



# STEELE COUNTY Times

OH LUTEFISK! **A10**

**HORSE PLOWING** **B1**

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Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

"I have never been involved with **so much hate and ugliness** in a local campaign."

**Sheriff Lon Thiele**  
Steele County

## CAMPAIGN INJUSTICE?

*Sheriff accuses BP Police of 'inciting negativity and being vindictive'*



HELGET

**BY RICK BUSSLER**  
PUBLISHER

Less than two weeks before the election, Sheriff Lon Thiele is breaking the silence over on-going negative campaign smears against him and attacks on his credibility.

For the first time during the current sheriff's race, Thiele is lashing out about how the campaign is being run by his opponent, veteran deputy Darrin Helget. Thiele is calling into question the "smear tactics" being used by Helget and his supporters, which largely include members of the Blooming Prairie Police Department.

Thiele reached his breaking point last Wednesday after Greg Skillestad, Blooming Prairie's current police chief and a former

sheriff's deputy under Thiele, issued a letter in another local newspaper accusing him denying backup to one of Blooming Prairie's officers. The same letter is published in this edition of the Times.

In the letter, Skillestad claims Thiele ordered a deputy to not respond to Blooming Prairie for an officer needing assistance. Specific times were noted in the letter; however, no date was provided. The chief did not identify the officer's name.

"The negative comments portrayed by that officer and accusations of me never helping Blooming Prairie are totally false," Thiele said in a terse interview shortly after the letter was published. "How absurd of a comment from a young officer."

Thiele could not provide the specific date of the incident in question, but knew it was within the past six months. Blooming Prairie Police was on a traffic stop when the officer requested assistance from the Steele County Sheriff's Office. At the same time, Thiele said the sheriff's office had a priority call in the northwest corner of the county involving a mentally unstable man that has caused problems in the past. What complicates the

### ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SHERIFF THIELE:

**- Denied Blooming Prairie Police back up**

*Thiele response: County had a higher priority call*

**- Did not implement mock car crash in Blooming Prairie**

*Thiele response: Absolutely not true and verified*

**- Refused to help with Lois Riess murder investigation**

*Thiele response: Absolutely not true and verified*

**- Waseca Sheriff did not know about Thiele's inquiry of saving money on jail inmates with for both Steele and Waseca counties**

*Thiele response: Absolutely not true and verified*

matter is that the request for help went directly to Thiele and not through the dispatch center where all incoming calls are time stamped.

Shortly after the Blooming Prairie officer requested help, Thiele got on the police radio to divert the deputy to the priority call. Thiele said the deputy was the only available officer responding to calls at the time. Thiele noted that it was not conveyed to him that the BP officer was in any kind of distress at the time of his request for backup. The deputy did not respond to Blooming Prairie, but rather handled the county's priority call.

The following week Thiele received word that the BP officer was upset because the county did not assist him with his traffic stop.

Helget said he finds it "wrong" with what happened to the BP officer. "It's absolutely ludicrous that any police administrator would specifically tell a deputy that they cannot respond to an incident of a volatile situation," he said. "We need to work together and make our communities safe."

But Thiele stands by his decision. "The BP officer did not have a priority call. We did,"



SHERIFF THIELE

Thiele said. "Whatever the case if BPPD receives a call and at the same time the sheriff's office receives a call, do we drop calls for public safety to our rural areas?" he asked.

Thiele pointed out that if the call in Blooming Prairie was so severe, there are several other members of the local department near by that could likely respond quicker than a deputy coming from Owatonna or even another remote area of the county.

"The deputy advised me nonchalantly that Blooming Prairie wanted him to stop by if he was in the area," Thiele said. "Never once did he say that he needed someone immediately for an emergency. If he had, that would have changed the whole view of everything."

Thiele accuses Skillestad of using the situ-

SEE SHERIFF, A3

### Complaint against BP Police filed with state board

**BY RICK BUSSLER**  
PUBLISHER

The actions of at least three members of the Blooming Prairie Police Department are coming under fire as a complaint has been filed against them for inappropriate campaigning and intimidating residents involving the Steele County sheriff's race.

On Sept. 28, a complaint was filed with the Minnesota Peace Officer Standard and Training

(POST) Board, the state agency that controls the licenses of all peace officers in Minnesota, according to documents obtained by the Steele County Times.

The complaint was filed by an Owatonna resident, who the Times is not identifying because of the person's fear of retaliation by Blooming Prairie police officers.

This is not the first time the department's actions involving the sheriff's race have come under scrutiny. In July, Bloom-

ing Prairie city administrator Michael Jones took to social media to quell false rumors about the local police department disbanding. The rumors were attributed to challenger Darrin Helget's campaign, which Blooming Prairie police chief Greg Skillestad has been actively involved in. The Times also learned that the Blooming Prairie Police Commission warned members about actively supporting Helget for

SEE BP POLICE, A4

## UNMASKING BRAIN INJURY

*Man finds freedom again after 5 years*

**BY RICK BUSSLER**  
PUBLISHER

Unmasking a brain injury hasn't been the only thing on Jon Wocelka's mind over the past five years. He's also been focused on finding his independence again.

Mobility and independence are often taken for granted by most people, but Wocelka found out the hard way that they're two things that can easily be taken away.

The former Steele County resident has been fighting to gain his independence ever since he nearly died after being hit by a car while walking along old U.S. Highway 14 on the edge of Owatonna on Oct. 20, 2013. Wocelka wasn't expected to survive and has

waged an extraordinary comeback.

Wocelka, 35, found freedom just a few months ago when he moved in a new apartment in Rochester. The traumatic brain injury will likely be with him for the rest of his life, but he is able to live on his own and complete fundamental tasks like using a restroom, feeding himself and using utensils.

"I'm totally independent," Wocelka proudly shared at a recent Celebrating Abilities 2018 in Rochester. The event was sponsored by Ability Building Center, the organization that has assisted Wocelka to regaining his life. "It's a great blessing for me because I didn't enjoy having a roommate as we didn't see eye-to-eye," he added.

Wocelka receives help from ABC two days every week for about two hours each time. ABC has also helped him with finding part-time employment. He's currently doing contract jobs in the medical labs at Mayo.

In addition to working outside his apartment, Wocelka is trying to obtain his GED by next spring. He also has his mind set on earning a marketing degree. "I know how to sell anything," he said.

"I'm lucky to be alive," Wocelka says. "I flat-lined five times in Rochester."

Though it hasn't always been this way, Wocelka keeps going by maintaining a positive attitude. "I'm willing to adapt to ev-

SEE BRAIN INJURY, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Jon Wocelka, formerly of Owatonna, displays the mask he created to draw awareness to brain injury in Minnesota. The mask was featured with about 150 others at Celebrating Abilities by Ability Building Center in Rochester last month.

## Veteran BP Supt. to retire

**BY DENNIS MARSHALL**  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a somber moment for the Blooming Prairie School Board on Monday, Oct. 15 as board members sat in silence and disbelief after learning of longtime Superintendent Barry Olson's intent to retire at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

"It's just time," Olson said with a laugh. "I'll be 65 years old in March. I've had 43 years in education and looking back over the years it has been a great career, but I'm just at the age to retire."

Board member Jenny Thurnau said the board has known this was coming, but that would not make it any easier to say goodbye when the time came.

"It's still hard to believe," board member Pam Hameister said. "Thank you."

SEE OLSON, A8



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### AREA DEATHS

*Serving  
Blooming Prairie  
and Steele County  
since 1893*



OUR VIEW

Oh Lutefisk!

A fishy tradition has a pleasant aroma

It's true! Lutefisk does have a pleasant aroma.

Everything is subjective, meaning there's something good in everything, even lutefisk.

The 75th annual First Lutheran Church Lutefisk and Meatball is now recorded in the annals of the church as another success. Ruth Earl, chair of one of the largest lutefisk dinners in southern Minnesota, could run for president if her constituents were lutefisk lovers.

Earl said 1,321 people were fed at the annual event, which is regarded as one of the most successful in the state.

Why is it so successful? It is because of the more than 200 volunteers who play their special roles in planning and pulling off this huge event.

If this rural Minnesota church can organize and run such a quality event because everyone works together, why can't our Congress work together?

Earl modestly says the big event runs smoothly not because of her involvement, but because of all the dedicated workers who step forward, young and old alike.

She is a very capable leader and has been holding the reins of leadership for the past five years. Prior to Earl's service as chair, Marilyn Blume capably chaired the annual event for many years. Blume still is active in helping with the dinner.

Yes, it's true that consumers hold the key as to whether the event will run year after year.

The lovers of lutefisk are in the upper age category and this explains why the numbers in many lutefisk dinners have started to dwindle. Workers are also stepping back because of age or because of "burnout."

Younger workers have stepped forward to help run the First Lutheran event and this has taken the burden away from the many who have ably done the same duties year in and year out.

It starts with the callers who line up workers for the various responsibilities, whether it means organizing a day to make rosettes and krumkakke, or it involves lining up the various stations



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Jim Johnson of Blooming Prairie shows off a lutefisk filet as he prepared the fish for the annual First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie Lutefisk Dinner held Tuesday, Oct. 16.

during the dinner: fish, meatballs, cranberry salad, corn, lefse, etc.

Hours and hours of volunteer time are devoted to the preparation of the food. Good records help pass on duties that some may relinquish and give over to new volunteers.

Who benefits from the Blooming Prairie lutefisk dinner? It's the consumers like the ones this year who raved about the lutefisk being some of the best ever.

Sure, there's a lot of teasing about not liking lutefisk. But, there also is a lot of compliments tossed around by these who love the lutefisk and can't wait until next year.

Other beneficiaries from the lutefisk dinner of course include causes at the church and needs identified in other local, regional and national areas.

It's purely amazing that such a work-intensive event as this can make so many people happy in making others happy.

Just take a look at the lutefisk guests sitting at a table after they have finished their meal. It's total satisfaction and pleasure in enjoying a Scandinavian tradition that won't die.

GUEST COLUMN

The Free Press—our ticket to safety

By SONJA TROM EAYRS

I read with interest the recent letter to the editor from Cynthia Herbst and respond on behalf of my father, Lowell Trom.

Thankfully, my family has no intention of drinking the "modern agriculture" Kool-aide – code words used by the industry to promote large industrial factory farms. The "modern agriculture" chant has been repeated over and over again in Dodge County and dozens of other communities in rural America seeking to promote large corporate factory farms.

"Modern agriculture" promotes super-sized confinement facilities that hold thousands of animals; the use of antibiotics or hormones to foster faster growth; the use of manure pits that hold massive amounts of raw manure; the vertical integration model that allows the industry to control the process from producer to consumer; and a business model that has little or no regard for environmental quality, human health, safe food, humane treatment of animals and the rural economy. Maybe contract farmers will stop drinking the "modern agriculture" Kool-aid when they realize they have been played by large corporate interests who seek to take control of the food supply while taking advantage of unsuspecting farmers who sign on the dotted line.

Ms. Herbst threatens to cancel her subscription, a common tactic used by industry folks to silence opposition and the media. We are thankful for a free press, as it has been our ticket to safety. It's important for Dodge County residents to finally understand that my family went to the press, not to grab headlines, but for our own safety. My family has endured repeated harassment and intimidation since initiation of the first lawsuit against Dodge County and area swine operators in May 2014, including constant garbage dumped in our roadside ditches and driveway, recent dumping of blue farm booties every few feet along the township road, a large piece of metal that was hidden in the tall grass and damaged our mower, bullet holes that were shot

in the stop sign just a few hours after my brother and I pulled weeds from the field just a few feet away, pure Roundup that was sprayed on the neighbor's corn field and caused thousands of dollars of damage (which we are quite confident was intended for our field given the proximity to other events), false telephone calls by industry folks to the sheriff's department (not to report some illegal activity but to put the heat on my family and get us to shut up), harassing late night phone calls to my father, including such comments as "Have you changed yet?" and other harassing tactics.

The industry has been successful for years in silencing opposition by calling employers and threatening local businesses, including local newspapers. My family finally had the courage to speak out publicly. The harassment and intimidation experienced by my family is consistent with the pattern of harassment and intimidation targeted at other farm families across rural America who oppose factory farms. It's not opinion, Ms. Herbst, it's fact.

What do we tell our children if they're picked on by a bully – to tell on the bully. So, we're telling on the bully. We will continue to report all activity to the local sheriff's department, request extra patrol near our family farm and go to the press, if necessary. It's a shame what is happening in rural America and, yes, it's happening right in Dodge County. We will not be silenced by industry bullies.

There is a ray of hope in this gloomy story. Recently, a Good Samaritan, undoubtedly aware of the repeated harassment against my family, picked up garbage that was dumped in our roadside ditch hours earlier. Thank you for your showing of humanity.

Sonja Trom Eayrs grew up in Westfield Township on the south end of Dodge County. Her father, Lowell Trom, still farms at the age of 89. Trom Eayrs has been instrumental in founding Dodge County Concerned Citizens, a group fighting large feedlot operations in rural America.

YOUR VIEW

The sheriff has a heart for people

To-the-Editor:  
Lon Thiele is a proven leader with a lot of experience. He has a caring spirit.

On June 8, my daughter-in-law had an accident at an intersection by Aurora Lutheran Church in rural Steele County. It was a hectic scene with a fire truck, two ambulances, several sheriff's cars and two helicopters.

Lon arrived and opened up his SUV and they laid my 3-year-old granddaughter on the tailgate to administer first aid. She held on to Lon's finger until they loaded her in the helicopter.

I found out afterward that he said he should have been doing things at the scene, but could not leave Alexis.

Within a couple of days, he came to the St. Mary's ICU and talked with family and wanted to see the kids. That was pretty touching—this guy has a heart and cares about Steele County.

Please re-elect Lon Thiele as Steele County sheriff.

We would also like to thank you for your prayers as Alexis and Isaac are doing wonderfully!

Curt and Karen Oeltjenbruns  
Owatonna

Marine sends his support for Sheriff Thiele

To-the-Editor:  
I just wanted to formally give my support all the way from Georgia, to re-elect Sheriff Lon Thiele, as I had his 110 percent support when I was enlisting in the Marines Corps.

I needed a letter from him, which he gladly wrote. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Knowing he fully supports not only the Marines, but all military branches and shows that, by trying to get Beyond the Yellow Ribbon started in Steele County. I, as a U.S. Marine took an oath to serve and protect the United States of America, as Sheriff Lon Thiele took an oath to serve and protect my home community of Steele County.

Sheriff Thiele, you have my support, 110 percent.

PFC Noah Sletten  
U.S. Marines

Just the facts, please

As my "Dragnet" hero Joe Friday used to say, "Just the Facts, please." It seems every disgruntled ex-deputy sheriff is writing letters to the editor talking about doom and gloom, lack of inter-departmental cooperation and no dog!

While I have never been in law enforcement, I have been part of a team for most of my life. On every team there can only be one captain or leader. That leader is never going to make everyone happy and if there are no directions or principles adhered to, it will be an unsuccessful team! A leader that leaves his principles and tries to soothe everyone will sooth no one and the team will be a disaster!

I would like to see facts please to back up turnover in the department. What turnover ratio is Steele County Sheriff's Office experiencing? How does that compare to Owatonna Police Department? How about sheriff's offices in Austin, Albert Lea, Faribault or Northfield? Why are deputies leaving? Better pay? Moving closer to home? Leaving the field, etc.?

As for a dog, what cost to citizens? Past history of arrests involved in, what successes? It might be nice to also have a Humvee! But again, just the facts.

There is only one candidate running for sheriff that is qualified in all aspects of the job. Lon Thiele has participated in more ongoing educational, professional and community projects than any other candidate. He has prepared himself and the Steele County Sheriff's Office for success and security for all

county residents.

There is more to being a sheriff than trying to be popular!

I support Lon Thiele for Steele County sheriff.

Dan Boeke  
Owatonna

Proven to be best as our sheriff

To-the-Editor:

I have seen letters to the editor about Sheriff Lon Thiele and was inspired to write one on my own.

I am a 20 year retired Navy Seabee, Gulf War veteran. I moved here in 2002 to continue a career as a corrections officer at the state corrections facility in Faribault. I have known Sheriff Thiele for his eight years as the Steele County sheriff.

I am very active with the Owatonna Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Sheriff Thiele has always shown his support for our Steele County veterans. I have worked part time for the Steele County Sheriff's Office for about six years now as a transport officer at the Detention Center and as a special deputy.

He has shown me that he cares for his deputies and corrections officers to insure they are well trained to do the job. His commitment to the community of Steele County has been shown through his accountability to all his actions.

I have the confidence in Sheriff Thiele to keep our streets safe for our children to be safe. Thank you Sheriff Thiele for your commitment to our community and you have my support to re-election you as our county sheriff.

Mike Meyer  
Owatonna

Sheriff has done an excellent job

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter in support of re-electing Lon Thiele for Sheriff.

Lon has been our Sheriff for the past eight years. He has done an excellent job.

Lon has the knowledge, experience, and training to continue to be Sheriff.

Lon was born and raised in Steele County and is very committed to all of the citizens of Steele County. He holds people accountable, he has proven leadership, and he has integrity. Join us in voting for Lon Thiele for Sheriff of Steele County on Nov. 6.

Jeff and Jessica Warner  
Owatonna

Chief disagrees with letter from reader

A recent letter to the editor from Ron Priebe commented on Oct. 16. I am confused by everything that he wrote. Ron stated my letter was half-truths? Everything I said was the truth.

In Ron's letter it was stated that the current sheriff would never prevent a deputy from assisting the Blooming Prairie PD or another agency if an officer needed assistance. Did you know the current sheriff denied backup to one of BP officers?

One of BP officers was on a traffic stop, and requested assistance from the Steele County Sheriff's Office. While the deputy was on their way to Blooming Prairie, the current sheriff got on the radio and requested the deputy who was responding to go to "car-to-car," which is a channel on the radio that is not recorded.

Surrounding law enforcement agencies are able to monitor and hear everything that takes place on car-to-car channels. The sheriff told the deputy that Blooming Prairie has their own police department and that the officer can call out an off-duty officer to assist. You could hear in the deputy's voice that he was not alright with that decision, not

being able to respond to an officer needing assistance.

The traffic stop in Blooming Prairie occurred at 4:55 p.m. Steele County had a call at 4:13 p.m. and then not another call until 6:41 p.m. There were no calls during the time the officer requested help. I had numerous Steele County deputies reach out to me and apologize as they were embarrassed and ashamed about this.

Recently an officer in BP was in a foot pursuit, and ended up deploying his taser. A deputy responded who was not far away and was told by the sheriff he should have never responded.

Greg Skillestad  
Blooming Prairie

Sheriff has proven leadership skills

To-the-Editor:

I have had the privilege of working with Sheriff Lon Thiele for 3½ years. During this time I have had the opportunity to observe his leadership skills first hand.

Sheriff Thiele has had a significant amount of training and experience, not only as a SWAT commander, firearms instructor, Safe and Sober coordinator, field training officer, but in administration. He was Chief of Police in Truman where he gained administrative experience and operational skills.

In 2003 Lon came home to Steele County as a road deputy for the Sheriff's Office. He continued to work hard and in 2006 he was promoted to sergeant. In 2010 he was elected Sheriff of Steele County and re-elected in 2014.

As coordinator for the Special Deputies of Steele County, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Sheriff Thiele. He always has an "open door" for me to ask questions and obtain clarification on situations and changes. He listens to what I have to say, we discuss different options and come to a mutual decision.

Sheriff Thiele is committed to improving his leadership skills by attending training sessions and leadership training classes.

Lon is a leader in the community as well. He is president of the Blossoming Youth Facilities Foundation, co-chairman for the Steele-Rice Operations Committee, sub-committee member for the We All Play program, Community Corrections Advisory board member, Radio Advisory Committee and Executive CAER Board Member.

Sheriff Thiele is committed to the Citizens of Steele County and is dedicated to keeping the Citizens of Steele County safe. He is experienced in administration, he is very organized, and follows through on commitments.

Accountability, proven leadership, integrity.

I encourage the citizens of Steele County to join me in re-electing Lon Thiele for Sheriff Nov. 6.

Wynonne Priebe  
Owatonna

A truly momentous occasion

Thanks so much for "capturing the moment" for the \$10,000 contribution from the Blooming Prairie Lions/Gopher 50 Funds. With this contribution, total contributions to date for the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial are at \$252,960.65. We are at 101 percent of our goal! There have been 352 pavers reserved for our veterans.

Our work is not done, however. We will complete the Memorial and plan for ongoing maintenance and future expansion.

This is truly a momentous occasion!

Tom Peterson  
Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial





# Laughter is important in life

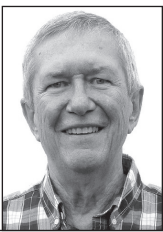
Who is Dick Jonckowski? He is someone who will make you laugh, and he will even laugh at his own jokes.

He is none other than the voice of University of Minnesota men's basketball. There have been two public address announcers for Gopher men's basketball during the last 90 years.

One of the voices belonged to the late Jules Perlit and the other belongs to the current PA voice, Dick Jonckowski.

I first got to know who Jonckowski was when I covered Minnesota Viking football games at the old Metropolitan Stadium in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Jonckowski was an usher at the Met and became known as the usher who caught over 112 footballs as they sailed through the uprights during a National Football League game.

I also got to know Dick from seeing him attempt to add to his large sports memorabilia collection. Unfortunately,



Reflections  
HOWARD LESTRUD

he had to liquidate much of his collection while battling cancer. He is now a cancer survivor.

Jonckowski and I crossed paths recently when I attended a St. Paul Norwegian Torske Norske Klubben (Club) meeting. This group represents men who get together to eat torsk once a month. They also distribute funds to needy causes.

Jonckowski was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Norwegian club members.

His main message, while rattling off joke after joke after joke.

“Life is so precious, and we all need something to laugh at,” he says. He often laughs harder at his own jokes than do others.

Jonckowski recently wrote a book, “It’s All About Me.” The book features over 60 of his jokes and it also tells of his collection of sports personalities. He collaborated with Jim Bruton.



DICK JONCKOWSKI

He spoke of some of his favorite sports personalities: Harmon Killebrew, Stan Musial and Paul Molitor.

We all should take heed of Jonckowski’s suggestion: “If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.”

Pay attention to the PA announcer the next time you are at a Gopher men’s basketball game. It’s Dick Jonckowski. He might even make you laugh.

## BRAIN INJURY:

recovery FROM A1

everything that’s thrown at me,” he says. “I’m a bulldozer and trying to fight a river instead of going with the flow,” he added.

Stephanie Anders, who has been Wocelka’s case manager at ABC for the past four years, marvels at his achievements in recent time. “He is one of our success stories. Jon put in all the work,” she said.

He had been in a group home in Kasson before moving to Rochester. Anders recalls Wocelka had “a lot of anger issues,” and he found himself very frustrated with life.

Wocelka has worked on acceptance over the past few years. “Once you accept where you are, you can move forward,” Anders said. “Now he is thriving. He has learned to cope with his impulse control.”

As far as living with a brain injury, Wocelka thinks he is doing great. “There are some tough days, but I keep on fighting,” he said. “I have the drive to get up every day and the willingness to take the next step,” he added.

Wocelka, who is legally blind, utilizes an Orcam, a device that helps visually impaired people. The unit is strapped to his glasses and allows him to read books in four different languages.

“It’s like a cell phone,” Wocelka says. “When I put my cell phone in the pocket, I make sure to put on my camera,” he said. “It’s one of those things I get in the habit of every morning when I get up.”

The device has stimulated Wocelka’s interest in reading, which is something he struggled with since grade school. “I love to read now,” he said. “In elementary school they thought I had Dyslexia because I didn’t like to read,” he added.

Wocelka credits the accident with diagnosing his blindness. “The accident was one of the biggest blessings there was in my life,” he said.

The driving force in Wocelka’s life is his 12-year-old daughter, Trinity. He admitted without her, he wouldn’t have anything to fight for. “There must be a reason why I’m still above ground,” Wocelka said. “If I didn’t have her, I would probably be under ground.”

He hopes to walk her down the aisle some day when she gets married.

## SHERIFF CAMPAIGN: *injustice?*

FROM A1

ation to create negativity and smear his name in an already hard-fought sheriff’s campaign between Thiele and veteran deputy Darrin Helget. Skillestad has openly supported Helget throughout the campaign.

“Greg comments about building relationships,” Thiele said. “By falsely claiming and slandering my name and accusing me of not helping out a fellow law enforcement officer is absolutely ridiculous.”

The sheriff didn’t stop there. “I am very disappointed with the chief and the Blooming Prairie Police Department,” Thiele said. “The inaccuracies and verbal attacks are unethical and unprofessional. The residents of Steele County deserve to have the truth, and I can no longer sit back and allow the lies and personal attacks,” he added.

### IMPLEMENTING MOCK CRASH

Thiele is also irate over allegations leveled against him in a letter to the editor published in last week’s Times from Del Peterson, a Blooming Prairie firefighter. In the letter, Peterson accused Thiele of not implementing the mock car crash held at Blooming Prairie High School in 2016 as Thiele noted in his campaign literature. “We need a sheriff that is not misleading the public,” Peterson wrote.

The sheriff pointed out he had everything to do with the mock crash and even went as far as to provide written documents that he saved supporting his claim.

In 2016, Justin Krell, a Blooming Prairie firefighter, reached out to Thiele for assistance with implementing the mock crash as Blooming Prairie had never hosted one before. Thiele had previously done several in other areas of the county.

“He found out I had put on mock crashes before, and he wanted ideas on how to get something like that started in Blooming Prairie,” Thiele said, noting Krell even came personally to his office at the Law Enforcement Center to get the insight on the program. “I assisted him with my past experience

and kept very thorough documents that would help him go forward with a mock crash,” he added.

The Times obtained an email after the 2016 mock crash with correspondence between Thiele and Krell. In the email dated April 4, 2016 at 8:12 p.m., the same day as the mock crash, Krell wrote, “I cannot thank you enough for your help on making this a great success! Thank you so much Lon!”

Thiele responded back to Krell the following day by writing, “I just wanted to say how proud I was to be able to work along-side everyone that share the same passion of safety for all. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of mock crash. It was a great idea to push... way to initiate it.”

Of his direct involvement with the Blooming Prairie mock crash, Thiele said, “Implemented ideas and assisted with the planning of role players. Even on the day of the mock crash, I was the one releasing the role players at the proper time.”

Thiele took offense to Peterson’s claim that he had nothing to do with the mock crash. “I was approached by one of their own firefighters and helped implement the program,” Thiele said. “I was an intricate part of the planning.”

### RIESS MURDER INVESTIGATION

The Lois Riess murder investigation has also become a focus in the sheriff’s race. According to Thiele, another BP officer is “falsely spreading” that the sheriff’s office refused to provide assistance in the investigation.

Thiele said his department was never involved in the case because it fell outside of Steele County’s jurisdiction. The murder took place in Dodge County. Thiele said the first time he even became aware of the Riess murder was from a local news agency on the following afternoon after the body had been discovered Friday night. He had been out of town and not aware of the incident until contacted by a journalist inquiring about it.

“As quickly as I found

out about it, I contacted (Dodge County) Sheriff (Scott) Rose and immediately asked if they needed our help,” Thiele said. “I was told by Rose that the BCA was assisting and our help was not needed.”

Reached about the claim last week, Rose confirmed his department received the original call and there would have been no reason for Steele County to respond. Rose also confirmed that Thiele reached out to him as he has other times in past incidents to offer assistance.

### DETENTION CENTER INQUIRY

Thiele has also taken heat from Helget’s campaign that he has burned bridges with the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office over an email Thiele sent a few months ago inquiring about if Waseca County had any interest in saving money for housing jail prisoners.

The Steele County Detention Center houses prisoners for other surrounding counties, including Waseca.

Helget claimed the Waseca sheriff did not know anything about the idea, according to Thiele.

However, Thiele provided proof that listed the Waseca sheriff first in a long list of recipients of the email. “It was purely an idea that was sent to Waseca County with the sheriff’s name first on the email,” Thiele said. “This has been portrayed that I’m burning bridges with Waseca County with the sheriff not knowing anything about it. That’s clearly not the case,” he added.

Thiele is upset with what has become one of the most negative sheriff’s campaigns in memory.

“Greg Skillestad, Darrin Helget and members of the Blooming Prairie Police Department talk about building relationships and cooperation, but they are the ones inciting the negativity and being vindictive in their actions and words,” Thiele said.

He added, “I’ve never been involved with so much hate and ugliness in a local campaign before. I can’t allow them to continue slandering me.”

## YOUR VIEW

CONTINUED FROM A2

### Sheriff Thiele saves the county money

To-the-Editor:

As a Steele County small business operator, I appreciate seeing the Steele County Sheriff’s Department turning around in my driveway. I know when they’ve been by, I know they’re there and I feel secure.

I personally met Lon Thiele on a trip going to the Coal Creek mine. I spent the day with Lon. I know how he treats people by how he treated me. Highly respected, Lon told me about the things that Steele County is accomplishing. It sounds like Lon is quite cost conscious and aware of the costs and operating the sheriff’s department. In Owatonna I appreciate it. Lon found a way for our department to receive new weapons at no cost to the county.

We talked about Steele-Waseca solar electrical water heater program. Lonnie was concerned with whether the system worked or not, and that he was concerned about the payback of investing in solar power. It seemed to me that Lon was cost-conscious, everything he dealt with in our all of our conversations was always about the costs and the operation, and the payback for the expense. It leads me to believe that Lon spends a lot of time saving Steele County money trying to operate the Sheriff’s Department.

As a small business owner in rural Steele County and as a constituent, I rely on the Steele County Sheriff, and I appreciate Lon’s service to me in particular and to the county.

Lonnie has my vote, and I will recommend him at any time.

BJ Schrank  
Blooming Prairie

### Sheriff Thiele is not a leader

After seeing misinformation in the paper, I wanted to share my experience with Sheriff Thiele, and why change is needed.

I was born and raised in Owatonna, graduated from Owatonna High School, and Steele County hired me as deputy. I worked for the Sheriff’s Office for 12 years. I was a member of the SWAT team, K-9 handler, Sergeant, firearms trainer, and coordinator for the field-training officers.

In no way was this job a stepping-stone for me. I was invested in the department and the community.

After Sheriff Thiele was elected, I realized he was not a leader.

My K-9 was ranked third nationally for narcotics detection and awarded multiple state awards. We were a well-respected K-9 unit in southern Minnesota, and located numerous suspects, illegal narcotics, currency, and evidence. I know my canine was used more than 23 times in eight years.

Thiele made countless decisions that not only isolated other agencies, but also put officers in danger. One example is when a trooper was shot at near Northfield, and the suspect was on the run and armed. I was requested to assist in locating the suspect with my K-9. Thiele ordered me to stop assisting with the search, indicated the agency should handle their own problems.

I was the first deputy to leave for a job elsewhere. In my exit interview with human resources, I was honest about the reasons I was leaving, and that Thiele needed to be addressed or others would leave too. I was right. Numerous others have left due to Thiele.

I worked with Darrin Helget closely in my time with Steele County, and know he is the right choice. He is ready to make the changes needed to restore morale and employee stability to the department.

Brian Bennett  
Former sheriff’s deputy  
Northfield

### Re-elect Petersburg for state rep

To-the-Editor:

John Petersburg is a true servant leader. He listens to all our concerns and suggestions, researches the issues, and then leads. John wants and values our input and is diligent to return our calls or emails as soon as possible.

Having served the last six years in St. Paul, John has the knowledge and experience that is crucial. John is respected among the legislators. Trusting him and knowing if he is strongly advocating for a project, such as Highway 14, the legislators realize the importance of the matter.

Final funding for Highway 14 was a major feat involving trust, respect, experience and leadership. John set up a meeting with the Commissioner of Transportation and invited several legislators who listened and agreed. Working endlessly in a collaborative manner, the bill was passed. We should see dirt moving next summer starting the project to complete Highway 14 to 4-lane from Owatonna to Rochester.

John is a proven pubic servant. As an advocate for education, John helped increase funding for our Owatonna and Waseca Schools this biennium. Putting student safety first, he helped pass \$25 million for school districts to fund necessary resources for safety needs. John helped secure funding for the Tink Larson Field and the Waseca Veterans Memorial. He serves on the tax committee and supported the largest tax relief package in more than two decades. John also worked with others to quickly lower health care costs and increase options for Minnesotans who have seen double-digit increases.

John has high integrity and serves us in St. Paul in a professional, knowledgeable, collaborative way. He listens, cares, and delivers.

Doug and I are honored that John is our voice in St. Paul. Please join us in voting for John Petersburg to continue representing us in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Connie Ruth  
Owatonna

### Sheriff Thiele has high integrity and deserves our vote

To-the-Editor:

In the Steele County Times (Oct. 16 edition), they mentioned letters have circulated in local newspapers as well as comments on social media over the past month giving a hint of negative campaigning in the sheriff’s race. Helget admits much of that stems from his campaign, but he has been “trying to keep it very professional” in everything that comes out.

I find that difficult to believe. His supporters have a Facebook page and are taking published letters, from the supporters of Sheriff Thiele, and criticizing them, paragraph by paragraph on this site. This is demeaning to the citizens of Steele County who are writing letters of support for Sheriff Thiele. A professional would have shut that Facebook page and supporters down immediately. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County?

Helget also said, in this article, “I didn’t want to be a finger pointer, but at the same time, some finger pointing is needed.” Just remember, when you point one finger, you have three coming back at you. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County?

At the Forum on Oct. 16, Helget said, “I will certainly give the respect that everyone deserves and earns and in return I hope for the same. Other than that, that’s all we can do is respect each other.” The negative campaigning shows no respect for the sheriff, the citizens of Steele County and the supporters of Sheriff Thiele. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County? No respect for anyone?

Sheriff Thiele’s approach has been different. “I refuse to have negative smear tactics. We are all about keeping on the high road.”

Sheriff Thiele has high Integrity. Vote Nov. 6 for the BEST candidate, Sheriff Lon Thiele.

Donna Harris  
Owatonna

## YOUR VIEW

CONTINUED FROM A2

### Sheriff did not lie about implementing mock crash in BP

To-the-Editor:

Throughout this campaign it has been incredibly difficult to consume all of the negativity and untruths being said and written about my husband, Sheriff Lon Thiele. I would like to address one of the untruths written in the Steele County Times by Del Peterson stating that “the current Sheriff did not implement the mock crash in Blooming Prairie.”

My husband has had a diverse law enforcement background that includes 28 years in law enforcement. With that, he has organized and led numerous mock crashes throughout his career. What Mr. Peterson failed to include in his letter was that Justin Krell, a BP firefighter, approached Sheriff Lon Thiele and asked for his assistance with the Mock Crash for the Blooming Prairie High School.

Mr. Krell came to Sheriff Thiele’s office and the sheriff pulled out a file filled with his past involvements with mock crashes he organized and led. Sheriff Thiele showed Mr. Krell

this information and provided an outline of things to include in the Mock Crash and people and resources to contact. At that time, Mr. Krell asked if Sheriff Thiele could help oversee the Mock Crash to ensure it all goes well; as the Sheriff had past successful experiences with these. Sheriff Thiele agreed. There are time/date stamped documents, a YouTube video of the mock crash along with Justin Krell confirming all of this information.

Mr. Peterson’s allegations are yet again another untruth being told. My husband was not lying when he listed on his campaign brochure that he helped implement the Mock Crash for the BPHS. In Mr. Peterson’s letter, he stated, “do your research.” Well, I did and you are mistaken sir. I can assure you that Lon Thiele has the highest integrity and is NOT misleading the public in any way. Are you?

Please vote to re-elect Sheriff Lon Thiele Nov. 6.

Brooke Thiele  
Owatonna



BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Animal: Deputies responded to a dangerous dog in the 200 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 5:28 p.m.

BP POLICE: *Probe* FROM A1

actively supporting Helget for sheriff while on duty. Jones said officers were warned that “the board of ethics doesn’t allow them to campaign in uniform.”

In the complaint filed with the POST Board, the complainant alleges that Chief Skillestad had gone to the door of a resident inquiring if they had been pressured into putting up a campaign sign for Sheriff Lon Thiele. When the resident assured him that she wasn’t, Skillestad told her that there were people who weren’t going to retire, but if (Thiele) gets elected, then they would retire, the complaint alleges.

A few days later the same resident received an email from Skillestad wanting to put up Helget’s sign since she had Thiele’s sign. “Because it is a small community and he was Chief of Police, she said

yes,” the complaint said.

After the incident was brought to the attention of Jones, Helget’s sign disappeared from the yard.

The complainant contacted a friend, who lives in Blooming Prairie and has a Thiele sign in his yard, on Sept. 28 to see if he would write a letter of support for Thiele. He responded, “I’m not going to do that. I already have the cops here watching me like hawks cuz I put that sign in my yard. I’m not gonna remove the sign but I also don’t want to be getting tickets for little stupid (expletive) because they are pissed at me.”

Another resident declined to write a letter of support for Thiele because “I don’t want anything coming back on our family.”

The complainant said, “This is what is prompting my complaint. I feel strongly

that this is wrong. I hold law enforcement to a higher standard. What they are doing is unethical, intimidating, threatening and borders on a form of terroristic threats.”

In the complaint, the complainant went on to say, “I do not feel safe going to Blooming Prairie because of these police officers. The fact that supporters of a candidate are afraid to write letters of support because of possible retaliation, convinces me that I am not alone in this feeling. People should feel safe and comfortable with the officers in their communities.”

The POST Board said the complaint will be reviewed by a Complaint Investigation Committee and staff. If POST determines it has jurisdiction, the case would be referred to an outside local or state police agency for a full investigation, according

to Mark Bloom, standards coordinator with POST. A determination on jurisdiction is expected within 30-60 days, he said.

Bloom said complaints of political campaigning against peace officers are “not very common.” He added POST gets a wide variety of complaints against officers, but generally not involving campaigning.

The Professional Conduct of Peace Officers Policy, which is governed by Minnesota statute, states peace officers shall not make any endorsements of political candidates while on duty or while wearing the agency’s official uniform.

City administrator Jones was unavailable for comment about the latest allegations against the police department.

CRIME BRIEF

LATE NIGHT CRAVING FOR CHEESEBURGER ENDS IN TRIP TO JAIL



KAUFMANN

A fast-food restaurant employee helped local police capture a suspected drunk driver.

Alexander Kaufmann, 22, of Owatonna has been charged in Steele County District Court with DWI and carrying a weapon without a permit. Both counts are gross misdemeanors. He also faces a misdemeanor charge of carrying a pistol under the influence of alcohol.

On Oct. 13, a McDonald’s employee in Owatonna called to report a possible drunk driver in the drive thru. As officers arrived, they saw Kaufmann’s vehicle trying to exit the parking lot, then stopping, then starting to move, jerking forward and stopped and then finally exiting out of the lot, according to police.

Police stopped the vehicle and found Kaufmann behind the wheel. He failed field sobriety tests and was placed under arrest for DWI, police said. During a search, police confiscated a 9 mm handgun in Kaufmann’s pocket.

Kaufmann provided police with a breath test, which showed his alcohol content at .16, which is twice the legal limit, police said.

Police said Kaufmann told them he’d be over the legal limit and all he wanted was (expletive) McDonalds.

COURT NEWS Steele County

*The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 8 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:*

**Brandon B. Hammond,** 28, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. Hammond was sentenced to \$1,430, 164 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 5 years of supervised probation.

**Michael E. Thanghe,** 39, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance sale of cocaine or meth. He was sentenced to \$131 and 90 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

*The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 8 – 12:*

**BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Irving U. Morales Barragan,** 21, Austin, cancelled license, \$281; Jonathon D. Preuss, 26, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

**MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Dale J. Lyke, 49,** Oronoco, possession of prohibited invasive species, \$381.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

**Connor C. Beer, 25,** Two Harbors, possession of marijuana, \$131; Joseph Collazo, 24, St. Paul, suspended license, \$281; Alok K. Epari, 45, Waukee, IA, speeding, \$281; Ahmed H. Gaber, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Maksim M. Garbaly, 23, Isanti, speeding, \$141; Solomon A. Habtesion, 41, Ottumwa, IA, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Ravindra A. Hollman, 38, Blue Earth, revoked license, \$281; Daniel J. Knockel, 27, Marion, IA, speeding, \$121; Devin A. Koch, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Richard L. Kvenvold, 68, Albert Lea, speeding, \$221; Brian J. Marnholtz, 48, Northfield, speeding, \$121; Mohamed S. Megenow, 25, Amarillo, TX, speeding, \$121; Thomas F. Merten, 30, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Benjamin A. Prado, 41, Austin, no license, \$181; Nathan W. Quast, 34, Faribault, suspended license and seat belt, \$306; Randy R. Rueber, 35, Jesup, IA, vehicle axle weight violation, \$281; Ethan C. Spronk, 29, Washington, IA, careless driving, \$181; Brock A. Stephenson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Andrew D. Story, 31, Kenyon, vehicle axle

weight violation, \$281; Philip R. Van Niekerk, 44, Kenyon, speeding, \$181; Crystal L. Williamson, 35, Blue Earth, seat belt, \$106.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Stephanie L. Barnett,** 38, Northfield, revoked license, \$281; Alexis D. Boraas-Stueber, 22, Park Falls, WI, speeding, \$221; Brandon D. Borchert, 37, Geneva, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Catherine M. Buck, 65, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Stacy M. Callahan, 42, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Evangelina Castro, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Tawnee J. Cunningham, 25, theft, \$131 and 30 days in county jail; Sarah W. Eaton, 30, Owatonna, theft, \$331; Connor J. Eischen, 18, Kenyon, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Spencer C. Espe, 22, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Sara J. Harty, 26, Geneva, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Christopher A. Hondl, 47, Currie, domestic assault, \$81, 42 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Tyler J. Johnson, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Emily R. Kazee, 38, Faribault, texting while driving, \$356; Krista M. Krogh, 25, Medford, stop sign, \$131; Robert Martinez, 35, Blooming Prairie, open bottle and obstruct legal process, \$181; Kenneth W. Ness, 54, Middle River, disorderly conduct, \$151; Arletha J. Powell, 26, Owatonna, headlights violation, revoked license and no insurance, \$521; Teriann Powell, 36, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Janet A. Springer, 58, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Emily A. Wagner, 30, Faribault, theft and trespassing, \$181, no trespassing at Walmart and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Jeffrey A. Anderson,** 46, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Jessicia S. Brannen, 37, Medford, speeding, \$221; John R. Bulver, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$181; Allie E. Busse, 19, Le Center,

speeding, \$141; Benjamin J. Davidson, 30, Chatfield, DWI, theft of motor vehicle (stay of adjudication), \$1,080, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Arely J. Enriquez Morales, 18, Owatonna, no license and speeding, \$231; Zachary S. Gilliver, 33, Coon Rapids, DWI, \$381, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Kainoa M. Hart, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Ivan Lopez, 26, Medford, speeding, \$131; Judith M. Madsen, 69, Faribault, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Chase N. Overland, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Aaron J. Schroht, 37, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jason T. Walley, 40, Penryn, CA, speeding, \$221; Adama S. Youhn, 31, Austin, suspended license, stay of adjudication, \$181 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

**BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE Oct. 14**

**Domestic:** Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Center Ave. N. at 11:38 a.m.

**OWATONNA POLICE Oct. 12**

**Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:54 a.m.

**Oct. 13**

**Driving:** At 1:24 a.m., police responded to a driving complaint in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. They arrested a subject.

**DWI:** Officers arrested a subject for driving while intoxicated at 21st Ave. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 1:30 a.m.

**Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Holly St. SW at 9:26 a.m.

**Threats:** Police responded to a subject making threats in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 1:37 p.m.

**Oct. 14**

**Shoplifting:** At 3:10 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

**Theft:** Police received a theft report from the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:01 p.m.

**Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:53 p.m.

**Oct. 15**

**Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:43 p.m.

**Oct. 16**

**Warrant:** officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:08 a.m.

**Oct. 17**

**Domestic:** Police responded to a domestic disturbance on Wilson Dr. NW at 12:37 a.m. They arrested a subject on the scene.

**Warrant:** Police made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 8:36 a.m.

**Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 11:33 a.m.

**Shoplifting:** At 6:46 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

**Oct. 18**

**Theft:** At 3:59 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW.

**Shoplifting:** A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:30 p.m.

**Thefts:** Police took theft reports in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:57 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.

**Intoxication:** At 10:19 p.m., police arrested an intoxicated subject who was making a disturbance in the 100 block of 24th Place NW.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF Oct. 13**

**DWI:** Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at County Road 45 N. and 36th St. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 8:15 p.m.

**Oct. 14**

**Arrest:** Deputy arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 9000 block of Highway 14 E. in Havana Township at 9:48 a.m.

**Oct. 15**

**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:47 p.m.

**Assault:** At 8:13 p.m., an assault occurred at the detention center.

**Oct. 16**

**Harassment:** At 11:46 a.m., deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford.

**Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 10:14 p.m.

**Crash:** At 10:52 p.m., a car hit a deer at 72nd Ave. SW and 98th St. SW in Lemond Township.

**Suspicion:** Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 42000 block of 46th St. NW in Deerfield Township at 11:55 p.m.

**Oct. 18**

**Arrest:** Deputy arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 64th Ave. SE and Highway 14 E. in Havana Township at 4:48 a.m.

**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 1st St. SE in Medford at 11:48 a.m.

**Animal:** Deputies responded to a dangerous dog in the 200 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 5:28 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

**OWATONNA POLICE**

**Alexander James Kaufman,** 22, arrested at 3:40 a.m. Oct. 13, DWI, dangerous weapon and carrying without a permit, held for court.

**Julio Caballero Cano,** 45, arrested at 3:20 a.m. Oct. 17, felony assault, domestic assault and malicious punishment of a child, held for court.

**Stephen Dejon Strickland,** 30, arrested at 7:19 p.m. Oct. 18, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

**Kristin Marie Koster,** 22, arrested at 12:05 a.m. Oct. 19, felony assault on police, damage to property and obstruction, held for court.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF**

**Vanessa Aguilar,** 39, arrested on Oct. 12, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

**Jose Juan Nieto Arce,** 23, arrested on Oct. 12, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

**Samuel Christian Bolton,** 20, arrested at 12:35 p.m. Oct. 12, felony probation violation – burglary, held for court.

**Thok Kun Chuol,** 22, arrested at 2:32 p.m. Oct. 13, domestic abuse and violation of order for protection, held for court.

**Angela Marie Cisneros,** 38, arrested at 12:50 p.m. Oct. 14, domestic assault, held for court.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

**Chad Edmund Seys,** 49, arrested on Oct. 18, cancelled license, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

*The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 8 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:*

**Jose M. Sanchez,** 40, Seagoville, TX, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of cocaine/heroin/meth and gross misdemeanor possession of pistol. Sanchez was sentenced to 85 months in St. Cloud State Prison and 1 year in county jail.

*The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 8 – 15:*

**DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Charise G. Brock,** 48, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Damien J. Eddins, 21, Dover, invalid license, \$180; Melissa L. Hitchcock, 31, Hayfield, speeding, \$220; Ian S. Ovrebo, 18, Byron, minor consumption, open bottle and possession of paraphernalia, \$330; Jesus Reyes, 23, Amarillo, TX, invalid license, \$180; Angel L. Sheehan, 49, Champlin, parking violation, \$32; Randy L. Starkson, 58, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Dakota R. Vidales, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; William P. Wyttenback, 47, Dodge Center, suspended license, no insurance and registration violation, \$810.

**KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Paul L. Boxrucker,** 62, Dover, seat belt, \$105; Nashawn D. Fields, 20, Kasson, invalid license, \$180; Ebony M. Haughton, 31, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Christopher A. Heaser, 42, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Parker M. Hiller, 19, Kasson, texting while driving, \$130; Christopher J. Hilliard, 20, Kasson, suspended license and expired registration, \$310; Ryan M. Lee, 48, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Laura R. Madsen, 33, Glenwood, texting while driving, \$130; Andrew O. Nordby, 41, Owatonna, theft of motor fuel from retailer, 90 days in county jail; Randy L. Severson, 61, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Benjamin E. Storing, 29, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Matthew T. Tomlinson, 39, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Brandon V. Urista, 23, Kasson, stop sign, \$130; Telisha M. Vandewalker, 31, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

**Jacob L. Backen-Vanmaanen,** 23, Austin, revoked license and speeding, \$320; Chelsea A. Bischoff, 26, Dundas, speeding, \$130; Brittany N. Edgar, 26, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Amy L. Fogal, 39, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Elijah C. Gist, 20, Kenyon, expired license, \$180; Shelia J. Moore, 57, Lyle, speeding, \$140; Anthony S. Porisch, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$280; Nicholas P. Rietherimer, 38, Waltham, revoked license and seat belt, \$305.

**WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Jesus D. Anez,** 41, Claremont, speeding, \$140; Todd A. Bartelt, 55, Kenyon, speeding, \$130; Matthew W. McCollom, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Daryl J. Theis, 35, Raleigh, NC, speeding, \$280.

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

1. George Shelton – possession of pistol – no bail

2. Ricky Shelton – assault – no bail

3. Thomas Siagiannis – seat belt - \$1,000 bail

4. Oscar Sias – terroristic threats - \$25,000 bail

5. Pedro Sifuentes – DWI – no bail

6. Angela Silvas – assault - \$1,000 bail

7. Michael Sinn – revoked license, no insurance - \$1,000 bail
8. Christopher Smith – vehicular operation – no bail

9. David Kenneth Smith – theft - \$20,000 bail

10. Paul Randall Smock – possession of stolen property - \$20,000 bail

11. Alan Sobey – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail

12. Gumecindo Solis – child endangerment - \$3,000 bail

13. Jorge Solis – agg violation - \$3,000 bail
14. Josefina Solis – child neglect - \$3,000 bail

15. Michael Sommerfield – theft - \$500 bail

16. Michael Sorenson – DWI – no bail

17. Jose Sosa – DWI – no bail

18. Shane Spencer – traffic - \$1,000 bail

19. Tony Staten – DANCO violation - \$10,000 bail

20. Caleb Stewart – controlled substance - \$27,000 bail

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



# Saluting Survivors Encouraging Awareness Remembering Loved Ones

THERE ARE CHAMPIONS OF COURAGE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

They are people who have survived breast cancer, are currently battling breast cancer and are committed to the treatment and care of those with breast cancer. During this National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we share personal accounts from area women who have extraordinary survival stories of combatting cancer and the toll it has taken on them and their families.



## Champions of courage

### BRENDA WANOUS

My Cancer Story

#### Preventive screenings detect cancer

By BRENDA WANOUS

Bloomington Prairie breast cancer survivor

My breast cancer journey began years before my official diagnosis in January of 2018.

Having a history of breast cancer in the family, I faithfully completed my annual mammograms as recommended. Over time, however, the preventive screenings became more and more complicated.

While it was always typical for me to be called back for additional images after each mammogram, the evaluations progressed to needing ultrasounds, then MRIs and ultimately biopsies to clarify the suspicious areas of concern.

After years of complications, it seemed to me that it wasn't a question of if I'd ever get breast cancer, but more a question of when.

The phone call I received confirming I had cancer kicked off a whirlwind of additional doctor visits. Given that my grandmother died from breast cancer years ago and my mom's recent bout with breast cancer, I completed genetic testing and learned that I am not a BRCA carrier.

The oncologist explained that my type of cancer (HER2-negative/ER/PR-positive) would not require me to undergo chemotherapy. My surgeon outlined that due to the small size of the tumor, I was a candidate for a lumpectomy, followed by radiation therapy, or, if preferred, I could choose mastectomy of my left cancerous breast and forego radiation. Choosing either of these options, however, required that I commit to future cancer screenings at six month intervals due to my classification as high risk.

After careful consideration and prayer, I opted for a much more aggressive treatment plan and underwent skin-sparing bilateral mastectomy in February, 2018.

The removal of both of my breasts significantly reduced my risk of breast cancer recurrence and brought an end to the cycle of screenings, along with the associated worry while awaiting results.

I'm currently recovering from my first breast reconstruction surgery and am making plans for my second, and hopefully final, reconstruction surgery later this year.

Throughout this "year of cancer" I've come to appreciate my many blessings. I'm fortunate to have access to the high-quality care and resources at the Mayo Clinic that caught my cancer early and have successfully treated me these past months.

My husband has been by my side at every appointment and cared for me after returning home from each surgery. I'm surrounded by a loving family and a circle of friends who provided much comfort and helped to alleviate the boredom I experienced during my medical leaves.

And, I've been on the receiving end of the generosity of the Bloomington Prairie cancer Group and am grateful to live in a community where so many contribute and volunteer their time with the goal of ending cancer.

I've witnessed many others that have had a much more difficult journey than mine. I can't help but think I'm one of the LUCKY ones.



### GAIL ANDERSON

My Cancer Story

#### A shower changed my life forever

By GAIL ANDERSON

Bloomington Prairie breast cancer survivor

Little did I know that taking a shower one day would change my life forever. But that was what happened.

I was in the shower washing when I felt "it". A lump. Once they know its cancer, everything happens lightning fast but at the same time, not fast enough.

Because of a BRCA (Breast cancer) 1 - gene mutation and triple negative diagnoses, my cancer was considered aggressive and was treated that way.

I did five months of intense chemotherapy, followed by a double mastectomy and later had my ovaries and fallopian tubes removed as a precaution. Even though I was living my worst nightmare, I tried not to show it.

My sons were 8 and 12 and I didn't want them to have to shoulder the burden of my diagnosis. So, I tried to keep their life as normal as possible. I just kept my eyes on the ball and powered through.

Everyone talks about chemo and losing your hair, and being sick but what they don't tell you is the lifelong effects of chemo after you are done.

Bone and joint pain, fatigue, insomnia, neuropathy, infertility, early menopause and heart problems are some of the side effects, just to name a few.

Don't get me wrong, I am grateful to be living the life I am now and am able to continue to live. Everything comes at a cost.

I am incredibly thankful for my family of doctors at the Mayo Breast center. Once I was diagnosed, I requested to be transferred immediately and it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

We live close to one of the world's greatest hospitals and should not take it for granted.

Also, none of it would have been possible without the overwhelming love and support of my family and friends. The Bloomington Prairie cancer Group was wonderful.

The BP cancer Group was there for my family every step of the way and knew exactly what to give and when. If there is one thing you take from this, I hope that everyone understands how important self exams are.

Many women still neglect to take the necessary steps to try to detect breast cancer in its early stages, when there is a far greater chance of survival.



### LISA REESE

My Cancer Story

#### Cancer is everywhere

By LISA REESE

Bloomington Prairie breast cancer survivor

1 out of 8 - no one ever thinks it can happen to them. It does. Look around, cancer is everywhere. Fight like a girl, save 2nd base, save the tatas - save the woman! One word - Mammogram. schedule yours today. Don't feel like its an option because cancer spreads fast and early detection is everything! July 2017 - At 43, my doctor and fiancé pleaded with me to have one, so I did. They didn't like what they saw so I asked for a referral to the Breast clinic at Mayo in Rochester for my second one as they have improved technology. Breast cancer that had been in me for a while, as it was a slow growing cancer fed by estrogen starting to spread to my lymph nodes. After two kinds of chemo for five months, Lumpectomy, and Proton Radiation for 30 days

- I AM ALIVE!

Thankful for family and friends and strangers that gave me a smile on the street because you don't know what battles are being fought. Thankful for Gonda 2 and Gonda 10 medical staff, nurses, and doctors. Thankful for wigs. Thankful for the BP cancer Group, Geneva cancer Group and the Austin chamber of commerce Ambassadors for all the financial support and everyone else who has helped me financially. Thankful for my daughter, Marlene who came to every chemo appointment during her first year of college, and who knitted me my first hat and blanket. Thankful for my fiancé Wes, for so many things, mostly the love he showed for me during the ugliest time in my life.

Again - 1 out of 8 - no one ever thinks it can happen to them. It does. Look around, cancer is everywhere.



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How to Manage Restless Leg Syndrome

Dear Savvy Senior, What can you tell me about restless leg syndrome? I'm 58 years old, and frequently have jerky, uncontrollable urges to move my legs, accompanied by a tingling sensation, and it keeps me awake at night. Jumpy John

Dear John, If an irresistible urge to move your legs has you kicking in your sleep, then chances are pretty good you have restless leg syndrome (RLS), a condition that affects 7 to 10 percent of Americans. Here's what you should know. RLS, also known as Willis-Ekbom Disease, is a nervous system problem that causes uncomfortable sensations (often described as a creepy-crawly feeling, tingling, itching, throbbing, pulling or aching) and an irresistible urge to move one or both legs while you're sitting or lying down, and the symptoms usually get worse with age. It typically happens in the evenings or nights while resting. Moving eases the unpleasant feeling temporarily. While RLS is not a life-threatening condition, the main problem, other than it being uncomfortable and annoying, is that it disrupts sleep, leading to daytime drowsiness, difficulty concentrating and even depression. What exactly causes RLS is not known, but researchers suspect it could be linked to several things including iron deficiency, an imbalance of the brain chemical dopamine, and genetics – about 60 percent of people with RLS have a family member with the condition.

TREATMENT OPTIONS While there's no cure for RLS, there are things you can do to alleviate the symptoms. Depending on the severity of your case, some people turn to RLS medications like gabapentin enacarbil (Horizant), an anticonvulsant, and dopamine agonists ropinirole (Requip), rotigotine (Neupro) and pramipexole (Mirapex). But be aware that these drugs have side

effects including nausea, lightheadedness, fatigue and insomnia. And, while these medications can provide short-term relief, they can also make symptoms worse in many people who use them long term. So before turning to medication, you should consider some of the following natural RLS treatments first, which are very effective for most people.

Check your iron levels. Iron deficiency is believed to be one of the major contributors to RLS, so make an appointment with your doctor and get a blood test to check for this. If you test positive for iron deficiency, your doctor may recommend iron supplements.

Exercise: Getting moderate, regular exercise like walking, cycling, water aerobics and yoga can relieve symptoms, but overdoing it or exercising late in the day may intensify them. Daily leg stretches – include calf, hamstring, quadriceps and hip flexor stretches – are also helpful.

Check your medications: Certain drugs including antinausea drugs, antipsychotic drugs, some antidepressants, and cold and allergy medications containing sedating antihistamines can make RLS worse. If you take any of these, ask your doctor if something else can be prescribed.

Avoid triggers: Alcohol, caffeine, nicotine and refined sugar can all make RLS symptoms worse.

Try these remedies: Soaking in a hot bathtub and massaging your legs can relieve symptoms, as can applying a hot pad and/or ice pack to your legs. Pressure can also help, so consider wearing compression socks or stockings. There's also a new non-drug FDA approved vibrating pad on the market called Relaxis that interrupts RLS episodes and can provide relief to those who use it.

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

Sheriff Thiele has high integrity and deserves our vote

To-the-Editor: In the Steele County Times (Oct. 16 edition), they mentioned letters have circulated in local newspapers as well as comments on social media over the past month giving a hint of negative campaigning in the sheriff's race. Helget admits much of that stems from his campaign, but he has been "trying to keep it very professional" in everything that comes out.

I find that difficult to believe. His supporters have a Facebook page and are taking published letters, from the supporters of Sheriff Thiele, and criticizing them, paragraph by paragraph on this site. This is demeaning to the citizens of Steele County who are writing letters of support for Sheriff Thiele. A professional would have shut that Facebook page and supporters down immediately. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County?

Helget also said, in this article, "I didn't want to be a finger pointer, but at the same time, some finger pointing is needed." Just remember, when you point one finger, you have three coming back at you. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County?

At the Forum on Oct. 16, Helget said, "I will certainly give the respect that everyone deserves and earns and in

return I hope for the same. Other than that, that's all we can do is respect each other." The negative campaigning shows no respect for the sheriff, the citizens of Steele County and the supporters of Sheriff Thiele. Is this the kind of sheriff we want in Steele County? No respect for anyone?

Sheriff Thiele's approach has been different. "I refuse to have negative smear tactics. We are all about keeping on the high road."

Sheriff Thiele has high Integrity. Vote Nov. 6 for the BEST candidate, Sheriff Lon Thiele.

Donna Harris Owatonna

To the editor:

In 2012, Sheriff Thiele hired me as a deputy for the Steele County Sheriff's Office. I had previous law enforcement experience in the southwest part of the state but wanted to get back to the area I was born and raised. I thought I was coming to a great agency where I would spend the rest of my career.

I was momentarily wrong. Instead, I found myself in an unmotivated and low morale work environment. During the ensuing three years, I witnessed Sheriff Thiele intimidate other employees, gossip about other employees regarding disciplinary incidents, and found myself questioned about citations and arrests I made involving the sheriff's

friends. Those are the actions of a bully, not a leader.

By 2015, I had endured enough of the toxic workplace and left for another police job.

When I left, Steele County lost a defensive tactics instructor, oleoresin capicum instructor, handgun instructor, patrol rifle instructor, field training officer, Drug Recognition Evaluator and instructor, standardized field sobriety instructor, Towards Zero Deaths grant agency coordinator, Crisis Intervention Team certified officer, shotgun armorer, and Glock armorer.

And who was stuck footing the bill to train a new deputy to replace me? The taxpayers. And the revolving door of deputies has been an all too common occurrence during the Thiele reign.

As recently as July of this year, a current deputy reached out to me about Sheriff Thiele making derogatory remarks about me being a "bad apple" and only leaving Steele County, "because I had written everyone a ticket." This is only reassurance that I made the right decision to leave.

I am still a Steele County resident and have no plans of leaving. The current deputies deserve a real leader, and the taxpayers deserve an accountable sheriff. Vote for Helget!

Nick Donahue Former sheriff's deputy Medford

10 Years Ago Oct. 21, 2008

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Nov. 4, 2008 is not only an important day for the political system, but also extremely important to the Blooming Prairie School District. The need for more money through a levy referendum is up for vote.

When Blooming Prairie High School senior setter Resha Koster achieved 1,000 assists as a sophomore, she set her goal for 2,000. On Oct. 14, Koster obtained that goal against Southland High School in Adams.

Blooming Prairie Police officer Jim Loverink was placed on administrative leave while he was investigated for misconduct. Following the leave, Loverink resigned, leaving a full-time position open. The City Council agreed to hire Jacob Peterson as a full-time officer. "We have a Blossom as a full-time cop, that's nice to see," said Mayor H. Peterson.

The Westfield Lutheran Church's new basement is completed and is ready for people to enjoy. It was an old foundation and it feel apart. Dale Underwood had a drive to raise money for and it has been a year process. There is a brand new furnace and high ceilings. The dedication was Sunday with about 250 people.

20 Years Ago Oct. 21, 1998

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Lansing Corners, a local landmark steakhouse, today announced that 1998 is its 50th year in business. "We began serving steaks and ribs in 1948," said Ron Valentine, owner of the restaurant. "I am pleased to say we have made thousands of friends in the community since then." Valentine credits the restaurant's success to its commitment to serving great meals the "old fashion way" and the dedicated staff of the restaurant.

The Blooming Prairie City Council got to finally hear what's been waiting for-the update on the former Pine Vie'w Trailer Park. The council should see a final plat and development agreement at the November meeting. Only one of seven trailers remains inhabited in the trailer park, which is still in the northern part of the acreage.

Harold and Vivian Ulrich invited the BP firemen and their wives to a dinner hosted by them at their home in appreciation of all the work the firemen did in fundraising for a new truck. Approximately 50 people attended the dinner on Oct. 5.

50 Years Ago Oct. 17, 1968

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

A taxy levy of \$579,000 was approved at the regular monthly meeting of the Blooming Prairie School Board held Tuesday, Oct. 8. This year's levy is up \$91,000 over last year's levy and will result in an estimated tax increase of approximately 25 mills.

The Blooming Prairie Municipal Light Plant reported a net income for the 12 months period ending Dec. 31, 1967 of \$28,365. Total revenue for the light plant was \$157,607.

Harriet Ressler, proprietor of Harriet's Dres-wel in Blooming Prairie, announced this week that she has rented the former Shaw Drug Co. building and will open a second store in the near future. Mrs. Ressler plans to move her infants and children's wear merchandise and also her linen stock into the former Shaw building. Steele County residents will ballot on two bond issue proposals for \$995,000 each at the Nov. 5 General Election. The first plan will ask the people of the county for approval to construct a new 84-bed county nursing home and the second proposal will ask permission to bond for construction of a judicial building in Owatonna.

75 Years Ago Oct. 21, 1943

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Living in suspense since June 23, when Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zweiner, Blooming Prairie, received word from the War Department informing them that their son was reported missing in action, another message from the Department arrived on Tuesday morning telling of the death of their son, Staff Sgt. Mylan Zweiner. The message brought to light the heroic death of Blooming Prairie's first son to die in action for his country in World War II.

Blooming Prairie volunteer firefighters received a taste of city firemen life the past week by being called out three times from Friday until Tuesday. The fire department responded to a chimney fire on the Clara Ankeny residence in Lansing, the Ross Ferguson farm southwest of BP for a condemned hemp fire that got out of control and the Charley Herron farm for a short circuit on a tractor-corn picker machine. Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Wajahn are home again-back in the Blooming Prairie cafe and bakery. After remodeling the bakery building, making extensive improvements in the kitchen and painting and redecorating the cafe, Wajahns reopened their former place of business first of this week.

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# SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS



## RESLER GENETICS CELEBRATES BEST YEAR AT STATE FAIR

BY CHRIS BALDWIN, STAFF WRITER

Steven Resler learned firsthand how to continue the family business. When he was young, he took care of two hogs, and when he was in his 20s, he took over the operation of his family farm.

His grandfather retired around 20 years ago, and his father still helps out on their 360 acres, but today's operation is Resler's. "It's been almost 80 years that we've had hogs," Resler recalled.

The farm was originally a crop farm, along with some dairy cows. "We had a dairy herd," he remembered. "But we haven't had cows for 20 years."

Today they still keep a handful of beef cows to supplement their large hog operation as well as sell breeding stock. With 100 sows and roughly 1,500 hogs per year, Resler said that their facilities are currently maxed at this level, and that's definitely a good thing.

They still do a little crop farming, but most of the 360 acres are rented out so that they can focus on the porcine side of things. The focus seems to be paying off, as this year they scored big at the State Fair. "We probably had our best year ever," Resler said. "We had five 4-H champions and reserve champions at the State Fair." Resler also revealed that they've shown hogs at the national level.

Resler's success can be chalked up to his interest in the genetics side of things. When it comes to hogs, he's always trying to improve the end product. "Every generation we try to make a better product, we deal a lot with pure breeds."

"A lot of it is kind of the art of it, knowing the pedigrees and studying the bloodlines," Resler continued. "There's a lot of science that goes into pig farming as a whole, but there's also the human aspect with an operation like ours," he added while comparing Resler Genetics to the larger, commercial swine enterprises.

Although he enjoys the work, and admitted that he wouldn't want to be doing anything else, hog farming, like anything, can come with its own challenges. "It can be anything from day to day, but that's always part of it, and that's what keeps it interesting and fun," Resler said.

"Probably the biggest challenge is bio-security and maintaining a healthy herd," he explained. "We strive to do this right and keep our animals healthy."

Beside the effect of some of the recent tariffs, which did lead to a downward trend earlier in the summer, Resler currently sees the pork economy on the rise. "Right now, things in the last month have trended upwards in terms of pricing, there's always a demand, so long term it looks good," he said.

While agriculture as a whole is always going to be a large swath of the nation's economy, the pork industry also carries an added value for the local community. "Oh yeah, I mean, as far as overall, it's quite large, we're in an

area where we produce a lot of corn and soybeans, and those are our main feed, and so we're able to use feedstock that's grown locally," he explained. "It definitely helps the economy right here."

Resler cut his farming chops early in life, recalling that he's been working in some capacity on the farm, "since I could walk, and when I was 14 I helped pretty much every day on the farm." He would later take over the bulk of operations while he was studying Agricultural Education and Animal Science at South Dakota State University.

It used to be that farming was more of a discipline best learned while on the job, but now, with recent innovations and the continued competition, Resler does think that having a degree helps. "For any young person who has aspirations on the farm, it's necessary to have a degree, either in the business or financial side or else the in agricultural aspects," he said.

With farms becoming bigger and bigger, and the financial side becoming an area of greater concern, Resler explained that, "you need to be pretty astute financially today to be able to be a successful farmer."

**"Probably the biggest challenge is bio-security and maintaining a healthy herd. We strive to do this right and keep our animals healthy."**

— Steven Resler  
Area Pork Producer

There are always many changes that come with any type of farming, and hog farming is certainly no different. "The hog industry in general is one that constantly evolves and changes," Resler opined. "How hogs are raised today from 20 or 30 years ago has changed drastically, and the efficiency and productivity has constantly gotten better."

"It's changed a lot over the last 20 years, and that won't slow down," he said. "You have to be sure that you do stay up to date with it, and you need to adapt and stay current. You need to constantly push yourself to think in order to stay ahead and stay with it."

Resler finds that there are multiple avenues into farming, and explained how, "you can have people from other backgrounds who become good operators." Still, there is an added leg up in learning the tricks of the trade early in life.

"You grow to develop a fondness for it, and you have a bond with the land, and with nature, and with your animals," he said of growing up on a farm. "You are immersed in it from a young age and that becomes who you are."

On his own upbringing, and love of the business, Resler said that, "it was what dad and grandpa did, and I wanted to be in their shadow all the time." With such accountability at such a young age, Resler feels that farming can teach a young person much about life. "At a young age you given a lot of responsibility, and are putting other needs before your own. It instills a lot of strong work ethic and good values," he said.

He finds that the farming community in Steele County is a close knit one, and said that, "there's a lot of comradery and respect for your neighbors and there's always people helping others out. We take care of each other."

As far as farming goes for Resler, he's "always been part of it," and with a few kids of his own with his wife Jill and his eyes always planted on the horizon, he said, "it's a goal of ours to ensure that there's a future there, if they so choose." With such a booming operation, the future looks bright for the Resler's.



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If you have any questions about these issues, please contact us at the library. Don't forget our book sale during library hours Thursday through Saturday!

Keep it in Minnesota featured at the Village Affair

**BY HOWARD LESTRUD**  
STAFF WRITER

It's all about Minnesota Nice.

That cliché will be so true when people visit The Village Affair holiday bazaar at the Blooming Prairie High School on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The 46th Annual Village Affair will be staged in the halls, gymnasium and commons area of the high school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Many of the holiday gift items for sale at the Village Affair have been made in Minnesota by Minnesotans.

To add some sparkle to the event, the sponsors, AAUW (American Association of University Women) and Women of Today, will be selling \$2 raffle tickets with the prize being a jam-packed basket of goodies featuring Minnesota items.

Raffle tickets can be purchased the day of the bazaar. The winner will be drawn at 3 p.m. Need not be present to win.

Let's take a look at some of the items that will be in the raffle basket:

- Minnesota bamboo cutting board; Blooming Prairie note cards; "A Country Doctor's Casebook: Tales from the North Woods;"



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This cheery looking basket will be a raffle prize given away at the Blooming Prairie Village Affair at the BPHS on Saturday, Oct. 27. It features all Minnesota items. The Village Affair, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is sponsored by the AAUW (American Association of University Women) and Women of Today.

tees Village Affair co-chairs Pam Folkens and Mandy Doocy.

Lunch will be served from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food will be prepared by Conger Inn Victory Catering of Conger. Beverages and goodies will be served all day.

Funds from the event are directed to scholarships next spring. Students are en-

OLSON: Retirement FROM A1

Olson retired in 2013, but in the same meeting he announced his retirement, the school board approved a contract with School Administrative Specialty Services LLC, (SASS) to employ him in the same role.

"I retired from Teachers Retirement Association (TRA)," Olson said. "In other words I reached the Rule of 90."

The Rule of 90 allows Minnesota public employees to retire with an unreduced pension once their years of service plus their age equal 90, as long as they began teaching before June 30, 1989.

"When that happens the school can't hire me back," he said. "But they hired the School Administrative Specialty Services company to run their administrative program, and that program hired me."

Olson grew up in Minnetonka, but started his career in education in Nebraska, where he taught for seven years. He then taught at Blooming Prairie from 1983 to 1987 before spending the next 12 years in Owatonna teaching middle school science.

Olson pitched for the Owatonna Aces for four seasons and was Huskies girls' basketball coach for 12 seasons. He averaged 18 wins per season during his tenure and led three teams to MSHSL state tournament.

In 1999, Olson's Huskies went 26-2, won the Big 9 Conference and advance to the Class 3A state championship game.

Olson returned to Blooming Prairie in 1999 and initially worked as the high school principal before also becoming the district's superintendent.

"It's been a great 20 years here in Blooming Prairie," Olson said. "I think we have accomplished a lot. You get close to the people you work with and when you retire you will miss those people, but it's just time. It's a good time to go, and I am sure they will hire somebody that will keep it moving."

School Board Chairman Rodney Krell jokingly asked Olson during the school board meeting if he was sure he didn't want to go one more year.

"I think I'm done," Olson replied. "We had a good run."

Krell said he plans to form an ad hoc committee, meet with administration and try to develop plan on finding a replacement.

"Hopefully by the beginning of the year we will have that plan developed and know which direction we want to go," he said, adding hiring a outside firm to conduct the search is an option. "But the only bad thing about that is that it does cost a lot of money. We also want community input. Every position is important in this district. This position is important because it's going to dictate

the direction of our district in the future."

Krell hopes to begin interviewing candidates by February or March and have a new superintendent named by April.

"I'd like to thank Mr. Olson," Krell said, after reading Olson's retirement letter to the board. "For not only your years as administrator in this district, but also as a teacher. You were [school board member] Jon [Sunde] and I's seventh-grade teacher. So we have a long relationship together in education. You will definitely be missed, but you will never be forgotten."

The following is a transcription of Olson's retirement letter to the Blooming Prairie School Board on Monday, Oct. 15:

"Dear Rodney Krell, chair of the Blooming Prairie School Board:

This letter to inform you, formally, that my intent is to retire from the position of Superintendent of Blooming Prairie Public Schools at the end of 2018-19 school year. My position with School Administrative Specialty Services will be done, so the contract with SASS will not be renewed after the school year. It has been a rewarding and gratifying professional experience the last 20 years working as an administrator for Blooming Prairie Schools. I believe we have accomplished much in all areas of education for our district, and I feel that this district is in a very good position moving forward. We as a team, the school board and administration, have created an environment that is safe and rewarding for our students. I will always respect and hold in high regard the school board, the staff, the students and the community of Blooming Prairie. I wish you the best in future and go Blossoms."

Sincerely,  
Barry W. Olson

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**Oct 24** Baked Chicken/Gravy, Baked Dumpling, Broccoli, Carrot Coin Salad, Ice Cream

**Oct 25** Roast Beef/Mashed/Gravy, Stewed Tomatoes, Homemade Wheat Roll, Melon Wedge

**Oct 26** Hamburger on Bun/Pickles, Potato Salad, Calico Beans, Ginger Snap

**Oct 29** Salisbury Steak or Liver & Onions, Baked potato/Sour Cream, Seasoned Peas/Celery, Grapes

**Oct 30** Beef Stroganoff/Noodles, Green Beans, Mixed Greens/ Dressing, Dinner Roll, Applesauce

**Oct 31** Meatloaf, Boiled Red Potatoes, Succotash, Pears in Caramel sauce

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Applications are being accepted for a special education paraprofessional at BP Elementary School.

Each day that students are in attendance throughout the school year will be working days.

Hours from 8:00am - 3:00pm (ie 6.5 hours per day).

Request an application by calling 507-583-4426, ext. 431 or complete the online application located at blossoms-portal.rschooldtoday.com/page/2818

Deadline for applying is Nov 1, 2018.

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**BIRTHDAYS**

**OCT. 17**  
SAMI NELSON  
MELISSA KOHN  
DEAN MESHKE  
KATHY JOHNSON  
BRAYTON CLAYTON  
ERIC JOHNSON

**OCT. 18**  
SHELBY MEIER  
ADRIAN VANDAL

**OCT. 19**  
KATHY ANDERSON  
PAUL IVERSEN  
LEAH THORSON  
MISTY KARELLA

**OCT. 20**  
ALLISON HENSRUD  
BERGEN KLEMMENSEN  
JOAN HAGEN  
TOM JOHNSON

**OCT. 21**  
RENA ANDERSON  
RYAN HANSEN  
LISA MESHKE  
HERMAN LEMBKE  
MARGARET WHITING

**OCT. 22**

**OCT. 23**  
MAX SORENSEN  
IONE BETLACH  
JAYDON BROWN  
MICHAEL IVERSEN

**OCT. 23**  
RICK KITTELSON  
LISA HOCKING  
RYAN DOERHOEFER  
LEVI RYKS  
VERN DAHL  
EDWARD ERICKSON  
KARISE MILLER

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**OCT. 23**  
LARRY & LINDA GRAVENISH

**OCT. 26**  
DALE & ROSALIE UNDERWOOD  
RON & GLENDA JANNING

**OCT. 27**  
MEGAN & TIM FREDRICKSON

**OCT. 28**  
FRANK & DIANE VORLICEK

**OCT. 29**  
MURIEL & RAGNA THOMPSON

**OCT. 30**  
CECIL & LOIS FRIESNER

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# Associated Church hosts renowned psalmist and musician

Music workshop and free concert are open to the public

Associated Church in Owatonna will host renowned psalmist and musician, Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, Saturday and Sunday Nov. 3-4.

Bruxvoort-Colligan will be in residence as part of Associated Church's "100 Years as One" celebration; celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the church's affiliation with two denominations—the United Church of

Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The public is invited to a free concert, featuring Bruxvoort-Colligan, Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the church. The concert will feature a relaxed evening of music, stories and reflection with his acoustic guitar and lyric voice.

The weekend begins with a music workshop on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 9 a.m., open to musicians, choir directors, pastors, educators, and music lovers of any kind. The workshop will take you into the rich world of the Psalms. From laments to songs of praise, Brux-



voort-Colligan brings participants to new understanding and appreciation of these songs of faith. His goal is to engage people in the life-long spiritual formation of community singing. At this workshop, expect to sing and join the music. More information and registration (\$25 per person) can be found online at [www.associatedchurch.org](http://www.associatedchurch.org).

Bruxvoort Colligan is a psalmist making adventurous music for the ever-evolving church.

A composer and musician, he serves across denominations singing songs, teaching the psalms and telling dumb jokes. He publishes music continually, two songs per month to his patrons, and tours nationwide. He lives with his wife and teenage son in Strawberry Point, Iowa.

Associated Church is a Community of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. Associated Church is a warm and welcoming place to meet God! Get to know us at [www.associatedchurch.org](http://www.associatedchurch.org) or by visiting us for our 9 a.m. Sunday Worship.

Associated is located at 800 Havana Road in Owatonna.

## AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| LUTHERAN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>AURORA LUTHERAN</b><br>6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna<br>Pastor Stephanie Wood<br>507-676-5696<br>Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.<br>Worship: Sunday at 10:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>106 Third St. SE., Geneva<br>Pastor Kristen Venne<br>507-256-4288<br>Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC</b><br>503 Radel Ct., Ellendale<br>Pastor Richard Sliper<br>507-684-2451<br>Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study<br>Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship;<br>10:15 a.m. Sunday School/<br>Confirmation<br>Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer,<br>open to all churches<br>Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy;<br>3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6<br>p.m.<br>Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m.<br>Youth Group                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>434 First St. SW.,<br>Blooming Prairie<br>Senior Pastor:<br>Rev. Heidi Heimgartner<br>Associate Pastor:<br>Rev. Mike Walerius<br>507-583-6621<br><a href="http://firstlutheranbp.com">firstlutheranbp.com</a><br>Worship Service- 9 a.m.<br>Sunday School- 10 a.m.                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC</b><br>8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope<br>Pastor Sandy Miller<br>507-451-3854<br>Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15<br>a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna<br>Rev. Mark Rosenau,<br>Senior Pastor<br>Rev. Greg Schlicker,<br>Associate Pastor<br>507-451-4125<br><a href="http://www.goodshepherdowatonna.com">www.goodshepherdowatonna.com</a><br>Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.<br>& 10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon<br>Pastor Nancy Edwardson<br>507-789-6661<br>Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale<br>Pastor Mike Walerius<br>507-465-8366<br>Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pastor Kirk Griebel<br>507-451-2720<br>Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.<br>Education Hour:<br>10:15 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>30456 Mower-Freeborn<br>Road, Austin<br>Pastor Lindsay Brennan<br>507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000<br><a href="http://www.roglutheran.org">www.roglutheran.org</a><br>Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School<br>(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont<br>Pastor Alan Broadwell<br>507-528-2404<br>Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday;<br>10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>28959 630th Ave., Sargeant<br>Pastor Collin Duling<br>507-251-5568<br>Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>30450 570th Ave., Waltham<br>Pastor Dwight DoBell<br>507-567-2474<br>Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale<br>Pastor Jesse Krusemark<br>507-567-2272<br>Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden<br>Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith<br>507-451-2165<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.<br>Worship: 10:30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b><br>5881 SE 118th St.,<br>Blooming Prairie<br>Pastor Stephanie Wood<br>507-676-5696<br>Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna<br>Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior<br>Pastor<br>Rev. Dean Smith,<br>Associate Pastor<br>Rev. Amanda Weinkauff,<br>Associate Pastor<br>507-451-4520<br><a href="http://www.tlcowatonna.org">www.tlcowatonna.org</a><br>Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.;<br>Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. &<br>10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.<br>Sunday School:<br>8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>104 First St. SE., Hayfield<br>Pastor Paul Hauschild<br>507-477-2248<br><a href="http://www.trinityhayfield.org">www.trinityhayfield.org</a><br>Worship: 8 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| & 10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>108 Third Ave. SW., Medford<br>Pastor Mark Biebighauser<br>507-451-0447<br>8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday<br>Worship Service<br>9:15 a.m. Sunday School and<br>Adult Bible Study                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS</b><br>57043 300th St., Waltham<br>Pastor Jesse Krusemark<br>507-567-2272<br>Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA</b><br>7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale<br>Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith<br>Worship: 8:30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| CATHOLIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>CHRIST THE KING</b><br>203 Second Ave. NW., Medford<br>507-451-6353<br>Father James Starasinick<br>Deacon Patrick Fagan<br>Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.<br>Monday Mass: 9 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS</b><br>307 SW First St., New Richland<br>Father Raul Silva<br>Fr. Adam McMillan,<br>Parochial Vicar<br>507-465-8217<br>Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL</b><br>9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna<br>Father John Sauer, Pastor<br>507-451-1588<br><a href="http://www.litomysl.webs.com">www.litomysl.webs.com</a><br>Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.<br>Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m.<br>1st & 3rd Sundays<br>Litomysl Summer Festival,<br>Sunday, July 29th with 10 am<br>Polka Mass                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC</b><br>150 NE Second St., Hayfield<br>Father Thomas Niehaus<br>507-477-2256<br>Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.<br>& 8:30 a.m. Thursday<br>Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>SACRED HEART PARISH</b><br>810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna<br>Father John Sauer<br>Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial<br>Vicar<br>507-451-1588<br><a href="http://www.sacredheartowatonna.org">www.sacredheartowatonna.org</a><br>Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;<br>8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.<br>Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.<br>Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.<br>Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.<br>Adoration:<br>8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.      |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC</b><br>114 E. Main St., Blooming<br>Prairie<br>Father Thomas Niehaus<br>507-583-2784<br><a href="http://www.stcolumbanuschurch.com">www.stcolumbanuschurch.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.<br>& 8:30 a.m. Friday<br>Reconciliation: 9 a.m.<br>First Friday & Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna<br>Father James Starasinick<br>Deacon Patrick Fagan<br>507-451-4845<br>Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.<br>Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.<br>Reconciliation:<br>3-3:30 p.m. Sat.<br>Daily Mass:<br>8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.<br>(Communion Service<br>8 a.m. Thursday)<br>Adoration Chapel available<br>Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.<br>Key fob required after<br>hours or weekends                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHRISTIAN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT</b><br>540 SE 18th St., Owatonna<br>Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor<br>507-451-1032<br>Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| PENTECOSTAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL</b><br>230 Locust Ave., Owatonna<br>Pastor Eliazar Talamantes<br>507-363-2240<br>Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.;<br>6:30 p.m. Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| METHODIST                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST</b><br>43089 180th St., Medford<br>(Seven miles west of<br>Medford on CR 23)<br>Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan<br>507-835-8726<br>Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST</b><br>200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale<br>Pastor Randy Cirksena<br>507-684-2731<br><a href="http://www.ellendaleumc.org">www.ellendaleumc.org</a><br>Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST</b><br>815 E. University, Owatonna<br>Loren Olson, Pastor<br>Linda Boorman, Associate<br>Pastor<br>Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor<br>507-451-4734<br><a href="http://www.owatonnaumc.org">www.owatonnaumc.org</a><br>Traditional Worship (Pathways):<br>9 a.m. Sunday                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NON-DENOMINATIONAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY</b><br>130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna<br>Pastor Keith Haskell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| 507-215-2249<br>Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.<br>Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.<br>Reformers Unanimous<br>Meetings:<br>7 p.m. Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>CEDAR CREEK</b><br>30 E. Main St., Hayfield<br>Pastor Aaron de Neui<br>507-477-2255<br><a href="http://www.cedarcreekchurch.org">www.cedarcreekchurch.org</a><br>Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>DESTINY CHRISTIAN</b><br>Owatonna Campus<br>422 North St., Owatonna<br>Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht<br>507-254-8514<br><a href="http://www.destinyc.org">www.destinyc.org</a><br>Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ELEVATION NORTH</b><br>2002 Austin Road, Owatonna<br>Pastor Doug Jones<br>507-363-3099<br><a href="http://www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com">www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com</a><br>Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.<br>Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.<br>Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.<br>Wednesday<br>Spanish Evangelism & Prayer:<br>7 p.m. Friday                                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>NEW BEGINNINGS</b><br>332 14th St. NE., Owatonna<br>Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson<br>507-413-0209<br>Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.<br>Gateway Connection:<br>6 p.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>SIMPLE CHURCH</b><br>4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna<br>(Country Goods building across<br>the freeway from Cabela's)<br>Pastor Todd Lundgren<br>507-451-5661<br>Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| MENNONITE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>PRAIRIE MENNONITE</b><br>13638 750th St., Blooming<br>Prairie<br>Bishop Dennis Martin<br>507-583-7532<br>Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.<br>Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.<br>Prayer Meeting:<br>7:30 p.m. Wed.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| MORMON                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>404 31st St. NW, Austin<br>Bishop Rick Bremner<br>507-433-9042<br>Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| PRESBYTERIAN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ASSOCIATED CHURCH</b><br>Presbyterian Church (USA) and<br>United Church of Christ<br>800 Havana Road, Owatonna<br>507-451-1546<br><a href="http://www.associatedchurch.org">www.associatedchurch.org</a><br>office@associatedchurch.org                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.<br>(Fellowship, Church School,<br>and Adult Discussions follow)<br>Wednesday Activities: Sept –<br>May (see website for schedule)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</b><br>109 E. Main St., Hayfield<br>Pastor Kirk Johnston<br>507-477-2631<br>Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</b><br>2373 Seventh Ave. NE,<br>Owatonna<br>Pastor Brian Beavers<br>507-340-7143<br>Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.<br>Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| UCC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
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# For the love of lutefisk

Organizers say it was the best ever

BY HOWARD LESTRUD  
STAFF WRITER

Another First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie lutefisk dinner is in the record books.

With cooperative weather helping motivate them on Tuesday, Oct. 16, some hungry lutefisk lovers paid the price to enjoy what many termed “the best fish ever.”

Ruth Earl, chair of this huge community event, said 1,321 were served at the lutefisk and meatball dinner. This total was slightly down from the 1,397 served last year.

“We all must pull together to make it work.”

Ruth Earl  
Lutefisk Dinner Chair

More than 200 volunteers had their special jobs to make this giant church fundraiser a resounding success. Preparation for next year has already begun with a Lutheran Church Women committee meeting in a few weeks to evaluate 2018’s dinner.

People always tease about eating lutefisk, a tasty morsel to many and an offensive morsel to others.

Mike Sullivan of Owatonna was a first-time consumer and said he was disappointed with the lutefisk. Why is that? “I thought it would be worse than it was,” he joked.

Pastor Mike Walerius was a newcomer to the work force and was quite impressed with the organization it takes to pull off an event like this.

Walerius said it started out as chaos and developed into organized chaos. “Pastor Mike is right on the mark with that assessment,” laughed a tuckered out Ruth Earl. This was her fifth year of chairing the event.

Earl always heaps praise on all of the volunteers. “Many people congratulate and thank me but it’s the cooperative efforts of all ages that makes this thing work,” she explained.

Asked why the number of lutefisk dinner attendees was down a bit this year, Earl said it might have been because a break in the weather allowed farmers to get into their fields for harvest time.

First serving of the day was at 11 a.m. Chairwoman Earl gathered her wait staff together for a brief pep talk in the Luther Room where 24 tables were beautifully decorated for the event.

Pastor Walerius was asked to offer a prayer for all workers and to thank the many visitors for supporting the lutefisk/meatball dinner. “Food is very important to all people and this is made true by the stories in the Bible,” Ruth said.

The wait staff even went

into the sanctuary where people were seated prior to the dinner and sang “O! Lutefisk!

The first serving went from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with 733 served. Three other servings were scheduled for 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30. All three evening servings totaled 588.

Servers were appropriately dressed and served the meal family style.

The menu included lutefisk, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, cranberry salad, rolls, lefse, corn, milk, coffee and water. Dessert trays topped off the day’s serving and included rosettes and krumkake.

How many pounds of lutefisk were consumed? Yep, there was some left over but not much. All but 14 pounds of the 1,250 pounds ordered from Olson’s Fish Market of the Twin Cities was eaten.

The fish was exceptionally good this year, attested Jim Johnson, one of the workers who prepared it. The final judgment was made by the consumers and they also said the fish was “the best ever.”

Earl said she tried to walk the halls of the church during the dinner to see how smoothly it was being run. She said she always checks on the lutefisk being prepared in the kitchen. It’s an art, she believes. She said Jennifer Milton, Becky Braaten and Doug Hillson are three of the mainstays finishing off the lutefisk.

Let’s take a look at the rest of the consumables: 8,000 meatballs from 224 pounds of hamburger and pork; 1,500 krumkake; 1,500 rosettes; 84 pounds of cranberry salad; 800 pounds of potatoes; 216 pounds of butter and 1,120 rounds (each cut into fourths) of lefse.

The lefse came from the Norsemen of Rushford.

Much of the food items were ordered and prepared in advance. “It’s really a miracle how people divide into groups to cut the fish, to peel the potatoes, to roll the meatballs, to make the rosettes and to make the krumkake,” says Earl.

Chair Earl said Pastor Heidi Heimgartner said it so well



Kristin Romeo, director of children's ministry, brings a bowl of meatballs to some eager customers at the 75th Annual First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

in a recent sermon as to yarn representing many strings woven together. “None of us is more important than the other and we all must pull together to make it work,” Earl said. The end result being organized chaos, she pointed out.

Most of the event workers



Pearl Swanson of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie rolls some of the 8,000 meatballs served at the annual Lutefisk Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

church. Monies go to local organizations first and then to regional and world-wide purposes.

Earl thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the dinner and those who sold items in the craft room, in the used a bit shoppe and at the bake/candy sale.



They came from as far as the Honduras to try some lutefisk at the 75th Annual First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Laddin Mendoza, 21, tried it for the first time and said, “It’s good.” Mendoza works for Dennis Magnuson Farms.



These three First Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner customers were some of the first in line for the 11 o'clock serving on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Shown are Alan Anderson, Merald Elvebak and Wayne Priddy. Note the sweatshirt proclamation: “If Lutefisk was outlawed, what would be Lefse?”

STARS OF STEELE

**Alison An, Owatonna (Swimming and Diving)**  
The senior diver has been a dominant force on the board for the Huskies. Alison set a new Owatonna 11-dive record with a score of 417 points at the Austin Invite on Saturday, August 29. Owatonna hopes to have a strong showing at the Big 9 Conference Meet on October 26 and 27 at Northfield Middle School and the Rochester Recreation Center.

**Grace Wolfe, Owatonna (Soccer)**  
The sophomore forward was a key contributor in the Huskies’ 10-7-1 season. She finished the season with nine assists, which was the most of the team, and second in goals (13). Owatonna fell to Lakeville South in the semifinals of the section tournament on Thursday, October 11.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of Faribault & Owatonna, MN

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## State grant to upgrade BP school's safety

BY DENNIS MARSHALL  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie Elementary School will use a \$216,000 state grant to bolster safety and security, the school board announced on Monday at its monthly meeting Oct. 15.

Superintendent Barry Olson said he was excited to receive the grant, even though he doesn't necessarily approve of the state lottery system that decided which schools receive funds.

"But we did it, and we got it," he said. "So we're going to use it."

The district will use \$120,000 towards door upgrades, \$16,000 for an alarm system and \$80,000 for communication devices that will be directly linked to emergency personnel.

The elementary school is one of the 123 Minnesotan schools awarded a total of \$25 million in School Safety Grants that was included in capital investment, or bonding bills, passed by the Minnesota Legislature in May.

However, the Minnesota Department of Education received nearly 10 times that in requests. More than 1,000 schools requested money for \$230 million worth of projects that will not be funded.

The lawmakers had signaled they wanted to spend about double that on security improvements, but couldn't reach a deal.

Olson is hopeful the district will also be able to use some of the funds to

improve communications at the high school, but he wasn't sure at this time if that would be an option.

"The state still hasn't gotten back to me," he said. "I was notified at the end of September [about the grant], and I still don't know what the exact process is. They still must be working on that."

Olson said he has already received 15 to 20 emails from companies that are interested in bidding for the project after they heard about the school receiving the grant.

The school board also unanimously approved plans to improve the safety and security of both schools by updating the video surveillance systems.

Olson said the video surveillance updates were included in the district's application for a school safety grant, but were denied.

"Knowing that surveillance equipment was low priority, and no low priority items were approved throughout the whole state," he said. "We did not get any money for that, but we feel it's time to update it."

Olson said there have been a couple situations at the elementary school this year where the updated surveillance equipment would have been helpful.

"It didn't have anything to do with security," he said. "It was just being able to see how someone got hurt, so we could help the medical people."

Olson added that the equipment at the high school

SEE STATE GRANT, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Bob Johnson of Sauk Rapids, leads his pair of Belgian horses on a one-bottom plow during a horse plowing exhibition Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Jeff Witt farm seven miles south of Blooming Prairie on Highway 218. Don Copa is a part owner of Frank and Gus.

## TURNING UP DIRT THE OLD-TIME WAY

*Horses still used to farm at the Witts*

BY HOWARD LESTRUD  
STAFF WRITER

It's like not being able to wake up from a dream that takes you back in history to years past.

That's what it seemed like last Saturday for many motorists who traveled by the Jeff Witt farmstead on Highway 218, just about seven miles south of Blooming Prairie.

After cool and rainy weather cancelled out some old-time farming practices a year ago, Jeff Witt and His father Ivan were intent on having the farm history recounted with some horse plowing. Jeff Witt has 140 farmable acres just west of Highway 218.

An invitation went out to Bob Johnson of Sauk Rapids to bring two of his Belgian horses to the Witt farm. They also sent an invite out to Mike Berthume of Rockford, and to Lisa Ringer of Long Lake to bring their six black Shire horses to the Witt farm.

Johnson hitched his two Belgian horses, Frank and Gus, to a one-bottom plow. Don Copa shares in the ownership of the Belgians.

The six-horse Shire team owned by Berthume and Ringer pulled a two-bottom gang plow.

Both teams of horses showed that they had done this work before and done it well.

"Isn't this fun to see!" Ivan Witt exclaimed.

Little Maddox Anderson, 19 months, was enthralled by the size of the Belgian horses and got a chance to pet Frank and Gus, with the help



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Nineteen-month-old Maddox Anderson and his grandmother Coleen Peterson say hello to a couple of beautiful Belgian horses that came to the Jeff Witt farm of rural Blooming Prairie.

of his grandmother, Coleen Peterson.

The Belgian Heavy Draft horse stands between 16.2 and 17 hands (66 and 68 inches, 168 and 173 cm).

Wikipedia says on average the Belgian grows to weigh slightly over 900 kilograms (2,000 pounds). Most American Belgians are a light chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail. The head is relatively small and well-shaped. American Belgians in North America are not as large as the European Brabant but are of a similar build, Wikipedia states.

The Shire, Wikipedia says, is a British breed of draught horse. It is usually black, bay, or grey. It is a tall breed, and Shires have at various times held world records both for the largest horse and for the tallest horse.

The horses were taken off stage on Sunday, Oct. 21, and enter some old tractors, which were used to finish some plowing on the Witt farm.

The plowing of farm fields has most recently been replaced by modern tilling practices which can be seen by touring the four surrounding counties of Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn.

Nancy Ness, director of the food shelf, was there to talk about the important impact that a grant from the Owatonna Foundation has had on her organization. "I just can't say enough for Owatonna, you people are a big part of this," she said concerning the recent remodel in which they combined both the food shelf

and the clothesline into one by creating a "hole in the wall."

"It's really about the folks that we're serving," Ness said. "Those we serve really needed it," she added of the grant received from the Owatonna Foundation.

Tom Dufresne, who serves as a trustee for the Owatonna Foundation, expressed the need for continuing in this legacy of community investment. "A legacy only survives as long as current generations continue to keep it alive, it's up to us," he said.

The Owatonna Foundation has continued to improve its community, and has given out grants totaling \$11 million since 1958. With generous and supporting families like the Wilcox's, the future of Owatonna continues to look bright.

## Prevent domestic abuse



Steele Talkin'  
ANDREA MARSHALL

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month. This awareness often leads people to ask many question such as... How many people are affected by domestic violence? What does abuse include? What happens when a person leaves? What can I do to help? How many people are affected by Intimate

### Partner Violence?

- A woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds.
- 1 in 3 women—and 1 in 4 men—have been in abusive relationships, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have faced severe physical violence.
- 20 people are abused by an intimate partner every minute, adding up to 10 million each year.
- More than 200,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines every year.
- The presence of guns in a home where domestic violence is a problem increases the risk of a murder by 500 percent.

### What does abuse include?

It is not always easy to determine in the early stages of a relationship if one person will become abusive. Domestic violence intensifies over time. Abusers may often seem wonderful and perfect initially, but gradually become more aggressive and controlling as the relationship continues. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain POWER and CONTROL over the other

### Some examples of abuse include but are not limited to:

- Calls you names, insults you or puts you down
- Prevents or discourages you from going to work or

school

- Prevents or discourages you from seeing family members or friends
- Tries to control how you spend money, where you go, what medicines you take or what you wear
- Acts jealous or possessive or constantly accuses you of being unfaithful
- Gets angry when drinking alcohol or using drugs
- Threatens you with violence or a weapon
- Hits, kicks, shoves, slaps, chokes or otherwise hurts you, your children or your pets
- Forces you to have sex or engage in sexual acts against your will
- Blames you for his or her violent behavior or tells you that you deserve it

Is Domestic Violence always physical abuse?

It is important to note that domestic violence is not always physical abuse. Emotional abuse can often be just as extreme as physical violence. Lack of physical violence does not mean the abuser is any less dangerous to the victim, nor does it mean the victim is any less trapped by the abuse.

What happens when the abusive relationship ends?

Domestic violence does not always end when the victim escapes the abuser, tries to terminate the relationship, and/or seeks help. Often, it intensifies because the abuser feels a loss of control over the victim. Abusers frequently continue to stalk, harass, threaten, and try to control the victim after the victim escapes. In fact, the victim is often in the most danger directly following the escape of the relationship or when they seek help: 1/5 of homicide victims with restraining orders are murdered within two days of obtaining the order; 1/3 are murdered within the first month. It is important that the victim seek help when leaving an abusive relationship

### What can I do?

- Don't be afraid to reach out to a person who you think needs help. Tell them you're concerned for their safety and want to help.

SEE STEELE TALKIN', B2

## United in generosity

*TPS Insurance and David Albrecht honored with Live United awards*



David Albrecht, president of the Owatonna Hospital, delivered remarks after being honored with the Community Volunteer Live United Award. Albrecht noted the help of those around him in striving to make the community a better place.

BY CHRIS BALDWIN  
STAFF WRITER

When Dave Effertz first came to work for his father Tom at TPS Insurance, he remembered that his father stressed two words to him: "get involved."

Although Dave credits both his father and his mother for inspiring him to continue Tom's legacy of community involvement and generosity, it was him standing at the podium to accept the Small Business Live United Award.

"Dad should be the one receiving this," Effertz said while accepting the award. His father Tom passed away in February 2017 after a battle with

cancer. "I know I'm not there yet, but if I can be just half the human being that my mom and dad were, then I know I've done alright."

Effertz told the crowd that it was his father Tom and his mother Terri who instilled TPS' legacy of altruistic principals, which he credits with impacting those within the community. He also gave credit to the staff by saying, "I'm accepting this on behalf of the many wonderful employees that we've had over the years."

"They give you great pride," he added of TPS' employees. After reluctantly accepting the honor on behalf of



Dave Effertz accepted the Small Business Live United Award on behalf of TPS Insurance Agency from John Havelka at last Thursday's United Way of Steele County awards reception. Effertz credited his parents with inspiring him to get involved in the community.

SEE UNITED IN GENEROSITY, B2









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Sunshine and strong winds have been a blessing to area farmers as they finally got a start on harvesting soybeans. Wet weather hampered farmers from harvesting the beans earlier this fall. Farmers are finally doing beans as one can tell from the dust in the air. The corn harvest also continues.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

# Businesses outgrow people, says Kruckeberg

By HOWARD LESTRUD  
STAFF WRITER

Craig Kruckeberg, a graduate of Blooming Prairie High School and successful businessman, recently stopped by at a regular monthly meeting of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

Host for the meeting was Greg Fjerstad of The Bakery.

Kruckeberg was asked to be a guest speaker and talk business with other chamber members. Kruckeberg is chairman of the board of directors of Minimizer, which recently entered a new investment relationship with Capital Partners. Kruckeberg Industries is part of that new relationship.

“Businesses outgrow people,” Kruckeberg told a small group of chamber members meeting over lunch.

Minimizer had a phenomenal year this past year, Kruckeberg said. That’s when he said businesses outgrow people and the company is looking to expand in

the next 24-36 months. He hinted that a 150,000 square foot new building may be in the future.

Looking at one of his employees at the chamber gathering, Sarah Esplan (chamber secretary), Kruckeberg questioned: “We’re hiring, right?” She confirmed that assumption.

Kruckeberg said he is having fun devoting more time to the Bandit Truck Racing Series.

Local and well-known auto racer Mark Noble has been racing in the Bandit series and recently picked up a first at a race in Elko. Kruckeberg and his sons also race in the Bandit Series.

Kruckeberg called the Bandit Series an event. “It’s a circus; we took out the elephants out and put trucks inside.” He looks for the Bandit Series to grow quickly in the next three years.

Marketing has always been a favorite word of Kruckeberg’s, and he constantly is looking for new ventures to market. “Minimizer is a marketing company that manufactures,” Kruckeberg said.

Kruckeberg also spoke briefly about

Stinar Corp. of Eagan, an aircraft ground equipment manufacturer and about Kruckeberg Motor Sports.

“Every business often has offspring businesses” and that’s how Kruckeberg Industries has grown, he said.

Prior to Kruckeberg’s talk, Greg Johnson, chamber president, conducted regular business.

He outlined some upcoming chamber member activities: Sons of the American Legion oyster stew and chili supper at the BP Servicemen’s Club on Saturday, Oct. 20; Servicemen’s Club breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 21; wine tasting on Nov. 1 at the BP Servicemen’s Club; annual chamber meeting on Nov. 14 at the Pizza Cellar.

Officers will be elected at the Nov. 14 annual meeting. The recipient or recipients of the community citizen of the year award will also be announced.

Motion was carried to reimburse the BP Chamber of Commerce for a loan to activate charitable gambling at the BP Country Club, Bunkie’s and the Cue Company.

# OVER THE TOP: Veterans Memorial

FROM B2

Veterans Memorial Committee at the BP Servicemen’s Club.

Peterson said the contribution from the Lions places the total donations to date at \$252,960.65, 101 percent of the goal. He said 352 pavers have been reserved for veterans.

A \$25,000 contribution was also recently received from Craig Kruckeberg

and family. Early in the fundraising process, the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie donated \$25,000 to the project. Bishop Excavating also donated \$10,000 in site preparation costs.

A walk-through of the BP Veterans Memorial is planned for Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11. Dedication of the memorial hopefully will be next Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, 2019.

Peterson said the granite is due to arrive around Nov. 1. Concrete was recently poured and the electrical system has been installed.

The memorial is located to the east of the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club.

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial was designed by the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee in collaboration with John Heerema of Owatonna Granite and Monument.

The memorial will include the following design:

- Granite archway to the memorial
- Solid granite pedestal with adorning bald eagle. Language on the pedestal recognizes the POW/MIA veteran.
- Single flagpole adorned with the United States flag and POW/MIA flag
- At the base of the flagpole are five solid granite tablets recognizing five branches of service.
- Surrounding the flags and granite tablets are three walls with wall pavers to recognize the veterans.

# Local group fighting factory farms to present at Yale Law School

Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) and Dodge County Concerned Citizens are pleased to announce that Chris Petersen and Sonja Trom Eayrs have been invited to speak at Yale Law School on Monday, Oct. 29.

The event, Fighting Factory Farms: The Story of How Two Midwestern Family Farmers Stood Up to the Agricultural-Political-Industrial Complex, is sponsored by the Yale Animal Law Society, Yale Animal Law Speaker Series, Yale Food Law Society and Yale Environmental Law Association.

“No one knows the heartache that is occurring in America’s heartland,” said Sonja Trom Eayrs, a Minnesota attorney and daughter of Blooming Prairie-area farmers Lowell and Evelyn Trom.

Trom Eayrs states that “America’s rural areas are under assault by large corporate interests, forcing independent farmers off the land and leaving a trail of environmental and community destruction in its wake.”



Trom Eayrs

Follow the efforts of Sonja’s family to speak out against this injustice and the attendant harassment and intimidation they faced in their effort to fight installation of the 11th, and soon a 12th, swine factory farm within a 3-mile radius of their family farm. Who will hear their cries for justice?

Trom Eayrs is a founding member of DCCC, a grassroots organization fighting factory farms in rural Minnesota and the upper Midwest. The local group is on the front lines fighting corporate factory farms, which understand how the system works.

The event will also feature Petersen, an independent hog farmer from northern Iowa. “Rural America and the independent sustainable traditional family farming system are being forgotten and replaced by a big business corporate model,” Petersen said.

A long-time advocate for America’s independent farmers, Petersen will continue to fight for a rural America full of family farms. He loves farming and the rural way of life. He encourages others to join him and “investigate, have courage, stand up and speak out about what is best for consumers, farmers and rural communities, Mother Nature, farm animals and America.”

In addition to farming, Petersen also serves as an SRAP Associate. SRAP informs and educates the general public about the negative effects of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)—also known as factory farms—while working directly with U.S. communities impacted by this destructive form of industrial animal agriculture. Through public education, issue advocacy, and local community organizing, SRAP empowers rural residents to protect their public health, environmental quality, natural resources, and local economies from the damaging impacts of factory farms.

The event will take place in the Sterling Law Building, Room 120, Yale Law School, 127 Wall St., New Haven, Conn., at 12 noon. The event is open to the public.

For further information, contact Petersen of SRAP at 641-425-8760 or via email at ChrisP@SRAPproject.org.

# Store Pots in October & Improve Soil

Clean ceramic and clay pots and store them over the winter. If you leave them outdoors in a cold climate they could crack due to the freezing and thawing temperatures over the winter. Remove the dead plants and dump the soil (you can spread used potting soil over your garden beds). Then, use a garden hose and scrub brush to remove any remaining soil or insect pests. To sterilize pots, use a dilute solution of bleach to clean them. Once the pots are dry, store them in a protected shed or garage until spring.

**Tip:** Store clay pots separately. If you stack them inside each other, they can expand and make it almost impossible to separate them later on.

In autumn, after your garden has gone dormant, spread a fresh layer of compost, rotted manure, shredded leaves, or even fresh topsoil over the surface. The more organic matter you add, the better. Then, if the weather is dry, till it lightly into the top few inches of your beds so when spring arrives you can plant immediately without worrying about working the soil during wet weather.

**Tip:** If possible, use a sharp spade to turn your garden soil. Tilling is fine for large gardens, but it can move pests and diseases from one section of your garden to another

Questions? Call Steele Co. Extension hotline 507-444-7687

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| Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Supplies as of October 21, 2018 |                      |                 |                    |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                               | This Week            | Last Week       | Last Year          | 5 Yr Avg          |
| Days suitable.....                                                            | 4.8                  | 1.1             | 5.6                | 5.7               |
|                                                                               | Very short (percent) | Short (percent) | Adequate (percent) | Surplus (percent) |
| Topsoil moisture .....                                                        | 0                    | 3               | 67                 | 30                |
| Subsoil moisture .....                                                        | 1                    | 5               | 68                 | 26                |

| Crop Condition as of October 21, 2018 |                     |                |                |                |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
|                                       | Very poor (percent) | Poor (percent) | Fair (percent) | Good (percent) | Excellent (percent) |
| Com .....                             | 2                   | 5              | 17             | 52             | 24                  |
| Sunflowers, all.....                  | 0                   | 2              | 29             | 53             | 16                  |
| Pasture and range.....                | 6                   | 12             | 30             | 46             | 6                   |



BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- OCT. 25**  
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library

**OCT. 27**  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Village Affair, BP High School
- OCT. 30**  
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

**OCT. 31**  
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library



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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- OCT. 25**  
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

**OCT. 26**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

**OCT. 29**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building  
3:30 p.m. – Community Ed-
- Gym Games, Ellendale Gym  
6 p.m. – ECFE Tricks and Treats Class, Ellendale Preschool Room

**OCT. 30**  
6:15 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Gym

**OCT. 31**  
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- OCT. 25**  
Noon – Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Library  
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library  
6 p.m. – The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science documentary screening, Owatonna Library  
6 p.m. – Dodge County Wind, LLC Project Public Meeting, Holiday Inn  
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

**OCT. 26**  
3 p.m. – Retirement Celebration for Carole Monson, Brooketree Golf Club House  
5 p.m. – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's  
6:30 p.m. – A Haunting We Will Go, Village of Yesteryear  
7:30 p.m. – Murder Inn, Little Theatre of Owatonna

**OCT. 27**  
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park  
Noon – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's  
2 p.m. – Trick or Treat Trail, Manthey Park  
3 p.m. – Women's Health & Well-Being Symposium, Owatonna Country Club  
5 p.m. – Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Benefit for the
- Phil Goluba Family, Owatonna Knights of Columbus  
7 p.m. – Altruit Sound Bath Music Concert, Owatonna Arts Center  
7 p.m. – Fall Ice Jam, Four Seasons Centre  
7:30 p.m. – Murder Inn, Little Theatre of Owatonna

**OCT. 28**  
Noon – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's  
2 p.m. – Murder Inn, Little Theatre of Owatonna

**OCT. 29**  
5 p.m. – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's  
6 p.m. – Finding Frankenstein for Families, Owatonna Library

**OCT. 30**  
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Tale Time, Owatonna Library  
5 p.m. – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's  
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Budget Review Session, City Admin Building

**OCT. 31**  
4:30 p.m. – Trick or Treat, Downtown Businesses in Owatonna  
5 p.m. – Halloween Pictures with Charlie Brown, Cabela's

Trick or Treat Trail planned in Owatonna

Ghosts and Goblins of all ages grab your trick or treat bags and head out to Manthey Park for Owatonna Parks and Recreation's Fifth Annual Trick or Treat Trail. The event will take place Saturday, Oct. 27 from 2-4 p.m. Visit local businesses along the trail for treats, games, a photo shoot, and crafts. Take a free kiddie train ride, visit the free large petting zoo and

find spooky treasures in the scavenger hunt. New at this year's event – a Woof or Treat Trail! Dress up your furry friends and visit the separate trail, with treats and goodies, just for dogs. Enter your pooch into the costume contest and win a great prize! There will also have two bounce houses, free hot chocolate and food trucks.

Charity Bazaar comes to Steele County

The annual Charity Bazaar will take place on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Steele County Community Center. Lunch will be available, including chili, sloppy Joes, pie and desserts. Complimentary coffee and hot cider will be available. The bazaar is hosted by Bundles of Love Charity, Good Shepherd Quilting Group, First Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church of Hope, Pontoppidan Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meridan. Offered for sale by the various groups: fresh-baked homemade goodies, lefse, kolaches, breads, cookies, cakes, pies, homemade crafts, and much more. The community center is located on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

Holy Trinity breakfast Sunday

The Faith Isadore County 4323 Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, Blooming Prairie, will sponsor a pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Oct. 28. The breakfast will be served at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl. A freewill offering is asked. Bring your appetite and enjoy pancakes, french toast, ham, eggs, coffee, milk or juice. Proceeds will go to the Litomysl church.

Hospice offers grief support during the holidays

Allina Health Hospice invites anyone affected by loss to attend a three-week group about coping with grief during the holiday season. Holidays are often a time when the experience and feeling of sadness, loneliness and dread can be heightened. This group is designed to offer you support as you approach the holiday season and give you some ideas for making this time of year a little gentler. The group is offered at Homestead Hospice House, 2350 NW 26th St., in Owatonna on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. It will be held on Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and Nov. 12. The group is free to attend. Please register by calling 507-977-2856.

Pick up your Holiday Bazaar Passport

**BY HOWARD LESTRU**  
STAFF WRITER

Got your passport? Well, you can pick up a special Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar passport on Friday, Nov. 2 and Saturday, Nov. 3. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The start time on Friday is one hour earlier than last year. More than 800 attended last year's bazaar with Friday being the busiest day, organizers said.

A special passport will be given to each visitor to the 2018 Holiday Bazaar at the Owatonna Hospital, AllinaHealth. The passport, given out at the main entrance, will gain the visitor entrance to seven different areas. The entrance is accessible to those with mobility issues. Have someone at each stop sign the passport. Travelers will then be eligible for the drawing to be held when the bazaar ends.

A prize will be given at all seven locations: Gift Shop, Santa's Stocking Stuffer, Gift Shop Apparel Outlet, Bake Sale, Sewing Room, New/Nearly New and Collective Goods (formerly Books are Fun).

Kathy Ihlenfeld and Sheryl Ignaszewski are co-chairs for this year's event. Both are excited about a new feature added to this bazaar. An apparel clothing outlet will feature items from the Pink Pantry gift shop at highly reduced prices.

Hats and mittens will be available at reasonable prices of \$5, \$10 and \$15.

Santa's Stocking Stuffer will feature Minnesota items at \$6 or less. John McCarthy of Dodd Sales in the Twin Cities is in charge of this popular sale area.

Joanne Sorenson and Sue Simons are co-chairs of the bake sale featuring homemade goodies and treats. More than 600 items will be offered for sale, Sorenson and Simons promise.

Some of the popular bake sale items include breads, rosettes, a variety of kolaches, mini pies, traditional fruit cakes, cinnamon rolls and

caramel rolls. Collective Goods features a variety of books, games, novelty items and STEM items.

Many auxiliary members have contributed handmade craft items to the sewing area.

Holiday, fall and winter decor items are also available. For example, place mats, napkins, towels and table runners can be bought in the sewing area.

The new and nearly new area resembles a large boutique, says Ihlenfeld. Jewelry and fashionable accessories can be purchased here. Many items are donated and some are brand new.

Find holiday arrangements in the new and nearly new area. "Get there early," advises Ihlenfeld. Shirley Nelson and Judy Karaus work year round to collect items for this section, Ignaszewski remarked. Some of the items come from the Grab Bag at the Steele County Fair.

The Pink Pantry of course will be open, too. Check out the holiday gnomes and cardinals added to the pantry.

While shopping, bazaar goers are encouraged to try out the lunch menu at the Prairie Meadows Cafe.

On Friday, the menu includes loaded potato soup, chicken noodle soup, chicken wrap, tilapia, beef nachos, cabbage roll and chicken dressing hotdish.

Saturday's menu looks like this: Loaded baked potato soup, chicken wild rice soup, meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, chicken burger and Salisbury steak.

The gift shop style show is scheduled for 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday and at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Marcia Sullivan, Pink Pantry Gift Shop supervisor, is in charge of the style show. She said she will have up to 12 models wearing the latest fashions and wondering through the bazaar areas.

Models committed thus far to appearing in the style show are: Mary Greene (auxiliary president), Bonnie Crosbie, Judith Peterson, Sharon Whelan, Phyliss Hegle, Mary Kay Tillmien, Linda Beede,

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast set for Owatonna

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Owatonna County Club starting at 7:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Vern Wilker. Tickets for \$15 are available at Kottke's Jewelers, Owatonna InstyPrints, and Owatonna City Administration Building. The deadline to purchase tickets will be Nov. 10. This event is sponsored and hosted by the Exchange Club of Owatonna.

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  - **Dec. 7:** 5-7p.m. Holiday-Dazzle Downtown Event
  - **Dec. 8:** Harvey's Holiday Cheer
- Holiday Hours:**
- **Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve 10a.m.-5p.m. • **Dec. 25** Closed
  - **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve: Munchies 5-8p.m. Champagne @ Midnight
  - **Jan. 1:** Closed

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Pink Pantry at the Owatonna Hospital will be one of the many "must" stops for those people attending the 2018 Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 2 and Saturday, Nov. 3. Shown looking over some colorful cardinals and unique gnomes are bazaar co-chairs Kathy Ihlenfeld and Sheryl Ignaszewski and bake sale co-chair Joanne Sorenson.

Mary McDermott, Colleen Oldefendt and Jon Wilker.

More than 200 volunteers are involved in making the bazaar a success, says Ihlenfeld and Ignaszewski.

"People come out of the woodwork to help us," said a grateful Joanne Sorenson. "We appreciate all of our volunteers and couldn't do it alone," says co-chair Sheryl Ignaszewski.

The bazaar links Steele County with many surrounding areas and it builds community, believes co-chair Kathy Ihlenfeld. The bazaar also creates multi-generational bonding, she said.

Funds from the bazaar are used to buy HALO Swaddle Sleep Sacks for the hospital's Birth Center. One is given to each baby born at the Owatonna Hospital Birth Center.

Ihlenfeld and Ignaszewski

explain that the sleep sacks are a "big expense" with about 500 expected to be given out next year.

The HALO is an original wearable blanket replacing the loosely fitted blankets in the crib. These blankets help prevent SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). The Birth Center provides education about the importance of babies sleeping on their backs.

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary is "WE CARE" -- we care about patients, we care about hospital staff and we care about the community.

The auxiliary was founded in 1952. It has given out over \$500,000 during its existence through various fundraisers including the bazaar. Funds are also used to grant scholarships for students in nursing and health-related fields.

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**Oct 23** Wild Rice Soup, Crackers, BBQ on Bun, Waldorf Salad, Lemon Crackle

**Oct 24** Baked Chicken/Gravy, Baked Dumpling, Broccoli, Carrot Coin Salad, Ice Cream

**Oct 25** Roast Beef/Mashed/Gravy, Stewed Tomatoes, Homemade Wheat Roll, Melon Wedge

**Oct 26** Hamburger on Bun/Pickles, Potato Salad, Calico Beans, Ginger Snap

**Oct 29** Salisbury Steak or Liver & Onions, Baked potato/Sour Cream, Seasoned Peas/Celery, Grapes

**Oct 30** Beef Stroganoff/Noodles, Green Beans, Mixed Greens/ Dressing, Dinner Roll, Applesauce

**Oct 31** Meatloaf, Boiled Red Potatoes, Succotash, Pears in Caramel sauce

Word Search Corner

AMERICAN FOOTBALL WORD SEARCH

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X V L H K F K D F I E L D G O A L L R N D O  
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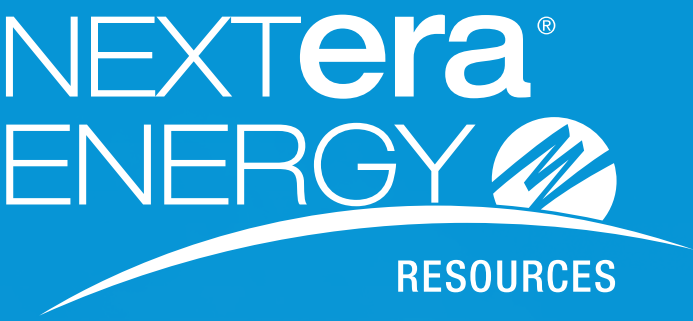
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# Football Frenzy

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

C1

## FOOTBALL



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON  
The NRHEG defense takes down LCWM quarterback Ben Graupman during the Wednesday, October 17 game.

## Panthers trounce Knights in regular season finale

BY DENNIS MARSHALL  
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva head football coach Marc Kruger has talked to team all season about striving to play a perfect game.

The Panthers (6-2) might not have been perfect on Wednesday, October 17 when they obliterated Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 63-7, but they were pretty close.

Kruger said it was his team's best performance of the season.

"We were kind of firing on all cylinders," he said. "It was kind of the perfect way to finish up the regular season, and it's nice to be heading into the playoff on a high note."

NRHEG quarterback Blake Ihrke was nearly flawless completing 8-of-14 passes for 172 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions.

"He did a great job of moving the ball down the field on a lot of big plays," Kruger said. "He came in [to the season] not really knowing what his role was going to look like, but he took control of the team and he's a that perfect quote-unquote quarterback, team leader."

Kruger said Ihrke commands the huddle perfectly and he know what he wants on each play.

"As the season has gone on, he's really developed and understands the offense," Kruger said. "He knows what I am thinking most of the time too. We are on the same wavelength, and that makes calling plays so easy when my quarterback knows what I want on each play. I get him for another year, so that's exciting too."

Wide receiver Lonnie Wilson had a great game. He

SEE NRHEG, C3



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE  
Medford's McKinley Schneider blocks for running back Jerone Chavis.

## Rebels run wild versus Tigers

BY DENNIS MARSHALL  
SPORTS EDITOR

The United South Central Rebels brought out the fireworks and lit up the scoreboard in a 54-6 rout of the Medford Tigers on Friday night.

The Rebels (8-0) proved why they are the No. 6 ranked team in Class A by running for seven touchdowns against Tigers at Wells Concrete Stadium.

"USC might be the best team we have seen all year and they're getting ready to make a big push in the playoffs," Medford head coach Jerome Johannes said. "I think their game plan was to see how many points they could score as fast as possible and that's exactly what they did. Offensively and defensively, that is an outstanding team."

It was true reversal of fortunes from a season ago when Medford defeated USC 45-14.

"They were good last year," Johannes said. "They went through a bout of injuries at the end of season. Their best running back was out. This year they had a lot of those guys come back, and they have a lot of senior experience leading their team. They really took it to us."

"I think they were pretty embarrassed by how that game went last year. I'm sure they had this game marked on their calendars to get some revenge and they certainly came out really fast."

Medford (4-4) started the season 3-0, but struggled down the stretch against some really talented competition. The four

SEE MEDFORD, C3

Owatonna 55  
New Prague 14

Blooming Prairie 47  
Rushford-Peterson 14

United So. Central 54  
Medford 6

NRHEG 63  
LCWM 7



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL  
Blooming Prairie's Tim Wolf breaks free for a huge gain against Rushford-Peterson on Friday, October 19.

## Blooming Prairie locks up perfect regular season, No. 1 seed in sections

BY LEMAR NELSON  
STAFF WRITER

What was touted as a tight ball game turned into a rout, as the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom football team rolled to a 47-14 victory over Rushford-Peterson (6-2) at McFarlin Field Wednesday, October 17.

The win gave BP an undefeated 8-0 regular season and cemented the No. 1 seed into the section 1A playoffs, beginning Tuesday, October 23.

The Blossoms scored three touchdowns in the first nine minutes of the game, thanks to uncharacteristic play by the Trojans.

The locals kicked off to RP, and the

return was promptly fumbled on the 33-yard line and recovered by BP's Mitch Fiebiger.

Then six plays later on fourth-and-goal from the five-yard line, quarterback Seth Peterson found Matthew Pryor on a screen pass for the touchdown.

Carson Brennecke kicked the first of five extra points for the night.

An 11-yard-pass to Payton Simon proved to be the big play in the drive.

RP's Carter Weidemann fumbled the ensuing kickoff, again recovered by the Blossoms on the RP 45-yard line, and Alec Baldwin capped a two-minute drive with a jet pass sweep good for nine yards and the score.

A good kickoff return for the Trojans brought the ball all the way to the BP 39-yard line, but quarterback Landon Skalet had the ball stripped and another fumble put BP in business.

On the first play Pryor burst through the middle for 35 yards, and Peterson then found his favorite target, Gabe Hagen, who broke several tackles to the 10-yard line. Pryor plunged the last three yards for the touchdown, and BP led 20-0.

After RP went three and out on the next possession, BP went to work again. The only down note in the game for the Blossoms happened on this drive when

SEE BLOOMING, C2

## No. 1 Owatonna rolls to win over New Prague

BY DENNIS MARSHALL  
SPORTS EDITOR

In the final tune-up before the start of the Section 1AAAAA Tournament, the Owatonna Huskies dominated the New Prague Trojans 55-14.

Owatonna (8-0) was able to use any method it wanted to move the ball against New Prague (1-7) and amassed 527 total yards of offense at OHS.

"They struggled to stop the run and the pass," Huskies' head coach Jeff Williams said. "I was pleased with how our team executed and didn't make too many mistakes. We didn't put the ball on the ground or throw into coverage. We were able to make some big plays. We did a good job of blocking upfront both in the run game and keeping the pocket clean. We just took care of business."

The Trojans flat-out could not tackle Huskies' running back Jason Williamson no matter what they tried on defense. Williamson touched the ball five times for 177 yards and had touchdown runs of 41, 56 and 53 yards.

The game was over by the end of the first quarter with the Huskies leading 41-0.

Both of Owatonna quarterbacks played exceptional games, with Brayden Truelson completing 7-of-9 of his passes for 202 yards and four touchdowns and Sol Havelka connecting on all four of his pass attempts for 51 yards and also running for a touchdown.

"They both did a nice job of running the offense," Williams said. "They moved the ball and took advantage of what they saw out there."

Williams said he thought Ethan Walter caught the ball and did some things after the catch exceedingly well.

"Most of his catches were on bubble screens, shovel passes and things like that and he made the most out of his opportunities," he said.

Walter finished the game with seven receptions for 139 yards and two touchdowns.

Walter has been the team's leading receiver during the regular season with 333 yards and four touchdowns on 25 receptions, but Isaac Oppegard, Matt Williams, Carson DeKam, Jake Miller, Payton Beyer and Williamson have also proven to be threats in the passing game.

Williams said he was pleased with the progress the Huskies have made throughout the season on both sides of the football.

"We have nine juniors or younger who are starting on offense," he said. "Each week they have gotten better. We saw some pretty decent teams in Century and Northfield late and our guys had matured to the point where we were able to some positive things against some very good defense."

Williams said it has been somewhat of pleasant surprise how well the Huskies' defense has played this season.

"To me that's probably the bigger surprise," he said. "We didn't have a lot of guys coming back who started for us last year." Owatonna surrendered least than 10 points per game after replacing seven starters from last season.

"It is admirable what those kids have been able to do," Williams said. "They have really done a nice job throughout the course of the year stuffing the run game, forcing team to have to throw the ball down the field and then doing a great job in pass coverage."

The Huskies' defensive backs hauled in five interceptions against the Trojans.

Oppegard grabbed two interceptions to brings his season total to six which is the third most in the state.

SEE OWATONNA, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL



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OWATONNA: *Huskies earn first-round playoff bye*

FROM C1



Owatonna's Jason Williamson and Ben Zappa track down a Northfield ball carrier on Friday, October 12.

“That’s pretty impressive night and it shows how much our secondary has come along,” Williams said.

Owatonna will host the winner of Rochester Mayo (5-3) and Austin (2-6) on Saturday, October 27.

Mayo defeated Austin 52-28 on Friday, August 31.

“They played week one and Mayo kind of got after Austin,” Williams

said. “I think Austin turned the ball over five times and the score got out of hand.”

Austin played well down the stretch this season. The Packers defeated Mankato East and lost close games to Class 5A No. 9 Mankato West (7-1) and Class 4A No. 2 Winona (8-0) in their final three games.

“I expect that game to be a pretty hard-fought contest,” Williams

said. “It should be pretty close and it will be interesting to see who comes out of it. It will make Monday and Tuesday practices a little bit interesting trying to determine what we want to prepare for.”

“Each week is only to be battle. It always is once you get to this time of the year. Everybody is one-and-done, so each week takes your total effort and energy.”

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna 55, New Prague 13

|    |    |    |   |   |      |
|----|----|----|---|---|------|
| NP | 0  | 0  | 6 | 7 | — 13 |
| O  | 41 | 14 | 0 | 0 | — 55 |

**First Quarter**

O — Jason Williamson 41 run (David Keller kick), 10:51

O — Sol Havelka 12 run (Kick failed), 10:04

O — Ethan Walter 55 pass from Brayden Truelson (Keller kick), 7:27

O — Matt Williams 37 pass from Havelka (Keller kick), 5:28

O — Williamson 56 run (Keller kick), 3:16

O — Williamson 53 run (Keller kick), 0:32

**Second Quarter**

O — Walter 36 pass from Truelson (Keller kick), 7:37

O — Williams 28 pass from Truelson (Keller kick), 3:01

**Third Quarter**

NP — Karson Mulvihill 65 pass from Parker Johnson (2-point failed), 10:28

**Fourth Quarter**

NP — Matt Zweber 2 run (Cole Uplegger kick), 7:19

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**RUSHING**—Owatonna: Jason Williamson 5-177, 3 TDs; Brayden Truelson 4-7; Zander Johnson 3-15; Logan Gauthier 3-13; Sol Havelka 3-9; Hunter Menden 3-7; Zach Stransky 2-21.

**PASSING**—Owatonna: Truelson 7-9-202-0, 4 TDs; Havelka 4-4-51-0; Gauthier 1-1-0-0.

**RECEIVING**—Owatonna: Ethan



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

**Huskies' receiver Ethan Walter sprints past a Northfield defender in Owatonna's 29-11 victory over the Raiders on Oct. 12.**

Walter 7-139 2 TDs; Matt Williams 2-67, 2 TDs; Payton Beyer 1-30; Carson DeKam 1-17.

**TACKLES**—Owatonna: Logan Steckelberg 9; Mason Oland, Isaac Gefre 5; Jesse Deml, Chris Lewis 4; Johnson, Cole Deason, DeKam, Mason Rhoades, Ethan Rohman 3; Noah Brandt, Ethan Stockwell, Matt Segler, Joseph Stransky 2; Isaac Oppegard, Walter, Ben Zappa, Zach Stransky, Nick Staska, Dalton Wincell, Jason Spantenka, Joshua O'Daffer 1.

**SACKS**—Owatonna: Alex Vereide, Steckelberg 1.

**INTERCEPTIONS**—Owatonna: Oppegard 2; Walter, Jake Miller, Wincell 1.

BLOOMING: *Gimbel praises run and pass defense*

FROM C1

Peterson suffered a leg injury on a keeper and had to leave the game.

Reserve quarterback Kaden Thomas entered the game and on a third-and-11 from the RP 43-yard line, found Hagen down the sideline for the touchdown and a 27-0 margin after one quarter.

The Trojans finally got their offense started a little near the end of the quarter and used 10 plays to score a touchdown, with Ethan Hermanson rushing the last nine yards for the score. He had two big runs in the drive for the visitors.

BP couldn't mount a drive on its possession, and RP went on a march, but Tim Wolf intercepted a Skalet pass (RP's fourth turnover of the game) and ran the ball to the Trojan 30-yard line. On the first play Thomas found Simon down the side and he covered the 30 yards for a touchdown that put the winners up 33-7.

RP had a last glimmer of hope when Skalet ran a keeper nine yards for a touchdown with four seconds left in the quarter, but the Blossoms pretty much controlled the action through the second half.

“I am really proud of the kids for the 8-0 season,” Blooming Prairie head coach Chad Gimbel said. “Especially because we had really tough end of the season playing three ranked teams in the



Blooming Prairie's Payton Simon crosses the goal line for a touchdown in the Blossoms' 47-14 win against Rushford-Peterson.

last four games. It is also our first district championship since the state shifted to this format.”

For the second week in a row, neither team could score in the third quarter, but midway through the fourth quarter Thomas found Colin Lerum for 13 yards and a touchdown. With five minutes left in the game Thomas

threw his fourth touchdown pass, this time to Wolf for 29 yards after Zach Weber had made the fourth pass interception of the game for the Blossoms.

Gimbel also lauded the defense in the game.

“We wanted to stop their ground game,” he said. “We did that, and the pass defense was spectacular tonight, led

by Fiebigger and Simon. RP made a lot of mistakes, but

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Blooming Prairie 47, Rushford-Peterson 14

|    |    |    |   |    |      |
|----|----|----|---|----|------|
| BP | 27 | 6  | 0 | 14 | — 47 |
| RP | 0  | 14 | 0 | 0  | — 14 |

**First Quarter**

BP — Matthew Pryor 5 pass from Seth Peterson (Carson Brennecke kick)

BP — Alex Baldwin 9 run (Brennecke kick)

BP — Pryor 3 run (Brennecke kick)

BP — Gabe Hagen 47 pass from Kaden Thomas (Kick failed)

**Second Quarter**

RP — Ethan Hermanson 9 run (Kick good)

BP — Payton Simon 30 pass from Thomas (Kick failed)

RP — Landon Skalet 9 run (Kick good)

**Fourth Quarter**

BP — Colin Lerum 13 pass

from Thomas (Brennecke kick)

BP — Tim Wolf 29 pass from Thomas (Brennecke kick)

**TOTAL YARDS**—Blooming Prairie 415.

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**RUSHING**—Blooming Prairie: Matthew Pryor 116; Tyler Archer 34; Alex Baldwin 16.

**PASSING**—Blooming Prairie: Kaden Thomas 10-14-182-0, 4 TDs; Seth Peterson 8-11-64-0, 2 TDs.

**RECEIVING**—Blooming Prairie: Gabe Hagen 4-51, TD; Tim Wolf 11-102, TD; Payton Simon 4-68, TD.

give credit to our kids for causing a lot of them. It was an all-around good effort.”

Blooming Prairie will host Kingsland (1-7) on Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in opening round of Section 1A

tournament.

The Blossoms are averaging 44 points per game this season, while surrendering just 12. Kingsland is allowing 45 points a game while scoring just 14.



Blossoms' defender Jarrett Larson recovers a fumble on Friday at McFarlin Field.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

PANTHER of the Week



Vivienne Schlaak

Sponsored by:



This week's Panther of the Week is Vivienne Schlaak. Vivienne lives in New Richland with her parents Steve and Nicole Schlaak. She is in Mrs. Jensen's Kindergarten class.

Vivienne is so kind to EVERYONE in our class. She is especially patient and encouraging with those students who are struggling at the time. She is a great listener and follows directions the first time. She is a delight to have in class! In school, Vivienne likes to learn things having to do with math. At home, she likes to play in the snow and go to the park. She is also in gymnastics and dance.

Keep up the great work Vivienne!

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NRHEG: Second-seeded Panthers to meet Medford



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM AGRIMSON

Jacob Schuller of NRHEG avoids the tackle attempt of Tristan Jones of Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial.

had three reception for 56 yards and two touchdowns.

Kruger said one of Wilson’s touchdown catches was so impressive that he is sure it will be the KEYC news channels’ play of the week.

Jacob Schuller also had a huge game for the Panthers through the air. He caught two passes for 71 yards and two touchdown.

“It makes play calling so easy when you get Brady [Agrimson] and Jacob [Schuller] on each side,” Kruger said. “You get to have two kids who are 6-foot-5[-inches] and great athletes out there. They go up and get the ball and they are faster than most players too. Than you factor Lonnie Wilson in at the slot and that’s a very dangerous receiving corps. We feel like we have one of the best receiving corps in 2A.”

Agrimson finished the game with a pair of catches for 79 yards.

Running back Sawyer Vanmaldegheem also caught a nice touchdown. He also rushed 10 times for 90 yards and a score.

“Everyone played so well and our game plan worked perfectly,” Kruger said. “We were able to do whatever we wanted.”

The Panthers’ defense had an outstanding night holding the Knights (3-5) to negative-12 rushing yards.

NRHEG’s defensive front, with Alex Buckmeier, Quinten Arndt

and Hunter Knutson, controlled LCWM’s offensive line.

For the Knights’ run game to work, their line has to move defenders of the ball and that wasn’t happening Wednesday, and that helped clog run lanes and let the linebackers fill gaps for stops.

“Really they set the tone up the middle where they make it so difficult to run.” Kruger said. “Then we have Brady [Agrimson] playing defensive end and he shuts down his half of field, and we have some talented defensive backs who have made some big time plays the past two weeks.”

Jacob Schuller had two of NRHEG’s three interceptions, including one he returned for a touchdown.

Spencer Tufte highlighted the Panthers’ special teams by blocking two punts.

“At the beginning of the year we didn’t have identity,” Kruger said. “We didn’t know what we were good at and how we were going to look this year, but the players have really settled into their roles. They’re understanding how the offense and defense works and how they can best contribute. Our growth this year can be attributed to our players understanding what they have to do to help the team the most.”

Kruger said it was awesome to have such a successful regular season in his first year as a head coach, but the team still has goals

NRHEG 63, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 7

NRHEG 21 22 14 6 — 63  
LCWM 0 0 7 0 — 7

First Quarter

NRHEG — Sawyer Vanmaldegheem 50 run (Ben Schoenrock kick), 10:20  
NRHEG — Lonnie Wilson 15 pass from Blake Ihrke (Schoenrock kick), 4:34  
NRHEG — Wilson 37 pass from Ihrke (Schoenrock kick), :03

Second Quarter

NRHEG — Jacob Schuller interception return (Schoenrock kick), 11:04  
NRHEG — Schuller 8 pass from Ihrke (Schoenrock kick), 7:23  
NRHEG — Kordell Schlaak 10 run (Schlaak run), 3:50

Third Quarter

NRHEG — Tyler Jacobson 5 run (Schoenrock kick), 7:28  
LCWM — Logan Bode 10 pass from Ben Graupman (Caleb Shelton kick), 5:57  
NRHEG — Schuller 63 pass from Ihrke (Schoenrock kick), 4:16

Fourth Quarter

NRHEG — Kordell Schlaak 10 run (Kick failed), 10:29

|                    | NRHEG   | LCWM     |
|--------------------|---------|----------|
| First Downs        | 18      | 8        |
| Rushes-Yards       | 31-156  | 28-(-12) |
| Passing            | 225     | 117      |
| Comp.-Att.-Int.    | 11-20-0 | 12-23-3  |
| Punts-Avg.         | 0-0     | 4-14.5   |
| Fumbles-Lost       | 2-2     | 0-0      |
| Penalties-Yards    | 1-10    | 2-10     |
| Time of Possession | 22:59   | 24:14    |

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—NRHEG: Sawyer Vanmaldegheem 9-90, TD; Tyler

FROM C1

Jacobson 6-33, TD; Kordell Schlaak 5-16, 2 TDs; Nick Staloch 2-11; Andrew Reich 2-8; Blake Ihrke 2-6; Nikolas Petsinger 1-1; Evan Reyna 1-(-1); Caden Beauvals 2-(-3); Lonnie Wilson 1-(-5). LCWM: Evan Mann 2-13; Camden Ludeman 3-9; Tommy Pitts 5-5; Jared Hohenstein 3-3; Tristan Jones 2-0; Ben Graupman 12-(-42).  
PASSING—NRHEG: Ihrke 8-14-172-0, 4 TDs; Schlaak 2-4-37-0; Porter Peterson 1-2-14-0. LCWM: Graupman 11-20-115-3, TD; Mann 1-3-2-0.  
RECEIVING—NRHEG: Wilson 3-56, 2 TDs; Brady Agrimson 2-79; Jacob Schuller 2-71, 2 TDs; Mason Ferber 1-14; Teddy Gushwa 1-14; Jacobson 1-(-4); Reich 1-(-5). LCWM: Pitts 6-76; Logan Bode 1-21, TD; Landon Lantz 2-17; Jayden Johnson 1-2; Carter Graham 1-1.

TACKLES—NRHEG: Jacobson 8; Reich, Alex Buckmeier 7; Agrimson 6; Quinten Arndt, Wilson 5; Schuller 4; Hunter Knutson, Vanmaldegheem 3; Thor Routh, Max Seltun, Spencer Tufte, Schlaak, Staloch 2; Reyna, Gushwa, Caden Beauvais, Ben Schoenrock 1.

SACKS—NRHEG: Arndt 2; Tufte, Knutson, Buckmeier 1.

FORCED FUMBLES—

NRHEG: Agrimson. FUMBLE

RECOVERIES—NRHEG:

Buckmeier. INTERCEPTIONS—

NRHEG: Schuller 2;

Vanmaldegheem 1.

they wanted to accomplish.

“We are going to just keep building from here and keep improving,” he said.

“We are ranked No. 9 in our class right now and we are kind of hitting all the goals I wanted to. I grew up in Albert Lea where the football team’s background wasn’t all that good, so I’ve been through my share of losing seasons. I feels good to be a part of the team and know that I’m helping to build it up to where it should be.”

NRHEG earned a No. 2 seed in Section 2AA tournament and will host No. 7 seed Medford (4-4) in first round on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Kruger said he feels his team matches up well, but ultimately

much of the Tigers’ potential success depends on the play of quarterback Willie VonRuden.

“Since I found out we were playing them, I’ve been thinking about number 7 constantly, because of how good of a player he is,” Kruger added.

“They are they type of team that goes when he goes. We will have to focus on him and if we shut him, I think we could shut the whole team down. They have run well and they have passed well, but it all depends on what VonRuden does.

“We have to stay aggressive, execute what we need to get done and focus on the things we can control.”

MEDFORD: No. 7 seed in section

opponents to beat the Tigers had a combined record of 25-7.

On a positive note, the team was 4-1 at home this season. Medford’s only home loss came in overtime to Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity (5-3), when the Tigers’ rush for nearly 400 yards in the 46-44 loss to the Bulldogs.

“We are pretty good at home against a lot of teams,” Johannes said.

The Tigers are the No. 7 seed in the Section 2AA Tournament and will travel to No. 2 seed New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (6-2) on Tuesday.

“We are ready,” Johannes said. “We have very tough opponent in New Richland. Obviously, with a 4-4 season we wanted something a little better than a seven seed, but that just the way that QRF [rankings] work and it puts us at a seven seed.”

The Tigers will have to overcome some injuries across their offensive line.

“We are hoping that some of younger guys can step it up a bit,” Johannes said. “But ultimately, we can’t start the game like we did against USC

FROM C1



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYE DEVOE

Tigers’ receiver Devon Federly goes up for nice catch over a defender.

Steele County football schedule

Blooming Prairie

|         |                     |          |
|---------|---------------------|----------|
| Aug. 31 | Southland           | W, 40-14 |
| Sep. 7  | at Fillmore Central | W, 41-7  |
| Sep. 14 | Wabasha-Kellogg     | W, 52-6  |
| Sep. 21 | at Cotter           | W, 58-0  |
| Sep. 28 | Goodhue             | W, 20-14 |
| Oct. 5  | at Hayfield         | W, 47-7  |
| Oct. 12 | at Mayer Lutheran   | W, 48-34 |
| Oct. 17 | Rushford-Peterson   | W, 47-14 |

Medford

|         |                  |          |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| Aug. 31 | Winona Cotter    | W, 51-0  |
| Sep. 7  | Kenyon-Wanamingo | W, 14-13 |

|         |                     |               |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| Sep. 14 | Faribault B.A.      | W, 38-20      |
| Sep. 21 | at Mayer Lutheran   | L, 42-6       |
| Sep. 28 | Lester Prairie-H.T. | L, 46-44 (OT) |
| Oct. 5  | at St. Clair-Loyola | L, 41-14      |
| Oct. 12 | Minn. Valley Luth.  | W, 35-26      |
| Oct. 17 | United S. Central   | L, 54-6       |

NRHEG

|         |                |          |
|---------|----------------|----------|
| Aug. 31 | Pipestone      | L, 35-7  |
| Sep. 7  | at Sibley East | W, 39-6  |
| Sep. 14 | Norwood YA     | W, 33-8  |
| Sep. 21 | at G-F-W       | W, 27-20 |
| Sep. 28 | W-E-M          | L, 48-6  |

|         |                    |               |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|
| Oct. 5  | at Maple River     | W, 29-28 (OT) |
| Oct. 12 | Le Sueur-Henderson | W, 28-12      |
| Oct. 17 | at LCWM            | W, 63-7       |

Owatonna

|         |                   |          |
|---------|-------------------|----------|
| Aug. 31 | at Faribault      | W, 41-0  |
| Sep. 7  | at Rochester Mayo | W, 37-9  |
| Sep. 14 | Austin            | W, 63-27 |
| Sep. 21 | Rochester JM      | W, 34-0  |
| Sep. 28 | at Mankato East   | W, 71-12 |
| Oct. 5  | at Roch. Century  | W, 28-7  |
| Oct. 12 | Northfield        | W, 29-11 |
| Oct. 17 | New Prague        | W, 55-14 |

Mid Southeast-East

|                   | District | Overall |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Blooming Prairie  | 7-0      | 8-0     |
| Goodhue           | 6-1      | 7-1     |
| Rushford-Peterson | 6-2      | 6-2     |
| Fillmore Central  | 4-3      | 4-4     |
| Southland         | 4-3      | 4-4     |
| Hayfield          | 3-4      | 3-5     |
| Wabasha-Kellogg   | 1-6      | 2-6     |
| Kingsland         | 1-6      | 1-7     |
| Winona Cotter     | 0-7      | 0-8     |

Mid Southeast-West

|                           | District | Overall |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| United So. Central        | 7-0      | 8-0     |
| Saint Clair/Loyola        | 6-1      | 7-1     |
| Mayer Lutheran            | 5-2      | 5-3     |
| Lester Prairie/Holy Trin. | 5-3      | 5-3     |
| Medford                   | 3-4      | 4-4     |
| Minn. Valley Lutheran     | 2-5      | 3-5     |
| Kenyon-Wanamingo          | 2-5      | 2-6     |
| Bethlehem Academy         | 1-6      | 2-6     |
| Janesville-W-P            | 1-6      | 1-7     |

South Central-Blue

|                     | District | Overall |
|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Waterville-E-M      | 7-0      | 7-1     |
| NRHEG               | 6-1      | 6-2     |
| Maple River         | 5-2      | 6-2     |
| Gibbon-Fairfax-Win. | 3-4      | 4-4     |
| LeSueur-Henderson   | 3-4      | 4-4     |
| Lake Crystal-WM     | 3-4      | 3-5     |
| Norwood Y. America  | 1-6      | 1-7     |
| Sibley East         | 0-7      | 0-8     |

Big Southeast-Red

|                   | District | Overall |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Owatonna          | 5-0      | 8-0     |
| Rochester Century | 4-1      | 5-3     |
| Northfield        | 3-2      | 5-3     |
| Rochester Mayo    | 2-3      | 5-3     |
| Rochester JM      | 1-4      | 2-6     |
| New Prague        | 0-5      | 1-7     |

Football state rankings

CLASS 5A

- Owatonna
- Elk River
- St. Thomas Academy
- Robbinsdale Cooper
- Chanhassen
- Waconia
- Sauk Rapids-Rice
- Bemidji
- Mankato West
- Hastings
- Others receiving votes: Spring Lake Park.

CLASS A

- Minneota
- BOLD
- Mahnomen-Waubun
- Blooming Prairie
- Otter Tail Central
- United South Central
- Goodhue
- Ada-Borup/NCW
- Dawson-Boyd
- (tie) Rushford-Peterson and Fertile-Beltrami
- Others receiving votes: Murray County Central, Polk County West

CLASS 2A

- Caledonia
- Minneapolis North
- Redwood Valley
- Hawley
- Pipestone Area
- Royalton
- Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
- Chatfield
- Barnesville
- St. Charles
- Others receiving votes: Pillager, St. Agnes.

\*Source: Associated Press — released Oct. 16.



# AWESOME BLOSSOMS REMAIN UNDEFEATED

For the first times in over a dozen years the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom football team completed an undefeated regular season with a 8-game schedule, and it was noteworthy for several reasons.

It marked the first championship in the district, rather than the old format of the Gopher Conference.

The school has had several other undefeated seasons, but most date way back into the 1960s. There have been some recent teams also, but none in the past ten years or more.

Another reason for this accomplishment resulted because the team played state ranked teams in three of the four final games.

In that stretch of contests, BP beat the No. 5, No. 6, and No. 8 team in Class A.

No one can say they had an easy time of it.

All in all, the team dominated almost every foe they faced, and the team is to be congratulated.

Unfortunately the championship came with a big loss, when senior quarterback Seth Peterson went down with a injury and is lost for the playoffs.

Peterson has the second-most passing touchdowns in the state (32) and was having a season comparable to those of the stellar quarterbacks of BP's past that have given the Blossoms the reputations of being the "The Home of the Quarterback."

The Blossoms have a capable reserve in junior Kaden Thomas, and it will now be up to him to guide the team through the playoffs.

It can still be done, but no player can totally replace Peterson with his almost 2,000 passing yards and his senior leadership.

Our sympathies are with Peterson, as he makes the slow recovery from his injury and best of luck to the team as they fight their way through the playoffs.

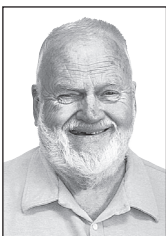
I realize that every team in every sport has to compensate for a loss by a star player, but it seems to me that the Blossoms are a little star-crossed when it comes to serious injuries at inopportune times.

In football, I can go all the way back to a year when we advanced to the state playoffs and had to travel all the way to Chisholm to play Esko.

In the game before the playoffs, the team lost its best receiver when Fred Nelson suffered an injury and couldn't play in the contest.

There have been several other instances when an injury prevented an important player from competing, as just this past season Max Romeo sat out several late-season games with injury. And it isn't just football. The volleyball team has lost stars to injuries, and, in fact, this year Megan Oswald has missed much of the season.

Track stars, wrestlers and even basketball players have all been hit with season-ending injuries at very inopportune times. It often has meant a promising season crashing down for that very reason. Maybe we exist under a black cloud of misfortune.



Outside the Lines  
LEMAR NELSON

That is too bad, but that is the life of an athlete.

### A WIN AT ELKO

Veteran racecar driver Mark Noble scored a big win a week ago when he claimed the title in the final scheduled Bandit Big Rig race of the season at Elko Speedway. The event on Saturday, October 13, had been moved from North Carolina, because of the recent hurricane, and it ended the second season of big rig racing in the country.

Noble, along with several other local drivers, had been a part of the series all year, with BP Minimizer Company one of the race organizers and sponsors.

Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg gets much of the credit for the original idea, and it has turned into a very competitive series of races all around the country. Noble's win in the feature of the final race of the season marked another milestone in the career of the longtime Blooming Prairie driver and was well deserved.

A tip of the hat this week goes to Mark Noble.

### VICTORY IN CANADA

A former BPHS graduate recently scored a big victory in Canada when Roberta (McFarlin) Lembke won the Arabia Horse Canadian National competition.

Roberta is the daughter of former Superintendent Maurice McFarlin, and she has been a great horse lover her whole life. Personally, I remember hearing Mr. McFarlin comment about Roberta's pestering him to take her out to the Oswald farm just south of town, where Roberta kept her horse, so that she could train and ride.

The recent honor for Roberta comes after she has had a long career (hobby) of owning and riding horses. She is a librarian at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, when she isn't working with her horses, and she also gets a big tip of the hat this week for her accomplishment. That was quite an honor!

### ONE MORE KUDO

This week has been a good one for accomplishments, and one more should added. B to Z Hardware and Greg Johnson received the United Way of Steele County's "Live United" award.

Johnson and his crew always step forward to help various causes in the community, especially their service to the Blooming Prairie Youth Club.

Johnson is presently the president of the Chamber of Commerce and is constantly touting the good things about living in this town. We agree that we live in a great community, and B to Z gets a tip of the hat this week for its success and accomplishment.

### COMING UP

This coming weekend is the annual Village Affair, which again will find approximately 80 vendors populating the high school Saturday October 27. If you have never attended one of those events, you are really missing something. You should really go to see the myriad of homemade crafts for sale. We'll talk again.

finals.

Rahrick is the first Huskies' girls tennis player to qualify for the state meet since Bri Hartmann in 2014.

Owatonna's Sara Anderson also competed at the individual section meet and finished fourth.

She lost 6-0, 6-2 to Trncic and 7-5, 7-5 to Kuester in the third place match.

State tournament opening-round matches are set to begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday at the Baseline Tennis Center.

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Huskies boys finish 7th, girls 10th at Big 9 meet

STAFF REPORT

The Owatonna Huskies hosted the Big 9 Conference Meet at Brooktree Golf on Tuesday, October 16.

Preston Meier led the Huskies' boys with a 10th place finish, earning All-Conference honors.

Carsyn Brady was the only Owatonna girl runner to be selected to the All-Big 9 Conference Team after she finished sixth in the girls race.

The Huskies' junior varsity girls' team show positive signs of encouragement for the future by finishing third overall. Owatonna boys' junior varsity placed sixth.

### BIG 9 CONFERENCE MEET Tuesday, October 16 at Brooktree Golf Course VARSITY BOYS (5,000-Kilometers)

Owatonna: 10, Preston Meier 17:00.2; 23, Brayden Williams 17:31.0; 27, Connor Ginskey 17:35.6; 52, Conner McCartney 18:07.9; 58, Evan Buck 18:14.5; 62, Trevor Hiatt 18:18.8; 70, Jack Meiners 18:27.4.

### VARSITY GIRLS (5,000-meter)

Owatonna: 6, Carsyn Brady 19:57.5; 32, Jeni Burtis 21:16.7; 36, Jaci Burtis 21:27.2; 41, Kaitlin Bruessel 21:34.3; 52, Laura Stevenson 22:00.5; 61, Madelin Bruessel 22:24.1; 70, Grace Cocchiarella 23:10.0.

### JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS (5,000-meter)

Owatonna: 26, Miles Kuhn 18:57.4; 39, Avery Cords 19:17.7; 43, Phil Koslosky 19:23.3; 45, Nate Rions 19:26.1; 48, Sam Snitker 19:28.8; 53, Dylan Meiners 19:35.1; 54, Nathan Buegler 19:36.6; 60, Tate Gferer 19:40.0; 89, Gavin DeWitz 20:04.9; 105, Henry Hilgendorf 20:19.3; 123, Damien Boubin 20:32.7; 126, David Crawford 20:33.9; 132, Jacob Pfeifer 20:37.0; 138, Joey Brein 20:41.5; 141, Justin Gonli 20:42.7; 143, Tony Hauer 20:45.0; 144, Joey Brueggemeier 20:45.2; 145, Leyton Williams 20:47.4; 152, Brenden Drever 20:53.0; 172, Travis Johnson 21:11.3; 181, David Smith 21:17.6; 182, Jake Gronli 21:21.8; 202, Michael Haberman 21:41.9; 247, David Rhodes 22:47.1; 259, Jake DeLeeuw 23:00.3; 274, Joe Betti 23:15.2; 287, Andrew Skov 23:36.2; 296, Nick Steel 23:58.9; 298, Addison Andrix 24:03.2; 301, Quinn Thompson 24:13.8; 307, Marco Silvestri 24:29.9; 337, Thomas Leon 27:05.5; 355, Izaya Vazquez 37:12.9.

### JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS (5,000-meter)

Owatonna: 6, Chloe Schmidt 22:13.1; 15, Zinash Valen 22:39.3; 16, Reegan Lindholm 22:41.3; 31, Hannah St. Martin 23:16.6; 39, Betsy Wunderlich 23:27.7; 46, Mirah Eichten 23:39.4; 47, Iringo Booskay 23:39.8; 49, Annika Andrix 23:41.1; 57, Liv Larsen 23:56.9; 66, Jalisa Matthews-Schmidt 24:06.9; 67, Annika Moran 24:19.0; 69, Rachel Benson 24:21.5; 73, Natalie Vesterby 24:28.5; 86, Grace Randall 24:51.6; 88, Angela Zaccaria 24:53.3; 92, Tea Boerner 25:03.0; 106, Amelia VandeZande 25:22.2; 111, Dani Burtis 25:26.8; 120, Roxy Manzano 25:38.8; 136, Mikayla Dinse 26:03.9; 142, Annabelle Wellnitz 26:08.5; 145, Tayah Hoffman 26:13.7; 159, Olivia Vieths 26:40.4; 190, Camryn Bartz 28:07.2; 203, Chloe Ingvaldson 28:59.3.

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Tigers claim first Gopher Conference title

## Blossom teams place fourth

BY LEMAR NELSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Medford Tigers boys' cross country team made history on Tuesday, October 16 by winning the school's first ever Gopher Conference Championship at Daly Park in Mapleton.

"All of our runners performed very well," Tigers' head coach Dave Bon said.

"The team was confident going into the meet, but they outperformed even their own high expectations. We had a taste of success earlier in the season and focused on this meet. Everyone's hard work paid off."

Medford's Tyler Stursa claimed gold for boys with a first-place time of 18 minutes and 38 seconds.

Brett Johnson and Garrett Fitzgerald finished third and fourth, respectively, and joined Stursa as members of the All-Gopher Conference First Team. Tiger runners Ryan Hermanstorfer and Cohen Stursa earned All-Conference honorable mention.

The Tigers' girls team was led by Kelsey Walock, who finished 14th and was an All-Conference honorable

mention selection.

However, Medford did not have enough female runners to qualify as a team.

Both of Blooming Prairie's teams finished fourth in their respective divisions.

Isaac Ille took second for the boys' team with a time of 18:52, and Bobbie Bruns, in just her second meet back from injury, placed ninth in 22:52. Both were named All-Conference runners.

In addition to the two All-Conference picks, Abby Smith (24:54) earned Honorable Mention for her 19th place finish and Alex Miller ran a 20:28 for 19th place and an Honorable Mention also.

After Ille and Miller Adam Larson timed a 20:51, just three seconds behind Miller for the boys, and Ethan Grant and Hosea Baker finished just 20 seconds behind Larson at 20:51. Cody Nirk, Dylan Johnson and Joe Pirk1 all ran the course under 25 minutes, and Isaac Arnold and Gustaov Ogren also ran for the boys.

"It was a good day for running," Blossoms' head coach John Bruns said. "The kids ran some good races. Ille and Bruns, especially, put up some good In addition; Ty Forystek placed third in the boys' junior high race, and Shanna Halvorson came in second for the junior high

girls. I am satisfied with our progress this season, as we had mostly underclassmen, who will return for another year."

Asha Lightizer and Abby Braaten followed for the girls' times with 25:39 and 26:14. Olivia Johnson trailed Braaten by just 11 seconds, and Ashleigh Alwes also came in under 27 minutes with a 26:58. Rose Michaud ran a 27:41; and Jackie Hyland, Grace Brekke and Emily Anderson all finished under 29 minutes over the course.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva coach Miles Otstot said the his teams had a successful meet.

The Panthers' boys finished third and were led by Daniel Nydegger who finished seventh place in a time of 19:33.

"The boys team were excited to have two second team All-Conference runners in Daniel Nydegger and Addison Deyle," Otstot said. "We also had Caden Riewer finish as All-Conference honorable mention."

Like Medford, NRHEG did not have enough runners for its girls team to qualify, but Jade Mely ran a minute and half faster than she had all season and placed 16th.

Mely and Micaela Vaale finished as All-Gopher Conference honorable mention.

## AUTO RACING

# Racing legend Noble captures first feature win in Bandit finale

## Rude earns second straight points title as Bandits close out season

SUBMITTED BY JASON JOHNSON

Everyone calls Mark Noble a rookie, but he's a rookie in name only.

Noble, wrapping up his first year in the Minimizer Bandit Big Rig Series, finally captured that elusive feature win at Elko Speedway Saturday night.

"We've been trying to get (to Victory Lane) all year, and we finally made it," Noble said.

Noble has more than 600 career wins on the dirt track, but the 2018 season is his first go-round with the Bandits.

"I have a lot of respect for Mark," Ricky Rude said. "He races me clean, and he had a great race."

Rude fell short of the feature win, finishing second, but he picked up his second straight season points championship at the end of the night.

"I'm tickled to death," Rude

said. "I hope I can make it three in a row (in 2019). That's my goal."

Elko Speedway, the site of a packed house back in August, witnessed the return of Dave 'Heavy D' Sparks. Sparks piloted the #51 truck for the second time this year, while Diesel Brothers castmate and friend 'Diesel' Dave Kiley made his Bandit debut driving the #98.

"This is one of the wildest forms of racing I've ever been a part of," Sparks said.

The Bandits will take the winter to tune and tinker with their trucks, but next year's schedule is expected to be released in the coming months.

As for the 'rookie' Noble, he expects to be back driving for Kruckeberg Motorsports when the green flag flies for the first time in 2019.

"I have to thank God for this," Noble said. "I'm just an old guy having fun, and fortunate enough to do it."

## TENNIS

### Owatonna's Rahrick qualifies for state meet

Owatonna tennis player Emily Rahrick earned her spot at the Class 2A state meet on Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26 at the University of Minnesota by finishing second at the individual section meet on Tuesday, October 16 at Rochester Athletic Club.

Rahrick defeated Rochester John Marshall's Chrissanne Kuester 6-0, 7-5 in the semifinals before eventually falling to Rochester Mayo's Emma Trncic 6-2, 6-3 in the

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# Steele County Times 2018 Football Contest

## Football Contest Rules

**Contest:** Begins Sept. 6 and runs for 12 weeks.

**How to win:** Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team’s name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter to: Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or drop off at our office at 411 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to [bptimes@frontiernet.net](mailto:bptimes@frontiernet.net). It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

**What you win:** The Times will award a \$20 gift card to the Lansing Corners, in Lansing, to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a subscription to the Steele County Times (\$42 value). Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie- Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 14 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc. or Dodge Media, Inc.

FOOTBALL  
CONTEST  
ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Phone

1

2

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4

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11

12

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18

19

20

\*Tie-Breaker Score

\*

Week 6

Mike Grunklee 4 wrong, Won by tie-braker

Week 8

Week 7

Dennis Tucker, won by tie-breaker

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19. Indianapolis at Oakland

20. San Francisco at Arizona (tiebreaker)

Don't forget to submit your answers!



SAMPLE BALLOT

State General Election Ballot

Steele County

State of Minnesota

November 6, 2018

State General Election Ballot

Instructions to Voters:  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ☐

| Federal Offices                                                                       | State Offices                                                                                     | County Offices                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Senator<br>For term expiring January 3, 2025<br>Vote for One                     | State Representative<br>District 27A<br>Vote for One                                              | County Commissioner<br>District 1<br>Vote for One                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Jim Newberger<br>Republican<br>January 3, 2025                  | <input type="radio"/> Peggy Bennett<br>Republican                                                 | <input type="radio"/> James Brady                                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Amy Klobuchar<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor<br>January 3, 2025     | <input type="radio"/> Terry Giersvik<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                                   | <input type="radio"/> Sylvia Archer                                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Dennis Schuller<br>Legal Marijuana Now<br>January 3, 2025       | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Paula M Overby<br>Minnesota Green Party<br>January 3, 2025      | Governor and Lieutenant Governor<br>Vote for One Team                                             | County Commissioner<br>District 2<br>Vote for One                                |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                | <input type="radio"/> Jeff Johnson and<br>Donna Bergstrom<br>Republican                           | <input type="radio"/> John P. Glynn                                              |
| U.S. Senator<br>Special Election for term expiring<br>January 3, 2021<br>Vote for One | <input type="radio"/> Tim Walz and<br>Peggy Flanagan<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                   | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Karin Housley<br>Republican<br>January 3, 2021                  | <input type="radio"/> Chris Wright and<br>Judith Schwartzbacker<br>Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis | County Auditor<br>Vote for One                                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Tina Smith<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor<br>January 3, 2021        | <input type="radio"/> Josh Weller and<br>Mary O'Connor<br>Libertarian                             | <input type="radio"/> Laura Ihreke                                               |
| <input type="radio"/> Sarah Wellington<br>Legal Marijuana Now<br>January 3, 2021      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Jerry Troolan<br>Unaffiliated<br>January 3, 2021                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | County Treasurer<br>Vote for One                                                 |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | <input type="radio"/> Cathy Piepho                                               |
| U.S. Representative<br>District 1<br>Vote for One                                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | County Sheriff<br>Vote for One                                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Jim Hagedorn<br>Republican                                      | Secretary of State<br>Vote for One                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Darrin D Helget                                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Dan Feehan<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                           | <input type="radio"/> John Howe<br>Republican                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Lon Thiele                                                 |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                | <input type="radio"/> Steve Simon<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                                      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| State Offices                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> William Denney<br>Independence                                              | County Attorney<br>Vote for One                                                  |
| State Representative<br>District 24A<br>Vote for One                                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | <input type="radio"/> Daniel A. McIntosh                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> John Petersburg<br>Republican                                   | State Auditor<br>Vote for One                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Joe Haegard<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                          | <input type="radio"/> Pam Myhra<br>Republican                                                     | County Surveyor<br>Vote for One                                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                | <input type="radio"/> Julia Blaha<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                                      | <input type="radio"/> Scott A. Tuchtenhagen                                      |
| State Representative<br>District 24B<br>Vote for One                                  | <input type="radio"/> Michael Ford<br>Legal Marijuana Now                                         | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Brian Daniels<br>Republican                                     | <input type="radio"/> Chris Dock<br>Libertarian Party                                             | Soil and Water Conservation<br>District Supervisor<br>District 1<br>Vote for One |
| <input type="radio"/> Yvette Marthaler<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            | <input type="radio"/> Mark Ihlenfeld                                             |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                | Attorney General<br>Vote for One                                                                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
|                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Doug Wardlow<br>Republican                                                  | Soil and Water Conservation<br>District Supervisor<br>District 3<br>Vote for One |
|                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Keith Ellison<br>Democratic-Farmer-Labor                                    | <input type="radio"/> Kyle Wolfe                                                 |
|                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Noah M. Johnson<br>Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis                           | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                           |
|                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                            |                                                                                  |

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

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Vote front and back of ballot

Steele County

State of Minnesota

November 6, 2018

Instructions to Voters:  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ☐

| Judicial Offices                                           | Judicial Offices                                        | City Offices                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Supreme Court                                              | 3rd District Court                                      | Mayor<br>City of Blooming Prairie<br>Vote for One                                                                                                                                                       |
| Chief Justice<br>Vote for One                              | Judge 1<br>Vote for One                                 | <input type="radio"/> Curtis Esplan                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Lorie Skjerven Gildea<br>Incumbent   | <input type="radio"/> Christina K. Stevens<br>Incumbent | <input type="radio"/> H Peterson                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Associate Justice 2<br>Vote for One                        | Judge 2<br>Vote for One                                 | Council Member<br>City of Blooming Prairie<br>Vote for Up to Two                                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Michelle MacDonald                   | <input type="radio"/> John T. Cajacob<br>Incumbent      | <input type="radio"/> Brad Clark                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Margaret Chulich<br>Incumbent        | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> Bill Newman                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | Judge 5<br>Vote for One                                 | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Associate Justice 1<br>Vote for One                        | <input type="radio"/> Ross Leuning<br>Incumbent         | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Barry Anderson<br>Incumbent          | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | Judge 8<br>Vote for One                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Associate Justice 5<br>Vote for One                        | <input type="radio"/> Carol Hanks<br>Incumbent          |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Anne McKeig<br>Incumbent             | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | Judge 10<br>Vote for One                                | Mayor<br>City of Ellendale<br>Vote for One                                                                                                                                                              |
| Court of Appeals                                           | <input type="radio"/> Lisa R. Hayne<br>Incumbent        | <input type="radio"/> Russell Goette                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Judge 2<br>Vote for One                                    | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Anthony L. Brown                     | Judge 12<br>Vote for One                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Lucinda Ellen Jesson<br>Incumbent    | <input type="radio"/> Christine A. Long<br>Incumbent    | Council Member<br>City of Ellendale<br>Vote for Up to Two                                                                                                                                               |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> Stephanie Lagason Kibler                                                                                                                                                          |
| Judge 4<br>Vote for One                                    | Judge 15<br>Vote for One                                | <input type="radio"/> Scott Groth                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Tracy Smith<br>Incumbent             | <input type="radio"/> Joseph F. Chase<br>Incumbent      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Judge 6<br>Vote for One                                    | Judge 24<br>Vote for One                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Renee L. Worke<br>Incumbent          | <input type="radio"/> Christa M. Daily<br>Incumbent     |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Judge 7<br>Vote for One                                    |                                                         | City Question                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks<br>Incumbent |                                                         | To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to<br>the word "Yes" on that question. To vote<br>against a question, fill in the oval next to<br>the word "No" on that question.                         |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     |                                                         | City Question 1                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Judge 12<br>Vote for One                                   |                                                         | Issuance of Intoxicating Liquor Licenses<br>Shall the Ellendale City Council be authorized,<br>upon discontinuing the municipal liquor store, to<br>issue intoxicating liquor licenses within the city? |
| <input type="radio"/> Diane Bratvold<br>Incumbent          |                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     |                                                         | <input type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Judge 14<br>Vote for One                                   |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> James B. Florey<br>Incumbent         |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                     |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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Vote front and back of ballot

State General Election Ballot

State General Election Ballot

Steele County

State of Minnesota

November 6, 2018

Instructions to Voters:  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ☐

| City Offices                                                | School District Offices                                                                                                                                                | School District Offices                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council Member<br>City of Medford<br>Vote for Up to Two     | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 761<br>(Owatonna)<br>Vote for Up to Four                                                                        | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 829<br>(Waseca)<br>Vote for Up to Four  |
| <input type="radio"/> Chad Langeslag                        | <input type="radio"/> Nikki Gieseke                                                                                                                                    | <input type="radio"/> Michelle Feeley                                                          |
| <input type="radio"/> Corey Samora                          | <input type="radio"/> Jolayne Mohs                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Dave D. Dunn                                                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Grace Bartlett                        | <input type="radio"/> Lori Weisenburger                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Scott Deml                                                               |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      | <input type="radio"/> Mark Sebring                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Chris Mitchell                                                           |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Katie Bendix Youngberg                                                   |
|                                                             | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Cory James Hackett                                                       |
|                                                             | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Charles Priebe                                                           |
| Council Member at Large<br>City of Owatonna<br>Vote for One | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Kurt "Walker" Anderson                | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 763<br>(Medford)<br>Vote for Up to Three                                                                        | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Jeffery W. Okerberg                   | <input type="radio"/> Allison Janke                                                                                                                                    | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      | <input type="radio"/> Whitney Winkels                                                                                                                                  | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 2125<br>(Triton)<br>Vote for Up to Four |
| Council Member<br>City of Owatonna Ward 1<br>Vote for One   | <input type="radio"/> Jenny Jones                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> Lloyd Henslin Jr                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Nathan Dotson                         | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Dale Jensen                                                              |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Emily Scanlan                                                            |
| Council Member<br>City of Owatonna Ward 3<br>Vote for One   | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> Wendy Kenworthy                                                          |
| <input type="radio"/> David C. Burbank                      | Special Election For School Board<br>Member<br>Independent School District No. 763<br>(Medford)<br>To fill vacancy in term expiring<br>January 4, 2021<br>Vote for One | <input type="radio"/> Melissa Kubat                                                            |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      | <input type="radio"/> Betsy Chambers                                                                                                                                   | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                         |
| Council Member<br>City of Owatonna Ward 5<br>Vote for One   | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Brent Svenby                          |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |
| <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                      |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |

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Vote front and back of ballot

Steele County

State of Minnesota

November 6, 2018

Instructions to Voters:  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ☐

| School District Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | School District Offices                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to<br>the word "Yes" on that question. To vote<br>against a question, fill in the oval next to<br>the word "No" on that question.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 2168<br>(N.R.H.E.G.)<br>Vote for Up to Four       |
| School District Question 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Lucas Routh                                                                        |
| Approval of Referendum Revenue<br>Authorization<br>The board of Independent School District No.<br>2125 (Triton Public Schools) has proposed to<br>increase its general education revenue by \$500<br>per pupil. The proposed referendum would be<br>applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes<br>payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or<br>reduced as provided by law.<br>Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by<br>the board of Independent School District No.<br>2125 be approved?                                                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Travis Routh                                                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> Rick Schultz                                                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Rich Mueller                                                                       |
| BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT<br>QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A<br>PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Jody E. Wynnemer                                                                   |
| School District Question 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
| Additional Referendum Revenue<br>Authorization For Curriculum, Instruction and<br>Technology<br>The board of Independent School District No.<br>2125 (Triton Public Schools) has also proposed<br>to increase its general education revenue by an<br>additional \$150 per pupil. The proposed<br>referendum would be applicable for ten years,<br>beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless<br>otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by<br>law.<br>If School District Question 1 is approved, shall<br>the increase in the revenue proposed by the<br>board of Independent School District No. 2125<br>also be approved? | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
| BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT<br>QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A<br>PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
| School District Question 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | School Board Member<br>Independent School District No. 2172<br>(Kenyon-Wanamingo)<br>Vote for Up to Four |
| Additional Referendum Revenue<br>Authorization For Fine Arts<br>The board of Independent School District No.<br>2125 (Triton Public Schools) has also proposed<br>to increase its general education revenue by an<br>additional \$100 per pupil. The proposed<br>referendum would be applicable for ten years,<br>beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless<br>otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by<br>law.<br>If School District Questions 1 and 2 are<br>approved, shall the increase in the revenue<br>proposed by the board of Independent School<br>District No. 2125 also be approved?                         | <input type="radio"/> Debb Paquin                                                                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> Kasey Cordes                                                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Kevin L. Anderson                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Phillip C. Parrish                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Marilyn Syverson                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Jennifer Lerfald                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> AJ Lindell                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Brad Kennedy                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Tonya Craig                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> Mary Frutiger                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="radio"/> write-in, if any                                                                   |

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Dodge County Advantage  
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Weekly crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | C | T |   | C | R | E | T | E |   | U | N | T | O |   |   |   |
| U | X | O | R |   | R | O | R | E | M |   | K | E | R | B |   |   |   |
| T | I | R | E |   | T | A | R | E | S |   | A | P | I | O |   |   |   |
| U | L | N | A | S |   | M | O | N |   |   | U | S | A | G | E |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | T | O | L | E | R | A | N | C | E |   |   |   |   |
| S | S | T |   |   | R | A | D |   |   | G | O | A |   | T | O | T |   |
| P | A | R | S | E | C |   |   | R | E | B |   | B | A | C | H |   |   |
| A | L | I | A | S |   |   | T | A | R |   |   | A | O | R | T | A |   |
| T | A | L | C |   |   | P | R | Y |   |   | U | L | S | T | E | R |   |
| E | L | L |   |   | T | E | A |   |   | E | F | T |   | S | T | P |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | N | E | W | C | A | N | A | A | N |   |   |   |   |
| U | N | B | I | D |   |   | H | U | G |   |   | R | A | B | B | I |   |
| G | E | A | N |   |   |   | D | O | R | I | S |   |   | B | U | R | A |
| L | E | A | N |   |   |   | A | M | I | N | O |   |   | O | R | E | M |
| I | D | L | Y |   |   |   | T | A | C | E | T |   |   | B | L | A | B |

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT

CASE TYPE:  
Domestic Abuse  
Case No.: 74-JV-18-1916

Summons and Notice  
Termination of Parental  
Rights Matter

Karen R. Duncan  
Judge of District Court

BY:  
Robin Hoesley  
Court Administrator

10/23, 10/30, 11/7

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:  
Crystal Dominique Richardson, Mother

Robert Paschal, Father  
Joseph Edward Johnson, Father

Jonathan Cornelius Smith, Father

NOTICE TO: Crystal Dominique Richardson, Joseph Edward Johnson, and Jonathan Cornelius Smith, above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Termination of Parental Rights Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, alleging that parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to the child(ren) named in the petition should be permanently severed.

2. Notice is hereby given that the matter of said Termination of Parental Rights Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located at Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, on November 21, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.

3. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.

4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.

5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) and taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable

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•PT 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

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63678 270TH AVE-KASSON (2miles east of Kasson between County 34 and Hwy 14) Thurs. Oct.25 4 am-7 pm and Fri. Oct 26 8:30am-4:30pm Heated Garage Sale! Tons of household items: décor (including holiday), dishes, glassware, table runners, place-mats, lamps, pictures, luggage, frames, nice queen coverlet/ shams, much more. No clothing. Cash only.

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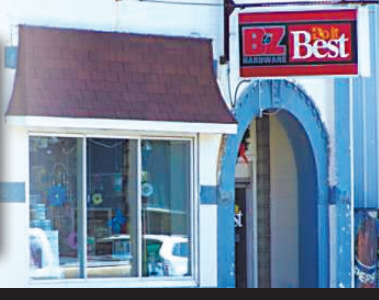
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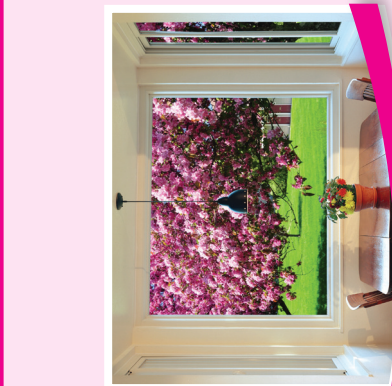
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# Fall HOME IMPROVEMENT

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# FALL CLEAN-UP

*Grab your rakes and come help  
prepare the grounds for winter.*



**SPRING AND SUMMER MAY  
BE THE SEASONS MOST often  
associated with landscaping and lawn  
care, but tending to lawns and gardens  
is a year-round job.**

If lawn and garden responsibilities dip considerably in winter, then fall is the last significant chance before the new year that homeowners will have to address the landscaping around their homes.

Fall lawn care differs from spring and summer lawn care, even if the warm temperatures of summer linger into autumn. Homeowners who want their lawns to thrive year-round can take advantage of the welcoming weather of fall to address any existing or potential issues.

- Keep mowing, but adjust how you mow. It's important that homeowners continue to mow their lawns so long as grass is growing. But as fall transitions into winter, lower the blades so the grass is cut shorter while remaining mindful that no blade of grass should ever be trimmed by more than one-third. Lowering the blades will allow more sunlight to reach the grass in the months ahead.
- Remove leaves as they fall. Much like apple-

picking and foliage, raking leaves is synonymous with fall. Some homeowners may wait to pick up a rake until all of the trees on their properties are bare. However, allowing fallen leaves to sit on the ground for extended periods of time can have an adverse effect on grass. Leaves left to sit on the lawn may ultimately suffocate the grass by forming an impenetrable wall that deprives the lawn of sunlight and oxygen. The result is dead grass and possibly even fungal disease. Leaves may not need to be raked every day, but homeowners should periodically rake and remove leaves from their grass, even if there are plenty left to fall still hanging on the trees.

- Repair bald spots. Summer exacts a toll on lawns in various ways, and even homeowners with green thumbs may end up with a lawn filled with bald spots come September. Autumn is a great time to repair these bald spots. Lawn repair mixes like Scotts® PatchMaster contain mulch, seed and fertilizer to repair bald spots, which can begin to

recover in as little as seven days. Before applying such products, remove dead grass and loosen the top few inches of soil. Follow any additional manufacturer instructions as well.

- Aerate the turf. Aerating reduces soil compacting, facilitating the delivery of fertilizer and water to a lawn's roots. While many homeowners, and particularly those who take pride in tending to their own lawns, can successfully aerate their own turf, it's best to first have soil tested so you know which amendments to add after the ground has been aerated.

Gardening centers and home improvement stores sell soil testing kits that measure the pH of soil, but homeowners who want to test for nutrients or heavy metals in their soil may need to send their samples to a lab for further testing.

Fall lawn care provides a great reason to spend some time in the yard before the arrival of winter.



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# Chimney maintenance



## a part of home safety

### AS TEMPERATURES DROP AND THOUGHTS ONCE AGAIN TURN

to lighting fires and sitting down with a good book, it's important to revisit chimney maintenance. Even though chimneys do not require daily upkeep, regular maintenance efforts help chimneys operate safely and prevent deaths and injuries while protecting homes from fire.

Various problems can arise when chimneys are not well maintained. Such problems include chimney fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and early failure of the chimney and heating sources that the chimney vents.

Carbon monoxide can be scary, as it is virtually invisible without a proper detector. The National Vital Statistics System says that, in 2015, 393 deaths resulted from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning in the United States. When carbon monoxide is breathed in, it builds up quickly and combines with the blood, reducing the blood's ability to carry oxygen. The Canada Safety Council says that body tissue and cells can't function without oxygen.

Chimney fires are another potential byproduct of poor chimney maintenance. The Chimney Safety Institute of America notes that chimneys expel the byproducts of combustion, including smoke, water vapor, gases, unburned wood particles, hydrocarbon, tar fog, and assorted minerals, which can condense on the inside of the chimney flue. The residue, called creosote, is highly combustible. With the right conditions, a chimney fire can occur.

To avoid chimney fires and other risks, take these precautions, courtesy of CSIA, HomeAdvisor and Popular Mechanics.

- Have chimneys inspected annually and properly cleaned by a professional chimney technician.

- Make sure tree branches and other obstacles are cleared away from the top of the chimney.

- Use seasoned hardwoods that have been split for several months to a year. "Green" wood creates more creosote.

- The top-down method of building a fire produces less smoke. This means using larger pieces of wood on the bottom and the smallest twigs and kindling at the top. The fire will burn from the top and down, igniting the wood beneath as it goes.

- Put a cap on the chimney to keep out rain, snow and small animals.
- Keep fires small; otherwise, the intense heat may damage bricks and mortar in the chimney. Repair any damage promptly before lighting another fire.

- Open the damper and replace doors so that air supply flows freely and can vent the smoke promptly, reducing residence time in the flue; otherwise, creosote can form.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout the home and routinely check the batteries.

# What is a smart home?



## REFRIGERATORS THAT INFORM THEIR OWNERS WHEN IT'S TIME TO BUY

more eggs and thermostats that learn homeowners' heating and cooling preferences may once have seemed like futuristic ideas straight out of a sci-fi movie. However, such products are no longer a dream but a reality.

The term "smart home" refers to a residence that has appliances, HVAC, lighting, entertainment systems, security, and many more devices that communicate with one another. Such devices can be controlled remotely, according to SmartHomeUSA, an automation product retailer. Proponents of smart home technology say features can help people save money on utilities and conserve natural resources, all the while providing peace of mind to homeowners.

In 2016, 80 million smart home devices were delivered worldwide. That marks a 64 percent increase from 2015, according to the research data firm IHS Markit. The smart home trend is only expected to grow in coming years.

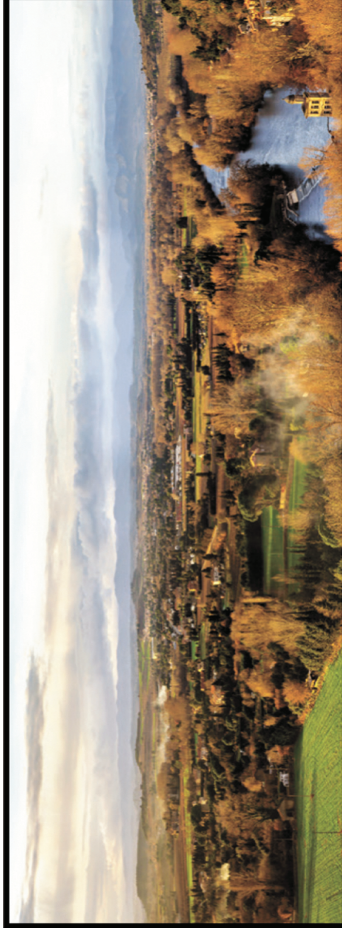
Although there's interest in smart home technology, the industry remains fragmented. Consumers are trying to figure out which devices are simply fun and which provide practical benefits. Furthermore, the range of smart devices is expanding rapidly, making potential compatibility issues a concern. Companies that plan to educate consumers further about the advantages of smart home features and are open to standardization may have the best chances of survival.

Those interested in dabbling in some smart home technology and testing the waters may want to start with the following household items.

- Smart bulbs: Manufacturers offer various types of smart light bulbs. Some are color-changing, others react to doorbells or alarms, and others can simulate typical lighting patterns when homeowners are away. Integrated apps enable remote access to scheduling so people can arrive home to a well-lit house.

- Home security: Wi-Fi enabled doorbells with video capabilities allow residents to see who is at the door without having to open it. Cameras can even be accessed remotely, simulating that someone is at home at all times. Never wonder if you've locked the door again with smart locks that can be engaged via a smartphone. Make sure that homes are secured or that pets are behaving while out with smart cameras.
- Flood sensor: Get peace of mind against damaging floods with Wi-Fi flood sensors.
- Appliances: A new breed of smart appliances can make it possible for users to turn on the washing machine while out of the house, close refrigerator doors from afar or even start their vacuum cleaners remotely.

Smart technology is taking over and is likely to continue changing the way people live and work.



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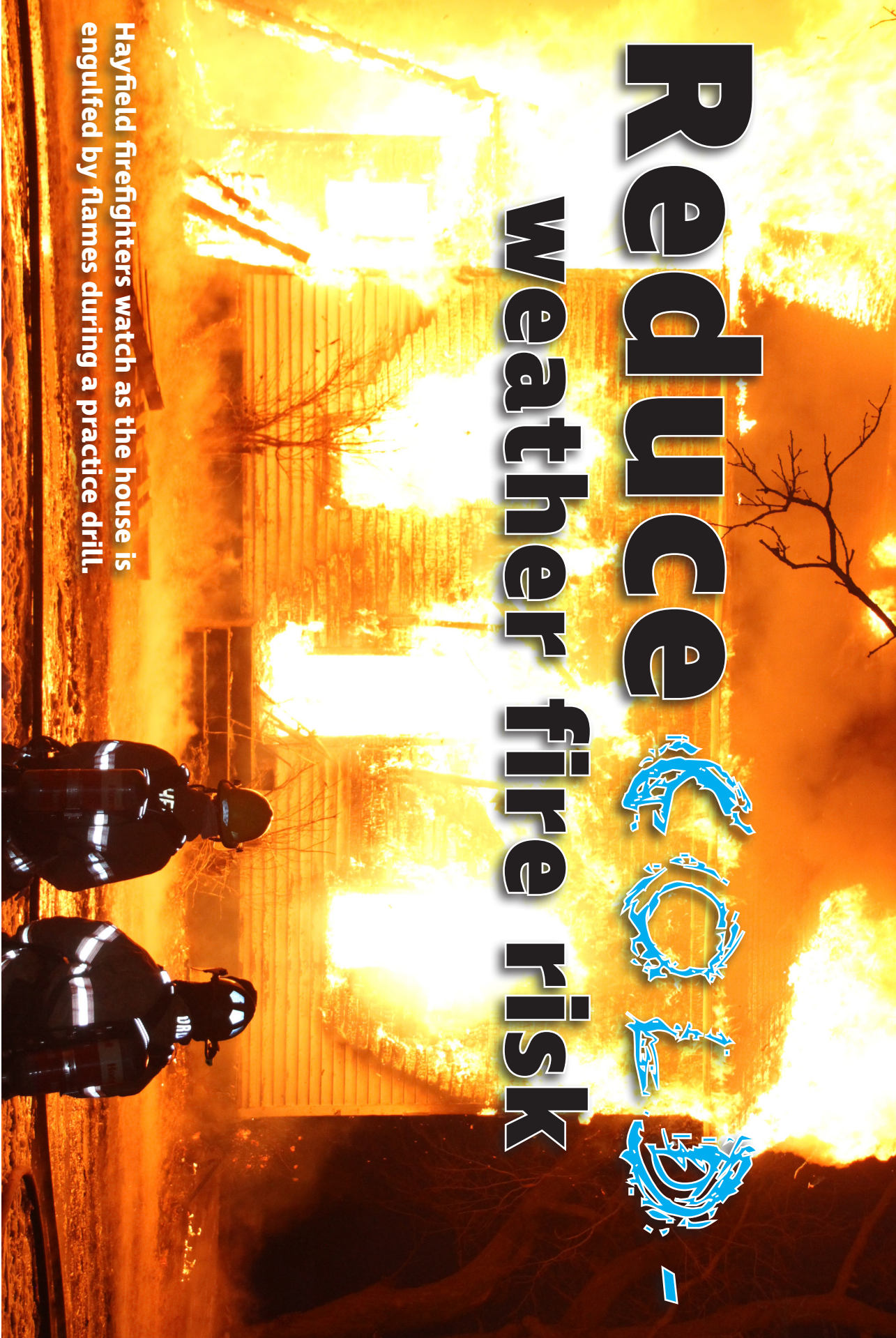
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# Reduce COL - weather fire risk

Hayfield firefighters watch as the house is engulfed by flames during a practice drill.



**PLENTY OF THINGS HEAT UP WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPS**, including

the risk for fire hazards. Fireplaces, stoves, heating systems, candles, and even electric lights are used more often during the winter than any other time of year, so it makes sense that the risk of home fires increases when the mercury drops.

The U.S. Fire Administration says 905 people die in winter home fires each year. Cooking is the leading cause of all home fires and contributes to around \$2 billion in property loss each year. Understanding potential risks and exercising caution can help homeowners protect themselves, their families and their homes from fire.

**Cooking**

Home heating fires peak between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., when many people are home preparing dinner. The following steps, courtesy of the American Red Cross, can improve safety in the kitchen and reduce the likelihood of a home fire.

- Never leave cooking food unattended, as it can take just seconds for fires to ignite.

- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove or other appliances that generate heat.
- Clean regularly to prevent grease buildup.
- Make sure appliances are turned off before leaving the room or going to bed.

**Heating**

The National Fire Protection Association warns that heating is the second leading cause of home fires, deaths and injuries in the United States. The NFPA offers these safety guidelines.

- Install heating appliances according to manufacturers' instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Fuel-burning equipment needs to vent to the outside.

- Never use an oven to heat a home.
- Keep anything that can burn away from heating equipment, including portable space heaters.
- Clean and inspect heating appliances regularly.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

**Electric**

The National Safety Council estimates that between 600 and 1,000 people die each year from electrocution. Electricity also can contribute to home fires. The Energy Education Council offers these safety suggestions.

- Never force plugs into outlets.
  - Check that cords are not frayed or cracked. Do not run cords under carpets or place them in high-traffic areas.
  - Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
  - Make sure light bulbs are the proper wattage for fixtures.
  - Install ground fault circuit interrupters in kitchens, baths, laundry rooms, and elsewhere, making sure to test them regularly.
  - Check periodically for loose wall receptacles and loose wires. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls.
- Home fires are no joke and can be prevented with simple safety checks.

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# HOW TO MAKE EXISTING WINDOWS MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

## DRAFTY WINDOWS MAKE HOMES LESS COMFORTABLE

by allowing cold air in during the winter and warm air in when temperatures rise. But comfort is not the only concern associated with leaky windows, as such fixtures also can have a negative impact on the environment.

Leaky windows require heating and cooling systems to work harder to keep home interiors comfortable during times of the year when temperatures can be extreme. In the dead of winter, a leaky window will force a home's inhabitants to turn up the thermostat, which only increases energy consumption and energy bills. The same scenario plays out in summer, when leaky windows allow hot air in, leading homeowners to lower the temperature of air conditioning units so everyone inside is cool and comfortable.

Thankfully, making windows more energy efficient does not necessarily require homeowners to replace existing windows. Before going that potentially expensive route, homeowners can consider the following strategies to improve the energy efficiency of their windows.

- Hang curtains. Curtains can help homeowners cut down on heating and cooling costs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, properly hung draperies can reduce heat loss by as much as 25 percent. In the summer, curtains can block the hot rays from the sun from entering a home, reducing the need to turn up air conditioning units. While



curtains won't fix leaks or block hot or cold air from entering a home, they can serve as a buffer between a home's inhabitants and the air seeping in through leaks.

- Caulk or add weatherstripping. Small cracks and gaps around windows, which are most often found around windows in older buildings, might not seem like a big deal, but such breaches can lead to considerable energy loss. The DOE recommends using caulk to seal cracks that are less than 1/4-inch wide on the parts of the window that do not move (i.e., frames and where the trim meets the wall). Caulk might be less effective at fixing leaks larger than 1/4 inch in width. Employ weatherstripping to address leaks

on movable parts of the window. Properly applied weatherstripping should adequately seal windows when they are closed without making it difficult to open or close them later on. Weatherstripping is available in various materials, and homeowners can visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver/](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/) weatherstripping to find the material that's most suitable for their situation.

- Install windows films. Plastic window films are another option for homeowners looking to improve the energy efficiency of their windows. Heat shrink film can be cut to fit each individual leaky window in a home and then attached to windows using double-sided tape. A hair dryer can then be used to shrink the film and remove any wrinkles. Low-emissivity, or Low-E, coatings are a more expensive alternative to heat shrink film, and they can be equally effective at improving energy efficiency. Installation of Low-E coatings can be more difficult, as they do not provide as much leeway for mistakes during application as heat shrink film.

Leaky windows are bad for homeowners' energy bills and the environment. But homeowners have options other than full window replacements to fix leaks and improve efficiency.

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# Get this Fall Creative



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# Backsplashes

## A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO REJUVENATE YOUR KITCHEN

**YOU'RE STANDING IN YOUR KITCHEN THAT'S A LITTLE OLD** and outdated. The cabinets aren't the right color and the floor has just been redone. You look around for anything else, but you're beginning to concede that a full remodel needs to be done so that your kitchen doesn't look like the meat locker from Rocky.

Of course, a full remodel means that there's a ton of money that needs to be sunk into cabinets and all the fixings that go with them. Then they might not match the appliances, which might be old too, so you might have replace that. Suddenly, you're staring a massive bill in the face.

Then again, there could be a cheaper alternative by putting in a new backsplash.

Changing your backsplash isn't going to keep your

fridge from making that weird noise in the middle of the night and it's not going to suddenly make your cabinets 20 years younger, but if you want to make a change to your kitchen that won't require a bank loan, a backsplash could be just what you need to give it a new look.

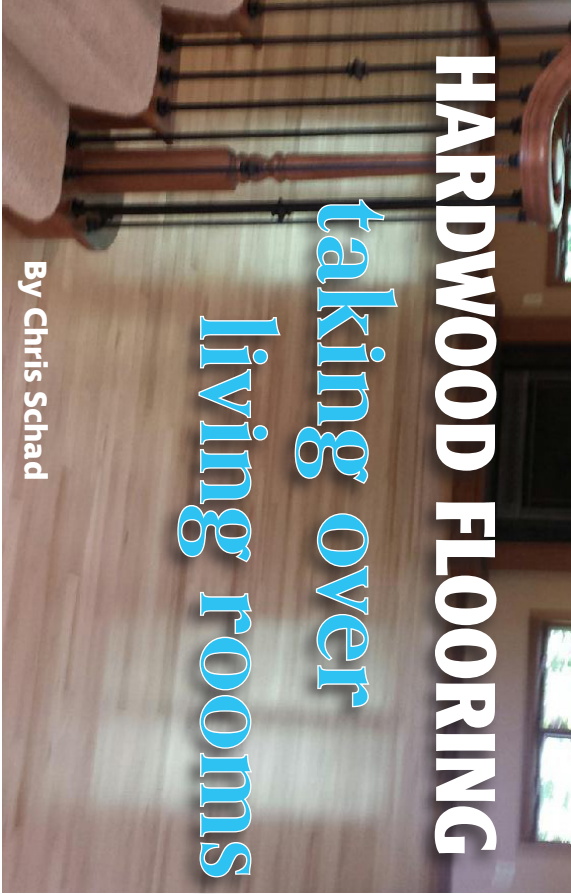
Most of today's backsplashes are made out of ceramic tile. As the material of choice, there are roughly a million different choices to choose from that feature different sizes, shapes and colors. With such a variety, the right shade of tile can help lighten or darken your cabinets to blend in with the rest of your kitchen.

The ceramic tile also features an accent stripe that can be made out of a different color or mosaic. That can bring the plainest kitchen to extraordinary with a simple stripe. Backsplashes haven't been as prominent in kitchens

over the year due to the messy installation process. As caulk and grout have gotten all over the place, more people have opted just to leave a solid piece in their open areas. Today, that process has been simplified as the grout now comes in a tube similar to caulk. While it doesn't completely eliminate the mess, it cleans things up a little bit and other methods, such as having the tile attached to an adhesive strip, can also be used.

Backsplashes have also made their way outside of the kitchen. The addition of a backsplash can be used on bathroom walls, sinks and even the shower to add some flair to turn a bathroom into a palace.

Again, this won't replace your faulty appliances or make your falling apart cabinets look like new, but a backsplash could be the cost effective accent, your home is missing.



**THROUGHOUT THE TEST OF TIME**, the interiors of living rooms and gathering areas have been dominated by carpet. Whether it's the old shag carpet that dominated the 1970s or more compact stuff as things have become more modern, it just seemed like a natural thing to lay carpet down in every room of your house.

Of course, everything changes over time and the world of flooring is no exception. With the time and energy that it takes to install carpet (tearing it up, putting it down, etc.) and the allergens that carpet may attract, many people are switching to hardwood flooring throughout their house to give it a more modern feel.

The most popular choice for people diving into wood flooring has been ones with the look of wood that can transform any room. The most obvious option to achieve the wood look is by using actual wood flooring that comes in many shapes and sizes. As the most traditional option, it's a fool-proof way to a room the beauty of natural wood.

However, wood has plenty of drawbacks. Out of the current options with flooring, it's the least durable and most expensive. It requires plenty of maintenance and is difficult to install because it has to be nailed or glued down to the underlayment. Such a process makes wood flooring a permanent option and doesn't allow homeowners to be change things up if they choose.

With that in mind, many have taken the option of installing laminate flooring. Like wood, the look comes in different shapes and sizes, but the cost has a wide range to fit any budget. The installation of laminate flooring is much easier than wood as most offer a simple "click" installation that doesn't attach to layers underneath including tile and linoleum.

The only issue with laminate flooring is that it's not water resistant. That makes it more ideal for living and bedrooms rather than a bathroom or kitchen. To solve that problem, the most popular choice today are vinyl planks.

As the most recent flooring option, vinyl planks are similar to laminate flooring that it can range widely in price to fit your budget. It also is very water resistant which helps solve the problem for people who would like to put it in their bathroom and kitchen. The key to this is selecting a thicker piece of vinyl plank. The thicker of plank, the higher quality that flooring will be and thus make it more durable.

Perhaps the most innovative thing about vinyl planks is the ability to add to it. For those wanting the true wood look with the texture included, some options have the feeling of wood added to them, which will not only serve as a home improvement hack, but fool your guests as well.

As the hardwood takeover begins, it's good to know that there are several options that can be taken to give your home a new feel without making it a permanent or laborious solution.



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