies and two state troopers involved in the shopping.

"This puts a tear in your eye. It's so special," Thiele said.

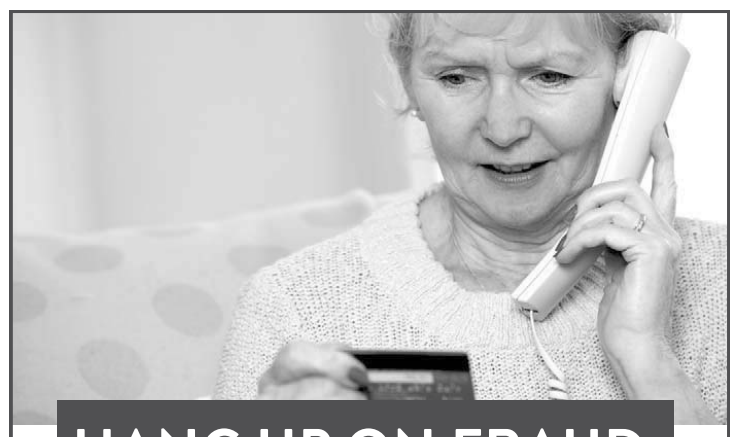
The biggest payoff for police officers, Thiele said, is seeing big smiles on the faces of the children. "This is where law enforcement gets a good feel for what the child might need," he added.

Jan Karasch, field representative with the Salvation Army, says the Shop with a Cop is her favorite program to be involved with during the year. She said the program helps "build the relationship and trust" between children and police officers. "It helps so they're not scared of police," she said, adding it makes them realize officers are just average people.

The sheriff agreed. "It's something we can build a good rapport with the child and it can last into the future," he said.

Some of the children came away with winter coats and other outdoor wear. "When they get nice looking winter coats, it builds that child's self esteem," Karasch said. "There is no doubt about it."

The Salvation Army is also involved with the annual back-to-school backpack distribution in September.



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COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Letters to SANTA

Dear Santa
Do you now my elf. Do you have meny elfs. Dase cepit get stuck a ice coob. Dase dacere dace. Do you need a now whine and red soot. I lik you santa. Do you like rachle. I want make your ow babar. I want school stuph. I want amcin gare doll. I want dooks. I want wite bode mrckres. I want chatre book I want jney b jons and macic thre hows Jack and Anne and Jan and cam and ather books. I want my own elf on a shelf. I want a lot of close for amacine gurto boll. I want a small tree and i want a meney wit bode m rekres

your friende
Amelia

Dear Santa,
Am i on the good or bad list? Can you bring me a ar-hocea tabol? I Love you Santa!

Love,
Trenton Johnson

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. For christmas I want a Bik.

Luf,
Karontae Thomas

Dear Satie,
Do you now wut I whant? Could you bring me a amarko gile dole and cklos four it two? I hope you have a safe tripe! I will lev milk and cookes! You are the best santa!

Love
Lexys Grase Mullenbach

Dear Santa
How are you doing? I hope you are well. for chritmis I want twenty figit spiers chekers uno cards planes

Love,
Aaron Jahning-Smith

Der Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. For christimas I want a Ipad.

Love,
Carson Sayles

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. For Aireanah wut I wot For you to Bren me los uv tos For me and my Bruthr to? I wot For christmas is dres a dol wif dres.

Love
Aireanah Thomforde

Dear Santa,
thank you For presents. thanks For given us whot we want. I Saw you at the bank. I whont a Towa corr.

Love
Savannah Kramer

Dere Santu Kloss,
How am i boing? Can you ples git me a towy wowlemamife? Can you ples git me a towe are plane? Can you ples git me a mehmot knshrrd mows?

Love,
Otto Ehlers

Dear Santa
How are yor? I hope you are well. for christmas I want for agree Hachomol and a tabit.

Love
Cooper

Dera Santa,
Am I on the good list or the note list? Can you plese give me a face baby that lucs aliv ur a nuthr Elf on the shelf ples?

Love,
Bristol Hansen

How is routoph. whats your favrit cuir? I want a parite. Also a lot of muny. and a giant chooclit bor. I will giv you a prezint on chrismiss.

your friend,
Hannah Garcia

Dere Santue,
How is robof bowing? Can you ples giv me a cars 3 Speedway? Happe Crismas!

luve
Damien Koning

Deear Mistrclos,
How is Roodolf? Can you plys bring me a Monstr hiye scool or Monstr hiye kanpr? Thank you!

Love,
Addison Hjelmen

Dear Santa,
Wut duv the nof plo look like? Can you brige a badoe ship? I wile lauv at coces and melce for you

Lovle,
Karmen Fleming

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a nrf gun ples? Thake you for geving me prestit!

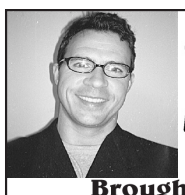
Love,
Montey Mausbach

Der Sata,
Do you no wut I wut for Crismis? Cam you plese bring a Home Loke site? I will lev cucese and milc! Thanx for the hape thee you put in me.

Lave,
Wyatt Holtberg

Dear Santa,
How is your randr? Can you brig me a ella welbolc? I wil Sete awt Satm Cacecs and sam milck.

Luv, Zoey Olsen



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How to Divvy Up Your Family Belongings Peacefully and Sensibly

Dear Savvy Senior,
What's the best way to distribute my personal possessions to my kids after I'm gone without causing hard feelings or conflict? I have a lot of jewelry, art, family heirlooms and antique furniture, and three grown kids that don't always see eye-to-eye on things.

Planning Ahead

Dear Planning,
Divvying up personal possessions among adult children or other loved ones can often be a difficult task. Deciding who should get what without showing favoritism, hurting someone's feeling or causing a feud can be difficult, even for close-knit families who enter the process with the best of intentions. Here are a few tips to consider that can help you divide your stuff with minimal conflict.

PROBLEM AREAS

For starters, you need to be aware that it's usually the small, simple items of little monetary value that cause the most conflicts. This is because the value we attach to the small personal possessions is usually sentimental or emotional, and because the simple items are the things that most families fail to talk about.

Family battles can also escalate over whether things are being divided fairly by monetary value. So for items of higher value like your jewelry, antiques and art, consider getting an appraisal to assure fair distribution. To locate an appraiser, see Appraisers.org or AppraisersAssociation.org.

WAYS TO DIVVY

The best solution for passing along your personal possessions is for you to go through your house with your kids or other heirs either separately or all at once. Open up cabinets, drawers and closets, and go through boxes in the attic and/or basement to find out which items they would like to inherit and why. They may have some emotional attachment to something you're not aware of. If more than one child wants the same thing, you will have the ultimate say.

Then you need to sit down and make a list of who gets what on paper, signed, dated and referenced in your will. You can revise it anytime you want. You may also want to consider writing an additional letter or create an audio or video recording that further explains your intentions.

You can also specify a strategy for divvying up the rest of your property. Here are some methods that are fair and reasonable:

* Take turns choosing: Use a round-robin process where your kids take turns choosing the items they would like to have. If who goes first becomes an issue, they can always flip a coin, draw straws or roll dice. Also, to help simplify things, break down the dividing process room-by-room, versus tackling the entire house. To keep track of who gets what, either make a list or use adhesive dots with a color assigned to each person to tag the item.

* Have a family auction: Give each person involved the same amount of play money, or use virtual points or poker chips to bid on the items they want.

For more ideas, see "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" at YellowPiePlate.umn.edu. This is a resource created by the University of Minnesota Extension Service that offers a detailed workbook or interactive CD for $12.50, and DVD for $30 that gives pointers to help families discuss property distribution and lists important factors to keep in mind that can help avoid conflict.

It's also very important that you discuss your plans in advance with your kids so they can know ahead what to expect. Or, you may even want to start distributing some of your items now, while you can still alive.

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
Dec. 18, 2007

Dan Evans, Publisher

Blooming Prairie High School is extending a special congratulations to Sarah Mans and Patrick Rumpza who were named school winners for the prestigious Wendy's High School Heisman Award. To be eligible for this award, students must display academic aptitude, athletic talent and exceptional commitment to their communities. Sarah and Patrick were selected as school winners, while Patrick was also selected as a State Finalist.

Prairie Manor has completed the planning stages of a $250,000 renovation project. The plans are a collaboration of ideas from the board members and staff. The plans have been approved, bids have been considered and accepted and construction is scheduled to begin in the first few weeks of 2008.

20 Years Ago
Dec. 16, 1997

Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Seeing Neil Jensen jumping up and down in the small park on Main Street Dec. 10 may have produced strange looks from bystanders. But anyone caught in the heat of hunt for the 1997 Christmas Medallion knew what it mean – the city worker found the snowflake on his lunch hour on a tree branch. His booty is worth over $450, generously given by the 48 businesses of BP.

Last week, American Legion Commander Burnell Hanson presented scholarship checks to Lori Ann Lembke and Tricia Klemmensen. Lori is the daughter of Maurice and Julie Lembke and is in her senior year at St. Cloud State. Tricia is the daughter of Rick and Chris Klemmensen and is in her third year at St. Scholastica College in Duluth.

50 Years Ago
Dec. 21, 1967

Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers

The School Board of Independent School District 756 announced the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee following its regular monthly meeting held on Thursday afternoon Dec. 14, Supt. M. McFarlin announced today. The group will study matters pertaining to the BP School District.

The BP Future Farmers of America staged their "Corn Drive for Camp Courage" on Saturday, Nov. 25 and the event was termed a huge success. Steve Eaker, chairman of this year's drive stated that "Many BP area farmers donated corn or made cash contributions and without their help the drive would not have been a success." A total of $467.00 was realized from this year's drive.

75 Years Ago
Dec. 17, 1942

With the first village and rural blackout in Steele County's history now a matter for the books, from all reports received by Chief Airaid Warden Ross Hollowell, the activity was nearly 100 percent perfect. Hollowell and his deputies received full cooperation of our citizens. Only one light in a residence was found visible in Blooming Prairie. The occupants of the place were at the bedside of a young son at the University hospital. Through an oversight, one light had not been switched off when they left for the cities. Deputy warden Rolf Rye, in whose district the house is located, turned off the light, making Blooming Prairie's first blackout 100 percent.

The Oswald Grocery Store Christmas window is one of the most attractive, unique, interesting and patriotic ever displayed in Blooming Prairie. The window display is attracting unusual interest and favorable comments from all who have viewed it. The Oswald window is one in which Mr. and Mrs. Oswald not alone have just cause to feel proud, but one in which our nation, our state, our country and Blooming Prairie is honored. A Christmas tree beautifully decorated, backgrounded by the American flag are not the chief attractions. They do add to the yuletime scenery to make an impressive setting for five fine looking Oswald boys' pictures now in the armed forces fighting for our country's freedom and liberty.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Chamber Spotlight

Sweet sounds of the season





Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Left: An Owatonna High School Dinner Ensemble played beautiful music at Business After Hours held at F & M State Bank in Blooming Prairie on Dec. 13. From left to right are: Lydia Rieck, violin; McKenna Dirks, violin; Kaia Elstad, viola and Peter Fast, cello. In addition to the sweet sounds of the season, bank employees served lots of Christmas goodies during the evening.

Right: Bank president Jim Fiebiger visits with BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Becky Noble during the chamber function.

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LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Hit the library during the holidays



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Looking for things to do the week between Christmas and New Year's? Then come and visit us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

The following events are planned and we would love to have you take part:

• Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 26 and 27 - Preschool storytime for all preschoolers and their friends and family. Graduates of storytime are welcome to take part.

• Thursday, Dec. 28 - Movie day at the library. Join us at 2 p.m. to view a newly released children's movie, complete with goodies to share.

• All week long: Board games such as chess, Battleship, Connect 4, Jenga, and more will be set up and ready to play. Bring your friends and get ready for fun!

And don't forget, you can always check out items to take home, including things for your Christmas or New Year's weekends.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library!

SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Christmas Party
Baked Ham, Alt: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream

Thursday, Dec. 21
Onion Smothrd Steak, Alt: Liver & Onions, Boiled Potatoes, Broccoli, Fresh Oranges

Friday, Dec. 22
CLOSED

Monday, Dec. 25
CLOSED

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Spaghetti/ Meat Sauce, Mixed Green Salad, Pineapple Slice, French Bread, Hawaiian Cake

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 19
Ava Lea
Elijah Adams

Dec. 20
Kay Noble
Jared Schewe
Easton Valek
Jas Holland

Dec. 21
Sam Esplan
Michelle Wallace
Amanda Schiefert
Collin Sletten

Dec. 22
Sharon Lea
Lynnae Nelson
Paul Heimgartner
Gage Edward
Nelson
Doreen Blome
Lisa Anderson

Dec. 23
Jeffrey (Heifer) Ingvalson
Morgan Jo Hagen
Amber Brandt

Dec. 24
Jolean Zilm
Kaylene Jensen
Lavon Hernandez
Marianne Grunklee
Noel Wright

Dec. 25
Robin Shaw
Rick Klemmensen
Bob Hansen

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 12
Tom & Barbie Johnson
Gwen & Gale Klinger

Dec. 15
Todd & Erica Nelson

Dec. 17
Wayne & Donna Gullickson

Dec. 21
Tom & Chris Butler

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NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
OWATONNA

The whole world marks the years by the birth of Christ. "AD" stands for anno Domini which means "in the year of the Lord." When God became man, the Creator became the creation. He became human to take our sinfulness upon Himself on the cross.

Isaiah 7 tells us God gave a sign that He was coming as a man. What was the sign? It was The Virgin Birth. The Holy Spirit had a specific role, to place God's seed in the womb of Mary. We call that The Immaculate Conception.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph saying, "the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through Isaiah the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

That is the most beautiful love act of all, that God came to earth to save us. The Virgin Birth signaled the fact that Jesus was fully God and fully man. He came from the Father, was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a woman.

Some think that Jesus was just a man, or perhaps a prophet, but He was much more than that. He was God in human form.

As a man, Jesus understands all that we go through, He lived and died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins. And His sacrifice broke the power of evil over us.

When Jesus died, we were freed from the power of death. When He came to life again, that guaranteed our eternal destination. Now we must accept the greatest gift of all, God's Son, to be saved. Would you accept Him today with this prayer?

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. I give my life to You today. Please cleanse and renew me. Thank You for taking my penalty for sin upon Yourself. Equip me to serve You and others rather than myself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. Dec. 24

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
Pastor Mike Walerius
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN
5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
(First Sunday of the month)

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
Rev. Amanda Weinkauf, Associate Pastor
507-451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun.
Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
203 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-6353
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24
Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.
Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
Owatonna Campus
422 North St., Owatonna
Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-721-1366
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

WANT TO SUBMIT SOMETHING TO THE WORSHIP SCHEDULE?

Contact us by email, phone, or mail:

bptimes@frontiernet.net

507-634-7503

P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Minimizer
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800-248-3855
Blooming Prairie

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www.owatonnagranite.com

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Ellendale
507-684-2471
Andy & Mary Lerberg



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

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237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

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Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018

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

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

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Local Christmas Services



"... behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King... for we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

Aurora Lutheran
6329 Se 28th St, Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m.
Christmas Day: 9 a.m.

Good Shepard Lutheran
2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 4 & 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. with communion

Redeemer Lutheran
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Day: 9 a.m.

Associated Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Rd, Owatonna
Christmas Eve: 11:00 - 11:45 pm Candlelight with Communion

Red Oak Grove Lutheran
30456 Mower- Freeborn Road, Austin
Christmas Eve: 5 pm Candlelight

Cornerstone Church
1403 1st Ave SW, Austin.
Christmas Eve: 10:30 am, 3:00 pm, and 4:30 p.m.

Saint John Lutheran Church
1200 13th Ave. NW, Austin
Christmas Eve - 9:00 am, 3:00 pm Candlelight
Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.

St Olaf Lutheran Church
306 2nd St NW, Austin.
Christmas Eve 10:30 - 11:30 p.m. with Communion
Christmas Day: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

St Augustine Catholic Church
405 4th St NW, Austin.
Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm & 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day: 8:30 am & 10:30 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
204 1st Ave NW, Austin
Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm Sanctuary Family Christmas, 7:30 pm CLC Contemporary Christmas, 9:00 pm Sanctuary Traditional Christmas, 11:00 pm Chapel Christmas

First Lutheran Church
602 5th St S, Ellendale
Christmas Eve: 5p.m.















BASKETBALL

NRHEG girls win back-to-back games

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The NRHEG girls' basketball team capped off a good week with a second win, this time a prolific 74-64 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo at New Richland Thursday, Dec. 14. The non-conference win upped the Panther record to 4-1 for the young season.

NRHEG used a good first half to forge a 13-point edge at the break, but struggled a little in the second half as the Knights cut the margin for a time. The Panthers regrouped and managed the ten-point victory.

"We had a pretty good first half," remarked Coach Onika Peterson. "But we struggled some in the second half. We didn't handle the Knight's ball pressure and had too many turnovers. We kept enough composure, however, to keep the lead and get the win."

Betsy Schoenrock continued her early season dominance, as she scored 29 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for another double double. Olivia Christopherson counted 13 points and Kelly Harden added 12 points, 11 rebounds and 4 steals.

NRHEG GIRLS TOP TIGERS

NRHEG held a slim 34-32 edge over Medford at halftime of the girls' game at New Richland. But the Panthers outscored the Tigers by eight points in the second half to win the Gopher Conference game Tuesday, Dec. 12. It marked the third win of the young season for NRHEG.

"We started out slow again in this game," commented Coach Peterson. "But the girls chipped away at Medford's lead and earned a lead by halftime. We took better care of the ball in the second half and rebounded much stronger."

Schoenrock had a monster game for the Panthers, scoring 27 points and pulling down 14 rebounds for a double double. Sophie Stork and Hannah Budach added 12 and 10 points. Stork and Budach also dished out six and four assists.

"It was great to get the win," concluded Peterson. "But we need to continue to work on making smarter choices with the ball, lower our turnovers, and rebound more."



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

New Richland's Betsy Schoenrock nails a mid-range jumper in the Panthers' 67-57 win over the Medford Tigers on Tuesday, Dec. 12



STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Dalton Kubista evaluates and finishes a layup over a Northfield defender in the Huskies' 56-44 loss on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Huskies suffer first loss, rebound against Winhawks

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Jared Fetts has been a spark plug as the sixth man for the Owatonna boys' basketball team (2-1).

The junior made solid contributions in the Huskies' 56-44 loss to Northfield on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and in the the team's rebound win against Winona, 68-58, on Friday.

Owatonna coach Josh Williams said Fett was one of the few juniors who have played their way into the Huskies' senior dominated lineup.

"He does a lot of little things well," Williams said. "He's not flashy player, but defensively, he is always in the right position. When the shot goes up he does a good job of sliding himself into getting those offensive rebounds."

That was exactly the case against Northfield as Fett grabbed a game-high eight rebounds.

"He's not going to drop 30 points a game, but he makes some hustle plays that we as coaches like," Williams said. "He comes in and gives us valuable minutes. He's just a quiet, humble kid who goes out and competes his tail off. He does the right things and plays the right way. He's just an amaze young man."

Senior Nolan Malo said Fett's rebounding ability has given the Huskies a big boost so far this season.

"He's doing a great job of filling an important role for us," Malo said. "He goes into there and plays hard. He can defend almost any position on the floor. He doesn't ask for anything. He just comes to practice and works hard everyday, which is really nice to see from a teammate."

Williams said the team was a little rusty in some areas against the Raiders (4-0), but the deciding factor of the game was how poorly the Huskies shot the ball.

Northfield shot 53 percent from the field, while the Owatonna shot just 28 percent.

"Obviously, there is stuff to work on," Malo said. "But a lot of it is just getting the ball in the basket, which just comes with time."

Dalton Kubista led Owatonna in scoring against Northfield with 10 points. Tucker Alstead and Alex Raichle added nine each and Andrew Jackson contributed eight. Malo and Steven Echard each had three and Fett scored two.

The Huskies got back on track against the Winona Winhawks (0-4) thanks in part to the return of Jason Williamson, who did not play in Owatonna's first two games. Williamson and Kubsita each scored 17 points in the double-digit win.

Raichle was the Huskies' next leading scorer with 13. Andrew Jackson added eight, Malo scored five, Abe Havelka contributed five, Fett had three and Alstead finished with two.

"We are keeping things in perspective," Malo said. "Most of the teams we've been facing have been practicing for four weeks and we have been practicing for about a week and half.

"Coach doesn't expect use to be great now," he continued. "He expects us to be great in February and March."

The Huskies look to continue to build team chemistry and momentum on Thursday when the team faces No. 4 ranked Apple Valley and Duke commit Trey Jones at the OHS gymnasium at 7:30 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Samantha Wurst goes up for a layup against two Bethlehem Academy defenders in the Blossoms' 60-25 thrashing off the Cardinals on Friday.

Blooming Prairie girls sweep the week

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie girls' basketball team earned a second big win for the week, as they raced past Bethlehem Academy 60-20 on their home court Friday, Dec.15. All 15 girls on the squad had minutes of playing time, and ten of them had at least two points.

'We got off to a great start," remarked coach John Bruns, "We led 38-5 at the break, including a 14-0 run to end the half. Much of the second half was played in running time, and we were able to play reserves much of the time."

Freshman Megan Oswald and eighth-grader Maggie Bruns both counted 12 points to lead the Blossoms, and the team shot 37 percent from the field in the victory. Ayren Ingvalson and McKenna Hein both had eight points, with Ingvalson handing out an assist and getting two steals, and Hein also dishing out two assists. Sam Wurst added seven points and five rebounds for her night.

The win upped the team's overall record to 5-1 and they are 3-0 in the Gopher Conference. Two games this week finish the pre-holiday schedule. The team entertains

SEE **BASKETBALL, B3**

Tigers' showing signs of improvement after slow start



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

The Tigers' Noah Pirkl goes up for a layup against United South Central on Friday at Medford High School.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

There aren't many instances where a team that had just lost its 29th consecutive game received an standing ovation.

However, that was exactly the case after the Medford boys basketball team were defeated by United South Central, 75-69, at home on Friday.

"That's great," Medford coach Todd Schneider said. "It shows that it's not all about winning and losing, and people can see the effort that these kids are putting in out there."

Schneider said he's been pleased with how the team is playing and they are close to getting over the hump.

"These guys have been getting little bit better everyday and that's been our goal,"

SEE **TIGERS, B4**

SCOREBOOK

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	4-0	4-0
Rochester John Marshall	3-0	5-0
Austin	3-0	4-0
Mankato East	2-0	3-0
Mankato West	2-1	3-2
Owatonna	2-1	2-1
Red Wing	1-1	1-3
Faribault	1-2	2-2
Rochester Century	1-2	1-4
Rochester Mayo	0-3	1-3
Winona	0-4	0-4
Albert Lea	0-5	0-5

Friday, Dec. 8
Owatonna 85, Albert Lea 44
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Northfield 56, Owatonna 44
Friday, Dec. 15
Owatonna 68, Winona 58
Thursday, Dec. 21
Apple Valley at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Minnetonka at Owatonna, 7:45 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28
TBD at Owatonna, TBD

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	5-0	5-0
Austin	2-0	3-1
Owatonna	4-1	4-3
Red Wing	3-1	6-1
Mankato West	3-2	5-2
Faribault	3-2	4-3
Rochester John Marshall	3-2	3-3
Mankato East	2-3	2-5
Rochester Mayo	1-3	1-4
Rochester Century	1-4	2-4
Winona	0-4	0-4
Albert Lea	0-4	0-6

Thursday, Dec. 7
Lakeville South, 58, Owatonna 43
Friday, Dec. 8
Owatonna 72, Albert Lea 52
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Northfield 62, Owatonna 42
Friday, Dec. 15
Owatonna 76, Winona 44
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Owatonna at Alexandria Area, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28
Owatonna at Alexandria Area, 5 p.m.

Boys' Hockey

	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Albert Lea	4-1-0	4-1-0	8
Northfield	4-1-0	5-1-0	8
Rochester Century	3-0-0	6-1-0	6
Mankato East	3-1-0	4-4-0	6
Owatonna	2-0-0	3-2-0	4
Rochester Mayo	2-2-0	2-4-0	4
Rochester John Marshall	1-1-0	2-4-0	2
Red Wing	1-2-0	1-8-0	2
Mankato West	1-4-0	3-5-0	2
Faribault	1-4-0	3-5-0	2
Austin	0-3-0	2-5-0	0
Winona	0-3-0	1-3-0	0

Thursday, Dec. 7
Owatonna 5, Albert Lea 1
Saturday, Dec. 9
Owatonna 3, Saint Francis 1
Thursday, Dec. 14
Owatonna 5, Austin 2
Saturday, Dec. 16
Chanhassen 6, Owatonna 1
Saturday, Dec. 23
Owatonna at North Saint Paul, TBA
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Owatonna at Mound Westonka, 3 p.m.

Girls' Hockey

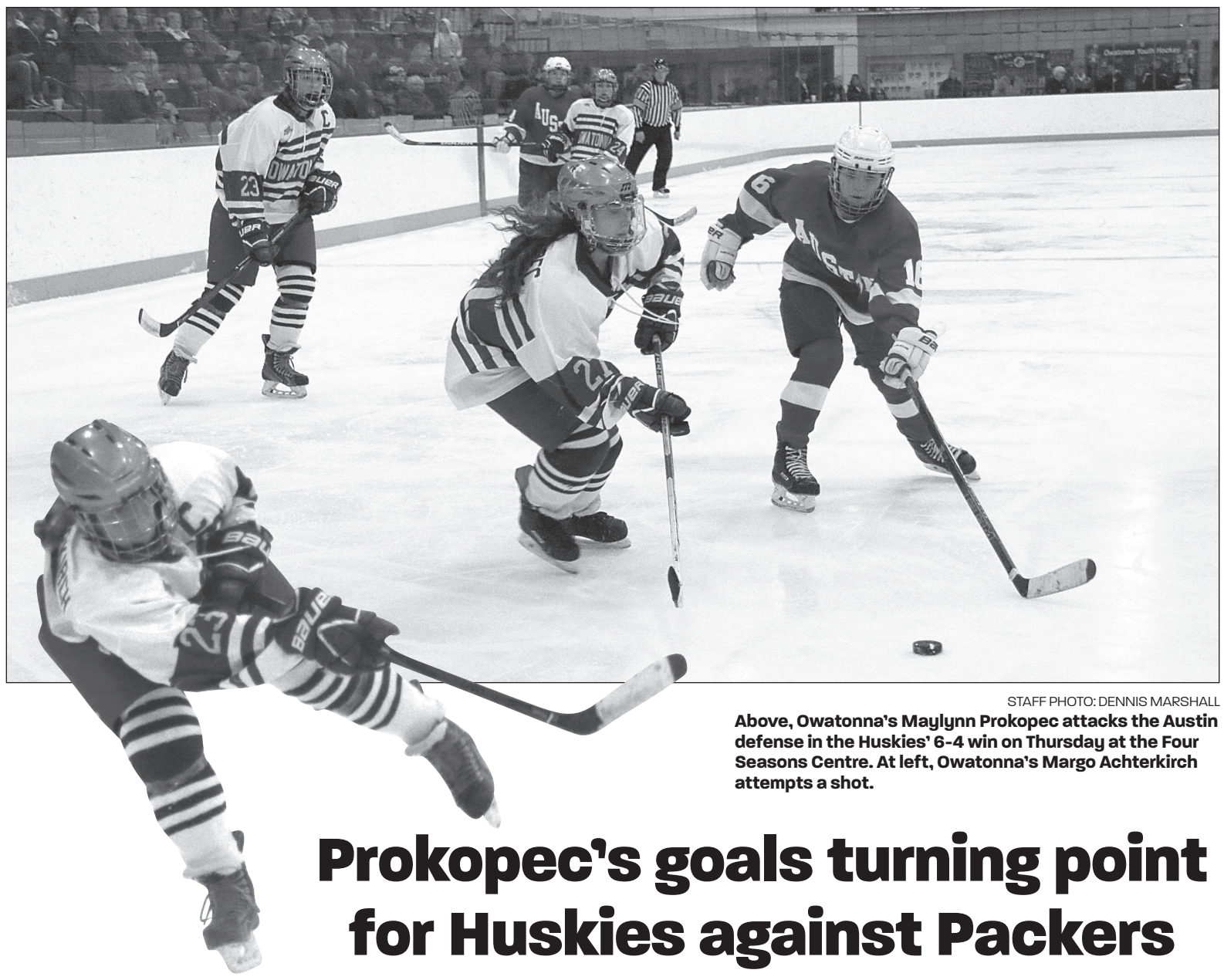
	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Northfield	6-1-0	8-4-1	12
Rochester Mayo	6-2-0	7-2-0	12
Faribault	5-2-0	6-4-0	10
Red Wing	4-1-0	10-2-0	8
Owatonna	4-2-0	6-3-0	8
Mankato East	4-4-0	6-5-0	8
Mankato West	4-4-0	7-5-0	8
Austin	3-3-0	4-4-0	6
Rochester John Marshall	2-6-0	2-10-0	4
Rochester Century	1-6-0	2-8-0	2
Albert Lea	0-8-0	2-9-0	0

Thursday, Dec. 7
Owatonna 7, Albert Lea 0
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Mankato East 2, Owatonna 1
Thursday, Dec. 14
Owatonna 6, Austin 4
Saturday, Dec. 16
Owatonna 5, Mankato West 0
Thursday, Dec. 21
Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall
Thursday, Dec. 28
Owatonna vs. Marshall in the Schwan's Cup Open American at Schwan Super Rink 7

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea	3-0	10-0
Owatonna	2-0	2-0
Rochester Mayo	2-0	2-0
Faribault	3-1	5-2
Northfield	2-1	2-1
Austin	1-1	1-1
Winona	1-2	1-2
Rochester Century	1-3	1-3
Mankato East	0-2	0-2
Mankato West	0-2	0-3
Rochester John Marshall	0-3	0-3

Thursday, Dec. 14
Owatonna 51, Mankato West 19
Owatonna 33, Northfield 30
Thursday, Dec. 21
Owatonna at Rochester Century, 7 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Above, Owatonna's Maylynn Prokopec attacks the Austin defense in the Huskies' 6-4 win on Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre. At left, Owatonna's Margo Achterkirch attempts a shot.

Prokopec's goals turning point for Huskies against Packers

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

After falling to to Mankato East (4-4) on Tuesday, Dec. 12 by a score of 2-1 and playing a sluggish first period against Austin (3-3) on Thursday, the Owatonna girls hockey team bounced back in a big way.

The Huskies' Maylynn Prokopec score two goals in 72 seconds after Owatonna trailed Austin 2-1 at the start of the second period.

"We were pretty upset that we were down," Prokopec said. "I needed to take some responsibility and get the team back up with a score."

Prokopec's first goal was on a power play and was assisted by Margo Achterkirch and Kiley Friedrichs. Her second goal was at even strength and was assisted by Chloe Schmidt and Achterkirch.

Owatonna coach Dan Paur said Prokopec has been due for an offensive outburst.

"She's been working hard these last three or four games and just hasn't been rewarded in the back of the net," he said. "She stayed positive and worked through it and it finally paid off for her tonight."

Friedrichs said she was proud of Prokopec for her scoring boost that turned the tide of the game.

"It was good because she was kind of down because she hasn't been scoring as much as she's wanted to," Friedrichs said. "She's been working really hard in practice. It's was great to see her come out and show everyone her scoring ability."

The win was important because they Huskies could afford their second consecutive conference loss if they hope to continue to compete for a Big 9 title.

Owatonna went on to defeat Austin 6-4. Achterkirch score two goals and had two assists for the Huskies, while sisters Chloe and Rilee Schmidt each added a goal.

Friedrichs said the team was feeling good after the win against Austin.

"We need to keep winning our conference games to get closer to the conference title," she said. "We took a bad lost against Mankato East, but we bounced back well tonight."

Achterkirch also scored Owatonna's lone goal against Mankato East.

Things got a little chippy between the Huskies and Packers late in the game.

"Just because there is no checking, that doesn't take the contact out of the game," Paur said. "Both teams wanted this game and needed the points. When things get competitive tempers flare, but that's hockey for the most part.

"The referees did a great job of keeping it under control and sending people to the penalty box when they needed too," he continued. "We knew it was going to be physical and we talked to our girls about staying poised and in control. At the end we did enough to get the win and that's really what matters."

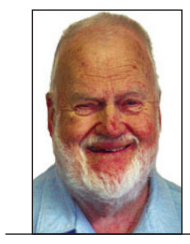
The Huskies went on to pitch a 5-0 shutout at Mankato West (4-4) on Saturday.

Achterkirch and Chloe Schmidt each scored two goals while Prokopec added another. Achterkirch had three assists and Chloe Schmidt, Prokopec, Jamie Davison and Anna Holcomb each had one.

Goalie Laura Ebeling had another good week. She had 22 saves on 24 shots attempts against Mankato East, nine saves on 13 shots on goal against Austin and a perfect 12 saves on 12 attempts versus Mankato West.

The Huskies will travel to the Rochester Graham Arena Complex No. 1 on Thursday to take on the Rochester John Marshall Rockets (2-10) at 5:30 p.m.

Blooming Prairie teams hard at work as holidays near



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

Another week closer to Christmas vacation found the Blossom teams all busy and in action. Both basketball teams had a pair of conference contests. The wrestling team had one date over the week, an invitational tournament on Friday and Saturday.

The Blossom girls began the week with a victory over United South Central at Wells and then closed the action out with a convincing victory over Bethlehem Academy on their home floor. Both games found the locals dominating play and the weekend ended with the team sporting a sparkling 5-1 record and a penchant for balanced scoring and defense.

A bright spot for the girls includes some scoring from a freshman (Megan Oswald) and an eight-grader (Maggie Bruns). Seniors Sam Wurst and McKenna Hein are the unquestioned leaders, but they are getting great help from several other girls. That demonstrates the good balance the team has displayed so far. I don't know if the season has been such a big surprise or not, but it surely has been fun to follow the team so far

The boys split a pair of games and can't quite get over a .500 record. The team defeated USC early in the week, but then let Bethlehem Academy come back in the second half and steal a win over BP at Faribault. One of the questions for the team is how to solve the inconsistency with which the team has had to wrestle so far.

They look very good at times, but then fall back into periods of stagnant play and poor shooting that leads to a defeat. Fortunately, there is still time to solve some of the problems and become a more consistent team. BP stands 3-3 for the season.

The wrestling team had only one meet, and that was an invitational at RCTC last Friday and Saturday. I did not get the Saturday results in time for this column, but Colton Krell and Mitchell Oswald were both undefeated going into the final day's action. Those two, plus a couple of other local wrestlers are compiling an enviable record in dual bouts so far this season. We will have more on them as the season progresses.

A FAMILY GATHERING

I received a pleasant surprise last week, when my daughter called and informed me that the family planned to come down on Sunday to celebrate an early Christmas get-together. A number of conflicts tend to interfere with Christmas itself and the thought was that this would be an opportune time to have our Christmas. Because it meant no travel time for me, I was all in for the plan.

Thus, we gathered on Sunday to eat, have conversation, and open gifts in the traditional custom of the holiday. Everything progressed with a lot of joy and enthusiasm. Even Red Elf, who had mysteriously disappeared a few days before our gathering, reappeared with small gifts for all.

I have told his story several times, and I won't bore readers with it again. But regular readers of this column know that a family tradition involves a raggedy set of cloth elves. We have a green, a gold, and a red elf, and many, many years ago, the red elf went missing shortly before Christmas. He was found just before Christmas, and my daughters were thrilled about it. Ever since, Red Elf has disappeared a few days before Christmas, only to show up when the family is opening their gifts. It is a wonderful story, even though my girls are all well past the age of believing in such events.

But getting back to the family Christmas, the day went as planned, everyone had a good time, and it truly seemed like Christmas. We had plenty of good food and plenty of good conversation. The entire family could make the party, and nothing could please me more than to be at home, surrounded by those I love. Not having to leave my house provided an extra bonus.

OUT AND ABOUT

An added attraction to life on Sunday involved the installation of pastor Heidi Haimgartner as the senior pastor at First Lutheran Church. After 16 years as the associate pastor, she was ready and gracious to accept the call from the congregation, a decision that pleased almost everyone. A tip of the hat to Pastor Heidi in her new position.

If there is a bigger booster of Blooming Prairie and Blooming Prairie businesses than Becky Noble, our person in the Chamber of Commerce office, I would like to see him/her. Noble is a tireless promoter of our town and its businesses, and her email to chamber members last Friday certainly gave testament to that fact.

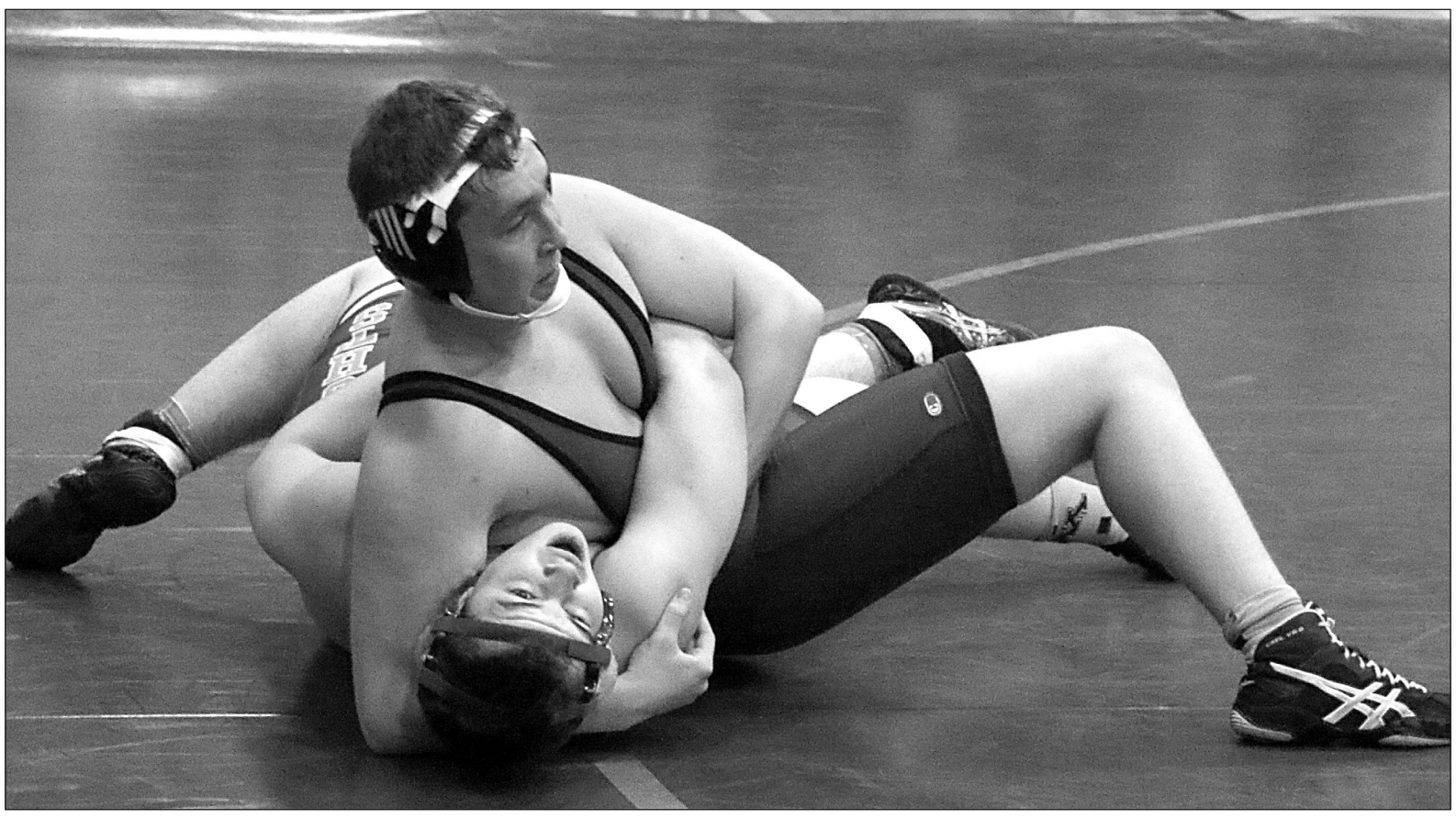
In her memo she gave almost two dozen suggestions to prospective customers about ways to do business in our community, and it certainly proved that one wouldn't have to travel out of town to purchase Christmas presents. The best thing about the suggestions included their utility and their relative affordability. One could do much worse in shopping for that favorite someone. Many good suggestions, Becky, and a tip of the hat for your enthusiasm and your interest in the community.

Now, as we approach the holiday, and the birth of a savior, my wish for the reader is that it will be a merry Christmas, and that a time for family gatherings. For me, as it is for every holiday, family becomes the most important part, and I cherish those times together. I hope it is the same for you. Happy holidays, and we'll talk again.

Crossword solution

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

WRESTLING



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Nate McCarty attempts to pin his opponent from Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area on Thursday at Medford High School.

Excitement continues to build for Tigers after key returns

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Medford coach Dennis Whitman said it has been tough for the Tigers' wrestling team in recent years because of low numbers, which led to a lot holes in their lineup.

"It's difficult when you go into a dual meet knowing that you don't have chance to win," he said. "That's hard on moral."

Now, excitement is growing around the Tiger's program after many wrestlers have returned from either injuries or time away from the team.

"The kids are excited in our room right now because they know if they stick together and all wrestle hard, they have a chance to win," Whitman said.

One of the key wrestler who returned to the program was Javis Von Ruden. Von Ruden played an important role in Medford's 56-24 home-defeat of Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area on Wednesday.

Von Ruden, who wrestled at 182-pound weight class pinned his opponent one minute and 37 seconds into their match.

"I tried hitting a throw and he rolled through," Von Ruden said. "Then he tried hitting a head lock and I felt it coming. I just locked around the hips and rolled though. The half [nelson] was there and I just held on for dear life and pinned him."

Von Ruden didn't wrestle this past season because he was dealing with a shoulder injury.

"He has a wrestling background," Whitman said "When you have someone who misses a year or two there is usually a lot of rust.

"It's tough to get into wrestling shape and condition when you have been out of it that long," he continued. "But I don't really see that rust that I expected to see with {Von Ruden]. He's been working his tail off all year and has really been a leader so far for us."

Whitman said he was happy with the way his entire team performed.

"All our kids were aggressive and looking to score at all times," he said. "They were looking to put big points of the board and that's what we are looking for at this point in the year."

Whitman said he had anticipated a much closer meet against the Knights.

""But because we were aggressive we turned a couple of close matches into pins," he said. "That's why the score difference was as big as it was."

Medford improved their record to 3-0 with the win.

The Tigers also finished third out of nine teams at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Tournament on Saturday.

FULL RESULT

Medford 56, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area 24
106-pound weight class: Charley Elwood (Medford) defeated Tucker Willis by technical fall. 113: Johnny Meter (Medford) defeated Tyler Ash 11-4. 120: Trayton Hewitt (Lake Crystal) defeated Garron Hoffman by pin, :49. 126: Caleb Cloves won by forfeit. 132: Bryer Larson defeated Dylan Heidercheidt by pin, 1:51. 138: George McCarthy (Medford) defeated Camden Ludeman by pin, 1:38. 145: Willie Von Ruden (Medford) won by forfeit. 152: Bo Noble (Medford) won by forfeit. 160: Zach Wetmore (Medford) won by forfeit. 170: Greg Larson defeated Jeremiah Colon by pin, 3:44. 182: Jarvis Von Ruden (Medford) defeated Avery Northquest by pin, 1:37. 182: Nate Meixner (Medford) defeated Mat Thofson by pin, :36. 220: Nate McCarthy (Medford) defeated Aiden Begnaud by pin, 3:43. 285: Mitchell Borwege (Medford) defeated Chayden Ross by pin, :46.

BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie's Julia Worke drives to basket on Friday against Bethlehem Academy.

BASKETBALL: *Girls sweep the week*

FROM PAGE B1

JWP tonight (Tuesday) and then travels to Maple River Friday, Dec. 22.

BP's JV team ran away from Bethlehem Academy 43-9 in the prelim. Eight girls scored for coach Cory Hendrickson's team, led by eight points from Anna Kittelson and Jillian Wigham and seven points from Riauna Bishop. The team record improved to 4-2 with the victory.

A WIN AT USC

A great effort on the road earned the Awesome Blossom girls a big win over United South Central at Wells Tuesday, Dec. 12. BP jumped to a 20-point lead early in the first half on the way to a 61-29 victory over the Rebels.

"We moved the ball exceptionally well," commented Coach Bruns, " The shots we got reflected that good movement. It marked our best teamwork and unselfishness of the season so far."

Sam Wurst led the scoring in her customary manner, as she counted 16 points.

Megan Oswald had 12, and eighth-grader Maggie Bruns added a career high 11 points, including nine in the first half. McKenna Hein scored eight points, and she dished out three assists and had three steals; Ayren Ingvalson handed out seven assists and added four steals, and the Blossoms had more than 15 assists and steals.

'Besides the good ball movement," concluded Bruns. "Defensively, we got our hands on a lot of balls and forced USC into some tough situations."

The Rebels shot below 25 percent for the game, while BP shot 38 percent.

"It was a good night all the way around," he added.

BP's JV team defeated USC handily 48-22 after taking a 24-11 margin at the half. "We got off to a great start,' remarked Coach Hendrickson, "and really never let the Rebels get close. We rebounded well, which was very important in getting the win."

Nine girls scored at last two points for the locals, led by 10 from Maren Forystek. Jillian Wigham, Marti Snider, Baylee Sorenson, and Riauna Bishop counted eight, seven, six and five points, respectively.

Awesome Blossoms split pair

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

A poor shooting second half doomed the Blooming Prairie boys' basketball team as Bethlehem Academy erased a ten-point deficit and bounced back for a 59-51 victory at Faribault Friday, Dec. 15. It pulled the Blossoms back into a 3-3 record for the season.

Jake Ressler and Kaden Thomas both had good first halves with Ressler counting 12 points and Thomas 10. Unfortunately the Cardinals shut both players down in the second half and rode the hot shooting of Jack Clark and Damon Trump to erase the lead and go on to the eight-point win. Clark's output included a pair of 3-pointers and five free throws.

Karson Vigeland provided the only spark for BP in the second half with eight points, while leading scorer Cameron Kubista was held without a point the whole game. Ressler finished his night with 14 points, and Thomas and Vigeland both counted 13 points. Clark had 17 points to lead all scorers and Trump added 15.

"We struggled to make baskets in the second half," commented a disappointed coach Nate Piller. "We had some good looks, but we seem to lack a little confidence in our shooting. We definitely cooled off, while the Cardinals caught fire and scored 35 second half points to only 17 for the Blossoms."

The Blossoms will finish the pre-holiday season with a pair of games this week. The team travels to Janesville Tuesday and then entertains Maple River Friday, Dec. 22. Both the JWP game and the Maple River contest are conference tilts.

Coach Andrew Hardecopf's junior varsity and "C" teams have been busy over the past three weeks. The JV team is 3-1, with wins over Kenyon-Wanamingo, Goodhue and Medford. Its lone loss, a 55-48 defeat to Triton. The freshman team has a pair of wins over Goodhue and Medford

BOYS PREVAIL AT HOME

The BP boys had to overcome an 11-2 deficit against visiting United South Central, but eventually prevailed for a 45-37 victory on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The win moved the team back above the .500 mark for the young season.

After the slow start, the Blossoms still trailed 18-13 at the break, but sophomore Kaden Thomas led a rejuvenated offense in the second half to wrest the lead early. BP was able to maintain the lead the rest of the way. Thomas counted 11 points in the half, including 4-of-6 free throws.

"We had that slow start," remarked Piller, "But we showed the perseverance to overcome the deficit. Credit in this physical battle goes to the defense and the much better rebounding in the second half. Jake Ressler and Cameron Kubista pulled down six boards each, and the boys also did a nice job running the offense to get good shots or earn trips to the free throw line. It wasn't a very pretty win, but we shared the ball. I think we are starting to improve a little each time out."

Besides the 15 points for Thomas in the game, Ressler counted 11 points, and Kubista added eight. AJ Kloos and Colby klocek had 11 and 10 points for the Rebels. BP also scored 11 points at the free throw line and had an edge in rebounding. Eight different Blossoms counted points for the home team.

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Cole Volkman drives to the basket against United South Central on Friday.

Boys' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
New Richland-H-E-G	2-0	4-0
United South Central	2-1	2-2
Blooming Prairie	2-1	3-3
Bethlehem Academy	1-1	4-2
Maple River	1-1	3-3
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	1-2	2-3
Medford	0-3	0-4

Thursday, Dec. 7
Goodhue 39, Blooming Prairie 34
Friday, Dec. 8
Blooming Prairie 70, Medford 57
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Blooming Prairie 45, United South Central 37
New Richland-H-E-G 65, Medford 51
Friday, Dec. 15
Bethlehem Academy 59, Blooming Prairie 51
United South Central 75, Medford 69
New Richland-H-E-G 68, Janesville-Waldorf-Morristown 30
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Blooming Prairie at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, 7:15 p.m.
New Richland-H-E-G at Triton, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21
Kenyon-Manamingo at Medford, 7;15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22
New Richland-H-E-G at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, 7:15 p.m.
Maple River at Blooming Prairie
Wednesday, Dec. 27
New Richland-H-E-G vs. Saint Croix Lutheran Academy at Bethany Holiday Tournament, 8 p.m.

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	4-0	6-1
Maple River	2-0	5-1
New Richland-H-E-G	2-1	4-1
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	2-1	4–3
Medford	1-3	3-4
Bethlehem Academy	0-3	0-7
United South Centra;	0-3	0-4

Thursday, Dec. 7
Medford 61, Cannon Falls 56, OT
Plainview-Elgin-Millville 49, Blooming Prairie 38
Friday, Dec. 8
Maple River 53, New Richland-H-E-G 48
Blooming Prairie 45, Medford 43
Tuesday, Dec. 12
Blooming Prairie 61, United South Central 29
New Richland-H-E-G 67, Medford 57
Thursday, Dec. 14
New Richland 74, Kenyon-Wanamngo 64
Friday, Dec. 15
Medford 73, United South Central 42
Blooming Prairie 60, Bethlehem Academy 25
Monday, Dec. 18
Tri-City United at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Dover-Eyota, 7:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Academy at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Triton at New Richland-H-E-G, 7:15 p.m.
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22
Blooming Prairie at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28
Alden-Conger at New Richland-H-E-G, 5 p.m.

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	5-1	5-1
United South Central	2-2	2-2
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	1-1	1-1
Medford	0-0	3-0
Westfield Razorbacks	0-0	1-3
W-E-M/J-W-P	0-1	0-1
New Richland-H-E-G	0-2	0-2

Thursday, Dec. 7
United South Central 47, New Richland-H-E-G 27
Saturday, Dec. 9
Mounds View 46, Westfield 22
New Richland-H-E-G finished twelfth at the Jackson County Central
Thursday, Dec. 14
Medford 56, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area 24
Saturday, Dec. 16
New Richland-H-E-G finished 27th at the Redwood Riot at Redwood Valley H.S.
Medford finished third at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Tournament
Thursday, Dec. 21
New Richland-H-E-G at Triton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22
Westfield vs. Albert Lea Area at Austin, 6:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

TIGERS: *Showing improvement*

FROM PAGE B1

he said. "We've had that monkey on our back about getting a win, but we've kind of put that aside and just worked and focused on getting better every day."

The Tigers were without their leading scorer, senior Alex Gengler.

"We missed [Gengler]," Schneider said. "It was tough out there without his leadership, but the other guys did a good job of stepping."

Medford's Noah Pirkl said the Tigers having been passing the ball and getting to the rim well, but they still need to do a better job on their perimeter defense and taking care of the basketball.

Pirkl, who was celebrating his birthday, made multiple plays late in the game to keep Medford in contention .

He said it wasn't the result he wanted, but he definitely liked the team's intensity and effort.

"We really have that fighting spirit as a team" Pirkl said. "We never have and never will give up on each other."

Schneider said the Tigers play in tough conference, but he's been pleased with the heart and the passion his team has shown.

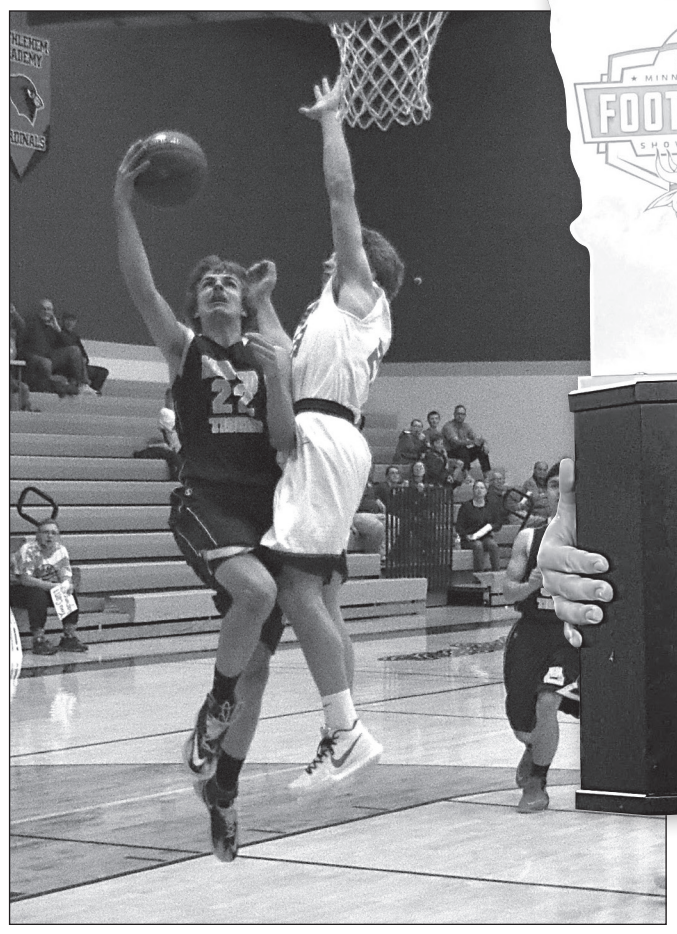
"I couldn't ask for much more from these guys," he said. "I've never once, not even for a second, seen any of the guy on this team give up and quit. We just missed some shots at the end tonight that cost us."

The Tigers' Bryce McCarthy said he's looking forward to Medford finally getting a win and getting the preverbal monkey off of their backs.

"People are underestimating us right now," he said. "We're showing them that we are a scrappy team. We are getting a lot of compliments from coaches and other teams saying that we've improved."

Cole Volkman led the Tigers in scoring with 21 points. He was followed by McCarthy and Pirkl, who had 17 and 15, respectively. Ben Sutcliffe added six, Jordan Edel and AJ Vandereide had four and Ryan Hermanstorfer scored two.

Medford (0-4) has another good opportunity to pick up a win on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. when they take on Kenyon-Wanamingo (0-9) at home.



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Bryce McCarthy finishes strong at the basket in the Tigers' 75-69 loss to United South Central.

HOCKEY



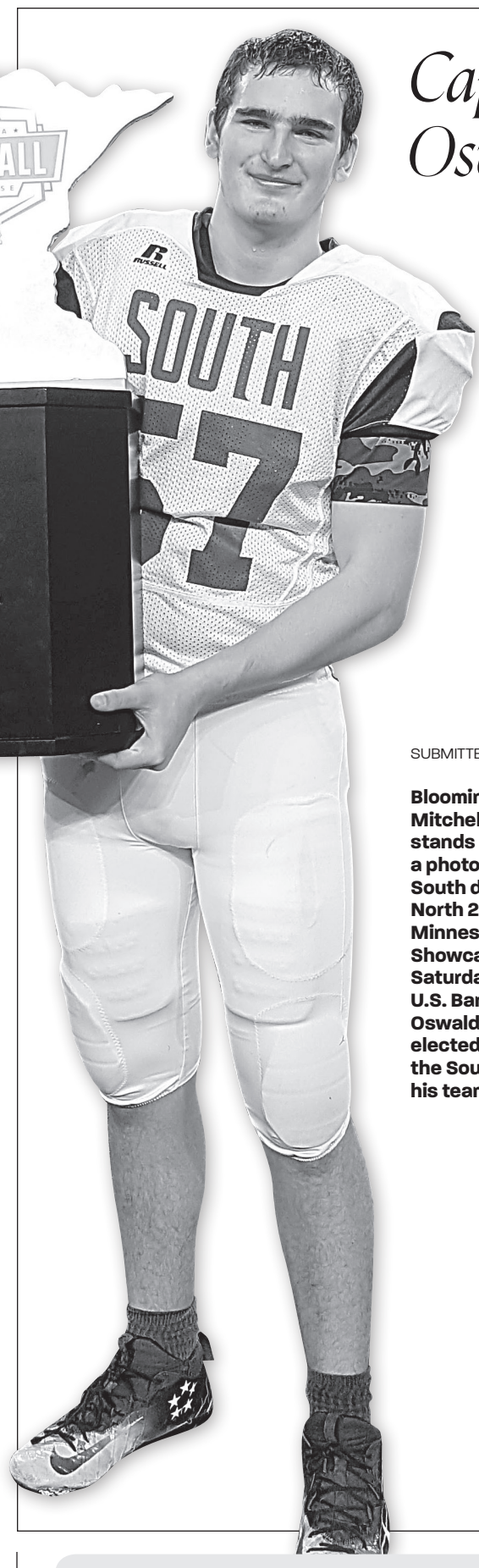


Toys for Tots

SUBMITTED PHOTOS: JOSH WILLIAMS

Above, The Owatonna boys' hockey recently participated in a Toys for Tots drive to help raise Christmas presents for underprivileged children this holiday season. At left, Owatonna hockey players Mitchell Wiese, Kenny Johnson, Brock Henderson and Mason Oland help sort gifts during the Huskies' Toys for Tots drive.

Captain Oswald



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie's Mitchell Oswald stands proudly for a photo after the South defeats the North 28-14 in the Minnesota Football Showcase on Saturday, Dec. 9 at U.S. Bank Stadium. Oswald was elected a captain of the South team by his teammates.

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK TEN DEC. 13, 2017

TEAM STANDINGS

	WON	LOST
F & M BANK	30.5	13.5
B TO Z HARDWARE	25.5	18.5
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	24.5	19 .5
J & H/DAIRY QUEEN	18	26
EPIC CONTRACTING	20	24
J & H/DAIRY QUEEN	18	26
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	13.5	30.5

HIGH TEAM GAME –SCRATCH

F & M BANK 527

HIGH TEAM GAME- HANDICAP

J & H/DAIRY QUEEN 532

BUNKIES LANES & GRILL 532

HIGH TEAM SERIES- SCRATCH

F & M BANK 1548

HIGH TEAM SERIES- HANDICAP

J & H/DAIRY QUEEN 1534

HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL

1. KATHI PETERSON 154

2. JUDY ESPLAN 152

HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL

1. JUDY ESPLAN 448

2. KRISTI FIEBIGER 413

BASKETBALL

BP junior high girls searching for wins

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Although it isn't for lack of trying, the junior high girls' basketball teams have been unable to taste victory so far this season.

The teams have lost three doubleheaders to WEM, Medford, and Triton, the latest to the Bucs on the home court Dec. 7.

Abby Pauly had 8 points in the seventh grade game, but BP lost 36-18. After the eighth grade score was tied at the half, a WEM press in the second half gave the visitors a 39-24 contest. Emily Miller counted 10 points in the defeat.

Against Medford Dec. 5, the eighth grade trailed the Tigers 16-5 at the half, but the locals made a game of it in the second half, before losing 27-14. The seventh grade played an even game with Medford, but lost 23-20. Sierra Larson and Pauly had 9 and 6 points for the Blossoms.

In the opening doubleheader of the season on Nov. 28, Triton took both games over the locals. The seventh grade played hard, but just couldn't get shots to fall. Triton had some athletic post players who took the game over for the Cobras. The eighth grade seemed a step behind all game and lost 40-20. Miller had 9 points for BP, and Lauren Schammel added 7.

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



BOYS

Blooming Prairie wrestler Colton Krill finished forth at the Retch Invitational this past Friday and Saturday while wrestling for the Westfield Razorbacks. He went 5-2 in the big tournament. He has also compiled a winning record in dual meets so far this season, and been one of the most consistent wrestlers on the team over the past two seasons.



GIRLS

Owatonna hockey player Maylynn Prokopec scored two goals in 72 seconds to help the Huskies retake the lead for good against Austin. She also had an assist versus the Packers. Prokopec followed that up by scoring a goal and a dishing out an assist against Mankato West.



Cover crops can help prevent black snow banks

ON THE FARM



Claire LaCanne

Producers use cover crops for a variety of reasons: to increase carbon in the soil, control weed pressure, and reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss, to name a few.

Much of our agricultural soil in Minnesota could benefit from reduced erosion and nutrient runoff. The high intensity corn-soybean agricultural systems of Minnesota typically consist of a fallow, or bare, period from harvest until the next season's planting. In other words, most of our soils are bare during the winter months.

Soil and nutrients are most commonly lost through leaching, tile drain discharge, surface runoff, and wind erosion. Approximately 80 percent of the world's agricultural land experiences moderate to severe erosion. United States agriculture hosts some of the lowest average erosion rates globally, but these erosion rates still exceed the rate of soil formation; cropland loses soil faster than the soil formation process can replace it. Erosion is caused, in part, by soil being left bare and exposed to water movement and wind erosion, which is why we sometimes see black snow banks. That's right – we lose our valuable, fertile topsoil to the piles of snow in the ditches. Many producers who use cover crops are attempting to retain soil and nutrients in their fields.

Many Minnesota crop producers acknowledge that cover crops are a useful tool for combatting erosion, but face challenges in utilizing cover crops. The biggest challenge of successful cover cropping in Minnesota is the short growing season. Several studies at the University of Minnesota aim to identify and improve options for interseeding cover crops into standing corn to allow cover crops enough time to grow before winter hits and establish roots that can hold soil over winter.

Researchers are trying to determine the best time and method to plant cover into row crops. Most literature and producer experience suggest that cover crop planting dates which align with the V5 to V7 corn leaf stage don't impact corn yield because planting takes place near the end of the critical weed-free period in corn. This timing also usually allows the cover crops to establish before winter.

Additionally, because planting cover crops involves additional field operations, it makes economic sense to combine cover crop interseeding with scheduled cash crop tasks, like planting cover crops while side dressing fertilizer, which can be timed to happen within the time period in which corn is at the V5 to V7 stage. Several crop producers in Rice and Steele Counties have been implementing cover crops by aerially seeding with a plane, usually in collaboration with other farmers, or by drilling cover crop seed between the rows while side dressing fertilizer.

There is plenty of evidence that cover crops can benefit soil health for a variety of reasons, and current work is aiming to determine optimal cover crop mixes, planting methods, and planting dates. The fact that research is in the works does not discourage crop producers from trying different things and discovering what works to keep their soil on their own farms during winter.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu. Her column appears in this publication regularly.



Fun farm facts

•Mature turkeys have more than 3,500 feathers.

•There are 47 different breeds of sheep in the U.S.

•Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world.

•The average person consumes 584 pounds of dairy products a year.

•160 degrees Fahrenheit is the correct cooking temperature to ensure safe and savory ground beef.

•Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use a soybean-based hydraulic fluid.

•Like snowflakes, no two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots.

•The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

•Twenty-nine cuts of beef meet government guidelines for lean.

•The average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk a day, 2,100 pounds of milk a month, and 46,000 glasses of milk a year.

A better way to return to work

Sick days are taken for granted in urban society. Although it can be a pain to find a substitute teacher, ignore emails for a day, or miss a weekly meeting, most of us have the flexibility to take it easy for the day. This cannot be said for the farming community. According to a study done by Gallup and Healthways, farmers take the second smallest number of sick days in the country. With the potential health and safety risks that farmers are exposed to daily, this seems counter-intuitive.

However, when farm workers are forced to take time off due to sickness or injuries, the current return-to-work process has often been a hardship for both the individual and the farm business. "Typically, a farm worker is told to return to work when s/he feels 100%, but this is not a good financial decision for the worker or the farm operation," says Project Scientist at the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) Bryan Weichelt.

When farm workers are forced to take time off due to sickness or injuries, the current return-to-work process has often been a hardship for both the individual and the farm business.

Primary care clinicians are treating farm workers and assessing their situation for workers' compensation. However, clinicians rarely understand the true nature and physicality of farm work. "There is a gap of knowledge between farmers, farm owners, and clinicians," says Weichelt. This gap in knowledge can prolong injured workers' time off and expand the financial burden of worker's comp premiums.

To tackle this issue, Matt Keifer, MD, MPH, Occupational Medicine Physician and past director of the National Farm Medicine Center, initiated a research and development project that Weichelt administered. The UMASH-funded project, Facilitating Return to Work for Injured and Ill Animal Agriculture Workers, created a system for clinicians to use when assessing a farmer's injury or sickness.

According to Weichelt, a team of physical and occupational therapists collected three years of ergonomic and narrative data to input into this system. The data included interviews of farmers and clinicians along with the weights, heights, and distances of farm activities at 32 different farms.

"The system is modeled after the current workers' compensation form and is designed to replace it in clinical workflows," says Weichelt. With various tasks on the farm, the system allows injured workers to return to work earlier and perform appropriate tasks. This relieves the strain of workers' compensation and allows the worker to transition back to work.

The challenge that Weichelt faces is putting the system to work in clinics. "Right now, it is a working prototype, but it hasn't crossed into clinical practice quite yet," says Weichelt. The NFMC team, along with Dr. Matt Keifer, is exploring options to move the system from prototype to commercial use. Although the project focused on the agriculture workforce, Weichelt sees many applications for various fields.

This system will provide value for human resources, workers compensation insurance companies, and other large employers like construction companies.



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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 conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE:
March 24, 2006
MORTGAGOR: Robert D. Hagen and Erin L. Hagen, husband and wife.
MORTGAGEE: J P - Morgan Chase Bank, N.A..
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed March 31, 2006, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000059768 on Certificate of Title No. 16861.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC. Dated February 20, 2009 Filed March 2, 2009 , as Document No. T000064051.
Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.
TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 523 15th Street Northeast, Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 172020115
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot Fifteen (15), Northern Height's Addition to the City of Owatonna.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $160,548.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $171,397.34
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute;
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: January 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN
to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 July 12, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

Dated: November 20, 2017

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
30 - 17-007151 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/21, 11/28, 12/5
12/12, 12/19, 12/26

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 conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 9, 2013
MORTGAGOR: John J. Devoe and Skye R. Devoe, husband and wife.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded September 10, 2013 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000393391.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Dated July 16, 2014 Recorded July 29, 2014, as Document No. A000398052.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1002489-0000006986-5
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc., dba Mortgage Depot
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5248 Kenyon Road, Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 100191201
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
EXHIBIT "A"
Commencing at a point in the center of the Public Highway, Forty-two (42) rods North of the quarter section stake between Sections Nineteen and Twenty (19&20), in Township One Hundred Eight (108) North, of Range Nineteen (19) West, running thence West Fifteen (15) rods; thence North Sixteen (16) rods; thence East Fifteen (15) rods to the center of said Highway; thence South along the center of said Highway Sixteen (16) rods to point of beginning.
(Being in the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 19-108-19).
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $146,938.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $157,747.38
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute;
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: January 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN
to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.
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 July 19, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.
MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None
"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."

Dated: November 14, 2017

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
30 - 17-006084 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

17-108146

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 conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 9, 2000
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $99,250.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Aaron M. Lindekugel and Cathy A. Lindekugel husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 12, 2000, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number 282930
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
The East Half of Lots 1 and 2, in Block 3, in Dartt's Addition to the City of Owatonna
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 510 Vine St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-122-0301
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $76,559.85
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: January 18, 2018, 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 July 18, 2018, or the next business day if July 18, 2018 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: November 21, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

13-093719

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 7, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $109,200.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Sharon L. Van Esch, a single woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100103210000209774
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Prime Mortgage Corporation
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed August 13, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000351664, Thereafter modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded on August 24, 2009 as Document Number A000366198
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.; Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lots 3 and 4 in Block 23 in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 410 1st Ave SW, Medford, MN 55049
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16.101.2303
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $122,127.03
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: January 25, 2018, 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 July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 2018 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: November 27, 2017

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

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/5, 12/12, 12/19
12/26, 1/2, 1/9

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 31, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $111,935.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Joshua L. Devore, a married man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 4, 2013 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 18287 as Document Number T000069878; as modified of record by document recorded on July 11, 2017 as Document Number T000075064 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on February 12, 2015 as Document Number T000072247 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Four in Block Three in Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota.
REGISTERED PROPERTY
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 749 SOUTH STREET, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $99,750.80
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-188-0304
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100867100522686755
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: January 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 16, 2019.

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

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

Dated: November 21, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-1219-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
12/19, 12/26, 1/2

FORECLOSURE

17-107550

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: July 15, 2008
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $80,300.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jacqueline J. Robinson, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 16, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000358537
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Therefore assigned to Carrington Mortgages Services, LLC.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lots 15 to 26, both inclusive in Block 3, Clarke's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
That part of the South Half of 7th Street NE (Pope Street) which lies S of Lot 1, Block 4, Clarke's Addition, North of Lot 20, Block 3, Clarke's Addition East of the East line of Center Avenue (Pine Street) and West of the Westerly right of way line of State Highways 218 and 30 in the village (now City) of Blooming Prairie (now Vacated)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 801 Center Ave N, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-109-0315
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $75,131.83
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: January 18, 2018, 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 July 18, 2018, or the next business day if July 18, 2018 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: November 21, 2017

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

11/28, 12/5, 12/12
12/19, 12/26, 1/2

Public Notice
NOTICE OF FILING
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Westfield Township that affidavits of candidacy may be filed with John Fouarge Township Clerk at his home starting January 2nd 2018 and Closing January 16th at 5pm for the office one Supervisor for a three year term and one Clerk for a two year term.

John Fouarge (Clerk)
Westfield Township
C/O 75020 118th Ave
Blooming Prairie , MN 55917 12/19

Blooming Prairie Township Election Notice

Filings for Office of Clerk --- 2 year term
Filings for Office of Supervisor – 3 year term
Will be open to file for office January 2, 2018 through January 16.

Applications for Candidacy can be picked up and returned to the Clerks Office along with a $2 filing fee.

Missy Anderson
Blooming Prairie Township Clerk

12/19

FORECLOSURE

17-106617

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: November 22, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $131,400.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald G. Dagit and Shirley A. Pichner, husband and wife and their Successors, as Trustees of the Pichner/Dagit Family Trust, the same bring dated 10/17/2005
MORTGAGEE: Bank of America, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Bank of America, N.A.
SERVICER: Bank of America, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 19, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067268
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 9, Block 1, La Casa Estates
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2025 La Casa Lane SE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-436-0109 COT# 16750
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $132,166.69
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: January 25, 2018, 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 July 25, 2018, or the next business day if July 25, 2018 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: November 27, 2017

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/5, 12/12, 12/19
12/26, 1/2, 1/9

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 3, 2008
MORTGAGOR: Mary Jean Patterson, single woman.
MORTGAGEE:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Advisors Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed October 9, 2008, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000063549 on Certificate of Title No. 15636.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association. Dated September 19, 2017 Filed September 25, 2017 , as Document No. T000075332.
Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100199600000155495
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Advisors Mortgage, LLC
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 455 Kriesel Place Northeast, Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 173360112
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 12, Block 1, Heers Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Minnesota
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $144,281.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $125,640.08
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: February 2, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE:
Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN
to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 August 2, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

Dated: November 28, 2017

U.S. Bank National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
19 - 17-007504 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/12,12/19,12/26
1/2,1/9,1/16

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 conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 23, 2013
MORTGAGOR: Francis L. Pete and Louise Pete who acquired title as Louise M. Barker, husband and wife, as joint tenants.
MORTGAGEE:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Citibank, N.A..
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Filed December 3, 2013, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000071027 on Certificate of Title No. 17106.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.. Dated January 5, 2016 Filed January 19, 2016 , as Document No. T000073389. And thereafter assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage d/b/a Mr. Cooper. Dated November 17, 2017 Filed November 27, 2017 , as Document No. T000075625.
Said Mortgage being upon Registered Land.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100011511237743902
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Citibank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1419 North Cedar Avenue , Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17-156-0209
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot Nine (9); and Lot Ten (10), Except the South 70 feet of Lot 10, in Block Two (2) in Ochs' Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, County of Steele.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $156,500.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $161,662.64
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; 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: February 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE:
Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN
to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

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 August 16, 2018, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

Dated: December 11, 2017

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 17-005832 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/19,12/26
1/2,1/9,1/16,1/23

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 30, 2004
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $163,920.00
MORTGAGOR(S): John Devetter and Colleen Devetter, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 1, 2004 as Document Number A000326156 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on July 11, 2011 as Document Number A000378974 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to GCAT Management Services 2015-13 LLC by assignment recorded on August 25, 2015 as Document Number A000403768 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by assignment recorded on October 18, 2017 as Document Number A000415351 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, thence running East 1545.7 feet which point is the true point of beginning, thence running North 340 feet, thence running East 384.3 feet, thence running South 340 feet; thence running west to the point of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5348 48TH STREET SOUTHWEST, OWATONNA, MN
55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $160,595.30
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Timberland Mortgage Services, Inc., a Minnesota corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Rushmore Loan Management Services, LLC
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-035-2204
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100321500021405989
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: February 13, 2018 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 August 13, 2018.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Colleen Devetter a/k/a Colleen Ahern

Dated: December 15, 2017
MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P.
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-0377-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/19,12/26
1/2,1/9,1/16,1/23

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 74-CV-17-2234
Case Type: Domestic Abuse

Notice of Issuance of Emergency (Ex Parte) Order for Protection by Publication (Minn. Stat. § 518B.01, subd.8)

Rukiya Ali and On Behalf of Minor Children

Petitioner

vs.

Ahmend Dahir

Respondent(s)

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an Ex Parte Order for Protection has been issued in the above matter. You may request a hearing if you contact the court administrator's office within 12 days of the date of publication of this notice.. You may obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order for Protection and the form to request a hearing from the court administrator's office at the following address:

Steele County District Courthouse
111 East Main St. Owatonna, MN 55060.

Failure to request a hearing or to obtain a copy of the Ex Parte Order will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Janet Spencer 12.14.2017
Court Administrator/Deputy

12/19

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2231

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

In Re: Estate of William J. Cervenka, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, July 8, 2017, ("Will"), and for the appointment of LaVonne M. Cervenka, whose address is 110 6th Street SE, Medford, MN 55049 and Edward W. Cervenka, whose address is 110 6th Street SE, Medford, MN 55049 as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT
Karen Duncan
Judge of District Court
12.12.2017

Robin Hoelsey
12.12.2017
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

12/19, 12/26



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

The Rev. Heidi Heimgartner was installed Sunday as senior pastor of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. She is shown with husband Paul and sons Luke and Jonathan.

A second time for Pastor Heidi

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It isn't often that a Lutheran minister is installed twice in the same church.

It happened on Sunday with the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie installed a second time at First Lutheran.

Sixteen years ago, Pastor Heimgartner was installed as an associate pastor and most recently before a packed church, she was installed as the first woman senior pastor of First Lutheran.

The Rev. Susan Miller of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minnesota installed Pastor Heimgartner during a formal ceremony.

Heimgartner's husband Paul and two children Luke and Jonathan sat in the front two pews at the installation. Many of Heimgartner's other family members were also present.

Following the 9 a.m. church service, congregation members gathered in the Luther Rooms to enjoy a brunch served by church members.

Church congregation president Barry Olson welcomed visitors to the celebratory brunch and introduced First Lutheran Call Committee chairman Jack Heather who offered a brief report from the call committee. He previously at the 9 a.m. church service presented Pastor Heimgartner with a Christmas stole from the congregation.

Heather said the call committee had the opportunity to view Pastor Heimgartner in ways unique to the call process. "In her Rostered Minister Profile we were able to view her ministry through her words," Heather remarked.

Heather continued, "I won't dwell on Pastor Heidi's qualities of caring, knowledge, poise, patience, compassion, intelligence and preaching. . .you all know those qualities and more."

Her installation occurred on the third Sunday in Advent, the day the candle of JOY was lit during worship.

"The joy of Advent in the anticipated birth of the Christ Child is evident, but, Pastor Heidi, our joyfulness today is heightened by you becoming our senior pastor," Heather added.

Call Committee chair Heather said First Lutheran looked forward to working in partnership with Pastor Heimgartner on the joyful and rewarding tasks of continuing to enhance the ministries of First Lutheran.

Heimgartner offered many thanks to First Lutheran staff, church council leaders and others for making this opportunity possible. She also especially thanked the three men in her life, Paul, Luke and Jonathan.

"First Lutheran is an incredible church with an incredible future," she said.

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Upcoming Events

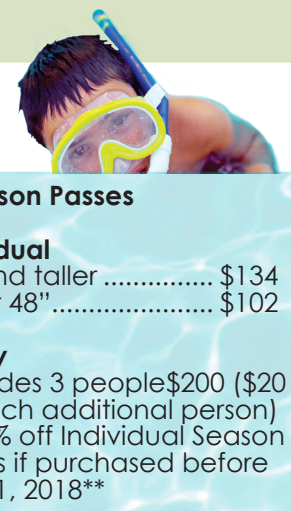
Dec. 22: City of Owatonna offices closed
Dec. 24: West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center closed
Dec. 25: City of Owatonna offices closed
Dec. 27: Adult Tennis League registration deadline
Jan. 2: Session 2 of Learn to Skate Hockey
Jan. 2: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 1 begins
Jan. 7: Winter Swim lessons begin this week
Jan. 9: Tennis Tech 1 begins
Jan. 15: Strength Circuit Training Session 12 begins
Jan. 15: Youth Tennis Winter Session 2 begins
Jan. 15-24: Lifeguard Training Class
Jan. 27: Polar Plunge
Jan. 26-28: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out
Feb.: Spring Brochure Released
Feb. 6: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 begins
Feb. 10: Winter Fest at Brooktree & Master's Bar & Grille
Feb. 20: Tennis Tech 2 begins
March 11-21: Water Safety Instructor Class

Outdoor Public Skating
Warsinski rinks, located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinski chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street. **Will post schedule on our website as weather permits**



Special Events
Winter Weekend Out-January 26-28
Friday, January 26 activities include:
Sledding and Movie at West Hills
Saturday, January 27 activities include:
- Battleship (ages 15+) at Jr. High Pool-10am-1pm
- Rock on Ice at Morehouse Park-6-8pm
- Ice Bocce Ball at Morehouse Park-6-8pm

Sunday, January 28 activities include:
- Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmier-2:30-4:30pm



River Springs Water Park 2018

2018 Season Passes

Individual
48" and taller $134
Under 48"..... $102

Family
*Includes 3 people$200 ($20 for each additional person)
10% off Individual Season Passes if purchased before June 1, 2018



River Springs Water Park Family Pass
You've been asking for it and now we're offering it - NEW this year is family memberships to River Springs Water Park! The family membership is a great deal and would make an excellent gift!
Family Season Pass Requirements
*A household consisting of up to 2 adults and their dependents
-Membership must include at least one adult
-An adult is considering someone out of high school and older
*Family members must all live in the same household
*Only those individuals in the immediate family can be included on the family membership
*Dependents include children 22 years old and under if they are a full time student in college; otherwise *they would need to get an Individual Membership. (College ID will be needed for proof of enrollment)

Programs coming in the Spring Brochure *(released February 2018)*

- *Youth Soccer*
- *Swim Lessons*
- *Boat & Water Safety*
- *Little League baseball (current grades 2-5)*



- *Fastpitch Softball*
- *Association Baseball and Fastpitch Programs*
- *T-ball and Squirt ball programs*

Ways to Register:
- *On-Line www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration*
- *Walk-In Registration (begins at 7:00 a.m.): Park & Recreation 540 West Hills Circle*

As of January 1, 2018, we will no longer accept Discover Card

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'UNZIPPED'

Medford neighbors along Straight River revitalize eroding river bank

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes a river tells a story. The Straight River, which wends its way through Steele County and drains an agricultural region of roughly 450 square miles, is one of many Minnesota waterways effected by bank failure.

Bank failure is primarily caused by erosion, but it is also determined by the river's location, and compounded by the rate of said wear. In Medford, just along the Straight River, many homeowners noticed signs of trees disappearing after the spring and summer storms had caused the river to flood, and speculated that something must be up.

One of these homeowners, Marie Sexton, had been accustomed to seeing the general rise and fall that most rivers experience. Only after the flood of 2010, it seemed her stretch of the river was beginning to wear down at its edges. She'd lived in her home near the Straight River since 1983 and had never noticed an issue like this before.

Despite the damage caused by the massive flood in 2010, Sexton didn't start to really become aware of the erosion until 2014, when more flooding brought the river up and helped to exacerbate the problem of attrition along its bank. Trees disappeared along with the water, and the edges of the river were beginning to fold and erode along their sides, causing steep declines that widened.

Sexton said that when she reached down into the soil on the river bank, she had noticed that it was super fine, like dust, which indicated vulnerability.

According to Pete Fryer from the Minnesota DNR, an engineer who helped to work on this project, the damage was evident. He reported seeing trees having fallen in, and a vertical bank within three to five feet of Sexton's patio. If left untreated, this bank failure may have caused serious damage to her house, along with the destruction it had already produced in her yard and those of her neighbors.

When asked what the preliminary cause may have been, Fryer said he thinks that the large-scale flooding of 2010 had caused the river and its banks to "come unzipped." He believes this is what initially led the bank to begin to experience failure along its edges.



PHOTOS COURTESY MARIE SEXTON

The Straight River by Medford has been experiencing bank failure throughout the year where trees have disappeared along with the water, and the edges of the river were beginning to fold and erode along their sides, causing steep declines that widened.





Left: Work is complete to alter and restore the bank along a stretch of the Straight River in Medford. With help from the DNR, several Medford neighbors led an effort to fix bank failure by their homes. Right: Roberson Lime & Rock of Zumbro Falls recently completed improvements to save a neighborhood along the Straight River in Medford. Marie Sexton led a neighborhood effort to improve the river.

> "We didn't cause it. We were victims of this water flow."
>
> **Marie Sexton**
> Medford Homeowner

Fryer says that this is a prevalent issue in Minnesota waterways. He explains that such degradation is natural and that if one were to walk down any stream or river, they would be likely to find basic bank erosion, and some moderate bank failure along its boundaries. He says that this can occur in both rural and urban areas, but that grass can help the bank tolerate more water, and thus help to stem erosion.

Twila Karol, who also resides near Sexton, just along the Straight River, said she noticed trees going down the last three or four years, and that it was very evident that they, as a neighborhood, had a serious problem on their hands. According to Karol, the result of the project has been a huge improvement.

The project itself began when Sexton spearheaded an effort to try and acquire funds, and seek local contractor help, in order to attempt to repair their stretch of the river. She applied for a permit between 2014 and 2015, and when Fryer came to look at it as an engineer for the DNR, he noted that they

SEE **UNZIPPED, C3**

Membership makes a difference



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Members of the Steele County Historical Society are some of our biggest fans and advocates. Some live locally and visit the Society on a regular basis, others are far away and "visit" by following us on social media, via our website and newsletter. Whether near of far, members are vital to the health and vitality of the SCHS.

The SCHS offers a wide array of programs, services, and events throughout the year – the majority are free or discounted for members. Moving forward the SCHS is looking at holding member-only events offering new opportunities for members to enjoy.

In addition to discounts, membership also includes free admission in to the History Center, as well as free access to the genealogy and research lab, and discounts to museums around the country that participate in the Time Travelers program.

What does an annual membership cost? It is unbelievably affordable whether you do an annual membership starting at $20 for seniors, $30 for individuals, or $45 for a family of four to a three-year membership $80 for individuals and $145 for a family of four.

"Our local history is displayed for our experience, education and preservation for future generations—my son included! That is why I am a member," states Ryan Gillespie.

We invited you to join us in preserving and sharing history today for tomorrow. To become a member, visit steelehistorymuseum.org/become-a-member, call 507-451-1420 or stop in.

Stephanie Kibler is the meetings and special events manager at the Steele County Historical Society. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various authors representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

Helping in a time of need

BP band director steps up to help area school regroup after death

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A neighboring gesture of help was given to Hayfield High School by Blooming Prairie High School with the sudden death Dec. 6 of Hayfield band director Dennis Conroy, 54.

BP Superintendent Barry Olson and high school principal John Worke informed band director Ross Reishus about the passing of Dennis Conroy.

Reishus then e-mailed the Hayfield superintendent offering help in any way needed. After some phone calls, it was decided that Reishus would go to Hayfield and help run band rehearsals on Friday and Monday to help students prepare for their holiday concert on Monday night, Dec. 11.

Reishus assisted choir teacher Megan Lynch with conducting the concert. She worked with the students more than Reishus, he said. Lynch conducted most of the concert. She is an Awesome Blossom alumnus.

Conroy was a band



ROSS REISHUS Blooming Prairie High School Band Director

director who not only gave his best for his students, but also for the rest of the band

SEE **HELPING, C3**

Steele County approves 3% tax levy hike

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The Steele County Board of Commissioners approved the 2018 budget at last week's board meeting in Owatonna.

The overall budget will increase by 13.3 percent from $48,032,000 in 2017 to $54,399,000 next year. The total tax levy, however, will only jump up 3 percent. The tax levy is for the county's portion of the property tax bills.

"It's pretty low comparatively," Scott Golberg, county administrator, said of the increase. He noted the other increases in recent years have been 2.1 percent in 2017, 4.3 percent in 2016 and 5.3 percent in 2015.

The largest expenditures in the county are for personnel services, which will be almost $20 million in 2018. Supplies and materials come in second at $11 million and services and charges at $10.5 million.

The levy effect on taxpayers for the county's share only will be $5 for a $100,000 residential homestead value, $9 for $150,000, $13 for $200,000 and $17 for $250,000, according to figures supplied by county treasurer Catherine Piepho.

Prior to the approval of the budget, a public hearing was held to answer questions about the budget. There were no contentious issues that arose out of the hearing, according to Golberg.

Next year's budget includes $10 million in capital expenditures to update and maintain county facilities. Golberg said some of the large ticket items will be roof replacements, parking lots and carpet in various county buildings.

The public works building is also slated to be constructed next spring. The project is expected to cost around $6 million with about $4 million coming from a state bonding bill.

MNPrairie County Alliance will be receiving about 8.1 percent increase, or $320,000, from the county in 2018, Golberg noted.

Public safety will be receiving a nearly 12 percent increase next year. The sheriff's office will get $194,000 additional while the detention center is set for $133,495. Public safety accounts for nearly $6.1 million of the overall budget.

2018 COUNTY BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Overall budget increase:
13.1 percent, $54,399,000
Total tax levy increase:
3 percent
Residential homestead:
$5 for $100,000 value; $9 for $150,000, $13 for $200,000 and $17 for $250,000

BP Triathlon teams capture top honors in academic contest



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Capturing first place in the Academic Triathlon meet in Kasson on Dec. 8 was the Cross-Trainers of Blooming Prairie. The team members are (left to right) Jaylee Schleicher, Larisa Judy, Asha Lighthizer, Sierra Larson and Hannah Green.



The Challengers consisting of fifth and sixth graders from Blooming Prairie earned second place in their Academic Triathlon meet in Kasson Dec. 8. Team members include: (left to right) Ben Riley, Drew Kittelson, Macy Lembke, Mason Simon, Ella Smith and Alexis White.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Two of four BPHS academic triathlon teams brought back first and second place honors at the first Academic Triathlon contest of the year on Friday, Dec. 8.

Kasson Middle School hosted the event, and all seven schools in the Zumbro Education district entered several teams. That made for a full gymnasium at the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the contest.

One of the two BP seventh and eighth grade Cross-Trainer teams captured first place and the other placed fourth. A fifth and sixth Challenger team finished second, with the other sixth. Both the first and second place teams earned a new award, the Peggy L Sheldon Award, which was named for the long-time president of the Academic Triathlon organization.

Teams in the triathlon participate in three major events. A face-off has a written part in which students must answer questions in an eight-minute time period and an oral part in which students must buzz in with answers to questions to beat two other teams. The second event is three mind sprints, where they go into three different rooms for only 15 minutes to complete a given task. They also try to give as many answers as possible in order to earn points.

The third major event is the Party-in-a box skit. The team is given an 8-foot long strip of paper on which to draw a background for the skit and a bag full of stuff (paper plates, black garbage bags, straws, cups, newspaper, some fun items, etc.) to use to create costumes and props and then perform an original skit. The skits are performed at 6 p.m. for an audience.

When all the points are totaled, the awards ceremony is held. All four of the BPHS teams performed credibly in their respective meets, and the first and second place teams, especially, made the local school proud of the achievements.

United Way at 75% of its fundraising goal



With less than a month to go the United Way of Steele County is reporting interim achievement of 75 percent of its 2017 fundraising campaign.

Local nonprofit organizations are counting on the United Way to meet this fundraising goal in order to continue to provide services at needed levels. Community members and local businesses have donated $536,458 to date, but that is still a long way from the $725,000 necessary to meet the growing need for services in 2017.

The United Way funds 24 local programs that strengthen families, assist community members to meet their basic needs, increase access to healthcare and affordable prescription medications, give seniors and disabled resident the support they need to live independent lives and youth the tools the require to succeed.

"Citizen and local business donors are heroes to the children, moms and dads, grandparents, and workers of Steele County aided through United Way programs," said Kim Schaufenbuel, United Way Executive Director. "United Way is able to sustain a safety net of direct services in our community, and respond to crises as well as prepare our children for the future and help seniors to age in place because of the generosity support of our community."

United Way of Steele County is the only organization providing funding for direct human services to local nonprofit organizations. Agencies with programs being funded in 2017 are: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota, Blooming Prairie Youth Club, Cedar Valley Services, Children's Remedial Fund, Crisis Resource Center, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Free Clinic of Steele County, Healthy Seniors, Let's Smile, SEMCAC, SACSO – Somali American Cultural Society of Owatonna, South

SEE **UNITED WAY, C6**

SEASON OF GIVING

Hillesland volunteers at Owatonna Hospital for 23 years



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sara Hillesland has been a long-time, active and deeply involved volunteer with Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary for 23 years.

Sara Hillesland has proudly volunteered her time with Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary for 23 years.

Starting in Patient Courtesy—delivering food, beverages and other amenities to patient care rooms and visiting areas—she now spends her time volunteering in the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe.

"I would visit the Pink Pantry, and then I found out I could volunteer there," says Hillesland about why she chose to volunteer her time in this service area.

Not only has she been a long-time volunteer, Hillesland is actively and deeply involved. She works twice a month but often fills shifts in between. She adds with a sweet smile, "Serving people is fun; I picked up an extra eight shifts in November at the Pink Pantry."

The Pink Pantry is just one of many areas individuals can volunteer as much or as little of their time as they want. In fact, other than the Pink Pantry's supervisor, it's exclusively staffed by volunteers, so the need is important and the value is great.

It's become a relatively well-known gift shop in the area because of its unique offerings including a variety of different local pastries and beverages as well as clothes and trinkets. In her own way, Hillesland contributed to this current business model.

"When we were at the old hospital, I was the chair of the Coffee Shop, and I made a lot of changes during that time… changes for the better," she says. "One example is that all items at the time used to come from the hospital kitchen…I started purchasing food items from other locations and bringing in different things for customers; the sales went up."

While it was definitely her most proud volunteer moment, Hillesland also adds that people should give back, "out of gratitude for what we have, and there is such satisfaction in doing it."

Tis the season of giving, and there are so many ways people can give back. "What else can you do that's more important than that," she says. "We've been a great asset to the hospital; plus, it's just a place I love to come to…it's so cheerful and enjoyable."

In addition to the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe, individuals can volunteer in a number of service areas including: groundskeeping, information desk, therapy services, sewing and grab bags.

"Volunteering is needed, and you just need to give back," says Hillesland. "We are blessed in so many ways."

Join Hillesland, along with more than 300 other generous individuals, during this Season of Giving. To learn more or become a volunteer, visit allinahealth.org/owatonnavolunteer or call 507-977-2778.

NRHEG PANTHER of the Week

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CONNOR LOUKS

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Connor Louks. Connor resides outside of Ellendale with his parents Joe and Amy Louks. He is in Mr. Beynon's 2nd grade class.

Connor shows exceptional and consistent Panther Pride. He is respectful to his teachers and peers alike. He has so much empathy for his classmates and he's always trying to improve in school. He works very hard, shows great effort, and takes his time to make sure he's showing his best work. Connor is a very positive and sensitive child; his attitude is infectious to the rest of his classmates.

Connor's favorite movie is Ferdinand, his favorite book is Where the Red Fern Grows, and he loves candy. He really enjoys fishing and making rabbit traps. Keep up the great work Connor!

MAKE AN IMPACT, CHANGE A LIFE!

Kids of Christmas Campaign through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.



Kasey is a well-behaved 8-year-old girl who likes crafts, going to the park, and electronics. She is not a fan of the "Happy Birthday" song, and she hopes to go to the zoo someday. She wants a Big who can help her feel special and maybe take her to a park. The best Big for Kasey would be someone who is caring and patient.



Kimora is a smart, respectful, and girly 8-year-old. She loves gymnastics, playing dress-up, hula-hooping, and telling jokes. When she grows up, Kimora would love to be a movie star. She likes school, but sometimes math is difficult for her. The best Big for Kimora would be a one-on-one role model who could help her find confidence in her school work.

For additional information on how to be a mentor to one of these kids or any others, contact Megan Horton at 507-451-5922. More info can also be found at www.bbbsofsouthernmn.org.



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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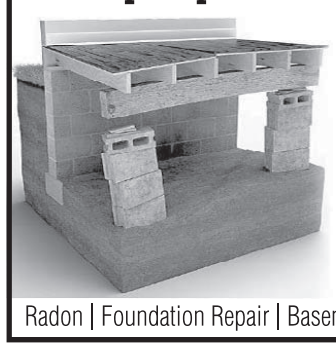
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STEELE COUNTY Times

Supervisor, Accounting

Owatonna Public Utilities is seeking a Supervisor of Accounting. This position is responsible for the general accounting functions and the financial accounting system at Owatonna Utilities.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION ARE:

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- 7 years Accounting experience desired.
- 5 years supervisory experience desired.
- Proficient at Microsoft Excel. Working knowledge of Outlook and Word.
- Working knowledge of an ERP system.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Dynamics GP or similar program desirable.
- CPA is desired.
- Experience with a financial system conversion is a plus.
- Serves as designee for CFO as needed.

If interested, an OPU Employment Application can be picked up at the OPU main office, 208 S. Walnut Avenue or obtained from our website at **www.owatonnautilities.com**. Completed applications must be received in our office by December 22, 2017, 4 p.m. Applications may be e-mailed to: **madsonm@owatonnautilities.com**

OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES

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BP City Council approves 2018 budget

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie City Council finalized and unanimously approved its fiscal budget for the coming year during its meeting Monday, Dec. 11.

The overall budget for the operation of the city is $1,556,435 for 2018. However, the city will have $13,210 deficit due to adding an employee to the city's insurance plan at the final moment.

"That occurred after the proposed budget was prepared, and we couldn't increase the total levy amount at that point," City Administrator Michael Jones said. "It ended up forcing us into a deficit, but we do show in the past some operational surpluses. We have the funds available to absorb a $13,000 deficit projection for 2018."

The overall budget saw an increase of $10,843 in Local Government Aid.

There will be a net increase of $24,250 in the property tax levy after debt service increased by $17,238 to $188,134 and the operating levy increased by $7,012 to $523,542.

Using a $100,000 home for tax comparison, the levy will cause a $24.25 annual increase.

"Overall, in the last 10 years, our levies and taxes have not gone up to this degree," Jones said. "The levy in 2008 was $510,000 to do the actual operation of the city. Now, it's $523,000. It's only went up $13,000. The biggest increase has come in the debt service. Well, you can't do what we do without increasing debt."

Jones referenced the city's street projects and the new ambulance building as reasons for the added debt.

Other highlights from the council meeting were:

• The General Governmental Funds and the Enterprise Funds Budgets were approved.

• The council approved the renewal of requiring local businesses to have cigarette licenses in order to sell the products. "We sell them a license for $50," Mayor Harold Peterson said. "That gives us the right to inspect them and make sure they are selling those things legally and only to people who legally authorized to buy them."

• The council approved selling a tax-forfeited property located next to Bunkies Grille and Lanes. "We found a buyer that we're willing to sell it to because we know he will improve it," Jones said. "It's cheaper to have him improve it than for us as city to tear it down.

"The reason the [buyer] wants it is because there is water coming off the abandon building and having an effect on his building," Jones continued. "He couldn't make the improvements because he didn't have the rights to go on the property. But if he owns it he can improvements to the building to discontinue water coming on and damaging this property." The new owner has plans to eventually make the property into an apartment or office building.

• The council discussed the first round of job applications they have received for an opening at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The state of Minnesota says that wastewater plants can be operated by an "A through D" operator with "A" being the highest. The treatment plant in Blooming Prairie requires a "B" operator. "In our first group of applicants, not a one was a 'B' operator," Jones said.

• The council approved waiving the fee for a dog permit. "We charged $15 for non-neutered and $10 for neutered dogs," Jones said. "Last year, we only issued 63 dog permits. We thought if it was about the [money], we won't charge it." Jones said the reason for the permits are to make sure the pets are up-to-date on their shots.

• The council also discussed the vacating an avenue, which would be on 2nd Avenue Northwest in between 3rd Street Northwest and 4th Street Northwest.

"It's not street, it's a grass field," Jones said, adding that Prairie Manor Nursing Home owns the property on each side the potential road. "We did this now so when [Prairie Manor] ever start doing any future planning, they already know that they don't have to worry about a street coming through there."

Helping: *School regrouping after death*

FROM PAGE C1

"He was like a big brother to all of us, and could always offer kind words of encouragement."

Russ Reishus
BP Band Director



DENNIS CONROY

directing community and students, said Reishus.

When a festival had to be moved or rescheduled because of a snow day, Conroy would volunteer to host it, Reishus revealed. After problems arose during these events, he always had a way to solve them, Reishus recalls. He said, "When you needed an extra judge, a missing sheet of music, or instrument, or part of an instrument, Dennis was there to help."

Conroy was always looking for ways to collaborate with other directors and students, too, Reishus pointed out. Conroy started a jazz swing dance with his jazz band playing and would hire a swing dance instructor to teach lessons to anyone who wanted them before the dance started.

He would invite the Blossom jazz band each year, and Blooming Prairie and Hayfield bands would take turns playing a few songs back and forth while parents and community members took to the dance floor.

He also offered to have Blooming Prairie host the swing dance once and brought his jazz band to our version of the event. "The kids loved it, and so did the parents," Reishus says.

Conroy helped design a solo and ensemble festival that was very welcoming, easy and nice for kids to experience, in order to better prepare them for high school, Reishus tells. The event was to be held at the Brownsdale school, but has moved to Blooming Prairie after that site closed permanently.

Conroy was also a coach and mentor to all of his director friends in the area. "He was like a big brother to all of us, and could always offer kind words of encouragement and ideas we might not have thought on our own," Reishus commented.

Becca-Combs Cawley, middle school director at Stewartville, and Reishus had just played with Conroy four days before his death, at The Paramount Theater in Austin, as part of the annual Tuba Christmas Concert, and she was one of the people who played at the funeral.

Two college friends of Conroy contacted Reishus about playing together for the funeral and asked him to contact other directors from the area to play at Conroy's funeral.

Communities represented included Kasson, Owatonna, and Stewartville. Four trombones and two tubas performed. The performers played several hymns and also Amazing Grace and Danny Boy. Directors were Tony Boldt, Peter Guenther, and Becca Combs-Cawley, respectively. His friends John and Todd played trombone.

Reishus said he is still willing to help Hayfield with its band program when asked.

Reishus has taught 23 years, the last 17 at Blooming Prairie. He currently teaches second grade music, fifth grade music, elementary band and lessons, junior high band, senior high band, jazz band and pep band. He also coaches the Minnesota Music Listening Contest teams.

Blooming Prairie's band director and his wife Katherine reside in Owatonna. They have a son Howard and a daughter Eleanor. Reishus grew up in Hinckley, Biwabik and Warroad.



Blooming Prairie High School band director Ross Reishus practices with his high school band in preparation for a holiday concert on Dec. 21. Reishus helped out with Hayfield High School's holiday concert last week following the death of Hayfield's band

He obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in instrumental education from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1994 and a Masters of Education in instrumental music from the University of Minnesota in 2007.

Reishus previously taught in Esko, Warroad, Duluth and in White Pine, Mich.

Conroy was born on June 21, 1963, to Clarence (Bud) and Mona (McInnis) Conroy in Rice Lake, Wis. He was a graduate of Rice Lake High in 1981, and received his Music Education degree from UW-Eau Claire in 1985.

Conroy was preceded in death by both of his parents and his mother and father-in-law, Harriet and Earl (Pud) Mohr. He is survived by his loving wife, Sally, his daughter, Kelsey (Brad) Blomberg, son, Nathan (Abby) Hannah Conroy (Jared Rolo); granddaughter, Adelyn Joann and one Blomberg baby on the way; sisters, Sharon (Dan) Bauer, Vicki (Steven) Schreiber and brother, Steven Conroy (Jessica Callahan). Other family, Peggy (Tom) Karg, Linda (Mike) Shilts, Harvey (Sherry) Mohr, Judy (Jim) Brekke, Kirby (Lynn) Mohr, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Band director Conroy taught at Hayfield High School for 23 years in the band department where his influence reflected consistent superior ratings. He taught in Wisconsin and Kansas totaling 30 years of teaching experience. He was involved in many musical groups, quartets and performing musical ensembles.

An avid bicyclist, Conroy also loved hunting, fishing and camping.

Funeral service for Conroy was held Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Hayfield High School with the Rev. Aaron de Neui officiating. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield.

Unzipped: *Revitalizing eroding river bank*

FROM PAGE C1

would need to go a few houses up river to properly fix the problem.

So Sexton got her neighbors together to pursue a solution. Soon a contractor, Josh Roberson of Roberson Lime & Rock of Zumbro Falls, was hired, and the neighborhood was on its way to improving the river.

According to Sexton, Roberson was scheduled for the summer, but wasn't able to make it there until November, when progress on the project officially began.

Rather fortunately, Sexton was able to get all five of the neighboring households to go along with her plan. She said "we didn't cause it," when talking about the river's bank failure, but that "we were victims of this water flow."

As far as her neighbors go, Sexton is proud of the work and cooperation they put into this. She explained that she's known some of her neighbors since 1983, and that they are all good people who you can talk to. In the end, she thought it was amazing how they all agreed to pursue a like-minded solution.

Karol concurs with this notion. She reiterates the fact that all of the effected residents saw this as a collective problem, and worked together to try and fix it. Both she and Sexton are appreciative of the work done by Fryer and Roberson. Together, Roberson and Fryer had previously worked on other projects, and although they saw this as a challenge, they wanted to do their best.

In the end the river bank was rebuilt, and new grass was laid along its edges to unsure that erosion is stymied in the near future. Although Fryer doesn't foresee any problems along that particular stretch in the immediate years to come, he admits that there may be issues with bank failure both further up, as well as further down the river.

Fryer reports that the actual construction of the project lasted around two weeks in November. He also says that all of the people involved, including the cadre of concerned neighbors, were fantastic. He said that they were "really trusting, and worked with us." He also attests to the fact that they were patient during November's construction period, despite some messiness that goes along with these sorts of jobs.

Both Sexton and Karol are glad that their yards, and the beautiful stretch of river bank, is beginning to look healthy again. Sexton recalls that "Pete Fryer was amazing on this, I can't say enough about him." Karol also felt the process went well, and thinks that Roberson, the project's contractor, was a perfect fit. "We couldn't find a better person, I would recommend him to anyone," she said.

Karol is also thankful for Sexton's steadfast determination, saying that she put herself into this project "all the way," and that "when Marie goes after something, she gets the job done."

Minnesota is home to roughly 8,100 rivers, which comprise around 92,000 miles. With bank failure being as common of a problem when dealing with rivers that tend to flood, it is important for Minnesotans to monitor, and take care of waterways and wetlands.

River bank failure can become a serious issue for many communities whose homes and livelihoods rely and rest on the edges of our rivers.

For Sexton and her neighbors, they have found that the easiest way to solve a problem like this, is to work together.

Cancer Corner

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

Another round of Jingo Bingo brings success for cancer group

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Second Annual Blooming Prairie Jingle Bingo was called a success with many lucky bingo-goers taking some great prizes home with them.

About 60 Bingo participants contributed to the BP Cancer Group fundraiser at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie.

Connie Trom was the caller, substituting for Lindsey Krejci. Lindsey's mother Cheri, BP Cancer Group treasurer, was also noticeably absent, recovering from knee surgery.

Twenty games were played during a fun-filled evening. Prizes were presents specially wrapped by BP Cancer Group volunteers. Kids and adult prizes were given.

Sisters Bristol and Harper Hansen and Alivia Schneider each bingoed twice.

Judy Lestrud won the grand prize, five gift cards valued at over $100. She won the prize on a blackout.

The Jingle Bingo event was the final BP Cancer Group event of the year. Next event will be a breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018 at the Pizza Cellar.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Alivia Schneider of Blooming Prairie was the first Jingle Bingo winner at the Pizza Cellar. She actually won twice and shows off two presents she took home. The Jingle Bingo event was sponsored by the BP Cancer Group.

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Animal: On Dec. 12, deputies received a report of a dog bite in the 69200 block of 120th Ave. in Blooming Prairie at 11:19 p.m.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 4 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Andrew D. Arendts, 33, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. Arendts was sentenced to $2,992.80 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Samuel C. Bolton-Hernandez, 20, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to $581, 209 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, obtain GED and 5 years of supervised probation.

Leroy M. Hamer Jr., 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. The defendant was sentenced to $81 and 18 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Brandon B. Hammond, 27, St. Paul, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. Hammon was sentenced to $1,430, 62 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training, obtain employment, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Raymond M. Scovill, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance sale. Scovill was sentenced to $1,081, 29 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 10 years of supervised probation.

Nichole M. Zankou, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault of peace officer. She was sentenced to $1,081, 45 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no threats of violence, anger management, attend and complete Moving On, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 4 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Joshua D. Johnson, 31, Blooming Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony financial transaction card fraud. Johnson was sentenced to $526.28, 31 days in county jail, maintain employment, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 4 – 8:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jaime R. DeLeon, 32, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and expired tabs, $311.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Twon A. Bolden, 25, New Hope, revoked license, $281; Nicholas A. Brown, 17, Montgomery, speeding, $131; Robert L. Coleman, 55, Maple Grove, speeding, $131; Eric A. Esquivel, 20, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Oliverio D. Garcia, 50, Aurora, CO, no license, $181; Debra M. Gernhardt, 49, Aurora, CO, speeding, $221; Matthew S. Golden, 41, Saginaw, permit violation, $181; Okuwar O. Gora, 33, San Diego, CA, speeding, $121; Nakesia R. Gully, 31, Cahokia, IL, no license and seat belt, $206; Thomas J. Haberman, 43, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, $281; Wyatt D. Hagerty, 23, Pittsburgh, PA, expired registration, $111; Jessica L. Haskamp, 29, Barrett, speeding, $121; Dodge W. Henderson, 51, Mound, speeding, $131; Holly B. Jandro, 27, Austin, no insurance, $281; Jileen A. Kubat, 37, Claremont, expired license, $181; Lissy J. Martinez, 25, Faribault, speeding, $121; Kayla M. Mohr, 28, Eagle Lake, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, $191; Vanessa Rodriguez, 30, Owatonna, revoked license and possession of marijuana, $431; John G. Stephanie, 76, Elysian, speeding, $121; Jorge Torres, 39, Waseca, revoked license, $281; Pradeep K. Uppalanchi, 25, Parlin, NJ, speeding, $141; Marcia K. Willcox, 47, Waseca, seat belt, $106.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mohammad A. Abusbeih, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Juan F. Alejo Ortiz, 20, Austin, minor consumption and possession of marijuana, $231; Spencer S. Anderson, 37, St. Paul, revoked license, $281; Natasha L. Chavez, 27, Owatonna, suspended license and no child passenger restraint system, $431; Jackson B. Cline, 18, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, $381; Adam P. Couture, 27, Owatonna, improper change of course, $131; Todd A. Dorsey, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Harvey R. Dubay, 29, Faribault, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, $81, 28 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Terrance D. Edwards, 33, Owatonna, theft of services, $164.73 and 54 days in county jail; Kierra J. Ellingsworth, 24, Faribault, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, $81, 4 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, psychological evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 200 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Rachel R. Foster, 29, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Teri A. Haugh, 54, Faribault, stop sign, $131; Steven J. Keller, 26, Kasson, seat belt, $106; Aaron M. Lindekugel, 48, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Tyler M. Luckey, 19, Medford, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $181; Jaime Martinez, 22, Owatonna, toxic substances use, $131 and 27 days in county jail; Christina B. Morales, 43, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Veronica M. Richards, 35, Mountain Iron, domestic assault, $381, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training and 1 year of supervised probation; Laverne I. Roberts, 35, Faribault, invalid license, $181; Stacey S. Thomas, 25, Waseca, revoked license, $281; Tanya J. Veal, 36, Wanamingo, financial transaction card fraud, $381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Jonathan Vue, 20, Mankato, stop sign, $131; William J. Wieseler, 30, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Virginia E. Busch, 62, Claremont, speeding, $121; Kelly M. Cardenas, 45, Owatonna, stop sign and speeding, $171; Tyler W. Clayton, 29, Hartland, speeding and no insurance, $341; Melissa G. Cook, 35, Faribault, no insurance, $281; Raymond W. Deml, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $281; Bryan A. Dupris, 20, Faribault, minor consumption, $181; Deona J. Escalera, 25, Ellendale, speeding, $131; Claire T. Gregory, 27, Eagan, speeding, $121; Joshua A. Huff, 26, Owatonna, speeding, $121; James A. Hunt, 42, Maple Grove, speeding, $121; Amina Jackson, 47, Owatonna, no license and speeding, $221; Jaade P. King, 49, New Richland, speeding, $121; Kyle F. Layland, 20, Waseca, speeding, $131; Caleb D. Lindquist, 34, Hollywood, FL, speeding, $281; Todd A. Martin, 42, Faribault, speeding, $121; Baylee A. Nelson, 25, West Concord, speeding, $121; Ladonna S. Olson, 59, Hartland, speeding, $121; Alissa M. Sexton, 18, Waseca, speeding, $121; Kayla A. Shaw, 21, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Jessica S. Smith, 39, Mankato, speeding, $121; Pedro Tellez, 20, Faribault, no license in possession, $101.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Dec. 12

Probation: Police responded to a probation violation in the 300 block of 2nd St. SE at 10:22 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Dec. 7

Arrest: Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Elm Ave. N. and Fremont St. E. at 9:03 a.m.

Theft: Police took a theft report in the 200 block of McKinley St. W. at 2:50 p.m.

Assist: Officers assisted another agency with arresting a juvenile in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 4:30 p.m.

DWI: Police made a DWI arrest in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:18 p.m.

Dec. 8

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 14th St. NE and Bigelow Ave. NE at 12:27 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: At 8:53 a.m., police received a report of criminal sexual conduct at the law enforcement center.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:15 p.m.

Dec. 9

Hit and Run: At 12:42 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 300 block of Meadow Lane SW.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:06 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 5:54 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Park St. SE at 8:43 p.m.

Dec. 10

Hit and Run: At 1:09 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

Theft: Police received information regarding a theft in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:06 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 7:54 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of North St. W.

Missing Person: Officers assisted with a missing person in the 400 block of 20th St. NE at 11:48 p.m.

Dec. 11

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:52 a.m., the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:11 a.m. and the 700 block of Cherry St. NE at 4:53 p.m.

Burglary: Police began burglary investigations in the 36000 block of County Rd. 45 N. at 12:51 p.m. and the 300 block of Pylor Place NW at 5:11 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1900 block of Rosewood Dr. NW at 5:01 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 7:14 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 8:07 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Dec. 12

Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:28 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:33 a.m. and the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 7:39 a.m.

Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:59 p.m. and the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:25 p.m. and 3:02 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2600 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 1:39 p.m.

Arrest: At 3:39 p.m., officers assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Dec. 13

Forgery: Police received a report of counterfeit money in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:24 a.m.

Shoplifting: Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 400 block of North St. W. at 11:19 a.m.

Compliance Check: Police conducted compliance checks in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:25 p.m.

Arrest: Officers arrested a subject at the detention center at 11:22 p.m.

Dec. 14

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:12 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Dec. 7

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 10:53 a.m.

Dec. 8

Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests at the detention center at 4:32 a.m. and 10:53 a.m.

Vulnerable Adult: Deputies received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna at 11:12 a.m.

Drugs: Drug activity was reported at the detention center at 12:42 p.m.

DWI: Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Highway 14 in Meriden Township at 11:13 p.m.

Dec. 9

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Jansen Place in Ellendale at 8:36 a.m.

Dec. 10

Vulnerable Adult: Deputies received information regarding a vulnerable adult in the 24000 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 4:43 p.m.

Crash: At 7:44 p.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 6th St. and 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Dec. 12

Crash: Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 29000 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 6:05 a.m.

Harassment: At 10:33 p.m., deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 17000 block of 34th Ave. SE in Havana Township.

Dec. 13

Warrant: Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Main St. W. in Owatonna at 9:47 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Cedar Ave. and 69th St. NE in Medford Township at 12:37 p.m.

Dec. 14

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Central Ave. E. in Medford at 12:21 a.m.

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 8:56 a.m.

Domestic: At 12:27 p.m., a domestic disturbance occurred in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna.

ARREST
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Jeffrey Allen Sipes, 57, arrested at 10:44 a.m. Dec. 12, probation violation arrest, held for court.

OWATONNA POLICE

Stephanie Ann Thompson, 42, arrested at 2:59 p.m. Dec. 8, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Jevon Bill Morgan, 25, arrested at 5:50 p.m. Dec. 8, felony identity theft and financial card fraud, held for court.

Alexandria Gloria Calderon, 24, arrested at 4:51 p.m. Dec. 8, felony identity theft and financial card fraud, held for court.

Sandra Jean Olson, 39, arrested at 7:11 p.m. Dec. 8, warrant arrest, held for court.

Brady Lee Edwards Jr., 28, arrested at 7:41 p.m. Dec. 11, probation violation arrest, held for court.

Joseph Allen Deleon, 29, arrested at 3:21 p.m. Dec. 14, warrant arrest, held for court.

Adam William Lopez, 34, arrested at 7:50 p.m. Dec. 14, warrant arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jose Antonio Parajon, 33, arrested at 1:19 p.m. Dec. 11, immigration warrant arrest, $12,000 bail.

Brandin David Botten, 29, arrested at 10:41 p.m. Dec. 14, felony domestic assault, assault and domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

MN STATE PATROL

Devin Michael Meany, 24, arrested at 12:05 a.m. Dec. 13, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 4 – 11:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael C. Benson, 37, Zumbrota, speeding, $140; Joshua R. Carstensen, 38, Mantorville, careless driving, $180; Cayla J. Davidson, 27, North St. Paul, revoked license, $280; Chad M. Osgood, 39, Hayfield, revoked license and speeding, $280 and 1 year of probation; Jacob S. Paukner, 20, Austin, suspended license, no insurance and speeding, $540; David A. Podratz, 54, Dodge Center, operate motorcycle recklessly, $180; Donald P. Stroebl, 41, Dodge Center, DWI, $1,085, 42 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, complete Drug Court, 90 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hunter D. Brekke, 20, Mantorville, failure to yield, $180; Ashley N. Goossen, 25, Madelia, revoked license, $280; Lorie L. Gunn, 57, Kasson, speeding, $130; Seth P. Klinger, 19, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Ellen F. Olsen, 42, Stewartville, texting while driving, $130; Colton J. Page, 25, Dodge Center, revoked license and open bottle, $380.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Scot C. Davis, 66, Owatonna, speeding, $120; Stephanie L. Hodge, 42, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Michelle A. Holmes, 44, Mantorville, speeding, $130; Courtnay A. Kieffer, 29, Ellendale, speeding, $130; Robert A. Martinez, 21, Rochester, speeding and suspended license, $330; Jeffrey D. Olson, 54, Rochester, speeding, $140; Britni A. Strohschein, 25, Hayfield, speeding, $130; Candace M. Utech, 19, Dodge Center, reckless driving, $130, 100 hours of community service, donate $500 to Dodge County emergency response team and 1 year and 8 months of supervised probation.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Peggy A. Witt, 46, Dodge Center, registration violation, $110.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 185 complaints during the week of Dec. 6 – 12. Some of them include:

Dec. 6

Train: At 6:54 a.m., deputies received a complaint of stops arms being down with no train at Main St. W. and 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center.

Animal: A citizen reported three goats in the roadway at State Hwy. 57 and 550th St. in West Concord at 7:27 a.m.

Dec. 7

Larceny: At 9:12 a.m., deputy took a report of stolen check from the 200 block of 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Disturbance: Deputies received a report of a disturbance at Hayfield High School at 3:07 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at 2nd St. NW and 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 9:40 p.m.

Marijuana: At 9:50 p.m., deputies received a report of a subject smoking marijuana while on probation in the 200 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

Stolen Property: At 11:18 p.m., a stolen vehicle was recovered on 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center.

Dec. 8

Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding a subject retrieving his belongings on 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 4:48 p.m.

Dec. 9

Criminal Damage: Deputies responded to a subject spraying fire extinguishers on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 11:07 p.m.

Dec. 10

Intoxication: At 1:13 a.m., deputies found an intoxicated male in the 500 block of Central Ave. S. in Dodge Center.

Threats: A Dodge Center woman reported receiving threats via social media at 7:43 a.m.

Larceny: Deputy took a report of a cell phone stolen from the 200 block of Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 10:42 a.m. It was later returned.

Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Meadow Lark Lane in Dodge Center at 6:44 p.m.

Vandalism: At 6:19 p.m., a West Concord resident reported vandalism to property in the 100 block of Main St.

Dec. 12

Theft: At 5:11 a.m., deputies received a report of theft by swindling in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield.

Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from Hayfield High School at 3:02 p.m.

Medical: At 8:44 p.m., deputies, Dodge Center Ambulance and Dodge Center Fire responded to a work-related accident involving a male falling five to six feet in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center. He was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

OWATONNA FIRE

Dec. 8

Cooking Fire: Firefighters responded to a confined cooking fire in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N. at 2:32 a.m.

Public Service: At 8:03 a.m., fire personnel assisted with a public service matter in the 900 block of Liebe Ave. NE.

Dec. 10

Arcing: Firefighters responded to an arcing, shorted electrical equipment incident in the 700 block of 13th St. NE at 6:27 p.m.

Dec. 12

Crash: At 6:07 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 2900 block of County Road 45 S.

Smoke: Fire personnel assisted with smoke removal in the 500 block of North St. NW at 10:40 p.m.

Dec. 13

Carbon Monoxide: A carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 300 block of Selby Ave. SW

CRIME BRIEFS

Two charged in credit card fraud



Alexandra Calderon



Jevon Morgan

A man and a woman from New York have been charged in connection with a credit card scheme throughout Minnesota, including Steele County.

Alexandra Calderon, 24, of Jamaica, N.Y. and Jevon Morgan, 25, of Cambria Heights, N.Y. face felony identity theft and financial transaction card fraud.

On Nov. 21, Owatonna Police took a report of a credit card fraud at Kwik Trip. Shortly thereafter, a detective got on the trail of the alleged scammers, who were believed to be hitting locations throughout Minnesota at the end of November and beginning of December.

According to police, the suspected scammers hit Kwik Trip stores for more than $11,000.

The work of the Owatonna detective led him to notify Airport Police for their assistance in locating the suspects. Police found both of them in an airport bar while they were comfortably celebrating their suspected fraudulent work in Minnesota and awaiting their return flight back home to New York, police said.

The two are being held in the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna. Calderon is being held on $40,000 bail while Morgan's bail has been set at $75,000.



Balloon Magic

STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna police officer Valerie Satre enjoys a little balloon magic with Rebecca Anderson, 9, during last Wednesday's Shop with a Cop at the Target Store in Owatonna. After shopping for gifts, the officers enjoyed fun activities, including refreshments, with the children who benefited from the program. Anderson was one of 16 children from around Steele County chosen to take part in the shopping excursion. See front page for more details on the program.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

THINK OUTSIDE THE GIFT BOX: DONATE BLOOD AND GIVE MORE LIFE

The best gifts can't be bought in a store. The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December.

In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift – give blood and give more life. To encourage donations, all those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

There are several upcoming blood donation opportunities around the area:

Albert Lea – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 20, Albert Lea Vineyard Church

Albert Lea – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dec. 26, Ramada

Albert Lea – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dec. 29, Mayo Clinic Health System

Albert Lea – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 29, North Bridge Mall

Austin – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 26, St. Edward's Catholic Church

Austin – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 28, Mayo Clinic Health System

Blooming Prairie – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 22, City Center

Medford – Noon – 6 p.m. Dec. 22, Trinity Lutheran Church

Owatonna – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 22, Owatonna Hospital

Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 22, Lowe's

Owatonna – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dec. 26, Baymont

Owatonna – 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dec. 26, SeniorPlace

Owatonna – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 27, United Methodist Church

Owatonna – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dec. 28, Famous Dave's

Owatonna – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dec. 29, St. John Lutheran Church

ASSOCIATED CHURCH HOSTS BLUE ADVENT WORSHIP

Associated Church will host its second annual Blue Advent Worship Service on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at the church, 800 Havana Road in Owatonna.

The Blue Advent Worship Service is a service recognizing that in the midst of the lights, family gatherings and celebration, there are those who grieve and those who are alone. A time of prayer and healing will be offered. All are welcome to attend this prayerful, intimate service.

Associated Church is a Community of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. Associated Church is a warm and welcoming place to meet God! Get to know us at www.associatedchurch.org or by visiting us for our 9 a.m. Sunday Worship at 800 Havana Road, Owatonna.

DODGE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERING FLU SHOTS

It's not too late to get your flu shot! DCPH will have a walk-in clinic available on Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please bring your insurance card and/or cash or check made payable to Dodge County Public Health.

DCPH can bill Blue Cross Blue Shield, MA, South Country Health Alliance, Blue Plus and Medicare. For those individuals covered by Medicare Part B, you must bring your Medicare card and your Medicare Advantage card for billing purposes. Receipts for insurance reimbursement will be available.

The cost of the shot is $37.

DCPH has "Fluzone Quadrivalent" available. This flu vaccine covers 4 strains of the flu: Influenza A (H1N1), Influenza A (H2N3), Influenza B (B Yamagata Lineage) and Influenza B (B Victoria Lineage). DCPH does not carry the high dose flu vaccine at this time.

If you have any questions/concerns prior to the clinic, please call Dodge County Public Health at 507-635-6150.

More walk-in clinics will be made available in January. Check back soon for those dates.

SEARCH KICKS OFF FOR MISS TEEN STEELE COUNTY

If you are female, single, never been married between the ages of 13 to 18 years, applications are being accepted for the title of 2018 Miss Teen Steele County.

Miss Teen Steele County will represent her county at the Miss Teen Minnesota pageant, which will be held at the Wellstone Center, April 28, 2018 in St. Paul.

The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Steele County will become an ambassador from the Steele County area and will receive an official title and sash.

The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Minnesota will receive a prize package and College scholarship totaling $30,000 and the chance to represent Minnesota at the 2018 Miss Teen International pageant in Charleston, W. Va. in July. The American Heart Association's Go for Red for Women is the official Charity of the Miss Teen Minnesota Pageant.

Teens will compete in personal interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown. There is no talent or swimsuit competition. Young teen ladies living in Steele County interested in applying should write for bio-form to: Miss Teen Minnesota International Pageant, P. O. Box 240537, Apple Valley, MN, 55124-0537. Information can also be obtained by calling 952-432-6758 or email at pagunltd@frontiernet.net.

The current reigning 2017 Miss Teen Minnesota is Devika Narayan of Plymouth. As Miss Teen Minnesota, Devika speaks out on "Hope in Memories: Alzheimer's Find Hope & Find a Cure!"

Entry deadline is Dec. 31.

SNO-BLAZERS HOSTING SNOWMOBILE SAFETY TRAINING

The Steele County Sno-Blazers is hosting a snowmobile safety training class on Saturday Jan. 6 at the Trail Association Clubhouse in Hope.

Weather permitting, the class will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the driving test to follow. Pre-registration is available at Sette Sports Center in Owatonna and at the event starting at 7:30 a.m.

100% PANCAKE AND FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST COMING TO WEST CONCORD

Yep that's right: a 100% Pancake and French Toast Breakfast!

What's that you ask? One hundred percent of the money we receive at the West Concord American Legion and Auxiliary Pancake and French Toast Breakfast and Bake Sale goes to the Rochester Eagles Cancer Telethon! One hundred percent of your money! No expenses are taken out of the money received that day.

So, if you were planning on making a donation to the Eagles Cancer Telethon – well come on over to West Concord. For a $7 adult suggested donation and $5 for children suggested donation you can have breakfast on us. A win-win for everyone.

It will be held Sunday, Jan. 7 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Concord American Legion Hall.

The menu consists of delicious hot off the griddle pancakes and French toast. Also featured are Concord Store and Locker sausages, Callister farm scrambled eggs and a delicious dessert bar that is sure to delight your taste buds.

A bake sale will also be available so you can take home some delicious treats. Good food and fellowship is always served at the West Concord Legion.

Remember -- ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of the money donated that day will go to the Rochester Eagles Cancer Telethon.

Start your year off right, and support the Rochester Eagles Cancer Telethon!

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 20

10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

DEC. 22

1 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, City Center

DEC. 26

10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

6 p.m. – Book Club Meeting, BP Library

DEC. 30

6:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve EVE, Servicemen's Club


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ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
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583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE | Blooming Prairie, MN

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

DEC. 26

6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North

DEC. 28

7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

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

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 20

4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Commission Meeting, Morehouse Meeting Room

4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Admin Building

5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

DEC. 21

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Open Rug Hooking Workshop, Straight River Rug Hooking

6:30 p.m. - Blue Advent Worship Service, Associated Church

DEC. 22

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Owatonna Hospital

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Lowe's

Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Trinity Lutheran in Medford

DEC. 26

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Lowe's

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. –Used Book Sale, Owatonna Library

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, SeniorPlace

J&H LIQUOR



- **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.
- **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 8: Season Finalē

HOLIDAY EVENTS!

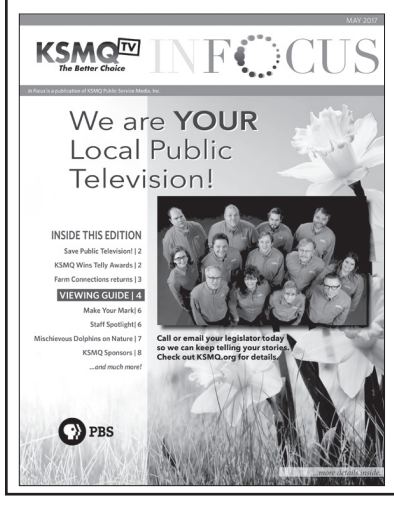
- **HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER:** Dec. 16, 3-7 p.m. Drink specials, munchies and meat raffles
- **VIKINGS VS. PACKERS:** Dec. 23, 7-10 p.m. Munchies and meat raffles
- **EUCHRE:** January 13, 1 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR HOLIDAY REFRESHMENTS
CLOSED DEC. 24, 25, 31 & JAN. 1

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Marcy@bpyouthclub.com
www.bpyouthclub.com

Letters to SANTA

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How many randers do you have I have been a good girl. Where is the Northpole? I wont For Christmas a guitar and a fon. Thank you!
Love,
Raegan Broskoff

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do your reindeer fly? How do elves make toys? I Haf Bin Pretty good this year. Please Put an Elf on the shelf in your bag for me. Thank you Santa!
Love,
Anna Guse

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do yor rindeer fly? How does your toy factory work? I have been good this year. Please put Legos in your bag for me. Thank you Santa!
Love,
Aiden Merritt

Dear Santa
Hello how do you make toy? how you ride your reindeer out falling? Can you pllees breing a oramit and a cllechin of pokemon.
Love
Lyric Morgan

Dear Santa,
Hello! How does Elf on the shelf not move all day? How big is your sleigh? I have been good this year. Please put Legos in your bag for me. Thank you!
Love,
Quinn Wayne

Dear Santa,
Hi! When did the Holiday start? How did you think of the reindeer names? I have been sort of good this year. Please put an I phone in your bag for me. Thank you Santa!
Love,
Brynlee

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do your reindeer fly? How does Elf on the shelf not move all day? I have been really good this year. Please put a nerfgun in your bag for me. Thank you!
Love,
Memphis Schlaak

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do the elves hide so well? How do your reindeer fly? I have been pretty good this year. Please put Video games in your bag for me. Thank you!
Love,
Mack Gilliland

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do your reindeer fly? How do the elves make toys so fast? I have been good this year. Please put Legos sets fo Lego city in your bag for me. Thank you!
Love,
Isaac Calacamuggio

Dear Santa,
Hello! Do you know all of The elves names? How do you know all of the reindeer. I have been a good girl This year. Please put Lego Minecraft in your bag for me! Thanks!
Love
Emilia Stadheim

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How do you go down the chimney? I am a good boy. Please bring me a 100020016166 dollrs. Ples.
Love
Shay Broskoff

Dear SaNta,
Hello! How long does it take to deliver all of the Presents? why is RudolPh's nose red? I have been good this year. Please Put Legos in your bag for me Thank you!
LoVe,
Sofia Bunn

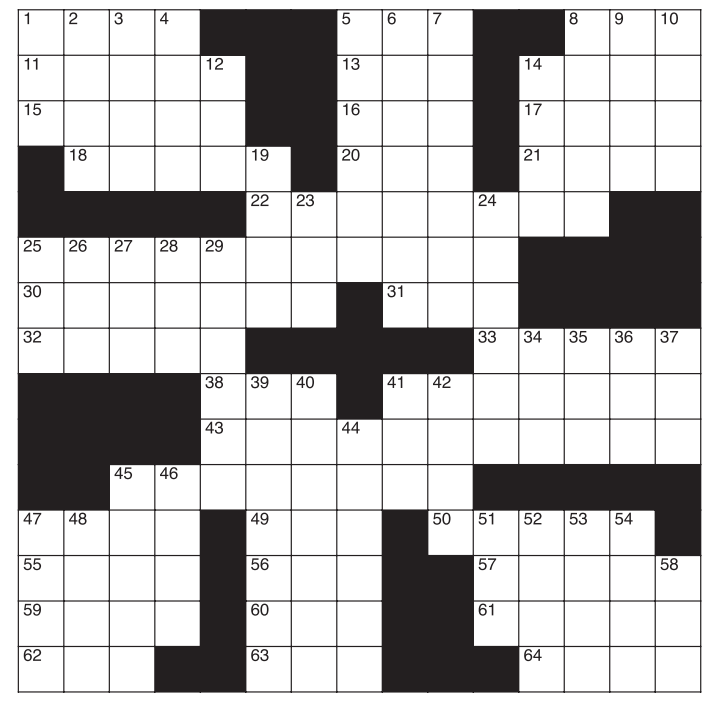
Dear Santa,
Hi! How do your reindeer fly? What do reindeers eat? I have been really good this year. Please Put an X-Box in your bag for me. Thank you Santa!
Love,
Brandon Doyle

Dear Santa,
Hi How do your reindeer fly? How many elfs do you have? Can I get a towey let clenr. I want more pokemon.
Love, Tyler

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Why do you eat srtin cookies. Why you Come on a spchl. This year I've been a good girl
Love, Lia Broskoff

Dear Santa,
Hi In your bag can you put a animals in it? How do your reindeer fly? For Christmas I would like legos and the Wii.
Love, Wyatt

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Member of a Semitic people
5. Certified public accountant
8. Residue
11. Sayings attributed to Christ
13. The products of human creativity
14. Listen to
15. Longed
16. No (Scottish)
17. Descriptor
18. Yankees' sensation Judge
20. Zero
21. Comics legend Lee
22. Honorary title holder
25. "Uncle Joey"
30. Graceful and stylish
31. Pitching term
32. Former Mets outfielder Jones
33. One who avoids animal products
38. Quick to learn
41. Mechanism in an organ
43. Redo with new materials
45. Epics
47. Wings
49. Extrasensory perception
50. Cavalry sword
55. Bangladeshi monetary unit
56. Not the bottom
57. Afflicted
59. Bound
60. One who is highly skilled
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Tall, rounded vase
63. Liturgical language of Hinduism (abbr.)
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN
1. Pie _ __ mode
2. Portuguese cape
3. Ottoman military title
4. Movable frame used in burials
5. Type of coal
6. A treeless grassy plain
7. Artist's workroom
8. Assists
9. Protein-rich liquids
10. A song of praise to God
12. Much __ about nothing
14. Japanese city
19. Atomic number 10
23. Egyptian goddess
24. Go places
25. Having ten
26. Complete
27. Automotive belt
28. Psyche
29. Melodious bird
34. Medical personnel
35. Acquired
36. Type of beverage
37. Neither
39. Spanish monetary units
40. Small area of grass
41. Your
42. Diana __, singer
44. Salt's partner
45. Made of wood
46. No longer alive
47. Alaskan island
48. Wild animal's resting place
51. Swiss river
52. Partiality
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. UNLV's "Runnin' __"
58. Criticize

Solution on B2

United Way: *Fundraising goal*

FROM PAGE C2

Central Human Relations Center, SMRLS – Southern MN Regional Legal Services, Steele County Food Shelf, Steele County Clothesline, Transitional Housing of Steele County.

In 2016, over half of Steele County residents seeking services needed help with health related services including senior care and meals, access to healthcare, child abuse services and prevention activities, and help with or advocacy for domestic violence. An additional 3,700 individual received financial stability or aid services including 3,300 people experiencing food insecurity. Over 2,600 individuals received education related aid.

Additionally, special programming partners include: Tiger Club of the Medford School District and SAC of the Owatonna School District for Afterschool Care Scholarships, Salvation Army and Owatonna Shoe for Boots to Work, U of MN Extension for Cooking Matters, Exchange Club Center for Incent to Save, Workforce Development, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Owatonna School District for Job Readiness Counselor, and SMART Transit for Preschool Transportation.

United Way of Steele County fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. Our Mission is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year's goal of $725,000 will fund 24 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies.

To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org, mail a check or pledge to United Way, Box 32, Owatonna, MN 55060 or text UWSC to 40403 to give.

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the Reason for the Season
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FOR SALE

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

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

For Sale: 2000 Ford F150. Low rust, good running condition. $4000.00 If interested call 507-838-5448. 52,1,2p

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 9N 1939 Ford Tractor with new dirt blade on back plus chains. All overhauled and painted. Runs great. Will trade for tractor with front loader. West Concord. 507-527-1014. 1,2,3p

2007 Cadillac DTS, Northstar engine, dark blue, tan leather interior, seat heater and coolers in the front, AC, PB, cruise, chrome wheels, 135,000 miles? $6500. George at 507-269-9870. 52,1c;2nc



GARAGE SALES

Dano's Consignment Store 32 E Main Street Dodge Center. Open Tue.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. **HUGE 50% OFF SALE!** 50% off most house items and 25% off most consignment items! Lots of great Christmas gift ideas- some brand new! 1p

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Caleb's Pet Sitting, Cats & Dogs, please call me at 507-634 -7907. 33tfc

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc

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

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

For Rent Hayfield. 3 bedroom apartment includes; all utilities, laundry on site, available immediately. Call Great Western Apartments (507)796-0152 or (701)330-9788. 51,52c;1nc

For rent avail. Jan. 1, 2018. Beautiful country home in Mantorville on 5 acres, backed up to river. $900 month plus deposit & utilities, huge pole barn on property also for rent, addl. $500/month. Background and references. Call Monica at 507-319-2569. 51,52c;1nc

Dodge Center 1BR upper apt. in house. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Quiet renter only need apply. Non-smoker. No pets. Available now. Water and garbage pickup provided. $425.00 monthly, plus $425.00 deposit. Call 507-374-6747. 52tfc

Kasson 2BR lower level duplex, $575/month, 1st and last months rent, plus security deposit upon move in. Washer, dryer in apt. Available Dec. 31st. Call 250-3378 for application. 52tfc

For Rent: AVAILABLE NOW. Dodge Center, 2 bdrm apt in 4 plex. Stove, refrigerator, water and garbage pick up furnished. No pets. Non-smokers only apply. $575.00 deposit, and qst months rent. Call 507-374-6747 1tfc

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Paul & David Stanton Farms are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton 507-951-0915. 46tfc

Crop land to rent, sharecrop, or custom farm. Shamrock Farms: call Tim at 507-259-1169. 47tfc

SERVICES

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

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

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

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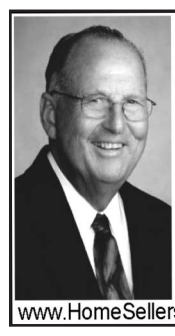
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STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

Top, Seven-month-old Annabelle Ogden is intrigued by the jolly old Santa Claus who visited by Blooming Prairie Police Department Tuesday night, Dec. 11. Second, The Zylstra kids dressed up for Santa Claus and his elf at the Blooming Prairie Police Department's Santa Night recently. Shown with Santa are Silas, Savanna and Skylar. "I am very grateful to raise my young family in such a giving community," said the Zylstras' mother. Third, Five-year-olds Jack Ulland (green jacket) and Connor Kremer (plaid shirt) deliver their letters to Santa Claus to acting North Pole postmaster Rick Ellingson.Bottom, While mom Collette took her photo, Sailor Lea, almost two, demonstrated her singing voice for Santa and his friendly elf.



SUBMITTED PHOTO: ISREAL WACEK

Fourth graders at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie were in full costume during their 2017 Christmas program. Shown from left to right are: Back Row: Colby Johnson, Bradley Boyd , Brady Johnson, Landon Allison, Steven Gillette, Betsy Gillette, Claire Schwartz, Ella Salinas and Noah Graves Front Row: Cannon Wacek, Jonathan Heimgartner, Ambriella Miller, Ella Farr, Allison Blume, Layla Coleman and Chloe Weber.

Lifting voices to the Lord

First Lutheran kids present Christmas program

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The house was full at First Lutheran Church's second service on Sunday, Dec. 10 as 114 youngsters put on a Christmas program to the delight of their friends and families.

More than 500 attended the special Christmas program, said Kristin Romeo, First Lutheran director of Christian ministry.

Youngsters performed according to age and grade: three-year-olds, four-year-olds, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade and fifth and sixth grades combined.

Costumes from years past were used for the 2017 version of the First Lutheran Christmas program. Romeo, Sarah Esplan and the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner worked together to organize and decide the costumes. "We made a great team to figure out a new production," commented

SEE **VOICES, D3**

Voices lift holiday spirit

BP choirs perform holiday concert

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A capacity crowd watched Blooming Prairie High School choirs perform a one-hour holiday concert on Dec. 11 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

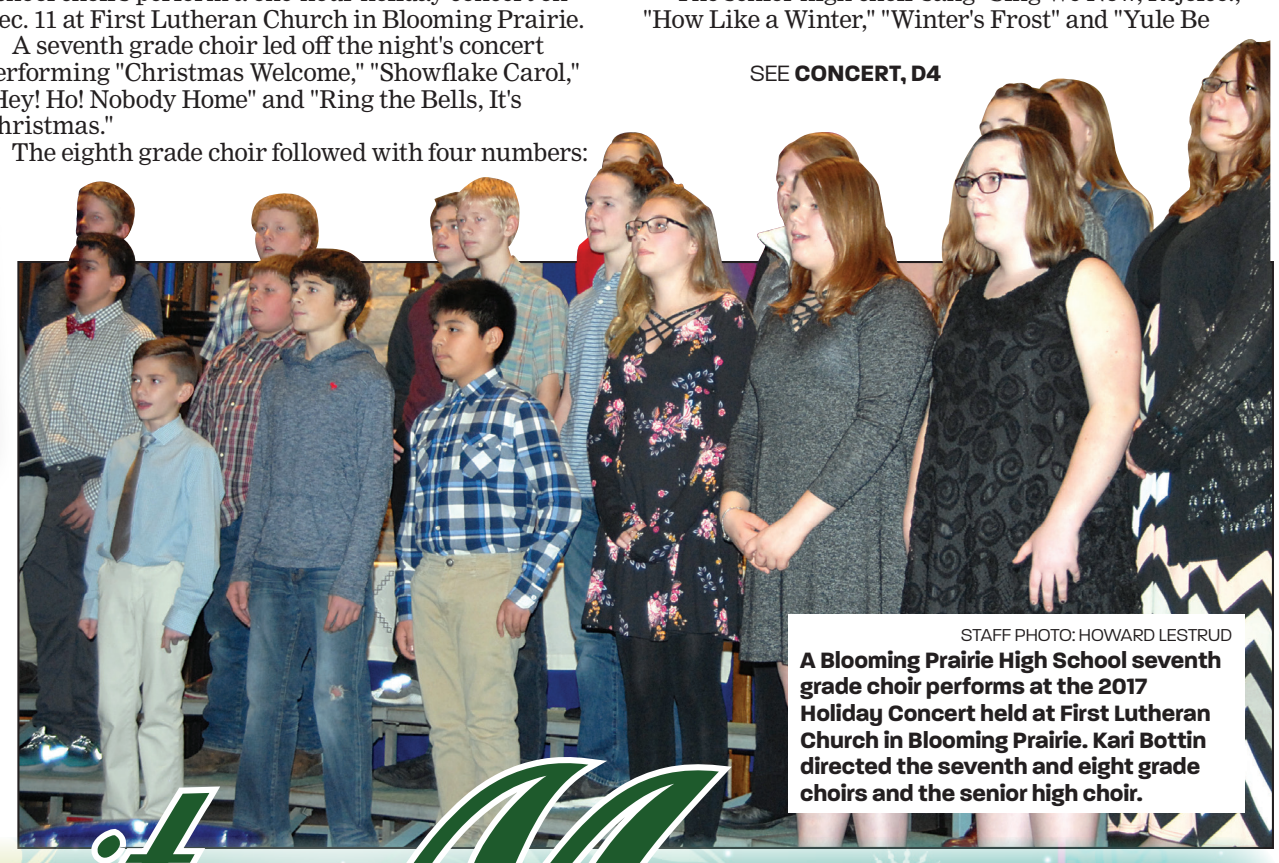
A seventh grade choir led off the night's concert performing "Christmas Welcome," "Showflake Carol," "Hey! Ho! Nobody Home" and "Ring the Bells, It's Christmas."

The eighth grade choir followed with four numbers: "Christmas Wishes," "A Christmas Carol," "Carol of the Bells," and "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow."

Following an intermission, the Chamber Choir performed "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and "Various Themes on 'Fa La La'"

The senior high choir sang "Sing We Now, Rejoice!," "How Like a Winter," "Winter's Frost" and "Yule Be

SEE **CONCERT, D4**



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

A Blooming Prairie High School seventh grade choir performs at the 2017 Holiday Concert held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. Kari Bottin directed the seventh and eight grade choirs and the senior high choir.

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Letters to SANTA

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are the elves busy? I have been a good girl. I would like a barbie doll for Christmas.

Merry Christmas,
Kylie

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the presents we really appreciate it. I want presits and I will tell you rit now. I wot a remote controlling scorpion. from, Levi

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this christmas? I have ben a good girl. Where is the north pole? Where do the elves sleep? I want a new American girl Doll for Christmas. Thank you!
Love Ellie Mae Clark

Dear Santa,
Hi! When did the Holiday start? How did you think of the reindeer names? I have been sort of good this year. Please put an I phone in your bag for me.
Thank you Santa
Love, Brynlee

Dear Santa,
Hello! How do the elves hide so well? How do your reindeer fly? I have been pretty good this year. Please put Video games in your bag for me.
Thank you!

Love, Mack

Dear Santa
How is Rudolph?
Do you Know My Elf?
I want for Christmas
Reece Peauntbutt cups and a nrf gun.
Does Dansre dancs?
Your friend,
Elliot Ho! Ho! Ho!

Dear Santa,
How are you doing?
Can you plece bring me a Lego set?
I hope you have a saf trip! I will lev cocklit and milk on Buttr schoch cage
Justin Schumacher

Dear Santa,
Hello!
How does Elf on the shelf not move all day? How big is your sleigh? I have been good this year.
Please put Legos in your bag for me.
Thank you!

Love, Quinn

Dear Santa,
Do you go Sleding. what is you favrit color? I want for chistmas is a Amaican girl doll. Do you know my Elf catline. santa what is you reall name. Santa I'll be wating to see you. How is Rudolph doing? Is still gliding your Slave. I hope you dount eat all cookcis. I dasher still the 3rd Randeer? I want a tableit for Christmas. Does mrs claus still do the bakeing? Do you know my teacher mrs. Harberts?
your frend Elaine

Dear Santa,
Hello! How is it like to live in the Northe poll? How big is your sleigh? I have been pretty good. Please put an I fone in your bag for me.
Thank you Santa!

Love,
Sebastien.

Depr Sante klos
What dus the noth pol look likke? Wud You pritee prees bring me a amarkin girle set? and priteeplees bring me a tal char like my teechrs char? peecus? Iriee wot bolt fo them.
tove, cassidy Jones

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How do the reindeer fly? Why do yaw eat cookies? I have ben a good girl. Please bring me a horse.
Love,
Sie Ana

Dear Santa,
I like your cote. And your hat. How are you doing? Santa for Christmas I want a dreamtat.
Love, Andrew
to Santa

Dear Santa
Hello how do you make toys how you ride your reindeer out falling? Can you ptlees breing a oramit and a ctlechin of pokemoon.

Love Lyric Morgan



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VOICES: *First Lutheran Christmas Program*



SUBMITTED PHOTO: ISREAL WACEK

One of the largest kids Christmas programs ever was staged at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie on Sunday, Dec. 10. Kristin Romeo, director of Christian Ministry, said 114 kids from age 3 to sixth grade participated in the program. Show from left to right are: Back Row: Wyatt Holtberg, Briella Musel, Makinzie Wangen, Bristol Hansen, Owen Gimbel, Claire Staloch, Andrew Schwartz Middle Row: Peyton Lembke , Aubree Johnson, Kody Blume, Jeffrey Bruns, Montgomery Masbauch and Benton Prouty. Front Row: Elaine Schwartz, Addison Hjelmen, Emmerson Nelson, Mason Peterson, Levi Skillestad and Joseph Schwartz.

FROM PAGE D1

Esplan.

The Sparks Story Book Bible was used to guide the production. "We use this in the classroom," Romeo pointed out. "We also incorporated our memorization requirements by having the third grade lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer and the fourth graders leading the Apostles Creed.

A new addition this year was bringing back the Cherub Choir robes that pre-school students wore. Karen Thoen washed and pressed all of the Cherub Choir costumes.

Performers had two and a half practices and looked very polished during the public performance, said Romeo.

Seventeen Sunday School teachers, seven student helpers, two music directors, one pianist, three board of education members and one director helped make the program possible.

Theme for the program was "Jesus was Born."

The photo booth area was a huge success again this year and was utilized by families after the program. Isreal Wacek was the chief photographer.

Letters to SANTA

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this Christhmas? I love Christhmas. I rilly want is a elf on the shelf. I will have a Christhmas list rate by my Christhmas tree ok. I love the joy you gave us too.

love,
Eva Magnuson

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. For christmas I want a I Fone, alsoe I want an amarkin girl doll, and a ipade.

Love,
Aubree Johnson

Dear Santa,
How are you? Doing Good? I hope you are wll. For Christmas. I want legos.

Love,
Zander Trostem

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. for Christmas I want skylanders Imaginators.

Love,
Mason

Dear Santa,
How is Radolph? Is his nose still red? This year for Christmas I wont 200 LeGos sets. Do your ranDeer dance?

Love
Joseph

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the joy. The joy is preants. I want A tablit and A Phone. I Love Chrismas. My name is Kinzie Wagen.

Dear Santa,
I saw you at the bank. It was fun at the bank. I want a Amarican girldoll with some cute close. I also want boss baby.

Love,
Emmerson Nelson

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. For christmas I want drums and a elf and a shrt and a candecane pilow and candeane clos.

Love,
Emery Schleicher

Dear Santa,
Hoi mony elf do you hof santa? Wut is your fafrat cuir? Hlow old is rudotph? I wont a nrfguns. I wont a trampolene.

your friend,
Kody

Dere Santa,
How am I boing? Can you ples gitlme a robot dog? I Luve you Santa!

Love,
Kianna Carlson!



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CONCERT: *BP choir lifts holiday spirit*



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

The Cardenas boys enjoyed intermission at the Blooming Prairie High school Holiday Choir Concert on Monday, Dec. 11. Enjoying some M & M cookies are Eddie, 2; Ian, 3 1/2 and Ryan, 8.

FROM PAGE D1

Rockin'"

Kari Bottin directed the choirs, and Amelia Harthan was the accompanist.

The Music Boosters sold cookies and bars during intermission as a fundraiser. The primary purpose of the Music Boosters is to encourage and promote the activities of the BPHS music program.

Fudge samples were also available at the concert. Fudge orders will soon be taken by choir members as part of another fundraiser.

The next choir concert will be performed on March 12.



Pictured on the Esplan family card in 1952 were (back row) Judy and Lawrence; (front row) Caren and Kenny. Their parents were Sylvester and Dorie Esplan.

Santa letter from 66 years ago

Editor's Note: On Monday, Santa made a special delivery to the Steele County Times office. With a loud ho, ho, ho coming from his mouth, Santa told us he was cleaning up his files at the North Pole and stumbled across a letter from Lawrence Esplan from December 1951. He wanted to share the letter with us, along with a photo of the Esplan family from 1952. This is evidence that Santa has and will always remain an important part of the holiday season. As this week's editorial indicates on Page 2A, yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. (This original letter was published in the Times on Dec. 6, 1951, of course, with Santa's permission.)

Dec. 6, 1951

Blooming Prairie, Dec. 18

Dear Santa: I am 6 years old and in the first grade in school. I would like a holster and 2 guns and a big truck for Christmas.

My sister, Judy, is 4 years old and wants a doll, high chair and a little stove. My little brother, Kenny, is 3 years old and he wants a train and a big truck for Christmas. My baby sister, Caren, is only 2 months old so you can bring her some rattles.

Sometimes we've been naughty but most of the time we're pretty good so please bring us what we want.

Thank you,
Lawrence E. Esplan

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the elf's? I have been a good girl. I would like Shopkins for Christmas.

Merry Christmas,
Julieann Wobbrock

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the elves? I have been a good girl. I would like a jewelry box for Christmas. Merry Christmas.

Crissa Koopal

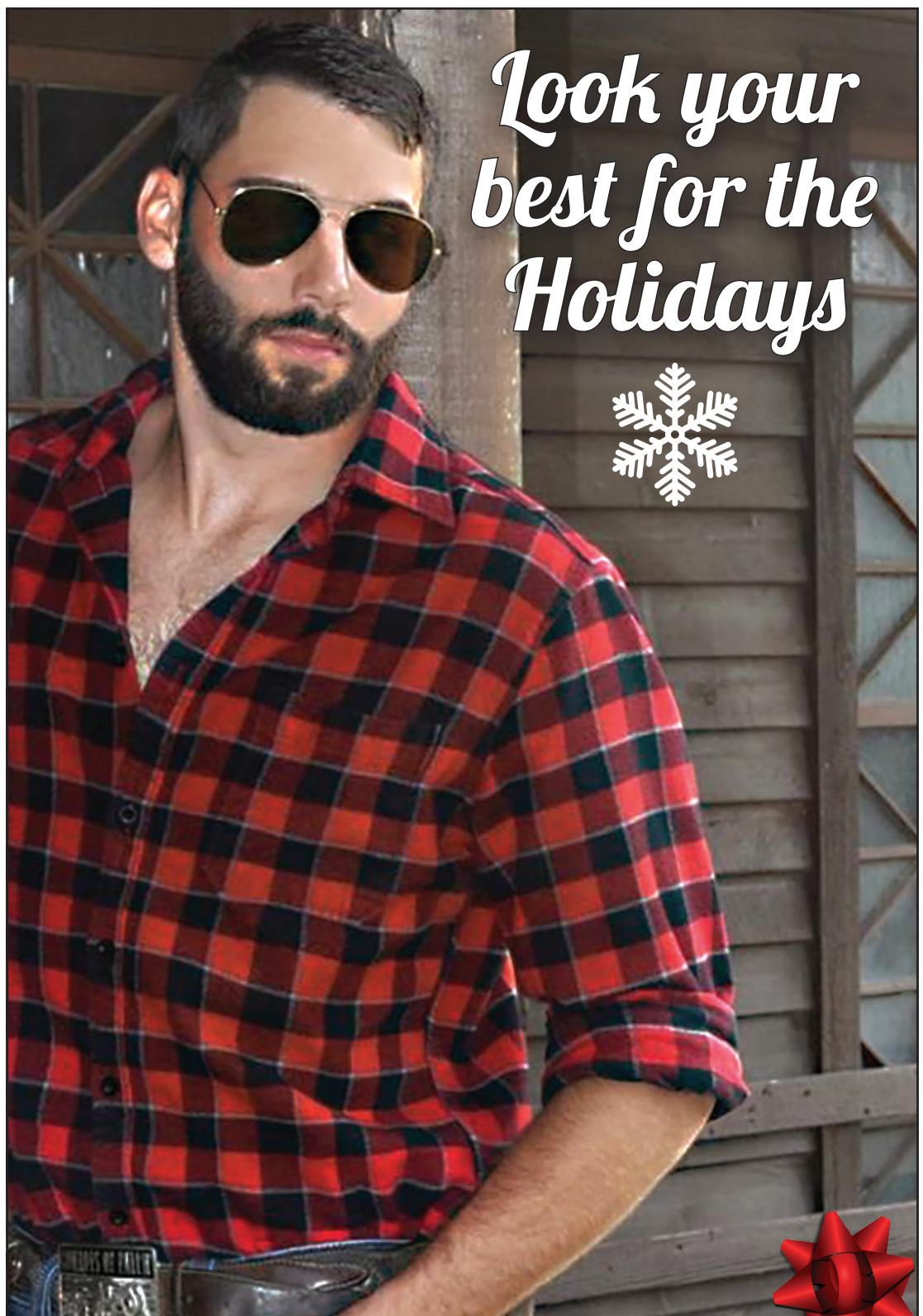
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Letters to SANTA

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Merry Christmas,
Mason Pederson

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? I have been a good boy. I would like a xbox one for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Jaren Surat

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? I have been a good girl. I would like Shopkins for Christmas.
merry Christmas
Alayna Groskreutz

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the Rudolph? I have bee a good boy. I would like a hoverboard for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Owen Schlaak

Dear Santa,
How are your ? reindeer. I have been a good boy. I would like a hoverboard for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Aiden Routh

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elf's? I have been a good boy. I would like a hoverboard for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Jemisyn Vallejo

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the Mrs. Claus? been good boy. I would like phone for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Owen Flatland

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? I have been a good girl. I would like Shopkins for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Lauren Wakefield

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Rudolph? I have been a good girl. I would like a stuff animal unicorn for christmas.
merry christmas
Gracie Luna

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the reindeer? I hav Ben a good boy. I would like a wii for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Alec Wyrum

Dear Santa,
How are you? are the elves? I have been a good boy. I would like xbox 360 for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Braylon Stevermer

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. claus? I have been a good girl. I would like a phone for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Starling Bird

Dear Santa,
Hello! Is the Elf on the shelf really real? How does your toy factory work? I have been good this year. please put a Nerf gun in your bag for me. Thank you!
love,
Cooper Cords

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are the elves busy? I have been a good girl. I would like a barbie doll for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Kylie

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How do the reindeer fly? Why do you eat cookies? I hove ben a good girl. Please bring me a horse.
Love
Sienna Besser

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How old are you? Do you sleep a lot? Thanks for the elvf! I have been a good girl. I want a cailico house. You are a good prsin!
Love
Joey

Dear Santa,
Hi! How do you feed the reindeer? How big is your toy shed? Can you please bring me an Elf on the Shelf. I would also like a pet cat.
Love,
Chanse

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Why do you drink milk? Why do you eat cookies. I have been a good girl. Please put new shoez under my tree.
Love,
Makenley Lillico

Dear Santa,
Hi How are you and Mrs. Clause? What is your elfs like? What I want for Cresmas from you is a four wheeler. The second toy I want for Chresmas is a toy cars that shine.
Love,
Benjamin

Dear Santa,
Hi How meny elfs do you have? Cen you mak a fon? Can you please bring me Pop the Pig and fake hankufs.
Love,
Eli

Dear Santa,
Hi How are you do you know how we ast. How do your reindeer fly? I would like pokemon. My bruthr would like dinoasors.
Love,
Gus

Dear Santa,
Hi how are your roindeer doing? What is your favorite color? In your bag can you bring me Babie house?
Love,
Kendel

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? I have been a good boy. I would like a hoverboard for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Braiden Eide

Dear Santa,
Hello! How does your toy factery work? Why do the Elf on the Shelfs only move at night? I have been pretty good this year. Please put a toy Elf on the shelf in your Sleigh for me. Thank you Santa!
Love,
Chrysantha Aronson

Dear Santa,
Hello! How long does it take to deliver all of the presents? How does your toy factory work? I have been really good this year. Please put little hocky jerseyes in your bag for me. Thanks Santa
Love,
Brock Holland

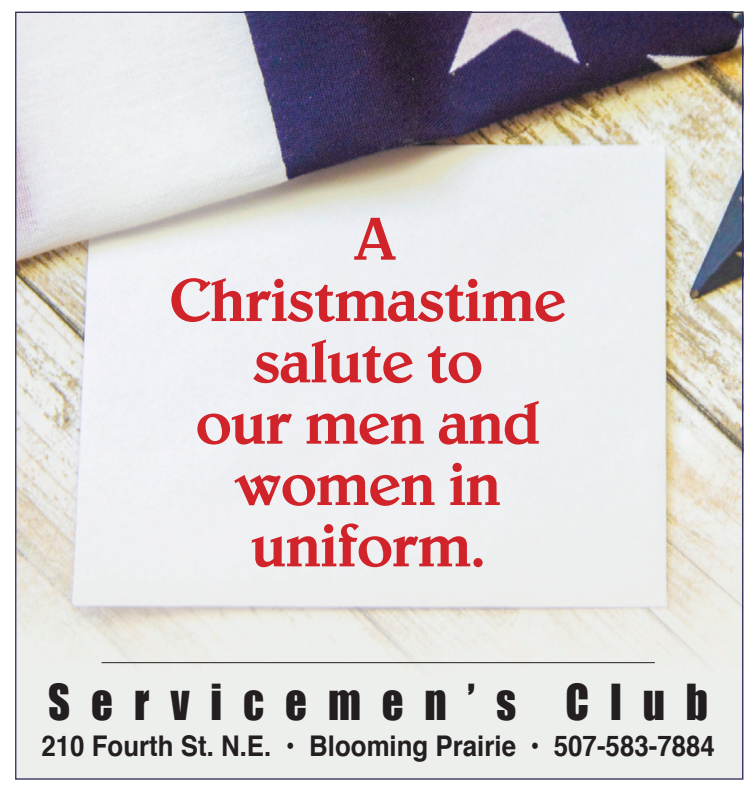
Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year? Where is the North poll? How do your reindeer fly? I have been a good boy. Pleas bring a noo drt bike.
love,
Sealey

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this christmas? I have ben a good girl. Where is the north pole? Where do the elves sleep? I want a new American girl Doll for Christmas. Thank you!
Love
Ellie Mae Clark!

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STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

This photo was taken just moments before a heavy laden roof collapsed on a gingerbread house being built by Kitchen 3 of the Blooming Prairie High School creative foods class. Kitchen 3 students are Bradley Staska, Gemini Johnson, Kory Rafdal and Heather Pirkl.



Emily Krampitz and Marti Snider put the finishing touches on two gingerbread structures they helped build during their creative foods class at Blooming Prairie High School.

A "sweet" assignment

Gingerbread houses created by BP senior high students

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Minnesota is well known for its five seasons of the year: spring, summer, fall, winter and construction.

Some creative Blooming Prairie High School students have been working diligently, developing plans and building houses that eventually can be eaten.

The houses are made of gingerbread and have been created by students in Jennifer Flemming's creative foods class. The class consists of 24 students, including six seniors, six juniors and 12 sophomores.

All of Flemming's students have taken Foods One. The creative foods class is an elective.

This year marks the third year that Flemming's students have built gingerbread houses as part of a class assignment. The students are divided into five kitchens and compete against one another for the honor of being the best gingerbread house in Blooming Prairie.

The five creations were placed in the commons area on Monday and were judged by school staff members.

Only a first place award will be given to the gingerbread house drawing the most votes. A prize, yet to be determined, will be given to the winning kitchen.

Students of the creative foods class began planning their projects on Nov. 27. After planning and drawing out templates, the students began the baking and creating process.

Flemming said the objective of the class is to help the students learn how to work together to create a gingerbread house. Many of the kids' ideas came from the Internet. "They are all a little bit different," Flemmming says.

"The kids really like doing this project because it gives them hands-on working experience, she said. "Some of the students get into it more than others,"Flemming added.



Flemming

Flemming provides the recipe for the gingerbread houses. The students buy all the decorations. "Some of the kids spent a ton of money on the ingredients," she related. Holding a can of frosting, she said it cost $12.

Let's take a look at the five kitchens and see how the progress is going:

Kitchen #1: This gingerbread entry has a tree farm theme. Gracie Rudlong is the mastermind behind this team. Yellow coconut is used as straw for the barn. Kaden Thomas rolled out the dough with Alec Ille. Kassidy Borten is the other member of Kitchen #1. No name has been chosen for this entry.

Kitchen #2: Lucas Noble is the team captain and says it was his idea to do a beach house, the roof made out of shredded wheat. "Everyone is so basic; that's why we chose a beach house in the Bahamas," said Noble. Other team members are Brend Weinberger, Brandon Jiminez, Trent Swenson and Ryan Pena.

Kitchen #3: "We don't know what we are doing," said a disgruntled Gemini Johnson when looking at her kitchen's house with a collapsed roof. "We put too much frosting on the roof," Brad Staska explained. Flemming urged the Kitchen #3 kids to build a new roof. She said more dough was available in the refrigerator. Other team members are Jayde Wacek, Heather Pirkl and Kory Rafdal.

Kitchen #4: Grandma's House is the name of this entry. A house and a barn are part of the food creation. Team members are Zachary Haberman, Baylee Sorensen, Emily Krampitz, Slava Kritzer and Marti Snider.

Kitchen #5: Candy Cane Palace is the name of this creation. "The house turned out much better than we thought," said Brett Motl. The original theme was to have a huge gingerbread man (Ginzilla) destroy the gingerbread house. Other team members are Amy Peterson, Matthew Wurst, Austin Behne and Isaac Ille.

You Deserve the Best

...and we hope you get it! Wishing all of our fine friends and neighbors here in the community a bright and wonderful holiday season, filled with good times and good fortune. We feel so fortunate to be here this holiday, and we look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year.

With Gratitude and Best Wishes, Merry Christmas!

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  - Pier 60
  - Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- Fort Myers
- One Night in Key West - City Tram Tour
- Airboating in the Everglades
- Fort Lauderdale Area (2 Nights) Beachfront Lodging
- Free Day in Fort Lauderdale Area
- NASA Kennedy Space Center

Texas.....Feb. 18-28.....$1679
- Mission San Jose
- San Antonio Riverwalk Cruise
- 2 nights on the Riverwalk
- Buckhorn Museum and Saloon
- Texas Ranger Museum
- Historic town of Fredericksburg
- National Museum of the Pacific War
- One night in Corpus Christi
- Johnson Space Center
- Guided tour of Houston
- Tour King Ranch
- The Alamo
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- LBJ (Johnson) Ranch
- Kennedy Assassination Site
- Sixth Floor Museum

New Orleans.....Mar. 11-20.....$1659
- Battleship Memorial Park
- USS Alabama Battleship
- Artillery and Armor
- USS Submarine Drum
- Aircraft Museum
- Bellingrath Gardens
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Avoiding the holiday blues with children

How to keep your child on a schedule this holiday season

Travel, late nights, early mornings, odd-hour meals—the holidays are always an exciting part of the year, but they can also be stressful, especially when it comes to your child being off his or her sleep schedule.

According to Heather Krenke, supervisor, Owatonna Hospital's Sleep Center, "There are still ways to maintain a realistic schedule, so all can enjoy the holiday festivities."

Tips for managing meltdowns and avoiding the dreaded Grinch-like behavior:

1. A family get-together can make naptime impossible and inconvenient.

There's no way around it—you'll inevitably have some deviation from a normal naptime schedule during the holidays. "It's unavoidable, given the amount of travel and visiting with family and friends," says Krenke. Some babies and toddlers find it difficult to settle down for naps when they are in an unfamiliar place, and there is a lot going on to rouse their senses.

Krenke suggests, "Build some quiet time in to your day; also try and scout out or phone ahead to the place you'll be visiting to find a less noisy location for your child."

2. The holidays always make it more difficult for my child to go to bed at a decent time for fear of missing out.

During the holidays—given the hustle and bustle—there seems to be more access to technology while children are on their holiday breaks from daycare and school. Plus, if there are extra guests around, this creates extra stimulation. "There's no reason not to continue using your schedule from home," says Krenke. "If you're staying in a hotel or with friends and family, try using a white noise machine and make sure to bring familiar items from home to help your child relax."

3. Your little one keeps waking up so early, even though he or she stayed up way past the normal bedtime.

This is so common during the holidays—kids want to be just as much part of the fun as the adults. However, Krenke adds, "This can be a sign of overtiredness." Watch for any signs your child may be sleepy: yawning, rubbing his or her eyes, losing interest in activities and even nodding off.

Krenke suggests, "When you're starting to notice those sleep cues, start the bed and/or naptime routine, before your child gets too wound up that he or she can't fall asleep."

Think you may need a sleep study? If you have questions about the testing process or other sleep-related concerns, talk to your doctor about a referral to Owatonna Hospital Sleep Center. Most sleep studies and equipment are covered by insurance.

For more information, visit allinahealth.org/owatonnasleep or call 507-977-2190.

Letters to SANTA

Dear Santa,
What is your fravrite cind of coocey? How is Rudolph? Is his nose still red? I want a megmaston. I wont football Jeseys. I wont a KD Jeseys. How is rudolph doing? is rudolph still giding your slaye? Is Dasher still on your teme? Is vixin still on your time? I wont a goprowe. Do you my kow my elf chip. I wont a nerf guns.

your frend Jeffrey

Dere Santa
Who doo you send elfs to hose is? Does Dasr das? I wot for christmocm is a puppe.

your friend,
Caroline

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a Legowe set and a drtdik for christmas.

Love,
Max Lee Hendrickson

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is his nose sill red? Do you know we just got an elf? Is Rudolph still gliding your slay? All i want for Christmas is a Amalcan girl doll. I also wot a elf at my hows. I will stay awake to see you on Christmas.

your friend,
Annastyn

Dear Santa, ,
How is Rudlph. is his nose stil red? Do you like kocis? I want a Babe Anibel for Christmas

Your friend,
Isabel

Dear Santa,
How is misis Clos? Can you pleas get me a mostor truck I am go to leav you cuokeds and melck!

Luov,
Reid Jensen

Dare Santa,
Am i good? Can you plees git me a piloe? Have a grate time. Thack you for your prasits!

Love,
Lily Evans

Dear Santa,
Do you know my elf Fred? Is your house big? This year for Chirstmas I want a gold watch. I want choolate candy. Do you have a Chirstmas tree at your house?

Your friend
Claire

Dear Sananta,
Do you have a Crismis Tree? Can you Ples Can I have Lots uv slime? ur sum BaBy a live dols? Thank you for Ole the Presientnts!

Nevaeh Nelsen

Dear Santa,
whith your jolee red slay I Hope you are comeing. tonitgh. I whant a amarucindal for christmas and littleist petshop casal too.

Love
Rayanne Alwes

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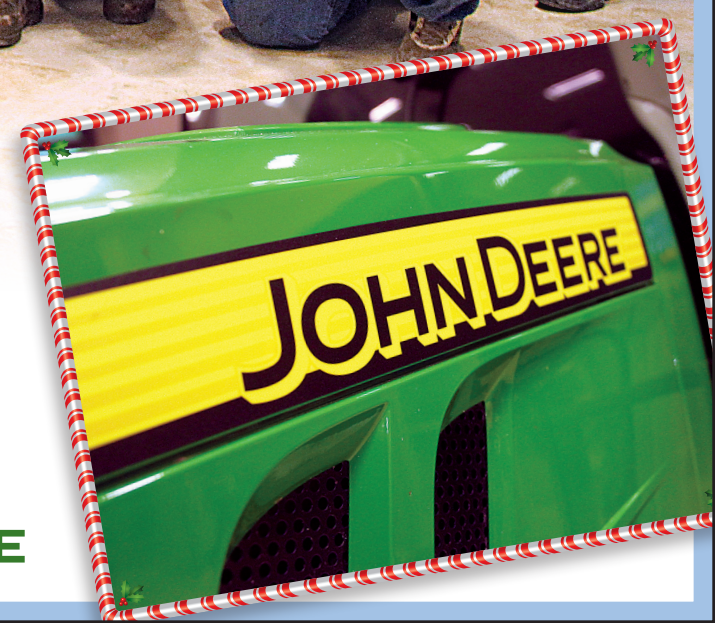
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merry Christmas

& Happy New Year!



Names listed left to right – **Front row: Andrew Lovsness, Layne Groskreutz, Brandon Holevoet, Jae Trahms, Christopher Pederson, Scott Duban, Joseph Prchal, Justin More. Middle row: Craig Sletten, Paul Gregor, Lyle Godeke, Conna Roesler, Cindy Phiefer, David Fisher, Dennis Supalla, Nicholas LaCanne, Alex Stehr, Todd Supalla. Third row: Douglas Balzer, Alex Spinler, Dennis Paulson, Tyler Velzke, Andrew Jewison, Michael Conway, Michael Kvestad, William Steckelberg, Nicholas Bartelt, Trevor Lewer, Kevin Kalis**



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