



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Tyler Mundy (1973-2017) is shown in front of the logo for his successful manufacturing business, Heavy Metal. The name came from the days when Mundy played in a heavy metal rock'n roll band. Heavy Metal is located 335 Highway Ave. South in Bloomington.

Tyler Mundy was a believer in heavy metal

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Tyler Mundy was always concerned about his customers, whether they were buying a used car, or whether they are buying a metal part from his machine shop.

After a nearly two-year battle with cancer, Mundy, of Kasson, died Nov. 28 at age 44.

Mundy was the owner of Heavy Metal, LLC, located at 335 Highway

Ave. South in Bloomington. Heavy Metal is a machine shop that can make small metal parts for small machines and big parts for big machines. "We are a job shop," Mundy said in an interview with The Times two years ago.

"Tyler was a master at his craft of machining and no project was too tough for him to tackle," said Dennis Heimerman, owner of Metal Services of Bloomington. Heimerman's company was a regular customer of Heavy Metal.

"If he did not have the correct equipment, he would send you to

someone who did," Heimerman pointed out.

"I worked with him from the time he was at Pal's Machining and always enjoyed working with him. He was a man of great integrity to do business with and his word was gold," Heimerman said. "On a personal level, he was a devoted Christian, family man, and friend. He will be missed by all of us at Metal Services for a long, long time," he added.

It was Heimerman who convinced Mundy to set up his own metal shop in

SEE **MUNDY, A3**

Teen certified as adult in Owatonna sex attacks

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

During one attack, the victim wasn't even aware she had been assaulted until a video taken by the suspect later surfaced following another attack of a different person.

The unusual chain of events allegedly committed by an Owatonna teenager has left authorities scratching their heads in disbelief and Steele County Attorney Daniel McIntosh to simply say, "It's a shocking one."

McIntosh has charged Charles Lee Ramsey Adams, 17, with eight counts of criminal sexual conduct, burglary and interference with privacy. Adams has been certified as an adult in the case, and he is currently being held in the Steele County Detention Center.

The bizarre case began on July 18 when a woman reported to police that she thought someone came into her home during the night, but didn't know for sure. With a scissors displaced in

SEE **ATTACKS, A3**

Sounds of the season



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Sounds of the holiday season are filling the air everywhere. Second grader Ian White hits some high notes when singing holiday songs at the Bloomington Elementary School Holiday Concert on Friday. The kids enjoyed singing for their parents, grandparents and others.

Feedlot controversy flares up again in Dodge County

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A controversy involving a proposed hog feedlot appears to be flaring up again on the south end of Dodge County.

However, this time it's not in Westfield Township where a battle had been brewing for several years and came to an end with a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling earlier this year, but rather just across the border from Westfield in Ripley Township, northeast of Bloomington.

On Wednesday night, the Ripley Planning and Zoning Commission will meet to consider a Conditional Use Permit and Variance to construct a new modern tunnel ventilated barn consisting of two rooms to house 2,400 hogs. The property is located in Section 32 of Ripley Township. The applicants are Tim and Jen Langdon, owners of Prairie Gold Farms near Cannon Falls.

The Langdons currently own a 5-acre farm site in Ripley. According to a formula

SEE **FEEDLOT, A3**

Learning on the road

BP social studies kids take classroom to Washington, D.C.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Thirty-one Bloomington High School students took their social studies classroom to Washington, D.C. on a recent school trip.

Planning for this educational trip began almost a year ago and reached a crescendo when students and their parents overflowed the Bloomington High School library on a cold, wintry night last February for an informational meeting.

The trip was organized by social studies teachers Ryan Slack and Michelle Southworth after they were forwarded an e-mail by Principal John Worke from World Classrooms Educational Travel.

Teacher Cory Hendrickson showed a video clip on Washington, D.C. "We wanted to gauge the interest of such a trip," said Slack. "No BP student groups had gone in recent years and we didn't want to push it on them," Slack continued.

After realizing interest was high, Slack and Southworth began further planning for the trip, Nov. 16-19.

"Some said the kids were getting out of school for two days but in reality they had four days of education in a mobile classroom," explained Southworth.

Three eighth graders, Josie Lorenz, Colin Jordison and Adam Walsh, and three ninth graders, Adrianna Berme, Allison Krohnberg and Reese Millam, who made the Washington, D.C. trip sat down recently to reflect on their memories from the visit to the nation's capitol.

"I would like to live in Washington, D.C. because it's home to everyone," remarked ninth grader Reese Millam.

Allison Krohnberg said, "It was really fun experiencing D.C. with our friends."

Added Southworth: "Everyone liked something different."

Some of the students had never flown before. "That was exciting for me," Adrianna said.

Tour stops included the Capitol, National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institute, Arlington National Cemetery, Museum of National History, American History Museum, Library of Congress, the Vietnam Wall, the World War II Memorial, Old Subway Station, Martin Luther King Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial.

In addition to touring historic sites, the group also enjoyed pizza parties and also went bowling.

Instructor Southworth said, "I wish we would have had more time but we did pack in a lot in a few days." Her son Jacob, a sophomore at BPHS, also made the trip.

"I am a super emotional person and I cried at the Holocaust Museum and at some of the other historic sites, too," related Southworth.

Southworth and Slack said the kids got a couple of extra treats, too. They saw the motorcade of President Donald Trump leaving the Capitol on a day he spoke on the Republican tax plan. They also saw the double changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery.

The kids and their chaperones also got to experience a doozy of a Washington, D.C. traffic jam on one of the days.

The group stayed at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor. "Our accommodations were great and our tour

SEE **LEARNING, A3**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

To experience the reality of how tall the Washington Monument is, Bloomington High School students got a leg up on one another. Students from eighth, ninth and tenth grades made the trip to D.C. Nov. 16-19.



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AREA DEATHS

Tyler Thomas Mundy, 44

*Serving
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and Steele County
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OUR VIEW

Spannaus pioneered law

Minnesota has one of the strongest open meeting laws in the nation and much of the credit goes to former Minnesota Attorney General Warren Spannaus.

Spannaus, called a giant in DFL circles in Minnesota, died suddenly on Monday, Nov. 27. He was 86.

Spannaus was elected attorney general in 1970 and was re-elected twice, serving from 1971-83. He was often called a protege of former Vice President and Minnesota Attorney General Walter Mondale.

We in the newspaper field owe a special debt to Spannaus and the work he engineered on strengthening the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. He helped write legislation that stated any gathering of a quorum of a governmental unit must be open to the public.



Spannaus

Prior to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law new legislation adopted in the early 1970s, it was easy and convenient for many elected officials to conduct business over the telephone, or to meet at a local coffee shop and discuss public business. Spannaus helped end that temptation.

Since the adoption of a strong Open Meeting Law, changes have been made but thanks to strong support of the Minnesota Newspaper Association (MNA) and its attorney Mark Anfinson, the public’s right to know has been protected by a powerful open meeting law.

A ruling of the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2001 sent a message to all office holders who believed in using the attorney-client privilege to conduct secret meetings.

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that the Prior Lake City Council illegally closed a meeting to discuss with its attorney threatened legal action on an upcoming zoning decision. The state Supreme Court criticized the governmental body with abuse of the attorney-client privilege.

The key word here is “threatened.” Governmental units may close a meeting to the public if litigation is ongoing. A record of those meetings must be kept and released at a later time.

The public has a right to know and is best served by its elected office holders when they conduct public business in open meetings.

A public meeting is when proper notice is given in advance of the meeting. The public may attend and observe, and relevant materials must be available to the public.

The Minnesota Supreme Court has also articulated three purposes of the open meeting law:

- To prohibit actions being taken at a secret meeting where it is impossible for the interested public to become fully informed about a public board’s decisions or to detect improper influences.
- To assure the public’s right to be informed.
- To afford the public an opportunity to present its views to the public body.

Minnesota’s open meeting law is very strong in its language citing penalties if violated. A civil penalty of up to \$300 can be imposed for intentional violation.

A person who is found to have intentionally violated the law in three or more legal actions involving the same governmental body forfeits the right to serve on that body for a time equal to the term the person was serving.

A strong open meeting law not only protects the public’s right to know, but it also gives public officials the credibility of having followed the law.

It is gratifying to know that most local units of government are up to date on their knowledge of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law and its provisions. A strong open meeting law assures an informed electorate with most meetings being conducted in public.

Former Attorney General Spannaus was also known as a strong supporter of pushing the state’s landmark gun law in 1975, requiring waiting periods and background checks.

Warren Spannaus was a strong believer in protecting the citizens of the state by helping create and by helping monitor effective legislation.

Our state can definitely be proud of being a pioneer in building a strong open meeting law. Thanks, Warren Spannaus.

LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net. Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words. The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.



The best gift of all

Creative sentence gives man a second chance

The grisly case of a man burned up in a vehicle and left for dead in a soybean field outside of Owatonna more than a year ago has finally come to a conclusion with an unusual twist.

A few weeks ago Peter Escobar, 25, of Albert Lea received an interesting sentence for the death of Herman Hernandez, 64, also of Albert Lea, from October 2016. Steele County Judge Joseph Bueltel gave Escobar a staggered sentence for the next three years on the anniversary of the horrible tragedy.

Escobar will be required to serve three 120-day terms. However, the judge gave Escobar the chance to wipe away two of the terms in the second and third years if he shows that he is sober and compliant with probation.

To help maintain compliancy, Escobar will be subject to electronic home monitoring at his expense as well as the Ignition Interlock program, which is a device installed in a vehicle where the driver must blow into a tube before starting out.

While at first glance it may seem as if Escobar is getting off lightly, it’s a sentence that deserves a chance to see if he takes advantage of making some life changes. I commend Judge Bueltel, and other court officials involved in this case, for thinking outside the box when it comes to rehabilitation. In many ways, Escobar is getting a second chance.

As a back up, Escobar will have a five-year prison sentence hanging over his head if he doesn’t comply.

From the start, this case has been a real unfortunate set of circumstances for all those involved.

Escobar got drunk at the Nasty Habit Bar in Albert Lea on a Sunday afternoon while watching the Minnesota Vikings (they lost 21-10 to Philadelphia that day). A pitcher of beer, shots and a liter of Gin were all, or at least partially consumed by Escobar before he got behind the wheel with Hernandez in the passenger’s seat.

For some reason the pair decided to travel more than 30 miles away to Owatonna where Escobar drove into a soybean field and the vehicle caught fire. Escobar took off running and left Hernandez passed out in the front seat. By the time emergency personnel arrived, the vehicle was engulfed in flames and there was no hope of saving Hernandez,

which they didn’t even know he was in the car until the flames were extinguished.

How or why Escobar and Hernandez connected that afternoon remains a mystery. Escobar said

he blacked out and doesn’t remember anything after drinking at the bar.

“I don’t have a good sense of how they hit the road together,” said Steele County Attorney Daniel McIntosh, who prosecuted the case against Escobar. “I don’t know why they came up here,” he said, noting Escobar did not remember many details surrounding the tragedy.

McIntosh said this case

once again points to the devastating impact of drunk driving. “This is one of the examples we get from very poor decision making,” he said.

Partial blame for this tragedy can also be cast on the victim. “A large chunk of crime victims are under the influence,” McIntosh points out. “It makes them more susceptible to something happening.”

As for the creative sentence, McIntosh credits Hernandez’s family with having input on the outcome. “They had a lot of say in how it came out,” McIntosh said.

The county attorney admits the sentence deviates from the norm of what is usually given out in these types of cases. “We’re always open to finding the best way of punishment and rehabilitation,” McIntosh said. “We hope it never happens again. We want to make sure we change the behavior for the long term so he doesn’t pose a risk again.”

With divulging the results of a chemical dependency evaluation completed on Escobar prior to sentencing, McIntosh said alcohol played a role in his background. “It was my conclusion he had a problem with alcohol, though nothing ever came out before in criminal behavior,” he said. Escobar had no criminal history prior to this criminal vehicular homicide.

“There is hope that there will be long term changes,” McIntosh said.

Let’s hope Escobar takes advantage of Judge Bueltel’s creative sentence and goes in hot pursuit of staying sober.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

YOUR VIEW

Support those that support you

To-the-Editor:

Shopping "local" is important not to just the retailers in your town, but it’s critical to your community as well.

By shopping locally, you are not only helping keep your retail community strong and vibrant - you are also helping to create and keep jobs in your community...your tax dollars are staying local, and possibly most importantly, by shopping local you are allowing these small stores in our community (and many towns like us) to continue to support the things we care about.

Think about it – when you’re looking for donations for your silent/live auctions, or fundraising and donations for sports, and music programs – the ones that you often reach out to first are your local retail businesses and not the large big-box stores or the ones at the mega malls shoppers often frequent. These

Stunning job on Owatonna championship coverage

To-the-Editor:

I get my paper in the afternoon mail on Wednesday and this week I had to take a LONG break from my decorating to get it all read. Good work.

You did a stunning job on the Owatonna championship story (Nov. 28 edition). Your special section was very good and I am sure it will be saved by many, many people. The great thing about newspapers is that they can be kept and treasured.

Be of good cheer.

Jan Tippet
Owatonna

Fox in charge of the chicken house in Dodge County

To-the-Editor:

Wake up, Dodge County! The County scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 1 p.m. to make significant changes to the local Ordinance. These changes do not benefit the citizens of Dodge County – they are designed to benefit large factory farm operators and the industry. Proposed changes will streamline and make it easy to dump a factory farm on every corner of Dodge County.

For years, the Dodge County Planning Commission, which

SEE **SUPPORT, A3**

SEE **FOX, A3**

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FEEDLOT: Group hopes to block proposed hog operation in Ripley Township

FROM PAGE A1

utilizing the number of hog units, the minimum acreage needed for the feedlot would be 72 acres.

The showdown will involve something that Westfield Township has never had. Unlike Westfield, Ripley Township has planning and zoning control at the township level. The Langdons are asking for a variance from the current planning and zoning.

In their application dated July 2 to the township, the Langdons pointed out that Ripley Township did not have any feedlot ordinance in place when they bought the property in 2005. “With the creation of the Ripley Township ordinance, it made our property non-compliant,” they wrote in their application.

The proposed barn would house a manure pit located beneath the animals to hold over 12 months of storage, according to the Langdons. They claim the project would comply with all MPCA rules as well as all state, county and township rules. The MPCA would issue a feedlot permit.

“Ripley Township is an agriculture township,” the Langdons wrote in their application. “This project is consistent with the agriculture values of Minnesota and of Ripley Township.”

Dodge County Concerned Citizens group is at the forefront of blocking the proposed feedlot. “My family and other neighbors will have to smell the stench and environmental consequences from yet another factory farm while the owner lives miles away,” said Sonja Trom Eayrs, a member of DCCC. Her father, Lowell Trom, lives about a mile away from the proposed feedlot.

“If this factory farm is permitted, our farm will be surrounded by 12 swine factory farms in a three mile radius,” Trom Eayrs said, noting the manure storage facility would hold more than 1.1 million gallons of manure that will be spread on the land.

Trom Eayrs serves on a factory farm panel that is touring the state and other areas throughout the

Midwest. “Installation of yet another swine factory farm in the immediate area is nothing more than payback in an effort to silence our voices,” she said.

In 2003, residents in Ripley Township banded together to fight installation of what was then the largest dairy operation of 3,000 cows in the state by a New Jersey investment firm. Residents adopted local planning and zoning and were successful in fighting off installation of the dairy operation.

Thirty-one of 108 registered voters in Ripley came out to the 2003 meeting calling for a moratorium on unwanted development until proper planning could be put in place.

Land Stewardship Project assisted in the battle as concern mounted about the impact such a huge operation would have on the community and the environment. Local citizens were successful in keeping the dairy operation away.

“Now, big ag is trying to challenge and threaten the local planning and zoning protections that were put in place nearly 14 years ago,” Trom Eayrs said. She noted the proposed feedlot exceeds the limits established in Ripley Township years ago.

“Big ag flexed their big muscles back in 2003 and sent corporate executives to little Ripley Township to intimidate the local citizens,” Trom Eayrs said. “It didn’t work then and it shouldn’t work now,” she added.

Letters have been sent to Ripley Township officials regarding the latest proposal and urging them to vote no on the CUP.

“It is time to put the brakes on this runaway

PROPOSED FEEDLOT HEARING

Ripley Town Hall
67019 130th Ave.
Claremont
Wednesday at 7 p.m.

agri-business express,” wrote Herman Beede, a member of DCCC. “It is time to look back at the pollution and habitat destruction in the wake of this industry including the depletion of small town economies.”

Beede pointed out that with the help of the Izaak Walton League, the tributaries of the Cedar River in Dodge County were tested and came back with “shocking” results. The highest results, he said, were at County Road 2 bridge on the Cedar River with 63 ecoli. He added three ecoli is enough to close a public beach.

Jessica and Erik Brekke live near the proposed site of the “Langdon mega-hog” operation. They have two daughters with asthma. “We are concerned about air quality for them, as well as for our other three children,” they wrote to the township. “There are days when I feel it is unsafe for them to play outdoors.”

The Brekkes added, “I do not understand why someone living miles away has the nerve to pollute the water and air in a township he doesn’t even live in.”

Rev. Charles Leonard, who once served as senior pastor at a church in nearby Blooming Prairie and now in Rochester, wrote to the township conveying his “great concern for the continued approval and construction” of confined hog facilities in Dodge County.

“I believe the public good is being compromised with an over concentration of hog facilities,” Rev. Leonard said. “These concentrated pork facilities will be exposed in the future as the primary contributors to soil and ground water contamination from over exposure to animal waste, but also the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues.”

Leonard urged township officials to think deeply about such ordinances and the purpose. “Please use caution and restrict further approvals of hog production facilities that ignore the ground rules for the common good,” he said.

SUPPORT:

Shop local

FROM PAGE A2

local businesses are the ones that helped fund and sponsor your teams, events and non-profit organizations. These businesses do it because it’s good for their community, because they want to see these groups succeed and flourish, and because they want to help our friends, neighbors and communities remain strong.

These businesses are choosing to donate their own dollars, merchandise, and services to people like you to help support the things you care about, because they care also. By choosing to shop local you not only are reinvesting in your community, you are also saying “thank you” for what these businesses have done, and continue to do, as they partner alongside you on the things you care most about.

Choosing to shop local this holiday season (and throughout the year) is your opportunity to support those that support you.

Matt Kottke
Owatonna

LEARNING: Kids take classroom to Washington D.C.



Michelle Southworth **Ryan Slack** **Adam Walsh** **Colin Jordison** **Josie Lorenz** **Adrianna Bermee** **Allison Krohnberg** **Reese Millam**

FROM PAGE A1

guides from World Classroom were outstanding,” Southworth said.

Students paid their own trip costs. No special fundraising was done but that might be a consideration if another trip is planned for the future, Southworth and Slack said.

Parental chaperones on

the trip were: Bill Walsh, Lori Jordison, Mary Kittelson, Karla Stender, Mary Donnelly and Jennifer Kelner.

The student roster as to who made the Washington, D.C. trip included: Tenth graders Colton Krell, Adam Larson, Jack Matson, Jacob McHenry, Alexis Olivo, D. J. Stender and Kaden Thomas;

Ninth graders Adrianna Bermee, Isabel Burke,

Tommy Donnelly, Cole Graves, Dylan Johnson, Anna Kittelson, Allison Krohnberg, Reese Millam, Mariah Miller, Joe PirkI, Halle Strunk, Greta Sunde and Kiya Thompson;

Eighth graders Ethan Ehlers, Tyler Iverson, Colin Jordison, Drew Kittelson, Josie Lorenz, Gustaof Ogren, Lauren Schammel, Bradley Simon and Melanie Winzenburg.

Josie Lorenz: “I learned more about the Holocaust and this had a big impact on me.”

Adrianna Bermee: “I liked the World War II Memorial because my great grandfather, Marv Stark, was in World War II.”

Allison Krohnberg: “I liked the Holocaust Museum and seeing all of the artifacts tracing history. It left me speechless.”

Reese Millam: “We had the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress and that was a highlight for me. Washington is so gorgeous and real pretty.”

ATTACK: Teen certified as adult

FROM PAGE A1

the bedroom, the victim said some of the clothing she had been wearing to bed had been cut or ripped. She also indicated she did not really understand what had happened.

While the victim thought she forgot to lock the house, she found cash missing from her purse. She told police she takes sleeping pills and is a “very heavy sleeper.”

Even though police collected evidence at the scene, the case stalled for a couple months as investigators didn’t really have anything to pursue.



Adams

A major break came on Aug. 30 when Adams was arrested for a different burglary in Owatonna. Detectives seized a pair of cell phones that were recovered during his arrest. Detectives executed a search warrant on the phones and began reviewing photographs stored in the cell phone’s photo gallery. Police found a video that depicted a credit card belonging to the victim from the July incident. They also found a sexually-explicit photograph of the victim, along with what appeared to be images of cut clothing.

Based on the evidence found in the phone, police now began treating the case as a sexual assault. The images found on the phone were created between 1:14 and 3:23 a.m. on July 18. During one of the videos located, the victim’s face is shown, and it appears she is sleeping.

One of the photographs also revealed a distinguishing scar from Adams. During an

interview with police, Adams had the same triangle-shaped scar on his left thumb that had been found on a photo. Adams implicated himself in several area burglaries when

“It’s a shocking one... It’s pretty bold going into houses.”

Daniel McIntosh

Steele County Attorney

talking to police, court records show.

Regarding the July 18 incident, Adams admitted to going into the apartment and finding a

woman sleeping, according to the criminal complaint. He told police he sexually assaulted her, and that she never woke up during the attack, the complaint said. He also said he videotaped the event on his cell phone and watched it at a later time.

The second incident happened on Aug. 16 when officers took a report of a burglary-in-progress on Ridge Road NE. The homeowner reported someone was inside the daughter’s bedroom. The teenage daughter reported she woke up after finding a man touching her body in her bedroom. He took off before police arrived.

“It’s pretty bold going into houses,” McIntosh said, noting there are likely other houses Adams entered, but they don’t have victims at this time.

As far as the first incident, McIntosh said the suspect’s own video allowed police to track down what exactly happened. “Without the video, the woman would have been left with the feeling something happened,” he said, adding nobody would have ever known for sure.

MUNDY: Believer in heavy metal

FROM PAGE A1

Blooming Prairie. Mundy worked for PAL’s Machining of Owatonna for 18 years, then decided to take a year off. He sold used cars in Dodge Center for that year.

Heimerman contacted Mundy a year to the date Mundy began his hiatus from machining work. Mundy rented a building owned by Heimerman and eventually purchased it to start his own company.

“The community of Blooming Prairie has lost a great businessman and we thank his family for sharing him with our community,” stated Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Becky Noble.

Mundy sold Heavy Metal to Jason and Aaron Loucks last October.

Much of Heavy Metal’s work goes to local businesses like Minimizer, Metal Services, Tandem Products, Bio-Plastic Solutions, Sputtering Components and Spray Control. Heavy Metal also does considerable work for McNeilus Trucking in Dodge Center. Heavy Metal does CNC (Computer Numeric Control) turning and milling.

Mundy’s company name comes from his love of music. He played bass guitar and sang in a rock’n roll band of four called The G Monkeys. He attended Winona State University on a vocal scholarship.

A large display showing a unique metal design with a guitar mounted next to it can be seen in the Heavy Metal office.

One of the most popular items crafted at Heavy Metal is an Olympic weight bar used on exercise machines. The company sold over 8,000 nationwide two years ago.

Some of Heavy Metal’s clients include Major League Baseball and National Football League teams. Heavy Metal has done work for the Toronto Blue Jays, Chicago White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers. Orders have also gone out to the University of Tennessee football team and to Pepperdine University in California.

Team logos are printed on the weight lifting bars. “We don’t sell anything out of here with our name on it,” Mundy once said.

Mundy was always complimentary to the city of Blooming Prairie as to how it caters to manufacturers. In early October, Mundy received a certificate of recognition at a Manufacturers Week luncheon at the Blooming Prairie City Center. BP Mayor H. Peterson presented the certificate to Mundy.

The Mundy family created a Caring Bridge web page

soon after he began treatments for his cancer condition. The site provides a brief synopsis of Tyler Mundy’s journey battling cancer.

In January of 2016, Mundy first began noticing rib and sternum pain that seemed to migrate. After multiple tests, lab draws and consults, the diagnosis was Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer that develops in the bone marrow.

The Myeloma lesions in his bones weakened them, allowing them to fracture easily.

Over the summer of 2016, Mundy received chemotherapy. After a successful summer of chemo, he was placed in stem cell transplant treatment. Treatment continued at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to the present time.

Tyler Mundy is survived by his wife Heather and by three children, Katelyn, Breanna and Caleb, all of Kasson.

Other survivors include: mother, Linda (Dale) Ulve of Kasson; father, Larry (Carol) Mundy of Dodge Center; sister, Tiffani (Jason) Dover; nephews, Mack and Creeden of Rochester; step-brother, Jeff Ulve of Kasson; maternal grandmother, Marylss Thompson of Hayfield and a host of other family and friends. Tyler was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Sam Thompson; paternal grandparents, Carol and Albert Mundy and by his uncle, Bruce Mundy.

To honor his memory and character, in lieu of donations to family, the family requested using a gift to be a blessing to someone else.

The family expressed its wishes in an obituary notice: “The next time you’re in a drive through, restaurant, gas station, or anywhere, bless someone else and pay it forward in Tyler’s memory.”

Mundy was born May 20, 1973, in Rochester to Larry Mundy and Linda (Thompson) Mundy. He was a 1991 graduate of Hayfield High School and went on to attend Winona State University and Riverland Community College in Austin.

Tyler and Heather Dunn were married on Feb. 8, 2008 in Lake Geneva, Wis.

A memorial service was held Saturday at Community Celebration Church in Kasson. Pastor Steve Larson officiated at the memorial service. A private family interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield.

Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes of Hayfield handled the arrangements.

FOX: In charge of chicken house

FROM PAGE A2

approves factory farms, has been populated and re-populated by registered feedlot operators. These are not elected positions – members are appointed by the County Commissioners. Openings on the Planning Commission are never posted in the newspaper. Only the “1 percent club” of factory farm operators learn of openings and get their friends and relatives appointed to these positions. The fox has been in charge of the chicken house for years in Dodge County.

The County proposes to strip out term limits for members of the Planning Commission. Currently, members serve for a maximum of six years. Without term limits, the 1 percent club will serve indefinitely at the pleasure of the County Board.

The County also proposes to change the rules regarding the calling of a special meeting. This tactic was used to approve the 11th swine factory farm near our farm in rural Dodge County in December 2014. We were blind-sided and received less than 10 days’ notice that a special meeting had been called to approve yet another swine factory farm. If they pass this provision, citizens will have to watch the Planning Commission and the County Board like chicken hawks. NIMBY: Next it might be you!

The proposed Ordinance also strips out requirements that a proposed variance consider the health or safety of persons; that a proposed variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the area; and that the proposed variance will not

adversely affect the environmental quality of the area.

Finally, the proposed Ordinance changes the rules regarding permits for a new animal feedlot or modification of an existing animal feedlot. It only requires the applicant to obtain local permits before issuing a Conditional Use Permit. This is in response to data gathered by Dodge County Concerned Citizens.

We caught the industry folks with their pants down. Of the 234 registered feedlots in Dodge County, only six had a water appropriation permit from the Minnesota DNR. Minnesota law requires a water appropriation permit for all users drawing more than 1 million gallons of water per year. These heavy water users are stripping our aquifers. And, they’re returning the water contaminated. Again, of the 234 registered feedlots in Dodge County, only 37 had a manure management plan on file with the County. Minnesota law requires the filing of a manure management plan for all feedlots capable of holding more than 300 animal units.

Wait. It gets better. Another swine factory farm is proposed just one mile from our farm – the 12th in a 3-mile radius. A public hearing is scheduled at the Ripley Town Hall on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Dodge County residents are being stepped on by large corporate interests who are trying to run the county. Residents, it’s time to take back control and voice your concerns. Silence is acceptance!

Sonja Trom Eayrs
Dodge County
Concerned Citizens

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Crash: On Nov. 26 at 2:42 p.m., a trailer with a horse in it came off a hitch and rolled at 650th St. and 210th Ave. in Dodge Center. Deputies responded and found the driver and horse were OK.

CRIME BRIEFS

Hard landing into cement fixtures produces charges for driver



Zvorak
A driver believed to be getting an early jump on the Thanksgiving holiday crashed his vehicle into cement barriers and ended up in jail on various charges. On Thanksgiving morning, Owatonna Police arrested Devin Zvorak of Owatonna after he crashed his vehicle at Federated Insurance, ATA Building in the downtown area. He has been charged with first-degree criminal damage to property and second-degree DWI-refusal. According to police, Zvorak steered away from

the parking lot, increased speed and crashed into two cement light fixtures. The impact stopped his full size truck from making entrance into the building. After the crash, Zvorak flagged down a state trooper in the parking lot. Once Owatonna Police arrived, Zvorak allegedly told officers, “Take me to jail.” The officer noticed Zvorak was obviously impaired, and he refused to do standardized field tests, police said. Zvorak gave officers a preliminary breath test, which showed his alcohol level to be .255, more than three times the legal limit. He later refused to provide a breath test. Zvorak has one prior DWI from a year ago.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 20 – 24 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: Cassandra S. Britt, 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony offering a forged check – aid and abet. She was sentenced to \$381, 14 days in county jail, gambling assessment, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation. Robert L. Hagmann, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. Hagmann was sentenced to \$2,309.85, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 4 years of supervised probation. Manuel D. Ramirez, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony robbery. The defendant was sentenced to \$381, 250 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 80 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. Brian J. Wilkie, 39, Medford, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. Wilkie was sentenced to \$131 and 35 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the weeks of Nov. 20 – 24:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Maryvee L. Colbert, 33, Forest Lake, revoked license and no insurance, \$481. MN State Patrol Rochester Jacob T. Harlicker, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jason K. Heiser, 43, Afton, move over law violation, \$131; Tee R. Htay, 34, Austin, following vehicle too closely, \$131; James R. Nelson, 74, Hayfield, speeding, \$121; Anna M. Newhouse, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael E. Olmsted, 51, Austin, speeding, \$121; Cody J. Thibodeau, 20, Faribault, speeding and possession of marijuana, \$191.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Heather A. Bolinger, 37, Kenyon, revoked license, \$281; Naomi B. Burke, 20, Northfield, minor consumption, \$181; Nicholas L. Cain, 26, Owatonna, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jose A. Carrillo, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Jackson B. Cline, 18, Walnut Grove, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81,

1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, obtain GED, no contact with co-defendant, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Maria H. Dominguez Mendez, 27, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device and suspended license, \$331; Patrick A. Dooley, 19, Austin, minor consumption, \$181; Mark R. Erschens, 52, Sioux Falls, SD, DWI, \$915.81, 30 days in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 240 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Lindsay K. Falvey, 25, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Virginia A. Flores, 23, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Mariselda Garza, 46, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Tywanda L. Johnson, 20, Faribault, assault, \$131 and 7 days in county jail; Willard F. Klinger, 61, Waseca, DWI, \$381, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 216 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Jose B. Martinez, 26, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Lacey B. Wellentin, 33, Faribault, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$81, 26 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Nicklaus M. Brown, 19, Alexandria, minor consumption, \$181; Kari S. Bunkers, 56, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Sarah K. Cottier, 22, speeding, \$141; Tawna M. Johnson, 42, Owatonna, revoked license and seat belt, \$306; Theresa E. Kuntze, 42, Medford, speeding, \$141; Victor D. Mrotz, 55, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Cordell M. Peterson, 19, Waseca, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance crime, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Matthew R. Phillips, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Steven A. Resler, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Stephen J. Smitley, 44, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121; Kyle O. Sprecher, 55, Houston, TX, speeding, \$121; Sonia Valdez Alvarez, 34, Austin, no license and speeding, \$241.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

STEELE BLOTTER OWATONNA POLICE
Nov. 22
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Allan Ave. N. at 1:16 a.m. **Medical:** Paramedics and officers responded to a medical emergency in the 300 block of

Embezzlement scheme yields a guilty plea from Times business manager

More than a year after an on-going embezzlement scheme came to light, the former business manager for the Steele County Times has admitted her involvement. Kimberly Kay Hammer, 54, of Clarks Grove pleaded guilty to a single felony count of theft in Steele County District Court on Nov. 21 during a court settlement hearing. Judge Karen Duncan will sentence Hammer on Jan. 25. She faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.



Hammer
The embezzlement took place while Hammer was employed at the Times from February to October 2016. The loss to the company was about \$15,000 in addition to other expenses incurred as a result of trying to get dug out from the embezzlement, according to Rick Bussler, publisher of the Times. An investigation by Blooming Prairie Police found that Hammer wrote duplicate paychecks to herself during

multiple pay periods. The investigation also found she issued many checks to either petty cash or herself, and she kept the cash. The checks ranged from \$75 to \$700. Court documents revealed that Hammer altered multiple deposit slips to cover up the double paychecks. The embezzlement was linked solely to payroll and petty cash, and not client accounts, Bussler noted. Once the embezzlement was detected, Hammer was fired from her job.

Freeborn sheriff's office joins premier program designed to protect children

The Freeborn County Sheriff's Office has become the third law enforcement agency in Minnesota to join a premier program designed to protect children. Sheriff Kurt Freitag said his office has become a member of the Missing Kids Readiness program developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The program promotes best practices for responding to calls of missing, abducted and sexually exploited children.

In order to meet the requirements of the program, the Freeborn sheriff's office worked with NCMEC on its missing child policy to ensure it met the critical elements of NCMEC's model policy for law agencies. Freitag attended the Missing Children Seminar for chief executives held at NCMEC headquarters in Alexandria, Va. By demonstrating remarkable leadership and making this commitment of training and preparedness, the Freeborn sheriff's office is communicating to its citizens

and families that protecting the lives and safety of children is a top priority. Armed with information, knowledge and operational resources gained through the program, sheriff's deputies are now positioned to respond more quickly, comprehensively and effectively when a child's life may be at stake. Dodge County also joined the program earlier this year. There are just 47 agencies nationwide who have achieved this status.

School St. E. at 11:18 a.m. **Arrest:** At 8:08 p.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Interstate 35 southbound and Hoffman Dr. NW.

Nov. 23
Drunken Driving: Officer made DWI arrests in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:35 a.m. and the 1900 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:36 a.m. **Death:** Police began a death investigation in the 100 block of 24th St. NE at 2:17 a.m. **Theft:** Officers received information regarding a stolen vehicle from the 300 block of Arglen Dr. NW at 12:56 p.m. **Disturbance:** At 7:53 p.m., officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE. **Runaway:** Police assisted with a runaway in the 200 block of Mill St. W. at 8:15 p.m.

Nov. 24
Assault: Officers arrested a subject following an assault in the 1900 block of 4th Ave. SE at 1:12 a.m. **Child Protection:** Police received a child protection report from the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 10:34 a.m. **Shoplifting:** At 4:15 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Welfare:** Officer completed a welfare check in the 400 block of Fairview Ave. NW at 7:22 p.m. **Criminal Sexual:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 300 block of Plainview St. SW at 9:10 p.m. **Disturbance:** At 11:06 p.m., officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Northview St. SW. They took a subject into custody.

Nov. 25
DWI: Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 1:07 a.m. **Domestic:** At 6:36 a.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Rose St. E. They made an arrest at the scene. **Shoplifting:** Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:07 a.m. **Burglary:** Police began a burglary investigation in the 1000 block of 28th Ave. NW at 9:37 a.m.

Nov. 26
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 12:57 a.m. They took a subject into custody at the scene. **Burglary:** At 7:08 a.m., officers arrested a subject for burglary in the 200 block of Elm Ave. N. **Shoplifting:** A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:24 p.m. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 3:49 p.m. **Suspicion:** Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of Woodland Dr. SE at 4:11 p.m.

Nov. 27
Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 200 block of Elm Ave. N. at 12:48 p.m., the 300

block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 1:17 p.m. and 1:52 p.m., the 400 block of Grove Ave. N. at 3:19 p.m. and the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:06 p.m. **Assault:** At 2:53 p.m., officers responded to an assault in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. They issued a citation. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 1100 block of 14th St. SE at 3:38 p.m. **Juvenile:** Police received a juvenile complaint from the 700 block of Academy St. E. at 4:18 p.m. **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:39 p.m. **Nov. 28**
Burglary: Officers arrested a subject for burglary in the 1100 block of 18th St. SE at 2:25 a.m. **Burglaries:** Police responded to burglaries in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. at 3:40 a.m. and the 1300 block of Cottage Lane SE at 3:46 a.m. **Arrest:** Officer assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 10:08 a.m. **Theft:** Police received a theft report from the 1300 block of Clover Lane SE at 11:10 a.m. **Search Warrant:** Police executed a search warrant in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:13 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene. **Warrant:** Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:20 p.m.

Nov. 29
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:05 a.m. They arrested a subject. **Theft:** At 12:46 p.m., a theft occurred in the 500 block of State Ave. NW. **Fight:** Officers responded to a fight in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:39 p.m. **Shoplifting:** At 1:57 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Trespassing:** Police responded to a subject trespassing in the 500 block of Cindy Lane SW at 6:31 p.m. **Welfare:** Officer completed a welfare check in the 1900 block of 4th Ave. SE at 11:45 p.m.

ARREST Steele County

STEELE ARRESTS OWATONNA POLICE
Devin D. Zvorak, 22, arrested at 8:49 a.m. Nov. 23, DWI-refusal, held for court. **Tyrese Albert Johnson**, 24, arrested at 2:43 a.m. Nov. 24, felony domestic assault, assault, interference with 911 and terroristic threats, held for court. **Martin Donte Carter**, 33, arrested at 4:49 p.m. Nov. 25, domestic assault and assault, held for court. **Cody Allen Fonner**, 23, arrested Nov. 25, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Robert Lynn Hagman**, 37, arrested at 8:37 a.m. Nov. 26, felony burglary, held for court. **Jacob Skyler Farless**, 25, arrested at 2 p.m. Nov. 27, theft, held for court.

Derrick Scott Butson, 24, arrested at 2:35 a.m. Nov. 28, felony burglary and possession of burglary tools, held for court. **Douglas Wayne Seidel**, 29, arrested at 9 a.m. Nov. 30, warrant arrest, held for court. **Jacob Norman Kerska**, 27, arrested at 2:11 p.m. Nov. 30, warrant arrest, \$300 bail. **Derek Randall Waasdorp**, 32, arrested Dec. 1, DWI-test refusal, held for court. **Steele County Sheriff James Warren Woosley**, 39, arrested at 2:15 p.m. Nov. 22, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail. **Alexander James Van Bogart**, 22, arrested at 4:38 a.m. Nov. 25, assault and fleeing, held for court. **Patrick Wayne Pexa**, 35, arrested at 2:25 p.m. Nov. 27, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail. **Martin Donte Carter**, 33, arrested at 1:36 p.m. Nov. 28, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Dustin Lee Gerholdt**, 31, arrested at 9:38 a.m. Nov. 28, warrant arrest, \$300 bail. **Frank Edward Henry Jr.**, 30, arrested at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 28, warrant arrest, held for court. **Jessica Linn Alwes**, 26, arrested at 2:21 p.m. Nov. 28, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Brady Lee Edwards Jr.**, 28, arrested at 1 p.m. Nov. 28, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 20 – 27:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Joshua P. Bartels, 23, Lake Elmo, unreasonable acceleration, \$100; Karlyn M. Brewington, 35, Kasson, DWI, \$580, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Sheila B. Hatfield, 28, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Travis W. Jackson, 38, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Dylan J. Miner, 20, Hayfield, failure to yield, \$130; Nicole L. Riker, 22, Mantorville, DWI, \$580, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Trevor R. White III, 29, West Concord, revoked license and no insurance, \$480.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Paige E. Demmer, 23, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Shantel R. Hrtanek, 30, Sergeant, seat belt, \$105; Gary M. Mount, 39, Kasson, invalid license, \$180; Patrick J. Stehley, 31, Rochester, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; Nathan D. Witzel, 57, Kasson, revoked license and no insurance, \$480.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Alan G. Thiemann, 56, Dodge Center, burning prohibited ma-

terials, \$280. **MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**
Elizabeth L. Blanck, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Tyler J. Busch, 25, New Prague, speeding, \$120; Kristi D. Dick, 43, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Rachel R. Dublin, 37, Brownsdale, speeding, \$120; Harvey J. Edel, 86, Kilkenny, passing parked emergency vehicle, \$130; Hazim A. Ismail, 33, Rochester, speeding and permit violation, \$190; Ryan W. Slack, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$120. **West Concord Police Department Douglas E. Espenson**, 54, West Concord, cancelled license and ignition interlock violation, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 197 complaints during the week of Nov. 22 – 28. Some of them include: **Nov. 22**
Suspicion: Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious male sleeping in a car in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield at 8:11 a.m. **Fire:** At 5:53 p.m., cornstalks caught on fire in a ditch and field at 160th St. and 610th St. in Claremont. **Noise:** Deputies received a noise complaint from the 100 block of 3rd St. E. in Claremont at 8:27 p.m.

Nov. 23
Fire: Deputies found a brush fire in the 71500 block of 210th Ave. in Hayfield at 8:34 a.m. **Animal:** Deputy received a complaint of a horse on the road at 200th Ave. and 530th St. in West Concord at 4:32 p.m.

Nov. 24
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter between renters in the 500 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 1:07 p.m. **Fireworks:** Deputies received a fireworks complaint from the 55000 block of 200th Ave. in West Concord at 11:40 p.m.

Nov. 25
Fire: Deputies responded to a fire in the 21000 block of 602nd St. in Dodge Center at 5:58 a.m. **Disturbance:** At 1:12 p.m., a disturbance between a girlfriend and boyfriend occurred in the 200 block of 4th Ave. SE in Dodge Center. **Property Damage:** A Dodge Center resident reported at 4:20 p.m. that a vehicle drove through his fence in the last few days in the 20600 block of County Hwy. 34.

Nov. 26
Harassment: At 11:55 a.m., a Dodge Center woman reported receiving harassing phone calls and texts. **Larceny:** A vehicle was broken into in the 400 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 1:36 p.m. **Fire:** Deputies responded to a structure fire at U.S. Hwy. 14 and County Road 1 in Claremont at 4:45 p.m.



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Dear Struggling,

Money is often an issue for the millions of U.S. grandparents who are raising their grandchildren today. To help with the day-to-day expenses, there are a variety of government programs and tax benefits that can make a big difference in stretching your budget. Here's where to look for help.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For starters, find out whether your family qualifies for your state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which may include cash assistance, food stamps and free or low-cost daycare. Or, if your household income is too high to qualify as a family, ask about the "child-only grant" for just the grandchild's support alone. Also, find out if your state offers any additional programs like guardianship subsidies, non-parent grants or kinship care.

Contact your state TANF program (see ACF.HHS.gov/ofa for contact information), or call your county social services office for more information on these programs.

You also need to find out if your grandkids are eligible for Social Security, including benefits for children, survivor benefits or SSI. You can find this out at your local Social Security office, or call 800-772-1213 or visit SSA.gov.

And finally, use BenefitsCheckUp.org, a comprehensive website that lets you search for additional financial assistance programs that you may be eligible for, such as lower energy bills, discounts on prescription medications and more.

TAX BENEFITS

In addition to the financial assistance programs, there are also a number of tax benefits that may help you too like the Dependency Exemption, which allows you to deduct \$4,050 in 2107 on each qualifying grandchild.

Financial Help for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any financial assistance programs that can help grandparents who are raising their grandkids? I'm raising two grandchildren and could use some help.

Struggling Grandma

There's also the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC which is available to those with moderate to low incomes, or the Child Tax Credit if you make too much money to qualify for the EITC.

If you're working, and are incurring childcare expenses in order to work, there's a Child and Dependent Care Credit that can help. And, if you choose to legally adopt your grandkids, there's an Adoption Credit that provides a federal tax credit of up to \$13,570.

There are even education-related tax credits that can help your grandkids go to college, like the American Opportunity Tax Credit or the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit.

To learn more about these tax benefits call the IRS at 800-829-1040, or visit IRS.gov. You can also call the IRS publication line at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you the publications that further explain the aforementioned benefits. Ask for publications 501, 503, 596, 970, 972.

HEALTH INSURANCE

If your grandkids need health insurance, depending on your income level, you may be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through your state's Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. See InsureKidsNow.gov or call 877-543-7669 for more information.

LEGAL AID

You also need to talk to a family law attorney to discuss the pros and cons of obtaining legal guardianship, custody or adoption. Without some sort of legal custody, you may not be eligible for many of the previously listed financial assistance programs, and there can be problems with basic things like enrolling your grandkids in school, or giving a doctor permission to treat them. For help locating affordable or free legal assistance, visit www.FindLegalHelp.org, or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for referrals.

For more information and resources see the Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center at GrandFamilies.org.

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

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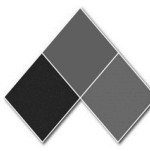
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OBITUARY

Tyler Thomas Mundy, 44
BP businessman



Tyler Thomas Mundy, 44, of Kasson, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017, at his home.

Tyler was born May 20, 1973, in Rochester to Larry Mundy and Linda (Thompson) Mundy. He was a 1991, graduate of Hayfield High School and went on to attend Winona State University and Riverland. Tyler worked as a machinist at PALS in Owatonna for 18 years before starting his own machine shop, Heavy Metal L.L.C. in Blooming Prairie.

On Feb. 8, 2008, he married Heather Dunn in Lake Geneva, Wis. Tyler and Heather loved taking small trips on their motorcycles together. Tyler had a passion for music, beginning with a vocal scholarship at Winona State and carrying on to various bands throughout the years, such as F'inderz Keeperz, G-Monkeys and Sunday mornings as part of the worship team at church.

Vacationing in Florida and game night with his family were an important part of his life. He was a generous, fun loving, kind, devoted and selfless man with a strong faith in Christ. Tyler is survived by his wife, Heather; children, Katelyn, Breanna and Caleb all of Kasson; mother, Linda (Dale) Ulve of Kasson; father, Larry (Carol) Mundy of Dodge Center; sister, Tiffani (Jason) Dover; nephews, Mack and Creeden of Rochester; step-brother, Jeff Ulve of Kasson; maternal grandmother, Marlyss Thompson of Hayfield and a host of other family and friends. Tyler was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Sam Thompson; paternal grandparents, Carol and Albert Mundy and by his uncle, Bruce Mundy.

Tyler was incredibly kind and generous. To honor his memory and character, in lieu of donations to us, please use that gift to be a blessing to someone else. The next time you're in a drive through, restaurant, gas station, or anywhere, bless someone else and pay it forward in Tyler's memory.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, at Community Celebration Church in Kasson. Pastor Steve Larson officiated and a private family interment was held at Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com. Blessed be his memory.

SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wednesday, Dec. 6
Soup, Crackers, Sandwich, Peace/Cottage Cheese, Apple Crisp

Thursday, Dec. 7
Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes/Grvy, Cranberry Sauce, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit Cup

Friday, Dec. 8
Spaghetti Pie, Green Beans, Waldorf Salad, Dinner Roll, Moon Cake

Monday, Dec. 11
Swiss Steak/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Romaine Salad, Ice Cream

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The first clue was another
year has come around; there
is a medallion to be found;
walk around town; look up
and look down.

Watch next week's edition
for the next clue.

Trent Swenson

Stirling Hart

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BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH

Blooming Prairie High School

Trent Swenson- Junior

The senior high student of the month is Trent Swenson, who is a junior. His favorite class is geographic perspectives. "Ms. Southworth is a fun teacher and makes class interesting," Swenson says.

Some comments from school staff include:

- "Trent does a great job modeling positive behaviors and body language. Trent almost always appears to be happy and accepts suggestions as a way to better himself or his environment. He addresses adults respectfully and does what's asked of him. He seems to accept peers for their positive qualities and doesn't belittle others."
- "Trent works hard in the classroom as well as his extra-curricular activities."
- Trent is one of the hardest working students I have in math class. He participates the most in his class and helps other students. He always uses good manners and seems appreciative of his education and for the things that others do for him."
- Trent is a great kid. He has good balance—he knows when to work and when he can have fun. I really enjoy teaching him as he is hard-working, kind and personable."

Swenson's special interests are football, basketball and baseball. He likes to hang out with friends and play lots of video games, including Call of Duty and Fortnite. He has one sibling, Lyia.

Stirling Hart- Seventh Grade

The junior high student of the month is Stirling Hart, who is in the seventh grade. His favorite class is band. "Mr. Reishus is a lot of fun, and he can play more songs than he thought he could on coronet," Hart says.

Some comments about Hart from staff include:

- "Stirling is very positive, friendly and polite in discussions. He is also a good leader in class and works hard to do his best every day."
- "Stirling is a great student who thinks outside the box and in depth. He is also a positive role model to others and an asset to our school environment."
- "Stirling is very deserving of being recognized for Prairie Pride! He is a student I can count on to follow directions, pay attention, be respectful, and do his very best on his work. Stirling has even offered to create an online version of an assignment to make it easier for the students and myself."

Hart's special interests are model building (mostly cars) and mountain biking. He has two cats, Henry and Grizzly, and two African clawed frogs, Ghost and Golden.

Congratulations, Trent and Stirling, on your awesome classroom accomplishments!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS	Steve Ille James Krejci Kinley Emanuel	John Fouarge James Konz
Dec. 5 Pat Smith Brandy Holmberg Scott Anderson	Dec. 10 Leanne Hanson Lucas Wallace Bill Schabert Keely Rose Winn Gabriel Thompson Cory Hendrickson Glen Valek Anneliese Koening Kelsey Sletten	ANNIVERSARIES
Dec. 6 Harriet Severson	Dec. 8 Delmar & Kristin Ehlers	Dec. 5 Joe & Sheena Marie Prizler
Dec. 7 Lance Lembke Roger L. Hanson Karen Kaplan Marilyn Heinz Kyle Rossow Mark Lembke	Dec. 10 Robert & Mary Olson	Dec. 8 Delmar & Kristin Ehlers
Dec. 8 Devin Thompson	Dec. 11 Susan Thorson Harlan Hinzmann Maurice Lembke Mike Jones	Dec. 11 Mike & Melissa Trihus
Dec. 9 Crystal Hammer Kevin Johnson Courtney Vermilyea	Dec. 12 Kristine Smith Joshua Jones	Dec. 12 Tom & Barbie Johnson Gwen & Gale Klinger

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PASTOR'S CORNER

The age of opinions



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We live in an age where people have been taught the tremendous lie that all people's opinions are as valid as everyone else's. What utter bologna!

The other day a teacher friend of mine was detailing how she had asked her class of third graders to send letters to their Congressperson damning nuclear power stations or demanding an end to GMOs. Those present praised this teacher for getting kids involved in the political process and standing up for doing the right thing. This got me pondering, "What on earth does a third grader know about

nuclear energy and GMOs?" People with doctorates in nuclear physics and chemistry have spent decades trying to decipher the ethical quandaries of these extremely complex problems.

Both sides of this debate have massive positives and negatives that need to be delicately considered before stating an opinion. Yet eight year olds are taught that they have such a magnificent opinion that it deserves serious consideration from members of government. They were taught to have an opinion before an education. This has created a generation of couch stationed revolutionaries who have created a medium for instant opinions (facebook, twitter, blogs, etc.) but abhor information that challenges their worldview.

As most have opinions before an education they are taught their opinions, by virtue of them simply having it,

are as valid as the next person's. Thus when they are confronted with facts that counteract their opinion they are confused on how to handle it. They believe their opinion is tied to their worth as an individual. So when confronted with a judgment based on facts their response is "I'm entitled to my opinion," even though their right to free speech was never in question.

This has resulted in people diminishing the work of experts who have spent their lives studying certain subjects so they can provide people with relevant information.

As a pastor and teacher people often wish to discuss their views on religion with me. But if I counteract their positions with factual information I have spent a lifetime studying, they are often offended I would dare challenge their opinion. A doctor friend recently

shared how much time she has to spend correcting people who feel their hours spent on Google somehow trumps her medical degree. This impacts lawyers, accountants, and other professionals who frequently have to argue with people, who believe their opinion is worth as much as someone else's education.

I have some bad news. You probably don't know as much as you think you do. But I have some good news; there are lots of people who are experts on a variety of subjects and they are very willing to educate. We are keepers of the age of information. We have a moral duty to make sure our fabulous access to education does not become a domain for opinions but for the betterment of mankind. Do something different, think and learn, before you speak and become educated before you have an opinion.

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 FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Jeff Sandgren, Interim Pastor Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor 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., Sergeant 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: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. 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.	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 morning service at 10:45 a.m. 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.destinyc.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	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.
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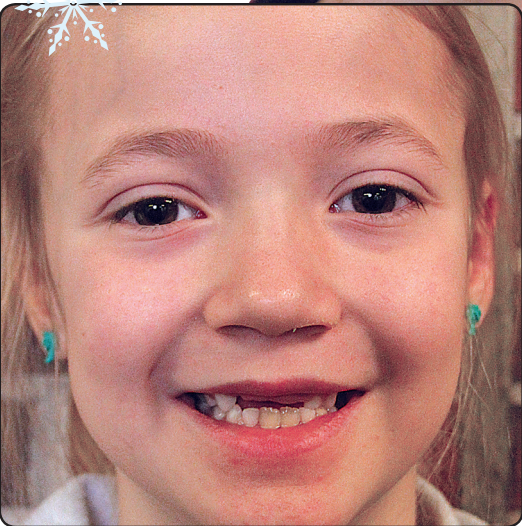
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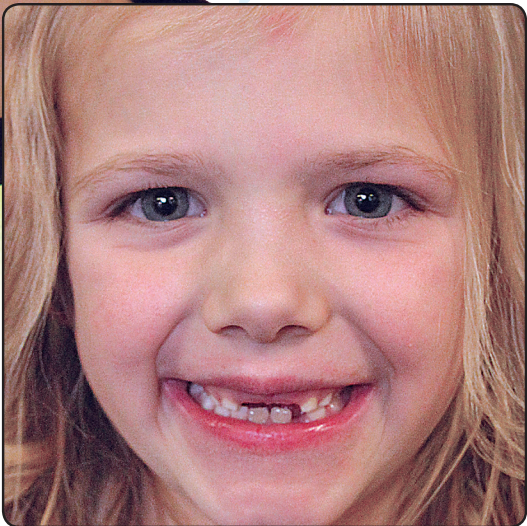
Aden Zirngible

All I want for Christmas is my 2 (or 3) front teeth...

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Addison Hjelmén



Cassidy Jones



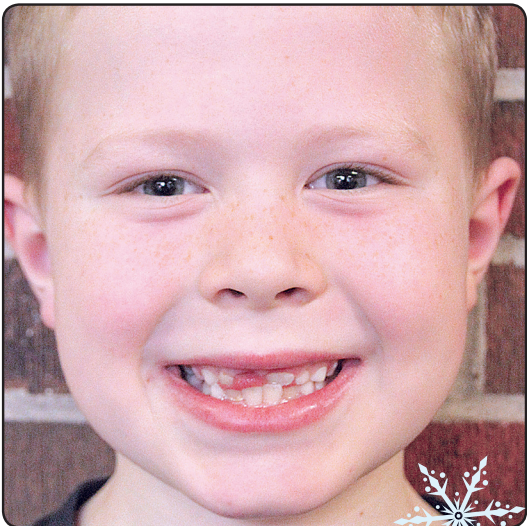
Aubree Johnson



Bella Schiller



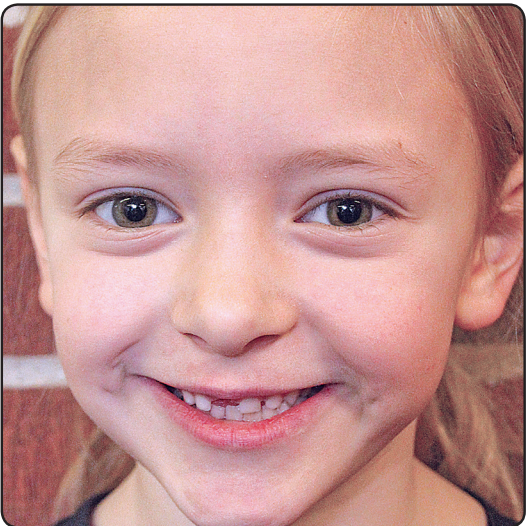
Claudia Miller



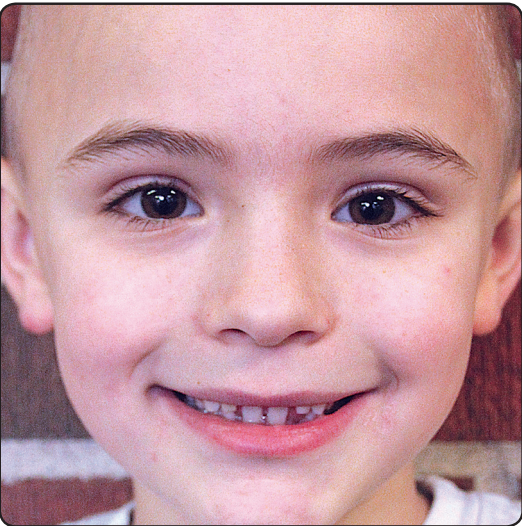
Elliot Schiller



Emery Schleicher



Emmerson Nelson



Evan Halverson



Haley Schlichter



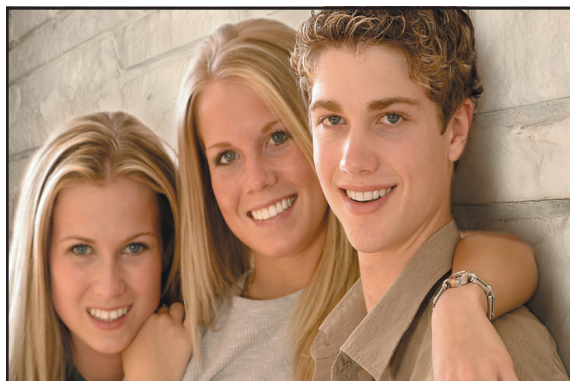
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Shane Johnson

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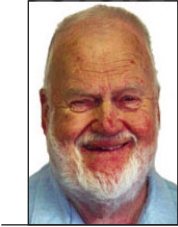
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A great beginning to the winter season

After an opening season win at Dodge Center over Triton a week ago, the Awesome Blossom girls earned an even more impressive victory, when they defeated WEM in the home opener last Friday.

They trailed by three points at the half, but took the lead just two minutes into the second half and never trailed again.

In fact, they built a 13-point lead with 8 minutes to play, before the Bucs fought back to make the game close. Some made



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

free throws late in the game sealed the win. It was a thrilling start to the 2017-18 season, and it probably warrants some early enthusiasm for the girls.

The Blossom girls began the season a week ago with a very satisfying victory over Triton. Four players provided a surprising tempo to the game by all

scoring in double figures. Sam Wurst led the way with 17 points, but Megan Oswald, McKenna Hein, and Julia Worke also scored more than 10 points. It marked a good start for the locals.

The BP boys also won their opening game with a resounding victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo in the Triton Invitational tournament. Senior Cameron Kubista had a good opening contest, as he led the Blossom scoring with 18 points, even though the team played pretty nervous in the first half. They played a much better half in gaining the win.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Brothers Mike and Pat Noble, BPHS graduates, received a big award recently when RV Magazine honored them as one of the 50 best RV dealers in the entire country. The two brothers started the company several years ago with some questioning that type of business in a time when economic prosperity did not hold much optimism. But the two started the right way, with a small beginning, and the company succeeded steadily.

Noble RV now has several outlets, but it is still anchored in its original location in Owatonna and doing quite well. I always enjoy touting the success of former BPHS students, and Noble RV gets a big tip of the hat this week for the recent honor. Well done, Pat and Mike.

BPHS alumni Kari Forystek was one of the subjects on Todd Walkingstick's Owatonna Live's interview program last week, and she reminisced a little about her high school career, her life as the parent of high school athletes, and her recent experience of being inducted into the Mankato State University's athletic Hall of Fame for golf.

It was an interesting 15 minutes of conversation, and I was impressed with her response when Walkingstick asked her what being a parent of high school athletes was like. "It is kind of a crazy time making all the contests and the travel, but I love it all and wouldn't miss it for anything." I think Kari is representative of most sport-loving individuals, parent or not.

Finally, the Post Bulletin newspaper had an interesting article concerning the Westfield wrestling team and focused on two of the Razorback matmen at opposite ends of the weight scale. Ethan Arett and Morgan Moreno represent a successful first year of sharing between Blooming Prairie and Hayfield and the article recounted the impressive record of the first season program. The team is expected to be a strong contender in both the conference and the section this year.

The Blooming Prairie First Lutheran Church choir also made news last week at the Steele County Historical Center by performing a program of songs for the second straight year at the center. The 45-minute concert climaxed a morning series of performances at the Center Saturday as part of the initiation of the Christmas season.

A DAZZLING KICKOFF

The Christmas season in Blooming Prairie kicked off in a rousing start with the annual Holiday Dazzle celebration providing much fun for young and old alike. And for a change, Mother Nature took pity on the area and offered mild temps for the annual festival. There was singing and dancing in the street, Santa Claus paid a visit to hundreds of kids, and the various businesses all had specials which many took advantage.

Although he constantly declared that the contest was rigged, businessman Aaron Ressler won the dubious distinction of Mr. Scrooge, and I will admit that he took the honor in good spirits. Added all together, it marked one of the most successful Holiday Dazzles in years, and much credit goes to Chamber Director Becky Noble and the Main Street businesses for their participation. Of course, the mild weather didn't hurt either. Enjoy the season, Go, Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

Above: Blooming Prairie's Samantha Wurst pushes the ball up the court in the Awesome Blossoms 50-41 win over Waterville-Eysian-Morristown Friday at Blooming Prairie High School.
Right: Blooming Prairie's Maggie Bruns goes up for a shot in the paint over a WEM defender.

Blossom girls jump out to 2-0 start

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blossom girls' basketball team earned an impressive victory over visiting WEM Friday for its second straight victory.

BP downed the Bucs 50-41, largely due to senior Sam Worst, who scored a career high 27 points. The come-from-behind win came over a quick WEM contingent with a lot of three-point shooters.

After a first half that went back and forth, but mostly controlled by the Buc three-point shooters, the locals trailed by three points at the half. BP took the lead just two minutes into the second half, and it never trailed again. The Blossoms built a 13-point advantage with eight minutes left in the game, but the visitors didn't quit.

The margin shrank to just two points on the strength of good rebounding, but the locals

fought back on Wurst's two baskets inside and Julia Worke's first triple of the game. The winners maintained a six to eight point lead over the final three minutes, with some late free throws sealing the win.

"We earned a hard-fought win over a quick opponent with several outside shooters," said Blossoms coach John Bruns. "We were able to defend their offense, especially in the second half, and I was impressed that we took the game over, after the losers had cut our margin to just two points. We shot free throws very poorly, but we were able to make some down the stretch to preserve the win."

Besides Wurst's big night, Worke had 7 points, and McKenna Hein had her usual big game with 7 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals, and 2 assists. Wurst managed her first double-double of the season with 11 rebounds to go

SEE GIRLS, B2



BP boys' basketball opens season by splitting games

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After winning the season opener at the Triton four-team invitational, the Awesome Blossom boys ran into a packed-in zone defense and lost to Schaefer Academy 54-46 Saturday at Dodge Center.

The winners took the lead midway through the first half and never trailed, even though the contest stayed close all the way.

"I thought we handled the press well," remarked Coach Nate

Piller, "but we just went cold at inopportune times. We also had too many disappointing turnovers in the half court. Schaefer Academy really packed in the zone, and we had no answer for it."

Cole Bothun led all scorers with 20 points for the winners, including 7 of 9 free throws. Kaden Thomas scored 16 points for the Blossoms, with Cameron Kubista counting 12, and Cory Raffal and Karson Vigeland adding 8 and 6.

Piller concluded by saying, "We start to get a little healthier next week, when two last year starters will return to the court. That should help overall, I think."

Blossom boys win opener

The Awesome Blossom basketball teams made the evening a clean sweep, when the boys duplicated the girls with a season-opening win. The Blossom girls won their second in a row with a home win over WEM. Senior Cameron Kubista led the boys to a 63-41 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo at Dodge Center Friday in the Triton four-team invitational.

As Coach Piller commented after the game, "We looked nervous and tentative in the first half, but we settled down and played better in the second

half. We rebounded well and had only eight turnovers in the game, which was a huge plus. Kubista had a very consistent game and scored well also."

Kubista counted 9 points in each half to total 18 points for the game, including a pair of three-pointers. Karson Vigeland had 12 points, and Kaden Thomas added 8 for the easy victory. Ben Kingham had 15 points for the Knights.

As Piller concluded, "It wasn't a pretty win, but it was a win, and we played well enough for a first game. We will improve."

HOCKEY

Eagles wear down Huskies for comeback win

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

A scorching offensive effort helped the Owatonna boys' hockey team build a 4-0 lead in the team's season opener, however, Apple Valley scored the game's final six goals to rally to a 6-4 victory Friday at Four Seasons Center.

Despite the loss, Owatonna coach Josh Storm was pleased with

his team's performance.

"I thought we competed hard and played pretty darn well," Storm said. "We took advantage of our opportunities. [Apple Valley] is a good team and has four games under its belt. [We] did a nice job for the situation we were in."

The Huskies' Mason Osland assisted Nick Smith on the game's first score just 66 seconds in.

"My linemate tried shooting and got blocked," Smith said. "I just pulled it with my toe and shot top-shelf, nearside over the goalie's glove."

A power play goal by Kenny Johnson gave Owatonna a 2-0 advantage 13:17 in the first period. Johnson was assisted by Tommy Lehrer and Matthew DeHaan. Then



STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

Above: Owatonna's Jacob Stoykovich tries to swipe the puck away from an Apple Valley player in the Huskies 6-4 loss. Left: Owatonna's Collin Pederson blocks out an Apple Valley defender Friday in the Huskies season opener at the Four Seasons Center.

Smith assisted Landon Thurnau on a goal to make the score 3-0.

Storm said Smith's play was the highpoint of the game for Owatonna.

"Nick Smith was fantastic tonight," he said. "He was our most dynamic player and a made a

ton happen out there. Every time he was on the ice he was making good things happen.

"He was getting pucks to the net and he was creating havoc on

SEE HOCKEY, B2

NEWS

Additional students named to BP Honor Roll

In addition to those honored on the Blooming Prairie Honor Roll page in last week’s edition (Nov. 28), there are four additional students who should have been included on the list for the first quarter. They include: A- Honor Roll—Luke Rennie, 10th grade and Larisa Judy, 8th grade; B+ Honor Roll—Amy Peterson, 11th grade and Chase Peterson, 10th grade. Congratulations to these students for their academic achievements.

Calling all sharp shooters

Hoop shoot coming to Owatonna

The Owatonna Elks Hoop Shoot, for all boys and girls ages 8-13, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Owatonna Middle School gym. The local competition is open to boys and girls from Owatonna, Waseca, Medford, Ellendale and Blooming Prairie areas. Registration is at 12:30 and competition begins at 1:30 p.m. The top three boys and girls in each age group will receive a trophy. The boy and girl in each age group with the best score will receive an Elks Hoop Shoot basketball and advance to the district competition.

BASKETBALL

Season opener results in victory for NRHEG

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

A ragged start for both teams didn’t stop the NRHEG boys from opening the season and the home schedule with a victory. The Panthers defeated St. Clair 45-37 Friday. The raggedness led to a low-scoring first half, and the teams were tied at 17 at the break. The Cyclones took the early lead in the second half, but good defensive pressure led to some turnovers and easy baskets for the home team. Those transition baskets led to the Panthers gaining a six-point lead with seven minutes to play. That margin prevailed for the rest of the game. “We are replacing all five starters,” remarked Coach Pat Churchill, “and we had some first game bumps. However, we played much better defense in the second half, and that led to turnovers and some easy baskets Benji Lundberg carried the load offensively and did a great job on defense to get pressure on their guards.” Lundberg counted 22 points, Jerrett Utpadel had 8 points, and Brady Agrimson and Peyton Castle added 6 points each. Grant Nagel led St. Clair with 14 points. “It was nice to come out with a win,” concluded Churchill, “but we realize that we have to get better in a lot of things. Hopefully, we will be a much better team as the season progresses.”

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK EIGHT NOV. 29, 2017		
TEAM STANDINGS	WON	LOST
F & M BANK	23.5	12.5
B TO Z HARDWARE	22.5	13.5
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	19.5	16.5
J & H/DAIRY QUEEN	17	19
EPIC CONTRACTING	15	21
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	10.5	25.5

HIGH TEAM GAME —SCRATCH	
F & M BANK	551
HIGH TEAM GAME- HANDICAP	
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	590
HIGH TEAM SERIES- SCRATCH	
F & M BANK	1586
HIGH TEAM SERIES- HANDICAP	
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	1611
HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL	
1.KATHY MEYER	161
2. AMY SNIDER	154
2. MARY KITTELSON	154
HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL	
1. AMY SNIDER	428
2. MARY KITTELSON	417

BASKETBALL



GIRLS: Blossoms lead

FROM PAGE B1

along with her 27 points. BP had a 44-21 edge in rebounding and outshot WEM 38 to 29 percent. Coach Cory hendricson’s JV team also won its second game of the season 34-31 over WEM. Uiauna Bishop led the scoring with 11 points, and Bobbie Bruns and Maggie Bruns added 8 and 6 points. BP led by one point, 15-14, at the half. **BP GIRLS WIN OPENER** Four Awesome Blossom girls counted double figure scoring, and the team opened its season with a convincing victory over Triton on the Cobra court at Dodge Center on Tuesday, Nov. 27. BP finished the first half on a run to lead by ten at the break, and the girls continued to play well on both sides of the ball. “We got that 10-point lead at the half,” remarked Bruns, “and we continued to play well the rest of the way. Defensively, we rebounded well and managed a number of steals as well. Our ball movement handled every defense that Triton attempted, and overall, this was a great win for our program to start the season.” BP shot 35 percent for the game on 19 of 53 attempts, while Triton shot 32 percent on 18 of 56 tries. The locals had a 32 to 25 edge in rebounding and pilfered the ball 15 times in the game. Both teams had many turnovers in a typical opening season contest. Senior Sam Wurst led the balanced attack with 17 points, including 7 of 9 from the free throw line. Freshman Megan Oswald counted 15 points, and McKenna Hein and Julia Worke each added 12. Sidney Gilliland and Kendra Peterson counted 13 and 12 points for the Cobras. Wurst and Oswald both had 7 rebounds for BP, and Hein and Worke added 5 each. It marked an impressive opening season victory for the Blossoms. Hendrickson’s JV team also won its opener with a 20-17 win over Triton. The Cobras led by a point at the half, but the Blossoms outscored the hosts 10-6 after the break, despite a night when the local shooting percentage bordered on miserable. Bobbie Bruns and Maren Forystek led the Blossom scoring with 5 points each, and Baylee Sorenson added 4 points. Coach Hendrickson indicated that it was a typical first game with the ball just not going in the basket. The team needs to improve the free throw shooting and rebounding, although the defense did a good job on the Cobras, he said.

STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL
Blooming Prairie’s Samantha Wurst posts up a WEM defender Friday in the Awesome Blossoms victory.

HOCKEY



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna’s Luke Kubicek attacks the Apple Valley defense on Friday in the Huskies season opener.

HOCKEY: No win for Huskies

FROM PAGE B1

the other team,” Storm continued. “He was floor checking super hard. His stick was in the right place a lot and he was causing Apple Valley to make a lot of turnovers.” The versatility and leadership displayed by Mason Oland and captain Mitch Wiese were also impressive. Owatonna’s Luke Kubicek scored an unassisted goal to extend the Huskies’ lead to 4-0, but Apple Valley’s Will Wright scored a goal to get the Eagles on the board with just 15 second remaining in the game’s opening period. Wright was assisted by Ryan Daggett. The Eagles scored 1:08 into the second period with Wright assisting Nick Plagge, and again two minutes later when Parker Jamison and Tyler DeWall assisted Andy Hedberg to narrow the Huskies’ lead to 4-3. “Going into the second period, we knew they were going to make a push,” Smith said. “They came out flying and we got caught on our heels and couldn’t do much. They were a really fast team and their speed kind of caught us off guard.” Luke Bronin, AJ Kasner and Wright added goals in the third period to secure the victory for the Eagles. Wright scored an empty net goal after Owatonna had pulled its goalie with less than 30 seconds remaining in the game. Storm said he was also pleased with the effort of goalie Jacob Dub, finished with 33 saves on 38 shots. The Eagles speed and quickness really wore the Huskies down late in the game, which is somewhat expected in the first game of the season. “We just had a hard time keeping our legs going,” Dub said. “Probably about halfway through the game you could definitely tell it was our first game and they had a few games underneath their belts. “When they started coming back, our team never gave up,” he continued. “We

kept trying to score and grind it out. We didn’t get the outcome we wanted, but we can’t we down about the effort.” Dub gave the Eagles credit, but also remained confident about the Huskies’ season. “[Apple Valley] is a great team,” he said. “We didn’t get the outcome we wanted, but we still have 24 more games left before the playoffs. We will be right up there in a couple of games.” Apple Valley improved to 4-0 with the victory and Owatonna dropped to 0-1. While Storm said he was pleased with his team’s overall performance, there were some crucial mistakes the Huskies need to work on. “We were very sloppy in our zone,” Storm

said. “We have worked on our [defense zone coverage] in a structured environment, but we haven’t done it in a game and that is very different. Now that we have video, we can show the guys some stuff and I think that’s going to go a long way.” The Huskies will be back in action at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday when they host Albert Lea at the Four Seasons Center. “It’s a big conference game against one of our main rivals,” Smith said. “We just have to put this behind us and come back Monday and work our tails off.” Owatonna will also travel to Saint Francis at 2 p.m. on Saturday to take on the Fighting Saints.

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



BOYS

Senior hockey player Nick Smith helped Owatonna get off to a hot start by scoring and assisting on goals in the first period of the Huskies’ season opener against Apple Valley on Friday. Owatonna coach Josh Storm said Smith’s play was the high point of the game.



GIRLS

Senior basketball player Sam Wurst is one of the big reasons Blooming Prairie is 2-0 in this young season. Wurst tallied 54 points in the two wins and has also led the team in rebounding. She earned her first double double of the season with 27 points and 11 rebounds against WEM.

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Now that's something to smile about



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Big smiles were found on the faces of Owatonna Huskies football players decked out with Santa hats during the annual Christmas Lighted Parade in Owatonna as they continued their celebration of winning a state championship. The players rode in the parade with 70 other units throughout the downtown area as thousands of people lined the streets. The Huskies ended the season with a 12-1 record after crushing Elk River 63-26 for the state title. It was Owatonna's second championship in five years.

What a phenomenal ride with the Huskies

The Owatonna Huskies are the best high school football team in the state. That may seem like a bold statement for me to make, since I've been in the state for only three weeks. But, if there is a better team, I'd like to see them. I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I moved to Minnesota. I covered Arkansas high school football for the past two seasons and played, coached and watched it in Indiana for 20 years before that. After years of watching Southern football, I thought teams in the South were typically much faster and athletic than teams from the North. The Huskies proved that Minnesota high school football ranks with the best I've seen. I was pleasantly surprised by just how skilled, talented and athletic the Huskies were when I arrived at Lakeville North High School on that cold windy Friday night for the state quarterfinals. Owatonna had an uncommon combination of size, speed, athleticism and passion for the game you rarely see in a high school team. They also had the best high school running back I've ever seen in person in junior Jason Williamson. I remember the first time I saw Williamson cut and explode down the sideline for a long touchdown run, and thinking, "Oh, my goodness, this dude is unreal." I waited for the cart to come out on the field to get the multiple Mahtomedi defenders with broken ankles off the field, but surprising they limped back to their sideline with only their pride hurt. It has been my pleasure to cover this team the past three

weeks during this incredible run. What impressed me the most in my short time covering the Huskies was how balanced the team was. I coached football back in my hometown of Evansville, Ind., so a lot of the time I will find myself breaking down teams trying to put together a hypothetical game plan, but when I watched Owatonna, I saw no weaknesses. Finally, I want to praise to all the players, coaches, fans and everyone in the Owatonna community who supported these extraordinary young men. I also want to congratulate the 31 seniors: Noah Budach, Tucker Alstead, Abe Havelka, Alex Raichle, Owen Koslosky, Parker Westphal, Dawson Leer, Zach Mensink, Jay Schuster, Cole Rocha, Mitch Wiese, Jacob McMains, Taylor Hall, Parker Holton, Josh Nelson, Karson Madole, Kade Serbus, Brock Stephenson, Dylan Meier, Spencer Steckelberg, Cade Gasner, Andy Jensen, Brody Veach, Terrell Conner, Kady Mulert, Brady Schuster, Nolan Malo, Said Abdullahi, Brandon Schmidt, Logan Starkson and Dalton Kubista. Budach said the brotherhood he shared with his teammates is the thing is going to miss most. "Just the fact that we were all in it together every day," he said. "We never quit on each other even after our loss to Northfield. We came together and said we are going to keep grinding, and that's what we did.



IN THE TRENCHES
DENNIS MARSHALL

"Everyone worked so hard to get back to where we were a year ago," Budach continued. "We promised each other when we got there that we were going to win the whole thing. It was just really cool to see that transformation from where we were a year ago and to be able to finish the job this time." I'll always remember the tears of joy I saw rolling down the Owatonna players' faces as the team claimed its second state championship in five seasons, and I'll also never forget the tears of sadness I saw when a couple of them realized it was all over. It was a phenomenal ride that I'm sure none of the players or coaches wanted to end and neither did I, but as Dr. Seuss is often quoted saying: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

SPORTS PREVIEW SECTION TO COME NEXT WEEK

Even though the winter sports season is underway, the Times will have a special sports preview of all the winter sports teams in next week's edition. Sports editor Dennis Marshall and veteran sports writer LeMar Nelson have been working feverishly over the past couple weeks gathering stories and photos of the sports teams as well as the schedules. Watch next week's Times for our special tribute to the winter sports season.



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Christmas in the Village brings holiday fun

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Whether you're a child or a child at heart, Christmas in the Village had many unique ways to celebrate the holiday season. The Steele County Historical Society hosted the event that included food, crafts, music and horse drawn wagon rides on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Steele County Historical Society Meetings and Special Events Manager Stephanie Kibler said the experience was a combination of a holiday gathering and educational opportunity. "This has been a tradition for us for quite a few years," Kibler said. "The goal is to make history come alive. "We have live entertainment in three locations," she continued. "As well as crafts for the children and a gingerbread house competition. So we are really just trying to make the village and the campus available to the community and have an event where people can get out and celebrate the holiday season." Kibler said the community reaction to event is always positive, but it has been especially rewarding this year. "People seem to be a little more generous with the compliments," Kibler said. "I think the weather might have a little something to do with that. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the musical performances, the hands-on craft activities and our exhibits." "This is wonderful," Kate Coleman said. "Especially since they have other buildings



open where the kids can go around and see inside of them and maybe learn a little bit too while they are having fun and doing Christmas activities." AnnaMarie Coleman, 8, said she enjoyed all the activities but her favorites were decorating cookies and visiting with Santa Clause. "I asked him for My Little Pony toys," she said. Spencer Hoogenraad, 10, said he also enjoyed getting to see Santa and telling him what he would like for Christmas. "It's pretty fun," Hoogenraad said. "I asked Santa for a computer." Hoogenraad said he also enjoyed the arts and craft section of the event. Jessica Shaw attended the event for the first time after moving to Owatonna earlier this year.

"I liked it and I thought it was nice they hosted an event like this," she said. "I wish that they would do more events like this more often." Kibler said the historical society is consistently coming up with ideas to keep the event fresh, fun and innovative. "So mark your calendars for next year," she said. "The first weekend of December."

STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

Christmas in the Village brought all sorts of fun for all ages Saturday in Owatonna. People took advantage of wagon rides from H&H Belgian of Medford. Top right: Children enjoyed cookie decorating. Right: Spencer Hoogenraad made some crafts with senior volunteers in the village.



A season to treasure forever



STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER & DENNIS MARSHALL
1. Full of pride and smiles Parker Westphal (12), Noah Budach (1), Alex Raichle (4), Zach Mensink (21) and Brady Schuster (81) stand together on the field after defeating Elk River 63-26 in the Minnesota Class 5A State Football Championship on Nov. 25. 2. The Huskies' football players proudly show off the championship trophy to fans who came to cheer the team onto the championship at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. 3. Student fans reach down from the stands to congratulate Jason Williamson (22) on bringing home a state football championship to Owatonna. 4. Unable to contain their excitement of being number one in the state, Alex Raichle (4) and Tucker Alstead (2) dog pile onto Jason Williamson who is on the ground. 5. Andy Jensen (66) was all smiles, as he hugged one of his coaches following the game. 6. Abe Havelka (3) and Mitch Wiese (26) celebrate the huge victory by claspng each other's hand. 7. School spirit was at an all-time high as Owatonna Cheerleaders amped up the fans.

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A SPECIAL SALUTE TO THE NRHEG HONOR ROLL

A HONOR ROLL

Grade 6: Ned Bell; Anna Blatti; Grace Borchert; Gavin Briggs; Parker Bunn; Payton Bunn; Jackson Chrz; Julia Churchill; Emilee Dalbec; Graden Karl; Levin Kitzer; Jordis Kruger-Diaz; Addison Loken; Kiyah Mikesell; McKenzie Mueller; Madison Murray; Preslie Nielsen; Evelyn Nydegger; Erin Peterson; Annabelle Petsinger; George Roesler; Debra Rollins; Taylor Schmidt; Elsie Schultz; Hallie Schultz; Brenna Sommer; Isabel Stadheim; Gracie Williams.

Grade 7: Avyana Boyd; Andrea Briggs; Levi DenHerder; Aidan Deyle; Anton Domeier; Raquel Fischer; Bailey Ihrke; Bree Ihrke; Erin Jacobson; Torrence Jeno; Katheryn Kofstad; Olivia Kofstad; Jackson Lageson; Taya Lembke; Zander Nolan; Sidney Schultz; Tatum Smith Vulcan; Mayla Soulsak; Ethan Thompson; Eva Wayne; Gavin Wilkenson; Grace Wilkenson.

Grade 8: Madalynn Baas; Hunter Bogue; Bo Budach; Alex Dobberstein; Severin Eads; Elsabet Gushwa; Ashley Hagen; Cora Harpel; Jordan Horejsi; Madison Johannsen; Brenlee Knudson; Cassie Kormann; Kylee Kruger; Ava Kylo; Miranda LaCanne; Rhys Martin; Matthew Mueller; Cameron Nicholson; Ethan Peters; Anna Peterson; Porter Peterson; Clay Stenzel; Sophie Stork; Journey Utpadel; Torri Vaale; Nathan Vanek; Haley VanWinkle; Alisa Witikko.

Grade 9: Cloie Arndt; Elli Baker; Riley Chicos; Tory Christenson; Hanna Crabtree; Kelly Dobberstein; Trenten Duncan; Tewodros Gushwa; Zachary Hagen; Hannah Huisman; Anna Jacobson; Kendall Johnson; Alexi Kitzer; Madison Knudson; Cassidy Martin; Cambria Nissen; Caden Riewer; Thor Routh; Kordell Schlaak; Nicklas Staloch; Carter Stencil; Lorelei Strom; Jenika Tonkin; Grace Tufte.

Grade 10: Alexandra Combs; Jayna Domeier; Evan Fell; Mason Ferber; Agro Gushwa; Emmablu Jameson; Elizabeth Karl; Summer Kath; Grace Kofstad; Tiara

Malakowsky; Maggie Maloney; Paige Peterson; Annie Prigge; Naomi Retallick; Aracelis Sepulveda; Holly Stene; Mia Williams.

Grade 11: Lawren Deml; Shaun Gullickson; Rachel Horejsi; Aubrey Johnson; Jazzlyn Johnson; Karena Strom; Kallie Thompson.

Grade 12: Benjamin Lewer; Benjamin Lundberg; Justin Mortensen; Emily Prigge; Betsy Schoenrock; Solveig Stafford; Christopher Stenzel; Cole Thompson.

B HONOR ROLL

Grade 6: Cienna Arnold; Kia Buendorf; Garrett Degen; Aubri DenHerder; Haylie Garcia; Samuel Houle; Carter Johnson; Hunter Johnson; Daxter Lee; Keira Lenort; Sydney Lewer; Dacoda Malakowsky; Hunter Mudgett; Faith Nielsen; Samuel Olson; Khara Peters; Brian Possin; Jayden Purdie; Jason Reese; Elena Rodriguez; Rose Rolfing; Clay Routh; Reese Routh; Kyra Spies; William Tuttle; Malonna Wilson.

Grade 7: Sean Beauvais; Evan Beckmann; Aden Berg; Faith Borchert; Haley Breitbarth; Maverik Bueltel; Natalie Butler; Alexis Chambers; Samuel Christensen; Blake Eustice; Sarah George; Wyatt Groskreutz; Braydan Howe; Nash Howe; Dylan Ingvaldson; Treyvin Johannsen; Makota Misgen; Conner Nelson; Vada Nelson; Valerie Nelson; Charlie Nissen; Andrew Nolan; Clair Pittman; Sawyer Prigge; Landen Robinson; Evan Schaefer; Brady Schlaak; Kaleb Schmidt; Trinity Smith Vulcan; Brooklyn Strand; Josie Strom; Teagan Sutter; Spencer Swenson; Will Utpadel; Neela Wencil; Ashley Wobschall; Katelyn Zimmerman.

Grade 8: Brittyn Anderson; Keira Barber; Jaxon Beck; Autumn Combs; Isaiah Huisman; Natalie Johnson; Cole Kath; Dakota Ketterling-Kormann; Austin King; Maverick Knutson; Trevor Lenort; Lex Lewison; Tylar Malakowsky;

Jack Olson; Nikolas Petsinger; Demetrio Quesada; Kayedence Quillen; Ashton Raimann; Brittney Rocha; Ralph Roesler; McKenna Schiell; Benjamin Schoenrock; Isaac Smith; Tyrone Wilson; Ulrich Woollard; Samuel Zimmerman.

Grade 9: Alexis Barber; Bridgette Blowers; Dakota Bogue; Aubrey Fischer; Luisa Gaona Quesada; Avery Hill; T'Shayla Hinderscheit; Sarah Johns; Ashton Johnson; Brody Johnson; Julia King; Katie Lee; Dylan Loken; Josh Martin; John Grayson McGinnis; Dakota Neste; Daniel Nydegger; Christopher O'Brien; Charles Pittman; Caleb Smith; Cary Sollard; Jonah Stafford; Courtney Techau.

Grade 10: Mikayla Adams; Mackenzie Butler; Katie Cliff; Madison DenHerder; Addison Deyle; Damon Eustice; Shayla Howe; Blake Ihrke; Angelie Jensen; Paige Knudson; Dillon Kohnert; Madison Kormann; Cherysh Marcks; Jenna Nelson; Journey Olson; Andrey Rosevold-Wisler; Jacob Tasker; Hope VanWilgen; Diamon Woollard.

Grade 11: Brady Agrimson; Alexis Anderson; Kylie Arndt; Jager Beck; Alexander Buckmeier; Hannah Budach; Madisyn Bueltel; Devin Buendorf; Olivia Christopherson; Jayna Finseth; Aaron Fleming; Yessenia Gamez; Caitlin Goette; Kaylee Hansen; Khyrssa Hodapp; Jack Hogstad; Lexie Ignaszewski; Tyler Jacobson; Ellarose Jameson; Madison Johnson; Mackayla Knutson; Dalton Kraay; Graham Kylo; Ross Lenort; Dylan Mosher; Sophia Mrotz; Caitlyn Nelson; Darian Pearson; Rebecca Peterson; Sydney Schlinger; Jacob Schuller; Tanner Smith Vulcan; Hailey Stenzel; Jake Stork; Hunter Tufte; Justus Wegge; Hailey Westrum; Laura Worrell.

Grade 12: Lillian Bell; Samiha Blowers; Brayden Broitzman; Cole Broitzman; Emily Crabtree; Gabriel Dahle; Evan Dobberstein; Christian Ferris; Natalia Galindo; Kelly Harden; Caleb Harpel; Lauren Herrmann; Kaleb Johnson; Landon Johnson; Michelle Katzung; Kylie Lembke; Jason Malakowsky; Jamie McShane; Gabrielle Muri; Hanna Olien; Aaron Olson; Nikita Peterson; Kyra Possin; Makenzi Rhoades; Braden Routh; Trevin Stollard; Nathaniel Techau; Braeden Thompson; Sophie Thompson; Emma Tollefson; Jerret Utpadel; Erin VanWilgen; Tali Wayne.



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Cancer Corner



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group



Bingo for a cause in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's Bingo for a cause in Blooming Prairie on Thursday night, Dec. 14 at the Pizza Cellar party room.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is sponsoring this unique Bingo outing beginning at 7 p.m. It is open to kids and adults alike.

This will be the second year the BP Cancer Group has sponsored the event, with the proceeds going to the BP Cancer group to fight cancer and find a cure.

Twenty games will be featured at \$1 per card.

There are no turkeys, hams or Hope butter to be given away at this Bingo party. Instead, wrapped gifts will be placed beneath a Christmas tree in the Pizza Cellar Party room and Bingo winners will be able to choose a wrapped gift.

Bingo winners must open their gift after selecting it. The gifts were all provided by the BP Cancer Group and wrapped by members of the group.

The gifts can be kept by the Bingo winner, or they can be given to someone else, BP Cancer Group leaders said.

The last game of the evening will be a blackout with the winner taking home a mystery prize. Last year, Julie Hoffman won a huge collection of Christmas wrappings.

A Holiday Bake Sale will be held before, during and after Bingo. Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer, said she knows for sure that lefse, snack mix and a variety of Christmas cookies will be sold. "There will be holiday candy, too," Krejci said.

Food and beverage will be available during the Bingo games. "I'm expecting a bigger crowd than last year," Krejci predicted.

Lindsey Krejci will be the caller for the evening.

This event is the final BP Cancer Group event of the year. The group will present a check at the Eagles Cancer Telethon on Jan. 13-14. Last year, the local group donated a \$63,000 check. Monies were also donated to the Hormel Institute for cancer research.

A pancake breakfast is planned by the BP Cancer Group for Sunday, Jan. 14 at the Pizza Cellar. The breakfast will signal the kickoff for the new year.

Sponsored by **Krejci**



CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Highlights from Blooming Prairie Holiday Dazzle on Friday, Dec. 1



Left: Pam Farr, teller at US Bank in Blooming Prairie, proudly displays some artwork she did especially for the 2017 Holiday Dazzle celebration on Friday, Dec. 1. Large crowds turned out for the special day of activity. Right: Santa Claus arrived by horse and carriage at the Blooming Prairie Holiday Dazzle event on Friday, Dec. 1. The beautiful Percheron horses were driven by Roger Pittman, Bixby.

To become a Blooming Prairie Chamber member, contact Becky at 583-4472

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These businesses will be giving away \$10 BP Bucks for the next two weeks. All you have to do is register at the locations listed below! The two drawings will take place each Friday. Winners can pick up their prizes at the Steele County Times office. There will also be a drawing with all the entries from the last two weeks for one lucky reader to win the GRAND PRIZE of two tickets to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!

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Injured workers file lawsuit in McNelius Trucking explosion

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A January explosion that injured five workers at McNelius Trucking and Manufacturing in Dodge Center has resulted in lawsuits being filed against the manufacturer of equipment used inside the plant.

The employees filed lawsuits Nov. 28 in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis against Swagelok Company, which is based in Ohio. The suit claims the employees have sustained losses in excess of \$75,000.

Swagelok is one of America's largest privately held companies with annual revenue of more than \$2 billion.

In the 22-page lawsuit, the workers are alleging negligence and strict liability involving design, manufacture and warnings as well as breach of warranty. The workers are demanding a jury trial.

Attorney Paul Dahlberg of Rochester is representing Armando Vargas while attorney Eric Hageman of Minneapolis is representing the four other employees—Eemou See, Anthony Putratz, Claudia Arevalo Linares and Jose Rodriguez. They all suffered severe and permanent injuries while working Jan. 11 when a large explosion occurred inside the McNelius Trucking plant in Dodge Center.

According to the suit, Swagelok is involved in the business of designing, manufacturing, distributing, testing and inspecting hose assemblies involved in the explosion. The suit says Swagelok should have known the significant dangers posed by a defective and improperly-seated hose assembly.

The suit notes a report from the Dodge County Sheriff's Office regarding the explosion. The sheriff's report noted that "one particular hose has come unfastened from the CNG system" on the truck. The report went on to describe that "the hose appears to

have pulled out of the factory crimped connection."

In the case of See, she has sustained severe burn injuries, which have permanently scarred and disfigured her body. The burns covered nearly half of her body and caused her to be hospitalized for more than two months in the Twin Cities. Since the explosion, she has undergone 13 surgeries, including the amputation of each of the fingers on her left hand.

The lawsuit filed on See's behalf shows graphic images of her injuries.

In addition to the severe burns and disfigurement, See has experienced severe psychological problems, including depression, delirium, hopelessness and nightmares, the suit alleges.

The medical and related expenses See has suffered are in excess of \$1 million, the suit says. Her damages will continue for the rest of her life, and she will not be able to ever work again.

Medical expenses of those injured range from \$34,000 to more than \$1 million.

The lawsuit highlighted surveillance video from the plant showing See engulfed in a fireball and running for her life. Her upper torso was on fire and remained aflame for several minutes. By the time the flames were extinguished, skin was peeling from her body.

See was a production worker at McNelius where she masked and taped trucks in preparation for painting. In 2007, she joined her husband in working at McNelius as a janitor and later as a maskertaper. She often worked 50-70 hours per week for the company. Her husband had been employed by McNelius for more than 10 years. The couple has 10 grandchildren.

The attorneys claim the explosion was caused by a failure in a Swagelok-manufactured hose to McNelius Truck's compressed natural gas system. This failure allowed compressed natural gas to be released into the plant, and this gas ultimately exploded.

McNelius Trucking is not named in any of the lawsuits.



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Carolers from Owatonna High School performed holiday classics in Park Square in downtown Owatonna following the Holiday Lighted Parade on Thursday, Nov. 30. The event also featured Santa Claus and the ceremonial lighting of the trees in the park.

Owatonna lights up during festive kickoff

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As Greg Krueger flipped the switch to the holiday lights at Central Park in downtown Owatonna Thursday night, he also planted an idea that he orchestrated more than three decades ago.

Krueger, a former downtown businessman and now Steele County commissioner, led a campaign to raise money for the Christmas lights about 30 years ago. "It's time to resurrect it and get some new lights," he said.

The original drive brought in about \$90,000 to showcase Central Park and the rest of the downtown area during the holidays. Krueger estimates it will likely be at least double or triple in cost now. While he acknowledges that the cost may stagger some people, he hopes it can get done in the next year.

"You're probably going to see another fund drive starting because we really need to do some refurbishing of the Christmas decorations and lights in town," Krueger told hundreds at the annual tree lighting ceremony. "I hope when that starts you guys will all support it."

For Krueger, having a festive looking downtown area is a no-brainer. "We want you to come to Owatonna and make it an inviting place to come do your holiday shopping," said Krueger, who operated St. Clair's for Men for 37 years. "It's a way to get community back into community again."

"It's a way to get community back into community again."

Greg Krueger
Former Downtown Businessman

Shirley Schultz, Main Street director with the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, confirmed Krueger's idea will likely gain some traction after the new year. She expects a committee will be formed early next year to begin exploring the replacement of the lights.

Community pride swelled to near record levels at the holiday kickoff last week partially due to the unseasonably warm temperatures. Schultz estimated that the crowds were double in size to at least 3,000 people in comparison to other years.

The parade featured 70 units, including the state champion Owatonna Huskies football team, decked out with

lights. Some people also had lights wrapped around them as they spread holiday cheer with parade goers. Schultz said there were 12 units that showed up without even registering, but she wasn't complaining one bit.

"There was a lot of good representation across the community," Schultz said. "It's fun to watch all the kids and adults. It was so fabulous."

Chamber president Brad Meier couldn't agree more.

"This showcased our business community in a good way," Meier said. "The whole point is to celebrate the holidays and bring people downtown. It's important to have a message of shop local and to spend time locally."

In addition to the parade and tree lighting, carolers from Owatonna High School sang holiday classics and Santa Claus delighted all ages with candy canes and well wishes for a happy holiday.

Meier looks at Owatonna as "a big small town" with amazing opportunities for many people. "It has its own unique character and it's a very giving community," he said.

Added Krueger: "It's a great way to kick off the holiday season."

Owatonna man wins lottery prize

An Owatonna man is enjoying a little extra bonus this holiday season.

Lawrence Troy won \$100,000 by playing the Lottery's Cash Code scratch game.

Troy purchased his winning ticket at Kwik Trip, located at 320 Mineral Springs Road, in Owatonna. The business will receive a \$500 bonus for selling the winning ticket.

He claimed the prize at Lottery headquarters in Roseville on Nov. 29.

Lottery players have won more than \$7 billion. More than \$2.8 billion in lottery proceeds have helped our state—more than \$1.1 billion has helped preserve, restore and protect Minnesota's environment in each of the 87 counties and \$1.6 billion has helped fund state programs including education, public safety and health & human services.

Tips for healthier holidays

It's the holiday season and, although it is a season of joy and peace, sometimes it does not feel that way.

You may feel lonely, miss someone you have lost or experience tough family relationships. Maybe you feel overwhelmed with all that needs to get done—shopping, baking, concerts, and travel. You may be anxious because you feel like your spending is out of control. How can you get back to the holidays being a time with family and friends, celebrating life?

Here are five tips for healthier holidays:

1. Mental Health: Manage stress. The holidays don't have to take a toll on your health. Keep your commitments in check. Balance home and work. Remind yourself to stay relaxed and keep a positive outlook!

2. Financial Health: Spend wisely. You don't have to overspend on the holidays. It's easy to get caught up in the material trappings of the holiday season. It's a challenge to stay focused on a spending budget, but it's essential. Without a budget, it's too easy to spend freely—especially if you are using a credit card. Start planning a couple of months before the holidays. If you do this you can go into January feeling on track, instead of still paying off Christmas.

3. Physical Health: Eat healthy and be active. Limit fats, salt and sugary foods. Commit to staying active. Make sure you continue your exercise routine through the holiday season. You will feel better. Routine is so important.

4. Relational Health: Focus on relationships. Family relationships are complicated because of the expectation that "we are all the same" because we're part of the same family. The expectations we have of each other (because we're related) can make it difficult to "be ourselves," especially if we have different values and goals than do other family members.

Expectations are elevated during the holidays because of family rituals and assumptions about "how the holidays are supposed to be." How can you make a positive change this year? Identify what it is about the holidays that get you down. Once identified, deal with it directly. Don't expect miracles; keep your expectations of others realistic. If the holidays make you feel out of control, "take control" over the holidays. Minimize over-indulging in food, spending and alcohol as way to cope with stress. Use humor; try to see the lighter side of life.

5. Spiritual Health: Be sure to take time to go to your place of worship, attend a concert and give to others in need. Stand outside for a moment and look up at the stars in the sky, see your breath in the air and be grateful for life. Herein lies the true meaning of this season of joy and peace.

Mary Urch is a registered nurse with Steele County Public Health. She may be reached at 507-444-7650. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

Holiday home tour raises funds and brings community together

BY CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It has become an annual holiday tradition just like singing carols, decorating trees or baking goodies.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Steele County Historical Society held the Holiday Home Tour. The Home Tour, which raises funds for the Steele County Historical Society, began in 2008 and has continued at a near annual pace since then. It is an important tradition for many reasons, and uses both modern and historical homes as well as other sites, to educate visitors and raise money for the Historical Society.

The tour sees many Steele County residents opening

their doors and homes to the community in an event, which seeks not only to educate and impress, but also to celebrate both the holiday season, and the community's welcoming attitude. Besides featuring homes of Steele County residents decorated for the holidays, the tour also regularly exhibits historical sites, chosen annually for this event. These featured sites in past years have included historic churches around Steele County as well as prominent structures belonging to the Village of Yesteryear.

This year SCHS chose to feature both the Dunnell House, an Italianate-style home built in 1868 and Cottage

SEE HOLIDAY, C2



STAFF PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN

Decked out for the holidays, Dave and Ruth Smith of Owatonna showcased their home Sunday for the annual Holiday Home tour sponsored by the Steele County Historical Society.

Street project coming to Medford

Medford will have a street project in 2018!

During the November council meeting, a unanimous vote supporting proceeding with the project, which has been a discussion topic for about 18 months, passed. Our engineer, Joe Duncan II, P.E., from Bolton & Menk, Inc, will now work on the plans and specifications that should be ready for our January meeting; advertisements for bids will then take place, with bid awards possibly in late March and construction starting in early summer. The final step with this project will be the assessment hearing tentatively in late September.

The goal for these reclaimed streets is to add 20-25 years lifetime to their lifetime. Then, the city will also have to look at the utilities-water and sewer lines that run underneath them with the next project as they, too, should be reaching their maximum lifetime in around 2040. Certainly, down the road, but a part of the long-term capital plan.

The biggest and most disruptive street project will be the reconstruction of County Road 45 or our Main Street tentatively slated for 2021. Anyone driving through the city on Main Street recognizes the numerous patches and

overall failing condition of the street. The utilities have long been described as undersized and too shallow so their replacement will certainly be a part of the project.

Community input and lots of discussion around the council table will be taking place during the next two years. Consideration for adding sidewalks, bike lanes, street lighting and landscaping will all be a part of the discussion. Access for residents to all the businesses along Main Street will also have to include creative discussion and solutions. These types of projects can be challenging and painful, but with reconstruction, we hope to have a street system that lasts at least 50 years or 2071!

Our public works employees have the snow plows all ready to go in eager anticipation of the first snow storm of the season. (That is my description, probably not theirs.) A reminder to our

area businesses and residents of Section 8 of the City Code: “Snowplowing will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than three inches. Subdivision 8 of the Code also states” Property owners shall be responsible for clearing of snow off sidewalks abutting their property... within 24 hours of a snow event.” Fines may be imposed if not done according to this code. Also, “...no snow can be removed from property and deposited into the streets at anytime...” during the winter months. Each city has their own codes for handling snowfall so suggest making sure you are aware of yours—this just makes good neighbors and safety through the winter season for all of us.

The big question certainly is “Whether we will have a White Christmas?” The city of Medford is ready to take care of all that seasonal white stuff. In the meantime, have lots of fun preparing for this holiday season regardless of the weather. Merry Christmas to all!

Lois Nelson is completing her fifth year as mayor of Medford. She writes a monthly column for the Times.



Medford Mayor's Lines
LOIS M. NELSON

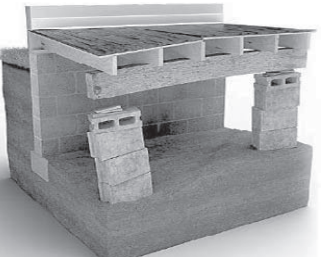
Little Theatre seeks directors for upcoming season

Little Theatre of Owatonna's 2018-2019 season will begin in the fall of 2018, and the group is anxious to begin the task of selecting the plays and directors for the coming season.

At this point, the group's slate is wide open and it is looking for directors and plays for the entire season. The season consists of a fall, holiday, winter, spring and summer show.

If you are interested in directing and would like more information, please contact the Executive Secretary Sharon Stark, at P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060, or by email, sharon1889@charter.net. The deadline date for applying is Dec. 29.

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HOLIDAY: Bringing community together

FROM PAGE C1

11, a part of the historic Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum. The Dunnell house is located in the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna and Cottage 11 is located in the West Hills of Owatonna and is a remnant of the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children which forms the basis of the State Public School Orphanage Museum. This year's tour also spotlighted St. Paul's Episcopal Church as well as classic and contemporary homes owned and decorated by members of the community.

Stephanie Kibler, the meetings and special events manager at the SCHS, explains that “while not all of the houses are historical per se, they all have a history of their own.” She sees the tour as an important tradition for the community as it highlights homes and sites around Steele County, many of which have a rich history and add to the heritage of our community. The tour is also beneficial for Steele County primarily because it raises funds for educational programing and exhibits, which, Kibler notes, affects community members of all ages and backgrounds.

She further informs that this event, and many others like it, is of significant importance to the public due to the fact that SCHS chooses a wide variety of sites, and tries to include all of Steele County in its tour in order to encompass the wide range of available history. According to Kibler, “knowing our history, whether good or bad, helps us reflect on our current day, and keeps us connected as a community.”

Besides featuring historic sites, the tour also includes homes decorated in holiday fashion by members of the community. Two of these members, Dave and Ruth Smith of Owatonna, have volunteered to showcase their home for the tour.

In past years they had known other homeowners in town who have participated in the event, and decided that it would be a fun thing to do, as well as a good benefit for the Historical Society. SCHS rotates homeowners each year, which enables them to offer a continually changing set of sites for prospective visitors.

Being first year participants, the Smiths said prior to the tour that they were looking forward to greeting the people who come through, and are excited to see the visitors' reactions to their beautifully decorated home.

The decorations they have chosen are mostly Christmas traditional, and in the spirit of that holiday their house also features ornate lighting both inside and out, as well as a large tree adorned with an assortment of ornaments.

As the prime decorator, Ruth explains that Christmas is her favorite holiday, and that she takes pride in her holiday decorations each season.

When asked how they feel about opening their home to the community, Dave explained that “our home is welcoming to anybody” and that they are “used to having people over.”

The Smiths' house was one of many featured on the tour, which was expected to see up to 300 participants.

Kibler explains that anyone who wishes to volunteer for next year's Holiday Home Tour is recommended to contact the History Center in Owatonna. She said there have already been several volunteers for what is sure to be another year of celebrating Steele County's important history, as well as building lasting connections throughout the community.

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



Joe is 13-year-old boy who is caring and happy. He likes four-wheeling, riding his bike, playing video games, and playing baseball. He's good at wrestling, running, and reading. He wants his future Big to know that he is nice, and he will be a good friend. Joe would also love to go four-wheeling with his Big. The best Big for Joe would be a positive role model, and maybe help him with math every now-and-then.



Jude is an out-going 6-year-old boy. He would really like a Big because he only has a “dog sister right now.” If he could do anything with his time, he would write and draw—he loves creating. He wants to be really good at reading, and when he grows up, he wants to be a dad. The best Big for Jude would also enjoy art and like to be outside.

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.

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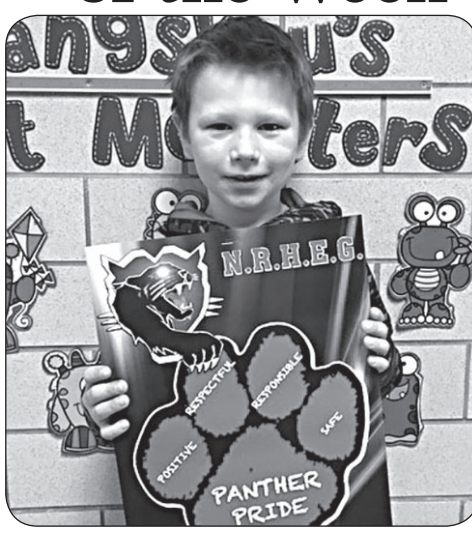
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ALEX WYRUM

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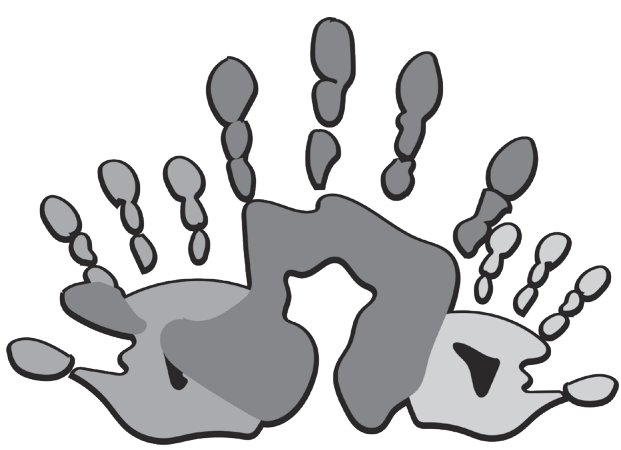


NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Alex Wyrum. Alex resides in rural Hartland with his parents Jens and Jennifer Wyrum.

He is in Mrs. Mangskau's 1st grade class. Alex is an awesome panther! He follows our Panther Pride 'qualities' of being positive, respectful, responsible, and safe. He is a hard worker in school and doesn't give up when faced with challenges. Alex is kind to others and gets along with everyone in class. He is a good listener, helpful to others, and always does his best work.

Alex enjoys wrestling, playing with his X-Box, and farming with his dad and Grandpa Wyrum. Keep up the great work Alex!



— Blooming Prairie —

YOUTH CLUB

Providing quality educational and recreational opportunities to empower our youth for their future

A place for all kids to feel welcome.
A place that nurtures kids - a place where they can grow.
A place that gives them every opportunity to be their best.
The Blooming Prairie Youth Club is the place for everyone.



Blooming Prairie Youth Club
401 4th St SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
507.583.6699
Marcy@bp youthclub.com
www.bp youthclub.com

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 6
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

DEC. 10
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Loaded Bloody Mary Bar, Servicemen's Club

DEC. 11
7 p.m. – City Council Meeting

DEC. 12
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
2:30 p.m. – BPPU Meeting
4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Santa Claus, Police Department

5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – Public Hearing with Planning and Zoning Meeting following

DEC. 13
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – F&M Bank Business After Hours

DEC. 14
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting
7 p.m. – BP Cancer Group's Jingle Bingo, Pizza Cellar Party Room



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
D.D.S. M.D.

GIVE THEM EVERY REASON TO SMILE

583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE | Blooming Prairie, MN

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

DEC. 6
4 p.m. – Com Ed (Acrylic Painting) Class, NR HS Art Room
7 p.m. – Codification Workshop, Ellendale Community Building

DEC. 7
4 p.m. – Com Ed (Beginner Piano Lessons) Class, NR Band Room
6 p.m. – Com Ed (Craft my Party) Class,

NR Art Room

DEC. 9
Christmas in the Country, Ellendale

DEC. 11
7 p.m. – Berlin Township Meeting

DEC. 12
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North



Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 6
4 p.m. – Steele County Joint Powers Board Meeting, Owatonna Law Enforcement Center

DEC. 7
9 a.m. – Jr. History Detectives, History Center
Noon – 1 p.m. – OATT Young Professionals, History Center
1 p.m. – Women's Club of Owatonna Meeting, St. John's Church
3 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Girls Night Out, Kottke Jewelers
6 p.m. – Steele County Free Fair Board Meeting, Owatonna Elks Club
6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library

DEC. 8
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Cocoa with Santa, Owatonna Arts Center
6 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Toys for Tots Concert, Trinity Lutheran Church
6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. – Fezzigwig's Feast, Owatonna Arts Center

DEC. 9
11 a.m. – Habitat for Humanity House Dedication, 563 Glendale St. Owatonna
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Christmas Open House, Straight River Hooking & Fiber Arts
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – Owatonna Pickleball Association Free Play, Christian Family Church

DEC. 10
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Auditions for 'A Streetcar Named Desire,' Little Theatre of Owatonna

DEC. 11
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park & Rec Board Meeting, Brooktree Clubhouse
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Auditions for 'A Streetcar Named Desire,' Little Theatre of Owatonna

DEC. 12
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Wells Fargo Bank Open House, 101 N. Cedar Ave.
1 p.m. – So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club, Pizza Ranch
1 p.m. – SCDIU Tactical Team Meeting, Owatonna Law Enforcement Center
5 p.m. – Steele County Commissioners Board Meeting, Steele County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
6:30 p.m. – Spanish Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Poetry Writers Group, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie Elementary School sixth grader Gabriel Hein performs on the saxophone at the BP Elementary School Holiday Concert on Friday.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR BRIEFS

LEARN ABOUT CHRISTMAS AT THE STATE SCHOOL IN OWATONNA
The Steele County Historical Society invites you to join us for Jr. History Detectives and History Detectives, interactive children's programming on Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Steele County History Center.
Christmas, at least for most people, is a very joyful time of year. This was not always true for the children of the State School here in Owatonna. Life could also be very difficult for these children. They had no parents and no real true home. Discipline could be very strict as well. But Christmas still brought some joy into their lives. We will look at Christmas at the State School and what it meant for these children. Anne Peterson, Museum Director, is our guest instructor for this session.
Jr. History Detectives will meet at 9 a.m. and is open to Pre-K children in Steele County. History Detectives will meet at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all children grades K-6 in Steele County.
These free children's programs are offered on the first Thursday of each month.

WCO HOLIDAY PROGRAM TO TOUCH HEARTS THURSDAY
The GraceNotes Trio will provide music and humor to tickle funny bones and touch hearts at the Thursday meeting of the Woman's Club of Owatonna. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. and is in the social hall of St. John Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.
In addition to the program, WCO will be touching local hearts with financial help to three non-for-profit groups. The proceeds of the annual charity event, held in mid-November, are being split equally between the Steele County Clothesline, Habitat for Humanity and the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity. Representatives from each organization are expected to receive their checks.
After the check presentation, will be an hour-long show by the GraceNotes Trio of Burnsville. The trio consists of Pat Anderson, Diane Horsager and Connie Everest. Allare retired teachers. They are active members of the Prince of Peace Church in Burnsville and that is where in 1999 they began their musical journey as the GraceNotes.
They sing 40s and 50s songs in a Andrews Sisters-Big Band style as well as songs from the 50s and 60s. They will be presenting a Christian Christmas featuring classics, spirituals, gospel and bluegrass music guaranteed to make a joyful noise.
__Pat Anderson, born and raised in Rake, Iowa, sings second soprano. Diane Horsager is from North Dakota. She sings first soprano. Connie Everest, alto, raised her family in central

Iowa. The three of them had signed up to sing at a church women's retreat.
While rehearsing for that, one of them started singing the Chordette song, Lollipop. Another joined in for the third in three-part harmony. They have been singing together ever since.
Program committee member Joanne Peterson will introduce the trio. The greeters for the meeting Thursday will be Marlene Kreutz and Dorothy Morman. The tea committee chair is Linda Shaw, assisted by committee members Nancy Felber, Bernadine Kuhn, Jane Draheim, Anita Quan and Janet Smith.
Women who are not yet members are invited to attend the program on Dec. 7. Those with questions about membership may call Kay Oberle, 507-451-9476, membership chair, or Sandy Muir, assistant chair, 507-319-3032.

TRINITY LUTHERAN HOSTING TOYS FOR TOTS CONCERT
Trinity Lutheran Church of Owatonna is hosting a concert to benefit the Steele County Toys for Tots Program on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 at the church located at 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna.
Doors will open for the concert at 6 p.m. with the concert starting at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend the concert, instead attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for the Steele County Toys for Tots Program or make a freewill donation.
Musical performances will include the local talent of the Golden Tones, Owatonna High School Carolers, Owatonna High School Jazz Band, Vianna Bohlen, Tim and Andrea Van Gelder, Greta Jacobson and the Trinity Lutheran Bell Choirs (BELLievers and Angelus Bells).
For more details go to www.tlcowatonna.org/tfortconcert.
The Toys for Tots of Steele County has been in existence for more than 30 years. It operates within the national U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program, which began in 1947. Its objective is to collect and distribute NEW and UNWRAPPED toys to Steele County needy children at Christmas. Cash and gift cards received are used to purchase toys as per directives from our national organization.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTY COMING TO MOWER COUNTY
The Mower County Historical Society announces its annual "Christmas in the County" on Dec. 8 and 9 at the historical society near the fairgrounds in Austin.

The event kicks off on Friday with the annual Pre-Sale Bake Sale in the Administration Building. Jump start your holiday baking and shop our bake sale. Christmas cookies of every shape, size, color and flavor will be the main feature. However, Lefse, a traditional Norwegian treat and other goodies will also be available. Christmas Cookies will sell for \$4.50 a dozen.
Events on Saturday will start at 11 a.m. in the Pioneer Building with the annual Silent Auction. Get a bidding number, and browse the numerous gift baskets donated by local businesses from all across the county.
There will be a raffle drawing at 2 p.m. featuring many great prizes. The grand prize will once again be a Handmade Quilt donated and sewn by Virginia Bissen. Her quilts have become a real tradition out at the Historical Society and her craftsmanship is second to none.
Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each and will be available on the day of the event or stop in the office to purchase a ticket.
Horse-drawn wagon rides and children's activities will be available throughout the day. You can even blow the whistle of the 1004 Steam Engine. Homemade chili, hotdogs and baked goods will be available for purchase. And of course, Mrs. Claus and Santa will be in town from the North Pole for this very special event.
All proceeds from the event go to the Mower County Historical Society.

LITTLE THEATRE OF OWATONNA TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR 'A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE'
Little Theatre of Owatonna announces auditions for the upcoming production of Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize winning drama "A Streetcar Named Desire."
The play, which helped make Marlon Brando a star both on the stage and screen, is regarded as among the finest plays of the 20th century and considered one of Williams' greatest achievements. It is presented by Little Theatre of Owatonna through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.
Auditions for the play, directed by Jeffrey Jackson with technical direction by Kristi Westergaard, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, and Monday, Dec. 11, at Little Theatre of Owatonna, 560 Dunnell Drive in the West Hill Complex in Owatonna. Audition materials will be available at the Owatonna Public Library and the offices of the Owatonna People's

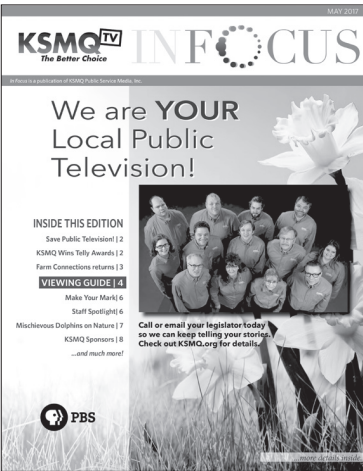
Press, 135 W. Pearl, beginning Friday, Dec. 1. Actors should be prepared to read from the script.
Rehearsals will begin on Jan. 2, 2018, with performances scheduled for Feb. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25.
The play tells the story of Blanche DuBois, a former school teacher and fading Southern belle from Laurel, Mississippi, who shows up at the doorstep of the apartment that her younger sister Stella shares with her husband, the brutish Stanley Kowalski. Because of the way in which she looks down on Stanley and the neighborhood into which he has brought her sister to live, Blanche earns the instant dislike of Stanley. The presence of Blanche, who is penniless and more than willing to live off of Stella and Stanley, causes problems for the couple, who already have a volatile relationship.
The play also features Mitch, who works in the same plant in which Stanley is employed and is a poker and bowling buddy of Stanley. Mitch, who is a kinder and gentler man than Stanley, initially falls for Blanche until Stanley tells Mitch some of sordid history that he has discovered about Blanche.
In addition, there are roles for two other poker-playing buddies of Stanley – Pablo Gonzales and Steve Hubbell, as well as Steve's wife, Eunice – and several other supporting roles.
There are four major roles (Blanche, Stanley, Stella and Mitch) as well as supporting roles for four men and four women. Actors interested in auditioning should be able to play the characters of the following ages:
• Blanche DuBois – 30 to 35 years old.
• Stanley Kowalski – 30 to 35 years old
• Stella Kowalski – 25 to 30 years old
• Harold Mitchell (Mitch) – 30 to 40 years old
• Eunice Hubbell – 40 to 50 years old
• Steve Hubbell – 40 to 50 years old
• Pablo Gonzales – 30 to 45 years old
• A Young Collector – 17 to 20 years old
• Doctor – 45 to 60 years old
• Nurse – 45 to 60 years old
• Woman 1 – 40 to 60 years old
• Woman 2 – 40 to 60 years old
There are also a few non-speaking roles.
For additional information, call Artistic Director Jeffrey Jackson at 507-475-0172.

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The Better Choice

RTOWN 90 Farm connections







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Need a career change?
Be your own boss!
Great opportunity to own this hometown bar/off-sale.
Contact Harvey for details.

● **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.
● **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.
December Holiday Get-together, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 8; Season Finalé
● **EUCHRE:** Nov. 18, 1 p.m.
● **CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS:**
Wednesday, Nov. 8 & Dec. 6, 5-7:30 p.m.
A Touch of Charm–Holiday tastings, special discounts, holiday decorations
J&H OFF-SALE–Wine tastings and treats, holiday wine sale, register for door prizes
● **HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN:** Dec. 1
● **HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER:** Dec. 16

CLOSED DEC. 24, 25, 31 & JAN. 1

340 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie • 583-7557

ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

Steele County 2016 Financial Statements

A User's Guide to County Financial Statements

sets held by a county in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and/or other funds.

The following definitions will help citizens understand the terminology that is used in the county's financial statement.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

The **General Fund** is the general operating fund of the county. It is used to account for all financial resources except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specified purposes.

Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal, interest and related costs of general long-term debt.

Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

COUNTY PROPRIETARY FUND TYPES

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the costs of providing goods or services to the general public are primarily funded through user fees and charges for services.

COUNTY FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Trust and Agency Funds are used to account for assets and are complete copy of the County Financial Statements is on file in the auditor's office and on our website at www.co.steele.mn.us

STEELE COUNTY OFFICIALS ORGANIZATION 2016

Office	Name	Term Expires
County Board of Commissioners		
1st District	James Brady**	January 7, 2019
2nd District	John Glynn	January 7, 2019
3rd District	Mark Schultz	January 2, 2017
4th District	James "Corky" Ebeling*	January 2, 2017
5th District	Nina Huntington	January 2, 2017
County Officers		
Elected		
Attorney	Dan McIntosh	January 7, 2019
Auditor	Laura Ihrke	January 7, 2019
County Judge-3rd Judicial District	Karen Duncan	January 7, 2019
County Judge-3rd Judicial District	Joseph A. Buell	January 7, 2019
Sheriff	Lon Thiele	January 7, 2019
Surveyor	John Hosfield	January 7, 2019
Treasurer	Catherine Plepho	January 7, 2019
Appointed		
Assessor	William Effertz	January 1, 2017
Building Mic & Grounds Director	Lynn Holthus	Indefinite
Coroner	Dr. Kellyanna Moore	December 31, 2016
County Administrator	Laura Elvebak	Indefinite
Court Administrator	Robin Hoelsley	Indefinite
Emergency Management Director	Mike Johnson	Indefinite
Environmental Services	Scott Golberg	Indefinite
Four Seasons/Park and Recreation	Steve Schroht	Indefinite
Highway Engineer	Anita Benson	April 30, 2020
Information Technology Director	John Borger	Indefinite
Planning and Zoning Director	Dale Oolman	Indefinite
Probation Services Director	Tim Schammel	Indefinite
Public Health & CHS Director	Amy Roggenbuck	Indefinite
Recorder	Rick Klien	Indefinite
Veterans Service Officer	Rene Gliomini	Indefinite
** Chair for 2016		
** Vice Chair for 2016		

STEELE COUNTY PROFILE

Key Indicator	Total 2016	Total 2015	Percent Increase (Decrease)
Estimated Population	36,765	36,708	0.16%
Total Assessed Market Value of all Taxable Property	3,787,267,440	3,707,947,006	2.14%
Percent of Property Taxes Collected	99.28	99.43	-0.15%
Total Revenues	42,749,599	41,707,258	2.50%
Total Current County Expenditures (All Governmental Funds)	43,151,815	52,564,179	-17.91%
Total Outstanding Net Bonded Debt of the County	12,650,000	14,920,000	-15.21%
Bond Rating on Most Recent General Obligation Bond Issue Standard & Poor's	AA	AA	
Moody's	A3	A3	

The **Sanitation** activities include expenditures for county solid waste collection and disposal programs, including county-sponsored recycling programs.

The **Human Services** activities include the administration of all federal, state and county human services programs, including child support collection activities, social service programs such as chemical dependency treatment programs, and child protection services.

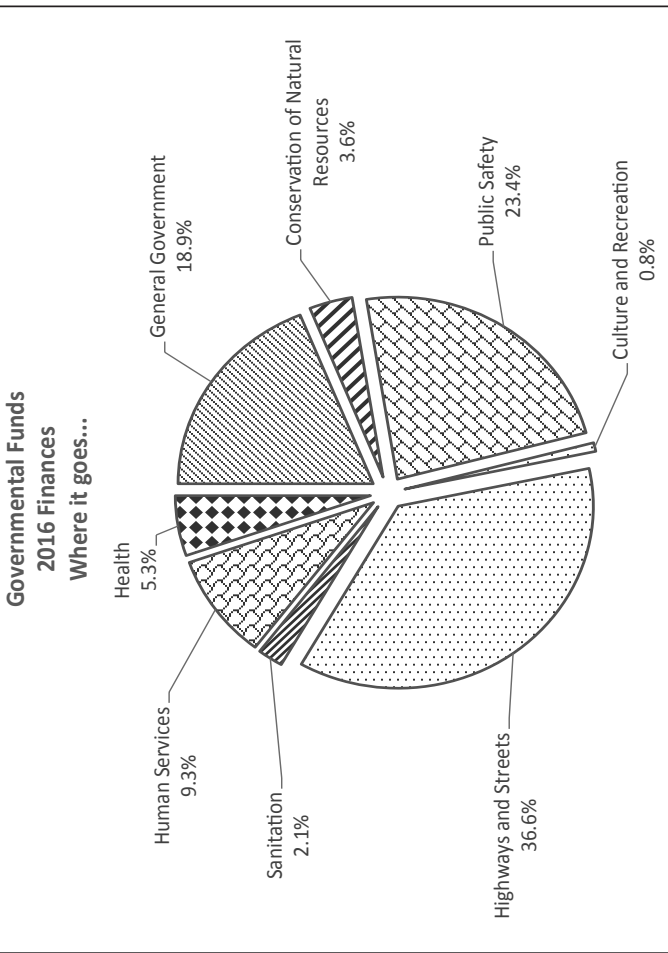
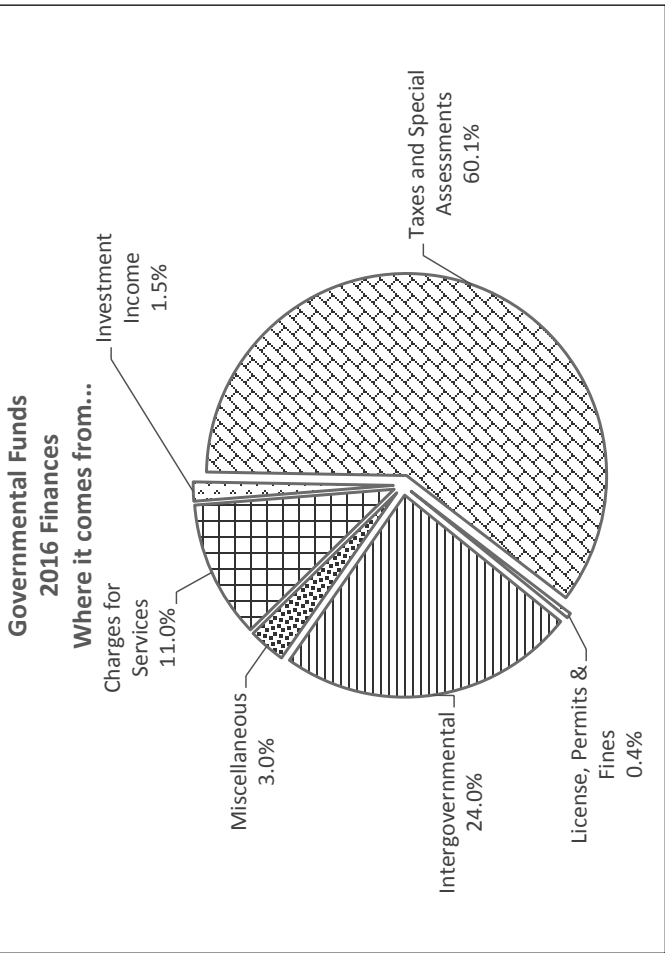
The **Health** activities include expenditures for the county public health department, including inoculation programs, home health aid services, and programs to protect public and private drinking water systems.

The **Culture and Recreation** activities include expenditures for county libraries, county parks, recreation programs, including the development and maintenance of all county park facilities.

The **Conservation of Natural Resources** activities include expenditures relating to soil and water conservation and the county extension office.

The **Economic Development** activities include expenditures for economic development programs.

The purpose of this Report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning Steele County for interested citizens. Questions about this Report should be directed to Laura Ihrke, Steele County Auditor at 507-444-7410.



REVENUES	General	Road and Bridge	Ditch	Community Wellness	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Total Governmental Funds
Taxes	\$ 17,296,888	\$ 5,763,999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,279,785	\$ -	\$ 25,340,672
Special Assessments	-	-	336,579	-	-	-	336,579
Licenses and Permits	180,429	-	-	-	-	-	180,429
Intergovernmental	2,942,360	6,604,453	-	-	213,734	504,482	10,265,029
Charges for Services	4,444,965	256,859	-	-	-	-	4,701,824
Fines and Forfeits	16,506	-	-	-	-	-	16,506
Investment Earnings	447,825	-	2,624	-	-	-	450,449
Insurance Dividend	203,469	-	-	-	-	-	203,469
Miscellaneous	961,708	24,767	9,993	278,174	-	-	1,274,642
Total Revenues	26,474,150	12,650,078	348,196	278,174	2,493,519	504,482	42,749,599
EXPENDITURES							
CURRENT							
General Government	7,344,646	-	-	-	-	-	7,344,646
Public Safety	9,072,590	-	-	-	-	-	9,072,590
Highways and Streets	-	13,155,313	-	-	-	-	13,155,313
Sanitation	849,285	-	-	-	-	-	849,285
Human Services	3,485,525	-	-	251,639	-	-	3,737,164
Health	2,149,143	-	-	-	-	-	2,149,143
Culture and Recreation	312,046	-	-	-	-	-	312,046
Conservation of Natural Resources	529,885	-	907,219	-	-	-	1,437,104
CAPITAL OUTLAY							
General Government	258,576	-	-	-	-	-	258,576
Public Safety	361,742	-	-	-	-	-	361,742
Highways and Streets	-	493,436	-	-	-	1,093,007	1,576,443
DEBT SERVICE							
Principal	154,464	-	-	135,000	2,135,000	-	2,424,464
Interest	11,443	-	-	136,684	325,162	-	473,289
Total Expenditures	24,529,355	13,648,749	907,219	523,323	2,460,162	1,093,007	43,151,815
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	1,944,795	(988,671)	(558,023)	(245,149)	33,357	(578,525)	(402,216)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Transfers In	-	40,008	-	-	-	-	40,008
Transfers Out	(250,008)	-	-	-	-	-	(250,008)
Loans and G.O. Notes Issued	48,785	-	-	-	-	-	48,785
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(201,223)	40,008	-	-	-	-	(161,215)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,743,572	(958,663)	(558,023)	(245,149)	33,357	(578,525)	(583,431)
Fund Balances (Deficit) - Beginning of Year	17,885,442	9,980,309	(390,720)	(848,721)	1,210,205	522,923	28,359,438
DECREASE IN INVENTORIES	-	(26,493)	-	-	-	-	(26,493)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT) - END OF YEAR	\$ 19,629,014	\$ 8,995,153	\$ (948,743)	\$ (1,093,870)	\$ 1,243,562	\$ (55,602)	\$ 27,769,514

STEELE COUNTY • OWATONNA, MINNESOTA • BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2016

	General	Road and Bridge	Ditch	Community Wellness	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Governmental Funds
Cash and Pooled Investments	\$ 13,869,088	\$ 9,846,950	\$ 212,200	\$ 1,643,461	\$ 1,231,741	\$ 441,686	\$ 27,235,216
Petty Cash and Change Funds	1,450	50	-	-	-	-	1,500
Restricted Investments	-	-	-	462,076	-	-	462,076
Due from Other Funds	89,457	14,948	-	-	11,821	-	116,226
Due to Other Funds	220,346	36,864	-	-	31,809	-	289,019
Delinquent Current	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delinquent Delinquent	51,709	-	9,049	-	-	-	61,658
Accounts Payable	179,223	-	427,541	-	-	-	427,541
Accrued Interest Receivable	167,734	486	-	-	-	-	168,220
Loans Receivable	655,375	-	-	2,232	-	-	655,375
Due from Other Funds	434	11,456	-	-	-	-	11,890
Due to Other Funds	803,434	740,146	-	-	-	504,482	1,559,066
Inventories	134,988	-	185,095	-	-	-	320,083
Advances to Other Funds	5,229,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,229,000
Net Investment in Gravel Type Lease	-	-	-	4,717,545	-	-	4,717,545
Total Assets	\$ 21,252,373	\$ 10,795,335	\$ 814,875	\$ 6,825,314	\$ 1,275,371	\$ 946,168	\$ 41,909,436
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES							
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable	\$ 301,869	\$ 63,415	\$ 130,320	\$ 1,639	\$ -	\$ 1,770	\$ 499,013
Salaries Payable	225,179	28,242	-	-	-	-	253,421
Accrued Payroll Taxes	32,743	4,279	-	-	-	-	37,022
Due from Other Funds	465,434	-	-	-	-	-	465,434
Due to Other Funds	15,291	1,713	-	-	-	-	17,004
Due to Other Governments	22,465	-	-	-	-	-	22,465
Advance from Other Funds	-	1,029,000	-	3,200,000	-	1,000,000	5,229,000
Deferred Inflows of Resources	597,547	598,311	1,161,033	3,201,639	-	1,001,770	6,059,300
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Unavailable Taxes	220,346	36,864	-	-	31,809	-	298,968
Unavailable Special Assessments	51,709	-	427,541	-	-	-	479,250
Unavailable Grants	101,728	-	-	-	-	-	101,728
Advanced Allotments	-	435,305	-	-	-	-	435,305
Advanced Grants	739,469	-	-	-	-	-	739,469
Unavailable Lease	313,420	233	165,095	-	-	-	578,748
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,025,812	1,211,871	602,565	4,717,545	31,809	-	7,589,022
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable for							
Ag Society Loans Receivable	\$ 316,766	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 316,766
Advances to Other Funds	5,229,000	134,998	-	-	-	-	5,363,998
Restricted for							
Tree Monuments	895	-	-	-	-	-	895
Record Compliance Fund	204,105	-	-	-	-	-	204,105
Missing Heirs	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Natural Resources Block Grant	46,961	-	-	-	-	-	46,961
U of M Extension	7,313	-	-	-	-	-	7,313
Sheriff Drug & Alcohol Forfeiture	7,455	-	-	-	-	-	7,455
Sheriff Hardgun	143,248	-	-	-	-	-	143,248
Steele County Communities for a Lifetime	361,792	-	-	462,076	1,243,562	-	1,243,562
Steele County Attorney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Services	67,755	-	-	-	-	-	67,755
Bridges, Roads & Streets	8,648,868	-	-	-	-	-	8,648,868
Unassigned	11,832,753	211,267	(848,743)	(1,555,946)	-	(55,602)	9,272,462
Total Fund Balances	19,629,014	8,995,153	(948,743)	(1,093,870)	1,243,562	(55,602)	27,769,514
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 21,252,373	\$ 10,795,335	\$ 814,875	\$ 6,825,314	\$ 1,275,371	\$ 946,168	\$ 41,909,436

MAJOR RECIPIENTS OF STEELE COUNTY EXPENDITURES

The following is a list of the recipients of Steele County expenditures totaling \$5,000 or more during 2016.

Please note that this list does not include salaries paid to county employees nor does it include individuals who received federal, state and county human service aid.

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name	Amount
30th Place LLC	221,868.16	H & L Mesabi, Inc.	6,190.48
3D Specialties	8,063.81	H & R Construction Co. Inc.	21,836.76
4 Imprint Inc	8,058.00	Hancock Concrete Products Co LLC	11,095.00
Access Tonna Lock Service	5,967.80	Hansen Incorporated	26,531.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	112,841.88	Hansen Excavation Inc	8,500.52
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	6,155.36	Harlands Tire & Auto Center	25,712.50
AFLAC	5,752.12	Heartsmart.com	27,858.21
Ag Power Enterprises Inc	6,650.22	Hildl Inc	5,040.00
AGI Electric LLC	19,470.00	Hillyard-Hutchinson	5,440.00
Alcohol Monitoring System Inc	18,500.51	Honeywell Inc	26,236.14
All American Arena Products	14,640.00	Hosfield/John C	31,399.77
All Systems Installation Inc	134,985.00	HP Inc	19,749.00
Aisdurf, Ph D James M	7,500.00	Hy-Vee Food Owatonna	16,193.58
Alternative Resolutions Inc	17,564.28	ICON Constructors LLC	18,017.98
AMCON	84,170.00	Information Systems Corp	508,752.81
American Institutional Supply Inc	5,229.94	Innovative Office Solutions LLC	20,205.36
American Legion Post #77	21,317.69	Integra Telecom	57,536.30
American Solutions for Business	11,893.55	JR's Advanced Recyclers Inc	32,121.52
Anchor Paper Company	12,384.49	Jaguar Communications Inc	35,967.85
Aruka County Secure	29,452.00	James Brothers Construction Inc	5,040.00
AR-G Media of Southern Minnesota LLC	21,472.24	Jardine Logan & O'Brien	5,349.38
Applied Concepts Inc	5,089.10	Johnson Hardware Company	5,437.00
Association of MN Counties	505,135.99	KASPER PLUMBING INC	9,415.53
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp	15,891.00	Kiesler's Police Supply Inc	9,720.00
Athletica Sports Systems Unlimited Corp	40,779.00	Krause/Roger D	8,965.21
Aug's All Home Services	13,035.00	Krejci Ford, Inc.	5,480.00
Aurora Township	23,953.00	Kris Engineering Inc	78,779.42
Aviands LLC	267,159.42	Kronos Incorporated	28,741.82
B & W Control Specialists	14,632.06	Kwik Trip Inc	23,400.00
Balzer/Larry	24,176.25	L & L Street Rods & Sport Trucks	44,356.12
Bishop Excavating, Inc.	18,765.49	Lance/Anthony	10,014.90
Black Forest Ltd	5,226.45	Leo A Hoffmann Center Inc	8,900.00
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	6,694.89	Liberty Tire Recycling LLC	62,032.25
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities	10,132.52	Link Support Services LLC	5,246.75
Bluhm/Christine	7,155.50	Loken Excavating & Drainage	5,135.20
Bob Barker Company Inc	8,201.45	Lysne Contracting Corporation	53,060.59
Borchart/David R	26,910.50	Magtech Ammunition	8,254.06
Borneke Construction, Inc.	95,538.80	Malco Roofing, Inc	8,254.06
Braden, PA/Jonathon Scott	21,743.24	Marco Technologies LLC	22,107.63
Bravo Company USA Inc	5,825.00	Matech Implement Co	5,589.54
Briggs And Morgan, PA	23,438.00	Mathiovezt Construction	98,546.00
Bureau Of Criminal Apprehension	10,015.00	Matrix Communications Inc	16,519.67
Bushley/Jodi L	26,825.00	Mayo Clinic	39,878.00
Businessware Solutions	20,387.84	MCCC MI 33	43,495.96
Businessware Solutions Corporation	18,286.78	McClures Tree Service	9,137.50
Bussler Publishing Inc	12,535.69	Medford Sand & Gravel LLC	58,868.00
C V S - SMART Transit	16,763.84	MEI Total Elevator Solutions	6,735.01
CDW Government Inc	9,660.90	MetLife Small Business Center	31,613.45
Cedar River Watershed District	11,110.66	Metro Sales Inc	21,326.69
Central Farm Services	93,971.39	Midstates Equipment Supply	22,464.00
City Of Blooming Prairie	754,293.80	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	8,365.85
City Of Ellendale	447,139.66	Mike's Repair	11,282.67
City Of Medford	703,857.08	Mills Properties, Inc.	44,986.58
Clifton/Larson/Allen LLP	380,480.17	Minnesota Life	5,028.67
Compass Minerals America	55,100.00	Mn Counties Intergovernmental Trust	492,820.24
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	46,211.97	Mn Dept of Labor & Industry	180,929.59
Continental Research Corp	62,711.31	Mn Dept Of Transportation	100,303.55
Corporate Recognition Inc	10,050.23	Mn Pollution Control Township	112,211.39
Crane Creek Asphalt	535,981.94	Mn Pollution Township	124,543.98
Crop Production Services Inc	10,535.65	Mn Prairie County Alliance	105,360.85
Crosstown Cartage Inc	8,910.00	MN Public Facilities Authority	114,836.42
Crysteel Truck Equipment Inc	115,766.06	MN Sheriffs Assn	217,894.50
Cummings Power LLC	6,813.53	Mn State Retirement System	98,208.51
Curts Truck & Diesel Svc	5,412.91	Mn State Treasurer	137,849.73
Custom Communications Inc	12,959.94	Moore McKellyanna J	204,928.96
Dakota County Financial Services	10,817.00	Motorola Solutions Inc	129,725.62
Dakota County Financial Svc	101,105.56	Mullenbach/Matthew	14,841.66
Davidson Septic Service LLC	6,217.72	MVTL Laboratories Inc	37,397.37
Diligent Service Network	6,670.00	NAPA Auto Parts	873,777.92
Dirt Merchant Inc	408,208.00	NEC Financial Services LLC	12,998.11
Dobberstein Backhoe	8,695.00	Northern Safety Technologies Inc	1,333,830.53
Dodge County Public Health	7,171.00	Northland Farm Systems	14,341.40
Doyle Corner Co	84,974.75	Nuss Truck and Equipment	6,512.00
Dunham Associates Inc	7,250.00	Oertel Architects	211,948.03
East Central RJC	12,455.00	Office of MN IT Service	5,908.36
Eaton Law Office	18,653.67	Olmsted County Community Svcs	7,229,108.21
Eclor Construction Inc	58,051.78	Olson Excavating LLC	8,932.25
Election Systems & Software Inc	28,669.91	Owatonna Business Incubator	30,778.19
Emergency Automotive Technology Inc	11,887.02	Owatonna Groundsmasters Inc	173,912.98
Empire Pipe Services	10,500.00	Owatonna Heating & Cooling Inc.	5,275.55
EPG Companies Inc	8,008.12	Owatonna Motor Company	16,910.00
Erkson Engineering Co LLC	55,429.18	Owatonna Police Dept	5,216.70
ESRI Inc	30,811.32	Owatonna Public Utilities	35,107.91
Evergreen Land Services	6,200.00	Owatonna Police Dept	108,983.57
Express Services Inc	7,211.00	Paape Companies Inc	30,709.00
Fairway Outdoor Funding LLC	11,076.92	Patton Hoversten & Berg PA	14,181.56
Festal Farms Inc	5,219.00	Phoenix Supply	53,562.89
FFF Enterprises	17,743.74	Pump & Meter Service	575,234.77
Fidlar Technologies Inc	8,740.50	R & K Electric Inc	15,060.00
First Data Remitco	11,236.80	R & R Specialties Of Wisconsin Inc	12,032.50
First State Tire Recycling	5,976.45	Ramy Turf Products	5,368.95
Flooring Frenzy & More	5,078.25	Retwik Roszak & Maloney PA	5,000.00
Four Seasons Centre	35,461.25	RDO Equipment Co. Inc.	6,481.01
Freeborn County Auditor-Treas	14,021.23	RDO Trust Act 80-5600	197,376.77
G & K Services Inc	13,957.63	Rice County Auditor-Treasurer	32,749.46
Greystone Construction Company	88,065.00	Richard Johnson	
		Rick Systems Inc	
		Total - 295 Vendors Over \$5,000	40,281,047.60
		Total - 1,055 Vendors Less Than \$5,000	942,198.36
		Total - 1,350 Vendors	41,223,245.96

STEELE COUNTY OWATONNA, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUNDS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016				
	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste	Four Seasons Civic Center		Totals
OPERATING REVENUES				
Charges for Services	\$ 2,331,438	\$ 374,533	\$	2,705,971
Miscellaneous	16,577	19,527		36,104
Total Operating Revenues	2,348,015	394,060		2,742,075
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Personal Services	324,490	133,867		458,357
Employee Benefits and Payroll Taxes	68,143	38,435		106,578
Other Services and Charges	89,034	213,036		302,070
Waste Management	550,388	-		550,388
Depreciation and Amortization	594,305	170,015		764,320
Total Operating Expenses	1,626,360	555,353		2,181,713
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	721,655	(161,293)		560,362
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)				
Investment Income	11,227	741		11,968
Gifts and Contributions	-	100,000		100,000
Gain (Loss) on Sale/Disposal of Capital Assets	11,708	-		11,708
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	22,935	100,741		123,676
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TRANSFERS	744,590	(60,552)		684,038
OPERATING TRANSFERS				
Transfers In	-	210,000		210,000
CHANGES IN NET POSITION	744,590	149,448		894,038
Net Position - Beginning of Year	6,030,808	2,938,718		8,969,526
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	\$ 6,775,398	\$ 3,088,166	\$	9,863,564

STEELE COUNTY OWATONNA, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2016						
	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			Totals		
	Solid	Four Seasons	Civic Center			
ASSETS						
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash and Pooled Investments	\$	3,209,872	\$	6,333	\$	3,216,205
Petty Cash and Change Funds		500		70		570
Accounts Receivable (Net)		176,015		72,715		248,730
Accrued Interest Receivable		-		4		4
Loans Receivable		-		13,334		13,334
Due from Other Funds		-		6,930		6,930
Due from Other Governments		-		22,813		22,813
Inventories		213,427		22,813		213,427
Total Current Assets		3,599,814		122,199		3,722,013
RESTRICTED ASSETS						
Cash and Pooled Investments		2,296,975		-		2,296,975
NONCURRENT ASSETS						
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets				-		451,250
Land		451,250		-		451,250
Construction-in-Progress		17,556		-		17,556
Accumulated Depreciation				-		-
Buildings		199,490		2,852,151		3,051,641
Improvements Other than Buildings		68,260		53,095		121,355
Machinery, Vehicles, Furniture and Equipment		939,538		291,171		1,230,709
Landfill		1,880,488		-		1,880,488
Total Noncurrent Assets		3,556,582		3,196,417		6,752,999
Total Assets		9,453,371		3,318,616		12,771,987
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Pension Related		129,296		80,593		209,879
LIABILITIES						
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Accounts Payable	\$	56,699	\$	5,365	\$	62,064
Salaries Payable		6,494		3,273		9,767
Accrued Payroll Taxes		913		487		1,400
Compensated Absences Payable - Due Within One Year		9,844		6,430		16,274
Due to Other Funds		103		1,018		1,121
Due to Other Governments		25,764		34,416		60,180
Total Current Liabilities		99,807		50,989		150,796
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES						
Compensated Absences - Due in More Than One Year		18,281		11,942		30,223
Estimated Liability for Landfill Closure/Postclosure		2,313,709		-		2,313,709
Other Postemployment Benefits Payable		23,085		15,082		38,167
Due in More Than One Year		310,537		193,740		504,277
Net Pension Liability		2,665,612		220,764		2,886,376
Total Noncurrent Liabilities		2,765,419		271,753		3,037,172
Total Liabilities						
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Pension Related		41,840		39,290		81,130
NET POSITION						
Net investment in Capital Assets		3,556,582		3,196,417		6,752,999
Unrestricted		3,218,916		(108,251)		3,110,665
Total Net Position	\$	6,775,398	\$	3,088,166	\$	9,863,564

STEELE COUNTY

OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

December 31, 2016

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and Pooled Investments	\$ 27,235,216	\$ 3,216,205	\$ 30,451,421
Petty Cash and Change Funds	1,500	570	2,070
Cash with Escrow Agent	-	2,296,975	2,296,975
Taxes Receivable	116,226	-	116,226
Current	289,019	-	289,019
Special Assessments Receivable	61,658	-	61,658
Delinquent	427,541	-	427,541
Accounts Receivable - Net	174,379	248,730	423,109
Accrued Interest Receivable	169,966	4	169,970
Internal Balances	(5,899)	5,809	-
Due from Other Governments	2,223,368	22,813	2,246,121
Loans Receivable	655,375	13,334	668,709
Inventories	134,988	213,427	348,425
Investment in Joint Venture	3,149,718	-	3,149,718
Restricted Assets	482,076	-	482,076
Cash and Pooled Investments	4,717,545	-	4,717,545
Net Investment in Sales-Type Lease	-	-	-
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	3,529,228	451,250	3,980,478
Land	2,539,604	17,556	2,557,160
Construction-in-Progress	-	-	-
Depreciable Capital Assets	13,855,187	3,051,641	16,906,828
Building (Net)	13,918	121,355	135,273
Improvements Other than Buildings (Net)	3,522,220	1,230,709	4,752,929
Machinery, Vehicles, Furniture and Equipment (Net)	-	1,880,488	1,880,488
Landfill (Net)	-	-	-
Infrastructure (Net)	56,788,909	-	56,788,909
Total Assets	120,061,782	12,770,986	132,832,648
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension Related	11,601,931	209,879	11,811,810
Loss on Refunding	82,443	-	82,443
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	11,684,374	209,879	11,904,253
LIABILITIES			
Primary Government			
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Accounts Payable	\$ 499,013	\$ 62,064	\$ 561,067
Salaries Payable	253,421	9,767	263,188
Accrued Payroll Taxes Payable	37,022	1,400	38,422
Contracts Payable	468,961	-	468,961
Due to Other Governments	45,445	60,180	105,625
Accrued Interest Payable	66,896	-	66,896
Compensated Absences Payable - Due Within One Year	438,026	16,274	454,300
General Obligation Bonds Payable - Due Within One Year	2,185,000	-	2,185,000
Loans Payable - Due Within One Year	163,903	-	163,903
Revenue Bonds Payable - Due Within One Year	145,000	-	145,000
G.O. Taxable Wastewater Revenue Notes - Due Within One Year	16,456	-	16,456
Compensated Absences Payable - Due in More than One Year	813,478	30,223	843,701
Other Postemployment Benefits Payable - Due in More than One Year	1,027,300	38,167	1,065,467
General Obligation Bonds Payable - Due in More than One Year	8,054,618	-	8,054,618
Loans Payable - Due in More than One Year	641,729	-	641,729
Estimated Liability for Landfill Closure/Postclosure - Due in More than One Year	-	2,313,709	2,313,709
Revenue Bonds Payable - Due in More than One Year	2,650,000	-	2,650,000
G.O. Taxable Wastewater Revenue Notes - Due in More than One Year	87,876	-	87,876
Net Pension Liability - Due in More than One Year	19,830,023	504,277	20,334,300
Total Liabilities	37,424,167	3,036,051	40,460,218
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Total			
Pension Related	3,171,060	81,130	3,252,190
Advanced Allocations	739,469	-	739,469
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	3,910,529	81,130	3,991,659
NET POSITION			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	69,983,350	6,752,999	76,736,349
Restricted For:			
General Government	680,093	-	680,093
Public Services	1,208,475	-	1,208,475
State County Comptroller for a Lifetime	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Conservation of Natural Resources	957,730	-	957,730
Unrestricted	17,129,768	3,110,565	20,240,333
Total Net Position	\$ 99,421,486	\$ 9,863,564	\$ 109,285,024

FORECLOSURE

12-081815

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: May 1, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$127,806.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Brandon L. Klemmensen and Aana E. Spurgeon, both single persons MORTGAGEE: Advisor's Mortgage, LLC LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Advisor's Mortgage, LLC SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 2, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000356965, Thereafter modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 22, 2014 as document number A000399216 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Dated: May 1, 2008 filed: May 2, 2008, recorded as document number A000356966 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point 2 rods West and 1384 feet South of the Northeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 106 North, Range 20 West , thence West 142 feet to the East line of the Right of Way of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway; thence Southwest along said Right of Way line 130 feet, thence East approximately 162 feet to the West line of Highway, being a point 1512 feet directly South of the North line of said Northwest Quarter, thence North along the West line of Highway to the point of commencement. Subject to easements of record. Except: The North 66 feet thereof PROPERTY ADDRESS: 9184 37th Ave SW, Hope, MN 56046 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 05-030-4202 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$124,729.82

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: December 21, 2017, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on June 21, 2018, or the next business day if June 21, 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: October 24, 2017 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Assignee of Mortgage 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

10/31, 11/7, 11/14 11/21, 11/28, 12/5

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 RECORD- ING: Filed March 31, 2006, Steele County Registrar of Titles, Document No. T000059768 on Certificate of Title No. 18861. 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 RECORD- ING: 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 the 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

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2111

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

Estate of George Tashima, Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of January, 2018, at 3:00 pm, a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 107 W. Main St., Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated September 26, 2012, and for the appointment of Peggy Tashima, whose address is 339 2nd Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate. Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Joseph A. Buettel Judge of District Court 11-17-2017 Dated Jason J. Iacovino Attorney at Law 415 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 (507) 583-6663 Attorney Registration Number 386770

11/28, 12/5

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.

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

BP CITY

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda December 11, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes of November Regular City Council Meeting Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports 1. B.P. Public Utilities 2. E.D.A. Commission 3. B.P. Planning & Zoning-Easement Vacation 4. B.P. Fire Commission 5. B.P. Ambulance Commission 6. B.P. Police Commission

Business 1. Presentation of 2018 Final Budget 2. Public Comments – Truth In Taxation 3. Approval of 2018 General Governmental Funds Budget 4. Approval of 2018 Enterprise Funds Budgets 5. Certify 2018 Tax Levy 6. Designated Fund Balance 7. Cigarette License Renewal 8. Pay Request No. 3 – Ulland Bros. Inc.

City Administrator's Report 1. EDA Purchase of Tax Forfeited Property 2. WWTP Job Applications 3. Dog Licenses 4. P & Z Public Hearing – Vacating Avenue

City Attorney's Report Council Members' Reports Closed Session – Employee Evaluation

Adjourn This Agenda is Subject to Change

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 580.23, 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

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 11/14/17
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Gnemi/Krueger to approve the agenda.
A. Approve the October 18, 2017 Emergency Minutes and October 24, 2017 Special Board Minutes.
B. Approve the Bills with changes.
C. Approve Personnel Report.
D. Accept Community Services Minutes.
E. Accept Internal Central Services Minutes
F. Approve the Community Corrections Advisory Board Bylaws.
2. Leota Lind gave a semi-Annual report update on South Country Health Alliance.
3. The Public Hearing on the proposed project and issuance of Revenue Bonds Refunding was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
4. Eric Lunde from Piper Jaffrey and Jennifer Hanson from Dorsey & Whitney gave an update on the proposed project and issuance of Revenue Refunding Bonds to restructure the debt for Koda Living Community.
5. The hearing was then open to questions from those in attendance.
6. Krueger/Glynn to close the hearing at 5:35 p.m.
7. Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of revenue obligations on behalf of Steele County Communities for a Lifetime, Inc., its successors and assigns, to finance a project under Minnesota statutes, sections 469.152 to 469.1655. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
8. Krueger/Abbe offered a Resolution to accept a donation of Baby Blankets and Toys from Anonymous. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, note absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
9. Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution authorizing the Steele County Attorney to enter into a Retainer Agreement with outside Counsel for purposes of pursuing litigation related to the opioid crisis. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
10. Glynn/Gnemi approve the audit engagement letter from CliftonLarsonAllen for the 2017 Audit. Ayes all.
11. Krueger/Glynn to approve CUP #410 for Riverview Campground to relocate 23 campsites out of the floodplain at their campground located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 20, Owatonna Township with six conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
12. Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution to approve the final payment to Ulland Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$328,665.22 for SAP 074-607-020, 074-607-022 and 074-645-034 (CSAH7 and CSAH45. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady abstaining. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
13. Krueger/Gnemi offered a Resolution to approve the final payment to JJD Companies, LLC in the amount of \$9,799.79 for SAP 074-599-032. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady abstaining. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
14. Glynn/Gnemi to approve final payment to Traffic Marking Service, Inc in the amount of \$73,988.52 for CP 074-017-001. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady abstaining. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
15. Krueger/Glynn to approve the professional services contract with SRF Consulting Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$198,640 for the CSAH 19 and CSAH 45 Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation projects. Ayes all.
16. Krueger/Abbe to remove the CSAH 2 CPR project from previous Agreement for concrete rehabilitation project. Ayes all.
17. Krueger/Gnemi to backfill the custodian position in the Buildings and Grounds Department due to a resignation. Ayes all.
18. Glynn/Gnemi to backfill the Assistant County Engineer position in the Highway Department due to a resignation. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
19. Krueger/Gnemi to backfill the Senior Mechanic position in the Highway Department due to a resignation. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
20. Glynn/Krueger to backfill the Highway Maintenance Technician position in the Highway Department due to a promotion within the department and to backfill an additional Maintenance Technician if needed. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
21. Glynn/Krueger to fill a Maintenance Working Foreperson position in the Highway Department. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
22. Krueger/Gnemi to fill a Highway Maintenance Supervisor position in the Highway Department. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
23. Krueger/Gnemi to backfill the Administrative Support Assistant in the Veteran Services Department due to a resignation. Ayes all.
24. Gnemi/Krueger to approve the proposal to share one Accountant position between the Public Health and Highway Departments on a six-month trial basis. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brad abstaining.
25. Glynn/Gnemi to adjust the 2018 wage structure for Emergency Management staff. Ayes all.
26. Glynn/Krueger to approve not filling the vacant Network Support Technician position in the Information Technology Department. Ayes all.
27. Abbe/Gnemi to backfill the Information Technology Director in the Information Technology Department due to a resignation. Ayes all.
28. Krueger/Gnemi to approve a 3 percent cost of living adjustment for all eligible non-union employees and elected department heads effective 01/01/18. Ayes all.
29. Gnemi/Krueger to approve updating the Employee Benefits in the Personnel Rules & Policies Handbook effective 01/01/18 to change the eligibility for health insurance coverage from 20 scheduled work hours to 30 scheduled work hours per week and the employer and employee will share any health insurance premium increase or decrease 50/50. Ayes all.
30. Glynn/Gnemi to approve weekend snow removal at the Law Enforcement Center and Detention Center by Facilities Maintenance Workers on weekend boiler call. Ayes all.
31. Abbe/Glynn to remove the Public Works Facility Project from the 2017 Budget. Ayes all.
32. Glynn/Gnemi to approve the Agreement for Consulting Services with Hildi, Inc. from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. Ayes all.
33. Glynn/Gnemi to establish a Financial Policy Committee composed of elected and appointed County officials as well as employees to create and update Steele County's financial policies. Upon the vote being taken, 3 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioners Krueger and Abbe voting against.
34. Glynn/Gnemi to approve the name change for SCCL to Koda Living Community. Ayes all.
35. Glynn/Gnemi to terminate Steele County's interest in Steele County Communities for a Lifetime, Inc. membership. Ayes all.
36. Krueger/Abbe to approve the purchase of office furniture in the Extension Department from Innovative in the amount of \$4,258.86. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
11/14/2017

30th Place LLC	17,159.88
3D Specialties	5,358.82
Aaron Carlson Corporation	8,492.63
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	9,603.46
AMCON	3,543.98
American Engineering Testing Inc	5,098.00
Asbestrol Inc	2,381.75
Association of Mn Counties	3,090.00
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	6,300.00
Braun Intertec Eng Inc	9,920.00
Businessware Solutions	2,043.87
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	3,500.00
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,389.00
Cranbrook PSY/Katheryn A	4,200.00
CRK Properties	6,434.14
Custom Communications Inc	7,809.07
Erickson/Meredith A	3,150.00
Firestone Complete Auto Care	2,734.33
Four Seasons Centre	7,610.00
Four Seasons Electric	4,564.50
Fransen HR Consulting LLC	9,926.66
Hosfield/John C	2,497.50
Innovative Office Solutions LLC	7,055.49
Johnson Hardware Company	6,465.00
Kris Engineering Inc	39,638.40
L&M Boiler Systems Inc	48,567.00
Marvin Purrier Concrete & Masonry Cons	8,175.00
Matejcek Implement Co	2,145.67
Mayo Clinic	13,551.00
Medford Sand & Gravel LLC	3,692.05
Mn Pollution Control Agency	89,782.69
Newman Signs Inc	4,747.89
Northern Technologies LLC	3,723.50
Northland Securities Inc	23,760.00
Nuss Truck & Equipment	2,122.52
Olympic Fire Protection Corp	2,992.93
Owatonna Motor Company	2,054.30
Owatonna Public Utilities	24,499.71
SCR Southern-Rochester	4,182.21
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	3,645.72
Steele County Treasurer	11,846.72
Stoel Rives LLP	2,587.00
Summit Food Service Management	15,166.44
The Tenth Division	4,804.66
Waseca Sand & Gravel	2,539.00
Waste Management of Wi-Mn	52,229.07
Wildlife Forever	2,865.17
WSB & Associates Inc	13,410.59
196 Warrants under \$2,000	90,847.08
Total:	\$ 616,904.40

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 7:00 p.m. Ayes all.

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

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-2082
Case Type: Domestic Abuse

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

In the Matter of:
**Caprice Charpentier and On
Behalf of Minor Children**
Petitioner

vs.

Trereias Harris
Respondent

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 Courthouse, 111
East Main Street 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.

Court Administrator/Deputy
Kim Wobschall
12/01/2017

12/5

NOTICE

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18,
2017
HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER**

PROPOSED TENTATIVE
AGENDA

**6:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 14,
2017 Regular School
Board Work Session –High
School Board Room
5:00 p.m.
Monday, December 18, 2017
Open Public Forum–High
School Media Center
5:15 p.m.
Monday, December 18, 2017
Regular School Board
Meeting–High School Media
Center
6:00 p.m.
Monday, December 18, 2017
Budget/Levy Review and
Discussion**

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Donations

B. Employment
C. Volunteer Coaches
D. School Calendars
E. Door Quote
F. World's Best Workforce Annual Report
G. Polling Place Resolution
H. Resolution Regarding District Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement
I. Addressing Plyler Obligations and School-Based Law Enforcement
J. Final 2017 Payable 2018 Levy Limitation

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Rotation of School Board Officers
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

12/5

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Notice of Issuance of
Harassment Order For Relief
by Publication

Kali Smith
Petitioner(s)

vs.

Justin Johnson
Respondent(s)

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request For Hearing with the Court within 45 days of issuance of the Harassment Order For Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address: Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

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

Court Administrator/Deputy
Kim Wobschall
12/01/2017

12/5

PUBLIC HEARING
VACATION OF PLATTED AVENUE

The Planning & Zoning Board of the City of Blooming Prairie will be holding a Public Hearing relating to vacating of the platted 2nd Avenue N.W. between 3rd Street N.W. and 4th Street N.W. The platted avenue is the continuation of 2nd Avenue N.W. through the field west of Prairie Manor, Inc. The vacation of the avenue will enable possible future development of the Prairie Manor facility.

The Hearing shall be held on such proposed vacation on Tuesday December 12, 2017 in the City Center located at 138 Highway Ave. South at 7:00 P.M.


Michael G. Jones
City Administrator

12/05

Owatonna lights up the holidays

STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER

Holiday cheer was spread throughout Owatonna Thursday night during the community's annual Lighted Parade and Lighting of the Lights in Central Park. Left: Averie Howe, 12, of Owatonna got in the holiday spirit by painting candy canes on her cheeks and wearing a Santa hat as she listened to carolers sing holiday classics. Right: Even though snow was non-existent, Santa Claus made his way to the celebration to bring smiles in the faces of all children, including Declan Thigpen, the 1-year-old son of Andrew and Stephanie Thigpen of Owatonna. At least 3,000 people attended the festivities, which included parade units decked out with all sorts of lights and the lighting of trees in the park.



Blooming Prairie Times



STEELE COUNTY TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017 | D1

Christmas "Give-Aways" Set For Friday-Tuesday; Longer Store Hours Set

A big crowd is expected to be on hand Friday evening of this week in Blooming Prairie's business district for the first in a series of ten pre-Christmas drawings — seven adult events and three for children — with 70 turkeys and \$250,000 in "script" money to be awarded as prizes.

Eleven names will be drawn at each adult "give-away" and six at each kid's drawing. Friday night's adult promotion is scheduled for 9 p.m. on main street, with other drawings planned for each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. and Friday evening at 9 o'clock through December 20. Kid's events are scheduled at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7-14-21.

Each adult drawing will be for 10 choice turkeys and also one name for \$25,000 in "script" money. If the person whose name is selected for the "script" money is not present, two names each will be drawn at the next event. On Friday, Dec. 20, names will be picked from the registrations until all accumulated money has been claimed.

All children, ages 6 to 18, are eligible to register for the kid's drawings, with the prizes at each event to be \$10, \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1 in "script" money.

Registrations can be made at all participating stores and area residents are urged to sign-up each time they visit a local business house. Rules for each event are the same and tickets will be destroyed following each drawing. Rules and regulations for the promotion appear in an advertisement elsewhere in this week's Times and we advise everyone to read them carefully.

Dist. Governor Will Speak at Lions Meeting

District Governor E. O. Olson of Northfield will be speaker at the Blooming Prairie Lions Club meeting Wednesday, Dec. 4. The dinner-meeting will be held at Kerne's Nite Club at 6:30 p.m. and all members and their wives are urged to be on hand to hear Mr. Olson's message.



E. O. OLSON

Gov. Olson is a 30-year Charter Monarch Lion and was charter president of Deer River Lions Club. He was past president of Grand Rapids Lions Club and also past zone chairman.

He received high school education at Ada, Minn., and received his B. A. degree at St. Olaf college and his M. A. degree at University of Minnesota. A school man by profession, he spent 10 years in the Grand Rapids school system, six of which he served as principal of the high school and for ten years was superintendent of schools at Deer River, Minn.

Gov. Olson served at Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served as past Commander of the American Legion Post, Deer River. He was also past District Adjutant of the American Legion and is presently a member of the Northfield American Legion Post 84.

He was named "Boss of the Year" by Northfield Jaycees in 1958. He is married and the father of two daughters.

Longer Store Hours

In conjunction with the big holiday promotion, Blooming Prairie stores will remain open thirteen evenings through Dec. 23. Frank Resler, Jr., chairman of the Civic Progress Club's promotion committee, announced today. The new longer store hours will give patrons of local business places an opportunity to shop at their convenience.

Dates designated for evening hours are: Monday, Dec. 2; Wednesday, Dec. 4; Friday, Dec. 6; Monday, Dec. 9; Wednesday, Dec. 11; Friday, Dec. 13; and every evening beginning Monday, Dec. 16 through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Blooming Prairie merchants are offering many special bargains for the Christmas shopping season and they also invite the public to register for the worthwhile prizes being offered twice weekly.

Martin P. Lien Dies Suddenly Sunday Evening

Martin P. Lien, life-long area resident, passed away suddenly Sunday evening at his home following a heart attack. Mr. Lien, who was 84 years of age, was not in ill health and had been up town doing errands on Saturday afternoon. Sunday afternoon he visited with friends who called at his home.

Survivors include his wife, Amanda; three daughters, Mrs. Agnes Strand, Mrs. Erick Naatz of Austin and Mrs. Osmond Odegard; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Red Oak Grove Church, with Rev. Walter E. N. Wahl officiating. Pallbearers will be Ole Benson, Edward Baasness, Einar Magnusson, B. M. Christensen, Nathan Goodwin and Clifford Christensen. Interment will be in the Red Oak Grove cemetery.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's issue of the Times.

First Baptist Young People Hold Cookie Pack November 25th

The Baptist young people met at the church Monday, Nov. 25, for their annual cookie pack. After a pot luck supper they delivered the packages of home-made cookies to twenty-five shut-ins and other friends who live alone.

At each stop scripture was read and the group joined in prayer. Twenty young people and three adults took part in the cookie pack.

O. E. S. Christmas Party Next Tuesday

Oak Glen Chapter 177, O.E.S. will hold their annual family Christmas party following the regular meeting Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. Potluck lunch and will be served and all husbands and children are invited. Virginia Brainard, Ruth Jorgensen and Nola Trom will be hostesses.

A program will be presented and games and gifts for the children are planned. The adults will have grab bag gifts.

Post Office Urges Early Xmas Mailing

December 1 will mark the start of one of the biggest and toughest races in town — the annual race against time at the Blooming Prairie post office as its Christmas mail rush goes into high gear. Postmaster George Carroll noted today.

New reports from Postmaster General John A. Gronowski in Washington to Mr. Carroll indicate an anticipated nationwide record mail volume for this Christmas season of nearly 12 billion pieces during December.

Locally, Postmaster Carroll expects December's mail volume to total 80,000 pieces, exceeding last December's total of 72,000 pieces.

"Shopping and mailing early benefits everyone," the postmaster observed. "Customers who buy early get the pick of the Christmas stocks; the local economy is aided by the business activity thus created, and everyone including the postal service — is happy about the additional time that early mailing allows."

"Early mailing also gives us time to get gifts and cards in the hands of addressees in good condition with less chance to damage or delay due to human error."

"Our employees need public help to run this race against time — and patrons of the Blooming Prairie post office can assist us by shopping and mailing right now and by using ZIP code in both return and destination addresses."

P. J. Peterson Dies Saturday; Rites Nov. 25

Peter Jens Peterson, life-long resident of the Blooming Prairie community, passed away at the Maves Rest Home in Hayfield Saturday, Nov. 23. He was 81 years of age at the time of his death.

Mr. Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. (Judge) Peterson, was born June 24, 1882 in Steele county. He received his education in country school in the county.

He was a member of the Danish Brotherhood.

Surviving are five nephews, Charles of Clarkfield, Gerald of Blooming Prairie, Stewart of Waseca, Howard of Bountiful, Utah, and Merle of St. Charles; one niece Mrs. Leo (Shirley) Kubat of Owatonna; two brothers, Hans of San Bernardino, Calif. and Jay of 29 Palms, Calif.

Last rites were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, from the Blooming Prairie Funeral Home with Rev. David Farrington officiating. Music at the service was rendered by Mrs. Edw. Dilevson, accompanied by Rev. Farrington.

Interment was in the Union Cemetery. Pallbearers were Otto Andersen, Jens Larsen, Hans Paulsen, Axel Hansen, Fred Godfredsen, Charlie Laughanan.

Dan Reimans To Observe Golden Wedding Nov. 30

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Reiman, Waltham, will observe their Golden Wedding Anniversary Saturday, Nov. 30, at Trinity Lutheran church, Waltham.

Services at the church will be held at 2 p.m. with "Open House" and reception in the church parlors from 2:30 to 5 p.m. and at their home from 7 to 9 p.m.

Hosts and hostesses for the honored couple will be their children and families; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reiman and family, Rochester; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bergstrom and family, Austin; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tennis and family, Hayward; and Arnold and Ernest Reiman, Waltham.

The Times had planned to publish a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Reiman in this week's issue, however, due to the national holiday Monday postal service was suspended and the engraving did not arrive by press time. It will appear in the Dec. 5 issue.

Degree of Honor To Meet Dec. 2nd

The regular monthly meeting of the Degree of Honor will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, in the Community Building.

The annual family Christmas party will be held at the Community building Sunday, Dec. 3. Gifts will be exchanged with 50c gifts for adults and 25c gifts for children. The time will be set at the December meeting.

Community Joins Nation In Mourning Death of President John Kennedy

Thanksgiving To Be Observed Here Thursday

Prayers for peace, plenty and prosperity will again go up from Blooming Prairie homes and churches in the observance of Thanksgiving Day Thursday of this week.

The entire community will bow their heads to God offering up thanks for a land of freedom and the democratic principles handed down as heritage from our Puritan ancestors.

Business houses, the school, and post office will be closed all-day Thursday, a national holiday. The lobby of the post office will be open but there will be no window service or rural deliveries.

Most churches in the area will hold special services either on Wednesday night or Thanksgiving morning.

On Thursday hundreds of families will sit down to delightful Thanksgiving Day dinners, featuring turkey and all the trimmings. Many family reunions have been planned and most students will return home from schools to visit relatives for the holiday.

Classes at Blooming Prairie public school will be in recess from Wednesday afternoon until Monday morning.

Couples Honored On 35th Wedding Sunday, Nov. 17

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Anderson were pleasantly surprised Sunday, Nov. 17, when approximately 100 friends and relatives gathered at the Geneva Lutheran church to honor them on their 35th wedding anniversary.

The couples were married at a double wedding in the Geneva church in 1928, each being the other's attendant.

The children of the couples planned the event in honor of their parents.

Optometrist Will Open Office Here

Dr. D. L. Butts, Optometrist practicing in Waseca, will open an office in the Lyndard Building Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 4. Dr. Butts will be in his office each Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to examine eyes and fit glasses.



LYNDON B. JOHNSON



JOHN F. KENNEDY

Red Cross Bloodmobile For Area Residents at Litomysl Church Friday

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will headquarter at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl on Friday of this week, Nov. 29, and donors from this community are asked to report to this center to contribute blood. The mobile unit will be set-up at Litomysl during the hours from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Bloodmobile has had centers in both Blooming Prairie and Ellendale in the past, however, on this visit to Steele county the unit will headquarter at Litomysl in an effort to obtain more donors since both towns have fallen way short of their quotas in recent years.

Red Cross blood program officials reported today that the late President John F. Kennedy received Red Cross blood at the Dallas, Texas, hospital last Friday in an effort to save his life after being shot by a gunman. Area residents are now asked to contribute blood during this letting in memory of our 35th president, who was assassinated in Dallas.

The Red Cross blood bank is a vital part of our community and it stands ready to help you and your loved ones at any time of emergency. Under the program, all residents of Steele county are eligible to receive free blood, regardless of what hospital they may be confined in.

Be A Donor Friday

You can be a donor at Friday's letting if: (1) You are between the ages of 18 and 60, however, those

18 to 21 need parents consent if unmarried. (2) You have not donated blood within the previous 8 weeks. (3) You weigh 110 lbs. or more. (4) Have not been pregnant within the past 12 months. (5) Have never had yellow jaundice.

In an effort to stress the importance of the blood program, the following statistics were released recently to area residents:

Over 2,000,000 residents of 73 counties in three states are served by the Red Cross Regional Blood Program.

150 hospitals will transfuse some 74,000 pints of blood in the region this year.

Three bloodmobile operations must collect a minimum of 300 pints of blood, 5 days per week, to meet our present blood needs.

One out of every twenty persons in the Red Cross Blood Region will have to make a blood donation this year if we are to properly meet the needs of our community hospitals.

It was announced today that lunch will be served to the donors reporting to the Litomysl center by ladies of the church and will consist of their famous filled biscuits, sandwiches, and coffee.

Every civic-minded resident should feel a personal responsibility to assist in this worthy program. If you are physically able, then donate a pint of blood this Friday, during the hours from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl.

Town Election Is Set For Tues., December 3; Two Contests On Ballot

A larger than usual vote is anticipated next Tuesday, Dec. 3, when Blooming Prairie residents ballot for town officials at the annual election. With a contest scheduled for the single council position to be filled at this year's election and also for the office of constable, added interest is being displayed among residents of Blooming Prairie.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the usual voting place in the Community building.

The ballot handed voters at the polls next Tuesday will contain two candidates for trustee, 2-year term, two candidates for constable, and the incumbent mayor and justice-of-peace both unopposed in their bid for re-election to new two-year terms.

The ballot will be as follows:

- President of Council:**
Ross W. Hollowell
- Trustee, 2-year term:**
George Frederickson
Robert Oswald
- Justice-of-Peace, 2-year term:**
Charles Ellis
- Constable, 2-year term:**
Kenneth A. Lee
Arthur Lassahn
- Oswald Is Newcomer**

Robert Oswald, proprietor of Oswald's Grocery, was filed for the office of trustee and will oppose George Frederickson for the seat on the town's governing body.

Mr. Oswald is highly qualified for the position of trustee and has many friends working in his behalf in an effort to elect him to office. Mr. Oswald stated that should he be selected to serve on the council at next Tuesday's election he will act in the best interests of Blooming Prairie at all times and also welcome and listen to problems pertaining to town matters voiced by any citizen.



ROSS W. HOLLOWELL

tion he will act in the best interests of Blooming Prairie at all times and also welcome and listen to problems pertaining to town matters voiced by any citizen.

Incumbent George Frederickson is manager of the Federal Land Bank office here.

The only other contest on the ballot will find incumbent Kenneth Lee, Blooming Prairie police officer, opposed by Arthur Lassahn for the two-year term as constable.

Mayor Ross W. Hollowell and Justice-of-Peace Charles Ellis are both unopposed for new two-year terms at next Tuesday's election.

Both men have served the village well in their respective offices and will undoubtedly receive votes from most everyone going to the polls here.

Electing village officials is important and all eligible voters in Blooming Prairie should go to the



ROBERT OSWALD



GEORGE FREDERICKSON

polls next Tuesday and cast a ballot for the men of their choice. Remember, the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Be sure to vote!

The Blooming Prairie community joined a shocked and sorrowful nation in mourning the tragic death of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated Friday, Nov. 22, by a hidden gunman in Dallas, Texas. Area residents were stunned when news of the President's assassination flashed on radio and television moments after the shooting and everyone regardless of political beliefs, found it difficult to believe that such a terrible incident could occur in the United States.

Many activities scheduled in the Blooming Prairie area over the weekend were cancelled in tribute to the late President Kennedy. Flags were flown at half-mast, and business places closed Monday morning when funeral services were held.

On Sunday special prayers were offered in local churches for both our departed President and also for the new leader of our country, Lyndon B. Johnson. School was also in recess throughout the day Monday in respect to the late President Kennedy.

Assassinated Friday

The assassination occurred just as the President's motorcade was leaving downtown Dallas, Texas, following a tour through the city's streets. His special car — with the protective bubble down — was moving down an incline into an overpass that led to a freeway route when a hidden gunman's shots rang out. Three shots were fired, the hitting President Kennedy and the third wounding Gov. John B. Connally of Texas.

Radio and television coverage of the tragedy was devoted exclusively to the assassination from the time of the shooting until after funeral services on Monday, and along with daily newspaper reporting of the incident, everyone in the United States, regardless of age, is aware of the details and events regarding the death of the president.

New President Takes Office

Within an hour after news of President Kennedy's death in a Dallas hospital was announced, Vice-president Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office and became this nation's 36th president. The new president is 56 years of age and has been associated in our government for many years, having served in both the House of Representative and U.S. Senate before becoming vice-president in 1960.

Suspect Captured, Killed

Lee Harvey Oswald, 24, was apprehended by police a few hours after the assassination, killing a Dallas policeman before being captured in a theater. He was charged with the slaying of the President, however, he denied any knowledge of the killing even though authorities had much evidence against him.

On Sunday morning suspect Oswald was killed in the basement of the Dallas city hall by Jack Ruby, night club operator, who by television cameras moved up to Oswald and at close range fired one shot into the stomach of the heavily guarded and handcuffed Oswald. He died soon afterwards in a Dallas hospital.

It is almost unbelievable that such a series of events as occurred last weekend could possibly happen in the United States and people everywhere are expressing a feeling of shock and grief.

In Minnesota Gov. Karl Rolvaag has ordered flags in the state flown at half-mast for 30 days in memory of the late President John F. Kennedy.

The feeling of most everyone, Republicans and Democrats alike, is that our nation has lost a great and beloved leader in the death of John F. Kennedy. He has given his life for our country and people everywhere mourn his untimely passing in the prime of life.

Herman Tuinder Dies Tuesday; Rites on Friday

Herman Tuinder, well-known Blooming Prairie resident, passed away at 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday of this week at his home here. He had returned earlier this month from the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis, where he had undergone therapy for 3 months.

Mr. Tuinder was 53 years of age at the time of his passing.

Survivors include his wife, Ardella; one daughter, Deanne; one son, Roger; and a brother, Jacob, of Austin.

Funeral services have been tentatively set for 2 p. m., Friday, Nov. 29, in the First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's Times.



Blooming on the Prairie for a century and a half!



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66 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from All of Us to All of You!

Front row, left to right: Wilma Henders, Elvira Woods, Ruby Miller, and Jeanne Johnson. Back row, left to right: Ben Wilson, Elvira Bush, Connie Jensen, Carol Hagenson, Cora Williams, and Lillian Mathews.

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE
"The Home Owned Bank"

FDIC

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas...

Happy Holidays from the Main Street Dental Staff

Main Street Dental Clinic
Dr. John Flor, DDS & Dr. Clint Roberts, DDS
405 E. Main, Blooming Prairie • 583-2141

CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS TO YOU!

Greetings to all my friends and the people of Steele County. I am grateful to you for your co-operation with this office. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

E. (Ted) HELGESON
Steele County Sheriff

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CRWD named Watershed District of the Year
State association gives award today at annual convention in Alexandria



CRWD staff receives the 2017 Watershed District of the Year award today at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' (MAWD) annual convention in Alexandria. Pictured (left to right) are CRWD's project manager Cody Fox; administrator Justin Hanson; and board member Mike Jones with Luke Skinner, the ecological and water resources division director with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Cedar River Watershed District received a statewide award today for its numerous projects focused on improving water quality and reducing local flooding. CRWD was named the 2017 Watershed District of the Year during the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) in Alexandria. Justin Hanson, CRWD administrator, accepted the award along with CRWD project manager Cody Fox and board member Mike Jones, who has served on CRWD's Board of Managers since its inception in 2007. "This is an incredible honor to be recognized at this level by our peers and partners," Hanson said. "It's a reflection of the hard work and team effort put forward by our staff and board but we would not be in this position without outstanding agricultural producers and landowners and other partners." Todd Piepho, an area hydrologist for the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources, nominated CRWD for this year's award, recognizing the district's numerous efforts to improve water quality and reduce flooding within its 435 square miles of land in Mower, Dodge, Freeborn and Steele counties. Under the nomination, CRWD was recognized for various work related to water regulation, water-quality improvement projects, water monitoring, flood-damage reduction, community engagement and watershed planning. Among these efforts is the CRWD's ongoing five-year, \$8.4 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) focused on building 25 structures in farm fields to temporarily retain stormwater and stabilize ravines along the Cedar River State Water Trail and within the Dobbins Creek subwatershed. MAWD is a St. Paul-based association representing 45 watershed districts in Minnesota that are partners in water protection and management.

MAWD provides educational opportunities, information and training for watershed district managers and staff through yearly tours, meetings and regular communication. In 2012, CRWD received the Watershed Program of the Year award from MAWD. DNR officials also nominated CRWD for that award partly due to the CRWD staff's extensive work on alternative agricultural drainage demonstration projects with the University of Minnesota and other groups. Two years earlier, Hanson, who was a CRWD resource specialist at the time, received MAWD's 2010 Watershed District Employee of the Year award. Now in its 10th year, CRWD was formed in 2007 by local and state officials in response to the Austin area's two worst-known floods in 2000 and 2004. CRWD's top priorities are flood reduction and water-quality improvement.

They don't let the cold bug them: insect strategies to survive winter in Minnesota

ON THE FARM



Claire LaCanne

We cope with cold Minnesota winters in various ways. Some of us avoid the cold by moving south for the winter, some of us grit our teeth during frigid days and then retreat inside with warm beverages and blankets. Some face the cold in shorts and no jacket and claim that they love the freezing cold weather. Insect strategies for surviving Minnesota winters are shockingly similar to our human strategies. Some insects find different ways to avoid the cold—perhaps they migrate or find overwintering habitat; others face the cold but utilize methods to keep themselves from freezing. Still others allow themselves to freeze. The avoidance strategy is common among insects. Many insects find shelter over the winter months, sometimes in large groups or aggregations with insects of the same species. Most species that find

shelter go into diapause, which is the insect version of hibernation. Their metabolism slows down, and they go into a sleep-like state. Tent caterpillars endure diapause as egg masses on branches. Turf-feeding grubs (like June beetles and Japanese beetles) overwinter deep in the soil as larvae, as do European corn borers. Cecropia moths and swallowtail butterflies overwinter as pupae in cocoons or chrysalis. Bean leaf beetles spend the winter as adults under loose tree bark or in fallen leaves. Others avoid the cold by winging it down south. Insects which migrate from Minnesota to warmer climates include monarch butterflies, painted lady butterflies, and common green darner dragonflies. Common species that aggregate include honey bees, which stay warm in hives, native lady beetles, which overwinter in groups under bark or firewood, and Multicolored Asian lady beetles which find shelter in our homes. Some insects prevent their bodies from freezing to survive the winter. Several species can supercool their bodies by making chemicals, similar to antifreeze, which prevent ice from forming within their bodies. Codling moths, emerald ash borers, gypsy moths, and soybean aphids supercool. Soybean aphids, in egg form, cool themselves to withstand

temperatures down to -29°F! Instead of preventing themselves from freezing, some insects have adapted to survive freezing. Their physiologies allow their bodies to freeze but not be damaged. They survive by using specialized proteins which regulate the way they freeze to prevent cell damage. Body fluids that circulate outside these insects' cells freeze, forcing water out of the cells, which lowers the freezing point, and protects the cells themselves. Goldenrod gall flies and wooly bear caterpillars utilize this freezing strategy. You may notice that there are some important insects not mentioned as using any of these strategies. Well, some insects don't survive Minnesotan winters. Whiteflies, striped cucumber beetles, and corn earworms die as temperatures drop and then migrate from the south or from greenhouses in the spring. Despite individuals dying, insects generally find a way to keep their populations going. Insects adapt. They evolve rapidly and can cope with changing conditions, making several insect species even better at coping with Minnesota winters than the hardest Minnesotan human. 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.

Minnesota Corn Growers Association funds farmers tackling conservation

Minnesota corn farmers will once again have the opportunity to put their innovative conservation ideas into action through the Minnesota Corn Growers Association's (MCGA) Innovation Grant Program. Proposals on how to reduce nitrate loss, improve soil health, and protect water quality are being accepted through Dec. 15, 2017. MCGA, working alongside the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC), is offering a total of \$300,000 in Innovation Grants to any Minnesota corn farmer seeking to test or develop an innovative or best practice in the following areas:

- Nitrate loss reduction
- Improved nitrogen management practices for Minnesota soils
- Maintaining or improving water quality
- Innovative soil conservation practices
- Comparing and contrasting the measurable values of large data set decision tools

In 2017, 23 farmer-led research projects received a total of \$250,000 in funding through the Innovation Grant Program. Examples of the great work by Minnesota farmers this summer include the installation of a sub-surface irrigation system, a more calculated approach to nitrogen application, and a new apparatus that allowed one farmer to apply fungicide while also applying nitrogen. Corn farmers in Minnesota

support about \$4 million every year through respected research institutions like the University of Minnesota to address issues that corn farmers are facing every day. The Innovation Grant Program allows farmers to put their own ideas to the test and examine how other farmers in Minnesota might be able to replicate that idea on their farm. The Innovation Grant Program is one of many undertakings by the state's corn growers

to become the most sustainable and environmentally responsible corn farmers in the United States. The multi-faceted goal includes increasing the financial sustainability of farm operations, while adopting conservation practices that help farmers remain good stewards of the land and protect our state's water quality. After the RFP period ends on Dec. 15, proposals will undergo review with awards determined by March 1, 2018 and project funding available April 1, 2018. Farmers can apply at <http://www.mncorn.org/research-rfps/>.



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Ellendale's

CHRISTMAS

IN THE COUNTRY

December 8 & 9, 2017

Christmas Tree Lighting



Friday, Dec. 8
6:30 p.m.
Everyone Welcome

COAT DRIVE

Going on NOW through December 9

Drop off coats at Floors 4 U

COATS WILL GO TO AREA STUDENTS



Sponsored by ECAG

Holiday BINGO

Friday, Dec. 8 after tree lighting

\$20 for 20 games

GREAT PRIZES

Proceeds go toward community sign project



Sponsored by ECAG

Holiday Craft Fair, Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Building

Tour the Trees open house, 3 to 5 p.m. at Whispering Oak Assisted Living Community

Carey Langer, Dec. 9, 4 to 7 p.m. at Ellendale Municipal Liquor

\$5, \$10, \$15 Remnant Sale, Refreshments, Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9, Floors 4-U

Santa Bingo for the kids, Dec. 9 at Whispering Oak Assisted Living, Santa comes at 3 p.m.

Norwegian UffDa Sale, Saturday, Dec. 9 all day, Lerberg's Foods, Check weekly ad for specials PLUS prize drawings throughout the day

Soup & Bread Lunch, Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ellendale United Methodist Church, Free will donation





Holiday Open House

Wednesday, Dec. 6 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Hope

Friday, Dec. 8 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Ellendale

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2012 Artic Cat XF 1100 Limited edition snow pro, color white/orange/black, custom bumper, windshield bag, tunnel bag, 2873 miles, new sport cover. Like new \$5,500.00. Serious buyers only: 507-273-4361. 44tfc
2013 Ford Escape SEL \$13,600. Ecoboost 4WD, power driver's seat, heated front, new tires, 82,000 miles, mostly highway; 24MPG, dealer maintained. Call 507-273-0559. 49-50p,51nc

GARAGE SALE

Moving sale, 214 E. Main St., Hayfield. Fri. & Sat., Dec. 8 & 9, Noon - 7 p.m. EVERYTHING MUST GO! Make offers. Furniture, tons of Avon, bedding sets, all season's holiday decorations, china hutch glassware collectibles, jewelry and much more. 50,51p
314 1st St. NE, Kasson: Inside. Fri. & Sat. Garage/Moving sale (make offers). 4' x 7' (2) piece hutch, 30 1/2" cement girl golf statue, metal detector, eagles, horse & wagon collections; 1939 John Deere model 'B' 1/8 scale, pole bird feeders, mirrors, tools, collectibles, big set of dishes, sewing cabinets, Xmas lights & much more. 49,50,51nc

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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;53nc
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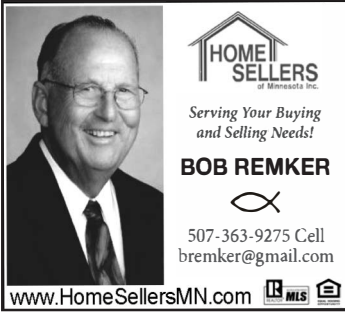


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BLOOMING
PRAIRIE

Holiday Dazzle

Friday, December 1, 2017



STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD
Santa Claus found lots of young friends at Farmers & Merchants State Bank on Friday night, Dec. 1 at Holiday Dazzle. Hundreds of youngsters came to the bank to visit with Santa. Here, Santa holds four-month-old Stella Kvalsten of Blooming Prairie.



Frosty the Snowman and a Christmas tree made a surprise appearance at the Holiday Dazzle on Main Street of Blooming Prairie.



Just for Kix dancers performed at Holiday Dazzle 2017. Rory Musel, 5, of Blooming Prairie was one of the young dancers.



These two young guys warmed up by the fire by toasting marshmallows for their smokes. Note the Blooming Prairie Fire Department designed minion.

Warm weather greets BP Holiday Dazzle guests

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Usually, the annual Blooming Prairie Holiday Dazzle promotional event held in early December, is greeted with ccccccold weather. This year was different. Last Friday, 50-degree temperatures greeted Holiday Dazzle visitors. "The warmer weather really brought the people out," remarked Greg Johnson, president of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce, the organizer of the Holiday Dazzle event. Business merchants offered free refreshments and in some cases, they offered some free goodie bags. Hometown Insurance carried on a tradition of giving out pistachio nuts. Merchants also gave out snowballs to shoppers and later in the evening, drawings were held for Blooming Prairie Bucks. The Women of Today sponsored a Santa House

featuring gifts youngsters could get for their parents. Parents were not allowed in the shopping area. Lots of kids visited the Santa House at the BP City Center just after the BP Elementary Holiday Concert concluded. A highlight of the Holiday Dazzle event was the selection of Scrooge. Shoppers have had the chance to vote for their favorite Scrooge. In a close contest, Aaron Ressler of Bunkie's was crowned the 2017 Scrooge by last year's Scrooge, Rachel Klemmensen. Also vying for the Scrooge honor were Nick Seifert, Alyssa Ressler and Rachel PirkI. "Put the hat on," someone challenged Ressler. "Give me a buck and I will," he joked. Santa Claus also made an appearance on Main Street, arriving via horse and wagon provided by Roger Pittman of Bixby. Long lines of kids, parents and grandparents waited to see Santa. F & M State Bank President James Fiebigler took photos of children with Santa.



The 2016 Holiday Dazzle Scrooge Rachel Klemmensen, right, crowns the 2017 Scrooge, Aaron Ressler of Bunkie's. Other contestants were Nick Schiefert, Alyssa Ressler and Rachel PirkI.