

OUR VIEW

November elections will be real test of redistricting

It looks like Minnesota lawmakers' inability to work out a redistricting plan on their own turned out quite nicely for most Steele County residents.

Although the district numbers changed, the new boundaries created by a special judicial panel left most residents unscathed. Steele County will now be cut in half, basically in the middle of the county with two Senate districts and three House districts.

Republican Sen. Gene Dornink will have to move, but once he does so – and if he's re-elected– two-thirds of his district will remain the same. And if re-elected, Sen. John Jasinski, R-Faribault, will continue to serve the northern half of Steele County, including Medford and Owatonna.

As for the legislative districts, most Steele County residents will be served by their existing representatives if re-elected. The exceptions are residents living in Ellendale and Blooming Prairie. Both communities will be represented by someone other than their current representative because of changes to the legislative district boundaries.

If this sounds akin to insider baseball talk, it is – only in this case, it's insider politics.

Don't worry. This, too, shall pass.

Every one of Minnesota's 67 Senate districts and 134 House districts was changed, which means a massive reshuffling of the state's legislature after November's election.

Each of the eight U.S. Congressional districts saw its boundaries change, too.

The goal of this entire exercise is to ensure that every citizen is represented equally.

When new election maps are created, each district supposedly gets its equal share of the state's total population. So whether you live in a big city or a rural area, you yield no more or no less power than another person in the state.

We'll have to wait until the November elections to finally see who ends up on first and who ends up on second, but for now, the outcome is back in the hands of the voters – not lawmakers.

GUEST COLUMN

Working to retain educators

BY CHRIS PICHA

Educators play a vital role in shaping the lives of the people in their communities. The demand for services provided by these professionals is increasing due to society's expectations of ensuring our students are college or career and life ready. Practices such as an effective recruiting strategy, positive culture, mentoring and induction programs for newly hired staff, guided career pathways, and adoption of Grow Your Own and internship programs can help meet the demand to fill a variety of positions.

A school district's retention of an educator begins day one of contact. What today's educators want in the recruitment process that directly links to retention is timely communication and an information-rich process to determine the right placement for them. We share our district high points and challenges early in the recruiting process. We provide interviews with our administrators, educators, parents, and students; give tours of our buildings; and share an overview of the Owatonna community. When educators accept a job at Owatonna Public

Schools, they understand the district's mission and vision and their role in inspiring excellence, every learner, every day.

Our district has taken action to help us not only recruit and retain strong, effective educators during this national staffing crisis, but also support and strengthen our workforce long term. First, positive school culture is a motivation for both existing and aspiring teachers. The work the district has done focuses on building relationships, equity and a positive culture, and it is second to none. We want our educators to feel valued and supported and experience joy in their work. We also provide multiple pathways to educator leadership positions. Educators are motivated to work in the best environments, and the promotion of positive school culture is a practice that attracts and retains more teachers.

Second, novice educators desire high-quality induction and mentoring to assist them in becoming a confident and effective educator who makes a difference in students' lives. Our three-year mentorship program is one of only a handful in See **WORKING** on A4 ►



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

As I watched Sen. John Jasinski perform his physical therapy regimen last week at a rehab facility in Plymouth, it became clear to me how eager the veteran lawmaker is to get himself back in shape physically.

"Put on some more weight," Jasinski told the physical therapist during one of his exercises.

Jasinski is making great strides as he improves from a freak snowmobile accident a few weeks ago in northern Minnesota. After initially tipping off the snowmobile, Jasinski stood up and was ready to roll again when he was hit from behind.

"It hit me in the back of the waist," Jasinski said. "Otherwise I

Senator keeps sense of humor through adversity

would have been right up laughing about missing a turn."

Even while laying in the snow, Jasinski kept his sense of humor. He joked about redistricting and asked one his fellow senators if he was going to knock on doors for him in Northfield, which is known for being a liberal community. Jasinski, who is Republican, is used to his conservative district spanning Steele and Rice counties.

As it ended up once redistricting boundaries came out last week, Jasinski doesn't have to worry about campaigning in Northfield this year after all. Northfield will be in District 58 and paired with a big chunk of Dakota County.

Asked how he's feeling, Jasinski said with a laugh, "Healing."

Jasinski broke his left pelvis, three ribs and L5 vertebrae. He'll be doing a lot of shuf-

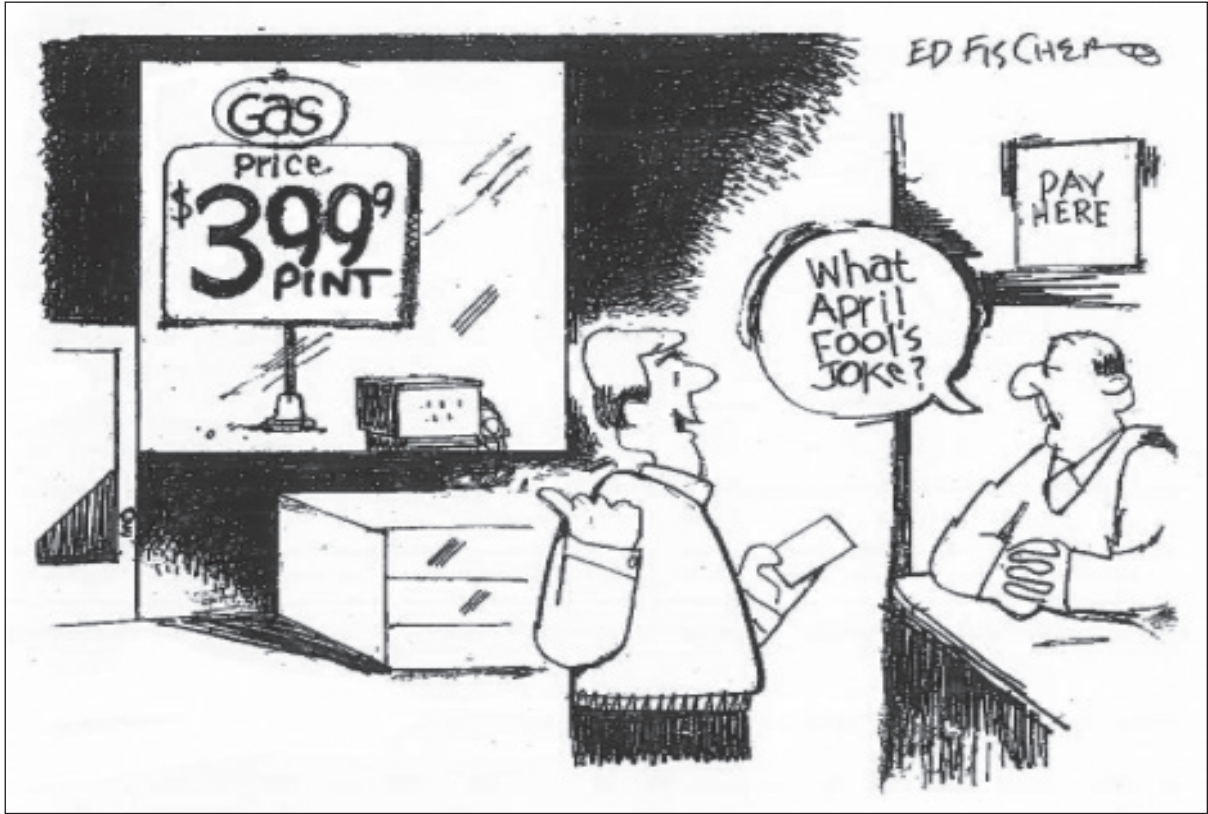
fling and sliding around for the next two months as he has been told to not put any weight on his legs.

In between therapy sessions, Jasinski said he thinks about what has happened over the past few weeks. "It makes you think about how bad it could have been," he said, adding he is expecting to make a full recovery.

Rehab isn't the only heavy lifting going on in Jasinski's life.

In the past couple years, Jasinski has become a force to be reckoned with when it comes to Minnesota politics. He currently serves as assistant majority leader in the Senate.

When he was working out Friday morning in the rehab facility shortly after the news broke about the death of Congressman Jim Hagedorn, Jasinski's cell phone rang. It was another fellow senator



GUEST COLUMN

Creating equitable economies

BY TIM PENNY

On the heels of celebrating National Entrepreneurship Week, I am taking some time to reflect on what it means to be welcoming to entrepreneurs in our local economies.

Entrepreneurship comes in many forms – from tech companies to home-based businesses. The spark of entrepreneurship also comes from many different people. However, not everyone has equal access to resources – whether due to an historic inequity, a language barrier, a disability or other reasons.

That is why, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we are proud to support minority entrepreneurs through our Prosperity Initiative program.

Prosperity Initiative clients commit to a six-month period of working directly with an experienced business coach for a total of 40 hours. Additionally, clients connect monthly with other entrepreneurs participating in the program through peer network meetings to discuss challenges and successes. All of the resources that are shared are free for participating businesses.

When the Prosperity Initiative was created in 2016, its mission was to help remove barriers to success for entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color, including new immigrants to our region. While this still holds true, at its core this program is about removing barriers to success for all minority entrepreneurs. That is why this year we have expanded the eligibility to also include entrepreneurs who identify as women, veterans, low-income and/or a person with disabilities. This follows the definition of a minority entrepreneur as set by Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED)'s Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program of which we are a partner. DEED also generously funds the Prosperity Initiative.

More than 80 entrepreneurs have graduated from this program since it began six years ago. The businesses that have grown from participating in this program include clothing stores, restaurants, grocery stores, a cleaning service, a landscaping service, a home fragrance spray and even a Spanish immersion preschool. One by one, these entrepreneurs are making a difference in their local economies.

Angel Uribe's Eagle Lake-based business, Stages of Change Center, empowers individuals to rethink their relationship with drugs or alcohol. She began the business in 2011 with no financing or support. In 2016, she joined the Prosperity Initiative which helped her develop business competencies and strategies that are still helping her navigate her business with greater confidence today. Angel also serves on SMIF's Board of Trustees.

Husband and wife team, Jose Rodriguez and Cecilia Cifuentes, own West Oakland Auto in Austin. They first connected with SMIF in 2012 for a loan which helped grow their business. In 2016, they received a second SMIF loan, this time to help them expand into their own space, a building which they now own. During these changes, Cifuentes participated in the Prosperity Initiative.

STEELE COUNTY Times

www.SteeleCountyTimes.com

Offices:

- Blooming Prairie: 411 E. Main St.
- Owatonna: 109 W. Rose St.

Customer Service:

news@steelecountytimes.com
507-583-4431

Deadlines:

News- 12 p.m. Friday
Advertising- 5 p.m. Thursday

Times Staff:

- Rick Bussler, Publisher and Owner
952-224-6331, rbussler@steelecountytimes.com
- Deb Flemming, News Editor
507-583-4431, dflemming@steelecountytimes.com
- Sherrie Pechan, Office Manager
507-583-4431, news@steelecountytimes.com
- Wyonne Priebe, Sales Specialist
507-456-4299, wpriebe@steelecountytimes.com

- Sandy Finley, Sales Specialist
507-456-5297, sfinley@steelecountytimes.com
- Johnnie Phillips, Sports Editor
507-583-4431, jphillips@steelecountytimes.com
- Kay Fate, Staff Writer
507-583-4431, kfate@steelecountytimes.com
- Charlene Wolff, Owatonna Office/Sales
507-583-4431, cwolff@steelecountytimes.com
- Chris Baldwin, Staff Writer
507-583-4431, news@steelecountytimes.com

Postmaster:

Send address changes to:
Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Published weekly by
Bussler Publishing, Inc., P.O.

Box 247, Blooming Prairie,
MN 55917
USPS 058-340
Periodicals postage paid at
Blooming Prairie, MN

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2022 —12 state awards (1st place- General Excellence)	2017 —2 state and 3 national awards	2013 —7 state and 2 national awards
2021 —16 state awards	2016 —8 state and 6 national awards	2012 —2 state awards
2020 —9 state awards	2015 —7 state and 4 national awards	2011 —4 national awards
2019 —7 state awards	2014 —3 state and 3 national awards	
2018 —6 state and 4 national awards		

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

Barn fire in rural Ellendale



STAFF PHOTOS BY KAY FATE

Multiple area fire departments responded to a barn fire Monday afternoon at Demmer Farms, about four miles north of Ellendale. Crews battled a strong northwest wind to prevent flames from spreading to several other buildings on the farm site. Firefighters from Ellendale, Geneva, New Richland, Owatonna and Clarks Grove responded to the scene, remaining for hours to knock down hot spots that remained. No information about a cause or damage estimate was available Monday night. Above, a tanker from the Ellendale Fire Department, left, heads north on Sixth Street/52nd Avenue SW after filling up at the water tower in Ellendale as a Geneva Fire Department tanker pulls in to fill up.

Senator aims to regain strength in rehab after crash

◀ **SENATOR** from A1
Eight snowmobilers were on a trail on the side of the road south of Motley. “A turn came up really fast and I hit the brakes,” Jasinski said. “I went to the left and tipped over going about 10 mph.”
As Jasinski stood in a daze with a cloud of snow all around him, Johnson’s snowmobile knocked over Jasinski and ended up on top of him, Jasinski said.
“It hit me in the back of the waist,” Jasinski said. “It knocked the

wind out of me and my face went into the snow. I panicked. The snowmobile was on top of me.”
Jasinski knew right away that something felt wrong with the lower half of his body. “I knew I broke something,” he said.
After he was transported to a hospital in Staples, Jasinski was airlifted to a Twin Cities hospital.
The veteran senator said the accident couldn’t have happened in a better spot. Along on the ride were

Rodmen Smith, chief of the Minnesota DNR, and another friend who is a pilot for North Air Ambulance, though he did not fly Jasinski to the Twin Cities.
But Jasinski called the crash a matter of bad timing. “I couldn’t believe this happened during the first week of the session,” he said. Lawmakers came back to St. Paul on Jan. 31, just four days prior to the accident.
Jasinski found the first week to be the toughest in dealing with

three broken ribs. After a week in the hospital, he was released to the Plymouth rehab facility where he has been performing daily physical therapy sessions. He is expected to be released from rehab this week.
The left side where he broke his pelvis remains weak.
Even though he’ll be out of rehab, the journey to getting back to normal physically is far from over. He will be confined to a wheelchair for at least two months as he won’t be able to put any downward pressure on his legs.
While Jasinski’s physical strength may be suffering a bit right now, his strength in being a senator for District 27 covering Steele and Rice counties hasn’t diminished hardly at all.
“This hasn’t stopped me at all,” said Jasinski, who serves as assistant majority leader. “It will make me want to do more because I’m behind.”
Jasinski said he hasn’t missed a meeting in the Senate as he has been working remotely by phone and on Zoom from his room at the rehab facility. “It’s driving me nuts to be away from there (Capitol). I’ll be back... this is just a

“It’s driving me nuts to be away from there (Capitol). I’ll be back... this is just a little speed bump.”

Sen. John Jasinski
Recovering From Crash

little speed bump.”
He plans to be working from home after being released from rehab and then back at the State Capitol as early as next week.
Jasinski is focused on several bills for funding to help police officers with PTSD as well as recruiting new officers across the state. He has also been working on a bill to refill the unemployment fund to help employers. The bill passed the Senate last week.
Another project Jasinski is working on is upgrading the assets of Riverland College in Owatonna. He said Riverland needs to have more of a presence in Owatonna.
Once the legislative session is over in May, Jasinski will be turning attention to his bid for re-election. Even though numbers will be changing under redistricting revealed last week, the district will remain mostly intact with what

Jasinski has been used to since getting elected in 2016. With the new boundary, southern Steele County and a portion of Dodge County have been taken out.
Jasinski said he wouldn’t be moving forward with anything without the “phenomenal care” he has received from those at the crash scene to the medical staffs at both hospitals and therapists at Interlude.
For Jasinski, the crash has made him realize how much he enjoys his freedom. “I’ve been pretty independent most of my life. I want to get back to that,” he said.
Jasinski, who has been an avid snowmobiler for his entire life, said he has also learned something else from this ordeal.
“I might be a little more careful—not that I was being dangerous,” he said. “A cat has nine lives. I’ve just had my first.”



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Sen. John Jasinski spends at least two hours a day in rehab performing physical and occupational therapy. He is expected to be released from rehab this week.

Congressman loses battle to cancer

◀ **CONGRESSMAN** from A1
Sen. Gene Dornink of Hayfield) said, “I am saddened by the passing of Congressman Jim Hagedorn. He was a wonderful representative of southern Minnesota and stood firm in his values. The loss of his leadership will have a profound impact on our community. My prayers

are with the Hagedorn family during this difficult time. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar joined in with family and friends in mourning Hagedorn’s passing. “Through his battle against cancer, he showed a level of determination that should inspire us all,” Klobuchar said. “Since being elected to Congress, he

has pushed for critical infrastructure projects like Highway 14 that have made life better for people in our state.” Tom Fernlund, commander of the Minnesota Legion, said Hagedorn was a strong supporter of veterans. Hagedorn’s biggest accomplishments for veterans went without much fanfare,

Fernlund said, noting he worked with the Mayo Clinic to get it to sign on with the VA Care in the Community Act. He added many residents in District 1 have no other options for health care than the Mayo’s system of hospitals and clinics, and Mayo’s participation reduces veteran drive times.

“Hagedorn came to many American Legion posts and National Guard armories and had a reputation for being there, among the people of his district supporting the military and veteran communities,” Fernlund said.
Hagedorn was the son of former congressman Tom Hagedorn,

who represented some of the same territory from 1975-83. Jim Hagedorn still lived in Blue Earth where he was raised.
A special election will be held to fill the rest of Hagedorn’s term, which ends Jan. 3. That election will take place Aug. 9, which is also the day of the primary.

5 deaths, worst week yet for COVID here

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County has hit the worst single week yet for COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began two years ago.
Five people died over the past week, according to Amber Aaseth, interim co-director of Steele County Public Health. They include: a man in his 40s, a man in his 70s, a woman in his 80s and two women in their 70s. No other details are available.
Previously, five

people were reported to have died in early January, but it was over at least a two-week period during the holidays.
Despite the death toll spiking to 55 for Steele County, the overall new case count is trending downward. There were 54 new cases through Friday. The weekend numbers were not available because of Monday’s holiday. To date, there have been 10,128 cases in Steele County.
“New cases and hospitalization rates are going down,” said Aas-

eth, who added that 30 to 40% of people currently in the Owatonna hospital are COVID patients.
In the fight against COVID, Public Health has test kits available to residents while supplies last. Aaseth said anyone interested should call Public Health at 507-444-7650.
The weekly vaccination clinic is moving back to Public Health at 635 Florence Ave., Owatonna. People interested in getting their vaccinations can show up on Wednesdays from

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All three COVID vaccines are available.
“Vaccination continues to be the best tool in our prevention toolbox against COVID-19,” Aaseth said. “People who are vaccinated will have a less severe illness and are much less likely to be hospitalized or die than people with similar risk factors who are not vaccinated.”
Aaseth said it’s also important for people to continue to use other tools for protection, including masking,

frequent handwashing, getting tested when needed and keeping physical distance from others.
“Most people who are newly diagnosed with

COVID-19 or admitted to the hospital are unvaccinated,” Aaseth said.
Though new cases are decreasing, Aaseth warned people to not let their guard down yet.

COVID-19 STEELE AT GLANCE

New cases since Feb. 14: 54
Total new cases: 10,128
Total deaths: 55
Deaths since October 2021: 36
Vaccination Rate: 63.1%
Total booster shots given: 12,639

Source: Steele County Public Health

	COVID-19 UPDATE				Freeborn..... 8,813
	World..... 425,000,000			Deaths 5,890,000	69
	Recovered.... 243,000,000			Mower..... 11,624	Deaths 67
	U.S. 78,400,000	MN 1,400,000	Steele..... 10,128	Dodge 5,521	AS OF FEB. 18, 2022
	Deaths 934,000	Deaths 12,131	Deaths 55	Deaths 20	
	Recovered..... 16,306,000	Recovered..... 908,000			

* NO WEEKEND NUMBERS WERE AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY.*

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Crash: Owatonna Police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Lincoln Ave. S. and Main St. E. at 11:54 p.m. on Feb. 15. They took a subject into custody.

Court date set for man in machete indident

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

The Claremont man accused of breaking into a neighbor’s apartment with a machete will make his initial appearance Monday in Dodge County District Court.

Samuel Zambrano Ramirez, 40, has been charged with first-degree burglary and second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon, both felonies, as well as misdemeanor fourth-degree damage to property.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$50,000 conditional bail.

The charges stem from an Feb. 13 incident, when deputies responded to an apartment in Claremont.

There, a man reported that Ramirez had come to his door to collect on a loan he’d

made to the man. As he waited for the money, Ramirez became angry when asked to stop bothering a child in the apartment.

He challenged the man to a fight, allegedly threw a chair at a bookcase, then grabbed a vase and broke it. Ramirez left the apartment, the criminal complaint said, but returned and tried to “open the door by kicking it and prying it open with a machete.”

He reportedly broke through the back door and swung the weapon around, damaging the doorframe. The couple inside eventually got Ramirez out of the apartment.

As deputies spoke with the alleged victims, Ramirez came back to the apartment; he refused deputies’ commands and went back to his own apartment.



Samuel Zambrano Ramirez

Authorities spent 30 minutes negotiating with Ramirez, then broke into his apartment with a crowbar-type tool and a sledgehammer and arrested him without further incident.

According to the complaint, the victims took a video of Ramirez at their door, yelling and trying to kick it in.

A review of his criminal history reveals felony drug convictions and multiple cases of DWI.

Man accused of sexually assaulting child

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

A man from Clark’s Grove has pleaded not guilty to multiple felonies in a case that accuses him of sexually abusing a child.

Gary Lee Cloutier, 79, faces two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

He’s been released from custody in lieu of \$5,000 conditional bail and is due back in Steele County District Court on May 19 for a settlement conference.

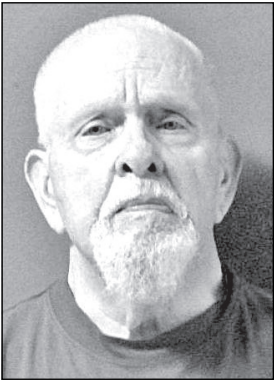
The investigation began after police and child protective services were called to an Owatonna elementary school for a report of a suicidal child; the child said there had been physical abuse.

The child told au-

thorities she had been telling her secrets to a teddy bear at home, because she didn’t want anyone else to know them. According to the criminal complaint, the victim eventually whispered the secret to the CPS worker, disclosing that Cloutier “touched her privates” and showed her his genitals.

The child said the alleged abuse had happened more than once, that he penetrated her digitally and forced her to touch him, the report said. She said Cloutier was drinking during the incidents, and also that one time he was “sleeping.”

The child’s mother said she noticed the child “closing down” within the past month, about the same time that the alleged victim started to act out in school.



Gary Cloutier

Cloutier told investigators he hadn’t touched the girl other than giving her a hug, and reportedly said the child would “crawl up in the chair with him.”

The first-degree charges carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a \$40,000 fine, or both. The second-degree counts are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, a \$35,000 fine, or both.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 7 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Lorenzo M. Cook Jr., 30, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of drugs. He was sentenced to \$125 and 61 months in St. Cloud State Prison. Douglas C. Deitert, 55, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of cocaine or methamphetamine. Deitert was sentenced to \$200, 99 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 10 years of supervised probation. Dezirae L. Huff, 20, Austin, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. Huff was sentenced to \$200, 75 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave

the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim and 5 years of supervised probation. Adam J. Techau, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Techau was sentenced to \$200, 27 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 30 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 7 – 13:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Teresa K. Haberman, 57, Blooming Prairie, public nuisance, \$175; Kamis K. Kuku, 22, Austin, revoked license, no insurance and registration violation, \$505; Mackenzie A. Madsen, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$135.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Daniel J. Altermatt, 55, Ellendale, speeding, \$135; Christopher G. Ayala, 44, Mount Kisco, NY, speeding, \$115; Luis A. Barreto Arenas, 42, Richfield, speeding, \$175; Yoram O. Bernet, 60, Seattle, WA, speeding, \$115; Thomas W. Butler, 74, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Bobbi J. Danelski, 40, Willow River, speeding, \$115; Gabriel Deng, 31, Fargo, ND, no license, \$175; Donald W. Dewey, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Taneigherine S. Duncan, 46, Melbourne, FL, speeding, \$135; Luisa N. Gaona, 19, New Richland, speeding, \$135; Nathan L. Goskeson, 42, Kensett, IA, no license, \$175; Allen L. Greenslade, 20, Kasson, speeding, no insurance and revoked license, \$535; Samantha J. Harmon, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Tommy W. Henderson, 30, Albert Lea, speeding, \$375; Mariela Hernandez, 18, Owatonna, speeding and permit violation, \$265; Jasmine M. Jackson, 20, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$125; Josiah M. Johnson, 27, Minneapolis, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$425; Kelsey M. Kadlec, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$135;

Kathleen M. Kreiner, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Carl Liu, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Javier C. Lopez, 18, Houston, TX, speeding and no insurance, \$335; Brenna R. Madvig, 20, Brooklyn Center, speeding, \$275; Kollin A. Martin, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jon J. McGurran, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jose A. Miramontes, 57, Austin, speeding, \$135; Ladereis R. Payne, 27, Nashville, TN, speeding, \$215; Christian D. Rider, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Hepi A. Robertson, 42, Redwood Falls, speeding, \$125; Jalen A. Sample, 22, Onalaska, WI, speeding, \$135; Stacie L. Savalia, 28, Owatonna, speeding and no license, \$235; Larry J. Simmer, 18, Mason City, IA, seat belt, \$100; Conor J. Skogen, 24, Medford, no insurance, \$275; Ryan P. Stinnett, 22, New Richland, revoked license and no license, \$375; Peter R. Straub, 55, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$215; Emica T. Tran, 29, Austin, speeding, \$125; Lesly S. Vasquez, 22, Lincoln, NE, speeding, \$215; Anthony W. Watts, 22, Apple Valley, speeding, \$125; Fathi A. Welj, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$135;

Nicholas T. West, 24, Largo, FL, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$105 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Michael W. Westphal, 23, Ankeny, IA, speeding, \$115; Walter E. Williams, 48, Bemidji, speeding, \$115; Shaun M. Wilson, 22, Maricopa, AZ, speeding, \$215; Robert W. Witte, 54, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tanya M. Ackerman, 49, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Charles E. Ball, 61, Owatonna, revoked license, \$625 and 1 year of supervised probation; Lisa M. Barrie, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Mark A. Burciaga, 34, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, \$250, 23 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Chance A. Christenson, 24, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Christina J. Christianson, 43, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Alyssa

D. Drake-Moreno, 20, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Zachary J. Eisen, 28, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$375, 3 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 18 months of supervised probation; Andrew R. Fischer, 33, Fairmont, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Cody J. Haberman, 18, Owatonna, muffler violation, \$125; Abdullahi H. Hassan, 24, Savage, speeding, \$135; Shaun W. Ladewig, 38, Rochester, theft, \$125, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Nathan E. Manthe, 44, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Elizabeth R. Marquardt, 31, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; James L. Marquardt, 66, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$275; Diana I. Martinez Tinajero, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Tyler A. Mathews, 33, Tulsa, OK, invalid license, \$275; Jason G. Miller, 50, Owatonna,

See **BLOTTER** on **A6** ▶

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

1. Jonelle Hill – escape from custody – no bail
2. Laquan Hillard – weapon without permit - \$3,000 bail
3. Fahad Hilowle – DWI - \$12,000 bail
4. Mustafe Hirs – motor vehicle theft – no bail
5. Dmario Holmes – financial card fraud - \$10,000 bail
6. Renant Hubbard – assault – no bail
7. Spencer Hutchinson – DWI – no bail
8. Trung Huynh – drugs – no bail
9. Gloria Ibarra – warrant - \$100,000 bail
10. Benjamin Jackson – theft - \$100 bail
11. George Jaramillo – domestic abuse – no bail
12. Jose Jimenez Jr. – domestic assault – no bail
13. Cody Johnson – warrant - \$2,000 bail
14. David Johnson – dishonored check - \$1,000 bail
15. Justin Johnson – motor vehicle theft – no bail
16. Lawrence Johnson – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail
17. Robert Johnson – criminal vehicular operation - \$10,000 bail
18. Tawna Johnson – escape from custody - \$20,000 bail
19. Teddy Johnson – financial card fraud - \$1,000 bail
20. Scott Jones – disorderly conduct - \$300 bail

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

WE'RE NOW OPEN!

Owatonna location for Steele County Times

We're now ready to serve you from our new location at 109 W. Rose St. in downtown Owatonna. Charlene Wolff is ready to serve customers from this office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We're excited to serve our customers from two great locations!

STEELE COUNTY Times

NEW LOCATION
109 W. Rose St
Owatonna

MAIN LOCATION
411 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie

Stop in at either office for any need or call 507-583-4431

TRUST US TO HANDLE WITH CARE

PROUDLY SERVING STEELE COUNTY

Brick-Meger Funeral Home & Medford Funeral Home

GlenMikeBrett

megercares.com | 507.451.1457

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from **A5**

possession of marijuana, \$125, 33 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Amanda J. Moen, 29, Faribault, DWI, \$400, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Hunter L. More, 24, Blooming Prairie, theft, \$125; Abdallah S. Muktar, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Michael W. Nelson, 57, Le Center, speeding, \$115; Stanley J. Nisbit, 71, Faribault, no insurance, \$175; Shyanne M. Nordquist, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Matthew D. Novak, 40, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$125, 4 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Halle E. Oldefendt, 16, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Carlos Pineda, 25, Owatonna, DWI, \$475, 30 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, Ignition Interlock program, 208 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Teriann Powell, 39, Waseca, financial transaction card fraud, stay of adjudication, \$265.92 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Delbert Ramirez, 38, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Laverne I. Roberts, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Arianna J. Salinas, 21, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Dana M. Truebenbach, 45, North Mankato, revoked license, \$275; Tesha M. Williams, 21, Owatonna, revoked

license, \$275; Elijah J. Wimer, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cody J. Altepeter, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Danielle D. Burshem, 32, Le Center, speeding, \$135; Khaleb K. Charles, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Ghartay L. Dehkee, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Jovonnie Espinoza, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Dwight P. Ferguson, 51, Ellendale, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$105 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Mark T. Fielding, 51, Ellendale, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Elijah A. Flenorl-Micklevitz, 22, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$115; Nemorio Gutierrez Cardenas, 37, Richfield, unsafe passing and careless driving, stay of adjudication, \$105 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Noah A. Harazin, 34, Silver Lake, DWI, \$75 and 307 days in county jail; Patricia J. Holtan, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Dezirae L. Huff, 20, Austin, violation of no contact order, \$75 and 39 days in county jail; Jennifer M. Johannsen, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Asher N. Lev, 19, Eagan, speeding, \$215; Mackenzie A. Madsen, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$125; Joseph P. Modder, 17, Ellendale, speeding, \$135; Paul J. Mosher, 45, Hastings, speeding, \$115; Lennyn J. Ortiz-Reyes, 18, Austin, speeding, \$125; Zilpa E. Pablo Hernandez, 22, Medford, speeding, \$135; Michelle R. Rugger, 39, Waseca, DWI, \$475, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance

use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Roberto H. Santiago, 49, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; John H. Spence, 21, Geneva, failure to drive in single lane and revoked license, \$275; April M. Valliant, 36, Wells, suspended license, \$275; Jacob B. Williams, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$125.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Feb. 14 Theft: Police received a theft report from the 900 block of 30th Place NW at 5:32 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 10:26 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 12:52 p.m.

Trespassing: Officer issued a trespassing citation in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:57 p.m.

Feb. 15 Restraining Order: Officer arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 4:04 p.m.

Feb. 16 Criminal Sexual Conduct: Officers began investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1200 block of Jadden Lane SE at 8:04 a.m. and the 600 block of 17th St. SE at 8:01 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at County Road 45 S. and Highway 14 E. in Owatonna Township at 5:51 p.m.

Feb. 17 Restraining Order: At 12:42 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 500 block of Oak Ave. S.

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 1200 block of

Frontage Rd. W. at 10:06 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 11:55 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 3800 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 7:33 a.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 8:41 a.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 9:28 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported at 72nd Ave. NE and Dane Road in Havana Township at 7:16 p.m.

Feb. 15 Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 10:47 a.m.

Fraud: Deputy took a fraud report in the 11500 block of 44th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 6:02 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 6:54 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Feb. 16 Theft: At 10:35 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 9:45 p.m.

Feb. 17

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 8:39 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Juan Ortega, 44, arrested at 12:32 p.m. Feb. 11, warrant arrest, held for court.

Araceli Gaspar, 26, arrested at 7:19 p.m. Feb. 15, assault/domestic assault, held for court.

Samuel Zambrano Ramirez, 40, arrested at 7:06 p.m. Feb. 13, warrant arrest, body only.

Katryn Ann Schlosser, 63, arrested Feb. 18, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 30 – Feb. 6:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Chad R. Avikainen, 49, Virginia, restraining order violation, \$205, no alcohol or controlled substance use, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Cole W. Bergman, 24, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Conner A. Breitbarth, 29, Maple Grove, registration violation, \$110; Ray D. Cabrera, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Sanghoon Choi, 26, Minneapolis, speeding, \$220; Dakota R. Cisneros, 25, Claremont, order for protection violation, \$206, 17 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Kyla M. Davila, 44, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; David J. Greseth, 29, Wanamingo, failure to notify owner of damaged property, \$455; Megan J. Hagen, 27, Shakopee, assault, 90 days in county jail; Bridget A. Head, 57, Kasson, drive without Ignition Interlock, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Christian A. Idrogo Ramirez, 21, Mantorville, invalid license, \$180; Ian E. Johnson, 21, Kasson, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Jacob R. Jorgenson, 28, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Arthur J. McCoy III, 42, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$280; Anna C. Ranks, 33, Hammond, possession of marijuana,

stay of adjudication, \$75, chemical dependency evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Dion K. Rasmussen, 27, West Concord, failure to notify owner of damaged property, \$380 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Pedro L. Rosado, 57, Morton, speeding, \$130; Sydney O. Serdynski, 19, Greenfield, WI, speeding, \$220.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jeffery A. Gruber, 50, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Amber M. Mills, 36, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; James R. Sullivan, 57, Kasson, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$125 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Superior Mobility, Springfield, parking violation, \$32; Brandon C. Zywicki, 29, Rochester, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Mahamed S. Abdirahman, 22, Faribault, speeding, \$220; Craig D. Anderson, 61, Waltham, stop arm violation, \$580; Marissa M. Hegna, 18, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Michael L. Hill, 65, Cincinnati, OH, speeding, \$130; Steven L. Krenik, 56, Stewart, speeding, \$140; Cole R. McGuire, 25, Chatfield, revoked license and seat belt, \$305; Elizabeth A. Moline, 31, Minneapolis, hands free violation, \$100; Nickolas T. Reynolds, 29, Byron, speeding, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Melonie M. Croney, 36, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Jada M. Heisse, 27, West Concord, restraining order violation, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Charles R. Hemkin, 29, West Fargo, ND, parking violation, \$32; Ethan A. Meyer, 23, Altura, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Cristian Munoz Chable, 19, Kenyon, speeding, \$380; Tyler F. Noreen, 23, Brook Park, revoked license, \$280.

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree



Fish Dinner

Friday, March 4th 2022

5 to 7 PM

TICKETS

\$13 in Advance
at KC Hall or Beneficiary
\$14 at the Door

Kids under 6 eat Free

ALL YOU CARE TO EAT

MENU

Fried or Baked Fish Plate

Vegetables
Mashed Potatoes with
Country Gravy

Coleslaw, Roll, Milk Coffee



Please join us for dinner and support the
Owatonna Catholic Daughters
Of America

KC Hall & Lounge 820 South Elm- Owatonna





ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Dr. Deborah Lien

DDS, MBS

drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

507-583-6613

FREE CONSULTATION

132 2nd Ave NE | Blooming Prairie

Building
Healthy
Smiles

St. Mary's School

Shining Knights



Student Name:

ZOLA

Kindergarten

Nominated by: MRS. CHOUDEK

Parents: Zarek & Cortney

Zola is a truly Shining Knight! She comes to school excited and eager to learn each day. She tries her absolute best in everything she does and is never afraid to try something new or challenging. She is a true leader – even when no one is watching. Zola's kind heart is her superpower! She goes above and beyond to show kindness to her friends and is often the first to help a friend in need. Zola's smile and positive attitude light up our kindergarten classroom each and every day. Congratulations, Zola! We are SO proud of you!

Student Name:

LAUREN

Grade: 2nd GRADE

Nominated by: MRS. HAARSTAD

Parents: Dan & Kristi

Lauren is such a ray of sunshine in the classroom and always has such a positive attitude! She walks in the door 100% happy and ready for the day each and every day. Lauren is a positive influence on other students in the classroom, always the first to get up to go help someone log in to their device or help with an assignment. Her attention to her own class work is to be commended, always excited to learn and do her best. She was especially diligent during a time she needed to learn from home. She truly cares for others and it especially showed in her welcoming a new student to our room. Lauren is a perfect example of a Shining Knight!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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

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



Senior Focus

Health & Fitness
Retirement
Money/Investment
Activities & Hobbies

Johnson hoping to run another marathon

Underwent Deep Brain Stimulation for Parkinson's

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Owatonna resident John Johnson, 59, has run three full marathons and is hopeful of running a fourth some day.

This determined Parkinson's patient increased his hopes of another marathon when he underwent a successful surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS).

"This is not in my comfort zone," Johnson said before a recent presentation to a Parkinson's support group of 25 at the Owatonna Public Library. He was accompanied by his wife Shelley.

Following his 45-minute presentation, Johnson visibly showed relief that his speech was over, but more important, he showed satisfaction with his first presentation about his DBS surgery. Many who attended the meeting thanked him for sharing his DBS experiences.

Johnson flipped through several visual aids as he took the group with him on his DBS journey. Showing a photo of a group of young family members, Johnson said that was what motivated him to have the DBS surgery.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is an elec-
See JOHNSON on A9 ►



John Johnson used a PowerPoint presentation to share his experiences with having Deep Brain Stimulation to help control his Parkinson's disease. He was coached during his presentation by his wife Shelley, right.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD



VALLEYVIEW ASSISTED LIVING

1212 W Frontage Rd Owatonna, MN
507-451-0722 | valleyviewofowatonna.com



**Happily Accepting Funding from County Assistance
We Welcome Pets. Call for a Tour!**

As we start to return to normal, we continue our efforts to keep our residents safe while also enjoying life.

END OF LIFE PLANNING

GUIDE
LINES

PUTTING MY
HOUSE IN ORDER



Brick-Meger and Medford Funeral Homes are offering booklets outlining **Cremation Guidelines** and **Pre-Arrangement and Record of Personal Affairs**.

Call 507-451-1457 or visit our website at megercares.com (click on the "contact" tab) to get your complimentary copies!

**Call or visit our website
to get your complimentary copies!**

**BRICK-MEGER FUNERAL HOME
MEDFORD FUNERAL HOME**

Proudly Serving Steele County

1603 Austin Road • Owatonna • 507-451-1457

www.megercares.com

Vibrant Living

*Downsize and simplify your life
Enjoy an exciting community*



235 22nd St. SE, Owatonna • www.realifeowatonna.com

- Full kitchens
- 1-2 Bedrooms
- Garages available
- Many more amenities
- Cable television
- WiFi Internet
- Guest room available

for individuals 55 and older at a reasonable price.

Call Jon Arnett at 455-3735 for a tour



Exceptional Care. Extraordinary Living.

903 Calverly Court • Ellendale, MN 56026
507-414-6548 • jaybirdseniorliving.com



Medford
SENIOR CARE
A Lifespark Community

**Move-in Special
Free Meals
for First Six Months**

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING
COMPASSIONATE SERVICE!

Hometown Option for Seniors
Offering Independent Living
and Assisted Living

108 3rd St. NE | Medford | 507-214-3344



Millions of Americans
have saved hundreds
of dollars in fees by
using MyFreeTaxes®.

www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org

**myfree
taxes.com**



United Way
of Steele County

You could be
one of them.

GET STARTED NOW

507-455-1180



Do i have to file income tax returns this year?

Dear Savvy Senior,
What is the IRS standard tax deduction for 2021? I didn't file a tax return last tax year (2020) because I lost my job and my income in March due to COVID. But I got a part-time job in 2021 and am wondering if I made enough money that requires me to file this year.
Part-Time Retiree

Dear Retiree,
Whether or not you

are required to file a federal income tax return this year depends not only on how much you earned last year (in 2021), but also the source of that income, as well as your age and your filing status.
Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds. For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2021 gross income

– which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you may not have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- **Single:** \$12,550 (\$14,250 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2022).
- **Married filing jointly:** \$25,100 (\$26,450 if you or your spouse is

65 or older; or \$27,800 if you're both over 65).

- **Married filing separately:** \$5 at any age.
- **Head of household:** \$18,800 (\$20,500 if 65 or older).
- **Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child:** \$25,100 (\$26,450 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2021," or you can get it online at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Check Here Too
You also need to be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2021, owe any special taxes like an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.
You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus



220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington, MN
583-4434

benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.
To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes approximately 12 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/Help/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/help/ita) – click on "Do I Need to File a Tax Return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

Check Your State
Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see [Taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies](https://www.taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies).

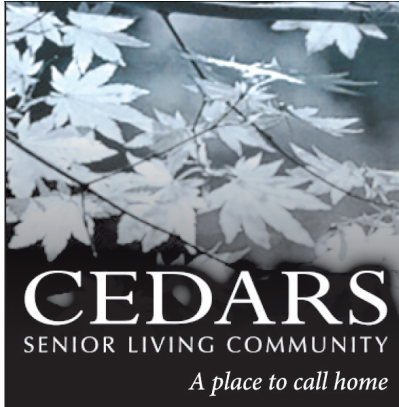
Tax Prep Assistance
If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can free file through the IRS at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) if your 2021 adjusted gross income was below \$73,000.
Or, if you need some help, contact the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TCE provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/treasurygov/freetaxprep) to locate services near you.
You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service. Call 888-227-7669 or visit [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) for more information.

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

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group



The Cedars is excited to share we will be starting back up our Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group.



- **Facilitator:** Cathy Ehley
- **1st Tuesday of every month starting March 1st**
- **5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- **No sign up necessary**
- **Park at the Cedars front entrance and follow signage**

700 1st Dr. NW • Austin • 507-437-3246 • www.cedarsofaustin.com



No matter where you're at in life, you'll find a home in our community!

**Independent Living | Assisted Living
Secured Memory Care | Skilled Care
Short Term Rehab | Sunday Worship**



901 Luther Place and 1761 Eagle View Circle
Albert Lea, MN
507-373-8226
www.stjohnsofalbertlea.org

Knutson Place currently has spacious one bedroom apartments available NOW. Call today. 373-8226

IRS aims to take stress out of taxes for seniors, retirees

For taxpayers on a fixed income, every penny matters. Many of these are seniors and retirees who can file their taxes for free. IRS Free File provides free online tax preparation software for taxpayers with income of \$73,000 or less in 2021.
Here are some facts about these programs to help these taxpayers determine which one fits their needs:
• IRS Free File is available on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and features commercial tax preparation software

providers. This year, there are eight products in English and two in Spanish
• Taxpayers can browse each of the offers or use the lookup tool to help them find the right product.
• Each IRS Free File partner sets its own eligibility standards. These are generally based on income, age and state residency. All taxpayers whose adjusted gross income was \$73,000 or less will find at least one free product to use.
See [IRS on A9](#) ▶



A refreshingly COMPASSIONATE senior care option.



Timberdale Trace
Eagle Senior Living

Our personalized approach means Timberdale Trace residents are treated like an extension of our families. Every team member takes the time to understand the unique preferences and personalities of each resident, because we believe firmly in the power of putting people first.

Call **507-446-8600** or visit [TimberdaleTrace.org](https://www.TimberdaleTrace.org) for more information.

Assisted Living | Memory Care | 334 Cedardale Drive SE Owatonna, MN 55060





Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT

1180 Frontage Rd. E. Owatonna, MN
507-455-9551 • [OwatonnaGranite.com](https://www.OwatonnaGranite.com)
Making a difference in the lives that we touch
Locally Owned by John & Barb Heerema





GrandPad®

Keeping Seniors Connected

When you can't share life's special moments in person, GrandPad is the next best thing.

To learn more:
Call (800) 704-9412
or Visit [GrandPad.net](https://www.GrandPad.net)



VIDEO & VOICE CALLING • EMAIL • PHOTOS • MUSIC • INTERNET • CLASSIC GAMES • & MUCH MORE

Keep your family connected

The number of older adults who say they feel isolated has more than doubled since 2018. The prolonged pandemic and social distancing has contributed significantly to this trend, leaving families and caregivers increasingly concerned for the health, safety, and well-being of elderly loved ones.

Fortunately, technology can help. For example, studies have shown that video calling alone can decrease loneliness among seniors. If you're looking for a way to spice up your regularly scheduled visit with mom or dad, GrandPad, the tablet designed specifically for people over the age of 75, offers these creative ways to keep your loved ones connected.

Set up a family and friends calling campaign, where each member of your trusted circle of contacts calls your loved one on a designated day. Family members of all ages can take part



in this activity that ensures your aging loved one will be surrounded with social interaction throughout the year. GrandPad features both simple video calling and voice calls that are easy for seniors to use.

Include your loved one in a virtual family meal. Use the

GrandPad Companion App and the multi-party Zoom feature to share a virtual family meal with all family members, regardless of their location.

Create a digital family photo album. The GrandPad private family photo stream is the perfect way to safe-

ly and securely share treasured family memories. The family photo stream is seen only by those in your trusted circle of contacts, which means your family memories are secure and private.

Create a digital music playlist. Music has numerous therapeutic

benefits for elderly adults, including supporting cognitive health for people with Alzheimer's disease. A walk down musical memory lane can also be a good way to turn feelings of loneliness into joy and feelings of gratitude. GrandPad features streaming radio

stations, a proprietary GrandPad Radio station, and access to more than 30 million ad-free songs from a wide variety of musical genres.

Attend a virtual worship service with the whole family. Group worship activities were hit hard by the pandemic, but video technology has bridged that gap. Share a link to your favorite worship service and invite your whole family to attend together.

The GrandPad tablet was designed specifically to accommodate the needs of elderly adults and individuals with cognitive or physical limitations. It is currently being used to connect more than 1.3 million people – including seniors, family members, friends, and caregivers – in more than 120 countries worldwide.

To learn more about purchasing a GrandPad subscription, visit GrandPad.net or call 1-800-704-9412, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Johnson hoping to run another marathon

◀ **JOHNSON** from A7
tive surgical procedure in which electrodes are implanted into certain areas of the brain.

Electrodes, or leads, generate electrical impulses that control abnormal brain activity. The electrical impulse can also adjust for the chemical imbalances within the brain that cause various conditions.

Johnson underwent his DBS surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Dr. Kendall H. Lee led a team of surgeons performing the operation.

According to Mayo Clinic, the amount of

stimulation in deep brain stimulation is controlled by a pace-maker-like device placed under the skin in your upper chest. A wire that travels under your skin connects this device to the electrodes in your brain.

Deep Brain Stimulation is an established treatment for people with movement disorders, such as essential tremor, Parkinson's disease and dystonia, and psychiatric conditions, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

It's also approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration

to reduce seizures in difficult-to-treat epilepsy.

Johnson said he was declared a candidate for DBS when he continued to have problems with balance and tremors.

After Johnson was first diagnosed with Parkinsonism, he said he was placed on medication. He said he thought he was taking too many pills and decided to research DBS.

DBS involves two surgeries, said Johnson. The first with implanting a probe and the second involved the placement of a stimulator in his chest.

"I was awake the whole time."

John Johnson
Parkinson's patient

The overall process starts with a recommendation from a patient's neurologist, Johnson said.

According to Johnson, that process involved these key people: 1) neurologist; 2) neurosurgeon; 3) psychiatrist; 4) neuropsychologist; 5) speech pathologist and 6) programming nurse.

Johnson shared a PowerPoint photo of

him having headgear attached to his head. "That's when the fun begins. I was awake the whole time."

John Johnson said he was given two cell phones to activate the electrode effectiveness and added that he has the ability to control the brain impulses.

The surgery is permanent, according to the Johnsons. A Parkinson's group

member asked Johnson if he would do it all over again. He nodded with an affirmative yes.

With his surgery complete, Johnson also said he hopes to return to motorcycling with his friends, Rollie and Ann Truelson and the couple responsible for getting him to speak to the Owatonna Parkinson's group. Rollie Truelson also has Parkinson's.

Johnson was asked how he knew he was ready for this surgery. He said his readiness was determined after meeting with a team of doctors.

IRS aims to take stress out of tax season for seniors and retirees

◀ **IRS** from A8
· IRS Free File online software supports the most common forms that can be filed electronically. This means that even if someone's tax return is a bit more complex, they can still use a free service.

· IRS Free File offers

the new Form 1040-SR option for seniors over the age of 65.

· IRS Free File providers also offer state income tax return preparation, some for free and some for a fee. Taxpayers can also use the lookup tool to find the right state product.

· Taxpayers can use their smart phone or tablet to do their taxes. They just need to go to the IRS Free File page on IRS.gov from their portable device. All IRS Free File products are enabled for mobile devices.

MilTax online software is also available

to certain veterans, regardless of income, and is offered through the Department of Defense. MilTax allows eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their federal income tax returns and up to three state income tax returns for free.

Qualified taxpayers, generally those earning \$58,000 or less, can also have their taxes prepared in person for free. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites are generally located at community and neighborhood

centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. Taxpayers can go to IRS Free Tax Preparation page of IRS.gov and use the available site locator tools to find a location near them.



Memory Care

1845 Austin Rd. & 1905 Austin Rd.
Owatonna, MN 55060

People. Purpose. Passion



Birchwood Cottages

507-413-6783

 birchwoodcottagesmn.com

Mention this ad and get your 3rd month's stay for **FREE!**

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

We wish to thank all the families that ordered from us through the pandemic.



We believe the value and exceptional quality is worth the look. We can mail out catalogs, work through email or meet in person.

Legacy Monument Sales
Leon and Lori Bohlman

Leon's cell: 507-456-7864
Lori's cell: 507-456-3735
email: landlbo@gmail.com

Millions of Americans have saved hundreds of dollars in fees by using MyFreeTaxes®.

www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org



myfree taxes.com

United Way of Steele County

You could be one of them.

GET STARTED NOW

507-455-1180



THE FIRE IS OUT

STORY AND TOP PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER, OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY TODD ULRICH



After 40 years as a firefighter in Owatonna with the past 21 years as full time, Todd Ulrich is hanging up the hose and uniform beginning Monday. He has been a fire commander for the past three years.

Ulrich hangs up hose after a smokin' career

For four decades, Todd Ulrich's life has revolved around the pager alerting him to where the next emergency that he needs to respond. As a firefighter, Ulrich has responded to thousands of fires, rescues and other emergencies throughout Steele County. But come Monday at 8 a.m., Ulrich will hang up the hose and uniform for the last time. He's retiring after 40 years at the Owatonna Fire Department. Ulrich joined the department on March 1, 1982 as a resident sleeper at just 19

years old. Sleepers are generally part-time firefighters who live at the fire station. He did that until 1985 when he married. He continued on as a paid on-call firefighter until 2001 when he became full time. He was promoted to fire commander in 2019. "I always liked the TV show 'Emergency,'" Ulrich said. "That always intrigued me. I knew nothing about firefighting other than what I saw on 'Emergency', but that's TV." With a little encouragement from a friend at work, Ulrich decided to explore

becoming a firefighter in Owatonna. In those days, a chief and two captains led the hiring process. Ulrich worked in a manufacturing job at GTA and later Cargill before going full time with the fire department. When Ulrich started, he said, it was basically, "hop on the truck and go" to an emergency scene. There was very little training in the early years. That has since changed. Today, much of the time is spent on training and certifications. If firefighters aren't training, they're busy doing

inspections around the community and educating residents about fire safety. Ulrich said people may be surprised that only 8% of their time is spent handling actual fire calls. "We don't do a lot of true firefighting," said Ulrich, who graduated from Owatonna in 1980. "We like to fight the fire before it happens." But when the big call comes in, Ulrich

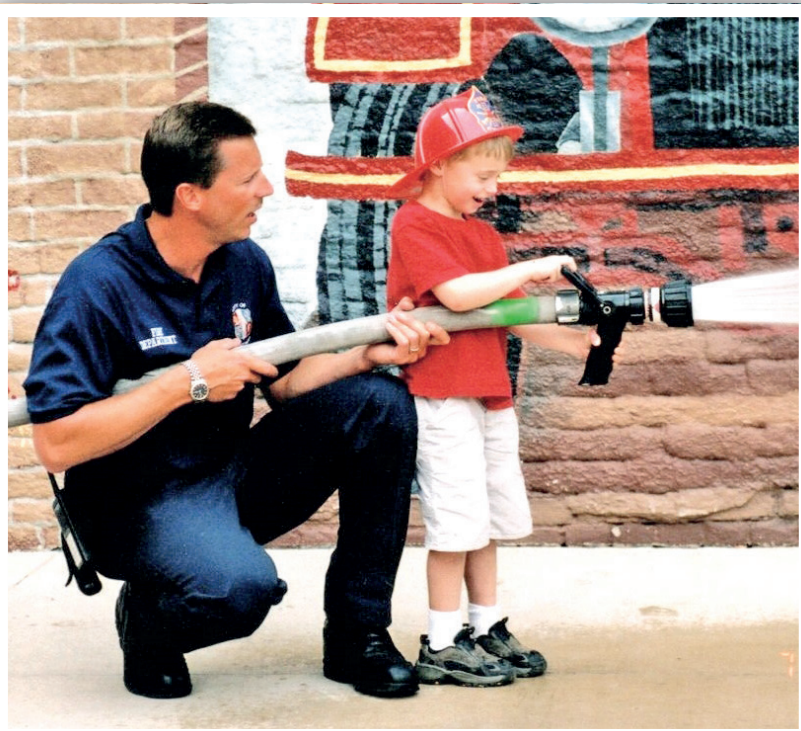
FIRE CAREER BY THE NUMBERS

- **40:** Total years of Todd Ulrich's service
- **125:** Firefighters Ulrich has worked with
- **5:** Chiefs that he has served under
- **7:** Full-time firefighters
- **28:** Paid on-call firefighters

and his fellow firefighters are ready to roll. And for Ulrich there have been many memorable calls over the years, and many have, unfortunately, involved the loss of life. The toughest ones See **FIRE** on A11 ►

"I knew nothing about firefighting other than what I saw on 'Emergency', but that's TV."

Todd Ulrich
Retiring Fire Commander



Much of firefighting is about education as Todd Ulrich allows a young kid in 2002 to operate the fire hose.



One of the most memorable fires for Ulrich was the blaze at St. John's Lutheran by Meriden in 2012.



Ulrich responded to a jet crash that ended up in a corn field by the Owatonna airport in 2008. All eight people on board were killed.

The fire is out

◀ **FIRE** from A10 have been three plane crashes, all involving death. They included the 2002 crash that killed local businessman Buzz Kaplan, the 2004 crash that slammed into a house and tree killing four people outside Owatonna and the 2008 crash that killed eight people in a cornfield just off the runway at Owatonna airport.

And there were fires of all sorts. Ulrich's first fire was the Wilker hog barn fire in 1982. He also battled the Red Owl fire, as well as the Zumbro River Brand explosion that killed one person in 1993 and two church fires involving St. John's at Meriden and Claremont.

The flood of 2010 kept the fire department busy. Ulrich and his partners helped with sandbagging throughout the community. And they were also called upon to pull people to safety. "We had to rescue people that didn't know how to stay out of the water," Ulrich said.

One of the worst calls for Ulrich was a vehicle crash where the driver didn't know how many people were involved. One person had gone unaccounted for, and the firefighters ended up eventually finding a 16-year-old under the duals of the trailer.

The department also lost one of its own in 1985 when Victor Buckingham was killed after falling off a fire truck while responding to an alarm.

"That's something you don't ever want to live through again," said Ulrich.

While Ulrich never really worried about his safety, he recalled one specific fire that could have turned ugly very quickly. He was operating the nozzle on a second story balcony fire when he retreated because he couldn't take the heat any longer. It was later pointed out to him that if he had taken one more step forward, he would have fallen down into the basement.

Owatonna averages about 450 calls per year. All calls are handled by a minimum of a two-person crew, which assesses what additional resources are needed.

Ulrich has found the hardest thing for him is when the pager goes off in the middle of night when he's sleeping. "We go from a heart rate of 60 beats per minute to about 160 when the pager goes off," he said, adding that extensive research has been done on the topic as a health concern for firefighters.

But Ulrich stressed once the pager goes off, they are committed to whatever emergency is happening. "It's all

business until the heat is off," he said.

Ulrich said the first 10 minutes of any call is the most exciting for firefighters. "It's chaotic, and the challenging part is trying to get it under control. There are lots of hazards and unknowns that are hidden," he said, adding not one call is ever the same as the next.

As Ulrich looks back on his long career, he said he didn't think he had ever directly saved anybody's life. But fellow firefighter Charlie Seykora chimed in with his disapproval. "You've saved lives," he said to Ulrich. "It's a team and nobody gets to do it themselves. Indirectly, we have saved lots of lives."

Ulrich agreed. "It's not an individual sport... it's a team effort," he said.

Ulrich said he's probably not as sympathetic as he should be, but deep down considers himself soft hearted. "I do the best I can and the outcome is what it is," he said. "We all put our best foot forward, but sometimes the outcome isn't what we expected."

Ulrich said he has been fortunate to have his wife Mary, who is a sheriff's deputy with Steele County, to lean



This is Todd Ulrich's rookie photo when he joined the Owatonna Fire Department in 1982.

on in difficult times to process traumatic situations. "We talk about calls," Mary Ulrich said.

They also do things outside of the fire station with other firefighters to build camaraderie, Mary Ulrich said. "There is a different feel here," she said. "It's a neat little dynamic."

Asked what he will miss the most about the fire job, Todd Ulrich said: "The people and some of the bantering or razzing we do with each other. Having fun at work is the best part."

Over the years, Ulrich has seen the culture of the department change from what

he described as "a good old boys club" to today where it's run more like a business. There are also three female firefighters on the department today.

But he stressed, the fun has never stopped. As he reflected back on his career, Ulrich said with a hint of humor, "We were under powered engines, not horse-drawn engines. The horses were already gone."

Ulrich drew some fun bantering when he admitted in front of a couple partners that he is "a little chunkier than I was 30 to 40 years ago." But, he quickly added, he was able to keep up with the young guys.

"We have a lot of fun. These guys always razz me," he said. "If we can't have fun, I don't want to be a part of it."

Ulrich said there never was a day that he dreaded coming to work. "Everything we do is a plus to the community," he said.

As Ulrich, 59, hangs up the uniform for one last time, he plans to focus on golfing, fishing, traveling and helping a couple area farmers. He also has four children and three grandchildren to occupy his time.

"I'm too fidgety to sit around and do nothing," he said, adding he is fortunate to be in good health.

Ulrich is also looking forward to getting some peaceful sleep.

"I'll miss the calls, but I won't miss the pager going off."

FIRE RETIREMENT PARTY

- Honoring Todd Ulrich
- Saturday, March 5 from 7-10 p.m.
- Elk's Club- Owatonna
- Open to Public



Ulrich has battled hundreds of fires during his 40-year career in Owatonna.

Open Arms Suicide Prevention Program

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled or Fried eggs
Sausage Links, Juice, Coffee, Milk
8:00 am until 12:00 pm**

Sunday, February 27, 2002

V F W Hall, Owatonna

\$7.00 advance - \$8.00 at the door - under 5 free

Blooming Prairie Upcoming Community Education Classes



Financial Fitness-the Power of Budgeting

**Thursday, Feb. 24
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Free

BPHS Room 206

Four Pillars of a New Retirement

**Thursday, March 24
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Free

BPHS Room 206

Foundations of Investing

**Thursday, April 28
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Free

BPHS Room 206

Defensive Driving 4 hour refresher

**Wednesday, March 23
5:30-9:30 p.m.**

\$24

BPHS Room 201

Register by calling Michelle at **507-583-4426** or email **msouthworth@blossoms.k12.mn.us**, or electronically in the Community Ed section of **www.blossoms.k12.mn.us**

Walk-ins are welcome for the 3 financial classes ONLY.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Michelle Southworth
Community Education Coordinator

Edward Jones® MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Women may need financial 'catch-up'

It's unfortunate but true: If you're a woman, you face more obstacles than men in achieving financial security. And that means you may well need to put in some extra effort.

Just how serious is your challenge? For one thing, women still face a gender pay gap – based on median incomes, women earn about 82 cents for every dollar a man makes, according to the Census Bureau. This pay gap amounts to a nearly \$470,000 difference in lifetime earnings, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study. Furthermore, when factoring in the career disruptions women face because of caring for children and elderly parents, that \$470,000 becomes a \$1.1 million lifetime earnings gap, according to the study. Finally, women tend to live longer than men, meaning their lifetime earnings must last longer.

Everyone's situation is different, but these figures at least point to the challenges many women encounter. To help yourself, consider these moves:

Pay yourself first. You always have to pay your bills – but, at the same time, pay yourself by moving money automatically from your checking account each month into a low-risk, liquid vehicle, such as a money market account or some type of cash management account connected with your investment portfolio. This move can help give you a "bucket" of money to use for any reason, such as the need to step away from your job to care for children or aging parents.

Increase your 401(k) contributions each year. If you have a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, take full advantage of it. At a minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered, and increase your contributions every year, or every time your salary increases.

Fully fund your IRA. Even if you contribute to a 401(k), you may still be eligible to invest in an IRA – and you should. You can put in up to \$6,000 per year to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. (However, a Roth IRA does have income limitations that may prevent you from contributing the full amount.)

Learn about Social Security options. Because Social Security provides a lifetime income stream that includes cost-of-living increases, it can help mitigate two key risks you face in retirement: longer life expectancies and inflation. You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly checks will be significantly larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. If you delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8% per year, until age 70, when your benefits max out. You'll also want to learn about spousal and survivor benefits, which can affect how much you'll receive.

Get some help. You may be able to benefit from working with a financial professional, who can evaluate your situation, make investment recommendations, and help answer questions you may have, such as, "What moves can I make so I can afford to become a caregiver for an elderly parent?"

Hopefully, there will be a day when women won't have to play financial catch-up. For now, though, use all the means at your disposal to help yourself.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

To learn more, call today.



Jeffrey M. Hall
Financial Advisor

143 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-446-0150
jeffrey.hall@edwardjones.com

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



OWATONNA PROUD

A12 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Registration aims to prepare students for futures

BY ARI SHORNOCK
OHS MAGNET WRITER

This year, all freshman, sophomore and junior students will be learning about the process of registration and completing their registration for the 2022-2023 school year in their Compass Advisement classes during the months of January and February in order to register by March. Each student will register for eight credits and six alternate courses during their compass registration time. In their four years, students need 4.5 language arts credits, four social studies credits, three science credits, three math credits, one physical education and health credit, one art credit and 11.5 elective credits in order to graduate with 28 credits and the required courses.

Registration in students' hands

The goal is for students to plan and register independently with the guidance of their Compass adviser, school counselors and parents. Assistant Principal Mr. Philip Wiken, who heads registration at OHS, said, "This year in Compass, we're trying to use that time as a way to kind of scaffold or build understanding around what registration is so that students can do this a little bit more independently." This independent

approach for students' registration is inspired by the registration process used by community colleges and universities. Most of these establishments use online registration where students decide what classes they will take. Students are responsible for checking what credits they need, knowing what classes are appropriate for future exploration and completing the registration guide. Parents can look at the registration materials provided and the Registration Guide to know what their students are experiencing in Compass. They are encouraged to talk with their students. If they have any questions, they can reach out to the counselors.

Online Registration Guide

After a successful virtual registration in 2021, administration has decided to keep the momentum in the digital direction. All registration materials are found online with easy access, especially the interactive Registration Guide. This guide is designed to assist students with planning and implementing a four-year secondary school course of study. Content information is expanded by the QR codes and digital resources created by administration. Icons help users identify courses that need further identification or explanation.



These are classes with advanced placement status and college credit opportunities like AP, CLEP and College in School (CIS) classes. The guide also features the Core Curriculum gathered together and arranged by grade level. These are classes required for graduation. This section can be found on page 39 after the pathway features. Students are encouraged to explore the registration guide and take notes of classes that they want to take in future school years. Some classes recommend prerequisites. Planning ahead will help students save time later in their high school career.

Career Pathways

Introduced in 2020, the purpose of the Career Pathways is to connect education to careers. The Career Pathways include Engineering, Manufacturing and Agriculture, Health Sciences and Human

Services and Business, Communications and Information Technologies. These pathways provide opportunities for students to learn about their future education and careers. They allow for exploration of their interests and begin to prepare them for further study, training or work opportunities within a career field. Mr. Wiken said, "The goal, as we continue to develop the pathways, is to allow students to kind of see themselves in a pathway. It's about really trying to help students figure out what they want to do and like what they're good at." In the Registration Guide, all electives are listed in the pathways they best relate to. Each pathway is broken down into different areas of study.

This way, students can easily identify areas of study that can connect to career clusters. Mr. Wiken said, "We want them to start to explore it and see what they're good

at, so that when they're making decisions about courses and colleges, and where they want to go in the future, that they don't spend that time doing it in college where they are wasting time and money." Students also get the opportunity to discover if the career cluster is one of their interests. If they like a certain cluster for their future career, students have the opportunity as juniors and seniors to earn college credit in high school.

Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Exam Proficiency (CLEP) and College in the Schools (CIS) courses help students gain knowledge and college credit while attending high school. This opportunity saves time and money. Students can also gain experience in careers through mentorships and internships. Students are encouraged to reach out to the counselors and the OHS Career Navigator Mr. Brian Coleman for these opportunities.

Incoming Freshman Registration

Current eighth grade students at Owatonna Middle School and St. Mary's will also be registering for next year at school. The counselors from OHS visit OMS and SMS to inform and support students through their first high school registration. Administration has hosted

informational Google Meets for incoming freshmen students and parents. The recorded meetings can be found online. OHS counselor Ms. Tami Langlois said, "The counselors will be going to the Middle School and St. Mary's the week of March 7 to help during their health classes." The registration experience for the eighth graders will be very similar to those currently in high school.

Advice for Students

Teachers and counselors advise students to look ahead in the Registration Guide and see what classes they may want to take next and the years to come. The Career Pathways are a great place to look for planning ahead. Ms. Langlois said, "In ninth grade, do some exploratory courses, maybe try an art course or maybe try a woods class. Take the time to explore some different opportunities." Students have 11.5 credits of elective classes to explore different courses for their future. Senior Morgan Miller said, "I would advise underclassmen to get their generals out of the way so their junior and senior year they can have more options and flexibility in their schedule." More specific registration information for students and parents can be found at the OHS Registration Support Site, under 'Resources.'

Holiday marks women's role in STEM community

BY RUBY GARZA
OHS MAGNET WRITER

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an important holiday that recognizes the critical role women play in the STEM community. Although the day is not widely covered in the media, International Day of Women and Girls in Science has helped inspire women and girls around the world to not let prejudices hold them back from accomplishing things they have always been capable of.

The holiday is inspired by the United Nations' (UN) goal to end gender inequality in all forms, specifically in the STEM community to help with the future success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In December 2013, the UN came to the realization that women becoming more involved in the STEM community without facing prejudices would be an enormous contribution to the progress of meeting the agenda. Considering women make up half the world's population, with their help they would be able to accomplish more at a faster rate. It was not until Dec. 22, 2015 that the UN decided to mark Feb. 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science during the United Nations General Assembly.

In recent years women have increased the amount of female participation in STEM, but due to repercussions of the gender gap,



International Day of Women in Science was on Feb. 11, marking the seventh year of the holiday. The image was designed by Ruby Garza.

women are still very under-represented in the field. Women currently only make up 28% of the STEM workforce, which is a significant increase from 8% in 1970. Science teacher Ms. Sara Baranczyk was quickly able to notice how undiverse her college environment was while taking STEM

classes. Baranczyk said, "My freshman year of college, I was in one of my general physics classes and I was the only girl in a class of about 45 people. So it was very obvious that I was in a male dominated field." Even with the increased involvement in the STEM community, women are least likely to

go into engineering and computer or mathematical sciences.

Due to the small number of women in STEM and recognition of accomplishments of said women, younger girls are less likely to pursue a career in the field due to a lack of role models. Not only are girls unable to visualize themselves in STEM due to little representation, STEM is often made out to be a masculine career path that often gives off an unwelcoming environment towards women. Ms. Baranczyk said, "If you really like the subject and even if it's a frustrating subject, and it's really challenging, make sure that you still love the subject and that you're not basing your opinion of it on the environment you're in." Perseverance is the key to breaking through the male dominated field.

Although women face lots of challenges entering a male dominated field where they are severely underrepresented, it doesn't mean

that they are any less capable of performing just as well as men. Many huge discoveries and milestones in science were founded and researched by women. Stem cell isolation, a major breakthrough that helped advance and develop new medical procedures like bone marrow transplants, was discovered by Dr. Ann Tsukamoto and her colleagues. Sadly, not all female scientists are able to get the recognition they deserve. Rosalind Franklin, for instance, is the rightful discoverer of the double helix structure of DNA, a discovery often attributed to the infamous pair Watson

and Crick. Whether their discoveries were stolen from them or not, the point of the matter is that women are capable of extraordinary things.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science highlights the struggles women and girls face in a field they belong in just as much as males. This year will mark the seventh assembly of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and the theme is "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Water Unites Us", which will bring together female scientists and legislators from all around the world to discuss the importance of water as a vital worldwide resource.

Students of the Week



Elementary School

Harrison Hughes
First Grade

Parents: Seth and Margaret Hughes
Harrison has been an outstanding leader in our classroom and school. He gives his best effort in all that he does, is the definition of responsible, and is the best example of what it means to be respectful! He is always willing to help others, is kind, and welcoming to all!



Addyson Willaert
Fifth grade
Parents: Jamie and Joel Willaert

Responsible, fun, intelligent, hard-working, and trustworthy...these traits describe Addyson and why it is so easy to be proud of her. She works hard in all classes and she embraces challenges. The natural leadership qualities she possesses will take her far in all that she does.

United Way
of Steele County

REIMAGINE REDWOOD

SCFF
Steele County Free Fair

THANK YOU
FOR GETTING INVOLVED.
CHANGING LIVES.
LIVING UNITED.

THANK YOU for your support in 2021!!
1850 Austin Road Ste 103 | Owatonna, MN 55060 | 507-455-1180
www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!

HONEST-1[®]
AUTO CARE

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

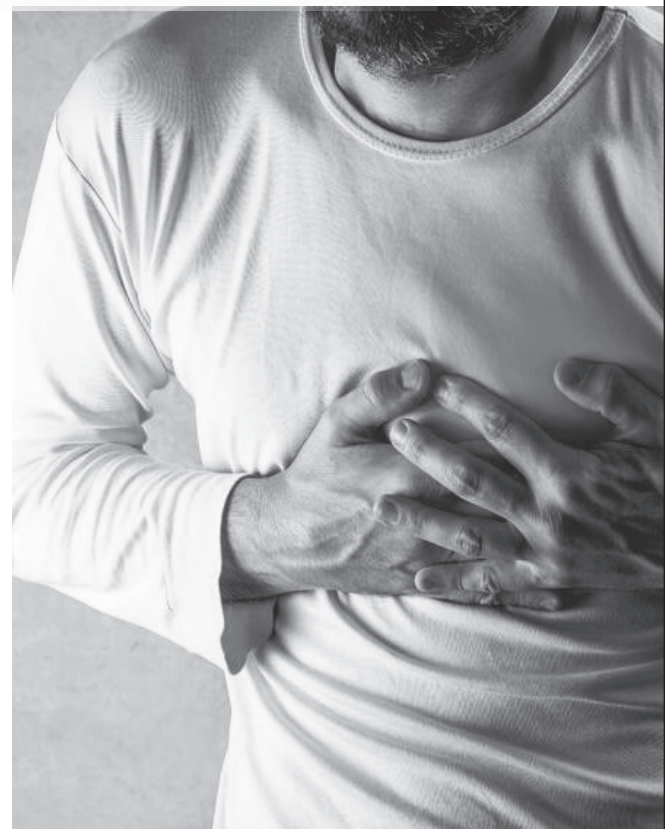
1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576 • www.Honest1Owatonna.com



Heart disease is the No. 1 killer

Major risk factors:

- ♥ Advanced age
- ♥ Gender
- ♥ Heredity risk
- ♥ Smoking
- ♥ Low physical activity
- ♥ Being overweight
- ♥ Stress
- ♥ Excessive alcohol
- ♥ Poor diet



It's never too late to make simple changes
that can save your life



- ♥ Be physically active
- ♥ Eat healthier
- ♥ Track your heart health stats
- ♥ Manage stress, sleep better
and quit smoking

This lifesaving message is sponsored by these health minded businesses:

Sponsored by these
local businesses.

**Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

314 E. Main St.
Bloomington
507-583-7528

685 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna
507-451-9136

133 N. Broadway
New Richland
507-465-3810

**Hope
CREAMERY**

TRY HOPE
BUTTER FOR
YOUR BAKING!

507-684-2019

LOCALLY PRODUCED

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.

656 3rd St. NE • Bloomington, MN

Robert Salinas
Family-Owned

507-583-6620

**FLOOR
TECH**

322 East Main St.
Bloomington
507-583-2276

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!

**HONEST-1[®]
AUTO CARE**

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com

**Vandal's
FAMILY MARKET**

237 Hwy Ave. S • Bloomington **583-6671**

United Way
United Way of Steele County

Text UWSC2021 to 202-858-1233
1850 Austin Rd Ste 103 | Owatonna, MN 55060
www.unitedwaysteelcounty.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.

EDUCATION INCOME HEALTHY

Thank you

**CASH
WISE**
Employee Owned
www.cashwise.com

**LARGE SELECTIONS
LOW PRICES**

495 West N. ST.
Owatonna
507-451-7220

facebook "like" us on

Dr. Deborah Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST DDS, MBS

Building
Healthy
Smiles!

132 2nd Ave NE • Bloomington
507.583.6613 * FREE CONSULTATION

**Mike's
REPAIR**

Ag & Truck Tire

870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna
Emergency or on the farm repair
507-455-0388
(After hours 507-455-0483)

**Sorenson's
Appliances & TV**

GE, Frigidaire, Direct TV, Danby, Crosley, Broan,
Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, Maytag, Panasonic, RCA,
Samsung, Toshiba, Whirlpool

Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

**misgen
auto parts**

507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale



Here’s how to file an accurate return, avoid delays and speed up refunds

Use online resources before calling the IRS. The IRS urges people to use IRS.gov to get answers to tax questions, check a refund status or pay taxes. There's no wait time or appointment needed — online tools and resources are available 24 hours a day.

The IRS has several ways for taxpayers to stay up to date on important tax information. They can:

- Follow the IRS' official social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram for the latest updates on tax changes, scam alerts, initiatives, products and services.
- Subscribe to IRS email lists to stay current on the latest tax topics and alerts.
- Download the IRS2Go app and watch IRS YouTube videos.
- Get information in their preferred language. The IRS translates tax resources into several languages and currently has basic tax information in 20 languages. People can also file Schedule LEP, Request for Change in Language Preference to receive written IRS communications in their preferred language.

Collect all documents before preparing a tax return. Collect W-2s, Form 1099s and other income-related statements. People who need to reconcile advance child tax credit payments or claim the recovery rebate credit will need additional information when they file.

Individuals must have the total amounts of advance child tax credit payments to receive the remainder of their child tax credit and the amounts of their third Economic Impact Payment to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit. Taxpayers should check their online account or review Letter 6419, 2021 Total Advance Child Tax Credit Payments, and Letter 6475, Your 2021 Economic Impact Payment, for their total payment amounts to help them file an accurate return. If married taxpayers received payments based on a joint return, each spouse received half of the payments. Each spouse can find their payment total in their own online account or letter. They should add the payments together to provide the total amount.

File an accurate return electronically and have any refund direct deposited. Taxpayers should electronically file and choose direct deposit when they have everything they need to file an accurate return. Taxpayers have many choices, including using a tax professional. Tax software guides people through each section of their tax return using a question-and-answer format. Enter information return carefully. This includes any information needed to calculate credits and deductions. Using tax software should help prevent math errors, but taxpayers should always review their tax return for accuracy.

Free tax preparation and e-file options are available for qualifying taxpayers. These include IRS Free File, MilTax for military service members and some veterans, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

Waiting on a 2020 tax return to be processed? To validate and successfully submit an electronically filed tax return to the IRS, taxpayers need their adjusted gross income, from their most recent tax return. Generally, tax software automatically enters the information for returning customers. People using a software product for the first time, may have to enter this information. For those waiting on their 2020 tax return to be processed, enter \$0 for last year's AGI on the 2021 tax return. Those who used a non-filer tool in 2021 to register for an advance child tax credit or third Economic Impact Payment in 2021, should enter \$1 as their prior year AGI.

Source: IRS



GrandPad®

Keeping Seniors Connected



Get started today!
(800) 704-9412
GrandPad.net

GrandPad offers direct support to their users

Editor's Note: Beginning this week, we begin a new column provided by GrandPad, which was founded in 2014 and is based in Minneapolis.

Dear Live Grand: I've been reading about the GrandPad tablet and am considering one for my mom. There's no doubt that she'd love spending time looking at family photos. The easy video chats would be great, and she'd enjoy the music. She could probably do all of that without help. What concerns me is that she'd want to play the games, only with her poor memory she'd forget details and get frustrated. Often a simple explanation will get her going but I'm working and can't coach her all the time. Is there any support system in place for this? – TL

Dear TL: Many of our GrandPad users are older adults still very much engaged in life, or they would be if they had a little help when there's one of those pesky memory lapses. That's why GrandPad offers unmatched customer service that is easily reached by tapping the large Help icon on the user's screen.

There's no Wi-Fi network or password needed due to built-in cellular service. Once your mom's tablet was initially turned on, she'd simply flip open the cover and her GrandPad would be ready to go. There's no need to remember to charge this tablet either since laying it against the included cradle at night would keep the battery topped off.

Each new user receives personalized one-on-one onboarding support in the form of a personal call from a representative. This person would help your mom become comfortable with her new GrandPad from the start.

What is truly outstanding, though, is that each Grand-

Pad user is assigned a friendly, personal representative who would answer soon after your mom tapped her Help button. Her representative would help get her back on track with her game and is even happy to answer a call to just chat a bit. This is unheard of personalized service!

It's not only your mom who'd receive support, either. The family admin receives full onboarding assistance where their representative would go over details that weren't covered in the tutorial video and answer questions. If you have follow-up questions later, send an email or make a quick call. They are highly responsive.

One more thing: If your mom's GrandPad should stop checking in for a time while not on the charger her representative will follow up with her at the phone number on file. If they can't connect with the GrandPad her, they'll call the family administrator (or another contact in the trusted list) to make sure that she's is all right?

We love questions about our customer service and support, TL, because we are justifiably proud of what we offer. However, don't forget that the whole reason to own a GrandPad is to help older adults connect with friends and family and enjoy all the fun and interesting things that can keep them engaged with life. Your mom could do everything that you mentioned and more – all with superb support. Many GrandPad users say that this tablet has given their lives a new focus.

Live Grand is a weekly column brought to you by GrandPad – the simplest, safest tablet-based solution that helps reconnect families. To submit your question see: www.LiveGrand.me.



Ackerman Accounting & Tax Services

Lisa Ackerman
Tax Preparer/Accounting Services
www.ackermanaccounting.com
lisa@ackermanaccounting.com
507-451-3399
221 Mineral Springs Rd Ste A | Owatonna

Expert tax prep.

Online and in person.

Make an appointment.

Cherronda
Cherronda R.
Tax Pro

H&R BLOCK
Help is here.

1015 W FRONTAGE RD
OWATONNA
507-451-1491





BTS Budget Tax Solutions, Inc.

114 Fifth Ave W - Ellendale

Serving IS area since 2005

Business/Personal Tax Bookkeeping Payroll Notary Service

(507) 460-3829



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

We understand small business because we are a small business.

314 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
507-583-7258

685 W. Bridge St., Suite 6, Owatonna
507-451-9136

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

johndoercpa.com

STOCKWELL ACCOUNTING

802 N Elm Ave
Owatonna, Minnesota

(507)451-1873





Jensen

Heating, A/C, & Plumbing

256-4712
Geneva
Registered Showroom

- Quality plumbing & heating products for your remodeling or new home construction.
- Serving our area for over 40 years.
- We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**

Loken Excavation & Drainage

YOUR DRAINAGE PROJECT PARTNER

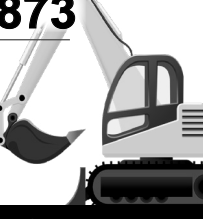
WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:
Aggregate Products • Waterway Cleaning
All Excavation Projects • Hauling & Septic

Call **DALLAS** for your **DRAINAGE** needs!

507-451-2873

LOKEN
Excavation & Drainage Inc.

3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna
loken@qwestoffice.net | Toll-free 855-298-2568



Senator keeps sense of humor through adversity

◀ **SENATOR** from A2 non-tradition people into the police profession.

When it comes to governing, Jasinski said: "I just do what I think is best."

One thing Jasinski has learned since taking office in 2016 is "the squeaky wheel gets the attention."

Jasinski said he pulled out all the stops and used all the tricks while working on legislation to expand Highway 14, which he found to be the biggest issue with residents while campaigning. "I was told we would never get it done," he said. "Every chance I got we worked on it." Highway 14 opened last fall.

I wondered what invigorates Jasinski to do what he does.

He smiled, "Getting things done. It gets contagious."

And that probably explains why Jasinski is adding extra weight to his rehab exercises. He wants to desperately get back to the Capitol in the worst way.

"It's driving me nuts, especially with election year and redistricting," he said. "I'm anxious to get back in my normal routine in the Senate."

The senator expects to be back at the Capitol in a wheelchair and in hot pursuit of legislation within the next week.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Sen. John Jasinski is doing a lot of heavy lifting these days. In addition to lifting weights while undergoing rehab from a snowmobile crash, he also continues serving the residents of Steele and Rice counties in the Minnesota Senate.

MnDOT removing ash trees along I-35

Motorists on Interstate 35 in Steele and Freeborn counties should be alert for Minnesota Department of Transportation work crews, who are removing ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer, according to MnDOT.

Work has begun in the Owatonna area and will continue south on I-35 into Freeborn County, where the infestation has been identified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. To help slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, MnDOT removed these trees ahead of the Emerald Ash Borer flight season and will continue to remove trees. Maintenance crews with MnDOT will

be working on areas adjacent to the highway and areas near exit and entrance ramps on I-35. Motorists should move over and slow down when encountering the work crews.

MnDOT continues to work with the Department of Agriculture to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and other quarantined pests. Similar efforts have occurred elsewhere along MnDOT's right of way, including in 2014 on Hwy 63 north of Interstate 90, which is south of Rochester.

To learn more about Emerald Ash Borer, go to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's website: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab>.

SCHS announces History Detective Programming for kids

The Steele County Historical Society announces a parent/child History Detectives programming classes at the Steele County History Center, on March 7 and 12. Session times are from 10 to 11 a.m., Monday, March 7th and from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 12th; these programs are free to the public.

The following program classes will be offered simultaneously: Music and Its Impor-

tance in Childhood Development will be offered for young children age 2 to 5, and Folk Music & Folk Dancing will be offered for school age children, age 5 to 10. Sue Bowcock and Gloria Coulter, retired music educators, will be instructing these interactive musical experiences for those who attend.

Please register by calling 451-1420 for the day and specific program of your choice.

School Board Recognition Week



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Minnesota School Boards Association set Feb. 21-25 as Minnesota School Board Recognition Week to build awareness and understanding of the vital function elected school board members play. Owatonna Public Schools is joining other public school districts from across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor and thank our board members for their dedication and commitment to Owatonna and its students. School board members, from left, are Jolayne Mohs, Nikki Gieseke, Eric Schuster, Tim Jensen, Mark Sebring, Deborah Bandel, Lori Weisenburger

STEELE COUNTY **Times**

*Always local,
all the time.*

OBITUARIES

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

Carol Wilker, 89, Owatonna

Carol Phyllis Wilker, 89, passed away peacefully at Homestead Hospice in Owatonna on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.

Carol was born to Frank and Margaret (Woods) Shaske of Nerstrand on July 6, 1932. She married Lorenz Loren Wilker of Meriden on Nov. 25, 1953.

Carol and Lorenz raised seven children on a dairy farm by Meriden. Carol had many interests, such as gardening, 4-H, doing puzzles, quilting, and needle art. She was well-known for her talent with Hardanger, a Norwegian Needle Art. She taught Hardanger classes through Owatonna Community Education as well as some private classes for people that were interested in learning. Carol and her husband traveled often and were able to visit many parts of the world. Carol is preceded in death by her husband, Lorenz Wilker, her parents, Frank and Margaret Shaske, her son, Wendell Wilker, and her grandson, Joseph Langer.

She is also preceded in death by her brothers Frank, Lowell, Danny and Kenneth Shaske. She is survived by her sister, Janice Hatfield. She is also survived by six of her children Nancy Miller of Rochester, Margie (John) Meixner of Owatonna, Susan (Murray) Langer of Owatonna, Mark (Karen) Wilker of Waseca, Paul (Heidi) Wilker of New Ulm, and Amy (Will) Swain of Savage. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law Deb Wilker (Wendell's wife), 14 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna or the American Cancer Society.

Visitation and funeral services were at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Meriden on Monday, Feb. 21, 2022. A light meal was served after the service. Interment took place at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Meriden.

Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna is handling funeral arrangements.

Vickie Patraw, 65, Owatonna



Vickie Patraw

Vickie Jo Patraw, 65, of Owatonna, passed away peacefully, bathed in love on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 after a two-year fierce and brave battle with cancer.

She was born on Feb. 17, 1957 in Tracy. Vickie will always be remembered as someone who loved the outdoors, a passionate gardener, loving sister, special friend and loving mom.

She is survived by her two sons, Aaron and Ryan Patraw; special sister, Shelly (Craig) Odland; best friend

of 40+ years, Susie (Francis) Schaffer; friend and co-parent, Mike (Mary) Patraw; her partner of many years, Bruce Wilker and many dear friends and family.

Per Vickie's wishes the family will be having a private memorial service. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to be sent to Vickie's family at 920 7th Ave. S., South Saint Paul, MN 55075. For more information or to leave an online condolence visit www.megercares.com.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
FUNERAL HOME

LaVona Sherarts, 87, Owatonna



LaVona Sherarts

LaVona Dolores Seim Sherarts, 87, of Owatonna, died Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, at Timberdale Trace Senior Living Center.

Friends greeted the family on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna.

LaVona was born April 8, 1934, in Clayton, Wis., graduated from Minneapolis Vocational High School in 1951.

She married George Seim in 1951, moved to Stillwater and raised eight children. They later divorced.

LaVona married Theodore Sherarts in 1987 in St. Cloud, where she and Theodore lived until 2013. They then moved to Owatonna to be closer to family. LaVona was an award-winning artist specializing in water color

and photography. She was very active in the art scene in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. She was also a strong advocate for social justice.

LaVona is survived by her husband Theodore Sherarts of Owatonna, Bradley Seim of Bayport, Minn., Marcia and Dennis Brown of Grove City, Minn., Mona Abdel-Rahman and Tom Fiero of Blue Earth, Meg and Bob Garrison of Ankeny, Iowa, Max and Natalie Seim of Cottage Grove, Mary and Sigurd Gjerde of Oslo Norway, Melody and John Hylle of Owatonna and Mia and Kevin Anez of Gig Harbor, Wash., 14 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

LaVona will be deeply missed by family and friends.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
FUNERAL HOME

TRUST US TO HANDLE WITH CARE



Glen



Mike



Brett

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

PROUDLY SERVING STEELE COUNTY

BOOK NOOK

Tax season impacts the library, too



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Tax season is here. In the past that meant that we had to clear an area at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library for all the tax forms we received. However, that has definitely changed! For the last several years the State of Minnesota does not print out any tax forms or instructions. This encourages residents to file online or to use tax professionals. If you are the person who likes to do their own taxes on paper, you can print off Minnesota tax forms from the website <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/>. The Internal Revenue Service provides a few forms to libraries, but only the most used ones

such as the 1040 (and 1040-SR) forms and instructions. We also have 1099-MISC for miscellaneous income. If other forms are needed, you can print them off from the IRS website <https://www.irs.gov/forms-instructions>. If you need to use a computer at the library to print forms, the cost is 25 cents per page for single-sided copies or 50 cents per page for double-sided copies. The library staff cannot help you choose or fill out tax forms and we cannot offer any advice on your taxes. However, there are two options if you need further help. AARP Tax-Aide is being offered in a virtual format only this year. Go to <https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/> for more information. United Way of Steele County is also offering free tax assistance. Go to <https://www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org/myfreetaxes> for more information.

United Way offers free tax assistance

BY ANNETTE DUNCAN

I had the pleasure to sit with a member of our community to help them with their taxes the other day and they said to me, “United Way, I’ve heard of you before, so this is what you do?” I smiled and said, “this is one thing that we do. United Way assesses the needs of our community, looking for those things that are preventing people from having their best quality of life, and then we work with partners to identify potential solutions. When our community

lost their tax preparation assistance due to COVID-19, we saw how devastating that was for individuals and families alike. So, we pulled our resources together and in partnership with United Way Worldwide and MyFreeTaxes.com, we were able to start offering this valuable, volunteer led, service.” That is what we do at United Way. We change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. So, if you or someone you know needs help filing their taxes, or you are interested in becoming a volunteer, I invite you give us a call or register on our website. It takes all of us working together to create a better world, even if that is one tax return at a time. I want to share another service that we offer in partnership with Southern MN Regional Legal Services that you may not be aware of. We were selected to host one of more than 250 Legal Kiosks that were deployed in the state of Minnesota last year. From this Legal Kiosk you can access court documents, apply for services, and attend

virtual hearings. You can also research legal topics and download any forms that you may need. This Kiosk is available Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; however, if you need to use it outside of these hours, you may schedule an appointment by calling the office.

Annette Duncan is President of United Way of Steele County. She can be reached at 507-455-1180 or via email by president@unitedwaysteelecounty.org.

Little Theatre offers scholarships

Little Theatre of Owatonna is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 16th Sarah Foreman Memorial **Post-Secondary** Scholarship. This scholarship was established as a memorial to long-time Little Theatre of Owatonna member Sarah Foreman who died in February 2006. Foreman’s work as a director extended through 30 years, directing 18 shows and serving 11 years on the LTO Board during three separate terms. Her extensive contribution and dedication to theatre in Owatonna is memorialized in this scholarship. This scholarship is meant to recognize and support the **post-secondary** education of a current Steele County resident or a previous (prior to 2022) graduate of a Steele County high school whose career plans, studies and/or participation in theatre distinguish him/her and support further theatre involvement. The recipient will be chosen based on a personal essay, theatre involvement, two letters of recommendation,

academic achievements and educational goals, and other college and/or community involvement. Details and forms for the application can be found at www.littletheatreofowatonna.org/lto-scholarships/ or from county high school counselors/career centers. Deadline for application is June 3. Previous applicants who qualify and did not receive the scholarship are encouraged to re-apply. Announcements and notification regarding the \$1,000 scholarship

will be made in June. The recipient will be recognized and the scholarship presented at the opening night of LTO’s summer production, *The Color of Stars* by Dwayne Hartford on Friday, June 10. Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing dramatic arts opportunities and incentives for citizens of Steele County. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, at P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Survey seeks info to boost markets

If you’re a farmer who sells your food directly to consumers, grocery stores, restaurants, distributors, and others, a Statewide Cooperative Partnership for Local and Regional Markets led by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and University of Minnesota (UMN) wants to hear from you this spring. A recently released survey asks small, mid-sized- and emerging farmers to share their experiences operating farms and selling in direct-to-consumer and direct-to-institution markets such as farmers’ markets, U-Pick, CSAs, and schools. Once collected, data will be analyzed collaboratively by the Partnership’s more than 40 member organizations. Results will help identify market trends and opportunities, support the development of programs and services such as the MDA’s Minnesota Grown program, and strengthen recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature to support historically underrepresented and under-supported farmers, Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. “We want to build on the partnerships we have with local and regional

markets to help farmers, retailers, public institutions, and consumers in Minnesota,” he said. “This is a real growth opportunity for our ag economy in the coming years, and we need to understand how we can support it.” According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Minnesota has about 3,500 farms that sell directly to consumers, while more than 630 sell directly to retail outlets such as grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and other institutions. These sales generate an estimated \$184 million in economic activity each year. The survey, available now for Minnesota farmers and ranchers involved in direct sales, will supplement the U.S. Census of Agriculture administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is designed to

report on the nuances of smaller producers and their primary markets that are not captured by the Ag Census. The Partnership survey takes less than 30 minutes and respondents will be compensated for their time. A grant from the USDA’s Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program is funding the three-year partnership, now in its second year. The Partnership previously gathered background research on the state’s direct food sales markets and will analyze the data gained from this survey and form recommendations in its final year. More information is available at the MDA’s Statewide Cooperative Partnership web page. To take the survey, go to: <https://z.umn.edu/statewide-producer-survey>

Recipe
Corner

NO BAKE
CHEESECAKE



Crust:
2 sticks butter, melted
6 T. powdered sugar
2 c. flour
Mix together and pat evenly into a 9 x 13 inch cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool. Set aside.

Filling:
2 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, room temperature
2 c. powdered sugar
Blend together with mixer until smooth. Add 1 (8 oz.) container of Cool Whip. Spread the filling evenly over cooled crust and top with one can of your favorite pie filling or pudding.

Sponsored by

United Way
of Steele County
507-455-1180
unitedwaysteelecounty.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED





Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
johndoercpa.com
We understand small business
because we are a small business

◆ 314 E. Main St. | Blooming Prairie
507-583-7528

◆ 685 W. Bridge St., Suite 6 | Owatonna
507-451-9136

◆ 133 N. Broadway | New Richland
507-465-8100

D.O.T. Physicals

Dr. Eischens is a Certified Medical Examiner and on the National Registry for DOT Health Cards



Try Chiropractic! New patients welcome!

Most insurances accepted. Auto, Work Comp, P.I., MA, Medicare, Federated, BCBS, Medica, Preferred One, Mayo, and many more!

“From Pain Relief to Wellness”

PRAIRIE FAMILY & SPORTS
CHIROPRACTIC, P.A.

“Established to serve your health care needs”

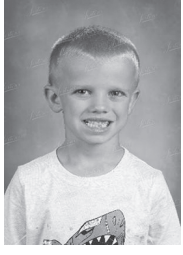


Chad M. Eischens, D.C.
344 East Main Street
Blooming Prairie, MN • 583-2271
1-866-5DR-CHAD

www.drchad.org

BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BLOSSOMING INTO LEARNERS AND LEADERS

LOOK WHO'S BEING AWESOME!
Blossoms Students of the Week
Blooming Prairie Elementary School



Greyson Deplitch – KA
Mrs. Ostrander's Class

Parents: Kendrick & Kristin Deplitch
Greyson is an AMAZING kindergarten student in our classroom. He is a very hard worker who takes his time and does his best work on everything he does. Greyson is an amazing artist and is always making drawings and art work to share with his friends. Greyson has worked hard to be a very good friend this year and is often the one to help out a friend who is sad in our classroom. We are very proud of Greyson and so glad he is part of our KA family. He truly is an AWESOME BLOSSOM!!



Sophia Johnson – 1D
Mrs. Busho's Class

Parents: Jason Johnson & Jennifer Wondra
Sophia is a fantastic student to be recognized for Prairie Pride! Sophia is kind, helpful, and always does her best work. Sophia is a wonderful friend to all her classmates. Her positive attitude and determination have helped her to grow into a terrific reader. Sophia is a true Awesome Blossom. Way to go, Sophia. We are proud of you!!



Andrew Davis – 3A
Mr. LaRock's Class

Parents: Andrew & Haily Davis
Andrew is an awesome student and person. Andrew has modeled many times this school year how to be a kind person. He is willing to help out a classmate and is quick to offer a friendly smile to all. Andrew is a great student and shows pride in his work when completing assignments. We are lucky to have him in our class. His prairie pride is much appreciated. Keep up the Excellent work, Andrew!

Johnson
Construction
And
Tree
Service



**WAY TO
GO KIDS!**



KYLE & BRAYTON
507-583-7592
BLOOMING PRAIRIE & AUSTIN

BIRTHDAYS

February 23
Sandra Basness
Ardella Swenson
Meghan Amberg
Lori Arndt
Caysa Salinas
Jenny Winn
Camden Klemmenssen

February 27
Julia Worke
Doris Rasmussen
Brad Hines
Sophia Schiller
Linda L. Christianson

February 28
Amber Lonergan
Douglas Novak
Tim Trotman
Mike Ingvalson

February 29
Mary Wacek

February 24
Joe Wacek Jr.
Nathan Linderman

February 25
Joe Wacek Jr.
Nathan Linderman

February 26
Kari Bottin
Betty Behnken
Per Kvalsten

March 1
Barry Olson
Nikki Farr
Taylor Hagen
Natalie Scheper

ANNIVERSARIES

February 25
Cork &
Steve Drexler

March 1
Jeremy &
Brienne Wangen



HONEST-1
AUTO CARE

honest1owatonna.com

Pastor wonders if you can define theology



**Pastor
Kyle Smith**

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH
ELLENDALE

Editor's Note: Beginning this week, Rev. Kyle Smith of First Lutheran Church in Ellendale joins our rotation of area pastors writing weekly messages. We want to welcome Pastor Smith to the faith page.

Theology is a word we as Christians often throw around, but how many of us can define

it? The word "theology" comes from two words, *theos*, meaning "god"; and *logos*, meaning "study". In other words, theology is the study of God. In the narrow sense, there are four different kinds of theology, but to keep things simple, we will focus on the broad sense, the study of God.

But how do we study God? To start, we have to recognize that God reveals Himself to us, which He does in two ways. First, there is Natural Revelation, God revealing Himself in a general way, such as the way we see in Romans 1:19-20, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to

them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the beginning of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

In other words, we can learn of God's invisible attributes by looking at the world around us. Whether we look at science and consider the complexity of the cells in our body or the fine-tuning of the universe, or we look at philosophy and consider the issue of morality and recognize there must be a difference between right and wrong which must come from somewhere,

we see there must be an eternal, divine power, namely, the One True God. Natural Revelation is great and we certainly shouldn't dismiss it, but there's also Special Revelation.

This special revelation is God revealing Himself in a special, unique way, namely, in the Holy Bible, God's Word to us. We see in II Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." Yes, men held the quill, but they were the instruments God used to reveal Himself to us. And since "All Scripture is breathed out by God", we can be

confident that the Holy Bible is without mistake or error. In other words, the Bible doesn't simply contain the Word of God, the Bible is the Word of God.

Can God reveal Himself in ways outside of Natural Revelation in nature and Special Revelation in His Word? As God, He sure could, but He doesn't promise to do so. He does, however, promise to reveal Himself to us in nature and, even more so, in His Word.

What does this mean for us as Christians? It means that when we want to study God, we recognize that Natural Revelation only takes us so far, and so we focus much of our time

on Special Revelation, God's Word. The fancy way of saying what we've been talking about is, *Holy Scripture is the only source and norm of Christian faith and life.*

Whether we realize it or not, we have all done theology, because as Christians we recognize God and know at least a thing or two about Him. As Christians, the source of our theology, how we know who God is what He is like, comes from what God says about Himself in His Word. And so I encourage you this week to study God, spend time in His Word, and learn more about who He is and what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28TH St., Owatonna
507-451-2819
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
Sunday 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.-Chilli & Oyster Feed
firstlutheranellendale@yahoo.com

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW, Blooming 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.
Sunday School and Adult Ed 10:15 a.m.
flichopem@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 75th 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.rogllutheran.org

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
507-528-2404
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. (2nd & 4th Sunday Holy Communion)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday: Advent 7 p.m. (with Holy Communion)
sjlcoffice@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.saintjohnssargeantjimdo.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.milcitychurch.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

202 E Park Ave., Hollandale
507-567-2272
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
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, Hayfield
507-477-2248
Sunday Worship 8 a.m. & 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.

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@stjosephowatonna.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 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
columbanusb@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

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

230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
507-363-3046
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 7 p.m.

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR. 23)
507-835-8726
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
www.bloomingtonumc.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

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
Sunday 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 DAY SAINTS

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

2373 Seventh Ave NE, Owatonna
651-955-4032
Saturday Worship: 11 a.m.
Saturday Bible Study: 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

ASSOCIATED CHURCH

Presbyterian 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)
www.associatedchurch.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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST

104 First Ave., Blooming Prairie
507-583-2673

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's Oldest Church)

123 E Main St., Owatonna
507-272-9834
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.
gracebaptistministry.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.cornerstoneowatonna.com

NORTHBRIDGE 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.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Friday RU Recover pfm: 7 p.m.

ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL 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

HONEST-1[®] AUTO CARE

1125 S Oak Ave
Owatonna, MN 55060-3701
507-431-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com

Monuments LEGACY MONUMENT SALES

Leon's Cell 507-456-7864
Lori's Cell 507-456-3735
landlbo@gmail.com

Call for a catalog to view in the comfort of your home. We are here to help you create your monument by email or phone.

LEON & LORI BOHLMAN

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER & CAR WASH

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471

Dr. Deborah Lien DDS, MBA

Building Healthy Smiles!

32 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie
507-583.6613
FREE CONSULTATION

UNITED WAY GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. **LIVE UNITED.**

1850 Austin Rd Ste 103
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-1180
www.unitedwaysteelcounty.org
Text UWSC2021 to 202-858-1233

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

314 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-7528
685 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna
507-451-9136
133 N. Broadway
New Richland
507-465-3810

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT

"Creating Your Story in Stone"

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com

FLOOR TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

FARMERS INSURANCE

Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

REALIFE COOPERATIVE

Vibrant Living For Individuals 55 & Older at a Reasonable Price

Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna

VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA

Make new friends.

1212 W Frontage Rd Owatonna, MN
507-451-0722
valleyviewofowatonna.com

NORTH AMERICAN FARM & POWER SHOW

MARCH 17, 18, 19, 2022

Four Seasons Centre / Steele County Fairgrounds
1525 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060

Free Educational Ag Seminars

Presented by:

The U of MN Extension Service
and Linder Farm Network

Show Hours

Thurs. 9am - 5pm
Fri. 9am - 5pm
Sat. 9am - 4pm

DAILY GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS

Thursday & Friday

Husqvarna Gas Powered Trimmer Pkg

Saturday

Husqvarna 455 Rancher 20" Chainsaw Pkg

Sponsored
by

MINER'S
Outdoor & Rec

Drawings
daily @ 3:30pm

635 6th St. SE - Hwy 218 S
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

MN FFA Foundation Silent Auction

Free Parking
Free Admission



Tradexpos

For a seminar schedule
and additional farm show info.,
call Tradexpos 800-949-3976
or visit our website
www.tradexpos.com

Coming in July to Medford, MN

**NORTH
STAR
AG EXPO**

A brand new
OUTDOOR
Farm Show!

See our
website for
more details:

www.tradexpos.com

BEV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY TOURS PRESENTS:

COLLEEN RAYE
APRIL 8, 2022

Sheldon Theatre - Red Wing, MN



Experience the glorious themes from the movies with Colleen Raye and the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra. This 50-piece ensemble and 30 voice choir is spectacular! Colleen Raye will guide us through this journey with world-class vocals, charisma, and Humor. You can even sing along on a few songs!

You will experience a very elegant dinner along with special service at one of the finest dining establishments in the state. This is a very out of the ordinary and elegant event that will fill quickly.

A beautiful way for you to usher in spring!

\$125 per person. No refunds.

Departure Time: Owatonna Perkins - 11:00 am

Contact Bev's Friends & Family Tours
at 507-451-8695/jblysne@charter.net
Mail check to 318 SW 13th St., Owatonna, MN 55060

HERE'S MY CARD

AUCTION

BigIron
AUCTIONS

www.bigiron.com

Always Unreserved | No Buyer Fees

AGRICULTURE | CONSTRUCTION | TRANSPORTATION

BigIron provides full service auction support to efficiently turn used equipment into cash. Contact your local representative today to start planning your auction with BigIron!

JOSH ULLAND, BIGIRON SALES REP
507-481-5047
josh.ulland@bigiron.com

ACCOUNTING



**Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICES FOR
SMALL BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS

314 East Main St., Blooming Prairie | 507-583-7528 | Fax: 507-583-2389

AUTOMOBILE

HOME OF THE HONEST MECHANICS!

HONEST-1
AUTO CARE

Mon-Fri 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-431-4576 • www.Honest1Owatonna.com

CLEANING

Julie's
Cleaning Service

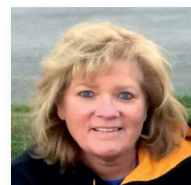
Julie Rislov

PHONE: (507) 884-4581

EMAIL: JRRIZ7976@a>YAHOO.COM

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING THAT WORKS HARD FOR YOU!



Wynne Priebe
wpriebe@steelecountytimes.com

Contact us today and see what makes advertising in the Steele County Times a great fit for your advertising needs!

STEELE
COUNTY **Times**

Call 507-456-4299

AUTO REPAIRS

**TOM'S
SALES**



Alternator & Starter Rebuilding
Auto, Truck, Ag, Industrial

Tom Vogt
213 Southview
Owatonna, MN 55060
tomssales112@gmail.com
C: 507-363-1972

AUTOMOBILE

**Mike's
REPAIR**

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486

870 32nd Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Mike Hartle
Owner

All tire sizes, sales and service for ag and truck!
After Hours: 507-455-0483

CONSTRUCTION

J.A. Gwilt Siders, Inc.

Siding, Windows, Gutters, Roofing & Decks

Call 507-456-1504
for your FREE
estimates!

Serving Steele County
for 20 years.

Known for our exceptional quality of material and labor.



CONSTRUCTION

**Johnson Construction
& Tree Service**

Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592

AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

EXCAVATING

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation
• Compliance Inspections

State License # 1844
Serving the Area
Over 12 Years



BISHOP BE
EXCAVATING, INC.

• EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
• DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK
Commercial & Residential Sitework
507 583-2999

Aggregates • Hauling • Washed Sand • Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

GARBAGE SERVICE

SKJEVELAND ENTERPRISES

Sanitation & Recycling Services

Pride in service since 2007

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Sanitation & Recycling Services
- Roll-Offs & Dumpsters
- Rubbish & Garbage Removal

Contact Skjeveland Enterprises today!

507-528-9900



GRANITE & MONUMENT

**Owatonna
GRANITE & MONUMENT**

"Creating Your
STORY in STONE"

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com



John and Barb
Heerema

PREPLANNING

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT AND PREFUNDING



Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant
Licensed Agent • Purple Cross Plans

507.583.7561

www.worlein.com

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S • Blooming Prairie MN

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

Dr. Deborah J. Lien, DDS, MBS

132 2ND AVE. NE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

FREE CONSULTATIONS



drdeborahlienorthodontics.com 507/583.6613

PETS



**Bennett's
PET HAVEN
CEMETERY, INC.**

"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"

Larry & Donna Bennett

4151 N. City Rd. 45

Owatonna, MN 55060

(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schrodt

857 Mosher Ave.

Owatonna, MN 55060

(507) 455-3204

Cell: 507-456-3562

SHOE REPAIR

Jim's Shoe Repair
Boots, Shoes, Zippers.
Purses and More



Jim Marquardt
628 E. Rose St
Owatonna, MN 55060

Call for Service
507-451-2909

Officials seek input on Main in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Officials couldn't have picked a better spot to illustrate the need for improvements to Main Street in Owatonna.

From the third floor window of the Owatonna Fire Station, which overlooks West Main Street at Central Park, it's apparent why something needs to be done to the roadway. There are many cracks and holes in the pavement on one of the city's busiest corridors.

Inside, officials made a pitch by showing diagrams, illustrations and charts to residents during an open house last week.

"The pavement is in pretty bad shape," said Paul Sponholz, assistant engineer for Steele County. "If we don't address it soon, it's really going to start falling apart."

Sponholz said officials are looking to do a full reconstruction or overall. However, he added, to do the latter would be just a Band-Aid.

Steele County and the City of Owatonna are teaming up on the project to repair Main Street from Oak Avenue

to Chambers Avenue, which is a .79-mile stretch. About 10,000 vehicles travel on the roadway in the downtown area each day, according to Sponholz.

The project is expected to cost \$2.4 million with the largest portion, \$1.3 million, coming from sales tax revenue, Sponholz said. Other funding sources include local and state aid. Steele County will be providing 75% of the funding while Owatonna will kick in the rest. Utilities and streetscape would be covered by the city.

OWATONNA MAIN STREET PROJECT

- Project involves E. Main Street from Oak to Chambers Avenue
- Feasibility Study soliciting comments from public
- Deadline: March 10
- Provide input at www.bit.ly/OwatonnaMainSt.

The most recent repairs to the roadway took place in 2005 when a mill and resurface happened from Oak to Elm Avenue. Prior to that, the curb and gutter was replaced in 1984 along with storm sewer repairs and existing concrete overlayed with bituminous asphalt.

In 1998, Elm Avenue to Chambers Avenue

received reconstructed concrete pavement.

The city and county are currently conducting a feasibility study, which includes a thorough review of the corridor's pavement conditions. Officials are also utilizing the study to identify opportunities to improve walking, biking and rolling as well as a

See **OFFICIALS** on B2 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Council member Doug Voss of Owatonna, right, makes a point on illustrations of Main Street to Greg Ilkka, Steele County engineer, left, and Chad Jorgenson, traffic engineer with SEH in St. Paul, center, at an open house last Thursday. Dozens of people attended the open house to learn more about what the city and county are planning to do to improve Main Street in Owatonna.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

An overhead photograph of Main Street in the downtown area of Owatonna by Central Park shows a fast deteriorating roadway with many cracks and holes in the pavement. City and county officials are conducting a feasibility study to make improvements to the roadway possibly beginning in 2023.

Changing the world with music



Steele Talkin'
ROBIN STARR

Beethoven was famously quoted as saying, "Music can change the world," and it will be doing just that through local talented artists during the Hometown Sampler the first weekend of March.

Starting Friday night, March 4, the Owatonna Little Theater is hosting the event to help Community Pathways to participate in the Minnesota FoodShare campaign to combat food scarcity. Minnesota FoodShare helps to fund over 300 food shelves and programs that participate in the March campaign. Last year alone, Minnesota Foodshare provided \$18 million to food bank programs across the state.

We need your help in making the event a success! An at will monetary or food donation gets you access to the great local musicians from Bad Tangerines, The Gogs, Turn the Page, and Mile 5 and our

See **CHANGING** on B2 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Tom Dufresne, president of the Owatonna Foundation, talks about the organization's strategic goals for the coming year.

Owatonna Foundation works to raise funds and recognition

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Retired financial planner Tom Dufresne hit the ground running last fall when he became president of the Owatonna Foundation.

He said he knew there was work to be done.

"We see Owatonna and its potential to

grow," said Dufresne. "And when Owatonna is growing, the need for grants grows."

In the last year of a 3-year fundraising initiative called "3 in 3 by Twenty-Two-Three (2023), Dufresne said the foundation is on track to achieve the goal it set in 2020.

Assets currently

sit at about \$9 million and another \$1 million would put the foundation at the \$10 million mark, according to Dufresne.

That translates into money for grants, roughly \$450 per year, without having to touch the principal, said Dufresne.

See **OWATONNA** on B14 ►

Owatonna council OKs TIF District for CDI

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The Owatonna City Council last week approved the creation of a Tax Increment Financing District to assist Climate by Design International with the infrastructure costs associated with building a new

manufacturing plant east of the Owatonna Energy Station on Bridge Street.

Troy Klecker, community development director for the city, said the new \$37 million manufacturing plant will create 50 new jobs. The new 200,000-square-foot building will cost \$20

million to construct and another \$17,000 to equip.

Owatonna's Economic Development Authority will pay consulting fees for the TIF financing.

CDI designs and manufactures desiccant dehumidifiers and critical process air handlers for world-

wide distribution at its current 66,000-square-foot production facility in Industrial Park.

During a public hearing held before council approval, Klecker said city staff recommended adopting the resolution to create the district.

The motion to approve the resolution

was adopted unanimously.

CDI plans to begin construction of the manufacturing facility this year and substantially complete the project by Dec. 31.

According to Klecker, this is a pay-as-you-go TIF and will total \$6,641,713 over nine years.

Trooper Schwindel named Peace Officer of the Year

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

It was a pair of tragedies, really, that brought Trevin Schwindel into law enforcement.

He grew up in St. Joseph, a small town

about 10 miles west of St. Cloud.

"We had the Klinefelter incident, then the Jacob Wetterling incident," Schwindel said, "and I think that kind of drew me to it."

See **TROOPER** on B14 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

State Trooper Trevin Schwindel, center, was named Steele County Peace Officer of the Year by the Exchange Club of Steele County. Randy Sobrack, left, committee chairman, presented the award; Schwindel was nominated by Lt. Brian Buck, right.



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

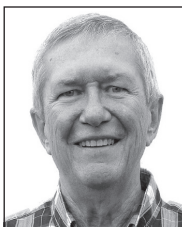
johndoercpa.com

We understand small business because we are a small business

◆ 314 E. Main St. | Blooming Prairie
507-583-7528

◆ 685 W. Bridge St., Suite 6 | Owatonna
507-451-9136

◆ 133 N. Broadway | New Richland
507-465-8100



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

More exploration of Arizona by this columnist, his wife and relatives brought them in close contact with some wild horses. Yes, there are wild horses in Arizona, mostly near the Salt River.

On our first visit to Arizona in early January, thanks to relatives Cindi and Darell Hansen of Blooming Prairie, we were able to see some wild horses.

Cindi Hansen was all fired up to take us to a point on the Salt River where many of these wild horses resided. We

Wild horses ride terrain of Arizona

saw 15 wild horses the first time. On our second visit, we saw more than 35.

I did some more research on the wild horses of Arizona and found a very informative and well-written story on the wild horses by Pat Parris of KGUN9.

Parris wrote: “Even though their numbers are a fraction of what they once were, it’s still possible to see these wild horses up close and to see what makes them Absolutely Arizona.”

According to the Bureau of Land Management, there are just under 100,000 wild horses in north America, with many of them living on Navajo Nation land, Parris added

“Only about 600 wild horses live throughout the rest of Arizona.”

We saw the wild horses in large herds

living along the banks of the lower Salt River in the Tonto National Forest.

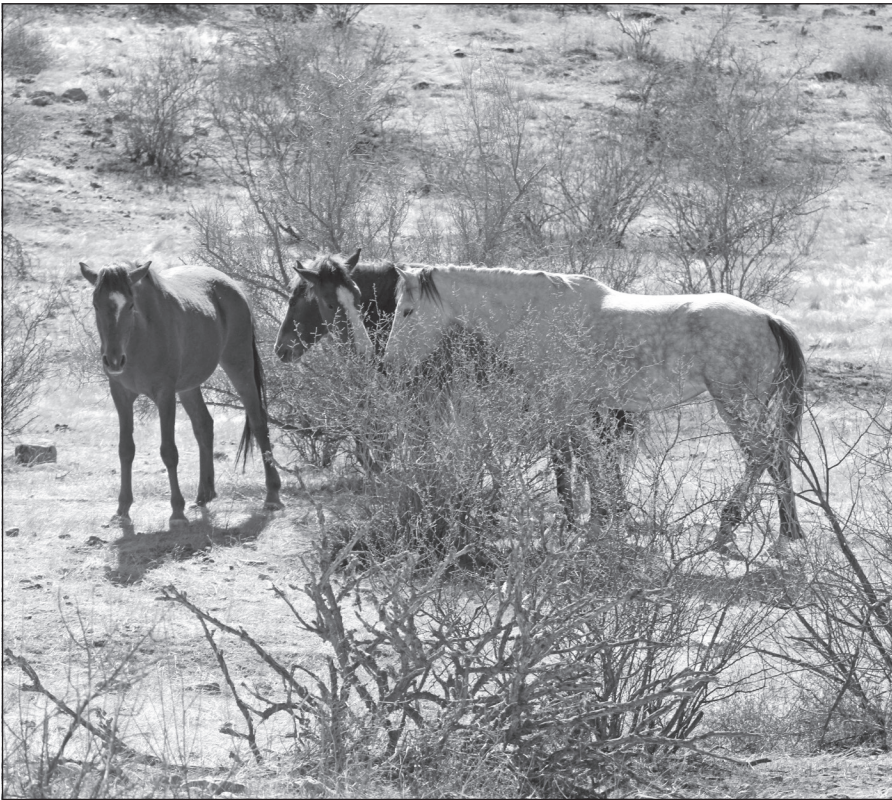
Parris said the horses are descendants of the Spanish horses that were brought over by Spaniards to conquer America.

The Salt River Wild Horse Management Group watches over the group and feeds them.

While searching for the wild horses, we saw many amateur photographers and others seeking a glance at the horses.

The Hansens even stumbled into a former neighbor, Jef Behnken, son of Betty and Ken Behnken. He likewise was looking for the wild horses as he enjoyed a vacation with his family.

Head west to Arizona. There’s lots to see there.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The wild mustangs of Arizona roam the dunes of Arizona and prove to be a tourist draw. These horses were found near the Salt River.

BP grad talks tech to Cargill advisory panel

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Upgrading technology solutions is Jeff Sorenson’s livelihood.

Sorenson, son of Roger and Joanne Sorenson of Blooming Prairie, came back to his roots at a Cargill Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) meeting held last Wednesday at the Blooming Prairie Government Center.

His father, a former Blooming Prairie educator, is the facilitator for the Cargill CAP that was created many years ago to connect Arkema (now Cargill) with its community. Arkema was sold to Cargill last September.

Jeff Sorenson, CSM President of Lighthouse Technology Solutions, has worked directly and indirectly in the telecom industry. His business is based in Minneapolis and he has more than a decade of experience in the telecommunications and technology industries.

Sorenson traced the history of telecom back to 1877 with Alexander Graham Bell’s father-in-law Gardiner Greene Hubbard. Hubbard helped form a sister company called New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. The two companies merged on March 20, 1880 to become the American Bell Telephone Company.

The American Bell Telephone Company

evolved into the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T).

Sorenson continued to follow telecommunications, moving up to 1996 with the Telecommunications Act which allowed more competition by allowing competitive local exchange carriers to compete against incumbent local exchange carriers.

AT&T was acquired by one of its former local phone companies SBC Communications to become the new AT&T.

Sorenson also talked about Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). This technology involves phone systems that operate via the Internet rather than through traditional analog lines. The technology was available in the 1970s but did not begin appearing in Twin Cities’ office workspaces until circa 2005, with 2009 becoming a monumental year for businesses in the Twin Cities transitioning from analog lines to VoIP phone systems.

A shocker to many in attendance came when Jeff Sorenson said analog lines, once called old-fashioned copper wire POTS lines connected to a standard telephones that provide power and connectivity to the service will soon be eliminated.

The Federal Commu-



JEFF SORENSON

nications Commission issued an order that mandates all POTS lines in the U.S. be replaced with an alternative service, such as fiber or wireless connections by Aug. 2, 2022.

Major telephone providers have already begun to phase out the POTS lines and could replace the service with another service with a cost up to \$800.

Sorenson also spoke about internet and DSL lines offered by companies like Frontier Inc. Other Internet service can be provided by broadband cable, dedicated fiber and fixed wireless.

Sorenson provided an example of his work by saluting a Ford dealership in Colorado Springs, Colo., that improved lighting with the installation of LED lighting.

The next meeting of the Cargill CAP is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16.

Police, policies top BP council agenda

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Police and policies were the foundation of last week’s Blooming Prairie City Council meeting – with updates to both.

Nathan Taarud, of Farmington, was sworn in as the newest police officer in the city. A former North Dakota State Trooper, he started training Dec. 17 and will work part-time.

“He has a lot of law enforcement experience, a lot of life experience,” said Jason Iacovino, city attorney. “He’s already been involved in a couple of good cases.”

Taarud is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, something he shares with Mayor Curt Esplan.

Taarud joins the force as it moves closer to implementing body-worn cameras. The department has field-tested several types of cameras over the past two years, and has determined it would like to use the same brand as the Owatonna Police Department: Visual Labs.

Instead of expensive cameras, the officers would be issued a cellphone; the phone’s camera would be used as the BWC.

According to BP Officer Dan Peach, expenses associated with the startup and monitoring of the body camera program would be about \$5,000 yearly, an increase of about .6 % of the annual levy.

“I think it’s well worth the money,” Esplan said.

Andrew Langholz, BP city administrator, agreed.

The police department, he said, “has been championing it;



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Nathan Taarud is the newest officer on the Blooming Prairie Police Department. He was sworn in by BP Police Chief Greg Skillestad during last week’s city council meeting; his badge was pinned by his wife Kristie.

we aren’t forcing it on them.”

Langholz will work with the officers and Iacovino to implement the cameras, including scheduling public meetings and the eventual approval of a policy that oversees the program.

Iacovino told council members he has “concerns about record-keeping, but (the cameras) offer tremendous benefits. I’m glad to see it’s become affordable; it provides safety for the officer and the person they’re dealing with.”

The council approved two updated policies for city employees, including the Family Leave Medical Act and the personnel policy.

The FMLA policy now contains language that requires employ-

ees to use part of their accrued leave.

The length of the city’s FMLA leave must not exceed 12 weeks in any 12-month period.

Thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court, the city does not have to institute a COVID-19 vaccination policy. The high court stopped the implementation of a new federal rule that would have mandated employers with more than 100 employees require those workers to be vaccinated or have regular tests for the coronavirus.

The justices have left open the idea of mandating healthcare workers be vaccinated or regularly tested. Because Blooming Prairie has an ambulance service, that policy may yet be needed.

Open house set for Ellendale area project

Steele County is holding a second open house meeting to present improvement concepts and gather public input on a proposed project to improve both County Highway 28 and Beaver Lake Park

northwest of Ellendale.

The meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Center, 507 2nd Ave.

The County is continuing to develop a feasibility report for the improve-

ments of the highway and park. The development process for this report will last approximately 10 months. The construction timeline has not been determined, but is anticipated to be scheduled within the next few years.

Officials seek input on Main in Owatonna

◀ OFFICIALS from B1 traffic and safety analysis of the entire corridor.

Sponholz said officials want feedback from the public to understand the issues of the roadway and potential problems. Citizens have until March 10 to share comments at www.bit.ly/OwatonnaMainSt.

Citizens at last week’s open house shared how they want additional lighting in the neighborhoods while others were concerned about trees along

the corridor.

Officials are also seeking to improve the pedestrian crosswalk by Federated Insurance. Chad Jorgenson, traffic engineer with SEH in St. Paul hired to help with the project, said one idea being tossed around is constructing bump-outs to cut down on the crosswalk, which would allow pedestrians to cross the street quicker in a shorter distance.

Engineers are considering roundabouts at two

locations: Grove and Main and Lincoln and Main.

Crash statistics from 2017 to 2021 show there have been 86 crashes along the nearly one-mile stretch of Main Street. Of those crashes, one was a fatal pedestrian crash in December 2020. The worst areas along the corridor are Oak with 35 crashes, Grove with 22 and Elm with 6.

A second open house is planned for August when officials will present alternatives.

Changing the world with music

◀ CHANGING from B1 emcees Dave Otto and John Havelka. Please come out and enjoy some good tunes and help us fund another great year of combating hunger in Steele County.

Showtimes at the Little Theater of Owatonna are on March 4 at 7 p.m., March 5 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and March 6 at 2 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Community Pathways would like to thank our sponsors and partners, United Way, Federated Insurance, KOWZ, Gopher Sport, North Risk Partners, The Bednar Team, Owatonna Granite and Monument, and Einhaus, Mattison, Carver, and Haberman P.A. for making this event possible!

Robin Starr is the community and outreach coordinator for Community Pathways of Steele County. She may be reached at robin@communitypathwayscc.org. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

BRAVO

BLOSSOM ACADEMIC STARS!

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE STUDENTS
AT BLOOMING
PRAIRIE HIGH
SCHOOL WHO
ACHIEVED THE
HONOR ROLL FOR
SECOND QUARTER!



BLOOMING PRAIRIE STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12 WHO ACHIEVED THE A HONOR ROLL INCLUDE: front row, from left: Annaka Forsberg, Chloe McCarthy, Clare Rennie, Madelaine Stoen, Lauren Schammel, Bobbie Bruns, Carson Wacek, Garret Farr, Bradley Simon and Colin Jordison; second row: Jaime Reinke, Asha Lighthizer, Josie Hoffman, Haven Carlson, Addison Doocy, Macy Lembke, Carson Brennecke, David Kartes, Isabella Heiber and Melanie Winzenburg; third row: Claire Foster, Rachel Winzenburg, Ty Forystek, Mason Simon, Ava Smith, Kolby Vigeland, Ethan Brandt, Grant Magnuson, Parker Kubicek and Aidan Slowinski; back row: Jaylee Schleicher, Lily Schammel, Derek Kubicek and Benjamin Riley. **Missing** is Emily Miller.



BLOOMING PRAIRIE STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-9 WHO ACHIEVED THE A HONOR ROLL INCLUDE: front row: Noah Graves, Sophia Esplan, Isabel Dickel, Chloe Weber, Regan Donnelly, Allison Bruggeman, Jayden Wendl and Cooper Cooke; back row: Jaspheer Doocy, Isabella Schiller, Jasper Sayles, Gracelyn Anderson, Aubrey Klocke, Mia Johnson, Ella Smith and Brady Kittelson. **Missing** is Jonathan Heimgartner.

**A HONOR ROLL
GRADE 7**

Gracelyn Anderson
Jaspheer Doocy
Sophia Esplan
Aubrey Klocke
Jasper Sayles
Isabella Schiller
Jayden Wendl

GRADE 8

Allison Bruggeman
Regan Donnelly
Noah Graves
Jonathan
Heimgartner
Chloe Weber

GRADE 9

Cooper Cooke
Isabel Dickel
Mia Johnson
Brady Kittelson
Ella Smith

GRADE 10

Addison Doocy
Annaka Forsberg

Tyler Forystek
Claire Foster
Derek Kubicek
Macy Lembke
Grant Magnuson
Jamie Reinke
Benjamin Riley
Lily Schammel
Jaylee Schleicher
Mason Simon
Aidan Slowinski
Ava Smith
Kolby Vigeland
Rachel Winzenburg

GRADE 11

Ethan Brandt
Haven Carlson
Chloe Mccarthy
Clare Rennie
Madelaine Stoen

GRADE 12

Carson Brennecke
Bobbie Bruns
Garret Farr
Isabella Heiber
Josie Hoffman

Colin Jordison
David Kartes
Parker Kubicek
Asha Lighthizer
Emily Miller
Lauren Schammel
Bradley Simon
Carson Wacek
Melanie
Winzenburg

**A- HONOR
ROLL GRADE 7**

Cooper Foster
Eliot Gimbel
Zachary Holtberg
Addison Mongeau
Neila Nelson
Madysan Slowinski
Gabe Staloch
Jaxon Studer
Evan Westphal
Emmaleigh White

GRADE 8

Tyler Anderson
Allison Blume

Natalee Devries
Ella Farr
Madelyn Harvey
Samantha Hefling
Carsten Ingvalson
Brady Johnson
Vienna Loverink
Drew Reinke
Claire Schwarz
Cannon Wacek
Kloe Wacek

Grade 9

Lauren Brown
Braden Farr
Abby Jordison
Madilynn Madsen
Jacob Pauly
Bo Zwiener

Grade 10

Anna Haberman
Luke Heimgartner
Logan Marzolf
Elizabeth Miner
Khara Peters
Molly Robins
Hailey Schumacher
Shawntee Snyder
Justin Stork

GRADE 11

Lilyanna Bakken
Morgan Camery
Levi Denherder
Jenna Johnson
Madison Lea
Ethan Marzolf
Samuel Michaud
Tyler Miller
Anna Pauly

Alexander Riley
Joie Ruhter
Alexis Steckelberg

GRADE 12

Emily Anderson
Tyler Archer
Payton Fristedt
Larisa Judy
Drew Kittelson
Xavier Rennie
Alivia Schneider
Brennan Tapp
Drake Zilm

**B+ HONOR ROLL
GRADE 7**

Connor Cooke
Lacey Haberman
Shaun Hanson
Daisy Heimer
Alex Hemann
Avry Hoffman
Riley Johnson
Caleb Peterson
Conor Rennie
Gavin Slowinski
Maxwell Thoen

GRADE 8

Bradley Boyd
Layla Coleman
Jannelle Garrido
Addison Haugland
Leah Hockers
Ayden Jones
Jazlyn Kapsch
Lance Lembke
Ambriella Miller
Ella Salinas

GRADE 9

Catelyn Bartlett
Scott Johnson
Alex Lea
Kohan Miller
Sophia Schiller
Cole Wangen

GRADE 10

Breckin Cochlin
Sienna Fyksen
Shanna Halverson
Layla Lembke
Maxmar Ogren
Karson Strand

GRADE 11

Hosea Baker
Jesse Cardenas
Dakota Mueller
Katie Quandt
Anna Reese
Lucas Schammel
Madison Thurnau
Triton Cordes

GRADE 12

Yembi Espinoza
Tyler Iverson
Samuel Skillestad
Dawson Sorensen

**B HONOR ROLL
GRADE 7**

Gloria Hernandez
Cole Lindeman
Ella Schleicher
Macy White

GRADE 8

Chase Boehme
Cody Braaten

Aden Doocy
Danica Frohlich
Colby Johnson
Lila Quail
Kaydance Verhey-
Schumacher

GRADE 9

Zoey Alwes
Anna Kuglin
Addison Lyman
Grady Steckelberg

GRADE 10

Dylan Anderson
Holly Davis
Jaxon Harberts
Madison Sorensen
Sophie Thomas
Lilly Wacek

GRADE 11

Natalie Brandt
Micah Donnelly
Annika Green
Faith Lafontaine
Johnson
Trista Motl
Cyprus Schleicher
Paul Sunde
Jacob Weinberger

GRADE 12

Jaydon Brown
Natasha Gonzales



We are proud of our academic stars and your achievements in the classroom!

Congratulations
Blossoms!



583-2296
Blooming Prairie





507-583-2712
Hwy 218 South,
Blooming Prairie, MN
www.minersoutdoor.com

Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am-Noon

Outdoor Power Equipment, Golf
Cart: Sales Service, Parts & Accessories



FLOOR TECH
Your source for all your flooring needs



Congratulations
Blossom Scholars!

Tim Wacek • 583-2276
322 E. Main, Blooming Prairie
Derek Reichl • 552-1637
2201 E. Main St., Albert Lea

Congratulations Blossoms Honor Roll!!
Free Tax Preparation Assistance 507-455-1180 or www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org







Save hundreds in
fees by filing for free

GET
STARTED
NOW

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MARCH 1
10 a.m. — Online Storytime, BP Library

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

FEB. 25
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

FEB. 28
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. — Ellendale Ambulance Meeting, Community Building

FEB. 26
3 p.m. — Chili & Oyster Feed, First Lutheran Church of Ellendale

MARCH 2
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

FEB. 26
9 a.m. — Cabin Fever Reliever, Owatonna VFW

FEB. 28
4 p.m. — Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Hall
5:30 p.m. — Moonlighters Exchange Club, Owatonna VFW

7 p.m. — Medford City Council Meeting, City Hall

MARCH 1
10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. — Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Hall

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BLOOMING PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Feb. 24- Cheese bread, marinara sauce, crispy chicken salad, roasted broccoli, steamed peas, canned fruit bar.

Feb. 25- Lasagna rollup with sauce, chicken fajitas, roasted corn, baby carrots, fresh fruit bar.

Feb. 28- Beef hotdog on a bun, hamburger on a bun, baked beans, cucumber slices, canned fruit bar.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Feb. 24- Cheese bread, marinara sauce, Pizza Parlor pizza, crispy chicken salad, roasted broccoli, steamed peas, canned fruit bar.

Feb. 25- Lasagna rollup with sauce, chicken fajitas, BBQ rib sandwich, roasted corn, baby carrots, fresh fruit bar.

Feb. 28- Beef hotdog on a bun, hamburger on a bun, ham deli sandwich, baked beans, cucumber slices, canned fruit bar.

‘Thank You for Shopping’ author to speak at WCO

Minnesota’s golden years of shopping is the topic for the Thursday, March 3 meeting of the Woman’s Club of Owatonna at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

The speaker will be Kristal Leebrick, author of “Thank You for Shopping,” a book that presents the history and stories behind Minnesota’s great department stores. She will provide a lively trip back to what she describes as the golden days of shopping.

According to Leebrick, department stores ruled the retail landscapes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as the main streets of Minnesota towns.

“Stores like Dayton’s, Powers, Donaldson’s, Young-Quinlan, the Emporium and



Kristal Leebrick

the Golden Rule were centers of social life. From the legendary Dayton’s eighth floor spring flower displays and Christmas shows to celebrating a special occasion in Schuneman’s River Room, the department store was a destination for generations of Minnesotans,” she said.

Leebrick has worked for more than three decades as a writer and editor for community newspapers, trade magazines and book publishers in Minnesota. She is the author of *Dayton’s: A Twin Cities Institution* as well as several juvenile non-fiction books and several biographies.

She lives in St. Paul and said she would like nothing more than to drive to downtown Minneapolis this spring to walk through the Dayton’s/Bachman’s Flower Show on the eighth floor of 700 Nicollet Ave.

Greeting members and guests will be Cindy Trapp and Jean Zinter.

The tea committee is being chaired by Joanne Lockner who is being assisted by Sharon Bishop, Bonnie Krueger, Penny Nordhorn, Phyllis Urch and Jo Wolfram.

No-till & roller crimping workshop on March 2

Ready to roll up your sleeves for roller crimping and no-till on your cropping operation? Get your efforts kick-started at a free workshop on Wednesday, March 2, from 1 p.m. — 4 p.m., at Riverland Community College’s West Event Center in Austin (14th Street SW and 8th Avenue SW).

All farmers interested in diving deeper into no-till and roller crimping are encouraged to participate in this Land Stewardship Project (LSP)/Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) workshop. Register online by March 1 at <https://bit.ly/LSPNoTillRollerCrimp2022> or contact LSP’s Barb Sogn-Frank at 507-479-9119 (call or text) or by e-mailing bsognfrank@landstewardshipproject.org.

The primary purpose of this gathering is to provide a forum for round-table discussions to share peer-to-peer wisdom backed up by scientific research and input from southern Minnesota farmers with years of experience in no-till and roller crimping. Insights and resource sharing from soil health professionals will also be available. Participants will leave with new ideas to put into practice this growing season and resources for support. Consultants from Albert Lea Seed will be present to answer questions on seed varieties and variables.



STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local,
all the time.

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS!
ANYWHERE- ANYTIME

News • Sports • Obituaries
Features • More!

Hometown news that makes a difference!

WWW.STEELECOUNTYTIMES.COM

Paint the Town grant applications due soon

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), in partnership with regional hardware stores, will be accepting applications for free paint and coating products for community mural, community welcome sign or historic structure projects through its Paint the Town Grant program.

This grant opportunity is available to communities with a population under 10,000 throughout SMIF’s 20-county region. A goal of this program is to encourage local volunteer involvement in the painting process. A total of up to 15 projects will be awarded paint products based on visual impact, public benefit, volunteer participation and community support.

Since 1997, SMIF has helped distributed more than 10,500 gallons of paint to 293 projects in the region through various programs. The Paint the Town Grant program was officially launched in 2015 with regional Ace Hardware and Arrow Hardware and Paint stores.

The participating stores are Arrow Hardware & Paint (store locations: Northfield, Owatonna, Rochester Crossroads, Rochester North, St. Peter, Shakopee, St. Cloud), Faribault Ace Hardware, Pellicci Ace Hardware (store locations: Eagan, Farmington, Rosemount, Zumbrota) and St. Charles See PAINT on B13 ▶

Sudoku Corner

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

Sponsored by:



VALLEYVIEW ASSISTED LIVING

1212 W Frontage Rd Owatonna, MN

507-451-0722 • valleyviewofowatonna.com

Newly Remodeled

County Assistance Accepted

Pet Friendly



Make new friends.

Answers

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



STEELE COUNTY

Times

SUBSCRIBING MADE EASY!

Carved in snow

4 convenient ways to subscribe:

▶ On-line at SteeleCountyTimes.com (hit “subscribe” tab at the very top right side of the page)

▶ Call 507-583-4431

▶ Email bptimes@frontiernet.net

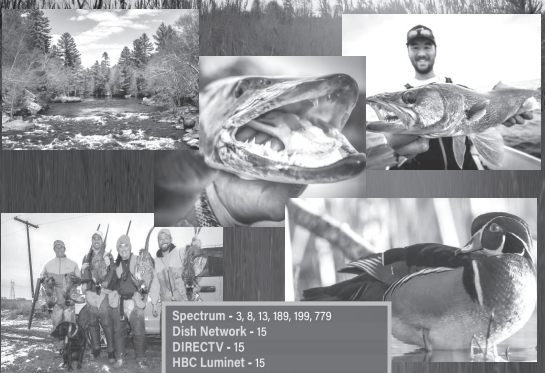
▶ In-person at our two offices: 109 W. Rose St., Owatonna and 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Prairie Sportsman

Thurs. Evenings, 7:30



Spectrum • 3, 8, 13, 169, 199, 779
Dish Network • 15
DIRECTV • 15
HBC Lumina • 15
MetroNet • 13, 105, 106, 107
Mediacom • 2, 7, 11, 13, 118, 119, 120, 802, 813
OmniTel • 5, 19, 20, 21, 297, 315

KSMC

TV

The Better Choice



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



INJURED AT WORK?
DISABILITY DENIED?

Contact Us Today
For Free Advice

Workers’ Compensation
Long-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

507-923-4169
www.GetFields.com



WE’RE HIRING!

Public Works Director - County Engineer

Provides strategic planning, fiscal, and personnel management for the operations of the Swift County Public Works Department. Oversees the day-to-day operations of Swift County Highway Department. Reviews and certifies the annual highway report of activities and expenditures. Supervises employees; handles all department personnel issues. Oversees the maintenance and construction of the County’s highway system.

PAY RANGE: \$97,968 - \$127,795/ANNUALLY

Hours: 40 hours/week

Closing Date: Open until filled with preference given to applications received by February 25, 2022. For information on how to apply, visit www.swiftcounty.com/jobs or call 320-314-8321.

J&H LIQUOR’S

340 E MAIN • BLOOMING PRAIRIE

507-583-7557

• EUCHRE: FEB. 12 & MARCH 12

• MARCH 12: “GET LUCKY IN BP”
Bar & Off-sale Specials

• MARCH 19: “CHILI COOK-OFF”
Local Organizations Compete

• MARCH 26: “HARVEY’S RETIREMENT PARTY”
Drink Specials & Munchies

• APRIL 9: “CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY”
36 YEARS OF BUSINESS
Drink Specials & Munchies

Event Details & Times Available at the Bar

I LOVE THIS BAR!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO OWN THIS HOMETOWN BAR / OFF-SALE.

CONTACT: REMAX VENTURE
STEPHANIE DIETZ CELL: 507-213-0622 OFFICE: 507-413-8100

OHS gymnasts place 6th at state

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna gymnastics team took sixth place at the Class AA State Meet last weekend, finishing with 142.325 team points.

The Huskies came in sixth behind St. Michael-Albertville, Stillwater Area, St. Cloud, New Prague and champions, Wayzata.

“They came out and competed very well — definitely competed to the best of their ability. We went out strong on beam with three sticks. On the floor, they went out and had a real nice floor rotation. We’ve been struggling on vault recently, and then on bars, they put themselves in a position to be on the podium possibly,” said Owatonna head coach Evan Moe.

Owatonna’s 142.325 team points were comprised of 36.850 points on the vault, 33.800 points on the uneven bars, 34.775 points on the beam and 36.900 points on the floor.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

- 11th — Jozie Johnson on the vault
- 14th — Kaityln Cobban on the beam
- 16th — Averie Roush on the floor
- 23rd — Emma Johnson overall
- 47th — Emma Johnson on uneven bars

The Huskies started the meet on the beam and got off to a hot start as freshman Averie Roush scored a 9.150-point routine in the Huskies’ first

routine of the meet. Roush’s nine-point routine was the Huskies’ only nine-point score. The team finished with scores

See OHS on B6 ►



Owatonna freshman Averie Roush talks with head coach Evan Moe before her beam routine to kick off the Class AA State Meet for Owatonna. Roush scored a team-high 9.150 points on her beam routine for Owatonna.



Huskies gymnast Kaitlyn Cobban leaps high off the beam during her routine at the Class AA State Team Meet on Friday. Cobban’s routine scored 8.950 points for the team.



Owatonna freshman Averie Roush twists mid-flip on her dismount from the uneven bars at the Class AA State Team Meet. Roush and the Huskies took sixth place at the team meet with 142.325 points.



Owatonna’s Kaitlyn Cobban executes a pass on the beam during the Class AA State Team Meet. Cobban and the Huskies scored 34.775 team points on the beam at the meet.



Owatonna sophomore Emma Johnson rotates to finish a flip before reaching the mat at the Class AA State Meet on Friday. Johnson and the Huskies finished with 36.850 team points on the vault.



Dr. Deborah I. Lien
DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie
www.drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

FREE CONSULTATIONS



Senior Janessa Moore, above, smiles as she is swarmed by her teammates after completing her final event on the uneven bars for Owatonna in the Class AA State Meet on Friday. Moore, the lone senior on the team, finished her career for Owatonna with an 8.400-point score on her bars routine. Earlier head coach Evan Moe, below, helps Moore apply her grips.

OHS gymnasts place 6th at state

◀ OHS from B5 of 8.950, 8.825, 7.850 and 7.625 to total 34.775 points.

Owatonna then rotated to the floor where the Huskies had their best performance of the day with four nine-point-plus performances.

Eighth-grader Kendra Miller led the Huskies with a 9.300-point floor routine while other scores included 9.225, 9.220, 9.175 and 8.825 to make up the team's 36.900 points.

The next rotation for

Owatonna was to the vault where Owatonna had its second-best team score of the meet.

On the vault, it was freshman Jozie Johnson who led the team with a 9.4125-point average.

Owatonna's last event was the uneven bars where the Huskies posted their lowest score of the day at 33.800 points.

Roush and sophomore Emma Johnson led the Huskies with matching scores of 8.525 points.

In the state individual meet, Emma Johnson earned the team's highest overall placement, taking 23rd place with 34.350 overall points.

In individual events, Roush finished in 16th place on the floor with 9.300 points, Kaityln Cobban finished in 14th on the beam with 9.100 points, Emma Johnson finished 47th on the uneven bars with 8.075 points and Jozie Johnson finished in 11th on the vault with 9.475 points.



Roush and sophomore Emma Johnson led the Huskies with matching scores of 8.525 points.

In the state individual meet, Emma Johnson earned the team's highest overall placement, taking 23rd place with 34.350 overall points.

In individual events, Roush finished in 16th place on the floor with 9.300 points, Kaityln Cobban finished in 14th on the beam with 9.100 points, Emma Johnson finished 47th on the uneven bars with 8.075 points and Jozie Johnson finished in 11th on the vault with 9.475 points.

Congrats, Huskies Gymnastics on an Amazing Year!

GREAT JOB EARNING 6TH PLACE!

The sixth place gymnastics team in Minnesota hails from Owatonna High School. Team members include: back row, from left: Kaityln Cobban, Kaelyn Smith, Jozie Johnson, Emma Johnson and Janessa Moore; front row: Kendra Miller, Chloe Myer, Averie Roush and Dylann Norrid.

THANKS FOR MAKING OWATONNA SHINE!

Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

Blooming Prairie 405 E Main St 507-583-2141	Owatonna 1170 E Frontage Rd 507-455-1000	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave N 507-463-0502	Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr NE 507-536-7700	Mankato 287 St Andrews Dr 507-720-0250
--	---	---	--	---

mainstreetdentalclinics.com

LOOK FOR US ON:

FAREWAY®

MEAT & GROCERY

831 S OAK AVE., OWATONNA MN
Store: 451-1550 // Market: 451-0071

Monday-Saturday: 8AM - 9PM
(Closed Sundays & Holidays)

Congratulations gymnasts!

COLE'S ELECTRIC, INC.

Residential • Farm Industrial • Commercial

Whether you own a home or a business, expert wiring is crucial to your safety and comfort. When you need the best in wiring, call on the qualified, licensed electricians at Cole's Electric, Inc.

507-451-1387

7596 NW 40th St. Owatonna
www.ColesElectric.com

JOHN PETERSBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Prepared and paid for by Petersburg Campaign Committee
700 19th Ave. NE • Waseca MN 56093

OWATONNA FLOOR COVERING

Carpet • Laminate • Vinyl Hardwood • Ceramic

146 West Broadway, Owatonna • 507-451-1169
Mon-Fri 10:00 am - 5:30 pm • Sat 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

LCWM upsets Westfield 37-36

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 4 Westfield Razorbacks season as a team came to an end last week after the No. 5 Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (LCWM) Knights upset the Razorbacks 37-36 in Blooming Prairie.

The dual came down to the wire as both sides battled for bonus points to put the meet away, with a late pin eventually icing the dual for the Knights.

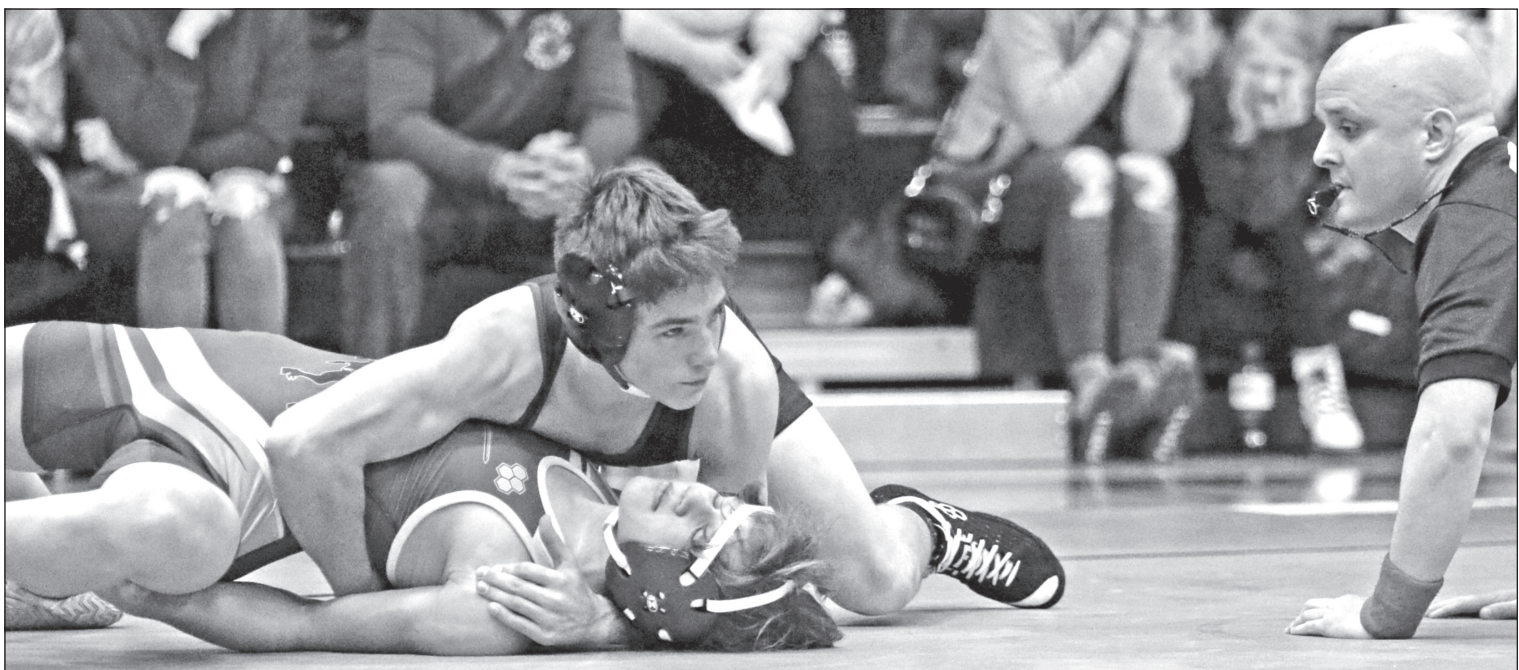
“This was a tough loss for our team tonight. I thought our effort and ability to save bonus points was the biggest difference in the dual. It takes a total team effort this time of year, and we weren’t able to make it happen,” said Westfield co-head coach David Lassahn.

“We had high expectations as a team coming into sections, and are disappointed we couldn’t perform better.”

The Razorbacks got off to a slow start against the Knights by dropping the first two matches at 106 and 113 pounds by a major decision and a decision.

Sophomore Kevin Hodge was bested in the first match by a 13-0 major decision to put LCWM up 4-0 before freshman Hunter Simonson lost a 10-6 decision to give LCWM a 7-0 lead.

Freshman Bo Zwie-



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Westfield freshman Bo Zwiener looks at the referee as he tries to pin his opponent in the 120-pound match against LCWM. Zwiener earned the win by fall in the first period to score six points for Westfield.

ner put Westfield on the board for six points by beating his 120-pound opponent by fall in the first period, bringing the score to 7-6 in favor of LCWM.

However, eighth-grader Cannon Wacek lost by fall in the third period at 126 pounds, giving LCWM a seven-point lead at 13-6.

The Knights benefited from six more points as freshman Evan Fyksen lost by fall in the third period at 132 pounds to make the score 19-6 for LCWM.

However, junior Cade Christianson stopped the Knights’ momentum by pinning his opponent in the first period to earn six points

for Westfield at 138 pounds and make the score 19-12.

Senior Keegan Bronson followed Christianson’s win with a dominant showing of his own by pinning his opponent at 145 pounds in 23 seconds to make it a one-point dual at 19-18.

Yet, the one-point deficit quickly became ten points as the

Razorbacks dropped the next two matches at 152 and 160 pounds as sophomore Joe Christians and senior Sam Skillestad were beaten by fall and decision respectively.

At 170 and 182 pounds, senior Tyler Archer and sophomore Ty Bronson earned 12 points for Westfield with back-to-back

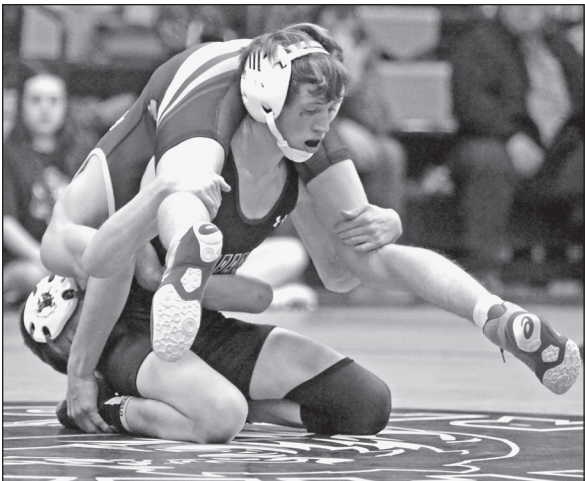
first-period falls to give Westfield its first lead of the dual at 30-28.

Unfortunately for Westfield, the lead was short-lived as LCWM earned a 15-9 win by decision at 195 pounds and a win by fall at 220 to make the score 37-30 with only one match remaining.

Despite being unable to earn Westfield the

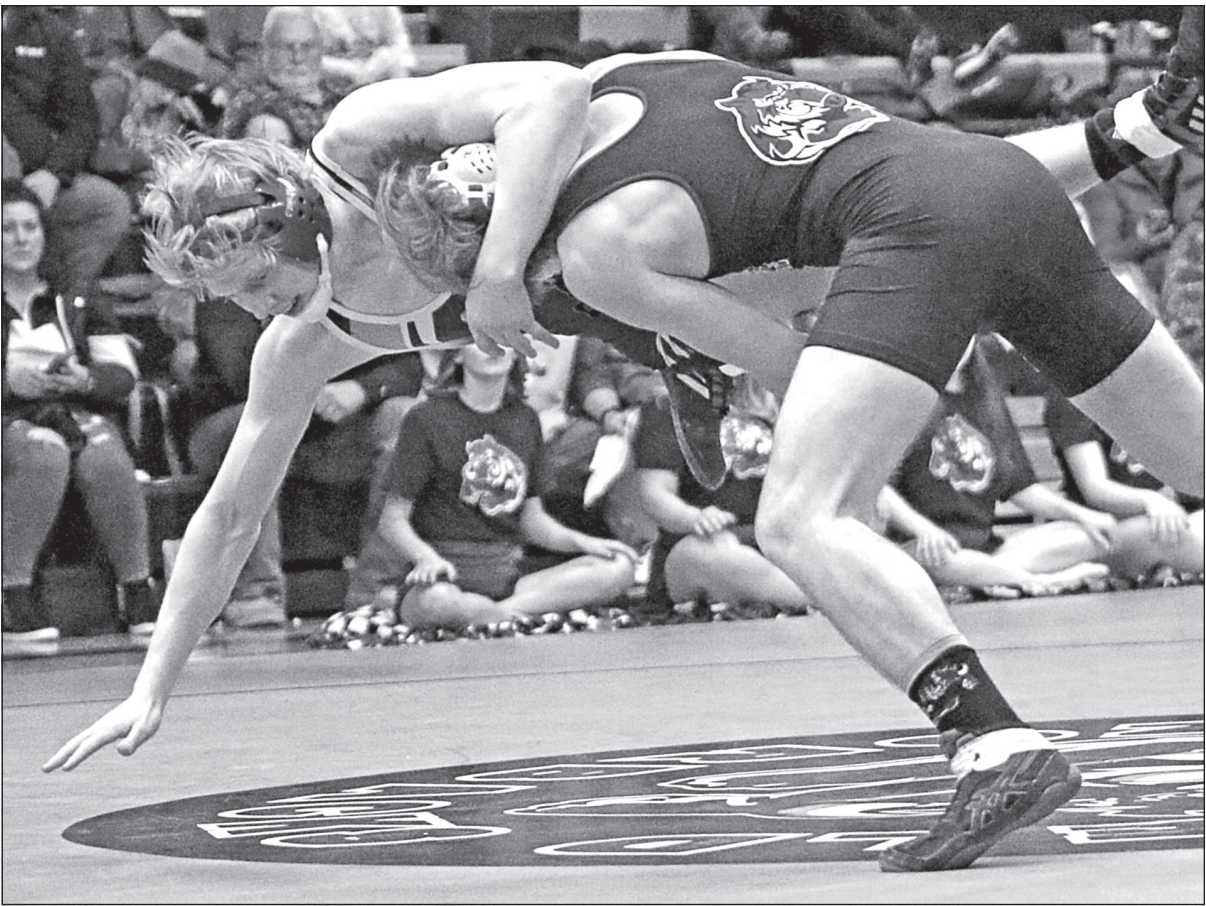
win, sophomore heavy-weight Brody Johnson earned a win by fall in the first period to make the final score 37-36.

The loss marks the end of the team season for Westfield. The team now shifts its focus to the section individual tournament beginning on Friday, Feb. 25 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Westfield sophomore 106-pounder Kevin Hodge finds himself in a scramble after a double-leg shot attempt leads to his opponent getting to his back. Hodge went on to lose his match at 106 pounds by a 13-0 major decision.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Westfield sophomore Joe Christians takes his opponent down after successfully landing his double-leg shot attempt. Christians lost his match at 152 pounds by fall in the third period.

Masching named to MCC Hall of Fame

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

Westfield co-head coach Shane Masching received the news last week that he will be inducted into the Mayo Civic Center Region One Hall of Fame on March 7, adding another accomplishment to his already impressive wrestling resume.

Masching’s selection for the hall of fame comes 18 years after he finished his career at Hayfield High School, where he won three

consecutive state titles at 125 pounds.

“I got the phone call and heard the ‘congratulations’ and I was just trying to figure out what it was all about, and then the light kind of came on and... I mean, what an honor,” said Masching.

Masching’s career took off back in 2002 when he won his first state title at 125 pounds, finishing his sophomore season 38-1.

Masching replicated the feat by once again finishing 38-1 and tak-

ing home the championship at 125 pounds as a junior.

Finally, in his senior year at Hayfield, Masching ended his reign in the 125-pound division by finishing the season a perfect 40-0 and winning the state title for the third and last time.

Masching finished his career at Hayfield in second place on the all-time wins list with a combined record of 182-23; just eight wins shy of Brad Pike’s record of 190-17-1.

According to Masching, the real defining moments of his career came long before he took home even his first state title.

“Obviously there were a handful of people that helped me along the way, from my brother always being there and my dad starting me young and taking me out all Saturdays to get ready to wrestle for varsity. My coaching and just working hard, you know, the little things made the difference. They’re the things that

I am trying to install in my wrestlers here with Westfield and the things that I am trying to teach my son, Maverick.”

After having accomplished so much as a wrestler and having spent 10 years at the helm of the Westfield wrestling program, Masching has his sights set on a new goal: coaching his son, Maverick, in the sport he loves.

“That’s the plan. That’s the ultimate goal — to be able to sit in his

corner and coach him. But I want Maverick to be Maverick. I want him to do whatever he wants to do. I did my thing and he’ll do his. If wrestling is that thing for him, then I’ll steer him 100% to it. He’s only in first grade right now, so he could change his ways, but I’m going to do everything in my power to keep him on the mat... and he loves it.”

Masching will receive be inducted into the MCC Hall of Fame on March 7 at Charlie’s Eatery in Rochester.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Westfield co-head coaches, Shane Masching, left, and David Lassahn, right, show some emotion after a win at the Razorbacks’ Section 2A quarterfinal dual against LCWM. Masching knows a thing or two about winning in his career as an athlete, having gone 182-23 as a wrestler for the Hayfield Vikings in high school.

Medford bested in 2A championship

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Medford Tigers wrestling team was eliminated from the Section 2A tournament in the championship round by Maple River/USC 42-22.

Medford faced an uphill battle having to forfeit at three different weights while competing for the section title against No. 1 seed Maple River/USC.

“I kind of rolled the dice a bit and went for the win. They’re a balanced team that doesn’t have any holes in it, and we were at the point in the dual where we kind of had to make a move to get a lead before we got to their upper

weights,” said Medford head coach Dennis Whitman.

The Tigers fell behind 6-0 early after losing the opening match at 106 pounds by fall but managed to climb back to a tie at 12-12 after Maple River/USC won two decisions at 120 and 132 and Medford won three major decisions at 113, 126 and 138.

Earning major decision wins were freshman Kaden Harfmann, freshman Tommy Elwood and junior Charley Elwood.

After Elwood’s major decision at 138 pounds, Medford forfeited the match at 145 to give Maple River/USC an 18-12 lead before Medford tied the meet

at 18-18 on two decision wins by 152-pounder Garron Hoffman and 160-pounder Tate Hermes.

The tie at 18-18 was the last time the Tigers did not trail in the meet as the Tigers forfeited at 170 pounds and lost by fall at 182 pounds to give Maple River/USC a twelve-point cushion heading into the 195-pound match.

At 195 pounds, junior Dylan Heiderscheidt won by major decision 11-3 to make the score 30-22, but the points were quickly voided as Medford forfeited at 220 pounds and gave Maple River/USC another six points.

Trailing 36-22 with only the heavyweight

match left, Medford freshman Mason Degrood lost by fall to end the meet at 42-22.

Before the championship dual, Medford beat Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (LCWM) 39-34. A win in the final match at heavyweight sealed the score.

Medford went on to win eight of 14 matches but had to rely on bonus-point performances to beat LCWM as the Tigers were forced to forfeit two matches, giving LCWM 12 points.

After accumulating a 21-4 lead after six matches, the Tigers lead took a hit as

LCWM took two wins by fall at 152 and 160 pounds to make the dual 22-21.

Two wins by fall at 170 and 182 pounds gave Medford a 33-22 lead, but LCWM quickly jumped ahead again after a first-period win by fall at 195 pounds and a forfeit given to LCWM by Medford at 220 pounds.

With LCWM leading 34-33 in the final match, Degrood won by fall in the first period to keep Medford alive in the section tournament, beating LCWM 39-34.

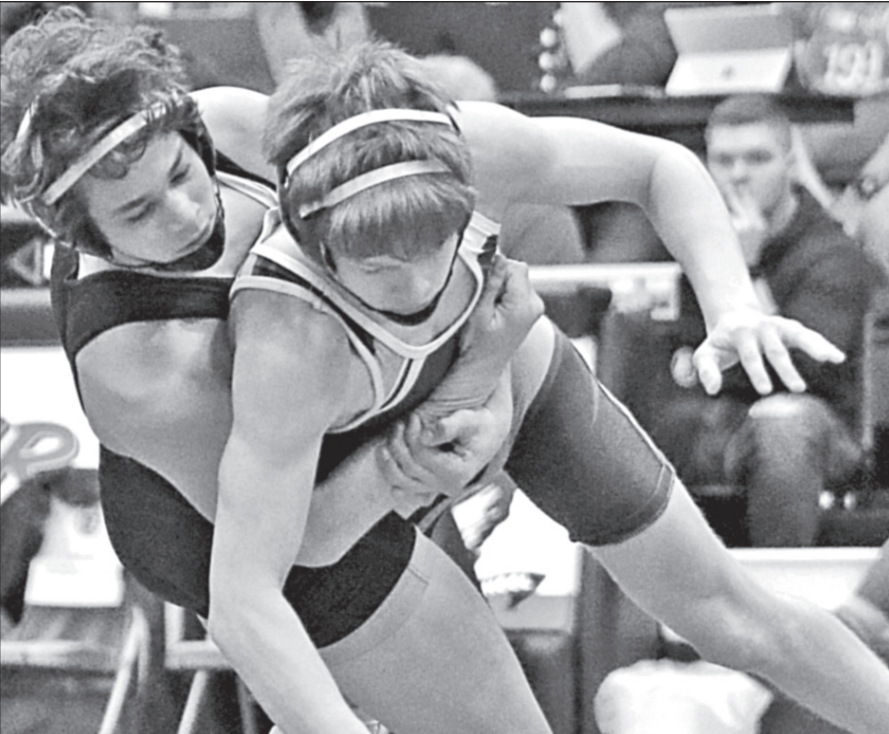
Earlier in the week, Medford also beat

WEM/JWP 47-33 to advance past the quarterfinal round in the section tournament.

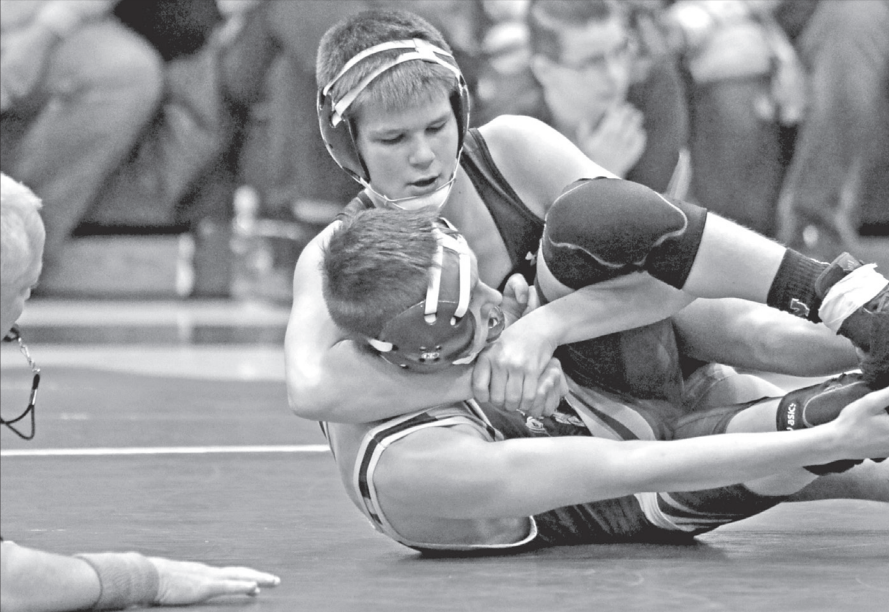
Medford won eight of the 14 matches en route to the 14-point win.

Winning for Medford were Luis Lopez, Jack Meyer, Tommy Elwood, Evan Schweisthal, Charley Elwood, Hoffman, Hermes and Heiderscheidt.

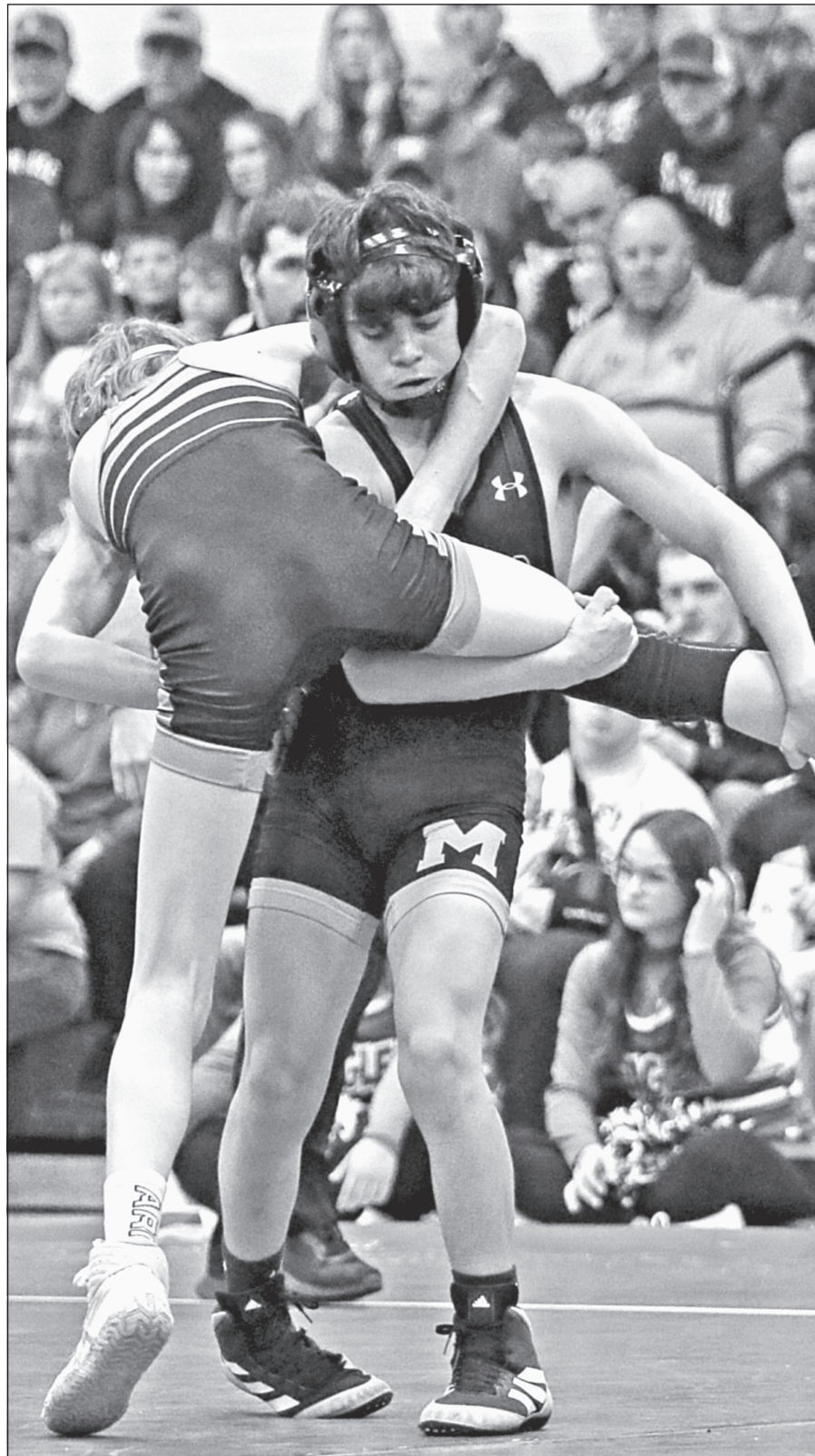
After the loss to Maple River/USC, Medford’s team season is officially over, but the Tigers will still compete at the Section 2A individual tournament beginning on Friday, Feb. 25.



Medford 132-pounder Evan Schweisthal executes a powerful mat return against his LCWM opponent. Schweisthal won his match against LCWM in the section semifinals by an 8-2 decision.



Medford 126-pounder Tommy Elwood works to pin his opponent in the Tigers' semifinal dual against LCWM. Elwood secured the pin in the second period to score six points for Medford.



Medford 113-pounder Kaden Harfmann lifts his opponent's leg to set up a takedown. Harfmann won his match against Maple River/USC by a 14-4 major decision.

Fans should be excited about new coach



Steele Sports
JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

The Minnesota Vikings organization, spearheaded by general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, introduced new head coach Kevin O’Connell to Minnesota fans during a press conference last week.

One thing that caught my eye as Adofo-Mensah publicly introduced O’Connell to Vikings fans was how O’Connell could not help but smile the entire time.

After eight years of mediocracy and frustration during the Mike Zimmer era, it was refreshing to see a new face come to town with genuine excitement to deliver for a fan base deserving of a title-contending team.

“This is a franchise

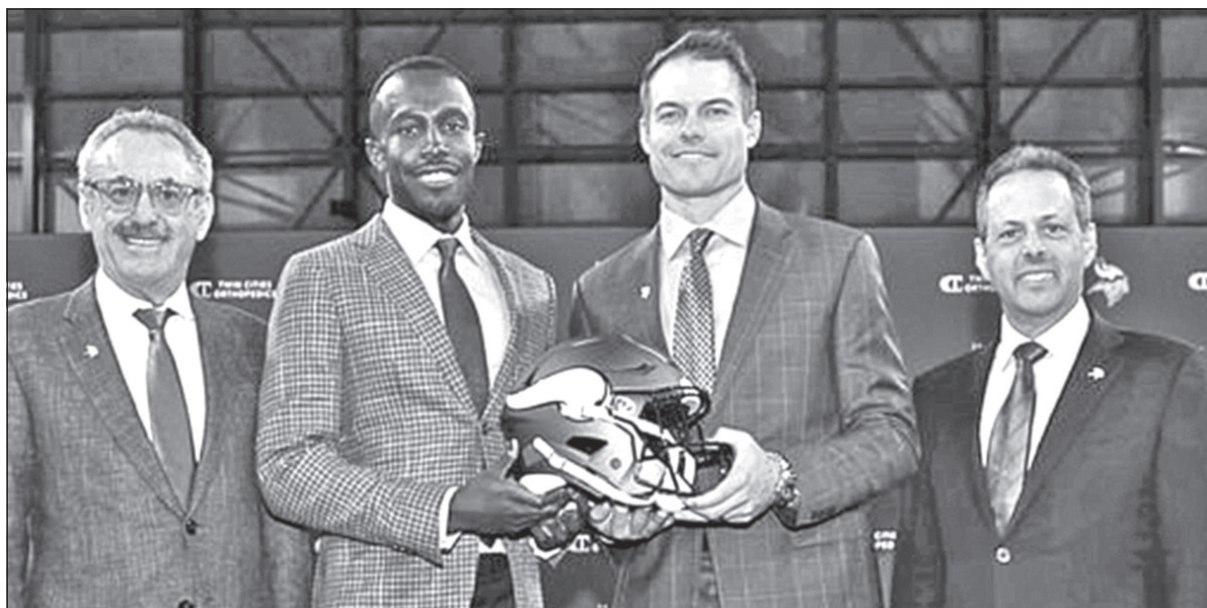
with a deep history and a tremendous fan base. Having been on the visitors’ sideline at U.S. Bank Stadium and experiencing that environment as an opposing coach, I am excited to now have the support of these passionate Vikings fans. I am committed to working tirelessly to bring them a Super Bowl championship,” said O’Connell.

I know that Vikings fans are likely tired of hearing statements like O’Connell’s after Mike Zimmer’s reign in Minnesota and the team’s lack of Super Bowl wins.

However, something about O’Connell’s words seems as if they mean more to me than promises of the past regimes.

At 36 years old, O’Connell is officially the youngest Vikings head coach in franchise history, bringing with him a youthful spirit to an organization that is trying its best to rebrand itself.

It is no secret that the Vikings’ top brass are looking to revitalize the organization by



Vikings owner Zygi Wilf, left, General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, middle left, head coach Kevin O’Connell, middle right, and President Mark Wilf, right, all pose for a photo during O’Connell’s official introduction as head coach.

bringing on younger, more innovative minds to steer the team in a new direction.

“He understands what is critical to leading a team that wins at the highest level and he has an ability to simplify the complex, which will help us in problem-solving in all football areas. He is a genuinely positive person who will help create a high-energy

internal environment,” said Adofo-Mensah.

As a fan, I’m not sure you can be more excited about the direction that O’Connell and his teams have been on since his start in the National Football League.

After earning his first NFL coaching gig as the quarterbacks coach for the Cleveland Browns, O’Connell made the leap to offen-

sive coordinator for the former Washington Redskins in 2019 before following Rams head coach Sean McVay to Los Angeles where the two won Super Bowl LVI against the Cincinnati Bengals earlier this month.

In just five years in the NFL, O’Connell has made a meteoric rise in his career to become a head coach as well as accomplish the highest

feat in the NFL by winning the Super Bowl.

The Vikings have made a statement that it is time to employ young, hungry, proven winners to bring a championship home to Minnesota and I am all for it.

Vikings fans: I know that you have been hurt before by getting your hopes up in the off-season, but trust me, this time feels different.

OHS falls to Northfield in semifinals

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna Huskies were booted from the Section 1AAA tournament after falling to Northfield 50-21.

Owatonna battled adversity in the quarterfinals and semifinals as the team lost two key wrestlers in junior 132-pounder Cael Robb and senior 138-pounder Kanin Hable.

“We fell short of our goal, knowing that Northfield was already a tall task, and then add the fact that we were down both Cael Robb and Kanin Hable due to illness. That aside, we wrestled a lot tougher as a team than the previous dual with Northfield. Performances like Lane Karsten notching a win against Harner at 113 and then Jake Gronli holding Murphy to just a regular decision were silver linings,” said Owatonna head coach Derek Johnson.

Despite the adversity, Owatonna battled to win four matches of the 14 matches wrestled.

After falling behind 3-0 after the opening 106-pound match went to Northfield by decision, freshman 113-pounder Lane Karsten put Owatonna on the board to tie the

dual at 3-3 with a 3-0 decision win.

The next six matches went Northfield’s way for a collective 30 points across four wins by fall and two by decision to make the score 33-3 before senior 160-pounder Jacob Reinardy beat his opponent by fall in just 14 seconds to make the meet 33-9.

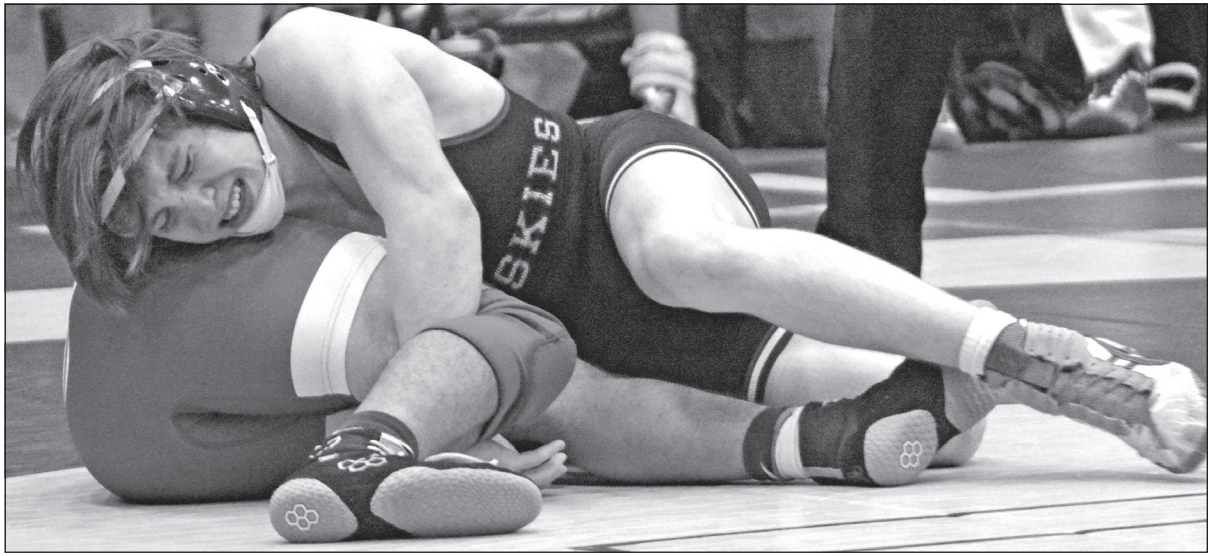
Senior 170-pounder Landen Johnson got the job done for Owatonna as well by also pinning his opponent in the first period to cut the Raiders’ lead to 33-15.

However, Northfield promptly grabbed three consecutive wins by fall to increase its lead to 50-15 with just one match remaining.

Northfield received 17 of the 18 points rewarded from the three wins by fall due to one point being taken away for taunting in the 182-pound match between Owatonna’s Andrew Kirk and Northfield’s Darrin Kuyper.

In the final match, senior heavyweight Mason Krampitz took home a win by fall in the first period to make the final score 51-21.

Before the dual against Northfield, Owatonna beat Austin 57-16 to propel itself into the semifinals.



Owatonna freshman 138-pound wrestler Jack Sorenson attempts to put his opponent onto his back. Sorenson ended up winning in the quarterfinals match against Austin by a 4-3 decision.

This time it was Owatonna’s turn to dominate the dual as the Huskies won nine of 14 matches with three wins coming by forfeit at 106, 220 and heavy-weight.

Austin quickly tied the dual at 6-6 after winning by fall at 113 pounds, but the tie was short-lived as Owatonna took the lead after Trey Hiatt’s pin at 120 pounds made the score 12-6.

Owatonna went on to hold the lead for the rest of the dual as the Huskies finished with seven wins in the last ten matches.

Winning for Owa-

tonna were 131-pounder Ethan Schubert, 138-pounder Michael Bobo, 145-pounder Jack Sorenson, 160-pounder Johnson, 170-pounder Reinardy, 220-pounder Lucas Smith and heavy-

weight Krampitz.

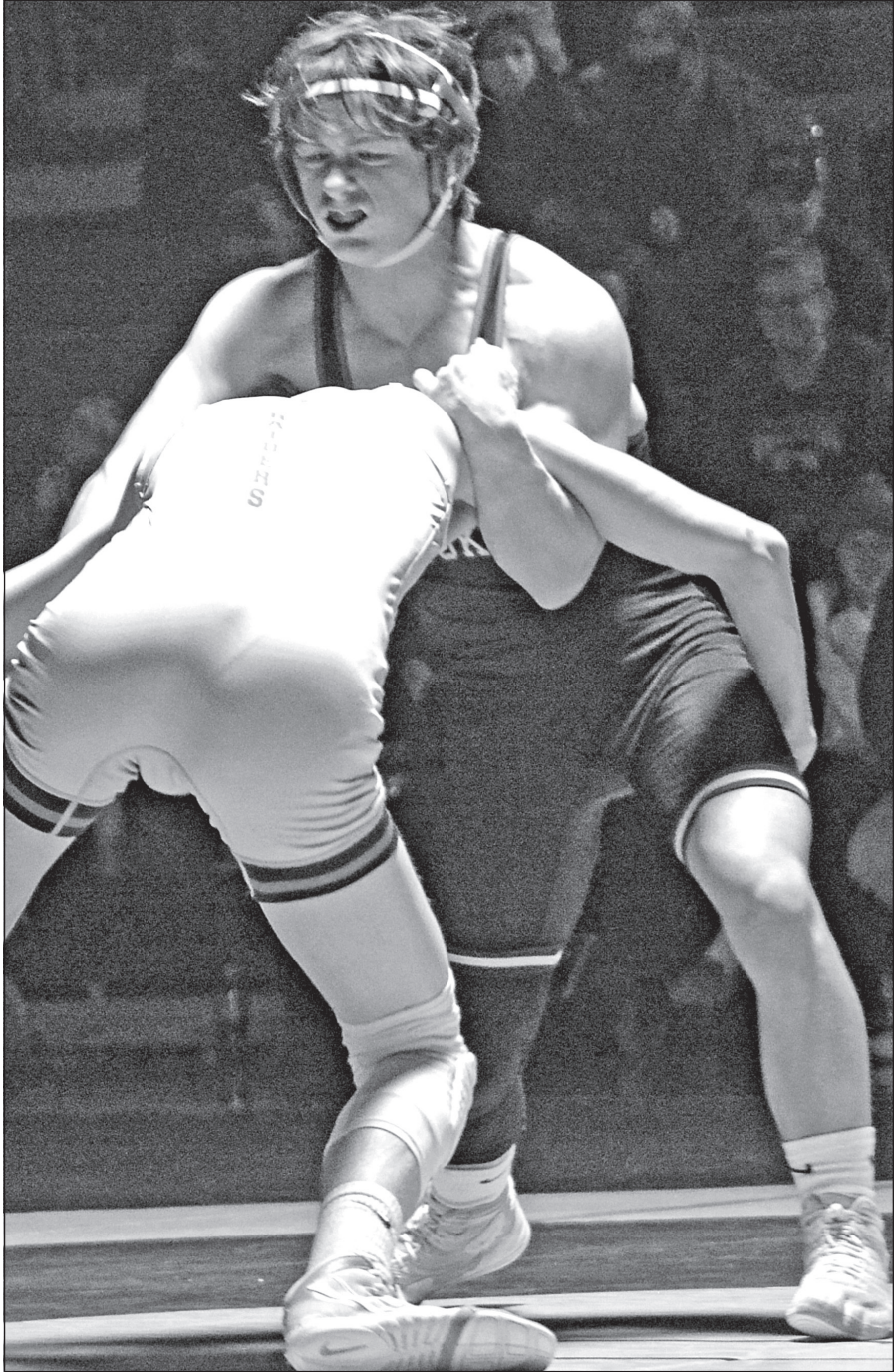
Of the final seven wins, Schubert, Bobo, Johnson and Reinardy all collected wins by fall.

After losing in the semifinals, Owatonna’s

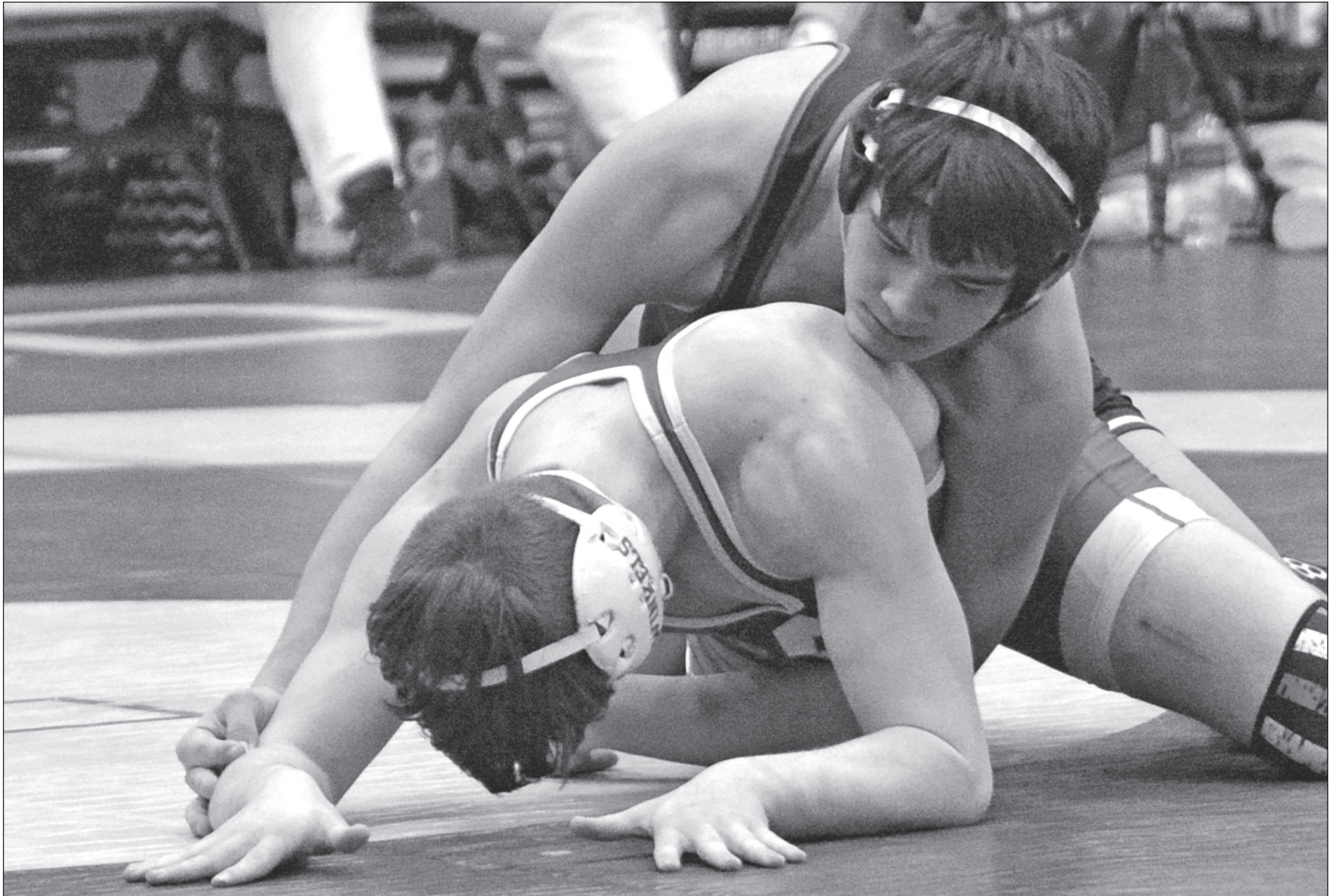
team season is officially over, but Huskies fans can still watch members of the team compete at the Section 1AAA individual tournament beginning on Friday, Feb. 25.



Owatonna senior 160-pound wrestler Landon Johnson throws his opponent onto the mat. Johnson’s win by fall helped lead the Huskies to a 57-16 win over Austin in the quarterfinals.



Owatonna senior 126-pound wrestler Jake Gronli fights for position against Northfield’s Beau Murphy. Gronli came up short against Murphy in the semifinal match against Northfield by a 4-1 decision.



Owatonna freshmen 182-pound wrestler Blake Fitcher tries to remain in control of his opponent. Fitcher ended up losing in a 5-1 decision although the Huskies went on to defeat Austin 57-16 in the quarterfinals.

WRESTLING

Blue Earth stops NRHEG

The NRHEG Panthers team season came to a close against Blue Earth Area (BEA) last Wednesday when the Buccaneers took down the Panthers 41-28.

NRHEG found itself in a hole early against BEA by forfeiting the first match at 106 pounds and then losing the next two matches by fall to put the Buccaneers up 18-0.

The Panthers managed to close the gap to 18-16 with four consecutive wins by Deven Parpart, Nikolas Petsinger, Aidan Schlaak and Ryan Schlaak, however, it was the closest the Tigers would come to a lead.

NRHEG dropped the next four matches at 152, 160, 170 and 182 pounds giving up 19 points and making the score 37-16. Rounding out the dual, 195-pounder Ralph Roessler and heavyweight Makota Misgen won by fall, while the Tigers lost by fall at 220 pounds to finish the dual at 41-28.

NRHEG will compete next at the section 2A individual tournament beginning on Saturday, Feb. 26.

BASKETBALL

Huskies roll past Falcons 71-42

The Owatonna Huskies boys basketball team continued its dominant season by storming past the Faribault Falcons 71-42 on the road last Friday.

Owatonna trailed at halftime against the Falcons as the team was outscored 21-16 in the first half.

However, the Huskies were undeterred and came out in the second half to outscore Faribault 55-21 to win by a comfortable 29-point cushion.

Leading Owatonna in scoring was senior guard Brayden Williams, who almost recorded a quadruple-double with 25 points, nine rebounds, nine assists and eight steals.

Earlier in the week, Owatonna escaped Rochester with a 70-65 win against Rochester Mayo. Owatonna took a one-point lead into halftime up 29-28 before putting Mayo away in the second half by outscoring the Spartans 41-37. This time senior Evan Dushek led the Huskies with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Up next for Owatonna is a home game against Mankato West on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

BP falls to BA 52-39

The Blooming Prairie girls basketball team fell 52-39 to the Bethlehem Academy (BA) Cardinals on the road last Friday.

Blooming Prairie started the game slow falling behind by 12 points after BA opened the game with a 13-1 run.

However, the Blossoms managed to close the gap by halftime as the team went to the locker room trailing 28-27.

After the half, Blooming Prairie's offense continued to struggle to find its rhythm as the Blossoms were outscored 24-12, giving BA the 13-point win.

Blooming Prairie senior guard Bobbie Brunns was the team leader in points with 21.

The Blossoms' next game came at the Section 1A tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

The opponent and results were unavailable at the time of press.

NRHEG downs WEM 77-40

The NRHEG Panthers boys basketball team completed a 77-40 routing of WEM at home last Friday.

NRHEG came out hot, starting the game on a 13-0 run in the opening minutes.

The Panthers went to halftime with a 44-25 lead after shooting just under 80% from the field in the first half.

After the half, the Panthers managed to close out the game by outscoring the Buccaneers 33-15 to earn the win.

Seniors Porter Peterson and Tyrone Wilson led the team with 20 and 19 points respectively.

Earlier in the week, NRHEG beat Blue Earth Area 64-57 on the road.

NRHEG fell behind 35-27 at halftime, but managed to rally back to win 64-57 behind 20 points from Wilson and 16 points from Peterson.

Next up for NRHEG is a home game against USC on Friday, Feb. 25 at 7:15 p.m.

Bombers drop Tigers 78-49

The Cannon Falls Bombers wreaked havoc on the Medford Tigers boys basketball team to the tune of 73 points to beat Medford 78-49 last week.

Cannon Falls went up early in the first half and held its lead into halftime by outscoring Medford 43-25.

In the second half, the Bombers kept their scoring tirade active by outscoring Medford again 35-24.

Cannon Falls finished shooting 57.7% from the field and 65.4% from three while Medford shot 48% from the field and 43% from three.

Leading the Tigers in scoring was junior Austin Erickson with 19 points.

Earlier in the week, Medford lost 71-47 to USC on the road.

USC outscored Medford 30-23 in the first half before putting the Tigers away by outscoring them 41-24 in the second half.

Senior Henry Grayson led Medford with 19 points in the game.

Up next for Medford is a home game against Blue Earth Area on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7:15 p.m.

BA escapes BP with OT win

The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team lost a close 54-53 game to Bethlehem Academy (BA) in overtime at home last Friday.

The Awesome Blossoms came out hot in the game and amassed a 28-16 lead going into halftime.

However, the Cardinals caught their stride in the second half and managed to tie the game at 48-48 at the buzzer to end regulation time. In the five-minute overtime period, it was BA who came out on top outscoring Blooming Prairie 6-5.

Leading the Blossoms in scoring was senior Drew Kittelson with 33 points.

Earlier in the week, Blooming Prairie lost another home game to Kingsland 56-50.

The Blossoms kept it tight trailing 31-25 at halftime before Kingsland managed to hold its lead at the end of the second half by matching Blooming Prairie's second-half point total at 25-25.

Leading the Blossoms in scoring was senior Colin Jordison with 17 points. Up next for Blooming Prairie is an away game against Triton on Friday, Feb. 25 at 7:15 p.m.

— COMPILED BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS



Seniors Casey Pederson, Devon Roush, Sam Knoll, Tanner Stendhal, Caleb Vereide and Samuel Pfeffer, from left, all stand at center ice as they are introduced one-by-one on Owatonna's Senior Night game against Winona. The seniors went out with a bang at home by beating the Winhawks 9-0.

Huskies clip Winhawks 9-0

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys hockey team defeated the Winona Winhawks 9-0 on senior night at the Four Seasons Centre last week.

The Huskies opened the scoring in the first period against Winona 9:35 into the period on a power-play goal by Owen Beyer assisted by Caleb Vereide and Elijah Mazariego.

Just 1:06 later, Tanner Stendhal made the game 2-0 with another power-play goal assisted by Sam Knoll and Vereide.

After netting two goals in the first period, Owatonna went to the locker room with a 2-0 lead.

The second period is where things got ugly for the Winhawks.

Owatonna scored just 1:26 into the second period on an even-strength goal by Beyer, assisted by Devon Roush and Joey Dub to make the game 3-0.

Then, at the 9:17 mark it was Casey Pederson who put the puck in the net to make the game 4-0 on a play assisted by Stendhal and Beyer on the power play.

Pederson's goal started a goal frenzy for the Huskies as Beyer completed his hat trick just 46 seconds afterward and Joseph Webster notched his first goal 26 seconds after Beyer's.

Now leading 6-0, Pederson scored another goal for good measure on the power play on a play assisted by Beyer and Stendhal.

Pederson's goal was the last of a five-goal second period for Owatonna that saw Beyer complete a hat trick and record his fifth point of the night across three goals and two assists.

Unfortunately for Winona, the onslaught did not stop in the third period either.

Just 40 seconds into



The Owatonna Huskies swarm senior goaltender Samuel Pfeffer in net after the team's 9-0 shutout win against Winona last week. Pfeffer saved all 19 shot attempts by Winona to earn his first shutout of the season.

the third period, Caleb Vereide scored to give him a goal to go with his three assists on a play assisted by Pederson and Mazariego.

Then, after Vereide's goal, Huskies' fans got to watch Beyer score his fourth goal of the game to round out the scoring at 9-0 on a play assisted by Thomas Herzog and Stendhal.

Beyer's final goal completed a career-high seven-point night for the sophomore.

Goaltender Samuel Pfeffer stayed perfect in net in the game by stopping all 19 of Winona's shots to earn his first shutout of the season.

Undoubtedly Owatonna's biggest weapon in the game was its powerplay, which went a perfect five-for-five.

Owatonna also dominated Saturday in an 8-0 routing of the Austin Packers on the road to close out the regular season.

With the win, Owatonna has now won four straight games and eight of its last



Owatonna senior forward Joey Dobs attempts a shot on net in Owatonna's 9-0 win against Winona on senior night last week. Dobs did not score, but the senior earned an assist in the game.

Player Stats vs. Winona			
	G	A	P
Beyer	4	3	7
Vereide	1	3	4
Stendhal	1	3	4
Pederson	2	1	3
Herzog	0	3	3
Mazariego	0	2	2
Webster	1	0	1
Knoll	0	1	1
Dobs	0	1	1
Roush	0	1	1
Pfeffer	SV	SA	GA
	19	19	0



Owatonna sophomore forward Owen Beyer makes a move in front of the Winona net in an attempt to score. Beyer finished the Huskies 9-0 win against Winona with four goals and three assists for a career-high seven points.

Hayfield tops NRHEG for Gopher title

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

Hayfield defeated the NRHEG Panthers 70-59 in Hayfield Saturday, clinching the Gopher Conference championship.

NRHEG made it to the championship game after taking first

place in the Western division of the Gopher Conference, pitting the Panthers against the Eastern division champion Vikings.

“Hayfield is a tough team and they are undefeated for a reason. Their defense caused us some problems on offense where we

weren’t moving the ball well and rushing some of our shot selections. Obviously, this is a game we would have loved to win but like I told the girls that when push comes to shove, we would rather win in the playoffs than a conference championship. We have one

final regular-season game left and then playoffs. I continue to be impressed with this team and the progress we have made throughout the season,” said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson.

The Panthers put up a fight against Hayfield in the first half scoring

28 points to the Vikings 38 points. The Vikings’ ability to shoot from three-point range hindered the Panthers from keeping the score closer.

The Vikings led for the majority of the first half by six to 13 points. NRHEG put together some 4-0 and 6-0 runs

but the Vikings were able to stop the Panthers before their lead was jeopardized.

In the second half, Hayfield slowed the game down with longer possessions and continued its dominance from beyond the arc finishing most of its

See **HAYFIELD** on B13 ►



NRHEG junior guard Sidney Schultz attempts to pass a Hayfield defender and create a play on offense. Schultz finished the Gopher Conference championship game with a team-high 16 points.



NRHEG senior guard Sophie Stork fires a three-point shot against Hayfield in the Gopher Conference championship game. Stork had 14 points in NRHEG’s 70-59 loss to the Vikings.

Rockets soar past OHS 59-37

BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS
SPORTS EDITOR

Rochester John Marshall upended the Owatonna girls basketball team in Rochester 59-37 Saturday.

As a team, the Huskies shot a combined 35.7% from the field and 12.5% from three-point range compared to John Marshall’s 52.3% from the field and 26.7% from three-point range.

The Rockets took the lead early in the game, jumping out to a lead in the opening minutes and holding it until halftime.

Going into the half, the Rockets led 26-19.

Owatonna scored fewer points in the second half with a total of 18 compared to John Marshall’s 33.

John Marshall was able to capitalize on second-chance points to score nearly a third of its 18 points coming from secondary shots after offensive rebounds.

Owatonna scored only two points from secondary chances.

Leading the Huskies in scoring was senior Lexi Mendenhall with eight points while senior Audrey Simon also added seven points.

The Huskies earned a different result against Faribault earlier in the week winning 59-47 on senior night at home.

Head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa said that on top of the win, she was happy with how many athletes got to see the court for extended periods.

Owatonna featured two career milestones as senior Ashley Schlauderaff scored her first two varsity points and Mendenhall scored her 1,000th point.

Both athletes were met with cheers and support from home fans in a night that Hugstad-Vaa said will be memorable for more than just the score.

Mendenhall finished the game as Owatonna’s leading scorer with 14 points.

Prior in the week to the Faribault game, Owatonna lost to Rochester Mayo 73-55.

Mayo outscored the Huskies 38-26 in the first half before putting Owatonna away 35-29 in the second half to claim the 18-point win.

Again, Owatonna lacked efficiency on offense and ran into a Mayo team shooting just under 50% from the

field on the day.

Mendenhall had 19 points to lead the Huskies for the third straight game of the week.

Up next for Owatonna is a road matchup against Mankato West on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Player Stats				
vs. John Marshall				
	P	R	A	
Mendenhall	8	2	1	
Simon	7	2	2	
Haarstad	4	2	0	
Sommers	4	2	0	
T. Schlauderaff	4	1	0	
Klecker	4	0	0	
Fisher	3	1	0	
Ahrens	2	4	0	
Shornock	1	1	0	
Moran	0	1	0	
vs. Faribault				
	P	R	A	
Mendenhall	14	0	0	
Buytaert	11	0	0	
Sommers	9	0	0	
Simon	7	0	0	
Ahrens	6	0	0	
Haarstad	3	0	0	
A. Schlauderaff	2	0	0	
Brady	2	0	0	
Mahlman	2	0	0	
Klecker	2	0	0	
Moran	1	0	2	
vs. Mayo				
	P	R	A	
Mendenhall	19	5	1	
Haarstad	9	3	4	
Simon	9	3	0	
Shornock	5	6	0	
Ahrens	3	3	3	
Buytaert	2	4	0	
Klecker	2	2	0	
Brady	2	0	0	
T. Schlauderaff	0	2	3	
Brady	0	2	0	



Senior guard Avery Ahrens locks up her Faribault opponent. Ahrens finished the Huskies’ 59-37 victory with six points.



Owatonna sophomore Carsyn Brady rises up to finish a layup. Brady has helped the Huskies achieve a 9-7 record in the Big Nine Conference this season.

SCOREBOOK		
GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS		
GIRLS BASKETBALL		
GOPHER CONFERENCE		
	Conf.	Overall
Hayfield	10-0-0	27-0-0
NRHEG	9-4-0	18-8-0
Maple River	7-4-0	17-6-0
WEM	6-5-0	13-11-0
Medford	5-8-0	13-12-0
Bethlehem Academy	4-6-0	11-13-0
Blooming Prairie	4-7-0	15-10-0
United South Central	0-11-0	1-23-0
BOYS BASKETBALL		
GOPHER CONFERENCE		
	Conf.	Overall
Hayfield	14-0-0	23-1-0
Maple River	14-1-0	20-4-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	13-3-0	19-5-0
Triton	9-6-0	14-10-0
NRHEG	9-7-0	13-9-0
Randolph	8-6-0	13-11-0
JWP	7-7-0	11-10-0
United South Central	5-10-0	9-13-0
Bethlehem Academy	4-10-0	9-13-0
WEM	4-11-0	7-15-0
Blooming Prairie	4-13-0	4-19-0
Medford	0-17-0	1-23-0
BIG NINE CONFERENCE STANDINGS		
GIRLS BASKETBALL		
BIG NINE CONFERENCE		
	Conf.	Overall
Mankato East	18-2-0	19-4-0
Austin	17-3-0	19-5-0
Rochester John Marshall	16-4-0	17-7-0
Mankato West	13-7-0	16-7-0
Rochester Mayo	13-7-0	17-7-0
Red Wing	10-10-0	12-12-0
Rochester Century	10-10-0	12-12-0
Owatonna	9-11-0	10-14-0
Albert Lea	8-12-0	9-15-0
Winona	3-17-0	3-20-0
Northfield	2-18-0	2-22-0
Faribault	1-19-0	1-23-0
BOYS BASKETBALL		
BIG NINE CONFERENCE		
	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	18-0-0	20-2-0
Mankato West	13-5-0	16-6-0
Mankato East	12-6-0	15-7-0
Austin	11-7-0	12-10-0
Red Wing	11-7-0	13-9-0
Rochester Century	10-8-0	12-10-0
Winona	9-8-0	12-9-0
Northfield	8-10-0	10-11-0
Rochester Mayo	8-10-0	11-11-0
Rochester John Marshall	5-12-0	7-13-0
Faribault	2-16-0	3-18-0
Albert Lea	0-18-0	2-20-0
GIRLS HOCKEY		
	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	12-0-1	16-9-2
Mankato East	11-3-0	21-5-0
Albert Lea	9-3-0	14-10-1
Northfield	8-2-1	19-5-3
Austin	8-7-0	15-11-0
Rochester Mayo	7-7-0	9-17-0
Rochester Century/JM	5-9-0	7-19-1
Red Wing	3-10-0	4-20-0
Mankato West	3-12-0	4-20-1
Winona	0-13-0	0-19-0
BOYS HOCKEY		
	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	16-1-1	19-5-1
Rochester Mayo	10-2-3	15-5-4
Rochester Century	10-5-1	12-10-1
Owatonna	9-5-1	10-14-1
Mankato East/Loyola	9-6-1	14-10-1
Faribault	9-9-0	10-15-0
Albert Lea	8-7-1	17-7-1
Red Wing	6-9-0	10-15-0
Mankato West	6-11-0	7-18-0
Rochester John Marshall	5-10-0	8-16-0
Winona	5-11-0	9-15-1
Austin	0-17-0	1-20-0

Ille finding stride at Wartburg

BY BARBARA BOXLEITNER
CORRESPONDENT

Alec Ille is the college runner he was expected to be when he was recruited out of Blooming Prairie High School.

Wartburg College head cross-country coach Ryan Chapman said Ille struggled his first season. “I reminded him I recruited a really good runner,” he said, adding that he also shared with him the importance of enjoying running.

Not long into the 2019 indoor track and field season, Ille started scoring in events. He scored by placing fifth in the 3,000-meter run, then scored again by finishing fourth in the mile two weeks later.

Ille said he credits his improved mental approach. “Distance running is a really mental sport,” the senior said.

His strides continued into his second year. “That’s when he really started dropping some serious time,” Chapman said. “This year, he’s one of the fastest (No.) 7 runners in the country. He’s been really great for us.”

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Ille to the 2020 All-Central Region team in the 3,000. “The 3K is a really interesting event,” he said. “It’s long enough to be tactical and still has that speed aspect.”

He also placed well in the 1,500 and 5,000 runs during the 2021 season.

He is coming off a cross country season in which he ran a career-best time in the 8K at the NCAA Division III Midwest Region meet. Finishing in 24 minutes, 56.7 seconds, he was fifth among the Knights and 21st overall to help the team win



PHOTO BY JULIE DREWES, WARTBURG COLLEGE

Alec Ille shows emotion as he crosses the finish line at the American Rivers Conference Championship Meet last October. Ille finished in eighth place and helped Wartburg’s men’s team to a first-place team finish.

the regional. He finished as the team’s fifth runner in the Division III national championship.

“Alec has tremendous form,” the coach said. “He has great turnover. He’s a pretty diverse distance runner.”

Ille won the 3K at the January indoor season opener, which the team won.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Previously at Bethlehem Academy High, freshman guard Kade Robb had one rebound and one assist for Dakota State University against Trinity Bible.

MEN’S ICE HOCKEY

Sophomore forward Carter Broton had two goals and three



PHOTO BY JULIE DREWES, WARTBURG COLLEGE

Alec Ille sprints down the home stretch at the American Rivers Conference Championship Meet last October. Ille finished the 4.97-mile race in 25:36.3, good for eighth place.

assists in 15 games for Marian University. He played for the Huskies.

MEN’S SWIMMING

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Payton Jorgenson finished fifth in the 200-yard butterfly at the Point Invite. The junior is out of Owatonna High.

MEN’S WRESTLING

Ridgewater College freshman Lane Lembke lost a 9-4 decision at 141 pounds during the Augsburg Invitational. The Blooming Prairie alumnus lost by fall in his other match in that tournament.

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

BASKETBALL

Tigers stop Rebels 59-51

The Medford Tigers girls basketball team shut down USC 59-51 to earn the home win last Friday.

Medford and USC battled in the first half, however, it was Medford that benefitted from more depth scoring on offense as junior Andrea Bock scored 21 points and senior Clara Kniefel dropped 11 points to give Medford the eight-point win.

Earlier in the week, Medford won its home game against Cannon Falls 61-53.

Medford trailed early in the first half but turned the score around with a late run to go into halftime leading 25-16.

Both sides came back from the half with hot hands as Medford scored 36 points, but was still outscored by Cannon Falls who scored 37.

Leading the Tigers in scoring was junior Andrea Bock with 22 points.

Up next for Medford is the section 2AA tournament beginning on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Medford’s opponent and scheduled starting time were unavailable at the time of press.

WRESTLING

Blue Earth stops NRHEG

The NRHEG Panthers team season came to a close against Blue Earth Area (BEA) last Wednesday when the Buccaneers took down the Panthers 41-28. NRHEG found itself in a hole early against BEA by forfeiting the first match at 106 pounds and then losing the next two matches by fall to put the Buccaneers up 18-0.

The Panthers managed to close the gap to 18-16 with four consecutive wins by Deven Parpart, Nikolas Petsinger, Aidan Schlaak and Ryan Schlaak, however, it was the closest the Tigers would come to a lead. NRHEG dropped the next four matches at 152, 160, 170 and 182 pounds giving up 19 points and making the score 37-16.

Rounding out the dual, 195-pounder Ralph Roesler and heavyweight Makota Misgen won by fall, while the Tigers lost by fall at 220 pounds to finish the dual at 41-28.

NRHEG will compete next at the section 2A individual tournament beginning on Saturday, Feb. 26.

— COMPILED BY JOHNNIE PHILLIPS

Good Luck
This Season Teams!
From the
**Blooming Prairie
Bus Company**
Moving kids forward


Serving
Southern
Minnesota &
Northern Iowa
www.mbtbank.bank
Member FDIC


**GOOD LUCK
TO ALL OUR
TIGER TEAMS!**
**THE MEDFORD
SCHOOL
IS PROUD OF YOU!**


**Blooming
Prairie
Branch**

Good Luck
This
Season Teams!
From the
**Owatonna
Bus Company**
Moving kids forward


T.FIN
Building Solutions
Quality products
Integrated design
GO TIGERS!!
www.tfinbuildingsolutions.com


Good Luck Blossoms!
583-2296
Blooming Prairie


**FOUR SEASONS
Electric**
• COMMERCIAL
• AGRICULTURAL
• RESIDENTIAL
• INDUSTRIAL
3127 S County Road 45
Owatonna MN 55060
507-446-8415
fax 507-455-1305
Ryan Spindler - Owner
ryan@fourseasonselectric.com


**Vandal's
FAMILY MARKET**
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
Hours: 8 am - 7 pm
7 Days a Week
507-583-6671
vandal'sfamilymarket.com


**AMESBURY
TRUTH
.com**


POLY PAK PLASTICS
MEDFORD


**Agri Finance
Group**
a division of
101 Central Ave S, Geneva, MN
507.256.7235



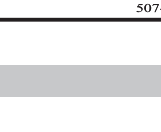
Dr. Deborah Lien
DDS, MBS
507-583-6613
FREE CONSULTATION
132 2nd Ave NE 1 Blooming Prairie
*Building Healthy
Smiles*


**MICHAEL
BISHMAN**
121 West Broadway Street,
Owatonna
Phone: 507-451-0193
1-800-856-9864
Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday & Sunday Closed
Available after hours by appointment
 Like us on Facebook

**FARMERS
INSURANCE**

**HOMES OF THE
HONEST
MECHANICS!**

**HONEST-1®
AUTO CARE**
Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
1125 S. Oak Ave. • Owatonna
507-421-4576
www.Honest1Owatonna.com


Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry
**Comfortable and
Comprehensive Dentistry**
Blooming Prairie Owatonna
405 E. Main St. 1170 East Frontage Rd.
507-583-2141 507-455-1000
New Richland
132 Broadway Ave. N.
507-463-0502


**PROUDLY SERVING
STEELE COUNTY**
Brick-Meger Funeral Home
&
Medford Funeral Home
megercare.com
507.451.1457


R&R
Carl R. Peterson
Jill Lindeman
Insurance Agency, LLC
236 E. Main St. • PO Box 66
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Office (507) 383-7971
Fax (507) 383-7147
Cell (507) 383-3988
crnelicarl@gmail.com


**JENSEN HEATING,
A.C. & PLUMBING**

*If you've ever called Jensen
Heating, AC & Plumbing for any
work, you already know they're
the best around and why
Amana recommends them.*
104 Central Ave N,
Geneva, MN
507-256-4712


**Blossom Logo Wear
One Stop Shop**
623 6th Street SE
Blooming Prairie
507-583-7001
www.sportstitch.net



FOR SALE

Jennifer Walsh
REAL ESTATE
507-438-6676
jenwalsh@kw.com
jenwalsh.kw.com
Powered by 


**Koster's
CAR KORNER**
Rod, Tess,
Breauana and Reeves
On the point • HWY 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018
www.kosterscarkorner.com


**MINERS
Outdoor & Race**
507-583-2712
Hwy 218 South,
Blooming Prairie, MN
Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Cart Sales, Service,
Parts & Accessories
www.minersoutdoor.com


**Lerberg's
Fitness Center
& Car Wash**

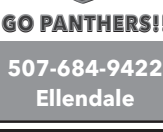
CAR WASH
118 5th Ave
Ellendale, MN
507-684-2471


LIVE UNITED
1850 Austin Rd Ste 103
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-1180
www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org
Text UWSC2021 to 202-458-1233


**Koster's
CAR KORNER**
Rod, Tess,
Breauana and Reeves
On the point • HWY 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018
www.kosterscarkorner.com


**MEDFORD
TIGERS**
*Good Luck
on your
Sports Seasons!*
Medford Teacher's Union


LERBERG'S FOODS
Steele County's Oldest Grocery Store!
Since 1961
120 5th Ave, Ellendale 507-684-2472
Like us on Facebook
Visit our websites: lerbergfoods.com


**RJ'S
5TH AVE**
GO PANTHERS!!
507-684-9422
Ellendale


**HOMETOWN
INSURANCE**
HONESTY • INTEGRITY • SAVINGS
348 Main Street E, Blooming Prairie
507-583-6891
www.hometown-insurance.com

Hayfield tops NRHEG for Gopher title

◀ **HAYFIELD** from B11 long possessions with successful three-pointers. Peterson said that she expected the Vikings to attack her squad from range, however, she gave credit to the Vikings squad for shooting well as a whole, as she was impressed with how many players were converting their three-point attempts.

Despite a scoring uptick in the second half, the Panthers' 31 points were still outscored by Hayfield's 32 en route to the Vikings picking up an 11-point win.

Leading the Panthers in scoring was junior Sidney Schultz with 16 points, while senior Sophie Stork added 14 points as NRHEG's second-highest scoring player.

The day before the Hayfield game, NRHEG beat WEM 83-40 to make it to the conference championship game.

NRHEG ran out to a 17-17 halftime lead behind hot shooting from multiple players.

"The girls came out with a lot of intensity on defense and we moved the ball on offense. The team made the extra pass, found the open shooter, and tonight we shot the ball well. It was a fun game with a great game atmosphere," said Peterson.

NRHEG closed out the second half by outscoring WEM 31-23 to make the final score 83-40.

Junior Erin Jacobson led the Panthers in scoring with 24 points.

The Panthers' next game will come in the section playoffs.

NRHEG's opponent and the game's scheduled starting time were not available at press time.

Paint the Town grant applications due soon

◀ **PAINT** from B4 Ace Hardware. While some participating stores are located outside of SMIF's region, only communities with populations under 10,000 within SMIF's 20-county region are eligible to apply.

"The murals, welcome signs and updates to historic structures that this grant program has supported over the years has resulted in major community pride in small towns across our region," said Tim Penny, SMIF president and CEO.

"We are proud to once again work alongside Ace Hardware and Arrow Hardware & Paint partners to distribute paint for these projects."

Applications are due to SMIF by March 31. For more information or to apply visit our website at www.smifoundation.org or contact Jennifer Heien at 507-214-7040; jenniferh@smifoundation.org.



NRHEG junior guard Erin Jacobson focuses on the rim before a shot attempt in the post against Hayfield. Jacobson had eight points in NRHEG's 70-59 loss to Hayfield in the Gopher Conference championship game.

Player Stats				vs. WEM			
vs. Hayfield					P	R	A
	P	R	A				
S. Schultz	16	0	0	E. Jacobson	24	0	0
Stork	14	0	0	S. Schultz	16	0	0
F. Nielsen	12	0	0	F. Nielsen	14	0	0
Jacobson	8	0	0	Stork	10	0	0
VanMaldeghem	8	0	0	H. Schultz	6	0	0
H. Schultz	2	0	0	P. Nielsen	6	0	0
P. Nielsen	1	0	0	Murray	4	0	0
				VanMaldeghem	3	0	0

TAKE A BUS... IT'S A TRIP!

Now serving Southern Minnesota with luxury motorcoach guided tours.

We offer get away excursions for a day or two!

Upcoming trips:

- **SPRING WINE TRIP**
Vintage Escape & Next Chapter Dinner at FishTail
Saturday, March 19
\$44 for no hassle bus ride. Wine & Dinner not included
- **COMMONWEAL THEATER**
4 Daughters Winery and Dinner at Pedal Pushers in Lanesboro
Saturday, April 23
\$109, includes Theater ticket, dinner and bus ride
- **TULIP TIME TRIP**
Pella, Iowa and Remain Gardens in Ames with Winery and Brewery along the way.
May 4-6- 3-day, 2-night trip
\$569 single or \$529 double, includes: five meals, tours and admissions.
- **BREWERIES & LUNCH**
Summer Sunday! Tour of various breweries in Iowa.
Sunday, June 12
\$89, includes: tour and lunch at Toppling Goliath Brewery in Decorah, Iowa.
- **LAURA INGALLS WILDER MUSEUM**
Also Winneshiek Wildberry Winery and Roadside Market
Wednesday, June 15
\$74, includes: Museum tour, bus ride, lunch and dessert.

For more information, call **507-214-7447** or kmcgaheran@travelpointtours.tours



A subsidiary of Cavalier Coaches based in Owatonna

NOW SERVING BREAKFAST

Join us at the Servicemen's Club
Thursdays and Fridays
6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Featuring:

- Omeletes
- Breakfast Sandwiches

And many other choices



BLOOMING PRAIRIE SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
210 4th St. NE • Blooming Prairie
507-583-7884

BEV'S FRIENDS & FAMILY TOURS PRESENTS:

SPRINGTIME IN BRANSON



MISSOURI

Branson, MO APRIL 19-22 4 Days - 3 Nights

Lodging at the beautiful Grand Oaks Hotel.

Trip includes daily breakfast, daily evening meals and a good mix of free time and shows/activities.

You will be treated to 6 attractions/shows, deluxe motor coach transportation, high quality hotel accommodations and all kinds of fun!

Bring 10 quarters for games on the bus and pillow and blanket if you wish

Price is \$749 pp double, \$925 single, and \$699 triple.

Send \$200 deposit to: Bev's Friends & Family Tours
Final Payment due by April 1st. No Refunds
Departure Time: Owatonna Perkins - 7:00 am
Call Bev for more information.

318 13th St. SW, Owatonna, MN 55060
507-451-8695 • jblysne@charter.net

Supporting the Steele County Food Shelf (now Community Pathways) since 1994

2022 HOMETOWN Sampler

CONCERT SERIES

FR March 4 @ 7 PM
SA, March 5 @ 3 PM & 7 PM
SU, March 6 @ 2 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna



Join us for a weekend of concerts featuring talented, local musicians and support our community hunger needs. Admission of food or monetary donation.





LICENSE #00333

COME TRY YOUR LUCK AT THE OWATONNA EAGLES CLUB

Saturday, March 12 • Doors open at 5 p.m.

EARLY BIRD BINGO at 6:30

Raffle Drawing at 7:35
SUPER BINGO to FOLLOW

ONLY 100 Raffle Tickets
ONLY 250 Bingo Tickets

JOIN US AT **OWATONNA EAGLES** 141 E ROSE ST



LAKESIDE FOODS EST 1887

Lakeside Foods Owatonna is searching for individuals with mechanical and electrical skills for both our plant and warehouse! We currently have first shift and second shift availability!

Here at Lakeside Foods we offer the ability develop your skillset further in a positive and growing work environment. To top it off we offer competitive wages and outstanding benefits! If this sounds like something you or someone you know is interested in, contact us to discuss further career opportunities! You can also view our open positions by visiting the link listed below!

Lakeside Foods Owatonna está buscando personas con habilidades mecánicas y eléctricas para nuestra planta y almacén! Actualmente tenemos disponibilidad de primer turno y segundo turno!

Aquí en Lakeside Foods ofrecemos la posibilidad de desarrollar aún más su conjunto de habilidades en un ambiente de trabajo positivo y en crecimiento. Para colmo, ofrecemos salarios competitivos y beneficios sobresalientes! Si esto suena como algo en lo que usted o alguien que conoce está interesado, contáctenos para discutir más oportunidades profesionales! También puede ver nuestras posiciones abiertas visitando el enlace que aparece a continuación!

<https://www.lakesidefoods.com/careers/open-positions/?p=search%3Fc%3DOperations%2B-%2BFull-time%26p%3D0>

Contact Us:

Lakeside Foods Inc.
900 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 446-7700

Owatonna Foundation works to raise funds and recognition

◀ **OWATONNA** from B1

In 2021, more than 450 individuals, organizations and businesses supported the foundation financially. The foundation also awards about \$40,000 each year in scholarships.

Community leaders established the foundation in 1958 to improve the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation and education.

Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$13 million to community projects.

A drive around town and the work of the foundation is quite visible. On the north end, foundation grants awarded include the River Springs Water Park (the foundation's \$1 million grant was its largest ever), just a bit to the south, the We All Play all-inclusive playground, head a bit west, the North Straight River Trail Bridges and to the south Little Theatre, the Orphanage Museum, the Owatonna Arts Center and Senior Place – all recipients of foundation grants over the years.

And that's just a snapshot of grants awarded in the northwest quadrant of Owatonna.

In most cases, funds awarded by the foundation are brick and motor grants – in other words, something is being built or renovated.

Projects receiving foundation grants in 2022 include storm window restoration at the Steele County Historical Society's Durnell House, funding to help the school district build a community room at the new high school in partnership with the 761 Foundation, funds to purchase new rigging and lighting for the Little Theatre of Owatonna and a \$250,000 contribution to Community Pathways capital campaign.

Dufresne said that the foundation is not the sole funder of a project in most cases. "We like to think that if a project gets foundation approval, it's like getting the Good Housekeeping seal of approval," Dufresne said.

In addition to raising more funds to keep up with community needs, Dufresne said the foundation board is committed to increasing community awareness about its existence and the work it does. "This board is critical to the organization's success," said Dufresne.

Having served on the board himself for more than 10 years now, Dufresne said he's most proud of his work with the Legacy Society, which allows donors to make planned charitable gifts in their estate plans.

There are 126 members in the Legacy Society and the goal is to increase that number to 150 within the next couple of years, according to Dufresne.

"Legacy Society members are people who want to make sure Owatonna stays Owatonna," he said.

"I've enjoyed what I've done with that project."

"Owatonna is changing; it's more diverse," said Dufresne. "And, we are becoming more proactive in how we are approaching the community."

And as the community grows and becomes more diverse, Dufresne said the foundation needs to increase its donor base.

"This is a remarkable community," said Dufresne who said he's confident the community will respond to what he predicts will be an increased demand for brick and mortar projects.

"If people see what we've done, what we've made happen," Dufresne said the future will be bright.

"Visibility is the key to continued growth," he said.

Trooper Schwindel named Peace Officer of the Year

◀ **TROOPER** from B1

Brian Klinefelter was a young St. Joseph police officer when he was shot and killed while trying to arrest three robbery suspects in January 1996.

The abduction of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling as he rode a bike near his St. Joseph home in 1989 remained a mystery for nearly 27 years, before Danny Heinrich confessed.

Though Schwindel was just a child when both crimes occurred, they had an impact. "I took a sidetrack, I guess, through the military, then became a corrections officer, and was finally hired at the state patrol," he said. "But I've always wanted

to do it since I was a little kid."

He's been a Minnesota State Trooper for less than four years, but Schwindel is already playing a major role in District 2100, which includes Steele County.

It's been enough to catch the eye of Lt. Brian Buck, who nominated Schwindel for Steele County Peace Officer of the Year, given annually by the Exchange Club of Steele County.

He was presented the award at Friday's Exchange Club meeting at the Owatonna VFW.

Schwindel "exemplifies what the Minnesota State Patrol stands for, and represents our agency well," Buck wrote. "He is committed to public service," proven by his willingness to speak to local driver's education classes and teaching critical driving skills to the cadets in the state patrol academy.

In addition, Schwindel has been a background investigator for the agency's last three hiring processes, tasked with investigating the backgrounds of multiple candidates and submitting a detailed packet for each candidate. His work helps determine if the applicant continues in the process of ultimately becoming a state trooper.

Schwindel has spent the last 17 years in the Minnesota Army National Guard; he deployed to Iraq from 2008-2010, based in Kuwait. He's a sergeant first class.

He has his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and went to the patrol's skills program as part of its law-enforcement training opportunity.

Schwindel lives in Owatonna with his wife and two children.

"It's the best job I could ever want," he said, after receiving the award.

Need help finding workers?

Let our company help you locate employees... we have great options for employment ads to attract potential employees in Steele and Dodge counties as well as the surrounding areas.

One ad hits 67,100 viewers/readers

STEELE COUNTY **Times**

CONTACT:

Charlene Wolff for pricing and more information at 507-583-4431 or cwolff@steelecountytimes.com.

HIRING: FIREPLACE INSTALLERS

Fireplace Connection in Owatonna is hiring full-time installers for our local, family-owned company.

We install and service gas, wood, and pellet fireplaces as well as stone products.

JOB REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE: good driving record, able to lift 80 pounds, experience with tools, ability to work on roofs, team work with professionalism.

WE OFFER: employee health insurance, HSA accounts, paid vacation, paid holidays, retirement, and paid training.

Competitive pay based on experience & skill level.

**OWATONNA, MN**
140 26th St. NW

507-444-0067 • info@fireplaceconnection.biz



Work with a team at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie to provide a variety of housekeeping needs to our residents.

Benefits for our facility include...

free life insurance, PTO, Health starting under \$100, vision, dental, retirement plan with company match, referral bonuses, paid holidays even if you don't work, and more!

Part-time or full-time hours are available. We do not force covid vaccinations but have a high percentage vaccinated.

Duties include...

Cleaning and maintaining of the facility along with most items in it.

Learning proper use of chemicals and equipment.

Learning state, federal, and internal regulations and policies pertaining to Environmental Services.

Maintaining top notch infection control.

Job Type: Part-time

Pay: \$12.00 - \$16.00 per hour"

Apply: Pick-up application at Prairie Manor or Online at www.prairiemanorcare.com

2/23/23

FORECLOSURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 25, 2012 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$184,658.00 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 TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration 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. ASSIGNED 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 MORTGAGE 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. Section 580.23, 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 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS,

ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: 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

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.
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 ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA. 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 17, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock 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 REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR OR THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINN. STAT. § 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION 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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 7, 2012

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$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 OF PROPERTY: The South 68 feet of the North Half of Lot 1 in the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, Steele County, Minnesota.

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

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

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

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

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

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-

016-1102

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 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.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 2022.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 24, 2022

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungal-ah, 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

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 74-PR-22-165

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of DALE B. MATTHEIS, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 21, 2022 at 10:30 am, a hearing will be held in VIA ZOOM, this Court at 111 E Main, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Luke A. Mattheis, whose address is 5830 SE Holgate Blvd., Portland, Oregon, 97206 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate

are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: February 2, 2022

BY THE COURT

Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner Judith Wilson Wagner Oehler Ltd 1801 Greenview Dr SW; Suite 102 Rochester, MN, 55902 Attorney License No: 0387656 Telephone: (507) 288-5567 Email: judith.wilson@wagnerlegalmn.com

2/16T2

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA December 16, 2021

A regular school board work session of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota was held in the High School Media Center on

AURORA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

The **BOARD OF AUDIT** for **Aurora Township** will be held at **6:30 PM Monday March 7th, 2022** at the Aurora Town Hall. The monthly board meeting will follow.

Alicyn Prestegard, Clerk Phillip Hildebrandt, Chairman

2/23

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE NOTICE OF TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Annual meeting notice is hereby given that the Township of Westfield Township in the County of Dodge, State of Minnesota will be held on the second Tuesday of March being the 8th day of March, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Polls will open at the close of the annual meeting and close at 8:00 p.m. to elect the following officers for the following terms.

One supervisor for a three (3) year term. One clerk for a two (2) year term.

Business meeting at 3:00 p.m. to transact business as required or permitted by law.

John Fourage, Clerk | Westfield Township

2/16T2

PUBLIC AUCTION

Steele County Self Storage 1010 Hoffman Drive NW., Suite C Owatonna, MN 55060

will auction the following storage units to satisfy Rent and Storage Lien using an online public auction site at **www.Bid13.com** at **12:01 PM, Saturday, March 15, 2022**. Units may contain household goods, unknown treasures, boxes, tools and other miscellaneous contents stored by the following person(s) and last known address of:

UNIT 107-10X10

Shannon Fedder, Owatonna, MN 55060

Unit 117-10x10

James M Jordan, Owatonna, MN 55060

2/23T2

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of **AURORA TOWNSHIP**, County of Steele, State of Minnesota that the annual meeting and annual election of township officers will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2022. Annual meeting is at 4 PM. The election poll hours will be 5 PM to 8 PM at which time the voters will elect:

1 Supervisor—3 year term *Phillip Hildebrandt-incumbent*

1 Vacant Supervisor—2 years remaining *Troy Krejci-incumbent*

1 Clerk—2 year term *Alicyn Prestegard-incumbent*

The annual meeting and election will be held at the following:

AURORA TOWN HALL 7304 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN 55060

The board of canvass will meet at 8:15 PM March 8th, 2022.

In case of inclement weather the meeting and election will be held on Tuesday March 15th, 2022.

Alicyn Prestegard, Clerk Phillip Hildebrandt, Chairman

2/23

Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the December 20, 2021 regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
2/23

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA DECEMBER 20, 2021

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center on December 20, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.)

OPEN FORUM
No comments.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Dean Meshke

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Pam Hameister

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurers Report, Donations
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve items in minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and donations. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the employment of Heather Johnson as an elementary interventionist (funded by ESSER II). Start date of January 3rd through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Alex Pillar as a junior high boys basketball coach due to a large number of participants. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

C. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Maggie Bruns as a volunteer coach for girls basketball. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

D. World's Best Workforce Annual Report
Motion made by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the "World's Best Workforce Annual Report" with an annual public meeting to be held on January 18, 2022, at 4:45 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Bond Resolutions
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a "Resolution Relating to \$9,525,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2021 A; Ratifying the Award of Sale Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof". The complete resolution is attached. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye-Thurnau, Sunde, Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Meshke/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve a "Resolution Relating to \$5,015,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2022; Authorizing the Issuance and Authorizing the Superintendent or Business Manager and any Board Officer to Award the Sale Thereof and to Take Such Action and Execute All Documents Necessary to Accomplish Said Award and

Sale". The complete resolution is attached. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye-Thurnau, Sunde, Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Meshke/0 Nay).

F. Architectural and Construction Manager Contracts
Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve Wold Architects & Engineers as the "architect" for the building project. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye-Thurnau, Sunde, Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Meshke/0Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve Kraus Anderson as the "construction manager" for the building project. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye-Thurnau, Sunde, Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Meshke/0 Nay)

6:00 p.m. – Budget/Levy Review and Discussion Prior to Final Levy Certification

G. Final 2021 Payable 2022 Levy Limitation
Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the final levy limitation for 2021 payable 2022. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Safe Return to Learning Plan Mr. Staloch reviewed the current status.

B. Rotation of School Board Officers
Discussion held.

C. Committee Reports
A committee report update was given for the following committees: Building and Grounds/Facilities; Communications; Negotiations; and ZED.

D. Enrollment Data
Enrollment (per JMC) for the 2021-22 school year as of December 15, 2021 was 471 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 362 at the high school (grades 7-12) (343 attending BPHS and 19 PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 10 full-time and 9 part-time.

E. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Dean Meshke to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Stoen
Pro Tempore Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
2/23

NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: VITALIZE IV DRIP

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 202 N. CEDAR AVENUE SUITE 1 OWATONNA MN 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDERS:
Name: Your Wellness
Your Way LLC

Address: 202 N. CEDAR AVENUE SUITE 1 OWATONNA MN 55060 USA

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Beau Hartman

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: beau@beau-hartmanlaw.com

Work Item
1267069000023
Original File Number
1267069000023
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
10/28/2021
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

2/23T2

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local,
All the time.
steelecountytimes.com



Find the right senior living option for your mom or dad with our free personalized process

Our service is at no cost to you, as we're paid by our participating communities and providers.

1-888-715-1720

aPlaceforMom.

THE PLACE FOR SENIOR LIVING ADVICE



FROM \$2,549*
\$2,299*

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR
12 days, departs year-round
Oahu • Hawaii Island • Kauai • Maui — Enjoy a fully 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.

YMT vacations

promo code N7017
1-877-375-2291

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

entertaining you!

Chanhassen
DINNER THEATRES

NOW PLAYING!
Footloose

CUT LOOSE
to the rockin' rhythm of its super-charged Top 40 score!

Proof of Covid vaccination or negative test required. Mask use required.

952.934.1525 • ChanhassenDT.com

STEELE COUNTY Times To Join, Call (507) 583-4431

Out-of-Town

Business Directory

ELLIS BODY SHOP



1231 BRADY BLVD. NW • OWATONNA, MN

JACK & TRACY ELLIS
Family Owned Since 1978

507-451-0845
(800) 310-0845
FAX (507) 451-0540



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Michael Bishman
121 West Broadway St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-0193 • Fax: (507) 451-6640

Sorenson's
APPLIANCE & TV

101 North Central Ave • Geneva, MN

Open Monday & Thursday till 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday till 5 p.m.
Saturday till 3 p.m.

507-256-7258

www.sorensonsappliance.com

STEELE COUNTY Times

Visit all of these advertisers from their ads on our website: www.steeledodgenews.com



Owatonna
GRANITE & MONUMENT

1180 Frontage Rd. E.
Owatonna, MN

507-455-9551
OwatonnaGranite.com

Blooming Prairie
Public Utilities

(507) 583-6683
Blooming Prairie, MN

You Know You Should,
PREPLANNING

Why Not Today?

Personalized Pre-arrangement
Secure & Flexible Prefunding

Purple Cross Plans

SECURE
FLEXIBLE
PEACE OF MIND



Call Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified
Preplanning
Consultant
433-5000

Worlein
FUNERAL HOME

1801 4th Street NW
Austin, MN
www.worlein.com

NFDA NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
Pursuit of Excellence
AWARD RECIPIENT 2018

DEALS ON WHEELS

Sell your car, bike, RV, trailer, and anything on wheels today!!

Over 16,000 in households

Serving Steele, Mower, Freeborn, Dodge, and Olmsted Counties

BARGAIN FINDER

Sell your items for \$50 or less. Run it for four weeks. ONLY \$5!

www.steeledodgenews.com

COINS

NEED CASH? I give free appraisals of your older coins from 1964 and older. I am also looking to buy older coins such as silver dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, and Indian Head cents. Please call Ron from Hayfield at 507-477-2427 or 507-259-6460.

1/27T6

FOR RENT

BIG 4 BEDROOM, 3 bath, 2-car garage with opener. All new inside including all new appliances. AVAILABLE NOW. References, deposit, and one year lease required. \$1,500/month. 507-374-2204 or 507-951-1085.

12/30TFN

2 BDRM DODGE CENTER smoke-free apt open April. \$820 p/mo + elec. Garages also avail rent. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. 507-438-7935

or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 2/23T2

OWATONNA EFFICIENCY APARTMENT, sleeping rooms, garage. Please call 507-456-0798.

2/23pd

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME SEASONAL ORGANIST Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna. Please call 507-451-2720.

1/26T3pd

WORK 1:1 WITH A YOUNG ADULT DISABLED man in Owatonna. Must have driver's license and insured vehicle. Assist with meal prep, hygiene, outings, and support as needed. Hours are 4 pm-10 pm. The number of days/week is flexible. \$15/hour. Background check required. Call 507/363-9634.

2/23T3

STEELE COUNTY **Times**

Always local, all the time.



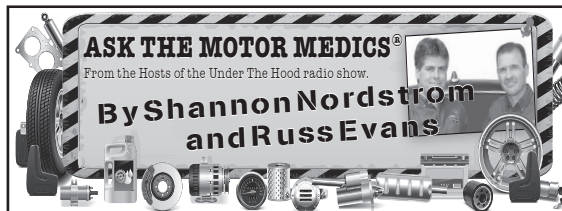
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS! ANYWHERE- ANYTIME

News • Sports • Obituaries
Features • More!

Hometown news that makes a difference!

WWW.STEELECOUNTYTIMES.COM

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. **LIVE UNITED.**



Dear Motor Medics,

I have what I think to be a very simple question but when I ask others I get as many different answers as the people I ask. I want to know if it is necessary to connect the last jumper cable connection which is always my negative cable to the engine block instead of right to the battery which seems more convenient to me. I have received many different answers and I just want to know what the proper way is. Can you help me Motor Medics?

Barb in Henderson Texas

Dear Barb,

Great question for the safety of anyone who ever must jump start a car. Many people connect the cables directly to the terminals on both batteries claiming it makes it easier to start and this is extremely dangerous! If your battery cables on the vehicle and jumper cables are both in good shape connecting them properly will work just fine. When you make the last connection of the jumper cables it is normal for the connection to give off a small spark. This spark can easily ignite the hydrogen gas given off by a battery under normal operation and cause an explosion. This explosion can be powerful enough to send the sulfuric acid and pieces of battery shrapnel flying towards you injuring you. To prevent this, you need to make the last connection away from the battery which would be the engine block. Always consult your owner's manual.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,

I have a question about spare tires. I see many new cars not coming with a spare of any kind. When we purchased our latest car, it came this way and in the place of it was a can of tire sealant and an inflator can. The instructions say to use the sealant then if the tire is still low to use the inflator can and use as necessary to reach the nearest place to have it repaired. Why can't they just make a place for the spare? We have had spares in our vehicles as long as I have been driving and they work just fine, although I have never had to use one since our tires are kept in good shape.

Thanks David in Mason City Iowa

Dear David,

Spares are going the way of the dinosaur in many vehicles to save weight and room. Cars have been on this trend for a while now. I think the first one I saw was in a Hybrid and if they had wanted one, I don't know where they would have put it. Removing the spare saves weight and every pound you save means a bit more fuel mileage. This combined with other weight savings can make a big impact overall. The tire sealant and inflator can work for smaller leaks but for anything major like a large bolt or other object you will need a tire change to get you going.

Take care, the Motor Medics



mcAn

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



EMPLOYMENT

SERVICE AND INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN

Grow with the leading inclined elevator manufacturer. Manage and perform inclined elevator inspections and service. Knowledge of general mechanics and low-voltage electrical systems required. Extensive travel. Full-time. Marine Innovations 888/334-4666 info@marineinnovations.com

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED:

ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES

Running or not. Titled or not. Cash in exchange. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142

Your ad here!

Only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.7 million readers!!! 1-800-279-2979

MISCELLANEOUS

THE GENERAC PWRCELL

A solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 down financing option. Request a free, no obligation quote today. Call 888/913-5895

DISH NETWORK \$64.99

for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL devices. Call today! 855/562-4309

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING

memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 888/715-1720 today!

MISCELLANEOUS

THE COVID CRISIS

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

HERO TAKES THE STRESS OUT

of managing medications. Hero sorts and dispenses meds, sends alerts at dose times and handles prescription refill and delivery for you. Starting at \$24.99/month. No initiation fee. 90-day risk-free trial! Call 844/255-4489

DONATE YOUR CAR

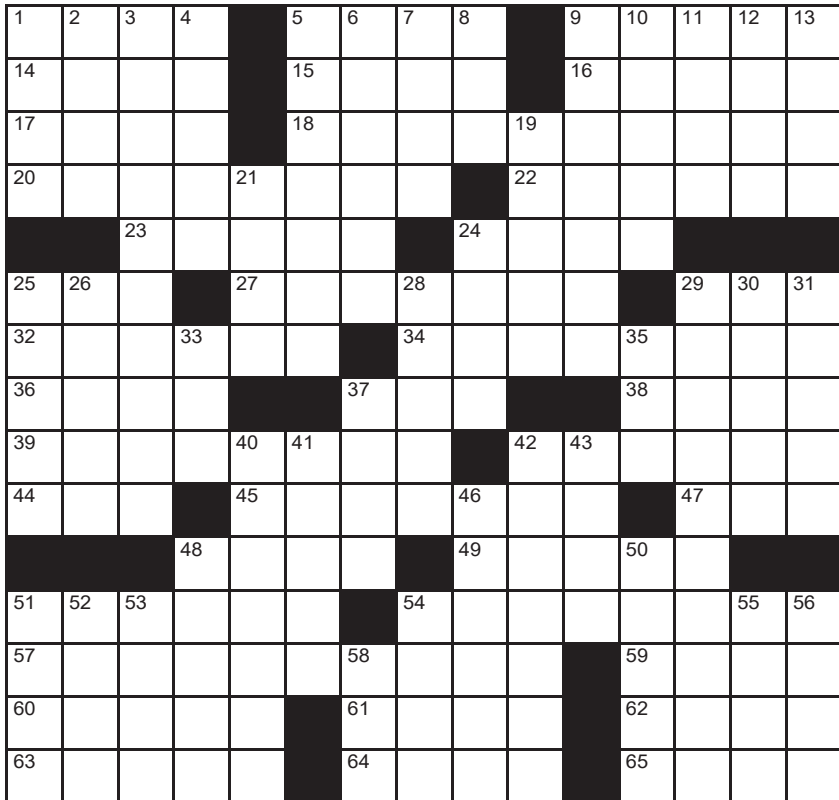
truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free tow, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Word before "mark" or "row"
- 5 "Waterloo" singers
- 9 Come clean
- 14 Exceptional
- 15 Tankard filler
- 16 Rob Petrie's wife
- 17 Fizzy drink
- 18 Piano player's aid
- 20 Beanie
- 22 Truthful
- 23 Saloon seat
- 24 Smallest pup
- 25 Stroller rider
- 27 Kindle, as passions
- 29 Bird call
- 32 To-do list item
- 34 Sidewalk cafe sight
- 36 Picnic spoiler
- 37 Cleopatra biter
- 38 Throw, as dice
- 39 Refuses to budge
- 42 Underhanded sort
- 44 Electrifying swimmer
- 45 Cricket's cousin
- 47 USN rank
- 48 Give a new look to
- 49 Sign after Pisces
- 51 Laundromat fixture
- 54 Despicable
- 57 Commotion
- 59 Mauna Loa output
- 60 Airport arriver



Copyright 2022 by The Puzzle Syndicate

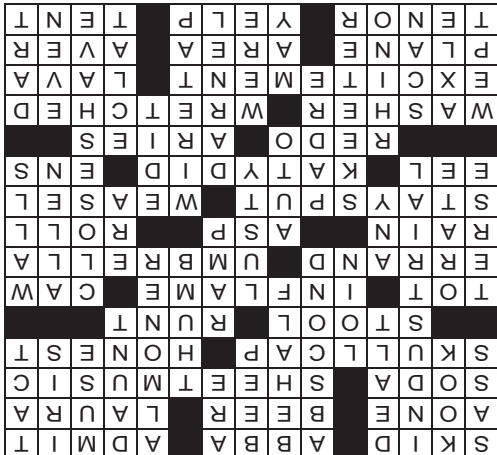
- 61 Surface measure
- 62 Declare firmly
- 63 Andrea Bocelli, for one
- 64 Cry of pain
- 65 Cover at a KOA

DOWN

- 1 Get smart
- 2 Oddball
- 3 _____ Revolution
- 4 Passed out in Vegas?
- 5 Run away (with)
- 6 On ____ of (as a proxy for)
- 7 Timer sound

- 8 Mathis song "Chances ____"
- 9 Charity-giver
- 10 Intimidate
- 11 Ponder
- 12 Spring bloom
- 13 Diplomat's skill
- 19 Hitchhiker's need
- 21 Butcher's cut
- 24 Highway exit
- 25 Far from wordy
- 26 Speak pompously
- 28 Full of passion
- 29 Stubble-free cut
- 30 Type of wrench
- 31 Places for murals
- 33 In ____ case

- 35 MLB stat
- 37 One for the road
- 40 Bitty biter, slangily
- 41 California ball-player
- 42 Bug, in a way
- 43 "Tide" anagram
- 46 Weedy ryegrass
- 48 Safari sight
- 50 Elaborate display
- 51 Broke down, in a way
- 52 Wheel shaft
- 53 Car radio feature
- 54 Are in the past?
- 55 Divisible by two
- 56 Bullseye hitter
- 58 Mom's month



FOR SALE

Jennifer Walsh
REAL ESTATE
Jennifer Walsh

507-438-6676
jenwalsh@kw.com
jenwalsh.kw.com

Powered by **kw** REALTOR. LISTEN. READY. **MLS**



BOE AUTO CENTER

115 Highway 56 N • West Concord
507-527-2241
www.boeautocenter.com

LET THESE SPONSORS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THESE COLUMNS!

FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY.

ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR LOCAL SHOP AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES BEFORE REPAIRS.

Come visit the Motor Medic® online at underthehoodshow.com

Enjoying the second 30



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Karen!!



We love
OWATONNA

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

We believe this community is home to wonderful people from all walks of life.

Visit federatedinsurance.com/WeLoveOwatonna to see all the reasons why Owatonna has our heart.

It's Our Business to Protect Yours

FEDERATED
INSURANCE

Commercial Insurance

Property & Casualty | Life & Disability Income | Workers Compensation

Personal Lines Insurance (MN only)

Homeowners, Condominiums, & Renters | Auto | Personal Umbrella

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries*

federatedinsurance.com

Ward's 50® Top Performer | A.M. Best® A+ (Superior) Rating**

21.10 Ed. 1/22 *Not licensed in all states. **View A.M. Best Rating Guide Information at www.ambest.com. © 2020 Federated Mutual Insurance Company



Minnesota School
Bus Driver Appreciation Week

February
23

A special thanks to all our drivers, aides, office staff,
mechanics and shop personnel.

It takes more than a driver, it takes an entire team
to keep'Moving Kids Forward.'

Thank you to everyone!

Owatonna
Bus Company

Medford
Bus Company

Blooming Prairie
Bus Company

NOW HIRING CDL AND MINIVAN DRIVERS • 1145 PARK DRIVE • OWATONNA