

Social media aides in arrest of suspected thief of cancer funds

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Social media has led police to a Twin Cities area man accused of ripping off a portion of the cancer donations generated from the recent Eagles Cancer Auction in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Jeffrey Joseph Krieger, 46, of Oakdale with two felony counts of burglary and theft. He remains locked up in the Steele County Detention Center.

Owatonna Police responded to the Eagle's Club on Feb. 6 for a burglary. The initial

investigation found there was no forced entry to the business, but a large amount of cash was missing.



Krieger

The officer reviewed surveillance video showing a white man wearing a black puffy coat and a camo hat with orange around the rim of the hat had entered the building and walk by the office door on the night of the cancer auction.

At about 7:24 p.m., the man exited the center doors while holding something in his hands and walking towards the exit. He turned around and walked back towards the office door. As the man appeared

to be holding something against his chest, he tried to exit a door that was locked. He then left through another exit.

Eagles Club officials told police the safe had been broken into during the night and a large amount of cash and checks totaling about \$8,000 was missing.

Police detective Joel Hunt developed a plan to share the photo of the suspect on the club's Facebook pages with the message, "Does anyone recognize this person? They are a person of interest and we ask that you message or contact Owatonna Police."

It wasn't long before the club received posts and responses on Facebook regarding the photo. One of the posts came from a bar

in Lino Lakes, a Twin Cities suburb. Local police contacted Lino Lakes Police, who helped identify the suspect as Krieger. He is currently on probation in Washington County.

Mounds View Police located Krieger on Feb. 10 and transported him to Steele County. While in custody, Krieger said, "I will do whatever I have to, to pay people back," according to the criminal complaint. Krieger also made references that he had "money hid out there."

Krieger faces five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted of the felony counts.

During the cancer fundraiser, which was held Feb. 2 and 3, the Eagles raised \$42,500 for cancer research. At this time, none of the missing funds has been recovered, police said.



Sheriff Lon Thiele feels right at home in his office at the Law Enforcement Center in Owatonna. "I love this job," he said in announcing he is running for re-election this fall.

Veteran sheriff to seek another term

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Acknowledging he's having a great time with the job, Sheriff Lon Thiele wants to make another run at being Steele County's top law enforcer.

Though filing won't be until May, Thiele, 51, announced this week his candidacy for the sheriff's job, which will be on the election ballot this fall. All 87 sheriffs in Minnesota are up for re-election this year. The term for sheriff is four years.

"I love this job," Thiele said. "You have to be a people person in this position, and I love to be able to get out and converse with people."

Thiele was first elected sheriff in 2010 when he took over the position from interim Sheriff Don Gudmundson, who had been brought in after Gary Ringhofer retired from the top spot. Thiele was re-elected again in 2014.

Looking back over the past four years, Thiele rattled off several

SEE TERM, A3

"Do the greatest good in the shortest amount of time."

Iris Johnson
CERT Trainer



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Members of the Steele County Community Emergency Response Team CERT members race into action during their final drill Thursday night at the Owatonna Fire Hall. The members will now be able to assist and act during emergencies and disasters in the county.

County's CERT team prepares for disaster

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It looked like a scene out of a movie. There were lights flashing, the power was shut off, and panicked residents were running through the fallen debris.

Last Thursday night's final CERT training drill certainly had the realism down. Among the volunteer actors was a woman searching frantically for her lost baby, a man trapped under a piece of plywood, and several others who appeared in dire

need of medical attention.

This drill was the final hurdle for a class of eight, one of whom was excluded due to an absence. After completing the course, the students in the class become certified members of Steele County's Community Emergency Response Team.

Bonnie Johnson, president of Steele County CERT, explains that the class includes eight modules, separate online portions, and lastly the training exercise, which was held at the Owatonna Fire Hall.

With a scenario in mind, the CERT team utilized volunteers to recreate the scene of a possible disaster. Before

the class was able to jump into the action and get to test out some of the techniques and methods they've learned, Johnson had them go over their protocols, pair up, and choose a designated leader.

The situation was also explained. The drill would reenact the CERT team's readiness and preparedness in case of an emergency. In this example, a storm had knocked out power, and caused destruction within the community. The CERT team's job was to demonstrate how to properly perform a search and rescue at the

SEE CERT, A3

Local Explorer post brings home 4th in national competition

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"WOW! We did it," exclaimed Blooming Prairie police officer Dan Peach when reflecting on the accomplishments recently of the Tactical Assault Search & Rescue Explorer Post 007.

Officers Peach, Rick Ellingson and Shane St. John, along with 911 dispatcher Christina Connati,

"We are so proud of the young kids who even beat the LAPD in competition."

Dan Peach
Explorer Supervisor

accompanied 13 Explorer Scouts on a trip to Chandler, Ariz. in mid-January.

The post was one of more than 100 teams competing in Special Weapons and Tactics competition.

The local Explorers competed against the likes of Explorers sponsored by police departments in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Phoenix. More than 1,000 Explorers participated in the competition.

While competing in various categories, the 007 Explorer Post brought home a fourth place trophy in Tactical EMS.

Peach, who himself was an Explorer at age 15, is an advisor to the group with founder Rick Ellingson. Peach and Ellingson are both officers in Blooming Prairie and in Janesville. Peach can also be found working at B to Z Hardware in Blooming Prairie.

Ellingson is a full-time paramedic for the Gold Cross Ambulance Service. His company, Ellingson Tactical

SEE EXPLORER, A8



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie Youth Club unit coordinator Kelli Naatz and staff member Alicia Ptacek do some planning for the upcoming Rib Fest in June.

New coordinator named at BP Youth Club

Kelli Naatz has lofty goals for organization

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Leadership comes in different commodities, and Kelli Naatz, 24, of Blooming Prairie, is one of those untapped leaders.

Naatz, a 2012 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School, was recently named unit coordinator of the Blooming

Prairie Youth Club. She succeeds Marcy Sundine.

"I never envisioned myself here working with young people," says Naatz in an honest tone of voice.

Even though she has only been on staff since last August at the BP Youth Club, Naatz has gained valuable experience as a leader and has already set some lofty goals.

"I want the club to grow and expand

and have a greater diversity," Naatz remarks. "We're always looking for improvement," she added.

The Blooming Prairie Youth Club, formerly the Boys and Girls Club of BP, is a home after school for youngsters from grades K-8. The club is also the site some young volunteers and even older volunteers like to inhabit.

SEE COORDINATOR, A8

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AREA DEATHS

Lloyd Otterson, 85

*Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893*

OUR VIEW

Support for America's favorite youth ag group

About 200 youths around Steele County are celebrating National FFA Week this week. Future Farmers of America, known as FFA, has become one of America's favorite youth groups linked to agriculture.

The local teens are part of the National FFA Organization of nearly 650,000 members representing 7,800 chapters in every state. These members have a passion for agriculture, which happens to be the heartbeat of life in our region.

Today's FFA members are the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. Through agricultural and hands-on learning, they are preparing for 255 unique career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries.

Since its beginning more than 90 years ago, FFA provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to high school students. At one time almost all FFA members were living on farms and planned to be in production agriculture. However, times have changed and today FFA is much more than future farmers. There are a tremendous number of careers in agriculture in addition to planting and harvesting a crop or raising livestock.

Agriculture today needs plant breeders, plant pathologists, chemists, agronomists, animal breeders and nutritionists, sales people to sell seed, herbicides, machinery and equipment, truck drivers, veterinarians, food processors, computer programmers and the list goes on and on.

Steele County is fortunate to have strong FFA chapters in all schools, including Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Medford and NRHEG. We proudly support the efforts of these local FFA chapters in preparing members for carrying on the powerful tradition of agriculture in our region.

This week we have dedicated a special section to share stories of some local FFA members and how they are impacting their schools and communities. One in particular, Hannah Olien of NRHEG, recently earned the highest degree given out to any FFA member. "FFA has been a blessing that has helped me get out of my comfort zone and try new things," Olien says.

The local FFA chapters often take part in community service projects to help members understand the important role of being involved in the community while at the same time teaching the greater community about the importance of agriculture in our society.

The future of agriculture is in the hands of youth like Olien. Let's join in to support the future of agriculture and celebrate one of our favorite youth ag organizations.

GUEST COLUMN

New incentives for solar coming in 2018

Solar power was the fastest-growing source of energy worldwide in 2017—and plenty of area homes and businesses will add to the number of solar users in 2018, thanks to incentives from utilities and the government.

Residential solar systems have long presented a cost-benefit question for potential users. While they reduce or eliminate electric bills by contributing energy to local utilities, the systems require an upfront investment in technology and labor. Solar-curious Minnesotans/Wisconsinites once struggled to make the numbers add up. But in the last few years, with the price of solar technology dropping, the state government and local utilities decided to do more to encourage conversion to the renewable resource. Sweetening the rewards for going solar has an upside, even for utilities who are in the business of selling power. The more homes generating solar power, the less strain on aging electric grids.

Most customers of the local grid looking for solar affordability will be in for a pleasant surprise when they see what a big impact this year's programs will have on installation costs. The Xcel Energy Solar*Rewards program opened for applications on Jan. 8. Each year the program funds a limited number of Xcel Energy as they go solar. Last year, the program was fully allocated by the end of summer. There are also national programs to help households get up and running with solar. The 30 percent federal investment tax credit (ITC) is available for a variety of green energy installations, including solar, through December 2019.

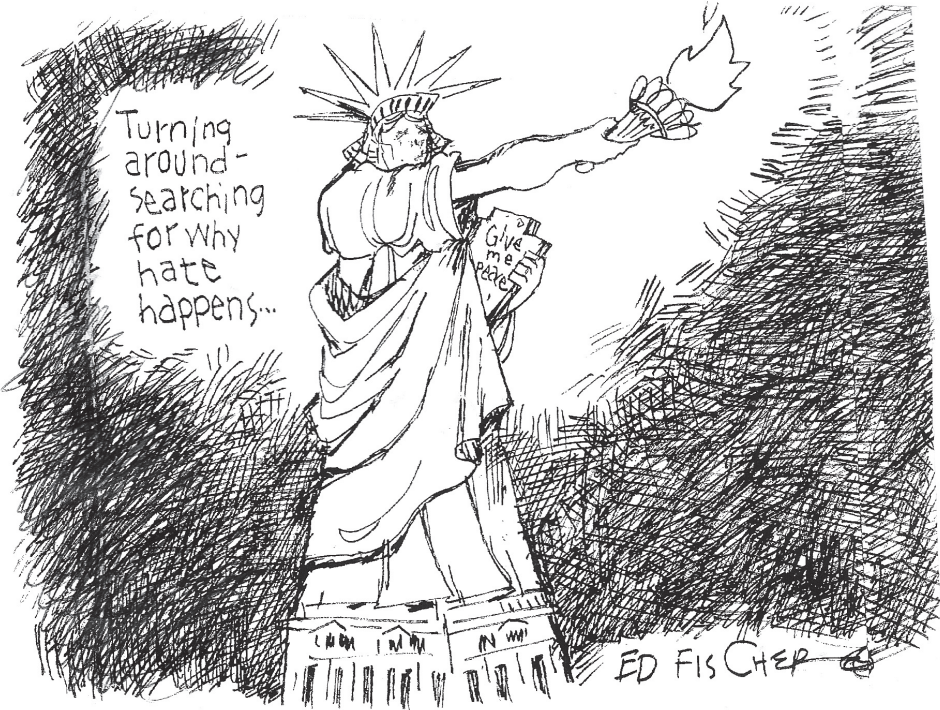
Dig a little deeper and solar shows its value even more. A study by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California showed that across the board, buyers were willing to pay \$15,000 extra for a home with an average-sized solar panel system. And homes or businesses that endure power outages during storms won't have that same vulnerability with solar, which provides stability the aging electric grid can't match. Some systems actually make money, selling more energy to the grid than the household consumes. And of course, it's always a bonus to have bragging rights at becoming one of the first on the block to go solar.

Becoming part of the solar wave is also simpler than ever before. A homeowner's first step is a call to a locally owned installer, like All Energy Solar for a free consultation to determine if a property is a good candidate for a solar system. All Energy Solar takes the lead on completing paperwork and meeting the deadlines for the rewards programs and tax credits; as well as helping structure financing, putting a further dent in any upfront costs. No wonder so many Minnesotans/Wisconsinites are finally warming up to solar power, taking control to own their own source of energy and freeing themselves from their monthly electric bill.

Michael Allen is a green energy leader and CEO of All Energy Solar. He enjoys using his experience designing and building reliable long lasting energy systems.



MICHAEL ALLEN



ED FISCHER

Why ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Every so often I run into people, mostly young children, who ask good questions that sometimes make me even think for a moment.

Such was the case last week when I attended Ash Wednesday services and heard some children asking about the ashes. In between kids exchanging hearts and treats for Valentine's Day and adults giving roses, they were also having the sign of the cross smudged with ashes on their foreheads. Incidentally, the last time the ashes and roses met on Feb. 14 was in 1945. Their curiosity peaked in wanting to know why ashes on Ash Wednesday.

For Christians around the world, Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season leading up to Christ being crucified on the cross and rising from the dead on Easter.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of worshippers. Most often the phrase, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," comes with the placement of the ashes.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Christians bearing the sign of the cross on their forehead are sharing a formal practice that dates back over a thousand years.

As I found last week, Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the faith community. I discovered that the form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

Through my years of worshipping, I have noticed Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the church year.

Receiving the ashes has always been a great opportunity for me to show pause and think about my life and the life Jesus endured.

With Ash Wednesday coinciding with Valentine's Day this year, it certainly set up a curious confluence of decadence and abstinence. No doubt, the truly faithful found a way to multi-task and love, eat and pray. At least in my case for this year, I replaced romance with ashes.

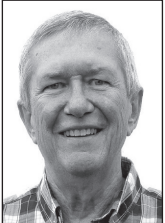
The calendar sets up another interesting twist of irony this year. Easter falls on April Fool's Day. So who knows what's going to be in the eggs at the Easter Egg Hunt. It's also the first time since 1945 that the two have met on the same date.

If anyone has a good question they would like answered about anything, let me know and I'll go in hot pursuit of tracking down the answer.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

He was still ski jumping at 79



Reflections ... and how
HOWARD LESTRUD

One is never too old to continue skiing, says life-long ski jumper Dale Severson of Eau Claire, Wis.

I had the opportunity to get directly involved in the Winter Olympics by meeting a former Olympian, who is still skiing at age 82 1/2 and was still ski jumping at age 79.

Severson was a guest speaker last weekend at the St. Paul Norske Torske Klubben monthly meeting in Oakdale at the Prom Center.

It was exciting in itself watching melted butter slide over a nice helping of torsk that was flown in the day before from Norway.

More excitement came when Severson was given the opportunity to talk about his skiing career. He started ski jumping at age 4 and continued until age 79. He joined the Flying Eagles Ski Club in Eau Claire at age 6.

Severson narrated a DVD presentation on his ski jumping career.

He was chosen an alternate to the United States Olympic ski jumping team in 1956 at Cortina, Italy. Severson was able to attend the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer and then spent holiday time in a Norwegian hytte in the mountains.

Norway claims him. His father came from Burvik in the Trondheim area and his mother, from Lillehammer. Severson has visited Norway more than 12 times.

Showing several photos of ski jumps on which he participated, Severson said his longest jump was 291 feet at Iron Mountain, Michigan.

Severson said one of his proudest accomplishments was being chosen the "most graceful" in a world championship event.

It hasn't been all about Severson's ski jumping accomplishments. It's more about his involvement with the Ski for Light program which helps blind skiers navigate on cross country skis.

If you think you are too old to compete in challenging activities, just check out this well seasoned skiing veteran.

Also, turn on the television and catch some actual ski jumping at the Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. Dale Severson will be tuned in.



Dale Severson

LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net. Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not

necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words. The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

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ETHICS

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

Something's a little fishy



More than 300 people enjoyed the Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Friday night at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Serving Dennis Wencil, left, are Bruce Rumpsa (foreground) and Josh Thoreson. All ages enjoyed the fish fry, including little Henry Hendrickson, 2, whose expression tells the complete story of how he feels about eating fish. With the Lent season getting underway last week, fish fries will be common throughout the region in the coming weeks.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ellingson committed to training explorers for 30 years

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The founder of Explorer Scout Post 007, Rick Ellingson, was speechless when honored by current TASAR Post 007 Explorers following competition in Chandler, Ariz., last month.

Ellingson, a part-time officer with Janesville and Blooming Prairie police departments, was recognized for his 30 years of involvement with Explorer Scouts. He joined the BP department in 2004.

A plaque was given to Ellingson to pay tribute to his 30 years of dedication to training youth in the Emergency Services field. Cake and ice cream were also served at a celebratory party.

Ellingson organized the Explorer troop in 1988 when he was working for Gold Cross Ambulance.

"I was very shocked when they gave me this honor and forgot that it was that many years," Ellingson said.

The 007 Post is called TASAR (Tactical Assault Search and Rescue). It is sponsored by Ellingson Tactical Safety of Medford.

Ellingson continues to be a Gold Cross paramedic and is a Medford firefighter.

The Explorer post started as a First Aid unit and later added law enforcement, high and low level rescue and SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics).

Ellingson thanks the late Al Bras of the Duluth Gold Cross for being his mentor during the early days of the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rick Ellingson, organizer of the TASAR Explorer Scout Troop 007, was given special recognition at a SWAT competition for Explorers in Chandler, AZ last month. Fellow Blooming Prairie officer Dan Peach gives Ellingson a plaque of appreciation following the competition in Arizona.

Explorer Scouts.

"It's very satisfying to see young people use the Explorer Scouts as an advancement to go on with their career, whether it be in law enforcement, First Response or the military," Ellingson said.

He said working with the Explorers also gives him a chance to practice his skills. "I try to show them as much as I can in the short time I have," he explained.

"He has a wealth of knowledge which is shared with others through his training skills."

Chief Greg Skillestad
Blooming Prairie Police

Just last April, Ellingson was sidelined for months after falling 22 feet from a shed. He was in a body cast for most of the summer but kept contact with the Explorers.

Ellingson is also firearms officer for the BP Police Department. "He is a huge asset for the community and he has helped shaped me into the officer I am today," Peach remarked.

"Rick was truly humbled by the recognition," Peach said.

Added BP police chief Greg Skillestad, "He has a wealth of knowledge which is shared with others through his training skills. The Explorer post gives young people the opportunity to be part of being a First Responder."

Ellingson said the Explorers would still like to make a trip to the Everglades and to Alaska. The Alaska trip was put on hold last year because of Ellingson's injuries.

CERT: Preparing for disaster



SUBMITTED PHOTO

FROM PAGE A1

basement of a local business, including triage and recovery. The fire hall basement doubled as the setting.

Iris Johnson, CERT trainer and Red Cross member, thinks such community preparedness is vital to counteract the difficulties an emergency situation can present to first responders, as well as the panicked public.

She said the program has trained and certified over 200 people since its inception. The class has been offered for some 15 odd years, having started in 2003. One year there were two classes offered, and another year the class was unavailable.

CERT, Johnson said, helps with many variations of emergency response, including crowd control, sheltering, road closures, and disaster assessment. She feels that "for every person trained, that's one less that the city has to take care of during an emergency."

According to Johnson, their motto is "do the greatest good in the shortest amount of time." She also said, "We're all about making people safe."

Some of the precautions those who take the class acquire include proper preparedness, response techniques including those for search and rescue situations, and the importance of shutting off utilities in the face of certain disasters.

"We tell people to first look after themselves, and once they know they're safe, to then begin to account for their family and friends, and neighbors, and then they can communicate with and aid first responders," Johnson explained.

Last year the class held its courses at Roosevelt School, with the training drill held at Lincoln School. Johnson and CERT are in talks with Trinity Lutheran Church, which will likely

host both the course and its drill next year.

When asked whether the first responders were initially hesitant in supporting CERT, Johnson said she thinks that the performance of her CERT team during the flood of 2010 helped cement their faith in the program.

"They were out laying sandbags, and helping with all of the flooding," Johnson said. "Now the first responders definitely support us. After the flood, I think they understood how valuable we can be."

Many of the first responders help by teaching proper techniques, she noted.

Jerry Ibberson of Steele County CERT agrees with Johnson's assessment. He feels that the community, including local first responders, is very supportive. He said CERT's job is to work in conjunction with first responders, "during a disaster it can be overwhelming, so we bridge the gap."

In order to become a member of CERT, one has to complete the requirements of the class, including the final drill, be over the age of 18, a resident of Steele County, and pass a background check. Those who wish to be certified below the age of 18 can attend the class accompanied by a parent.

This year's class featured a mother-daughter team, a Civil Air Patrol officer, two residents studying emergency management, and two Red Cross Disaster Action Team members. With their training complete they will be able to properly assist first responders during a disaster situation.

"Learning these techniques gives you some confidence if something happens, and teaches you not to just panic, because now you know what to do," says Iris Johnson, who is proud of this year's class of CERT members. "It's really a great group."

TERM: Veteran Sheriff

FROM PAGE A1

accomplishments or improvements he has made within the sheriff's office. One of them that he is most proud of came in 2014 when he found an antique Thompson sub-machine gun collecting dust in a storage area in the office. Instead of displaying the weapon in the front lobby like many police agencies often do, Thiele sold it to an antique collector for \$37,500. The sale required extensive legwork in following ATF regulations.

"I used the proceeds to supplement my budget and purchased a new squad car for our department," Thiele said. At the time, he noted, he received many thank yous from citizens expressing their appreciation for using the money for the sheriff's budget.

Another situation that initially had a negative impact on Thiele's budget, but ended up being positive revolved around the 2016 murder investigation of Richard Jurgensen. His office incurred about \$10,000 in unexpected overtime costs. Thiele located a state statute that very few people know about in which the sheriff's office could apply for a reimbursement grant to cover the costs. He was successful in getting the \$10,000 back.

Thiele said his efforts in both cases point to his diligence of looking out for the taxpayers of the county. "I've been historically under budget," he said. "I want to be the best steward for taxpayer dollars by searching for grants to supplement the budget to keep tax dollars down."

The detention center, which Thiele oversees, has also been a source of additional revenue for the sheriff's budget. During Thiele's tenure, the county has entered into a contract with the Minnesota Department of Corrections to house inmates in the local jail. The county is still receiving the contract, which helps offset costs associated with running a jail, he said.

"It is running as well as it can be," Thiele said of the detention center operations.

Thiele also plans to announce a new program in the next week involving leasing of vehicles for his department as well as the rest of the county. The program could potentially save the county thousands of dollars in auto expenses.

Education and training are important to Thiele. In 2014 and 2015, he completed the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award, which consists of supervisor leadership, command leadership and executive leadership. "I try to keep up the best I can," he said.

The sheriff also completed the Blandin Community Leadership program along with other leaders from Steele County. "It was a really neat experience because I was able to join fellow Steele Countians in leadership," Thiele said.

Thiele co-chairs the operations committee for the Rice-Steele

911 Dispatch Center. Rice County Sheriff Troy Dunn also chairs the committee with Thiele.

During his tenure as sheriff, Thiele has directed his deputies to be focused on community policing. "Our job, especially in a rural area, is not about writing tickets," he said. "It's about doing the job and providing assistance to people who need it. My deputies are trained to make sure they give assistance when needed."

Thiele said his style of policing is "a lot of community involvement." And he's not one to shy away from getting out in the public. For example, he recently spent a Saturday morning reading to about 50 children at the Owatonna Public Library.

He also plans to be involved with Dancing with the Steele County Stars later this spring.

Asked what he wants his office to be known for, Thiele responded, "Not only that we are the most efficient agency, but that we serve with honor and compassion."

Thiele has been in law enforcement for 27 years. After police stints in South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, he came back to Steele County in 2003.

He said he initially ran for sheriff in 2010 because "I felt My door is always open," he said. "I love the interaction with people."

While many law enforcement officers retire in their mid-50s, Thiele is showing no signs of giving up. "I want to be sheriff in this county for a long time," he said.

"I want to be the best steward for taxpayer dollars by searching for grants to supplement the budget to keep tax dollars down."

Sheriff Lon Thiele
Seeking Re-Election

Positive reinforcement-based leadership style at the sheriff's office



Behind the Badge
SCOTT ROSE

Theodore Roosevelt once said, “The best executive is the one who has enough sense to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” As sheriff, I believe it’s important to lead with a positive reinforcement-based leadership style that edifies and fully utilizes the knowledge and strengths of our staff to help with the day-to-day duties and decision making. Our staff, in every department, brings to the table years of experience, both inside and outside law enforcement. The men and women who serve the Sheriff’s Office and this community deserve a positive, enthusiastic, supportive sheriff’s administration that allows them to do what they do best without micro-managing, while leading with an impartial compass for what’s right and what’s wrong. I firmly believe this leadership style that we’ve adopted has greatly benefited both our staff and the people we serve.

Leadership isn’t about how far you advance yourself, it’s all about how far you advance others. We regularly praise and credit our amazing team of men and women who serve day and night - both with the public and internally throughout the year, as well as during our annual Awards Banquet each year. It’s been very exciting to see, with the right tools and encouragement, our team working together and accomplishing some pretty major goals and improvements over the past three years. It’s been even more exciting to see our employees learning and growing – developing into our future leaders. For me, that’s probably one of the greatest experiences as Sheriff – to be in a position to help those who are willing to work hard and grow develop into our future leaders. Leadership is really all about producing more leaders, not more followers. This positive leadership philosophy has proven effective over the past three years – evident by the number of our employees who have been recognized statewide for their work and achievements: • Capt. Ryer Anderson – Minnesota Sheriff’s Association Supervisor of the Year • Investigator Jeff Brumfield – LELS Annual Lou Jeska Award

• Sgt. Rich Allee – Minnesota Sheriff’s Association Service Award • Melissa Publitz / Records Dept – PLEAA Excellence in Service Award This past week, at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Governors Conference, our PSAP/ Emergency Management Director Matt Maas was awarded the annual Emergency Management Director of the Year award. While there are many accomplishments throughout the year by many of our staff, these are just a few great examples of staff going above and beyond and being recognized inside and outside of our office for their efforts – evidence that our style of leadership works here in Dodge County. We are excited to learn, improve, and strengthen our staff and its abilities in 2018 – to continue to provide Dodge County the level and quality of law enforcement services you’ve come to expect from our office. Thank you for the opportunity, your confidence, and your trust. Your Sheriff, Scott

Scott Rose has served as sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. His term is up this year. His column appears in this newspaper regularly.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 5 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Trereias D. Harris, 35, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. Harris was sentenced to \$131, 54 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Joshua J. Herplinck, 33, Lake Mills, previously appeared and was convicted of felony store meth paraphernalia in the presence of child or vulnerable adult. He was sentenced to \$131, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 224 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Chyanne K. Markham, 22, Claremont, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of three grams or more of cocaine/heroin/meth. The defendant was sentenced to \$131, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, maintain employment and 5 years of supervised probation.

Trace M. Stanley, 20, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of harassment restraining order. Stanley was sentenced to \$381, 200 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 5 – 9:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT Thomas J. Haberman, 43,

Bloomington Prairie, revoked license, \$281.

**MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER**
Matthew J. Baer, 39, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Jeremy J. Bell, 37, Woodbury, speeding, \$221; Steven K. Bland, 60, Shakopee, speeding, \$131; Brandyn R. Bohlman, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Mikayla R. Brainard, 19, Wanamingo, speeding, \$131; Sarah A. Chandler, 43, Albert Lea, speeding, \$131; Alexander J. Chavie, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Steven M. Espinel, 28, Parkersburg, IA, seat belt, \$106; Oliver J. Fleming, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Ivan R. Garcia, 33, Waseca, speeding and suspended license, \$341; Rissa M. Herman, 30, Fresno, CA, speeding, \$121; Ashley M. Hoffman, 26, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$131; Andrew Kamara, 48, Woodbury, speeding, \$106; Lorraine M. Kral, 43, Medford, suspended license, \$281; Danielle Lindquist, 33, St. Peter, speeding, \$121; Larry W. Little, 70, Broken Arrow, OK, seat belt, \$106; Tralana R. Madlock-Hitchcock, 22, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Carolyn B. Miller, 53, Austin, speeding, \$131; Allyson M. Milliken, 18, Parkersburg, IA, seat belt, \$106; Edward L. Mincey, 58, Town Lane, SC, failure to use designated lane, \$131; Murad K. Mohammad, 37, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Robert E. Mollenhauer, 69, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Linda A. Oddy-Whyte, 49, Winona, speeding, \$121; Susan M. Opitz, 46, Minneapolis, no license, \$181; Emily A. Pariseau, 19, Shoreview, speeding, \$141; Raymond A. Riedl, 54, Wells, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$281 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Joshua J. Ritter, 23, Prior Lake, speeding, \$121; Josue Santibanez, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Leah E. Scheevel, 20, Harmony, speeding, \$121; Todd A. Schelling, 56, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Geri L. Smith, 54, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Michael J. Steele, 46, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Beau L. Tobin, 25, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Daniel R. Uhlenkott, 47, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Tarren P. Weise, 19, Waseca, speeding, possession of marijuana and seat belt, \$316.

**OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
Joshua M. Born, 31, Medford, no insurance, \$281; Jacob S. Farless, 26, Owatonna, controlled substance crime – possession and tampering

with motor vehicle, \$131, 37 days in county jail, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Jessica J. Frank, 39, Albert Lea, careless driving, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jessica L. Gregory, 16, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$100; Victor Guerrero, 23, Owatonna, invalid license, 22 days in county jail and \$50; John H. Halliday, 37, Minneapolis, controlled substance crime, \$131 and 180 days in county jail; Hanna L. Hughes, 19, Owatonna, trespassing, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Alicia A. Mansfield, 24, Faribault, revoked license and no child passenger restraint system, \$331; Bryant L. McLaughlin, 27, New Prague, failure to stop for traffic control signal and no insurance, \$331; Robert M. Miller, 50, Waseca, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$131, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation; Awil A. Mohamed, 28, Faribault, speeding, \$281; Sekerije M. Saleban, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Abbegayle E. Schumacher, 17, Claremont, speeding, \$131; Caroline L. Skalicky, 32, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Johnathan C. Smith, 32, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, \$131 and 19 days in county jail; Jose E. Sosa Venegas, 18, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381; Travis M. Swartz, 30, Owatonna, theft, \$181; Larry D. Thompson, 25, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Carnell D. Williamson, 38, Owatonna, fleeing a peace officer, \$131 and 5 days in county jail.

**STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
Thomas E. Dockery, 44, New Richland, speeding, \$131; Travis E. Fessel, 43, Waterville, careless driving, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Daniel A. Garcia, 18, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$131; Thomas A. Gramse, 19, Medford, expired tabs, \$111; Bradley T. Gray, 49, Waseca, stop sign, \$131; Brianna F. Marble, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Mohamed M. Muhumed, 34, Faribault, speeding, \$131;

Nancy G. Musa, 29, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$141; Parker W. Nelson, 16, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; David Ortiz, 39, Faribault, trespassing, \$381 and 7 days in county jail; Samuel A. Pearson, 18, Kenyon, stop sign, \$131; Jessie J. Phelps, 37, West Concord, cancelled license, \$131, 1 day in county jail and 6 months of supervised probation; Shepperd L. Robins Priestley, 26, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$281; Jose E. Sosa Venegas, 18, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Trevor S. St. Martin, 38, Faribault, false name to peace officer, \$181, 45 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Cody L. Sunde, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Timothy R. Thoreson, 53, Medford, suspended license, \$281; Adam C. Ulrich, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Taylor A. Ziemke, 23, Waseca, improper information on license and speeding, \$301.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Feb. 14
Crash: Police assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 100 block of Highway Ave. S.

OWATONNA POLICE

Feb. 11
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Academy St. E. at 10:21 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Feb. 12
Theft: At 6:54 a.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from the 600 block of Bridge St. W. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of School St. E. at 8:14 a.m. **Mental Health:** Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 2000 block of 8th Ave. NE at 4:01 p.m.

Feb. 13
Domestic: At 9:35 a.m., police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. **Fraud:** Police received a report of a fraud incident in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 1:27 p.m. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:02 p.m. **Shoplifting:** At 3:32 p.m., a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Warrant:** Officers arrested subjects for outstanding warrants in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 4:52 p.m. and the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 8:12 p.m. **Arrest:** Police arrested a

CRIME BRIEF

Police nab domestic assault suspect after fleeing in vehicle and on foot

A suspect in a domestic assault in Owatonna tried to give police the slip, but it only worked temporarily. On Feb. 10, police responded to a woman who had been assaulted. She reportedly had left her home, but was being followed by the suspect. An officer tracked down the victim in the area of McKinley School and learned she had been punched in the back, the side of her face and had a spoon and pan thrown at her. The victim was bleeding from her mouth. While interviewing the victim, the officer saw the suspect continually call the victim's phone. Officers tried unsuccessfully to locate him. A short time later the victim called police back saying she was

being followed by him again. Police intercepted the suspect's van near the Owatonna Canning Co. When the officer attempted to stop him, a pursuit ensued on North Cedar Avenue and to the Skyline Gardens Mobile Home Community. Once inside Skyline, the suspect ditched his vehicle and fled on foot. He was caught after a short foot chase in which an officer deployed his Taser. Victor Manual Cruz-Puentes, 31, was arrested at the scene and later charged with domestic assault, fleeing police in a motor vehicle, fleeing on foot and driving without a license.



Cruz-Puentes

motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and 18th St. NE at 10:43 p.m. **Feb. 14**
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of 14th St. NE at 2:39 a.m. **Crash:** Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Rose St. E. and Pine Ave. NE at 9:40 a.m. **Hit and Run:** At 10:43 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW. **Burglary:** Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of 24th Ave. NW at 1:27 p.m. **Shoplifting:** A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:51 p.m. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 5:37 p.m. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Pearl St. E. at 5:55 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Feb. 11
Welfare: Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 10:11 a.m.

Feb. 12
Crash: Deputies received information regarding a vehicle hitting a deer at 270th St. E. and 19th Ave. NE in Walcott Township at 8:58 a.m.

Feb. 13
Welfare: Deputies conducted a welfare check in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 3:39 p.m. **Crash:** At 4:21 p.m., deputies assisted the State Patrol with a vehicle off the road in the 4200 block of Crane Creek Road in Owatonna Township. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 9:48 p.m.

Feb. 14
Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 8000 block of Highway 14 E. in Havana Township at 2:29 p.m.

Feb. 15
Crash: Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 100 block of 1st St. NE in Medford at 8:33 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers. **Fraud:** Deputies received a report of a fraud incident at the law enforcement center in Owatonna at 11:43 a.m.

ARREST Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Daniel Darrell Webster, 57, arrested at 10:20 a.m. Feb. 9, felony burglary, held for court.

Jeffrey Joseph Krieger, 46, arrested at 3:41 a.m. Feb. 10, felony theft and burglary, held for court. **John Thomas McGuire**, 37, arrested at 1:45 p.m. Feb. 10, warrant arrest, body only. **Victor Manuel Cruz Puentes**, 31, arrested at 8:54 p.m. Feb. 10, felony fleeing in a motor vehicle, fleeing on foot, domestic assault and no license, held for court. **Daniel Magen Dut**, 33, arrested at 11:05 a.m. Feb. 11, assault/domestic assault, held for court. **Jakob Skyler Farless**, 26, arrested at 12:31 p.m. Feb. 12, felony theft of motor vehicle, held for court. **Jenni Marie Williams**, 35, arrested at 10:08 a.m. Feb. 13, domestic assault and assault, held for court. **Michael Edward Payne**, 25, arrested at 8:56 p.m. Feb. 13, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **John Allen McCollum**, 25, arrested at 11:11 p.m. Feb. 13, revoked license, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Joseph Lee Marlin, 35, arrested at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 9, warrant arrest, \$500 bail. **Victor Guerrero**, 23, arrested at 9:57 a.m. Feb. 11, domestic assault, open bottle, revoked license and DWI, held for court. **Omar Moreno Jr.**, 20, arrested at 11:42 a.m. Feb. 13, felony damage to property, \$5,000 bail. **Stephanie Ann Thompson**, 42, arrested at 1:25 p.m. Feb. 13, warrants arrest, held for court. **Roxanne Elaine Rankin**, 47, arrested at 10:15 p.m. Feb. 13, theft warrant, body only. **Kevin Robert House**, 20, arrested at 3:20 p.m. Feb. 14, felony controlled substance and intent to escape tax, held for court. **Larry Dean Haberman**, 46, arrested at 9 p.m. Feb. 15, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

MN STATE PATROL
Viengvilay Phetsomphou, 36, arrested at 4:35 p.m. Feb. 10, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

OWATONNA FIRE

Feb. 12
Fire: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 38700 block of 180th St. NE at 3:24 a.m.

Feb. 14
Crash: At 9:42 a.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Rose St. E.

Feb. 15
Medical: Firefighters assisted with a medical emergency in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:45 p.m.

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

1. Travis Farris – theft – no bail
2. Francis Feeley – domestic assault - \$3,000 bail
3. Drew Ferguson – warrant – no bail
4. Romero Fernandez – criminal sexual conduct - \$200,000 bail
5. Oscar Ferrera – DWI – no bail
6. James Feyereisen – warrant - \$10,000 bail
7. Raymond Fleming – DWI – no bail

8. Luis Flores – traffic - \$100 bail
9. Rogelio Flores – DWI, revoked license - \$12,000 bail
10. Jose Flores Redondo – domestic assault - \$500 bail
11. Kewana Freeman – card fraud - \$5,000 bail
12. Melinda Fuentes – no insurance - \$1,000 bail
13. Albino Gallegos-Garza – false name - \$6,000 bail
14. Anthony Galloway – DWI – no bail

15. Reginaldo Galvan – DWI - \$12,000 bail
16. Raymond Garavito – DWI - \$1,000 bail
17. Arthur Garcia – theft - \$500 bail
18. Ezequiel Garcia – failure to register as sex offender – no bail
19. Nohemi Garcia – theft - \$1,000 bail
20. Salvador Garcia – burglary – no bail

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

Income Tax Filing Requirements for Retirees



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for seniors this year? I didn't file a tax return the past two years because my income was below the filing requirements, but I got a part-time job late last year, so I'm wondering if I'm required to file this year.

Part-time Retiree

Dear Part-time,

Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year will depend on how much you earned last year (in 2017), and the source of that income, as well as your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's (2017) IRS tax filing requirement thresholds. For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2017 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 probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- * Single: \$10,400 (\$11,950 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2018).
- * Married filing jointly: \$20,800 (\$22,050 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$23,300 if you're both over 65).
- * Married filing separately: \$4,050 at any age.
- * Head of household: \$13,400 (\$14,950 if age 65 or older).
- * Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$16,750 (\$18,000 if age 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 "Tax Guide for Seniors" (publication 554), or see [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf).

Check Here Too

There are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirement. For example, if you had earnings from self-employment in 2017 of \$400 or more, or if you're receiving Social Security benefits and half your benefits plus all other income, including tax-exempt interest, exceeds \$25,000 (or \$32,000 if you are married filing jointly), you'll probably need to file.

To figure this out, the IRS offers an interactive tax assistant tool on their website 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 less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/filing](https://www.irs.gov/filing) – click on the "Do I Need to File?" button. Or, you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040. You can also get face-to-face help at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. See [IRS.gov/localcontacts](https://www.irs.gov/localcontacts) or call 800-829-1040 to locate a center near you.

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 Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can get help through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TEC 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.treasury.gov/freetaxprep) to locate a service near you.

Also check with AARP, a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at around 5,000 sites nationwide. To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call 888-227-7669 or visit [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp). You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

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.*

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Feb. 19, 2008

Dan Evans, Publisher

Although the Boys and Girls Club gala hit some minor snags in its planning stages with the abrupt closing of the original site, Lansing Corners, it ultimately became a great success. It was held at the Servicemen's Club. Linda Kaplan was presented an award for her years of service to the local club. The United Way of Steele County presented the club with a check of \$8,000.

Alejandro Ortiz, 35, has been charged with one felony count in Steele County District Court after he allegedly threatened his wife with a knife during a domestic disagreement at their home in Ellendale. He was charged with second-degree assault after Steele County deputies were called to the home shortly after 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11.

The Awesome Blossom girls avenged an earlier season overtime loss to NRHEG and captured the Gopher Conference title. The win earned the Blossoms their first win over the Panthers after five straight losses. The Blossoms are currently 19-3 this season.

20 Years Ago Feb. 17, 1998

Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Emilio DeGrazia, a Minnesota author, visited Blooming Prairie on Thursday, Feb. 12 to talk about the topic of "The Writing Life: Far from the Maddening Crowd" and how rural communities have much to contribute to the literary world.

It's the grand finale, folks, so you don't want to miss it! The Blooming Prairie Fire Department will be holding its final auction Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Pizza Cellar/Cue Company. But this one is unlike any done in town. With almost \$130,000 in the pot already, the fire truck fund is set at \$156,000.

With a chance to clean up a blighted area, the City of Blooming Prairie approved the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and municipal development district at its monthly meeting Feb. 9. The area includes the Pine View Acres Trailer Court where a new development of 20 homes is being proposed. New city administrator Michael Rietz started with the city Feb. 3 and was welcomed by the council.

50 Years Ago Feb. 15, 1968

Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers

Rev. Father Patrick Russell has resigned as pastor of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie due to ill health. He celebrated his final mass on Feb. 14. Father Russell has been in poor health for some time and recently was hospitalized while on a trip in Texas. Father John P. Cody of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Newry will serve as temporary pastor until a new priest

is assigned here.

The Blooming Prairie Creamery Center, a new business establishment here, will hold its official grand opening next Saturday, Feb. 17. Harvey T. Anderson, proprietor of the firm announced today. The establishment is located in the former Webb Service Station building on Highway 218 south.

About 7,500 laying hens and cockerels perished in a fire at the Ed Van Kampen farm, 9 ½ miles southwest of Blooming Prairie on Tuesday afternoon. The 7,500 chickens were housed in a 240-foot structure which was one-half destroyed before firemen brought the blaze under control. Fire chief Kermit Peterson reported the cause of the fire appeared to be a faulty heater in the egg storage room.

75 Years Ago Feb. 18, 1943

Frank Krejci, Publisher

The 51st annual meeting of the Blooming Prairie Co-operative Creamery Ass'n was held here at the Community Building Tuesday, Feb. 16. Despite the cold weather and snow-drifted roads, 250 stockholders attended the meeting. The business reached the \$303,035 mark this past year. Wm Paulson was re-elected president and Harold Symes secretary-treasurer.

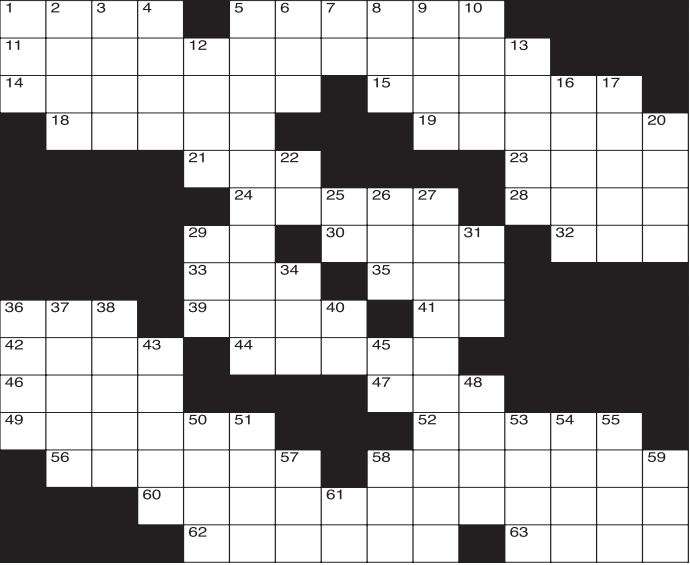
Monday night's Commercial Club meeting was one of the best and most outstanding in the organization's history. Following a fine dinner served by the Catholic ladies of St. Columbanus Church, President A.L. Fosteson in his usual extemporaneous manner started the program with a bang. In a few words he presented the Minnesota Editorial Association certificate for scrap iron to Benj. Hanson, chairman of Blooming Prairie Township.

Another one of the rapidly vanishing pioneers of this community, passed away Thursday, Feb. 10 at 2:20 p.m. when Mrs. Frances Betlach, aged 79 years, 11 months and 17 days, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Guy Ille, following a heart attack. She was born in Czechoslovakia and came to America when she was 13.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Emperor of Russia
- Abounding in rocks
- Increase in speed
- Music app
- Not nice
- Tables (Span.)
- Decomposes
- ___ student: learns healing
- Nursemaid
- Joke-teller
- Male parent
- Group of countries (abbr.)
- "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
- Midway between south and southwest
- Cartoon Network (abbr.)
- Peacock network
- Principal ethnic group of China
- Made of fermented honey and water
- Exclamation of surprise
- Evaluates skill or knowledge
- Stage in ecological succession
- Ethnic group of SE Asia
- Not small
- A cat is one
- Broken piece
- French president



- Artist's workroom
- Ability to apply knowledge and skills
- Visually stunning
- Ancient region south of Dead Sea
- Con game
- Skin disorder
- Communists (slang)
- Subjects to hostility
- A major division of geological time
- Hitting statistic (abbr.)
- British thermal unit
- Influential envoy to

CLUES DOWN

- Used to pour beer

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COLLEGE NEWS

AREA STUDENTS SHINE IN ACADEMICS AT VARIOUS COLLEGES

RIVERLAND COLLEGE
Riverland Community College announces the students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2017 fall president's and dean's lists.

Students named to the President's List are Shauna Christiansen, Alicia Ptacek and Jesse Schewe of Blooming Prairie and Wyatt Grundmeier of Waltham.

Area students included on the Dean's List are Kathryn Borchert, Nicole Louks, Alexis Shaw and Zachary Sisler of Blooming Prairie and Ann Meyer of Waltham.

To be eligible for the president's list students must have completed 12 credits per semester with letter grades and have earned a GPA of 4.0. To be eligible for the dean's list students must take 12 credits and have a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

Riverland is located with campuses in Albert Lea, Austin and Owatonna.

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY
Brianna Hoveland and Nicholas Srsen of Blooming Prairie have been named to the Fall 2017 Dean's List at Bemidji State University. A total of 1,123 students earned such a distinction.

At Bemidji, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA for the semester.

LUTHER COLLEGE
Camden Heimerman of Blooming Prairie has been named to the fall semester Dean's List at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. To be named to the Dean's List, students must earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or better and must complete 12 credit hours.

Luther is a national liberal arts college with enrollment of 2,050.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY
Brooke Otterson of Blooming Prairie was among students named to the Dean's List at Drake University in Des Moines. The honor is achieved by earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Drake enrolls more than 3,200 undergraduates and 1,700 graduate students.

MINNESOTA STATE-MANKATO
Four students from the Blooming Prairie area have been named to the Fall 2017 Dean's List at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Lindsey Schiefert was named to the high honor list. She is a junior majoring in special education: academic and behavioral strategy.

Included on the honor list are Leah Schiefert, sophomore, dental hygiene; Emily Sprau, freshman, psychology; Matthew Walters, senior, accounting and management.

Students qualifying for the high honor list must achieve a straight 4.0 average while the honor list includes students earning a 3.5 to 3.99 average.

AREA STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

Two area students have graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Stephanie Nelson and Megan Grubish of Owatonna graduated during Fall Commencement ceremonies at the college on Dec. 16. Both of them graduated with bachelor's degrees in nursing.

Among the undergraduates the most popular majors were nursing, social work and management.

The College of St. Scholastica is nationally recognized for quality.

GRIEF RELIEF



If a friend is dying, what can you do? Don't avoid your friend by staying away or changing the subject when they talk of illness or death. Follow the normal conversations that are part of your relationship. If your friend wishes to talk further allow them to; letting them know that you care and will help in anyway you can. Honest conversations are usually most welcome and your presence may be all that is needed.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



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DEATH NOTICE

Lloyd S. Otterson

Lloyd S. Otterson, 85, of Blooming Prairie, passed away Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating.

The Otterson family will greet friends from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home, and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Interment will be in Blooming Prairie Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Post 52 and V.F.W. Post 878.

Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's edition.

'Local and Federal Resources for Dairy Farmers' to highlight Winter Dairy Series

University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Dairy Initiative- South Central Region are collaborating to host a free dairy event for producers on Monday, March 12 at 12 p.m. at First Bank & Trust (formerly State Bank of New Prague), located at 1101 1st St SE in New Prague.

With changing, more unpredictable weather in Minnesota, severe weather can cause catastrophic damage to your facilities and herd. Do you know what to do when disaster happens? Ann Traxler, Le Sueur County emergency management director, will help you prepare

an emergency management plan for your livestock when the worst strikes.

Margins in dairy have become thinner, yet pressure to reduce pollution and repair facilities remains higher than ever. Steve Breaker, from Le Sueur County NRCS will inform you about EQIP and other federal opportunities for cost-sharing conservation practices on your dairy operation.

Do you want to know more about feedlot rules or manure management? The final speaker, Dan Vermilyea, Steele County feedlot officer, will be on hand to answer your questions.

This is the fourth annual Winter Dairy Series and the final seminar for this year.

Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated for a meal count. Please contact Colleen Carlson, Extension Educator for Carver and Scott Counties at 952-492-5386.

Blooming Prairie Elementary School Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

Prices

Breakfast: Regular \$2.40, Reduced/Free \$0.00, Adult \$3.65, Milk (extra or with sack lunch) \$0.50

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Breakfast: Long John, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers
Lunch: Roast Pork & Gravy, Turkey Deli Sandwich, Cinnamon Sweet-Apples, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Mashed Potatoes

Thursday, Feb. 22

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk
Lunch: French Bread Pizza, Cheeseburger on Bun, Roasted Cauliflower

Friday, Feb. 23

Breakfast: French Toast Loaf, Cheese Stick, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tuna Panini, Homemade Tomato Soup

Monday, Feb. 26

Breakfast: Blueberry Muffin, Cheese Stick, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Chicken Tender Basket, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, All American Burger Basket, Kettle Potato Chips

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk
Lunch: Roasted Hot Dog on a Bun Beef Chili, Chili in a Bread Bowl, Potato Wedges

Breakfast: Milk choice of 1% White or Skim is included with breakfast. **Lunch:** Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate. Skim is included with lunch. Entree Salads are served with Dinner Roll.

Blooming Prairie High School Lunch Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

CC = Classic Cafe

DC = Diner Cafe

GG = Chef Salad

CS = Creation Station

PP = Pizza Parlor

Wednesday, Feb. 21

CC: Philly Flatbread, Calico Bean Bake, Homemade Brownie DC: Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun CS: Pasta Bar

Thursday, Feb. 22

CC: Turkey Nachos Supreme, Spicy Pinto Beans DC: Corn Dog GG: Chicken Caesar Salad PP: Sausage & Pepperoni Pizza CS: General Tso's Chicken

Friday, Feb. 23

CC: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup DC: Crispy Chicken Nuggets CS: Build Your Own Sub

Monday, Feb. 26

CC: Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Whole Grain Dinner Roll DC: Cheeseburger on Bun GG: Turkey BLT Flatbread CS: Chicken Alfredo w/Pasta

Tuesday, Feb. 27

CC: Roasted Hot Dog on a Bun, Beef Chili, Potato Wedges DC: Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun PP: Pepperoni Pizza CS: Walking Taco

Wednesday, Feb. 28

CC: Italian Stromboli, Garden Salad, Sugar Cookie DC: Fish Sandwich with Cheese CS: Build Your Own Baked Potato

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate, Skim is included with lunch. Entree Salads are Served with Dinner Roll



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS Feb. 20 Scott Krejci William Butler Milayna Davis Debra Paulson Feb. 21 Stuart Yentsch Avis Krampitz Lila Schiller Brian Betlach Feb. 22 David Goodnature Julie Lembke George Ressler Mervin Nelson Allan Trotman Kelly Krell	Feb. 23 Jenny Winn Ardella Swenson Meghan Amberg Lori Arndt Caysa Salinas Sandra Basness Feb. 24 Joe Wacek, Jr. Thresia Heimerman Nathan Lindeman Leigh Nielsen Slowinski Feb. 25 Tess Koster Roger Manges Muriel Thompson, Sr. Feb. 26 Kari Bottin Betty Behnken Per Kvalsten	Feb. 27 Doris Rasmussen Brad Hines Sophia Schiller Neal Clausen Linda Christianson Julia Worke Feb. 28 Douglas Novak Tim Trotman Mike Ingvalson Amber Loneragan Jayden Peterson
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ANNIVERSARIES
Feb. 22
Marion & Joan Mast
Feb. 25
Cork & Steve Drexler

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Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

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Recipe Corner

Irish Potato Bread

Makes 8 - Serves 4

1 3/4 cups smooth mashed potatoes (1 very large cooked potato or 2 medium) cup self-rising flour	1 tablespoon snipped chives or 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1/4 teaspoon powdered mustard	1 extra-large egg, beaten
1/2 teaspoon sea salt	Butter for frying
Several grinds of black pepper	greased

Mix the mashed potatoes with the flour, mustard, salt, pepper, and herbs. Do this with a wooden spoon, not a food processor (otherwise, you'll get a gluey mess). Work in the beaten egg to make a firm dough. If it is very soft and sticky, work in a little more flour. Turn out the dough onto a floured work surface, flour your hands, then knead the dough once or twice to make a smooth ball. Divide the dough into 8 equal portions and shape each one into a small cake, about 2 1/2 inches across. When ready to cook, heat a little butter in a large heavy skillet, preferably nonstick, and cook the breads over medium heat for about 7 minutes on each side, until they turn good golden brown and are slightly puffed. Serve immediately.

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Blooming Prairie, 583-2046

HAVE A RECIPE TO SHARE?
Email to bptimes@frontiernet.net
OR Send to: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie

SEMCAC Senior Menu

All meals subject to change

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Baked Squash, Banana Fruit Cup

Thursday, Feb. 22
Potato Crusted Pollock
With Tartar Sauce, Seasoned Potatoes, Creamed Caul/Pea Blend, Raisin Rice Pudding

Friday, Feb. 23
Chili con Carne, Crackers, Pear/Grated Cheese, Corn Muffin, Chocolate Yum Yum

Monday, Feb. 26
Tater Tot Hotdish, Tossed Salad, Pickle Spear, Batter Bun, PA/Pear/Peach Cup

Tuesday, Feb. 27
Onion Smthd Beef Steak, Alt: Liver & Onions, Baked Potato/Sr Cream, Caul/Broc Blend, Orange Wedges, Banana Cake



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Snickers or Twix Ice Cream Bars 6ct \$1⁰⁰ off w/20 points	Old Dutch Ripple Potato Chips 8oz 2/\$5⁰⁰
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PASTOR'S CORNER

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Proverbs 18:20b, 21a, 22 NASB “...He will be satisfied with the product of his lips... Death and life are in the power of the tongue... He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”
I don’t think it’s a mistake these verses are placed together. Your marriage will only be as satisfying as the words you speak. You can either build up or tear down with your tongue. Your words are seeds and what you plant is what you will get back in return. Good seeds (words) produce a life of good crops. And bad or mean seeds (words) produce a life of death crops.
Every single word we speak matters.

If you want a wonderful life you need to put a bridle on your tongue. Vulgar, disrespectful and unloving words have no place in marriage or in a Christian life.

The opposite of an evil heart is a heart full of love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy for others.

Matthew 12:35 NASB “The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”
You can always tell the condition

of your heart by what comes out of your mouth. Unforgiveness and/or bitterness are characteristics of an evil heart. Not only do these things affect your relationships here in this life but also in the hereafter. You will be held accountable by God for the words you speak.
It’s time to forgive and let it go. The opposite of an evil heart is a heart full

of love, forgiveness, grace and mercy for others. But this kind of heart only comes when you have made a decision to follow Christ and turn from what you know is sin. That is the starting point.
Yes, you can be forgiven. You will be given a good clean heart if you confess your sins to God and put your trust in Jesus Christ. He will help you so your relationships can begin to flourish.
God has given us wonderful instructions in the Bible on how we can have a marriage filled with love: it begins and ends with a changed heart and affirming words. Start fresh with your words - today.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship;
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/
Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer,
open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy;
3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6
p.m.
Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group
Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m.
Dec. 24

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW.,
Blooming Prairie
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner,
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sundays
Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.goodshepherd
owatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday;
10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN
5881 SE 118th St.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
(First Sunday of the month)

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior
Pastor
Rev. Dean Smith,
Associate Pastor
Rev. Amanda Weinkauf,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.;
Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. &
10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Sunday School:

8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun.
Education Hour:
9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
203 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-6353
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend
Presider
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church for
Preschool – 1st Grade
began Sept. 24
Faith Formation for
Kindergarten
– Confirmation: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
Adult Study: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial
Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration:
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming
Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after
hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate
Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary Worship:
10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School/Adult Classes:
10 a.m.
Wednesday night
service at 6:30 p.m.

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous
Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
Owatonna Campus
422 North St., Owatonna
Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-721-1366
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Gateway Connection:
6 p.m. Sun.

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

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming
Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting:
7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School,
and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept –
May (see website for schedule)

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S.
Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

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

www.minimizer.com

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www.owatonnagranite.com

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507.583.6613

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Service Center:
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After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158

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EXPLORER: *National competition*

FROM PAGE A1

Safety of Medford, sponsors the 007 Explorer post.

Ellingson first started the 007 post as a medical unit and later added law enforcement, high and low level rescue, SWAT and military.

Explorers are between ages 14-20, and they typically join the program to find a career path, says Peach.

Members of Post 007 are from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford, Waterville and Janesville. They represent Steele, Rice, Waseca and LeSueur counties.

Peach and Ellingson say the Explorers purpose is to teach and show youths what is out there for emergency services career opportunities.

Some of these opportunities include these careers: police work, paramedic/EMT, firefighter, military and dispatcher.

“It’s cool to mentor the young kids and by working with them, we can show them a life experience,” Peach said.

In earning the fourth place trophy, the 007 team competed in a tactical EMS scenario where a police officer was in pursuit of a suspect and suffered a cardiac arrest.

Competitors were then assigned various duties of trying to save the “down” officer, trying to apprehend a suspect and keeping the scene safe.

“We are very proud of our

young Explorers,” said Peach, who himself is young at age 24.

Involvement in the Explorers enables young people to gain experience in law enforcement, EMS, SWAT tactics, fire and rescue, search and rescue and every day life, explained Peach and Ellingson.

The local Explorers meet every Sunday throughout the year at different locations, for example, Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Medford.

Making the trip to competition in Arizona were Explorers Matt Schendel, Isreal Krailing, Garrett Brandeburg, Mitchell Borwege, Tristen Kern, Jack Stauffer, A.J. Thoreson, Leo Rivera, Jewell Stewart, Aaron Larson, Damien Holleback, Kaydn Lopez and Cassie Emmons.

The Explorers try to make two major trips each year. Looking ahead, Peach and Ellingson said a summer trip may take the group to Colorado.

“In addition to competing and learning more about emergency response, the kids get to experience some adventure including white water rafting, rappelling, zip lining and camping,” Peach said.

From Owatonna, the group drove to Las Vegas and visited the Hoover Dam and some old western ghost towns. “We did some fun stuff like roller skating but also



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Explorer TASAR Post 007 placed fourth in tactical EMS at SWAT competition in Chandler, Arizona this past January.

had to do some training for competition,” Peach related.

The Explorer group rented a house in Chandler, thus staying together as a team. The 007 Post represented the smallest populous city, and it represented the Explorers traveling the farthest distance for competition.

“We are so proud of the young kids who even beat the LAPD in competition,” Peach said.

During down time, the Explorers had the chance to talk to other Explorers. “It was a cool atmosphere allowing Explorers to interact,” Peach said.

Competition was on a Saturday, from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The next day on Sunday, the Explorers visited an Organ Pizza place and also had an awards ceremony where the trophy was celebrated and a special tribute was made to Ellingson’s 30 years

of involvement with the Explorers.

The group then motored to Los Angeles in a large van. While there, the Explorers visited a beach at the Santa Monica Pier and also did the Hollywood movie tour. Some of the youths had never seen an ocean beach.

The trip home started the following Wednesday.

Anyone interested in joining the Explorer Post may contact Officer Peach at 507-583-7573 by leaving a message.

Funds for these trips are gained through lots of fundraising, Peach and Ellingson said. Explorers do security during the day at the Steele County Fair and clean up the grounds at night for a stipend.

To learn more about the Explorer Post 007, go to its Facebook page at Tactical Emergency Services Explorer Post 007.

COORDINATOR: *New at BP Youth Club*

FROM PAGE A1

Who is Kelli Naatz? She is the daughter of Doug and Holli Naatz and sister of Kalyn Naatz, who like Kelli seeks a career in agriculture. About six months ago, Kelli was a young leader looking for a job.

Board member Angie Carlson and director Marcy Sundine recruited Naatz as a staff member. She attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D. Her first three years were devoted to agriculture education. “I wanted to be a teacher,” she confessed.

She minored in animal science and was active in coaching basketball and softball before earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from SDSU.

While in college, she job shadowed and taught at Willow Lake in South Dakota and at the Glenville-Emmons High School.

Agriculture has been her love all of her young life. She has been a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club for 13 years and also was a member of the Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America from eighth grade to her senior year.

While in 4-H, Naatz showed beef, dairy, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits. She also has done some general projects including shop photography, flower gardening, landscaping, health, crafts and self determined.

Her early days at the Youth Club had Naatz making bank deposits and watching over the kids, in addition to setting up activities and even shopping for grocery items.



Naatz

“This was something out of the ordinary but something I really liked,” Naatz admits.

The opportunity to be the BP Youth Club director “was an opportunity for me to grow and experience something different,” says Naatz. “I can also watch the young kids learn and grow,” she said.

Always sharing a wide smile, Naatz loves to talk about her daily job. She oversees 25-30 kids Mondays through Fridays. Naatz usually comes in at 3:05 pm. and keeps the club open until 6.

Naatz organizes snacks and recently implemented a spelling program for first and second graders. A test is given on Mondays and practice takes place on Fridays.

If the kids get all spelling words correct, they earn a Super Speller Award, which is a gift certificate for a free kids meal at Applebee’s.

Naatz and her staff help all fifth and sixth grade youths with their math and vocabulary. Homework and reading are also emphasized until 4 p.m. “If they don’t have school work, we have the kids read accelerated books from the library at the club,” she informed.

Following homework, the youths work with crafts, or work out in the fitness center. Kids can also work on computers, solving educational games, or they can go to the game room and play foosball, air hockey, X-box, board games or pool.

When temperatures warm, kids go outside and be kids playing in the snow, Naatz said.

In the summer, the youths play baseball, football, play on the swing set or create chalk drawings on the sidewalk. The club also has a membership at the Pine Springs Swimming Pool and this is a favorite activity of the kids. The attendance of kids in the summer is between 50 and 60.

Naatz was offered the position of unit coordinator in early January. She didn’t accept the position right away, saying she wished to evaluate the opportunities and wished to regroup.

“We had a lot going on in January planning for the Benefit Bash and organizing other activities,” Naatz said. The bash was stressful but successful in bringing in \$21,000 for the Youth Club. Ashley Rye and Andrea Kvalsten, who are board members, chaired the event.

In reviewing the job offer, Naatz said “it made her feel good being recognized for work she had done with the club.”

Naatz said she learned a lot working with Sundine. “We offered different things to one another and put our ideas together,” she said.

The youths, Naatz says, “can challenge your patience” but they also challenge you to learn with them. “They are excited about their time at the club,” she said.

She added that she challenges the kids to come up with their own educational programs. “I give them free reign in choosing crafts, games, science experiences and trivia questions. They are given hands-on experiences.

Besides Naatz, staff at the Youth Club includes Alicia Ptacek, freshman in college and high school students Emily Krampitz, Cassidy Borgen, Gracie Rudlong, Lilly Abbe and Chris Shepard.

Naatz said it is rewarding to see the youths grow as individuals. “They’re not going home and sitting in front of the television; they are learning.”

The kids love to enjoy cooking and baking and also help with cleaning tasks at the club.

“These kids are getting a headstart on life by interacting with others,” Naatz observed. “Our goal is for the kids to have a fun and safe environment to come to,” she further explained.

Community-based help comes to the club in its volunteers and in its financial donations made to the club by the community.

The board is led by co-presidents Bryce Schlichter and Andrea Kvalsten. Ashley Rye is secretary and Amy Hinzmann is treasurer. Other board members are: Robyn Kruckeberg, Craig Kruckeberg, Adam Thoen, Angela Thoen, Lori Arndt, Kaye Toquam and Orlo Toquam.

Even an Austin Bruin junior league hockey player, Lane Krenzen, volunteers once a week at the club. Kaye Toquam is a regular volunteer at the club and is also a board member. “She never stops and often helps the kids with gardening,” Naatz said.

Work has already begun on planning for the annual Rib Fest event on June 30 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club.

Naatz says Blooming Prairie is a small community “but we have something other communities don’t have and that’s a youth club.”

The club, Naatz said, is always looking for different people to come and speak. “Having people come in and tell the kids what they do is a great learning tool for us,” she commented.

Soon to be moving to Hartland with her boyfriend Anders Jacobson, Naatz said both have been remodeling an older house. He is an inventory analyst at Cybek’s in Owatonna. “We will have our own little farm animals in Hartland,” Naatz says with anticipation.

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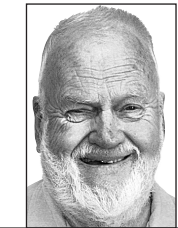
Hometown Sports

PLAYOFFS BEGIN

Although the boys are finishing the regular season schedule this week, the wrestling team has already been eliminated from the team competition and the basketball girls begin the 1A sub-section tournament on Thursday against Wabasha-Kellogg. It has generated some interesting action on several fronts.

The wrestling team, which finished second ahead of Medford in the conference, found the tables turned, when the Tigers sprang a mild upset this past week in first round playoff action. The two teams are fairly evenly matched with the Tigers very strong in the lighter weights and Westfield dominant at the upper weights.

Now, it will be up to the individuals to see if they can battle their way to the state tourney. The team has four wrestlers ranked in the top five in the area and it is hoped that at least a couple of them can find their way to the state meet. Mitch Oswald, Morgan Moreno, Dylan Nirk and Colton Krell all are highly ranked area matmen and fans will be hoping for success at the section tournament.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

SEE OTL, B4

BASKETBALL

Tough week for Blossom girls

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After two tough losses early in the week, the Awesome Blossom girls closed out the regular season schedule with a convincing win at home Thursday, Feb. 15, on Senior night. BP defeated Kingsland in a non-conference tilt 59-46 to finish the year with a 16-8 record and a chance for a high seed in the sub-section playoffs.

As BP coach John Bruns commented, “This was a great win tonight for our girls. We took control of the game early and led 28-8 after just the first nine minutes of the contest. We created turnovers and forced Kingsland into taking some tough shots. The losers cut the margin to 11 at the break, but the team did a nice job of managing the game n the second half.”

The Blossoms shot just 30 percent from the field, making 22-of-71 attempts. Kingsland shot 33 percent on 8-of-53 tries. Megan Oswald posted another double double with 17 points and 14 rebounds. Seniors McKenna Hein and Sam Wurst scored 15 and 12 points. Wurst dished out four assists and pilfering the ball three times. Hein had six steals for her night’s work.

Coach Bruns concluded his remarks by acknowledging that the Section 1A competition is some of the strongest in the state, with four of the section teams ranked in the top ten.

“Lyle-Pacelli, Hayfield, Goodhue and Grand Meadow all reside in the state’s top ten list,” he said. “We would hope to be included in that discussion.”

Coach Cory Hendricson had this to say, after his JV team defeated Kingsland 42-27 in the prelim. “I can’t imagine a better way for us to finish the JV season. The girls moved the ball well and created many opportunities for teammates. The girls have improved so much this year, and they all had great attitudes toward the game.”

Maya Lembke, Allison Krohnberg, and and Maggie Bruns led the scoring for the team, all with eight points. Seven other players had at least two points each. The team record closed out the season with a 13-9 record, including eight wins in the final ten games.

GIRLS LOSE HIGH-SCORING GAME

The Blossom girls ran into a contest in which defense proved non-existent, and the home standing Randolph Rockets outlasted BP 71-67 at Randolph Tuesday Feb. 13. Randolph led by as many as 10 points late in the game, but the locals battled back to make a game of it, before some defensive lapses haunted the losers

BP shot 35 percent for the game on 28-of-79 attempts, while the Rockets were shooting 40 percent on 24-of-60 tries. Oswald earned yet another double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds and Hein counted 13 points. Wurst contributed 11 points, Bobbie Bruns had 10 and Worke added seven. Randolph outrebounded the Blossoms 42-35, but BP managed just 6-of-9 free throw attempts, which made the difference in the game. Hein and Ingvalson both had an assist and three steals.

”This was a tough loss on the road,” Bruns said. “It was a game where defensive stops were hard to come by for either team. Randolph played very well and deserved the win, but I was proud of how the girls competed throughout the game. If we can clean up a few fundamentals, we will win games like this.”

The BP JV team improved its record to 12-9 with a 35-30 win over the Rockets, after leading 18-12 at the half. Ashleigh Alves had 10 points for the winners, and Riauna Bishop added eight.

HAYFIELD WILTS BLOSSOMS

The Awesome Blossom girls began a tough three-game week with a visit to state-ranked Hayfield on Monday, Feb. 12. The Vikings jumped out to a16-2 lead and coasted to a 75-45 victory over the visitors. Early Hayfield pressure led to numerous Blossom turnovers and easy breakaway baskets for the home team.

That and 41 percent shooting from the field offered BP little chance to make inroads into the Viking dominance. The winners, triggered by senior leadership, raced to a 47-22 first half lead and were never threatened. One of the seniors, Emma Holst, hoisted five 3-pointers in the first half and the Vikings made 10 total.

“Hayfield jumped out early,” Bruns said. “They never looked back in this one. We couldn’t handle the pressure, and they turned us over too many times. To compound matters, they shot the ball very well, counting six first half treys. I was still glad we were able to get a look at a team in our section.”

Hayfield made 30-of-73 shots from the field, while BP made 36 percent on 18-of-50 tries. Free throw shooting was fairly even, and the Vikings had an edge in rebounding 32-26, but the 26 turnovers for the Blossoms made the difference in the game.

Oswald led all scorers in the game with 16 points, including 4-of-5 from the free throw line. She earned another double-double with 10 rebounds. Wurst added 12 points for the Blossoms. Carrie Rutledge and Holst each had 15 points for the Vikings, who may run into the Blossoms again in the sub-section playoffs. Hayfield improved its record to 20-4 with the victory.

Hayfield won the JV contest over the Blossoms 39-24 after taking an 18-7 halftime lead. The Vikings used a very disciplined defense that made it tough for the locals to score. Maggie Bruns counted seven points for the locals, and Baylee Sorenson and Jillian Wigham both had four points.

WRESTLING



Medford's Willie VonRuden slams his Westfield opponent to mat during the Tigers' 43-33 victory at Hayfield High School on Thursday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Tigers earns mild upset over Razorbacks

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Although not completely surprising, the Medford wrestling team ended the Westfield Razorbacks' aspirations for a playoff victory on Thursday, Feb. 15 when the No. 5 seeded Tigers defeated the No. 4 Razorbacks 43-33 in the Section 2A playoff match at Hayfield.

“We are all feeling pretty good,” Medford coach Dennis Whitman said. “I knew it was going to be really close tonight. We had a real close dual the first time.”

Westfield defeated Medford 42-35 on Jan. 25.

The writing on the wall appeared early in the match when Medford won the first six matches to take a whopping 31-0 lead.

Whitman said he shuffled some wrestlers around in the middle of his lineup to try to get the best matchup possible this time around.

“[Westfield] can do a lot with lineup to get mismatches,” he said. “We were just kind of worrying if we could make the necessary adjustments. I’ll tell you what, our kids showed up. Every single

kid of ours showed up tonight.”

Charley Elwood sparked the Tigers at the 106-pound weight class when he fought to a 6-0 decision over Ethan Arett.

Medford’s Willie Von Ruden ended Joe PirkI’s long run of wins with a pin in just one minute and three seconds at 138.

The Razorback’s Payton Simon pinned George McCarthy in just 37 seconds at 145 to break the long string of Tiger wins.

Westfield’s Seth Peterson won at 152 by forfeit, but Medford crushed any hopes of a comeback with two consecutive pins at 160 and 170 when Bo Noble outlasted Dylan Ehmke and Greg Larson took down Isaac Fernandez in 3:56.

One of the changes Whitman made was moving Bo Noble up from the 145 to 160.

“We put in some seventh grader who have wrestled a little bit of varsity for us in the lower weight classes,” Whitman said. “They came out and got some big wins for us. Then being able to move [Noble] up was big too. That probably made the difference in the meet.”

Westfield went on to win the final four boys, three of which by pins.

Colton Krell decisioned Nate Meixner 9-2 at 182, Morgan Moreno used just 20 seconds to pin Nate McCarty at 195 and Dylan Nirk took down Brennon Hoffman at 220. Mitchell Oswald closed out the match with a heavyweight pin over Mitchell Borwege in just 28 seconds.

“Everyone went out and did their job,” Meixner said. “But, it was the middleweights that really stuck out for us tonight and went out there and got them.”

However, like the Razorbacks, the Tigers’ season ended on Saturday when they fell 70-12 to No.1 seed Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The Tigers and Razorbacks will be looking for individual redemption at the section individual playoffs this coming weekend.

MEDFORD 43, WESTFIELD 33

106: Charley Elwood (MEDF) over Ethan Arett (WERA) (Dec 6-0).

SEE TIGERS, B2

ATHLETICS

Owatonna High School names Marc Achterkirch new activities director

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna High School has named Marc Achterkirch to be its new activities director, the school announced on Friday in a news release.

Current activities director Ryan Swanson said he chose Achterkirch as his replacement because he puts the students first, he doesn’t get caught up in politics and he always does the right thing.

“He has obviously developed a reputation for myself,” Swanson said. “He’s gonna step right in there with instant respect from our coaching staffs and raise the bar. He’s going to do a great job. You couldn’t find a anybody better than [Achterkirch].”

Swanson is stepping down to pursue other opportunities and will do so near the end of July.

“My wife and I eventually going to be taking over her father’s farm,” Swanson said. “We are starting a six or seven year transition of acquiring equipment and those kind of things. It will be a long way down the road, but eventually we will probably move back there.”

Achterkirch has spent his entire 23-year career as a math teacher and coach at Owatonna. He was a three-sport athlete for the University of



Marc Achterkirch

Minnesota-Duluth.

Achterkirch will remain the defensive coordinator and associate head coach for Owatonna’s reigning Class 5A state champion football team. Achterkirch has been instrumental

in helping guide the program to six section championship, two state runners up and two state championship.

“We are really excited that he is going to be able to play the dual role,” Owatonna head football coach Jeff Williams said. “It going to take some work to figure out the balance, but he has a great work ethic and is highly organized. We’ll all figure out a way to make this work. He’s going to do a great job.”

Achterkirch has earned a many impressive accolades in his coaching career including the Minnesota High School Coaches Associations’s Coach of the Year, the Butch Nash Award for Coach of the Year and he has been selected twice to coach in the Minnesota State High School League All-Star Football Game.

“We are thrilled to have Marc lead our activities and look forward to his passion, enthusiasm, organization and leadership,” said Owatonna Principal Mark Randall in the news release. “Marc’s focus has always been on doing what is best for students and we look forward to him bringing this type of leadership to our activities department. Marc is simply an outstanding individual and we are thrilled to have him on our leadership team at Owatonna High School.”

SCOREBOOK

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Austin	17-1	21-1
Rochester John Marshall	16-2	20-2
Owatonna	15-3	17-5
Mankato East	14-4	18-4
Northfield	12-5	15-6
Mankato West	9-9	12-10
Rochester Mayo	8-10	10-12
Rochester Century	5-13	5-17
Red Wing	4-13	5-16
Faribault	4-15	6-16
Winona	3-14	6-15
Albert Lea	0-18	0-20

Friday, Feb. 16
Owatonna 84, Red Wing 55
Saturday, Feb. 17
Rochester John Marshall 62, Owatonna 46
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Owatonna at Faribault, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
Austin at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 27
Mankato East at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 2
Owatonna at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Girls' Basketball		
	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	17-1	19-3
Owatonna	15-3	16-6
Red Wing	13-4	17-4
Mankato West	12-6	15-7
Austin	10-7	11-9
Faribault	10-8	11-10
Rochester John Marshall	10-8	11-11
Rochester Mayo	9-9	11-11
Mankato East	5-13	5-16
Rochester Century	3-15	5-17
Albert Lea	1-16	2-19
Winona	1-16	1-20

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Owatonna 74, Rochester Mayo 58
Friday, Feb. 16
Owatonna 64, Red Wing 48
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Faribault at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
Owatonna at Austin, 7:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Boys' Hockey			
	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Rochester Century	13-1-1	20-4-1	40
Northfield	14-3-1	18-5-2	37
Owatonna	9-4-2	12-11-2	33
Mankato East	9-3-1	13-10-2	32
Albert Lea	13-4-2	18-5-2	31
Rochester Mayo	7-7-1	12-12-1	25
Rochester John Marshall	4-9-2	6-16-3	17
Red Wing	5-7-2	5-17-2	15
Faribault	4-9-2	8-13-3	12
Mankato West	4-10-1	8-16-1	11
Austin	3-12-1	6-17-1	7
Winona	0-15-0	2-22-0	0

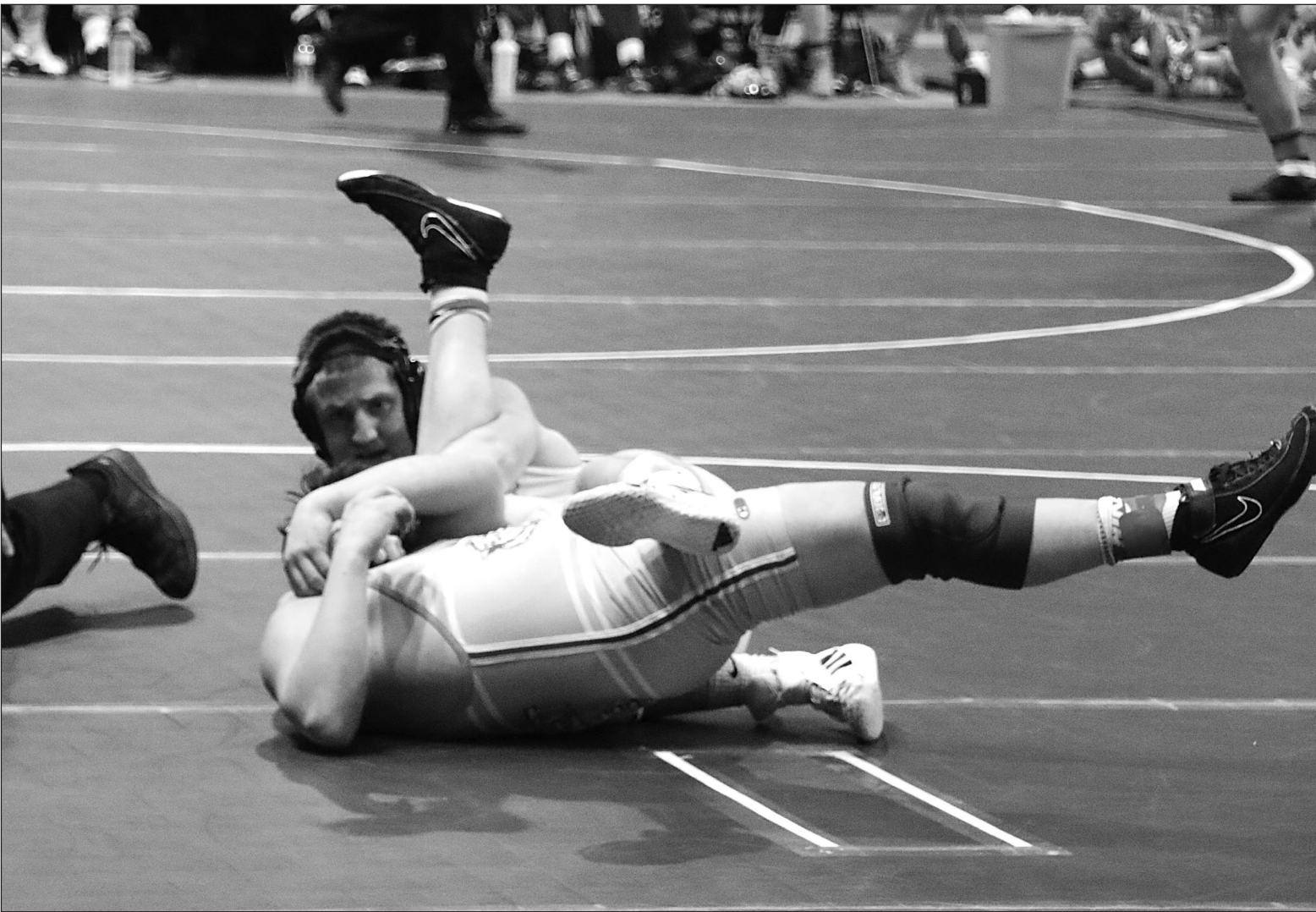
Thursday, Feb. 8
Mahtomedi 5, Owatonna 1
Saturday, Feb. 10
Rochester Century 5, Owatonna 1
Monday, Feb. 12
South Saint Paul at Owatonna, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13
Mankato West at Owatonna, 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 17
Owatonna at Winona, 3 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON
SECTION 1AA
Second Round
Thursday, Feb. 22
Farmington at Owatonna, 7 p.m.

Girls' Hockey			
	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Red Wing	12-1-0	21-4-0	38
Northfield	10-2-0	15-8-2	34
Rochester Mayo	14-4-0	20-5-0	30
Owatonna	11-5-0	15-8-0	26
Faribault	11-6-0	15-10-0	26
Mankato East	9-7-0	12-13-0	18
Mankato West	7-8-0	13-11-1	16
Austin	6-12-0	8-15-0	12
Rochester John Marshall	4-13-0	7-18-0	10
Albert Lea	2-13-0	6-18-0	4
Rochester Century	1-16-0	3-21-0	2

Section 1AA Tournament
First Round
Wednesday, Feb. 7
Owatonna 3, Rochester Mayo 2
Second Round
Saturday, Feb. 10
Lakeville South 7, Owatonna 0
Owatonna eliminated from the postseason

Wrestling		
	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	10-0	19-6
Albert Lea	9-1	21-3
Faribault	8-2	16-4
Northfield	7-3	9-3
Mankato West	6-4	15-8
Rochester Mayo	5-5	8-11
Mankato East	4-6	14-8
Austin	3-7	4-7
Winona	2-8	2-15
Rochester Century	1-9	3-15
Rochester John Marshall	0-10	0-10

Section 1AA Tournament
Friday, Feb. 16
Second Round
Owatonna 77, Rochester Century 0
Semifinals
Owatonna 39, Northfield 24
Saturday, Feb. 17
Championship
Albert Lea 33, Owatonna 19
Owatonna eliminated from the postseason



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Cade King pins his opponent during the IAA Section Championship on Saturday at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester

Huskies fall to Tigers in section finale

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna wrestling team's season ended at the hands of Albert Lea, 33-19, on Saturday at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

The Huskies had defeated the Tigers, 30-27, to win the Big 9 Conference regular season championship on Feb. 3, but Albert Lea made the necessary adjustments and changes to get the win.

"They must have taken a look and seen that moving some of there kids around would flip the strict a little bit in some of the matches," Owatonna coach Adam Woitalla said. "We knew that we needed to bump up our kids if we wanted a shot at winning. So we made some moves too, but unfortunately they made the better moves and it didn't work out for us.

"Right after the dual we all got together and I told them how proud i was of them in all they have accomplished this year," he continued. "When you look at what we have done as a team, it was a pretty impressive season."

Although Owatonna's season is over as a team, all of the Huskies can still qualify for the state meet by finishing in the top two of their respective weight class at the individual section championships on Friday and Saturday at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

"I told the guys to be proud of what they did and we still have another two weeks of our season," Woitalla said. "Every kid on our team can make the state tournament individually and that's something we have to shoot for, to get as many kids there as we can."

The Huskies obliterated Rochester Century, 77-0, at home on Thursday in the opening round of the section. Owatonna went on to defeated Northfield 39-24 in the semifinals before falling to Albert Lea.

ALBERT LEA 33, OWATONNA 19
106: Blake West (OWAT) over Cameron Davis (ALA) (Dec 13-7). 113: Cole Glazier (ALA) over Kanin Hable (OWAT) (Dec 7-5). 120: Nic Cantu (ALA) over Kaden Nelson (OWAT) (Dec 9-8). 126: Jake Johnsrud (ALA) over Landon Johnson (OWAT) (Dec 4-2). 132: Gavin Ignaszewski (ALA) over Riley Becker (OWAT) (Dec 4-3). 138: Logan Donavan (ALA) over Trevor Schroeder (OWAT) (Dec



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Cameron Roberts clinches to his Albert Lea opponent on Saturday in the 1AA Section Championship.

1-0). 145: Jerez Autridge (OWAT) over Tyler Harms (ALA) (Dec 4-3). 152: Brody Nielsen (ALA) over Taylor Hall (OWAT) (Fall 2:58). 160: Parker Westphal (OWAT) over Griffin Studier (ALA) (Dec 10-5). 170: Peyton Robb (OWAT) over Levi Kermes (ALA) (MD 21-7). 182: Spencer Indrelie (ALA) over Cameron Roberts (OWAT) (Fall 3:48). 195: Cade King (OWAT) over Jamie Valdez (ALA) (Fall 1:50). 220: Zach Glazier (ALA) over Nick Staska (OWAT) (MD 13-4). 285: Brady Nielsen (ALA) over Parker Holton (OWAT) (Dec 5-1) (ALA Team unsportsmanlike conduct, running across the mat -1.00).

OWATONNA 39, NORTHFIELD 24
106: Blake West (OWAT) over Chase Murphy (NORT) (Dec 10-5). 113: Jake Messner (NORT) over Yves Evillard (OWAT) (Dec 4-2). 120: Kaden Nelson (OWAT) over Kevin Garcia Rosas (NORT) (Dec 6-4). 126: Landon Johnson (OWAT) over Darrin Kuyper (NORT) (Fall 4:16). 132: Drew Woodley (NORT) over Chase Dallman (OWAT) (Fall 3:33). 138: Todd Olson (NORT) over Riley Becker (OWAT) (Fall 0:25). 145: Ethan Johnson (NORT) over Jerez Autridge (OWAT) (Dec 7-2). 152: Kolby Olson (NORT) over Taylor Hall (OWAT) (Dec 7-3). 160: Peyton Robb (OWAT) over Nickola Mikula (NORT) (Fall 1:32). 170: Jack Stanton (NORT) over Parker Westphal (OWAT) (Dec 5-3). 182: Cade King (OWAT) over Jack Holman

(NORT) (Fall 2:55). 195: Nick Staska (OWAT) over David Tonjum (NORT) (Fall 1:57). 220: Parker Holton (OWAT) over Sam Bakko (NORT) (Dec 4-1). 285: Isaiah Noeldner (OWAT) over Antonio Carter (NORT) (Fall 4:36).

OWATONNA 77, ROCHESTER CENTURY 0
106: Blake West (OWAT) over Jaden Peterson (ROCE) (Fall 0:57). 113: Yves Evillard (OWAT) over Christian Swenson (ROCE) (Dec 4-2). 120: Kaden Nelson (OWAT) over Aiden Austin (ROCE) (Fall 0:38). 126: Landon Johnson (OWAT) over Garrett Pavelko (ROCE) (Dec 12-5). 132: Riley Becker (OWAT) over Noah Powell (ROCE) (Fall 0:50). 138: Trevor Schroeder (OWAT) over Paxton Pagel (ROCE) (Dec 9-2). 145: Jerez Autridge (OWAT) over Owen Pharo (ROCE) (Dec 9-3). 152: Taylor Hall (OWAT) over (ROCE) (For.). 160: Peyton Robb (OWAT) over Casey Neumann (ROCE) (Fall 0:11). 170: Parker Westphal (OWAT) over Tommy Tankhamvang (ROCE) (Fall 1:42). 182: Cade King (OWAT) over Logan Carter (ROCE) (Fall 1:11). 195: Nick Staska (OWAT) over Cale Wilson (ROCE) (Fall 1:56). 220: Parker Holton (OWAT) over (ROCE) (For.). 285: Isaiah Noeldner (OWAT) over Felix Orakwue (ROCE) (MD 10-0).

Tigers: Mild upset over Razorbacks

113: Johnny Meyer (MEDF) over Alex Phenix (WERA) (Fall 0:53). 120: Garron Hoffman (MEDF) over Lane Lembke (WERA) (Fall 1:58). 126: Dylan Heiderscheidt (MEDF) over Cael Becker (WERA) (MD 12-0). 132: Tate Hermes (MEDF) over Tyler Archer (WERA) (Fall 1:27). 138: Willie Von Ruden (MEDF) over Joe PirkI (WERA) (Fall 1:03). 145: Payton Simon (WERA) over George McCarthy (MEDF) (Fall 0:37). 152: Seth Peterson (WERA) over (MEDF) (For.). 160: Bo Noble (MEDF) over Dylan Ehmke (WERA) (Fall 4:27). 170: Greg Larson (MEDF) over Issac Fernandez (WERA) (Fall 3:56). 182: Colton Krell (WERA) over Nate Meixner (MEDF) (Dec 9-2). 195: Morgen Moreno (WERA) over Nate McCarty (MEDF) (Fall 0:20). 220: Dylan Nirk (WERA) over Brennon Hoffman (MEDF) (Fall 0:58). 285: Mitchell Oswald (WERA) over Mitchell Borwege (MEDF) (Fall 0:28).

KENYON-WANAMINGO 70, MEDFORD 12
120: Bray Olson (KEWA) over Garron Hoffman (MEDF) (Fall 1:03). 126: Alec Johnson (KEWA) over Dylan Heiderscheidt (MEDF) (Fall 0:31). 132: Tyler Craig (KEWA) over Tate Hermes (MEDF) (MD 12-4). 138: Willie Von Ruden (MEDF) over Logan Meyers (KEWA) (Fall 1:50). 145: Seth Brossard (KEWA) over (MEDF) (For.). 152: Nathan Bauer (KEWA) over Bo Noble (MEDF) (Fall 4:55). 160: Carter Quam (KEWA) over Zach Wetmore (MEDF) (Fall 2:04). 170: Cole Johnson (KEWA) over Greg Larson (MEDF) (Fall 3:25). 182: Logan Quam (KEWA) over Nate Meixner (MEDF) (Fall 5:25). 195: Owen Hilke (KEWA) over Nate McCarty (MEDF) (Fall 1:18). 220: Kaya Lindell (KEWA) over Brennon Hoffman (MEDF) (Fall 0:43). 285: Armani Tucker (KEWA) over Mitchell Borwege (MEDF) (Fall



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Westfield's Colton Krell looks for a single leg takedown against Medford's Nate Mei xner on Thursday at Hayfield High School.

1:48). 106: Charley Elwood (MEDF) over Jayce Barron (KEWA) (Fall 4:54). 113: Jeron Matson (KEWA) over Johnny Meyer (MEDF) (Fall 1:13)

ATHLETICS

Meier and Gebur honored as Owatonna AAA Award winners

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna's Braeden Meier and Hannah Gebur were named with the Owatonna High School's 2017-16 AAA on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

"They are really good representation of what we expect out of our student-athletes," Owatonna Activities Director

Ryan Swanson said. "Pretty good accomplishment for those kids because they have to not only be in multiple sports and activities, but they have to be good at them.

The purpose of the award to to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the fine arts, elevate the academic standards and create greater awareness of League-

sponsored activities and their values and to provide members of the League with the opportunity to participate in a statewide program that supports, promotes and recognizes academic and extra-curricular achievements.

"Both of them are extremely smart with near spotless academics too and they're both really talented in music too," Swanson said. "It's quite the honor for them to be recognized here in Owatonna."

BASKETBALL



Bloming Praire's Cameron Kubista brings the ball up the court for the Blossoms earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blossoms tame Tigers

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Medford kept the game close for 20 minutes, but a more consistent and a better defense eventually let the Awesome Blossom boys' basketball team take a 65-52 victory over the Tigers in a Gopher Conference tilt at Medford on Feb. 13.

A little roll by the winners midway through the first half was answered by the home team and the Blossoms led by just five points at the break

Playing much better in the second half, BP stretched its lead to 20 points midway through the period, particularly with much better defense on Medford's leading scorer, Bryce McCarty. The Blossoms outrebounded the home team by plenty and got balanced scoring.

"The game started really disjointed and we went into the intermission with just the 5-point lead," BP coach Nathan Piller. "We defended better, rebounded with authority, and played much more consistently in the second half. We led by 20 points, before letting down a little."

McCarty led all scorers with 18 points for the Tigers, but the locals had four players reach double figures. Karson Vigeland scored 15 points and Kaden Thomas, Gabe Hagen and Max Romeo all counted 12 points each. Cole Volkmann added 10 points for Medford.

Piller concluded, "I think we had contributions from several boys tonight, which helped us establish a lead and sustain it. This was a good win on the road against a scrappy team."

wHayfield controlled the play early, but the Awesome Blossom boys crawled back into the game and outlasted the Vikings 68-58 on the home floor Monday, Feb. 12. When the teams left the floor at the half BP had come back to take a23-21 edge. The winners outscored Hayfield 45-37 in the second half.

"We dug ourselves a hole early," Piller said. "It took us a half to get out of it. The boys had the right mentality in this game, though, and I appreciated the defensive effort it took to get us within striking distance. It could have gotten ugly early, but we continued to fight and eventually succeed."

Four players reached double figures for the Blossoms in a balanced offense. Gabe Hagen led the team with 15 points, but Kaden Thomas counted 14, and Karson Vigeland and Cameron Kubista both added 12points.

Luke Dudyach scored 16 for the Vikings. Ryan Risius and Patrick Towey had 14 and 10 respectively. BP had a slight edge in rebounding and both teams shot 65 percent from the free throw line. The win continued a season for the Blossoms in which they fluctuate just above or below the .500 mark. This win gave them an 11-10 season record.



Bloming Prairie's Isaac Ille get out into transition for the Blossoms.

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
New Richland-H-E-G	11-0	19-2
Bloomng Prairie	7-5	12-10
Bethlehem Academy	6-3	13-9
Maple River	5-4	10-7
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	5-5	10-13
United South Central	3-8	6-14
Medford	0-11	2-20

Monday, Feb. 5
Maple River 74, Bloomng Prairie 60
NRHEG 49, WEM 43
Saint Clair 63, Medford 50

Thursday, Feb. 8
JWP 71, Medford 64

Friday, Feb. 9
NRHEG 77, Bloomng Prairie 55
Bethlehem Academy 71, Medford 53

Monday, Feb. 12
Jordan 87, Medford 44
Bloomng Prairie 68, Hayfield 58

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Maple River 56, NRHEG 42
Bloomng Prairie 65, Medford 52

Thursday, Feb. 15
Lyle-Pacelli 76, Medford 54

Friday, Feb. 16
NRHEG 65, United South Central 41
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 67, Medford 30

Saturday, Feb. 17
Redwood Valley 63, NRHEG 61
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Bloomng Prairie at Grand Meadow, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Cleveland, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG at Blue Earth Area, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 22
NRHEG at Saint Peter, 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
Bloomng Prairie at Water-Elysian-Morristown, 7 p.m.
Maple River at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 26
Glennville-Emmons at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 1
Bethlehem Academy at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Girls' Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
New Richland	10-2	15-4
Bloomng Prairie	9-4	15-8
Maple River	9-4	12-6
Medford	6-6	16-7
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	6-6	12-13
Bethlehem Academy	2-9	2-22
United South Central	0-11	2-17

Monday, Feb. 5
Medford 42, Fairmont 40
NRHEG 50, WEM 41
Bloomng Prairie 51, Maple River 47

Thursday, Feb. 8
Bloomng Prairie 58, Medford 39

Friday, Feb. 9
Medford 56, Bethlehem Academy 28
NRHEG 66, Bloomng Prairie 55

Saturday, Feb. 10
NRHEG 61, Maple River 54

Monday, Feb. 12
Jordan at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
Hayfield 75, Bloomng

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Waseca 51, NRHEG 35
Bloomng Prairie at Randolph, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15
Kingsland at Bloomng Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 16
WEM at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG 68, United South Central 27

Tuesday, Feb. 20
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at Medford, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG at Blue Earth, 7:15 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	5-0	13-2
Westfield	4-1	11-7
Medford	3-2	7-5
United South Central	2-3	7-9
W-E-M/J-W-P	1-4	6-14
New Richland	0-5	3-7

Thursday, Feb. 1
Medford 42, NRHEG 30
Westfield 42, WEM/JWP 34

Thursday, Feb. 8
Maple River 56, NRHEG 22
Medford 51, WEM/JWP 21

END OF REGULAR SEASON

Section Tournament

First Round

Thursday, Feb. 15
Medford 43, Westfield 33
Kenyon-Wanamingo 61, NRHEG 18

Second Round
Kenyon-Wanamingo 70, Medford 12

Tigers-Huskies' conference title hopes



Owatonna's Dalton Kubista goes up for layup against Rochester John Marshall's Matthew Hurt on Saturday. Hurt is ranked the No. 1 recruit in the Minnesota Class of 2019.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

A slow started doomed the Owatonna boys' basketball team on Saturday when the Huskies were flattened at Rochester John Marshall, 62-46, in battle between two of the top teams in the Big 9 Conference.

The Rockets defense frustrated the Huskies from the start of the game as John Marshall built a 9-0 advantage to start the game.

"They defended us really well, Owatonna coach Josh Williams said. "The forced us into tough shots. We had some looks that didn't go down, especially early on, and that hurt us. We started pressing a little bit, trying to hurry some shots and we probably took some shots we probably shouldn't have or that were a bit uncharacteristic."

The Rockets extended their lead to double digits early in the first half and never looked back.

"We just weren't offensively as good as we needed to be and have been," Williams said. "We have been pretty good on the end of the floor this year and we just weren't last night."

The loss snapped the Huskies' 14-game win streak.

Williams said he reemphasized to the team after the game the importance of finishing the year strong.

"We talked after the game that we obviously have to learn from last night," he said. "There were some things that we did not do necessary well. We are capable of competing and winning the game against John Marshall. That's not the issue. We just have to be better and move on from this game."

There is a good chance the Huskies and Rockets could meet for the third time this season in the section tournament.

"I'd much rather win the third game than the game we just got done playing," Williams said. "We still have the biggest game coming up, but we have to make sure get ourselves to that game."

The Huskies have some incredibly important matchups over their final four regular season games, including playing two of the top four teams in the conference.

Owatonna plays Austin (21-1) at home on Friday, Feb. 23 and Mankato East (18-4) at home on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

"It's nice to be at home with both of them obviously," Williams said. "Especially after getting the win at their place. Regardless of whether it's their place or ours, both teams will be geared up. We have to be ready to answer the call and make sure we hold our home court. I'm sure it will be a two very well attended game that have a playoff-type atmosphere."

Junior high Blossoms gain split to end season

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The junior high basketball girls closed out the season at Southland on Monday, Feb. 12 by splitting a pair of games. The eighth grade team played first and although they never gave up, but the Rebels won the game 29-20. The locals were getting good shots, however, it was just one of those games in which the shots just would not fall. Melanie Winzenburg had eight points and Lauren Schammel added seven.

The seventh grade team jumped out to a big first half lead, but the team was down to just six players and became exhausted in the second half. Despite the scarcity of numbers the team held on to get the victory 29-23. Anna Pauly had 13 points for the Blossoms. The junior high team finished the season with a 13-17 record.

Blooming Prairie coach Emily Henslin summarized the season, "I am very proud of the huge improvement the girls made over the course of the season. I wish them further success in their upcoming basketball careers."

Crossword solution														
T	S	A	R		P	E	B	B	L	Y				
A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	I	O	N			
P	A	N	D	O	R	A		U	N	K	I	N	D	
	M	E	S	A	S			D	E	C	A	Y	S	
				M	E	D				A	M	A	H	
					C	O	M	I	C		D	A	D	A
					E	U		H	A	A	S		S	S
					C	T	N		N	B	C			
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NRHEG Panthers close with a big win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The NRHEG girls rolled over United South Central on Friday, Feb. 16. The Panthers raced to a 43-14 halftime lead and coasted to a 68-27 victory.

"The girls shot the ball very well in this game, as we made 12 3-pointers, 11 in the first half alone," NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said. "I am extremely proud of this team, as they have been improving in almost every contest."

Betsy Schoenrock had 11 points, seven rebounds and seven blocked shots, but she had ample help from other players. Sydney Schultz had 12 points, Olivia Christopherson 10, Kelly Harden and Sophie Stork each had six and Hannah Budach and Gabby Muri scored five each. NRHEG finished 10-2 in the Gopher Conference, one game ahead of second place Blooming Prairie.



NRHEG's Sidney Schultz grabs a steal at Blooming Prairie.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL

OTL: Playoffs begin

FROM PAGE B1

The Awesome Blossom basketball girls finished the regular season with a 16-8 season. In somewhat of an unpleasant surprise, the Blossoms were seeded behind Bethlehem Academy, despite the locals defeating B.A. twice

in the regular season. That was hard to figure.

The BP section has four top ten state-ranked teams in the state in Lyle-Pacelli, Hayfield, Goodhue and Grand Meadow.

Blooming Prairie coach John Brunns knows that his team will have to play its very best to keep going in the tournament.

Finally, the boys have two games left on the regular season schedule, including a contest last night at Grand Meadow and a game later in the week at Waterville. If the team can find a little more consistency in their overall play and shoot the ball better, they have a chance to do some damage in the playoffs. It will all be interesting, to say the least.

KEEPING IT INTERESTING

Minnesota has long held the reputation of being the theater of seasons and the last couple of weeks have certainly not diminished that reputation. We continue to ride a roller coaster of temperatures, fluctuating between ranges of below zero to a day like last Wednesday, when the temps climbed into the low 40s.

Many may not agree with me, but that variation is probably the biggest reason why I choose to live here and even forgo trips south during the winter months. I do admit that weeks like the last two months have effectively kept me housebound because of

slippery streets affect my poor sense of balance and making a fall a real threat.

But that doesn't bother me, as I have plenty of good reading, enough food and good friends who stop in and are kind enough to help with chores that I may have. Add to that my TV viewing of sports events and I am perfectly satisfied to sit in the living room and watch the world go by. All those things, plus my continued efforts to write my articles for the local paper make my mundane life plenty interesting and fulfilling.

MORE TRAGEDY

As a columnist in a small town community, I try to avoid politics and national news events for the most part, but the latest school shooting in Florida rattled even me more than a little. Besides last year's mass shooting at the nightclub in Florida and the more recent Las Vegas attack, there have been over a dozen shootings at schools in just the last year alone.

As a retired teacher and staff member, I am dismayed at that statistic. Even in our more sheltered community, an incident like the most recent one must have troubled every parent. After each incident, students and adults alike plead for some action to toughen gun laws in this country. And each time, the right words are spoken, but nothing changes. Let's hope this latest attack is the straw that finally woke

up Congress, and meaningful legislation will finally take place.

COMING UP

A reminder to Chamber of Commerce members that the regular monthly meeting of the organization will be held at the Dairy Queen this Wednesday at 6 pm. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting in support of the chamber and the local Dairy Queen.

Several pictures have popped up on Facebook recently of local residents resplendent in their costumes from last year's successful speakeasy tour. Those have elicited even more interest in the second annual event coming up in approximately two weeks. The date is Saturday, Mar. 3, and I am sure that tickets are still available. It certainly sounds like a fun evening for those who want to relive those days of prohibition and the era of the speakeasy.

Lastly this week, interest is already mounting in anticipation of the annual Education Foundation coming up later in March. This is always a highlight of community activities and major funds are generated for many programs at the local school that simply aren't available in the regular school budget. Donations for the auction are always welcome. Think end of winter, and we'll talk again.

★ STARS OF STEELE ★



BOYS

Owatonna's Cade King won all three of his matches in the 1AA Section Tournament this past three by pin in a total of four minutes and 56 seconds. King is currently ranked No. 1 in Class 3A in the 182-pound weight class.



GIRLS

Blooming Prairie's Ayren Ingvalson has been a spark plug for the Awesome Blossoms girls basketball team this season with great defense and timely baskets.

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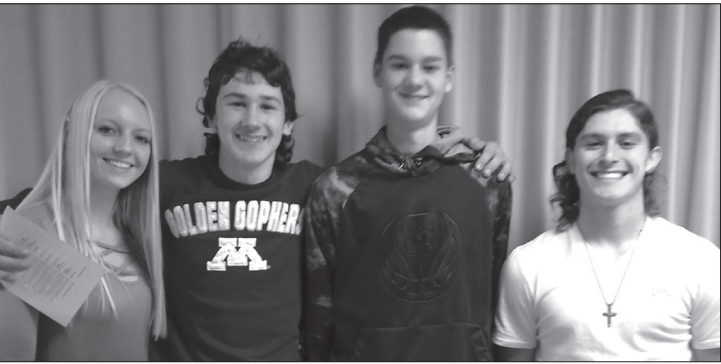
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First Lutheran youths know how to make money

Fundraisers help finance Houston trip this summer



Submitted photo

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church will be sending four youths to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Houston, Texas. Shown from left to right are: Ayren Ingvalson, Cole Christianson, Isaac Ille and Payton Simon.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Ever want to go to Houston, Texas? Well, 20 First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, youths and four from the Red Oak Lutheran Church have a hankering to go to Houston this next summer as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Youth Gathering. The Gathering will be held from June 26 to July 1. First Lutheran youths have been raising funds since last May and are getting closer and closer to making their goal of raising \$35,000. Red Oak kids are also raising funds. Attending from First Lutheran will be: ShyAne Jorgenson, Abby Braaten, Taylor Wurst, Anna Kittelson, Maggie Bruns, Kiya Thompson, Baylee Sorensen, Halle Strunk, Maren Forystek, Riauna Bishop, McKenna Hein, Trent Swenson, Jarrett Larson, Julia Worke, Karson Vigeland, Zachary Weber, Gabe Hagen, Ian Wayne, Seth Peterson and Allison Krohnberg.

The Rev. Heidi Heimgartner will also be attending. Representing Red Oak Grove Lutheran will be Ayren Ingvalson, Isaac Ille, Cole Christianson and Payton Simon. None of the youths have ever been to Houston. What do we know about Houston? It has a population of 2.303 million and is the fourth-most populous city in the United States. The city sprawls over 599.59 square miles. According to the ELCA Youth Gathering website, every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in their faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, youths and their families prepared 20 appetizers that were placed on a silent auction. Bidders could seek their favorite appetizer by inking in a bid amount. The novel fundraiser brought in \$840. Some of the items donated included:

- Cheesy beef and bean taco dip with chips, donated by Maren Forystek
- Fruit pizza donated by Julia Worke
- Meat and cheese tray donated by Riauna Bishop
- Ham and cheese sliders donated by Shayne Jorgenson
- Campers snack mix donated by Maggie Bruns
- Homemade caramel corn donated by Jarrett Larson
- Jalapeño popper dip donated by Zach Weber

A very successful hot dish auction on Nov. 5 brought in over \$1,300 from hungry bidders. More fundraising is on the docket with a soup supper planned for Feb. 21 and another scheduled for March 21. The youths will also serve Easter breakfast on April 1. “Stay tuned,” Bishop encouraged. Red Oak youths have been doing a variety of fundraisers, too, including coffee hour at church, busing tables at Pizza Ranch in Austin, car wash and dinner for the community.

The Times sat down with five youths planning to make the trip: Trent Swenson, McKenna Hein, Riauna Bishop, Baylee Sorensen and Ian Wayne. Hein went to Detroit on the Youth Gathering trip three years ago. “We were able to see God’s work given through other people’s hands,” she said. “It was eye opening,” she added. The youths donated to homeless people and tore down damaged houses. She also participated in a diaper drive during the Gathering. Bishop said she expects to participate in some hurricane relief, help still needed months after a severe hurricane hit Houston. “It will be weird,” she commented. Swenson and Bishop said they hope the trip will expand their faith by helping people affected by the storms. “I hope to use my gifts God gave me to help others,” Sorensen said sincerely. “When we get home, I want to look at how we made a difference helping people,” Hein interjected. “People are giving money to help and we’re going to be there to make a difference,” Wayne agreed. “It is very important to help people in need,” Sorensen said. Bishop, who has acted as spokesperson for the youth group when speaking to the First Lutheran congregation to ask for support, said she believes the congregation thinks it is important to help others. The Rev. Lindsay Stolen of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church attended the Youth Gathering in Detroit three years ago. “It’s wonderful to see our youths getting to meet other young Lutherans across the country and having the chance to explore their faith,” said Pastor Lindsay. While in Houston, the youths expect to have some free time and enjoy a water park at the top of the hotel where they are staying. Chaperones accompanying the youth include Jacob Ulland of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church and Nicki Bishop, Mary Worke and Chad Forystek, all of First Lutheran Church.

♥ Congratulations

Prairie Manor Valentine’s Royalty



Staff photo by Annie Anderson

Donna Ditlevson and Donald Bakke were crowned Valentine royalty at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie on Feb. 14. Residents, staff and visitors at Prairie Manor vote on the king and queen. In addition to the special recognition, each of them received a crown, box of chocolates and a rose.

Prairie manor valentine royalty Through the Years

- 1973- Ora Olson and Ed Motl
- 1974- Juanita Shaw and David Morgan
- 1975- Cordula Mullenbach and Pete Hansen
- 1976- Katherine Ranum and Amos Eaker
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How to finance long-term care needs

Failing to plan for long-term care expenses may leave aging men and women with little or no assets late in life.

AARP says that the cost of long-term care continues to rise and the array of options can make it difficult for families to find the best, most affordable care. The median monthly costs for a semi-private room in a U.S. nursing facility hovered around \$6,800 in 2016, according to The Genworth Cost of Care Survey. That adds up to roughly \$82,000 per year. Individuals who only anticipate hiring a home health aide should know that such options cost an

average \$3,800 per month. Retirement savings can quickly dry up when long-term care is required. Individuals need to keep in mind that, in 2014, the Social Security Administration said the average month retirement income from Social Security was just \$1,294. The National Care Planning Council says that at least 60 percent of all individuals will need extended help during their lifetimes. Ongoing care can last for many months or years. Long-term care needs, including assisted living and nursing home stays beyond a few months, may not be covered by federal health insurance programs, such as Medicare. As a result, it is up to individuals to find ways to finance their care.

Long-term care Insurance
Long-term care insurance is one of the ways to offset costs of care for later in life. But many people are unaware that this type of insurance exists. A survey conducted by Leger Marketing for the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association found that 74 percent of respondents said they haven't included provisions for long-term care in their retirement plans. Long-term care insurance is a safety precaution that can be purchased early in life to plan to help pay for expenses aging men and women may incur in their golden years. New York Life Insurance says that policy holders will be reimbursed for qualified



long-term care costs up to a maximum daily benefit amount. Coverage varies, but policy premiums generally increase with the age of applicant.



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Seniors becoming more *tech-savvy*

Technology is the future, and digital communication has opened many doors for people around the world.

Although younger generations have grown up with technology at their fingers, Baby Boomers and older adults did not. But in spite of that, studies show that growing numbers of seniors are open to the idea of technology and even seeking ways to further their use and knowledge.

According to a 2014 study by Pew Research Center, 59 percent of seniors regularly use the internet — a 6 percent increase from the previous study conducted in 2012. Today, 67 percent of adults age 65 and older say

they go online.

Pew also says that, although seniors consistently have lower rates of technology adoption than the general public, four in 10 seniors now own smartphones, which is more than double the amount that did in 2013. Seniors in Australia are especially tech savvy, as Deloitte’s mobile consumer survey found 78 percent of Australian seniors aged 65 to 75 own a smartphone, up from 69 percent in 2016.

While stereotypes have long painted seniors as technologically inept, seniors are actually more socially and digitally engaged than ever before. Seniors use technology in many different ways. Some use mobile apps to manage medications and doctor’s appointments

and monitor their fitness regimens.

Some families employ 24/7 alert systems or smarthome technology to keep seniors comfortable and safe at home for as long as possible. Noninvasive, “smart” technology can analyze factors such as whether or not doors are left open, if there has been movement in a home, or whether appliances/lights are on or off. This represents a great way for families to stay informed and provide assistance even if they are not nearby.

SilverSurfers, a senior-based information website, says other tech that seniors are embracing includes online dating; audio and digital books; online shopping, which is especially valuable to seniors who have

mobility issues; and social media, which can keep seniors connected to others and feeling less lonely.

A study conducted by researchers from the University of California, San Francisco found 18 percent of American seniors live alone, and 43 percent report feeling lonely on a regular basis. Loneliness can increase death risk. Social media and internet connectivity can be an important tool in helping seniors feel like active members of society.

Technology is no longer just for teenagers or active workers. Seniors are increasingly embracing technology and becoming a fast-growing demographic for tech usage.

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Saluting the hard working and energetic 4-H members and adult leaders who received special honors at the 18th annual awards recognition banquet in January.



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Ashes to ashes



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna held Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 14. Todd Andrix of Owatonna received ashes on his forehead at a noon service. As parishioners made their way to the front of the church, pastors placed a sign of the cross on their foreheads and reminded them, “From dust you are and to dust you shall return.” Ash Wednesday, which is observed by Christians around the world, marks the beginning of Lent—a dedicated time of reflection, fasting and prayer in anticipation for Easter. Lent signifies fasting and repentance, symbolic of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before his final trek to the cross where he died for the sins of others.



Health benefits of kindness and gratitude

“If you haven’t any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.” -Bob Hope

At the Human Relations Center we often talk about side effects commonly related to a medication, a form of treatment or substance use, but I am here to share that there are other types of side effects, positive ones, as a direct result of being kind.



Steele Talkin’
PATTY HOCKING

When we are being kind to others, the following are some side effects that come with it:

1. We feel good when we do something kind for someone as a result of an elevation in brain chemicals called dopamine and serotonin. These feel good chemicals act like natural antidepressants and can elevate our moods and calm us.
 2. Emotional warmth as a result of being kind produces oxytocin in the brain and throughout the entire body. Oxytocin causes a release of a chemical nitric oxide that dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure.
 3. Oxytocin reduces levels of free radicals and inflammation in the cardiovascular system and slows aging. Free radicals and inflammation play a major role in the development of heart disease.
 4. Kindness produces endorphins-the brain’s natural painkiller.
 5. Kind people have less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age slower than the average population. High levels of Cortisol can elevate blood sugar levels increase inflammation and impair memory function, elevate heart rates and blood pressure, all associated with heart disease.
- Lets face it, being kind is always the right thing to do, but the mental and physical health benefits make it a no brainer! Kindness is contagious, is teachable, improves relationships, makes us happy and healthy!

Here’s to some KINDNESS in 2018!
SCHRC Happiness Coaches
In November 2017, two of us attended a training about the Bounce Back Project, <http://www.bouncebackproject.org>, at a nursing conference and this inspired us to incorporate happiness and gratitude into our daily lives. We wanted to share it with everyone at our agency and developed a plan to do so each month in 2018. Our agency supported this and we are now “SCHRC Happiness Coaches” and are bringing tools, tips, and events to incorporate health, happiness, and gratitude into everyone’s lives.

We wanted to share this concept with our community and encourage others to explore adopting this to your agency or family! One of the things we have done is hang up a whiteboard at the agency locations so each area can participate in the weekly “grateful things” notation on the boards.

To kick off the New Year, we shared some information on the G R E A T D R E A M, which is a free PDF booklet available on <http://www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys-guidebook>. In the booklet, there are 10 ways you can lead a happier life though little actions that add up.

- In January, the focus was on giving, and doing for others.
- Ask yourself: What have you done recently to make someone happy or to help others?
 - Inspiration: “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” –Aesop

- Action plan: Do an act of kindness daily. We have included a calendar to give you inspiration and ideas on how to give-it doesn’t have to cost a thing! You can give someone a call to let them know you are thinking of them, give someone your place in line, give a compliment, or share a smile.

In February we are having a Random Acts of Kindness Week BINGO. We sent out Bingo Cards and these are some of the acts that can be completed towards a Bingo! Cards are to be turned in for small participation prizes:

- Leave a positive note on a co-worker’s desk
- Hold open a door for someone.
- Introduce yourself or say hello to someone new.
- Ask someone about their day
- Be kind to yourself:
- Get 30 minutes of exercise.
- Make a “things I am thankful for” journal entry.

We encourage others to check out the link for the back story of the Bounce Back Project and how we decided to take on the wall of gratitude board: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB-4DYJbdJ8>. Be sure to add things you are grateful for each day or each week!

Patty Hocking is a nurse with South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Vikki Ebenhoh, RN and Tammy Peterson, RN are care coordinators at South Central, and they contributed to this column. They actively contribute to the wellness of clients and fellow staff members. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

Around the World in 80 Beers

Center hosts Brewfest to promote history and diversity

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It was a packed house Friday night at the Steele County History Center with residents sampling food from around the globe, and locally brewed beer at this year’s Around the World Food and Brewfest.

The event also featured a silent auction, including baskets made and arranged for the event.

All of the proceeds, combining those from ticket sales as well as the auction, will be divided between the Steele County Historical Society, and the Cultural Diversity Network, which organizes and puts on CulturFest each September.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

James Lundgren, executive director of the Steele County Historical Society, says that it’s a fun event for people to take in. “This is what such a great facility can offer us,” Lundgren said. “It’s

nice to have a facility that can be used for a variety of different functions, and

SEE **BREWFEST, C3**

Feed Pepper the Awesome Blossom Pig

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It has been said that Pepper the Awesome Blossom Pig is hungry and is going around town trying to get fed.

In reality, Pepper is a ceramic piggy bank that is making his rounds in downtown Blooming Prairie, collecting money for the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation 15th Annual Auction which is scheduled for Saturday,

March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company.

Pepper was the idea hatched by BP Ed Foundation auction committee members Karen Fouarge and Lori Arndt.

Everyone is encouraged to drop some coins in the bank, which is circulating around BP business establishments.

On auction night, the piggy bank will be auctioned off with the winning bidder keeping the pig or donating him back to the auction.

Auction items are already being

accepted and can be dropped off at New York Life Insurance in Blooming Prairie.

A couple of early items include a beautiful wooden cabinet built and donated by Butch Anderson and a Major League baseball autographed by Byron Buxton of the Minnesota Twins.

Blooming Prairie Elementary School students will again be donating items for the auction.

“I’m always in the auction mode and

SEE **PEPPER, C3**

Senate bonding tour highlights Al-Corn plant by Claremont

Senate committee members also discuss Highway 14 progress

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Members of Minnesota’s Senate Capital Investment Committee swung through southeast Minnesota Feb. 12 during the final leg of their MNfrastructure statewide bonding tour.

They visited cities from Faribault to Winona, including stops in Claremont and Owatonna, to hear more than 30 proposals from local governments, colleges and other entities.

In Claremont they toured the Al-Corn Clean Fuel ethanol plant, which in 2016 received \$500,000 for modernization and expansion through the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure grant program.

Claremont city administrator Marie Lindblom said it was good to see and hear from the state leaders gathered in her city of about 536 people.

“I think it’s great,” she said. “The ethanol plant is a great addition to the city, and I think it’s good that they bring recognition to the city to all these important decision-makers,” she added.

The BDPI, Lindblom said, helps greater Minnesota. “It helps the rural communities provide infrastructure for new businesses coming, and stuff like that. I think the biggest thing I heard is, they’re able to get people agreeing that this is a good program, and helping fund it,” she said.

“They were very excited about the expansion and the economic development related to it,” said Thomas Harwood, owners’ representative for the Al-Corn project. “I think they were also happy to see the project funds being put to work out on Fifth Street” (the frontage road leading west from the Al-Corn plant, built in part from BDPI funds).”

Claremont provided a convenient stop along Highway 14, where the visitors could get a look at the Al-Corn expansion, said Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault), whose district includes Dodge, Steele and Rice counties.

Work on the estimated \$146 million project began in December 2016, and is expected to finish this spring. Al-Corn will produce 120 million gallons of ethanol per year, an increase of 70 million gallons.

“It’s always important for us legislators to get out and see actually see the projects,” Jasinski said. “This one is a past project, so it shows the importance of why these projects are important to get funding for the upcoming cycle, so we can fund those, so that small communities and projects can create economic development for our districts throughout the state of Minnesota.”

Several people spoke with the contingent in Owatonna regarding the proposed expansion of Highway 14, which narrows from four lanes to two lanes just west of Dodge Center.

Jasinski said results of a study on projects came in Feb. 12 on projects being requested through the Corridors of Commerce program, which helps expand highways from two lanes to four.

He said the requests are being evaluated and scored, and he hopes to see Highway 14 at the top of the project list.

Sen. Dave Senjem (R-Rochester) said the Highway 14 request will be part of the state’s bonding bill this year.

“We had it last year,” he said. “Whether this gets done or not will depend on Gov. Dayton and his willingness to accept Highway 14, and, frankly, other highways in our bill. We’re going to get Highway 14.”

Senjem said the state legislature has received about \$3.5 billion worth of requests from across the state.

“So it’s a big bill,” he said. “And we also have to be selective about what we fund, in looking at these projects, trying to create value judgments as to which ones we ought to include and which ones not. We look for value, we look for economic development, we look for things that are, generally speaking, regional in nature and would benefit larger groups of people, as opposed to individual communities.

“It’s a big job,” he said. “It’s one where you create some friends and you create some people who aren’t your friends anymore. That’s the way it works, and we just do the best we can.”



John Jasinsk

Gambling permits approved

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie City Council approved two gambling permits and a temporary one day liquor licenses at its monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.

The council approved the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and the Blooming Prairie School Foundation respective requests to the Minnesota Control Board for gambling permits to hold a Ham Bingo at the Pizza Cellar on March 15 and a raffle at the Cue Company on March 24.

The council also approved a request from the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce for a temporary one-day on-sale liquor license for the Prohibition Speakeasy on March 3. The event will be held at three different locations. Only one of locations currently has a liquor license. The three locations will stay a secret until the clues are handed out to the ticket holders.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the sale of tax forfeited property on Main Street to Aaron Ressler for \$1. Ressler owns the building east of the property and has had issues with the rain water run-off from the building causing problems with his property. Ressler plans to secure the roof and solve the other issues after purchasing the property. “Hopefully this will be a great improvement to Main Street,” Blooming Prairie Mayor Harold Peterson said.
- Approved the 2018 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting date to Monday, April 16.

- Approved change of date for the April’s city council meeting to Monday, April 16.
- Discussed the cleaning of the Northeast Sewer Drainage ditch starting at Highway 218 to Highway 30 because the city assume responsibility for maintaining the ditch in exchange for the right to use it. The council discussed multiple different options, but did not make a decision on what to do. The actual cleaning of the ditch wouldn’t occur until May or June. “It’s certainly a cost that I did not prepare to pay this year,” Jones said. “But, it is a storm sewer project and there are some funds in storm sewer that could meet the goals.”
- Approved the motion that the city of Blooming Prairie does not waive the monetary limits of \$500,000 on municipal tort liability as established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.
- Approved the closure of the 2009 Refunding Bond Debt Service Fund and the transfer of all remaining cash and delinquent property taxes receivable to the 2007-A Debt Service Fund.
- Approved the codification and ordinance proposal submitted by the League of Minnesota Cities and American Legal Publishing Corporation to update and organize the city’s code of ordinances for \$8,200. Jones said more than 200 cities in the state of Minnesota have use this service. “This is a good program and it has to be done,” Jones said.
- Authorized the advertisement and hire of the pool personnel for Pine Springs Pool for the 2018 season and set the beginning wages for lifeguards at \$10.25 per hour.

Prohibition-era entertainment comes to BP

Speakeasy night tickets still available

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Tickets are still available for Speakeasy Night to be held in downtown Blooming Prairie on Saturday night, March 3.

New York Life, Sportstitch, the Blooming Prairie Library and the Chamber office are selling tickets for \$25 per person. It will once again be a fun night full of surprises!

The first-ever Speakeasy Night was staged last spring as part of Blooming Prairie’s Sesquicentennial celebration (150th birthday). About 60 persons attended the special event, which introduced them to history about the prohibition era.

The 2017 event was so popular that it was brought back as a Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce event. “It’s a time to recall history about this era and to have a fun evening out,” says BP chamber executive director Becky Noble.

The event had visitors going to three speakeasy sites: J & H Liquors (Bell Liquor), Bunkie’s (Coggins Bar) and The Cue Company (The Blue Hen).

New speakeasy sites are expected for the 2018 Speakeasy Night. They are a secret until the night of the event. A gathering place will be announced days before the event, which runs from 7-11 p.m.

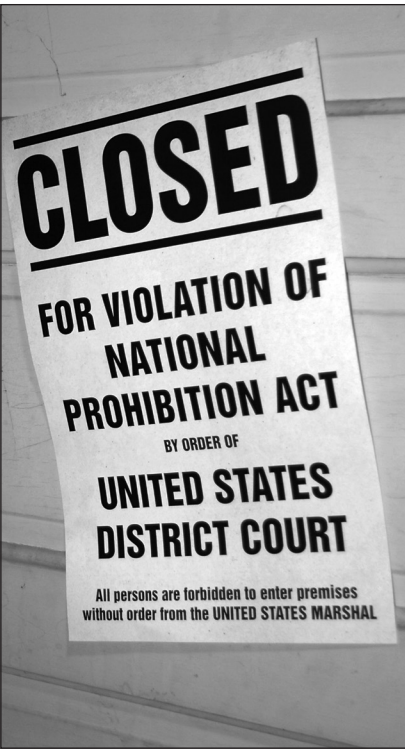
A speakeasy was an illicit establishment selling alcoholic beverages. These establishments came into prominence during the Prohibition era, 1919-33.

Ticket holders are encouraged to dress in 1920s type clothing, and they indeed did that last year with some of the participants renting special outfits or buying them.

Bring a group and join the fun. Prizes will be awarded for the best 1920s costume.

Learn how prohibition went in Blooming Prairie and experience some places you may have never been in before, said Noble. A special commemorative newspaper, the Speakeasy Times, will be given to each attendee.

Steve Wencl, local historian on the prohibition days in Blooming Prairie, will be on hand to field all kinds of questions on the history of bootlegging in Blooming Prairie. He has prepared some helpful visuals to help visitors understand the history of prohibition in BP.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Signs like this might be seen at Blooming Prairie’s Second Annual Speakeasy Night scheduled for Saturday, March 3 in downtown Blooming Prairie. Tickets are now available at New York Life, Sportstitch, Blooming Prairie Library and at the Chamber office at \$25 per person.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BALDWIN
Heather Burke and Courtney Kryzer perform as Blanche DuBois and her sister Stella in a production of Tennessee Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire” now being presented at the Little Theatre of Owatonna. The performance opened this past weekend and continues with final shows this coming weekend.

Southern classic takes stage at Little Theatre

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Little Theatre of Owatonna is currently staging a production of Tennessee Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Williams is regarded as one of the most important American playwrights of the past century and the play is considered one of his finest.

LTO in conjunction through an arrangement with Dramatists Play Service presents the play, which is an adult drama focusing on the story of Blanche DuBois, a southern belle who is taken in by her sister Stella and her husband, Stanley Kowalski. Stanley is a domineering husband, and Blanche’s presence stokes trouble for his and Stella’s already strained marriage.

An additional character, Stanley’s friend from work, Mitch, is also featured. Mitch is a counterpart to Stanley, and initially finds himself smitten with the penniless Blanche. But complications involving Blanche’s personal history, Mitch’s own faults, and her sister’s husband create conflict.

Williams’ play was famously adapted into a film in 1951. The film, which featured Marlon Brando, Vivian Leigh, Kim Hunter, and Karl Malden, was directed by the late Elia Kazan and received high praise.

LTO’s production of the play is directed by Jeffrey Jackson with technical direction by Kristi Westergaard. It stars Courtney Kryzer as Stella, Heather Burke as Blanche DuBois, Patrick McColley as Stanley Kowalski, and Cody Jensen as Mitch.

McColley, who majored in theatre at Moorhead State University, has the second most lines behind Burke’s Blanche. McColley feels his character is interesting, and provides a dramatic example of domestic violence.

“I think the play still has something to teach modern audiences,” says McColley, who describes the scenes between his character Stanley, and his wife Stella, as “really tough to do, and with those scenes keeping Stanley human is the biggest challenge.”

Portraying long-suffering housewife Stella is Courtney Kryzer. She also sees a connection to modern concerns over domestic violence, saying, “there’s definitely ways for it to translate to audiences today.”

She described playing the character as a challenge, and explained that as actors they all rely on each other.

Kryzer is looking forward to the audiences’ reaction. “I’m excited to see the response from people, especially after a fight scene,” she says, defining the play’s central characters as people who are all flawed.

Cody Jensen, who plays Mitch, approves of this evaluation. His character Mitch is initially seen as a wholesome person in comparison to Stanley, but after a reveal two-thirds through the play, Jensen thinks audiences will see a different side of the character.

“The trick is making Mitch seem good right away, but then use a smooth, and slow transition to reveal that he, too, is just as flawed and complicated as the other characters,” Jensen explains. As performer, Jensen takes pride in his craft. “We want to give the audience the best show, because they deserve to see the best show,” he said.

Jensen described it as a play where every scene something changes, whether it’s a new angle the audience might understand the characters through, or a reveal about their past.

Heather Burke rounds out the main players as Blanche DuBois, a onetime southern belle now resorted to squatting with her sister Stella and her husband, Stanley. Burke has been acting since she was young, and says this is her third production at the LTO.

“I think she’s got a lot haunting her from her past,” Burke says of the character, describing it as a challenge to remember all of Blanche’s scatterbrained dialogue, which is often delivered in a melodramatic fashion.

Burke also loves the twists and turns the different characters take throughout the play. “When Blanche realizes she wants to be with Mitch, and sees a future there, only to have that all fall apart, it becomes a really great tragedy,” she said.

In a play like this, with such serious undertones and overt domestic violence, Burke and her fellow cast mates report that they still find time for levity between scenes, or during rehearsal. “Absolutely,” Burke says, “you have to find time to smile and laugh.”

Williams’ play is being presented with limited cuts to the dialogue, and the bulk of the piece is to be kept intact. It is a play recommended for adult audiences, with strong thematic material and scenes including domestic violence, and infidelity.

The play will continue to be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets and further information are available at LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org.

Upcoming Community Education Classes

Defensive Driving Classes:

4 Hour Refresher

March 1- 6-10 p.m.
April 17- 6-10 p.m.

8-Hour Beginner

March 27 & 29- 6-10 p.m.

Just for Kids Classes:

Child & Babysitting Class- Grades 4-8
March 23- 1:15-4:15 p.m.

Home Alone Safety- Grades 3-6
April 10- 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Be Prepared, Not Scared- Grades K-2
April 19- 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Coming soon... Watch for more details!

Wellness Yoga

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More detailed information can be found online at

www.blossoms.k12.mn.us in the community education section



Blooming Prairie Community Education

Michelle Southworth
Community Ed Coordinator

2nd Annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

February 28

Celebrating our Humble Heroes



Moving Kids Forward

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BUS COMPANY

Two local organizations donate to United Way



Owatonna Schools made a generous donation to the United Way of Steele County last week. These district employees assisted with the presentation of the donation: Front row (left to right): Chris Picha, director of human resources; Deb McDermott-Johnson, director of Community Education; Beth Svenby, principal at Washington Elementary; Julie Sullivan, principal at Owatonna Middle School; Shari Mensink, Special Services coordinator; Jeff Elstad, superintendent; Wendy Cirksema, director of Special Services; Michelle Krell, director of Teaching and Learning; Amanda Heilman, director of finance and operations; back row: Mark Randall, principal at Owatonna High School; Justin Kiel, principal at McKinley Elementary; Jim Kiefer, principal at the ALC; Bob Olson, director of facilities, infrastructure, and security.

A pair of local organizations has made generous donations to the United Way of Steele County. Employees of Owatonna Public Schools, ISD #761, concluded a successful workplace campaign, pledging \$5,800 to help fund services to community members experiencing difficult times, as well as those aiding families and children, and seniors and disabled individuals. This generous contribution is a 28 percent increase over the District’s prior campaign and exemplifies the giving spirit of the citizens of Owatonna.

“We are able to sustain a safety net of direct services in our community, respond to crisis and at the same time prepare our children for the future, because of the generosity of organizations such as the Owatonna School District,” said Kim Schaufenbuel, executive director of United Way of Steele County. “They understand that our mission intersects with that of the School District which makes us partners in community improvement. We are thankful for supporters like Jeff Elstad and the Owatonna School District.” Employees of Big Brothers Big Sisters of



Representing Big Brothers Big Sisters with a donation to the United Way included: front row (left to right): Michelle Redman, Andrew Carlson, Karen Montplaisir, Megan Schmitz; middle row: Alyssa Kuch, Tressa Smallbrock and back row: Linda Coleman, Megan Horton, Jill Erickson, Becky Parkos, Ashley Grubisch and Logan Ahlman.

Southern MN also made generous donations totaling \$1,377 to the United Way. Michelle Redman, BBBS of Southern MN Workplace campaign leader and BBBS executive director, inspired her enthusiastic team to a contribution which was an increase over last year with 100 percent staff participation. “The staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern MN are amazing partners to our work,” said Schaufenbuel. “Not only do they give generously to United Way but they support all of our events and provide a wide variety of help to our fundraising efforts whenever we need them. We couldn’t ask for a better partner agency.” Redman said, “We value our partnership with the United Way of Steele County and

actively participate in the campaign not only at our office but share our agency’s United Way story to other businesses during their campaign. United Way of Steele County helps individuals, families and children with a hand up to create a better community for us all.” The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year’s raised funds of \$745,122 will fund 24 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies. To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org or mail a check or pledge to United Way, Box 32, Owatonna, MN 55060 or text UWSC to 40403.

BREWFEST: Supporting history and diversity

FROM PAGE C1

“It’s really all about social interaction. It’s fun to bring in new people.”

Mike Jensen
SCHS Board Member

while they’re here people can check out an exhibit or two.” Lundgren feels that events like this can help to increase public and private support for the Historical Society. He says that staff worked closely with the Cultural Diversity Network to put on the shindig. Wearing dual hats as both a member of the Cultural Diversity Network and the Historical Society’s board, Mike Jensen was more than happy to explain that the event was filled to capacity. “It’s phenomenal,” he said. “We had 300 tickets, and we sold all of them,” he said, noting last year’s BrewFest was also a sold out event. According to Jensen, the Brewfest was first held in 2010, and followed a different format. For the first three years they chose one country to feature. They included Ireland, Germany, and Britain. The event had previously been held at the Country Club and the Art Center, before finding its home at the history center. The current model includes locally brewed beer, wine, and food from countries as disparate as Vietnam, Venezuela, India,

Germany, and Belgium. Jensen feels that the new format allows for a better experience. “This formula works well,” he said. “We’ve had consistent attendance since we’ve adopted it,” Jensen said. “It’s really all about social interaction. It’s fun to bring in new people and hosting it here means they get a chance to catch an exhibit.” Jensen sees a connection between the present and the past.



Staff photo by Chris Baldwin
Crowds converge on the Mineral Springs Brewery station at the Around the World Food and Brewfest. The event brought together members of the community for locally brewed drinks and world cuisine.

“History is happening every day,” he says. “We’re also becoming more diverse in Steele County and the Cultural Diversity Network wants to provide fun, safe spaces for everybody to come and celebrate each other’s culture.” In Jensen’s eyes, an event like this one is capable of providing a bridge between contemporary times, and our local history. Matt Kottke of Mineral Spring Brewery is just one of the many Steele County residents participating in the Brewfest.

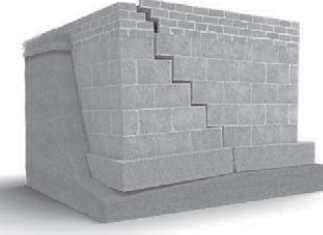
Along with his two friends from school, Kottke brews and donates beer using water from Mineral Springs. “We have brewers who brew out of their garage, or their basement. It’s a hobby we all enjoy,” he says. Kottke explains that he and his team of brewers decided to get together and brew as a way of catching up and staying in touch after some of their kids had gone off to college. This is his third year participating in the Brewfest, although he has been brewing for five or six years. When asked to pick a favorite beer from the six Mineral Springs Brewery potations, Kottke opts for the Coconut Porter. “It’s got a nice rich flavor,” he said. “But we have everything from light beers to dark beers.” “Everything we make is for personal consumption, or events like this one,” Kottke said. He noted that there’s a few great places for people to learn about home brewing in the Twin Cities, including Northern Brewer in Minneapolis, and Vine Park Brewing in St Paul. “Both are good places to start, and from there you can figure out how simple or complex you want to get with it,” he said. Kottke feels that home brewing is a rewarding experience, and you get something out of it. “I enjoy trying different beers and different things with the brewing and seeing what the result is,” he said, adding he is partial to some of the food being offered with the Vietnamese entrees being excellent. When asked what he felt the most popular beer at the event was, Kottke responded by describing their Speckled Heifer, a clone of a Wisconsin beer named Spotted Cow. Kottke said it’s a lighter beer, which women enjoy. Some of the men described it as a “lawn mower beer.” Kaye Fransen, SCHS board member, said she enjoyed the French bread with cream brie cheese. Although she is not a drinker of beer, Fransen said the white wine Riesling went perfect with her French bread. She also tried a spring roll and some of the other dishes available. “I’d give them all an A-plus,” she said. “It’s fun to see all the different people attending and tasting at each station,” Fransen said. “I think it draws in a whole different crowd.” With its funds going to not one, but two local organizations, the annual Around the World Food and Brewfest has become a staple within Steele County’s community.



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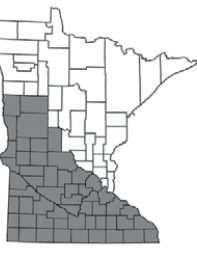
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All the world's a stage at Woman's Club in Owatonna



Julianna Skluzacek

Julianna Skluzacek will take the Woman's Club of Owatonna backstage at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

The director of 103 productions, Skluzacek will tell about the many different elements that go into staging a play and offer a behind-the-scenes look at theater. She is the founding artistic director of Merlin Players, headquartered in Faribault, a position she still holds today. Her 103rd play, "Barefoot in the Park," is on stage Feb. 24-26 and March 1-3 at the Paradise.

In addition to directing, she has acted in many plays produced throughout Minnesota, as well as working on every aspect of production in countless plays.

A native of St. Louis, she moved with her family to the Quad Cities of Iowa when she was 4. She is a graduate of Bettendorf High School and while in high school was interested in drama and won first place in the Iowa state speech contest. After high school, she worked at the telephone company to earn money for college. She met her husband, Roger, an engineer and pilot in the United States Air Force.

The Skluzaceks moved to Owatonna in November 1974. Roger had resigned his commission and accepted a job with Owatonna Manufacturing Company. Julianna's first show at Little Theatre of Owatonna was "Matchmaker"

directed by Sarah Foreman.

"LTO was open to new directors," said Julianna, who after working on technical aspects, wrote and directed a children's play followed by directing "Blythe Spirit," and then many others.

She earned her bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Minnesota in 1994, the same year that her daughter, Melissa, graduated from Owatonna High School. Merlin Players was born during roughly the same time. It was in 1993 when fellow theatre lovers wanted an opportunity to do more work. Weekends at the Skluzacek home became theatre workshops with improvisation exercises on Friday night; scene preparation on Saturday morning; performing for the other groups on Saturday afternoons with critiques, and then performing again for each other on Sunday afternoons.

She credits two women, who she describes as powerful mentors (the late Nancy Hockenberry and the late Lois Vranesh) for their help and guidance.

Introducing the speaker will be Jan Mittelstadt Tippet of the program committee.

The tea committee is being chaired by Sandy Boss. The committee members are Diane Drache, Beverly Macht, Dee Ann Pettyjohn, Patricia Braasch-Turi, Jon Wilker and Carol Zetah.

Tickets, at \$10, for the May luncheon will be on sale starting at 12:15. The speaker in May is Miriam "Duchess" Harris, author of "Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA."

Women who are not yet members are invited to attend the program. Those with questions about membership may call Kay Oberle, 507-451-9476, membership chair, or Sandy Muir, assistant chair, 507-319-3032.

Annual tree program taking orders

Landowners can place orders for a large variety of trees – bareroot and container grown – through March as part of Mower Soil & Water Conservation District's annual program aimed at conservation.

Only limited quantities, however, will be available after Feb. 28; order cancellations will not be accepted after that date.

"We strongly encourage anyone interested in ordering trees to get it done this month before the early deadline," said James Fett, Mower SWCD's watershed technician who coordinates the tree program.

"Orders are done on a first-come, first-serve basis."

This year, the program has added butternut (also known as white walnut) to its extensive list of bareroot trees.

Orders must be placed and fully paid by April 1 with Mower SWCD, which then will distribute trees in mid-April (date to be determined) on the west side of the Runnings store in northwest Austin. Letters with pickup dates and times will be sent in early April to everyone who placed orders.

Landowners who have questions or need help with planning a windbreak are encouraged to contact Mower SWCD technician Larry Callahan for assistance.

Tree order forms – which include tree types, sizes and prices – are available at Mower SWCD, located behind Runnings at 1408 21st Ave. N.W. in Austin, and online at www.mowerswcd.org.

Bareroot trees are being sold in bundles of 25 and offered in three types of species: evergreens, deciduous and shrubs. The tree program no longer offers single orders for bareroots.

Evergreens also are offered in container-grown options, including 1- and 2-gallon pots for Techny Arborvitae, Black Hills Spruce and Meyer Spruce (2-gallon only).

Mower SWCD also is selling tree mats with staples and tree shelters with stakes.

Last year, Mower SWCD tried a new vendor for the tree mats and shelters but staff did not like their quality, Fett said.

"We have gone back to the previous vendor for this year and will have the quality back again for tree mats and shelters," he added.

With the tree program, Mower SWCD offers 50 percent cost-share assistance up to \$500 on Mower County windbreaks designed by SWCD staff.

For more information, contact Mower SWCD at 507-434-2603, ext. 5.

Medford's 2017 Year in Review

Medford's energies for 2018 will be centered around the Community Growth Initiative (CGI) grant awarded last fall from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF).

Enthusiastic community area individuals are working on the assets mapping exercise which will be a cornerstone for continued planning in the community and identifying projects that can be initiated and completed during this year using the \$20,000 grant funds that came with the award.

The new year does also mean reviewing the past year for highlights of both accomplishments and projects that will be addressed this year or even over the next few years. Here are some of them:

JANUARY

- New councilmember, Matt Dempsey and reelected councilor Marie Sexton and Mayor Lois Nelson sworn in for new four-year terms at organizational meeting
- Steele Co Housing Study accepted
- Medford's Volunteer Fire Department initiates purchase of replacement fire truck from Cleveland, NY

FEBRUARY

- Wilma Mueller, longtime Muni employee-now, retiring, presented plaque and appreciation
- MNDOT Landscape Design Project accepted for completing plantings at east roundabout
- Straight River Park Playground's wood chips and aggregate purchase approved for spring-last steps of 2016 fall flood
- Muni maintenance includes replacement of floor tiles and subfloor under cooler
- Special work session held with Medford Volunteer Fire Department to review November election results and future of Municipal Building Complex

MARCH

- Replacement of out-dated cold-air systems at City Hall approved for purchase
- Capitol Project Planning workshop



Medford Mayor's Lines
LOIS M. NELSON

- Decision to resurface tennis and line for both tennis and pickle ball, adjustable nets ordered
- 2017 pool staff hired with Sydney Langeslag as Pool Manager
- MPCA confirms biosolids land application plan for the year
- Jennifer Kath makes presentation on plans for new Medford Farmer's Market starting June 1
- Straight River Days Celebration activities and permit requests made by Civic Club President, Erin Sammon

MAY

- Mission Pottery opens at UltraOutlets of Medford for the season.
- Cannon Valley Watershed open house with "One Plan" for multi-county management presentation made in Faribault, attended by Mayor
- UltraOutlets of Medford-both Zoning ad Planning and Council support the new digitalized signage to be installed during the summer
- Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board supports the budgeting and hiring of a business consultant from Community & Economic Development Associates (CEDA) council accepts recommendation

JUNE

- Council supports the EDA recommendation of pursuing the Community Growth Initiative

related to waste water plant operations and maintenance issues held with council and staff

- Bernie LaCanne, Owner of Lazy U Mobile Home Park, approaches city about extending services
- J Merchants opens at the UltraOutlets of Medford

APRIL

(CGI) Grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF)

- Developer's Agreement with Bill Regan, Medford Bus Company, presented annexing his property east of the School District for constructing a bus garage
- Council discusses and supports a bike/walking trail to coincide with the Co Rd 12 project and overall city trail plan with new road reconstruction project

JULY

- Jed Peterson, Public Works Supervisor, resigns for a position with the City of Faribault
- Three Rivers Community Action's Leah Hall makes presentation to EDA about their housing development projects in the region and possible collaboration with the city
- 2018 preliminary budget proposal presented by Administrator Welti
- Council and staff 'walk the streets' and give resolution support proceeding with project in 2018
- Scott Prestegard accepted position of lead public works employee; Anthony Jelen, hired as public works employee; contract operator Richard Olson's agreement extended

AUGUST

- Leah Hall, Three Rivers Community Action, makes introductory presentation to council about their 50-year history and working with community's on housing development-includes rentals, town homes and single-family homes with consensus to continue investigation and discussion
- Special meeting with Medford Volunteer Fire Department leadership on continued need/discussion of Municipal Complex
- Resolution passed by council for preliminary 2018 budget
- Halloween Plus Store opens for second season at Medford UltraOutlets

SEPTEMBER

- SMIF notifies the city that they have been awarded the CGI Grant of \$25,000
- State House of Representatives Capital Investment Committee visits on September 6, to see and hear presentation about Municipal Complex and request for bonding funds in 2018
- Feasibility Report regarding service extension to Lazy U presented by City Engineer

Joe Duncan with agreement that further exploration of current waste-water system is necessary

OCTOBER

- Council supports the continued contract with the Steele Co Sheriff's Department
- M&W Blacktopping LLC completes street patching of thirteen sites within the city-funding from special state legislative funds for small cities
- Public Hearing held for the proposed 2018 reclaiming street project. Council moves support of resolution ordering improvement and preparation of plans

NOVEMBER

- Opening of Avon Holiday House at Medford UltraOutlets for a second season
- Site preparation for the new Medford Bus Company facility is completed by Wencil Construction
- Leah Hall from Three Rivers Community Action provides update on preliminary and positive studies for a rental town home complex/single family home project with future presentation to school district administration/board
- EDA recommends to Council budgeting and contract with CEDA to support the hiring of business consultant starting in January two days a month-Council moved to support

DECEMBER

- City Fashion's Store opens at UltraOutlets
- Organizational CGI Team Leadership meeting kickoff with SMIF facilitator, Pam Bishop
- 2018 budget levy of 2.0% adopted
- Administrator Andy Welti completes second year representing Medford and area small cities on the MN Small Cities Board
- None of this could be done without the efforts of city staff, advisors, our boards and the City Council with the support of our community's residents and businesses. Thanks to everyone for your interest and support.

Mayor Lois Nelson is in her sixth year as Medford's mayor. Her column appears in the Times regularly.

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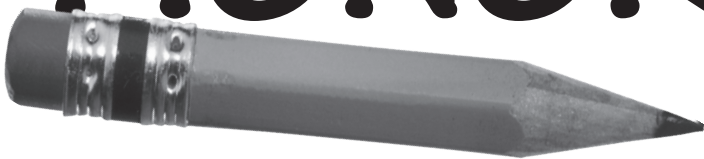
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MEDFORD HONOR ROLL

QUARTER 2



High Honor Roll

Grade 7

Andrea Bock
Samantha Buecksler
Casey Chambers
Rian Cloutier
Abigail Fitzgerald
Dylan Heiderscheidt
Alex Helgeson
Tate Hermes
Josephine Homeier
Connor Jones
Grace Keller
Carter Luebbe
Jack Meyer
Riley Norland
Payton Ristau
Jaidyn Rubio
Martina Smith
Tyler Steffen
Cohen Stursa
Reagan Sutherland

Shara Ungs
Keaton Walock
Mackenzie Zacharias
Anahi Zuniga

Grade 8

Logan Buecksler
Reed Cumberland
Isabel DeLeon
Cheyenne Fedder
Clara Kniefel
Samantha Miller
Julia Niles
Jack Paulson
Elizabeth Peterson
Scott Scholljegerdes
Nicole Schrot
Hannah Schull
Anna Sobrak
Amelia Thompson
Ava Jae Westbrook

Jeancarlo Zuniga
Grade 9
Jenna Berg
Kinsey Cronin
Garrett Fitzgerald
Johanna Grant
Brock Merritt
Brooke Purrier
Isabella Steffen
Tyler Stursa
Haley VonRuden
Hanna VonRuden
Miya Weber

Grade 10

Natily Buck
Sviatlana Danilyuk
Jordan Edel
Zachary Finholdt
Kaylin Hanson
Hailee Homeier

Madison Klein
Emma Kniefel
Morgan Langeslag
Kiley Nihart
Brendan Rahn
Jordyn Stadler
Zachary Wetmore
Michael Winslett

Grade 11

Andria Archibald
Camisha Chavis
Bailey DuChene
Meredith Gillis
Brett Johnson
Taylore Keppers
Rachael Luebbe
Jade Pekarek
Noah PirkI
Sophie Proehl
Devon Sather

Madison Schletty
Brandon Sisler
Brianna Sisler
Austin VonRuden

Grade 12

Cassandra Brase
Morgan Cammock
Madelyn Cloutier
Madison DeMars
Ian Gillis
Amanda Honsey
David Klapperich
Gregory Larson
Trenton Lund
Nathan McCarty
Skylar Meyer
Jasmine Panos
Emily Steffen
Cole Volkmann
Grace Wobbrock

Regular Honor Roll

Grade 7

Joshua Bluhm
Cayden Brase
Xander Carlson
Hanna Chadbourn
Landon Driscoll
Kylie Dusek
MaKenna Enzenauer
Jacob Esch
Kiley Freelove
Weston Janke
Morgan Jones
Destiny Kostka
Lydia Krenske
Beau LaCroix
Shad Lambert
Samantha Luebben
Alexys Lustig
Aidan Murphy
Kael Neumann
Cohen O'Connor
Hunter Peterson
Mia Rangel
Jeremiah Schlund
Charles Spitzack
Paige Stadler
Annabelle Troester
Justin Voegele
Isis Walters
Josephine Witter

Grade 8

Jacob Andrews
Jake Barten
Carter Blome
Jordan Capello
Payton Caron
Emma Corbin
Paige Davis
Jazmyne Duncan
Jacob Ernste
Henry Grayson
Nicole Harfmann
Jackson Hemann
Noah Honsey
Nathan Johnson
Mackenzie Kellen
Megan Klein
Jacob Kucera
Lynn Larson
Hunter Laue
Bridgette Lemke
Journey Palluck
Justin Ristau
Nicholas Roberts
Brielle Smith
Jayme Stransky
Malachi Sutcliffe
Rosie Tobar
Daniel Wall
Jared Zuniga

Grade 9

Braden Barbeau
Brayden Beede
Emily Chadwick
Kaden Dolney
Roberta Domstrand
Isaac Enzenauer
Alissa Freelove
Lizbeth Gutierrez
Gavin Hermes
Madison Jaster
Malia Kircher
Shea Lambert
Ernesto Lazaro
Angela Lippert
Mason Nagel
Luz Peralta
Lily Roehrick
Peyton Seiler
Salvador Valdespino
Alex Vandereide
Bryan Vazquez
Jeffrey Westergaard
Gunner White

Grade 10

William Chester
Taylor Fette
Veronica Gonzalez
Yazmin Gonzalez

Riley Hill
Shawn Johnson
Reilly List
Isabel Reuvers
Kevin Robles
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
William VonRuden

Grade 11

Zackariah Andrews
Tanner Barbeau
Mary Braasch-Turi
Isaiah Chavis
Connor Davis
Jason Domstrand
Warren Garza
Ryan Hermanstorfer
Cody Kosel
Anthony Manderfeld
Bailey Purrier
Kelsey Walock

Grade 12

Courtney Aldrich
Isabel Brady
Cristiana Colaiuta
McKenzie Disher
Alex Gengler
Brynn Hable
Beth Ann Hanson
Colton Havelka

Rachel Ivance
Cael Kavitz
Nathaniel Keller
Brandon Kern
Kaylee Kern
Kelsey Kern
Tristen Kern
Timothy Knutson
Madison Krenske
Hunter Madsen
Benedetta Mandara
Jenna McCarthy
Bryce McCarty
Kayla McGivney
Alexcia Mechura
Nathan Meixner
Katla Michaelson
Madelyn Neuhaus
Richard Olson
Dakota Panos
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First baby born in BP School District



Creed Darwin Chladek became the First Baby born to parents residing in the Blooming Prairie School District. He is shown with his parents, Amy and Lucas and with big brother Cruz.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Creed Darwin Chladek weighed in at 6 lbs., 15 oz. to become the First Baby born to parents residing in the Blooming Prairie School District. It took almost six weeks for the First Baby of 2018 to be born. Creed also has the distinction of being born on Valentine's Day.

Creed was born to parents Amy and Lucas at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 at the Methodist Hospital in Rochester.

He also was welcomed by big brother Cruz, 3 1/2. "Cruz was super excited to have a new, baby brother," Mom Amy said.

Amy is a surgical technologist at Methodist Hospital in Rochester. Lucas is a cook foreman at the Federal Correctional Institute in Waseca.

Here's the gifts the new baby and his family will receive:

- The Bakery, Blooming Prairie, gift certificate for baby's first birthday cake
- Hometown Insurance, Blooming Prairie, \$25 in BP Bucks to lucky parents
- Vandal's Family Market, Blooming Prairie, \$10 coupon for baby products
- Dr. Debora Lien, Blooming Prairie, infant-toddler dental care basket
- The Cutting Edge, Blooming Prairie, gift certificate for baby's first haircut
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Blooming Prairie, first \$25 for baby's account
- Haberman's Gallery, Owatonna, \$25 gift certificate
- Dairy Queen, Blooming Prairie, gift certificate for free ice cream cake
- Willows, New Richland, \$25 gift certificate
- Steele County Times, Blooming Prairie, one-year subscription
- Expressions by Nancy, Blooming Prairie, gift certificate for free, personalized baby blanket.



Creed Darwin Chladek, 3 1/2, of Blooming Prairie proudly holds his new, little baby brother, Creed Darwin. He was born on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at Methodist Hospital in Rochester.

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LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Hot Reads for Cold Nights at the library



NANCY
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Each year as we do our Hot Reads for Cold Nights program, visitors to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library can sign up for books and other prizes. The winners for the first three weeks are: Doris Rasmussen, Dawn Harshbarger, and Catherine Lightly. There are still two more weeks to sign up - the first time you do so, you can choose a free book.

Participants are asked to give their recommendations for favorite books and authors. Here are the

top 10 authors as chosen by the readers of Blooming Prairie: Karen Kingsbury, John Sandford, Julie Klassen, Jan Karon, Nora Roberts, Lauraine Snelling, J.D. Robb, Beverly Lewis, Stephen King, and Jane Green.

Come tell us your favorite authors, plus sign up to win prizes in the Hot Reads for Cold Nights. The cold nights are leaving soon (we hope) and so will the prizes. See you at the library!

Cancer Corner



Blooming
Prairie Cancer
Group



BP cancer survivor named ambassador for Paint the Town Pink in Austin

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Cheri Krejci, treasurer for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, will have another sports jersey to put on her office wall at Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie.

Krejci had her own Minnesota Twins jersey when she threw out the First Pitch at a Twins game on Mother's Day 2013. She was recognized for her Cancer Group involvement and for being a survivor to breast cancer.

Now, she will have an Austin Bruins jersey (#1) to put on her office wall. Named ambassador for Austin's Paint the Town Pink celebration, Krejci was given the honor of "dropping the puck" at a recent Austin Bruins-Minnesota Magicians hockey game at Riverside Arena in Austin.

The Bruins won the game, 5-1.

"What an honor," said Krejci when reflecting on her selection as Paint the Town Pink ambassador. "The hockey game was also the first hockey game I had ever attended," she said.

The cancer survivor had her own cheering section at the Bruins game. Sisters Deb Harvey and Cindy Owen and brother Gary Sloan plus children Lindsey (Ryan), Scott,

Aaron (Brooke) and husband Rick.

Kathi Finley, chairwoman of the Paint the Town Pink, said an ambassador is chosen every year and Krejci was chosen "because she embodies what we were looking for in faith and motivation to a cause."

Austin's Paint the Town Pink program actually started eight years ago with a steering committee of the Hormel Institute directing funds to cancer research.

Finley said that prior to this year, the Austin cancer group has raised \$1.3 million. Schools get involved in this project, little kids collect pennies and dedicated supporters plunge for cancer cure research.

This year's goal was \$301,000.

Krejci was a special guest with her family at a Hormel Institute dinner in early January. She told her story about fighting cancer and working with the local Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Events continued from Jan. 27-Feb. 11. Some of the events included a steak fry; bean bag tournament; hot dish feed; YMCA 5K run; soup and bake sale; Mower County Fair Golf Masters Challenge; Paint the Rink Pink and a Smashing Cancer Demolition Derby at the Mower County Fairgrounds.



PANTHER of the Week



AUGUST

Sponsored by:



NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is August Bethke. August resides in New Richland with his parents Aaron and Amanda Bethke. He is in Mrs. Buendorf's first grade class.

August always displays Panther Pride and is very respectful of others. He is a great friend and always willing to help anyway he can and is a joy to have in class. August sets a great example for others to follow. He's a true leader in my classroom. August likes to play in the snow and enjoys playing t-ball.

He loves Hawaiian pizza and spaghetti and really enjoys going to the zoo with his family. Keep up the great work August!

2nd Annual Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

February 28

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FEB. 21
6 p.m. – Chamber Meeting, Dairy Queen

FEB. 22
9:30 a.m. – Veterans Service Officer Outreach

Hours, Servicemen's Club

FEB. 27
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library



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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

FEB. 21
6 p.m. – NRHEG After Prom Meeting, Ellendale Media Center

FEB. 22
11 a.m. – Veterans Service Officer Outreach Hours, Ellendale Community Building
6:15 p.m. – Country Heat Live Workout, Ellendale Cafeteria
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

FEB. 26
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Kids Canvas Creations) Class, Ellendale Cafeteria

FEB. 27
6:15 p.m. – ECFE Class, Ellendale Preschool Room
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North
7 p.m. – Ellendale Work Session Codification Manual, City of Ellendale Building



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

FEB. 21
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Lowe's

FEB. 22
10:30 a.m. – Retirement Celebration for Firefighter Bruce Thomas
Noon – 1 p.m. – Young Professionals Lunch N Learn "Home Buying, Selling and Renting," Owatonna Public Utilities
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – History Uncorked, History Center

Quartet, Owatonna Art Center
3:30 p.m. – Steele County 4-H Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction, Owatonna Middle School

FEB. 26
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Our Savior's Lutheran Church
4 p.m. – HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Hall

FEB. 27
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It's Tale Time, Owatonna Library
3 p.m. – Strategic Planning Session, Owatonna Fire Hall
4 p.m. – OPU Commission Meeting, Owatonna Public Utilities
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Business After Hours, Arrow Ace Hardware
7 p.m. – Forum on Climate Change, Our Savior's Lutheran Church

History Uncorked: Murder on the Straight River

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) announces the newest edition of History Uncorked – a fun and innovative way to learn about history while enjoying a glass of wine, beer or soda.

This edition, "Murder on the Straight River," will be held Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Steele County History Center.

The Blair Murder Case is a true story occurring in 1878 in Steele County. While taking our ice from the Straight River, Claude Van Alstyne quarreled with the son of his employer, the quarrel ended when Van Alstyne struck the man with his ice pick. This trail was one of great interest, and one of the most extensive and important in the history of the county.

Join us as attorneys Ben Cass and James Cole argue the case using the evidence from 1884. The audience, aka: jury, will deliberate and decide the case before learning the true fate of the accused. The Honorable Judge Karen Duncan will preside.

History Uncorked is sponsored by Smith, Tollefson, Rahrnick and Cass Law. Tickets are \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members and includes one beverage of your choice. Additional wine, beer and soda are available for purchase. Tickets are available for purchase at the History Center or online at www.eventbrite.com. Seating is limited.

The History Center, located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, please call 507-451-1420.



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Happy 99th birthday, American Legion

It will be a grand day on Thursday, March 1 as the Bloomington American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary celebrate the 99th birthday of Post 52.

A special supper is planned for the Bloomington Prairie Servicemen's Club. Call 507-583-7884 for reservations.

Social hour is from 5:30-6 p.m., supper follows at 6 p.m. A program will begin at 7 p.m., featuring Steele County History Center director Dan Moeckley. He will give an update on the American Legion's 100th birthday celebration planned for next year.

The menu will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and dessert. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASS OFFERED IN OWATONNA
In conjunction with Steele County Emergency Management, the Owatonna Steele County Amateur Radio Club is offering a free Ham Radio license class. The class will run Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 20-March 15 at the Owatonna Fire Station.
Along with learning about the many facets of ham radio, including its use for emergency communications, volunteer instructors will prepare students to pass the No Code Technician Class license examination.
Class instruction is free. Cost for the study guide is \$30. Check out oscar.mn.org and click on "2018 Technician Class" under general announcements for the latest details.
Students will be able to take the license exam on March 15. The exam session is open to anyone wishing to take one or more exams. All levels of Amateur Radio license examinations will be available at the exam session. The exam fee is \$15.
The class is open to all ages. Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. To register or for more information call Tom at 507-444-9133 or email to oscar.mn@q.com.

VETERAN'S OFFICER COMING TO AREA
The monthly outreach hours for the Steele County Veterans Service officer have been announced.
Rene Gilormini, the county's veterans service officer, will be at the Servicemen's Club in Bloomington at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 22.
Gilormini will then travel to Ellendale where he will be at the Community Building at 11 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY 4-H HOSTING PASTA DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION
The 14th Annual Steele County 4-H Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser will take place Sunday, Feb. 25 from 3:30 – 7 p.m. at the Owatonna Middle School formerly known as the Owatonna Junior High. Silent auctions close at 5:30/6:30/7 p.m.
This fundraiser is not for just a single club or particular group of youth. It will benefit the entire Steele County 4-H program. That means every one of the 1000 (+) 4-Hers in the program and all 150 adult volunteers will feel the impact of this event. The funds we raise will help finance the Steele County 4-H summer programming.
Tickets are very reasonably priced at \$6.50 and are available from Steele County 4-H members or at the Extension Office, 635 Florence, Ave., Owatonna or at the door for \$7.00. Call 444-7685 for details.

are Alan Anderson and Kelli Lewis of the Citizens' Climate Lobby of Minnesota. Discussion will follow the presentation.
The Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.
Anderson is a native Minnesotan and a former small business owner. He served in the National Guard and spent 34 years in executive Boy Scouts leadership before retiring in 2012. He is an active life-long learner and sought after-speaker on the science of climate change.
Lewis is the state coordinator for Citizens' Climate lobby. She is a former Republican who quit her job to dedicate her energies to fighting climate change and to building a better world for all our children. She will speak about the bi-partisan, revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal that is strongly endorsed by both economists and scientists. This proposal is designed to reduce and stabilize emissions of CO2 in the earth's atmosphere.
For nearly 100 years, the Izaak Walton League has fought for clean air and water, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving special places for future generations. Today, the League plays a unique role in supporting citizens locally and shaping conservation policy nationally. Steele County Indivisible is a non-partisan, grassroots, progressive organization founded on the principles of democracy and the values of respect, equality, civil rights, and inclusivity.
The Climate Change Forum is free and open to the public. Join us to learn, to listen, to ask questions, and to find out what you can do about climate change.

DONORS URGED TO HELP THE RED CROSS MAINTAIN BLOOD SUPPLY
Winter storms and the flu don't just mean a lot of people are missing work and school – it also means they can't keep their American Red Cross blood donation appointments. The Red Cross is urging healthy donors of all blood types to roll up a sleeve to help maintain the blood supply for patients in need.
In 2018, severe winter weather forced about 600 blood drives to cancel, resulting in more than 17,500 uncollected blood donations. And, widespread flu across

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to hold child care trainings

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) based in Owatonna will be holding Quality Child Care trainings in March and April. Family child care providers are encouraged to attend a training in their area. These free events will be held in the following communities:

March 1: Dundas (Ruth's on Stafford)
March 15: Le Sueur (Le Sueur Country Club)
March 22: Albert Lea (Wedgewood Cove Golf Club)
April 16: Winona (Signatures Event Center)
April 26: St. James (Watonwan County Human Services)

SMIF knows that the future of our next generation depends on the strength of our region's early child care providers. SMIF's Quality Child Care Program (QCCP), conducted in partnership with First Children's Finance and Families First of

Minnesota - Child Care Aware Southern, showcases a case study model based on a typical rural Minnesota family child care provider named Angie. Through this case study providers learn the true value of high quality child care and how it can impact the bottom line of their business.

Providers will receive two credit hours of approved training through Develop, Minnesota's quality rating and improvement tool. Furthermore, providers who participate in QCCP and go on to enroll in Parent Aware receive \$300 in approved curriculum.

For details and to register, contact Teri Steckelberg at 507-455-3215 or teris@smifoundation.org, or visit smifoundation.org/qccp. Participants are encouraged to register at least 10 days before the event. Dinner will be provided. All trainings start at 6:30 p.m. and end by 9 p.m.

ALBERT LEA COMMUNITY THEATRE (ACT) ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR 'THE MIRACLE WORKER'

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) announces auditions will be held Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 26 and 27, at 6:30 p.m., for the drama "The Miracle Worker" at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, 147 N. Broadway in Albert Lea.

Directed by Glen Parsons, eight performances of this classic drama are scheduled for

April 19-28. There are many acting roles of various adult ages, as well as several children in the show. Many roles are small, so this would be a great place to start for those interested in being in a play, but without a huge time commitment and less lines to learn.

Those auditioning should be prepared to read from the script. Rehearsals will be scheduled weeknights, with some weekend involvement closer to the performance dates.

Immortalized on stage and screen, "The Miracle Worker" tells the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, blind and mute Helen Keller. The play dramatizes the volatile relationship between the lonely teacher and her charge. Trapped in a secret, silent

world, unable to communicate. Helen is violent, spoiled, almost sub-human and treated by her family as such. Only Annie realizes that there is a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark, tortured silence.

Tickets and more information regarding auditions are at actonbroadway.com.

Healing Arts Reception to be held March 13 at Owatonna Hospital

The community is invited to a special Owatonna Hospital Healing Arts Program reception where you can meet the artists Tuesday, March 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th Street.

The Healing Arts Program is a collaboration between Owatonna Hospital and the Owatonna Arts Center to bring the visual arts, natural light, images and elements of nature to lessen stress and promote healing while in the Hospital. The new artwork is on view March through the end of June.

The works of William Gillis, photography; Michelle Kaisersatt, clay; Gail Thompson, watercolor; and Annie Young, painting will be on display. This exhibit is underwritten by the Owatonna Hospital Foundation. The Owatonna Arts Center serves as the curator for this series.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR A BEER TASTING EVENT

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area and Sparetime Entertainment will host Hops for Habitat 2018, a beer tasting experience on Saturday, April 7 at the Steele County Four Seasons Centre from 1 to 5 p.m.

Around 100 volunteers are needed to help make the event run smooth. Duties may include: checking I.D.'s, placing wristbands, handing out goodie bags, delivering ice, emptying dump stations and refilling water. As a thank you for volunteering, shifts will allow volunteers to participate for two hours and volunteer for two hours. All volunteers are required to attend one half hour orientation on Feb. 21 at the Owatonna Public Utilities: 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m. or Feb. 22 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6 p.m. Those interested can contact Ellen Heydon for more detail at communityengagement@habitatwsa.org or call 507-446-0112.



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2018 EVENTS

- **APRIL 7:** Customer appreciation day "32" years of business
- **JUNE 23:** Cruise for Cancer ride
- **JULY 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
- **JULY 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
- **JULY 21:** B.O.B. ride: "Toys for Tots"

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Applications being accepted for Girls State

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Applications are now being accepted for the 72nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State program.

Young women in the Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary area are encouraged to apply by contacting Michelle Southworth at Blooming Prairie High School. She can be reached at 507-583-4426.

Southworth, a teacher at BPHS, is a former Girls Stater herself.

Girls State, a premier program in citizenship for young women, will take place June 10-16 at Bethel University in St. Paul.

The Girls State program involves a diverse group of young women who share a common desire to learn. From small towns to urban areas, the citizens' diverse backgrounds add spirit to the program.

Purposes of the program include providing Americanism and good citizenship training and to inform participants about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of government as practiced in a democratic society.

Each June, Minnesota's

Girls State citizens study the Minnesota city, county and state governmental processes. Elections are held to fill city, county and state government positions. Activities include political party campaigning, caucusing, debating and voting.

In addition to offering hands-on experiences in how state government functions, Girls State fosters fellowship and creative expression through reporting; public speaking and debate; singing-talent shows; group devotions; patriotic ceremonies; mock judicial court system and mock House and Senate committees.

Objectives of Girls State include:

- To develop leadership and pride as American citizens
- To educate citizens about our system of government
- To instill a greater understanding of Americanism
- To stimulate a desire to maintain democratic government processes

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program originated in the late 1930s. About 16,000 young women participate in week-long Girls State programs across the nation each summer.

Repairs to Medford's Jetter truck spark concern over ongoing costs

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A specialized vehicle used to spray high volumes of water throughout the city has sparked some concern over on-going costs in Medford.

At the Jan. 29 Medford City Council meeting, which was rescheduled from an earlier cancellation because of weather on Jan. 22, council members approved repair for the city's Jetter truck, but not before some questions over the costs. The city's proposed repair for the Jetter became an issue of contention for the council.

The Jetter is a vehicle used by Public Works employees to spray high amounts of powered water through storm and sewer drains in order to discharge unwanted debris and dirt which can block water access.

With the cost of repair estimated at around \$22,000, the council carefully weighed its options, which included hiring outside contractors and a proposed abandonment of the truck. During the meeting, Council member Chad Merritt, who opposed the approval for repair, said that "over the past 10 years we spent three grand on this truck." The \$3,000 expenditure includes storage fees.

City Administrator Andy Welti sympathized with Merritt's concerns, suggesting that perhaps some of the repairs could be dropped from the final price. This would include an oil change and several other less technical repairs. Still, Welti rationalized their approval of the repairs, considering that a broken truck wouldn't serve the city much purpose in the future.

In the end a majority of the council approved the Jetter truck repairs, reasoning that the work will be expensive to contract out, in addition to the fact that the truck can only be resold if it is properly repaired.

Another issue facing Medford that was outlined at

the meeting came from the city's fire department. Chief Rick Hager spoke about the importance of properly maintaining and acquiring a strong roster of volunteers. He said retirement and relocation have siphoned several members away in recent months.

The council unanimously agreed with Hager's assessment, and hopes to find ways to entice volunteers to both increase in number and remain.

While considering Hager's updates on the Fire Department, the council also deliberated over the prospect of adding additional sites at which to store some of the vehicles the department currently houses. They also discussed the department's attainment of a FEMA Grant and new SCBA packs. This important piece of equipment is used by firefighters as a breathing apparatus.

Mayor Lois Nelson expressed her concern that the public may not always be fully aware of the fire department's setbacks, including the acquisition of additional volunteers. One positive of Hager's report would be the Department's newly acquired washer, which allows members to wash their clothes and supplies without having to do so at home, and limits the carcinogens and other harmful byproducts either themselves, or their families, could be exposed to.

The Council also approved:

- A donation from the Medford Fire Relief Association for \$22,000 for the Medford Fire Department Truck and Equipment Fund.
- A donation from the Medford Fire Relief Association for \$8,700 for the Medford Pool.
- A donation from Kristin Salvi for \$125 for the Veteran's Memorial.
- The previously mentioned proposed vacation and creation of utility easement on Block 30.
- The Steele County reconstruction of CSAH 12 west of West Frontage Road.

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BRANSON CHRISTMAS

DANIEL O'DONNELL, GRAND JUBILEE SHOW, A TRIBUTE TO FANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS, DIXIE STAMPEDE DINNER SHOW

BRANSON CHRISTMAS

DANIEL O'DONNELL, A TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA, SIX, SAMSON

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN

APRIL 10 - 16, 2018

APRIL 21 - 29, 2018

MAY 3-6, 2018

MAY 4- 14, 2018

MAY 11 - 13, 2018

MAY 20 - 22, 2018

JUNE 12 - 17, 2018

JUNE 15 - 17, 2018

JUNE 19 - 26, 2018

JUNE 21 - 30, 2018

JULY 7 - 15, 2018

JULY 18 - 20, 2018

JULY 27 - 29, 2018

AUGUST 2 - 17, 2018

AUG. 25 - SEPT. 1, 2018

SEPTEMBER 4 - 9, 2018

SEPTEMBER 7 - 9, 2018

SEPTEMBER 7 - 17, 2018

SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2018

SEPTEMBER 19 - 23, 2018

SEPT. 24 - OCT. 11, 2018

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 10, 2018

OCTOBER 13 - 19, 2018

OCTOBER 19 - 22, 2018

OCTOBER 23 - 28, 2018

NOVEMBER 1 - 4, 2018

NOVEMBER 8 - 11, 2018

NOVEMBER 8 - 11, 2018

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BP FFA: Be safe and have lunch on us

Local chapter aims to engage members with community projects

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Two programs that had high priority the past year with the Blooming Prairie High School Future Farmers of America chapter included Farm Safety and Feed a Farmer.

A longtime member of the local FFA chapter, Tim Wolf, and a relative newcomer, eighth grader Lexi Ripka, were very involved in the planning process for these two programs.

Last September, the local FFA chapter sponsored a Farm Safety Day in Central Park of Blooming Prairie. September is typically National Farm Safety Month.

Chapter members brought actual large farm equipment and set up stations at the park. Blooming Prairie Elementary School students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade had the opportunity to learn more about being safe on the farm.

"We have been doing this even before I came here 14 years ago," said vocational agriculture instructor Bill (Rink) Rinkenberger.

"Farm safety is very important and teaches kids about being safe on the farm," remarked Wolf. "The young kids are more familiar with where the food comes from and don't know too much about the safety precautions that are taken daily by farmers," he added.

Rinkenberger said the young kids of today are two to three generations removed from those of the highly active agriculture years. "Sadly, lots of kids think food comes from a grocery store," he said.

"The farm safety program helps get kids more involved, the young elementary students and the FFA chapter members," said Ripka.

Rinkenberger said he was pleased with the high turnout of chapter members expressing willingness to plan and work at the Farm Safety Day.

Following the Farm Safety Day sessions, chapter members served a pot luck featuring pork burgers.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Blooming Prairie High School Future Farmers of America chapter is dominated by younger kids. Two of the young leaders shown with instructor Bill Rinkenberger, are Tim Wolf and Lexi Ripka.

Local farmers visited the FFA members and talked to them about making agriculture a career.

The Feed a Farmer project was unrolled for the first time last year, upon the suggestion of Rinkenberger who had read about other chapters doing this program.

What it involves is having the chapter make a bag lunch for farmers

working on the harvest in the field.

"I've never met a non-hungry farmer at harvest time," Rinkenberger said.

Many farmers spend long days in the field and are often in the field 70 hours or more during the weeks of harvest season. "This is our way of giving back to farmers who are out there dedicated to the harvest," Wolf

said.

The bag lunch contains two ham sandwiches, potato chips, a fruit snack and a beverage. "Many of the farmers were blown away by this generosity," stated Rinkenberger.

The FFA kids set up an assembly line in the vocational agriculture classroom to make the lunch bags.

"The farmers really liked this

gesture," Wolf said.

Forty-five lunches were prepared. Food was purchased through the FFA's account.

Ripka said it is the hope of the FFA chapter to do this Feed a Farmer project twice during the year, once in the spring and again in the fall.

"It's our duty to help the farmers," Wolf believes.

Blooming Prairie FFA strives to grow kids as leaders

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"They're my spark plugs."

That's how Blooming Prairie High School vocational agriculture instructor Bill (Rink) Rinkenberger describes two of his young chapter leaders.

Blooming Prairie's FFA chapter claims 44 members and two of them are active leaders, junior Tim Wolf and eighth grader Lexi Ripka. These two young leaders and 42 other local FFA

chapter members will observe National FFA Week, Feb. 17-24. Theme for the week is "New Horizons."

Leadership is very important to Blooming Prairie FFA members. "FFA means a lot to me in that it has allowed me to teach myself a lot about myself," remarked Tim Wolf, chapter vice president.

Being involved in FFA allows chapter members to come together as a town, to have fun and also to get to know one another better,



Wolf

says Lexi Ripka.

Both Wolf and Ripka hope to continue in agriculture when they go on to college and after they graduate.

Wolf has a strong desire to serve agriculture and to promote it in the community. He lives with his parents Bruce and Tammy on a farm northeast of Blooming Prairie in Dodge County. He has three older sisters, Kaylin, Kelsey and Katie. Wolf, his parents and grandparents farm over 2,000 acres.



Ripka

Very active in FFA projects, Wolf especially likes working on Farm Safety Day and the Corn Drive. He also worked hard in the Feed a Farmer project last fall.

Wolf has participated on soils and general livestock judging teams.

Farm management is another area that appeals to the young Mr. Wolf. He teased about his dad being the coach and explaining things differently than he understood. "Be careful," chided instructor Rinkenberger.

Wolf is also a region officer and enjoys being a leader. He said the FFA has helped him with his public speaking, making him more confident. "It's kind of fun," he smiles.

Eager to continue his involvement in FFA, Wolf plans to participate in the Spring Leadership Rally at South Central College in Mankato.

Agriculture has changed considerably in recent years, Wolf noted. "It's mostly technology that is changing. There are far less workers in agriculture and we are even seeing tractors driving themselves," he said.

He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin River Falls and possibly play football. He will then return home and help with work on the farm. "I like the work on the farm and often stay out in the fields longer than

I should," Wolf admits.

Wolf has some more ag classes to complete next year, accounting II, home mechanics and construction technology.

He loves being part of a small community. "Everyone knows everybody and word gets around fast," he said. "I wouldn't ever not want to be on the farm," Wolf confesses.

Ripka has always lived on the farm and helps her family farm over 2,000 acres. She is an officer at large in the local FFA chapter.

Just an eighth grader, Ripka has done lots of thinking about her future career. She hopes to become a farm veterinarian. "I love working with animals," she said.

"FFA means a lot to me in that it has allowed me to teach myself a lot about myself."

Tim Wolf
BP FFA Member

Ripka helped with Farm Safety Day last September and brought in an auger. "Kids really don't know much about modern farm machinery," she said.

Agriculture is slimming down, meaning not as many young people are getting involved in agriculture. In addition to FFA, both Ripka and Wolf are active in the Merry Lane 4-H Club.

Ripka lives with her parents on a farm five miles north of BP. She has an older brother Preston, 15, a younger brother Brandon, 12 and a younger sister, Miley, 10.

"We have a lot of younger kids in our FFA program," Rinkenbrger said with four seniors, four juniors, one sophomore and the rest ninth grade or younger, he said.

Stop by the high school some day, saunter on down to the FFA room and get a sampling of what these young people do for agriculture.

Instructor: Bill Rinkenberger

President: Ethan Arett

Vice President: Tim Wolf

Secretary: Colton Ivers

Treasurer: Kaiden Finley

Officer At Large: Lexi Ripka

Membership: 44 members with majority in grades 7-9

Existence: About 45 years

Focus: Promoting agriculture, leadership and community projects

Roster: Adam Walsh, Alexis Ripka, Allison Krohnberg, Anna Suchanek, Beth Ann Thacker, Bobbie Bruns, Boone Carlson, Casey Lyman, Chris Naatz, Cody Anderson, Cole Christianson, Colin Jordison, Colton Ivers, Cory Lyman, Cyprus Schleicher, David Kartes, Elliott Swenson, Erin O'Brien, Ethan Arett, Ethan Ehlers, Ethan Grant, Greta Sunde, Hailey Finholdt, Haley Ryks, Haven Carlson, Jeremy Hocking, Jeff Swenson, Kaiden Finley, Lexi Steckelberg, Madison Thurnau, Maggie Bruns, Marish Miller, Megan Oswald, Micah Donnelly, Mitchell Oswald, Paul Sunde, Rachael Oswald, Rachael Thompson, Remington Peterson, Sally Peterson, Tim Loverink and Tim Wolf.





Several FFA members from Medford took part in the recent Region VII proficiency interviews. They include: (left to right) Cole Volkmann, Jerrett Lisowski, Joey Schull, Kylie Cumberland, Greg Larson, Beth Ann Hanson, Anthony Manderfeld, Mikayla Janke, Kaylin Hanson, Madison Jaster, and Kayla McGivney.

Back from scratch for Medford FFA program

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Despite facing some hiccups along the way, including a period of absence, the Medford FFA chapter has risen from the ashes to become an important part of students' lives.

Medford's FFA chapter has roots as far back as May of 1954, when the program became chartered after being organized in the fall of the previous year. It was subsequently sustained for some time, until budget cuts and other issues caused the program to be ousted temporarily from the district.

That was until Tim Larson, whose father had been a chartering member, helped to reinstate the program from scratch in 2000. Along with Lisa Hoefs, Larson functions as co-advisor for Medford's FFA. He was once a member himself, serving as president his senior year.

Prior to 2000, Larson reports that the program had been closed for eight years. After that, he spent seven years on his own helping to get the program back on track. "It was inspiring to start from scratch and see it come back like this," Larson says.

His co-advisor, Lisa Hoefs, is glad that she is able to participate in the newest iteration of the program. "I think there's something in it for everybody, whether it's just a hobby or a career," she says. Hoefs always encourages her students to consider careers within an agricultural field.

Hoefs knows that FFA is a great place to inspire students who want to pursue a future in corresponding fields. She feels that, "being a part of a group or an organization helps give you a place to be, and can blossom into a career if it's something you're passionate about."

Larson and Hoefs are proud of all of their students, including those involved in FFA.

Larson's nephew, Greg Larson, currently serves as chapter president, carrying on the family tradition. "For me it's a family thing really," Greg explained. "It means a lot to me."

Greg's vice president, Kayla McGivney, also feels that she's gotten a lot out of the program. Last year she served as chapter reporter and both she and Greg recalled that they joined as early as they could in seventh grade. McGivney said one of the things she's most grateful for is the fact that "we have two really great advisors, and I think we're lucky and fortunate with that."

McGivney is planning on majoring in agricultural business, and credits joining FFA with guiding her towards such a career. "For me, joining helped direct me towards this path," McGivney says. She added there's more to FFA than just agriculture as it also teaches great leadership skills.

"It's prepared me for business management with all the planning, and organizing that goes into each event," McGivney said. She says that "FFA also touches on practical science, which is a little more relatable."

For Greg, FFA is a family endeavor. He speaks proudly of his aunt and uncles being involved in the program, and he hopes it's a tradition he can carry on someday. This past fall, Greg enlisted in the Air Force, and plans on pursuing a future in criminal justice. He hopes of becoming a Military Police officer, and he would like to focus on canine training. "For me, dogs are just happiness," says Greg, who has owned dogs all his life. "I feel I definitely want to work with them in my future."

Like their peers, both McGivney and Greg remain busy with extracurricular activities. "I'm heavily involved in Speech," she said, noting she sees a correlation between skills she's learn in both FFA and speech. Greg is on the Student Council and is a three-sport athlete, participating in football, wrestling, and track and field.

The FFA members report that they've tried their hand at a variety of different CDE's, or Career Development Events. For McGivney, poultry is still her favorite subset, while Greg has a wealth of different CDE's he enjoys, including forestry, nursery landscaping, and livestock judging. "With livestock judging," Greg jokes, "it's just so much fun to judge something that's not in a pot."

Both McGivney and Greg hope to stay involved after they graduate. Although Greg will be busy with his Air Force training, he wants to do what he can. Many past alumni still remain involved, and Hoefs explains that "we have some alumni who help coach CDE teams, and others that do what they can by volunteering their time, or buying fruit from our fundraiser."

It is this strong sense of community which drives the Medford chapter. "I feel we get great support, especially with fruit sales," McGivney said.

They relish the chance to give back to their school, following the positive example their advisors and alumni have set. "I want to contribute to the school in a positive way,"

McGivney says, "even if there are some challenges, like if you don't know how to do something." She feels that "you can always ask questions, and anyone who can will be willing to help."

As president, Greg sees challenges in organizing some of the events. "Sometimes it can be hard to really get the word out there for an event," he explains, saying that everything always seems to come together despite the occasional hurdle.

For students like Greg and McGivney, FFA means a lot. "It's like one big family. We can all relate to each other and talk about similar things, and it presents us with opportunities," Greg said.

Added McGivney, "We all have to work as a team. Everyone takes some part in organizing and putting on an event. It's a great thing to carry on your back, and I feel it will help me in my future."

Thanks in part to the great work co-advisors Tim Larson and Hoefs do, and the wonderful example students like McGivney and Greg Larson set, Medford's FFA chapter looks to have a bright future ahead of it.

Advisors: Tim Larson and Lisa Hoefs

President: Greg Larson

Vice President: Kayla McGivney & Anthony Manderfeld

Secretary: Madison Jaster

Treasurer: Jesse Oatway

Reporter: Mikayla Janke

Sentinel: Alex Oatway

Student Advisor: Lynn Larson

Historian: Beth Ann Hanson

Membership: 43 members

Existence: Since 1954, though some breaks in between. Started from scratch again in 2000

Focus: Providing members with learning and career opportunities and fostering member development.

Roster: Austin Aase, Dillion Bartosch, Kylie Cumberland, Hannah Feseel, Zachary Finholdt, Karly Flom, Nick Flom, Shelby Ganske, Brynn Hable, Beth Ann Hanson, Kaylin Hanson, Dylan Heiderscheidt, Josephine Homeier, Mikayla Janke, Weston Janke, Madison Jaster, Morgan Jones, Trey Kane, Tristen Kern, Malia Kircher, Madison Klein, Josephine Kubat, Beau Lacroix, Greg Larson, Lynn Larson, Angela Lippert, Bryce Lisowski, Jarrett Lisowski, Anthony Manderfeld, Kayla McGivney, Ryan McGivney, Mason Nagel, Alex Oatway, Cartier Oatway, Jesse Oatway, Emanuel Panser, Tori Riggelman, Cal Schultz, Joey Schull, Amelia Thompson, Cole Volkmann, Hannah Wetzal and Mikayla Wetzal.

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NRHEG's Olien earns FFA State Degree

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva senior Hannah Olien earned her State FFA Degree, the highest degree a state FFA can bestow onto a member, on Feb. 9.

"It's a big accomplishment and it means a lot to get my state degree," Olien said. "But, overall being involved in FFA has been a blessing that has helped me get out of my comfort zone and try new things."

State degrees are awarded to those who show exemplary efforts in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, leadership, community service and their respective FFA career.

Olien had to compete numerous requirements to earn the state degree including being a member of FFA for at least two years, being enrolled in at least one agriculture or agribusiness course, earn and productively invest at least \$2,000 by her own efforts from her Supervised Agricultural Experience enterprise, complete at least 25 hours of community service from a minimum of two different activities, have a satisfactory scholastic record, participate in the planning or completion of her chapter's Program of Activities, participate in 10 FFA activities above chapter level and meet all other requirements established by the State FFA Association.

She said she has always had a passion for agriculture.

Olien transferred from Waseca to NRHEG her sophomore year. She said the FFA advisor at Waseca approached her about joining, but she was too shy at the time.

"I've always taken a lot of agriculture classes," she said. "Then when I got to New Richland I talked to Mr. [Dan] Sorum and he explained to me that there wasn't anything to be shy about."

Olien has been member of the Panthers' FFA program for more than two years and competed in a wide range of competitions from soil contests to livestock judging.

"I'm kind of one of those people that I like to try to new things," she said. "Being involved in FFA has enhanced my passion for agriculture and how much I want to advocate for it. I've always been

interested in agriculture and had a passion for it. I'm surrounded by it everyday.

"Advocating for agriculture and learning more about the agriculture industry is my favorite part of being in FFA," she continued. "People think [FFA] is just farming, but it's way more than that. It's so much more than just farming."

Former NRHEG student and current University of Wisconsin undergraduate Lacey Nelson also earned her state degree, NRHEG's agriculture mechanic team placed ninth and NRHEG sophomore Tiara Malakowsky interviewed for regional office on Feb. 9.

Olien and Nelson will receive their degrees at the state convention in April at the University of Minnesota.

"They are both the type of students we like to have as teachers," NRHEG FFA instructor Dan Sorum said. "They are both motivated, responsible and very passionate about agriculture."

Olien is the only member of NRHEG's FFA who has qualified to compete at the state convention. She did so by finishing second in the employment skills competition at the regional meet.

"We have young chapter this year," Sorum said. "We have a lot of middle schoolers and underclassmen. We have some very active kids, but when your this young you don't a lot of experience to bank on."

There are obvious benefits to being a part of FFA like leadership and character building, but there are also valuable social networking aspects.

"There is a very significant network of friends and acquaintances that some of these kids build up from around the state and country," he said. "They don't necessarily know this, but sometime in their life they may find themselves connecting with these people again. That social building aspect, like so many other things in life, can't be taught in a classroom or out of a book. They have to get out there and be involved."

Sorum said NRHEG's FFA stays busy and it seems like the group is at a different contest every month.

"It's just been a wonderful experience," Olien said. "[FFA] helped me reach out to people, gain real-world skills and experience and kind of get out of my little bubble."

Advisor: Dan Sorum

President: Aubrey Johnson

Vice President: Hailey Stenzel

Secretary: Hanna Olien

Treasurer: Elizabeth Karl

Reporter: Solveig Stafford

Sentinel: Tiara Malakowsky

Membership: 42 members

Existence: Since 1930

Focus: To develop leadership and promote the industry of agriculture.

Roster: Allie Frank, Amy Beckstrand, Ashton Raimann, Aubrey Johnson, Ava Kylo, Bailey Ihrke, Benjamin Lewer, Brady Schlaak, Clay Stenzel, Cooper Malecha, Elizabeth Karl, Emily Grinnen, Erin Jacobson, Ethan Streng, Hailey Stenzel, Hanna Olien, Holly Stene, Hope Vanwilgen, Jack Olson, Jamie Beckstrand, Justin Mortenson, Kaleb Johnson, Lacey Nelson, Lawren Deml, Lucas Bailey, Mackayla Knutson, Makota Misgen, Mayla Soulisak, Mia Williams, Michelle Katzung, Naomi Retallick, Ralph Roesler, Solveig Stafford, Sophie Stork, Sydney Koziolek, Tiara Malakowsky, Tyler Jacobson and Tyler Malakowsky.

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“FFA members embrace concepts taught in agricultural science classrooms nationwide, build valuable skills through hands-on experiential learning and each year demonstrate their proficiency in competitions based on real-world agricultural skills.”

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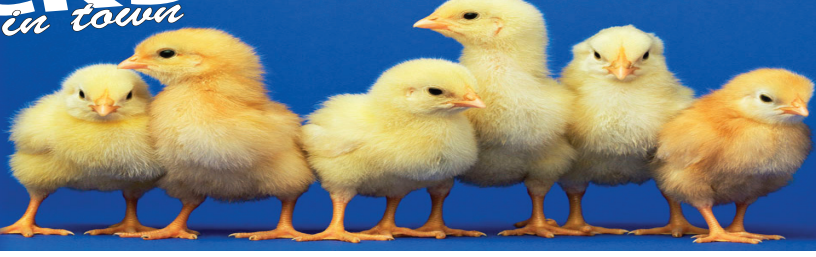
Advisors: Jamie Gray and Elizabeth Tinaglia
President: Chloe Schroeder
Vice President: Nicole Schuette
Secretary: Faith Harlicker
Treasurer: Emily Keck
Reporter: Dani Layland
Sentinel: David Keck
Membership: 59 members
Existence: 96 years
Meetings: Usually the first or second Monday of the month at OHS Agriculture Building, Room V103 at 6:30 p.m.
Focus: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
Roster: Cameron Deml, Angela Edel, Desi Svoboda, Angel Bermudez, Faith Harlicker, David Keck, Danielle Layland, Tyler Schmidt, Chloe Schroeder, Nicole Schuette, Alexa Sommers, Lauren Arthur, Aaron Dahlin, Matthew Earl, Wyatt Garten, Ryan Good, Arica Kath, Emily Keck, Jacob Kilanowski, Logan Nelson, Tyleer Prohoda, Savana Sletten, Maryn Cowell, Lydia Hoffman, Hunter Jensen, Joshua Katzung, Kylie Kruckeberg, Brianna Levisay, Jacob McShane, Austin Mundt, Hannah Mundt, Josh Nechanicky, Lanie Rieck, Lilly Weegman, Hailey Fox, Bailey Keck, McKenna Melby, Kaden Nelson, Abigail Schwartz, Ashlie Tesch, Brody Jensen, Jace Katzung, Jacob Klecker, Mason Krampitz, Brady Larson, Kyle Linders, Andrew PirkI, Cole Schroeder, Anna Fox, Blake Larson, Collin McShane, Kalli Nelson, Anton Schroeder, Sierra Spindler, Ciana Svoboda, Mallory Toquam, Kendra Pachniak, Tim Koch and Greg Selk.

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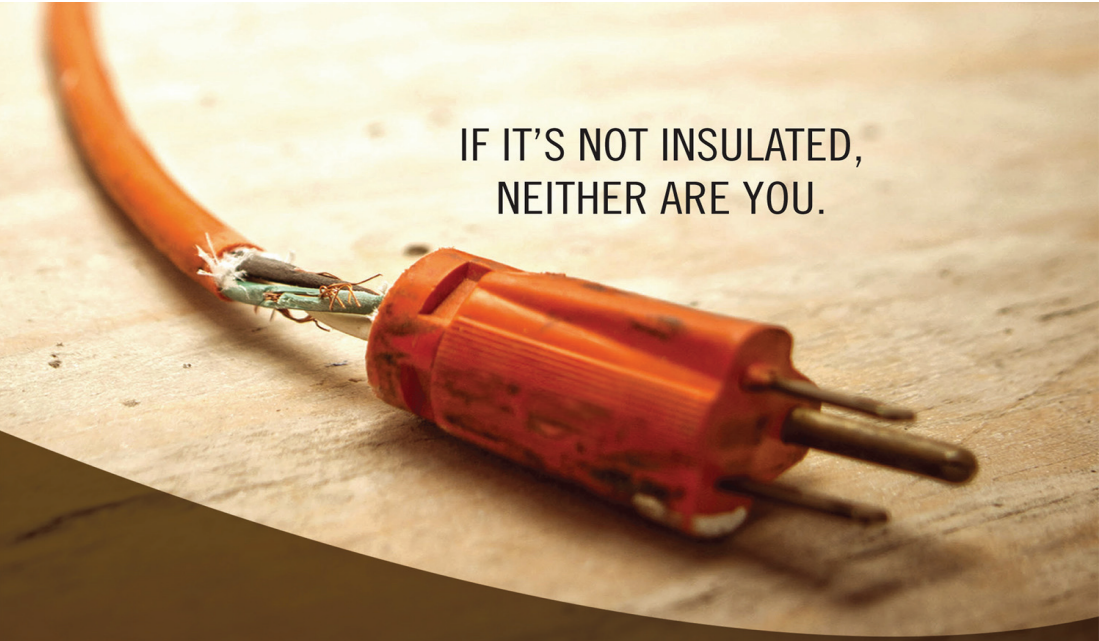
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SUBMITTED PHOTO
The 2018 officers for Owatonna FFA Officers are David Keck, Emily Keck, Faith Harlicker, Dani Layland, Chloe Schroeder, and Nicole Schuette.

FFA provides a tradition of leadership for Owatonna members

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Owatonna’s FFA chapter celebrates 96 years of tradition. It is a program which strives to make a positive difference in the lives of those students involved by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through a multitude of agricultural related education, events, and activities.

The Owatonna FFA advisors, Jamie Gray and Elizabeth Tinaglia, take pride in watching the individual progress each student makes within the chapter’s program.

After serving as advisor

for 23 years, Tinaglia still enjoys her work. “I love seeing the kids grow and build confidence,” she says. “They learn responsibility and great leadership skills.”

Her co-advisor, Gray, echoes these sentiments. Gray states that she encourages her kids to try as many things within the program as they can. This is her second year teaching at Owatonna High School. Before that she taught in Wisconsin and Iowa. Gray says that she is always excited to see the events, and loves taking her members on trips.

Many of the events are planned and orchestrated by the students within her program. “FFA instills leadership qualities,” Gray explains. She clarified that “I just advise, the kids do.”

Two of Gray and Tinaglia’s students, senior Chloe Schroeder and junior Emily Keck, serve as steadfast examples for these qualities of leadership and responsibility. Chloe served as chapter secretary her junior year and is currently the president. She feels that, with FFA, “it’s something that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.”

As chapter treasurer and regional vice president, Keck agrees. She said FFA has taught her hard work, although she admits that she’s always been someone who pushes herself to accomplish goals. “Once I’m really involved in something, I go full force,” she added.

Both Keck and Schroeder joined FFA when they were in ninth grade. In their opinion, FFA teaches the value of teamwork and the importance of cohesive planning. “All of the officers work together,” Schroeder said, adding it is a team effort.

Like most students, both Keck and Schroeder have busy schedules, and they are involved in a myriad of different activities, yet they still find time to focus on their work with FFA.

“I guess it depends on how active you are, but it can be a big commitment,” Schroeder said. Outside FFA she is involved in 4-H, choir, and has spent time teaching religious education classes for REP. Keck stays active as well, participating in color guard, 4-H, dance, and cheerleading. She also plays flute in the school’s band.

Advisor Gray values the determination members like Keck and Schroeder demonstrate. Grays said, “You can always be a member, and

that’s great, but if you get more involved you can expect more success.”

When asked what their favorite event is, both Schroeder and Keck unanimously agreed on Ag. Day. “It’s really fun. We bring younger students from elementary and middle school, and we have a bunch of activities going on,” Schroeder said. “We even have a petting zoo.”

Another one of their favorite parts of participating in FFA is getting the opportunity to meet other people within the program at the different regional events and competitions held. “Meeting new people from new places is definitely cool,” Keck said.

With so many facets of FFA to learn and experience, both Schroeder and Keck have found interesting ways to explore the program. Keck raises bees and cultivates their honey for sale while Schroeder remains passionate about floriculture, or the arrangement, breeding, and nurture of plants, particularly flowering ones.

Outside of these practices, the FFA members have utilized the wide range of disciplines at hand. Schroeder says that “there’s tons of opportunity and a lot to do.” She added, “I feel like I’ve only scratched the surface of what there is available to learn.”

For them, each event is still interesting, and Keck feels that, “I’ve never gone to an event and not enjoyed it.”

Schroeder is planning on pursuing a degree in nursing, while Keck, with still plenty of time to decide, is weighing her options for when she graduates next year.

Both girls had been inspired to join because of older siblings involved in the program. For Schroeder it was her older sister, and for Keck it was her brother. Although now they approach it with their own enthusiasm. “I like that you can always learn something new, whether it’s from a speaker, or a development event, or any of our activities,” Schroeder said.

By learning such practical, and real world disciplines, as well as the necessary skills that go along with these leadership roles they occupy, students like Keck and Schroeder help to exhibit the values programs like FFA instill upon their members. They are values and traditions which reverberate within their community.

FORECLOSURE
17-107902
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: March 30, 2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,708.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jill H. Haubenschild, an unmarried woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100273872511026742
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Envoy Mortgage, LTD
SERVICER: PHH Mortgage Corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 4, 2016, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000406888
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2 and the West 7 feet of Lot 1, in Hansen's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 116 5th St NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-110-0102
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$103,578.53
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 22, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns
Dated: February 2, 2018

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 22, 2018, or the next business day if September 22, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: January 23, 2018
PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/30, 2/6, 2/13
2/20, 2/27, 3/6

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: January 26, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$121,042.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Joel R. Garten and Denise M. Karlen-Garten, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 2, 2010 as Document Number A000369164 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:

Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Willowbrook Addition No. 2, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 630 LEE ST NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-6221
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$114,153.79
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-500-0109
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 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
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 27, 2018.
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: February 1, 2018
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.
By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0067-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
2/6, 2/13, 2/20
2/27, 3/6, 3/13

FORECLOSURE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
18-108511

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: April 11, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,469.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jarad Sikel and Caitlin Sikel, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100867100130181025
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 15, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000396488
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing on South line of Vine St., 8 rods East of East line of Maple St., & running South parallel with Maple St. 8 rods; thence East 4 rods; North 8 rods; West 4 rods to beginning (Located in Lot 1 in NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec. 10-107-20)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 E Vine St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-010-3108
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,522.82

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 29, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 2018, or the next business day if September 29, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: February 2, 2018
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
2/6, 2/13, 2/20
2/27, 3/6, 3/13

FORECLOSURE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the mortgage dated October 27, 2011, executed by Garrett P. Crosby and Darla Crosby, husband and wife, as mortgagors, to TCF National Bank, a national banking association, as mortgagee, recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota, on January 10, 2012, as Document No. A000382304, which mortgage conveyed and mortgaged the following described property, situated in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, which property has a street address of 405 2nd Avenue Southeast, Medford, Minnesota 55049, and tax identification number 161013601:

Lots 1 and 2, except the West 100 feet, and Lots 7 and 8, except the East 75 feet, in Block 36, in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford, Steele County, Minnesota

That the original principal amount secured by said mortgage was \$104,800.00; that there has been compliance with any condition precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by said mortgage and foreclosure of said mortgage required by said mortgage, any note secured thereby, or any statute; that no action or proceeding to recover the debt remaining secured by said mortgage is pending, or any part thereof; that there is claimed to be due upon said mortgage and is due thereon at the date of this notice, the sum of \$99,587.15 in principal and interest.

That as a result of the aforesaid default, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by the sale of the above described premises with appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at the Sheriff's office in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, on April 6, 2018, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, to pay the amount then due on said mortgage, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorneys' fees as allowed by law, in accordance with the provisions of said mortgage. The time allowed by law for redemption by the mortgagors, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months

from the date of said sale.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Darla Crosby.

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.

If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on October 8, 2018, unless the foreclosure is postponed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §580.07, or the redemption period is reduced to five (5) weeks under Minn. Stat. §582.032.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT BY A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

TCF National Bank
DATED: February 13, 2018
FOLEY & MANSFIELD, P.L.L.P.
By: Karl K. Heinzerling
Atty. No. 142475
Attorneys for Mortgagee
250 Marquette Avenue, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
2/13, 2/20, 2/27
3/6, 3/13, 3/20

NOTICE
STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION
Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2335
AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

In Re: Estate of
Howard Laverne Moe a/k/a Howard L. Moe, Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on March 5, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., by this Court at 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota.
1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:
Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
2-5-2018
Dated
Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: simon@owatonna lawyers.com

2/13, 2/20

FORECLOSURE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 31, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$176,912.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald D. Mead and Michelle J. Mead a/k/a Michelle J. Zolnosky, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 3, 2010 as Document Number A000373333 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Northwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 105, Range 21, Steele County, Minne-

sota, running thence North 89 degrees 53' East (assumed bearing) along the North line of the Northeast Quarter 318.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 548.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 53' West 318.0 feet to the West line of Northeast Quarter, thence North 0 degrees 00' East along West line 548.0 feet to the point of beginning.
Containing 4.0 acres more or less
Subject to existing public road rights of way on the North.
Assessor's Parcel Number: 03-001-1401.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 4683 108TH ST SW, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-2015
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,406.41
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-001-1401
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: April 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
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 October 10, 2018.

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: February 14, 2018
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.
By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0091-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
2/20, 2/27, 3/6
3/13, 3/20, 3/27

NOTICE
STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION
Court File Number: 74-PR-18-261

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of
Marcella Magdalyn Trandem Decedent

2/13, 2/20

NOTICE
NOTICE OF TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

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 13th day of March , 2018 at 3:00pm. Polls will open at the close of the Annual meeting and close at 8:00 pm to elect the following officers for the following terms.

•One Supervisor for a three (3) year term.
•One Clerk for a One (2) year term.

Business meeting at 3:00 pm to transact town business as required or permitted by law.

John Fouarge (Clerk)
Westfield Township
C/O 75020 118th Ave
Blooming Prairie , MN 55917

2/20

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER



Mantorville Township
Notice of Annual Meeting
Election of Officers & Board of Canvass

Notice is hereby given to the voters of Mantorville Township, County of Dodge, and State of Minnesota: That the Annual Election of Township Officers and the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

The Annual Meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m., to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Election Polls will open at 5:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m., at which time the voters will elect: one Supervisor for a term of three years, and one Clerk for a term of two years.

The Annual Meeting and Elections will be held at the Mantorville Town Hall. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting and the elections will be postponed until March 20, 2018, at the same time.

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, following the election.

Carol Allen, Clerk Mantorville Township Z:9-10sh

Weber & Judd Pharmacy in Kasson
now accepting applications for cashiers.
Part Time positions with flexible hours.
Please apply on line or in person.



Please apply online at **www.weberjudd.com**
or in person at **408 W Main St. • Kasson**

Canisteo Township
NOTICE

Canisteo Township Board of Audit will convene Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 9 a.m. at the township hall.

Frank Wyatt - clerk 2/21



CDL driver over the road dryer van.
Driver benefits included. Paid holidays, vacation pay, and 401K health plan.

Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
1-800-634-3317

DRIVERS NEEDED

- 18 years and older
- Good driving record
- Part-time evenings and weekends

Stop in at **Jimmy's Pizza** to fill out an application.



POSTIONS AVAILABLE:
We are a growing company.
We are looking to hire two individual people who are willing to work nights as a Janitor.

BYRON:
HOURS are 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on *Tuesday and Thursday nights.*

MANTORVILLE:
HOURS are *Sundays 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m./11:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. or 12 a.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 p.m./11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m./1:30 a.m.*

Please leave a message or text at 507-226-7500 or email: mopsandbuckets@kmtel.com

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108743

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: June 22, 2011
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$65,301.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Derek Denelsbeck, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 30, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067413
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Eleven (11), in Block Two (2), in Northrop's Sunrise Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota
REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 730 NE 12th St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-175-0211 COT# 17932
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$60,309.71
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 5, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided

SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: February 16, 2018

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP 2/20, 2/27, 3/6
3/13, 3/20, 3/27

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

SELLING SOMETHING ON WHEELS?



SELL IT HERE!

ONLY \$39 Place your ad and reach over 20,000 households in Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Mower and Freeborn counties.

With photo TILL IT SELLS

Up to 30 words

Classified ad with photo runs till it sells in four publications and covers 12 communities. You may cancel your advertisement when your item sells, however, there are no refunds for this special. **Call: 507-634-7503 or email: dci@kmtel.com and place your ad today. Must be prepaid prior to ad running.**





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Economic Development Coordinator

Starting Pay Range: \$65,828 to \$82,285 Non-union position

Contact: Kevin Bushard, Human Resources Manager
Telephone: 507-333-0354
Email: kbushard@ci.faribault.mn.us

Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018

This position assists the Community & Economic Development Director in all activities focused on enhancing Faribault's economic vitality. This position is responsible for developing and implementing economic development programs for the City with the goal of proactive business retention and attraction, quality job growth, tax base expansion, and marketing. This position requires frequent public contact with businesses, developers and real estate brokers, and other local and regional economic development partners.

Education and Experience:
Bachelor's degree in Urban/Regional Planning, Business, Economics, or a related field, with a minimum of two (2) years of economic development related experience required. Economic development related experience shall include, but is not limited to, municipal economic development, commercial lending, commercial or industrial real estate development, business management, business assistance, public or private finance, or workforce development.

Preferred qualifications:

- Working knowledge of the principles and practices of community development, economic development, redevelopment and public finance;
- Ability to accurately record and maintain records;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the business community members, employees, supervisors, other departments, officials and the public;
- Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing;
- Proficiency in use of identified computer software.

Application Instructions
Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume and complete City application packet to be eligible for this position. Application packets are available at www.faribault.org or at Faribault City Hall, 208 NW First Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021. Only original documents will be accepted by mail or by drop off at City Hall.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Fire/Property Maintenance Inspector

Contact: Kevin Bushard, Human Resources Manager
Telephone: 507-333-0354
Email: kbushard@ci.faribault.mn.us

Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018 or until filled

The City of Faribault has an opening for a Fire/Property Maintenance Inspector in its Community and Economic Development and Fire Department. The Fire/Property Maintenance Inspector is responsible for the administration and enforcement of adopted state and city codes within the City of Faribault.

Minimum qualifications:

- Two-year degree or coursework/vocational training in building construction and inspection, fire science, land use, geography or two years of related experience in a similarly related field.
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office and records management software.
- Ability to read site plans, blue prints and City Code.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Possession of a Minnesota driver's license or ability to obtain one prior to employment.

DESIREABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of relevant fire codes, City ordinances and state laws.
- State Certification in Fire Inspector I or II.
- Code enforcement experience in public sector, or municipal planning/inspections.
- Experience with the Housing Codes, mechanical and plumbing systems, property maintenance codes, zoning and land use code enforcement principles, practices and methods as applicable to a municipal setting.
- Experience using computers and records management software.

Application Instructions
Applicants must submit a resume with letter of interest, with current certifications, and complete a city application packet. Application packets are available at www.faribault.org or at Faribault City Hall, 208 NW First Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021. Only original documents will be accepted by mail or drop off at the address listed above.

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FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc
Hayfield, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc
KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc
2BR apt. Dodge Center, \$600/month, clean facility, laundry on-site, please call 507-398-6899. 9,10c;11nc

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Paul & David Stanton Farms are looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call Paul Stanton at 507-951-0914 or David Stanton 507-951-0915. 46tfc
Crop land to rent, sharecrop, or custom farm. Shamrock Farms: call Tim at 507-259-1169. 47tfc



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EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted: FT feeding, milking and other chores. Please call 634-4308.
Earn \$44K+ and travel the county with 12 weeks of training and a paid, four-week internship with Riverland Community College's Truck Driving CDL program. Benefits include direct job pathways with industry partners and training in five specialty areas: flatbed, tanker, van/refrigeration, doubles/triples, and motor coach. Financial Aid and Workforce Development funding is available to those who qualify. To learn more, call Jonathan at 507-433-0608. 5-10c
TruckMovers Depot is Hiring! Local/Yard CDL Driver, Home DailyGreat pay and benefits Apply by calling: 844-843-4140 Email: daryl.jibben@truckmoversdepot.com. Stop by: 63531 209th Ave., Dodge Center. 10-11c



FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc
GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for \$9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Caleb's Pet Sitting, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 33tfc

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Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfc
Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation.

NOTICE OF CONCORD TOWNSHIP ELECTION
Notice is hereby given that Concord Township, in Dodge County, will on Tuesday March 13, 2018 conduct the Town Election at the Concord town hall.
Polls will be open from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
By Order of the Concord Township Board
Mike Jones, Clerk
February 8, 2018
D:9-10Sh&p

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HELP WANTED BOWES CONSTRUCTION Brookings, SD. Available positions open: Truck Drivers, Heavy Equipment Operators, Mechanic. For complete details email v_longville@bowesconstruction.com or call 605/693-3557	A PLACE FOR MOM The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is free/no obligation. Call 844/347-2104	STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS! Save! Call our licensed Canadian & International pharmacy, compare prices & get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! Call 877/210-2257 Promo Code: CDC201725
	DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735	HIRE YOUR HELP HERE! One phone call & only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! 1-800-279-2979

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•PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dining Attendant Wanted
•FT position 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
•PT position 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Apply at: www.oxfordmgmt.com/careers • EOE

Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School
KOMETE'S
are seeking a part-time evening cleaner.
Please complete an application on-line at www.komets.k12.mn.us and include a resume, application letter and reference letters.

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Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)
Mantorville Location
We are dedicated to delivering quality care and services within our homes. This is where you can come in to help make a difference in someone's life while enjoying the work you do.
FAHI is seeking applicants for
Human Service Technician -
Part-time Various, every other weekend
Responsibilities include but not limited to:
• Advocate and provide support to promote the needs, interests, and preferences of the person(s) served.
• Have an understanding of the person respecting each person's history, dignity, and cultural background.
Please apply online at www.divinehouse.org/fourth-ave/ then click on the orange "Employment" box
For additional information call Mindy 507-429-8962

City of Faribault
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Position: Library Page
Contact: Kevin Bushard, Human Resources Manager
Telephone: 507-333-0354
Email: kbushard@ci.faribault.mn.us
Schedule: Thursday 9a-1p - Friday 9a-1p - Saturday 9a-2p.
Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. or until filled
The City of Faribault is accepting applications for the Library Page position to work 13 hours/week at Buckham Memorial Library. The position focuses on shelving books and other library materials and keeping the library clean and orderly.
Minimum qualifications:
Must be able to read, alphabetize, and put numbers in order (including decimals).
Application Instructions
Applicants must complete City application packet to be eligible for this position. Application packets are available at www.faribault.org or at Faribault City Hall, 208 NW First Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021. Documents will only be accepted through mail or drop off at the above address.
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)
Mantorville Location
We are dedicated to delivering quality care and services within our homes. This is where you can come in to help make a difference in someone's life while enjoying the work you do.
FAHI is seeking applicants for
Program Coordinator -
Full-Time Day every other weekend
Responsibilities include but not limited to:
• Manage the daily operations of the home
• Implementation of the person's active treatment plans
• Monitor and assure all medications and treatments are administered and documented in compliance with the license holders Medication Administration Policy and Procedures
Please apply online at www.divinehouse.org/fourth-ave/ then click on the orange "Employment" box
For additional information call Mindy 507-429-8962

PART-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGNER
We are a growing newspaper and looking for a part-time graphic designer to create engaging designs according to requirements in a fast-paced environment. We need someone that is flexible, open to change, and deadline oriented. This position has the potential to become full-time. In this role, you should be highly creative and have a sharp eye for visual detail. If you are passionate about design and are eager to learn more through various projects, we'd like to meet you.
RESPONSIBILITIES
• Understand project requirements and concepts
• Prepare work to be accomplished by gathering information and materials. The main focus will be on ads and paginating
• Print shop design including many different types of projects like business cards, letterheads, brochures and so much more (design done for Dodge County Printing which is owned by the publisher) Print shop experience a plus
• Collaborate with team members on various projects
• Use feedback from leaders to improve work
REQUIREMENTS
• Experience with design software (InDesign) and graphics editing tools (Photoshop, Illustrator)
• Familiarity with Google docs/sheets/drive, word and excel preferred, knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud and Mac OS beneficial
• Familiarity with design techniques
• Understanding of visual elements (layout, type and fonts)
• Excellent communication ability
• Teamwork skills
• A keen eye for detail
• Time management and multitasking abilities
• Creativity skills and problem-solving aptitude
• AS/AA in Design or a related field
DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Send resumé and link to portfolio (if available) to Nichelle Franzen at nichelledci@kmtel.com or call direct 507-634-1483

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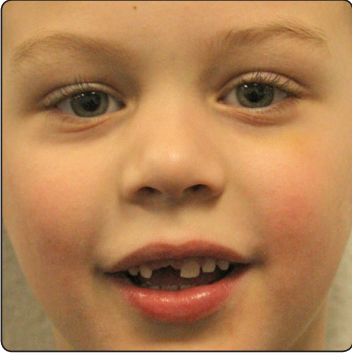
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