

Pastor Charlie Leonard moves to Rochester

Continued on page 4A

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Continued on page 2A



D: 1D-12D .. WINTER
SPORTS

Opinion

Our view

Judge sends strong message for disturbing crime

It’s a crime that shocked many people. Four teenagers lured another teen to a cornfield in Steele County in the middle of the night back in July 2015 and savagely stabbed him 109 times.

With shocking crimes come stiff sentences that may raise an eyebrow or two. Such was the case in a Steele County courtroom last week.

The last of four teens charged in the case was sentenced by Judge Karen Duncan to nearly 10 years in prison. Jameson Smith, 18, will be forced to serve at least two-thirds of the 118-month sentence. He is the second person in the case to receive that same harsh penalty.

Perhaps what stands out about last week’s sentence for Smith is the judge’s tough stance in that she went above what the prosecutor even requested. County Attorney Daniel McIntosh asked for 103 months and in the end Duncan added another 15 months onto it.

In our eyes, the punishment fits the particular brutality used in this crime. The victim survived, but will likely have lasting medical issues for the rest of his life. Maybe this unusually tough sentence will give Smith enough time to think about each of the blows he and his accomplices delivered to the victim.

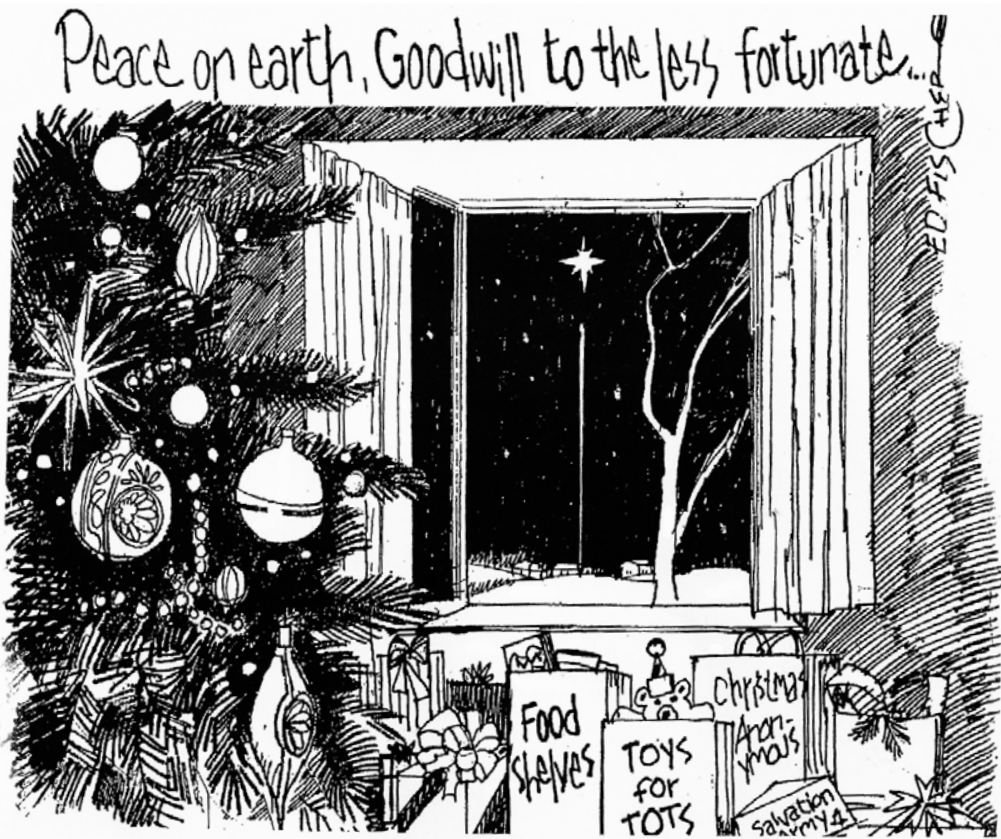
We want to praise the judge for how she has handled the outcome of this horrendous crime. Swift and tough justice is exactly what was needed in this case to send a strong message to the lawless perpetrators who think their actions have no consequences.

Judges like the Honorable Karen Duncan play a key role in keeping our communities safe and from becoming crime havens like other areas of the country. Strong messages need to be sent that crime, especially heinous crimes like Smith took part in, will not be tolerated.

Duncan could not comment specifically about this case, but she provided this newspaper some insight into how she determines sentences. “I don’t order jail or prison lightly,” she says. “I picture the person I am about to send in prison and consider the challenges that person will face in that setting as well as the benefits.”

The judge went on to say current research tells us that incarceration does little to change behaviors, and sometimes we actually increase the likelihood of the person committing future crimes if we lock him or her up for too long. “When we don’t understand why a person committed a crime, it can be hard to come up with conditions of the sentence to target what will most help ensure the crime is not repeated,” Duncan said, “Sometimes, the best we can do is incarcerate for a sufficiently long time to protect the community by incapacitating the individual, while hoping during that prison term staff in the facility might come up with some answers and appropriate programming.”

While we agree excessive lock up may not be the only answer to handling a case, we believe there was no other alternative with this particularly shocking crime.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

The spirit of giving is overflowing in Steele County. And what a better time for it than the upcoming holiday season.

It always amazes me the generosity of people and businesses throughout this area. There are some shining examples of this that I’d like to point out this week. Perhaps it will inspire you to get into the giving spirit.

Just before Thanksgiving, Glen and Cheryl Meger of the Brick-Meger Funeral Home hosted their 17th annual food shelf benefit. The event brings in spouses and members of the Knights of Columbus. The Megers treat them to egg rolls made with Glen’s “secret” recipe and grilled pork kabobs.

Those who attended the benefit made cash donations and also donated non-perishable food items. In the end, the Megers turned over 59 pounds of food and \$400 cash to the Steele County Food Shelf.

“We are pleased to have hosted this event for the past 17 years and the generosity of my Brother Sir Knights certainly exemplifies the first

Spirit of giving is alive around Steele County

principle of the order, that being charity,” Meger said.

A few weeks ago the Boys and Girls Club of Blooming Prairie honored a few corporate sponsors with local hero awards for their financial support to the organization. Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg of Minimizer and Tamzen Johnson of the local accounting firm received some well-deserved recognition for money they have donated to the club.

They are all huge supporters of the Blooming Prairie community. In addition to financial support to the Boys and Girls Club, Johnson just came off her 25th season of directing the high school musical. And the Kruckebergs have helped this community in ways many don’t even realize.

These touching examples of giving should encourage us all to consider giving as a way to make the holidays joyful for others.

This time of the year would be a perfect time for you to be an elf and bring a little jingle into the holidays for others who may be struggling. It’s my wish for this holiday season that people will remember those who are having trouble.

There are many ways you can help. You can make cash or food donations to food shelves or other chari-

ties. Many communities have giving or sharing trees. Charities are always accepting cash donations.

I’ve always tried to instill in my children the importance of giving, even if it’s something small. Our family recently made a donation to the food shelf and it’s a gratifying feeling knowing you’re helping someone who is going hungry.

Another way we’ve helped out is through our local 4-H club, which takes part in “Armful of Love.” The club adopts a family and then club members head to a local store to pick out Christmas gifts for the family. My kids have experienced so much enjoyment out of that for several years.

It often seems as if it takes tragedy to pull people together to help others. But we don’t need to sit back and wait for something unfortunate to happen in order to pitch in.

The Megers, the Kruckebergs and the Johnsons are hometown heroes for the generosity they pour out into the community.

I hope you and your family will seriously consider giving to others this holiday season.

It may help you as you’re going into hot pursuit of finding true happiness and fulfillment in your life.

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1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2472
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Washington, DC Office

Mankato District Office

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Mankato, MN 56001
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877-846-9259

Sen. Al Franken

Washington DC Office
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5641

Rochester Office

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Ellendale Counmmity Foundation to create new opportunities

The Ellendale Community Foundation (ECF) is a newly revived, local, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen and enhance the Ellendale community area today and for future generations.

One of the main goals of ECF is to invest in people, programs and organizations that benefit our community.

In order to support the group’s mission, we have partnered with Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund (SMIF), a regional development and

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

They will serve as the fiscal agent, providing training and seed money, and offer grant-matching opportunities. For example, once the local foundation has raised its first \$2500.00, SMIF will award the Foundation a one-time grant of \$10,000.00.

Have you ever wanted to be an integral part of moving our community forward?

ECF is establishing a Founders Club, creating more awareness and opportunities for members to participate in the foundation. More information will be posted in the near future.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the community of Ellendale,” said Coleen Brekke, ECF President. “We (our board) are very excited to partner with local community members to enhance the lives of all members of the community.”

At its core, the Ellendale Community Foundation is

an organization created with gifts from generous people committed to our local community.

If you desire to make a tax deductible gift at this time, please contact any of the Ellendale Community Foundation’s board members listed below.

If you would like to make an anonymous contribution, you may do so by contacting SMIF, 507/455-3215, or by going online, smifoundation.org and click the “DONATE” tab located in the top left corner of the website.

Public pleased with decision

SCCL: from page 1A

-missioner Mark Schultz agreed with the extension. This came as a bit of a surprise since many had assumed coming in that night that both would be in favor of the transfer and might push it through in their last month in office.

Commissioner James Brady said the issue had only come to his attention on Friday, and he didn’t feel he could in good conscience make the decision without consulting financial legal counsel. Brady moved to extend the current forbearance agreement 6 months with no changes.

The motion passed with only one nay from commissioner Nina Huntington.

The meeting was then opened to public comment. Of the roughly twenty residents that

had come that night to hear the board’s decision, many entered holding varying pages of notes, no doubt hoping to address the board on the transfer.

In light of the surprising and desired outcome, the public seemed a little thrown for what comments to now make. They had turned up for a gunfight only to find the other side shooting in the same direction.

Marlene Nelson addressed the board and said she was “very pleased” they were letting “the new guys” make the decision.

Jerry Czarnowski said the board was “meeting the principle of reasonableness.”

“I appreciate what you did tonight,” said frequent attendee Gene Hovey.



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DEADLINE

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

HOLIDAY DAZZLE



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Friends of the Library held a used book sale during Holiday Dazzle activities. From left to right, Martha Walters, Nancy Vaillancourt (librarian), Loretta Ingvalson, and Joanne Nahlovsky.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Temperatures were cool during Holiday Dazzle Friday night but that did not deter some of the shoppers. Kylo Callister, 7, stopped by the emergency responders area to make some smores with the help of Meghan Voss.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Grinch made a surprised appearance at Holiday Dazzle. He tried his luck at playing the slide trombone. The trio of musicians consists of (from left to right) Jake Hyland, Carter Millam and Alec Ille. They are performing here at Main Street Dental.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

One of the biggest crowds for Holiday Dazzle in Blooming Prairie was a gathering to watch Just for Kicks Dancers. A group of dancers, ages 3-4, entertained an appreciative audience near The Bakery.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Lots of young shoppers came to the Santa House located at the City Center. The indoor flea market/garage sale was sponsored by the Women of Today.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Led by Kari Botinn (center), these festive carolers went from store to store on Friday night during the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Dazzle celebration. Here, the carolers entertain at B to Z Hardware.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Pittman Percherons were again part of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Dazzle celebration. Mark Pittman is the wagon master. Hundreds of visitors took rides around the city during Holiday Dazzle.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie's Scrooge for the 2016 HOLIDAY Dazzle event was named Friday night. Scrooge is none other than Rachel Klemmenson, far right. She is shown with Sue Zwiener and visitors Sophia Esplan, 7 and Payton Esplan, 4.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Santa Claus listens intently as two youngsters tell him what they want for Christmas. Santa stopped by the Farmers & Merchants State Bank to visit will all of the little boys and girls. Here, he listens to Liliaha McDaniel, 8, and Gabriel McDaniel.

It was a dazzling night in Blooming Prairie

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



**HOWARD
LESTRUD**

There's so much that can be said about living in a small town. It's a blast, just try it sometime. You will be dazzled.

Judy and I are most pleased that we moved to Blooming Prairie from the Twin Cities just more than two years ago. It was like a homecoming for us, both growing up in this area.

Small town living is healthy and contagious. Lots of hometown people have dedicated their careers and retirement in Blooming Prairie.

Let's talk about being dazzled by this small town just last Friday when the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a successful business promotion called Holiday

Dazzle. It is an annual affair and has been embraced as one of the more popular chamber promotions during the year.

Temperatures were chilling on Friday night but this did not deter shoppers from coming downtown and enjoying activities at local businesses and on Main Street. Some businesses, for example the Servicemen's Club, also participated in Holiday Dazzle 2016.

It was especially inspiring to cross paths on Main Street with a visitor from Texas. "I just love a small town," this visitor said with admiration in his heart.

Greg Johnson, manager of B to Z Hardware, sold shopping buttons and then had his ambassadors comb Main Street for shoppers with the buttons. If you were wearing a B to Z button, you may have received a gift certificate.

The BP Area Fire Department, police and ambulance squad set up shop near B to Z. They started a recreational fire in a portable fire pit and invited young guests to roast marshmallows and make smores.

Long lines outside Farmers and Merchants State Bank waited to get inside to meet Santa Claus. Strolling minstrels, carrying instruments and others doing Christmas carols made their way around Main Street.

The Grinch was even in town and made his way through the crowds of people. A local Scrooge was also selected, based on a voting drive for two weeks. Rachel Klemmenson of

New York Life won the contest.

Some of the biggest gatherings came to see some young dancers, Just for Kix.

Many of the local businesses offered special bargains and also offered guests free refreshments.

The atmosphere on Main Street was like a picnic in the winter time.

Roger, Erin and Mark Pittman brought a team of horses hitched to a wagon. The Pittmans took Holiday Dazzle friends on a jaunt around the block.

The Women of Today sponsored a Santa House with bargains galore.

Much of the credit for a successful Holiday Dazzle goes to Becky Noble, Chamber executive director and to participating members.

Twenty-five Chamber members participated:

A Touch of Charm; B to Z Hardware; BP Fire Department, ambulance and police; BP Servicemen's Club; Bunkies Grille & Lanes; Steele County Times; BP Cue Company and Pizza Cellar; Dairy Queen; Farmers & Merchants Bank; Floor Tech; J & H Liquors; Main Street Dental Clinic; US Bank; Home Sellers and Rachel's Hair Salon; Johnson/Doerhoefer/Miner PA; Hometown Insurance; Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic; Sportstitch; New York Life; The Bakery; Prairie Manor; Subway; Blooming Prairie Public library; Blooming Prairie Vet Clinic and Miner's Outdoor & Rec.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Which book would you like to read? It's tempting to choose a book at the bottom of a homemade tree at the Blooming Prairie Library. Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt was instrumental in putting hundreds of books on the tree. The tree was appealing to many Holiday Dazzle visitors at the library on Friday night, Dec. 2.

CommunityLiving

Movie Review: Rules Don't Apply



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

“Rules don’t apply” is not just the title to this romantic

movie, but the director’s warning as well. The film, set in the 60’s, is about billionaire Howard Hughes...sort of. It’s actually about one of the many actresses he keeps under contract and the man who rises from one of his drivers to his right hand man. It’s their love story with the real life eccentricity that was Howard Hughes shaping their careers, and since this is Hollywood, their professional lives are their personal lives. Warren Beatty directs and stars a Howard Hughes, but it’s Woody Allen that Beatty is really playing at. The film is

cut tightly, no transitions, with occasional whiplash that you’ll realize halfway through is intentional. This is a movie about an eccentric, possibly mentally imbalanced, Hollywood director, and the movie is paced to illustrate that. The cleaner, modern camerawork is intercut with grainy period footage. Curveballs in the plot and time jumps abound. Beatty plays a sympathetic Hughes, and Lily Collins, as the young actress Marla, is charming and brings a quiet strength to the role. Alden Ehrenreich, who plays the driver Frank, is a rising star. From the large

shadow that Hughes casts, it’s Frank that holds the film together. The film, chasing after it’s mad lead, is a fun ride cut into with a few bouts of reality. It’s about the dreams we have and the ones that don’t pan out. This is no Hollywood fairytale, but it keeps a glimmer in its eye that promises real life might be even better. The typical moviegoers may find the film disorienting and too quirky for a night out, but those willing to throw convention out the window may find fun in a movie where the rules don’t apply.

Pastor feels called to new church

PASTOR: from page 1A

I write this letter to the many hundreds of you, the faithful members of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Just as God called me over seven years ago to come to First Lutheran as your senior pastor, God is now calling me to serve as lead pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester Minnesota. “God’s callings have always been very real to me and I’ve discovered that following God faithfully has always been filled with the strength of the Holy Spirit to lead me.

“You have invited me graciously into your hearts and homes; we have laughed and cried together, we have related to God together in many ways that touch our hearts. “I have prayed more times than I can count about this call, knowing that saying goodbye to you would be very difficult, but I also know that God always calls and leads and that following is central to our faith. “I assure each of you that this is a call from God to something new in my life of

ministry and not a call away from anything less than wonderful. Everyone at First Lutheran and in Blooming Prairie have embraced us with love and support and have given me more respect as your pastor than I could ever have earned.” He said a highlight of being at First Lutheran is working with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner. Pastor Charlie’s roots can be traced to the small Swedish settlement of Wakefield, Nebraska. Wakefield is located in

the northeast part of Nebraska, about 100 miles north of Lincoln. Leonard grew up on a large family farm near Wakefield. His father Cornelius and his three brothers raised corn, soybeans and alfalfa as crops and also raised livestock. Leonard and wife Cindy have two children, a daughter Karin and a son Christopher. (EDITOR’S NOTE: Look for an in-depth story on Pastor Charlie in the Dec. 13, 2016 Times.)

Death Notice

David H. Symes age 82 of Austin, Minnesota, died Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 at Cottagewood Senior Community in Rochester. There will be a visitation from 4 -7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016 at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. Burial will take place Friday morning at Red Oak Grove Lutheran cemetery in rural Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to recipient of donor’s choice. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com. Full obituary will run in the Dec. 13 edition.

Medallion hunt:

Clue #2:
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just be careful
not to fall.



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Birthdays:

7th
Lance Lembke
Roger L. Hanson
Karen Kaplan
Marilyn Heinz
Kyle Rossow
Mark Lembke

8th

Devin Thompson

9th

Crystal Hammer
Kevin Johnson
Courtney Vermilyea
Steve Ille
James Krejci

10th

Leanne Hanson
Lucas Wallace
Bill Schabert
Keely Rose Winn
Gabriel Thompson
Cory Hendrickson
Glen Valek
Anneliese Koenig

11th

Susan Thorson
Harlan Hinzmann
Maurice Lembke
Mike Jones

12th

Kristine Smith
Joshua Jones
John Fouarge
James Konz

13th

Bob Arett
Tony Schiller
Erica Toquam

Anniversaries:

10th

Robert & Mary Olson

11th

Mike & Melissa Trihus

12th

Tom & Barbie Johnson
Gwen & Gale Klinger

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Dec. 8
Hot Turkey
Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce
Broccoli
Fresh Fruit Cup

Dec. 9
Hamburger on bun
Potato Salad
Calico Beans

Melon Wedge
Cookie

Dec. 12
Beef, Rice, & Cabbage
Hotdish
Pickled Beets
Carrot Coin Salad
Dinner Roll
Mixed Fruit Cup

Dec. 13
Meatloaf
Baked Potato w/Sr. Crm
Green Beans w/Mushrooms
Ice Cream

Anyone is welcome for lunch meals served at Owatonna Senior Place, Blooming Prairie Senior Center or Ellendale Community Center. Lunch meals are served approximately 11:30 a.m.

Suggested cost of the meal is \$4.00 for anyone 60 or older and \$7.00 anyone under 60. However, no one will be denied a meal because of an inability to donate.

Ask any of the Site Managers about our weekly ticket specials. Gift cards are also available. They make a wonderful Christmas, Anniversary or Birthday gift for any senior on your gift list.

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Pastor's corner: True Holiday Spirit

During the holidays, the question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holi-

days is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Hold-

ing the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life

by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the well being of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself.

The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.

-Bryan Golden
Author of
"Dare to Live Without Limits"

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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

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

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

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

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freedom Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000

www.roglutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
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www.trinityhayfield.org
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Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS

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Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
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to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

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(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com
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with Children's Church

Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
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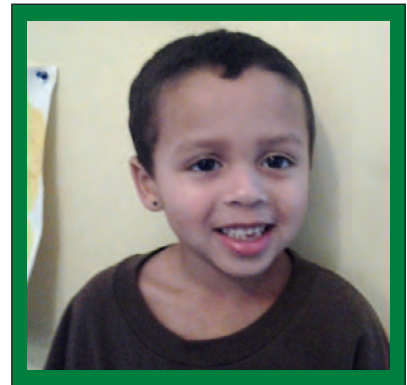
Kids for Christmas: Dom and Rocsi

This Christmas season Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for “bigs” who want to brighten the lives of some “littles.” Over the coming weeks, we’ll be running profiles of children waiting for their very own big brother or sister.



Rocsi

Rocsi is a 6-year-old quiet, happy and smiley girl. Rocsi likes low-key activities like playing with dolls, coloring, arts and crafts, cooking and baking, reading books and playing outside. She would like to be really good at coloring and painting and she wants to be a teacher when she grows up. She said that she would like to play and go to the fair with her Big Sister, but she would not want to play in leaves or see a snake with her.



Domaurion

Dom is a 6-year-old outgoing, active, and goofy boy who loves to be the star of the show. He loves playing board games, reading books, playing with toy cars and action figures, coloring and drawing, building things, swimming, going to the park, playing sports and doing “boy stuff.” He wants a Big Brother because he is the only boy in his family.

If Dom, Rocsi, or a child in a similiar situation, is someone you would like to make a difference in the life of, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters: Southern Minnesota at 507-451-5922 or look them up online.

Legion post, auxiliary to sponsor scholarship program

More scholarship money will be made available to area students. American Legion Post Commander Doug Johnson and Auxiliary President Julie Hoffman have announced that each group will sponsor a \$500 scholarship again next year. This will be the

22nd year that the scholarships have been furnished by the Blooming Prairie area units. Criteria for eligibility includes: 1. Applicant must have completed at least one semester of their higher education. 2. The school they are attending must be an approved institution of higher learning.

3. There are no age limits for these scholarships. 4. Applicants may be a traditional student or a non-traditional student. According to Kenny Trom of the local legion post, these scholarships are made possible in part by the popular Fourth of July raffle. “We thank all veterans and others who work on

this raffle and also those who support the raffle by purchasing tickets,” Trom said. Scholarship applications may be picked up at the BP Servicemen’s Club or at the Blooming Prairie Public Library. The applications must be filled out and returned to the club or library by Dec. 26.

Blooming Prairie ISD #756 is accepting applications for a full-time Paraprofessional.

BP Elementary School is accepting applications for a paraprofessional. Hours from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (approx. 32.5 hr. per week).



Request an application by calling 507-583-4426, ext. 431 or by completing an online application at <https://blossoms-portal.rschooldo-day.com/page/2818>. Questions should be directed to Chris Staloch, Elementary Principal, at cstaloch@blossoms.k12.mn.us or by calling 507-583-6615, ext. 223. Deadline for applying is December 16th.

Cancer Corner

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

Foods to reduce cancer risk

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer affects millions of people across the globe each year. While those diagnosed with cancer face the biggest challenges, cancer patients’ friends and families also must deal with the consequences of a cancer diagnosis and the heartbreak that often accompanies seeing a loved one undergo cancer treatments. Strong support systems can help cancer patients during their treatments, but men and women need not wait until a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer to begin fighting the disease. Taking steps to prevent cancer may be easier when tackled together as a family or a group of friends. According to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the world’s leading centers devoted to cancer patient care, research, education and prevention, many foods can help men, women and children reduce their cancer risk. When shopping for household groceries, families and groups of friends living together can aim to make the following cancer-fighting foods part of their daily diets.

- Protein**
 - Lean chicken or turkey
 - Lean fish, including salmon, halibut, redfish or red snapper
 - Low-sodium black, red or pinto beans
 - Low-sodium garbanzo beans
 - Tofu
- Dairy**
 - Eggs or egg substitutes
 - Low-fat cheese
 - Skim, or fat-free, milk
- Grains**
 - Lentils
 - Regular or instant wild rice or brown rice
 - Whole grain pasta
- Bread**
 - Whole grain bread, tortillas or buns
- Condiments**
 - Canola oil
 - Low-fat or fat-free salad dressing
 - Olive oil
- Spices**
 - Turmeric
- Produce**
 - Broccoli
 - Cauliflower
 - Brussel sprouts
 - Oranges
 - Organic spinach
 - Organic kale or collard greens
 - Peas (fresh or frozen)
 - Red or purple grapes (preferably organic, if imported)
 - Tomatoes (no salt added if buying canned tomatoes)

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Holiday lights up Owatonna nights



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

A crowd gathered around small fies at Central Park in Owatonna to see the lighting of the park’s Christmas tree lights and hear the Owatonna high school carolers perform. The carolers are a group of roughly 25 students in concert choir, who especially audtioned to be carolers. They performed Christmas classics like “Silent Night” and “God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen.”

Children carol in the Christmas season



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Kindergarteners at Blooming Prairie Elementary School’s holiday concert performed Jingle Bells and Reindeer Love to Boogie. The concert was performed twice on Friday, Dec. 2. The concert was directed by Kari Bottin, Ross Reishus and Krista Reeder.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Elementary School sixth grader Clare Rennie plays the flute in th ee concert band selections during the Elementary School Holiday Concert on Dec. 2. Performances were viewed in the packed elementary school gym. The concert band was directed by Ross Reishus.

Minimizer introduces new products for sale

More new products are rolling off the production lines at Blooming Prairie’s Minimizer.

Known for its innovative ideas and groundbreaking product lines, Minimizer has launched a pair of new products, bringing the total to six for 2016. The new products are the Trailer Slick Plate and the Tool Caddy.

“These products, consistent with our Tested and Tortured brand, offer solution-based answers for those in the heavy duty trucking industry,” Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg said.

The Trailer Slick Plate is a self-lubricating polymer plate that attaches to a trailer’s upper coupler. The result? Easier maintenance, no need for messy grease, and fewer issues with coupling tractors and trailers.

“The Trailer Slick Plate is an excellent addition to our line,” Kruckeberg said. “Nobody wants to have to grease the upper coupler plate, and with this product, you don’t have to.”

The Trailer Slick Plate reduces wear and tear on the truck’s fifth wheel, as well as the trailer’s upper coupler. It also makes for easier trailer handling for drivers and increases steer tire life.

“If you drop-and-hook often, then this is the product for you,” Kruckeberg said.

The Tool Caddy is the newest addition to Minimizer’s Maintenance Line.

It attaches to the tire, creating a space to store up to 100 pounds of tools and gear.

“The Tool Caddy works really well if your truck breaks down and you’re forced to fix it roadside. It’s also great in repair shops,” Kruckeberg said.

The Tool Caddy is designed to fit three applications – standard tires from 245 inches to 295 inches, Super Single tires, and flatbed trailers.

“The flatbed version is meant to hold all of your straps as you load your cargo,” Kruckeberg said. “And to top it off, the flatbed Tool Caddy fits inside of a 36-inch Minimizer Tool Box.”

Owatonna Chamber wins national honor



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Owatonna is a rising star in Minnesota, five stars to be exact.

This November the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce won the five-star chamber award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This ranks Owatonna’s chamber of commerce among not just the best in the state, but as part of the top 1 percent in the nation. Only eleven chambers in the nation were recognized this time with a five star accreditation, the highest possible accreditation the national organization offers.

The chambers receiving star accreditation are as far flung as San Diego, CA to New

Haven, CT.

According to the U.S. Chamber’s standards, to receive accreditation, “a chamber must demonstrate quality programs, clear organizational procedures, and effective communications by meeting minimum operation and program standards in the areas of governance, program development, government affairs, and technology.”

To achieve stars on top of the accreditation, a chamber must not just meet, but excel beyond expected standards.

“We’re very excited,” Brad Meier of the chamber said, “It’s the second time we’ve recieved the five star accreditation. As an organization, it’s right where we want to be.”

Looking ahead, the chamber will review reccomendations given to them by the national orgainization in hopes of making the Owatonna chamber even better.

The award is a credit to both the chamber board and staff who have worked dillegently for months to be recognized by the national chamber.

Blooming Prairie Living

Find your Christmas Story



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The holidays are coming... so come to the library! Coming to the library might not be at the top of your do-list this month, but let me share how services at the BPBL can help you get ready for the holidays. Here are some ways we can help:

Copy your Christmas letters – 15 cents per page for black and white; 50 cents per page for color.

Get ideas for decorating, cooking, crafts, and gifts in books and magazines.

Find a Christmas novel to get you in the mood.

Pick up Christmas books, movies, and CDs to share with your whole family, especially those grandchildren who may be visiting.

Purchase presents at the Friends' Barnes & Noble book sale from Dec. 1 to 3.

Spend time unwinding with the children at storytimes every Tues. and Wed. morning at 10:30 a.m.

Admire the display of Santa Bears on loan from Pam Folken.

Choose a present from our Giving Tree and purchase a children's book to donate to the library.

Whatever your holiday needs, don't forget to use the resources at the library!

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By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

There's nothing better than skipping school and going to The Bakery located on East Main Street in Blooming Prairie.

Fifteen students in a Blooming Prairie High School creative foods class had the opportunity one day last week to not actually skip school but to be part of a bus trip across town from the high school to The Bakery.

The Bakery owner Gregg Fristedt greeted students at his front door during the students' seventh hour. Family and consumer sciences (it used to be called home economics) teacher Jen Gaines arranged the field trip to Fristedt's bakery.

The visit to The Bakery was stimulated by the students' interest in their creative foods class which now is focused on making gingerbread houses. Fristedt told the students that just last weekend, he built six gingerbread houses with the help of his grandchildren.

The BP students in the creative foods class have already started the gingerbread construction utilizing five kitchens and were hopeful to be putting the houses together this week. Mrs. Gaines supplies the dough and the frosting and the kids supply their own candies for the houses.

Students create their own design and when the houses are completed, they are put on display in the commons area of the high school. Judges (teachers) then select the best gingerbread house creation.

On their visit to The Bakery, Blooming Prairie foods students didn't get to

sample gingerbread houses but they did get free samples of Fristedt's rosettes. "We start making rosettes in September and continue making them until May," Fristedt said. One of his customers from St. Louis Park orders 120 dozen rosettes at a time.

"Oooh, they are yummy," echoed several students. "They should melt in your mouth," Fristedt promised.

Fristedt showed the students baking equipment he uses on a daily basis. "Our equipment is built to last and that's true because my newest mixer is a 1968 model," Fristedt said.

"How much does an oven cost?" one of the students asked Fristedt. "\$22,000, would you like to order one?" Fristedt responded.

Another student asked, "How long have you worked at a bakery and did you go to school for it?" Fristedt said he has been in the business 35 years and yes, he did attend baking school. He confided later that bakers are a dying breed because of a lot of frozen baked goods that are on the market.

Fristedt rolled out some dough to show the students how biscuits are made. He also demonstrated how bismarks are filled. Bakery



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Gregg Fristedt, owner of The Bakery in Blooming Prairie, rolls out some dough and shows the first step in baking to students of a Blooming Prairie High School creative foods class during a recent student field trip to his shop. The final product will be a tray of rosettas. Fristedt has logged 35 years as a baker.

worker Diane Jensen showed the students how breads are sliced by machine.

"What's your busiest time of the year?" Fristedt responded quickly to the student question: "Graduation, from May first to mid-June."

During the Christmas season, Fristedt offers seven varieties of Christmas

cookies.

Sophomore Clint Peterson said he enjoys his creative foods class because it allows him to explore his creative roots through baking. "At The Bakery, I was fascinated to see how the dough was made," he added.

Senior Haily Naatz said she learned to bake from her

grandmother and she said she was impressed with seeing how bakery products are made at The Bakery in Blooming Prairie.

"It was a great tour and we are fortunate to have a bakery in town," commented Mrs. Gaines.

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HometownLiving Community Calendar

Event Spotlight:

Auditions set for 'Prelude To A Kiss'

During Peter and Rita's wedding reception, an old man asks Rita for a kiss. Peter soon realizes the kiss caused Rita and the man to switch bodies.

The show features a cast of 14, with roles for 6-8 men and 4-6 women (ages 20 and up).

Auditions are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 12, and Dec. 13, at the Little Theatre of Owatonna in the West Hills Complex.

Show dates will be Feb. 17-19 & Feb. 24-26.

PHOTO MEMORY



LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

Archived staff photo by Laura Berndt

Emerson Ditlevson, who is almost 2 years old, looks very thoughtful during a visit with Santa at the Medford Veterans Memorial on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015.

FOR THE RECORD



HAPPENING NOW

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Marge Ilk, longtime food service worker at the Servicemen's Club of Blooming Prairie, was recently presented a plaque of appreciation from the BP Servicemen's Club by Doreen Blome, right, board chair.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Dec. 6:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center

12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym

7:30pm - 9:30pm Uncork and Create: Let It Snow, Austin ArtWorks Center

Dec. 7:

All day 1st Responders Meeting, City of Lyle

10am - 3pm Holiday Craft Fair and Festival of Trees, St Mark's Living, 400 15th Ave SW, Austin

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City Of Lyle

11:30am - 12:30pm Tater Time, Mower County Senior Center

Dec. 8:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

6pm - 7pm Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)

Dec. 9:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, CityOfLyle

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

6pm - 8:30pm Autism Family Respite Night, YMCA of Austin, MN

7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Brookings Blizzard, Riverside Arena, 501 12th St NE, Austin, MN

Dec. 10:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks

10:15am - 11am Saturday Science Experience -

Hypothesis and Experiments: Guess and Test, APL

10:30am - 12pm Kids Studio - Christmas Tree on Canvas, Austin ArtWorks Center

11:15am - 12pm Saturday Science Experience -

Hypothesis & Experiments: Guess and Test, APL

1pm - 5pm Nativity House Open House, Nativity House, 606 Oakland Pl NE, Austin

3pm - 7pm Christmas in the County, Mower County Historical Society, 1303 6th Ave SW, Austin, MN

8pm - 9pm Sola Fide Observatory Viewing

Dec. 11:

1pm - 3pm Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room

1pm - 2:30pm Riverside Figure Skating Club - Basic Skills, Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin

2pm - 4pm Austin Symphony Orchestra: Christmas Past, Present, and Future, Knowlton Auditorium, Austin High School

2:30pm - 5pm Riverside Figure Skating Club - Power & Moves, Precision Line, Advanced Ice Time, Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin

Dec. 12:

All day American Legion & Aux. Meeting, City of Lyle

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

5:30pm - 8pm History Happy Hour - Holiday Stories and Songs, and the History Behind Them, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin, MN

6:30pm - 8pm Wake Up, Austin, Knowlton Auditorium, Austin High School

Dec. 13:

All day Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting

9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast, Mower County Senior Center

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks

12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office, Austin

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

6pm - 7pm Grand Meadow City Council Meeting

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Dec. 6:

10:30am - 11:30am Storytime, BPPL

Dec. 7:

10:30am - 11:30am Story time, BPBL

Dec. 13:

All day BP Card Club & Luncheon

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

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-BAR BINGO: MONDAY@ 6:30 PM

HOLIDAY EVENTS:
-DEC 24: OPEN 9AM-5PM (VIKINGS vs. PACKERS @ noon)

-DEC 25: CLOSED...MERRY CHRISTMAS!

-DEC 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE!

-JAN 1...CLOSED..." HAPPY 2017 "!

-BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB
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JAN : 24 FEB 7 MARCH 14

APRIL 4

MAY 9 : BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

BENEFIT 7- 9 PM @J & H

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Dec. 7: (All day Lakeview Book Fair)

7:30am - 8:30am Port Authority Meeting, AL EDA

3:30pm - 4:30pm Staff Mentee Meeting, Hawthorne Elementary School - Rm #134, Albert Lea

Dec. 8: (All day Lakeview Book Fair, Albert Lea)

10am - 11am Fountain Lake Readers Book Club, ALPL

10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time

5:30pm - 6:30pm AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers

5:30pm - 6:30pm Council Workshop, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 221 E. Clark St., Albert Lea

Dec. 9: (All day Lakeview Book Fair)

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea MN

Dec. 10: (All day Library Closed, ALPL)

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea MN

Dec. 12:

10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time

5:15pm - 6:15pm AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers

5:15pm - 6:15pm Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers, City Hall, 221 E. Clark St., Albert Lea

7pm - 8pm AL City Council, Council Chambers

7pm - 8pm Choir Concert, Albert Lea Senior High School

Dec. 13:

8:30am - 9:30am Shell Rock Watershed Board Meeting, Albert Lea

12:10pm - 1pm Senior Scholarship Meeting, Auditorium, Albert Lea High School

6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea

OWATONNA/MEDFORD/HOPE

Dec. 6:

All day Hope Curbside Recycling, S of 42nd Av

9:30am - 10:30am It's TALE TIME!, O. Public Library

5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall

7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Meeting: Hope City Hall

7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, City Hall

Dec. 7:

All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

7pm - 8pm Medford Park Board (1st Wed even months)

Dec. 8:

2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior

Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

5:30pm - 6:30pm O. Airport Commission, Airport Lounge

6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time

6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time

Dec. 12:

2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior

Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

4:30pm - 5:30pm Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council

Chambers, Brooktree Golf Couse or City Park

Dec. 13:

All day Steele Co Commission

9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!

7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Board Meeting, Admin Center, BR

7pm - 8pm

Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shepherd Lutheran

Church, Owatonna

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Dec. 6:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North

Dec. 8:

5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm

7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm

7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

Dec. 12:

6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center

Dec. 13:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North

7:30pm Ellendale Community Action Group (ECAG) monthly meeting, city council chambers

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Eleven Blooming Prairie Junior High School students were named to the First Quarter A Honor Roll list. Shown from left to right are: Front Row -- Isabella White, David Kartes, Rachael Riley, Megan Oswald, Melanie Winzenburg, Maren Forystek. Back Row: Xavier Rennie, Asha Lighthizer, Bobbie Bruns, Lauren Schammel and Bradley Simon.

A Honor Roll

Grade 7
DAVID KARTES
ASHA LIGHTHIZER
XAVIER RENNIE
LAUREN SCHAMMEL
BRADLEY SIMON
MELANIE WINZENBURG

Grade 8
MAREN FORYSTEK
MEGAN OSWALD
RACHAEL RILEY
ISABELLA WHITE

Grade 9
RIAUNA BISHOP
ADAM LARSON
BAYLEE SORENSEN
VIRIDIANA VILLARREAL
JULIA WORKE

Grade 10
WILLIAM CARDENAS
RILEY MILLAM
RACHAEL OSWALD
SETH PETERSON
PAYTON SIMON

Grade 11

A - Honor Roll

Grade 7
JAYDON BROWN
ISABELLA HEIBER
TYLER IVERSON
COLIN JORDISON
PARKER KUBICEK
JOSIE LORENZ
MARQUETTE MILLAM
EMILY MILLER
GUSTAO F. OGREN
KAMERON PERKINS
ISABELLE SUNDE
CARSON WACEK
ADAM WALSH

Grade 8
ASHLEIGH ALWES
MAGGIE BRUNS
COLE CHRISTIANSON
CHARLIE HEIMERMAN
SHYANE JORGENSON
ALLISON KROHNBERG
EMILY KUBICEK
LUKE LARKOSKI
MACKENZIE MADSEN

ROSE MICHAUD
REESE MILLAM
CHRISTOPHER NAATZ
JOSEPH PIRKL
GRETCHEN SUNDE
KIYA THOMPSON
RACHEL THOMPSON
WYATT VOSS
TAYLOR WURST

Grade 9
ZACHARY ARCHER
LILA CARLSON
GEMINI JOHNSON
COLTON KRELL
JARRETT LARSON
MAYA LEMBKE
HAZEL MICHAUD
ALEXIS OLIVO
MATTHEW PRYOR
MARTI SNIDER
DONDI STENDER
KADEN THOMAS
JAYDE WACEK

ETHAN ARETT
MITCHELL OSWAL
Grade 12
THOMAS BRAATEN
CAMDEN HEIMERMAN
JAKE HYLAND
ROSE JOHNSON
CARTER MILLAM
TAYLOR PETERSON
ALISON PRYOR
ALICIA PTACEK
LEAH SCHIEFERT

ZACHARY WEBER
JILLIAN WIGHAM
Grade 10
COLTON IVERS
HANNAH KINNY
JEANNETTE LOZANO
MICAH WHITE

Grade 11
KATHRYN BORCHERT
JACOB GWILT
MCKENNA HEIN
AYREN INGVALSON
JERRIN JAX
SAMANTHA WURST

Grade 12
ELIJAH BAKER
KYLIE FORYSTEK
LAURA GRANT
LEAH INWARDS
SASHA KATZUNG
RACHEL KUBICEK
HAILEY NAATZ
ELLY STRUNK
COURTNEY WOBSCHELL



Senior high school students making the A Honor Roll were: Leah Schiefert, Rose Johnson, Baylee Sorensen, Riauna Bishop, Julia Works, Viridian Villarreal, Rachael Oswald, Alison Pryor, Thomas Braaten, Adam Larson, Alicia Ptacek, Carter Millam, Camden Heimerman, Seth Peterson, Riley Millam, William Cardenas, Ethan Arett, Mitchell Oswald, Payton Simon, Jake Hyland and Taylor Peterson.

B + Honor Roll

JACOB NAATZ
JESSICA RESSLER
CHRISTOPHER SHEPARD
HALLE STRUNK

Grade 9
KISHA AQUINO
KASSIDY BORGES
RAYNEE FAWVER
SAMUEL FENNELL
GABRIEL HAGEN
HOPE JOHNSON
DYLAN NIRK
CHASE PETERSON
KARSON VIGELAND

Grade 10
JACKSON BALTAZAR
CASAUNDR A GREEN
RAEANN GRUNDMEIER
JESSICA GWILT
ZACHARY HABERMAN

ISAAC HANSON
TRENTON SWENSON
TIMOTHY WOLF

Grade 11
BRIANNA ARTHAUD
LINNEA BYERS-SUNDE
EMMA CHRISTIANSON
JONATHAN HERRON
JEREMY HOCKING
BRANDON JIMENEZ
RACHEL PIRKL
JAKE RESSLER
MAXWELL ROMEO

Grade 12
BRIA BALDWIN
TAYLOR CHRISTIANSON
WYATT GRUNDMEIER
RACHEL PETERSON
ZACHARY PILLER
MARNIE REESE

B Honor Roll

MICALYN TRIHUS
Grade 9
MORGAN ANDERSON
ISAAC ILLE
EMILY KRAMPITZ
HEATHER PIRKL
GRACIE RUDLONG

Grade 10
COLIN LERUM
ALEXYSS MAGNUSON
BRETT MOTL
DANIEL RIVERA-ESCAN-
DON
Grade 11

KYLER CHRISTIANSON
ALEC ILLE
LUCAS NOBLE
KORY RAFDAL
NICHOLAS THOMPSON
ASIA THOSTENSON
Grade 12
JASMINE ANDERSON
KAYLEIGH DOUGLASS
RICHARD FEENEY
BRYAN FRISTEDT
CARLY MEYER
COLIN NELSON
ZACHARY SISLER

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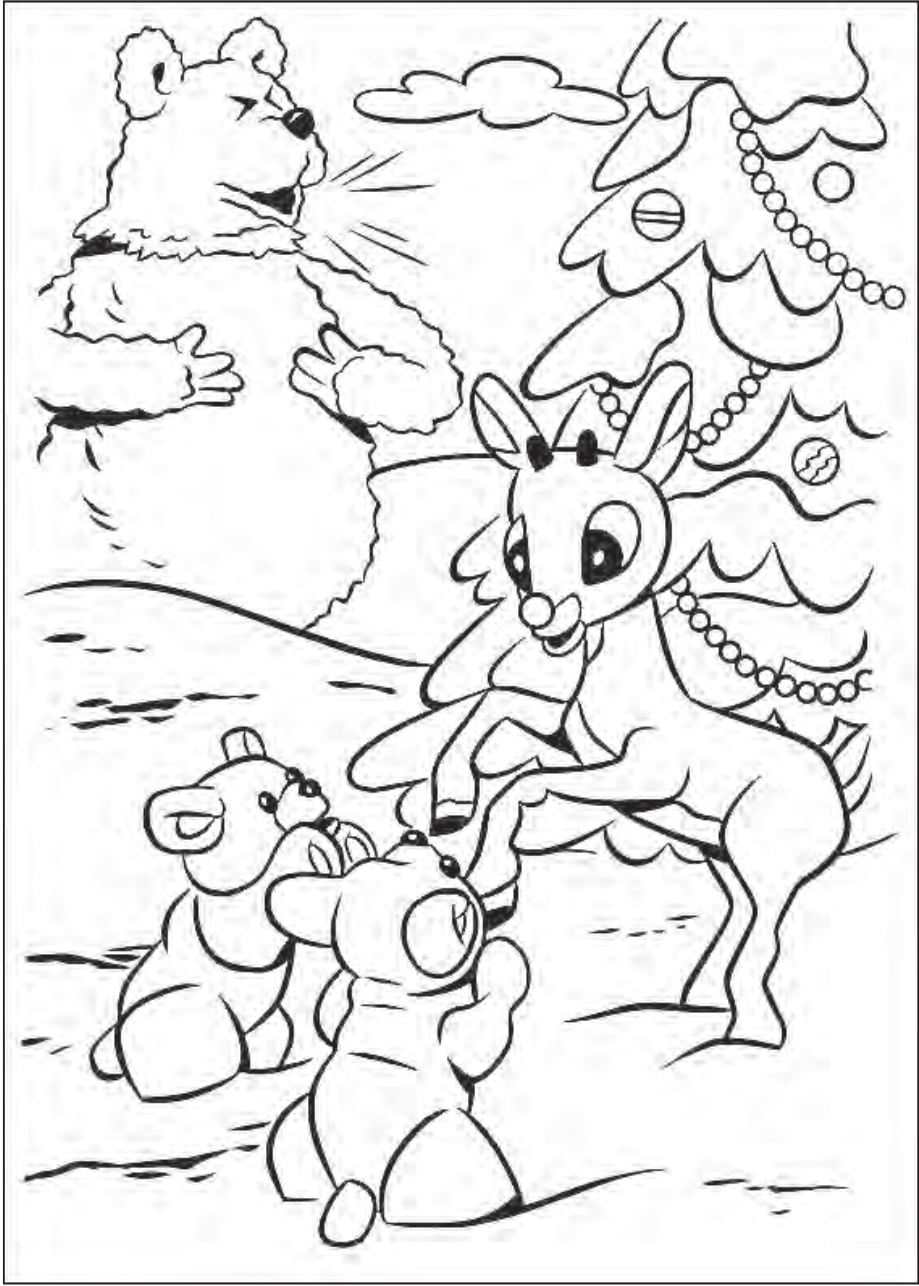
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Happy Birthday WALLY

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Where: At the BP Servicemen's Club
When: December 17, 2:00 - 5:00pm
What: Appetizer's and a short program (3:30pm) by the family

We look forward to celebrating with everyone who can attend and will appreciate the gift of your presence.

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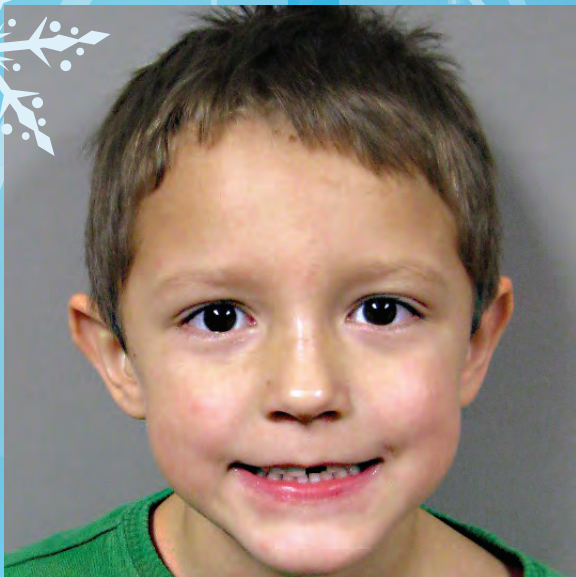
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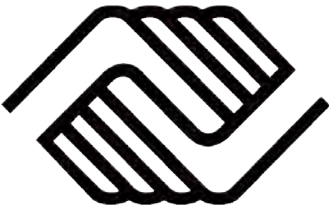
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Saturday 12/10/16

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Events happening all day

Craft vendor show at the Refuge,
Vibrant Life Church from 12-4PM

Soup lunch at the United Methodist
Church from 11-2PM

Tour of Trees at Whispering Oaks

Santa Bingo for all kids at the
Ellendale Council

Chambers, 3PM and Santa will
be there with treats for all the
kids. Sponsored by the Ellendale
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Winter Coat clothing drive, sponsored
by ECAG, bring your lightly used
coats, mittens, scarves, and snow
pants to donate for youth kids. Drop
off at Vibrant Life Church, or Floors
4U.

Tree lighting Ceremony at 5:00 by
the mural on main street. Local
churches will have choir groups there
for caroling, and we will announce
the winner of our annual Winter
Wonderland Competition. We have
local residents that entered into the
contest, and everyone can go into a
local business and vote for who they
think has the Best winter wonderland
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Major local effort helping improve ag's future

By: JUSTIN HANSON
Mower Soil & Water Conservation District – Manager
Cedar River Watershed District – Administrator

Improving the future of agriculture is something that has taken off locally in the past year thanks to new partnerships, our area farmers and The Hormel Foundation.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District and Cedar River Watershed District are playing big roles in this effort, which has required our staff to ven-

curing easements on farmland to implement conservation-focused projects.

CRWD-Mower SWCD also has started partnering with Riverland Community College, which will play a large role locally in the coming years in improving agriculture.

This month, Riverland announced plans to build twin

have assisted Riverland faculty and worked directly with ag students, including getting them out on area farm fields to do soil-health testing.

We are excited for our collaboration with Riverland and where it might lead us in the future, especially with soil-health research. Riverland students, for example, recently had a great discussion with ag producers who are on the new Fillmore-Mower Soil Health Team. The producers shared their successes and setbacks in

experimenting with cover crops to keep soil on their land and improve its health.

Sustainability is the common theme between Mower SWCD and Riverland's ag program. To me, sustainable agriculture means the opportunity for ag to have a business model that makes money today and for many years to come.

To do this, the next generation of ag producers will need to be armed with precision planning tools and abilities to maximize profit margins on the land while preserving the land's ability to produce significant crops. A big part of this is land management.

Agricultural technology has been monumental in recent decades. Genetic engineering and the technology age have squeezed much growing potential out of an acre of land. It's a great credit to the spirit of innovation. The struggle, however, becomes more real when the soil leaves the landscape and relocates itself somewhere less productive.

Soil protection is one of the most significant emerging issues in the future of sustainable agriculture. It also is one of the biggest issues in water quality protection.

What's encouraging and motivating is that there is extensive leadership happening locally for the future of sustainable agriculture. We're getting better and it's being highlighted in our own backyard. Riverland's new program and ambitious plans to grow it will set a new standard for ag education and prepare its students for what they will need to be successful in ag business as well as responsible to our natural resources.

Mower SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners with conservation practices that protect land and water resources. SWCD also administers the Cedar River Watershed District to improve water quality and reduce flooding. This column runs monthly on the last Thursday. For more, visit the Mower SWCD and CRWD websites and Facebook pages. Comments can be sent to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org.



INDEPENDENT | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mower SWCD resource specialist Steve Lawler works in October with Riverland Community College agricultural students on studying soils on Tom Cotter's farm field near Austin.

ture into uncharted territory but we have had strong support from our partners and community.

Cedar River Watershed District is finishing its first of 25 projects planned for the next few years under an \$8.4 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) initiative that stands out in Minnesota as a unique, agricultural strategy for addressing water-quality and floodin issues. These CIP projects will build structures in farm fields to capture stormwater runoff and slowly release it.

CRWD is making strides thanks to a \$3.2 million grant awarded a year ago by The Hormel Foundation through Vision 2020 that will be leveraged to secure other funding. Ag land-owner cooperation is necessary for these projects, and we have been fortunate thus far in se-

building projects in the coming years at its Austin campus to make the college a regional center for ag education. Plans call for a greenhouse, space for test plots and other features of a cutting-edge ag education program.

This comes one year after Riverland and The Hormel Foundation announced the college would create an agriculture technology "center of excellence" at the Austin campus to train students for agricultural jobs in an ag-focused county like ours. The Hormel Foundation is providing a \$263,200 grant for the center.

Building on that, Mower SWCD has started a partnership with Riverland's new Ag Center and its highly talented director Dr. Uchenna Chukwu. Mower SWCD staff, especially soil scientist Steve Lawler,

Low interest rate housing loans available

The USDA Rural Development Agency is currently accepting applications for loans available to low-income families to buy, build, rehabilitate or improve homes located in rural communities with a population of 20,000 or less. Faribault, Northfield and Owatonna are currently eligible areas as these communities are "grandfathered" into the program. The low-income limit varies by county and ranges from \$51,050 - \$65,800 for a four person household in Southeastern Minnesota.

The maximum loan limit for the counties served throughout the SE Region range is \$216,840 - \$257,600 (effective 6/15/2015). Approval for the maximum amount is based on household income and monthly debt obligations. NO down payment is required and a portion of the loan closing costs may be included into the loan.

The applicant must be unable to obtain the needed credit from another lending source, have an acceptable credit history, meet income guidelines, have repayment capacity to service any existing obligations and the home loan payment, be without

adequate housing, be a United States citizen or a non-citizen legally admitted for permanent residence and have the ability to personally occupy the home on a permanent basis.

Funding is based upon an annual appropriation. Please contact our office for the necessary application information. Loans may be made for up to 100% of the appraised value of the home. The current interest rate for this program is 2.875% (effective November 1, 2016). The Rural Development loan may be subsidized to as low as a 1% effective interest rate, based on applicant eligibility and financial need. The repayment period of the loan is typically 33 years.

For information pertaining to the following counties: Blue Earth, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, LeSueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona, contact the USDA, Rural Development office at 1408 21st Ave. NW #3, Austin, MN 55912. (507.437.8247, ext. 4.). Information is also available on the web at www.rd.usda.gov/mn.





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Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, * Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, * Western Agricultural Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. Health insurance policies are underwritten by an insurance company that is not affiliated with our companies. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services M142 (4-16)

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

DATE: **November 9, 2016**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: **December 3, 2014**
2. Mortgagors: **Community Resource Bank**
3. Mortgagees: **Tripp Oil, LLC**
4. Recording Information: **Recorded on January 9, 2015, as Document Number A000400337** (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the Office of the **X County Recorder** Registrar of Titles of **Steele County, Minnesota**

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any: Assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number [...] (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

Further assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number [...] (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

For additional assignments of Mortgage, provide the relevant information below.
[...]

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 17-3260104 (Abstract Property)

• Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

All that part of Lot 3, Block 1, Matthew's Northtown Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of said Lot 3; thence S 89 degrees 57' 14" E, assumed bearing, 233.00 feet along the North line of said Lot 3; thence S 0 degrees 02' 46" W 198.00 feet; thence N 89 degrees 47' 14" W 227.47 feet to the West line of said Lot 3; thence N 1 degree 33' 16" W 198.08 feet to beginning.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens)

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: **435 26th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060.**

other foreclosure data

9. The person holding the Mortgage: [check one] is a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30. The name(s) of the transaction agent, residential mortgage servicer, and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are [...].

The transaction agent's mortgage identification number, if stated on the Mortgage, is [...].

X is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30. The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are [...].

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is [...].

INFORMATION REGARDING Foreclosure

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$199,302.51.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: \$201,616.62.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on December 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on "NOT APPLICABLE".

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.

Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagor or Mortgage Assignee: **MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A. Attn: John Paul Martin 332 Minnesota Street, Suite W2750 St. Paul, MN 55101**

Name of Mortgagor or Mortgage Assignee: **Community Resource Bank 1605 Heritage Drive Northfield, MN 55057**

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

DATE: **November 9, 2016**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: **April 24, 2014**
2. Mortgagors: **Community Resource Bank**
3. Mortgagees: **Tripp Oil, LLC**
4. Recording Information: Recorded on April 29, 2014, as Document Number A000396801 (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the Office of the **X County Recorder** Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any: Assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number [...] (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

Further assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number [...] (or in Book [...] of [...] Page [...]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

For additional assignments of Mortgage, provide the relevant information below.
[...]

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 17-3260104 (Abstract Property)

• Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

All that part of Lot 3, Block 1, Matthew's Northtown Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of said Lot 3; thence S 89 degrees 57' 14" E, assumed bearing, 233.00 feet along the North line of said Lot 3; thence S 0 degrees 02' 46" W 198.00 feet; thence N 89 degrees 47' 14" W 227.47 feet to the West line of said Lot 3; thence N 1 degree 33' 16" W 198.08 feet to beginning.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens)

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: **435 26th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060.**

other foreclosure data

9. The person holding the Mortgage: [check one] is a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30. The name(s) of the transaction agent, residential mortgage servicer, and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are [...].

The transaction agent's mortgage identification number, if stated on the Mortgage, is [...].

X is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30. The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are [...].

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is [...].

INFORMATION REGARDING Foreclosure

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$289,000.00.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: \$299,674.50.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on **December 29, 2016 at 10:15 a.m., at 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.**

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied,

single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on "NOT APPLICABLE".

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.

Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagor or Mortgage Assignee: **MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A. Attn: John Paul Martin 332 Minnesota Street, Suite W2750 St. Paul, MN 55101**

Name of Mortgagor or Mortgage Assignee: **Community Resource Bank 1605 Heritage Drive Northfield, MN 55057**

11/15, 11/22, 11/29 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

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: April 18, 2008

MORTGAGOR: Nancy J. Larson, a single person, MORTGAGEE: Advisor's Mortgage LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:

Recorded: April 23, 2008

Steele County Recorder

Document #: A000356751

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:

Said mortgage was assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. on April 18, 2008 and said assignment was recorded on April 23, 2008 as Document No. A000356752 and subsequently assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC on January 13, 2014 and said assignment was recorded on February 4, 2014 and given document number A000395631.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

LOT 23, EXCEPT THE SOUTH 7 FEET THEREOF AND THE SOUTH 22.3 FEET OF LOT 24, ALL BEING IN BLOCK 2, MANN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, MINNESOTA.

PARCEL ID #: 171720223

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1054 11th Ave. NE, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Transaction Agent: N/A

Transaction Agent Id No.: N/A

Current Mortgage Servicer: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advisor's Mortgage LLC

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$167,382.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$150,248.90
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 Mortgagors have been released from financial obligation on said Mortgage; that no action or proceeding has been instituted by law to recover that debt secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof; that all conditions precedent to foreclose of the Mortgage and acceleration of the debt secures thereby have been fulfilled; PURSUANT to the power of sale therein contained, said Mortgage will be foreclosed and the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 15, 2016 at 10:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Law Enforcement Center 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt the debt then secured by the 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 sale

by the mortgagor, their personal representatives or assigns. DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 of the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes sections 580.23 is June 15, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m. MORTGAGOR 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. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Dated: October 17, 2016

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Mortgagee
Kenneth J. Johnson
Minnesota State Bar No. 0246074
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
Attorney for Mortgagee
230 W. Monroe St., Ste. 1125
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone 312-541-9710
Fax 312-541-9711

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced mortgage foreclosure sale originally scheduled to be held on December 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., and has now been postponed to February 9, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Law Enforcement Center 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 nor the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is 8/09/2017 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

Dated: December 2, 2016

Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates LLC
Kenneth J. Johnson
Minnesota State Bar No. 0246074
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
230 W Monroe St., Ste 1125
Chicago, IL 60606

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 13, 2017, or the next business day if July 13, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

11/22, 11/29, 12/6 12/13, 12/20, 12/27

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number: **74-PR-16-2319**

Estate of Jesse J. Hernandez, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 9, 2017, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, March 11, 2013, ("Will"), and for the appointment of LaVon Hernandez, whose address is 116 2nd Avenue SW, Blooming Prairie, MN, 55917 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT, /s/ Karen Duncan 10/3/2016 Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnaalllawyers.com

11/29, 12/6

City of BP

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda December 12, 2016 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of October Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

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

Business

1. Presentation of 2017 Budget
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of 2017 General Governmental Funds Budget
4. Approval of 2017 Enterprise Funds Budgets
5. Certification of Assessment Rolls – City Services
6. Designated Fund Balances
7. Resolution Calling 2009A & 2009B Bonds
8. Cigarette License Renewal
9. Approval of Permanent Transfers

City Administrator's Report

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Closed Session – Employee Evaluation

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change 12/6

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, December 15, 2016 Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 Open Public Forum–High School Media Center 5:15 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center 6:00 p.m. Monday, December 19, 2016 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 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 REQUIRED
A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Employment
Donations
B. World's Best Workforce Annual Report
C. School Calendars
D. ZED Facility Resolution
E. Final 2016 Payable 2017 Levy Limitation

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Rotation of School Board Officer
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

12/6

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 11/15/2016
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Glynn/Schultz to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
- 2. Huntington/Glynn to approve the consent agenda items. Ayes all.
- Approve the Minutes of October 25, 2016.
- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve annual South Central Drug Investigative Unit Joint Powers Agreement.
- Approve the Lifesaver Grant program. The SCSO received a \$2,000 grant to participate.
- Approve the renewal of a five year Pepsi Beverage Contract with the Four Seasons Centre effective December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2021.
- Accept Draft Plan 2017-2025 Highway and Bridge Capital Improvement Plan and refer to November 29th C.O.W. Meeting draft for review.
- Approve submitting a request to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to reimburse funds for criminal investigations.
- Accept a donation of \$150 from the Traveling Wall to escort the wall from the SCFF to the Rice County line.
- Accept Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Accept Public Safety Policy Committee Minutes.
- Accept Internal Central Services Minutes.
- Accept Public Works Minutes.
- Accept third quarter Highway Department Dashboards.
- Accept Probation Services Dashboard.
- Schultz/Glynn to approve the request from Curtis Hayes to renew CUP #186 allowing the mining of sand and gravel in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, of Section 9-108-20, Medford Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Schultz to approve the Amendment of CUP #348 to Kevin Christianson to allow the light assembly of products used in marine and other motorized vehicles in the building currently permitted for minivan storage used for busing. The permit would also allow for the construction of an additional building located in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 26-105-19 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Huntington to deny the leave of absence request from Public Health Nurse Katie Klocek. Ayes all.
- Huntington/Glynn Resolution to reappoint William Effertz as the Steele County Assessor for a four-year term for the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Ebeling absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
- Glynn/Huntington to approve the request of a 1.0 (FTE) Civil Process Position in the Sheriff's Office. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Schultz to approve the request to fill the Custodian position in Building & Grounds. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Huntington to approve the request to fill the Administrative Support Assistant position in the Extension Office Ayes all.
- Huntington/Schultz Resolution to approve final payment to Sir Lines-A-Lot in the amount of \$7,339.00 for CP 74-016-001. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Ebeling absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
- Huntington/Glynn to deny the request for the PR16-024 Access Variance request –CSAH 4 for Eric Hansen in Lemond township. Ayes all.
- Schultz/Huntington to approve PR16-029 Access Variance Request CSAH 49 for Kevin O'Connor to eliminate two nonconforming access points and provide for one new nonconforming access point to provide reasonable access to the property in Medford township. Ayes all.
- Schultz/Glynn to approve authorization of the Chairman to sign a letter of understanding with the Minnesota Geological Survey to begin the process of developing a geologic atlas of Steele County. Ayes all.
- Year to Date Budget Performance Report was given by Cathy Plepho.
- Huntington/Glynn to accept the low bid not to exceed \$10,620 to replace a commercial washer at the Detention Center. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
11/15/2016

30th Place LLC	17,383.28
Amazon	9,630.70
A'viands LLC	9,514.45
AMCON	9,255.50
Black Forest Ltd	5,226.45
CDW Government Inc	2,005.21
Central Farm Services	4,070.02
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,719.72
Evergreen Land Services	3,096.61
Four Seasons Centre	4,413.75
H & R Construction Co, Inc	13,869.76
Hewlett-Packard Company	8,643.15
ICON Constructors LLC	309,280.50
Innovative Office Solution LLC	2,693.77
Integra Telecom	2,945.94
Intereum Inc	3,377.02
J R's Advanced Recyclers Inc	8,766.30
Johnson Hardware Company	5,437.00
KVM Switches	3,895.32
Kwik Trip Inc	3,773.41
L & M Boiler Systems Corp	2,270.50
Local Government Information Systems	28,449.50
Loken Excavating & Drainage	13,260.00
Mathiowetz Construction	94,262.00
Matrix Communications Inc	5,339.97
Medford Sand & Gravel LLC	2,530.06
Mike's Repair	2,021.04
Mn Dept of Transportation	7,378.38
Mn Pollution Control Agency	67,049.49
MN Prairie County Alliance	3,973.32
Nuss Truck and Equipment	495,000.00
Oertel Architects	27,207.82
Owatonna Groundsmasters Inc	32,592.00
Protective Tech	3,698.12
R & K Electric	5,392.95
RDO Trust Acct 80-5800	4,856.96
Rink Systems	7,350.00
Rocon Inc	15,700.00
Michelle Schmid-Egleston	3,000.00
Steele County Central Services	3,996.20
Steele County Treasurer	9,323.49
Steele County Treasurer-PCP	24,648.61
Thiele Trucking LLC	2,971.53
205 Warrants under \$2,000	51,031.63
Total:	1,345,301.43

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Huntington to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 6:50 p.m. Ayes all.

CHAIRMAN
ATTEST: AUDITOR

BP School Board

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
October 17, 2016

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK

Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten,

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Members of the BPTA, Associate Principal

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Employment, Donations
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, employment, and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Final FY 16 Audit

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the final audit report for FY 16 which was presented in "draft" form at the September board meeting. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. GASB 45 Valuation

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the new post-employment benefit valuation report completed by Hildi, Inc. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

D. MASA Resolution

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Steve Ille to approve a MASA resolution which supports seeking two seats to be designated for superintendents on the MSHSL Board of Directors. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Skid Loader

Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the purchase of a new skid loader from Northland Farm Systems with trade-in. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye-Hameister, Vigeland, Thurnau, Sunde, Ille, Krell, Braaten/0 Nay)

Other bids were received from Bobcat and Ziegler.

F. Driver Education

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve an increase in driver education instructors' salary effective with hours starting in January 1, 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

G. FMLA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve FMLA leave for an elementary teacher for a period of approximately eight weeks beginning approximately January 5, 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
Committee Reports

A report update was given by the following committees: Education Foundation; Staff Development; and ZED.

Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year as of October 12, 2016, is 409 at the elementary school and 322 at the high school (316 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 3 juniors with attendance being full-time.

Dates to Note

The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Thank you to Mr. Worke from the Class of 1966 for conducting a great tour of the high school. Election Day is November 8th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, November 21, 2016, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

BP School Board

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
October 13, 2016

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2016, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the October 17, 2016, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

12/6

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BUDGET HEARING
Steele County Board of Commissioners

The Steele County Board of Commissioners will be holding a hearing on the 2017 County Budget and Tax Levy. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna. The Public is invited to attend.

Steele County Board of Commissioners

12/6

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Nonsense (slang)
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Removes
- Streamed
- Inner ear cavity
- Where to go after high school
- Olympics host
- A day to remember fallen soldiers
- Forearm bone
- Bypass surgery pioneer F. Mason
- Judo garments
- Gentlemen
- Large wrestler
- Large integer
- Makes a soft sound
- Some claim to have six
- Sunfish
- Clan
- A form of comedy
- Defy
- More (Spanish)
- Sixteen ounces
- Adventure story
- Liquid distilled from wood or coal
- Michigan ghost town
- Fond of
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Clothes
- Flinches
- Giving the axe

CLUES DOWN

- Cooks by exposure to direct heat

- Beige
- Witnesses
- Spiked
- Partidge actor Susan and Marmaduke director Tom
- ___ and Andy, TV show
- Fraiche and de Men- the are two
- Burden
- Olfactory properties
- Carbon particles
- Set of four
- A sweater pulled over the head
- Relaxing places
- Gets up
- Canned fish
- ___ Blyton, children's author
- A conceited and self-centered person
- Fine-textured cotton fabric
- Turner and Kennedy
- Repents
- Smartphones, tablets, etc.
- A way to garner
- Eat them for breakfast
- Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
- Oh, God!
- Canadian flyers
- One legged Chinese mythological demon

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

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MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 51p

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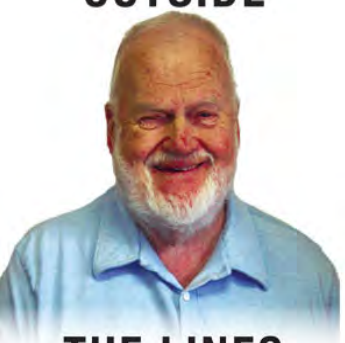
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A busy first week

The first week of winter competition produced some surprises along the way. The basketball girls used a parade to the free throw line to defeat Triton on their home court in their season-opening game. Triton made 32 fouls in the game and, although the Blossoms did not shoot particularly well, they made enough of the free throws to pull away from the Cobras.

I was not so much impressed that BP won as I was that the team scored 64 points. The team reached 60 or more points only one time all last season. The loss at WEM came as no surprise as the Bucs are one of the favorites to win the conference.

At that, the Blossoms played right with the home team, and except for a ten-point drought at the end of the first half, the game may have been even much closer than it was.

I thought that the first two games showed some promise for a successful season for the Blossoms.

It is difficult to make any judgments about the boys' season after the weekend games at Triton. I think everyone realized that at least for a few games, it will take some experimentation to find a combination that offers some hope for victories.

After all, a team can't lose an all-around star like Anthony Nelson, and rebounding experience that Mitchell Jones afforded, without having to work on replacements.

We will be able to tell more after the next week or two what we can expect from the Blossom boys.

The one team that offered a welcome surprise came from our newest team in school. The Westfield Razorbacks, combining wrestlers from both Blooming Prairie and Hayfield have given the program a real shot in the arm, and their first place finish at Springfield last Saturday certainly didn't hurt.

Having been around a few wrestlers lately, I can report that the athletes are excited about combining forces to compete, as it gives everyone a chance to be successful on the mat.

The season should be fun and demonstrate that there is talent in the two schools and the combination, I think, will bring both excitement and victories.

For sale

The hype leading up to the 150th celebration of Blooming Prairie's existence is seven months away, but already preparations for the big event are underway.

The celebration logo has already been adopted, and committee meetings regularly are meeting to formulate plans and create fundraising ideas to cover expenses.

Last week Becky Noble unveiled at least three items

LINES

Continued on page 2C

3 Huskies crowned at invite

Owatonna grapplers win first Dick Shiels Invite since 1991

By JOSH ZIMMER

Sports Editor

Faribault - In the first invite of the season, the Owatonna High School wrestling team's performance Saturday at the Dick Shiels Invitational in Faribault shows strong signs of a very great season ahead for the state-ranked Huskies and co-head coaches Adam Weitalla and Scott Seykora.

With seven kids reaching the finals, they were powered by championship performances from Landon Johnson, Peyton Robb and Cade King, running away with the tournament team championship with 230 points.

In fact, Owatonna had such a strong performance today that the second place team was nearly 50 points behind. Seykora said that overall it was a solid performance.

"We wrestled very well overall today; three champs and seven second place finishes is a good day," he added.

From the opening whistle of the first match, the Huskies were able to show what the rest of the season has in store. Wrestling the invite's No.1 seed in Nick Johnson of Tri-City United, seventh grader Landon Johnson was able to secure a 5-2 upset after hitting a reversal in the third period.

In Johnson's final two matches of the afternoon, the seventh grader won each by pinfall. He pinned Javon Taschuk of Stillwater 5:43 into the match and then pinned his finals opponent

at 5:38. Seykora noted that he really stoodout today.

"He was poised in his matches. He was down in a couple of his matches and didn't panic and was able to get out of some trouble situations," he added.

Two-time Minnesota State Champion Peyton Robb-who has recently verbally committed to South Dakota State- looked like he has never left the mat, winning each mat in decisive fashion. Fielding just five minutes of mat time, Robb won by pinfall 3:18 in the quarterfinals, 1:58 in the semifinals and wrestled just 1:32 before pinning Justin Tropet of Tri-City United in the finals. Robb was also named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

At 160 pounds, Cade King also won each of his matches in decisive fashion. After winning his first match by pinfall, the sophomore defeated his next two opponents by a major decision, winning 18-9 in the semifinals before a 12-1 finish over PEM's Dustin Dittrich.

Haden Fox (120), Riley Becker (126), Trevor Schroeder (138), Parker Westphal (152) Nick Staska (182) Griffin Thorn (220) and Goy Tut (285) all secured second place finishes after their semifinal wins.

Fox, who defeated the tournament's No. 2 seed in Riley Stoltz from Faribault, fell to top seeded Drew Woodley of Northfield

WRESTLING

Continued on page 2C



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna 145-pound wrestler Peyton Robb (top) works a pinning combination against Peter Hagel of Stillwater in the opening round of the 44th annual Dick Shiels Invite in Faribault Saturday. Robb won each of his three matches by pin and was named the invite's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Blossom girls split



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms center Marissa Larson (24) dribbles the ball upcourt as a Triton defender pursues in the first half of Blooming Prairie's 64-52 win over Triton on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Larson led the Blossoms in scoring with 20 points. The BP girls opening the second week of play with a 1-1 record after falling to WEM.

By LEMAR NELSON

Staff Sports Writer

The home-standing WEM girls finished the first half with a 10-0 scoring run, and that proved the difference in a 61-53 conference victory over the Blossoms Friday, Dec. 2. The score was tied at 24, when the Bucs went on the streak.

"That one stretch proved costly," remarked Coach John Bruns, "as WEM maintained that cushion for much of the second half. We cut the margin to single digits late in the game, but we had dug too deep a hole."

BP shot 37 percent from the field on 16 of 43 attempts, while the Bucs made 36 percent on 60 attempts. The Blossoms had a 36-26 edge in rebounds, but had 26 turnovers to just 16 for WEM.

Senior center Marissa Larson led the Blossom scoring for the second game in a row with 16 points, including 10 of 14 free throws. Kylie Forystek had 11 points, and Sam Wurst added nine points with 3 of 4 from the charity stripe.

McKenna Hein pulled down 11 rebounds and accounted for eight points, and Larson added eight rebounds and blocked two shots.

WEM defeated the BP JV team in the prelim 49-27. The Bucs fielded a quick and strong team that made finding shots difficult for the Blossoms.

Megan Oswald had eight

points for BP and Julia Worke added six.

Free throws aids girls

There is a Christmas song that chronicles a parade of the wooden soldiers. BP used a parade of free throw shooters to defeat Triton in the season basketball opener for both teams.

A total of 48 fouls were whistled in the game, 32 by the Cobras.

The Blossom girls had numerous chances to blow Triton away, but the team made only 27 of 55 trips to the charity stripe to keep the Cobras in the game until the final minutes. In the second half no Blossom could make two free throws in a row.

Because of the fouls and some ragged play by the teams, neither side could establish much rhythm in either half. BP trailed 11-6 with 7 minutes gone in the first half, but free throws and late baskets by McKenna Hein, Sam Wurst, and Marissa Larson pulled the Blossoms into a 31-25 lead.

The Blossoms would never trail the rest of the way. As Coach John Bruns commented, "it wasn't the prettiest of games, but we were able to pull out a win on shooting from the charity stripe and a superior edge in rebounding."

BP combed the boards for 62

GIRLS

Continued on page 2C



Dr. Deborah J Lien

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Blossom boys split contests



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms guard Kaden Thomas (12) goes up for a shot as a Triton defender looks on Friday at Triton. The freshman led BP with eight points in the 53-40 loss.

Blossoms start winter sports action

LINES: from page 1C

for sale to memorialize the 150 years of the town. Glass beer mugs with the 150th logo etched in the mug, glass Christmas ornaments, and personalized cake pan covers became available.

Other items will be added, but these first items are available now at the Chamber office.

Eventually, they will be available at other places in town also, but you can be the first to purchase one of these treasures.

Choir performs

Last Saturday, the First Lutheran Church choir had the opportunity to present a short concert at the Owatonna. We were one of several choirs to perform that day, and, despite a small Audience, choir members enjoyed the chance to publicize the choir and get pleasure from the joy of singing. No critics were on hand to hand out grades, but being a member

of that group, I thought we sounded pretty good, if I do say so myself.

Here and there

The elementary gym overflowed twice last Friday, as people flocked to listen to the annual elementary Christmas program.

The staff at the local school does a great job of hosting the program and continuing a rich and popular tradition. It is an excellent way to usher in the holiday celebration.

That occasion was followed by the Main Street Holiday Dazzle, which also brought people out and about. For us old-timers, it is nice, and very different, to have this big event without freezing, which it usually is.

Thanks go to the Chamber of Commerce for the work that volunteers and Becky Noble do to continue this tradition.

A tip of the hat to everyone who works to make it a success and keeping another tradition alive.

My daughter Teri and I had occasion to see the first Broadway play of the new theater season, and it was quite a production.

It was one of the very few non-musicals and delved into the subject of autism.

It is a touchy subject for many, but this cast did a great job of telling the story of a fifteen-year-old boy, and all the problems with which he deals as an autistic individual.

The title of the play is “The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Nighttime”, and it won five Tony awards just two years ago. A tough subject, but in this case, one that was dealt with at a very mature level.

Continue to anticipate the coming Christmas story, and we’ll talk again.

BP goes 1-1 at Triton Opening

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Dodge Center - A balanced attack and better floor play enabled the Awesome Blossom boys basketball team to earn a split in two weekend games at Triton.

After a Friday night loss to the Triton Cobras, BP bounced back to take down Kenyon-Wanamingo 47- 38 on Saturday.

Coach Nathan Piller was the first to admit, “Both this game and the game before were typical opening season contest. The play was pretty ragged, the shooting was a little off, and the teams made numerous mistakes.

“But the win over the Knights made everyone feel much better and restored some optimism for the season.”

The Blossoms used four three-pointers and three of four from the charity stripe to forge a 24-19 lead edge at the break, and the team outscored the Knights 23-19 in the second half on some excellent team defense.

Converting 13 of 19 attempts from the free throw line helped the Blossoms’ cause.

Jake Ressler led the balanced scoring with 11 points, but Nick Thompson had nine points, and Gabe Hagen and Max Romeo each accounted six. Jack Bulked counted 13 for Kenyon-Wanamingo to lead all scorers.

The JV team made it two in a row with a 38-20 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo. Trenton Swenson, Zach Weber, and Karsten Vigeland led the scoring surge for the Blossoms, with each player registering nine points. The team is 2-0 in the early goings of the season.

Boys drop opener

With three new starters, the Blossom boys basketball team began their season opener at Triton with a loss to the Cobras.

The different starters and a second half in which the team scored only 13 points combined to hand the Blossoms the 53-40 defeat at Dodge Center on Friday.

The Cobras led just 29-27 at the break.

BP accounted for five three-pointers in the first half, but the Cobras really put the defensive

clamps on the Blossoms in the second half, holding BP to just one three-point attempt.

The Blossoms got to the free throw line just eight times throughout the game.

None of the Blossom players could reach double figures in scoring, with freshman Kaden Thomas managing eight points to lead the team.

Another freshman, Gabe Hagen, accounted seven points, and Kory Rafdal made a pair of treys for six points on the night.

Ben Smith and Max Romeo had five points each.

Triton’s Brady Essig led all scorers in the game with 16 points. Official stats were unavailable for this game.

Coach Brian Nelson’s JV team opened its season by edging triton 45-41 Trenton Swenson led all scorers with 14 points, and Zach Weber each added 9 points. Cory Wagaman and Colton Ivers did a good job handling the ball in the game.

**Editor’s note- Stats are unofficial for the Blossom boys matchup against Triton. Stats were unavailable prior to press.*

Tigers round up



By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Girls Basketball

Last season, it took Mark Kubat’s Lady Tigers until January to notch their first win. This season, it took them one game.

Visiting non-conference for Cannon Falls on Tuesday night, the Tigers managed to claw back to earn a 40-38 win.

Despite trailing by nine at halftime, the Tigers allowed just 14 points in the second half.

Emma Kniefel led the Tigers with 17 points while Mikayla Spinler added nine.

Medford 65, WEM 63

Despite facing a 34-27 half-time deficit, the Tigers leaned on a strong run late in the contest to lift the Tigers to a 65-63 win. This marks the first time in 10 years that Medford has started the season 2-0. In her first varsity start on Tuesday, Kniefel scored 17 points. On Friday against WEM, the talented freshman scored 25 points to include the game winner to lift the Tigers to a 65-63 win. Izzy Reuvers also had a strong presence for the Tigers, scoring 12 points, second only to Kniefel.

Wrestling takes ninth

The Tigers traveled to Winona for the Winona invite Saturday in a tournament that featured 12

teams.

Coach Dennis Whitman had seven guys make the championship quarterfinals with 132-pounder Willie Von Ruden being the lone Tiger to make the semifinals. Medford placed ninth out of the 12 teams with 71 points.

Results

*106- Johnny Meyer (6th)
113- Cael Kavitz (0-2)
120- Christian Tupa (0-2)
132-Willie VonRuden (3rd)
152- Nick Masso (6th)
160-Marcus DeLeon (2-2)
170- Nate Meixner (5th)
182-Josh Schauer (5th)
195-Nate McCarthy (0-2)*

Panther round up



By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Panthers overpower Cards

After dropping their season opener earlier in the week, the NRHEG Panthers girls basketball squad roared back to dominate Bethlehem Academy 69-30.

Eight girls scored points in the game, as Marnie Wagner led the onslaught with 20 points, and Emiy Schoenrock added 16. Maddie Wagner added 12 points, and four other girls contributed at least 3 points. Schoenrock pulled down 10 rebounds and Maddie Wagner added 8.

“The girls played well in this game,” commented Coach Onika Peterson. “We were able to get out and run a bit, the offense moved much better, and we also

crashed the boards hard on defense.”

The Panthers travel to Maple River next Thursday Dec. 8, with a 1-1 record after the two games last week. NRHEG walloped the Cardinals 52-23 in the JV game prior to the varsity.

NRHEG girls drop opener

Tri City United jumped to an early 19-9 lead and never gave it up in a 66-59 win over the Lady Panthers. The season opener at Tri City on Tuesday, Nov. 29, saw the Panthers get within one at one point, but the Titans pushed back every attack by the visitors.

As Coach Onika Peterson remarked, “We knew they were going to come out ready to play, and they did just that. We fell

behind early and had to battle back all night.

“We need to work on some basics, such as boxing out and rebounding. Hopefully, we can get on track at home against Bethlehem Academy.”

Schoenrock led the Panthers in scoring with 22 points. Marnie Wagner had nine points, and Rachel Collins and Kayley Camerer each accounted for seven points.

Schoenrock also pulled down 12 rebounds and Gretchen Ramaker added 8 for the Panthers. Tri City won the JV game 43-30.

**Editors Note: Wrestling competed at St. James Area on Dec. 3. However, no stats were submitted prior to press.*

Robb, Johnson, King crowned

WRESTLING: from page 1C

11-2 in the finals.

Becker won each of his first two matches by pinfall in th first period before falling to top seed Trey Kuse 11-2 in the finals. Schroeder may have had the closest match in the finals for the Huskies, falling to Josh Oathoudt of Fairabult 4-3 in the final moments of the third period. Westphal and Staska each needed sudden victory to reach the finals. Westphal won 4-2 while Staska was able to pull off a nail biting 3-1 win.

Griffin Thorn defeated Conner Weiss of Stillwater by ma-

jor decision 14-5 in the semifinals after receiving a bye in the first round. The senior would then fall to Felipe Ramirez in 3:17 into the match. Goy Tut, who had also received a bye in the first round, defeated Logan Wingert 5-1 before Ryan Trcka of TCU was able to finish the Huskies’ heavyweight in the first period in the championship.

While having seven guys make the finals is astounding, what is really impressive is that Owatonna had a wrestler from every weight class place. After falling in the semifinals, 133

pounder Joey Wencil defeated Sam LaCanne of Faribault 10-4 for third place. 132 pounder Jerrez Autridge, 170 pounder Journey Peterson and 195 pounder Isaiah Noeldner each battled back to place fourth in their respective weight classes.

106 pounder Kaden Nelson lost a close 5-3 match to top seed Nick Johnson of TCU in the consolation semifinals, but managed to finish his day with a 6-1 decision for fifth.

Owatonna will Rochester on Thursday for a for a duel against Rochester Century.

rebounds, including 31 on the offensive end.

Junior McKenna Hein, who played all but 30 seconds of the game remarked, “It was really a rough game, but I thought overall we played pretty well for a first effort.”

Larson led the scoring parade with 20 points, to include going 10 of 20 from the free throw line. Sam Wurst counted 19 points, and she made 7 of 10 free throw attempts.

Kylie Forystek finished with 12 points and Hein added nine. Kendra Peterson had 10 points

to lead the Cobras.

Larson pulled down a whopping 21 rebounds, Wurst snagged 16, and Forystek added eight.

The 64 points marked the most first-game points for the Blossoms in years. In contrast, last year’s team reached the 60-point total just once during the entire season.

Of course, the prolific free throw shooting had a lot to do with the final score. BP led by six with a minute to go in the game, and another 6-0 run at the end forged the final 12-point

edge.

Triton took control late in the JV preliminary and defeated the Blossoms 36-27. The Cobras led by one at the half, but Coach Cory Hendrickson blamed too many turnovers in the second half that allowed Triton to pull away.

Maggie Bruns and Megan Oswald each counted eight points for BP.

“It was a typical first game,” Hendrickson commented, “but the girls played super hard, and that is all anyone can ask for.”

BP allows 10-0 run againt WEM

GIRLS: from page 1C

Huskies hold on for win



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Huskies' captain Mitchell Mayer (13) lifts his stick in celebration after his first period goal tied the game 1-1 Friday night against St. Francis at the Four Seasons Centre. Owatonna scored three-first period goals and held off a Saints surge late to win 6-5.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

After dropping its first game of the season on the road Thursday, the Owatonna boys hockey team was back in action with a home tilt against St. Francis. This time however, the Huskies managed to come out firing on all cylinders.

Owatonna had five players score goals to lead the Huskies (1-1) to a 6-5 win over St. Francis Friday night at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. Head coach Josh Storm said that initially, he is pleased with the performance.

“I thought we capitalized on opportunities we had; I don’t think we played the best defensively. I think our D zone has a long ways to go. All in all, when we had opportunities, we scored,” he added.

Just 57 seconds into the game, the Huskies were on the penalty kill after Alex Rehman was assessed a two-minute minor for tripping. On the ensuing faceoff, Saints’ forward Jared Giving managed to get behind the Owatonna defense and put a shot past Huskies’ goaltender Jacob Dub’s blocker for the early goal.

In a matter of three minutes, the Saints had a 1-0 lead. It was beginning to be similar to the first game of the season for the Huskies.

However, after giving up the early goal, Mitchell Mayer was able to find the back of the net off a good centering pass from Kodey Kiel at the 4:02-mark of the first period. Roughly five minutes later, Rehman was able to net the first of two first period goals after sneaking one just under the goalie’s pad as he was transitioning in the butterfly.

As time was winding down in the period, The Huskies were in position to add another goal as the Saints were assessed a minor for tripping at the 15:51-mark of the first period. It would only take the Huskies 32 seconds to add the third goal of the period after Rehman redirected a Mitch Weise shot. Rehman finished with a four-point performance, also registering two assists. The senior captain noted that the presence in the offensive zone was strong early.

“When we got into the offensive zone, we really set it up and got those quality shots,” he commented. However, the Saints would answer right back with just .63 left on the clock to end the first period with 3-2 Huskies’ lead. Despite holding the lead for the vast majority of the game, the Huskies managed just 19 shots on goal to St. Francis’ 40 attempts. In fact, the 11 to 7 shots on goal tally at the end of the first period would be the closest the Huskies came to the Saints in that stat. Nonetheless, coach Storm said that his team was making the most of their opportunities.

Owatonna would get goals from Carter Broten and Kodey Kiel in the second period while Tyler Wencil added the Huskies’ lone goal of the third period. Storm also noted that while the first goal from Mayer to tie the game was huge, Broten’s may have been the turning point. “They had scored right at the end of the period to make it a

one goal game again, and I was extremely frustrated because I didn’t think we played with a lot of tenacity in front,” he commented. “But when we scored on that powerplay, that was when we started to accelerate a bit.”

As the game wore on, so did the Fighting Saints’ shots on net. St. Francis started to make the game interesting as Travis Carroll was able to pull the Saints within two just 39 seconds into the final period. At the 13:15-mark, Alex Besch’s second goal of the game started to make fans a bit nervous. When the Saints scored to pull the deficit to 6-5 just a minute later, fans started to get restless as the time slowly drained from the clock.

In a last ditch effort, Saint Francis pulled their goalie, giving them the man advantage, but were unable to capitalize.

Owatonna travels to Albert Lea for a Big Nine Conference matchup Thursday.

Eagles 8, Huskies 3

In the first game of the season, the Owatonna boys hockey team got off to a slow start and paid dearly for it.

Apple Valley lit the lamp four times-the first just 17 seconds into the game- to build a commanding 4-0 lead over the Huskies. Owatonna managed to get on the board in the second period with a pair of goals from Mitch Weise and the final tally from Nate Smith. Unfortunately, for every Huskies’ goal, the Eagles answered with three of their own.

Lady Huskies pick up first wi

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

For the Owatonna High School girls basketball team, Saturday night didn’t just offer the chance to properly break in the new court that was recently finished, it offered a chance for the Lady Huskies to get first year head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa her first win as the new basketball head coach.

Fortunately for the Huskies, they were able to accomplish both.

Led by junior forward Sydney Schultz’s 23 points, the Owatonna Huskies downed Mankato East 74-46 at Owatonna High School on their new court, giving Hugstad-Vaa her first win as the head coach for the Lady Huskies. Afterward, she said that it was a quality team win.

“The girls moved the ball really well; we had really good pressure defense to force a lot of turnovers which helped, but all the girls played hard which is really nice. We got in everyone on the bench tonight and everyone was able to contribute and give

something so that was really nice to see,” she added.

From the opening tip-off, the Huskies’ utilized a full court press and creating havoc for the Cougars to get any rhythm established offensively. In fact, in the first four minutes of the game, Owatonna forced four turnovers and managed to jump out to a commanding 18-8 lead which forced a Cougars timeout. Hugstad-Vaa noted after the game that seeing her team in the full court press early in the contest will be a regular sight this season.

“We try to be as much pressure defense as we can with as many kids as we can,” she noted.

Out of the timeout, the pressure seemed to only intensify as Owatonna continued to force turnovers either near center court or as Mankato East was entering the offensive zone. One of the big reasons aside from the relentless pressure that Owatonna was out to a big first half lead was the play of Schultz. 17 of her 23 points came in the first half. She was also a force on the boards, pulling down four of her six rebounds.

While the Huskies were out to a commanding lead that reached 15 at one point, the 42-21 half-time lead could have been far greater. On five different occasions in the first half, the Huskies were unable to sink the fast break layups created by the stifling defense on the other end of the floor.

However, when Owatonna didn’t connect on the layup, there were times they managed to get to the line. In fact, the Huskies went to the foul line on six different occasions in the first half, connecting on nine out of 13 total attempts.

Coming out of the second half, the Huskies appeared to slow down a bit in terms of their aggression on both ends of the floor as the Cougars started to capitalize on some of the Owatonna mistakes. After going on a 7-0 run to start the half, coach Owatonna called to timeout. Hugstad-Vaa said that it was more for the girls to resettle and refocus.

“I told them just to calm down a bit. We don’t need push anything; we don’t need to force anything. I think sometimes

we get really excited and try to push the ball and look for things that are risky passes,” she commented.

On the ensuing inbound, Mankato East would not only sink the layup, but were fouled on the play, putting Owatonna into the bonus. To join the miscues and even small mental lapses throughout the game, both teams struggled keeping one another off the free-throw line. Owatonna had 10 fouls while the Cougars sent the Huskies to the line just nine.

With roughly five minutes left in the game, the Huskies appeared to start rolling again, scoring nine of the game’s final 11 points. Hugstad-Vaa said that it’s a good both mentally and psychologically for the girls to finish as strong as they did.

“It’s good for their confidence and for all the girls to get in and contribute to realize that they can all play at this level if they are contributing is huge for them,” she said.

Owatonna (1-1) travels to Mankato on Tuesday night for a Big Nine Conference matchup against Mankato West.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Syd Schultz (20) pulls up for a jumper in the first half of Owatonna’s 74-46 win over Mankato East. The junior scored 17 of her 20 points in the half.

Girls hockey thumps Scarlets

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

After the brief holiday break, the Owatonna girls hockey team had a home matchup against Mankato West on Thursday night. The Scarlets may have wished that they didn’t have the eager Huskies coming out of the break afterward.

The Huskies dominated nearly every facet of the game on their way to a 7-1 win in a Big Nine Conference matchup at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna. From the opening drop of the puck, Owatonna was in complete control, registering the game’s first goal just 90 seconds into the contest.

In fact, after just three minutes of play, the Huskies built a 2-0

lead after junior Margo Achterkirch added a short-handed goal just minutes after Jamie Davison netted her first of two first-period goals in the game.

They were also dominating puck possession, recording five shots on goal while holding the Scarlets empty.

Head coach Tim Hunst said that much of the success tonight came from better anticipation of where the puck may be.

“We’ve been pretty reactive to the puck and tonight, we thought ahead, we saw where the puck is going to be and we were getting there, giving us more time to make plays,” he added.

In the early goings of the contest, the game appeared it might be another tough contest as

Mankato West was able to cut the deficit to one after Courtney Bloemke was able to net an even strength goal just minutes after the Huskies built the 2-0 lead.

With just minutes left in the period, Davison notched her final goal of the contest to reestablish the Huskies’ commanding 3-1 lead. Davison finished with four points on the evening.

Much like the first period, Owatonna wouldn’t need much time to add to the lead as Chloe Schmidt added her first career varsity goal at the 2:01-mark of the period and Maylynn Prokopec added Owatonna’s fifth goal just 35 seconds later.

Hunst noted in the preseason that they were aiming to acclimate the younger girls to the

varsity level, and tonight was a good step in doing that.

“We rolled three lines through tonight, which gave some of our newer girls that hadn’t played as much quite a bit of time tonight and we didn’t see a significant drop off tonight when they were out there. That’s what we were hoping to see,” he added.

The Huskies were able to continue to make Scarlet goaltender Sara Olsen’s night tough, registering a game-high 18 shots on goal in the second period. On the opposite side of the ice, it was a pretty quiet night for Huskie’s goaltender Laura Ebeling. After facing seven shots in the first period, she faced just five shots for the remaining two periods.

With a shade under five min-

utes left in the period, Achterkirch was able to net her second goal of the game off a nice pass from Jenna Bogen. Bogen and Achterkirch each finished with a two-point performance. Bogen would register her second point of the night after scoring the game’s final goal off a feed from Davison at the 15:06-mark of the third period.

The Huskies (3-1) will look to add to the two-game winning streak when they travel to Winona for a matchup against the winless WinHawks. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m.

Scoring summary

First period
O- Jamie Davison (even strength) 1:28
O- Margo Achterkirch (short

handed) 2:23
MW- Courtney Bloemke (even strength) 4:55
O- Davison (even strength) 11:51

Second period
O- Chloe Schmidt (even strength) 2:06
O- Maylynn Prokopec (even strength) (assist: Chloe Schmidt) 2:36
O- Achterkirch (even strength) (Jenna Bogen) 12:18

Third period
O- Jenna Bogen (even strength) (Jamie Davison, Grace Wolfe) 15:06

Shots on goal

O: 15 18 12 45
MW: 7 3 2 12

How to help socially isolated seniors

Advancements in healthcare and a growing emphasis on healthy lifestyles means people are living longer than ever before. Age is often accompanied by wisdom, but men and women may also find that feelings of isolation, loneliness and depression may also settle in as they grow older. The Journal of Primary Prevention published “A Review of Social Isolation,” which observed how social isolation has been linked to numerous detrimental health effects

in older adults. Some of these ailments may include increased risk for mortality, rehospitalization, falls, and dementia. Individuals looking to give back to their communities may want to consider helping seniors in their area. There are plenty of ways to help seniors avoid isolation and continue to live fulfilling lives

- Provide transportation. A Place for Mom, a senior housing placement resource, notes that lack of adequate transportation is a main cause of social isolation among seniors. Voluntary or necessary cessation of driving makes getting to and from appointments or even recreational outings more difficult. Volunteers can help shuttle seniors to and from grocery stores, doctor’s offices and any other places they need to go. Getting out regularly and seeing new faces can help seniors overcome feelings of loneliness.
- Encourage exercise. Physical exercise keeps the body fit and improves mental health. Seniors can benefit from physical activity because it promotes strong bones and a healthy cardiovascular system. In addition, seniors who enroll in exercise classes at gyms or local senior



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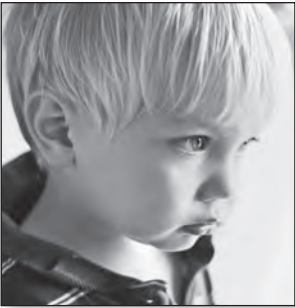
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PANTHER OF THE



Kylie Warke

This week, our Panther of the Week is Kylie Warke. Kylie is the daughter of Josh and Kelly Warke and they reside in New Richland. She is in Ms. Talamantes Kindergarten class. Kylie has been nominated for her positive attitude and compassion for other students. She is friends with all her peers, but has a knack for targeting students who are left out and include them with her. She always comes to school with a smile on her face. Students feel welcomed and comfortable to be themselves when they are around Kylie. Some fun facts about Kylie is that she loves gymnastics and spaghetti. Keep up the positive attitude Kylie!



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BOYS BASKETBALL

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Seth Bedengaugh

This week’s athlete of the week is a senior transfer and new to the Bloomington school system. Seth has been called a “gym rat” by his coach and has fit into the starting mix for the Blossoms. Seth was born in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and moved to the Midwest with his family when he was seven. He traded in his surf board for a basketball and the rest is history. He is planning on playing college basketball and studying music communication and production at North Central College in Minneapolis.

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Suspicion. On Nov. 29 at 4:47 p.m., a citizen called deputies to report someone was trying to force entry into his house in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

CRIME BRIEF

Chase results in felony charges against man

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A man suspected of being strung out on drugs led police on a high-speed chase through residential areas of Owatonna Nov. 26.

The Steele County Attorney’s Office has charged Nicholas Crow Goodman, 33, of Faribault with two felonies of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and fleeing police in a motor vehicle.

The charges stem from a high-speed chase shortly after 8 a.m. on Nov. 26. Police responded to a call of a person who had been run over by a vehicle. The victim provided police with a description of the suspect vehicle.

A short time later an Owatonna sergeant saw the vehicle and tried to stop it in Morehouse Park. The car failed to stop and traveled on the walking trail by the park.

Another officer utilized stop sticks on the trail, but the fleeing vehicle avoided the sticks and continued driving. The vehicle went into Kaplan’s Woods on the walking trail. At one point, a man had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit by the car.

The vehicle continued traveling through residential areas at speeds around 60 miles per hour. A sheriff’s deputy assisted with the chase and used a Precision Intervention Technique maneuver on the suspect vehicle in

the 1700 block of Elm Avenue S. The deputy used the PIT maneuver two more times before finally getting the vehicle to stop.

Police said they utilized the PIT maneuver as a way “to mitigate potential injuries to the public.”

After police pulled Goodman out of the vehicle, he allegedly told officers that he had “smoked a scoop of meth or so” about four or five hours ago, according to the criminal complaint.

The victim told police he came to Owatonna to confront Goodman about a theft. Court records show Goodman revved his car and lurched forward, knocking the victim onto the hood. The victim, who punched Goodman’s window and broke it, received minor injuries to his hand and right leg.

Goodman faces a minimum sentence of one year in prison and a maximum of seven years plus a \$14,000 fine on the most serious assault charge.



Nicholas Crow Goodman

and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 2600 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Thefts. Police took theft reports in the 400 block of North St. W. at 11:33 a.m. and in the 400 block of Adams Ave. NW at 2:21 p.m.

Robbery. At 7:56 p.m., police responded to a robbery in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S.

Nov. 24
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 900 block of Ivy St. SE at 10:44 a.m., in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 3:11 p.m., in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 9:02 p.m. and in the 800 block of El Dorado St. SE at 11:10 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:34 p.m.

Nov. 25
Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 7:17 a.m.
Property Damage. Police took a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Vine St. E. at 1:47 p.m.

Nov. 26
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 7:20 a.m.
Pursuit. At 8:08 a.m., officers pursued a vehicle in the 400 block of Adams Ave. NW. It ended with a subject being arrested.

Restraining Order. Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 1:09 p.m.

Assault. At 2:09 p.m., officers responded to an assault in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.

Nov. 27
Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Kilworth Dr. NW and State Ave. NW at 12:07 a.m.

Death. At 10:22 a.m., police

Cornfield stabbing suspect gets nearly 10 years in prison

A Steele County judge has gone beyond recommendations of attorneys with the sentence for the last of four teenagers charged in a brutal cornfield attack in 2015.

Judge Karen Duncan last week ordered Jameson Smith, 18, to serve 118 months in prison for the attack, which left a man to die with more than 100 stab wounds. The man has survived, but will likely face medical problems for the rest of his life.

Duncan’s sentence went above what prosecutors had even asked for in the case. County Attorney Daniel McIntosh requested a sentence of 103 months, but Duncan went with that and then some by adding on another 15 months. The judge previously had issued the same 118-month sentence to another defendant, Seth Brandenburg.

During sentencing, Smith’s

attorney argued for him to not receive any prison time. Instead, he made a case for Smith to receive probation only.

Smith was the last suspect to plead guilty to first-degree assault. The suspects had originally faced attempted murder charges. Smith was 17 at the time of the attack.

Attorneys for Smith and Brandenburg had made previous attempts to remove Judge Duncan from the case. However, the Minnesota Court of Appeals rejected the appeal by the attorneys earlier this year, allowing Duncan to remain on the case.

The attack took place in July 2015 in a cornfield west of Owatonna. It was near the same area where a woman was found stabbed to death in 2009. The two victims in both cases had almost the same number of stab wounds.

Nov. 26
Arrest. Deputies assisted another agency with arresting an adult in the 3900 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 1:49 a.m.

Nov. 27
Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 3600 block of Rose St. at 4:47 a.m.

Nov. 28
Child Protection. Deputies received a child protection report from the 5300 block of Thompson Dr. at 11:48 a.m.
Theft. At 1:52 p.m., deputy took a theft report in the 3000 block of School St.

Nov. 30
Theft. Deputies received a theft report from the 100 block of 5th Ave. E. at 9:15 a.m.

Dec. 1
DWI. Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:18 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 21 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Brandon C. Froid, 30, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony drug possession. Froid was sentenced to \$1,081, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 21 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Kutley W. Thuok, 21, St. Peter, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft and felony criminal sexual conduct. The defendant was sentenced to \$131, 30 months in St. Cloud State Prison and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 21 – 25:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Toi T. Do, 31, Austin, revoked license and no insurance; Scott R. Ehmke, 26, Rose Creek, can-

Woman accused of stabbing man in the chest

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A woman is accused of stabbing a man during a domestic disturbance in Owatonna.

Carol Robinson, 49, has been charged by the Steele County Attorney’s Office with a pair of felonies, including second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and terroristic threats-reckless disregard risk.

Police responded to the 800 block of Oak Avenue S. on Nov. 28 at about 8:34 p.m. where they found a man bleeding with a stab wound to his chest. While at the scene, the victim’s daughter told officers that her mother, Carol Robinson, stabbed the victim.

During an interview with police, Robinson told an officer, “I admit it. I cut him,” according to court records. She told police the victim has abused her for five years and she’s not taking it anymore.

Officers recovered a knife with a 6-inch blade in the kitchen sink of an apartment where the stabbing took place, according to the complaint.

The victim told police that Robinson threatened to kill him during the attack. A shouting match with other expletives took place just prior to the stabbing.

If convicted, Robinson faces a minimum of three years in prison and not more than seven years and a \$14,000 fine.

celled license, stay of adjudication, \$281, comply with Ignition Interlock program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jeremy L. Gabby, 35, Kasson, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$131 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Shanin M. Ray, 28, St. Cloud, revoked license and no insurance.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Taylor R. Jacobs, 22, Faribault, hunting – take wild animals while license suspended.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Ricardo Aguilera Jr., 22, Hutchinson, invalid license and no insurance; Jessie J. Barrientes, 18, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$381; Robert C. Benson, 45, Stillwater Township, speeding, \$131; Jessie F. Brown, 23, Minneapolis, suspended license; Jason E. Daniels, 33, Austin, possession of marijuana, \$131; Eric D. Davis, 34, Rimrock, AZ, leaking load, \$141; Michelle Del Angel, 26, Albert Lea, revoked license, invalid license, seat belt;

Erin C. Devine, 26, Hopkins, speeding and careless driving, \$381; Maxwell T. Flaa, 25, Eagan, speeding, \$221; Marissa J. Giers, 24, Winona, speeding, \$121; Shawntay L. Green, 43, Mankato, revoked license; Claudia C. Handal, 22, Grinnell, IA, speeding, \$141; Micah L. Holst, 39, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$221;

Maria G. Ledesma, 41, Shakopee, seat belt, \$106; Sahara Leonard, 45, St. Paul, window tint violation and no insurance; Nathan S. Magnuson, 84, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Jeffrey D. Oldefendt, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Amy J. Olsson, 41, Mankato, revoked license and no insurance; Arturo J. Ortega, 31, Claremont, invalid license and suspended license; Heather M. Oudal, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Michael J. Pakkala, 50, Lakeville, speeding, \$131; David A. Pickett, 32, Poway, CA, invalid license; Scott N. PoQuette, 53, Northfield, speeding, \$141;

Michael J. Porter, 32, Olathe, KS, speeding, \$141; Teriann Powell, 34, Owatonna, revoked license, no child passenger restraint system and seat belt; Frank A. Rios, 19, St. Paul, speeding, \$131;

Matthew J. Ritter, 41, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Wali H. Saleem Parks, 19, Boone, IA, speeding, \$281; Joseph D. Scofield, 20, Litchfield, speeding, \$121; Shayela G. Shields, 25, Des Moines, IA, no license, \$181; Benjamin D. Smidt, 24, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121;

Mariah A. Thurman, 28, Missouri Valley, IA, open bottle and

speeding; Blanca P. Torres, 42, Fairmont, no license, \$181;

Danny J. Vieths, 25, Lake City, expired registration and no insurance, \$311; Lao Yang, 32, Little Canada, invalid license and revoked license.

Owatonna Police Department

Bryan E. Anderson, 19, Red Wing, invalid license; Damion L. Andrews, 40, Austin, suspended license; Alejandro Avila, 22, Medford, no license, \$181; Jessie L. Bellikka, 33, Austin, revoked license; Makenzie J. Boone, 26, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$281; Andre T. Buie, 31, Owatonna, revoked license; Matthew J. Burr, 30, Owatonna, suspended license; Martin D. Carter, 32, Owatonna, suspended license; Sean M. Cicero, 36, Owatonna, cancelled license; Isaiah H. Coffey, 18, Owatonna, revoked license, no insurance and broken or cracked windshield, \$531; Eddie A. Crowder, 21, North Mankato, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Dean D. Drager, 30, Owatonna, revoked license; Nicholas L. Dube, 23, Owatonna, cancelled license and no insurance; Brady L. Fischer, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, speeding and improper information on license, \$351; James E. Foster, 32, Brooklyn Park, suspended license; Alfredo Garza Jr., 35, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance;

Dalia I. Garza, 34, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Armando Gonzalez, 49, Austin, revoked license; Gerald R. Gruber, 40, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Keith E. Hicks, 50, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Verdel L. Houston, 37, Minneapolis, revoked license; Sara M. Huntington, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, operating vehicle without special plates and no insurance; Lucas D. Iveland, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Wyatt L. Jackson, 33, Owatonna, open bottle and no insurance; Jamil L. James, 22, Chatfield, theft, \$581, 17 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Arthur P. Johnson, 24, Ulysses, KS, revoked license and no insurance; Naomi A. Knopps, 28, Winnebago, revoked license;

Nicole L. Krenzelok, 37, Owatonna, revoked license; Jessica J. Laird, 39, Austin, revoked license; Harlan E. Manke, 75, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Steven R. Martinez, 23, Des Moines, IA, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia;

Meghan E. McMahon, 26, Owatonna, revoked license; Shyanne M. Mensing, 29, Rock Valley, IA, no insurance and suspended license; Emily A. Nelson, 31, Stillwater, suspended license; Heather

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

- Eduardo Pena – assault
- Gary Percival – prostitution
- David Perez – violation of restraining order
- Federico Perez – DWI
- Joann Perez – assault
- Martin Perez – DWI
- Juan Perez-Torrez – sale to minor
- David Perry – drugs
- Cornelius Phillips – open bottle
- Cory Piring – DWI

- Keith Pittman – DWI
- Lorita Placencia – drug sale
- Juan Placencia-Gonzalez – obstruction
- Darrian Porter – interference with 911
- Amanda Portillo – DWI
- Justin Prondzinski – forged check
- Matthew Quast – drugs
- Daniel Ramos – disorderly conduct
- Jacob Reed – DWI
- Po Reh – DWI

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

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S. Olson, 32, Blooming Prairie, revoked license; Logan J. Onken, 24, Owatonna, revoked license; Raymond C. Placencia, 26, Faribault, suspended license; Zachary L. Prins, 26, Morristown, revoked license; Ricardo Ramirez, 46, St. Peter, revoked license; Sanjuliese Rivera, 44, Owatonna, no license; Jorge J. Rocha, 50, St. Cloud, revoked license; Delma Rodriguez, 29, Owatonna, no license; Robert W. Sahf, 54, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$181 and 2 years of unsupervised monitoring with adjudication; Courtney L. Schmitz, 19, Owatonna, assault, stay of adjudication, \$300, anger management, cognitive skill training and 1 year of supervised probation; Drew L. Schroht-Fuller, 33, Owatonna, revoked license;

Marquitta L. Scott, 23, Owatonna, no insurance; Edward E. Singletary, 53, Owatonna, suspended license; William D. Swain, 30, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation;

Travis M. Swartz, 29, Modesto, CA, revoked license and no insurance; Robert L. Tanner, 47, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance; Heather I. Timm, 21, Dodge Center, assault, \$381, 3 days in county jail, no contact with victim and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Nicole B. Torres, 21, Medford, suspended license and no insurance; Paul A. Freganza, 54, Owatonna, revoked license; Jose E. Trujillo-Rodriguez, 40, West St. Paul, revoked license;

John E. Vermeersch, 50, South St. Paul, suspended license and no insurance; Ashley I. Von Ruden, 28, Owatonna, revoked license; Chris A. Vruno, 29, Shakopee, revoked license; Charles J. Whiting, 22, Minneapolis, suspended license and no insurance; Ryan J. Wilson, 27, Owatonna, violation of limited license; Payton E. Wolf, 21, Owatonna, revoked license.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Damon L. Andrews, 40, Austin, suspended license and failure to yield; Katelyn N. Askelson, 22, Stewartville, speeding, \$121; Victor A. Balderas, 35, Mission, TX, speeding, \$121; Marisol L. Barrientos de Leon, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Troyston J. Buchanan, 20, Austin, speeding, \$141; Sylvia S. Castillo, 38, Faribault, suspended license, speeding and no insurance; Peyton N. Crow, 22, Owatonna, motor vehicle registration - intent to escape tax, \$281 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Stacey N. Erickson, 44, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$121; John P. Filan, 56, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Marcus L. Galindo, 51, Rochester, revoked license; Savanna J. Guerrero, 18, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Skylar A. Guggisberg, 23, Ellendale, expired license and speeding, \$231; Ryan M. Hanson, 26, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Matthew R. Honsey, 28, Owatonna, revoked license; Patricia M. Knutsen, 62, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Sarah Kuichtoch, 27, St. Cloud, speeding, \$121; Priyia M. Lacey, 20, Faribault, suspended license and speeding, \$321; Elizabeth M. Landsteiner, 26, Janesville, speeding, \$141;

Edward T. Lawson, 37, Medford, revoked license and expired tabs; Corey R. Lemke, 37, Kenyon, revoked license; Brian J. Maesre-Reavis, 29, New Richland, no license in possession; Karen T. Martinez Tinajero, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Jeffrey S. Moran, 40, Lakewood Village, TX, no license, \$181; William L. Nagel, 50, Waseca, expired license; Tamara J. Olson, 33, Shakopee, revoked license, brakes violation and no insurance;

Christopher L. Redding, 37, Owatonna, revoked license and plates violation; Thomas P. Remker, 48, Owatonna, suspended license; J. Ascencion P. Rodriguez, 39, Austin, speeding, no license and no insurance;

Raul Sanchez, 33, Mercedes, TX, no license and speeding, \$231; Kyle R. Schnobrich, 24, Kasson, revoked license and speeding; Kristine A. Schroeder, 23, Blooming Prairie, suspended

license and headlamps violation; Loenney A. Seay, 30, Minneapolis, revoked license and no insurance; Amanda N. Sepin, 22, Grand Marais, no license;

Edward E. Singletary, 53, Owatonna, suspended license; Tessa A. Sjol, 21, West Concord, speeding, \$281; Justin H. Smith, 25, Janesville, stop sign and revoked license; William E. Smith, 36, Montgomery, passing parked emergency vehicle, \$131;

Zachary D. Smith, 34, Austin, prohibited passing, \$131; Corey J. Tollefson, 46, Lonsdale, revoked license; Jose M. Trejo, 28, Elkhorn, NE, speeding, \$121; Jeremy J. Weber, 29, Morristown, bumper violation, \$131; Donovan J. Winkelman, 34, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Rayce M. Witt, 18, Owatonna, expired tabs and speeding, \$151.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 169 complaints during the week of Nov. 23 – 29. Some of them include:

Nov. 23
Suspicion. At 12:58 a.m., deputies responded to suspicious activity at State Hwy. 56 and 670th St. in Dodge Center.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect in the 300 block of 4th St. NW in Dodge Center at 4:57 p.m.

Nov. 24
Environment. At 9:08 a.m., a Hayfield citizen reported that garbage was dumped on his property in the 71700 block of 230th Ave.

Nov. 25
Disturbance. At 11:32 p.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of 2nd St. SW in Dodge Center.

Nov. 27
Threats. A threats incident occurred in the 15500 block of 640th St. in Dodge Center at 7:40 a.m.

Animal. A citizen reported that a deer was running around on the football field in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 11:10 a.m.

Deputy took a report of stolen donkey statue from a front yard in the 500 block of Main St. E. in

Dodge Center at 1:22 p.m.

Welfare. Deputies completed a welfare check in the 75600 block of 135th Ave. in Blooming Prairie at 3:14 p.m.

Nov. 29
Noise. Deputies responded to a noise complaint on 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 4:01 a.m.

Harassment. Deputies responded to a violation of a DANCO order in the 400 block of 3rd St. NW in Dodge Center at 8:48 p.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 100 block of 1st Ave. NW in Hayfield at 9:01 p.m.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 9:55 p.m. One subject was transported to the Olmsted County Jail on an apprehension order.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 21 – 28:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Jackson R. Churchill, 19, Hayfield, careless driving, \$380; Henry J. Distad, 18, Rochester, careless driving, \$180; Garth G. Garness, 53, Dodge Center, speeding, \$280; Manuel Hinojosa Jr., 33, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Leah M. Oswald, 23, Hayfield, speeding, \$140; Caroline A. Rynerson, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$380; Sara A. Sparks, 21, Mantorville, speeding, \$130.

Kasson Police Department

Jon L. Fosness, 67, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Lisa J. Haglund, 50, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Troy D. Homme, 44, Benson, seat belt, \$105; Norman T. Jorgenson, 76, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Chad W. Krahn, 43, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Jason A. Markwardt, 32, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Heather M. Predmore, 33, Kasson, revoked license and speeding, \$330; Terry L. Stackhouse, 29, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Mark K. Wilder, 52, Rochester, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Alan E. Akkerman, 59, Brownsdale, texting while driving, \$130; Wade S. Beavers, 46, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Cody M. Collins, 20, Montgomery, speeding, \$140; Sarah A. Cooke, 32, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$120; Donald R. Hooker, 44, The Colony, TX, speeding, \$220; Melissa Rodriguez, 22, Austin, speeding, \$130; Moises M. Velazquez, 40, Chaska, using telephone while driving a CMV and no license, \$380.

West Concord Police Department

Charles P. Rea, 50, Kenyon, revoked license, \$280; Todd A. Wenner, 41, Medford, revoked license, \$280.

ARREST
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Jessica Linn Alwes, 25, arrested at 12:18 p.m. Nov. 28, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Owatonna Police

Brandon Lee Stevermer, 22, arrested at 2:25 p.m. Nov. 23, warrant arrest, held for court.

Anthony Thomas Lonsdale, 41, arrested at 3 p.m. Nov. 23, felony forgery, held for court.

Jennifer Dawn Borge, 31, arrested at 9:39 p.m. Nov. 25, felony receiving stolen property, held for court.

Denesha Raye Sutton, 19, arrested at 7:37 p.m. Nov. 25, drugs possession, held for court.

Ryan James Berg, arrested at 4:51 p.m. Nov. 25, felony receiving stolen property, held for court.

Shawn Maurice Williams, 33, arrested at 11:20 p.m. Nov. 25, felony assault, drug possession and drug sales, held for court.

Nicholas Crow Goodman, 33, arrested at 12:46 p.m. Nov. 26, felony assault, fleeing in a motor vehicle, DWI, no insurance and tax evasion, held for court.

Isaiah Hayden Coffey, 18, arrested at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 26, felony possession and theft, held for court.

Carina Rodriguez Cuevas, 32, arrested at 11:11 a.m. Nov. 27, harassment restraining order violation, held for court.

Raymond Mark Perez, 24, arrested at 11:55 p.m. Nov. 27, disorderly conduct, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Carol Robinson, 49, arrested at 9:12 p.m. Nov. 28, felony assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Martin John Klaustermeier, 21, arrested at 6:10 p.m. Nov. 30, warrants arrest, held for court.

Raymond Keith Scott, 38, arrested Nov. 30, theft and violation of conditions of release, held for court.

Jeffry Joe Bryant, 39, arrested at 12:56 a.m. Dec. 2, felony drugs, held for court.

William Lamar Lamb, 45, arrested at 2:35 a.m. Dec. 2, disorderly conduct, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Martin Donte Carter, 32, arrested at 2:11 p.m. Nov. 24, violation of conditions of release, held for court.

Daniel Abraham Reb, 35, arrested at 9:57 a.m. Nov. 27, felony probation violation, held for court.

Jason Charles Meixner, 39, arrested at 3:45 p.m. Nov. 27, probation violation, held for court.

Randy Scott Mensing, 53, arrested at 2:32 p.m. Dec. 1, check forgery warrant arrest, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Christina Jamie Bridget, 32, arrested at 3:16 a.m. Nov. 25, felony possession, held for court.

rested at 3:16 a.m. Nov. 25, felony possession, held for court.

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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

SMMPA annual report wins national award

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

A Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce member, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) recently won a national award recognizing its unique annual report.

“Congratulations go out to our chamber member,” said Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Blooming Prairie is one of 18 municipal utilities that are members of SMMPA. In effect, SMMPA is the wholesale power supplier to Blooming Prairie which means it takes care of the power generation and transmission to Blooming Prairie, which in turn uses that power to serve its retail customers.

The American Public Power Association (APPA) selected SMMPA to receive one of its Excellence in Public Power Communications Awards.

The award was presented at the APPA Customer Connections conference held in Nashville, TN on Nov. 9. The 2015 SMMPA annual report received the Award of Excellence, APPA's highest award for public power communications. Dan Hayes, SMMPA's manager of communications and renewable energy, accepted the award on behalf of SMMPA.

SMMPA's 2015 annual report, which was distributed in April 2016, takes a unique approach to telling the story of SMMPA and its members. In the style of graphic novels, the cover illustration portrays a fictional SMMPA character as an action hero who represents all member communities.

Inside, each graphic spread features a three-panel scene with rapid-fire dialogue. The report gains attention with unconventional graphics and a creative writing style to complement the graphics.

View the full report online at <http://www.smmpa.org/media/1662/smmpa2015web.pdf>

Submissions for the APPA awards are judged on the following criteria:

- Well designed, visually engaging, creative
- Aligned with organization's core brand and mission
- Customer-friendly, sharing useful resources and information
- Relevant, engaging, action-oriented content — text and graphics

SMMPA was formed as a joint-action agency by its Members in 1977. SMMPA generates and sells reliable wholesale electricity to its eighteen non-profit, municipally owned member utilities and develops innovative products and services to help them deliver value to their customers. Blooming Prairie is a SMMPA member.

SMMPA Members serve over 97,000 residential customers and over 12,300 commercial and industrial customers. The Agency's energy resource mix includes coal-fired and natural gas-fired resources, various renewable energy sources such as wind, biodiesel and waste-to-energy, and an array of intermediate and peaking units owned by member utilities. Jerry Mausbach, general manager of the Blooming Prairie Utilities, is a SMMPA board member.

For more information about SMMPA please visit www.smmpa.com

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