

Steve Martin, right, holds up the fish that his son Myles, left, caught during their trip to Lake Kohlmier. The Martins went out to the lake Sunday for the annual Bold and Cold family ice fishing event during the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department's Winter Weekend Out. For more on the event, see Page B1.

Ellendale project draws fire

'Misinformation' alarmed some

BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

Darrin Stadheim said he was "caught off guard" by the reaction of Ellendale residents to his proposal for new

of the Ellendale City Council, "so I anticipated a large turnout."

It was that misinformation that prompted the city council to host an informational open house last week at the Ellendale Community Center. Dozens of residents stopped by the displays, which outlined everything from the construction timeline to an explanation of "market rate" rent to blueprints of floor plans. The No. 1 concern, Kibler said, was that the apartments would be subsidized, or "low-income" housing. It is not subsidized housing. The current market rate for a one-bedroom is \$800; a See **ELLENDALE** on A3 ▶





workforce housing in the town of about 800 people.

"I had hoped I had enough clout and respect in the community that they would've said, 'well, Darrin is doing it, so it'll be fine,' but that didn't happen," he said.

In fact, it didn't appear residents knew much at all about the apartment building that could be open for tenants by May 2023.

"There was a lot of misinformation in the community," said Stephanie Kibler, a member

STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Ellendale resident Phil Schneider, right, gives his contact information and suggestions to project developer Darrin Stadheim. Schneider and his wife Sarah, partially hidden, plan to sell the home they've owned for just a year because of its proximity to the proposed apartment building.



PHOTO BY DOUG HANNEMAN

News Editor Deb Flemming and Publisher Rick Bussler accept various awards from Minnesota Newspaper Association President Justin Lessman, center, at last week's banquet in Brooklyn Park. The Times earned 12 awards, including first place in the general excellence category.

Times named one of state's best

One of the top awards given to Minnesota newspapers has found a home in Steele County.

Last week, The **Steele County Times** captured first place in general excellence in the Minnesota Newspaper Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest. It is the first time the Times has won first place in General Excellence.

There have been a few occasions since 2011 that the Times has won either second or third place for general excellence.

General Excellence is considered one of the most prestigious categories in the state contest. In awarding the honor, judges consider depth, breadth and quality of news coverage, quality of advertising, quality of the editorial page, quality of photography and overall appearance of the newspaper.

For most categories, there are five circulation groups for weekly newspapers. The Times competes in the 1,500 to 3,000-circulation category. In awarding first

place in General Excellence, the judges said: "Love the local editorial. Good mix of news and feature stories and strong advertising... good sports section. Nice work."

The Times earned seven other first-place awards. They included: sports reporting, special section, hard news story, sports feature story, best advertisement. best columnist and portrait, and personality photo.

For sports reporting, the judges said: "Great coverage of all sports.

Clean layout and great pictures."

The newspaper captured first place for its special section on the Steele County Free Fair, showcasing the event afterward. In awarding first place, the judges said: "Most fair sections are in advance of the event. I found this a refreshing approach to a section that many newspapers publish. Content and layout was fantastic."

Publisher Rick Bussler was awarded first place for best columnist. See TIMES on A4 ►

| STEELE COUNTY TIMES Blooming Prairie, Owatonna MN Volume 130, No. 28 June 130, No. 200, No. 2 | INSIDECalendar | AREA DEATHS Maryann Haberman, 94, Owatonna Barbara Simon, 70, Owatonna Monica Kruschke, 48, Owatonna | Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 |
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Opinion

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

OUR VIEW

Get the facts

Kudos to those who attended an informational open house on a proposed apartment complex in Ellendale last week.

Dozens of residents stopped to learn more about the project, which has become controversial because of misguided misperceptions and misinformation.

A local developer plans to construct an apartment complex that could be open for tenants by May 2023.

Four months ago, the city-backed project was awarded a \$162,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to prepare the site for development.

Phase 1 will be a 20-unit building with one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. It will feature a secured entry and surveillance and heated underground parking.

Contrary to local scuttlebutt, the proposed apartments aren't intended to be subsidized, "low-income" housing.

The developer has said all along that he plans to charge market-rate rent.

As Steele County grows, so does the need for more affordable housing - both subsidized housing and workforce housing.

Subsidized housing is just what the term implies - the government subsidizes rents. However, households who need workforce housing may not always qualify for housing subsidies.

Workforce housing targets middle-income workers, including police officers, firefighters, teachers, health care workers and retail clerks.

Next week, the Steele County Housing Coalition will present findings and recommendations on what can be done to meet affordable housing needs here.

Let's hope the coalition's findings provide some real insights into how we, as a community. put misguided misperceptions and misinformation about housing to rest once and for all.

GUEST COLUMN The Winter Wind

The winter wind, comes blowin' in, across the plain, it stalls our cars in drifting snow, and freezing rain.

We want to hide, we stay inside, to avoid the cold, I hate the cold, north, winter wind.

We hope and pray, there'll come a day, when we are bold, no longer hide,

we'll warm them by the fire, I hate the cold, north, winter wind.

The wind will change, the sun will shine, and melt the snow. the ice remains, from frozen rain, so we all move slow,

Soon spring will come, the earth will warm, 'tis summer once again, I hate the cold, north,

Delivering on a promise from 2009



Hot Pursuit RICK BUSSLER

t may have taken 12 years, but last week I finally cashed in on a promise I made to readers.

In the Nov. 24, 2009 edition, less than a month after I took over the operation of what was then the Blooming Prairie Times. I wrote: "Since day one, I made a commitment to our readers to provide the best possible community newspaper that I know how... this week marks the beginning of some of the changes you will be seeing over the next few months as I zoom in hot pursuit of making this one of the best community newspapers in the state."

Some people, like politicians, often make promises that simply never happen. However, I like to think journalists are in a different category.

Last week at the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association convention in Brooklyn Park, I was humbled to receive the first place general excellence award for our circulation category. This is one of the top awards given to newspapers in the state. What's especially noteworthy for us is that this is the first time we have received first place for general excellence. We've come close a few other times. but never to the top.

Winning general excellence is the pinnacle of just about any newspaper publisher out there. It sends a strong message that what we're doing is working. This year our journalistic counterparts in Michigan judged the Minnesota newspapers.

From news coverage to sports reporting to photography and the advertisements placed by businesses and organizations, we offer a comprehensive package that ties it all together. Our editors, designers and production assistants work hard to make it look pretty and easy for you to read. Climbing to the top has been an interesting road for me. Quite honestly, there were times when I wondered if it would ever happen. As I have shared in the past, many challenges sabotaged my most sincere efforts. But as I was reminded in church on Sunday, the many storms in life create us into the individuals we are. We should never lose faith in what we're trying to accomplish in this journey called life.

Over the past several years, we have worked hard to transform the Steele County Times into a countywide newspaper for all of Steele County and the surrounding counties.

I like to use the illustration of Blooming Prairie businessman Craig Kruckeberg who has achieved much success with his business adventures over the years.

Kruckeberg has said in the past: "Success doesn't happen overnight. And if it does, somebody is going to jail."

There have been some big speed bumps over the years, but I think we finally have things going in the direction we want for our readers. I hope our readers continue to enjoy the

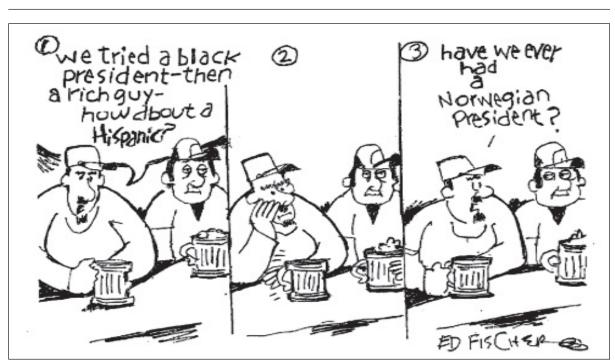
community newspaper that we put out every week. While the awards are quite flattering, it's actually the readers who make us strive for the journalistic excellence we aim to provide.

I am always energized and invigorated by the comments readers share with us through email, mail, phone calls, in person or social media. No money or award can replace the satisfaction we get from our loyal readers.

Readers, take a bow. This is your award. You have provided us with the motivation and desire to excel, especially in the past year and a half. Without your loyalty and support, none of this would be possible.

My hope is the journalism we provide will connect with readers in a profound way. And to top it off, I want readers to trust us for providing them with quality hometown news that will influence our communities to become better.

As I ended my column in 2009, it's worth repeating again: "It will be a great adventure as I go in hot pursuit of producing the best newspaper possible."



we'll go outside, to fight the cold,

winter wind.

with frosty nose and frigid toes,

Bud Peka

Owatonna

GUEST COLUMN

Finding solutions to child care issues

BY TIM PENNY

It is no secret that our child care system is strained. Even before the pandemic, rural Minnesota was struggling with a child care shortage. For parents, this has made it challenging to enter or stay in the workforce.

For communities, the challenge is attracting and retaining residents if they do not have enough care available in town. Fortunately, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we have seen some real progress through our work addressing this challenge.

One of the ways we have helped develop solutions to the child care shortage is by offering complimentary consulting services. Jeff Andrews, SMIF's early childhood business consultant, provides direct support to family providers, owners/operators of child care centers and communities.

SMIF is currently working with multiple communities as they approach ways to support child care locally. One thing that is clear is that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer, which is why SMIF helps communities develop solutions that are unique to them.

One example of this is Andrew's work in Northfield. Under his guidance, Three **Rivers** Community Action and Healthy **Community Initiative** created a plan to open a new family child care owner initiative at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Using this partnership model, they will be able to provide classroom space and business support to individuals who are looking to start a new career or relocate their current family child care business.

Subscription Rates:

Freeborn & Mower- \$49

Elsewhere in Minnesota- \$52

Steele, Dodge,

Out of State- \$56

When a major business closed a few years ago in Waseca, community partners came together to reimagine how to use the large, vacant building that was left behind. SMIF has worked alongside partners from the city, chamber, EDA, county and school district to create a plan for this building which will include a traditional child care center as well as spaces for family care. Additionally, with Andrew's guidance, the partners will also be focused on supporting existing providers in town through trainings and other initiatives.

Supporting existing providers is another critical tool in addressing the child care shortage. Providers are often stretched thin in a very demanding job which can lead to burnout and, ultimately, leaving the industry. Additionally, the needs

of families are changing and evolving due to how the pandemic has impacted people's work lives and personal lives.

Providers are finding themselves at a crossroads and realizing that the way they have always done things isn't working any more. Because of this, SMIF offers consultation services that help providers create a more sustainable business model that also aligns with their own personal goals.

One of the most recent success stories in this space is a partnership between **SMIF** and Families First of Minnesota that has been a joint effort to get more providers into Parent Aware, Minnesota's quality rating program. All 17 participating providers, from across SMIF's 20-county region, have had an opportunity to work directly with

Andrews to discuss changing their business models to adapt to the current climate and reimagine their future. all the while providing the same quality care for families and kids.

Finally, the owners and operators of child care centers are a third area where SMIF's consulting services are available. Jeff's approach with centers, whether new or existing, is more in-depth and complex to help owners understand the nuances of the child care center business. Recently. through Jeff's support, a new preschool opened in Caledonia and a new child care center opened in Lake Crystal. The preschool at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro has also been expanded. Additionally, a new child care center, Leo Augusta Children's Academy, will be opening soon in Blooming Prairie.

The availability of quality child care undoubtedly plays a critical role in our communities. In 2022 I encourage community partners, providers and center owner/operators to reach out to

SMIF for our complimentary consultation services. We are ready to help you reimagine your future.

The best way to start is by filling out a form on our website at smifoundation.org/earlychildhood or by contacting Jeff at 507-214-7056 or jeffa@smifoundation.org.

Tim Penny is the president & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Penny represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of **Representatives from** 1982 – 1994. He can be reached at timp@ smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

www.SteeleCountyTimes.con

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

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2021-16 awards

4 national awards 2017–2 state and 3 national awards

2016-8 state and

6 national awards (Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 | A3

County's COVID death toll reaches 50

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

In the past three weeks, seven more people have died from COVID-19 complications in Steele County, bringing the county's death toll to 50.

Included in the death toll is sobering statistic of 31 deaths since Oct. 1. More than 60% of the Steele County deaths from the pandemic that is nearing the two-year mark have occurred within the past four months.

No additional details were available on the seven most recent deaths. However,

officials continue to point to unvaccinated patients as the greatest cause for concern when it comes to COVID-19.

The total number of new cases in the past two weeks has skyrocketed to levels that haven't been seen before. Since Jan. 18, there have been 1,346 new cases reported, according to Kristen Sailer, emergency management director for Steele County.

In comparison, a two-week period in November 2020, which was one of the worst periods at that point, saw 728 cases in Steele County.

"It's high," said Sailer when comparing the most recent numbers to other periods in the pandemic. "We are definitely seeing higher numbers."

The positivity rate in Steele County reached a record high of 32% last week, Sailer said, adding on Monday it came down slightly to 26%.

One piece of good news in the pandemic is that the overall COVID cases requiring hospitalization in Owatonna dropped by 10% last week, Sailer said. But, she added, the hospital is still operating at full capacity. Steele County's

vaccination rate has climbed slightly to 63.1%, still well below the state average of 71.5%, according to Sailer.

Owatonna school officials, Sailer said, dropped the district's masking requirement last week after seeing a slight decline in numbers, despite recommendations from public health officials. "They made the decision on their own," Sailer said. "They will probably see cases spike again.'

Sailer added, "Public Health is still recommending masking, social distancing and all the precautions."

As of last week, the CDC has revised its guidelines for quarantine to at least five days with an additional five days of masking.

Officials at Steele County Public Health have been unavailable for comment for several weeks.

Meanwhile, Sailer said the weekly drivethrough vaccine clinic for Steele County has trimmed back its hours of operation to 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Public Works Building at 3000 Hoffman Dr. in Owatonna. No appointment is necessary.

COVID-19 STEELE AT GLANCE

New cases since Jan. 18: 1,346 Total new cases: 9,398 Total deaths: 50 Deaths since October: 31 Vaccination Rate: 63.1% Total booster shots given: 2,472

Source: Steele County Public Health

Ellendale project draws fire

◄ ELLENDALE from A1 two-bedroom is about \$1,100.

'We had people attend city council meetings," she said, "and I had people stop by my house. The comfort levels have been challenged. But low-income doesn't mean you don't take care of your home; once they see (the new building) go up, they'll see that it's a good project."

Phase 1 of the project will be a 20-unit building with one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. It will feature a secured entry and surveillance, as well as heated underground parking.

Matt Durand, EDA Coordinator for Ellendale and a member of Community and **Economic Development** Associates, or CEDA, said a 2016 housing needs analysis indicated 55 new housing units were needed in the city.

A few single-family homes go up annually, but not enough to fill the need.

CEDA, he said, "is trying to look for equa-



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE Stephanie Kibler, a member of the Ellendale Citv Council, looks at an information sheet with Rick Johnson, also of Ellendale. Johnson said he came to the open house about a new apartment building project

"because I just wanted to see what it's all about."

still lives there - and the city are really banking on is an additional \$491,000 grant from the state's Workforce Housing Development Program. Now in its third – and final – year, the program's money is crucial to the project.

The city didn't apply the first year; last year, it was one of seven to vie for an available \$2 million. Two cities dropped their application and three received funding Ellendale was one of two that was rejected. This year, Stadheim believes the city's chances are better - but the competition has grown. There are 23 applications for a share of \$4 million. "We've made progress. There are good things that we've done" to increase the chances of getting a share of the funding, Stadheim said.

The state will announce the grant winners in April. That's too late for

Sarah and Phil Schneider, who own a home next door to the site of Phase 1.

Forty feet away, to be exact.

The couple bought their home a year ago, but are "1,000% selling it," Phil Schneider said.

"We moved away from the Cities to get away from this, and I look out my front door and see this monstrosity," he said, pointing at the artist's rendition of the proposed building. "They never even considered a privacy screen until I suggested it to (Stadheim) tonight," Schneider said. "I'm the one who brought it up. We'll see what they do." So are they angry? **Disappointed?**

he'll have to contend with construction noise as he conducts business on the phone.

"It's going to be a loud summer," she said. They might have felt differently if the site of Phase 2 were developed first, Phil Schneider said.

"This (Phase 1) property is close to ours, they can tap into the water, the sewer, the electric," he said. "I get it, it's cheaper to do that."

Should Phase 2 be developed, that infrastructure will have to be added, which increases the cost of the project.

Filling the first building doesn't worry Stadheim at all, but "100% occupancy is my trigger for Phase 2," he said.

While he and the city leaders believe the apartments will draw seniors, teachers, single parents and new families, they may not all be local.

"If it doesn't fill with Ellendale (residents), we'll open it up to Owatonna, to Albert Lea," Stadheim said.

"It's market rate - for hard-working people like you and me," he said, to the obvious relief of another neighbor to the project. "Thank God," the man said. "You see HUD housing up in the Cities – that's where all the shootings are. I'd have to tell my grandchildren not to walk over there."



BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

The mask mandate for the Owatonna School District has been lifted, thanks to a significant decrease in absences among both students and staff.

The mandate was put into place on Jan. 12, driven by "nearly 4.7% positive COVID cases" in the district, Superintendent Jeff Elstad told school board members last week.

By Jan. 24, that percentage had dropped to 1.3, he said.

"When the masking requirement was put in place, it was to address a short-term issue for a period of two weeks," Elstad said. "At the time, we had a staff shortage of 122 staff out because of COVID and/or influenza. By (Jan. 24), we had 71 staff members out, so we are seeing progress in the right direction." As of Jan. 26, the day the mandate was lifted, there were 43 staff members out.



Jeff Elstad

The alternative to a masking requirement, Elstad said, "would have been going away from our priority of in-person learning for our students."

After continuing to collect data through the middle of last week, the district moved to "strongly recommending"

tions to solve a problem that no one can answer, trying to figure out how to meet the need" for work force housing.

The city-backed project was awarded \$162,000 grant in October from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, which will be used to prepare the property. The area is an overgrown green space with several dilapidated buildings that need razing.

But what Stadheim an Ellendale native who

But, Durand said, "there's a lot of competition, a lot of need in small-town Minnesota."

"All of the above," Sarah Schneider said.

To top it off, her husband works from home;

That didn't matter at all to the Schneiders.

"We're going to contact a realtor tonight," Phil Schneider said, "and we're remodeling very quickly."

Students, too, have been rebounding. There were 467 students absent on Jan. 11; that number dropped to 211 as of Jan. 24, but climbed slightly to 245 on Jan. 26.

mask use.

"We'll hold to that so that we have all the data, and we have enough" healthy people to safely staff the buildings, Elstad said.

At-home tests are available at all Owatonna schools³ nurses' offices for symptomatic students to use at home. Results are available within 15 minutes of testing; the program is intended to help prevent further spread.

Steele County's Hormann shifts to the bench

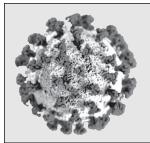
BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

Christy Hormann has always wanted to be a lawyer, but a judge? Not necessarily.

Eventually, though, "there's been a shift for me, through the years," she said last week, the day after being appoint-



Christy Hormann



ed by Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan to serve as a judge in Minnesota's Third Judicial District, chambered in Albert Lea.

"More recently, I've thought about where I can continue to grow, and share my knowledge and my passion," Hormann said.

She has served as chief deputy in the Steele County Attorney's office for the past 16 years, something that shaped her "desire to progress as an attorney.

'I've been helping on one side of things," she said, "but I'm seeing that there is more I can do for both sides. I've learned a lot of things that I can apply across

the board; there's a lot of impact that I could have, and the bench provides that opportunity."

Her move to the courtroom will come in April, following the retirement of Judge Steven Schwab.

"I am proud to appoint Ms. Hormann to the Freeborn County bench," Walz said in a news release. "Her work on the Third Judicial District Veteran's Treatment Court, and her dedication to helping those suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues give me confidence that she will lead with compassion and strive for equitable outcomes

for all those who appear before her."

In her role with Steele County, Hormann has overseen civil commitments, guardianships or conservatorships and adult felony criminal cases. She also serves on the Third Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court and is on the advisorv board of Steele **County Community** Corrections.

Her work on the veterans' treatment court team has allowed her to build a relationship with Judge Ross Leuning, who is also chambered in Albert Lea.

"We're very familiar with each other, and I'm lucky to be able to go there," Hormann said.

The concept of treatment court including local drug courts -- "opens the door to addressing those issues," she said. "My perspective is that you need to get to the root of the behavior, to find out why people are finding themselves in court. If you address the root of the problems, you can find out what's driving the behavior."

Within the communitv. Hormann serves on the board of directors for the Crisis Resource Center in Owatonna, and the Steele County Safety Camp. She's also a member of the Promoting Peace Planning Committee and a mock trial judge with the

Minnesota State High School League.

She received her bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas, and earned her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

"Freeborn County is gaining a judge who is ready to hit the ground running on day one, and will serve her community with pride for years to come," Flanagan said. "She will make an excellent addition to the Third Judicial District."

The Third District includes Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona counties.

| World | COVID | -19 UP | DATE | Freeborn 8,146 Deaths60 |
|-------|--|-------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| U.S | MN 1,310,000 Deaths 11,532 Recovered 908,000 | Steele9,398 Deaths50 | • | Mower 10,937 Deaths |
| | | | | A3 OF JAN. 31, 2022 |

How to recognize a mini-stroke and what to do

Dear Savvy Senior, How can a person know if they've had a minor stroke? My 72-year-old mother had a spell a few weeks ago where she suddenly felt dizzy for no apparent reason and had trouble walking and speaking, but it went away, and she seems fine now. Concerned Son

Dear Concerned, The way you're describing it, it's very possible that your mom had a "mini-stroke" also known as a transient ischemic attack (TIA), and if she hasn't already done so she needs to see a doctor as soon as possible.

Each year, around 250,000 Americans have a mini-stroke, but less than half of them realize what's happening. That's because the symptoms are usually fleeting – lasting only a few minutes, up to an hour or two – causing most people to ignore them or brush them off as no big deal. But anvone who has had a ministroke is much more likely to have a full-



blown stroke, which can cause long-term paralysis, impaired memory, loss of speech or vision, and even death.

A mini-stroke is caused by a temporary blockage of blood flow to the brain and can be a warning sign that a major stroke may soon be coming. That's why mini-strokes need to be treated like emergencies.

Who's Vulnerable? A person is more likely to suffer a TIA or stroke if they are overweight or inactive, have high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol or diabetes. Other factors that boost the risks are age (over 60), smoking, heart disease, atrial fibrillation and having a family history of stroke. Men also have a greater risk for stroke than women, and African Americans and Hispanics are at higher risk than those of other races.

Warning Signs The symptoms of a mini-stroke are the same as those of a full-blown stroke, but can be subtle and short-lived, and they don't leave any permanent damage. They include any one or combination of the following:

· Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body. · Sudden confusion,

trouble speaking or understanding. • Sudden trouble see-

ing in one or both eyes. · Sudden trouble

walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination. • Sudden, severe head-

ache with no known cause.

The easiest way to identify a stroke is to use the F.A.S.T. test to identify the symptoms.

F (Face): Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A (Arm): Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S (Speech): Ask the person to say a simple sentence. Is their speech slurred?

T (Time): If you observe any of these signs of stroke, call 911.

Get Help If these warning signs sound like what happened to your mom, but they went away, she needs to go to the emergency room or nearby stroke center.

If the doctor suspects a TIA, he or she will run a series of tests to determine what caused it and assess her risk of a future stroke. Once the cause has been determined, the goal of treatment is to correct the abnormality and prevent a full-blown stroke. Depending on the cause(s), her doctor may prescribe medication to reduce the tendency for blood to clot or may recommend surgery or a balloon procedure (angioplasty). For more information on mini-strokes and how to recognize one, visit the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association at StrokeAssociation.org.

History from the News Archives **A class reunion in Ellendale**



PHOTO COURTESY ELLENDALE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Members of the Class of 1943 gathered for a reunion at the Ellendale Park in 1954. Shown are from left: Leighton Langlie, Warren Sawyer, Marvin Shoaf, Lane Lee, Marjean Thompson, Cecil Smith, Eleanor Christensen, Bob Swearingen, Carol Thompson, James Kasper, Vercilla Johnson, Charles Toft, Florence Dunn, Richard Cassem, Burton Borchert and Elsworth Olson.

10 Years Ago Jan. 31, 2012

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Snow Week at Blooming Prairie High School kicks off Feb. 6 with coronation at 9 p.m. Royalty candidates include: Isaiah Toquam, Jonathan Kraling, Gabriel Kartes, David Huff, Patrick Jones, Kierstin Wencl, McKayla Myer, Maggie Sorenson, Hunter Henderson and DaVyll Smith. The week is filled with activities ending with the Snow Week dance on Saturday.

Since the 1800s Steele County residents have looked for ways to preserve the history of the county. Now they have a place to do that. Area residents got a sneak preview on Friday during the historical society's Cabin Fever Fundraiser, which was held to help "burn the mortgage." The new \$3 million center is scheduled to open by the end of April. Besides the historical displays, it includes a gift shop, a caterer's kitchen, an event center and reception area and an archive room.

20 Years Ago Jan. 29, 2002

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

"The Patchwork Quilt," the BPHS one-act drama entry, will advance to the Section 1A contest after earning the runner-up spot at sub-section contest on Jan. 23. The cast included Maggie Romeo, Amanda Schlund, Jeff Isenor, Amanda Herdina, Sara Romeo, Theresa Romeo and Donnelly, Gary Tashima and Leah Vaith. The supporting staff had Emily Wencl, Laura Mans, Steve Seykora, Jeff Butler, Emily Butler, Stacia Waldok, Bob Johnson, Amanda Wroblewski and Amanda Lillie. The Blooming Prairie Elementary Triathlon team finished second in the round robin meet held Jan. 11. The group competed in the challenger division for the 5th and 6th graders. Team included Patrick Rumpza, Katelin Strand, Katie Spanda, Cody Schmeling and Marissa Kittleson. Third place team consists of Matthew Zellmer, Michael Romeo, Meg Fogartv. Lvnnae Nelson, Justin Krell and Sarah Mans. The $7^{\rm th}$ and $8^{\rm th}$ grade team of Marcus Zellmer, Kate Forgerty, Chelsea Hansen, Candace Caswell took second in the Cross Training competition. Advisors for the teams are Christy Myers and Janet Oman.

caused by air being drawn from the structure during the storm which hit the area on Monday.

An outstanding performance was given by the Blooming Prairie wrestlers at the Austin invitational held this past weekend. The tournament was open to eight schools for wrestlers grades 7 through 9. Of the sixteen wrestlers eligible, no less than twelve grabbed placemnt ratings and nine captured awards. Kevin Hoebing won 3rd place ribbon; second place ribbons were awarded to Mark Decker, David Lindquist and Barry Braaten; two "champion" awards went to Paul Vaith and Hector Morales. The boys are coached by George Tashima and Nels Thompson.

75 Years Ago

Jan. 29, 1947

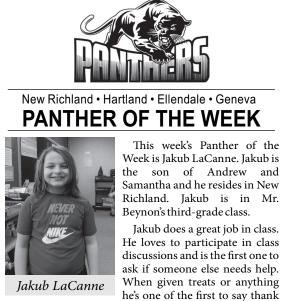
FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

A business partnership of over 25 years was terminated here on Saturday afternoon when the final papers were signed whereby Frank Ressler sold his holdings in the M Nelson & Company to Howard Nelson, son of the late Martin Nelson, founder of Blooming Prairie's largest and most widely known mercantile establishment.

Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock the local fire truck was called to the Albert Noble farm one mile south of Newry. The fire started in the hay loft and had gained such headway that the 36 x 76-foot barn was a mass of flames. The local department were able to save a brooder and hog house.

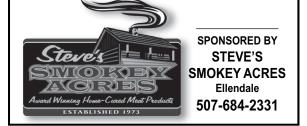
OWATONNA PHOTO NEWS **31 Years Ago** Jan. 31, 1991

Jan. 51, 1991



he's one of the first to say thank you. He's very smart and isn't

afraid to ask questions when he doesn't understand. Jakub loves hockey, playing video games, and making people laugh. Keep up the great work Jakub!





We are a third generation, family-owned construction company that was founded in 1926 by three Duininck brothers. While our capabilities have expanded over the years, our values-based approach to each project has remained the same – we star with great relationships, do quality work, and honor our commitments.

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|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Contact us to learn more about opportunities to join our team phone 320-978-6011 | PAVING: •Area Manager •Estimator/ Project Manager •Plant Oiler •Plant Technician •Loader / Dozer Operator •Utility Operator •Laborer | •Operations Manager •Crusher Operator •Loader / Dozer Operator •Wash Plant Operator •Laborer BRIDGE: •Carpenter/ Laborer/Welder | Backfiller Excavator Operator Pipelayer Topman GRADING: Excavator Operator Utility Operator & Side Dump Drivers | | |
| opportunities to join our team phone 320-978-6011 | Check oı | it all of our positions at Du | iininck.com | | |
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Duininck is an EEO/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Em

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

50 Years Ago Feb. 2, 1972

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI,

PUBLISHERS

Five sows and thirty-one onemonth old feeder pigs were found dead in a brooder house on the Ben Dannen farm on Tuesday morning, Jan. 25. Dr. A.B. Magnusson was called to the farm south of Blooming Prairie to determine the cause of death. It is assumed that the animals were the victims of suffocation

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Christine Driessen wither Science Fair display on the development of a chicken won grand champion honors at St. Mary's Science Fair on Monday. Additional winners were eighth grade: Genny Dahl-Butler, 1st place; Cindy Havelka, 2nd place; Sara Hierstein, 3rd. Seventh grade: 1st place, Katie Thurnau and Lydia Willheim; 2nd place, Karen Schisler; 3rd place, Matt Louks. 6th grade: 1st place, Celeste Coleman; 2nd place, Joe Claeys and Mike Stolta. Winners of the science fair will go on to further competition.

The Straight River Chapter of American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education (A.B.A.T.E.) is one of 22 in the state. With donations from local merchants and fundraising by members, the chapter was able to donate 150 stuffed toys to the police and sheriff's departments, and Gold Cross Ambulance. The toys "will really make a difference with kids in an emergency situation." Kevin Kozel said, representative of Gold Cross. Members of the group present for the donation are Liann Larson, Melanie Hemze, Mike Schafer, Mary Johnson, Rita Knutsen, President Shawn Pelot and Wayne Peterson.

Times named one of state's best

◄ TIMES from A1 Judges said: "Rick Bussler has a light, humorous touch when writing about how his mom got a black eye (for her 82nd birthday). In a separate column, he discusses a cornucopia of county fair food created at home after COVID-19 forced cancellation of the real thing. He also details the woes of delivering the newspaper when the U.S. Postal Service drags its feet and doesn't offer any help or answers. Any publisher can identify with this."

Bussler received first place for a sports feature story he wrote on the miracle police officer from Waseca who was shot and visited an athlete/friend during a Medford football game. Judges said: "Writer did a nice job of sprinkling in quotes. The story flowed well and was focused."

A photo taken by Bussler at the Steele County Fair of a young child nestled up next to her cow earned first place in the portrait and personality photo competition. Judges said: "Very nice image. Farm kids' relationship with their animals. Excellent."

An advertisement for B to Z Hardware featuring a photo of Cousin Eddie and the store's Christmas display earned first place for best advertisement. The judges made no comments.

The Times also earned first place for hard news capturing the \$1 million donation by the Kruckeberg family of Blooming Prairie and the subsequent formation of the Leo Augusta Children's Academy. The judges did not offer any comments.

Second place honors went to the Times for local breaking news coverage of Brian Seykora's dairy operation going up in flames and headline writing.

The newspaper also

picked up third place awards for editorial page as a whole and news photo.

"Awards are a nice affirmation of the hard work and dedication we put forth each and every week to producing a quality newspaper," said Bussler. "We are always striving for high journalistic quality and these awards are a testament that we are succeeding."

Since 2012 when the newspaper began competing in the state contest, the Times has achieved 79 state awards. In addition, the Times has also won 26 national awards for journalistic excellence.



Threats: Owatonna Police responded to a subject making threats in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 12:32 p.m. on Jan. 21.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 17 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Matthew J. Adams, 32, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felonu possession of firearm. Adams was sentenced to \$75 and 60 months in St. Cloud State Prison. Justin L. Johnson, 32, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. He was sentenced to \$4.185. 149 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use. psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation. Janiffer L. Miller. 37. Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. Miller was sentenced to \$200, 120 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation. no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation. Juan C. Sandoval Ritchie, 37, Owatonna. previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation. He was sentenced to \$125, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state. domestic abuse evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele Countu District Court the week of Jan. 17 - 23:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annalee S. Andrews, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275. Elijah J. Lutgens, 24, Albert Lea, speeding \$115; Emma K. Paquette, 19, Faribault, speeding, \$275; Dana W. Post, 51, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Chad L. Sams, 42. Crown Point. IN. speeding, \$115; Eduardo G. Santos, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Brian A. Teigland, 31, Sartell, speeding, \$115; Patsy L. Thibado, 53, Owatonna, red light, \$125; Sue A. Versteeg, 62, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Gregory T. Wikan, 48, Waseca, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tyler S. Britt, 26, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication. \$125. 77 daus in countu jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Hector A. Carrillo, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Anthony W. Caywood, 39, Owatonna, drive through barricade, \$115; Dylan M. Hermann, 20, Faribault, assault, \$375, 2 days in county jail, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Lewis L. Hernandez, 37 Owatonna, abandoned vehicle, \$125; Dawson J. Heuer, 23, Blooming Prairie, DWI, \$400, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Linda R. Karnauskas, 67, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Carrie A. Larson, 31, Owatonna, abandoned vehicle, \$125; Clifford J. Marshall, 39, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$125, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments. no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Jason C. Meixner, 44, Owatonna, parking violation, \$37; Ali O. Mohamed. 37. Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; David A. Montero Rocha, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Jerome T. Nelson, 74. Geneva, failure to drive in single lane, \$125: Jose Rocha. 59, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Josiah R. Schrom, 18, Owatonna, suspended license, no insurance and lights violation, \$525; Antonio Vela, 48, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Sintia G. Vielma Gonzalez. 25. Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Tarren J. Weise, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Seth A. Williams,

20, Owatonna, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, \$165; Brittany R. Zales, 29, Minneapolis, registration violation, \$105.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Craig J. Anderson, 63, Lansing, speeding, \$135; Brandin D. Botten, 33, Owatonna, interfere with 911 call, \$125 and 103 daus in county jail; Mark A. Burciaga, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Sophiamaria C. Garza, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Daniel F. Guggisberg, 61, Owatonna, burning violation, \$275; Tanner J. Heaney, 29, Medford, DWI, \$600, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Henry M. Hildenbrand, 20, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Alyssa M. Isaackson, 31, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Eziquel I. Leal, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Rudolph A. McDowald, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Eric A. Scholl, 38, Janesville, speeding, \$115: David H. Simpson, 67, Albert Lea, domestic assault, \$125, 2 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Adam T. Voxland, 40, Kenyon, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Jan. 22 Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 2nd Ave. SW and 2nd St. SW at 11:18 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Jan. 21 **Criminal Sexual** Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Phelps St. F. at 11:19 a.m. Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:34 p.m. Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 8:10 p.m. Jan. 24 Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 3600 block of 10th St. SW at 10:43 a.m. Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 1:29 p.m. Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 2:44 p.m. Jan. 25 Shoplifting: At 11:11 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 4700 block of Frontage Rd. W. Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200

block of Florence Ave. NW at 8:15 p.m. Jan. 27 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 8:08 a.m. They arrested a subject at the

scene. Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 8:49 p.m. Shoplifting: Three shoplifting incidents occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:10 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and 11:14 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jan. 21

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at 2nd St. NE and 2nd Ave. NE in Medford at 8:27 a.m. Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 21200 block of School St. E. in Owatonna Township at 12:10 p.m. Jan. 24

Theft: At 4:30 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 6600 block of 89th Ave. SE in Aurora Township. Jan. 25

Assault: Deputies responded to an assault in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 10:17 a.m. Jan. 27

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 3:50 a.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 1:19 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

David Deluna, 44, arrested at 11:18 p.m. Jan. 22, assault and obstruction, held for court.

OWATONNA POLICE

James Earl Flukes, 44, arrested at 3:50 p.m. Jan. 24, warrant arrest, \$5,000 bail. Frank Lucellerson Tubbs, 44, arrested at 8:23 p.m. Jan. 26, domestic assault/assault, held for court. Joshua Simon Hinson, 37,

arrested at 8:41 a.m. Jan.

domestic assault/assault.

27, felony threats and

Jason Gerard Miller, 50,

Jan. 27, felony tampering

with vehicle and warrant

43, arrested at 10:43 a.m.

arrested at 12:54 p.m.

Jamie Duane Knutson,

Jan. 27, felony robbery

Hanah Renee Maas, 20,

arrested at 8:53 p.m. Jan.

and assault, held for

court.

arrest, body only.

held for court.

Man accused of probation violation 5 days after sentencing

BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

Less than a week after an Owatonna man was sentenced on three counts of gross misdemeanor domestic assault, he was back in custody for violating probation.

Clifford Jahuar Marshall, 39, is accused of allegedly using alcohol, something prohibited by the terms and conditions of his probation.

Marshall was charged in late August with two counts of first-degree burglary and two counts of domestic assault; about two months later, he was charged with one count of domestic abuse-violating an order for protection. On Jan. 20, Mar-

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27, probation warrant arrest, body only.

MN STATE PATROL

James Arnez Matthews, 23, arrested at 6:40 p.m. Jan. 21, felony extradition hearing, body only. Thomas James Haberman, 47, arrested at 9:07 p.m. Jan. 25, warrant arrest, \$12,000 bail. Samuel Zambrano Ramirez, 40, arrested at 3:55 a.m. Jan. 27, warrant arrest, body only. Rebecca Lynn Danner, 25, arrested at 2:43 p.m. Jan. 27, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 9 – 16:

DODGE COUNTY

shall was sentenced on both cases after pleading guilty to the three domestic abuse charges. In exchange for the plea, the burglary counts were dismissed.

That day, Steele **County District Court** Judge Karen Duncan sentenced him to a year in jail, with 335 days stayed for two years, leaving Marshall with a 30-day sentence to serve. He was to report to jail on Jan. 25; which was the day the probation violation was filed, based on allegations by Steele County Community Corrections.

Court documents indicate the stay of execution of his sentence is revoked and annulled; his next court appearance is set for Friday.

Sargeant, parking violation, \$32; Jordan A. Sullivan, 21, Mazeppa, parking violation, \$32; Jennifer M. Waas, 48, Waseca, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$180; Christian D. Waldner, 20, Hayfield, speeding, \$120.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Harold R. Albaugh, 78, Center, ND, revoked license, \$280; Riley S. Krebs, 26, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Eli E. Richardson, 16, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Matt W. Arneson, 42, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Brittany N. Barrientes Chagoya, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Jenna M. Brezina, 31, Lonsdale, speeding, \$280; Tyler J. Clink, 37, Mazeppa, speeding, \$220;

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Jewel A. Berg, 18, Faribault, speeding, \$215; Enoch M. Berryman, 23, Myrtle, speeding, \$125: Jorge L. Coronel. 23, Lakeville, speeding, \$115; Donald V. Doyle, 71, Savage, speeding and seat belt, \$150; Derek N. Fagan, 31, East Bethel, speeding, \$125; Justen L. Heintzman, 41, Owatonna, failure to stop for collision, \$375 and 90 days in county jail; Rudy A. Huerta, 23, Mason City, IA, speeding and no license, \$215; Anthony M. Ingram, 34, **Blooming Prairie, careless** driving, \$125 and 90 days in county jail; Pa Kloh, 36, St. Paul, speeding, \$215; Humberto L. Lara, 49, Chaska, speeding, \$125; Emma I. Leese, 42, Faribault, speeding and no insurance, \$415;



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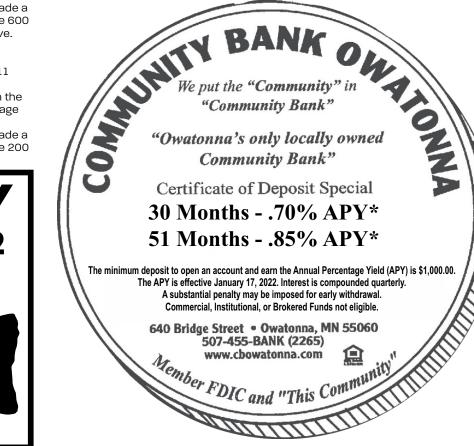
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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Alfonso Acosta, 18, West Concord, tobacco usage in public school, \$130; Tyler A. Erickson, 19, Madison Lake, speeding, \$140; Margaret M. Gardner, 52, LaGrange, GA, parking violation, \$32; Joseph D. Rico, 38, Kenyon, school bus violation, stay of adjudication, \$300 and 6 months of probation; Tanya M. Rieken, 50, Cheyenne L. Davis, 24, Rochester, no insurance, \$280; Becky J. Evers-Gerdes, 46, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Sherry R. Gillis, 34, Kenyon, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Ryan L. Hegna, 39, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Alexis J. Krippner, 18, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised

See BLOTTER on A6 ►



NEWS



Student Name: WILLOW Grade: Kindergarten Nominated by: MRS. KONZ Parents: Danielle & David

I can always depend on Willow trying her best at school. She leads others by example in following directions, listening attentively, and being a good friend. Willow is always willing to help out a classmate with their work in reading and math, cleaning, and artwork. Thanks for being a SUPERSTAR in our classroom, you are a Shining Knight!

ST. MARY'S School



Student Name: MADDIE Grade: 2nd Grade Nominated by: MRS. THILGES Parents: Joe & Katie

Maddie shows every quality of a Shining Knight! She is a kind friend to all. She is always going the extra mile in and out of the classroom. She works very hard to make others smile and let them know that they are valued. Maddie is resilient. She has a love for God like no other and lets His light shine through her daily. Maddie is our Shining Knight because of her constant desire to work hard and always show kindness to others! Awesome job, Maddie!

730 South Cedar Ave. Owatonna 507-446-2300 stmarys-owatonna.org

THIS FEATURE SPONSORED BY A PROUD ST. MARY'S ALUMNUS.



How filing status affects tax returns

A taxpayer's filing status tells the IRS about them and their tax situation. This is just one reason taxpayers should familiarize themselves with each option and know their correct filing status. The IRS Interactive Tax Assistant can help them determine their filing status.

A taxpayer's filing status typically depends on whether they are considered unmarried or married on Dec. 31, which determines their filing status for that entire year.

More than one filing status may apply in certain situations. If this is the case, taxpayers can usually choose the filing status that allows them to owe the least amount of tax.

When preparing and filing a tax return, filing

otherwise qualify to use that status.

- Married filing separately. Married couples can choose to file separate tax returns. This may benefit taxpayers who want to be responsible only for their own tax or if it results in less tax than filing a joint return.
- Head of household. Unmarried taxpayers may be able to file using this status, but special rules apply. For example, the taxpaver must have paid more than half the cost of keeping up a home for themselves and a qualifying person living in the home for half the year.

Truck vs. bridge



PHOTO BY OWATONNA POLICE

Glynn Norbert Meyer of Freeport, Minn., was headed to Lakeside Foods in Owatonna early Wednesday afternoon when the semitractor-trailer he was driving hit the railroad overpass on Mineral Springs Road, according to the police report. The semi received no damage, but the trailer received disabling damage, the report said. A low-bridge sign also was damaged. The bridge and track were unharmed, according to the report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BLOTTER from A5

monitoring without conviction; Ashley L. Mock, 25, Rochester, speeding, \$280; Trayton A. Robertson, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Ella R. Sexton, 16, Waseca, speeding, \$280.

WEST CONCORD **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Danielle E. Krostue, 22. Neenah, WI, speeding,

stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Karl D. Stasko, 23, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280.

OWATONNA FIRE

Jan. 21

Smoke: Firefighters assisted with smoke removal in the 200 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 5:33 p.m.

Jan. 22

Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 600 block of Anges St. E. at 11:27 a.m. Jan. 24

Crash: At 6:03 a.m., fire rescue responded to a crash with injuries on Interstate 35.

Accidents: Motor vehicle accidents occurred on Interstate 35 at 6:29 a.m. and the 3600 block of 10th St. SW at 10:46 a.m.

Retirement creates several top-level changes at Dodge sheriff's office

Several changes have been made in the leadership of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

In January, Chief Deputy Mike Leonhardt retired after 34 years with the sheriff's office. His retirement has set off a chain of changes within the ranks of the department.

Sheriff Scott Rose promoted Ryer Anderson to take Leonhardt's position. Anderson has served as patrol captain for many years. Anderson graduated from Mankato State University in 2002 and was hired by Sheriff Gary Thompson as a full-time patrol deputy in 2003. Anderson was promoted to patrol sergeant in 2012, and then captain in late 2013 replacing Captain Loring Guenther, who died in September 2013. "Ryer has been a key member of our administration here for many years as Captain and helped navigate this agency through some very difficult times when we lost Captain Guenther, and during the campaign year of 2014," said Sheriff Rose. "I would be lost without his knowledge, experience, and advice here." Jeff Espinosa, former patrol sergeant, has been promoted to patrol captain to fill the vacancy left by Anderson. Espinosa graduated from **Rochester Community** and Technical College with his law enforcement degree in 2001. He worked briefly for Grand Meadow Police Department and the Olmsted **County Adult Detention** Center before being hired by Sheriff Thompson in late 2003. He served as a full-time patrol deputy, field training officer, and managed the training program for years before being promoted to sergeant in 2011. Rose said, "Jeff does a great job here at our office. He and I have worked our entire careers together starting with being classmates at RCTC so we've known each other for over 20 years. He does a tremendous job managing our training programs here and will be a huge asset to our administrative staff."



Jeff Brion



status determines:

- If the taxpayer is required to file a federal tax return
- If they should file a return to receive a refund
- Their standard deduction amount
- If they can claim certain tax credits
- The amount of tax they owe

Here are the five filing statuses:

- Single. Normally, this status is for taxpayers who are unmarried, divorced or legally separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree governed by state law.
- Married filing jointly. If a taxpayer is married, they can file a joint tax return with their spouse. If one spouse died in 2021, the surviving spouse can use married filing jointly as their filing status for 2021 if they

Ackerman Accounting ex Tax Services Lisa Ackerman

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· Qualifying widow or widower with dependent child. This status may apply to a taxpayer filing a 2021 tax return if their spouse died in 2019 or 2020, and they didn't remarry before the end of 2021 and have a dependent child. Other conditions also apply.

Source: IRS



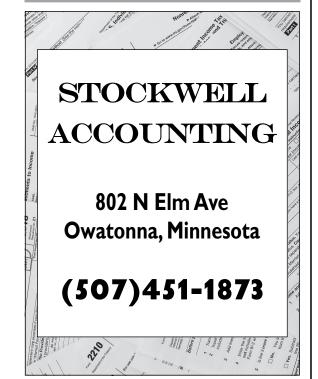
We understand small business because we are a small business.

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133 N. Broadway, New Richland 507-465-8100

johndoercpa.com



Jeff Espinosa



Ryer Anderson

Deputy Jeff Brion has taken over Espinosa's sergeant position. Brion earned his degree in psychology and sociology at the University of North Dakota in 2000 and his law enforcement certificate for Minnesota at Rochester Community and Technical College in 2008. He previously worked as a probation officer for Olmsted County. He was hired as a deputy in 2008 by Sheriff Thompson and has served the office as a full-time patrol deputy, crime prevention specialist, and as our hostage negotiator.

"Jeff brings a lot of experience to our supervisory staff and has been assigned to supervise Court/Building Security," Rose said. "He will continue his other responsibilities including serving as our Crime Prevention Specialist, hostage negotiator, and will also work with Policy Management," he added.

Rose said, "We are very blessed to have such an amazing staff serving here in Dodge County. I couldn't ask for a more professional and dedicated team of men and women to serve alongside."

Domeier flips to sports host NRHEG teacher starts weekly internet radio show

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

While viewing Facebook one night, Mark Domeier came across something that piqued his interest. A New York company was looking for someone to do some programming for the Minnesota Twins.

With a life-long interest in sports, Domeier wasn't about to strike out in letting the company know about his love. Once he reached out, talks with the company branched into doing all Minnesota sports.

And last week, he began a three-month commitment to doing a one-hour sports show on the Internet at www.365sportscasts.com. The show, "Whatever Flips Your Waffle," will air Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Domeier plans to ease into doing the show to see if it's a good fit for him. The initial broadcasts will be recorded in a makeshift studio from Domeier's home in Ellendale.

"I'm afraid if I went live, I would be staring at the clock wondering what I would say next," said Domeier, who grew up in New Ulm.

Though he has no broadcasting experience, Domeier has dabbled in some play-by-play announcing of volleyball and basketball for NRHEG schools, where he has taught junior high English for 26 years. After the COVID-19 pandemic began raging two years ago, NRHEG began livestreaming games with Domeier behind the microphone.

Domeier also is the announcer for the home varsity games at NRHEG. "Having some success with that gives me confidence for this endeavor," he said.



The basement of Mark Domeier's Ellendale home has turned into a radio studio as he begins an Internet radio sports show, "Whatever Flips Your Waffle." The show will air on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on www.365sportscasts.com.

He is often found at area games as he officiates various sporting events, including football, basketball, softball and baseball.

Domeier said he plans to give his radio show a little different twist by spotlighting high school sports. In fact, he picked Wednesdays because they are traditionally a non-sports night for high schools. While high school

sports will get some play on his show,

WHATEVER FLIPS YOUR WAFFLE

- Internet sports show
- Hosted by Mark Domeier of Ellendale
- Access at www.365sportscasts.com
- Airs Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Domeier also wants to cover the gamut of all levels of sports, including college and professional. He also plans to offer some Minnesota sports history on the show. "Whatever I feel like talking about that week, I will do," he said.

Domeier is striving to find "great conversation" on his show. He plans to interview some athletes on the show. And, he said, he wants to bring some small-town flavor into it as well.

"It will change along the way," Domeier said. "I will ad-lib and make things up as I go along. I don't preplan stuff, and I have to go with what I see." He thinks staying off-script will make him stand out a bit from other shows. "I don't have anything in mind," Domeier said. "I'm just going to be who I am and see where it takes me." His biggest goal with

His biggest goal with the show is to make it relevant and timely to what's going on in Minnesota. For example, Domeier hopes to offer a different perspective by getting inside the minds of athletes and umpires.

"The tricky part is to make it relevant to a wide audience," he said. "I want listeners to get an appreciation for all levels of sports. I want them to be able to See **DOMEIER** on A10 ►

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor: LEGACY MONUMENT SALES Leon & Lori Bohlman 507-456-7864 or 507-456-3735 landlbo@gmail.com

Maryann Haberman, 94, Owatonna



Maryann

Haberman

Maryann Y. Haberman, age 94, died peacefully the morning of Jan. 28, 2022 at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna. Maryann was

born on Nov. 7, 1927 to Frank and Helen (Seykora) Ringhofer.

She attended rural school before moving to Owatonna where she met a dashing WWII Navy Carpenter's Mate and budding entrepreneur, Richard (Dick) Haberman. They courted, fell in love and were united in marriage on April 22, 1947 at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in Owatonna. Maryann and Dick were blessed with 65 years of marriage and together raised a family of seven children. Maryann enjoyed bowling, traveling with her husband and together being members of the Owatonna Elks Club. She loved baseball and was a long-time fan of the Minnesota Twins. She enjoyed embroidering, which she did into her nineties. Maryann also enjoyed baking, playing bridge and going to the casino. Most importantly, she

was proud of and truly loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Maryann was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Richard, her son Douglas and her siblings Evelyn, Clarence and Leonard.

She is survived by her children Richard Jr. (Kristin), Mary (Daglin), daughter-in-law Lana, Sandy (Chuck), Robert, William (Teri), and Sheila (Joel). She is also survived by seven grandchildren: Brian (Trisha), Amy, Erin (Andrew), Kelly, Justin, Adam and Katie, six great grandchildren, sister-in-law Bunnie Haberman and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial is set for 12 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owatonna. Friends may greet the family starting at 10 a.m. at the church. The family requires that all attendees wear a face mask. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Homestead Hospice House of Owatonna.

Barbara Simon, 70, Owatonna

Barbara Jean Simon, 70 of Owatonna, passed away Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 at her home surrounded by family. She was born on

She was born on June 22, 1951 in St. James to Lloyd and Vivian (Johnson)

Rubedor. She graduated from Worthington High School in 1969. She moved to Owatonna where she had two children, Karyn and Wayne.

Barb worked various jobs throughout her life most recently retiring from Mystic Lake Casino. She enjoyed bowling, being with family, attending grandchildren's events, playing cards and Farkle.

She is survived by children, Karyn

(Dennis) Kubista, Wayne (Mandi Jo) Simon; grandchildren, Alexis, Dalton and Alivia Kubista, Payton and Makayla Simon; siblings, Beverly Ferguson, Betty (Ray) Copp, Berniece (Curtis) Jensen, Berdella (Mike) Burns, Bradley (April) Rubedor, Brian Rubedor; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by parents, one sister Brenda Rux; niece, Beki Peterson.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home with Pastor Kris Oppegard officiating. Friends greeted the family one hour prior to the service.

> BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD FUNERAL HOME

Barbara Simon

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD FUNERAL HOME

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Brick-Meger Funeral Home Medford Funeral Home 507.451.1457 | megercares.com

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Monica Kruschke, 48, Owatonna

Monica Lee Kruschke, 48, of Owatonna died Friday, Jan. 28, 2022 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer.

Monica was born on Sept. 16, 1973 to Alden and Shirley (Schuster) Kruschke in New Richmond, Wis. She moved with her parents to Owatonna in 1977. She attended Owatonna Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1992.

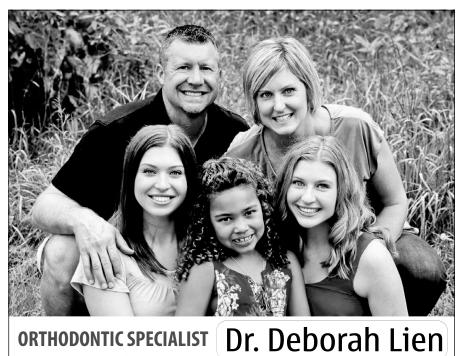
Monica married Jon Wetstein on June 13, 1989 and later divorced. Monica fought breast cancer from September 2010 until her passing.

Celebration of life will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Owatonna on April 2, 2022 at 11 a.m. Visitation will be one hour prior to service. A luncheon will follow the service.



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022 - Starting at 6 pm Public Welcome 220 3rd St NW



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132 2nd Ave NE | Blooming Prairie

BOOK NOOK

Big Still display now open at the library



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

When you tell people that you are from Blooming Prairie, do you often get guffaws and jokes about bootlegging? As a member of the Blooming Prairie Coalition and a non-drinker, I'm sensitive to the glorification of alcohol in our society.

However, as someone who is fascinated by history, I do think there is a place for us to learn about what really happened in the past. In fact, in the next few weeks, I'll share a true story about ministers, the Ku Klux Klan, and the bootleggers, all taking place in Central Park, Blooming Prairie.

There are many stories shared from generation to generation about the happenings around the area during Prohibition. Steve Wencl listened to many of the stories told

by those who were personally involved in the liquor business and would like to set things straight. Here are two things I've learned from Wencl:

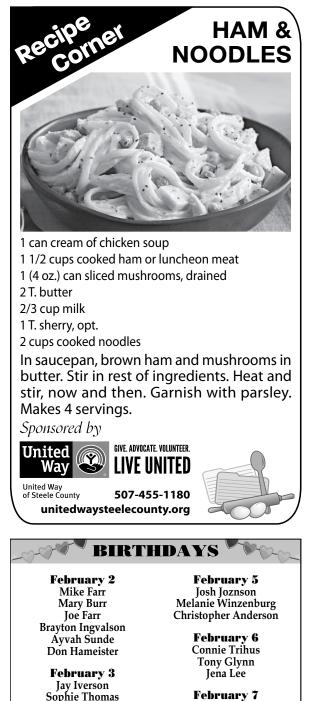
1. No, Al Capone was not in charge of the still operations here. And there is no evidence that he visited Blooming Prairie.

2. Most people in the area knew about the bootlegging and the stills but stayed away from the "big still" since it was run by professionals who didn't want anyone to know their business.

We invite you to visit the Blooming **Prairie Branch** Library by the end of February to see our new display on the big still.

There are copies of newspaper articles that tell the story as well as explanations given by Wencl regarding what was really happening. Thanks to Willy Olson for allowing us to display his drawings of the bootlegging activities. Hopefully you will learn more about Prohibition and its effects on the history of Blooming Prairie.

See you at the library!



Owatonna Foundation thanks Pirkl Gas

Ray Stawarz, secretary and treasurer for the Owatonna Foundation, recently thanks Eric Pirkl, district manager for ThompsonGas DBA Pirkl Gas, and his staff for their "Giving for Gallons" fundraising campaign that ran last summer from June to August.

The fundraiser was part of Pirkl Gas' belief in giving back to the community it serves. New customers that signed up for at least 800 gallons of propane a year where able to donate \$100 to one of two local charities, the Owatonna Foundation or the Steele County Humane Society. The fundraiser



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pirkl Gas recently donated \$500 to the Owatonna Foundation. Pricture from left are Jason Sommer, delivery driver, Ben Aase, service technician, Eric Pirkl, district manager, Ray Stawarz, treasurer/secretary of the Owatonna Foundation, Mitch Belina, delivery driver and Greg Pirkl, delivery driver.

raised \$500 for the Owatonna Foundation.

When asked why he chose the Owatonna Foundation as one the nonprofits to receive these donations, Pirkl

said, "We wanted to partner with an organization that has a long-standing history of giving back to our community. I often see signs and scoreboards around

town that acknowledge the Owatonna Foundation and after visiting its website and seeing its history of giving, I knew this was a nonprofit we should be supporting."

LTO names cast for spring play

Little Theatre of Owatonna recently announced the cast for its spring production of "Something Rotten!"

Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz.

Jeffrey Jackson is the director with Kathy Purdie the Technical Director.

The cast includes: Tim Van Gelder as Shakespeare; Patrick McColley as Nick; Cody Jensen as Nigel; Jamie Jennissen as Bea; Courtney Kryzer as Portia; Heather Burke as Nostradamus; Zackery Knapton as Brother Jeremiah; Mark Place as Lord Clapham; William Wood as Skylock;

and Maggie Jones as Minstrel.

Ensemble and dancers will be: Alexis Ayers, Amber Holven, Bin Huang, Curt Jorgensen, Diane Skala, Dianne Suarez, Elijah Ayers, Gail Zollner, Gaylene Steckelberg, Holly Jorgensen, Kathryn Falrey, Michaela Shaw, Mystique Deegan, Nathan Black, Theresa Scheidt, and Vidette Ostermeier.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on April 24 and May 1. Tickets will be

available online at www. LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org/buy-tickets/ and at Tri M Graphics for members April 2 and the public on April 9. Phonein orders at the LTO Box Office (507-451-0764) start April 18 with walk in availability April 21-23 and 28-May 1. Adult ticket price is \$17; student ticket price is \$14.

"Something Rotten!" *is presented through* special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www. mtishows.com

Eagles offering scholarships, memberships

The Owatonna Eagles would like to invite all traditional and non-traditional students to apply for three, \$1,000 Scholarships that will be awarded in May 2022.

A link with more information and an application can be found on the Eagles' website: www.eagles1791.com or you pick up an application at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

The funding for these scholarships comes from the Don Tuerk Endowment, Tuerk was a community-minded Owatonna native, longtime Eagles member, and Owatonna fireman.

The scholarship will be targeted, but not limited, to students with

goals of public service seeking two- or four-year degrees. Scholarships will be used for improving communities and helping others. The deadline to apply is March 31.

The Don Tuerk Scholarship has awarded more than \$15,000 to area students since 2018. In addition, the Eagles have donated more than

\$150,000 to local sports teams and rrganizations throughout Owatonna and Steele County in the past three years.

As part of its "People Helping People" motto, the Eagles are offering free first-year memberships to all first responders, firemen, law enforcement, veterans, and military personnel.

Sophie Thomas Natalie Winzen Emery Clayton Dan Miner Ryan Klemmensen

February 4 **Justin Peterson** Samantha Abbe Michael Thomas Andi Klemmensen Gabriella Salinas

Pete Kittelson **Derek Miner** Lucas Swenson Gloria Trom Julie Horn Connie Trihus Tony Glynn Jena Lee

> February 8 Jaxon LaMotte Rick Krejci

ANNIVERSARY



Ryan & Jenny Heimerman

February 8 Tyler & Rachel Blaedorn



Home economics group offers scholarship

The Steele Countv Home Economics Association is offering its Jean and Jessie

Partridge Memorial Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship is offered to individuals

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guided 4-island Hawaiian vacation with centrally located lodging in Waikiki on Oahu, and beachfront lodging on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Guided throughout by our friendly Tour Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.





* Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfar available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 3/31/22. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details

majoring in home economics, family consumer sciences or related fields (consumer sciences, textiles, food science, child development and parenting, housing, family social sciences, etc.) at any accredited college or university.

Eligible students must have completed two vears in the major.

For more information please call Judie Buerman at 507-451-2537 or Barbara Paulson at 507-451-9686. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

BLOSSOMING INTO LEARNERS AND LEADERS LOOK WHO'S BEING AWESOME! **Blossoms Students of the Week Blooming Prairie Elementary School**

Phelix Vincent – 3C

Ms. Schmidt's Class

BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Parents: Lana and Logan Vincent Phelix is a great choice for showing Prairie Pride! He is eager to join in class discussions and excited when he learns new things. Phelix always comes in with a smile on his face and brings a lot of smiles and laughter to our class. He is accepting of all of his classmates and works hard to be a kind and caring friend each day. Great job, Phelix!





Addison Winzenburg – 4A Mrs. Volgarino's Class Parents: Pat & Sara Winzenburg

Addison is an excellent example of Prairie Pride at BPES! Addison comes to school each day ready to learn and do her best. She always strives to give her best effort by turning in quality, detailed work. She isn't afraid to try new things and challenges herself daily. Most importantly, she is a great friend who treats her classmates and teachers with kindness and respect. Way to go, Addison! 4A is so proud of you!

Joseph Schwarz – 5C Mrs. Hadrath's Class

Parents: Jacob & Pamela Schwarz

I love having Joey in class. He is a true "Awesome Blossom!" He comes to school every day with a smile and a great attitude to learn. He takes on any challenge I present him with. He writes entertaining stories that I enjoy reading. He is kind to everyone, and people love to be around him. Keep on being AWESOME, Joev!

Johnson WAY TO Construction And Tree **S**ervice **KYLE & BRAYTON** 507-583-7592 **BLOOMING PRAIRIE & AUSTI**



STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Rev. James Starasinich

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC-OWATONNA CHRIST THE KING-MEDFORD

Editor's Note: This week we welcome Rev. James Starasinich to our rotation of pastors sharing a message on the Faith page. He serves St. Joseph's Catholic Church in **Owatonna and Christ** the King in Medford.

Light, hope and the new evangelization

oday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Catholic Church. It is 40 days since we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. As was the Jewish custom following Mosaic Law (Leviticus 12:2-8), after the birth of a son, the mother sought purification after childbirth. A firstborn son was also, by Mosaic Law (Exodus 13:2, 12), consecrated to the Lord. Thus, Joseph and Mary diligently bring Jesus to the Temple. Simeon was an observant Jewish man who awaited the coming of the Messiah. He is moved by the Holy Spirit when he encounters Jesus the Messiah in the Temple. Taking the child in his arms, he blesses the Lord: "Now, Master,

vou may let vour servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

We begin Mass with the lighting of candles, representing Simeon's words that Jesus "is a light for revelation to the Gentiles", a light for all humanity! A procession with the candles as we enter the church to begin the liturgy signifies Christ's entry into the Temple, the "glory of your people Israel." This is a wonderful feast, as we are in the midst of winter. living now with the increase of daylight, and the light of the can-

dles reminding us of the flame of faith given to us at baptism. We, too, hope to increase that light of Christ within our hearts and give glory to God for giving us a Savior.

On the weekend of Feb. 19 and 20, we begin a period of evangelization at St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna. This is open to everyone. St. Paul VI, as Pope (1963-78), spoke about the need to re-evangelize, including those already baptized; and St. John Paul II (1978-2005) called for a new evangelization, continuing in the spirit of St. Paul VI. That weekend, a missionary team will invite us to attend every Monday and Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in Joseph Hall (at St. Joseph Parish) beginning

Monday, Feb. 21. There will be free child care available. This is taking place during the Synod, which is currently taking place in the Catholic Church worldwide.

The Church during this Synod wants to hear from all of us in the Church, that means all the baptized. Listening is the key word for both the Synod and the time of evangelization. We are invited to listen to one another during the Synod. We are called to listen to the Gospel, the Good News, by missionaries representing who we are in the church laity who are married and single as well as clergy. It is a gift to be on the receiving end of an announcement that changes lives. It is the

experience of Simeon, encountering the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

I personally extend this invitation to you who are reading this column. This mission time is open to everyone, especially those searching for meaning in our pandemic-ridden times. You are invited to listen to a message of hope and a word of love. God has not abandoned us but comes looking for us! In Greek, the word *kairos* means a "favorable moment." God sent us Jesus, who promised to be with us until the end of time. Let us not let this kairos, this "favorable moment," pass us by, for the Good Lord is passing by for you and me. We all want to experience the joy of Simeon! God Love You!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28[™] St., Owatonna 507-451-2819 Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. Sundy School: 10:15 a.m. office@ auroralutheranchurch.org

COMMUNITY

LUTHERAN - ELCA 106 Third St. SE, Geneva 507-256-4288 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Every 3rd Saturday at 5 p.m. communitylutherangenevamn@gmail.com

FIRST LUTHERAN-AFLC

503 Radel Ct., Ellendale 507-684-2451 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Call to Prayer Monday 7 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Wednesday 6-7 p.m. Youth Group Wednesday 7-9 p.m. Men's Bible Study Saturday 8 a.m. Feb. 26- 3 p.m.-Chili & Oyster Feed firstlutheranellendale@ yahoo.com

FIRST LUTHERAN -

ELCA 434 First St. SW, Blooming

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont 507-528-2404 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. (2nd $\&\,4^{th}$ Sunday Holy Communion) Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Wednesday: Advent 7 p.m.

(with Holu Communion) silcoffice@frontiernet.net

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

28959 630th Ave., Sargeant 320-674-0351 Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. www.saintjohnssargeant. jimdo.com

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN -ELCA

1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna 507-451-7293 Sunday & Summer Worship 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Thursday Worship 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. info@stjohnowatonna.com ST. MICHAEL'S

LUTHERAN- ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham 507-567-2474 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. www.millcitychurch.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

202 E Park Ave., Hollandale 507-567-2272 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN -ELCA

7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. deaconbilliejo@gmail.com

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 1909 St. Paul Rd., Owatonna

507-451-4853 Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m. www.oursaviorsowatonna. com

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING

205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-4845 Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat Mass: 9 a.m. Mon & Fri parishoffice@ stjosephowtonna.org

CHURCH OF ALL

SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland 507-234-6244 Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. www.stannjan.com

HOLY TRINITY **CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL**

9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna 507-583-2784 Sunday Mass: 8:15 a.m. Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday

Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT

540 SE 18th St., Owatonna 507-451-1032 Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m. www. owatonnacovenantchurch.org

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHURCH

2300 Heritage Pl. NW, Owatonna 507-455-3205 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. www.cfchurches.org

VICTORY CHRISTIAN

CHURCH 1380 Rice Lake St. E., Owatonna 507-451-8111 Sunday Service: 10 a.m. www.victorymn.org

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 7 p.m.

230 Locust Ave Owatonna 507-363-3046

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST 43089 180th St., Medford

NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE, Owatonna 507-413-0209

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Wednesday Service: 7 p.m. www.nbclife.org

SIMPLY CHURCH

105 2nd St., Geneva 507-438-5418 Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Worship: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Worship: 5:30 p.m.

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St.

Blooming Prairie 507-583-7532 Sundau Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Pray Meeting: 7:30 p.m. www.prairiemennonite.org

MORMON

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAT SAINTS

404 31st St. NW, Austin 507-433-9042 Sundau Worship: 9 a.m. www.churchofjesuschrist.org

> SEVENTH-DAY **ADVENTIST SEVENTH DAY**

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's Oldest Church) 123 E Main St., Owatonna 507-272-9834

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study: 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 6:30 p.m.

www.fbcbloomingprairie.org

Sunday Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. www.firstbaptistowatonna.com

GRACE BAPTIST-OWATONNA

65 26th St., Owatonna 507-451-3494 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. Sunday Evening: 5 p.m. Wednesday Adult Service 7 p.m. Wednesday Youth Service 7 p.m. pracebaptistministry.org info@gracebaptistministry.org

BETHEL BAPTIST

1611 Hemlock Ave., Owatonna 507-451-8548 Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

FREE CHURCH

CORNERSTONE **EVANGELICAL FREE** 1500 18th St. SE, Owatonna

507-446-5850

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

www.cornerstoneowtonna.com

NORTHRIDGE

CHURCH OF GOD

1650 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna

507-451-5467

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Prayer: 7-8 p.m.

www.churchnorthridge.com

BRIDGE OF HOPE

500 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna

507-215-2249

Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Sundau Worship: 10 a.m.

Friday RU Recover pfm: 7 p.m.

CHURCH

220 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

507-451-5319

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. and

1 p.m

Wednesday Bible Study: 11 a.m.

Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m.

www.stpaulsowatonna.org

EMMANUEL

EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN

750 Jeffrey St., Owatonna

507-455-2729

Sunday Worship: 4 p.m.

Monday Worship: 7 p.m.

www.emmanuel-wels-

owatonna.com

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507-431-4576

www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Prairie 507-583-6621 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. firstluthoffice@yahoo.com

FIRST LUTHERAN -LCMC

8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope 507-451-3854 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sundau School and Adult Ed 10:15 a.m. flchopemn@gmail.com

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS

2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna 507-451-4125 Sunday Hymn Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday Praise Service, Sunday School & Bible Class 10 a.m. info@gsowatonna.com

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN - ELCA

9651 SW 75[™] St., Ellendale 507-213-0281 Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. pontoppidanlemond@ outlook.com

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna 507-451-2720 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Sunday Education Hour 10:15 a.m. redeemerowatonna@ outlook.com

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN- ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn Rd. Austin BP: 507-402-9333 Austin: 507-437-3000 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. www.roglutheran.org

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. www.motorcitychurch.org

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden 507-451-2165 Sunday Worship 10 a.m. deaconbilliejo@gmail.com

TRINITY LUTHERAN-ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna 507-451-4520 Sunday Worship -Sanctuary 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall 10:45 a.m., Live Stream 9:30 a.m. at facebook.com/tlcowatonna and tlcowatonna.org/ worshiplive Live broadcast 9:30 a.m. on KRUE 92.1 FM. Video on Spectrum (CH181) Metronet TV (Ch 900) and owatonnalive.com Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. www.tlcowatonna.org/

TRINITY LUTHERAN -ELCA

104 First St. SE, Haufield 507-477-2248 Sunday Worship 8 a.m. δ 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. www.trinityhayfield.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN -LCMS

108 Third Ave. SW, Medford 507-451-0447 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m. tlcmedfordoffice@gmail.com

TRINITY LUTHERAN -LCMS

57043 300th St., Waltham 507-567-2272 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

www.owatonnagranite.com

Thursday Every Other Month www.litomysl.webs.com

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

150 NE Second St., Hayfield 507-477-2256 Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday Reconciliation: 3:45 p.m. www.stcolumbanuschurch.com

SACRED HEART PARISH

810 S Cedar Ave., Owatonna Mass Times: Daily Tuesday-Friday at 7:15 a.m. Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. 12 p.m. (Spanish) Reconciliation 4 p.m. Saturday Adoration Thursdays 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. www.sacredheartowatonna.org

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC

114 E Main St. **Blooming Prairie** 507-583-2784 Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday www.stcolumbanuschurch. com columbanusbp@gmail.com

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S Elm Ave., Owatonna 507-451-4845 Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Adoration Chapel available Mon-Fri. 7 a.m. -5:30 p.m. (Key fob required after hours or weekend) www.stjosephowatonna.org

(Seven miles west of Medford on CR. 23) 507-835-8726 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

www.bloominggroveumc.org **ELLENDALE UNITED** METHODIST

200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale 507-684-2731 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. www.ellendaleumc.org

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

815 E University St. - Owatonna 507-451-4734 Sunday Traditional Worship (Pathways) 9 a.m. www.owatonnaumc.org NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CEDAR CREEK

30 E Main St., Hayfield 507-477-2255 Sunday Worship 10 a.m. www.cedarcreekchurch.org

DESTINY CHRISTIAN

2515 Harvest Lane NW-Owatonna 507-456-4775 Sunday Worship:9 a.m. Wednesday Worship: 6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st & 3rd every month www.destinycc.org

ELEVATION NORTH

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

ADVENTIST

2373 Seventh Ave NE, Owatonna 651-955-4032 Saturday Worship: 11 a.m. Saturdau Bible Studu: 9:30 a.m. www.owatonnasdachurch.org

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH **OF CHRIST** 211 Main St. S., Medford 507-451-4596 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. www.ucc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL ASSOCIATED CHURCH

Presbuterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Rd., Owatonna 507-451-1546 Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Sunday School and Adult Discussion follow service) Wednesday Activities Sept-May (see website for schedule) wwwassociatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

109 E Main St., Hayfield 507-477-2631 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. www.

firstpresbyterianhayfield.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

P.O. Box 66 121 East St. N., Claremont 507-528-2320 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. www.faithstreet.com

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507-583-2276



Domeier flips to sports host

◄ DOMEIER from A7 express that pure enjoyment for sports."

Domeier played basketball and baseball in high school, but "I didn't play them very well," he said. However, he said he thinks his lack of play helped him develop greater knowledge of sports. "I became a coach because I spent so much time on the bench to see things," he added.

Domeier said it's hard not to get cynical about watching pro sports. That's why he wants greater emphasis on high school sports. "To me, watching high school sports is a pure form of athletics," he said. "They are out there to battle and have fun."

Asked what excites him about sports, Domeier said: "The competitiveness. The competition is what drives

them and you can see that in athletes."

One of his favorite players is former NRHEG standout Carlie Wagner, who set a school record of nearly 4,000 points and led the school to two state basketball championships. Wagner went on to play in the WNBA for the Minnesota Lynx.

"I said her name over the microphone more than any other player."

As for the show's name, Domeiere didn't have to look far as it is the same name that he has been using for the past 10 years for a weekly column in the Star Eagle newspaper. One of his former students, freshman Eden Eads, designed a waffle logo for him to use.

Domeier said the phrase, "Whatever Flips Your Waffle," was coined by a friend while going to college at Winona State University. "It doesn't make sense, but it does," he said, adding he has always used it with his students.

And it didn't take long to wrestle together the equipment to transform his basement into a radio studio. His son had all the recording equipment. "I'm using the microphone I gave to my son a few years ago for Christmas," Domeier said.

As he ventures into his latest endeavor, Do-

meier said he is feeling both excited and nervous while not knowing what success he will achieve with the radio show.

But he plans to lean on something he's always taught in the classroom. "I teach my students that it's okay to fail as long as you try to get better," Domeier said.

And he hopes to take advantage of something else.

"I always joke that I have a face for radio," he said.

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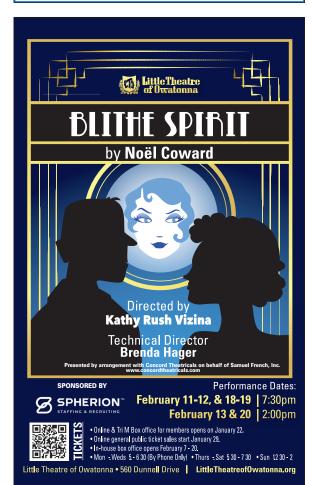
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Hometown Living

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022



Steele Talkin' HEATHER FAST

Hidden treasures

Have you ever heard of a win-win situation? The essence of the phrase is that there are no losers. Two or more people or groups work together to accomplish mutual goals.

To those under the age of retirement – what if I told you I knew how to give you more time, more volunteers for your organization, an extra set of eyes at events, free knowledge from experts? To those over the age of retirement – what if I told you I knew how to decrease isolation, provide you with meaningful work, and give you opportunities to share your vast years of knowledge and expertise?

I used to consider myself a super mom. When I was a young mother of, at the time, only four children I thought I was invincible. I mistakenly thought I could do anything better and faster than the average bear. But I'm not super, I can't do anything better or faster and I'm certainly no smarter than anyone. What I do have is a great love and appreciation for people better than I. I know how to work with others and when to ask for advice

To a large extent the answer to many of the problems both those over and under the age of retirement have is within the other group. I can think of no person I trust more to keep an eye on my children while I am away at work or play than Grandma Carol.

One of my favorite

Paras, supporters pitch board

Salary, benefits at issue in contact negotiations

BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

When Jeff Elstad, superintendent of Owatonna Public Schools, recognized Jan. 24-30 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week during the last school board meeting, there was an audible reaction.

That's because for the first 20 minutes of that meeting, a steady stream of people approached the podium during the public comment period, citing the value of paraprofessionals – who are currently in contract mediation with the school district.

"We can no longer sit in our position without a significant increase in our salaries," said Ann Krampitz, a paraprofessional at Owatonna High School.

The students they work with can find jobs in the commu"When you fail to meet the needs of our paraprofessionals, you're failing to meet the needs of our students, so please, don't let that happen."

James Tratz Teacher

nity with better pay and benefits "than the very people who prepared them for the work force," she said.

"During the heart of the first COVID scare, we, the paras, were still working with students. We went to work and worked directly with students, while the majority of other staff worked behind computers."

Krampitz said their most recent mediation left her co-workers "very defeated," because despite spending 40 more days per year with students, "the teacher package was significantly higher" than the paraprofessionals'. "We know money

"We know money comes through our taxpayers, and we are those people," she said. "We pay taxes to the district, too, yet we are being compensated unfairly."

Kerry Koziolek, a paraprofessional at Owatonna Middle School with 20 years of experience, said she came before the school board "in a spirit of humility, a spirit of humanity and a spirit of understanding."

She told board members they had "a golden opportunity ... to close the equity gap of salary and benefits to one of the lowest-paid people in this organization, who spend more time with these students than any other employee in this school district."

Koziolek challenged them to do "what you know, deep down, is right. To choose people first; to prioritize people, to invest in people. I can tell you with 100% certainty, there is no better investment than the people who are at the very core of your school system, the very core of the classroom."

A teacher at the middle school vouched for the paraprofessionals, writing in a letter to the board that "they are the glue that holds my classes together; they go above and beyond their job descriptions on a daily basis."

Ray Heinz, who teaches eighth-grade science, also said that paraprofessionals "become a major factor in other students meeting educational goals, as well," and are "a major reason why I and many other teachers continue to call this district home."

James Tratz, a special education teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, said paraprofessionals "show up every day to support our most vulnerable students, and tonight, we as teachers are here to stand in support of them."

He called them "a crucial piece of the puzzle, meeting the needs of students wherever they are, and helping them to become successful learners and successful adults. They are incredibly important, not an area where we should be cutting corners or holding back on a contract.

"When you fail to meet the needs of our paraprofessionals, See **PARAS** on B2 ►



Man arrested; scuffle injures 2 police officers

BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

A man accused of holding a man at gunpoint – then allegedly shooting him with a BB gun – was arrested Thursday, about an hour after a virtual court appearance to settle three other cases.

Jamie Duane



organizations in Steele County is Grandparents for Education – it is pure genius to pull in tried-and-true expertise in dealing with children from those who have raised their own. Who else could offer a calm and reassuring voice when a child gets the wrong answer for the seventh time? I even wonder how great it would be if instead of cameras down every hallway and corridor we could park Grandpa Bear on a chair to maintain law and order.

Then, what on this green and blue earth are we all doing trying to fix our problems by ourselves! Would it hurt to ask for help? Would it hurt to offer help? Would it kill you to admit you don't know? Would you be any less special if you shared vour grandmother's cookie recipe or how you built a set of stairs? Imagine how successful, how relaxed, and how satisfied we could all be if we worked together to win-win! Let's stop fighting to get through each day overworked or lonely, looking for answers or having no one to share answers with, and searching for help or wanting to find meaning. Let's work together to create an environment where everyone thrives.

This cannot happen if you don't speak up. Take the initiative - ask for help, offer help, ask for advice, offer wisdom and knowledge, admit you need time to get away, admit you need time with others. Let's go Steele County! Let's Win-Win and show those around us how it's done! We are a great community - if we work together as a team. For more information on Grandparents for Education please visit its website: http://grandparentsforeducation.org/.

Heather Fast is a registered nurse with Steele County Public Health.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Steve Martin, middle, checks in on the ice hole as Theo Martin, left, jigs the rod in hopes of catching a fish. Theo, 3, caught a bluegill crappie Sunday during his first ice fishing experience.

'Bold and Cold' Ice fishing and snowshoeing among the weekend activities

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS SPORTS EDITOR

Lake Kohlmier saw its fair share of local anglers Sunday as the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department hosted its annual "Bold and Cold" ice fishing frenzy.

Pre-drilled holes lined a large section of the lake, just waiting for anglers to drop their lines into the water in hopes of catching some fish.

"It felt really good," said Charles Roddy, 5, of Owatonna after catching his first-ever fish – a seven-inch crappie – while ice fishing. "My mom kind of caught it and I came over to help. It was hard to pull it up."

Roddy and his mother, Rebecca, were not the only first-time anglers on the scene.

Many families hit the ice for the first time in hopes of catching some fish while reeling in some memories along the way as well.

Steve Martin of Owatonna and his



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Thomas Gorycki, a recreation supervisor for Owatonna Parks and Recreation, offers some snowshoeing tips and helps 10-year-old Wesley Flack, left, put on some snowshoes. Flack's 7-yearold brother, Logan, also tried some snowshoes.

two boys Theo, 3, and Myles, 5, showed up right on cue at 1 p.m. with reels and buckets in hand.

They struck bluegill gold when Theo pulled a small fish out of his hole only 30 minutes into the event. Knutson, 43, now faces new felony charges of first-degree attempted aggravated robbery; second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon; two counts of fifth-degree assault; and gross misdemeanor counts of fifth-degree drug possession and obstructing the legal process.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$50,000 conditional bail, and is due back in Steele County District Court on those charges on Feb. 10.

The new case began about 10 p.m. Jan. 26, when a man called Owatonna police to say he'd been "jumped" at an Owatonna apartment by a man named Jamie, who accused the man of owing him money.

According to the criminal complaint, a witness later identified "Jamie" as Knutson, and verified the victim's story of Knutson point-

Jamie Knutson

ing a gun and holding a "black bat looking thing wrapped in tape."

The victim said when Knutson moved the gun, he heard BBs rattling around, and knew the gun must be fake, the report said. When he said as much, Knutson allegedly said "I'll still shoot you with the (expletive)," then lowered the gun and shot the man in the leg, the report continued.

Another man in the apartment pulled out a knife and said, "I'm ready to bleed for the cause," the alleged victim said, and Knutson "kept the BB gun pointed at my face."

Knutson, the man with the knife and the woman who'd brought the victim to the apartment all ran out when they realized the victim called 911.

See MAN on B3 ►

School district seeks partners for OHS site

BY KAY FATE STAFF WRITER

As the new Owatonna High School approaches its move-in date, work continues on what to do with the existing building – a 351,000-square-foot site in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

A citizens' task force was formed a few months ago; after four meetings, two recommendations have risen to the top: Consolidate district functions – district office, maintenance storage, shops, professional development, as well as the gymnastics program – to that site; and find community partners to redevelop the remaining areas of the building, about 200,000 square feet.

The district has \$11 million available to repurpose the building and campus; any other development would require funding from a proposed partner.

To that end, the group is asking for Re-See SCHOOL on B2 ►



Reflections HOWARD LESTRUD

ll aboard! Growing up, many young boys tinkered with a railroad set they had received for Christmas. And many men are still boys at heart when it comes to model railroading. I was one of those novice railroaders who as a voungster took time out from chores on the dairy farm located just seven miles southwest of Blooming Prairie.

On our recent visit to see Darrell and Cindi Hansen in Mesa, Ariz., we were introduced to several volunteers who put together a garden railroad at the Valle Del Oro Resort in Mesa.

"You've just got to see this creation," said the Hansens. Their invitation was accepted since Judy's and Cindi's father worked more than 35 years on the

railroad, mostly with the Rock Island.

I also had two uncles who worked for the M & STL Railroad. My grandfather was killed while working on the railroad. My mother was only 10 at the time.

While walking around the G gauge railroad, Judy and I were amazed at the workmanship created by the volunteers. The railroad hobbyists made their own track and built the components of a railroad serving a small community.

I talked at length with a volunteer railroader from Des Moines, Iowa. He said working on the railroad was a hobby that also became a stress relaxer.

Come aboard the Valle Del Oro Railroad

We also met up with Ward Lewis, a retired chiropractor from Forest Lake. He said he built about 30 of the featured businesses. He also built the railroad's carousel.

The railroad operates from November through March on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. till noon. It's

located at Valle Del Oro Resort. 1452 S Ellsworth Road in Mesa.

It is maintained, improved and expanded by volunteers with the assistance of the park. The layout consists of more than 3,800 feet of track with 8 loops, one point-to-point operation, and many sidings.

The railroad is "G" gauge (width of track) with the actual size (scale) of the rolling stock varying by manufacturer. Most buildings were built from scratch by railway volunteers. Initially, trains were powered

with 12-volt track power, but now run on battery power (similar to remote control cars). A few features use track power instead of battery.

Visitors are always welcome and someone is generally available in the mornings to answer questions.

The action at the railroad becomes more intense when a shoutout is heard: "Derailment on Track 4."

Take a trip to the Valle Del Oro Garden Railroad. It will be an experience long to remember.

Semcac serves hundreds of area seniors

BY CHRIS BALDWIN STAFF WRITER

Through Meals on Wheels, Semcac delivered more than 17,000 meals to 382 Steele County seniors during the pandemic. according to Executive

More than 580 households received assistance with utility payments through the non-profit community action agency's Energy Assistance program, and 737 rides were given through Sem-

Director Doug Grout.

cac's Volunteer Driver program.

"If we don't have a service that directly helps people, we're going to find a service that can," Grout told the Steele County Board of Commissioners during its regular meeting last week

Throughout the pan-

demic and COVID-19, the governor deemed most of our programs essential, so we continued through, said Grout.

"The Volunteer Driver program is a great program; we provide people with rides," Grout said. "We're also just getting a program

off the ground to provide people with rides to vaccination appointments."

"We were asked by the state of Minnesota to create a program in a limited time to provide transportation to people with COVID to get to a medical appointment," Grout said. "We

used a dispatch system to provide rides to people with necessary medical appointments, and that program ended at the end of 2021."

Semcac receives state, federal, local, and private dollars to fund its programs. Semcac has partnerships with 900 local organizations

Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Watch for changes in RMDs

If you're a certain age, you'll need to withdraw money from some of your retirement accounts each year. But in 2022, the amount you must take out may be changing more than in other years - and that could affect your retirement income strategy.

Here's some background: Once you turn 72, you generally must start taking withdraw-als, called required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement ac-counts, such as your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. Each year, your RMDs are determined by your age and account balances. This year, the life expectancy tables used by the IRS are being updated to reflect longer lifespans. This may result in lower annual RMDs than you'd have to take if this adjustment hadn't been made.

If you've started taking RMDs, what does this change mean to you? It can be a positive development, for a few reasons:

· Potentially lower taxes - Your RMDs are gen-

Medford discusses use of federal funds

BY CHRIS BALDWIN STAFF WRITER

The Medford City Council discussed how to spend around \$140,000 in federal funds the city has and will be receiving through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Act, totaling \$1.9 trillion, was signed into law last March and serves as an economic stimulus to allocate funds to businesses and local governments across the United States aimed at speeding the country's recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. "I want to start

moving on some of the

money and I actually get asked about some residents about it," Mayor Danny Thomas said. Medford has already received the first payment of funds with a second on the way.

The mayor asked his council to put together some plans on how best to spend the money. His first suggestion was to use a small portion of the funds to renovate the bathrooms at Straight River Park. "I'd like to see us take care of that."

An electric sign downtown was also brought up. "That couldn't cost us much

to have a digital sign put in," Thomas said. The sign would be used to display current important information relating to Medford and its residents.

Other suggestions included using the funds to help pay for the city's new water meters and some replacement valves in the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A big issue for the city is making certain that the funds are spent properly and spent in accordance with the American Rescue Plan. Right now, the city is still grappling with how best to the spend the

money and wants to be certain that any spending done will qualify.

'The only problem with making it qualify is that this time around these reports have to be submitted straight to the United States Treasury so if you try to make them work and the Department of the Treasury comes back and says 'no,' you're going to have to pay that money back," said City Clerk Elizabeth Jackson. "The one thing I really don't want to see is if we spend the money and the United States Government savs no See MEDFORD on B3 ►

2021 Ambassador of the Year

erally taxable at your personal income tax rate, so the lower your RMDs, the lower your tax bill might be.

- Possibly longer "lifespan" for retirement accounts – Because your RMDs will be lower, the accounts from which they're issued – including your traditional IRA and 401(k) – may be able to last longer without becoming depleted. The longer these accounts can stay intact and remain an asset, the better for you.
- More flexibility in planning for retirement in-come The word "required" in the phrase "required minimum distributions" means exactly what it sounds like – you must take at least that amount. If you withdraw less than your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%. So, in one sense, your RMDs take away some of your freedom in managing your retirement income. But now, with the lower RMDs in place, you may regain some of this flexibility. (And keep in mind that you're always free to withdraw more than the RMDs.)

Of course, if you don't really need all the money from RMDs, even the lower amount may be an issue for you - as mentioned above, RMDs are generally taxable. However, if you're $70\frac{1}{2}$ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from a traditional IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization, and some, or perhaps all, of this money may come from your RMDs. By making this move, you can exclude the RMDs from your taxable income. Before taking this action, though, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor.

Here are a couple of final points to keep in mind. First, not all your retirement accounts are subject to RMDs – you can generally keep your Roth IRA intact for as long as you want. However, your Roth 401(k) is generally subject to RMDs. If you're still working past 72, though, you may be able to avoid taking RMDs from your current employer's 401(k) or similar plan, though you'll still have to take them from your traditional IRA.

Changes to the RMD rules don't happen too often. By being aware of how these new, lower RMDs can benefit you, and becoming familiar with all aspects of RMDs, you may be able to strengthen your overall retirement income situation.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Ambassador of Year

Kozelka named

Two Owatonna businesses received the Spirit of Owatonna Award from the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce at its annual dinner Friday.

Receiving the award were Limberg Productions and Mineral Springs Brewery.

The Chamber also named Scott Kozelka, manager of the Steele County fair, as its Ambassador of Year. Kozelka has been an ambassador the past

three years. The Spirit of Owatonna award recognizes the great work of businesses in the area, according to Brad Meier, president and CEO of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce.

'Mineral Springs Brewery and Limberg Productions are shining examples of the hard work being done by entrepreneurs who care deeply about making Owatonna a better place."

School district seeks partners for OHS site

◄ SCHOOL from B1 quest for Preliminary Proposals for anyone interested in using the available space.

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 28, and will be reviewed by the district. The task force is expected to make a recommendation to the Owatonna School Board in March.

Whatever the final solution, planning will likely begin this summer. All RFPP should be

directed to Bob Olson, director of facilities, infrastructure and security. He can be reached via email at bolson@ isd761.org

or by calling 444-8606.



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PHOTO BY KAREN HALE

Chamber Board Member Wayne Starman presents Scott Kozelka with the Chamber's Ambassador of the Year Award.

Nominations for the award came from Chamber members. The Chamber also rec-

ognized outgoing board

members Nathan Dotson, Dotson Woodworking And Paul Smith, Federated Insurance for their service.

Paras, supporters pitch board

◄ PARAS from B1 you're failing to meet the needs of our students, so please, don't let that happen," Tratz said.

Elstad, too, was a special educator, he said during the announcement of Paraprofessional Recognition Week, "and I can tell you they are appreciated more than they know, resulting in even better, more effective Minnesota schools."

Chris Picha, who is part of the labor relations and negotiations team for the district, didn't return a call seeking comment

about the process and its progress.

Contract negotiations typically aren't made public until an agreement has been reached.

Based on the comments at last week's board meeting, salary, benefits and employee turnover are the main issues.

Koziolek drew the loudest response of the night when she told board members:

"I would like to say, you cannot pay us to care. You cannot pay us to care. You can pay us to live."



CALENDAR

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

FEB.8 10 a.m. – Online Storytime, BP Library

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

FEB. 4

11 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

FEB. 5

9 a.m. – Ellendale Heritage Society, **Community Building**

FEB. 10 7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

Community Building

11 a.m. - SEMCAC,

FEB. 9

FEB.7 11 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building 6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

FEB. 26 3 p.m. – Chili & Oyster Feed, First Lutheran Church of Fllendale

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

FEB.7

6 p.m. – Owatonna **Firefighters Relief** Association Meeting, **Fire Station** 6:30 p.m. – Open Arms Suicide Monthly Meeting, Owatonna VFW 7 p.m. – Steele County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building

FEB. 8

10 a.m. – Memory Café, History Center 10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library 5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building 5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Hall

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Blooming Prairie Elementary School

Feb. 3- Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, whole grain dinner roll, chicken Caesar salad, roasted broccoli, celery sticks, fresh fruit bar.

Feb. 4- Crispy chicken nuggets, rip stick breadstick, turkey ranch wrap, golden crinkle cut French fries. baby carrots. canned fruit bar.

Feb. 7- Scrambled egg, coffee cake, fish nuggets, whole grain dinner roll, tater tots, cucumber slices, fresh fruit bar.

Feb. 8- Sloppy Joe on a bun. BBQ rib sandwich, baked beans,

5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall

EDA Meeting, City Hall

FEB. 10

5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge 6:30 p.m. – Izaak Walton League Meeting, Izaak Walton Center 7 p.m. – Heritage Quilt Guild, St. Joseph **Catholic Church**

FEB. 11

7:30 p.m. – Blithe Spirit, Little Theatre of Owatonna

Blooming Prairie

High School Feb. 3- Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, whole grain dinner roll, chicken Caesar salad, Parlor pizza, roasted

broccoli, celery sticks. Feb. 4- Crispy chicken nuggets, whole grain dinner roll, turkey ranch wrap, corn dog, golden crinkle cut French fries, baby carrots.

Feb. 7- Scrambled egg, coffee cake, fish nuggets, biscuits & gravy, tater tots, cucumber slices, fresh fruit bar.

Feb. 8- Sloppy Joe on a bun, BBQ rib sandwich, cheese pizza, baked beans, baby car-

New Priest



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Rev. Bill Becker (second from left) was welcomed into the kitchen at St. Columbanus **Catholic Church of Blooming Prairie at a Knights** of Columbus Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 30. Also shown on the serving line are LeRoy Schroeder, Dennis Wencl and Neil Jensen. Becker was recently assigned to three parishes: St Columbanus Catholic Church, Blooming Prairie; Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl and Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Hayfield.

Mayo starts kindness program

Mayo Clinic Health System is hosting Kickstart Kindness, a virtual program designed to start a kindness revolution. The program is free and self-guided.

"Kindness has been shown to increase self-esteem, empathy and compassion, and improve mood," says Steven Siegle, Psy.D., a psychotherapist at Mayo Clinic Health System. "It can decrease blood pressure, and cortisol, a stress hormone, which directly impacts stress

levels. People who give of themselves in a balanced way also tend to be healthier and live longer." By simply being

kind, and being happier and healthier, participants can initiate a ripple effect that can affect their entire community. This program is

appropriate for all ages. Registration is required. Visit the Mayo Clinic Health System website to sign up, print activity ideas and get resources about kindness.

Arts Center to feature Gar Olson paintings

Many of you know Gar Olson for his culinary abilities at Spare Time Entertainment. but you may not know he is a creative painter.

Olson's paintings will be featured in the gallery at Owatonna Art Center beginning with an opening reception on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. The paintings will be displayed through Feb. 27.

If you have had one of his homemade soups, they have just the right mix of seasonings and so does his art work. New works in watercolor and pen and ink have been created for this

exhibition. Landscapes in all the four seasons are represented in the show and some very important portraits.

Olson enjoyed observing his father who was self-taught. He is also self-taught and creatively uses various media to make images on traditional painting surfaces, like canvas, paper, as well as unusual surfaces such as tea bags, pumpkin seeds and more.

He is a good friend of Pam Mikeworth, who is an excellent watercolorist. Olson has learned numerous things from her.

Senior Alliance offers dementia information session

Senior Alliance for Steele County will offer a Dementia Friends Informational Session beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 3, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 Lincoln Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota.

This informational session will of value to professionals in the field of senior living; caregivers; as well as friends, family, and neighbors of those living with dementia.

This in-person informational session will last about 60 minutes and cover the 5 key messages about dementia, how it affects people, and how we each can

make a difference in the lives of those living with dementia. People living with dementia need to be understood and supported in their communities.

Dementia Friends is a global movement developed by the Alzheimer's Association to help everyone in a community to understand dementia. At the conclusion of the session, each Dementia Friend will be able to turn their understanding into a practical action that can help someone with dementia in their family or community.

Please RSVP by February 2nd to Melissa at 507-213-6573

Man arrested; scuffle injures 2 police officers

◄ MAN from B1

The car they left in was found in the underground garage of the Eastgate Apartments on Cherry Street, where the woman reportedly lived. When police tried to serve a search warrant on her apartment the next morning, no one responded. Officers returned to the garage to secure the car – and spotted Knutson. According to the complaint, Knutson

resisted arrest and scuffled with several officers, injuring two of them; another officer found a meth pipe with residue in Knutson's front pocket.

Court documents reveal Knutson had been part of a settlement conference at 9 a.m. Thursday, the day he was arrested. According to a transcript of the conference, Knutson's attorney told the judge he was in a "dual treatment program in Rochester" and "has

difficulty getting to court" in Owatonna.

The intent of the conference was to settle cases that included a felony charge of violating a restraining order; a gross misdemeanor fifth-degree drug possession charge; and a traffic violation.

But during the proceedings, Knut-

with his "mental health and everything," and that his medication was being adjusted "because I ain't been doing too good with my mental health."

At that point, the judge stopped the settlement conference to allow Knutson and his attorney more time to figure out the details here." If no agreement was reached, she said, "then you need to be here in person (Feb. 2) for jury trial, OK?" Knutson agreed and was arrested in the parking garage an hour later.

FEB. 9 5:30 p.m. - Medford

baby carrots, canned fruit bar.

Feb. 9- Mac & Cheese, turkey BLT flatbread. romaine lettuce, cherry tomato, fresh fruit bar.

rots, canned fruit bar. Feb. 9- Mac & Cheese, turkey BLT flatbread, crispy chicken nuggets, romaine lettuce, cherry tomato. fresh fruit bar.

son indicated that his knowledge of the drug possession case didn't align with the charge, prompting the judge to ask more about his treatment. Knutson said the **BLOOMING PRAIRIE** treatment was to deal

Medford discusses use of federal funds

◄ MEDFORD from B2 and then we're scrambling to find \$140,000 that wasn't supposed to be spent."

Council Member Chad Langeslag said that infrastructure spending will qualify under the act.

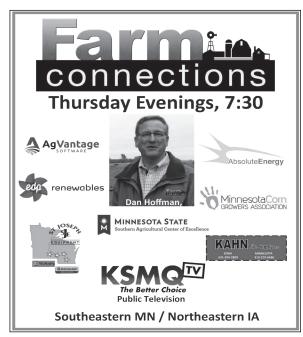
"If we can get this money and use it to benefit everybody, everybody has a water meter in their house, and then there's no gray area," he said. "Then we can keep working on any other projects with budgeted money."

"With infrastructure we could do the valves that don't operate and we could use it to get Wi-Fi to the treatment

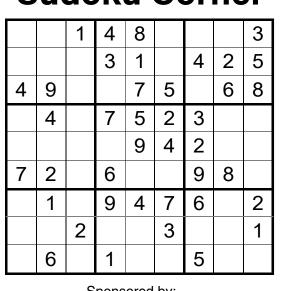
plant," Langeslag said of how best to use the money. The spent money has to be reported to the United States Treasury by 2024.

The mayor and council members thought it best to set aside several work sessions down the road to dig deeper on the specifics of how the money can be spent so that they can take advantage of all of the allocated funds to benefit the city and its residents.

"We need to start getting that information put together and then talk about what we want," Thomas said. "We want to make sure that it's spent legitimately."



Sudoku Corner



Sponsored by:





Friendly

O Pet



Answers

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION **19th ANNUAL AUCTION** Saturday, April 1, 2022 Where: The Cue Co. **Blooming Prairie** Silent & Live Auctions To make a donation to the auction: Drop off at

Eagle Prairie Insurance

311 NW Hwy Ave S, Blooming Prairie

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

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Hometown Sports WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 STEELE COUNTY TIMES

B4



Steele Sports JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

New GM looks to be a good pick

The Minnesota Vikings made it official last week: Kwesi Adofo-Mensah is the team's new general manager.

Adofo-Mensah replaces former general manager Rick Spielman and brings a new look to the Vikings' front office.

After doing my due diligence on Adofo-Mensah — whom I hadn't heard of before the signing — I am a big fan of owner Zygi Wilf's decision to hire him.

The 40-year-old Adofo-Mensah is not your typical general manager at first glance.

A dive into his background unearths a resume that one would be more likely to find on Wall Street instead of the gridiron because that's exactly where his career trajectory began: Wall Street.

According to a press release by the Vikings organization, Adofo-Mensah earned two degrees in economics with a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a master's degree from Stanford University.

After graduating, Adofo-Mensah pursued a career in finance on Wall Street as a portfolio manager and com-



The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team earned a conference win Friday after defeating United South Central (USC) 70-64 at home.

The win was Blooming Prairie's third conference win of the season and its first against an opponent other than Medford.

According to Blooming Prairie head coach Cam Rutledge, the way his team started the game was critical to its success.

"From the tipoff in the first second of the game, we have to come out with high intensity and our energy has to be there. I thought tonight the boys did a better job of that," said Rutledge.

The Awesome Blossoms did just what Rutledge asked and began the game on a 10-0 run, ultimately accumulating a 15-4 lead with 12 minutes left in the first half.

Blooming Prairie's offense clicked in all facets of the game in the first half as the team mixed shots from all ranges from the post to the perimeter to finish the half with a 37-23 lead.

After halftime, Blooming Prairie had to adjust to the Rebels' offense which changed its offensive scheme to See **BP DEFEATS** on B5 ►

Owatonna was most effective down low in the post against Albert



BP defeats USC 70-64



Kittelson. Jordison had 21 points in the Awesome Blossoms' 70-64 win at home against USC last week.

Huskies cage Tigers 61-40

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS Blooming Prairie senior guard Colin Jordison attempts to finish an alley-oop pass from senior forward Drew

modifies trader before coming into contact with the San Francisco 49ers in 2013.

What caught the eye of his employers before he joined the Vikings was Adofo-Mensah's ability to analyze data and make decisions based on analytics.

A big portion of decision-making comes down to finite analytics that tries to optimize game strategy in today's game.

Adofo-Mensah's career is built on a track record of making strong, calculated decisions based on these data points.

Adofo-Mensah has even won over the confidence of one of Steele County's own young coaches, Cam Rutledge. See **STEELE SPORTS** on B7 ► The Owatonna girls basketball team took down the Albert Lea Tigers 61-40 last week to earn its fourth in-conference win.

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna received a host of scoring from multiple players as the team cruised to victory at home.

According to Owatonna head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa, the Huskies' performance against the Tigers was the best basketball the team has played all season

Owatonna owned the game from the opening tipoff to the final buzzer against Albert Lea.

The first half was a fast one for the Huskies and the team built a 32-18 lead at halftime largely thanks to post play and rebounding. Lea and outscored the Tigers by a 34-22 margin on points in the paint.

Offensive rebounding was a key part of Owatonna's success in the post as the Huskies snagged 12 offensive rebounds to Albert Lea's nine and managed to outscore the Tigers eight to seven on second-chance points.

The second half was more of the same for the Huskies as Owatonna worked to maintain its lead.

Albert Lea adjusted at halftime and was able to come out and find more scoring opportunities. However, Owatonna shut down any hopes of a comeback once again with its rebounding.

See **HUSKIES** on B6 ►

STAFF PHOTO BY DEREK KLECKER

Owatonna senior captain Ari Shornock gets ready to attempt a shot against Albert Lea. Shornock scored 7 points in Owatonna's 61-40 win over Albert Lea.

Ginskey one step closer to Triple 'A"



Connor Ginskey

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna senior Connor Ginskey advanced last week as the Region 1AA male nominee for the Triple "A" Award.

Ginskey will now be in the running for the award at the state level and will be one of eight male finalists to be invited to a March banquet by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

"It feels great. I'm obviously really honored. I never really gave it all that much thought until the application came around this year, and then I'm just involved in a good amount of stuff and I was able to be selected. It was really cool," said Ginskey.

Ginskey's nomination and selection as a finalist should come as no surprise considering his academic and athletic accomplishments at Owatonna High School.

The senior has been a part of all three separate qualifications for the Triple "A" Award as he has participated in the arts and athletics, as well as excelling in academics.

A National Merit Semi-Finalist, Ginskey has also participated in the band as a trumpet player for four years, as well as sang in the solo ensemble group and the choir.

In athletics, Ginskey has been involved with the basketball, cross-country and track and field teams.

His success as an athlete has been equally as impressive as his ventures in the classroom and in music, as Ginskey participated as one of two individuals in the state cross country meet in the fall and is currently a member of the Huskies' basketball team which is first overall in the Big Nine Conference.

Ginskey will compete for the coveted Triple "A" Award's four-year \$1,000 scholarship at the MSHSL banquet scheduled for March.



WRESTLING

Westfield 5th in Lake City The Westfield Razorbacks took fifth place at the

Lake City Invitational last weekend with 130 team points.

Westfield trailed Chatfield for a top-four spot as the Gophers edged Westfield with 156 points.

Bo Zwiener was Westfield's lone champion on the day as the freshman took home first place in the 120-pound weight class.

Also placing in the top three for Westfield were freshman 113-pounder Hunter Simonson (third), senior 145-pounder Keegan Bronson (second), senior 170-pounder Tyler Archer (third) and junior 220-pounder Sam Pirkl (third).

Earlier in the week, Westfield went 2-2 overall at one quadrangular meet and one dual meet.

Westfield went 2-1 at the Waseca Quadrangular with wins over Mankato East (39-33) and Waseca (39-31) to go with a 49-22 loss to Farimont before losing an away dual at Kenyon-Wanamingo 54-24.

Next up for Westfield is a home dual at Hayfield High School against Triton on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

Tigers 7th in Lake City The Medford Tigers wrestling team finished in

seventh place at the Lake City Invitational with 95 team points.

Freshman Tommy Elwood took home second place in the 126-pound weight class at the invitational and was Medford's best finisher on the day.

Medford had two other athletes finish in the top three in their weight classes as sophomore 132-pounder Evan Schweisthal and junior 182-pounder Dylan Heiderscheidt both finished in third place.

Medford also took home a 46-36 win against Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial earlier in the week.

The meet came down to the heavyweight match as Medford led 40-36 before junior Kamilo Gonzales iced the meet for the Tigers by winning by fall just 17 seconds into his match.

Up next for Medford is an away dual against JWP/ WEM at Waterville on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

BP routes USC 52-21

The Blooming Prairie girls basketball team earned a 52-21 win against United South Central (USC) last week.

The Awesome Blossoms did almost all their damage in the first half, putting a beating on the Rebels to the tune of a 41-6 score at halftime.

Defense was the key for Blooming Prairie, as forced turnovers led to multiple scoring opportunities in building the 35-point Blossoms halftime lead.

In the second half, the Awesome Blossoms were able to play their entire roster en route to a comfortable 52-21 win.

Senior guard Bobbie Bruns led the team with 18 points.

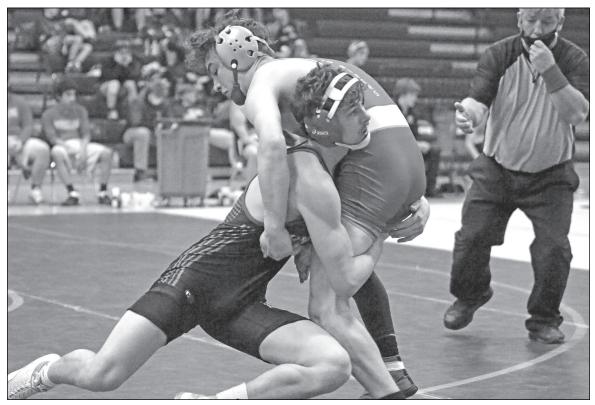
Earlier in the week, Blooming Prairie earned a 51-44 win over Maple River after losing 40-38 against Hayfield two days prior.

Bruns once again led the Awesome Blossoms in points in both games with 19 against Maple River and 15 against Hayfield.

Up next for Blooming Prairie is a home game against WEM on Friday, Feb. 4 at 7:15 p.m.

NRHEG smokes BA 68-47

NRHEG's girls basketball team took home a 21-point win against Bethlehem Academy last week



STAFE PHOTO BY IOHNNIE PHILLIPS

NRHEG's Nikolas Petsinger tries to finish his double-leg shot against Two Rivers at the St. Paul Johnson Governors Duals last weekend. Petsinger lost a close 5-4 decision in the final minute of his 132-pound match.

NRHEG 2nd at tourney

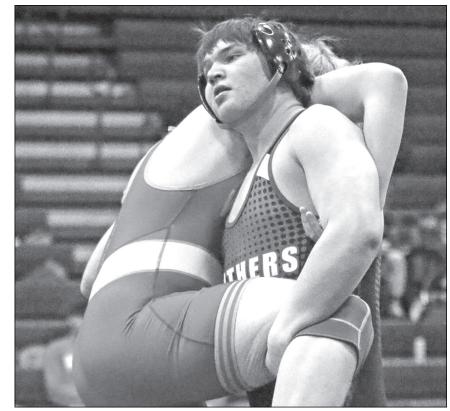
BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS SPORTS EDITOR

The NRHEG Panthers wrestling team placed second at the St. Paul Johnson Governors Duals last weekend.

The Panthers finished the tournament with a 3-1 record, beating Chisago Lakes, East Ridge and St. Paul Johnson, while losing to Two Rivers.

"All in all, we had a good day today. We looked good in all the matches today but fell a bit short against Two Rivers. There were a couple of matches where we were in a position to win and didn't use our basics to finish moves. If you try to force moves or muscle through some situations, you run the risk of getting caught on your back. That is what happened a couple of times in the match we lost," said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson.

NRHEG started the day with a dominant 66-5 win over Chisago Lakes where NRHEG only lost one match by tech fall at 145 pounds.



STAFE PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

NRHEG's Ben Hagen holds his opponent's leg high as he prepares to trip his opponent and score a takedown. Hagen was dominant in his 220-pound match against Two Rivers and won by fall in the first period.

Berg was on the wrong end of a 20-5 tech fall that put Two Rivers up 36-16 with only three matches left in the dual; making it impossible for NRHEG to win.

sparked the Panthers with a second-period fall to cut St. Paul Johnson's lead to 12-6. **Deven Parpart** followed Petsinger

a 48-27 win against East Ridge to close the day 3-1 and secure second place.

The two sides

by beating the Cardinals 68-47.

According to NRHEG head coach, this game was bigger than basketball as the Panthers dedicated their game to honorary coach Adam Murray, who was recently diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

NRHEG came out hot outscoring BA 38-23 in the first half before closing the show with a 30-24 second half to beat the Cardinals 68-47.

Leading the Panthers in scoring was Faith Nielsen with 20 points.

Earlier in the week, NRHEG beat JWP 70-38 in a Gopher Conference matchup to go 2-0 in-conference on the week after losing 78-52 to Belle Plaine.

Nielsen led NRHEG with 25 points against JWP while Sophie Stork led the Panthers with 13 points against Belle Plaine.

Up next for NRHEG is a road matchup against Hayfield on Friday, Feb. 4 at 7:15 p.m.

NRHEG tops BA 57-39

The NRHEG boys basketball team took down Bethlehem Academy 57-39 last week after a timely late-game scoring streak.

NRHEG found itself with a 24-23 lead going into halftime after coming back from an 18-10 deficit in the last minutes of the first half.

After halftime, it was all NRHEG as the Panthers outscored the Cardinals 33-16 to take the win.

Sophomore Daxter Lee led the way for the Panthers with 21 points and nine rebounds while senior Tyrone Wilson added 15 points and seven rebounds.

The Panthers were not as successful earlier in the week against JWP, losing 57-43.

NRHEG kept the game close at halftime trailing 24-18 before falling behind by 14 points to end the game.

This time it was senior Porter Peterson who led NRHEG with 14 points.

Up next for NRHEG is a home game against Hayfield on Friday, Feb. 4 at 7:15 p.m.

Cobras tame Tigers 83-42

The Medford Tigers boys basketball team lost 83-42 in a one-sided game against Triton last week in Dodge County.

Medford found itself in a big hole during the first half as the Tigers were unable to score consistently and found themselves trailing 47-18 at halftime.

Although the Tigers made adjustments for the second half, they did not stop the Cobras' offense as Triton outscored Medford 36-24 in the second half as well.

Senior Henry Grayson was the Tigers' leading scorer with 13 points, nine rebounds and three assists.

Medford found itself in a similar position earlier in the week as the Tigers took a 95-20 loss on the road against Maple River.

Grayson once again led the Tigers in points with nine, as none of the Tigers players managed to reach double-digit points.

Coming up next for the Tigers is a home game against Goodhue on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:15 p.m.

COMPILED BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

The dual was a quick one as NRHEG received 30 points alone on five forfeits by Chisago Lakes.

After Chisago Lakes, NRHEG faced its only loss of the day in a tight 36-34 loss to Two Rivers; the eventual champion of the tournament.

NRHEG and Two Rivers battled back and forth up until the 182-pound match between NRHEG's Aden Berg and Two Rivers' Riley Pearce.

Despite losing the dual, NRHEG finished with three pins by Ralph Roesler, Ben Hagen and Makota Misgen to earn the maximum 18 points and fall just short 36-34.

NRHEG recovered from the loss by dominating St. Paul Johnson in its next dual, dropping 54 points on the Governors and winning 54-21.

NRHEG started slow, falling behind 12-0 after the first two matches at 106 and 113 before Annabelle Petsinger

with a pin of his own in the next match at 126 pounds to tie the meet at 12-12 before Nikolas Petsinger received six points from a forfeit to put NRHEG up 18-12.

NRHEG went on to tie again after Aidan Schlaak lost by fall at 138 pounds, however, 145-pounder Ryan Schlaak avenged the loss with a pin of his own to put NRHEG up 24-18.

The Panthers held the lead for the rest of the dual.

The Panthers' last dual of the day came as remained close with a 30-27 score favoring NRHEG up until the last three matches at 195, 220 and heavyweight where East Ridge was forced to forfeit all three matches, giving NRHEG a 48-27 final score.

NRHEG had a dominant week as the team won its home triangular prior to the Governors Duals beating Triton 54-21 and Madelia 78-4.

NRHEG's next action comes on the road at the St. Clair Quadrangular at St. Clair High School on Friday, Feb. 4, at 5 p.m.

BP defeats USC 70-64

◄ BP DEFEATS from B4 challenge the Awesome Blossoms from the perimeter.

After USC sank a string of three-pointers to cut the lead to less than 10 points for Blooming Prairie, Rutledge had to call a timeout to slow the Rebels' momentum.

"We knew that they were starting to get hot, so I had to call a couple of timeouts to kind of calm things down. I just told the boys in the timeout that we had to start identifying shooters. Credit to them, they made a lot of shots," said Rutledge.

However, despite the second-half push from the Rebels, which saw USC outscore Blooming Prairie 41-33, the Awesome Blossoms managed to stop the Rebels in their tracks to win by a six-point margin.

Leading Blooming Prairie in scoring and rebounding was senior forward Drew Kittelson with 25 points and 24 rebounds.

According to Rutledge, Kittelson's strength in the paint was a key in the team's win and was a focal point for the team during the week's preparation.

Earlier in the week, **Blooming Prairie** suffered back-to-back losses to Bethlehem Academy and Hayfield.

Bethlehem Academy beat the Awesome Blossoms 51-45 in Faribault, while Hayfield beat **Blooming Prairie 83-55** in Hayfield

Up next for the Awesome Blossoms is a road game against WEM on Friday, Feb. 4 at 7:15 p.m.

Player Stats vs. United South Central

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| B. Kittelson | 4 | 0 | 0 | |



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Blooming Prairie senior guard Garret Farr steals the ball from a USC guard and attempts to take the ball down the court. Farr had three points in Blooming Prairie's 70-64 win against USC.

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GYMNASTICS

OHS 2nd in Mankato

The Owatonna Huskies gymnastics team came in second place with a score of 145.350 at its meet against Mankato East and Mankato West, as West edged Owatonna by 0.475 points with 145.825 team points.

Owatonna managed to take the highest team total on the beam with 35.700 total points, but fell short to Mankato West in all other events with second-place finishes on the bars, floor and vault.

Every event was tightly contested as Owatonna fell 37.050-37.025 on the vault, 35.775-35.275 on the bars and 37.775-37.350 on the floor.

Averie Roush was Owatonna's top individual performer at the meet with a team-high 36.475 points.

Next up for the Huskies is the Big Nine Conference Meet at Rochester Century High School on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m.

WRESTLING

Huskies 1-1 in Mankato

The Owatonna Huskies beat the Mankato West Scarlets 54-24, but also fell 39-29 against Rochester Mayo at the Mankato West Triangular last week.

Owatonna won its decisive victory over West with a myriad of bonus-point wins collected by Lane Karsten, Trey Hiatt, Jake Gronli, Cael Robb, Landen Johnson, Jacob Reinardy, Blake Fitcher and Andrew Nirk. In total, Owatonna achieved 48 of its 54 total points via fall victories and forfeits, with the latter only accounting for 18 of the 48 points.

Owatonna did not have the same success against Mayo, as the Huskies lost a 29-27 lead going into the final two matches at 220 pounds and heavyweight to lose 39-29.

Earning bonus points for the Huskies were Hiatt, Robb and Reinardy.

Up next for Owatonna is a home dual against Albert Lea on Friday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

OHS clobbers Albert Lea The Owatonna Huskies boys basketball team

showed Albert Lea why it is ranked No. 1 in the Big Nine Conference standings by beating the Tigers 97-40. Owatonna got off to a fast start against Albert Lea, scoring a season-high 65 first-half points en route to a 65-19 halftime lead and 46-point advantage.

After the half, Owatonna's offense slowed as the team cycled in more of its roster, but the Huskies still managed to outscore the Tigers 32-21 to collect the 97-40 finish.

The Huskies 57-point win is its biggest of the season, and even larger than the team's game against Faribault where it scored 101 points in a 101-46 beat-down.

Seniors Evan Dushek and Brayden Williams led the team with 26 and 25 points apiece.

Earlier in the week, Owatonna earned another win by defeating Red Wing 79-45.

Williams led the team with 32 points, while Dushek scored 17 and Blake Burmeister scored 12.

Owatonna's next game comes on the road against Rochester Century on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

SWIM AND DIVE East sinks OHS 92-86

The Owatonna boys swim and dive team lost to



STAFF PHOTO BY DEREK KLECKER

Owatonna senior guard Avery Ahrens passes the ball to a teammate waiting in the corner of the court. Ahrens added 6 points to Owatonna's 61-40 win against Albert Lea.

0

Huskies defeat Tigers 61-40

 HUSKIES from B4 Defensively,

Owatonna more than doubled Albert Lea's rebound totals with 28 defensive rebounds to the Tigers' 11.

This ability to keep the ball out of their opponents' hands was what enabled the Huskies to cruise to a 21-point win.

Leading the way for Owatonna was senior Lexi Mendenhall with 16 points, nine rebounds and two assists.

Earlier in the week, Red win defeated Owatonna 57-47 to put the Huskies on a threegame losing streak.

Owatonna trailed 36-20 going into halftime as the Huskies had trouble penetrating the Wingers' defense.

A late push in the second half proved not to be enough despite Owatonna outscoring Red Wing 27-21, as the Huskies ultimately fell 57-47.

Mendenhall led the Huskies in scoring again with 17 points and seven rebounds. Owatonna's next game will be at home against Rochester Century on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. The two sides will meet for the second time this season. In December, Owatonna lost a 51-42 road game to the Panthers.

| Klecker | 2 | 4 | 0 | |
|------------|-----|---|---|--|
| Brady | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Sommers | 0 | 7 | 1 | |
| Miller | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Moran | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | | | |
| vs. Red Wi | ing | | | |
| | Ρ | R | Α | |
| Mendenhall | 17 | 7 | 0 | |
| Shornock | 11 | 3 | 0 | |
| Buytaert | 6 | 4 | 2 | |
| Haarstad | 6 | 3 | 0 | |
| Simon | 3 | 3 | 1 | |
| Buytaert | 5 | 4 | 1 | |
| Ahrens | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Miller | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Brady | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Sommers | 0 | 1 | 0 | |

Buytaert

Schammel 4



STAFF PHOTO BY DEREK KLECKER

Owatonna freshman center Lexie Klecker tries to defend Albert Lea close to the basket. Klecker helped contribute to the Huskies' 61-40 win at home against Albert Lea.



Mankato East 92-86 last week at home.

The Huskies collected four wins over the course of the meet.

Owatonna's wins came in the 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard freestyle and 400yard freestyle relay.

The Huskies' bright spot on the diving board came from a third, fourth and fifth-place finish from Owatonna's three divers Henry Hilgendorf, Ethan Peterson and Cole Piepho.

The loss keeps Owatonna in eighth place in the Big Nine Conference standings with a 2-4 overall and in-conference record.

The Huskies' next challenge comes on the road against Faribault on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

HOCKEY OHS fall 2-1 in Dodge County

The Huskies girls hockey team fell 2-1 in overtime against Dodge County last week to end the week with a 2-1 overall record.

Owatonna scored its only goal in the second period on an even-strength goal by eight-grade defender Kendra Bogen assisted by junior Ezra Oien.

Senior goaltender Ava Wolfe saved 42 of 44 shots against Owatonna in the loss.

Earlier in the week, Owatonna earned two 9-0 wins against Red Wing and Mankato West.

The 9-0 wins were Owatonna's second and third 9-0 games of the season, with the first coming in the team's fifth game of the season against Winona in December.

Owatonna's 9-0 win against Red Wing came on senior night, with senior forward Olivia Herzog recording a hat trick.

Owatonna's next game comes on the road against Rochester Mayo on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:15 p.m.

Blades dice Ducks 3-2

The Steele County Blades finished the weekend with a 3-2 win over the Dells Ducks in Wisconsin.

Blades forward Jake Miltko scored in the first period on a shot assisted by Kole Fitzpatrick, however, the Blades still found themselves trailing 2-1 at the end of the first period.

Steele County captured the lead in the second period as forward Seva Bannikov tied the game 56 seconds into the period before Miltko found the back of the net to put the Blades up 3-2 with 6:34 remaining in the second period.

The Blades went on to hold their 3-2 lead until the final horn sounded.

Earlier in the week, the Blades dropped back-toback games against the Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings with scores of 3-2 and 4-1.

Scoring for the Blades across the two games were forwards Ethan Secord, Charlie Smith and Bannikov.

The Blades will face the Minnesota Mullets next at Augsburg University on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

COMPILED BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Player Stats vs. Albert Lea Ρ R Α Mendenhall 16 9 2 5 1 Simon 11 Haarstad 8 4 1

Shornock744Ahrens602

STAFF PHOTO BY DEREK KLECKER

Owatonna junior forward Anni Moran attempts to score over multiple Albert Lea defenders. Moran helped lead the Huskies' to a 61-40 win over Albert Lea at home.

OHS downs Century 2-1

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies battled for a 2-1 win Saturday against Rochester Century at the Four Season Centre.

Owatonna benefited from some late-game heroics to pull ahead 2-1 as time dwindled in the third period.

According to Owatonna head coach Dave Fromm, the Huskies special teams defense, as well as its forecheck, was the difference in the game for Owatonna.

Both sides battled early in the game and finished the first period gridlocked at 0-0 despite both sides having scoring opportunities throughout the period.

Owatonna opened the scoring in the second period with a goal by senior forward Wyatt Kriesel, who put a shot through the Century goaltender's five-hole after getting the puck from senior forward Benjamin Bang on the forecheck.

Kriesel's goal was the lone score of the period as Owatonna took a 1-0 lead into the third period.

Century found the equalizing goal late in the third period to make overtime look likely.

However, Owatonna senior forward Caleb Vereide brought Owatonna fans to their feet by scoring a late shorthanded goal with 4:20 left to play in the period to put Owatonna up 2-1.

The goal came from another strong forecheck as fellow senior forward Tanner Stendhal was able to get the puck loose in the Panthers' defensive zone and find Vereide for the finish in front of the net. Vereide's goal was the last of the game and put Owatonna on top 2-1 when the final horn sounded.

Special teams play was crucial for Owatonna as the penalty-killing unit went three-forthree on the night.

Senior goaltender Preston Meier had a relatively quiet night in net, saving 12 of 13 shots to earn the win at home.

Earlier in the week, Owatonna trounced Mankato West 8-1.

West managed to score first just over five minutes into the game, however, Owatonna went on to score eight unanswered goals over the span of the game to defeat the Scarlets in dominant fashion.

Leading the Huskies in points was senior forward Ryan Gregory, who totaled four points on two goals and two assists. Owatonna's next matchup will be at home against Rochester Mayo on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

Player Stats vs. Rochester Century

| | G | Α | Ρ |
|----------|----|----|----|
| Kriesel | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Vereide | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Stendhal | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bang | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | |
| | sv | SA | GA |
| Meier | 12 | 13 | 1 |

vs. Mankato West

| | G | Α | Ρ |
|-----------|----|----|----|
| Gregory | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Pederson | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Kriesel | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Kubicek | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Hoffman | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Schroeder | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Stendhal | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Maas | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Knoll | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dub | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Roush | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vereide | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | |
| | sv | SA | GΑ |
| Meier | 9 | 10 | 1 |

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

GOPHER CONFERENCE

| | Conf. | Overall |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Hayfield | 7-0-0 | 19-0-0 |
| Maple River | 6-3-0 | 11-5-0 |
| NRHEG | 5-2-0 | 14-6-0 |
| Medford | 4-5-0 | 9-8-0 |
| Blooming Prairie | 3-4-0 | 12-6-0 |
| WEM | 3-4-0 | 9-7-0 |
| Bethlehem Academy | 1-4-0 | 6-10-0 |
| United South Central | 0-7-0 | 0-16-0 |

BOYS BASKETBALL

GOPHER CONFERENCE

| | Conf. | Overall |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Maple River | 11-1-0 | 15-2-0 |
| Hayfield | 10-0-0 | 16-1-0 |
| Kenyon-Wanamingo | 10-2-0 | 14-4-0 |
| Triton | 6-4-0 | 9-7-0 |
| JWP | 6-4-0 | 10-6-0 |
| NRHEG | 5-4-0 | 8-6-0 |
| Randolph | 4-6-0 | 8-10-0 |
| WEM | 3-6-0 | 6-9-0 |
| Blooming Prairie | 3-9-0 | 3-12-0 |
| Bethlehem Academy | 2-7-0 | 4-10-0 |
| United South Central | 2-8-0 | 4-11-0 |
| Medford | 0-11-0 | 1-15-0 |

BIG NINE CONFERENCE STANDINGS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BIG NINE CONFERENCE

| | Conf. | Overall |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Austin | 12-2-0 | 14-3-0 |
| Mankato East | 11-1-0 | 12-3-0 |
| Mankato West | 10-4-0 | 13-4-0 |
| Rochester Mayo | 10-4-0 | 14-4-0 |
| Rochester John Marshall | 8-4-0 | 9-7-0 |
| Rochester Century | 7-5-0 | 9-7-0 |
| Red Wing | 7-6-0 | 8-8-0 |
| Albert Lea | 5-8-0 | 6-9-0 |
| Owatonna | 4-8-0 | 5-11-0 |
| Winona | 3-11-0 | 3-12-0 |
| Northfield | 2-12-0 | 2-15-0 |
| Faribault | 0-14-0 | 0-17-0 |

Oswald a force for Jamestown

BY BARBARA BOXLEITNER CORRESPONDENT

Megan Oswald has been a key contributor for the University of Jamestown women's basketball team.

The Blooming Prairie High School graduate is among three freshmen to play in the first 20 games (12-8), with all her appearances as a reserve.

"That's a big role for a young player," said Thad Sankey, Jamestown head women's basketball coach. "She's able to give us some versatility in smaller lineups."

"She's a player who gives great effort and does a great job," he said. "We're so happy to have her on the team."

The 5-foot-9 forward averaged 3.8 points. She had a season-high 10 points in a win over Dakota Weslevan, when she led the team with her season-best of eight rebounds. She had eight points in two consecutive early December games. "She's a really

high-efficient scorer," the coach said. Oswald said most of her points have come

from near the basket, including "short, little hooks and offensive rebounds with putbacks." "I'm not necessarily

a shooter," she said. "I'm working on perimeter shooting."

She led the freshmen by averaging 4.3 rebounds a game. Five times she had six rebounds, leading the Jimmies in one of those.

Oswald said she typically covers a guard or forward. "They do play a lot quicker," she said. "You have to expect that everybody can shoot from anywhere." Reading the opponents' shot and establishing position have helped her rebounding. "I'm a little bit of a smaller post," she said. "I knew going in it would be pretty phys-

ical. Girls are more aggressive. They're not afraid to push you around."



University of Jamestown's Megan Oswald dribbles the ball through a defender on the way to the post. Oswald has played as a reserve for the Jimmies as a freshman this season.

Freshman post Tina

Harms averaged 5.7

MORE WOMEN'S

BASKETBALL

"She's a fantastic rebounder, maybe the best offensive rebounder we have," Sankey said. "She's got enough muscle. She can move people around."

In man defense,

points and 4.9 rebounds in nine games for Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary. The Owatonna Christian School graduate had season highs of 14 points and eight rebounds against Maranatha Baptist.

WOMEN'S INDOOR **TRACK AND FIELD**

Sydney Kretlow scored for the University of Minnesota in the 800-meter race at the South Dakota State Holiday meet. The redshirt sophomore from Owatonna High finished sixth.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Previously at Bethlehem Academy, Verity Wray-Raabolle won the 100- and 200-yard backstroke events for Macalester College at the Roger Ahlman Invitational. She was part of the winning 200 and 400 medley relays. She broke a school record swimming the 100-backstroke leg in the 400 medley relay and set another record in winning the 200 backstroke.

Wray-Raabolle is the daughter of Chandra and Jason Wray-Raabolle of Owatonna.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail. com.

Steele Sports: GM a good pick

"From what I've heard of him so far, he's an analytics-driven GM and I think that's exactly what the V1kings need. Somebody young, somebody who has that way of thinking. Now I hope they go out and get a head coach that thinks the same way as the GM does. Someone who is

uses it as an advantage to win us more games,' said Rutledge, Blooming Prairie's head

more cunning one than now?

One key component of Adofo-Mensah's resume in football has

cap limit in 2022. After years of mediocracy, it is hard to blame Wilf for wanting to mix it up and try something new rather than promoting from within and attempting to make do with what he already has. Vikings fans should reioice in the optimism that change is on the horizon.

BOYS BASKETBALL

BIG NINE CONFERENCE

| | Conf. | Overall |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Owatonna | 10-0-0 | 11-2-0 |
| Mankato West | 9-3-0 | 12-4-0 |
| Austin | 8-4-0 | 9-7-0 |
| Winona | 7-3-0 | 9-3-0 |
| Mankato East | 7-5-0 | 9-6-0 |
| Northfield | 6-5-0 | 8-6-0 |
| Red Wing | 5-6-0 | 7-7-0 |
| Rochester Century | 5-6-0 | 7-8-0 |
| Rochester Mayo | 5-7-0 | 8-8-0 |
| Rochester John Marshall | 3-7-0 | 5-7-0 |
| Faribault | 1-10-0 | 1-12-0 |
| Albert Lea | 0-10-0 | 2-12-0 |

GIRLS HOCKEY

| | Conf. | Overall |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Owatonna | 9-0-1 | 12-8-2 |
| Mankato East | 9-3-0 | 17-5-0 |
| Northfield | 7-1-1 | 14-4-3 |
| Albert Lea | 7-3-0 | 10-9-1 |
| Rochester Mayo | 7-4-0 | 9-13-0 |
| Austin | 6-7-0 | 11-10-0 |
| Rochester Century/JM | 4-8-0 | 6-16-1 |
| Mankato West | 3-10-0 | 4-17-1 |
| Red Wing | 2-8-0 | 3-17-0 |
| Winona | 0-10-0 | 0-15-0 |

BOYS HOCKEY

| | Conf. | Overall |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| Northfield | 9-1-1 | 11-5-1 |
| Mankato East/Loyola | 7-3-0 | 12-6-0 |
| Rochester Mayo | 6-0-2 | 11-3-3 |
| Rochester Century | 6-4-0 | 8-8-0 |
| Owatonna | 5-4-1 | 6-13-1 |
| Albert Lea | 5-5-0 | 13-5-0 |
| Faribault | 5-7-0 | 6-12-0 |
| Mankato West | 5-7-0 | 6-12-0 |
| Rochester John Marshall | 4-4-0 | 6-10-0 |
| Red Wing | 4-5-0 | 7-11-0 |
| Winona | 2-9-0 | 4-13-1 |
| Austin | 0-9-0 | 1-12-0 |

basketball coach. As the game pro-

gresses, analytics-driven decisions are replacing football knowledge and intuition, and what better time to pivot from a tired, obsolete regime to a younger,

also been his ability to monitor cap space and make beneficial financial decisions.

This will prove critical to his tenure in Minnesota as he inherits a team that is north of \$14 million over the



FORECLOSURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFI-CATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PRO-VIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS AC-TION. NOTICE IS HERE-BY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 25, 2012 ORIGINAL PRINCI-PAL AMOUNT OF MORT-\$184,658.00 GAGE: MORTGAGOR(S): Timothy J Grubish and Margie Grubish, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Proficio Mortgage Ventures, LLC TRANSAC-TION AGENT: Mortgage Registration Electronic Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100470260010450830 SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services LLC LENDER: Proficio Mortgage Ventures, LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Steele County Minnesota, Recorder, on June 14, 2012, as Document No. A000385182. AS-SIGNED TO: Wells Fargo Bank, NA by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 05/20/2020 and recorded on 05/21/2020 as Document No. A000429148. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust I by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 01/27/2021 and recorded on 01/27/2021 as Document No. A000434034. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Hissam-Alexander Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 752 17TH ST SE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 PROPERTY I.D: 17-284-0109 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORT-GAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Sixty-Four and 85/100 (\$168,064.85) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on March 24, 2022 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on September 24, 2022, or the next business day if September 24, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PER-SONAL REPRESENTA-TIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JU-DICIAL ORDER IS EN-TERED UNDER MIN-NESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DE-TERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT MORTGAGED THE PREMISES ARE IM-PROVED WITH A RESI-DENTIAL DWELLING OF

LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTUR-AL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: January 19, 2022 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust I Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 21MN00166-1 A-4740177 01/19/2022, 01/26/2022, 02/02/2022, 02/09/2022, 02/16/2022, 02/23/2022

1/19T6

FORECLOSURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFI-CATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PRO-VIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS AC-TION. NOTICE IS HERE-BY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 30, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCI-PAL AMOUNT OF MORT-GAGE: \$138,775.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Lanny Louks, A Single Man MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for American Mortgage and Equity Consultants, Inc. TRANS-ACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. MIN#: 100867104377691779 SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC LENDER: American Mortgage and Equity Consultants, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Steele County Minnesota, Recorder, on April 30, 2013, as Document A000391091. AS-No. SIGNED TO: Wells Fargo Bank, NA by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 05/13/2014 and recorded on 05/16/2014 as Document No. A000397022. WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. as Trustee of STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST K by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 04/05/2021 and recorded on 04/05/2021as Document No. A000435379. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, in Block 1, Hartle Addition, Owatonna. Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 402 18TH STREET SW, OWATONNA, MN 55060 PROPERTY I.D: 17-243-0113 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Nine and 47/100 (\$131,879.47) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on March 17, 2022 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their representapersonal tives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed

under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on September 17, 2022, or the next business day if September 17, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PER-SONAL REPRESENTA-TIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JU-DICIAL ORDER IS EN-TERED UNDER MIN-STATUTES, NESOTA SECTION 582.032, DE-TERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THF MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IM-PROVED WITH A RESI-DENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTUR-AL PRODUCTION, AND ABANDONED." ARE Dated: January 12, 2022 WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, as Trustee of STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST K Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee Mortgage/Mortgagof ee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 21MN00163-1 A-4739686 01/12/2022, 01/19/2022, 01/26/2022, 02/02/2022, 02/09/2022, 02/16/2022 1/12T6

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: January 20, 2022

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage that was executed by and between Joye Stallman, as mortgagor, and United Prairie Bank, as mortgagee. dated June 6, 2018 and recorded on June 11, 2018, as document number A000418631, with the Office of the County Recorder in and for Steele County, Minnesota.

17, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock

PUBLIC NOTICES

a.m., at the Office of the Steele County Sheriff, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by the mortgagor or the mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.

9. The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. § 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is September 17, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

10. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMP-TION BY THE MORT-GAGOR OR THE MORT-GAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE RE-DUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINN. STAT. § 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IM-PROVED WITH A RESI-DENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTUR-AL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMA-TION **OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT** PURPOSE.

United Prairie Bank, Mortgagee

LATHROP GPM LLP

By: /s/ Andrew J. Steil Andrew J. Steil #387048 1010 West St. Germain Street Suite 500 St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 252-4414

Attorneys for United Prairie Bank

2/2T6

County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 512 CEDAR AVE S, OWATONNA , MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCAT-ED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$117,382.38

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Homeservices Lending, LLC d/b/a Edina Realty Mortgage

RESIDENTIAL SER-VICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFI-CATION NUMBER: 17-016-1102

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUM-BER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office. Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DE-TERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS. THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IM-PROVED WITH A RESI-DENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTUR-AL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RE-LEASED FROM FINAN-CIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 24, 2022

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Sung Woo Hong, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (22-0067-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION **FROM A DEBT** COLLECTOR. 2/2T6

NOTICE

State of Minnesota **Steele County**

> **District Court** Third District Court File Number: 74-FA-22-43

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

In the Matter of Shannon Patricia Johnson (Petitioner) vs Joshua George Bice (Respondent)

To Respondent named above:

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

2. The mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a

3. The original principal amount secured by the mortgage was: \$54.500.00.

4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the mortgage, or any part thereof.

5. The holder of the mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the mortgage and foreclosure of the mortgage and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.

6. As of the date of this notice, the amount due on the mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the mortgage is: \$51,985.93

7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the mortgage, the mortgage will be foreclosed on the land described as follows:

THE WEST ONE-HALF (W 1/2) OF THE WEST ONE-HALF (W 1/2) OF THE NORTH ONE-HALF (N 1/2) OF LOT 4, AND THE NORTH ONE-HALF (N 1/2) OF EAST 50 FEET OF LOT 5, ALL IN BLOCK 1, IN TRUESDELL'S ADDI-TION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, STEELE COUNTY, MINNESO-TA. PIN# 17-116-0104

Street Address: 919 East Vine Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Tax Parcel Identification Number: 17-116-0104

and will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction on Thursday, March

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFI-CATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PRO-VIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS AC-TION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 7, 2012

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORT-GAGE: \$126,663.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Scott J. Matakis, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC d/b/a Edina Realty Mortgage

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 10, 2012 as Document Number A000384545 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on August 1, 2012 as Document Number A000385959 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION PROPERTY: The OF South 68 feet of the North Half of Lot 1 in the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, Steele TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the propertv redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 2022.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMP-TION BY THE MORT-GAGOR, THE MORT-GAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE RE-DUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER

Steele County District Court 111 East Main Street Owatonna MN 55060

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

Dated: January 25, 2022

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator 2/2

Owatonna Township Board of Audit

The Owatonna Township Board of Supervisors will meet at the Town Hall, 1334 S.E. 28th Street, February 10, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. As the Board of Audit, for the purpose of auditing the financial records of the township Clerk and Treasurer.

> Dan Stursa, Chairman Joe Elbert, Clerk Owatonna Township

2/2



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING FOR **MINNESOTA PHEASANTS, INC., STEELE COUNTY**

> Meeting Date Tuesday Evening • February 8, 2022

Meeting Time 6:30 Social Gathering • 7 Meeting

Meeting Place KC Lodge, 820 So. Elm Ave, Owatonna, MN

Purpose of Meeting: Discuss Business, Youth Education, Wildlife Habitat Conservation

Election of Officers: For the coming year of 2022



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LONG-TERM SUB

Elementary Teacher - 1st Grade. New London-Spicer Schools. Est. Start May 2022. Deadline Feb. 4, 2022. See www.nls.k12.mn.us for more information.

PROPOSALS

RFP: ENEMY SWIM DAY SCHOOL is seeking A/E services for an Expansion project of approximately 15,000 square feet. See https://tinyurl.com/ESDSRFP Questions or to schedule an onwalk-thru, contact Dr. Nasite 605/265-1062 dine Eastman at (cell) or email to neastman@esds.us

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES

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MISCELLANEOUS

has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

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had very few failures in the first 150,000 miles. I say first because I plan to drive it another 150,000 before trading it off and I may even keep it longer if she holds together. The manual stops at about 120,000 but I have seen the pattern and can just repeat I suppose. Being that it is aging are there things not in the manual that I should consider to preserve the life of the truck? **Ralph in McAlester Oklahoma** Dear Ralph,

from hot to cold when the gauge started to cycle. The funny thing was that the temp went cold when the gauge was hot and then warmed up again

when the gauge moved towards cold. What could

The description you provided is very good and un-

fortunately the first thing that comes to mind is a

head gasket failure. When a head gasket fails it

can allow the heated combustion gases from the

cylinder to pass into the cooling passages. When

this happens the coolant no longer can cool the

engine due to the disruption of the coolant flow

and the gauge moves towards hot. At the same

time the coolant flow to the heater is disrupted and

the air from the vents will cool down. Checking for

a head gasket failure is done by testing the air in

the cooling system for combustion gases. If gas is

I have faithfully serviced my Toyota since the day

it was new in 2001. I have taken it in for every fac-

tory recommended service listed under the severe

service category in the owner's manual. I have

present it indicates a failure in the system.

Beverly in Lincoln Nebraska

Take care, the Motor Medics

be going on with my car?

Dear Beverly,

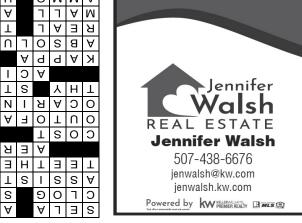
Dear Motor Medics,

Good job on keeping your vehicle running. In addition to the, manufacturer recommended services you can ask your shop what they recommend. Often a fuel system cleaning can do wonders for an aging vehicle that is starting to lose fuel mileage due to the lost efficiency caused by a dirty fuel system. Also at this age brake fluid and power steering fluid will start to break down or become acidic which can wear parts prematurely. Changing these fluids often will extend the life of the systems and save you money on repairs over the long term. A good relationship with an experienced shop is the best way to find out what areas of your vehicle can benefit from a little added attention to maintenance.

Take care, the Motor Medics



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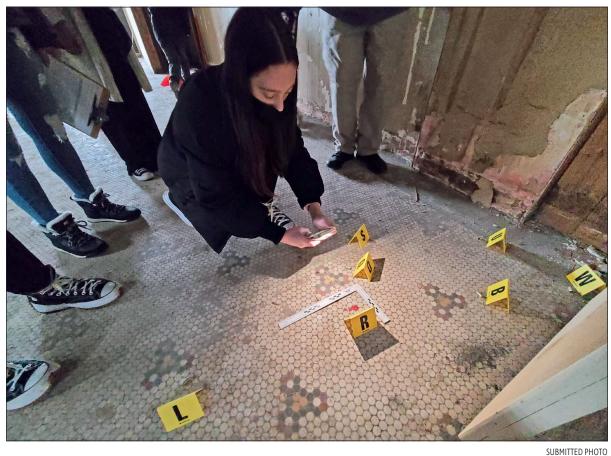






OWATONNA PROUD

B10 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022



OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Junior detectives learn forensics

Owatonna Middle School offers Forensics 1 and Forensics 2 semester-long courses. A total of nine sections of these two courses are offered, with 25-32 students per section. Nicole Rhodes, Ben Miller, and Emily Leckner teach the science classes.

Forensics 1 explores the key topics in forensic science, including forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Topic emphasis includes fingerprinting, blood detection and analysis, and impression evidence.

Forensics 2 continues the learning topics explored in Forensics 1 with the addition of new topics including, but not

limited to, careers in forensics, anthropology, forensic psychology, ballistics, arson, entomology, forensic botany, accident reconstruction, handwriting analysis, chromatography, and DNA.

At the end of the first semester of Forensics 1, the Owatonna Police Department created a crime scene where students demonstrated the knowledge they learned in the course to investigate and analyze a crime. Detectives Bowman and Quinlan from the Owatonna Police Department created the scenes in the former Bubba's Bar location in downtown Owatonna along with the garage of the police department.

ments from students about the courses:

was fun and challenging. We got to do fun labs and activities and learned new things that we have never heard before. I would keep taking this class because I had a great time and really enjoyed it."

• "Forensics is a pretty cool class. We got to do stuff I didn't really expect and did activities that were fun and made the learning progress easier. It's an awesome class and I would recommend 1000/10."

Students of the Week



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Paxton Yule First Grade Parents: Allen and Samantha Yule

Elementary School

Paxton Yule is a strong Washington Way leader. He works

Down to 5 finalists for Snow Week



Owatonna Middle School is producing some junior detectives as students learn about processing crime scenes as part of forensic classes at the school. Detectives from Owatonna Police Department assisted with the classes.

Here are some com-

• "This forensics class

• "I loved forensics and it was a super fun class with the best teacher."

hard every day. Paxton tries his best no matter the problem or situation. He collaborates with others and works very well with a team. Paxton strives to do his best in all that he attempts. Keep up the great work, Paxton!



Middle School

Malia Ivory Seventh Grade Parents: Nikeya Jones and Marielle Jackson Malia comes to class every day with a positive attitude

and ready to learn. She demonstrates positive leadership skills to others in class by working hard and staying on task. Malia is also kind to others and friendly to everyone around her. It has been a real pleasure getting to know her this school vear!



High School

Sophie Woodfill Freshman **Parents: Karen Larson and** Travis Woodfill Sophie is always respectful,

kind and a wonderful role model to others in class. The work that Sophie has completed in her design classes have been done exceptionally well, showing great use of class time and her ability to stay on task. Thank you for being an exemplary student, Sophie!

Kindergarten Reminder

Kindergarten registration is available on the Owatonna Public Schools website at www.isd761.org through Feb. 5. OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY VALENTINA CONTRERAS

The top five finalists have been named for Owatonna's Snow Week. They include: front row, from left: Elizabeth Wunderlich, Annika Wiese, Audrey Simon, Fardouza Farah and Lauren Thamert; back row: Max Guenther, Nolan Baker, Andrew Laatsch, Samuel Pfeiffer and Izaya Vazquez. The coronation pepfest will be Friday at the high school.

The Rebel Alliance looks for success

BY JACK RUITER AND IZAYA VAZQUEZ OHS MAGNET WRITERS

The Rebel Alliance is the robotics team name which has been part of **Owatonna High School** for multiple years. Many OHS students should get to know this unique club as there are five positions that transform into one cohesive unit. Those positions are: building, electrical, programming (coding), business and strategy.

In robotics they are faced with a different challenge each year, this challenge is the task in which the club has to accomplish throughout the season. The amount of time and effort that goes into making the correct robot takes about three months. During these three months, the team is trying to meet the standards of the FIRST

Robot Competition, which is an organization of robotics and competitions.

The OHS Robotics Club has a lot of goals and achievements. Adviser Mr. Shaun Robbin said, "I want to be able to compete in every aspect of the challenge. I want to continue seeing our older members taking the time to help teach and lead the younger members of this team." This is a goal of the team to achieve this upcoming season. With hard-work, effort and discipline, the club will try their best to achieve their goals and crush the competition this upcoming robotics season.

Competitions in robotics are organized into different alliances. alliances are different teams within the competition. The OHS robotics team name is the Rebel

Alliance. Competitions have a qualifying round that determines the seeding of the playoff. Senior captain Dylan Meiners said, "We are not sure yet who the top teams will be, but we know that there will be tough competition at the regionals." COVID-19 had a twist on the competition, as the competition last year was virtual. The club members had to build their robot at the school with protocols such as: social distancing, masking up, sanitizing material and more. The OHS Robotics Club has two competitions a year. These competitions will be held in Duluth and Minneapolis.

Throughout the years, the robotics club has made different robots. Junior David Smith said, "Zion (our last robot) was really fun because the team

worked really hard on it and it came out to be a very successful and competitive robot." Building a robot involves easy and difficult tasks such as programming and designing of the robot. The easier tasks include working as a team and trying different tactics and techniques. Whereas, the difficult tasks are finding the correct measurements of the robot, as well as testing and experimenting different techniques to have the robot perform the correct tasks.

Editor's Note: There is a video with this story that is featured on the "Best of SNO (School Newsletters Online) website at www.bestofsno. com/54950/multimedia/ video/video-2022-rebel-alliance-prepares-for-season/. Only 10% of stories submitted to the website are selected to be posted.



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