



STEELE COUNTY Times



\$1

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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Apparent murder suspected with body found

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The Steele County Sheriff's Office is investigating a suspected homicide after a body was found along a gravel road in a remote area of the county northeast of Owatonna early Sunday.

The victim is believed to be a man in his early to mid 20s, according to Sheriff Lon Thiele. His identity had not yet been released when this edition of the Times went to press. The body was taken to the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Rochester where an autopsy was performed Monday, Thiele said.

Deputies responded to a 911 call of a dead person on the road around 1 a.m. Sunday. Thiele said the call came from a motorist passing by the area.

Asked if there were any signs of trauma on the body, Thiele replied: "I can't mention that right

now."

The sheriff called in the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to assist with the investigation. The BCA brought its mobile crime lab to the scene to process the area for clues.

No arrests have been made in the case.

Authorities were not disclosing many details of the investigation. BCA agents are working with local investigators in piecing together what happened.

The last murder in Steele County happened in December 2009 in the northwest section of the county. Ryan Hurd brutally killed Kathryn Rose Anderson, 19, of Eagan. She had been stabbed 109 times. He is currently serving a life in prison without parole sentence.

The Times will provide updates on this latest murder investigation on the website at steededodgenews.com as they become available.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Moo-ving in for a better look

Evan Grunklee, 4, of Owatonna, didn't waste any time as he crawled right up next to a dairy calf on the Joe Rysavy farm south of Owatonna Saturday morning for the annual Steele County Breakfast on the Farm. Evan came to the breakfast with his little sister and brother as well as his parents, Jacquie and Keith Grunklee. About 1,000 people came to the Rysavy farm to enjoy a pancake breakfast. See page 8A for more photos from the breakfast.

**U Booze
U Drive
U Lose**



AN ER NIGHTMARE

An intoxicated trip to the hospital affects everyone

By CHRIS SCHAD
Staff Writer

To the outsider of a drunk driving crash, there seems to be only two parties involved in an incident. But that is the furthest from the truth.

On one side, there's the intoxicated driver who has jumped into their vehicle and found themselves in a bad situation. On the other

side, there's the victim who was likely minding their own business and also found themselves into a rough predicament. Both sides have a massive amount of pain to deal with in this situation, but many forget about the medical responders that also find themselves thrown into it.

Physicians and nurses who are staffed at emergency rooms, hospitals and other areas throughout their system all see their fair share of cases involving alcohol. While they don't endure the physical pain that comes with some of these patients, the emotional side of things takes its toll and can turn a quiet night into their own

NIGHTMARE
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Building NAPA know how

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The NAPA Auto Parts store of Blooming Prairie is getting a makeover.

Motorists traversing on Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie no doubt have been doing a double take when passing by the NAPA store at 538 Highway 218 S. Ground was broken on May 3.

Workers have been busy erecting a 5,670 square foot building measuring 63 by 90 feet. Broskoff Construction of Geneva is the general contractor on the project. Vern Dahl & Sons Construction is a sub-contractor erecting the pole building structure.

"We're out of room," says owner Tom Welch. "Our new venture is exciting and it will be very nice when finished," Welch added.

Currently, NAPA fronts a building that is also occupied by

Derrick's Preferred Auto. When the 5,670 square foot building is completed, hopefully by late September, Derrick's will inhabit the old NAPA space. "Derrick is my best customer," Welch says.

A grand opening for the new store is planned in October, Welch said.

For both the NAPA store and Derrick's will be on the north side. "We should have sufficient parking for 8-10 vehicles," Welch said.

"We're hoping we grow in inventory and we know we will," Welch said. A crew from NAPA will come to Blooming Prairie about a week prior to the conversion to a new building.

Welch said the store's design will be similar to the design of the Montgomery NAPA store.

Welch and wife Diane pur-

NAPA

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ATV crash kills one in Blooming Prairie

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A 32-year-old Austin man was killed and another man injured late Wednesday afternoon when an ATV (all terrain vehicle) they occupied went out of control and struck a tree near the Worlein Funeral Home on SE 3rd St. in Blooming Prairie.

The man was identified as Nathan McFarland and said to be the loving husband and father of three, a six-week-old, a two-year-old and a nine-year-old. Terry Trom, owner of TT Motorcycles, Blooming Prairie, said McFarland "was a great employee and will be missed."

Passenger in the vehicle was Kevin Maday, Owatonna. He was treated and released last night from the Austin Medical Center after suffering a broken nose, two cracked ribs, cuts and bruises.

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad said his department, the Minnesota State Patrol and Steele County Sheriff's authorities continue to investigate the



Nathan McFarland

incident.

An autopsy has been ordered to help determine if the crash were caused by

ATV CRASH
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Story on Page 6A



Submitted photo

This all terrain vehicle went out of control and struck a tree on Worlein Funeral Home property in Blooming Prairie at about 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 22. One man was killed and another injured in the crash. Name of the person killed has not yet been released.

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Opinion

Our view

The astronomical cost to drive drunk

A few drinks. A little fun. No harm, no foul. "What does my drinking have to do with you?" Have the brain cells so deteriorated in today's society that people have the audacity to actually think those thoughts? Drunk driving in the United States has become big business that is out of control. In 2012 it was reported that drunk driving costs the US more than \$132 billion each year. Each year.

Instead of hacking away at a national debt, Americans are too busy denying that they are too impaired to drive. Can you see the irony?

If you drive drunk, you most assuredly will have someone else buying your next round. Your neighbors, your friends and your family. Incidents and the costs incurred as a result of them are not discriminatory.

They will touch all. A crash three states away is the tipping point to a national rise of medical costs. A death in the next County drives up the cost of car insurance. Property damage across town and the taxes go up.

You think that final cocktail only cost you \$12. In fact, it cost so many people so much more money out of their paychecks and out of their pensions and out of their savings. And to be honest with you? Some people in America just can NOT afford your habit.

"What does your drinking have to do with America?"

Let's add the costs accrued in the legal system or to pay the public servants who have to clean up the messes that are left behind. From the police officer that has to leave a sick family member in the middle of the night to do extended crash coverage to the utility workers who have to clean the blood and brain matter off of a sidewalk.

And finally, there are the human costs. Those left as partially functioning participants, helping to pay for your final cocktail and left holding the proverbial colostomy bag. Doesn't it seem strange that you've enlisted them to pay for your final drinks but didn't include them in the discussion as to whether you were competent to drive?

The statistic that approximately 12,000 people will die in drunk-driving crashes is obviously not sobering people up to the fact that it has to end. The funeral costs, the medical costs, the therapy costs, the rehab costs, the prison costs and the trickle down effect that drives the unstable and the wounded to suicide. Yes, that is on your bar tab also. All coming as a result of helping to pay for your final sips. For it's in that final taste where you determine your next steps. Another drunk behind the wheel is simply just too expensive. Celebrations and other reasons for alcohol are not going away soon, but it's in those fateful steps to your car that you make everyone get their checkbooks out.

It's not your drinking that people take issue with. It's not your driving. It's when you make an impaired decision to combine the two.

Celebrate. Celebrate with your friends. Celebrate with your families. But for the love of God, celebrate without your keys.



Happy trails to the sheriff's right hand person

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

When we think of public safety warriors, it's often the officers and deputies on the front lines of the war against crime that come to mind. After all, they're the ones who most often capture the limelight whether it's positive or negative.

Back when I began covering the police beat in Freeborn County for KAAL-TV in the early 1990s, I came across one of the sweetest and most unassuming public safety professionals I have ever met. She was the sheriff's right hand person. She didn't have an ego that often engulfs the law enforcement profession. She worked quietly behind the scenes performing administrative tasks for the sheriff. To an outsider, she made the sheriff and the rest of the department look good.

Last week brought an end to a 40-year career for Debra Mortensen. I know, four decades at the same job doesn't seem possible, especially now a days. She leaves the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office for the greener pastures of retirement.

Mortensen, 58, started a week after graduating from Alden-Conger High School as a clerk and typist. She became a personal secretary to the sheriff in 1980 and has since served under

five sheriffs, including Holland Laak, Donald Nolander, Jr., Mark Harig, Bob Kindler and the current sheriff Kurt Freitag.

No one could be sadder about her departure than Sheriff Freitag. "She was a very integral part of the sheriff's office," Freitag told me this week. "She was seriously dedicated and loyal to our every day and long term missions," he said.

Asked what he'll remember Mortensen for the most, Freitag said it would have to be her dedication and strong work ethic.

With police work often being negative in nature, Mortensen brought a degree of positivity to the office and it became contiguous with the people around her. "She was always smiling and always positive," Freitag said. "She never said a cross word."

When Freitag took over the sheriff's job less than two years ago, he was thrilled to have someone like Mortensen at his side. He credits her for making his transition into office as seamless as possible. "She made my job easier in a lot of ways," he said. "I couldn't imagine having to do her job along with mine."

Freitag was always impressed with how Mortensen never missed a beat with any part of her job. "She has always been able to use her time wisely and never missed a deadline," he said, adding she brought reliability, punctuality and professionalism to the job.

With work out of the picture, Mortensen plans to continue playing organ at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Conger. It's something she has done for even longer than the job she just left. She has been playing for 46 years. She also plans to play piano weekly at the Mayo hospital in Albert Lea.

Retirement will also allow Mortensen to devote time to some other hobbies like walking, crocheting and photography. Her husband, Ben, will continue in his role as a detective with the Albert Lea Police Department. Her aunt, Louise Peterson, lives outside of Blooming Prairie.

I have become great friends with the Mortensens since my KAAL days of digging up the news. It goes without saying that she deserves a happy retirement more than anyone. I hope retirement is everything she wants and more.

It's the residents of Freeborn County who ultimately will end up on the losing end as Mortensen goes in hot pursuit of enjoying her retirement.

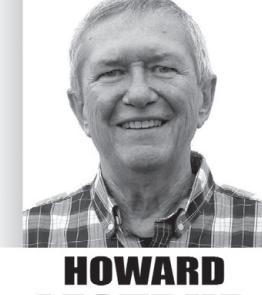


Debra Mortensen



Is it Bern or is it Berne?

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

Nearly four years ago, Judy

and I visited Bern, the capital city of Switzerland. We were quite impressed with its expanse and beauty created by the River Aare which surrounds the hilly peninsula.

I had no idea that Bern had a counterpart in Minnesota, actually located in Dodge County, about seven miles west of Mantorville on Highway 57.

Bern, Switzerland has a population of 132,000 and Berne (West Concord), Minnesota has a population of 2050.

Oh, by the way, in Switzerland, the capital city is most well known by its Bern spelling

which is German. The Berne spelling points to a French background.

I actually discovered there was a Berne, Minnesota when I attended an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Synod assembly and met Pastor Victor Jortack from the Zwingli United Church of Christ, located in tiny Berne in northern Dodge County.

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie told me that Berne has a summer celebration that cannot be missed. In fact, it is held on consecutive Wednesday nights from June

through August. Funds from these summer events help keep the church alive and benefit various community organizations. Donations are also made to various non-profit groups.

Thanks to Times publisher Rick Bussler's outstanding HometownExtra feature in the June 14, 2016 edition of the Times, I was able to learn more about the Swiss festival that

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STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.

USPS 058-340

Published weekly on Tuesdays

Postmaster: Send address

changes to: Steele County Times

P.O. Box 247

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Phone: (507) 583-4431

Fax: (507) 583-4445

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016 8 State Awards

2015 4 National Awards

7 State Awards

2014 3 National Awards

3 State Awards

2013 2 National Awards

7 State Awards

2012 2 State Awards

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

2011 4 National Awards

7 State Awards

2010 3 National Awards

7 State Awards

2009 2 State Awards

2008 1 National Award

2007 1 National Award

2006 1 National Award

2005 1 National Award

2004 1 National Award

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1947 1 National Award

1946 1 National Award

1945 1 National Award

1944 1 National Award

1943 1 National Award

1942 1 National Award

1941 1 National Award

Second Front

DANGEROUS DRUNK DRIVING



2014 Cost of alcohol-related traffic crashes IN FIVE COUNTY AREA

STATEWIDE 5 COUNTIES

\$202,243,000 | \$12,246,000

Steele • Dodge • Freeborn
Mower • Olmsted

STEELE	DODGE	OLMSTED
\$503,200	\$3,084,000	\$4,686,000
FREEBORN	MOWER	
\$3,646,000	\$327,000	

The staggering ER costs of treating drunk drivers

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Treating injured drunk drivers not only takes a heavy emotional toll on emergency hospital personnel, but it also leads to staggering medical costs.

With someone getting injured in a DWI crash every two minutes, emergency rooms across the country quickly become inundated with treating patients and medical costs skyrocket.

Research shows \$12 billion of the financial fallout that totals \$132 billion throughout the U.S. from drunk driving goes to medical costs, according to a report from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Of the \$132 billion drunk driving costs in America, expenses total \$61 billion while quality of life losses are estimated at \$71 billion.

No specific numbers are

available detailing alcohol-related medical costs for the Mayo Clinic, which operates the only level one trauma center in southern Minnesota and usually ends up with the majority of the serious injuries across the southern part of the state, according to a spokesman for the Rochester medical institution.

However, the Minnesota Impaired Driving Report published by the Department of Public Safety provides a glimpse of overall alcohol-related costs, which include medical expenses.

In the most recent report in 2014, there were \$11 million of costs related to alcohol crashes in the five county region, including Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Olmsted counties. Olmsted led the pack with \$4.7 million of costs. Dodge came in third with \$3.1 million while Steele had \$503,000 of costs.

During 2014, there were 54 injuries in Olmsted County followed by Freeborn with 17 and Steele with 10. Dodge and Olmsted each suffered two alcohol-related fatalities in 2014.

Medical expenses include the cost of emergency medical services at a crash scene, along with hospital and nursing home bills, doctor bills and prescription medication. The costs might be paid by the patient, health insurance companies, by auto insurers, and by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, according to Ted Miller, senior research scientist for the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, a public policy research group that crunched the cost figures for MADD.

And it may come as a surprise to many as to who ultimately ends up picking up the tab for the medical costs associated

with drunk driving.

"Drunk driving is still being highly subsidized by every American—by taxes, higher insurance rates and victims having to deal with the emotional toll of injury or losing a loved one," said Frank Harris, director of MADD's State Government Affairs. He emphasized that everyone pays.

If drunken driving costs to society were paid directly, research shows that every licensed driver in the United States would get hit with a bill for more than \$600 each year.

Treating drunk drivers median ER costs are about four times as much as sober drivers', researchers say. They also point out that the frequency of ER visits from intoxicated motorists suggests that the problem of drunk driving still goes largely underreported in the U.S.

The big-picture costs of drunken driving:

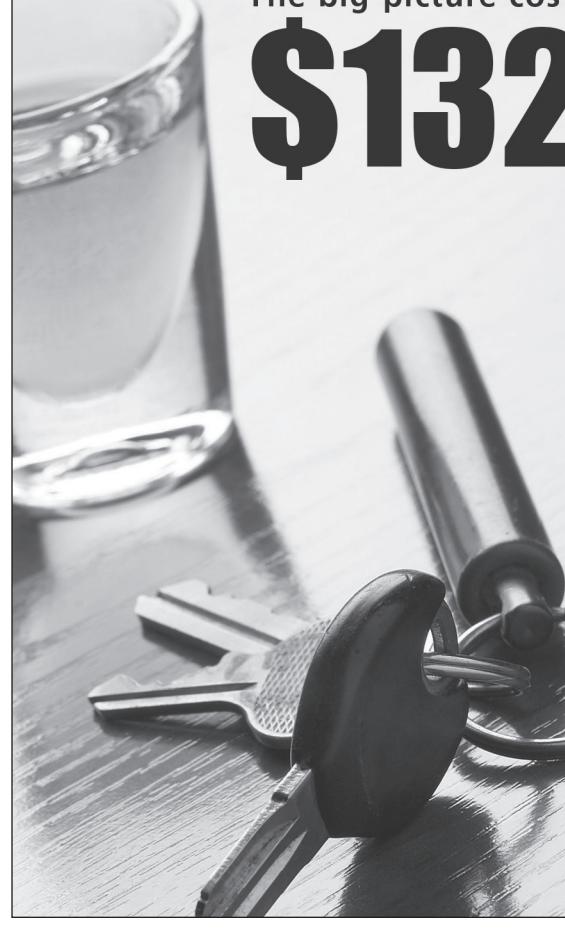
\$132 Billion

\$61 Billion expenses, including
\$12 billion in medical costs

\$71 Billion quality of life losses

Cost to every
licensed driver
in America:

\$600 EACH YEAR



Safety camp officials update programs for 2016

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

The Steele County Kid's Safety Camp upgraded several of their programs in 2016. The two-day camp took place between June 9 and June 10 and organizer Joel Hunt told The Times that 227 kids attended.

Hunt, who is also an Owatonna Police Detective, said Steele County is constantly updating the camp to make it more fun and interactive. In 2015, Hunt said the fire making workshop was getting a bit boring for the kids, so in 2016 organizers added a fireman's relay. Hunt said he personally tested the relay, and unfortunately lost to the fireman. When asked if there was any kind of rivalry between the public safety departments, the police officer responded, "they would like to think there is."

Other than the Owatonna fire and police a bevy of other agencies took part in the camp. During the first day of camp water events held the day with fishing safety by the Lake Kohlmeier Boat Landing, and a boating safety presentation by the Knights of Columbus. The lifeguards of Steele County Water Patrol also got in on day 1 action with a camping safety presentation.

When asked about what event was particularly successful, Hunt struggled to find an answer, considering the glowing success of all the programs in 2016. However, when pressed, the police detective pinpointed the fishing section of the camp.

"The kids had a blast, they really enjoyed the fishing section," Hunt even noted that one girl caught 18 sunfishes during the one hour class.

firearms safety course, Izaak Walton League gave a First Aid presentation, and Owatonna Fire Department gave a dramatic vehicle extrication demonstration.

All children that attended the event received a t-shirt, water bottle and draw string backpack. At the conclusion of day two a graduation and ice cream social was held for children and their families. Before the ice cream and commencement however camp participants needed to make it through day two of the camp which was equally jam packed with events.

The Steele County Fairgrounds kicked off the day with bike safety. Then several Owatonna public services took the baton with the police department putting on an electrical safety presentation and the Owatonna Public Utilities giving the participants an equipment safety rundown. The most dramatic presentation of the day was a roll-over simulator put on by the state patrol.

When asked about what event was particularly successful, Hunt struggled to find an answer, considering the glowing success of all the programs in 2016. However, when pressed, the police detective pinpointed the fishing section of the camp.

"The kids had a blast, they really enjoyed the fishing section," Hunt even noted that one girl caught 18 sunfishes during the one hour class.

NIGHTMARE

Story from page 1A

nightmare.

Dr. Venkatesh Bellamkonda is a consultant physician at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and has seen his fair share of cases involving alcohol. While many of the cases aren't as severe as a fatal drunk driving accident, many of them require the full attention of the clinic's resources.

"There might be 100 different people who are affected at any time an injury occurs," Bellamkonda confirmed. "One of the great things is that it's not a single person dealing with it. We have a big team of people that prepare or become aware every time someone is injured no matter what the reason may be."

That team is part of a massive procedure that sweeps the clinic when someone is on their way to the emergency room for any type of injury. The information about a certain patient is sent through the network which includes everyone from operating rooms to nursing staffs to employees who make sure that rooms are ready to go just in case things are more severe than they initially thought.

While the network makes things run smoothly most of the time, the presence of alcohol usually throws a monkey wrench into the gears. Once notified that alcohol may be a possibility, many precautions are taken by the staff to try to make things as normal as possible.

"Before we see them, we wonder if we are going to have to do with somebody that is going to resist receiving care," Bellamkonda explained. "Sometimes they are violent and people don't take too kindly to being detained against their will. That could potentially put them or ourselves in danger if they're going to spit, bite or even something else."

Aside from an alcohol-fueled attitude issue, there's also the problem of diagnosing what exactly is going on with the injured

patient. In some cases, alcohol could mask the injury so that the patient can't inform the staff of what they're feeling.

"[The alcohol] can sometimes make it hard to identify injuries," Bellamkonda theorized. "If I were to get really intoxicated and fall down a flight of stairs, I might not realize that I may have broken my arm. The alcohol can blunt my awareness. As a team, we have to be really aware of that so that we can find an injury that the person may not be telling us about."

Things tend to get more complicated if the person has trouble breathing or quits breathing all together. The deployment of breathing tubes and other apparatuses come into play when vomit can get lodged in a victim's throat or in their lungs causing pneumonia. That causes the individual to be at an even steeper risk than previously imagined.

Yet, that just represents the physical side of what happens with a drunken incident. What happens emotionally to the staff is something that can be draining.

"It's a very stressful thing on a number of levels," Bellamkonda said. "We're all human and I'm sure the people who have struggled with alcohol themselves and loved ones who have struggled with addiction. If we see somebody else injured because of it and we have to care for both groups, sometimes it's hard to muster up the courage to go to that person who is intoxicated and show empathy."

The process becomes more difficult when the patient becomes more belligerent due to their intoxication.

"Sometimes [an alcohol related incident] can be as simple as someone falling off a stool at the bar and cutting their head open," Bellamkonda rationalized. "We take care of the cut and get them

cleaned up, but the question then becomes what do you do then? A lot of times they live alone or don't want to notify friends or family to come get them and it's very scary and stressful to allow these people to leave the E.R. even if they don't want to stay."

From there, the individual is usually moved to the hospital requiring a ton of resources.

"When we bring them to the hospital, that's a room, a bed, a nurse, a doctor, a technician," Bellamkonda rattled off. "All of those things are where if somebody may be having a heart attack, they may not have access to. We're blessed at Mayo that we have enough room for anybody that comes, but some of the other places I've worked at, that's not the case."

The chaos could continue if they individual is belligerent as security becomes involved and even more resources are used. Bellamkonda believes that is another situation that makes being a care provider that even more stressful.

"When we have to have them stay until they're sober for their safety, sometimes they don't see it as a good thing," Bellamkonda explained. "It could take a lot of security guards to hold them down and give medications while restraining them. Our emergency system often comes to a halt. We often can't do anything else for anyone until that situation is taken care of."

Of course, the two parties who are involved in the crash feel the most pain. In a lot of these situations, the emergency room acts as the climax of a series of bad decisions that lead to this point. While it can also be a turning point, it's a place that doesn't offer much help other than a wake-up call to turn their life around.

"We're seeing them in a snapshot moment," Bellamkonda observed. "I'll sometimes enter a room where I know this has

happened and I'll say 'I'm sorry we're meeting like this. I know it represents the tip of a large iceberg of problems and experiences you may have gone through, but let's work together and see how we can make the next day better.' It encapsulates a lot of what they've been through, but it doesn't give us a right to assume we know."

That series usually has taken a toll on the person's family who may or may not have seen the climb that lead to this moment.

"They have some guilt in what happened, even though they may have had no power to stop it or tried everything in their power to get their loved one help," Bellamkonda said. "When they hear that their loved one may have been injured or injured somebody else, it's quite emotionally trying for them. It's a very trying thing for everyone."

In the end, the staff is just trying to do their job, but the presence of alcohol makes that task much more difficult than it should be.

"We all have the same goal," Bellamkonda stated. "It may not feel like it sometimes, but we want people to be well, happy, functional and good members of the community. If everybody can remember that, it'll make those moments a lot easier for both parties. Everyone's human and everyone wants everybody to do well."

Editor's Note: This week the Steele County Times continues its year-long special project showcasing drunken driving and how it affects society. Throughout the year the Times is featuring stories about people impacted by drunk driving, professionals who deal with the ramifications, court officials who handle offenders and much more. Our project is called U Booze, U Drive, U Lose.



Community



Staff photo by: Howard Lestrud

Youngsters in a corn field, dispelling the old wive's tale about corn knee-high by the fourth.

Use Caution When Celebrating the Fourth of July, MMA Advises

When celebrating Independence Day this summer, Minnesotans are encouraged to leave the lighting of fireworks to the professionals, according to the Minnesota Medical Association.

"Every summer, we hear dreadful stories about children and adults getting injured by fireworks going off unexpectedly," said MMA President Dave Thorson, MD. "Eye injuries. Hand wounds. It's better, and safer, to celebrate the Fourth of July by letting the experts take care of the fireworks. They're

too dangerous."

According to 2014 data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 10,500 injuries were treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries. An estimated 67 percent of these injuries occurred during the weeks before and after the Fourth of July (June 20 – July 20). Thirty-five percent of the injuries involved children under the age of 15. The most commonly injured body parts included: hands and fingers (36

percent); head, face and ears (19 percent); and eyes (19 percent).

"Minnesota's physicians would prefer that fireworks weren't even available commercially but as long as they are we strongly advise that you leave them to the experts who know how to handle them," Thorson said.

About the Minnesota Medical Association

The Minnesota Medical Association is a non-profit professional association representing physicians, residents and medi-

cal students. With more than 10,000 members, the MMA is dedicated to being the indispensable and unified voice of physicians for advancing the practice of medicine, the profession and patient health.

Dan Hauser, APR
Director, Communications,
Education & Events
Minnesota Medical Association



Victory Book Campaign in Minnesota -- Books for WWII Troops

Men and women in service have many needs, including recreation and education. For thousands of American troops in World War II, the Victory Book Campaign covered both.

Though forgotten today, the Victory Book Campaign was a wildly successful national program to collect and distribute reading material to the armed forces in 1942-43. Millions of books, including many from Minnesota, were enjoyed by the troops, providing a welcome respite from the drudgery and stress of daily military life.

Books were shipped to military camps in nearly every state in the nation, and were received with tremendous enthusiasm. As one soldier wrote, reading was "even more popular than poker."

Attached is an 850-word article on the Victory Book Campaign that I am submitting on spec. The article analyzes the popularity of the campaign and references letters written by soldiers on the effort. For perspective, I interviewed Andrew Brozyna, a Colorado-based graphic book designer who has extensively studied the Victory Book Campaign.

The article may appeal to readers who are veterans, or families of veterans, as well as those who support the American military. I have included some narrative on the specific VBC effort in Minnesota.

I am offering one-time rights to this article, and if you are interested, just pay me whatever you think it is worth.

The attached photo of a dog holding a VBC book is one that I used in my recent coffee-table history of the Illinois State Library. The photo credit should read "Illinois State Library."

The image was originally used in a 1942 issue of the Freeport Journal Standard, though that citation did not appear on the photo supplied to me from the state library. So I believe the proper credit should be only to the library.

My articles have been published in over one hundred newspapers around the Midwest, including the daily papers of Champaign, Carbondale, Manitowoc, Richmond, Columbia, Kankakee, and Ottawa. I am also a frequent contributor to the Moline Dispatch, Jacksonville Journal-Courier, Daily Jefferson County Union, and Taylorville Breeze Courier.

In recent months, my articles have also appeared in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Providence Journal, Times of Northwest Indiana, and the Take 2 professional blog of the Seattle Times. All rank in the top 100 nationally in circulation.

If you're interested, just let me know,

Thanks,

Tom Emery
337 E. Second South
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-3010
Tomemory42@yahoo.com

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

June 28
Amanda Tocko
Robert Wolf
Mark Symes

June 29
LeAnn Vogt
Lauren Schabert
Jon Krejci

June 30
Jeremy Hocking

July 1
Imogene Symes
Barb Lorenzen
Brittany Schewe
Mia Amberg

July 2
Gina Schafer
Steve Ingvalson
Kaden Thomas
Haley Ann McIntosh
Steve Braaten

July 3
Anika Hansen
Mark Noble
Hillary Jones
Ashley Valek
Ashton Chase Greene
Luke Larkowski

July 4
Jean Shaw
Sheila Wiese

Kelli Naatz
Jay Braaten
Bernice Stender

July 5
Brenna Peterson
John Hines
Makenna Boehnke

July 6
Micalyn Trihus
Anthony Nelson
Rachel Klemmensen
Breanna Koster
Nick Schiefer
Orene Dennis
Sarah Esplan

ANNIVERSARIES

June 28
Amy & Mark Hinzmann

June 29
Doug & Sandra Novak
John & Margaret Whiting
Nathan & Kathryn Piller
Anthony & Natalie Sorenson
Connie & Wayne Williamson

June 30
Mike & Mandy Trom
Roger & Joanne Sorenson

July 2
Nancy & Brad Clark

July 6
Bob & Loretta Ingvalson

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Wednesday - Turkey **Friday - Beef**

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SEMCAC senior menu

June 28:

Hot Turkey on Bread,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Buttered Beets, Pea/Pickle
& Cheese Salad, Fresh
Banana

June 29:
Meatloaf, Baked Potatoes
& Sour Cream, Brussel
Sprouts, Starburst Cake,
Fruit Cup

June 30:
Beef Pot Roast with
Vegetables, Waldorf
Gelatin Salad, Dinner Roll,
Fresh Fruit

July 1:

Ham Balls, ALT: Ground
Beef Patty, Fresh Sweet
Potatoes, Baked Beans
with Apple Flavored Ice
Cream

July 4:
CLOSED

July 5:
Taco Casserole, Mexican
Corn, Peach Halves,
Chocolate Chip Cookie

July 6:
Swedish Meat Balls,
Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli,
Mixed Fruit Cup, Cookie

www.steeledodgegenews.com

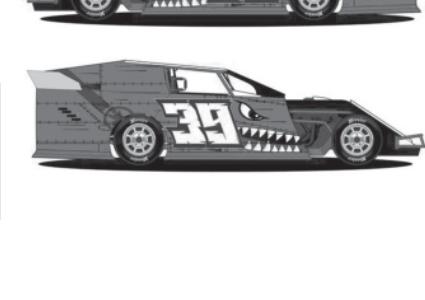
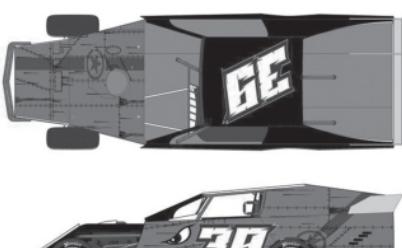
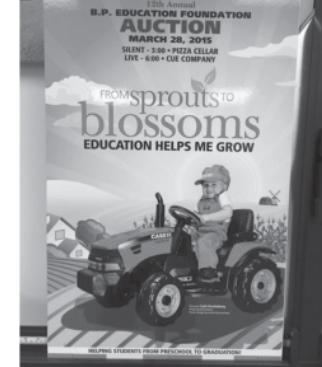
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Area Church Spotlight



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Pastor's corner

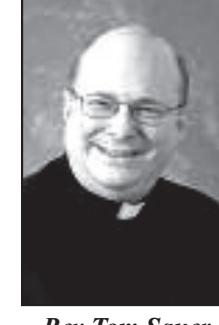
'My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me'

One of my favorite pieces of art is a first century statue of a shepherd which can be found in the Vatican museums. It is a rather famous statue and I imagine you have seen a picture of it. It is not terribly large and shows a young shepherd standing with a sheep draped over his shoulders. Traditionally it has been identified as Jesus, the good shepherd. Indeed, I like it so much that when we were building the new reconciliation room at the Cathedral we purchased one to be placed there.

Granted, this is an idealized picture of a shepherd with his shaven face and curly hair. In actuality a shepherd's looks reflect the difficulties of their life and work. Real shepherds are often well tanned leathery-faced rugged individuals who constantly brave the elements and know sleepless nights and a lot of hard work as they protect their sheep from ravenous wolves and thieves, while constantly keeping them watered and fed. In short, being a shepherd is most certainly not for the faint of heart.

If you have ever been out in an open field with several shepherds present, you will see hundreds and hundreds of sheep intermingled. Then an interesting thing happens. The individual shepherd calls out to all of his particular sheep and they come running, leaving the others still mingling and paying no attention. Jesus would have seen this many times in his youth and it becomes the analogy in today's Gospel. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

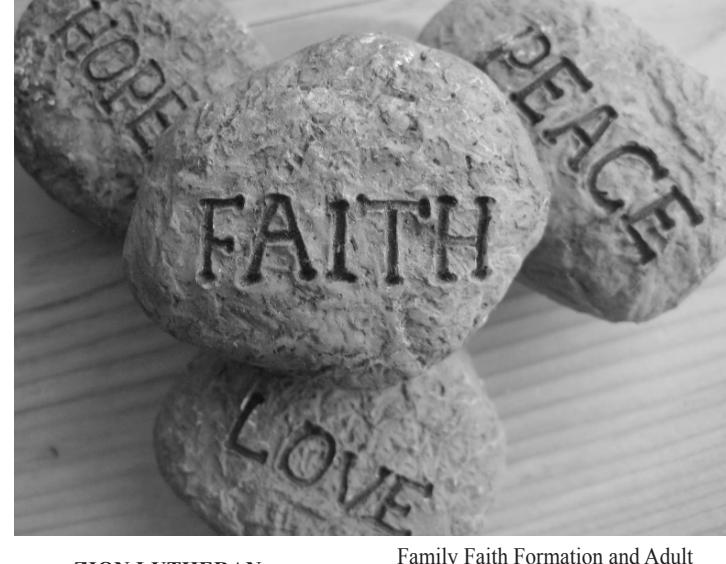
As we listen to those words of Jesus the question for us becomes: whose voice do you listen to? There are many voices that come to us from sources other than Jesus the Good Shepherd. These voices are destructive voices from the evil one, either directly from him or through the voices of this world. Some of the characteristics of these voices are arrogance, cruelty, mockery, envy, jealousy, bullying, and those that instill fear and confusion, shame and condemnation.



Rev Tom Sauer

In contrast, when can you know that you are hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking? The loving voice of Jesus is pure beauty to the heart, mind, body and soul. The voice of Jesus speaks humility, mercy, patience, gentleness. It is life-giving, sometimes challenging but never condemning. The voice of Jesus builds us up and helps us be more compassionate, inspiring and faithful. In essence, the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd is pure unadulterated, perfect and eternal love. In the midst of the destructive and evil inspired voices that come at us daily, take some time for deep daily consistent prayer, take time to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN

6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna

Pastor Stephanie Wood

(507) 676-5696

10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH

588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie

Pastor Stephanie Wood

(507) 676-5696

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH—ELCA

434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie

Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor

Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor

(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com

Summer Worship:

9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope

Pastor Sandy Miller

(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,

Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN—LCMS

2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna

The Rev. Mark Rosenau,

the Rev. Gregory Schlicker

(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN

CHURCH

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale

(507) 465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.

Sunday School/Adult Education

9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S

LUTHERAN—ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham

Minister Dwight DoBell

(507) 567-2474

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

School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE

LUTHERAN—ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin

Pastor Lindsay Stolen

(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000

www.gloriouslutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

CHURCH—LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna

Pastor Kirk Griebel

(507) 451-2720

www.redemeerowatonna.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH—LCMS

4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont

The Rev. Alan Broadwell

(507) 528-2404

sjeleffice@frontiernet.net

www.peaceclaremont.otshost.org

Weekly Church Service

Saturday Evening (Starts September 19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning Services held at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Offered each Saturday Evening Service and 2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each month. Sunday School - starts Sept. 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH—LCMS

28959 630th Ave., Sergeant

The Rev. Ronald Prigge

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH—ELCA

104 First St. S.E., Hayfield

The Rev. Paul Hauschild

(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org

Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS

57403 300th St., Waltham

Pastor Jesse Krusemark

(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale

Pastor Jesse Krusemark

(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH—ELCA

106 Third St. S.E., Geneva

Pastor Kristen Venne

(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN

CHURCH - ELCA

7126 S.W. 98th St., Ellendale

Pastor Patti Meyer

(507) 451-2165

Worship 8:15 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH—LCMS

108 Third Ave.S.W., Medford

Pastor Mark Biebighauser

(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden

Pastor Patti Meyer

(507) 451-2165

Worship 9:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH—ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Ow



**NANCY
VAILLANCOURT**

July is hot for the BP library

When the city of Blooming Prairie is mentioned, many people immediately think of the 4th of July celebration held here. The local Chamber of Commerce does a fantastic job of organizing events and making it all happen. The Friends of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will again be represented in the 4th of July parade. Last year was the first time we had costumed book characters. Kelly Kittleson as Clifford the Big Red Dog was a real hit, as were Curious George and the Man with the Yellow Hat.

If you, a child, or a grandchild are interested in joining our Friends of the Library group to march in the parade, either costumed or not, please call the library at 507-583-7750 or come see us. For those who are not able to march in the parade or who have other commitments that busy day, be sure to cheer for the library when we go past!

Don't forget that the first Book Fair of the summer will be held on Thursday, June 30th from 1-4 p.m. If you can't get here during that time, don't worry: just stop in within the next week to pick up your free book! The catch? You need to read for 20 minutes a day for at least ten days during the month of June. As an extra incentive, you can get a coupon for a free cookie from The Bakery. Thanks, Greg Fristedt, for supporting reading in Blooming Prairie for so many years!



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ATV CRASH

Story from page 1A

medical condition.

An eye witness traveling east near the Worlein Funeral Home said the crash happened in front of him. "Had I been two to three seconds earlier, my vehicle would have been hit by the ATV," the witness said.

The ATV reportedly came from Casey's General Store and went out of control over 3rd St. ending on Worlein property. The witness then called 911. Emergency personnel including law enforcement, the BP Ambulance Service, Gold Cross Ambulance

and the BP Fire Department were soon on the scene.

Sgt. Mark Lang and other emergency personnel performed CPR on the driver of the vehicle. Police Chief Greg Skillestad said his department is still waiting on autopsy results to

help determine what caused the crash.

Skillestad said the autopsy should determine if a medical emergency caused the ATV to go out of control.

"We are leaning toward the autopsy results to help us de-

termine the cause of the crash," Skillestad said.

Maday, 56, of Owatonna, was a passenger on the ATV driven by McFarland. The two were reportedly returning the machine to TT Motorcycle, where both were employees.

Trom told the Times there was no machine malfunction associated with the crash.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 27 at First United Methodist Church.

NAPA

Story from page 1A

chased the Blooming Prairie NAPA store in 2004. NAPA has definitely been in the Welch family name for many years in northeast Iowa at Waukon, dating back to the 1940s with Tom's father Ambrose.

Tom and his two brothers, Tim and Charlie, were in a partnership with NAPA from 1981-99.

Welch moved to St. Charles in

2000 and worked for NAPA in Rochester for two years and then two years at Adamson Motors in Rochester.

The search was then on for a NAPA store and the Blooming Prairie opportunity came to Welch in 2004. Tom and Diane bought the store from Kevin Christianson. Tom and Diane also own the NAPA store in

Hayfield.

Both stores cater to all customer needs, much of the business coming from the agriculture industry. "Farmers bring us lots of business," Welch emphasized. Nine employees serve both the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield stores.

The BP NAPA store with its three delivery vans offers deliv-

ery and can supply car, truck and tractor parts as needed. The store also makes hydraulic hoses.

NAPA of Blooming Prairie serves the Blooming Prairie, Waltham and Ellendale areas and also points toward Austin to the south and north to Owatonna.

NAPA of Blooming Prairie is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The store is closed on Sundays.

NAPA's auto parts reputation has grown over the years and should continue to grow in Blooming Prairie with its new expansion. Welch said he is proud of his employees who shape the store's business.

His family has also been involved in the business, son Lane,

18. Wife Diane does the store accounting. Don't be surprised to see the other Welch family members in the stores, Eli, 8; Iyan, 10; Alex, 13 and Elie, 15.

"I like talking to our customers," Welch confides. He said his biggest challenge is keeping up with the book work and inventory. "Just look at my messy desk," he laughs.

REFLECTIONS

Story from page 1A

features some mouth-watering, wood-fired pizza.

Visitors come from afar to enjoy the pizza, fellowship with family and friends and to listen to some outstanding music.

It's a picnic in the park and there is no cost, except for the pizza. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own snacks and beverages.

Pizzas cost \$22 and there are six kinds from which to choose. The traditional (sausage, pepperoni and onion)

and meat lovers pizzas are the most popular. Different kinds of soda, ice cream treats and t-shirts are also for sale on site.

Thanks to fellow church members Vicki and Joe Wacek of Blooming Prairie, Judy and I were able to be part of a small entourage to visit Berne on a recent Wednesday night. Others in our group included Doris Rasmussen, Gwen Kubista, Becky Braaten and Barb and Kurt Blome. We also met up with Bob and Linda Wolf who happened to be in the area, and

decided to try out the Swiss hospitality.

We were lucky, thanks to Vicki's leadership, to claim a picnic table in a section of grounds including some shade trees.

Two bands entertained, the first being Reunion of Rochester and the second being The Lost Faculties. Phil Johnson leads that group of former educators. He was absent that night due to the death of his 96-year-old mother.

We were told on the night

we attended that plans were to make up to 450 pizzas.

Actually, the total reached 452. As many as 650 pizzas have been made on a night when more than 2000 visitors attend. The band Incognito, which is scheduled to entertain on July 20, is one of the biggest draws, a worker informed me.

It is heartening to see families gather together to enjoy some tasty pizza and also to indulge in some friendly conversation. At the same time, visitors to the Berne Fest can

enjoy some of the music they loved in the 1960s and 1970s.

Judy and I can't wait until our Swiss friends visit us in late July and early August. Claudia, Thomas and their four children, Ilona, Vicki, Ellie and Nico, hosted us in Switzerland four years ago and now we can return the favor.

We plan to show them the sights and sounds of Minnesota including the best pizza made on a wood-fired grill in Berne, Minnesota.

Our relationship with this

Swiss family actually was initiated by our late daughter Tammi when she visited Switzerland on a Lions Youth Exchange trip in 1993 and became friends with Claudia. Our friendship has remained strong even 21 years after our daughter's passing. This means that Tammi's bond with Claudia was strong and cannot be broken.

More on Claudia and her family will be shared in future Reflections columns.

Gotta go! My pizza is ready.

Mu Daiko drummers draw hundreds to local libraries

By AHREN BACKMAN
and
KYRIE BUSSLER
County Staff Writers

If the Reading Room of the Owatonna Public Library was a restaurant or concert venue, it would have been declared "standing room only," for the June 23 morning performance the Mu Daiko drummers.

Based on rough estimation by a math inept The Times reporter, around 230 drum enthusiasts packed the downstairs room of

the library. The open to all ages event drew all ages, but the majority of attendees looked to be between toddler to middle school in education.

The same type of atmosphere was felt just a few hours later during the performance at the Blooming Prairie Library. The 1 pm performance was in a much smaller room, but not short on energy, with young and old concert goers numbering around 60 according to library employee Krysta Harshbarger.

The Mu Daiko drummers performed the same energetic per-

formance at both libraries, but treated each show with a unique flair. The drummers played all inspired drum beats, inspired by Mu Daiko's Japanese heritage. One song that stuck out was "Pounding Hooves" as the sound from the cowhide drums sounded like the mammals the title referenced. Hershberger described the drum sound as fireworks. "Just like the 4th of July. The kids got into it."

During breaks between songs in the one hour performance the three female performers gave information on the history of

Mu Daiko. Performer Michiko Buchanan said Mu Daiko is a drumming variation of traditional "Daiko" which began over 130 years ago. Buchanan continued that the Mu Daiko variation began to widely spread the United States in 1997.

The three cowhide drums the trio played on were all exceptionally rare and expansive, because they are handmade. Trio member Arene Teraoka said in a post-performance interview that the largest drum in the band was called "O Biggu" after the

Japanese word for large. Teraoka said similar drums to the ones used in the performance were priced up to \$100,000.

At the end of both one hour performances the crowd had thinned, but those children that said were treated to being able to play the drums themselves. Teraoka said the children's enthusiasm was "fantastic" in one of their smaller venues. "We don't usually see kids this young, it's really fun. I have never seen a toddler hit the drum."



Staff photo by Kylie Bussler



From left: Drum master Arlene Teraoka teaching a budding blooming prairie drummer "Mu Daiko."

The Mu Daiko Drummers Chiaki O'Brian(middle), Arlene Teraoka(left), Michiko Buchanan(right), preform at the Owatonna Public Library.

Local children learn to play drums from Mu Daiko drummers, Chiaki O'Brian(left), Arlene Teraoka(middle), Michiko Buchanan(right), used hand motions to instruct local children in Japanese drumming.



HometownLiving

Community Calendar

PHOTO MEMORY



TAKEN AT THE 2015 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN BLOOMING PRAIRIE AT THE TRACTOR PULL

Three-year-old Weston Johnson of Geneva pedaled the tractor the furthest of his category, at a distance (double most of his competitors) of 25.2 feet.

Staff photo by Anna Segner

LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

June 28, 2016

BP Card Club & Luncheon

10:30am BPBL Storytime

June 30, 2016

9:30-10:30 a.m. Monthly Outreach Office Hours for the Steele County Veterans Service Officer, Rene Gilormini, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

July 2, 2016

8 pm-Midnight, Street Dance at J&H Liquors, Blue Ringers playing.

July 5, 2016

10:30 am BPBL Storytime

July 6, 2016

10:30 am BPBL Storytime

MEDFORD

June 30, 2016

2pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

July 4, 2016

2 pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

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♦♦♦ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ♦♦♦
BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
SUMMER: MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 • JUNE 6, 20
JULY 11, 25 • AUG 8, 22 SEPT 12, 9, 26
WINE + WOMEN: WED @ 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
BEAN BAG LEAGUE: JUNE 2 - JULY 28
STREET DANCE: JULY 4TH 8PM-MIDNIGHT
"THE BLUE RINGERS" \$5 Cover/1 and Over
RIDE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR

JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE
♦♦♦ CRUISE FOR A CAUSE ♦♦♦
CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH
REGISTRATION: 9:10:15 AT J&H
LEAVES: 10:30 SHARP • FEE: \$15 PER RIDER
INCL: MEAL:5-6:30 PM - J&H - Taco Bar
B.O.B RIDE Toys for Tots' JULY 23RD
REG: 9:10:15 AM AT J&H
LEAVES: 10:30 SHARP • FEE: \$10 PER RIDER
MEAL: 5 P.M. AT J & H LIQUOR

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

June 28, 2016

7pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellendale

June 30, 2016

11-11:30 a.m. Monthly Outreach Office Hours for the Steele County Veterans Service Officer, Rene Gilormini, at the Ellendale Community Building
5:30 pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

July 2, 2016

7 pm – 10 pm High Street Band, at Beaver Lake Pavilion

July 3, 2016

Free Meal Sunday's at Ellendale United Methodist Church, Ellendale

July 4, 2016

6:20 pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellendale

July 5, 2016

Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7 pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers

7 pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellendale

July 6, 2016

Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

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ALBERT LEA/FREEBORN CO

June 28, 2016

10:30am Storytime, Albert Lea Public Library, 211 East Clark Street, Albert Lea
2 pm Science Blast, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea

6pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Community Education, Albert Lea

Jun 29, 2016

10:30am Art Zone, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea

2 pm Book Pals (3rd/4th), Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea

June 30, 2016

10:30am ALPL Story time, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
10:30am Music & Movement, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
2 pm Hanson Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea

3 pm Hanson Family Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
6 pm Night-time Storytime Albert Lea Public Library - 2nd Floor - Children's Library

July 1, 2016

6 pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Community Education, Albert Lea

July 2, 2016

Library Closed, Albert Lea
6 pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea

July 4, 2016

Independence Day, City Offices and Library Closed, City of Albert Lea
10:30am ALPL Story time, Albert Lea

Servicemen's Club

210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

• Happy Hour 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 11am - 2 pm.

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#1 SCALLOPED POTATOES

W/HAM, VEG'T & ROLL

#2 TUNA SALAD CROISSANT

WITH CHIPS

LUNCH SPECIAL

(6/30 & 7/1):

1 OR 2 CHILI DOGS

WITH FRIES

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

June 28, 2016

Circle of Friends Day Camp, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave NW, Austin
10am Austin ArtWorks Gallery - Cedar River Watershed in Art, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin

10am Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin

10:30am Mower County Traveling Art Studio Brownsdale Public Library, 103 E Main St, Brownsdale

10:30am Summer Reading Club - Wake Up and Wiggle, Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave NE, Austin

12pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate, Austin

12pm Zonta Program Meeting, Sterling State Bank - lower level, Austin

2pm Summer Reading Club - Open Art Hour Austin Public Library, Austin

6pm Urban Yoga, Bandsell Community Park, Austin

June 29, 2016

Circle of Friends Day Camp, Hormel Historic Home, Austin
10am Austin ArtWorks Gallery - Cedar River Watershed in Art, Austin ArtWorks Center, Austin

10am Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum Mower County Historical Society

10 am Mower County Traveling Art Studio, Lake Louise State Park, Le Roy

10:30am BPBL Storytime

11am Summer Reading Club - WonderWeavers Storytelling, Austin Public Library, Austin

11:15am Mower County Traveling Art Studio

Lake Louise State Park, Le Roy

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

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BREAKFAST ON THE FARM



From left: Little kids had the opportunity to zip around the farm on a train Saturday morning. Casen Cox, 4, of Owatonna picked out a green train wagon for his ride.

Addison Winzenburg, 4, of Blooming Prairie enjoyed making some butter in a jar during the Breakfast on the Farm festivities on a dairy farm in Steele County Saturday.

There were a number of activities for children at the breakfast event, including tattoos. Juliana Frederick, 6, of Owatonna was all smiles after putting a tattoo of a cow's head on her cheek.

It wasn't all dairy at the Breakfast on the Farm. Children also had the chance to get up close and pet some piglets. Brenna Running, 4, of Apple Valley seemed to be more than content in the pen with the pigs as she patted them. She is the granddaughter of David and Doris Nordbye of Owatonna.



Utterly delightful

Families learn about dairy farming at breakfast event

Photos and story by **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

As little Mauer Buttera ran towards a pen with several dairy cows resting peacefully, he excitedly blurted out, "They're so cute."

Mauer, 4, absolutely adores cows, according to his father, Paul Buttera. The family enjoyed looking at the cows and learning about dairy Saturday morning during the annual Breakfast on the Farm at the Rysavy farm south of Owatonna.

The event sponsored by the Steele County Dairy Association attracted about 750 people for breakfast and tours of the Rysavy dairy operation.

"It's a great learning experience to know about the work ethic (of dairy farmers)," Paul said. "It's one of the most important professions for kids to learn."

Added Paul's wife, Sarah: "It's very important to have farmers because without them I don't know where we would be. We appreciate their hard work."

Glenn Johnson of the SCDA hopes people will get a better idea of the work dairy farmers put into their operations. "We want them to realize we are doing the best we can to make sure it's a safe product," said Johnson, who owns a dairy farm in the northeast corner of Steele County. "People shouldn't have any worry about what they pull off the shelf," he added.

Dairy producers like Johnson want to remind the public that they also feed their own kids with dairy products. "If it's safe for us, it better be safe for them," he said.

Johnson pointed out milk is the only commodity that is inspected on the farm before it ever leaves the barn. After being inspected at the farm, milk is also inspected two more times—once on the milk truck and another time at the processing center—before it's ever consumed.

As part of Saturday's event, folks were given guided tours of the dairy operation. "This is the place for the public to come and find out what's going on," Johnson said. "This gives people the opportunity to see what we're doing with the cattle," he added.

Jacob Rysavy, who milks 170 cows with his father, brother and brother-in-law, doesn't like how social media often depicts farmers mistreating their animals. "That's a big misconception," he said. "This is our livelihood. We're going to treat them like we would people."

Rysavy says they work hard to make cows comfortable. "They have a good life," he said. "If we treat them poorly, there goes our livelihood," he added.

Added Johnson, "We take care of our animals as if they are part of our families."

There are currently 41 registered dairy operations in Steele County, according to Johnson. When he moved to the county in 1987, there were 200 dairy farms with average herd size of 45 cows. Now the average herd is 145.

For the Buttera family, they are delighted to have an opportunity like the breakfast event to learn about the dairy industry.

"Just learning where things come from and what it takes to bring to the tables of people who don't live on the farm," Paul said. "It's one of the most important professions for kids to learn about."

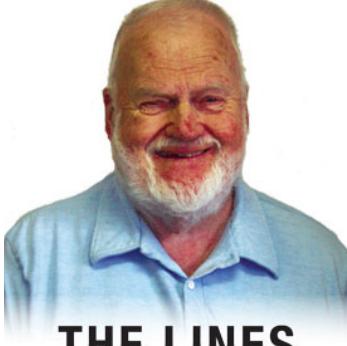
Hometown Sports

B Section

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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Great fun for a great cause

I don't think anyone went away hungry from the sixth annual Ribfest at the Servicemen's Club Saturday. The event, sponsored by the BP Boys & Girls Club and the Servicemen's Club, met and even exceeded expectations, and funds to keep the summer schedule at the local club running smoothly got a big boost from the participation and the fun provided.

The kids' games kept the little ones entertained most of the day and the Potluck String Band entertained the crowd continuously. Personally, I could listen to that style of music all day, and in fact, I almost did. And don't discount the succulent taste of all the ribs and chicken wings that passed through the mouths of the many people in attendance.

Overall, it was a great day in the community and the Boys & Girls Club is grateful to the sponsors, the volunteers and club member parents who worked, and the public for its support of this very worthy organization. The date for next year's ribfest has already been set and the event organizers are more than happy to entertain any comments that the public may have to make the next one even better.

BP baseball

It probably should be hard to find any highlights for a team that lost its first 15 games straight, but Coach Matt Kittelson discovered a glimmer of optimism late in the season. After winning a contest over Goodhue, the team won three of the last five, which included a heartbreaking 3-2 loss in the seventh inning to No. 2 seeded Bethlehem Academy at the sub-section tournament.

Riley Olson, the only senior on the team, made the all-conference team and Seth Peterson, just a freshman, was named to the Owatonna paper's all-area team. He played a steady shortstop all season and finished with a batting average over .300. Olson was named the team MVP, Ethan Arett got the Gold Glove award, and Ben Smith was named Most Improved player. Ten players on the Blossoms team earned letters for the 2016 season.

Other events of note

I understand that the annual Cruise for Cancer also had a successful ride. That is another cause that this community supports wholeheartedly and it is always gratifying to note the funds that the various projects of the local cancer group is able to generate.

Next weekend is already the Fourth of July celebration. Historically the last few years have seen bigger crowds in town when the Fourth is not on a weekend and we hope this would be the case this year. It is just a prelude to next year's observance, which will be a huge affair, as it will be the 150th year of the town's existence. Some plans have already been in the preliminary stage for that celebration and it promises to be a celebration to end all celebrations. It will be something.

And after the Fourth,

LINES

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Playing summer hoops in the Dells



Staff photos by Joe Tischler

Blooming Prairie soon-to-be juniors Cameron Kubista (top) and Kory Rafdal (bottom) look to get their way through and past defenders of Providence Catholic High School in Illinois as part of the "Shootout in the Dells" event Thursday and Friday at various sites in Baraboo, Wis.

Young squad travels east to build team camaraderie

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

Every summer, tourists flock to the tiny south central Wisconsin town of Wisconsin Dells to hangout in one of their abundant water parks.

But for members of the Blooming Prairie boys' basketball team, their intention for visiting the "waterpark capital of the world" was to spend some time on the hardwood—although they spent plenty of time in the water as well.

The Blossoms took part in the "Shootout in the Dells" Thursday and Friday at various sites in nearby Baraboo.

This event went beyond wins and losses, but served as an opportunity to play some summer organized basketball and to build some team camaraderie.

"I was looking for something for us to do as a team, get some team bonding in for the summer and play a lot of basketball, but not necessarily something that had to be all basketball all the time," said head coach Nate Piller.

"When you talk about extracurriculars and things like that in high school, when I look back on my own experiences, it's those relationships you build with friends. If you can build from there, a lot of good things will happen."

Fourteen players made the trip and were split into two teams. Each squad played three games each day against other high school teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan.

Playing against teams you've never seen or heard of can be

a challenge, but also fun at the same time.

"It's pretty neat. We've played against teams from just our conference so we know how they're going to play," said soon-to-be sophomore Trent Swenson. "Then coming here, playing all these teams, we don't know how they're going to play, what they're going to do. It's fun to see how we all react and together as a team."

Blooming's mindset on the court over the two days was more about playing free-flowing basketball rather than working on set plays.

"What I like about this is that it teaches the kids how to play basketball, no matter if you want to run plays or not," said Piller. "It teaches how to anticipate some stuff, how to read defenses, just know the fundamen-

tals of running basketball rather than having the kids worry about having to get to a certain place on the court at a certain time."

One of the trademarks of the event is that it is not a tournament, but it's rather an excellent opportunity to prepare for the upcoming season. For a young team like the Blossoms, getting extra opportunities to play together as a team and to get to know each other better will be very beneficial when practices start in roughly four months.

"I think (playing here) is helping more with team chemistry than actual basketball," said soon-to-be junior Nick Thompson.

Building that team chemistry is what Piller was hoping to accomplish on this trip.

"We have a lot of nice kids on our team, but they don't all

sociably hang out together," he said. "They're finding out they have a lot more in common with the guys. They're a lot more commonalities that they can build from and that part I think will be very beneficial."

Piller asked many of the kids if they would like to come to the Dells again and received a lot of yes votes. One said he would like to do it again next week if they could.

Swenson and Thompson both enjoyed playing basketball, but the most fun they had was off the court. "I enjoyed the friends, hanging out and messing around," said Swenson. "I enjoyed going to the water park best," said Thompson.

It seems the trip met the goals Piller set: 1) to play a lot of basketball and 2) to build some team bonding.



Kath, Blowers among winners at Chateau

By MATTHEW GRAGE
Guest Writer

Perfect weather greeted fans and drivers for the fifth week of racing action at Chateau Raceway in Lansing Friday night. A nice field of cars was on hand with 14 drivers making their first appearances of the season at the track. A full slate of heats were run along with some of the best features of the season with fans often on their feet as finishes went down to the

final lap and even the final turn.

Causing some of the biggest excitement of the night was Casey Trom of Zumbrota in her WISSOTA Midwest Modified ride as she scored her first feature win in the class. Trom had been to victory lane before during her time in the Hornets Class when she was track champion in the Junior Hornets Class. Trom started front row and lead the first nine laps of the eighteen lap main event before Garritt Wytaske of Lansing, who had been right with her all the way,

moved by for the lead trying to

take the feature win for the second week in a row. Jason Born of Medford came up into the mix and it was a three-car battle for the top spot. After Trom challenged back for the lead and went side-by-side with Wytaske with four to go, the trio went three wide on the following lap with Wytaske being challenged by Born on the bottom and Trom on the top. As they circled the track, Trom dropped back from the other two but came right back sticking her car in the

middle as the three-wide battle

continued. As they came around with two to go, Casey retook the lead and with Born and Wytaske still in the hunt, she held on for the thrilling win with Born taking runner-up honors.

Even more three-wide action decided the final running order in the WISSOTA Street Stock main event. Mike Chisholm of Osage, Iowa had the early lead as Mike Blowers, who had all four of the classes feature wins on the season, charged up to second on lap four and set

his sights on the leader; however, he brought company with him. Zach Edward of Hayfield, who actually started ahead of Blowers in the feature and had fallen behind him off the start coming out of row three, followed Chisholm up towards the front. As Blowers went to the bottom to challenge for the lead, Edward swung to the top of the raceway and swung

CHATEAU

Continued on Page 2B

Gopher road trip: state of men's basketball

Team looks to rebound after disastrous season

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

When University of Minnesota men's basketball head coach Richard Pitino took to the stage to speak to fans and supporters at the Owatonna County Club June 8, his opening statement was, "There's nothing I want to do more than talk about last year."

He said that in jest, because it was a season of turmoil and losses and all he wants to do is turn the page and move forward. With the combination of returners and a highly touted freshman class, his optimism has nowhere to go but up.

"Sometimes losing teaches you more than winning," said Pitino as he spoke to reporters at the Gopher Road Trip. "We lost a lot of close games so you think about what we are doing, are we doing something wrong from an x-and-o standpoint, are we doing something wrong from a preparation standpoint. So you're always trying to get

better. "We learned a lot, everybody – players, coaches, everybody. You grow tighter and stronger because of it."

The Minnesota coaches and players learned a lot in the 2015-16 season as losing was something they did frequently as the club went 8-23 overall and 2-16 in Big Ten play.

Pitino was correct in saying they lost a lot of close games; they dropped their first 13 Big Ten contests with nine of those defeats in single digits and four of those were within five points.

On the night of February 18, all of those losses were forgotten. No. 6 Maryland came to Williams Arena still in the hunt for a conference championship, but they weren't able to leave "The Barn" with a victory as the Gophers shocked the Terrapins 68-63 to get their first Big Ten win.

Minnesota easily defeated Rutgers in their next game and things were starting to go in the right direction. That rise in optimism quickly turned into

dismay. After already dismissing Carlos Morris from the team a few weeks' prior, Pitino suspended three key players – Kevin Dorsey, Nate Mason, and Dupree McBrayer the final four games of the season after a controversial tape involving the trio went viral.

"We can sense we're going to breakthrough, but unfortunately suspensions happen and Joey King gets hurt," said Pitino. "I'm happy they were able to taste a little bit of success."

"The message more than anything is keep your head down and work. There's going to be highs, there's going to be lows, but stay consistent with it and I thought our guys did that."

Moving forward, Dorsey will not return neither will Charles Buggs who is a graduate transfer.

Mason and McBrayer will return and will be joined by a group of highly-skilled newcomers including Minnesota's Mr. Basketball, Amir Coffey of Hopkins and the runner-up to the award, Michael Hurt of

Rochester John Marshall. Being able to keep the best talent in-state is something past Minnesota coaches have had difficulty doing, but Pitino was able to get these guys to stay home as he begins his fourth season as head coach.

"When you first get a job, it's tough to get guys right away, but when you invest time in them, like we did in those two guys (Coffey and Hurt), we're excited," said Pitino. "Those were guys we targeted. It's so important to keep your in-state kids."

If the Coffey name sounds familiar that's because his father, Richard, played on the Gopher squads that made "Sweet Sixteen" and "Elite Eight" runs in the 1989 and 1990 NCAA Tournaments, respectively.

Pitino feels he has a roster capable of turning things around in the upcoming 2016-17 season.

"We feel like with six new faces to blend with 65 percent of our returning scoring, we feel like we have a very balanced team."



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Richard Pitino will begin his fourth season as head coach at the University of Minnesota in 2016-17. Last season, the Gophers finished 8-23 overall and 2-16 in the Big Ten Conference.

CHATEAU

Continued from Page 1B

by both of them in a third to first move. Blowers cleared Chisholm, but was still in second. The top two ran lap after lap with Blowers keeping the pressure on, but Elward proved up to the task as he snapped Chisholm's string of feature wins and grabbed his first of the year. Kyle King of Hastings, who also started back in row three, made a nice run up to third ahead of the Stacyville, Iowa duo of Kory and Blake Adams. The class' two heat wins went to Kory Adams and Blowers.

In the USRA B Mod main event it was a pair of brothers who provided the excitement up front. Kadden Kath of Owatonna started on the front row and quickly took control of the race with Jayden Larson

of Mankato running second. Larson was having a good run before he caught the wall in turns three and four getting two wheels up on the wall for a while. The incident ended his night. The wall also claimed Kenny Wytske of Lansing who was making his second start of the season. Wytske was making a bid for second past the midway point when something apparently broke on his car and as he tried to slow he slid into the concrete barrier ending his night. Meanwhile Kylie Kath, who like Blowers in the Street Stock class, has gone 4-for-4 to start the year in feature wins, had moved to second. It was a race between the brothers and a duel between two completely different lines. Kadden stuck to the top shelf while Kylie hugged the bottom with Kylie getting along side in the middle of the turns, but Kadden shot-

ting off the top of turns two and four to maintain his lead. All the way to the checkers over the final handful of laps the two went with Kadden getting family bragging rights for the week and ending his brother's string of wins. AJ Zvorak came out of row three to take home third ahead of Taylor Ausrud of Hayfield and Mark Wytske of Austin. Wytske, one of the heat winners on the night, came from back in row five for the top five finish. The Kath brothers scored the other two heat wins.

Bobby Blowers of Waseca went to victory lane in the Hornet Division for the second time this year as she outdueled Marissa Wolff of Janesville for the win. The two had claimed class heat wins earlier in the night and dueled for the main event win. Wolff had the early lead off the front row, but Blowers, starting right behind

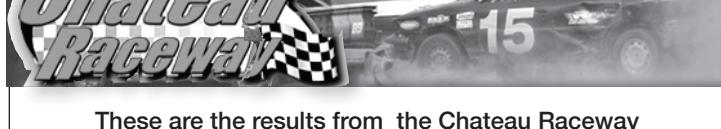
in row two, was quickly up to second. There was never much of a gap between the two cars as they circled the track for the 12-lap feature. Wolff was running the high side and Bobby was sticking towards the bottom and would continue to get along side challenging for the lead. Blowers made the pass with just two laps to go, but Wolff continued to pull back along side challenging all the way to the end. Bailey Wolff of Janesville came home third ahead of Nick Sillman of Minnesota Lake.

In the USRA A Mod main event Jason Cummins of New Richland, who had picked up a heat win earlier in the night, was looking for the sweep when he jumped to the early lead. It turned into another tale of who wants to run top shelf and who wants to run the bottom as Brandon Davis of Medford moved into second and set his

sights on Cummins. Cummins had chosen to run the bottom so Brandon, who had the class' other heat win, picked the top of the track. Cummins had opened a bit of a lead, but the top line was working for Davis as he reeled him in and the two dueled for the top spot. Davis moved to the front on lap 15 of the 25-lap feature, with Cummins staying within striking distance the rest of the way, but could not strike back as Davis scored his fourth feature win of the year at the track. Greg Pfeifer, Jr. of Brownsdale had a nice run coming home third ahead of Darwyn Karau of Kasson. Karau had started tail end after being a no-show in his heat when mechanical problems stopped him from getting on the track in time.

July is going to be a big month at Chateau. It was recently announced the track

would be adding even more excitement to their Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular on the Friday, July 8. Along with the yearly spectacular fireworks show, NASCAR driver Michael McDowell of Circle Sports-Levine Family Racing will be on hand with his Thrivent Financial NASCAR. McDowell is driving part time in the cup series this year and will be on hand with his car and crew. There will be a meet and greet with photo opportunities and autographs. On top of that McDowell will get behind the wheel of a USRA A Mod and do battle with the local boys. Should be a great night. Also coming up during the month of July will be the rescheduled 19th Annual Mike Guttormson Memorial on July 29 with the USMTS traveling Modified Drivers on hand running for their share of the big purse.



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 24

Results

Pure Stocks:

Feature: Jason Newkirk-Austin, Matt Brooks-Austin, Daniel Guttormson-Austin, Greg Lammers-Owatonna, Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center, Cole Kroneman-Austin, Jim Briggs-Waseca, Shawn Morris-Waterville, Josh Nelson-Albert Lea

Heat 1: Newkirk, Brooks, Guttormson, Briggs, Kroneman, Hotovec, Lammers, Morris, Nelson

WISSOTA Midwest Modified

Feature: Casey Trom-Zumbrota, Jason Born-Medford, Garrit Wytske-Lansing, Jeremy Misgen-New Richland, Michael Wytske-Lansing, Dustin Steinbrink-Austin, Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA, Tiana Mithun-Freeborn, Greg Jensen-Albert Lea, Matt Stark-Austin, Brad Minske-Northfield, Daryl Hainka-Wannamingo, Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie, Tammy Soma Clark-Rochester, Luke Hainka-Wannamingo, Harland Morehart-Rochester (DNS Jaiden Basty-Austin)

Heat 1: Steinbrink, Goergen, Misgen, Jensen, L Hainka, Basty

Heat 2: M Wytske, Trom, Stark, Minske, Mithun, D Hainka

Heat 3: G Wytske, Born, Cisneros, Morehart, Clark

WISSOTA Street Stock

Feature: Zach Elward-Austin, Mike Blowers-Waseca, Kyle King-Hastings, Kory Adams-Stacyville IA, Blake Adams-Stacyville IA, Fred Prudehl-Winona, Bernie Adams-Stacyville IA, Brent Holland-Glenville, James Connors-Waseca, Mike Chisholm-Osage IA, Parker Voth-Mazeppa, Noah Grinstead-Austin

Heat 1: K Adams, King, Grinstead, Chisholm Prudehl, Holland

Heat 2: Blowers, Be Adams, Bl Adams, Elward, Connors (DNS: Voth)

Hornet:

Feature: Bobby Blowers-Waseca, Marissa Wolff-Janesville, Bailey Wolff-Janesville, Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake, Hunter Benson-Forest City IA, Justin Murray-Waseca, Alan Schmidt-Hayward, Caylie Blowers-Waseca, Tommie Cruz-Waseca, Jacob Bennett-Austin, Ralph Hanks-Waseca, Cody Hyatt-Waseca

Heat 1: B Blowers, Hanks, B Wolff, Benson, Hyatt, C Blowers

Heat 2: M Wolff, Sillman, Murray, Cruz, Schmidt, Bennett

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TISCH DISH



**JOE
TISCHLER**

Wolves draft history

Thursday night, the Minnesota Timberwolves drafted Providence point guard Kris Dunn with the fifth overall pick in the NBA Draft.

Time will tell if the selection pans out, but all indications are that the Timberwolves made a great pick. In his last two years at Providence, the redshirt junior averaged 16.0 points, 5.4 rebounds, and 6.9 assists a game while earning Big East Conference Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors both seasons. The only other player in Big East history to achieve that feat is Georgetown's Patrick Ewing – not bad company to keep.

The Providence product joins a young and talented Timberwolves core that includes the last two NBA Rookies of the Year in Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins.

Dunn will look to join a short list of Wolves first round draft picks gone right as the overall draft history has generally been a sad tale of forgettable careers.

When I make lists in this column, they generally are comprised of my top five selections in a given category. Minnesota's draft history has been so dismal

I can only come up with the top three first round picks in franchise history.

The best is an obvious choice, Kevin Garnett, taken fifth overall in the 1995 NBA Draft. His greatness is undeniable. He spent his first 12 seasons in the twin cities earning all-star nods ten times and was named league MVP in 2004 as he led the Wolves to the Western Conference Finals.

Despite playing only one year so far, the second greatest Wolves draft pick is Karl-Anthony Towns, the No. 1 overall selection of last year's draft. He had one of the better rookie seasons in recent memory averaging 18.3 points and 10.5 rebounds and was third in the league with 51 double-doubles.

Coming in third on this list is Wally Szczerbiak who was the sixth overall selection of the 1999 draft. He had a decent seven-year run with the club where he earned a trip to the all-star game in 2002.

If you're wondering why Stephon Marbury or Kevin Love aren't on this list that is because, even though they began their careers in Minnesota, they were acquired by the club on draft day trades. In 1996, Minnesota drafted Ray Allen with the fifth pick before trading him to Milwaukee for Marbury and in 2008 the Wolves picked O.J. Mayo with the third selection before trading him to Memphis for a package that included Love.

Contrary to the short best first round picks, the list of worst picks in franchise history is a lengthy one, but, in terms of continuity, I trim it down to three as well.

Because of where he was selected, Derrick Williams takes the top spot on this list. He was the second overall pick of the 2011 draft. His high-flying days at the University of Arizona never materialized in the pros. He was traded after a little more than two years to Sacramento for Luc Richard Mbah a Moute.

Next up is the player they selected with the fourth overall pick a year prior, Wesley Johnson. He was a great outside

shooter who had great athletic ability at Syracuse, but like Williams, hasn't been able to cut in the pros. He was traded to Phoenix after two seasons and has played on four teams in six years.

Last is the 26th pick of the 2003 draft, Ndudi Ebi who was drafted out of a high school in Houston. He has all of 19 games to his career where he scored a total of 40 points. To use a first round pick on that is definitely a waste of a selection.

Despite these being horrible selections, these aren't the worst draft gaffes in franchise history. In 2009, Minnesota had four first round selections and they used them all on guards. With the fifth overall pick, they selected a young Spanish guard by the name of Ricky Rubio. Three of his five seasons have been injury plagued, but he did have perhaps his best season in 2015-16 where he averaged 10.1 points and 8.7 assists in 76 games.

The Wolves held the next pick as well and selected Jonny Flynn from Syracuse to be their point guard until Rubio was ready to come over from overseas. Flynn deserved to be on the worst draft picks list. He lasted only three seasons in the league and started only nine games in his last two seasons.

What makes these picks noteworthy is that Rubio and Flynn were drafted right ahead of Steph Curry who went seventh to Golden State. Five teams overlooked the two-time MVP and NBA champion, but the Wolves have the unfortunate distinction of passing him over twice.

Even worse than this gaffe though was the Joe Smith salary cap scandal following the 1999-2000 season. Then team executive Kevin McHale allegedly promised a future multi-million-dollar deal to Smith if he signed below market value which would allow the team to sign more players.

The league came down hard on the franchise by taking away five first round picks and fining the team \$3.5 million. One first round pick was given back by

the league, but was used to draft Ebi, further solidifying his spot on the worst picks list.

Dunn's potential makes him more likely to be one of the better draft picks in franchise history. That's not saying much with the franchise's draft history, but with the way this club is being built, Dunn should be a great addition.

LINES

Continued from Page 1B

local Chamber of Commerce's annual Fun Day at the local country club is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20. A "Back to the Fifties" theme will be in play and golfers are encouraged to follow that theme. The event begins with registration at 11 a.m.

A brief respite

For the past several years, I have taken a couple of months off my writing obligations to attempt restoring some much needed creative juices. At my age, I wonder if there are enough neurons left to accomplish that purpose, but I keep trying. For the faithful readers of my column, and there are a few, rest assured that Outside the Lines will continue, but for the little sports news that arises in the summer, sports editor Joe Tischler will cover it more than adequately, to be sure.

As for me, I will appear again in August, when we begin preparations for the big fall sports tab and the football extra. I want to thank most sincerely all the readers of the Steele County Times, who continue to follow and show great interest in sports in our community. We know that the local high school turns out very good athletes and most fans continue to say, "It is good to be a Blossom." Have a great summer, continue reading my column, and we'll talk again in August.

Let's close with just a touch of tombstone humor. Beneath one epitaph on a tombstone, one wise guy had written, "To follow you, I'm not content, until I learn which way you went." Enjoy.



Who's Eligible for Social Security Survivor Benefits?

Dear Savvy Senior,
Who all is eligible for Social Security survivor benefits? My ex-husband died last year at the age of 59, and I would like to find out if me, or my two kids – ages 13 and 16 – that we had together are eligible for anything?

Divorced Widow

Dear Divorced,
If your ex-husband worked and paid Social Security taxes, both you and your kids may very well be eligible for survivor benefits, but you need to act quickly because benefits are generally retroactive only up to six months. Here's what you should know.

Under Social Security law, when a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, certain members of that person's family may be eligible for survivor benefits including spouses, former spouses and dependents. Here's a breakdown of

who may be eligible.

Widow(er)'s and divorced widow(er)'s: Surviving spouses are eligible to collect a monthly survivor benefit as early as age 60 (50 if disabled). Divorced surviving spouses are also eligible at this same age, if you were married at least 10 years and did not remarry before age 60 (50 if disabled), unless the marriage ends.

How much you'll receive will depend on how much money (earnings that were subject to Social Security taxes) your spouse or ex-spouse made over their lifetime, and the age in which you apply for survivors benefits.

If you wait until your full retirement age (which is 66 for people born in 1945-1956 and will gradually increase to age 67 for people born in 1962 or later), you'll receive 100% of your deceased spouses or ex-spouses benefit amount. But if you apply between age 60 and your full

retirement age, your benefit will be somewhere between 71.5 – 99 percent of their benefit.

To find out what percentage you can get under full retirement age visit ssa.gov/survivorplan/survivorchartred.htm.

There is, however, one exception. Surviving spouses and ex-spouses that are caring for a child (or children) of the deceased worker, and they are under age 16 or disabled, are eligible to receive 75 percent of the worker's benefit amount at any age.

Unmarried children: Surviving unmarried children under age 18, or up to age 19 if they're still attending high school, are eligible for survivor benefits too. Benefits can also be paid to children at any age if they were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled. Both biological and adoptive children are eligible, as well as kids born out of wedlock. Dependent stepchildren and grandchildren may

also qualify. Children's benefits are 75 percent of the workers benefit.

Dependent parents: Benefits can also be paid to dependent parent(s) who are age 62 and older. For parents to qualify as dependents, the deceased worker would have had to provide at least one-half of the parent's financial support.

But be aware that Social Security has limits on how much a family can receive in monthly survivors benefits – usually 150 to 180 percent of the workers benefit.

You also need to know that in addition to survivor benefits, surviving spouses or children are also eligible to receive a one-time death benefit of \$255.

Maximizing Strategies

Social Security also provides surviving spouses and ex-spouses some nice strategies that can help boost your benefits. For example, you could take a reduced survivor benefit

at age 60, and could switch to your own retirement benefit based on your earnings – between 62 and 70 – if it offers a higher payment.

Or, if you're already receiving retirement benefits on your work record, you could switch to survivors benefits if it offers a higher payment. You cannot, however, receive both benefits.

You also need to know that if

you collect a survivor benefit while working, and are under full retirement age, your benefits may be reduced depending on your earnings.

For more information, visit ssa.gov/survivorplan or call 800-772-1213.

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

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History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, July 4, 2006

Dan Evans, Publisher

Em Phillips has retired from her position as Site Manager for the Blooming Prairie SEMCAC (Southeastern Minnesota Citizens Action Control) program, and LuAnn Fairbairn has taken her place. The Blooming Prairie SEMCAC program mostly deals

with the senior dining side of the program, but SEMCAC also offers transportation, home-share, retired volunteer programs, head-start, energy assistance, and help with housing loans.

After working for the Postal Service for twenty-four years, Kathy Foster is now Postmaster of the Blooming Prairie Post Office. Kathy has served as the Officer in

Charge, or the Acting Postmaster, in Elkton, Hayfield, Glenville, Hartland, and Blooming Prairie. She also served as the Hartland Postmaster before coming to Blooming Prairie. Kathy's duties as Postmaster range from helping customers from overseeing mail carriers.

Dan Holland, who has worked for Frontier Telephone Company for 3 years, will retire on July 14. Dan served in the Army for two years after being drafted, and later worked for a phone company in Wisconsin for two years before coming to Blooming Prairie.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, July 2, 1996

Elsie Slinger, Editor

George Curtin, 90, put years of time and energy into planning the local Fourth of July parade, but now sits back and enjoys others doing the same. Curtin remembers well local Fourth celebrations, growing up on Main Street here. Kids were no different then, throwing firecrackers, picnics in the park, games and competitions for local enthusiasts. Curtin worked on the parade in BP for 30 years, giving up the post to Sandy and Tim Bass in the mid 1980s.

Police Chief Terry Bredeck is on his way to Atlanta, after being selected last fall as part of the Olympic Games security team program. He and 1,500 other law

enforcement officers from around the world will make Olympic history being part of the first international volunteer security force in the history of the games. There will be 22,000 security personnel total at the Games. Bredeck was chosen to work the biggest spectacle of all in the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as Olympic Stadium duty during the three-week sporting event. Except for any personal memorabilia, Bredeck's stay will be paid for by the Olympic budget, and he will spend five weeks in Atlanta.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, June 30, 1966

Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The Southeastern Minnesota Fire Department Association held its annual Fire School in Blooming Prairie on Sunday afternoon, June 26, with representatives from over 30 communities in attendance. Registration totaled over 300! Speakers gave a variety of fire-safety messages, a couple practice burns were conducted, a tour of Blooming Prairie's fire station was held, and a ham dinner was enjoyed at the end of the Fire School.

Senior Cadet Christopher Thissen, Rt. 3, Blooming Prairie, was one of forty-seven Minnesota National Guardsmen to receive the golf bar of a new Second

Lieutenant upon completion of the Officer Candidate Course of the Minnesota Military Academy. Fifty-four weeks of intensive training lead up to graduation. Cadet Thissen has undergone thirty days of field training and nine weeks of armory training. His course work had totaled 341 hours.

For the fifth consecutive year, Independence Day will be officially observed in Blooming Prairie when a gigantic free fireworks display will be staged. The high school band will entertain audience members before the show.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, July 3, 1941

Frank Krejci, Publisher

Lightening Thursday night destroyed farm buildings in this vicinity. A stave silo and shed on the Edw. Baudoin farm, 12 miles northeast of here, were totally destroyed Thursday night.

Although the fire department was called, the blaze was far beyond control when the truck arrived.

Mrs. L. W. Johnson, famous marksman and trick shot wonder, who with her husband, will be featured on the program of the Blooming Prairie Gun Club Field Day. The Johnsons are uncanny shots, using all types of firearms and making perfect scores on seemingly impossible shots. They make a great entertainment and visitors at this big event will see

plenty of wonderful shooting.

Failure of the plaintiff to appear brought a dismissal of charges against Ernie Schaufenbil, proprietor of Ernie's Café, for selling liquor to a minor. R. A. Seavy, who filed the complaint, did not appear in court Monday to press his charges that beer was sold to his son, Robert. An aftermath of the case, however, was seen Monday night when the village council refused to renew the 3.2 beer license of Ernie's Café.

15,000 people are estimated to attend the seventh annual Fourth of July Celebration in Blooming Prairie. Everything is free this year, and activities include a dance, music by the high school band, boxing contests, a bigger midway of shows, rides and concessions, a giant fireworks display, and a magic show by renowned magician the Great Phil Roscoe and the Tonetti Troubadours.

Three weddings were held over the past week. Ethel Catherine Coggins, Blooming Prairie, married Alfred H. Lohse, Brownston, on Monday morning at St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Junior Oswald, Blooming Prairie, and Mary Allen, Kasson, were joined in matrimony Sunday afternoon at the Baptist Church. Bertha Peterson, Blooming Prairie, is the bride of Andrew L. Lunt Jr., Austin. They were married on Sunday in Northwood, Iowa.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Public Safety



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

After 40 years of service at the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, Debra Mortensen has called it quits. She received a grand sendoff into retirement with a public open house Thursday afternoon at the courthouse in Albert Lea. Joining her to wish her well were Kyle Olson, a retired records captain from the sheriff's office, left, and Holland Laak, a retired sheriff who hired Mortensen 40 years ago one week after she graduated from high school. Mortensen worked under five sheriffs during her 40 year career as the sheriff's administrative secretary. For more about her career see Rick Bussler's Hot Pursuit column on page 2A.

Dodge County implements new 911 system

A new generation has begun for emergency communications in Dodge County.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office implemented a new next generation 911 phone system last week. The new system is Emergency CallWorks 911, a browser based platform by Motorola Solutions.

Sheriff Scott Rose said Emergency CallWorks helps police, fire and other first responders better manage critical incidents by allowing more information to flow from the public to emergency personnel. It combines call taking, computer-aided-dispatch, incident management and mapping systems into a single platform.

As soon as a call comes in, whether it's from a mobile device or landline, it is mapped and prioritized so emergency personnel can be on the way within minutes, Rose said, adding that previously dispatchers had to actually answer the call before obtaining a mapped location.

The system offers an interactive map, which is an important feature due to the number of different first responders scattered

around the county. For example, when a major incident occurs on a highway, it could potentially generate a dozen or more calls reporting the same event. By glancing at the interactive map, the dispatcher can now quickly determine the caller's location before answering, helping to enhance situational awareness and possibly determine if the calls are related.

According to Rose, the system will have capabilities such as text-to-911 and video-to-911. "The key things we looked for were features such as the interactive map and the ability to turn on additional features such as text-to-911, video and pictures as they become available," he said, noting it may be a year or two before NG911 comes about in Minnesota. "But we wanted to be ready with a solution that would provide a simple transition with minimal impact on our staff," he added.

Rose said the system facilitates the handling and processing of emergency calls that will be easy to use and simple to maintain and administer.

In January, the Board of Commissioners approved the

purchase of the system for \$161,683, which will be paid in three equal installments over the next three years.

"We are very fortunate to have a board who recognized that after over 12 years it was time to replace our aging 911 phone system with one that could handle all our future needs," Rose said. "We hope to see improvement in call taker efficiency and effectiveness with this new system."

Dodge County's 911 staff attended the Emergency CallWorks Online University prior to implementing the new software. This enabled call takers, on their schedule, to become familiar with the new system before the in-class sessions were done last week with a live trainer, which helped to ease the transition.

The Dodge 911 Dispatch Center, which serves more than 21,000 residents, has three call-taking positions, dispatches for the sheriff's office, two police departments, six fire departments, three ambulance services, and handles more than 11,000 calls annually.

arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Suspicion. Police received a suspicious activity report from the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 6:21 p.m.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 8:29 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Traffic. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Elm Ave. S. and Mill St. E. at 11:38 p.m.

June 18

Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:12 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 3:04 p.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 400 block of North St. W. at 4:47 p.m.

June 19

Drunken Driving. At 3:29 p.m., officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Restraining Order. Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of School St. W. at 8:22 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

June 20

Drunken Driving. At 3:29 p.m., officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Restraining Order. Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of School St. W. at 8:22 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

June 21

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:29 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:10 p.m.

Theft. At 3:03 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.

Restraining Order. A restraining order violation occurred in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:24 p.m.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 1600 block of Wedgewood Dr. NE at 3:45 p.m.

Fraud. At 4:44 p.m., a citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 3600 block of County Rd. 45 N.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 4:45 p.m.

June 22

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 600 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 10:35 a.m.

Fraud. Police arrested a subject

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest at Mill St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 6:48 p.m.

Drugs. At 7:04 p.m., police arrested a juvenile for drug activity in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

June 23

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:29 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:10 p.m.

Theft. At 3:03 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.

Restraining Order. A restraining order violation occurred in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:24 p.m.

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Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 4:45 p.m.

June 24

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 600 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 10:35 a.m.

Fraud. Police arrested a subject

Blotter spotlight: Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:10 p.m.

Dodge sheriff plans active shooter training for county staff

Dodge County is preparing for a mass casualty shooting. Active shooter training, that is.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office will be simulating an active shooter and mass casualty event training for all county departments in July, Sheriff Scott Rose announced. He said the training comes on the heels of the county's on-going effort to improve security in and around the courthouse in Mantorville.

Since 2015, the county has implemented numerous security measures. Some of those include armed deputies in every court hearing, the addition of multiple indoor and outdoor surveillance cameras, armed deputies manning weapons screening entrance to the courthouse, monitored card access to work areas and additional security measures for inmate and judicial areas.

Rose pointed out there have been numerous incidents over the years of courthouse violence, some resulting in death. "It can happen anywhere, in any court or government facility with tragic consequences, even here in Minnesota," the sheriff said.

A fatal shooting in the Hennepin County Courthouse in 2003, Rose said, was the first incident to prompt tighter security in the downtown Minneapolis Government Center. In December 2011, a defendant critically wounded three people in the Cook County Courthouse in Grand Marais, which did not have a metal detector or armed

deputy screening visitors.

In January 2015 in New Hope, a gunman opened fire on two officers after a swearing in ceremony at the city hall. "Fortunately in this case there were armed officers on scene who exchanged gunfire with the suspect killing him before anyone else was hurt," Rose said. He added there have been numerous active shooter/mass casualty incidents throughout the country in the past few years – most recently the Orlando nightclub shooting.

Chief Deputy Mike Leonhardt, Emergency Management Director Matt Maas, and Security Sgt. Rich Allee, have been working to continually assess and evaluate the security needs of the Courthouse and Government Services Building. In doing this, the sheriff's office has prepared customized training specific to each department on how best to respond and react to an Active Shooter incident in the building. The training starts this week and continues until each department is covered.

Mass and Allee will be conducting the training. Maas received his training thru Homeland Security and Emergency Managers (HSEM). In addition to his law enforcement training, Allee also completed ALERT Court Security Training at Camp Dodge Iowa last summer. The training they've attended covers courthouse security, site surveys, screening check points, courtroom security, judicial protection, high threat trials, and

more.

According to Rose, it's important that the sheriff's office continually adapts to the ever changing and evolving security concerns and threats targeting staff (including domestic violence), government offices, the courts, and law enforcement. "In many cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter, and these situations are, by their very nature, unpredictable and evolve quickly," Rose said, adding training on issues such as active shooter awareness, incident response, and workplace violence is key to keeping the county's Emergency Action Plan effective and current.

The Active Shooter department training will be followed live Active Shooter drill at the courthouse late this summer. This follows recent active shooter response training (3ECHO) that was held last year in Dodge County for Law Enforcement, Fire, and Medical responders.

Just this month alone in Minnesota there have been two mass shooting incidents—one in Minneapolis and one in Webster where a total of 8 people were shot and injured.

"The goal for the sheriff's office is to continue improving security and preparedness at the courthouse – actions we hope will serve as a reminder to those considering causing disruptions or harm to staff or visitors of the courthouse that Dodge County is not a "soft target," Rose said.

previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault and gross misdemeanor DWI. The defendant was sentenced to \$687,

Trespassing. Deputies responded to a trespassing incident in the 6900 block of 22nd Ave. SW at 6:28 p.m.

Fight. Deputies responded to a fight in the 400 block of 2nd St. NW at 7:42 p.m.

June 22

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

June 23

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

June 24

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

June 25

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

June 26

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

June 27

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

June 28

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

June 29

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

June 30

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

July 1

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

July 2

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

July 3

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

July 4

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

July 5

Theft. At 5:06 p.m., deputy took

a theft report in the 6900 block of

66th St. NW.

July 6

Crash. Deputies responded to a

crash between a vehicle and a deer at County Rd. 45 S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 1:43 a.m.

Public Safety

Meth discovered after traffic stop in Owatonna

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A huge stash of methamphetamine in excess of four pounds has been uncovered in a vehicle traveling through Steele County, and now two people are facing felony charges in connection with the incident.

Shawn David Reilly, 45, of Rochester, has been charged with first-degree controlled substance possession and his passenger, Katie Marie Johnson, 33, also of Rochester, faces fifth-degree controlled sub-

stance possession.

The pair was traveling together in a vehicle stopped by Owatonna Police June 22 around 4:30 p.m. on Highway 14. Police received information from a Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent that the vehicle was involved in a narcotics investigation in Rochester. An Owatonna officer pulled the vehicle over after clocking it at 76 mph.

Police discovered that Reilly's license was cancelled inimical to public safety because of

multiple alcohol violations. He was placed under arrest for the offense.

During the stop, officers spoke to Johnson, who granted them permission to search her purse. An officer smelled an odor of marijuana emitting from the purse as he grabbed it. In the center of the purse, the officer found a digital scale that had residue on the cover and tray. In the side of the purse, two syringes and a glass meth pipe with powdery substance was found, according to the criminal

complaint.

Officers conducted a K-9 sniff of the vehicle. The complaint alleges 2,000 grams of meth was located in a tool bag in the trunk. The 4.5 pounds of meth has an estimated street value of \$200,000.

For a first-degree charge, the threshold is 25 grams or more.

Reilly faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

He is being held in the county jail on \$200,000 bail. Johnson has bailed out and awaiting trial.



Shawn David Reilly



Katie Marie Johnson

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 13 – 17:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Darnell Jones, 26, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Renea M. Mittelsted, 57, Austin, speeding, \$121.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Brandon A. Morris, 28, Seattle, WA, take fish without angling license, \$181.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jerome D. Berning, 68, Decatur, IA, speeding, \$121; Mitchel L. Brown, 22, Ames, IA, speeding, \$121; Ju L. Chow, 22, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$131; Ahmed A. Elmi, 22, St. Cloud, speeding, \$141; Harvey R. Farr, 60, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Thomas D. Ferk, 25, Sleepy Eye, speeding, \$121; Sandra D. Flen, 43, Lakeville, speeding, \$121; Richard J. Gagnier, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jennifer L. Hansen, 41, Jordan, speeding, \$121; Lucas D. Jeno, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Levi Willey Jr., 58, Port Republic, MD, speeding, \$141; Matthew C. Keelin, 26, Buffalo, seat belt, \$106; Christopher C. Nihart, 45, Burlington, ND, speeding and possession of Marijuana, \$191; Carlos D. Ordonez, 27, West Des Moines, IA, DWI, \$406 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Darin L. Reese, 48, New Richland, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Paul A. Rincon, 26, Des Moines, IA, speeding and invalid license, \$231; Justin T. Rios, 26, Austin, speeding, \$141; Sherry M. Simmons, 29, Webster City, IA, speeding, \$131; Sherri E. Stencel, 30, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Dex G. Wright, 40, West Des Moines, IA, speeding and no license, \$221.

Owatonna Police Department

Desiree L. Anderson, 26, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Adam J. Balzer, 36, Owatonna, theft, \$470.99, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Marisol Barajas, 32, Owatonna, no insurance and revoked license, \$481; Falconer R. Bellefy, 21, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Darrin K. Broas, 40, Owatonna, assault, \$181, 12 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establish-

ments, maintain employment, domestic abuse counseling, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim and 1 year of supervised probation; Sean M. Cicero, 36, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Adam W. Clark, 25, Albert Lea, stop sign, \$131; Bailey J. Eaton, 19, Rochester, use of wireless communications device while driving, \$131; Lance S. Fremouw, 23, Faribault, revoked license and revoked registration, \$581; Justin N. Harper, 20, Owatonna, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jacob M. Jackson, 21, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$81, diversion program, Domestic Violence Inventory, complete any treatment ordered by the Court and 2 years of supervised probation; Derek J. Kelling, 19, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Dylan D. Kelly, 19, Owatonna, no insurance and revoked license, \$381, 3 days in county jail, obtain license and 1 year of supervised probation; Roy L. Kisner, 29, Albert Lea, theft by swindle, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Madison M. Kramer, 18, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Carolyn E. Krueger Paine, 43, Medford, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jennifer J. Linge, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Joshua D. Montoya, 23, Claremont, revoked license, possession of Paraphernalia and no insurance, \$531; Troy L. Moody, 50, Austin, theft, \$181; Anthony J. Moore, 41, Owatonna, violation of an order for protection, \$131, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Anthony J. Moore, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Delmira Ortega, 40, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Chris A. Rivas, 20, St. Cloud, underage drinking and driving, \$131; Juan J. Rivera, 30, Rochester, domestic assault, \$81, diversion program, complete Domestic Abuse Batterer's Intervention Program, mental health screening and 2 years of supervised probation; Roland C. Rodriguez, 28, Waseca, theft, \$230 and 20 days in county jail; Josie A. Sanchez Torres, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Heather S. Schneider, 30, Owatonna, improper information on license and no insurance, \$301; Sebastian R. Schumacher, 21, Waseca, revoked license and failure to yield to pedestrian, \$331; Zachery E. Soukup, 20, Owatonna, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Steven J. Stoetzel, 35, Owatonna, no insur-

Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; James M. Willis, 39, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Jason A. Wobschall, 37, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131.

ARREST Steele County

Owatonna Police

Luis Alberto Cuevas, 26, arrested at 8:45 p.m. June 17, domestic assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Betty Jean Vanengelenberg, 52, arrested at 4:04 p.m. June 19, DWI, held for court.

David Michael Johnson, 32, arrested at 8:45 p.m. June 19, Danco violation, held for court.

Alexander Jay Brown, 21, arrested at 6:50 p.m. June 20, warrant arrest, body only.

Katie Marie Johnson, 33, arrested at 5:17 p.m. June 22, felony possession, held for court.

Shawn David Reilly, 45, arrested at 5 p.m. June 22, felony possession and cancelled license, held for court.

Chris Anthony Vrano, 29, arrested at 1:57 a.m. June 23, felony possession, held for court.

Ryan Joseph Wilson, 26, arrested at 6:43 p.m. June 23, felony drug court violation, held for court.

Derrick Jacquey Roberson, 37, arrested at 12:23 a.m. June 24, felony extradition hearing for assault on officer, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Eric Craig Cousens, 33, arrested at 4 p.m. June 17, warrant arrest, \$21,000 bail.

Jessica Jean Laird, 39, arrested at 2 p.m. June 20, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Cedric James Elusmond, 20, arrested at 7:45 p.m. June 20, warrant arrest, body only.

Hunter Robert Bost, 23, arrested at 2:31 p.m. June 21, warrant arrest, body only.

Cody Edward Boley, 19, arrested at 5:55 p.m. June 21, warrant arrest, body only.

David Devon Bryant, 34, already in custody, warrant arrest, \$25,000 bail.

Deborah Dawn Henning, 37, arrested at 12:22 p.m. June 22, forgery, held for court.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 220 complaints during the week of June 15 – 21. Some of them include:

June 16

Harassment. A harassment incident occurred in the 65700 block of 160th Ave. in Dodge Center at 11:08 a.m.

Domestic. At 6:21 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Eugene St. in West Concord.

June 17

Gas Leak. Deputies responded to a possible anhydrous ammonia leak on County Rd. 9 at 2:26 p.m.

Evacuation. At 7:22 p.m., a woman called deputies when one of the pilot lights in a room at City Hall was out and the room smelled of natural gas on Main St. E. in Dodge Center.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to a report of suspicious males possibly carrying a gun in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield at 9:02 p.m.

June 19

Suicide. Deputies responded to suicidal threats on 5th St. SW in Dodge Center at 1:54 a.m.

Property. At 6:13 p.m., a fender was found stuck in a tree in the

Crime Brief

Police nab alleged check forger

An Owatonna woman faces a felony charge for allegedly forging checks. Deborah Henning, 37, has been charged with one count of check forgery. She is accused of racking up \$473 of merchandise at local stores from a counterfeit checking account in the name of another person, according to police. The investigation also tied Henning to an unsolved forgery case earlier last week, police said. A search of the car revealed the counterfeit checkbook and other financial documents and a social security card in the name of another person, according to police. The investigation also tied Henning to an unsolved forgery case earlier last week, police said.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots for the upcoming August 9th Primary Election will be available through Monday, August 8th at 5 pm. The Auditor's office will also be open on Saturday, August 6th from 10 am - 3 p.m.

Voters may also look up their sample ballot & polling place information online by going to www.sos.state.mn.us

If you have any questions you may contact the County Auditor's office by calling 507-444-7410.



Patriotic Citizen Award

To: Minimizer - Spray Control Systems, Inc.
Given in grateful appreciation for unsolicited
inspirational patriotic service to the community through
the Daily Display of our National Flag.

Steele County VFW Auxiliary #878
Larry Berg, Joyce Johns,
President, Americanism Ch.

In Witness Whereof, we hereto set our hands and the official emblem of
the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

June 14, 2016
Flag Day

Blooming Prairie manufacturer, Minimizer, is honored to receive this year's Patriotic Citizen Award. The award was presented by the Ladies Auxiliary – V.F.W. and is given in grateful appreciation for unsolicited inspirational patriotic service to the community through the daily display of our national flag. Minimizer proudly flies the American Flag outside their corporate office located on Hwy 218 in Blooming Prairie. CEO Craig Kruckeberg stated, "we're proud to be a family owned American company for more than 30 years".

Minimizer manufactures heavy duty truck parts including Poly Truck Fenders, Toolboxes, Custom Floor Mats, Mud Flaps and Light Panels. Started in 1984, Minimizer has been local to Blooming Prairie for more than 30 years and employs nearly 100 people.

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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

STEELE TALKIN'



BRIA STENZEL

Krueger intends to "pay the bills" if elected to county board

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

"I believe what the Steele County government is not grasping is that the tax payers are paying the bills," said District 5 Steele County Candidate Greg Krueger.

Paying the bills is something Krueger has done a fair amount of. Be that for his family of three, his downtown Owatonna business, or the salad he ordered for lunch. As a father to his two adult boys, Krueger said reinforced good financial decisions from a young age. "They both worked in the store from the time they were very young... they learned the value of doing what you have to do to make things work," Krueger said. These lessons Krueger hopes to bring to the Steele County Commissioner Board come Election Day on November 8.

"The taxpayers are being stretched in so many different directions... you can't keep pill-

ing it on." Although Krueger said most of the spending is essential, for example schools and roads, he feels there are several areas where the current board is going overboard. Krueger said he is hearing "daily" that the citizens of Steele County are very upset with the amount the county board is spending on the county shop. Krueger said he has heard the facility is "way overbuilt" and "way more money than we can afford."

"Outside the box" thinking is one solution Krueger gave to bringing Steele County into financial stability. Krueger said the county board needs to work with governmental organizations like Owatonna Public Utilities and Steele-Waseca Electric to keep costs down. "Maybe there is some ways to come up with some joint ventures to help each other's budgets out."

Budget transparency was another place Krueger said the county may be able to find more dollars. This was one area

Krueger believed his 30 years of experience of owning the Owatonna business, St. Clairs for Men, will translate well to. "I did all the buying, I did all the advertising, I did everything; I had to work within a budget and make it work... Frankly, I couldn't add it to someone's tax statement when it didn't work." Krueger said instead of identifying a need and adding money, the county may look into reallocating money from one department to another to get projects done.

With county spending comes increased property taxes and Krueger said, in no uncertain terms, that high property taxes are not good for the county business development. Krueger said that if this spending continues Steele County could fall out of completion with the other counties around the area. "The entrepreneurial past that we have been so known for in Steele County is going to become a stagnant future."



Steele County Commissioner Candidate Greg Krueger at one of his favorite relaxation spots in downtown Owatonna.

Outside of the fifth district, two other races for commissioner spots are set. In District 3, Rick Gnemi will challenge incumbent Mark Schultz, and in District 4, incumbent James "Corky" Ebeling will be facing off against challenger Jim Abbe.

Three other Owatonna residents have filed for office. All will be candidates for the Soil and Water Supervisor. David Meldy of Owatonna filed on

May 24 in District 2. Ellendale resident Dan Hanson is the only non-Owatonna resident filed so far and he will be looking to take the office in District 4 after filing on May 18th. As for District 5, Owatonna resident James Klecker filed on May 19th. Steele County's filing period began on Tuesday May 17 and ended on Tuesday, May 31.

Drum major marches NRHEG band to excellence

By JESSICA NAFE
Staff Intern

the banner for the high school band along with three other middle school students.

"It was different than anything else I ever did," Spooner commented.

At first the long, intense practices spent learning basic marching skills seemed too daunting to Spooner.

"I wanted to quit," she stated. "It was a ton of work!"

Luckily, she persevered and made it through her first summer of marching, leading into her first year as a high school band member, a much more enjoyable experience for her. Despite the fact that she was having more fun, Spooner had no intention of auditioning for the role of drum major her sophomore year, citing her shy disposition.

"I did not want to be drum major," she said. "But then Aurora and Jess convinced me to give it a shot."

Aurora Strom and Jessica Nafe were serving as drum majors the year that Spooner was available to try out.

Pushing aside her mounting nerves and doubts, Spooner

went through the audition process, writing a paper on "Why I should be Drum Major" and conducting the entire band through a warmup routine. At the 2014 Marching Indoor Show, Spooner was named drum major.

Her duties started the next spring as the steady drum beat echoed through New Richland once again, signaling the beginning of marching band season.

"It was much more responsibility than what I thought," Spooner said.

She explained that a drum major, as the leader of the band, has to set an example for the other band members. Showing up early, practicing often, and helping out the band director whenever needed are only a few of the ways Spooner fulfilled her role.

One major setback that she dealt with during her band career involves the band director, or directors in this case. Since her sophomore year, Spooner has had three different directors. Mr. Siewert was first, Mr. Boerboom followed him, and Mr. Bender currently serves as the

NRHEG band director.

"It's a rollercoaster you don't want to be on," Spooner said.

Since each director had their own unique teaching style and personality, she had to learn to continually adapt to each person.

As the leader of the band, she had to work closely with each new director to make each transition as smooth as possible for the entire band program. It wasn't always easy, but Spooner learned a great deal from the experience.

"Sometimes you have to do things that you don't want to," she stated. "You have to make sacrifices for the greater good."

Her sacrifices paid off in the end, as Spooner is now well into another summer marching season, her last one at NRHEG.

"I'm overwhelmed with emotion," she commented.

As sad as she is to see her band career come to a close, Spooner knows that she is walking away from the NRHEG music program with more than she could ask for.

"I learned to step outside of

my comfort zone," she said. "I didn't like being in front of people before, and look at me now!"

Director Jacob Bender has seen Spooner grow since he began teaching at NRHEG. "She has really stepped up into her role as drum major," he said. "She's a great leader because she knows that everyone brings something different to the table, and she helps them become their own leader using their unique gifts."

Not only did she learn a plethora of valuable life lessons from the band program and grow as a leader, she made irreplaceable friendships. Spooner said that the NRHEG band program brings students with all different personalities together with one common passion: music.

For anyone considering joining the band program, she has two words of advice: do it.

"You make a lot of friends with people you didn't think you'd be friends with, and you learn to appreciate simple things in life like music," she stated.

As her last year at NRHEG unfolds, Spooner is ready to make the most of it with her band buddies beside her.

"I really like the song, and so far the band has been performing well," she said. "I'm very excited to see what the season brings!"

Since her musical career began eight years ago, Spooner has grown as a person and made countless memories along the way. Even if she chooses to continue her career beyond high school, Spooner believes that her time with the NRHEG band will remain as some of the best in her life.



Submitted photo

2015 drum majors Jessica Nafe and Kallie Spooner with director Jacob Bender at the 2015 Waseca Marching Classic

The times they are a changin'

low. Remembering, however, that change must not destroy who we are what defines us.

As I look around small town America today, I see many things changing. One common bond we all share is going home again. I know they say you can't and many counsel you against it, but we all go. Those places of learning held some challenging memories, but they also held some very good memories – and it's those we are hoping to regain and share with our loved ones in later life. We revisit a place that we knew as a child, and some things are the same, but so many things are different.

Life changes, and I'll be honest with you, I don't know if I was ready for some of them. One of the things many will miss this year is their home-

town 4th of July celebration. There are so many towns losing the battle against the economy, being mortally wounded by the apathy and no longer able to compete with the technology.

I mean, have you been to a 4th of July celebration lately? The glow from the ground almost makes it feel like watching fireworks in the daylight. Everyone has a smart phone, a tablet, an I-pod, or if you're like me, a dumb phone. It's the change almost everyone has bought into.

I tried to lead a chorus of "ooohs and ahhhs" last year and found each one of my children buried in their phones, glancing up every now and then and the sharing the "awesome 'dude' tube video" that showed an incredible fireworks show a half a world away.

I know that all three of those things are major players in the erosion of our traditions both in America and here in small town Minnesota. The fact that the Blooming Prairie celebration has been around for 150 years means that the magic hasn't yet been replaced by the internet, but rest assured, it's coming.

For 150 years, the town has banded together, pitched in and made sure that the celebrations continued. Come hill or high water. Even during the lean years of the depression and the infamous times of war, someone made sure the show was going on.

When someone got too old or too tired to continue, the young people were trained by the community to roll up their sleeves and make it happen. I have to believe that 150 years

of training can not be tainted by a seven inch video screen.

There has been talk of "taking a break" and "letting it lapse" and "letting a bigger city bear the burden. But there have always been bigger cities – and that attitude wasn't pervasive then and we must not let it permeate our small town now.

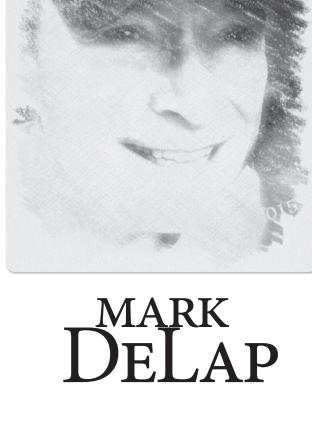
Folks we are under attack. Financially. Apathetically. Elderly. And "better-things-to-do-erly." It's not that we can compete with the bigger towns or the bigger towns, because we can't. But this represents the thing our kids come home to and they breath a sigh of relief knowing that this last great bastion of Awesome Blossom is not about to play opossum. And there is a warmth in the heart about coming home

again to something you grew up with. Something that in the midst of all the change, hasn't.

It represents the preservation of small town America. When all the world wants to eliminate the things of the past, dare to be that small voice from a history that must not be forgotten. If you really want your kids to know what it was like when and where you grew up, roll up your sleeves and get into the parade.

And for those who have fallen victim to this change... dare to change it back. If you have to grab an American Flag, grab another crazy friend and march down mainstreet with kazoos playing the Star Spangled Banner. It's progressive to change a tradition, but it's tragic to eliminate it.

LITTLE THOUGHTS ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK DELAP

We are a people that don't like ruts, so we make changes. The problem with that is that we are people that don't like change. What we need to be is a people that learn to be content where we are, but always ready to move on to the next note life prompts us to be-

Medford Living

Summer in Medford



LOIS M. NELSON

It is summertime! SRD weekend had wonderful weather and lots of activity from one end of town to the other. The Veterans' Memorial is now officially dedicated and I was honored to be asked to speak at the dedication. A nice crowd with the VFW Honor Guard and the committee members were in attendance—tried to acknowledge them all with our community's thanks in a job well done. The parade and all the other activities seemed to go very well. Thanks, Marie, for securing our parade vehicles—Andy looks good in a golf cart and you are a worthy driver. Trusting you and your families were able to get in some of the activities. Visited with Erin Sammon Monday at the post office. She had taken the day off and was pleased, too, with all the action. Guessing we will have a report from Craig shortly on the muni activity too—certainly appropriate weather for cold ones!

Since our last meeting, Dennis' parents arrived the 25th and all three went home June 6. A break and now Sarah from France arrives the 2nd for three weeks so our 'international' year continues!

June 1 was the KRFO Radio program. Chief Hager let me know early am that he was called out of town so the program was all around SRD weekend. At 11:00, The Times editor, Mark DeLap, had asked that I come to school for the journalism presentation...the entire reporting segment of the

paper-Publisher, Editor and 4 Reporters were in attendance for the 4-6 grade celebration of their writing. 110 students had participated and the paper supplied a king-size sub and awards and prizes to the top nine students. All their articles were published in the paper the following week. Great fun and maybe the spark of a future journalist or mayor will result!

June 7, interviewed for Owatonna Live community segment as no one from Civic Club was available for another SRD promo. This was also Steele Waseca's annual meeting. Always well organized, great food, record attendance with addition of Medford, Ellendale and rural customers. We could vote in the director's election. Gary Wilson will continue to represent us and the area. Will follow-up on another invitation for a tour so he is well aware of the projects we have in the making for the coming years.

Andy had alerted me late Monday that more plants were to be delivered Tuesday and if it was possible to line up help for planting Wed morning. Used the list who helped in the fall and found a few of non-working individuals. We spend 5 hours out there cleaning out the weeds and then planting. Fernando and Scott were finishing up the last 100 plants when we left. Then, it rained Thursday and they are looking good. The July column is asking for volunteers-individuals, families, organizations that would consider adopting a section of the roundabout or Central Park or Woodland Trail similar to highway clean-up to assist in keeping the weeds—thistles especially out of there!

June 15 Andy and I met with Supt Dahman. The District, too, is working on budget for next year. With the new consortium

for special ed students with Owatonna, Northfield and Faribault, the district has a new added cost that will be absorbed for fall and a part of new budget planning for '17. We did talk about the rain garden at school both because it is on the garden tour and the infestation of thistles makes the neighbors a little uncomfortable. We walked some of the area and effort is commencing immediately on the thistles. The garden tour also had one of the hosts resurrecting some of the original materials in the design, maintenance plan etc done in 2007. Earlier info had not been found by personnel at school and the original committee of employees isn't there any more making it more difficult for continuity of maintenance much less incorporating into curriculum that was a goal of the original effort. Did have one volunteer saying he would help with a renewed effort so will see where this goes. If something for you, suggest talking to Supt. Rich!

Senator Jensen will be in attendance at the beginning of our meeting. Not betting that a special session will happen or that our project will get any attention---but can see what she has to say.

Meeting with the Fire Men Tuesday night after a regular CDA meeting. Trust you all have a time set, too, with the group as we continue to process a building. I've indicated to Andy that I feel it is high time the architect visit with the committee and us on an updated building design so the necessary drawings and pricing be done so we have something concrete to negotiate from. Also, anxious to learn if the firm works with us in designing the message and communications for the public. A lot to do!

Enjoy these summer days.

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca rolls out new three year plan

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

Executives, volunteers, and other interested parties gathered for the Habitat for Humanity Steele-Waseca Area Annual Meeting at St. Paul Lutheran Church, west of Owatonna, to discuss the year in review for Habitat and a new strategic plan. The meeting happened on June 16 at around 6:30.

While closing the door on one three year strategic plan, Steele-Waseca Habitat of Humanity officials are hoping a new three year plan will push the non-profit to a new level in 2016. The plan was presented by President Tim Tuma and Executive Director Pat Hayden gave an optimistic look into the future saying, "Three years ago, we were looking at how we were going to keep the lights on... Now we are looking into the future."

The new three year plan for the fiscal years, 2017-2019 was presented by former president Tim Tuma. The three year plan also had a three way focus will be on building community impact, sector impact, and social impact.

In addition to having a new plan, Habitat will have a new executive board executing it. Vice president Taylor Hermon will be moving into the president role, and board member Brian Deml will be moving into a vice president role. The board approved these internal promotions with a unanimous vote.

About half way through the meeting, the newest member of the Steele-Waseca branch, Community Engagement Coordinator,

Tristan Richards moved to the podium to name pastor and board member Greg Schlicker as Volunteer of the Year. Schlicker also gave a stirring opening blessing to the assembled party.

The board also reported a family had been chosen for the new house being constructed in

Owatonna. Director Hayden said originally they had 16 applications. Then after a "challenging" process, the households were cut to four households. The household chosen was a seven member family from Mankato who will be getting a new house in Owatonna later in the year.



Staff photo by: Ahren Backman

Newly elected to the 2016 Habitat for Humanity executive board of directors include: Vice President Brian Deml(second from left) and President Taylor Hermon(far right). Also pictured: Secretary Joe Fritz and Treasurer Derrick Delaney.

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By LaFaye Farrow

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Owatonna Living

Downtown Owatonna archery park funding and location approved

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

The local community has moved one step closer to having an unsupervised archery range in its downtown after the Owatonna officials took action on the critical steps on its potential construction.

After lengthy discussion on the public range and a presentation from the park board at the June 21 Owatonna City Council Meeting, the council unanimously approved two resolutions for the range's construction. The first resolution was designating the city owned area at 711 Elm Avenue as a "Public Archery Park."

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Timothy Truelson outlined the basics of the park's facilities for the council, saying that there will be no park shelter, but a public restroom and paved parking lot will be available. Truelson said the construction will begin soon and the park to be open between "early fall or spring" depending on the weather. Archers will have access to the unsupervised range when park staff open the facility between 7 and 8 am and

be closed by Owatonna Police at "sundown." Truelson said the site was picked over the original property, at Summer Park, because the lot on 711 Elm Avenue had "no other good uses."

The second resolution passed was accepting an \$18,608 grant from the DNR. This grant will pay for the lion share of the total estimated cost total cost of \$34,308. Truelson said the demolition of the current park will cost around \$10,700, and the city incurred cost will be around 5,000. Cost of the targets will be supplemented by an unspecific partnership with Cabela's Outfitters.

Concerns

No public hearing was scheduled to take place on the archery range, but after seeing an affected homeowner in attendance, City Council Member At-Large Les Abraham asked to hear public input. Resident Joe Peterson, of 723 North Elm, expressed several safety concerns about the downtown range.

Peterson said according to his research, the maximum range of a compound bow is 1,300, and the distance from his house, near the shooting point

in the proposed range, to Main Street is 900 yards. Peterson said if the archer accidentally discharges their bow into the air there could be serious injury. "Anybody, any house, person, vehicle, child, dog, animal in range of that arrow to land."

The other point Peterson spoke to was the lack of communication the parks department had with the tenants. "I walked all the streets and talked to the property owners, none of them were notified... these people are being put in harm's way." Peterson said other sites for the archery range were "very much against it" based on potential danger. Peterson ended the address asking, "Is the city council concerned about the safety of the people living on front and freemont, rose and vine street, maybe there is renters that don't count... the question is how much value you place on a human life."

The Response

Peterson was not the only involved party to speak to the safety issues. Resident Keith Martin said he had not intended on speaking to the safety of the archery range, but still offered a differing opinion on the safe-

ty. Martin and his family own the commercial property near the range, and said they have no concerns over the archery park's location.

Previously in the meeting, Truelson outlined other safety rules that will be posted all around the facility. He said no children under the age of 16 will be allowed to use the park without parental supervision. Also dangerous weapons, in-

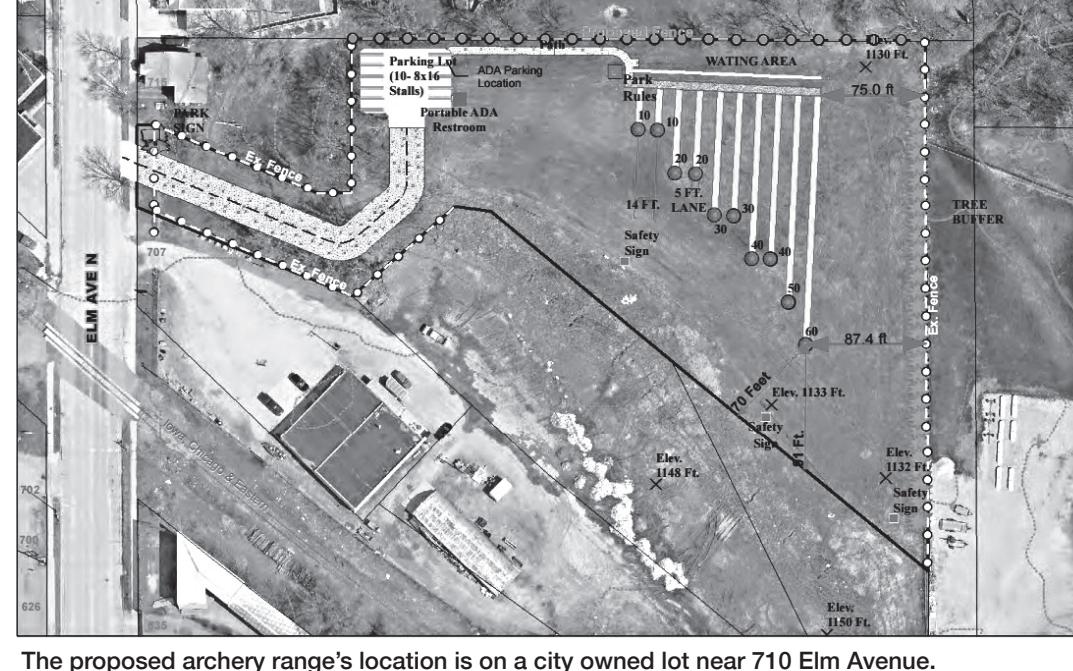
cluding broad heads and crossbows are forbidden.

Councilman Kevin Raney responded the safety concerns of the downtown archery range by asking the Parks and Recreation member's additional questions about keeping arrows in targets and out of streets.

Truelson cited the parks department's research into similar facilities around the area, specifically the Fairbault public

range, and they have had "no problems" with safety. The parks representative said the archery ranges are located near all types of public use facilities including dog parks, homes, and ball fields.

Both councilmen Raney and assistant director Truelson expressed "full confidence" in the safety of the downtown archery park.



The proposed archery range's location is on a city owned lot near 710 Elm Avenue.

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New officers for Exchange Club



Submitted Photo

The Exchange Club of Steele County inducted officers and directors for 2016-17 during its regular meeting at Valleyview Assisted Living in Owatonna June 24. Pictured front row (left to right) is Lowell Miller, 2-year director; Steve Frodl, 1-year director; Ron VanNurden, 2-year director; Vern Wilker, 1-year director; and Dean Hartle, 1-year director. Back row (L-R): Kathleen Miller, secretary; Randy Sobrak, immediate past president; Bruce Kubicek, president; Mike Brown, president-elect; and Mary Wenc, treasurer. Not pictured is Jim Schafer, 2-year director. The Exchange Club conducts programs of service in Americanism, youth, community, and the prevention of child abuse. Local clubs raise funds for the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna. The Center provides mentoring services for families in Steele, Rice, Waseca and Dodge counties.



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National touring choir makes stop in Owatonna

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

Kathy Strachen of Mankato, was also in attendance.

"I think he was nervous when he saw us come in... might have been more embarrassed," said Midge of her grandson's likely pre-concert mood.

In a pre-concert interview first year conductor Andre Heywood outlined how the selections of beats were chosen.

"We pick a theme each year, and this year's theme is the Psalms...some of them are Psalms settings, and some of them are sacred pieces that reference the Psalms or have the spirit of the Psalms."

Heywood said each year potential members of the choir send addition's online, and are selected based on several different criteria.

Over 13 states were represented in the national touring choir and the majority, seven out of the 23, was from Minnesota. The choir sings together for the first time during first week training at St. John's University in New York.

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Golf League Standings

Place	Week 6, June 20th	Points
1	Drexler Zwiener Klemmensen	47
1	Braaten Pirkli Resler	47
3	R Skala J Skala Thiele	44
4	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	39.5
5	Morgan R.Olson R.Olson	38.5
6	Larock Iacovino Schwartz	36.5
7	Strunk Farr Ingvalson	35.5
8	Koster Long White	34.5
9	Hillberg Waudus Pfeifer	33.5
10	Jenson Glynn Ebeling	33
11	Peterson Behnken Bishop	32.5
12	Doerhoefer Olson Wurke	32
12	Lea Hansen J.Johnson	32
14	Kormann Kormann Kormann	29.5
14	Hareid Bartsch Lewer	29.5
16	Glynn Glynn Esplan	29
16	White Lysne Johnson	29
18	Zwiener Hinzen Wurst	28
19	Seykora Schuster Schuster	27.5
19	Johnson Caldwell Bulver	27.5
19	Grunkle Evans Possehl	27.5
22	Clark Blome Skala	27.5
23	Haberman Henefield Nahlovsky	27
24	Carlson P.Jones M.Jones	26.5
25	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	24.5
26	Myer Moti Tollefson	22.5
27	Lembke Benson Hanson	22
28	Stangel Mauseth Schammel	21
29	Klemmensen J Klemmensen R Anderson	14
30	Minimizer Minimizer Minimizer	3

Top Scores		
Division	Team	Score
A	Braaten Pirkli Resler	32
B	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	34
B	Strunk Farr Ingvalson	34
C	Drexler Zwiener Klemmensen	35
C	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	35
C	R Skala J Skala Thiele	35
D	Hareid Bartsch Lewer	35

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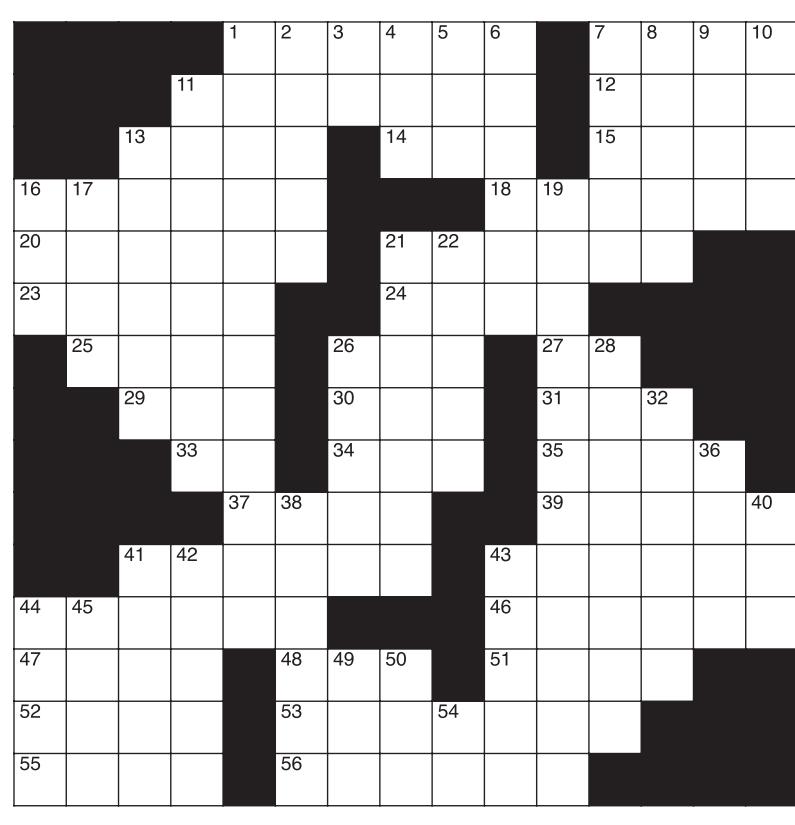
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

SOLUTION ON PAGE 4D

CLUES ACROSS

- Plant louses
- Breezed through
- A native of Africa
- Goedelic
- External
- Lilly, drug company
- Fence entrance
- Enclosed yard
- Drug company
- Food consumers
- Strongly disinclined
- Small goose
- Launched Apollo
- Soft stem center
- Longest river in Ayrshire
- Sodium
- Lion sign
- Southwest Airlines (abbr.)
- Kilometers per hour
- Of, French
- Atomic #50
- Body of poetry
- Spanish cubist painter Juan
- Grandmothers
- City of The Un. of the Punjab
- A roll of parchment
- What a ghost does
- Looked intently
- Swedish rock group
- Don't know when yet
- Hostelries
- Golf ball holders
- With a sincere intent
- Alicante's 7th largest city
- A disorderly crowd

**CLUES DOWN**

- A later idea
- Jabs
- Hello
- Frost a cake
- Decaliter
- Genus Gallinago birds
- Auspices
- A short-lived fashion
- This (Spanish)
- Bambi and her mom
- Emphasized a syllable
- Limit the inheritance of a property
- 2nd month (abbr.)
- Wyatt ___ OK Corral
- Given with gold & mhr
- In any manner at all
- Large tropical carnivorous lizards
- Up and out of bed
- Readily seen or understood
- Respects
- Clearance, fire or garage
- A list of names
- Sealed (abbr.)
- Lubricated
- Squash bug genus
- Sales line
- Feel aversion toward
- Cain's brother
- The cry made by sheep
- An arbitrageur
- Atomic #41

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

for Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's

ROCHESTER NATURAL GAS EXTENSION PROJECT COST RECOVERY***For Customers in MERC's NNG PGA and Consolidated PGA Rate Areas***

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve cost recovery for the Rochester Natural Gas Extension Project (Project), see MPUC Docket No. G-011/M-15-895. MERC's pipeline route permit application for this project is being handled separately, in MPUC Docket Number G-011/GP-15-858.

MERC states the project is needed to provide firm and reliable natural gas service to an expanding Rochester customer base. MERC is proposing to construct a new 13-mile natural gas pipeline and other facilities, and upgrades to its interstate pipeline natural gas supply source near Rochester.

MERC states the total project cost is approximately \$100 million. MERC proposes cost recovery for the following:

- MERC's Project costs of approximately \$44 million from all of MERC's Minnesota customers through a combination of
- Base rates - determined in general rate cases, according to Minnesota Statute § 216B.16
- Rider rates – called a Natural Gas Extension Project Cost Rider, determined in this and future filings, according to Minnesota Statute § 216B.1638; and
- Northern Natural Gas' (NNG) interstate-pipeline system upgrade costs of approximately \$55-60 million through the MERC-NNG purchased gas adjustment rider which is charged only to MERC's customers served off of the NNG interstate gas pipeline.

MERC's request for a Natural Gas Extension Project Cost Rider will be reviewed under Minnesota Statute § 216B.1638, Recovery of Natural Gas Extension Project Costs. The statute is available at www.revisor.mn.gov. The MPUC will likely make its decision on MERC's request in early 2017.

Public hearings

Administrative Law Judge Jeanne M. Cochran is holding five public hearings on the Project's cost recovery. Any Minnesota Energy Resources customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You do not need to be represented by an attorney to present comments at these public hearings.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, July 12, 2016	1:00pm	Kahler Apache Hotel, Grand A&B 1517 16th St. SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Tuesday, July 12, 2016	6:00pm	Kahler Apache Hotel, Grand A&B 1517 16th St. SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Wednesday, July 13, 2016	6:00pm	Albert Lea City Hall, City Council Chambers 221 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, MN 56007
Thursday, July 14, 2016	1:00pm	Steeple Center, Assembly Hall 14375 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068
Friday, July 15, 2016	1:00pm	Cloquet City Hall 1307 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet, MN 55720

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled – call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Separate public hearings will be held for the pipeline route permit (MPUC Docket Number G-011/GP-15-858). Those public hearings are scheduled for September 2016. The MPUC will provide formal notice to landowners along the proposed route before the pipeline route permit public hearings.

Submit written comments**Comment period**

Comments accepted through July 28, 2016 at 4:30pm. Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date. Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

Online

Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up! find this docket (15-895), and add your comments to the discussion.

U.S. Mail

If you wish to include an exhibit or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul MN 55101

Important: Comments will be made available to the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information from submissions.

Topics open for comment

You are invited to comment on any of the following topics:

- Are MERC's proposed investments in the Rochester Natural Gas Extension Project prudent, reasonable, and necessary for MERC to be able to provide service to MERC's Rochester service area now and in the future?
- Is it reasonable for MERC to recover the Rochester Project costs as proposed or should all project costs be recovered from all of MERC's Minnesota customers or only from its Rochester area customers? If not, what alternative would be more reasonable?
- Is other funding available to cover the Rochester Project costs?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Written comments are most effective when the following items are included:

- The Docket Numbers in the subject line or heading
 - MPUC Docket Number G-011/M-15-895
 - OAH Docket Number 68-2500-33191
- Your name and connection to the docket
- The issues that concern you
- Any knowledge you have about the issues
- Your recommendation
- The reason for your recommendation.



RODV rides for justice

Darrell Cowden from Blooming Prairie and Patti Chiarini from Claremont rode this past Saturday to raise awareness for Riding Over Domestic Violence (RODV). Chiarini is the co-founder and marketing agent for RODV. The ride developed from the plan of starting a ride geared toward women riders. After some brain storming and nation-wide searching for women's causes through motorcycle riding, there were only 2 rides specifically dedicated to women riders. The group collected \$220 that day and split the proceeds between Mower and Steele counties. Future rides have been requested and plans are already in the works.



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots for the upcoming August 9th Primary Election will be available through Monday, August 8th at 5 pm. The Auditor's office will also be open on Saturday, August 6th from 10 am - 3 p.m.

Voters may also look up their sample ballot & polling place information online by going to www.sos.state.mn.us

If you have any questions you may contact the County Auditor's office by calling 507-444-7410.

Accommodations

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Evidentiary hearings

Formal evidentiary hearings on MERC's proposal (Docket No. 15-895) start on September 6, 2016, at the MPUC, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul. The purpose of the evidentiary hearings is to allow MERC, the Minnesota Department of Commerce-Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General-Residential Utilities & Antitrust Division, and others to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed Rochester Natural Gas Extension Project.

Effect of proposed rate recovery

MERC proposes to recover its construction costs for project upgrades from all its customers through a Natural Gas Extension Project Cost Rider and through base rates. MERC also asked to recover costs for upgrades to the NNG interstate pipeline system from its customers served off the NNG system through its monthly purchased gas cost rate adjustment rider (PGA).

The following chart shows the estimated monthly rate impact for an average customer in Minnesota Energy Resources' NNG PGA and Consolidated PGA service areas.

Customer Class (MERC NNG and MERC Consolidated)*	Monthly Rate Impact of MERC's Proposed \$44 Million Investment	Monthly Rate Impact of Proposed \$55 Million Investment in NNG Facilities	Monthly Total Rate Impact on Customers
<i>Residential</i>			
MERC-NNG PGA rate area	\$0.24	\$1.74	\$1.97
MERC-Consolidated PGA rate area	\$0.24	No impact	\$0.24
<i>General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial</i>			
MERC-NNG PGA rate area	\$0.28	\$2.03	\$2.31
MERC-Consolidated PGA rate area	\$0.28	No impact	\$0.28
<i>General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial</i>			
MERC-NNG PGA rate area	\$2.35	\$17.29	\$19.64
MERC-Consolidated PGA rate area	\$2.35	No impact	\$2.35
All Customers in all PGA rate areas (MERC-NNG & MERC-Consolidated)			
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	\$14.54	No impact	\$14.54
Small Volume Joint Sales	\$14.74	No impact	\$14.74
Small Volume Interruptible Transport	\$35.45	No impact	\$35.45
Small Volume Joint Transport	\$25.68	No impact	\$25.68
Transportation for Resale	\$72.13	No impact	\$72.13
Large Volume Interruptible Sales	\$61.83	No impact	\$61.83
Large Volume Interruptible Transport	\$449.05	No impact	\$449.05
Large Volume Joint Transport	\$363.25	No impact	\$363.25
Super Large Volume Interruptible Transport	\$4,248.22	No impact	\$4,248.22
Super Large Volume Joint Transport	\$1,578.56	No impact	\$1,578.56

*The above Chart is based on Average Annual Usage for each customer class.

How to learn more

Minnesota Energy Resources

Web: <http://www.mnenergycorp.com/company/rochester.aspx>
Project Contact: Amber Lee, ASLee@mnenergycorp.com or 651-322-8965

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul MN 55101
Phone 651-539-1534
Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>
Select 15 in the year field, enter 895 in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

Questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review process?

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101
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Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.



Ellendale Living



Staff photos by Jessica Nafe

Ellendale Days extreme heat, extreme fun

Top: NRHEG cheerleaders Tali Wayne, Natalia Galindo, and Sophie Thompson sold water and freezes during the parade

Right: A young unidentified future farmer of America gazes in amazement as the awards were passed out at Ellendale Days

Bottom: Despite the intense heat, the turtles ran like lightning during the Ellendale Days Turtle Races, making for a fun afternoon for kids and adults alike. A group of girls get ready to release their turtles, who are anxious to cross the finish line in a blaze.



Senator Jenson talks state issues in Ellendale

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

During a special meeting of the Ellendale City Council, Democratic Senator Vicki Jenson of District 24, updated officials on the 2016 legislative session, and gave an update on issues critical to southern Minnesota.

Only three members attended the special meeting of the Ellendale City Council with Mayor Skroch not in attendance. Jenson, who represents most of Steele and Freeborn County, began the address by saying she was surprised Governor Mark

Dayton had not yet called a special session of Minnesota lawmakers. The failed tax bill and bonding bills were the main issues that Jenson told Ellendale officials.

Tax Bill

"A really good bill," Jenson said the tax bill was a widely supported non-partisan bill that would have included tax cuts for landowners and schools. Jenson highlighted a \$1000 tax credit for college students if school expenses were 10 percent of their income.

Unfortunately, a tiny grammatical error, where the wording was "and" instead of "or," caused the bill fail during the

regular 2016 congressional work session which took place from March 8 to May 23. After talking to the Commissioner of Revenue, Jenson said the error was better fixed in special session. "He was concerned about the liability impact to taxpayers."

Bonding Bill

A bonding bill also failed to get done in the 2016 legislative session. Jenson said part of the reason for this was the need for transportation dollars. Jenson explained the bill was pushed through the Minnesota House of Representatives with just 18 minutes left in the session, and without transpiration there was

no way the bill was getting approved.

Councilperson Scott Groth's first question was on the light rail amendment, which was included at the last second in the bonding bill, and was part of the cause for the bonding bill failing.

Jenson said that since the transportation bill failed the light rail amendment to the bonding bill was the last ditch effort of legislatures to get something transportation related done. Even if a special session gets called, Jenson said was skeptical any kind of bonding bill would get done in 2016.

The meeting was moved up a

Pass the Passion Strengthening Ellendale

By JESSICA NAFE
Staff Intern

Donavon Eaker, owner of Steve's Meat Market in Ellendale, has cooked up a new committee called the Ellendale Community Action Group (ECAG), whose goal is to preserve and grow a thriving, beautiful community.

The idea all started last fall, when Donavon attended a Blandin Foundation training session in Grand Rapids. People from rural communities all over Minnesota attended the conference to learn how to create a healthy rural community.

"I came back so excited," Donavon said. "There were so many new ideas and concepts, and I knew that I could do something for Ellendale if I tapped the right people."

So she set out to find people in the community that had the same passion that she did. From November to February, Donavon worked on bringing people together to form an action group. After receiving a blessing from the Ellendale City Council on starting their group, the ECAG began hosting meetings every second Tuesday of the month beginning in March.

Donavon, Rich Mueller, Doug Anderson, Scott Groth, Allison Muilenburg, Rachel Lee, Jody Larson, LeAnn Hojberg, Nolan McGowen, Patrick Stitt, Patty Carlson, Brend Misgen, Russ Goette, and Mark Lee are the ECAG members.

During meetings the group discusses possible community events and shares ideas on how to support the community.

"It helps people find their voice and find what their power is," Jody Larson said.

The ECAG recently hosted their first community event, Ellendale Days Bingo. Since bingo had been absent from the Ellendale Days activity list for a few years, the ECAG was excited to bring the game back to the community celebration. A good time was held by all in attendance, and fifteen prizes were given away, all donated from businesses in Ellendale.

"It's wonderful to see that we have support from the local businesses," Donavon stated.

Not only was the ECAG encouraged by the support from businesses, but they were also inspired by the number of people who came to bingo to show support for the newly formed community group.

"It's empowering to see the community rally together," Jody Larson said. "The community has really embraced our group so far, but there's still a lot of people that haven't heard of us yet. Projects like this let other groups know that we're here to help them."

And helping other community groups, businesses, and individuals is exactly what the ECAG hopes to do, but they can't do it alone.

"I know there are people in this community that love Ellendale," Donavon said. "That's all we need. We just need your passion."

Donavon believes that if the

people of Ellendale pass down encouragement and passion to the younger generations, then the community will continue to thrive.

"I call it pass the passion. It takes everyone," Donavon stated.

Young, old, city-living, or country-dwelling, Donavon wants their help in seeing Ellendale succeed.

"I want a total cross section of people," she said. "No matter who you are or where your house is, your community is still here."

Hoping to grow their numbers as time goes on, the ECAG also has aspirations for big projects in the future. One in particular that the group would like to see accomplished is the installation of an electric sign outside of the town, one that would display upcoming events in the community, reminders, or promotions for local businesses.

"We know it's going to cost a lot, but we can do it," Donavon said with conviction.

Another smaller project that the ECAG will start working on in the future deals with Beaver Lake.

"We are going to be addressing the county about where the funds are going," Donavon explained. The popular swimming location has no swimming lessons, lifeguards, or docks, and the ECAG hopes to change those facts in the future.

Allison Muilenburg, a member of the ECAG has a goal or restoring Ellendale Days to some of its former glory. "I would love to see it go back to when I was a little kid... the bouncy houses and water wars," Muilenburg explained. "But it's going to take getting my generation to help out again."

Donavon heartily agrees. "It's all about pulling together," she stated.

As for why the community is so important, worthy of so much dedication, Donavon commented, "It's home."

Pulling together, taking action, and passing the passion is what it will take to keep Ellendale a strong community, according to Donavon. "You have to have passion for your town."

And passion a plenty, she has.

With hearts full of pride for Ellendale and minds filled with fresh ideas to positively impact the community, the ECAG is ready to continue serving Ellendale, ultimately creating a safe, fun-filled town for all to enjoy.

The ECAG is a non-profit organization, and its mission statement is as follows: "We love our community and want to support all the things that make Ellendale a beautiful place to live."

Citizens who want to join the ECAG, have ideas to share, or are interested in supporting the Ellendale community in any way are welcomed to join the ECAG at their next meeting at the Ellendale City Offices on July 12. Since the group is a nonprofit, any funding that is donated to them is tax deductible. If there are any questions about the group, Donavon and the ECAG members would be happy to answer any questions or help community members

Correction

In the June 14 issue of the Times a performance was missed in the NRHEG graduation article. Nicole Edon sang "Photograph" during commencement while a slideshow played with pictures from the graduates' early years. Edon's beautiful vocals were accompanied by choir director Jennifer Fredrickson.



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Flag Day dedication saddened by Orlando tragedy

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

Former Staff Sargent Berlyn Staska played a solemn rendition of "Colors" on trumpet during the dedication of a new flag pole at Brick - Meger Funeral Home on June 14. The Flag Day dedication commemorated

the adoption of the flag of the United States and the sacrifices of "those that serve in the armed forces." That flag will be flying at half-staff in remembrance of the families of the victims in the Orlando massacre.

Staska was one of five veterans, part of the Steele County Funeral Detail, that assisted

with the flag dedication at 11 a.m. The weather was sticky and overcast a fitting background to the somber affair. After the flag dedication, Brick - Meger Director Glen Meger announced the assembled crowd that in respect for the victims and families of the Florida tragedy the flag would be kept at half-staff.

"My thoughts go out to the families," Meger said in a post event interview.

A small dedication stone will be placed at the base of the flag with an inscription that will read, "So long as there are veterans we will never forget," in bold gold lettering, then slightly smaller below will read, "The

sacrifices of few ensure the freedom of many. A grateful remembrance of those who serve in the armed forces of the United States during time of war and peace. Whose courage and personal sacrifices defend and preserve our freedom."

One of those veterans, Staska, who served in the Korean War

from 1950-54 as an instructor in procurement, looked proudly saluted the flag as it was raised, then joined the assembled at a lunch of chili, garlic toast, lemonade and various other sweets was provided for participant's, compliments of the funeral home and Meger family.



Staff photo by Ahren Backman

Members of the Steele County Funeral Detail raise the flag during a dedication at Brick - Meger Funeral Home.



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County Living

Ellendale days parade: toddler loves “freezes”



Staff photo by Ahren Backman

Top left- Participants in the second heat of the 2016 Turtle Races release their turtles.

Top right- Melina Bell enjoying playing “kiddie games” at the Ellendale Days celebration. (Staff intern photo by Jessica Nafe)



By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

Immediately following the conclusion of the 2016 Ellendale Days Parade, 5-year-old Joie Rossing proclaimed the “brown tootsie rolls” were her least favorite treat she received.

In an exclusive interview with The Times, Joie said the “brown tootsie rolls” were “boring,” and her favorite treat was the “freezes.”

Joie is the daughter of Joe and Carrie Rossing, who have recently moved to Ellendale. The Owatonna native Carrie said she used to love tootsie rolls, but with Joie’s interest in “freezes,” tootsie rolls will be left on the street during the parade. The Ellendale native Joe said, “I’ll be launching tootsie

rolls out of my yard with my lawn mower.”

The whole Rossing family enjoyed the parade from the front yard of their new house on 4th Street. Joe, who is the grandson of prominent Ellendale resident Marge Rossing, said the family moved from Owatonna, because they liked the small town atmosphere.

That atmosphere was alive and well during the parade where waters, candy, and handshakes from local officials were given out. Carrie and Joie both highlighted the N.R.H.E.G marching band as the best float of the parade, and Joe said the family loves watching the little ones have fun.

Judging by the armloads of “freezes,” Joie was carrying back to the new house that goal was accomplished.

Sixth annual Ribfest: GOOD TO THE BONE

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Go back in history to 1982 and listen to a tune by George Thorogodd and the Destroyers, called “Bad to the Bone.”

Those lyrics could be translated to “Good to the Bone” by more than 300 visitors to the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club’s second leading fundraiser, Ribfest. Nine rib cookers were set up by competitors who offered their ribs to the public for taste testing.

The taste testing went from 3-7 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club with many stations running out of ribs by 6 p.m. It was a windy and hot afternoon but it did not deter the rib cookers.

Marcy Sundine, director of the Boys and Girls Club, thanked the participants in Rib Fest and also thanked the many customers who sampled their favorite ribs and chicken wings. Visitors were also treated to some outstanding Bluegrass music performed by the Pot Luck String Band. One of the band members, Karin, is the

daughter of the Rev. Charlie Leonard and Cindy.

The sixth annual Ribfest which was started by Eric Loftus of Dodge Center drew all ages. Young and advanced, alike, enjoyed the ribs and chicken and left evidence on their lips.

Visitors could sample the ribs if they wore a wrist band sold in advance or at the gate on Ribfest day. Ribfest consumers were given tickets which they could put in receptacles at the various rib stations to indicate their favorite ribs and wings.

Kansas City-sanctioned

judges judged the ribs. First, second and third place awards were given in the various categories.

Dan Plagens of St. Paul earned first place in the Best Ribs category. He received a plaque and \$450 in cash. Pat Roles of Brownsdale was second and won a \$250 cash prize. Placing third was Ronny Hoffman of Red Line Smoking. He received a \$150 cash award.

“I’m delighted and stunned,” said an elated Plagens after being judged the Best Rib Maker at Ribfest 2016 in Blooming Prairie. Plagens says his family

does a barbecue contest each year and he has a special recipe for that contest. He used this recipe in Blooming Prairie and said it was “family proven.”

What is Plagens going to do with the cash prize? Maybe, buy another cooker, one that could hold 18 racks of ribs, Plagens said.

In the steak judging category, Patrick Roles was first, Dan Plagens second and Gregg Johnson and Dave Wradilavsky placed third.

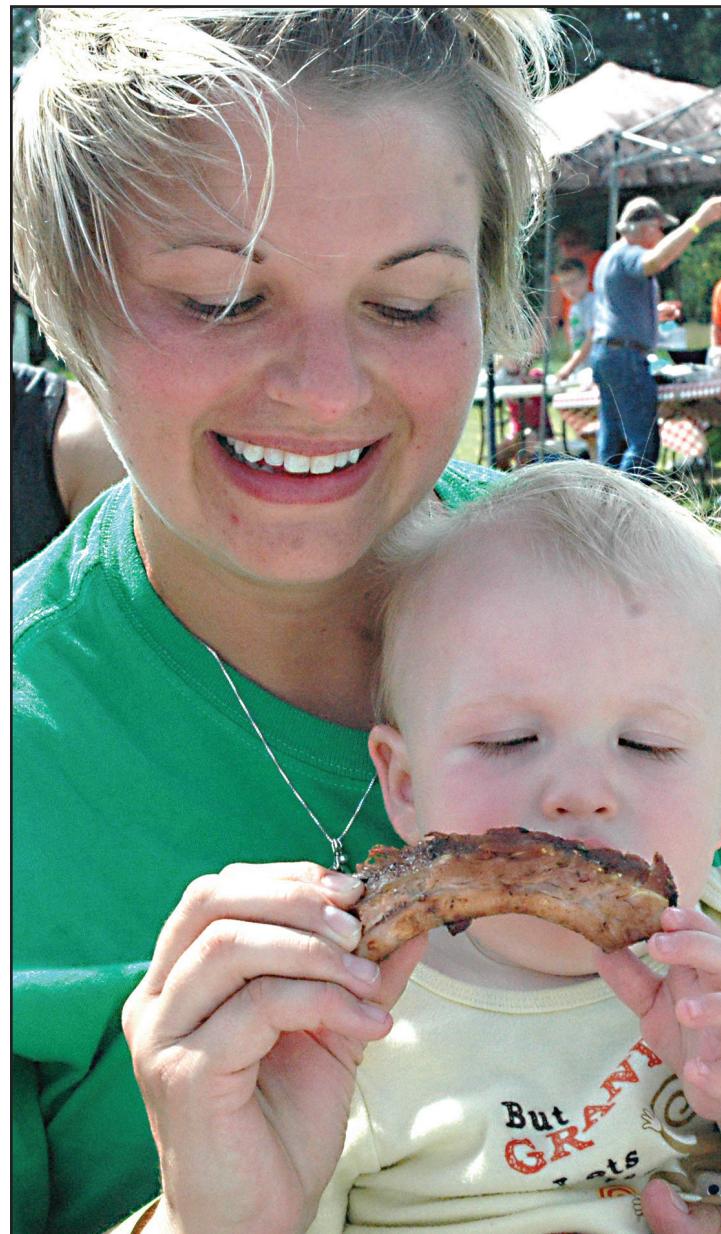
Winning first for the best sauce was Porkers Do It Best, second went to Dan Plagens and

third went to P.T. Roles.

Judges also gave out awards for the kids hamburger cooking category. Hailey Schumacher was first, Brady Hoffman second and Natalie Schumacher third.

For the People’s Choice awards, Applie Pie BBQ won for the best ribs and Porkers Do It Best won for the best wings.

The rib competition was new for Joe Sundine and his son Shawn. “I’ve never done this in competition before but it was a fun experience,” said Joe of Boone, Iowa. He even offered his homemade BBQ sauce for sale.



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Left- The Potluck String Band performed at the Sixth Annual Ribfest at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on Saturday. The eight-member band played a variety of Bluegrass and pop tunes.

Right- Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club executive director Marcy Sundine and nine-month-old son Henry enjoyed some of the barbecue ribs prepared at the Sixth Annual B & G Club Ribfest.



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Disease risk from handling newly hatched poultry

Nine Salmonella cases linked to newly hatched poultry bought at feed stores

Nine people in Minnesota have become ill after handling baby chicks or other newly hatched poultry, such as ducks, turkeys or pheasants, prompting a warning from health officials to wash hands and take other precautions after handling young poultry.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) investigators have linked nine cases of Salmonella infections to baby chicks or other newly hatched poultry purchased from multiple feed stores in Minnesota. The ill Minnesotans ranged in age from 2 months to 66 years.

Salmonella is a type of bacteria carried in the intestines of animals that can be shed into the environment in their feces. Chicks, ducklings and other poultry are recognized sources of Salmonella infection, especially for children. Birds may shed Salmonella even when they appear healthy, and even a bird that looks clean can still have enough germs on its feathers or feet to make a person sick.

Any chick or newly hatched poultry can carry a variety of Salmonella strains. MDH veterinarian Dr. Stacy Holzbauer said the outbreak underscores the importance of washing your hands thoroughly after handling chicks, ducklings or other birds.

"Chicks can be a great attraction for children and families this time of year, but they can also be a

source of illness," Holzbauer said. "That is why it is so important for people handling them to take steps to prevent infection."

Young children are especially at risk and are also more likely to develop serious complications from Salmonella infections. During a similar national outbreak of salmonellosis in 2013, 41 percent of cases were younger than 10 years old. In 2015, Minnesota residents were part of two separate multi-state outbreaks of salmonellosis associated with newly hatched poultry.

People typically get Salmonella infection from poultry by hand-to-mouth contact. Usually this happens when people handle birds or objects in their environment and then accidentally touch their mouths or forget to wash their hands before eating or drinking. Salmonella infection can also be contracted by eating contaminated foods that have not been properly prepared or handled.

Salmonella can cause diarrhea, vomiting and fever. Some people are more susceptible to infection and may have more severe disease. These include young children, pregnant women, older adults, people on chemotherapy, people with diabetes and others with weakened immune systems. Approximately 20 percent of cases reported to MDH are hospitalized. Most people develop symptoms one to three days after being

exposed to Salmonella and recover in about a week. If you've had or are having diarrhea and fever and have had contact with chicks or newly hatched poultry, talk with your health care provider.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) works with MDH on the issue of Salmonella infections associated with newly hatched poultry. Inspections are conducted to confirm proper feed, water and sanitation requirements are in place and healthy poultry are available to customers.

"In addition to permitting businesses to sell birds, we partner with MDH to reduce any risks of illness associated with those sales," said BAH Assistant Director Dr. Dale Lauer. "We do this by ensuring there are adequate barriers and handling practices in place for the newly hatched poultry being sold, and we make Salmonella fact sheets available to consumers."

Health officials offer tips for handling or raising newly hatched poultry:

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling poultry or anything in their environment.

Do not let children younger than 5 handle poultry.

Supervise older children when handling poultry, and make sure they wash their hands afterward.

Avoid nuzzling or kissing chicks, ducklings or other poultry.

Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.

Keep poultry outside and especially out of areas where food is prepared.

Do not wash birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

"Raising poultry can be a wonderful experience for families, but it's important to protect yourself and your kids from the germs animals can carry," Holzbauer said.

Stay safe when using pesticides this summer

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

As you continue to weed your

garden, water your flowers and manage your fields keep pesticide safety in mind. Everyone should strive to be safe and stay out of harm's way. There are many risks involved when using pesticides. Applicators should understand potential risks of using pesticides and how to use pesticides safely. Using pesticides safely depends on many things. Some of the most important factors include selecting the appropriate product and using that product according to the label directions. The directions on the label are written to minimize the risk of problems and to define the legal uses of the product. Some health risks that are associated with using certain pesticides include prostate cancer, Parkinson's Disease, and Retinal Degeneration.

Do not let children younger than 5 handle poultry.

Supervise older children when handling poultry, and make sure they wash their hands afterward.

Avoid nuzzling or kissing chicks, ducklings or other poultry.

Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.

Keep poultry outside and especially out of areas where food is prepared.

Do not wash birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

"Raising poultry can be a wonderful experience for families, but it's important to protect yourself and your kids from the germs animals can carry," Holzbauer said.

drift can affect people, wildlife, crops, and the environment. During or after pesticide application, spray can vaporize or move off of the intended target. Drift has the ability to hurt crops and fields, which could make them inedible or unusable. Pesticide drift can also contaminate ecosystems and cause harm to the economy by damaging crops and livestock.

The University of Minnesota Extension trains farmers along with agriculture and horticulture professionals through certification programs.

The University of Minnesota's Extension Pesticide program goals are to enhance the public health and environmental quality, improve the health and safety of pesticide application workers and their families, encourage and facilitate producers, industry, government, natural resources managers, and the public to adopt economically and environmentally sound pest and pesticide management practices, and to facilitate public discussion of pesticide related issues.

Some Pesticide Safety tips are:

- If you decide to use pesticides, always read the label first

and follow the direction to the letter, including all precautions and restrictions.

• Don't use products for pests that are not indicated on the label and don't use more pesticide than directed.

• Before applying pesticides, remove toys and keep children and pets away from the area until it is dried.

• Don't spray outdoors on windy or rainy days.

• Don't buy more pesticides than you will need. If you have leftover pesticides, check with your local government to determine whether your community has a household hazardous waste collection program or other program for disposing of pesticides.

In case of an emergency, call 911. Having the label and product information will help emergency personnel. For help with poisoning situations, the Poison Control Center number is 1-800-222-1222.

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

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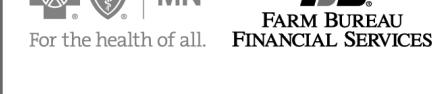
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Minnesota Crop Report:

Nearly one-quarter of the second cutting of alfalfa hay was harvested during the week ending June 26, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 4.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Continued wet field conditions in the northern parts of the state have delayed some field activities such as cutting hay and spraying. Other areas report that between the heat and wind, soils are drying out, resulting in curling corn leaves. Statewide, the crop condition rating for corn was estimated at 81 percent good to excellent.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus.

Minnesota's corn condition rating increased 2 percentage points from the previous week, with 81 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition. Soybean condition rated 75 percent good to excellent, down 1 percentage point from the previous week. Seventy-two percent of the spring wheat acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 12 days ahead of the five-year average and 2 days ahead of last year. Six percent of the spring wheat crop was turning color. Spring wheat condition rated 65 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from last week. Seventy-eight percent of the oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 12 days ahead of average and 2 days ahead of last year. With 7 percent of the oat crop turning color, oat condition rated 84 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from the previous week.

The first cutting of alfalfa hay was 92 percent complete, 9 days ahead of average. Twenty-five percent of the second cutting of alfalfa hay was complete, 10 days ahead of last year. All hay condition rated 84 percent good to excellent, down 3 percentage points from last week. Pasture condition rated 81 percent good to excellent.

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HONORING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Blooming Prairie



Honor Roll

Grade 7

Maggie Bruns
Maren Forystek
Emily Kubicek
Luke Larkoski
Reese Millam
Megan Oswald
Rachael Riley

Grade 8

Jarrett Larson
Baylee Sorensen
Julia Worke

Grade 9

Riley Millam
Rachael Oswald
Seth Peterson
Payton Simon

Grade 10

Ethan Arett
Jerrin Jax
Mitchell Oswald
Salome Ramirez
Jesse Schewe

Grade 11

Thomas Braaten
Wyatt Grundmeier
Jake Hyland
Rose Johnson
Alison Pryor
Alicia Ptacek
Leah Schiefert

Grade 12

Anthony Nelson
Sally Peterson

Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

A- Honor Roll

Grade 7
Ashleigh Alwes
Cole Graves
Charlie Heimerman
Shyane Jorgenson
Allison Krohnberg
Mackenzie Madsen
Grace Magnuson
Rose Michaud
Joseph Pirk
Gretchen Sunde
Kiya Thompson
Wyatt Voss
Isabella White
Taylor Wurst

Grade 8
Kisha Aquino
Riauna Bishop
Raynee Fawver
Gemini Johnson
Colton Krell
Adam Larson
Hazel Michaud
Dondi Stender
Viridiana Villarreal
Jayde Wacek
Zachary Weber
Grade 9
William Cardenas
Colton Ivers
Micah White
Grade 10
Kathryn Borchert
Samantha Wurst

Grade 11
Elijah Baker
Kylie Forystek
Laura Grant
Camden Heimerman
Leah Inwards
Rachel Kubicek
Carter Millam
Hailey Naatz
Rachel Peterson
Taylor Peterson
Elly Strunk
Courtney Wobschall
Grade 12
Abby Wayne

B+ Honor Roll

Grade 7
Adrianna Bermea
Cole Christianson
Thomas Donnelly
Mitchell Fiebiger
Ethan Grant
Brianna Hensrud
Brian Jimenez
Dylan Johnson
Alexander Miller
Maggy Motl
Christopher Naatz
Halle Strunk
Madison Suchanek
Rachel Thompson

Gabriel Hagen
Hope Johnson
Maya Lembke
Alexis Olivo
Chase Peterson
Matthew Pryor
Gracie Rudlong
Marti Snider
Kaden Thomas
Karson Vigeland
Jillian Wigham

Grade 10
Linnea Byers-Sunde
Rylee Fawver
McKenna Hein
Jeremy Hocking
Brandon Jimenez
Rachel Pirk
Nicholas Thompson

Grade 11
Kayleigh Douglass
Sasha Katzung
Grade 12
Noah Crabtree
Kevin Eischens
Katelynn Grunklee
Margaret Jones
Kallie Klemmensen
Alyssa Krohnberg
Lauren Larkoski
Ethan Strunk

B Honor Roll

Grade 7
Lillian Abbe
Abby Braaten
Boone Carlson
Anna Kittelson
Jacob Naatz
Jessica Ressler
Christopher Shepard
Brenda Talamantes
Micalyn Trihus

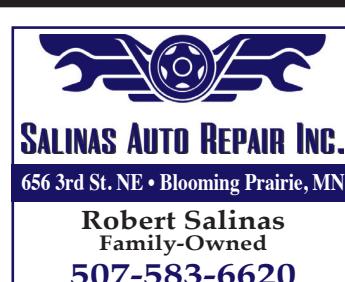
Heather Pirk
Brent Weinberger
Grade 9
Jackson Baltazar
Raeann Grundmeier
Caleb Kubista
Trenton Swenson
Timothy Wolf
Grade 10
Brianna Arthaud
Jacob Gwilt
Jonathan Herron
Alec Ille
Ayren Ingvalson
Erica Laganiere
Marten Morem

Maxwell Romeo
Bradley Staska
Asia Thostenson
Grade 11
Jasmine Anderson
Bria Baldwin
Richard Feeney
Quentin Kubista
Aaron Larson
Zachary Piller
Marnie Reese
Benjamin Smith
Grade 12
Kalyn Naatz
Riley Olson

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

Summons & Complaint

District Court
Third Judicial District

State of Minnesota
County of Steele

Court File No.: _____
Case Type: Contract

SFM Mutual
Insurance Company, Plaintiff

vs. **SUMMONS**

Benjamin Zane
Spurgeon, Defendant

To the Above-Named Defendant,
Benjamin Zane Spurgeon:

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

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

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 1.28.16

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

District Court
Third Judicial District

State of Minnesota
County of Steele

Court File No.: _____
Case Type: Contract

SFM Mutual
Insurance Company, Plaintiff

vs. **COMPLAINT**

Benjamin Zane
Spurgeon, Defendant

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

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

2. On or about January 1, 2010, Southpark Lanes LLC was insured for Minnesota workers' compensation liability by SFM Mutual Insurance Company.

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

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

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

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

7. In recognizing its status as a victim in the criminal matter, SFM Mutual Insurance filed restitution claiming payments of \$48,699.70 made on or behalf of Timothy D. Blum.

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

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

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

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

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

13. SFM Mutual Insurance Company hereby claims damages in the amount of \$30,000 from Benjamin Zane Spurgeon as set forth

in the contract signed by the parties on October 4, 2012 and October 23, 2012, along with prejudgment interest as allowed by Minn. Stat. 549.09 (2012).

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

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG & ASSOCIATES

Dated: January 28, 2916

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

LYNN, SCHARFENBERG & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 1/28/16

Thomas P. Davern (#0386481)
6/14, 6/21, 6/28

Foreclosure

15-101570

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 21, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph L. Erler and Barbara R. Erler, Husband and Wife; Jeremy J. Erler and Brittany L. Erler, Husband and Wife and Jeff T. Evans, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Rochester Mortgage Company

SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans, Inc.

MIN#: 100021278104668400

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR

STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Rochester Mortgage Company

SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 22, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000346604, thereafter re-recorded March 28, 2007 as document number A000348663 to add additional mortgagors

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: July 27, 2015 filed: August 3, 2015, recorded as document number A000403434

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 9 and the East 6 feet of Lot 8 in Block 23 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota; Excepting the South 55 feet to the above described premises.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 404 Elm Ave S, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2310

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$107,927.01

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 12, 2016, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA

STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 17, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Association
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by December 21, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: May 17, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale

scheduled for April 5, 2016, at 10:00 AM, has been postponed to May 17, 2016, at 10:00 AM, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by November 17, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: March 31, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by January 21, 2017. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: June 20, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by June 21, 2016, at 10:00 AM, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: January 8, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570

Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: February 16, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
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City crew battles winter to finish park pavilion in time for summer

By AHREN BACKMAN
County Staff Writer

"If the 2015-16 southern Minnesota winter would not have been so mild, it may not have been possible to have finished building the Jaycee Park Pavilion in time for summer," said superintendent of buildings and grounds for the city of Owatonna, Jesse Winkler.

Just before the winter of 2015 Winkler and his crew of city staff was tasked with the tall order of rebuilding the pavilion from scratch by summer of 2016 in under a year while maintaining around ninety city run buildings.

The task was urgent, because the previous pavilion was not up to American Disabled Act standards. "The pavilion here was really bad

too," Winkler said.

The parks department looked at the project as killing two birds with one stone, but since the pavilion was already rented until September of 2015, the crew had only around six months to complete the project before the 2016 summer.

Even though the work was scheduled to be done over the 2015 winter, all the underground work needed to be done before the ground froze. This meant the crew was working on a tight timetable even before the cold.

"We had to at least get the groundwork done before winter, or we would have been swamped trying to finish it in the spring," Winkler said. "The groundwork included all underground footings, concrete, pluming, and electrical. There is a lot you don't see down there... all-

most three miles of rebar."

Once the winter came, the city crew began work on the above ground building. "We weren't out here the whole time.... The really bad days we worked inside," Winkler said. "We went back and forth, if it was a nice day we worked on stone and siding."

Winkler also commented that it was beginning to get cold out when the crane was rented and the buildings outer walls were being worked on.

Overall, the material cost of the project cost around 150 thousand dollars, not including labor costs since the work was done entirely by city staff. The majority of the money for the materials, around 93%, came from the sale of what used to be the Kwik Trip property on Mineral Springs Road.

Now completed, the pa-

vilion will offer a variety of advanced features. All the lighting will be made from the energy efficient Light Emitting Diode or as they are commonly known as LEDs, and Parks Director James Eberling said the floor is indestructible to every chemical known to man.

Watching the ribbon being cut on the facility, during a warm June 13 day, it is difficult to imagine building the pavilion during the winter, no matter how mild a winter it was. That mild winter was not only a positive for keeping the staff from the cold. Winkler said that the project may not have been possible if heavy snows caused the crew to focus on snow removal.

As to how the pavilion got done so fast, Winkler had a simple answer, "We have a good crew."



Staff photo by: Jessica Nafe

Kiddie Tractor Pull was enjoyed by both the participants and the spectators at Ellendale Days.

STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that on Tuesday, July 5th, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, the Steele County Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing on the following variance application:

Gene Berg has requested a variances to construct a stair and landing onto her cabin as close as 1 foot to the side property line. Steele County ordinances require structures to be setback ten feet from property lines. The property is described as Lot 1 Ringhofer Subdivision and Outlot A, Block 1, Beaver Lake Estates Addition. The property address is #5 SW 72nd Ave.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or contact the planning and zoning office to be heard on this matter.

STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-444-7482



Staff photo by: Ahren Backman

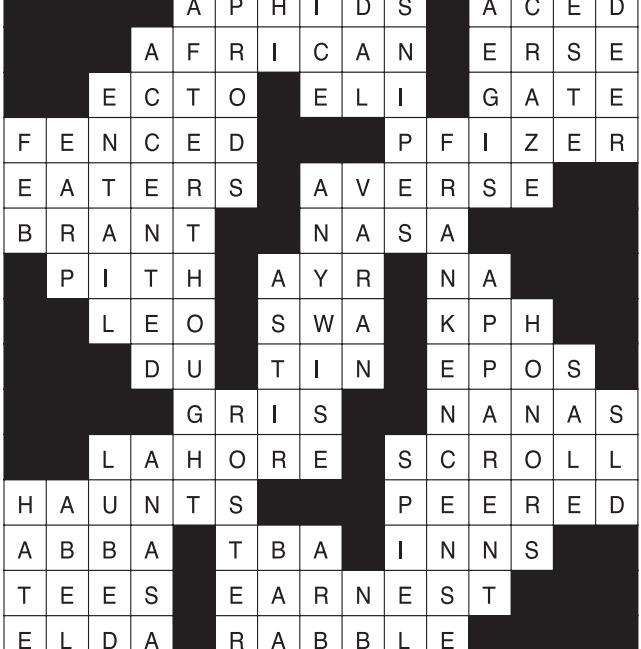
Owatonna resident and amateur radio operator Tom Karnauskas operates main O.S.C.A.R broadcasting tower.

STEELE County Job Fields



Crossword Solution

Puzzle on Page 4C



Diesel Mechanic

McFarland Truck Lines is currently looking for a Fleet Maintenance Technician to work in our Austin, MN shop. Previous tractor, trailer and reefer experience is preferred.

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Full job description & application can be obtained by stopping in the city office or the Municipal Liquor Store.

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE MANAGER

The City of Ellendale seeking Municipal Liquor Store Manager.

Candidate should have

management experience.

Job description and application

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or via e-mail: cityofellendale@frontiernet.net or at the city office.

CLOSES NOON JULY 1.

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE KITCHEN MANAGER

The City of Ellendale seeking Kitchen Manager.

Candidate should have

kitchen experience.

Job description and application

online at www.ellendalemn.com,

or via e-mail: cityofellendale@frontiernet.net or at the city office.

CLOSES NOON JULY 1.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - POSITION OVERVIEW

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

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

Experience and/or Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Non-Profit Management, and/or Food and Nutrition is highly preferred; or similar degree or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in a similar role of responsibility.

- Knowledge of nutrition and food resource management with professional certification (Nutrition Specialist or Registered Dietitian) is highly preferred.

- Exceptional interpersonal communication skills; written and verbal.

- Skills in leadership, supervisory management and human resource development to promote a positive working environment for staff, volunteers and clients.

- Strategic planning experience.

HOW TO APPLY:

Go online to: <http://steelecountyfoodshelf.org>

to review position requirements and submit

your resume/application to:

Attn: SCFS Executive Director Position:

kathy.schroeder@ExpressPros.com

POSTING IS OPEN THROUGH JULY 15, 2016.



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Staff photo by Tawni Hammer

On Tuesday the 21st it was rather pleasant in Minnesota with a few clouds beginning to move into the area. Minnesota is beginning to brace for some severe storms and most are enjoying their 74 degree partly sunny afternoon on the prairie. Winds were light and variable and it was a great day to get out and walk about.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

By HOWARD LESTRUD
 Staff Writer

It was a good day on Saturday, June 25 to jump on the motorcycle or to enjoy a peaceful car ride through the country sides of Steele, Mower and Freeborn counties.

Two separate charitable rides took off from Blooming Prairie on Saturday morning, June 25.

The first ride to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group took off at 10:30 a.m. with J & H Liquors owner Harvey Farr and daughter Whitney leading the way on Farr's Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Farr was the point rider on the 120-mile ride which went from Blooming Prairie, to stops in Lyle, MN at Lyle Liquors; Manly, Iowa at the Thirsty Dog, Glenville, MN at the Tailgater; Hollandale, MN at 3 in 1 and back to J & H in Blooming Prairie for a meal and drawings at J & H Liquors.

The second ride departed from TT Motorcycles in Blooming Prairie at 10:50 a.m. and will benefit victims of domestic violence. Patti Chiariini of Claremont and Darrell Cowden (DC) of Blooming Prairie led the ride named Riding Over Domestic Violence. The Saturday ride over a 70-mile route was the inaugural run for this ride.

Motorcycle and car riders benefiting the domestic violence cause traveled a route west toward Ellendale, around Beaver Lake, north into Waseca and then north to Owatonna where it ended at Sette's Motorcycle in Owatonna.

The J & H Drive

Cancer Corner

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

Rides for noble causes

attracted 42 people while the domestic violence ride drew 20 people, six in cars and 14 on bikes.

Pat and Kelly Njos of Blooming Prairie have participated in the J & H ride previously by riding a motorcycle. This time, Pat and Kelly chose to ride in their brand new 2016 Ford GT 350 Mustang. "We've gotta break it in," laughed Pat. Prior to the ride, the Njos bright red car purchased at Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie showed only 400 miles on the odometer.

"It's a good cause and cancer is something that affects many of us, our friends and families," Pat Njos said. "We also get to know more people," Pat added.

Kris Katzung of Blooming Prairie rode with Dale Ulrich on the ride. "He's at T & T looking at new handlebars," she related. The ride "is a good cause and has affected many of us many times over." Kris said.

Helping organize the J & H ride for the BP Cancer Group, Farr and wife Nancy said the ride gets people together in one "big, happy family."

Prior to leading a driver's meeting, called by a whistle from his lips, Farr posed for a selfie photograph with daughter Whitney. "Keep hydrated, be safe out there and have a good time," Farr told participants.

Ray Pena and his girl friend Annette Balzer, both of Owatonna, rode a white Harley Davidson on the Cruising for Cancer ride. "It gives me a good feeling to help this cause; my sister Margaret died of leukemia at 24," remarked Pena.

The Farris and BP Cancer Group volunteers Pam Folkens and Jennifer Milton said the event raises about \$2500. "Some people just stopped by and donated to the cause," Milton said. A check for \$750 was also presented by the BP Cancer Group by the Claremont Chamber of Commerce which runs bar bingo at J & H. Many door prizes were also given to riders.

The Farris will be involved in another charitable ride, BOB (Bikers of Blooming) on July 23 to benefit Toys for Tots. This fundraiser brought in over \$11,000 last year.



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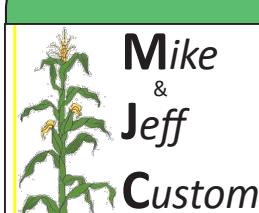
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