





OUR VIEW

Giving hearts raise big money for BP

The giving of the holiday season has spilled over into the new year. During the first week of the new year, more than \$50,000 has been exchanged in Blooming Prairie to help two very worthy causes.

On Saturday, the annual Coyotes for Cancer hit a record of \$28,000. The cash will go to support the efforts of the BP Cancer Group. In just three years of this unique fundraiser, about \$71,000 has been raised. This accomplishment is nothing short of a miracle for such a small community like Blooming Prairie.

Anyone who has the unfortunate luck of dealing with cancer will benefit because the money from the Coyotes for Cancer is funneled into the BP Cancer Group's Community Fund. Just in the past three months, more than \$12,000 has been utilized from that fund to help families battling cancer.

Coyotes have been on the increase in Southern Minnesota over the past 20 years or so. While they tend to be loners, they are known to kill and consume cats, small dogs and sheep. This fundraiser has proven to a unique way to thin out the coyote population.

To add to the spirit of giving and helping the community, just this week Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg announced they are donating \$25,000 to the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, formerly known as the Boys and Girls Club.

Kruckeberg's latest donation will provide a much-needed boost to the youth club, which has been struggling over the past few years.

As owner of Stinar Corp., which recently relocated to Blooming Prairie, and several other ventures, Kruckeberg is always generous with his money to help important causes in the community.

When Kruckeberg's former company, Minimizer, announced last summer it was moving to neighboring Owatonna, Kruckeberg didn't waste time in helping fill the void by deciding to move his Twin Cities-based Stinar company to Blooming Prairie. The company is currently much smaller than Minimizer, but Kruckeberg hopes to grow it in the coming years.

Despite a troubled farm economy, which impacts the rest of the area's economy, giving appears to be alive and well in Blooming Prairie. Let's hope these generous donations set the tone for what the rest of 2020 and beyond will look like.

Judging from the success of Coyotes for Cancer and Kruckeberg's donation, there is no question that part of Blooming Prairie's DNA is giving hearts. After all, that's what life is all about in the first place, isn't it?

The real man behind Santa's magic

Some holiday traditions never die off. The red jolly old Saint Nick with the big beard, and yes, sometimes the big belly, is one of them.

Santa Claus has a long history steeped and woven into Christmas traditions with families for centuries. Today, he is thought of mainly as the jolly man in red with a deep "Ho, Ho, Ho," blurted out who brings toys to good girls and boys on Christmas Eve.

Chances are if you've seen Santa Claus spreading a little holiday magic around Owatonna and the surrounding areas before, during and even after Christmas, it's Al Martin of Owatonna taking up the role.

Martin just settled down within the past week for a long winter's nap after dozens of performances as Santa over the past month. He got started on Dec. 5 with the Holiday Train, Lighted



Hot Pursuit RICK BUSSLER

Parade and tree lighting ceremony in Central Park in downtown Owatonna and went pretty much non-stop until the Saturday after Christmas.

Santa has been making magic for area children and others for "30 plus" years as Martin described it. What makes this Santa perhaps more authentic than many others is the fact that Martin supports a natural bushy white beard. He said he's kept his beard for about 20 years. "I haven't trimmed it for a couple years," he confessed to this writer.

Martin has had more than a few tugs on his

beard over the years as Santa Claus. He said parents will often encourage their kids to "pull on the beard to see if it's the real Santa." Martin takes it all in stride as part of his Santa gig. "The ones that pull the hardest are the babies," he noted.

Even during the summer months when Martin is out and about, people will often comment about his beard and make references that he must be Santa without even knowing the truth. "I go along with it," he says. "I make the kids happy all year around because of my beard."

In the early years, Martin refrained from heading out on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day because he had small children of his own to spend time with at home. But now that they are grown, Martin heads out both on Eve and Day to light a twinkle in the eyes of area children.

SEE THE REAL MAN, A3



With a real beard, Al Martin has been entertaining children as well as adults in the Owatonna area as Santa Claus for more than 30 years.



GUEST COLUMN

WWII troops spent Christmas in the field

BY TOM EMERY

The men who fought, and won, World War II are part of the Greatest Generation. But during the war, their Christmases were not so great.

Half a world away from home at holiday time, American troops were usually in the field, fighting in some of the war's biggest battles. Though they made the best of Christmas, it was a lonely time both on the front and at home.

Christmas in 1941 came just eighteen days after Pearl Harbor, so the first Yuletide during major American involvement came the next year.

American forces in the South Pacific launched an attack on a Japanese air base at Munda on Christmas Eve 1942 to force the Imperial Army further north in the Solomons. That was followed by a Christmas Day attack on the important Japanese-held harbor at Rabaul, which also proved successful.

Back on the island of Guadalcanal, troops reaped the bounty of supply ships that had arrived after American advances. Rations were increased on Christmas.

A Navy spokesman said "turkeys were sent out to Guadalcanal in plenty of time to get there." Whether they actually arrived is debatable. One recent account said the men were happy to have "an orange and a warm beer." Other Americans were in action in North

Africa that Christmas.

During holiday time in 1943, American soldiers endured cold, muddy conditions in Italy. Noted war correspondent Ernie Pyle wrote that "Our troops were living in almost inconceivable misery...Thousands of men had not been dry in weeks."

Though the men were supposed to receive turkey dinners from the Army, many wished they hadn't. A 2017 account quoted one man of the 34th Division who recalled "somewhere along the way refrigeration had broken down. What had been meant as a holiday treat turned into gastric distress." Some men were sick for days.

Christmas 1944 found Allied troops on a major offensive at the Battle of the Bulge. In addition to the desperate Germans, Americans and their allies struggled with one of the worst winters in Europe in decades, with deep snow and frigid conditions.

"It was in the middle of winter, with freezing temperatures and snow on the ground," said James Lambeth, 95, a veteran of the 37th Amphibious Combat Engineers. "We sat there in foxholes for most of the time, shivering and shaking. One of my buddies and I got in one foxhole and put our backs together, to keep from freezing."

One of the key moments in the Battle of the Bulge was a German attack near

Bastogne on Christmas Day, which failed with a loss of 300 men and seventeen Panzers. The battle finally ended on January 25.

Elsewhere on Christmas Day in 1944, a small plane carrying famed bandleader Glenn Miller was reported missing over the English Channel. The plane, which disappeared December 15, was flying Miller to Paris.

Miller had forsaken his superstar career with his hit-making orchestra to join the service and form the Army Air Force Band, which provided a welcome respite for troops in the European Theater. After much speculation, a 2014 investigation found that freezing conditions had taken down Miller's plane.

News from the front dotted headlines back home throughout each Christmas during the war, and countless missions of mercy and care packages were sent to support the troops.

In many camps, men tried to celebrate as best they could, with makeshift dinners, decorations, and church services. But the newspapers at Christmas-time were also filled with news of lost husbands, sons, and fathers, more of the poignant moments of war during the holidays.

*Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.*

We are taking too much from taxpayers

BY PEGGY BENNETT

Not long ago Minnesota Management and Budget officials released the November state budget forecast, showing a projected \$1.3 billion budget surplus for the remainder of the 2020-21 budget cycle. A better than expected close to the last biennium, an improved revenue forecast, and a small decrease to estimated spending created the excess.

We were also able to completely fill our state's budget reserve account, as it now holds \$2359 billion.

With this news, it is clear

to me we need to provide Minnesotans some tax relief. Twelve out of the last 13 budget reports have shown a surplus, which indicates to me that we are taking too much money from taxpayers. We need to find ways to ease our tax burdens.

One of my tax relief priorities has been and continues to be the complete repeal of the Social Security income tax. We've made a few good steps toward this endeavor since I've been in office. However, with Minnesota being one of only 13 states left that taxes Social Security income, I believe it's high

time we completely remove this tax.

In addition to tax relief, I believe we need to use this budget surplus to put more funds into the building and maintenance of our roads and bridges. Our current needs are great in this area, and prioritizing surplus money towards our transportation infrastructure makes sense.

*Peggy Bennett is state representative for District 27A, which includes Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn County. She lives in Albert Lea.*



# Bruns family scores again

**BY HOWARD LESTRUD**  
STAFF WRITER

The Bruns family of Blooming Prairie scored again by finding the BP Area Chamber of Commerce medallion last week.

This year marks the fourth time that members of the Bruns family have found the lucky medallion. It took the Bruns team longer than usual, finding the lucky charm after the final clue.

Participating in the winning effort this year were Maggie, Jeffrey and Jack Bruns, Bo Zwiener and Neila and Emmerson Nelson.

The winning team received 50 BP Bucks as well as a one-year subscription to the Steele County Times for finding the medallion.

The medallion was located on a post near the ticket booth at McFarlin Field.

Mary Kittelson wrote the clues for this year's contest.



The 2019 Holiday Dazzle Medallion Hunt is over. Winners were Maggie, Jeffrey and Jack Bruns, Bo Zwiener and Neila and Emmerson Nelson.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Board hears pitch for body cameras in Steele County

**BY CHRIS BALDWIN**  
STAFF WRITER

After the Owatonna Police Department officially initiated a body camera program at the tail end of 2019, Steele County is looking to follow suit and explore its own options when it comes to body worn cameras.

Due to several high-profile incidents in recent years, body cameras have become a topic of much discussion throughout the county.

On Dec. 19, Sheriff Lon Thiele welcomed John Watson, the Midwest Sales Manager for BodyWorn, to give a presentation on body cameras to the Steele County Board during its final meeting of 2019.

“He’s very impressed with these cameras, so much so that he thought that we should really dig deep and look into this system here,” Sheriff Thiele said prior to introducing Watson to the board.

Watson has police experience, having worked for 20 years in an Indiana police department. “We implemented cameras back in 2011,” Watson said of his experience using body camera systems. “I’ve lived all the pain points of selecting the wrong vendor.”

“Let me tell you from experience, if you’re going to invest money into a body camera program, the first time a tragic event happens on your streets, it better be recorded,” Watson said. “All too often you see in the media where officers forget to turn their body cameras on, because life on the streets as a police officer happens so extremely fast. Turning that camera on is the last thing that an officer needs to worry about when they’re just trying to stay alive.”

In order to eliminate the human element from the BodyWorn system, the program utilizes fully-automated cameras via smartphones carried in the officers’ vests, which are activated once an officer pulls their gun. “What we have done, is we have perfected automation,” Watson explained.

After activating, the cameras retroactively record two minutes prior to the gun being unholstered, which can give further context to any situation which may arise. “The buzzwords on body cameras are accountability and transparency, and how much more accountable and transparent can you be than with a fully automated system,” Watson said.

Other triggers which can activate the cameras include a deputy arriving on a predetermined scene, and a squad car involved in chase through speed detection. Another innovative function is the detection of shots fired by anyone within a certain radius of any given officer.

“We’re the only camera vender in the world that has a working holster sensor, and as you know in today’s culture, when the guns come out in a police call, it better be recorded,” Watson said. “Bad things can happen on calls when our guns come out.”

Watson also explained the usefulness of pre-recording two minutes prior to an officer drawing their gun. “It’s prerecording all the way back to when that deputy first showed up on the scene and that deputy was just first walking up and whatever happened in front of him where he came to the point where he had to draw his firearm,” Watson said.

When asked by Commissioner Jim Abbe if utilizing body cameras might increase the risk for litigation, Watson said that the opposite was, in fact, true. “The reality is that every call an officer goes on already has a camera there,” Watson said of



Caption: John Watson of BodyWorn gives a presentation on BodyWorn’s body camera system to the Steele County Board at last month’s meeting. The Steele County Sheriff’s Office is currently considering options when it comes to body worn cameras.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

the prevalence of smartphones and other recording devices within the general public.

“These cameras give us the opportunity to tell our story, from our perspective, and the entire story – not just the 10-second clip that

a citizen decides to get on their cell phone from 30-feet away at a bad angle with bad lighting,” he explained of the importance of utilizing body cameras.

While the presentation was detailed, no immediate decision has been made at

this time. The Sheriff’s Office and the County Board will continue to explore their options as they look to join the growing trend of law enforcement agencies across the country that have adopted body camera programs.

## COUNTY BOARD FROM A1

spoke on the importance of refugees to the local economy.

“They’re the backbone of our manufacturing, assembly line work,” he told the board. “The ones I work with are all good citizens, they represent the best of our country and our town.” Our Savior’s hosts refugees and migrants from South Sudan.

When it came time for the board to make a decision, it was an easy one. “These are legal immigrants that are coming and there’s no reason to say no to them,” Com-

missioner James Brady, who made the motion to accept the resolution, said of the matter.

“In my mind this is more of a moral issue for me, and an easy decision on my part,” Commissioner Jim Abbe said. “If it’s my family and I’m looking to find a better life, I’m sure hoping I can come to a county like Steele County and find a better life. My hope is that whoever decides to come to Steele County, that they become productive citizens, and go to work, and provide a bet-

ter life for their family.”

While few, if any, refugees might choose to relocate to Steele County, the board viewed consent as a symbolic gesture of good will. “I’d much rather see us be a welcoming county rather than a non-welcoming county,” Board Chair Greg Krueger said.

After briefly considering the resolution, and listening to the thoughts of their constituents, the board unanimously moved to provide consent to resettle refugees within the county.

## Feed My Starving Children plans to pack 4M meals

**BY HOWARD LESTRUD**  
STAFF WRITER

In May of 2019 the Blooming Prairie community participated in a Feed My Starving Children campaign, packing 101,000 meals in two days.

The meals are sent to the needy in all parts of the world.

Now, Feed My Starving Children is looking for 21,000 hardy Minnesotans to brave the winter cold and pack 4 million life-changing meals.

Whether it’s a gathering of co-workers, family, friends, classmates, or your church small group, packing meals is a great team building activity, organizers claim.

“This is the ultimate in team building – everyone working together toward a common goal, each person relying on the other to get the job done,” said a Feed My Starving Children volunteer.

Anyone near and far to the respective Feed My

Starving Children locations may participate.

Here’s some upcoming Feed My Starving Children campaigns:

- Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Mobile Pack, 750,000+meals, 5,000 volunteers, Jan. 18-25
- South Metro Mobile Pack, Lakeville, 2 million meals, 10,000 volunteers, Jan. 26-Feb. 1
- Northwest Metro Mobile Pack, Champlin, 1.2 million meals, 5,800 volunteers, Feb. 19-23

## THE REAL MAN: behind Santa’s magic FROM A2

Prior to the actual holiday when he travels to private homes with a sack full of gifts, Martin entertains at company holiday parties, organization events and community festivals. “I enjoy the larger families,” said Martin, who operated a retail sporting goods store in Owatonna for many years.

One of Santa’s favorite stops before Christmas this year was Roosevelt School in Owatonna. They even brought in a calf to portray Rudolph the Red Nosed

Reindeer. One of the kids he got to mingle with was only four days old. “That’s the youngest I’ve ever had since I’ve being doing this,” Martin said.

During another stop this year, Santa was asked to greet a disabled woman in a van. “I don’t think she could speak, but she could sure smile and held my hand,” he said.

At one company party this year, the organizers commented that Martin would definitely be asked back again because “the

kids mingled with him a lot better” than other Santas they’ve utilized in the past.

Asked what he enjoys most about being Santa, Martin quickly said, “The kids. I’ve always been a kid person.”

This year’s popular item on Christmas lists was phones. But Santa still gets lots of requests for the traditional favorites, including Barbies, Nerf stuff and Play Stations. And sometimes what kids ask for stretches even Santa beyond his limits. “There

are a few kids out there that want peace and health for their families,” he said.

Martin recalls the first time he played Santa that he borrowed another suit. “It was kind of tight on me, but we made it work,” he said. His wife, Cathy, eventually made him a suit. “She is good at sewing,” Santa said of Mrs. Santa.

As Santa makes his rounds, kids load him up with notes, pictures, ornaments, handmade items and yes, a few goodies as well. They often ask him

what his favorite cookie is. When asked by this writer what his favorite is, Santa replied with a hearty laugh, “Look at me, all of them.”

Martin owns a few rental properties in Owatonna. Each holiday he will visit the families in those homes because he knows many of them are less fortunate and don’t have much money.

When asked how long he plans to keep the holiday tradition of Santa alive, Martin said, “As long as I can walk.”

And just what makes a good Santa?

“Just being jolly,” Martin laughed. He said he feels jolly most of the time even when he’s not portraying Santa. “I keep thinking it’s all for the kids,” he said.

With the holidays behind, folks will be able to find Martin operating the ice skating rink at Morehouse Park in Owatonna.

But rest assured, Santa will be in hot pursuit of making kids happy again next Christmas.



BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

# Guide & File for starting a divorce now available

The Minnesota Judicial Branch has launched a new Guide & File interview for beginning a divorce. Guide & File can be used by people who are seeking a Divorce with Children, Divorce without Children, or a Joint Petition with or without Children when parties are in agreement.

Guide & File is available through the Minnesota Judicial Branch website and takes the guess-work out of completing court forms. Unlike traditional court forms, where users fill in fields with their information, Guide & File is an interview tool that asks simple questions and uses the answers to complete the appropriate court forms. The resulting forms can be printed or may be electronically-filed with the court. Guide & File can be used on mobile and desktop devices.

“Guide & File interviews have proved an effective way to support Minnesotans who are representing themselves in court,” said State Court Administrator Jeff Shorba. Expanding Guide & File into the area of divorce is especially important because divorce forms are some of the

most-used forms on the Judicial Branch website. When people use and complete the correct forms, their cases can move more efficiently, which can contribute to a more timely resolution.”

Guide & File first launched in June 2018. To date, Guide & File has been used to create more than 28,000 documents and to eFile almost 4,000 cases directly through Guide & File in 84 different courts across all 10 judicial districts in MN.

In addition to starting a divorce, Guide & File interviews can be used to create multiple forms,

including: starting a conciliation court case, starting an eviction case, filing an affidavit of service in a conciliation court or eviction case, and requesting a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) and/or Order for Protection (OFP). Additional divorce interviews, including forms to finish a divorce, will be rolled out in 2020. Expansion of Guide & File interviews is one strategy for achieving Strategic Goal 1: Access to Justice, in the Minnesota Judicial Branch Strategic Plan. Learn more by visiting the Guide & File Help Topic.

## CRIME BRIEF

### Police nab late night speeder with stolen gun

Police in Owatonna have taken a stolen gun off the streets and jailed the suspected thief.

On Dec. 26, officers stopped a motorist for speeding on S. Oak Avenue in Owatonna. While speaking with the driver, the officer smelled an odor of raw marijuana coming from the vehicle, which led to a search of the car. As the driver got out of the vehicle, the officer spotted an uncased pistol in the driver's door pocket.



Brandon Etheridge

et. The driver admitted to carrying the weapon “for protection” and acknowledged he did not have permit to carry a concealed weapon.

A records check of the pistol revealed it had been stolen from Columbia County, Georgia.

Police arrested Brandon Etheridge, 33, of Augusta, Ga. He has been charged with receiving stolen property and carrying a pistol in public without a permit.

## COURT NEWS Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 23 – 29:

### MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Wade S. Beavers, 49, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Sydney R. Caron, 25, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Sandra Hernandez-Salazar, 27, Owatonna, no license and illegal turn on red, \$235; Bahja A. Irahim, 28, Owatonna, speeding and permit violation, \$175; Choukri A. Kamil, 38, Owatonna, no license, \$175; Tasa L. Kostel, 37, Dodge Center, speeding, \$135; Todd A. Kraft, 39, Owatonna, no insurance, \$275; Kenneth H. Lines, 61, Waseca, seat belt, \$100; Luke F. Mueller, 32, Clarks Grove, hands free violation, \$125; Ashley M. Padilla, 28, Owatonna, revoked license and child passenger restraint system violation, \$325; Rudolph Roundtree, 58, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Luke L. Ruehrdanz, 19, Glenview, IL, speeding, \$115; Gary M. Stevens, 69, Blakesburg, IA, speeding, \$115; Kelsey L. Terpstra, 38, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$100; Neezoo Vang, 34, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Jaclyn T. Zirbes, 19, Victoria, speeding, \$125.

### OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keton C. Brown, 21, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, \$381 and 2 days in county jail; John R. Bulver, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Isaac Clayton, 52, Albert Lea, speeding, \$125; Anthony R. Greeney, 19, Dundas, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Kelli A. Larkin, 40, Waseca, no insurance, \$275; Josue Luna-Sanchez, 18, Waseca, invalid license, \$175; Delma Lyman, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Chad M. Nylund, 34, Virginia, theft by check, \$641.42 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brent A. Podein, 50, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$131; Stacey Y. Powell, 48, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Cassandra J. Shakal, 28, Owatonna, theft, \$131 and 3 days in county jail; Mark W.

Shouse, 51, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Trevor D. Splittstoesser-Daly, 20, Roseville, speeding, \$115; Chaz A. Strobach, 20, Faribault, theft, \$138.07 and 3 days in county jail; David Vela, 33, no insurance, \$275; Yancy C. White, 20, Minneapolis, seat belt and no insurance, \$300.

### STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Christopher W. Cantrell, 36, Sacramento, CA, speeding, \$135; Clairissa M. Dushek, 42, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Jacob A. Gochbauer, 25, Kenyon, expired tabs, \$105; Dana M. Hachfeld, 29, Medford, suspended license, \$275; Adetonan S. Hounwanou, 21, speeding, \$135; Troy A. Krenz, 51, Faribault, speeding, \$375; Joshua S. Salonek, 33, Medford, failure to drive in single lane, \$125; Alejandro Vega, 22, Faribault, revoked license, \$275.

## POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

### BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

**Dec. 28**  
**Crash:** At 2:06 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SW.  
**Theft:** A theft occurred in the 400 block of Highway Ave. S. at 3:51 p.m.  
**Dec. 31**  
**Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SW at 10:45 a.m.

### OWATONNA POLICE

**Dec. 26**  
**Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 400 block of Broadway St. E. at 8:22 a.m.  
**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 500 block of McKinley St. SW at 8:54 a.m. and the 1000 block of Rose St. E. at 3:29 p.m.  
**Theft:** Police received a theft report at the detention center at 3:15 p.m.  
**Arrest:** Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Oak Ave. S. and University St. SW at 11:44 p.m.  
**Dec. 27**  
**Restraining Order:** At 1:28 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 600 block of Rose St. E.  
**Restraining Order:** Police arrested a subject

for a restraining order violation in the 20100 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 3:16 p.m.  
**Drugs:** Drug activity was reported in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:52 p.m.  
**Shoplifting:** At 4:01 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.  
**Theft:** At 9:57 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of Rose St. E.  
**Arrest:** Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Main St. W. and Park Square W. at 10:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 28**  
**Mental Health:** At 1:40 a.m., a mental health incident occurred in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S.  
**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:08 a.m.  
**Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Northridge Lane NE at 12:11 p.m.  
**Crash:** Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Cedar Ave. N. and North St. E. at 2:49 p.m.

**DWI:** Police made a DWI arrest in the 26000 block of County Road 45 N. at 5:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 29**  
**Shoplifting:** At 10:13 a.m., officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.  
**Assault:** Police responded to an assault in the 200 block of Broadway St. E. at 3:29 p.m. They took a subject into custody.  
**Disturbance:** Police arrested a subject following a disturbance in the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 4:29 p.m.  
**Restraining Order:** At 7:30 p.m., officer arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 1500 block of St. Paul Road NE.  
**Hit and Run:** At 10:35 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 100 block of Pearl St. W.  
**Dec. 30**  
**Theft:** At 3:01 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NW.  
**Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 7:09 a.m.  
**Assault:** Police responded to an assault in the 2300 block of 43<sup>rd</sup> St. NW at 10:03 a.m.  
**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct

in the city at 1:39 p.m.  
**Trespassing:** Officer issued a trespassing incident in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 9:02 p.m.  
**Dec. 31**  
**Theft:** At 8:41 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1200 block of Industrial Road NW.  
**Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 17<sup>th</sup> St. NE at 4:35 p.m.  
**Jan. 1**  
**DWI:** Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 12:52 a.m.  
**Disturbance:** Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 12:45 a.m.  
**Arrest:** At 1:26 a.m., police arrested a subject in the 300 block of Rose St. E.  
**Arrest:** Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Mill St. W. and Walnut Ave. S. at 12:31 p.m.  
**Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:58 p.m.

**Jan. 2**  
**Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Linden Ave. NE at 11:03 a.m.  
**Theft:** Police received theft reports from the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:24 a.m. and the 1400 block of Sunset Dr. SW at 6:17 p.m.  
**Restraining Order:** At 4:41 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1700 block of St. Paul Road NE.  
**Intoxication:** At 11:51 p.m., police responded to a report of an intoxicated subject in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE. They made an arrest at the scene.

### STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

**Dec. 27**  
**DWI:** Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at State Ave. NW and 26<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Owatonna Township at 12:51 a.m.  
**Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 2700 block of 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SW in Meriden Township at 4:35 p.m.  
**Dec. 28**  
**Crashes:** Motor vehicle accidents resulting in property damage occurred at 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW and Highway 14 W. in Owatonna Township at 5:04 a.m. and the

9300 block of Rose St. in Havana Township at 5:30 a.m.  
**Dec. 29**  
**Theft:** At 1 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 100 block of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. in Ellendale.  
**Dec. 30**  
**Crash:** At 1:17 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at 69<sup>th</sup> St. NW and Interstate 35 in Medford Township.  
**Domestic:** Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2800 block of Rose St. in Owatonna Township at 9:48 a.m.  
**Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 200 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. in Ellendale at 4:51 p.m.  
**Dec. 31**  
**Suspicion:** Deputies received information regarding suspicious activity in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 11:19 a.m.  
**Jan. 2**  
**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. in Ellendale at 2:04 p.m.

## ARRESTS Steele County

### OWATONNA POLICE

Chaz Anthony Strobach, 20, arrested at 4:46 p.m. Dec. 23, violation of conditions of release, contempt of court and theft, held for court. Richard William Grunwald, 32, arrested at 11:48 p.m. Dec. 24, DWI and revoked license, held for court. Brandon Mark Oreskovich, 33, arrested at 8:13 p.m. Dec. 27, order for protection violation, held for court. Kristin Faye Olson, 34, arrested at 5:40 p.m. Dec. 28, DWI, held for court. Brian Joseph Maestre-Reavis, 32, arrested at 3:45 p.m. Dec. 29, warrants arrest, held for court. Mahad Mohamed Omar, 20, arrested at 7:50 p.m. Dec. 29, DANCO violation, held for court.

### STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Debra Ann Miller, 63, arrested at 10:10 a.m. Dec. 27, felony possession, held for court. Jordan Anthony Kane, 29, arrested at 10:41 a.m. Dec. 30, domestic assault, held for court. Kyle Ray Schnobrich, 27, arrested at 4 p.m. Jan. 2, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

## COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 22 – 29:

### DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Erica A. Boerner, 37, St. Peter, passing parked authorized vehicle, no insurance and suspended license, \$530; Jody L. Donner, 48, Dodge Center, careless driving, \$380; Heather D. Paulson, 43, Hayfield, hands free violation, \$130; Nycolis C. Setterlund, 26, Mantorville, parking violation, \$37; Brian D. Swanson, 26, Dodge Center, failure to stop for accident, DWI and indecent exposure, \$501, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Dakota J. Swanson, 20, Dodge Center, violation of no contact order, \$390, 6 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Joshua E. Telljohann, 40, Hayfield, registration violation and no insurance, \$310.

### KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Robertina D. Anderson-Sim, 52, Kasson, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Abigail C. Eidsenshink, 21, Kasson, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Jose G. Rodriguez, 28, Kasson, assault, 90 days in county jail; Dakota J. Swanson, 20, Dodge Center, theft, 6 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation.

### MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Alisha L. Ball, 28, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Lucas D. Martinmaki, 24, Kasson, expired registration, \$110; Jack D. Milbrett, 20, Waseca, speeding, \$140; Hoa B. Nguyen, 49, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Adrianna M. Swarthout, 22, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Joseph N. Wright, 47, Rochester, suspended license, \$280.

SEE BLOTTER, A5

## WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

- |                                                 |                                                    |                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Edward Singletary – collision - \$300 bail   | 8. Edward Soto – revoked license – no bail         | 15. Larry Thompson – obstruction - \$3,000 bail                     |
| 2. Miles Singleton – domestic assault – no bail | 9. Tony Staten – DANCO violation - \$20,000 bail   | 16. David Thornton Jr. – domestic assault - \$5,000 bail            |
| 3. Phillip Smith – warrant – no bail            | 10. Ricky Steele – fugitive from justice – no bail | 17. Corey Tollefson – violation of order for protection – no bail   |
| 4. Wesley Smith – revoked license – no bail     | 11. Luke Stringfellow – theft - \$5,000 bail       | 18. Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail |
| 5. Garrick Sneed – theft - \$500 bail           | 12. Carl Swanson – registration - \$50,000 bail    | 19. Gustavo Trevino – DWI, revoked license - \$750 bail             |
| 6. Alan Sobey – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail | 13. Brandon Tate – domestic assault - \$2,000 bail | 20. Kile Trevithick – DWI - \$1,000 bail                            |
| 7. Michael Sorenson – DWI – no bail             | 14. James Thomas – theft – no bail                 |                                                                     |

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals



# Food Assistance Programs Can Help Seniors in Need



**THE SAVVY SENIOR**

**Brought to you by:**



**Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus**

**220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie 583-4434**

Dear Savvy Senior,  
I would like to find out if my 73-year-old aunt is eligible for food stamps or any other type of food assistance program. It seems that she has a difficult time affording enough food each month, and I would like to help if I can. What can you tell me?  
Searching Niece,

Dear Searching,  
Sadly, millions of older Americans, like your aunt, struggle with food costs. According to a recent study by Feeding America, 5.5 million U.S. seniors age 60 and older are food insecure. Fortunately, there are several programs that may be able to help. Here's what you should know.

SNAP BENEFITS

While there are millions of seniors who are eligible for food stamps, less than 40 percent actually take advantage of this benefit. Food stamps are now referred to as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. However, your state may use a different name. For seniors to get SNAP, their net income must be under the 100 percent federal poverty guidelines. So, households that have at least one-person age 60 and older, or disabled, their net monthly income must be less than \$1,041 per month for an individual or \$1,410 for a family of two. Households receiving TANF or SSI are also eligible.

Net income is figured by taking gross income minus allowable deductions including a standard monthly deduction, medical expenses that exceed \$35 per month out-of-pocket, and shelter expenses (rent or mortgage payments, taxes and utility costs) that exceeds half of the household's income.

In addition to the net income requirement, a few states also require that a senior's assets be below \$3,500, not counting their home, retirement or pension plans, income from SSI or TANF, and vehicle (this varies by state). Most states, however, have much higher asset limits or they don't count assets at all when determining eligibility.

To apply, seniors or an authorized representative will need to fill out a state application form, which can be done at the local SNAP office or, it can be mailed or faxed in. In many states it can be completed online.

If eligible, benefits will be provided on a plastic card that's used like a debit card and accepted at most grocery stores. The average SNAP benefit for 60-and-older households is around \$125 per month.

To learn more or apply, contact your local SNAP office – call 800-221-5689 for contact information or visit [fns.usda.gov/snap](https://fns.usda.gov/snap).

OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to SNAP, there are other federal programs that can help low-income seniors, age 60 and older, like the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

The CSFP (see [fns.usda.gov/csfp](https://fns.usda.gov/csfp)) is a program that provides supplemental food packages to seniors with income limits at or below the 130 percent poverty line.

And the SFMNP ([fns.usda.gov/sfmnp](https://fns.usda.gov/sfmnp)) provides seniors coupons that can be exchanged for fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs in select locations throughout the U.S. To be eligible, your aunt's income must be below the 185 percent poverty level.

There are also many Feeding America network food banks that host "Senior Grocery Programs" that provide free groceries to older adults, no strings attached. Contact your local food bank (see [feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank](https://feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank)) to find out if a program is available nearby.

In addition to the food assistance programs, there are also various financial assistance programs that may help your aunt pay for medications, health care, utilities and more. To locate these programs, and learn how to apply for them, go to [BenefitsCheckUp.org](https://BenefitsCheckUp.org).

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

# History from the News Archives

## 10 Years Ago Jan. 12, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Jan Lueth and Chuck Halstenson were chosen as the winners of the Distinguished Service Awards for the Blossoms Forever. Roger Johnson and Don Morrison were awarded the athletic awards. The honorees will be presented plaques at the BP Education Foundation's annual banquet and awards night on Jan. 30.

The Steele County Commissioners held their first meeting of the new year. Doug Johnson, 2009 board chair, passed the gavel on to Commissioner Tom Shea. Shea has been on the board since 1991. The board also reappointed both Human Services Director Kelly Harder and Veterans Service Director Rene Gilomini to four-year terms.

The fast response by local law enforcement and the Blooming Prairie Fire Department saved Paula Sime's home. Sime was preparing dinner on Dec. 20 when a fire started above her stove. The flames engulfed the cabinets above the range and even began getting into the walls when Sgt. Mark Lang and Sime's son, John, knocked it down.

Blooming Prairie High School is preparing for Snow Week. This year's festivities will be the week of Jan. 18-23. The Snow Week royalty includes: Brad Wocelka, Mariah Meacl, Whitney Farr, Krystal Klemmensen, Trisha Roeker, Dudley Smith, Josh Gwilt, Rudy Vasquez, Zach Herdina and Chelse Miller.

Daniel McIntosh has been appointed as the successor of Steele County Attorney Douglas Ruth, who is retiring after 39 years of service. McIntosh will fill Ruth's remaining term that ends in November. He intends to run for re-election for a four-year term in November.

## 20 Years Ago Jan. 11, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

With a mid-month deadline looming, a settlement has been reached in the local school district's negotiations with the teacher's union, which will mean a 8% increase in wages over the 1999-2001 school years. The settlement calls for a 3.3% increase for the first year and a 4.7% increase for the second year. During the last contract, the two sides agreed on a 7.6% increase.

American Legion and Auxiliary Scholarships were recently presented to Julie Wanous, Katie Nelson, Tina Pirkil and Tricia Klemmensen. The scholarships were presented by Commander Tom Walters and Auxiliary President Joyce Trom.

New elementary school teachers in Blooming Prairie who are being mentored by their peers are Paul Peterson, Chris Staloch, Carrie Wagner, Mary Beth Lewison and Kelly Brytowski.

## 50 Years Ago Jan. 7, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Olga Fallesen, a valued employee at First National Bank in Blooming Prairie for nearly 44 years, retired Jan. 1 of this year. Miss Fallesen also relinquished her duties as vice president of the bank; however, she will remain on the bank's board of directors. An open house was held for her at the bank on Friday, Jan. 9. President Allan Peterson issued an invitation to all of Olga's friends and acquaintances to stop in at the open house.

Rev. T.J. Vinger, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prai-

rie the past 7 ½ years, submitted his resignation to the church council at a meeting last week. Jan. 25 will be Pastor Vinger's last Sunday at the local church. He has accepted a call as senior pastor at a church in eastern Wisconsin.

Police Chief J.K. Jorgensen reported this week that 35 reportable auto crashes in Blooming Prairie occurred during 1969. Estimated damages in the mishaps totaled \$16,145. In 1968, there were 25 reportable crashes totaling \$8,720. "This might explain why insurance rates are going up," the chief said.

Blooming Prairie's council held its initial session of 1970 on Monday night of this week, Jan. 5. Reuben Carlson, who was elected as trustee in November, took the oath of office. Mr. Carlson replaces Robert Oswald, who did not seek re-election.

## 75 Years Ago Jan. 11, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Property inventoried at more than \$1 million was distributed to heirs following closing of 85 estates in probate court action in Steele County last year. Nine of the estates closed resulted in inheritance taxes paid to the state totaling \$9,458.

The Blooming Prairie Gun Club is sponsoring a fox hunt Jan. 14 and all sportsmen, farmers and towns folks are cordially invited to take part. The main purpose is to help exterminate the growing menace of the rapidly increasing fox population.

With a \$697,879 levy made in 1943, subject to collection last year, all but \$4,574 of the tax was paid by Jan. 1 of this year. The amount of taxes unpaid by Steele County residents last year represented but 655 or less than two-thirds of 1% of the previous year's levy.

## OBITUARIES

### Roger "Moose" Johnson, 84, Faribault

Roger A. "Moose" Johnson, age 84 of Faribault, passed away at his home on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020 at his home.

Services will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Faribault on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Jeff Sandgren officiating. Interment will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault at a later date.

Visitation will be at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Wednesday, Jan. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. and also at church for one hour prior to the service on Thursday.

Roger was born on May 10, 1935 in Blooming Prairie to Richard and Nell (Gorvin) Johnson. According to life-long friend, George Myers, Roger earned the nickname Moose in third grade due to the fact he was already so much bigger than everyone else. Roger didn't stop growing until he reached his full height of 6'5" and continued to be called Moose the rest of his life.

In 1953, Roger graduated from Blooming Prairie High School where he played football, baseball, and basketball. He went on to play football and basketball at Austin Community College and Winona State. Roger was a member of the

"1,000 Points Club" before 3 point shots existed and was inducted into the BP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

In his younger days, Roger worked at Johnson's Meat Market, established by his grandparents, and Jorde Building Supplies in Blooming Prairie, and later at Hormel foods in Austin for over 30 years. He served in the Army National Guard from 1957-1963. Roger enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching the Vikings, and everything about nature from bird watching to witnessing the sun rise each morning. He was a member of the Blooming Prairie Gun Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Above all else, Roger loved and enjoyed spending time with his family. In October 1966, Roger married Doreen Kesteloot Sheedy, a widow with three children and together they added another daughter to their family.

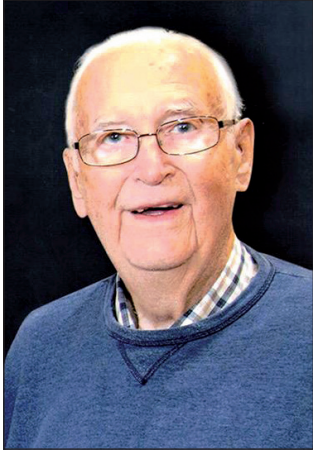
In addition to his parents, Roger was predeceased by a brother, a sister, and a daughter-in-law.

He is survived by his spouse, Doreen; children, Pamela (Jack) Duffey of Richfield, Pat Sheedy of Warsaw, Kathryn Ander-

son of Blooming Prairie, Joan (Michael) Olson of Belle Plaine; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Roger was dearly loved and deeply respected for his humble spirit, and his gentle and kind heart. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the Hospice Team from Allina Health, especially Tom, Kristi, Heidi, Laura, Patty, Carmen, and Irene for their support and care.

Those who wish to remember Roger in a special way may make gifts to the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, Box 521,



Roger "Moose" Johnson

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.  
Visit [boldtfuneralhome.com](https://boldtfuneralhome.com) for information and guest book.

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## BLOTTER: FROM A4 OWATONNA FIRE

**Dec. 28**  
**Crash:** At 2:50 p.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Cedar Ave. N. and North Ave.  
**Dec. 29**  
**Fire:** Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 5000 block of County Road 45 S. at 1:20 a.m.  
**Extrication:** Fire rescue extricated a victim from machinery in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 12:04 p.m.  
**Jan. 2**  
**Burning:** Firefighters assisted with an authorized controlled burning at 8th St. SE and 52nd Ave. NW at 4:54 p.m.

**Now through Feb. 22, 2020!**

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**"MY, MY, I can't resist it!"**  
- WCCO TV



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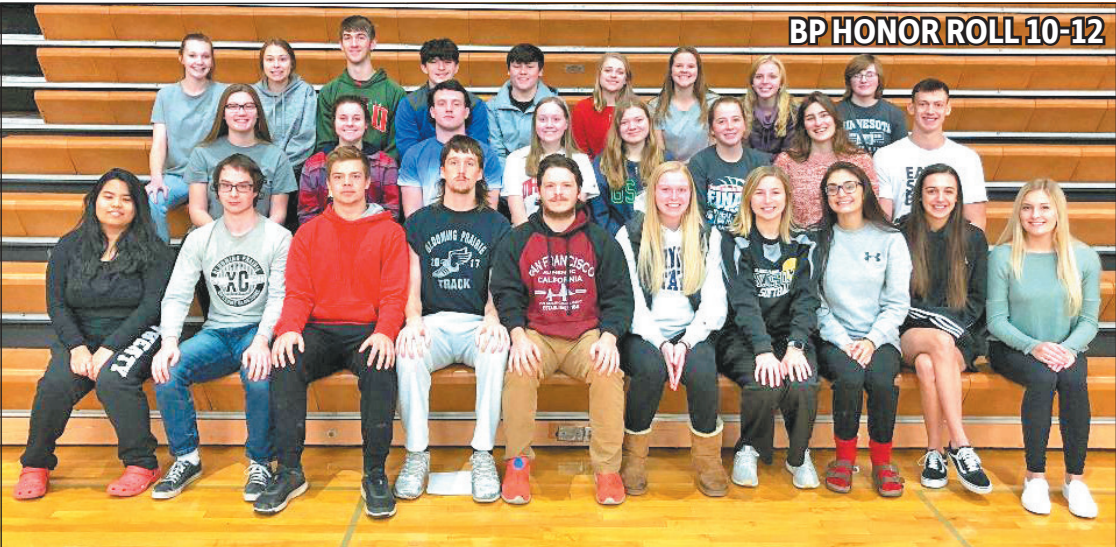


# Congratulations Blossoms Academic Achievers

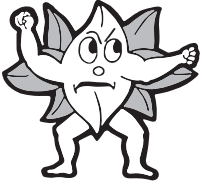
The following students have been recognized for earning spots on the Honor Rolls at Blooming Prairie High School for the First Quarter.



Front row, from left: Isabel Dickel, Jacob Pauly, Naomi Lebak, Abby Jordison, Mia Johnson, Catelyn Bartlett and Cooper Cooke; middle row: Aidan Slowinski, Grant Magnuson, Jaylee Schleicher, Rachel Winzenburg, Mason Simon, Addison Doocy and Kolby Vigeland; back row: Abigail Hefling, Madison Lea, Grace Krejci, Abby Smith, Sierra Larson, Sam Pirkel, Madelaine Stoen and Chloee McCarthy.



Front row, from left: Kisha Aquino, Adam Larson, Luke Rennie, Zach Weber, Matthew Pryor, Julia Worke, Maya Lembke, Gemini Johnson, Jayde Wacek and Riauna Bishop; middle row: Jillian Wigham, Maren Forystek, Luke Larkoski, Emily Kubicek, Rachael Riley, Maggie Bruns, Megan Oswald and Jarrett Larson; back row: Jessica Ressler, Rose Michaud, Joe Pirkel, Bradley Simon, David Kartes, Asha Lighhizer, Melanie Winzenburg, Bobbie Bruns and Grace Robins. Missing: Larisa Judy and Isabelle Sunde.



### A Honor Roll

#### Grade 7

Catelyn Bartlett  
Cooper Cooke  
Isabel Dickel  
Mia Johnson  
Abby Jordison  
Naomi Lebak  
Jacob Pauly

#### Grade 8

Addison Doocy  
Grant Magnuson  
Jaylee Schleicher  
Mason Simon  
Aidan Slowinski  
Kolby Vigeland  
Rachel Winzenburg

#### Grade 9

Abigail Hefling  
Ava Krejci  
Sierra Larson  
Madison Lea  
Chloe McCarthy  
Samuel Pirkel  
Susan Smith  
Madelaine Stoen

#### Grade 10

Bobbie Bruns  
Larisa Judy  
David Kartes  
Asha Lighthizer  
Bradley Simon  
Isabelle Sunde  
Melanie Winzenburg

#### Grade 11

Maggie Bruns  
Maren Forystek  
Emily Kubicek  
Luke Larkoski  
Rose Michaud  
Megan Oswald  
Joseph Pirkel  
Jessica Ressler  
Rachael Riley

#### Grade 12

Kisha Aquino  
Riauna Bishop  
Gemini Johnson  
Adam Larson  
Jarrett Larson  
Maya Lembke  
Matthew Pryor  
Luke Rennie  
Grace Robins  
Jayde Wacek  
Zachary Weber  
Jillian Wigham  
Julia Worke

### A- Honor Roll

#### Grade 7

Carter Bishop  
Lauren Brown  
Jack Bruns  
Mairead Holmes  
Brady Kittelson  
Alex Lea  
Addison Lyman  
Madilynn Madsen  
Kohan Miller  
Gage Mullenbach  
Ella Smith  
Grady Steckelberg  
Maveda Warner  
Alexis White  
Bo Zwienier

#### Grade 8

Cale Braaten  
Elizabeth Dohrmann  
Annaka Forsberg  
Tyler Forystek  
Claire Foster  
Anna Haberman  
Shanna Halverson  
Jaxon Harberts  
Luke Heimgartner  
Gabriel Hein  
Derek Kubicek  
Layla Lembke  
Macy Lembke  
Khara Peters  
Jamie Reinke  
Benjamin Riley  
Molly Robins  
Lily Schammel  
Hailey Schumacher  
Ava Smith  
Karson Strand

#### Grade 9

Olivia Anderson  
Morgan Camery  
Haven Carlson  
Cade Christianson  
Micah Donnelly  
Stirling Hart  
Jenna Johnson  
Ethan Marzolf  
Samuel Michaud  
Tyler Miller  
Anna Pauly  
Anna Reese  
Clare Rennie  
Joie Ruhter  
Lucas Schammel  
Anika Sunde

#### Grade 10

Lindsey Baltazar  
Carson Brennecke  
Jaydon Brown  
Josie Hoffman  
Tyler Iverson  
Colin Jordison  
Parker Kubicek  
Marquette Millam  
Emily Miller  
Gustaof Ogren  
Xavier Rennie  
Lauren Schammel  
Alivia Schneider  
Carson Wacek

### Grade 11

Charlie Heimerman  
Brianna Hensrud  
Brian Jimenez  
Dylan Johnson  
Shyane Jorgenson  
Anna Kittelson  
Allison Krohnberg  
Grace Magnuson  
Alexander Miller  
Christopher Naatz  
Jacob Naatz  
Halle Strunk  
Rachel Thompson  
Micalyn Trihus  
Wyatt Voss  
Taylor Wurst

### Grade 12

Zachary Archer  
Cortney Espe  
Gabriel Hagen  
Hazel Michaud  
Marti Snider  
Dondi Stender  
Parker Vaith  
Viridiana Villarreal

### B+ Honor Roll

#### Grade 7

Zoey Alves  
Elsie Arnold  
Braden Farr  
Anna Kuglin  
Sophia Schiller  
Elijah Skillestad  
Cole Wangen

#### Grade 8

Kaiden Chicos  
Sienna Fyksen  
Kadynce Hansen  
Logan Marzolf  
Elizabeth Miner  
Maxmar Ogren  
Shawntee Snyder  
Sophie Thomas

#### Grade 9

Hosea Baker  
Lilyanna Bakken  
Hailey Hensrud  
Brittany Johnson  
Heidi Judy  
Trista Motl  
Alexander Riley  
Alexis Steckelberg  
Madison Thurnau

#### Grade 10

Emily Anderson  
Ethan Ehlers  
Payton Fristedt  
Isabella Heiber  
Drew Kittelson  
Piper Lund  
Samuel Skillestad  
Mackenzie Suchanek  
Mavric Voss

### Grade 11

Adrianna Bermea  
Abby Braaten  
Boone Calrson  
Rylie Cisneros  
Mitchell Fiebiger  
Cole Graves

### Grade 12

Elizabeth Bramstedt  
Devontae Freese  
Gracie Rudlong  
Melanie Suchanek  
Kaden Thomas  
Karson Vigeland

### B Honor Roll

#### Grade 7

Cleopatra Carlson  
Audrey Fort  
Cooper Garness  
Scott Johnson  
Jaydon King  
Caitlyn Stangl

#### Grade 8

Keily Averhoff  
Cameron Blume  
Mason Brown  
Holly Davis  
Zachary Hein  
Carly McIntosh  
Rogue Rubedor  
Charli Tripp  
Lilly Wacek

#### Grade 9

Jesse Cardenas  
Nevaeh Garcia  
Dakota Mueller  
Katie Quandt  
Natalie Scheper  
Paul Sunde  
Abigail Thoreson  
Leah Thorson

#### Grade 10

Abigail Aldrich  
Tyler Archer  
Garret Farr  
Graci Svoboda  
Brennan Tapp

#### Grade 11

Lane Lembke  
Maggy Motl

#### Grade 12

Kaiden Finley  
Isaac Ille  
Hope Johnson  
Jacob McHenry  
Dylan Nirk



### GO BLOSSOMS!

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Blooming Prairie Schools



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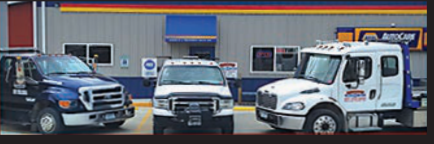
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COYOTES FOR CANCER: fundraiser hits record \$28K for BP's cancer effort FROM A1



Renowned local auctioneer Galen Peterson again donated his expertise of auctioneering for the benefit of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Here, he solicits bids at the Third Annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Cue Company.

"It's pretty overwhelming to see this support for the BP Cancer Group," Herdina added.

Gail Anderson and Dustin Doocy were also key organizers for the special fundraising event.

The \$28,000 total eclipses last year's record amount of \$25,000. The first year of the hunt brought in over \$18,000.

"We had a great turnout for the hunt and for the party at the Cue Company; everybody is so supportive when it comes to helping those affected by the Big C word," remarked Anderson.

Funds raised with this event are now channeled to the BP Cancer Group's Community Fund.

Monies from this fund are designated for gas cards, hospital parking passes, utility bills and to VISA cards for any other tip of help needed by those touched by cancer, said Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group.

She said over \$12,000 from the Community Fund has been given in the past three months to area people touched by cancer.

Krejci, a cancer survivor herself, was emotionally touched by the efforts of the Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer, say-

ing, "I just can't believe they beat last year's record."

The whole coyote hunting fundraising idea was hatched by Herdina and Anderson three years ago when they came up with a novel idea to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

Herdina acknowledged that this fundraiser no doubt is one of a kind in the nation. "The results of these three events just shows how generous Blooming Prairie area people are," commented Herdina.

Hunters went out in groups on a mostly sunny day. Groups ranged in size from 4-12 hunters and spotters. An estimated 7-8 groups accounted for 50-plus hunters and spotters. They came from Blooming Prairie, Geneva, Kenyon, Owatonna, Hayfield and surrounding areas.

"We were their eyes," said four area women who were spotters on the hunt during the day. Posing happily for a photo following the hunt were Amy Simon, Blooming Prairie; Kenzie Schroeder, Owatonna, Kate Schroeder, Owatonna and Emma Sorteberg, Anoka.

Following the daylight hunt, hunters and spotters gathered at the Cue Company around 6 p.m. for an



For the third straight year, a large group of coyote hunters participated in a fundraising event for the benefit of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Fifteen pelts were turned in at the close of the hunt at The Cue Company on Saturday, Jan. 4.

evening of celebration, fun and excitement. The crowd at the Cue Company was estimated at 150-plus.

Before the door prizes and auction items were announced, hunters and spotters were asked to go outside for a group photo. "Let's do it in five minutes," Herdina challenged the group. He said it took eight minutes last year and that was for nine coyote pelts. This year, 15 pelts were brought to the Cue Company.

Travis Simon was one of the many hunters on the day and he took his two sons, Chase, 5 and Parker, 7 along on the hunt. "These boys want to hunt when they grow up," Travis related.

Favorable weather this year made organizers forget about last year's stormy conditions.

No license is required to hunt coyotes since they are considered varmints. Furs will be sold anywhere from \$7 to \$45, Herdina says.

Hunters use a variety of rifles including bolt action.223 caliber and .22-250 caliber. Semi automatics are the new craze, Herdina said.

Collette and Tony Lea of the Cue Company donated food for the event. Collette

prepared the three soups for the night: potato and ham, chili and chicken wild rice.

The BP Cancer Group made bars and also provided meat and cheese trays for those attending the fundraiser.

"We had no financial goal in mind, anything more than last time is a bonus," said Herdina.

This year's event featured many door prizes, 30 raffle items, five live auction items and seven more guns given to raffle winners.

Galen Peterson was the experienced auctioneer for the evening. He even wore his auctioneer's cowboy hat as he promoted bids on live auction items.

First live auction item was a picnic table given by Bill Brumm of Bear Tracks. It was won by Connie Trom.

Bo Zwiener, 13, was the winner of one of the guns. He also helped sell 50-50 tickets for the fundraiser.

Pat and Julie Noble won a table made by Jeff Anderson. "There were lots of out-of-towners who won prizes," Herdina said.

Cancer Group volunteers Krejci and Connie Trom thanked everyone who donated prizes and



Travis Simon and his two sons, Parker, 7, and Chase, 5, were part of a hunting group participating in the Third Annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 4.

those who attended the event. "You guys have stepped up beyond belief," said Trom, touched by cancer with the loss of her husband Darrell.

"Our town is so strong when it comes to fighting cancer," Herdina said. "We just thank everyone who has donated to this cause," he added.



*Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Banquet*

Honoring Citizens of the Year:  
**Jean and H. Peterson**

Thursday, Jan. 16 | 6 p.m. - Social Hour | 7 p.m. - Dinner  
**Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club**

**\$28 per person**  
Haddock, Roast Beef, Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Salad and Dessert

**Call 507-583-4472 for reservations**

PUBLIC RECORD

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS APRIL 2019

Rhett James Malepsy, Parents: Jennifer and Anthony, April 1.

Lauren Faye Frazier, Parents: Jennifer and Kenneth, April 1.

Alexander Joseph Bjerke, Parents: Tracy and Joseph, April 2.

Scarlett Ruiz Garcia, Parents: Ana and Jose, April 2.

Coral Rose Ibarra-Isham, Parents: Kristina and Jerry, April 5.

Noble Easton Douglas, Parents: Heidi and Jonathan, April 5.

Tesla Ann Petsinger, Parents: Carrie and Daniel, April 5.

Fulton Daniel Weidner, Parents: Anna and Daniel, April 7.

Zoey Blayke Brunner, Parents: Mallorie and Jay, April 9.

Addison Genevieve Torgerson, Parents: Ashley and Christopher, April 9.

Karter Joseph Christey, Parents: Megan and Joseph, April 11.

Miles Anthony Halla, Parents: Sara and Nathan, April 11.

Nora Jane Darcy, Parents: Makayla and Cody, April 11.

Selena Ray Sanchez-Torres, Parent: Autumn Musel, April 11.

Harley Myles Marik, Parent: Jackie Sanderson, April 11.

Wilder Curtis Ludewig, Parents: Jenna Vaupel and Jordan Ludewig, April 12.

Mack Andrew Slowinski, Parents: Leigh and Andrew, April 16.

Masud Ibrahim Kero, Parents: Bushra Ali and Ibrahim Abdi, April 16.

Henry Michael Bolton, Parents: Carmen and Michael, April 16.

June Marie Braaten, Parents: Lindsey and Andrew, April 17.

Jude Peter Cartwright,

Parents: Megan and Daniel, April 17.

William Lee Palm, Parents: Sarah and Kristin, April 19.

Keilani Guadalupe Palma Cortes, Parents: Lidia Cortes and Jose Palma, April 20.

Aurora Louise Brodersen, Parents: Betsy and Matthew, April 22.

Ramsey James Saufferer, Parents: Emily and Jeremy, April 24.

Finnly Art Kline, Parents: Katie and Andrew, April 25.

Noah Alexander Schultz, Parents: Lindsey and Charles, April 25.

Winston Allan Howard, Parents: Gabrielle and Jeffrey, April 30.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS APRIL 2019

Kathleen Doris Jones, 89, Owatonna, April 1.

Robert Joe Cords, 51, Owatonna, April 1.

Margery Ann Besonen, 89, Owatonna, April 2.

Patrick Floyd Perrizo, 81, Faribault, April 3.

James Michael Gleason, 65, Owatonna, April 3.

Laura Emily Tuttle, 88, Owatonna, April 4.

Bonnie Lou Blegseth, 65, Medford, April 5.

Joanne Marie Zeman, 87, Owatonna, April 5.

Delbert William Schlobohm, 89, Owatonna, April 6.

Dale Barker Needham, 91, Eagan, April 6.

Edward Carl Schwenke, 88, Owatonna, April 7.

Camryn Jo Krause, 5, Owatonna, April 7.

Karen Marna Johnson, 81, Owatonna, April 10.

Guadalupe G. Perez, 80, Claremont, April 10.

Carolyn Jessie Anderson, 80, Owatonna, April 13.

Steven Edward Kubat, 81, Owatonna, April 14.

Roland Lavelle Leak, 86, Ellendale, April 17.

Betty Jane Virginia

Morrison, 91, Owatonna, April 18.

David John Ebeling, 71, Aurora Township, April 19.

Merle Leonard Berg, 51, Owatonna, April 19.

Stacie Rae Jensen, 59, Menahga, April 20.

Martha Frances Johnson, 93, Owatonna, April 20.

Evelyn Kubat Beers, 98, Owatonna, April 21.

Coral Jeanne Burgett, 90, Owatonna, April 22.

Michael Dean Shouse, 52, Owatonna, April 22.

Donna Mae Jacobson, 90, Blooming Prairie, April 24.

Audrey Lorraine Brase, 88, Owatonna, April 27.

Jimmie Mervel Cornelius, 72, New Richland, April 28.

Janet Kay Hoberg, 74, Owatonna, April 29.

Brian James Diffendorfer, 54, Owatonna, April 30.

John Francis Gross, 77, Medford, April 30.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES APRIL 2019

Jesse Lynn Edwards and Karrie Sue Meyer, April 2.

Micheal Christopher Hopkins and Baillie Ann MacIntosh, April 12.

Brian Jarell Scurlock and Ronnie Lee De La Rosa, April 12.

Alexandra Mae Getz and Adam Gregory Hedberg, April 13.

Matthew Scott Rasmussen and Angel Michelle Hogate, April 18.

Matthew Allan Born and Nicole Louise Johnson, April 20.

Douglas Robert Smith Jr. and Skye Ashley Toast, April 22.

Bradley Ernest Johnson and Tracy Sue Stewart, April 26.

Kristy Jo Johnson and Isaiah Clarke Shelton, April 27.

Jeremy Scott Zimmermann and Abby Nicole Krumrie, April 27.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES APRIL 2019

David Alan Hofmaster and Amy Rachelle Hofmaster, April 4.

Jennifer Marie Herr and Jarrod Thomas Herr, April 8.

Daniel J. Nechville and Tina M. Nechville, April 16.

Howard Glenn Huntsman and Nicole Koss Huntsman, April 22.

Jessica Kay Rollins and Michael James Rollins, April 22.

Joshua James Herplinck and Angela Rose Herplinck, April 24.

Courtney Alicia Halstead and Brandon Edmond Halstead, April 26.

Fardowsa Ahmed Mohamed and Adan Mohamed Elmi, April 29.

**Blooming Prairie Cancer Group**

**Cancer Corner**

Coyotes generate \$28K for cancer group

By HOWARD LESTRUD  
Staff Writer

At Saturday's Coyote Fundraiser in which a record \$28,000 was raised, Cheri Krejci of the BP Cancer Group read two thank you notes to illustrate the appreciation shown by the many who have been helped by the BP Cancer Group's Community Fund.

A woman battling cancer, professing to be a Blossom, said she was humbled by the help given her by the Cancer Group.

Krejci read a thank you from the family of a 10-year-old boy fighting cancer. He

received a gift card. "Bless you for what you do for us," the family wrote.

More than \$12,000 has been given through the group's Community Fund in the past three months to area people touched by cancer.

Of this year's record of \$28,000, Krejci remarked, "I just can't believe they beat last year's record (\$25,000)."

Three-year totals of the Coyote Fundraiser:

- 2020: \$28,000
- 2019: \$25,000
- 2018: \$18,000

Connie Trom of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group was the top bidder of this special picnic table donated by Bill Brumm of Bear Tracks. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

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OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:  
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landlbo@gmail.com

Kenneth Anderson, 82,  
Blooming Prairie

Kenneth Eugene Anderson, age 82, of Blooming Prairie, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020 at Thorne Crest Nursing Home in Albert Lea. Kenneth was born to Julius and Florence Anderson on May 25, 1937, on the Anderson family farm in rural Lansing. While growing up, Kenneth attended the District 30 Joint Taylor country school near Corning. After Kenneth's schooling, he served his country in the Army Airborne from 1955 to 1959. In 1956, Kenneth married Sharon Johnson in Lafayette, Ga. In 1973, Kenneth started working as a truck driver for Ulland Brothers Road Construction of Albert Lea. While doing so, Kenneth loved his job and notoriously loved to visit with people, as well as hear and tell stories. Also in 1973, Kenneth began farming the family farm, another job that he loved dearly. At age 64, Kenny retired from Ulland Brothers in 2001, after working there 28 years. He continued farming for a few years after his retirement.



Kenneth Anderson

Kenneth is survived by his loving and supporting wife of 63 years, Sharon; three daughters Julie (Jim) Drake of Duluth, Kendra (Steven) Bartelt of Austin, and Kari (Brian) Srsen of Austin; two sisters Jean (Elden) Huemann of Austin, Karen Kinney of Austin; two brothers Dwayne Anderson of Glenville, Russell (Linda) Anderson of Austin; many nieces and nephews; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Julius and Florence Anderson; three brothers Nathan Anderson; Lyle Anderson; Rueben Anderson; and nine half-brothers and half-sisters. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin. Interment was in Fairview-Oakland Cemetery, rural Oakland. Military rites by the American Legion Post 91 and V.F.W. Post 1216. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.worlein.com](http://www.worlein.com).

Larry Farrow, 91,  
Blooming Prairie



Larry Farrow

Lerald "Larry" Elbert Farrow, 91, of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully on Christmas Eve, 2019, at New Richland Care Center. Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale. Burial followed in the Danish Baptist Cemetery in Blooming Prairie. Larry, the son of Lewis E. Farrow and Anna E. (Miller) Farrow, was born Dec. 26, 1927, in Elmore, Minn. He graduated from Freeborn High School in 1945. After, he was married to Lorraine Peterson and they had four children. They then divorced and Larry married LaFaye Muriel (Hegna) Johnson on May 29, 1971, at the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. He resided in rural Blooming Prairie for 42 years. Larry served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He played football and built the officer's club where he put himself to work as the managing bartender. Larry worked for Lysne Construction Co. his whole life. When he retired, he and LaFaye traveled to Texas every winter and enjoyed the warm weather. They would travel to Mexico and all over the United States and enjoyed going on cruises. He was active in the VFW and enjoyed the camping life, NASCAR races, and golf. Larry's sense of humor and that twinkle in his eyes will be greatly missed. Larry is survived by his wife, LaFaye Farrow of Ellendale; sons, Larry Farrow of Blooming Prairie, and Leon Farrow of Wells; daughters, Lori Farrow of Waseca, and Cheryl Weber of Garden Grove, Calif.; stepsons: Thomas (Barbara) Johnson, James (Shirley) Johnson, David (Peggy) Johnson, and Kevin (Tammy) Johnson, all of Blooming Prairie, MN; six grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren. Larry is also survived by his sister, Shirley Sibilrud of Hartland, and several nieces and nephews who were greatly loved. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, his brother-in-law, Kenneth Sibilrud, and his grandson, Derek Johnson.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*Christmas Giveaway 2019 Winners*

Diane Nelson, Blooming Prairie  
Chanhassen Dinner Theatre tickets

Ardes Montange, Owatonna  
Steele County Times Subscription

Sandy Brase, Owatonna & Betty Qualls,  
Blooming Prairie

\$50 Gift Certificates to Vandal's Family Market

Thanks to all who entered the drawings at  
Blooming Prairie area businesses!

*Happy New Year!*

Robert Meyer, 93, Waltham



Robert Meyer

Robert "Bob" Elwin Meyer, age 93 of Waltham, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019 at Mayo Clinic Hospital Rochester, St. Mary's Campus. Robert was born Dec. 4, 1926, to Arnold and Elenora (Wuertzt) Meyer in Waltham. Bob was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waltham. He attended parochial school for eight years and graduated from Austin High School in 1944. On June 29, 1946, he was united in marriage to Florence Muller. Together they resided on the family farm near Waltham for 69 years where they raised four children. Bob enjoyed farming his entire life, but his family was what he truly lived for. He was the one his family turned to in good times and bad, and he remained in that role until his dying day. He enjoyed fishing, watching sports and traveling with Florence whenever possible. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, always ready to talk and provide a cookie or two. In his later years, spending time with his many coffee buddies gave him great joy. Bob was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He served on the parochial school board and the church council for many years and especially enjoyed working with others on many building improvement projects. He also was very active in his community, serving on the boards of the Hayfield Nursing Home, the Hayfield Lumber Company and the Brownsdale Coop Elevator for many years. Survivors include his sons, Ronald (Nancy) Meyer of Albert Lea, Gary (Dorothy) Meyer of Waltham, Steven (Diane) Meyer of Waltham; daughter, Debra (Mark) Neubauer of Deforest, Wis.; eight grandchildren, Greg (Nikki) Meyer, Doug Meyer, Jennifer (Jeremy) Daum, Keith (Ann) Meyer, Matthew Meyer, Daniel Meyer, Nicole (Matthew) Pfeffer, Jonathan Neubauer; eight great grandchildren; brother, James (Carolyn) Meyer; brother-in-law, Robert Eggleston; sister-in-law, Carol Meyer. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence Meyer; parents, Arnold and Elenora Meyer; brother, Arnold Meyer; sisters, Irma (Vernon) Mueller and Theadale Eggleston. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2020 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waltham. Interment was in Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Waltham. Memorials preferred to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Waltham. Services are prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.worlein.com](http://www.worlein.com).

DEATH NOTICE

James Allen, 85, Albert Lea

James "Jim" Allen, 85, of Albert Lea, died on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020 at St. Theodore Catholic Church, Albert Lea with Father Kurt Farrell officiating. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until the time of the service at the church. Bonnerup Funeral Service in Albert Lea is assisting the family. [www.bonnerupfuneralservice.com](http://www.bonnerupfuneralservice.com). A full obituary will appear in next week's edition.

STEELE COUNTY

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BOOK NOOK

Winter movies  
coming to library

It's that time of year when the snow falls and the wind blows, and we just want to stay home, or at least stay in town. It is also time for our winter movie series at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Since the movies are shown in public, we have a special movie license that allows us to present the shows legally. That means that some of our choices are a bit more limited and that we cannot publish the titles of the movies in the newspaper. However, there are still some fun and thought-provoking movies that we can present on the big screen in the city council room. All movies will be shown on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library, or bring your own. Here is the schedule for the movie series, along with some hints of which movies they may be:



NANCY  
VAILLANCOURT

Jan. 23 – A girl from a small town in Minnesota becomes a major movie star and singer but has to deal with personal and family struggles.  
Jan. 30 – A boy with Down's Syndrome finds a friend to travel with him across the south, leading to adventures and what a movie critic called "the sweetest movie of the decade."  
Feb. 6 – While the title may sound like a fairy tale, this movie tells of Los Angeles in the turbulent year of 1969. Rated R.  
Feb. 20 – The queen is coming! Get the manor house ready for her visit! Tea and crumpets will be served at the movie.  
Feb. 27 – The biographical telling of a woman born as a slave who escaped and helped others find freedom. See you at the library!

**Sudoku Corner**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 5 |   |
| 2 | 3 |   | 5 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   | 1 |   | 5 |
|   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 1 |
|   |   | 7 | 6 | 8 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   | 9 | 2 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 3 |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 4 | 3 | 8 |

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**Answers**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Recipe Corner**

**Banana Cake**

Ingredients

2/3 c.

1 1/2 c.

2 lg.

2 1/3 c.

1 1/4 tsp.

1 1/4 tsp.

1 tsp.

1 1/4 c.

2/3 c.

soft butter

sugar

eggs

flour

baking powder

baking soda

salt

mashed bananas

buttermilk

Mix all together and put in a sprayed 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees 30 - 40 minutes. When cooled - frost.

Frosting Recipe

1 c.

5 Tbls.

1/4 c.

brown sugar

butter

milk

Boil brown sugar, butter, milk for 1 minute. Cool and add 1 c. powdered sugar and beat until smooth. Spread on cake and enjoy.

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Blooming Prairie, 583-2046



# Worship & Faith

## The Journey of the Magi



**Father John Sauer**

SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OWATONNA

T. S. Eliot begins his poem, *The Journey of the Magi*, with these words: “A cold coming we had of it, Just the worst time of the year/For a journey, and such a long journey: The ways deep and the weather sharp, The very dead of winter.” With the cold weather of Minnesota winters we might agree – “Just the worst time of the year/For a journey.” And yet, despite the challenges, the Magi did set out on their journey and came to the place where the Christ Child had been born. What did they seek?

The intent of the Magi seems clear– they observed a royal star at its rising and wanted to pay homage to the new king. One theory

suggests that the star of Bethlehem was not a single star, a comet or a super nova. Rather, it was a rare and stunning alignment of planets in the zodiac sign which astronomers designated as the sign for Israel. It was an astronomical event of such rarity that the Magi felt compelled to undertake a long and arduous journey so that they could acknowledge the birth of this important person. They journeyed because they felt the child born under this sign would be one of great power and influence. One who’s coming held great promise for the world – who would be, in a sense, a light in the darkness.

The last weeks have been spent in our celebra-

tion of the birth of that child, Jesus. In our Advent preparation, in our Christmas joy, in our new year resolutions, we strive to put this child and his message in the center of our life. What have we been seeking? Is it not the same thing the Magi were looking for? That we long for something more? That we seek hope and a promise? That we are looking for someone or something to give meaning to your life? That we wish to find a light by which to guide your life? That we want happiness and joy?

God may not ask us to take perilous journeys across deserts, but we have our own challenges. The feast of the Epiphany reveals to us a truth – that it is only

in Jesus that we will find a true light. Other lights will vie for our attention. Other stars will claim to lead us to happiness. But only Jesus, the true light of the world, can bring us true and lasting happiness and joy.

“We are in a world of mystery, with one bright Light before us, sufficient for our proceeding forward through all difficulties,” wrote John Henry Newman, “Take away this light and we are utterly wretched – we know not where we are, how we are sustained, what will become of us and of all that is dear to us, what we are to believe, and why we are in being.”

The magi are known as the wise men because they read the message of

the star and sought the one whose birth it heralded. We are invited to be the magi of our day – the wise men and women – who seek the Light and are guided by it in our life of faith. As we meditate on this reality it is difficult not to feel a painful distance between what ought to be and what is. The Magi were the first in a procession of countless people who have journeyed toward the Lord. We follow in their path as we live our faith day by day. When we do that faithfully and joyfully we become light for others. This light is more than night turning into day, more than a mere sunrise. This Light proclaims God’s presence and God’s grace in a dark world.

### AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**LUTHERAN**

**AURORA LUTHERAN**  
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna  
Pastor Stephanie Wood  
507-676-5696  
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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

**FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC**  
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale  
Pastor Richard Sliper  
507-684-2451  
Men’s Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday (Kids church- 9 a.m. and Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.)  
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday  
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday  
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday  
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m. followed by Youth Group- 7-9 p.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius  
507-583-6621  
firstlutheranbp.com  
Worship Service- 9 a.m.  
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA**  
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna  
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond  
507-451-7293  
stjohnowatonna.org  
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden  
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith  
507-451-2165  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna  
507-451-4520  
tlcawatonna.org  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy  
Deacon: Kris Oppegard  
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS**  
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford  
Pastor Mark Biebighauser  
507-451-0447  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday  
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

**ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale  
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith  
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday  
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Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

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www.cedarcreekchurch.org  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

**DESTINY CHRISTIAN**  
2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna  
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht  
www.destinycc.org  
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

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

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna  
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson  
507-413-0209  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

**MENNONITE**

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

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Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
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507-528-2320  
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10 a.m. Worship

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Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.  
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

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Rev. Richard Waters  
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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Pastor Patrick Stitt  
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Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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

**FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna’s oldest church)**  
123 E. Main St., Owatonna  
Pastor Cindy 507-451-2803  
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com  
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

**VICTORY LIFE**  
105 2nd St NE  
Geneva  
Pastor Diane Butler  
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First Baby of the New Year 2020

Expecting a special delivery on or around January 1, 2020?

If so, you and your new arrival could be the lucky recipients of great gifts in our First Baby of the Year Contest. The first baby to be born in Blooming Prairie in 2020 will be showered with the following gifts from these generous contest sponsors:

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First Baby of the Year Contest Rules

1. Baby must be born after 12 a.m. January 1, 2020 or after.

2. Parents must live within the Blooming Prairie Independent School District area.

3. Baby's birth must be reported to the Steele County Times within three business days.

The Times will announce the winning family.

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# State, city clash over snow removal in Ellendale

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

A winter storm is swirling between a state agency and the City of Ellendale as they bicker about snow removal and who should foot the bill, putting the two sides on an icy and chilled relationship at best with the worst of winter likely still ahead.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Ellendale City Council are at odds with each other as they battle about who should pay for snow removal along Hwy. 30, which cuts through the heart of Ellendale's downtown district. Hwy. 30 is a state highway.

In October, MnDOT sent out a contract offering to pay Ellendale \$1,200 for snow removal for the entire winter of 2019-20. The City Council scoffed at the notion and refused to sign the contract.

"It feels like they are strong arming us to clean up their mess for a small amount," said Tiffany Krueger, Ellendale's city clerk. "This is really a hot topic."

Instead of signing MnDOT's contract, Ellendale plans to bill MnDOT directly for each time snow removal is needed throughout the winter. However, the City acknowledges MnDOT will likely refuse to pay the bills.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The City of Ellendale and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are at odds with each other regarding who's responsible for paying for snow removal along this stretch of Hwy. 30 through downtown Ellendale.

Last winter, which was an unusually brutal winter in terms of snowfall, MnDOT reimbursed Ellendale about \$9,000 for snow removal, according to Krueger. The City submitted bills to MnDOT at the end of each month.

Krueger said MnDOT has accused Ellendale of overcharging them in the past for snow removal.

Since last winter, MnDOT implemented changes to ensure that the same terms were being used for all 22 cities and townships throughout the southeastern Minnesota district, said Michael Dougherty, spokesman for MnDOT. The agency wants to be assured that

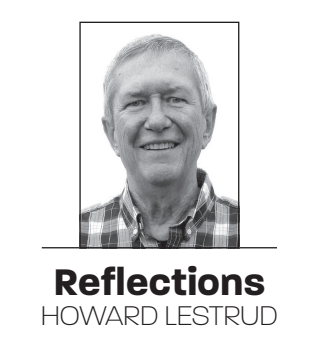
"agreements were in place and standardized to ensure consistency and meet the accounting rules necessary for the disbursement of state funds," he said.

Part of the ire with Ellendale city leaders is that the MnDOT contract didn't show up until mid-October after the city had already set its preliminary budget for 2020. Ellendale typically sets its proposed budget in late September.

In the case like last winter, Ellendale could potentially be forced to pay \$8,000 or more on snow removal. "That can affect our budget significantly,"

SEE STATE, CITY CLASH, B2

# Family graffiti 71 years later



Reflections  
HOWARD LESTRUD

Sign in, please.

Some 71 years ago, Dale O. Mowers, a young Santa Fe Railroad depot agent, signed his name on a railroad depot door in Wickenburg, Ariz.

Fast forward to 2019 and the name was discovered by daughter Judy Lestrud of Blooming Prairie. Judy, wife of this columnist, always knew of her birthplace location but she had never been there since she left for Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1949.

On a family vacation to Glendale, Ariz., over the Christmas holiday last month, it was imperative that Judy and I visit her birthplace in Wickenburg. Wickenburg is a town primarily located in the central part of Arizona and in Maricopa County.

Let's cut to the chase before I provide you with some history about this community discovered by a German named Henry Wickenburg. He was one of the first prospectors in the area.

Son Troy and I visited Wickenburg last May and took photos and brought home memorabilia on Wickenburg for Judy and her father Dale (since deceased) to enjoy.

Last month's expedition to Wickenburg by our family included Judy, me, Troy and our three grandchildren, Kaley, Jenna and Ryan.

As we entered the refurbished railroad depot, now the home of the Wickenburg Chamber of



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A visit to Judy Lestrud's birthplace last month ended in the discovery of some graffiti left by her father, Dale Mowers, then a railroad depot agent in Wickenburg, Ariz. Judy points to the name of her father, which was etched on a depot door some 71 years ago.

Commerce and of the Wickenburg Tourist Bureau, we were greeted by chamber and tourist bureau staff.

Judy explained her reason for wanting to become reacquainted with Wickenburg. The staff obligingly took our family on a thorough tour of the restored railroad depot. The depot flavor has definitely been preserved with a ticket window out front and other depot artifacts properly displayed.

As we journeyed through the depot, a tourist bureau volunteer took us into a room that was most recently restored. It was still being used for storage and was not open to the public when Troy and I visited last May.

As we sauntered into what used to be a warehouse area, Troy and our grandson Ryan noticed an interesting part of our family history. "Look, mom,"



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Wickenburg, Ariz. is where it all started for Judy Lestrud. She was born there at the time her father, Dale Mowers, was a depot agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. The old depot has been restored and is now the location of the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and the Wickenburg Tourist Bureau.

Troy exclaimed. "There's Grandpa's name," Troy blurted.

Sure enough, and very clearly, the name of D.O. (Dale Orland) Mowers was

inscribed on a sliding door that had been salvaged from the original railroad depot years ago. Below the

SEE FAMILY GRAFFITI, B2

# A new year brings new promise



Steele Talkin'  
STEPHANIE KIBLER

For many of us, we start the New Year off with resolutions. Quite often those resolutions fall to the wayside after a month or two and we are back to our old habits and same routine.

This year I did not make any resolutions, rather I am looking to the New Year to see where I can have a positive impact on my community and my job.

As a city council member, I have the opportunity to be on the forefront of what Ellendale will have coming up in 2020.

- Currently, the city council is working closely with the Community Foundation of Ellendale on the renovation of the Community Center kitchen, a much needed update that has been requested by a variety of civic groups and residents.
- We are also finalizing our Codification Manual which will combine all of the current ordinances, and a few new ones, into one manual which will be available online in a searchable form creating a one stop shop for residents.
- With the sale of the Municipal Liquor Store, the city staff and council will be able to focus more on economic development, park plans, creating a new resident packet, updating office policies and more.

Each of these, along with other projects, will have a positive impact

on our community as a whole. As residents, there are ways you can become involved in these and other projects.

- The kitchen will be in need of volunteers for a wide-range of things like demolition, moving equipment, painting, etc.
- The Codification Manual impacts every resident and there will be a public hearing where residents will be able to give feedback to the council.
- If you are a new resident, let the city know what would be helpful to have in a new resident packet.
- Want to participate in a development plan for the city parks? Interested in assisting with Ellendale Days or community fundraising group? Want to serve on the City Council?

The possibilities are endless! The city office and council members will gladly answer any questions you might have on getting more involved in the community. Becoming vested in the city leads to new and innovative ideas creating a more cohesive, family friendly city for all. It also creates an environment that brings in new businesses and residents.

So I am challenging myself to work to create a better place to thrive. And I challenge each of you to do the same in your communities.

Happy New Year!

*Stephanie Kibler lives in Ellendale and serves on the city council. She is also the executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.*

# Two nonprofits merge to form new organization

Two well-established and respected nonprofits, the Steele County Clothesline and the Steele County Food Shelf, are joining forces and merged to form one new organization, Community Pathways of Steele County, effective Jan. 1.

The merger is validation of the teamwork and collaborative efforts that have been taking place between the Steele County Clothesline and the Steele County Food Shelf over the last few years to better serve individuals, families, and the community. Only after much research of similar organizations, conversations with corporate partners, and evaluating the impact a merger would bring, the two boards voted unanimously to move forward with the merger.

Community Pathways will continue to be at the current location at 155 Oakdale in Owatonna. The programs and services will not change through the transition period, but there is great anticipation of new and improved services that can be provided through strategic planning, improved

use of resources and creative thinking. No programs will diminish through this process. In fact, the hope is to improve on services to their families. The merger will allow Community Pathways to restructure staff putting individual skill sets to better use. They will no longer be duplicating the work being done by two separate organizations, but will work together to create improved services for their families, and a more efficient and effective organization to better serve the needs of the community.

Along with the organizations' restructure and name change the program names will also be changing. The Steele County Food Shelf will become The Marketplace and the Steele County Clothesline will be known as Unique Finds. The Marketplace will continue to serve anyone who qualifies for the program. Unique Finds is open to anyone who qualifies as well as anyone interested in shopping regardless of life circumstances – or income. By shopping at Unique Finds,

you are supporting Community Pathways.

The community has done an incredible job of recognizing basic needs and supporting both organizations over the years. The Steele County Clothesline was originally started by the Women's Club of Owatonna in 1963 to serve the children of the State School. The Steele County Food Shelf found its roots in 1970 when several churches in Steele County decided to start food closets to serve the needs of their members. As the organizations and the needs grew in the county, both organizations moved to the current location in 1999 where people could access resources and there was adequate physical space to accommodate the growing needs.

"We hope the community will once again recognize the ever growing and changing public need and support the organizations as we merge to provide improved services, efficiencies, access, sustainability, and additional programming," said Maureen Schlobohm, co-executive director.

# Medford approves 2020 budget and levy

BY CHRIS BALDWIN  
STAFF WRITER

During the last meeting of 2019, the Medford City Council reviewed the city's budget and tax levy for 2020.

The final 2020 tax levy carries an increase of 2.1% over the 2019 levy with a total of \$657,893. According to Medford City Administrator Andy Welti, "the city's tax capacity has increased from approximately \$1,103,444 in 2019 to \$1,136,455 in 2020."

This increased tax capacity gives Medford a little bit of leeway when it comes to its taxes. "The result is a decrease in the city's tax rate from approximately 58.39% in 2019 to 57.89% in 2020," Welti explained.

"The levy of \$657,893 will allow the City of Medford to continue building a reserve, which is consistent

with advice of the State Auditor and our City Auditor," Welti said. "Budget reserves increase the likelihood that cities' bond rating will improve, and provide a cushion for future unexpected cuts in state funding and economic recessions or unexpected repairs, maintenance, etc."

Welti explained that the overall levy increase will help to fund inflation experienced in the cost of supplies and services, as well as provide additional funding for fire department repairs. The increase will also provide funding for capital expenses, increase the city's reserves, fund increases in health insurance expenses, and go towards the continued maintenance of streets and wastewater infrastructure.

"Beginning in 2016, the city established a

capital projects fund for future capital expenditures in public works, parks, and for general purposes," Welti explained. "In addition, capital expenditures are included in the sewer, water, and the liquor store budgets for future capital improvements."

With an increased tax capacity, and a low percent of increase in the overall levy, Medford has ironed out any fiscal hiccups which occurred in past years. "The city has met its goal of creating a more stable tax levy so that residents do not experience large fluctuations in tax levies from one year to the next," Welti said of the 2020 levy.

After looking over the numbers, the Council unanimously approved the final tax levy of \$657,893 on Dec. 23 during its annual Truth in Taxation meeting.



# Hops wants local brewers for upcoming promotion

Hops for Habitat is looking for local brewers to help its cause through an upcoming benefit. Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity will be offering a Hops for Habitat Brew Crew on Saturday, April 4. Two Rivers wants breweries to assist in the benefit to support Habitat for Humanity. The benefit, which will be held at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna, offers a beer tasting experience that allows Two Rivers to showcase great craft beer and breweries from around Minnesota and beyond. As part of the promotion, Two Rivers will offer breweries marketing to post as well as social media promotion. A special write-up will be provided on Two Rivers' Facebook event page. The breweries involved will also get special recognition at the Hops for Habitat event. There is no cost for breweries to be involved. The assistance of the breweries will allow Habitat to build and repair more safe and healthy homes to help local families throughout the region. For additional information, contact Ken Quattrin at [kquattrin@tworivershabitat.org](mailto:kquattrin@tworivershabitat.org).

# Agency launches Future Forward to combat workforce shortage

Southeast Service Cooperative, a public non-profit, has launched FutureForward, a regional tool to connect local educators and students with employers for career-connected learning experiences to help build the talent pipeline and support vibrant communities in southeastern Minnesota. In May 2019, the Otto Bremer Trust granted Southeast Service Cooperative \$100,000 to develop FutureForward. Over 27 school districts in the region have committed to using FutureForward with their high school students. "It's an exciting time for southeastern Minnesota. There is so much momentum to work together to help our kids deeply explore career pathways and to meet the workforce needs in the region," said Sarah Ness, FutureForward program manager. FutureForward is a web-based communication, event, partner, and resource management tool that seamlessly connects classrooms to careers and life to learning. Students can explore learning experiences like job shadows and workplace tours. With the college loan debt in the United States at \$1.5 trillion, parents and students are looking closely at career pathway options. "Parents want their children to succeed. FutureForward has the potential to help students identify their career of choice and make informed decisions about financial investments in post-secondary education and training," Ness said of the long-term financial impact on students. Southeast Service Cooperative is now focusing on outreach with regional employers. Employers can post opportunities such as career events, site tours/field trips, job shadows, and teacher externships. Employers can sign up to be classroom speakers. It's a free tool for employers to use and it only takes a few minutes to register. "Employers are an important part of the equation. FutureForward will help them connect with students as potential employees and get a fresh point of view from youth," explained Southeast Service Cooperative Executive Director, Steve Sallee. More details about FutureForward are available at [www.futureforward.org](http://www.futureforward.org) and by contacting Ness at 507-281-6678 or [sness@ssc.coop](mailto:sness@ssc.coop).

# SMMPA finds new source for energy

On Jan. 1, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) began taking energy from the 100-megawatt Stoneray Wind Project under a contract with EDF Renewable Energy. The project consists of 39 wind turbines manufactured by Siemens Gamesa and is located in Pipestone and Murray counties in southwestern Minnesota. The wind farm began commercial operation in December of 2018. EDF has been selling the energy to others until Jan. 1 when SMMPA began taking delivery under the 20-year term of the agreement. The Stoneray project, combined with the 100.5 MW Wapsipinicon Wind Project and eight megawatts of SMMPA-owned wind turbines will increase SMMPA's wind generation portfolio to over 200 megawatts. With the 5-megawatt Lemond Solar Center and other biomass/biogas generation, SMMPA is positioned to meet the requirements of Minnesota's renewable energy standard for the foreseeable future. "We are happy to take this next step in increasing our renewable energy portfolio and creating a brighter energy future for our member communities," said Dave Geschwind, SMMPA's executive director and CEO. SMMPA provides electricity and related services to 18 municipality operated utilities, including Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Austin.

# Get registered for PorkBridge and SowBridge programs

Registration for both PorkBridge and SowBridge distance education programs is now open. PorkBridge is aimed at those who own, manage or work in swine grow-finish facilities. SowBridge is for people involved in managing or caring for sows, and/or their litters, and boars, including operation owners, employees, technicians, managers and technical service providers. Both programs begin in early February 2020. University of Minnesota Swine Extension Educator Sarah Schieck Boelke said the programs offer accurate and timely information on a variety of topics through a regular schedule. "Producers and others in the industry can get the information they need without the hassle of traveling or giving up a whole day to attend a meeting," Schieck said. "Participants in the PorkBridge and SowBridge programs can take part where it works best for them whether at home, in an office or in the swine unit. And whether or not they can participate in the live session, all sessions are recorded and audio files are available for download from each session for later use." To get a sample of each program people can view a PorkBridge and SowBridge session from 2017 at <https://z.umn.edu/PB-sample> and <https://z.umn.edu/SB-sample> respectively. The PorkBridge program has six sessions generally offered on the first Thursday of every other month starting in February. All sessions start at 11:30 a.m. and will last a maximum of 60 minutes, which includes time for questions. Cost for the series is \$100 for the first registration from an entity and \$50 for each subsequent registration from the same entity. Registration information for PorkBridge can be found on the University of Minnesota Extension webpage under courses and events at [z.umn.edu/PorkBridgeRegistration](http://z.umn.edu/PorkBridgeRegistration). PorkBridge 2020 session dates, topics, speakers and their industry affiliation are as follows:

- Feb. 6 – "African Swine Fever and Secure Pork Supply" by Pam Zaabel, Iowa State University, Center for Food Security & Public Health
- April 2 – "Maintenance of Euthanasia Equipment" by Steve Moeller, The Ohio State University
- May 28 – "In-barn Impacts on Meat Quality" by Matt Ritter, Provimi US
- Aug. 6 – "Tail, Ear, and Flank Biting: Reasons Why and How to Address" by Yuzhi Li, University of Minnesota

• Oct. 1 – "Proper Application of Disinfectants" by Jose Ramirez, Virox Animal Health

• Dec. 3 – "Precision Technologies for Commercial Pork Production" by Andy Brudtkuhl, National Pork Board

The SowBridge program has 12 monthly sessions throughout the year generally scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. All sessions start at 11:30 a.m. and last no longer than 60 minutes, which includes time for questions. Cost for the series is \$200 for the first registration from an entity and \$100 for each subsequent registration from the same entity. Registration information for SowBridge can be found on the University of Minnesota Extension webpage under courses and events at [z.umn.edu/SowBridgeRegistration](http://z.umn.edu/SowBridgeRegistration). SowBridge 2020 session dates, topics, speakers and their industry affiliation are as follows:

- Feb. 5 – "African Swine Fever and Secure Pork Supply" by Pam Zaabel, Iowa State University
- March 4 – "What You Need to Know About Foreign Animal Diseases"

SEE **GET REGISTERED, B3**

## STATE, CITY CLASH: over snow removal in Ellendale

FROM B1

Krueger pointed out. "We didn't have the opportunity to factor these costs in our budget," she added. "We recognize that this didn't come forth as timely in the city's budget planning cycle as we or they would have liked," Dougherty said. By updating and clarifying the agreements, MnDOT is able to verify what work is done, Dougherty said. "MnDOT cannot verify that the billings are strictly for the removal of snow on the highways and not also the sidewalks and parking lanes," he said. "The only work that can be paid for using state funds is for snow removal on the highway lanes through the city or township, not the snow from the sidewalks and parking lanes." The city or township pays for and is accountable for the removal and hauling of snow from the parking lane and sidewalks, Dougherty added. In offering Ellendale \$1,200 for this winter, MnDOT collected data and used an average of the amounts paid to cities and townships, the amounts paid to large cities and the estimated cost for a MnDOT plow per lane mile to come up with an appropriate amount. "We have sought information from Ellendale to provide data on what they have paid to clean and remove snow from their sidewalks and parking lanes over the years," Dougherty said. According to MnDOT's findings, Ellendale had payments of \$9,215 in 2014, \$0 in 2015, \$10,953 in 2016, \$5,748 in 2017, \$6,650 in 2018 and \$7,900 in 2019. That amounted to a six-year average of \$6,600. MnDOT acknowledges the proposal of \$1,200 is much less, but "it reflects the work we believe is necessary just for the state highway lane miles," Dougherty said. MnDOT has also offered Ellendale to store removed snow at its old salt shed on the east side of Interstate 35, Dougherty noted. "The city has the interest in cleaning the parking lanes and that is why we have chosen to reimburse them for removing our driving lane snow," Dougherty said. Krueger said Ellendale hires independent contractors to haul away snow from the downtown area. She says the \$1,200 would cover maybe two snowfalls.

## FAMILY GRAFFITI: 71 years later

FROM B1

name was the date, May 14, 1948. Judy came into the world six months later. Judy was ecstatic when seeing her father's name etched on the depot door among others who apparently worked for the Santa Fe Railroad at one time. Dates of 1913, 1917, 1918, 1923 and 1925 were recorded on the door by other former railroad employees. Above Dale's name was a figure that either was a cat or a mouse. We believe it was a black cat because Dale was superstitious and would not cross an area inhabited by a black cat. I remember riding in a car with Dale in Ellendale years ago when he stopped the car and turned around because a black cat ran across the street. The well-preserved railroad depot door also had an image of a horse drawn by someone. Wow! We just had to regroup as a family, immediately text Judy's sister Cindi and brothers Curt and Craig with the news. Proof of our revelation was also sent in a photo via texting. Volunteers at the Chamber/Tourist Bureau were as surprised as we were and they said they love to hear visitors recount their family ties to Wickenburg. The depot also features a railroad engine, Locomotive No. 761 and the Drover caboose. The locomotive was built in April of 1900 in Pennsylvania. It was restored in 2016-17. After taking a raft of photos at the railroad station (inside and outside), our family headed to an authentic Mexican restaurant called Anita's Cassita. Our stomachs not quite full, we treated ourselves to some delicious fried ice cream. Our next stop was to be the hospital where Judy was born. It is now a thrift store and is located about a half mile south of the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. Unfortunately, the former hospital was closed the day we were in town. Troy and I were able to visit the inside last May and discovered some very small rooms that were apparently designated for patient exams and surgery. The Wickenburg area, with much of the Southwest, became part of the United States by the 1848 treaty that ended the Mexican-American War. The first extensive survey was conducted by Gila Rangers who were pursuing hostile Indians who had raided the Butterfield Overland Mail route and attacked miners at Gila City. In 1862, a gold strike on the Colorado River near present-day Yuma brought American prospectors, who searched for minerals throughout central Arizona. Many of the geographic landmarks now bear the names of these pioneers, including the Weaver Mountains, named after mountain man Pauline Weaver, and Peebles Valley, named after a settler. Henry Wickenburg, an early prospector, was rewarded with the discovery of the Vulture Mine, from which more than \$30 million worth of gold has been dug. Ranchers and farmers soon built homes along the fertile plain of the Hassayampa River. Wickenburg later became known as the Dude Ranch Capital of the World. The current population of Wickenburg is estimated at just under 8,000 residents. Yep, that's where it all began with my wife Judy. Judy even has a t-shirt to prove it.

NRHEG



PANTHER

of the Week



Sealey Anderson

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NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Sealey Anderson. He is the son of Nicole Anderson and they reside in Ellendale. He is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Sealey is such a positive student no matter what comes his way. He seems to brighten everyone's day. If there is something to be cleaned or picked up, he is the first to volunteer.

Sealey loves riding dirt bike, four-wheeler, and building snow forts.

Keep up the great work Sealey!



# State OKs new plan for Cedar River basin

With state approval recently, the Cedar River watershed is expected to get nearly \$600,000 in new funding over the next two years to improve the water quality of area lakes, streams and groundwater.

The Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was approved Dec. 18 by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) state board. Part of the state's One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process, the approval opens the Cedar River Watershed to a new source of state funding for local entities to get projects and practices in place on the watershed's Minnesota side.

The plan now will move to individual local government units to vote on adopting their water-management plans.

"This is an exciting day for our watershed," said Adam King, the Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District manager, who has been the staff lead for Cedar River 1W1P. "With this plan, all our area partners will be better equipped to more effectively and efficiently work together to improve our local water, especially in partnership with farmers."

Now the comprehensive plan for water management, which does not create a new layer of government, will go to the governing boards of the 11 local-government units involved with the Cedar River 1W1P process. Each board likely will vote early next year on



Dave Copeland, left, board conservationist with the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), addresses the BWSR state board on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, in St. Paul about the final draft of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Water Management Plan. The BWSR board approved the plan, which was created through the state's One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process. Seated to his right is Adam King, district manager for Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District, who has helped lead the 1W1P process for the Cedar.

whether to adopt the Cedar River 1W1P plan as its new water-management plan.

A public hearing on the draft plan was hosted this past September in Austin by the Cedar River 1W1P Policy Committee.

Members of the Cedar River 1W1P committees now will start working on developing a work plan and budget for using the new state funding for implementing the watershed-based plan.

Under its statewide 1W1P initiative, BWSR aims to create water plans based on watershed boundaries rather than smaller, political boundaries. This will ensure the most-significant threats to a watershed's resources, including surface and groundwater, are addressed with practices providing the greatest environmental benefits.

Cedar River watershed was part of the second group of watersheds ap-

proved to go through the state-funded 1W1P process.

Mower County now is covered by two watershed-based plans, with its eastern half managed by the Root River 1W1P plan that was one of five 1W1P pilot projects completed in 2016.

Cedar River 1W1P's final plan sets priorities, goals and strategies for the next 10 years of managing water in the watershed planning area, which also includes the small headwaters area of the Wapsipinicon River watershed.

Overall, the Cedar River 1W1P boundaries cover 462,295 acres. Most of the land – about 57% – is in Mower County, with 32% in Freeborn; 10% in Dodge; and 1% in Steele (mostly the City of Blooming Prairie).

Cedar River Watershed District's political boundaries are within the 1W1P planning area along with Turtle Creek Watershed District and the watersheds for the Little Cedar River, Otter Creek and Wapsipinicon River in Mower County and the Deer Creek watershed in southeast Freeborn County.

Partners from Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele counties and SWCD in each county along with the Cedar River Watershed District, Turtle Creek Watershed District and the City of Austin have been working on the Cedar River 1W1P initiative.

Cedar River 1W1P's approved plan can be viewed online at: [www.cedarriver-wd.org](http://www.cedarriver-wd.org).

## Prevent the spread of pests and diseases by properly disposing of your holiday greenery



On The Farm  
CLAIRE LACANNE

Now that we are wrapping up the holiday season, you're likely ready to take down your d'cor and prepare for the new year. There are several invasive hitchhikers you could have been unwittingly hosting on your greenery over the holidays. Luckily, there are some easy ways to ensure that you don't spread these issues throughout Minnesota.

Insects and diseases can grab a ride on holiday greenery brought into Minnesota from other states. Additionally, plants that are sometimes sold as holiday greenery are actually invasive plants that can cause problems here in

Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) does inspect holiday products for these invasive species, but you can also do your part to help prevent the spread of these issues.

The issues we're worried about here in Minnesota include elongate hemlock scale, boxwood blight, Oriental bittersweet, and gypsy moth, among several others. These diseases, pests, and plants can easily sneak into and around Minnesota. For example, a disease called boxwood blight and a plant called Oriental bittersweet could be found in greenery and centerpieces. Gypsy moth and elongate hemlock scale are two insects that can be moved around on Christmas trees.

Elongate hemlock scale is the biggest concern in Minnesota this year; it has become quite an issue for Fraser fir producers in the mid-Atlantic states. This scale insect is small and feeds on the sap from hemlocks, firs, and spruces. Its feeding can cause needles to yellow and fall off.

The MDA has been working with suppliers and sellers in Minnesota to remove trees, wreaths, and other greenery infested with elongate hemlock scale. Though this insect isn't established in Minnesota yet, there are concerns it could become a problem for Minnesota Christmas tree producers, nurseries, and local forests.

If you buy your trees and other greens from a Minnesota source, you should not be at risk of spreading these issues. However, if you're unsure of where your greenery originated, or if you know your decorations are not from Minnesota, do your part when the holiday season is over to protect our environment from those potential disease and pest issues.

The MDA suggests that you follow this advice:

- Do not toss trees and greenery into backyard woods or your compost pile.
- Use a city or county organized tree and greenery pick-up or drop-off. (Owatonna

has a compost facility that accepts trees and wreaths, located at 400 W. 32nd Ave. Dundas has a solid waste facility at 3800 E. 145th St. There are yard waste compost sites in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Faribault, and Northfield, but those are largely closed for the winter.)

- If your city or county does not have an organized pick-up or drop-off, burn the greens. Check with local ordinances first and follow them.

If you suspect your greenery may be infested with an invasive insect or disease, contact the MDA's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us. Or, contact me at 507-330-0447 or [lacanne@umn.edu](mailto:lacanne@umn.edu).

*Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator with the University of Minnesota Extension for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.*

## Pork Quality Assurance meeting to be held in Owatonna

University of Minnesota Extension, in conjunction with the Minnesota Pork Board, will host several Pork Quality Assurance (PQA+) trainings throughout the winter. PQA+ provides improved animal well-being standards and relevant food safety standards to ensure producers can measure, track and continuously improve pig well being.

The three-hour program will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. at the Steele County

Community Center in Owatonna, 1380 S. Elm Avenue.

PQA+ certification is good for three years, so producers need to be re-certified every three years to keep their certification current. To check your PQA+ or TQA status, call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 1-800-456-7675. Pre-registration is recommended, please email [colleen@mnppork.com](mailto:colleen@mnppork.com). For more information, visit <https://extension.umn.edu/event/pqa-certification-owatonna>.

## GET REGISTERED: for PorkBridge and SowBridge programs FROM B2

by Justin Brown, Iowa State University, and Chelsea Hamilton, IDALS and ISU

- April 1 – "Feeding Strategies for Pre-farrow Females on Piglet Survivability" Kiah Gourley and Jason Woodworth, Kansas State University
- May 6 – "Impact of Drying New-born Piglets" Mike Ellis, University of Illinois
- May 27 – "Porcine Circovirus type 3: What We Know" by Albert Rovira, University of Minnesota
- July 1 – "Capturing Value of Cull Sows" by Ken Stalder, Iowa State University
- Aug. 5 – "Maintenance of Euthanasia Equipment" by

Steve Moeller, The Ohio State University

- Sept. 2 – "Gestation/Lactation Ventilation Do's and Don'ts" by Erin Cortus, University of Minnesota
- Oct. 7 – "Proper Disinfectant Application" by Jose Ramirez, Virox Animal Health
- Nov. 4 – "Induction Protocol Updates" by Rob Knox, University of Illinois
- Dec. 2 – "Upcoming Technology in Pork Production" by Andy Brudtkuhl, National Pork Board
- Jan. 6 (2021) – "Electronic Sow Feeding Management Tips and Tricks" by Tom Parsons, University of Pennsylvania Registrations for

both programs are due Jan. 15 to ensure materials are received for the first session.

Before each session, subscribers will receive an email message with links to download materials for that session. Those who request it also receive the same materials via mailed CD. During the scheduled time, participants call in to listen to and interact with the presenter.

PorkBridge and SowBridge are provided by a group of 11 universities with Sarah Schieck Boelke and Lee Johnston of the University of Minnesota Extension serving as program coordinators. Iowa Pork Industry Center coordinates all registration and subscriber mailings.

## Steele Fair seeking Century Farms

Applications for the recognition of 2020 Century Farms in Steele County are now available at the office of the Steele County Free Fair.

Century Farms will be recognized during the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame program on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Farms that qualify for the Century Farm recognition are those that are at least 100 years old in 2020 according to abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. The family must have owned the farm for 100 years or more. Ownership must be continuous.

To obtain application forms on line go to [MNstatefair.org](http://MNstatefair.org). Deadline for applications is March 2.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- JAN. 9**  
4 p.m. – Police  
Commission Meeting

**JAN. 13**  
7 p.m. – City Council  
Meeting

**JAN. 14**  
2:30 p.m. – Public  
Utilities Meeting  
4:30 p.m. – Fire  
Commission Meeting

**JAN. 15**  
Noon – Chamber  
Meeting, Prairie Home  
Noon & 5:30 p.m. –  
Social Media Crash Course,  
Prairie Home
- JAN. 16**  
6 p.m. – Chamber Annual  
Banquet, Servicemen's  
Club  
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun  
Night, BP Library

**JAN. 19**  
BP Cancer Group Annual  
Breakfast, Pizza Cellar  
Just for Kix Winter Show

**JAN. 21**  
5 p.m. – Ambulance  
Commission Meeting

**JAN. 26**  
KC Annual Breakfast

**JAN. 27**  
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief  
Association Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- JAN. 9**  
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale  
City Council Meeting,  
Community Building

**JAN. 10**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building
- JAN. 13**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building  
7 p.m. – Berlin Township  
Meeting, Community  
Building

**JAN. 15**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- JAN. 9**  
5 p.m. – Airport  
Commission Meeting,  
Airport Lounge

**JAN. 13**  
7 a.m. – AAUW January  
Meeting, Trinity Lutheran  
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna  
Park Board Meeting, City  
Admin Building
- JAN. 14**  
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. –  
Preschool Storytime,  
Owatonna Library  
1 p.m. – So Many  
Books... So Little Time,  
Owatonna Library  
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna  
Human Rights Commission  
Meeting, City Admin  
Building

Contestants  
sought for Miss Czech  
Slovak Minnesota

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women of Czech, Slovak or Moravian heritage to compete for the state title. The 31st annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will be held on April 18, at the American Legion Club in Montgomery.

The competition is for women between the ages of 16 and 26 years of age. The pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns and will have a year of memorable appearances throughout the state of Minnesota. This unique pageant focuses on the heritage of the Czech, Slovak or Moravian candidates. The new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota queen travels to the national Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Neb., in early August.

There will be an informational pageant meeting on Sunday, Jan. 12, starting at 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Montgomery Oil Company and David's Diner, 200 Fourth St. NW., Montgomery. They can be reached at 507-364-9370. A light lunch will be served at 1 p.m. The Miss Czech

Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee extends a warm welcome to all interested contestants, parents, and family members to attend this meeting.

The application deadline is March 1. For information and a registration form contact Lorraine David 507-364-9370 or 507-364-5384 or email daviddsdiner@hotmail.com or missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com. The pageant website is: www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org.

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will feature ethnic foods served at 5 p.m. with the pageant beginning at 7 p.m. A reception and dance will follow the coronation. Dinner and pageant tickets are available from Jerry or Lorraine David 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company.

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Autumn Gare of Montgomery, daughter of Joshua and Linda Gare. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota First Princess is Megan Domonoske, daughter of David and Amy Domonoske of Waterville.

Giving hearts in Ellendale



Third graders from NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale gathered food from Lerberg's Foods just before Christmas and dropped it off at the Ellendale Area Community Food Shelf. There were three sections of third grade involved in the project. One of the classes included: front row, from left: Aiden, Ben, Owen, Julieann, Kylie, Crissa, Lauren and Alayna; back row: Bentley, Alissa, James, Jemisyn, Andy, Mack, Ellie, Sofia, Sealey, Makenley, Charles and Gracie. The teachers are Todd Beynon and Miss Bev.

Grieving support  
comes to Austin

A five-week bereavement support group for those who have experienced a loss will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 14 and continue through Tuesday, Feb. 11.

This education and support group will provide materials and discussions on a variety of topics to assist participants in their grieving process. The group will meet weekly in the conference room at the Mower County

Senior Center in Austin. Meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week and will be followed by an informal lunch gathering for anyone interested.

The group is open to the public and all who feel this might be beneficial to their healing and all who are supporting them are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Mary at 507-433-5000 or 507-583-7561.

Geneva Cancer Auction  
begins Friday

The 37th annual Geneva Cancer Auction will be held on two consecutive weekends at the Geneva Liquor Store.

The first weekend of cancer auction activity will be on Friday, Jan. 10 beginning at 7 p.m. The auction begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

A second weekend of action will be held on Friday, Jan. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 18. The times will be the same.

"We are looking for another great year," said organizer Whitey Hagen. He said the auctions netted over \$100,000 last year.

AAUW to celebrate  
woman suffrage

The American Association of University Women Owatonna members invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge.

The title of the program for the evening is "Let Women Vote! Woman Suffrage in Minnesota." We will celebrate 100 years of woman suffrage. Three generations of our Minnesota foremothers fought long and hard to secure women's right to vote. Eileen Newhouse will share some of their amazing stories of strength and persistence.

Ladies Night Out to benefit  
Habitat for Humanity

Ladies, we know how hard you work every day. Whether it's dealing with work, or taking care of the family, cooking, cleaning and balancing the check book; you need a break. Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore want to invite every woman in the area to a night of restoration.

On Feb. 27, Two Rivers is partnering with Williams Health Center to host a "Ladies Night Out" event that's free to attend at the Cambria Gallery in Rochester from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pamper yourself with

featured vendors for hair, nails, clothing, beauty, weight loss, nutrition and other health needs. This is all about you and taking time to enjoy some time for yourself.

Two Rivers would like to thank Williams Health Center for choosing to partner with Habitat for Humanity as its chosen charity for the evening. Call 507-281-4878 for more information and reservations.

Two Rivers has been serving families throughout Steele, Dodge, Waseca, Olmsted and Wabasha counties since 1990.

Winter festival planned  
for Owatonna

Bold & Cold, Owatonna's annual Winter Festival, is coming up at the end of January.

A snow sculpture competition is set for Jan. 22-26 at Central Park in downtown Owatonna. Sculpting is open to the public to watch teams carve their sculptures.

Sculptures will be completed by 12 p.m. on Jan. 26. They will be available for viewing until they melt. Prizes will be given away for first and second places.

Winter Weekend Out is set for Jan. 24-26. Organizers have a fun-filled, snow fun weekend planned.

On Jan. 24, there will be free admission to West Hills Fitness Center from 5-7 p.m. Gym, walking

track, cardio room and weight room are all available for free use. Family open swim takes place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Owatonna Middle School.

Activities on Jan. 25 include: adult snow volleyball tournament at Lava Burgers at 11 a.m.; fat bike/hok ski demo at Kaplan's Woods from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 2020 iGames from 2-4 p.m. at West Hills Social Commons; free tennis at West Hills Tennis Center from 4:30-6 p.m. and rock on ice at Morehouse from 6-8 p.m.

The weekend will be capped off with family ice fishing at Lake Kohlmiere on Jan. 26 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This is a free event for anyone to attend. The backup date will be Feb. 9.

The Great Jell-o Cook Off  
in Freeborn County

Just like a chili cook-off...but sweeter! Join the Freeborn County Historical Museum on Saturday, Jan. 11, noon to 3 p.m. as we celebrate the longstanding tradition of JELL-O! You've done it with chili, now do it with Jello-O! No gathering in the Midwest is complete without that magical jiggle. Come taste the best Jell-O salads, desserts, and dishes as they compete for a chance to be named:

- Best in Fluff
- Best Fruit Suspension
- Best Family Story
- Best Photo Entry (the older the better)

Bring the whole family!

Kids will be able to do a variety of make-and-take activities like Jell-o fingerpaints, Jell-o Slime and more!

The Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Society collects preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Society is located at 1031 Bridge Ave., Albert Lea.

Red Cross plans blood drives

During this season of giving, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give the gift of life to help ensure patients don't have to worry about the availability of blood this winter. Blood donations of all types are needed, especially type O.

**UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

|                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dodge</b><br>Hayfield<br>Jan. 10: 2 p.m.-7 p.m.,<br>Sacred Heart Catholic<br>Church, 204 Third Ave. NE<br><b>Freeborn</b> | <b>Hollandale</b><br>Jan. 10: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.,<br>Hollandale Christian Re-<br>form Church, 102 Amster-<br>dam Ave. E.<br><b>Mower</b><br>Austin<br>Jan. 14: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.,<br>Our Saviors Lutheran<br>Church, 1600 W. Oakland<br>Ave.<br><b>Steele</b><br>Ellendale<br>Jan. 10: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.,<br>Ellendale Community<br>Center, 505 2nd St.<br>Owatonna<br>Jan. 13: 1 p.m.-6 p.m.,<br>Trinity Lutheran Church,<br>609 S. Lincoln Ave. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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## Another win keeps Blossom boys unbeaten

The Awesome Blossoms are on fire as they piled on their fifth consecutive victory by pounding Chatfield 64-34 in boys basketball action on Jan. 2 in Blooming Prairie.

BP had an impressive first half as it outscored Chatfield 40-12. Coach Nate Pillar credited his team's defense and rebounding for the explosive first half.

The second half of the game was an entirely different story as the Blossoms cooled off and only outscored Chatfield by two points, 24-22. Pillar wasn't particularly pleased with his team's overall performance in the second half.

"We really lacked intensity and didn't take care of the ball very well," Pillar said of the second half. He

also said his players didn't rebound nearly as well and failed to move their feet.

The Blossoms were also haunted with eight team fouls in the second half before they tried shuffling their feet to defend.

Pillar praised the performances of Zach Archer, Zach Weber, Isaac Ille and Karson Vigeland. Pillar

said Archer played "very well" in the game, especially during the first half. He added that Weber also played excellent and had a great first half.

The coach said Ille had a very solid game with some nice passing. Pillar says Archer, Weber and Ille have developed as "2-way" players.

Pillar said Vigeland had

another steady performance while Gabe Hagen and Kaden Thomas paced BP's offense with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

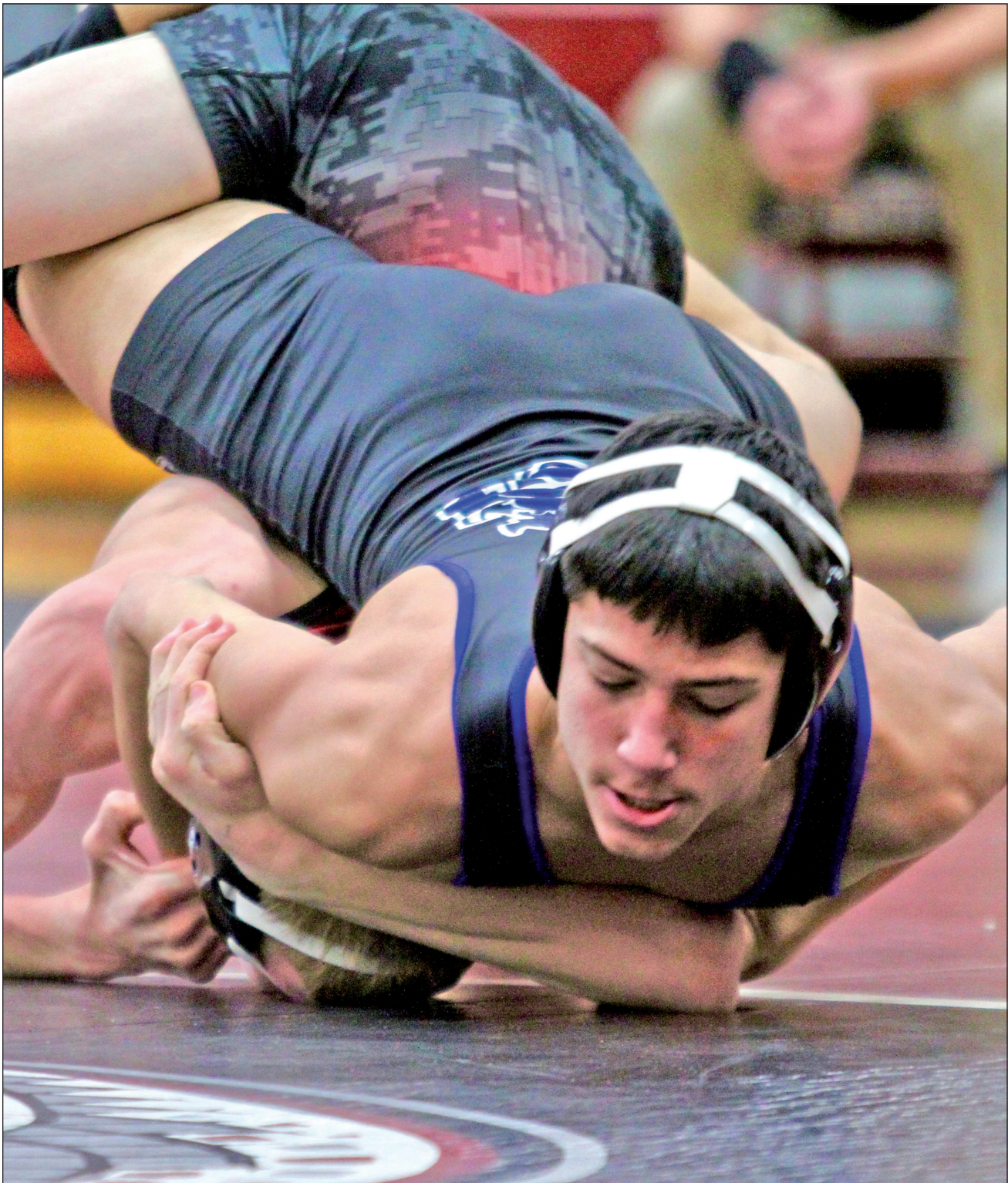
"We didn't shoot very well from the 3 and it should come as no surprise that we were again only 50% from the free throw line," Pillar said.

The victory moves the Blossoms to 5-0 on the sea-

son, including an unbeaten 3-0 record in the Gopher Conference.

Blooming Prairie has three games in the upcoming week. On Thursday, the Blossoms travel to Grand Meadow. BP hosts Waterville-Elysian Friday night before hitting the road again to Medford next Tuesday. All games are at 7:15 p.m.

## Razorbacks grapple at Rochester Mayo



Westfield's Lane Lembke manipulates the upper body of his opponent during the Rochester Mayo wrestling tournament on Dec. 21. The Razorbacks didn't fare well in the tournament as they placed 38th out of 41 teams. Westfield will travel to Grand Meadow on Thursday, Maple River on Saturday and a tournament at Lake Crystal on Monday.

PHOTO COURTESY MARY NELSON

## Panthers post first wins of season

It had been a dry spell for the NRHEG Panther boys basketball team over the first month of the season, but it finally got into the winning column by posting two straight victories over the past week.

On Dec. 31, the Panthers handed Lake Crystal-Welcome Memorial 61-50. Lonnie Wilson led the scoring attack for NRHEG with 23 points followed by Blake Ihrke with 14 and Kordell Schlaak added 11.

Panther coach Isaiah Lundberg noted his team jumped out to a 15-4 lead to start the game. "I was really happy with how we started the game," he said. "I thought our defense was good and on offense we got some good looks that we missed or our lead could

have been bigger."

Lundberg said the first half was one of the first times this season that the Panthers got out and got some easy baskets because of "our defense and getting some rebounds or steals and being able to turn that into quick scores."

During the game, Lake Crystal switched to zone defense, and Coach Lundberg thought his Panthers got a little lax against it.

In the second half, NRHEG pushed the lead up to 13 at one time, but Lake Crystal came back and closed the gap to four with only a few minutes left. Lundberg said at one time the Panthers were 8-18 at the free throw line, which was letting Lake Crystal get back into the

game. But, he added, in the last four minutes of the game the Panthers held them scoreless and made 9-10 at the free throw line to finish the game.

"I thought Lonnie Wilson really stepped up for us in the second half scoring and his defense," Lundberg said. "When we needed a basket he got one or got a steal or rebound."

**PANTHERS CRUSH TRI CITY**

On Friday, NRHEG crushed Tri City United 61-41 to post its second straight win of the week.

Schlaak led the Panthers' scoring attack with 18 points followed by Wilson with 10. Porter Peterson and Jack Olson each added six points for NRHEG.

"I thought throughout the whole game we played with good energy and played hard," Lundberg said. "After winning our first game on Tuesday, I thought we played with more confidence and looked more relaxed," he added.

Lundberg credited his team for doing a good job of attacking Tri City's zone that it played for the majority of the game.

The coach said the defense was the best part of NRHEG's game. "We did a good job of taking things away for them and forcing them into tough shots," Lundberg said.

The Panthers (2-9) travel to Faribault Bethlehem Academy Friday night.

## Back in the win column for BP girls

After suffering its first loss of the season before Christmas, the Blooming Prairie girls basketball team got back on the winning side of things by cruising to two victories over the past week.

On Jan. 2, the Blossom girls killed Chatfield 57-30, though they got off to a slow start in the game. Blooming Prairie actually trailed by one point 15-16 with eight minutes left in the first half.

The Blossoms made a few adjustments and finished the half on a 15-2 run to take control of the game and lead 30-18 at halftime.

The second half was more of the same as the Blossoms outscored Chatfield 27-12 to finish with a 57-30 victory.

Three Blossom players finished scoring in double figures, including Bobbie Brunns with 20, Julia Worke with 15 and Allison Krohnberg with 10. Coach John Brunns noted Megan Oswald was held to six points as Chatfield focused its defensive attack on her. However, Oswald managed to gather 12 rebounds, 6 steals and 5 assists.

**BLOSSOMS SNEAK PAST TRITON**

The next night the Blossoms put together yet another great road win by

defeating Triton 66-58.

Coach Brunns said Triton was a "very solid opponent" for his team. "We were able to get out early in the game and gain the lead behind some hot shooting and excellent offensive rebounding," Brunns said.

Maren Forystek provided a spark with eight points in a three-minute stretch where she converted on a nice backdoor and two 3-pointers. Bobbie Brunns also scored 10 points in the first half.

After leading 36-22 at halftime, the Blossoms were able to stretch the lead to 17 before Triton came storming back behind Kendra Petersohn and Brylee Iverson. Triton was able to chip away at BP's lead and cut it to four points several times. "But we were able to answer their runs and made some big free throws down the stretch," Coach Brunns pointed out. He noted Bobbie Brunns and Oswald each went 4-for-4 from the line in the last two minutes of the game.

The victories improve the Blossoms' overall record to 8-1 and they remain unbeaten at 4-0 in the Gopher Conference.

This week the Blossoms will take on Lyle Pacelli at home and Friday they travel to Waterville-Elysian.

## BP JV, C squad girls drop a pair

The Blooming Prairie junior varsity girls basketball team dropped a close game, 29-24, against Chatfield on Jan. 2.

The top scorers for Blooming Prairie were Addison Doocy, Macy Lembke, Anna Kittelson and Anna Pauly with four points each. Shawntee Snyder and Sienna Fyksen each added three points.

Coach Cory Hendrickson said his team played a fantastic first half and then lost all of energy in the second. "Chatfield was much more aggressive after halftime and we didn't match their intensity," he said. "Our girls need to look to score more than we do."

Hendrickson pointed out his team makes passive mistakes instead of aggressive mistakes. "We have to take more chances in order for good things to happen for us," he said.

On Jan. 3, Triton crushed BP 51-16 in junior varsity action. Pauly led the scoring the Blossoms with seven points.

"Triton shot the ball ex-

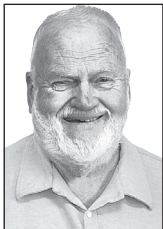
tremely well," Hendrickson said. "I was very impressed with their team. They are athletic and smart basketball players," he added.

The losses dropped Blooming Prairie's record to 4-5.

In C squad action, Blooming Prairie dropped a close one against Chatfield 36-32. Shawntee Snyder and Addison Doocy each had eight points for the Blossoms. "This was another case of us playing a great first half and then coming out flat in the second," Hendrickson said, noting his team missed way too many shots in the second half.

On Friday, Triton easily defeated Blooming Prairie's C squad 27-13. Hannah Hamersma led the Blossoms scoring effort with seven points followed by Doocy with four points. "Triton was a very athletic team and we struggled to get quality shots against their defense," Hendrickson said.

The losses dropped BP's C squad record to 1-5.



**Outside the Lines**  
LEMAR NELSON

LeMar is recovering from a short stint in the hospital over the New Year. His daughter, Teri, reports that he hopes to return with his column next week. We wish him the best in his recovery.



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