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EDITORIAL

Ex-administrator's payout should serve as a wake-up call

Last week's announcement of the settlement against former Steele County administrator Laura Elvebak may have caught some people by surprise. We believe it deserves some additional explanation that hasn't been shared by county officials.

In addition to leaving county employment with three months of pay in hand, which was roughly \$30,000, Elvebak now will collect an additional \$225,000 pay day. It may seem like a hefty amount, which most people would likely agree it is, but it's a far cry from what she potentially could have won in court.

Elvebak sued the county with claims of sexual discrimination, violations of Minnesota's Open Meeting Laws and violation of Minnesota Whistleblower Act. These are serious allegations that can't be taken lightly.

Sexual discrimination cases can be costly, sometimes running into the millions of dollars. We believe it was in the best interests of taxpayers for the county to settle the case for what it did to avoid the risk of spending much more in fighting the case as well as a potential jury award.

Though it was a totally different case, county residents may recall in 2016 a Steele County judge awarded a gay banker \$3.5 million for discrimination.

Some may take the attitude that the case is over and no big deal because it was settled out of court. But we'd like to remind people to once again take a look at the amount it was settled for— \$225,000. Such an award is not normal for cases that have no merit or are considered baseless.

Hiding behind a standard clause of "we admit no wrongdoing," which is worked into most settlements, should not fool citizens into thinking nothing inappropriate happened.

Based on the Elvebak's claims, it appears she had a strong case against the county.

The amount awarded to Elvebak is more than just merely "here's a little cash, now go away." This was a settlement that should cause alarm with citizens that something was amiss with our local county government. If Elvebak didn't have strong claims, the settlement would not have been nearly as large as it was. Granted it could have been much larger, but this proved to be substantial.

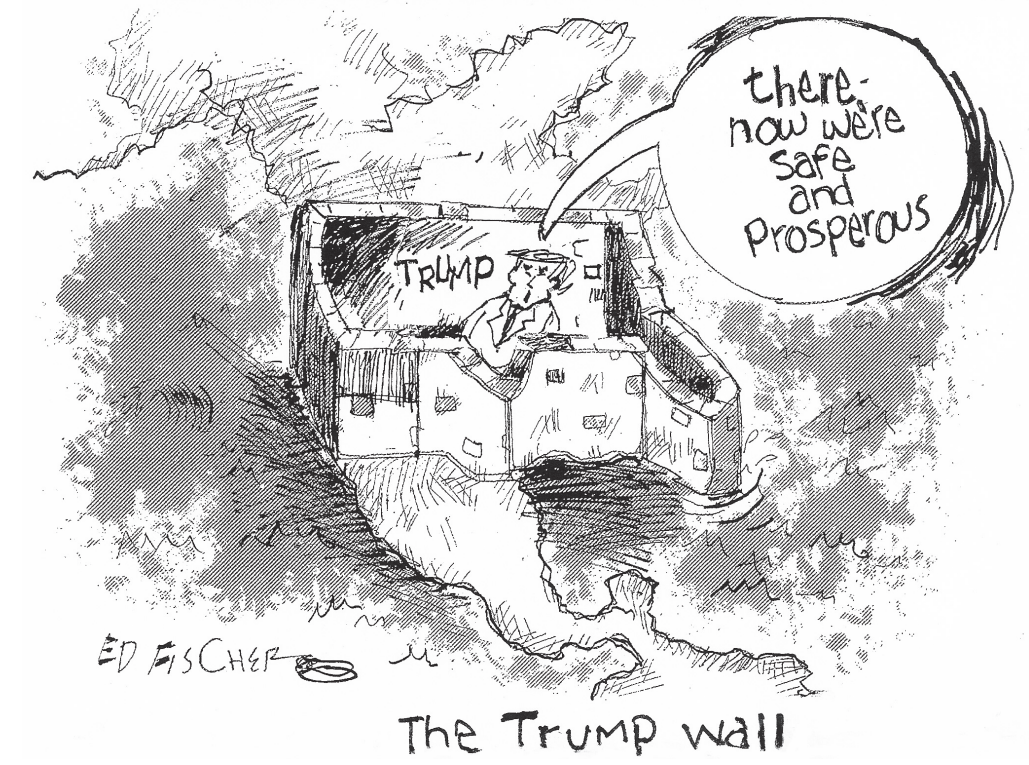
Elvebak's claims were downright embarrassing and disappointing to see our county commissioners involved in. They should serve as a wake-up call for more appropriate behavior on behalf of our elected officials.

While we may never know exactly what took place within the halls of the county government center during Elvebak's short two-year era, citizens need to demand that their elected officials act more professionally when dealing with employees. Laws are put into place for a reason, and they should not be viewed as something that can be circumvented by a certain select few. This settlement should set the tone that discrimination will not be tolerated in the work place.

Even though employment-at-will is the prevailing form of employment in the U.S., there are laws to protect employees against unjust discrimination and harassment.

Besides the discrimination claims, we were also concerned about the allegations of open meeting law violations. Government business must be conducted in public to assure the public's right to be informed. Secrecy in government must not be tolerated.

With this case being resolved, we hope our county officials can turn their attention to doing the right thing in future situations with employees and in conducting overall business. We hope they have taken steps to ensure this kind of behavior will not take place again in Steele County.



Don't shoot the messenger



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

For years I've often quietly used the phrase, "Don't shoot the messenger," when disgruntled readers have voiced their frustration over something that has been published they didn't want to see.

The familiar phrase is used to describe the act of blaming the bearer of bad news. As journalists we often find ourselves in situations where we're reporting news that others may not care to see. However, it's our responsibility to report the good along with the bad and yes, at times even the ugly.

Sadly, last week a newspaper in Maryland found itself on the side of a crazed man who came to literally shoot the messengers in an extreme act of violence.

A lone gunman marched into a newsroom at a newspaper in Annapolis, setting off an avalanche of gunfire that killed five journalists. It was the deadliest day for journalists since 9/11. Our hearts are filled with great sadness and sorrow for those lives lost once again during yet another mass shooting in our country.

The gunman was arrested a short time later without incident. It turns out he had an ax to grind with the newspaper over his unsuccessful defamation lawsuit in 2012. The newspaper had written a story about how he had harassed a woman in an effort to warn readers of the dangers of sharing personal details with people online.

I can't imagine the terror that the Maryland journalists faced last week when the gunman opened fire throughout the newsroom. Survivors thought they were going to die. Lives have been shattered forever.

Our hearts go out to the families of the victims of the attack.

The mass shooting has once again put everyone on edge.

On the day after the shooting, the newspaper published a haunting and heartbreaking opinion page. "Today, we are speechless," the newspaper wrote. "This page is intentionally left blank to commemorate victims of Thursday's shootings at our office."

Over the years we have found ourselves on the side of having angry readers over publishing facts they didn't seem to think should be. As you can imagine, it's an uncomfortable position to be in. I've had some readers march into the office yelling and screaming at us about something we've printed, though it has only happened a few times. It usually happens with the so-called "breaking news" we print.

It seems people are angry with us many times. It's kind of the nature of the job. The truth hurts.

We're fake. We're biased. We get criticized. We don't know English. We missed a comma here and there. We need to get our facts straight. And now it seems we die sharing the truth to others.

Despite the criticism we get about different stories, it is hard for me to fathom that journalists would be a target of violence.

Our primary goal is to inform the public. We take the First Amendment seriously to keep the public abreast of what's happening in the world. We are hard working at providing you with the news important to your lives.

In our quest for the truth, it doesn't help to be forced to worry about random nuts hell bent on slaughtering journalists. For the most part, our lives are not in constant danger while reporting.

Be assured we will continue to go in hot pursuit of reporting the news for the betterment of our communities.

GUEST COLUMNS

Celebrating the Fourth of July

By AMY KLOBUCHAR

The Fourth of July is about the patriots who risked everything to establish a new nation based on life, liberty and equality. And on this anniversary of our nation's independence, there's no better time to honor those who continue to defend and serve this great country.

My good friend Senator John McCain exemplifies this heroism and bravery. Senator McCain served as a Navy pilot during Vietnam, where he was shot down, captured and tortured as a prisoner of war for over five years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." I visited there once with him and saw firsthand the small cell that confined him physically, but never in spirit.

When his father took over as commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, Senator McCain refused to go home even when given the chance—he wouldn't accept his freedom unless the military code for officers was followed and everyone taken before him was allowed to go back first. It was an incredible act of honor and the same courage and conviction he's held all his life.

This month I got to visit him at his ranch in Arizona. While battling brain cancer, he continues to be engaged in the issues of our time, always a man of grit. I've been reading

Senator McCain's new book, and I keep coming back to one of my favorite lines. Writing about the lessons he's learned from Ernest Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls—his favorite book—Senator McCain writes, "Defending the dignity of others is never a lost cause whether you succeed or not."

Our founding fathers knew this too—they weren't sure whether or not they would succeed in building a more perfect union, but they knew they had to try. They would never have a true democracy without it.

Today's servicemembers continue that tradition of service, and we must continue to support them. We can start by modernizing G.I. Bill benefits, strengthening funding for veterans' health care, improving mental health care services and passing my bill on burn pits. We should also expand job training and employment opportunities for veterans and their spouses, cut red tape and wait times for scheduling appointments at VA Medical Facilities and work to eliminate veterans' homelessness.

In addition to our heroes in the military, so many other Minnesotans have carried the spirit of service that our founding fathers established. Today I want to celebrate all the

SEE KLOBUCHAR, A8

CORRECTIONS

In the Times Fourth of July tab, an article on the BP Main Street walking tour stated that Steve Wencl would be available to answer questions. Wencl was not available for the event. The Times apologizes for the error.

CLARIFICATION

Last week's subscription promotional ad for the Times inadvertently combined the bootlegging era and 100th anniversary of the National Guard coming into Blooming Prairie into the same concept. The two are separate events and should not have been together, according to local historian Steve Wencl. The Times apologizes for the confusion this may have caused.

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

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202-225-2472

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527-1/2 South Front Street
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Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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Suite 213
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-2003

SENATOR
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WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
302 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-2186

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1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,
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Rochester, MN 55901
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CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE MAYOR
H. Peterson
507-583-7573

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507-684-2681

HAYFIELD MAYOR
Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

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Lois M Nelson
507-390-4553
dlnelson1167@q.com

OWATONNA MAYOR
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Fax: 507-444-4394
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Boy Scouts has rich local history

LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITERS

When BPHS sophomore D J Stender received his Eagle scout rank in an honor court at First Lutheran Church recently, he became the 53rd Blooming Prairie young adult to earn that coveted rank. Only a little over 4 percent of boy scouts in the nation attain that highest scout honor.

Boy Scout Troop 260 of Blooming Prairie was chartered In March of 1947 as part of the Gamehaven Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The local Kiwanis Club sponsored the first troop, with 10 scouts divided into two patrols. Marvin Jensen became the first Scoutmaster, and the troop was part of the Chief Wabena District of the Gamehaven Council. Since then the district has had two name changes.

In 1959, Troop 260 dropped out of the rolls of active scout units, but the boys who remained in the program

continued being active and formed Explorer Post 261. They took part the National Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The occasion provided many memories for the local contingent, as they mixed with scouts from all over America.

One activity in the early 1960s became a popular one, and the local troop became very proficient in that endeavor, soon setting records in the council and in the entire state. In 1961, a team of Mike McFarlin, Gary Thorson, Roger Magnusson and Don Curtin won the Gamehaven Council Canoe Derby, racing from Red Wing to Winona, and they repeated that win in 1962. That victory earned them the right to keep the trophy plaque.

In addition to the winning team, the troop entered two more teams, and when the race ended, the Blooming Prairie Explorers had finished first, second and

fourth. That same year the No.1 team participated the Minneapolis Aquatennial Explorer Canoe Derby, which was a seven-day race from Bemidji to Minneapolis. Out of 19 teams entered, the BP team came in fourth. When this group of young men completed its formal education at BPHS, the Explorer Post ceased existence.

Blooming Prairie Boy Scout Troop 261 had been officially chartered in April of 1952, with the local Parent Teacher Association the sponsor. Troop 261 has remained the official troop from that time until the present. Through the years a large number of young men have participated in the scouting program in this community. The troop size has fluctuated greatly in the last few years, down from a troop high of 44 scouts in 1970 and 40 in 1968.

When it comes to attaining the high rank of Eagle Scout, John Curtin became the first in 1957, with George Tonolli following in 1958,

and John Morrison, Donald Miller, and Bruce Ebeling all reaching that goal in 1959. Before Stender's achievement recently, only two other boys had earned the coveted Eagle rank in the last 20 years, Luke Krebs in 1990 and Israel Clark in 2009. Before that, five scouts became Eagle scouts in 1994, and the largest group of seven earned the honor in 1997.

Eagle Scouts must perform some project to benefit, and two of the most recent projects are the picnic shelter on Victory Field, and the small table grouping by the front entrance to the high school. In 1980, a row of arborvitae trees was planted along the west edge of the parking lot at the Servicemen's Club as a tribute to the Eagle Scouts of Blooming Prairie. That planting is still a beautiful hedge of trees.

Along with the many adults who have served as Scoutmasters and other volunteers, some also served this community at the district and council levels. George Frederickson

and Tom Walters served on the Gamehaven Board of Directors, and Walters also served as Gamehaven Commissioner for three years. Finally, three local men have received the Silver Beaver award, the highest award given to an adult scout volunteer. Walters, George Curtin and George Frederickson all were so honored.

As has been chronicled, the Blooming Prairie community has been involved in scouting now for 71 years and has developed a rich tradition through those years. Besides the 53 Eagle Scouts that have been honored, hundreds of other young men have been involved in the Troop 261 activities, since its charter. Many a productive and respectful citizen has come up through the Boy Scout ranks. It is a tradition of which to be proud.

Much of the material for this article was researched by Tom Walters, with aid from Gary Thorson and Bruce Ebeling.

FARM UPDATE: stressful

FROM A1

are slow to drain, O'Connor said. He added that where water sits more than 24 hours, it's a good chance that the crop will be flooded out.

O'Connor said the corn, overall "looks really good." He said corn handles wetter soil better than soybeans.

"It has been a stressful spring."

Patrick O'Connor
Area Farmer

"We had some trouble getting beans in the ground and getting them out of the ground," O'Connor remarked. He explained that some soybeans planted later in the planting season had a problem coming through a crust created by saturated field conditions.

"You never know what Mother Nature has in store for us," O'Connor said. The wet weather has caused some long hours and late nights, he said.

It has been difficult for many area farmers to complete their spraying of crops because wet field conditions don't allow farmers to bring in their heavy equipment to the farm fields.

Overall, most area farmers say they have been able to complete their spraying. "Now, it's time to unwind and de-stress," O'Connor said.

Conditions could always be worse, admitted O'Connor, pointing out that farmers in southwestern Minnesota received "a ton of rain" recently and are experiencing life threatening conditions.

"Our problems don't seem



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ

Many farm fields have looked like small lakes in the past few weeks due to continuous driving rains. Some of the crops will survive while others have drowned out.

to be that big compared to other parts of the country," said O'Connor. "We are trying to find a silver lining and it's been a challenge to say the least," O'Connor continued.

Damage to crops has already been done and it has created many "drowned out" spots, says Jerry Ingvalson of Ingvalson Farms, Blooming Prairie.

Ingvalson said he does not recall rains interfering with crop growth this early in the growing season.

"The early planted crops of course look better than others," Ingvalson stated. Some soybeans were re-planted because of saturated conditions. "Corn survives a little better than beans," Ingvalson said. Re-planting

is not much of an option any longer, he added.

"It sounds like we are better off than farmers in the western and southwestern parts of the state," Ingvalson said.

Ingvalson Farms have planted sweet corn in past years but planted none this year, not being able to obtain a contract.

With rain forecast almost every day, farmers watch the markets and see them plummeting to about \$3 a bushel for corn and to about \$8 for soybeans.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service says farmers also worry about wet soil conditions increasing the risk of corn and soybean seedling diseases.

Wet and flooded soils are especially favorable for the soilborne, moisture-loving pathogens Pythium and Phytophthora. Pythium appears to cause most damage to seedlings of soybean or corn, and Phytophthora can damage soybean seedlings or start infections in the early summer that may develop and kill soybean plants later in the summer.

"It's easy to get grumpy over weather conditions but we must keep it all in perspective with what other parts of the country are experiencing," said O'Connor.

"Who knows, we may want more rain in a few weeks," Ingvalson speculated.

RIESS: death penalty

FROM A1

- That the capital felony was committed for the purpose of avoiding or preventing a lawful arrest or effecting an escape from custody;
- That the capital felony was committed for pecuniary gain;
- That the capital felony was a homicide and was committed in cold, calculated and premeditated manner without any pretense of moral or legal justification.

The state has also requested that Riess provide written notice of intent to present testimony of a mental health professional in order to establish statutory or nonstatutory mental mitigating circumstance or circumstances.

Riess remains in custody on a no bond hold in the Lee County Jail. She still has not been charged in Minnesota for the murder of her husband David Riess. His body was found in the couple's Blooming Prairie home March 23.

VISION: restored

FROM A1

attitude and is always doing research on Keratoconus," Heather remarked. He has learned there are 200,000 cases of Keratoconus diagnosed each year. "It's more common in African American people," he interjects.

"He's a different kid," says his mother. He loves basketball and hopes to play on the varsity next season. Doctors have told him that his special lenses make it safe for him to enjoy his favorite sport.

He plays pickup basketball with his friends and with his father Jeremy who lives in Cottage Grove. "Basketball is the way we bond," Rieken says.

Hunting and fishing have always appealed to Rieken. He spends a lot of his time hunting and fishing with his grandfather Greg.

After high school, Rieken plans to attend either Vermillion Community College in Ely or Bemidji State University. He hopes to enter wildlife management.

"My dream is to move to Montana, and maybe some day, work in Yellowstone," he says.

"Take care of your eyes," Rieken recommends. "Don't rub them and always keep your hands clean before you touch your eyes," he further recommended.

He first thought it was allergies that caused his eye condition.

His eye condition caused him to be frustrated and angry at first. With his family support and support from his friends, he became a changed kid, says Heather.

"We are just grateful there was an organization like the Lions out there to help Preston with his eye care," Heather commented.

The treatment he is getting is not covered by insurance and that's why the Lions stepped in to help.

"Mom and Grandma Lori have been there for me and have worried for me," Rieken says thankfully. "They even take time off work to make sure I am safe," he adds.

He says he tries to live "a positive life." He also says he will "work hard to get his story out" to the public. "Maybe, I will start a group some day," he said.

REACTION:

FROM A2

The final straw in that disagreement came when the board decided to consolidate two positions in the highway department. A new position had been established by the former county engineer. After the meeting, where the consolidation was decided, the administrator had the two employees sent home with pay for over a month. The board felt she could have discussed that decision with them.

What has never been mentioned, to my knowledge, is that both employees could have stayed on the job and earned their pay until the new position was filled. Not only that, they both were eligible for the new position. The administrator was then informed that she would be terminated and she chose to resign.

Would the same sequence of events have happened if the administrator had been male? Hard to say but we need to have our County Board and Administrator working together and the voters had decided the County needed to move in a different direction. Given the whole "Me Two" movement it's very possible the county would have lost in court, even if innocent. In regards to the whistleblower charge, it makes me wonder why she was not so diligent when dealing with the former board.

It was well known that the former board met socially many times with three or more. In my opinion who cares if they get together socially, they still have to pass their agenda. I guess what's troubling the most to me is the propensity of attorneys to settle out of court. We have a whole litany of discrimination issues being charged in today's society. Large settlements are sure to greatly increase these court cases. This will result in large increases in our insurance premiums. Maybe putting a lid on these in court may not be such a bad idea.

David Nielson
Owatonna

SECURITY:

FROM A2

The National Security Strategy, a statutorily mandated document, was announced by President Donald Trump about 11 months after he took office. The timing is usual. It has four pillars:

- Protect the homeland
- Promote American prosperity
- Preserve peace through strength
- Advance American influence

From those pillars, the Department of Defense develops the marching orders and plans for any and all conceivable possibilities. The DOD says its enduring mission is to provide combat-credible military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our nation. It says a whole lot more in the synopsis and even more in the full plan.

And from that strategic plan, comes the basis of the 10-month class for officers and the one-week seminar that includes civilians. (See sidebar). The Army War College graduate study classes can have only 60 percent of its students from the Army. There are other graduate schools named as War Colleges – including the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., the Air War College in Montgomery, Al., the Naval War College in Newport, RI., and the National War College in Washington, D.C. There are also the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va., and the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., and others.

The War College at Carlisle is the Army's senior educational institution. It was founded in 1901 at the Washington (D.C.) Barracks. It remained there until the 1940s when it was closed because of World War II. It reopened in 1950 at Fort Leavenworth, Ks., and moved to Carlisle one year later where it has remained.

The Carlisle Barracks has been a military post since 1757. It was founded by the British. The Army's first educational institution, The Artillery School, was

started at the Barracks in 1778. After that it served as the School of Cavalry Practice (horse stalls are still there but have been repurposed). From 1879 to 1918, it was the home of the infamous Carlisle Indian School. From 1920 to 1946 the barracks was the home of the Medical Field Service School. It was the site of a number of Army schools until 1951.

Each year, the names of the members of the class, are placed on a bronze plaque. These plaques are mounted permanently. Names, however, are not necessarily permanent. Some of the graduates' names have been ground off because of poor behavior or unlawful actions, I was told.

All in all, the Army War College has graduated over 23,000 military, civilian and international students. Almost 4,000 of the graduates have achieved general or flag officer rank. To date, over half of the International Fellows have been generals.

The 400 students (about 320 US and 80 International) are divided into what are called seminars. They stay with this group for the whole 10 months. They are divided by branch and by specialty. The civilians are divided up into the 24 seminars. My seminar group included officers from aviation, infantry, engineer, acquisitions, information systems, logistics, military intelligence, weather, human resources and medical service. They were in the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the National Guard, the Army and the Navy. There were four permanent instructors, an active duty Army colonel, a retired Air Force security force professor, a retired Foreign Service Officer, and a retired colonel who is an historian.

The International Fellows in my seminar were among the top military one percent of their countries of Kenya, Germany and Lebanon. The Lebanese lieutenant colonel has been in the military since he was 15. He flies helicopters. He has always been in a war and often spoke about his inability to understand post-traumatic stress ("it's just doing your job...forget it, move on").

The purpose of the War College program is all about teamwork, lifelong learning, critical thinking and analysis. The class, both for the 10-month, and for the civilian short course is centered around DIME (Diplomacy, Information, Military and Information).

Other than the military portion, the DIME construction would work for anyone in business or volunteer work. And since there were times as an editor and publisher that I wished I had more troops or maybe even firepower, it might work for that, especially if a different "M" word was used.

One of the watchwords was the "wicked problems are not solvable, they can be managed." This rings true in all areas of our lives.

The professors and officers said often, and in many different ways, that the balance between security and liberty is a struggle with no answers. Additionally, in the things to think about, these military people said that we can't fight our way to victory; we must use the whole DIME.

And what are the big deals these days? There are plenty of things that could keep us up at night, they say, including planning and responding to national disasters (i.e. the Yellowstone volcano); cyber security and attacks since our whole lives are wrapped up in technology today; China; North Korea; our border nation relationships; the Middle East, and the unexpected. Several strategists said that the larger threats may be the Russians and the Chinese, not the terrorist groups.

Oh my.

Jan Mittelstadt Tippet is a retired daily newspaper editor and publisher. She was the editor in Owatonna, Mankato and Sun City, Ariz., before she left the newsroom for upper management. She was the general manager and publisher at the Daily Item in Sunbury, Pa., for 15 years, completing 35 years with Ottaway Newspapers, the community newspaper division of Dow Jones. She returned to Owatonna in September 2015 after being away for 30 years.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1400 block of Sunset Dr. SW Owatonna at 5:41 a.m.

Registration begins for National Night Out in Dodge

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is accepting registration for neighborhood gatherings for the country's largest crime event coming in August.

National Night Out will take place in many areas around the country, including Dodge County. It will be held Tuesday, Aug. 7.

"The safety of our communities here in Dodge County depends on both law enforcement and the citizens we serve—preventing and solving crime is truly a community effort," says Sheriff Scott Rose.

"Our success, in great part, is directly affected by the input we get from our communities—reporting suspicious activity, suspicious vehicles, disputes and domestic disturbances, etc."

National Night Out, Rose said, gives the sheriff's office a great opportunity each year to bring neighborhoods together with the men and women who protect them and to help further build trust and relationships with the people we serve.

The sheriff encourages residents to organize neighborhood gatherings that night. Some people do picnics, block parties, or just simple meet and greets to get to know their neighbors better. "Studies have shown the closer your neighborhood is, the safer it is," Rose said.

Rose is making his deputies available to attend neighborhood gatherings around the county. If you register your party early, the sheriff's office will deliver party packs earlier in the day for you so you're ready for your party. Party Packs contain fun stuff for kids



Sheriff Scott Rose leads a National Night Out gathering in Dodge County in 2017. The sheriff's office is accepting registration for this year's neighborhood events on Aug. 7.

and adults. If there is other crime prevention information you would like to share, Rose said that can be provided as well.

The sheriff's office will also arrange a visit from area fire departments and ambulance crews to come by the parties.

To register for National Night Out, contact Deputy David Skadson or Deputy Jeff Brion at 507-635-6200. They can also be emailed at dave.skadson@co.dodge.mn.us or jeff.brion@co.dodge.mn.us. They need to know what time your party will start, the number of attendants you anticipate (adults and kids), and what information you are interested in hearing about related to public safety, law enforcement, neighborhood safety, etc. If you are interested in other public safety attending (ambulance or fire) let them know that as well.

"We are looking forward to seeing you all on National Night Out," Rose said.

CRIME BRIEF

REPEAT OFFENDER ENDS UP BACK IN JAIL



E. TARANGO

A weapons complaint at a downtown liquor store has resulted in a repeat offender ending up back in jail.

Police arrested Eloy Tarango, 29, of Owatonna on a variety of charges. His arrest came less than 24 hours after he was taken to jail for disorderly conduct and fourth-degree criminal damage to property for an incident at the Bridge Street Tavern.

Officers responded to J&B Liquor on June 21 for a weapons call. A man reportedly had been in the store and was threatening another man. The caller said the same person had been giving him problems all week in the store.

During the most recent encounter, Tarango is accused of taking up a threatening stance, standing in front of the man and yelling in his face. Tarango also appeared to be holding something under his arm and the person thought it may be a knife or gun, according to police.

When police searched Tarango, they found a syringe and baggie that contained methamphetamine in his pocket.

While he was taken to jail, Tarango became uncooperative and began kicking the inside of the squad door.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 18 – 22:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dakota R. Cisneros, 22, Owatonna, stay of adjudication, controlled substance crime, \$81, 2 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training and 2 years of supervised probation. Court the week of June 11 – 15:

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Francisco F. Arteaga, 25, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Timothy C. Block, 58, Lakeville, speeding, \$141; Alexander M. Brandt, 30, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Patricia L. Coats, 24, Waseca, speeding and revoked license, \$421; Tanya J. Cottrell, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; William J. Cunningham, 53, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Abigail Desantiago, 24, Commerce City, CO, no license, \$181; Pedro A. Francisco-Antonio, 28, Omaha, NE, seat belt, \$106; Karissa M. Gregory, 19, Owatonna, illegal u-turn, \$131; Dina S. Hawthorne, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Delaney J. Lewis, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Diana C. Lozano, 58, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381; Dylan R. Olson, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Joshua W. Papinski, 25, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Felix M. Ramos, 41, Glendale, AZ, no license, \$181; Marcos V. Rodriguez, 18, St. Paul, speeding, \$381; Gilberto San Miguel, 36, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Mary A. Schultz, 69, Spring Valley, speeding, \$131; Zachary C. Shaw, 27, Medford, no insurance, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brooke E. Stewart, 26, Lansing, speeding, \$141; Marc Toyo, 35, Austin, speeding, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tanya P. Amundson, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Ryan M. Brewer, 18, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Juan R. Carrasco, 40, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281;

Megan M. Dalland, 24, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Katherine J. Davis, 33, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$181; Amy L. Erdmann, 46, Janesville, seat belt, \$106; Dean E. Hanson, 46, Faribault, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Jacob T. Harlicker, 19, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Kari A. Hartle, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Melinda L. Hedberg, 43, Claremont, speeding, \$141; Hanna L. Hughes, 19, Mankato, theft, \$131 and 30 days in county jail; Shantonia D. Jackson, 29, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Tyler J. Johnson, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Craig A. Kennedy, 37, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Jody L. Kewatt, 49, Owatonna, initiate call knowing no emergency, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Janelle M. Kubista, 30, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Diane K. Lewis, 65, Waseca, stop sign, \$131; Isaac K. Mooney, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jared R. More, 31, Mantorville, theft, \$213.78 and 2 days in county jail; Brandon J. Neitzel, 34, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Ashley M. Padilla, 26, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Cordarl L. Powell, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Paulina L. Rivera, 20, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Brandon A. Shaner, 29, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Patricia L. Shifflett, 51, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Jerome E. Spindler, 61, Medford, seat belt, \$106; Joseph W. Stransky, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Eloy Tarango, 39, Owatonna, criminal damage to property, \$381, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Devin D. Zvorak, 22, Owatonna, disorderly conduct and DWI, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Noah D. Geyer-Hoff, 20, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Troy J. Gunderson, 39, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Josephine H. Hadt, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Spencer G. Hermus, 21, Combined Locks, WI, speeding,

\$221; Payton F. Hinchley, 21, Owatonna, littering, \$181; Verdel L. Houston, 38, Minneapolis, invalid license, \$181; Carter M. Klinger, 21, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Cheryl R. Mentz, 54, Austin, speeding, \$121; Dakotah J. Miller, 21, Mason City, IA, expired tabs, \$111; Colton D. Olson, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Juan Pablo, 34, Wells, no license, \$181; Angelita E. Pena, 52, Austin, speeding, \$121; Ashley C. Reinartz, 21, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Amber L. Siem, 31, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$281; Juan A. Vazquez Cruz, 29, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$281; Anthony T. Wright, 27, Mankato, cancelled license, \$581, 2 days in county jail and 2 years of unsupervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE June 22

Theft: At 8:18 p.m., a theft occurred in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S.

June 26 Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 3rd St. SE at 12:46 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE June 22

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 9:16 a.m. **Shoplifting:** At 10:03 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. **Burglary:** Police began a burglary investigation in the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S. at 12:53 p.m. **Animal Bite:** Officers responded to an animal bite in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 6:18 p.m.

June 23 Burglary: Police responded to burglaries in the 300 block of Academy St. E. at 10:06 a.m. and the 1400 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:37 a.m. **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Willow Ave. NE at 7:14 p.m.

June 24 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 12:12 a.m. **DWI:** At 1:48 a.m., police arrested a motorist for driving

while intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. **Shoplifting:** Police arrested a juvenile for shoplifting in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 4:19 p.m.

June 25

Thefts: Thefts occurred in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:14 a.m. and the 500 block of University St. E. at 2:29 p.m. **Shoplifting:** A shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 8:16 a.m. **Theft:** A vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 5 p.m. **Suspicion:** Officers responded to suspicious activity at 22nd St. SE and Cedar Ave. S. at 6:25 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene. **Welfare:** Police conducted a welfare check in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:14 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

June 26

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Park Square E. at 8:22 a.m. **Restraining Order:** At 8:49 a.m., officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. **Thefts:** Police took theft reports in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 2:53 p.m. and the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 2:53 p.m. **Trespassing:** Officers arrested a subject for trespassing in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 4:37 p.m. **Warrant:** At 5:50 p.m., officer arrested a juvenile for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of State Ave. NW.

June 27

Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:04 a.m. **Warrants:** Police made warrant arrests at Cedar Ave. S. and University St. E. at 12:58 a.m. and the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:52 p.m. **Fraud:** At 8:30 a.m., a fraud incident occurred in the 1900 block of Hartle Ave. SE. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Prospect St. E. at 9:15 a.m. **Animal Bite:** Officers responded to an animal bite in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:17 a.m. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 11:42 a.m.

June 28 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1400 block of Sunset Dr. SW at 5:41 a.m. **Animal Bite:** At 11:22 a.m., an animal bite occurred at Glendale St. NW and Florence Ave. NW. **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 5:50 p.m. **Trespassing:** Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 700 block of 15th St. SE at 10:16 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF June 22

Weapons: At 2:35 p.m., deputies responded to a weapons-related incident in the 3900 block of Highway 30 W. in Ellendale. **Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Deputies received information regarding criminal sexual conduct on Central Ave. W. in Medford at 7:06 p.m. **DWI:** Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 800 block of Andrew Dr. in Ellendale at 11:41 p.m.

June 25

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 15000 block of 29th Ave. SE in Summit Township at 11:28 a.m. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 11:29 a.m. **Fraud:** Deputies received a report of a fraud incident in the 400 block of 6th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 4:33 p.m.

June 26

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 6:21 a.m.

June 27

Threats: Deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 2:28 p.m. **Disturbance:** At 5:17 p.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the 10200 block of U.S. Hwy. 218 in Aurora Township.

June 28

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Highway 30 E. in Summit Township at 8:26 p.m. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:41 p.m.

OWATONNA FIRE June 24

Electrical Wiring: Firefighters responded to an electrical wiring/equipment problem in the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:44 p.m. **Crash:** At 7:01 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 3500 block of U.S. Hwy. 218 S.

June 25

Fire: Firefighters responded to a vehicle fire on Interstate 35 at 8:42 a.m. **Building Fire:** At 12:50 p.m., a building fire occurred on Hagen Place SW.

June 28

Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on 18th St. at 10:02 a.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Devin Theodore Zilm, 27, arrested at 2:12 a.m. June 24, DWI, held for court. **Travis R yan Martin, 34,** arrested at 11:45 p.m. June 25, revoked license, controlled substance and paraphernalia, held for court. **Jessica Lee Martinez, 27,** arrested at 6:41 p.m. June 26, obstructing legal process, held for court. **Hector Delgado, 61,** arrested at 7:45 p.m. June 26, felony harassment and violation of restraining order, held for court. **Robert Lynn Hagmann, 37,** arrested at 1:43 a.m. June 27, theft warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail. **Richard Ramirez, 20,** arrested at 2:54 p.m. June 27, warrant arrest, body only. **Albert Torres, 29,** arrested at 3 a.m. June 26, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Esperanza Marie Pena, 21, arrested at 11:38 a.m. June 25, warrant arrest, \$500 bail. **Jonelle Suezette Hill, 37,** arrested at 1:20 a.m. June 26, felony apprehension and detention order, held for court. **Donicio Jeremiah Madrigal, 38,** arrested at 2:18 p.m. June 26, give peace officer false name warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.

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

- Kevin Bremer – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Michelle Brodersen – shoplifting - \$500 bail
- Stanley Brown Jr. – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
- Isaiah Brownlee – DWI – no bail
- Marilyn Bryant – false name - \$6,000 bail
- Jacinda Buchanan – obstruction - \$1,000 bail
- William Buchanan – warrant - \$300 bail
- Jose Cabrales – violation of conditions of release - \$12,000 bail
- Edgar Cabrera – providing alcohol to minor - \$1,000 bail
- Gonzalo Camarillo Jr. – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Shawn Campbell – disorderly conduct - \$3,000 bail
- Evelio Candanoza – DUI – no bail
- Patricia Cantu – DWI – no bail
- Vanessa Cardenas – card fraud, theft – no bail
- Martin Carter – DWI, domestic assault – no bail
- Abel Castellano – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Roberto Castilleja – hit and run - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Castillo – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Mary Castleberry – DWI - \$750 bail
- Coj Castral – domestic abuse - \$1,000 bail

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



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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

July 1, 2008

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Merry Lane 4-H Club walked away with championship titles in all three softball age divisions. The teams play every Sunday in Owatonna and are coached by volunteer parents. The “A” team was coached by Jon Carlson and Bruce Wolf, the “B” team was coached by Holli Naatz, and the “C” team was coached by Steven Krell and Jeff Peterson.

Otto Luknic began his door-to-door campaign on Friday in Blooming Prairie. He has been actively campaigning since he announced that he would be running for the House of Representatives against Patti Fritz. He has enjoyed getting to know residents and informing them of prime issues in the area. His goal is to personally speak with the people of Blooming Prairie and find out what’s on their minds.

Local football players Mikey Salinas, Robert Salinas, Jr. and Joe Hjelsen are playing for the Southern Minnesota Indians, a team based out of Owatonna. The Indians are part of the Southern Plains Football League, an amateur adult football league. They finished the season with a record of 6-2, which was good enough to lift them to the Southern Palin Football League Championship Game, where they lost to the undefeated Buffalo Ridge Wildcats.

20 Years Ago

June 30, 1998

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

John Healy pulled together four members of The Runaways, a new musical group in town. Members include Kevin Kemp, Tommy Watt, Brandy Hanson, and Shane Hoskins. Their playing style duplicates the style of original songs from the 50s and 60s. They are planning to kickoff later this week.

In the first tourney of its kind, the Blooming Prairie golf club ladies accomplished two objectives at the same time this Tuesday. They named a club ladies’ champion and contributed funds to combat breast cancer as part of a regional program. The top flight title went to Lisa Zwiener and the second flight winner was Melody Benson. The tourney directors expressed satisfaction in the results and were hopeful that the event would continue to grow in future years.

50 Years Ago

June 27, 1968

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJOI, PUBLISHERS

Some \$141,672.47 in state funds as a result of Minnesota sales tax collections were distributed to townships, villages, and school districts in Steele County last week. Blooming Prairie School District 756 received \$12,228.31. The funds, distributed on a per capita basis, were allocated by the office of John Halenberger, Steele County Auditor.

Minnesota will enter Phase 3 of the Cooperative State-Federal Hog Eradication Program on July 1. Several important changes in rules and in hog cholera control procedures will take place on that date. Under phase 3, infected swine will be removed from the farm, and a preliminary appraisal must be made on farms where hog cholera is suspected. The Livestock Sanitary Board will oversee cleaning of infected premises before restocking may occur.

Joseph K. Benson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Benson, Blooming Prairie, was promoted to Army first lieutenant June 1 while assigned to the 1st Signal Brigade in Vietnam. Lt. Benson entered the Army in April 1966, completed basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky., and was last stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., before arriving overseas in May 1968.

75 Years Ago

July 1, 1943

FRANK KREJOI, PUBLISHER

Through the efforts of several community boosters headed by E. H. Dosey and Ronnie Niehart, plans are underway to hold a community get-together in Blooming Prairie at the city park and a diamond ball tournament at Victory Field July 4th and 5th. There will be sports, contests and events that will entertain everyone. Husband calling contest, ladies’ slipper kicking contest, bicycle races and many other activities are in store.

Kenneth Ingvalson, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. I. Ingvalson, left this week for Purdue University, where he will begin training for the Navy. He enlisted in the Navy V-1 program while attending the University of Minnesota. All V-1 reserves are being called up today and will receive further training in college.

Simple Gadgets That Can Help Older Drivers

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any specific auto gadgets you can recommend that can help senior drivers? Both of my parents are in there eighties and still pretty good drivers, but due to arthritis and age they’re very stiff, which causes them some driving problems.

Researching Daughter

Dear Researching,

To help keep senior drivers safe and prolong their driving years, there’s a plethora of inexpensive, aftermarket vehicle adaptions you can purchase that can easily be added to your parent’s vehicles to help with many different needs. Here are some good options.

Entry and Exit Aids

To help arthritic/mobility challenged seniors with getting into and out of their vehicle, there are a variety of portable support handles you can buy, like the “Emson Car Cane Portable Handle” (\$12), which inserts into the U-shaped striker plate on the doorframe. And the “Standers CarCaddie” (\$13) nylon support handle that hooks around the top of the door window frame.

Another useful product is the “DMI Deluxe Swivel Seat Cushion” (\$22), which is a round portable cushion that turns 360 degrees to help drivers and passengers rotate their body into and out of their vehicle.

Enhanced Rear Vision

To help seniors with limited upper body range of motion, which makes looking over their shoulder to back-up or merge into traffic difficult, there are special mirrors you can add as well as back-up cameras.

For starters, to widen rear visibility, eliminate blind spots and even help with parallel parking, get an oversized rear view mirror like the “Allview Rearview Mirror” (\$50) that clips on to the existing mirror. You should also purchase some “Ampper Blind Spot Mirrors” (\$7.50), which are 2-inch adjustable convex mirrors that stick to the corner of the side view mirrors.

Another helpful device is the “Auto-vox M1W Wireless Backup Camera Kit” (\$110). This comes with a night vision camera that attaches to the rear license plate, and a small monitor that mounts to the dash or windshield. When the vehicle is in reverse, it sends live images wirelessly to the monitor so you can see what’s behind you.

Seat Belt Extenders

To make buckling up a little easier, there are a variety of seat belt extension products offered by Seat Belt Extender Pros like the “Seat Belt Grabber Handle” (\$8),

which is a rubber extension handle that attaches to the seat belt strap to make it easier to reach. And the “7-inch Rigid Seat Belt Extender” (\$20) that fit into the seat belt buckle receiver to add a few inches of length, making them easier to fasten.

Gripping Devices

If your parents have hand arthritis that makes gripping the steering wheel, turning the ignition key or twisting open the gas cap difficult or painful, consider these products.

The “SEG Direct Steering Wheel Cover” (\$15) that fits over the steering wheel to make it larger and easier to grip. The “Ableware Handle-In-One Key Holder” (\$9), which is a small plastic handle that attaches to the car key to provide additional leverage to turn the key in the ignition or door. And for help at the pump, the “Gas Cap & Oil Cap Opener by Gascapoff” (\$12) is a long handled device that works like a wrench to loosen and tighten the gas cap.

All of these products can be found online at Amazon.com. Just type the product name in the search bar to find them.

Safety and Security

To help ensure your parents safety, and provide you and them peace of mind, they should also consider an in-car medical alert system like “splitsecnd.” Offered through Bay Alarm Medical (BayAlarmMedical.com, \$30/month), his small device plugs into the vehicle’s cigarette lighter to provide 24/7 roadside and emergency assistance at the push of a button, automatic crash detection and response, and GPS vehicle location and monitoring capabilities.

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.



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Jodi Gillard joins RE/MAX Venture



Matt Gillard, broker/owner of RE/MAX Venture is pleased to announce Jodi Gillard as the newest agent to join the Owatonna RE/MAX office.

“I am now in my third year of real estate and have enjoyed all the relationships I’ve built while helping people achieve their goals and dreams,” said Jodi. “I’m excited to continue my career with RE/MAX Venture - taking advantage of RE/MAX tools and training,

and pitching in with the Team’s community involvement. Matt has built a great real estate business and is growing a successful company; I look forward to the guidance and mentorship I know I will receive from a supportive Broker like Matt.”

“Jodi is married to my cousin Pat, so I have known her for a long time” said Matt. “I have also now seen her in the role of a professional realtor for the past three years. I’ve seen her work ethic, the level of business she has done and her commitment to her clients. Jodi will be a great addition to our office, team and collaborative culture.”

Located at 118 N Cedar Avenue in Owatonna, RE/MAX Venture serves Steele County and the surrounding areas, specializing in residential, small acreage, investment and commercial properties.

Recipe Corner

Spicy Cheese Balls

Makes 35 to 40 bite-size balls

1 8-ounce package cream cheese, at room temperature

1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

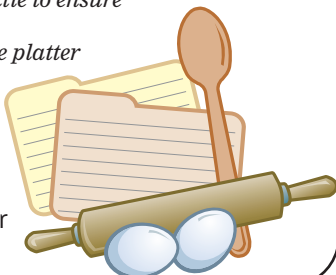
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup finely chopped walnuts

1. Put the cream cheese, cheddar, garlic, parsley, cayenne, black pepper, and salt in a food processor. Process for 5 to 10 seconds, until well blended. Scrape the mixture into a bowl, cover, and refrigerate for 1 hour.

2. Spread the chopped walnuts on a plate. Shape the cheese mixture into 35 to 40 small cheese balls, each about the size of a large marble. Roll each cheese ball in the walnuts, coating the outside (you may to press a little to ensure sticking).

3. Serve the cheese balls on a large platter and enjoy!



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ELVEBAK: FROM A1

leader for the county. At the time of her departure, she received a lump sum payment of three months salary, or nearly \$30,000 plus medical benefits.

In her lawsuit, Elvebak painted the county board as a good old boys club culture in which state laws were being openly violated. She alleged two commissioners in particular, James Brady and John Glynn, had strategized as early as December 2015 to oust her. The case, Morgan said, has taken a toll on Elvebak. “It was very emotional and can have a significant impact on one’s life,” he said. “We’re glad we were able to resolve this so she can put this episode behind her.” With the settlement, the county has admitted no wrongdoing, which is standard in many civil lawsuit cases. “The county denied any discrimination or retaliation,” said Schwie. She noted both sides had gone through mediation to resolve the case

in May.

Schwie said 98 percent of civil cases settle prior to going to court. She cited high costs associated in fighting the cases and time involved as the main reasons for settlements outside of court.

“We’re hoping that it sends a message that women should be treated the same as men in the work place.”

Matthew Morgan
Elvebak’s Attorney

“It was draining county resources,” Schwie said of Elvebak’s lawsuit. She said the county decided the time of top officials and key staff members would be better spent working on strategic planning for the county rather than continuing to fight the lawsuit.

She estimated that if the case had gone to trial, it would have taken at least a week and possibly two weeks in court. Dragging the lawsuit into court is not “working on

what the citizens want (county officials) to work on,” Schwie said. She added that became a strong factor in this particular situation.

Regarding Elvebak’s settlement, Schwie declined to comment on how significant it ended up being.

However, Morgan, Elvebak’s attorney, didn’t hesitate to chime in on that. “I say it’s significant simply because it reflects a sizable number that considers economic loss and emotional distress. It was an unlawful employment decision.”

Morgan said he hopes the settlement will prove to be beneficial for the county board as well as others within the county. “Our hope is the county can learn from this and be more thoughtful with their decisions, especially when it comes to terminations,” he said. He isn’t aware of any other lawsuits that may result from Elvebak’s claims. But, Morgan said the behavior of board members wasn’t limited to Elvebak. “I don’t think she was the only one targeted,” he said.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Library is place to be in summer



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

One of our library friends, age 9, said, “The library is the best place to go during the summer for people in town, in the country, and even those who are visiting.” Then Zach noted that he often sees cars with license plates from other states. It is true that the library

is for everyone, or as the Owatonna Public Library’s motto states: “Free to All.”

We have a few restrictions for out of state visitors here at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library: unless they have a local address, they are not able to check items out. However, they can use computers, peruse magazines, use our Wi-Fi, and take part in our programs. And yes, all of those services are free.

The reverse of this is also important: when you are travelling, look for libraries to use. You can print your boarding passes, attend children and adult programs, and just chill. I have visited libraries across the United

States and in a few foreign countries. When a library gives a welcoming feeling and shows the care of the town, you know you are in a place that values education and community. We try to make that happen here in Blooming Prairie!

Mark your calendars for two animal programs this month: RADZoo from Owatonna will be here on Thursday, July 12 at 1 p.m. with lizards and snakes! Then on Thursday, July 19 at 1 p.m., the National Eagle Center from Wabasha will be teaching us about those beautiful birds. (That is funded through the Library Legacy program.) See you at the library!

KLOBUCHAR: FROM A2

Minnesotans who do so much to give back to our communities—whether it’s providing relief to people filling sandbags during floods, or running blood drives during times of great need or helping families build not just a new house but a new home. I have always believed that Minnesota’s strength comes from both our sense of community and our belief that we

have a responsibility to come together and lift one another up in good times and bad.

As Senator McCain has said, “Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself.” So let’s remember and recognize all those that have served – both on the battle field and the home field - people who give back to our country every day. Thank you for your patriotism and happy Fourth of July!

Amy Klobuchar is a U.S. senator for Minnesota. She is running for re-election this fall.

HISTORY WALK: FROM A1

store our dough in a bank vault.”

“We are glad so many people came out to hear others’ memories and also sharing their own memories,” said Vaillancourt.

As one of the organizers, Chamber of Commerce director Becky Noble commented, “It turned into a real success, as everyone had a good time visiting the various places and listening to the music provided by Dunnell Lenort.”

Last year’s treat for the Fourth of July and the 150th special celebration featured a cemetery tour that approximately 75 visitors. This year the Main Street tour took a different twist.

Both tours may be repeated in the future, said Vaillancourt and Noble.

Vaillancourt said she couldn’t have been more pleased with this little excursion to kick off the yearly commemoration of Independence Day. It proved another example of pride displayed regularly by the community, she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie history dating back 100 years ago is of immense interest to the Coggins family. Jerry Coggins (center) is flanked by his cousin Julie Kruger and by nephew Shawn Patrick Coggins. Jerry’s great grandfather ran a saloon that was closed down by the Home Guard 100 years ago.

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MIKENNA BOCHOKE

JULY 6
SARAH ESPLAN
MICALYN TRIHUS
ANTHONY NELSON
RACHEL KLEMMESSEN
BREANNA KOSTER
NICK SCHIEFERT
ORENE DENNIS

JULY 7
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**GRIEF
RELIEF**

What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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PASTOR'S CORNER

What is your summer intention?



Rev. Lindsay Stolen
RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN

We were reminded this year, that here in Minnesota, the winters can be long. Tryingly long.

Now that summer is here, it's time to take advantage of the sun, the warmth, and the lack of boots and winter jackets! Being reminded of this, knowing this, what is your summer intention? What do you hope for your summer?

Here is my summer intention: spend as much time outside as possible. It's outside, watching my garden grow, that I'm reminded of God's provision. It's outside, seeing the birds flying about, that I remember those verses in Matthew 6: Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away

in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

It's outside, playing yard games or frisbee with my dog, that I am filled with joy to simply spend time in play. It's outside, by a campfire with friends, that I am thankful for the people in my life. It's outside, perched in the hammock, that I remember to rest, to take moments of Sabbath. What is your summer intention and how does it connect with your faith? Whatever it may be, wherever your summer may go, I hope it takes you outside.

Area youths off to national gathering



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Twenty-nine from Blooming Prairie left early on June 26 for Houston, Texas to participate in a National Youth Gathering. The group includes 20 youths from First Lutheran Church and four from Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. The Youth Gathering attracted 30,000 youths. Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran joined the group on the trip.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Joint Summer Worship with Trinity Lutheran
Blooming Prairie
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
June 10, June 24, July 8 (Joint Summer Picnic, 10:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie Gun Club), July 15, July 29, Aug. 12 and Aug. 26

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN
5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Joint Summer Worship with Aurora Lutheran Church Owatonna
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
June 17, July 1, July 8 (Joint Summer Picnic, 10:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie Gun Club), July 22, Aug. 5 and Aug. 19

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

10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Sunday School:
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration:
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
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8 a.m. Thursday)
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CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
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507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate

Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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Rain doesn't scare avid rib lovers

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A little bit of rain, thunder and lightning didn't scare too many rib lovers away from a popular annual event on Saturday, June 30.

More rain, later in the afternoon however, did move cookers and customers inside the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

The 8th annual event sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Youth Club drew four competitors.

More ribs were put on the table, and customers who braved the rain were encouraged to stay and gobble up the ribs and chicken wings. More drawings were held, and awards given to the top barbecue specialists.

The top award for the day was the People's Choice Award given the top rib cooker of the day and for the best wings of the day.

A guaranteed \$250 cash award and trophy were given for first place on ribs. Winning this award was

Second and third place trophies were also given for the best ribs.

A first place cash award was given for the best wings and for the best barbecue sauce trophy.

Pork ribs and chicken wings were provided for all contestants. All cookers were welcome to arrive Saturday morning any time after 6 a.m. to begin set-up. For the competition, the rib and sauce turn-in time was 2 p.m.

The public arrived at 3 p.m. and began taste testing the ribs and wings. All cookers were expected to cook a minimum of six racks of ribs to share between the judges and the public guests.

Kids' activities were provided in the BP Fire Department Park, across the way from the Servicemen's Club.

A kids' burger cook-off was also held with two contestants, Jayden Kvalsten, 8 and Zander Trostem. Kvalsten won the competition and received a \$10 gift certificate to the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen. He also was given a kid-approved cookbook.

Eleven taste testers saw the outcome go to the wire with Kvalsten winning by a 6-5 vote.

Kvalsten's burger was entitled the *Spicy Stella Burger* in honor of his baby sister, Stella. He told the crowd that he added pepper-jack cheese, pickles and spinach and mixed red hot sauce into the meat.

Trostem's burger was called *Zander's chili burger*. He added cheese and chili beans on his creation.

Kelli Naatz, director of the Youth Club, said the event was very successful and brought in some good funding for the Youth Club.

Major sponsors of the event were: KIK Graphics, United Way and Sam's Club.

Bryce Schlichter, Andrea Kvalsten and Kelli Naatz chaired the event.



Big Joe's BBQ was a popular cooking entry in the 8th Annual Blooming Prairie Youth Club Rib Fest event at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club Saturday afternoon. Team members from left are: Bill Ward, Joe Sundine, Shawn Sundine and Joe Grolkoff.



Little Henry Sundine really loved his Dairy Queen dilly bar as dessert after eating some delicious barbecue ribs at Rib Fest in Blooming Prairie on Saturday night. Henry is the son of Marcy and Shawn Sundine of BP.



Yummy!!! Ian Peterson is only nine months old but he still loves his barbecue ribs. Held by his mother, he was one of the youngest customers at the Blooming Prairie Youth Club Rib Fest on Saturday at the BP Servicemen's Club.

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Matinees July 15 & 22 - 2:00 p.m.

Online tickets go on sale Saturday, July 7 on our website:
www.LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org
Tickets go on sale at the LTO Box Office Monday, July 9

West Hills Auditorium | 560 Dunnell Drive | Owatonna, MN
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Water issue leaves Medford land deal in flux

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Inadequate water drainage has created a snag in Medford School's attempt to close on a land deal.

At Medford's regular council meeting June 25, the recurring issue with a parcel of land the school was hoping to unload took precedence in what was a busy session.

The school had reached a purchase agreement with a developer to unload the land earlier this spring, but recent circumstances have halted the progress on what was

originally a 120-day grace period. With days ticking by, and the school district hoping to see the deal close, the Medford City Council addressed the issue.

Proper storm drainage is the main concern for the developer, Timber Crest LLC, a company from the south metro that specializes in building houses and townhomes.

The developer has found issue with what they have deemed is an inadequate system for water drainage, something the school board says they should have been

notified about prior to the purchase agreement. Due to this hiccup, a survey will have to be completed, and measures will have to be weighed on how the city wants to approach the problem.

According to City Engineer Joe Duncan, a report was commissioned in 2015 after extensive flooding in June of 2014. The survey had cost \$8,000 at that time, and the council didn't move forward on any improvements, meaning that this new survey will have to be conducted, and then it will be up to the

council, the developer, and the school to decide how to best move forward.

The main issue is that the developer hopes to utilize as much of the space as possible, and thus proper and concise water drainage is key to maintaining a financially feasible investment on their part.

At Monday's meeting, the council motioned to move forward with splitting the cost between all three parties in hopes that they will be able to salvage the land sale and determine the proper

SEE WATER ISSUE, B2

Dr. Seuss musical promises an evening of fun at Little Theatre

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Oh the things you can think of, if only you might. Like a play full of Seuss, boy what a sight. There's Horton and Whos and the Cat in the Hat, so come watch some Seuss on opening night.

"Seussical," a musical production based on several of the works of famed children's author and illustrator Dr. Seuss and adapted by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty with help from Monty Python's Eric Idle, will be playing in mid-July at the Little Theatre of Owatonna.

Mary Butler-Fraser, the play's technical director, explained it as "15 of Dr. Seuss' books put to music, featuring 32 songs." Like everyone involved with the production, she is a huge fan of the Seuss canon. "I think Dr. Seuss will be around forever," she said.

Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Seuss Geisel and is renown around the world for creating many of the most beloved children's books. His work exhibited a sui generis approach to the medium and has become instantly recognizable by people from all generations and backgrounds. And no, he did not officially hold a doctorate degree.

The Little Theatre's production will feature a cast of 36 actors and showcase music directed by Kristi Westergaard. Bri Bergstrom, the artistic director, recalled that she had talked with several of the performers about adapting the musical while working on past productions.

Bergstrom is a choir

director in Belle Plaine, where she directed the musical with her Junior High students. "I fell in love with it," Bergstrom said. Although she had never directed adults, she jumped at the chance to steer the helm of this production.

"This cast is incredible, and there's kids under 10 and adults over 50," she said. "It's a great learning experience and a great community building experience."

In describing the play, Bergstrom said, "This show takes everything that we love about Dr. Seuss' books and brings it to life. It's a very happy show with a popular message."

Bergstrom grew up on the local stage, and she considers Butler-Fraser as one of her mentors. "It's pretty cool to see this all come together," Bergstrom said.

Some of the characters appearing in the play include Horton the elephant, the Grinch, a myriad of Whos, and the Cat in the Hat, who serves as a sort of narrator to the piece.

The story revolves around a boy named Jojo who encounters the Cat in the Hat. The Cat in the Hat then relays the story of Horton the elephant who has discovered a tiny mote which is home to a world of living beings, the Whos.

Jason Meyer, who plays Horton in the piece, describes it as a mesh of all your favorite Dr. Seuss stories put into one play. Of his young director, he had only positive things to say. "Bri's very good at teaching and staying nice, and she knows how to get everyone on the same page."

He wants the audience to "show up and be ready

SEE DR. SEUSS, B3

ROCKIN' AROUND OWATONNA

Parks and Rec finds a great way to promote parks and trails

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Since the beginning of summer painted rocks have been popping up on the many trails and parks which fill the Owatonna area.

The program Rockin' Around Owatonna, which aims to promote use of the trails and parks as well as spread positive messages, is in its second year in Owatonna and will be ongoing throughout the summer season.

"To kick it off this year we went to Lincoln Elementary, and the kids painted and wrote messages on rocks for us. We've been putting them out in the parks," explained Jessica Abrahams, administrative assistant for Owatonna Parks and Rec.

"Some of our camps this summer will also participate," she said. Abrahams wants people to get out there on social media and share rocks they've made or encountered on a stroll. "You can take a picture of a rock and then share it on social media with the #RockinAroundOwatonna," she said.

She also said that if you see a painted rock, which catches your eye, you're free to take it, but that you must replace it with another one that you've painted. It's a take a rock, leave a rock rule of thumb. Rocks should also be placed where they will not interfere with park maintenance.

Although the goal is to get some positive messages out there to the community, Abrahams explained that "you can decorate it with a positive or inspirational message, but it can also just be painted."



Lincoln Elementary students kicked off the Rockin' Around Owatonna program by decorating rocks with paint and positive messages. The Rockin' Around Owatonna program will be ongoing throughout the summer season.

She feels there is much value to filling the community with positive reinforcement. "That's one of the goals, hopefully the rocks will brighten their day," she said of those who encounter them. Abrahams admitted that she, too, designed a rock and recalled the message she elected to display as: "choose happy."

Owatonna has a strong legacy of promoting their parks and trails. The city is home to over 700 acres of parkland and walkways within roughly 24 parks.

Abrahams hopes that such a fun program will inspire

Owatonna residents to utilize these many great amenities. "One of the goals is to get the community engaged and involved, and it's not so formal as some of our other events," she said.

Those who are looking for more information on this and other great summer programs and events can visit the Owatonna Parks and Rec website at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation>.



Red hot action

BP Fire has training exercise at Victory Field



The skies became bright at Victory Field in Blooming Prairie on Monday, June 25 during Blooming Prairie Fire Department training involving a Liquid Propane (LP) tank.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Action recently became red hot at Victory Field in Blooming Prairie on a summer night.

No, it was not a thrilling baseball or softball game. Twenty firefighters and four fire trucks from Blooming Prairie were on the scene to participate in a fire training exercise.

The training was provided by four instructors from Riverland Community College in Austin.

The training began at 7 p.m. and concluded after cleanup at about 10:30 p.m.

Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Dean Naatz said training on June 25 dealt with liquid propane fires. Central Farm Services provided the propane for the exercise by hooking up to a manifold and lighting a metal tree containing liquid propane.

SEE BP FIRE, B2



David DeNeui channels his inner cartoon as he rehearses the opening number of "Seussical," a Dr. Seuss inspired musical playing at the Little Theatre of Owatonna. DeNeui plays the Cat in the Hat in the production.

Staying healthy while on the job



Steele Talkin'
MARY URCH

Have you ever sat at work and your mind is somewhere else? Maybe you are wondering what to eat for lunch or cook for dinner. Do you find yourself worrying about finances? Do you feel like you are sitting a lot of your day between work and driving your kids around?

The median age of employees in Steele County is 35-40. These families are crunched for time between work and family! Steele County Public Health desires to serve these employees through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

SHIP offers worksite wellness consultation in the areas of healthy eating, active living, mental health and tobacco free environments. The SHIP consultant connects with worksite wellness staff and mentors them on their company's wellness programs. The first step is to assess what employees need. Are there healthy options in the breakroom or vending? Is there a water

bottle fill station to promote drinking water instead of soda? SHIP also looks at opportunities for employees to be active during the day. Employers can consider standing work stations or assuring employees feel it's okay to take a break and get outside for a walk. In the area of stress, SHIP provides resources for the issues that worry families the most-relationships, finances, work. SHIP can also assist with tobacco free resources.

A healthy workplace promotes employee morale and commitment, retention and recruitment.

It is also an expectation of a new generation of employees. If you are interested in SHIP Workplace Wellness for your worksite contact Steele County Public Health for more information.

You can also check out the Steele County Website. Select the Public Health link and SHIP.

You will find mini grant opportunities, workplace wellness meeting schedule and success stories!

Steele County SHIP already impacts thousands of employees. Make sure you are on board!

Mary Urch is a public health educator with Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors from various organizations throughout Steele County.

Owatonna’s Police Explorer Program readies for another year

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

This past spring, members of Owatonna’s Police Explorer Program may not have taken home any trophies at the state competition, but they did receive high marks from all of the judges. They likewise received compliments from judges in a mini competition held in St. Paul.

When asked whether she thinks her kids can bring home any trophies this next year, Owatonna Police Officer Melissa Michael was optimistic. “Absolutely, that’s the goal, and they’re really excited and very determined to take some home,” she said.

Officer Michael and Officer Derrik Quinlan both lead the program as advisors. Quinlan, who had participated in the program when he was young, sees a lot of benefit in its continued growth and success. “We teach them critical thinking skills and give them hands-on scenarios that help them learn what it’s like being in law enforcement.”

The program is open to young people age 14 to 20 and seeks to familiarize participants with scenarios and learning activities that will provide them with

invaluable experience, which will help them in a career in law enforcement, or in any career.

“They don’t have to all become police officers. They could be border patrol agents, or work for the FBI, or become a dispatcher,” said Officer Quinlan. “I whole heartedly believe these skills they learn are important for life.”

Some of the skills he says his students learn include: situational awareness, communication, critical thinking, and learning how to be respectful with others, including police officers and civilians. “Having learned these skills early really sets you apart from your peers,” Quinlan said.

Officer Michael agrees. When she was younger her father, a police officer, was involved in the program and tried to push her to participate in it, but she wasn’t sure the program was right for her then. “I regret not going into it,” she said.

According to both Quinlan and Michael, the program is a great leg up for those who want to pursue a career in law enforcement, or even simply want to learn more about what law enforcement officials do on a day-to-day basis.

“We take them on ride-alongs, and we teach them how and why to pull someone over,” Quinlan explained. The program also gets participants involved in a host of scenarios drawn from real world situations. These include: hostage negotiation, bomb scene search, burglary response, and community policing, among others.

Although each student likely has their own favorite scenario that they practice, Michael explained that hers would be building clearing. “We practice it a lot, and sometimes they like to hide people there to keep them on their toes,” she said.

The Police Explorer Program is a national effort aimed at educating young people on law enforcement. A state competition is held each year in April, while a national one is held after that. The Owatonna group meets regularly from September until the spring time, when they ready themselves for the competition season. Last year the Owatonna squad also honed their skills at a mini competition held in St. Paul.

Both Michael and Quinlan are hoping to do some fundraising this year for their group, which stands at eight participants, all of whom embody the respect

and professionalism that law enforcement officers are required to have.

“They like getting out there and helping,” Michael said of their willingness to donate time at different charity events. Events like Toys for Tots, at which the Explorer Program picks a day each year and helps distribute toys. “They want to do more,” she said. This past year they also helped with role-play situations for the Owatonna Fire Department and Gold Cross paramedics.

“From my personal experience, this is a great opportunity,” Quinlan explained. “If they even have an inkling that they want to be in the law enforcement field, it gives them something to do and something to think about, and it connects them with peers that have similar interests.”

This will be Quinlan’s third year as advisor and Michael’s fourth. “We hope to keep it going and keep it growing,” Quinlan said.

Those who wish to learn more about the program can contact Officer Quinlan or Officer Michael. They can also visit the Owatonna Police Department for fliers and additional information on the program.

Olson named one of top financial advisors

Morgan Stanley announced today that David A. Olson, executive director and portfolio management director in the Firm’s Rochester Wealth Management office, has been named to Barron’s list of “America’s



DAVID A. OLSON

Top 1,200 Advisors: 2018 State-by-State.”

The “Barron’s Top 1,200 Advisors” is a select group of individuals who are screened on a number of criteria. Among factors the survey takes into consideration are assets under management, revenue produced for the Firm and quality of service provided to clients.

Olson was ranked 17th in Minnesota.

“I am extremely proud that David A. Olson is representing Morgan Stanley Wealth Management on this list,” commented Steve Austin, managing director of Morgan Stanley’s Great Lakes Region office. “Competition is steep to be selected for this list, and those who make the cut represent a very high level

of achievement in serving their clients’ wealth management needs.”

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, a global leader, provides access to a wide range of products and services to individuals, businesses and institutions, including brokerage and investment advisory services, financial and wealth planning, cash management and lending products and services, annuities and insurance, retirement and trust services.

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AAUW Owatonna awards 5 scholarships

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Owatonna proudly announces its 2018-2019 academic year scholarship recipients. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. These scholarships were awarded to students that are currently attending an accredited college or university.

AAUW June A./Melanie Nelson Scholarships

Hannah Gebur received a \$1,000 scholarship. Gebur is pursuing a degree in chemical or environmental engineering at Iowa State University.

Jamie Davison received a \$1,000 scholarship. She is planning to major in biology, with a possible minor in chemistry and be enrolled in either pre-medicine or pre-pharmacy. Davison will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

AAUW Owatonna Scholarship

Meagan Mowariak received a \$1,000 scholarship. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter with a degree in biology and a minor in religion, she plans on pursuing a career in the biomedical sciences as a physician or medical scientist.

AAUW Audrey Hammel Scholarship

Beth Wuger received a \$500 scholarship. While attending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Wuger will be working towards a degree in art with a focus on animation and double minor in interdisciplinary design and Asian languages and literature with a focus on Korean.

AAUW Rachel Carson Scholarship

Grace Valen received a \$1,000 scholarship. Valen will be a sophomore at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. She is working towards a biology and Spanish major.

“SEUSSICAL”: Evening of fun

FROM B1

to have fun.” With a production that features elaborate costumes and whimsical adventure, Meyer feels that it will “get the energy level up in the audience.”

His fellow cast member, David DeNeui, plays the Cat in the Hat. DeNeui said that he was inspired by some of the old Dr. Seuss cartoons to get that animated feeling just right for the role, “I’ve channeled my inner cartoon.” Although, as he said, “it comes more natural for me to be goofy and animated anyway.”

DeNeui said that the production was “the biggest cast I’ve worked with in a community theatre,” and that director Bergstrom has done an excellent job in managing such a large-scale production. “She’s a lot of fun to work with. It’s crazy to see how she can balance everything with such a

large cast,” he said.

He described the musical as “very fast paced,” and wants the audience to be “ready to have fun.” Of his role, Bergstrom said, “the Cat in the Hat has all sorts of surprises up his sleeve.”

“Seussical” will feature a large cast of actors, with starring roles going to Jason Meyer as Horton, DeNeui as the Cat in the Hat, Jackson Hemann as Jojo, and Sara Wall as Gertrude. Diane Skala will be handling the choreography with Kristi Westergaard serving as music director.

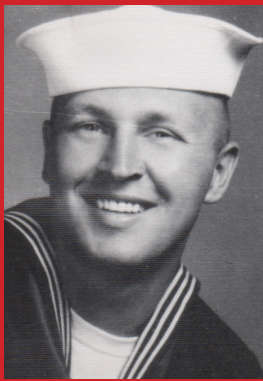
Tickets go on sale at the LTO Box Office on Monday, July 9. Evening performances of the show will run from July 12 through July 14 and July 19 through July 21 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees will be held on July 15 and July 22 at 2:00 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Horton the elephant (Jason Meyer) is surrounded by fellow jungle animals in the Little Theatre of Owatonna production of “Seussical,” a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss.

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Special Training: Recruit Training- San Diego; Submarine School- New London, Conn.; Special Tech School; Sonar Aux.; ECM Advance Sonar; BQA Maintenance; plus various refresher and tactical training between patrols.

Service: Enlisted for active duty on March 3, 1966

Discharged: Active duty on Jan. 12, 1970

Area Served: U.S. Atlantic Fleet Submarine Squadron 14. Holy Loch, Scotland is where the submarine tender is mother for the 10 submarines of Squadron 14.

Unit Served: I served on two Fleet Ballistics Missile Nuclear Submarines. The first was the Lafayette Class, USS James Monroe SSBN 622 Gold Crew. The second was the Ethan Allen Class, USS John Marshall SSBN 611 Gold Crew.

My Story:

After my basic training and Submarine School, I was transferred to the USS James Monroe SSBN 622 (Gold Crew). Home Port was in Charleston, S.C., and the sea port in Holy Loch, Scotland. I was promoted to StS3 (E-4) and earning my dolphins on June 10, 1967.

I was transferred to the USS John Marshall SSBN 611 (G) presently at Newport News Shipyard, Va., on Aug. 7, 1967. The USS John Marshall was being updated to the latest Polaris Missile. On April 16, 1968, I was promoted to [STS2 (SS)] (E-5). My duties on the John Marshall were Sonar Supervisor at Sea and below decks watch in port. We all received the National Defense Service Medal. I made a total of five patrols and one shake-down cruise. I received my Good Conduct Award on Jan. 12, 1970, when I was discharged from active duty.

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My journey to public service

Last month, this column included information and encouragement about considering running for your local school board or city council seats. Filing dates are July 21-Aug. 14. School district positions filing is at the local administrative office; city council seats at your local city hall.

In Medford, we now have four school board positions open currently held by Bill Cronin, Allison Janke, Jennifer Jones for four-year terms and since the June resignation of Gary Wiersma, a two-year term will be a part of the November ballot. Medford has two council seats for a four-year term now held by Keith Maas and Chad Merritt.

Anyone who has served on the school board or city council has his or her own story as to how and why. Visit with any of them as to their own motivation. Briefly, here is my own story of elected service:

In the early 1980s as a wife, young Mom, career person, non-traditional college student, friends and families in Medford were talking about the school board-realization was that the seven members all lived in the country, no representation from within the city limits and someone

should be. Do not recall the actual how, but I was the one who agreed to run.

I do recall saying that we weren’t that well known having lived in the city since only 1977 so it would probably take a couple of tries, but I would walk the town-nothing done for school board positions before in this community. Of course, this had to be limited to good weather days because, I’d put our toddler daughter into the red wagon, and the boys and their friends would ride their bikes with me as we visited all over town. It must have looked like a Pied Piper caravan, but we made it all around, collected resident concerns and ideas, and felt that that exercise was good for all of us. I was elected on the first try!

Then the work really began, participating in new member orientation held by the School Board Association, asking many questions at meetings, which I soon realized was a way for everyone around the table to learn, implement planning strategies and bring more resident ideas into discussion. The biggest challenge during the nine



Mayor Lois
LOIS NELSON

years of service was organizing a search committee for replacement of the soon retiring Superintendent-after 26 years in the office. What was done to entice him to Medford back then, few people remembered and was not the standard of administrative searches in the ‘80s.

We talked to area districts and Association for guidelines.

A key in the process was to make a positive impression on all candidates and their families. Designated individuals took the spouse and children on a tour of the area while the selection committee had tours of the buildings, devised question and invited the public to meet and greet the candidates. We had three great candidates. A complement to our efforts was that our final candidate served our district for a number of years; another went to New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and the other to Triton.

Today, the process has again changed, but we all want to make the best impression as we fill these positions. Following the search process, I became Board Chair and

served on the board for a total of nine years. Retiring feeling as the district was in a good place and that was sufficient time to serve the community.

My personal journey to serving the City of Medford is another story and another column.

This month of July, know there are good people out there who would be wonderful candidates for serving your respective districts and cities. If you know of them, encourage them. All have to do their own homework and devise their own plan of collecting ideas and concerns. Today, we have social media. Still, there is nothing like visiting with people face-to-face in their own homes, garages or yards to really get a feel for what people are thinking. If you are one of the ‘good people’ who comes forward to serve, suggest visiting with other individuals who have or are currently serving, learn of the key issues and challenges, go to meetings and absorb. Welcome to the process!

Lois Nelson is in her sixth year of serving as the mayor of Medford. Her column appears in this newspaper monthly.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 5 1 p.m. – LEGO Mania, BP Library	JULY 11 10 a.m. – Adventure Club, BP Library 2 p.m. – Pony Tales, BP Library 4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting
JULY 9 1 p.m. – Movie Mondays, BP Library 7 p.m. – City Council Meeting	JULY 12 4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting
JULY 10 10:30 a.m. – Story Time, BP Library 2 p.m. – Chess and Board Games Tournament, BP Library	JULY 17 5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
2:30 p.m. – BP Public Utilities Meeting 4:30 p.m. – Fire Commission Meeting 7 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Meeting	JULY 23 6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting



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JULY 6 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building	1 p.m. – Community Ed (Youth Basketball), NR Middle School Gym 6:30 p.m. – Karate, Community Center
JULY 9 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building	JULY 11 7 a.m. – Community Ed (River Springs Water Park) 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
JULY 10 11 a.m. – Adventure Camp 12 p.m. – Community Ed (Summer Adventures)	

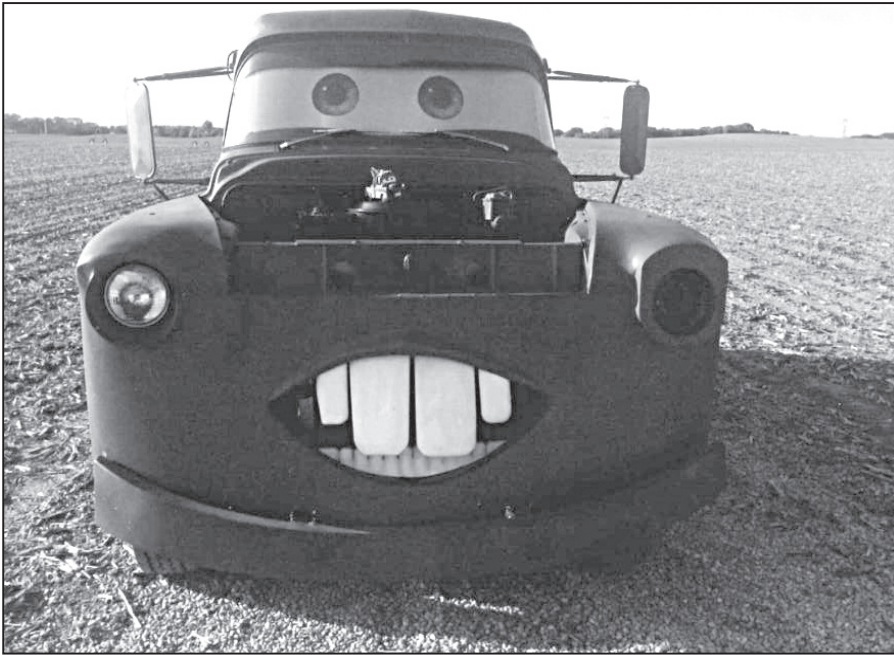


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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 5 9 a.m. – Jr. History Detectives, History Center 10 a.m. – LEGO Mania, Owatonna Library 6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, History Center 7 p.m. – 11 @ 7 Concert Series, Central Park	7 p.m. – Medford Park Board Meeting
JULY 6 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Hy-Vee	JULY 10 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Story Time, Owatonna Library 1 p.m. – So Many Books... So Little Time, Owatonna Library 5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building 5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Admin Building 5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
JULY 7 7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park	JULY 11 9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church 1 p.m. – Adventure Club, Owatonna Library 5 p.m. – Medford Economic Development Authority Meeting
JULY 9 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Ag Power Enterprises 4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park & Rec Board Meeting, Gainey Park 6 p.m. – Groovy Game Night, Owatonna Library 7 p.m. – Steele County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building	

History Center to feature car show and breakfast at Gus’ Station



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tow Mater built from a 1955 Chevy truck will likely be a popular attraction at the annual breakfast and car show at Gus’ Station located at the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna. The event is a fundraiser for Gus’ Station.

The Steele County Historical Society will hold the 4th Annual Gus’ Station Breakfast and Car Show on Saturday, July 21, 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. Classic cars of all ages, new and old, domestics and imports will be on display throughout the facility parking area at the Steele County Historical Society, ensuring there is something for everyone to see. The car show is a participant voting system, with open class trophies to the

top ten vehicles. A dash plaque will be given to all entries. There is a \$5 per vehicle registration fee. The show will feature a wide range of specialty vehicles such as a 1950 Ford F150, 1959 Farmall Tractor, 1970 AMX, sprints car and more! Tow Mater, built from a 1955 Chevy Truck, is sure to be a hit will kids young and old. The 1969 AMX, was special ordered in 1969 by Owatonna natives Harvey and Sharon West from Ben Bennett Rambler, which was located at 1534

South Cedar Avenue. Under the advice of the salesman, “Shorty,” they ordered the bittersweet orange metallic 1970 American Motors AMX sport coupe “390”. This is an unrestored, original owner car with 22,295 miles on it. The car still sits on the original tires off the showroom. It was special ordered with 390 CU inch 325 horsepower, go-pack, 4-speed transmission, power brakes and power steering. The interior has deluxe leather seats, air conditioning, tilt steering wheel and AM radio/8-track tape deck. The car is a two-time National Concours Winner (stock class) classic AMX Club International. AMX specifically build this coup to compete with General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motor pony cars. It’s a “special coupe” with a whole lot of history! Be sure to join us for breakfast in the History Center featuring breakfast burritos, fresh fruit, cinnamon rolls, and beverages. The breakfast will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person; children 5 and under eat free with paid adult. Tickets are available at the SCHS or online. Guests can stroll through the Village of Yesteryear and purchase commemorative items in Gus’ Station and are also available in the County Junction Gift Shop located in the History Center. Admission to the car show is free. However, donations are always appreciated. All proceeds go to Gus’ Station restoration and proposed addition of a service bay to be located next to the current station. Immediately following the car show, there will be a car run to the Ellendale Muni. Join us for live music, food and drink specials, preferred parking to car show participants.

The Steele County History Center is a part of the Steele County Historical Society, a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County’s past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing. SCHS operates the Village of Yesteryear May 1 until Sept. 30 with guided tours offered at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Adults \$5, children ages 7-16 \$3, children 6 and under accompanied by an adult, free. Group tours, and other tour times are available by appointment. The History Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Healing Arts Reception coming to Owatonna hospital

The community is invited to a special Owatonna Hospital Healing Arts Program reception where you can meet the artists Tuesday, July 10 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th Street. The Healing Arts Program is a collaboration between Owatonna

Hospital and the Owatonna Arts Center to bring the visual arts, natural light, images and elements of nature to lessen stress and promote healing while in the hospital. The new artwork is on view July through October. The works of Julie Bronson, photography; Sheri Grube, paint; Susan

Hayes, batik; Jake Jensen, clay; and Susan Waughtal, painting will be on display. This exhibit is underwritten by the Owatonna Hospital Foundation. The Owatonna Arts Center serves as the curator for this series.

Plans underway for tree celebration of giving

The heat of summer may be upon us, but that isn’t keeping one area organization from planning its annual holiday celebration. Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County is searching for community support to take part in its 28th annual Festival of Trees coming in November. As a business, organization or

individual, several options are available. They include becoming a tree sponsor by purchasing a decorated artificial tree, becoming a corporate sponsor or making a monetary donation. Tree sizes range from 4 foot pencils to 7 ½ foot pines. Tree prices range from \$300 to \$575. Corporate donations begin at \$600. As a tree or corporate sponsor, tickets

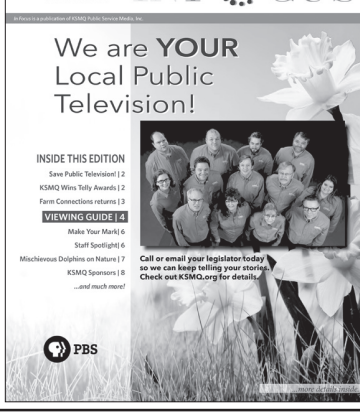
will be given to the opening night event on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Owatonna. For more information, call ADD at 507-451-9769 or email add_steele@hotmail.com. The festival is truly a celebration of giving.

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AUTO RACING

Chateau Speedway's new owners will carry on tradition

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The new owners of the Chateau Speedway are familiar faces at the Lansing, Minnesota race track.

Mary and Annette Wytaske, of Austin, officially purchased the speedway from Craig Shaw on June 8.

Wytaske grew up just three miles from three-eighth miles dirt track, and he first visited the track in 1965 to watch his father race.

"I basically grew up at Chateau," Wytaske said. "I have been going there since I was four years old. With our history, I definitely didn't want to see the place get closed up or bulldozed over."

Wytaske went on to race at the track from 1979 to 2016. He was planning on making a comeback this summer before he found out that the track may be closing down.

Wytaske said the speedway will have it's official re-grand opening on July 13, and they will have a full field of seven different classes competing that includes the United State Racing Association (USRA) A-Modifieds, USRA B-Modifieds, WISSOTA B-Modifieds,

WISSOTA Street Stocks, Chateau Hornets, Chateau Pure Stocks and the Mini Modifieds.

"We are just hoping the public comes out and gives us a chance," he said. "It's extremely affordable and extremely exciting. It's a good time to be had by all."

"The race fans, drivers and teams all get along really well and it's a great atmosphere. The drivers love to chat with fans and share their comments and opinions. It's just an all-around great time with a close-knit group, who welcome everybody with open arms."

Children under five years old get free admission, children from the ages of five to 12 years old cost \$5 and everyone else is \$10 for grandstand general admission tickets.

"There is still some stuff going on in the works," Wytaske said. "Being that we are pretty green at this, I'm not sure that we are going to plan anything real big and extravagant this year. We just want to get in there, get our feet wet and see what we have to do. From that point on everything should get bigger and better."

He said the there is something special about the nostalgia of the shallow bank track that's a little narrower than a lot of other tracks (about 60 to 70 feet wide), has a wall that runs three-quarters of way around and the backstretch is only about 30 feet from the Cedar River.

Wytaske said it has taken five weeks to get the track open because of some repairs and improvements that were and are currently being made.

"The facility itself as far as the track and the lights is in pretty good shape," he said. "But the concessions, bleachers and all that stuff need some tending. When we bought it there were a few things, behind close doors, that we were surprise to see and had to dig into."

Wytaske said he has had plenty of help from volunteers in getting the track ready for July 13.

"There has been a ton of support," he said. "It's been pretty overwhelming actually. We sure couldn't have done it without all the people and volunteers who have stepped up."

SEE CHATEAU, B6



New Chateau Speedway owner Mark and Annette Wytaske pose for a photo after officially taking ownership of the race track on June 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNETTE WYTASKE

SOFTBALL

Bishop excels on court and field



PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie's rising junior Riauna Bishop throws a pitch during the Blossoms' summer league exhibition against Rochester on Monday at Blooming Prairie's softball field. Blooming Prairie and Rochester split the doubleheader. Bishop has divided her time between playing summer league softball and basketball for Blooming Prairie this summer. She is expected to be a key contributor for both Blossom squads this upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Youth basketball tournament to take place during Crazy Days Festival

STAFF REPORT

Sign up now for the Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament that will take place during the annual Owatonna Crazy Days Festival on Friday, July 27 on West Bridge Street in Downtown Owatonna.

The tournament is being hosted by the Owatonna Basketball Association and the Owatonna Parks and Recreation.

The brackets will be formatted by grades entering Fall 2018. The division will be both boys and girls for fourth and fifth graders, sixth and seventh graders and eighth graders and freshman in high school.

The entry fee is \$30 per team with maximum of five players per team.

All participants will



receive a water bottle and medals will be awarded to the first place teams in each division.

Games will begin at 2 p.m., however, official start times may vary depending on the total number of teams registered.

Registration forms are available at the Owatonna Parks and Rec Office or online at <http://owatonna-parksrectest.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx>.

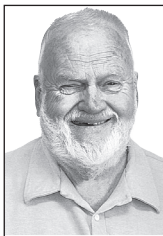
The registration deadline is July 20.

LET FREEDOM RING

Here it is the eve of the annual Fourth of July Celebration, and already several events have taken place to get everyone involved and excited about the events on the schedule.

The annual Ribfest, sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, kicked off the holiday events and again raised needed funds for programming at the local club.

The walking tour of Main Street on Sunday also provided interest and enjoyment to those who participated.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

A good bit of local history was on display along the street.

Mail subscribers of the Times will have to wait until Thursday for their weekly paper, but next week should be chuck full of the sights and sounds of the concessions, the parade and the big fireworks extravaganza.

It should mark another good milestone in our community history.

I offer congratulations to this year's Grand Marshalls of the big parade. John and Sue Swenson have been long-time volunteers in the community, and Paul Fiebiger, besides farming, was the parade chairman for several years. Congratulations to all three of those individuals, and we hope you enjoy your day

FRIENDSHIPS RENEWED

For the past several years, it has been my privilege to visit with approximately a dozen former students from way back. The group, organized by former Blooming Prairie High School student Paul Goodnature, labels the occasion a mini-reunion and they choose a date in June or July to get together and reminisce about their days in the local school system.

Goodnature ultimately did not graduate from Blooming Prairie, but he still calls this school his real home.

It is quite a reminder of school in the early 1960s, and I have been very fortunate to be invited to celebrate the occasion with them. It usually is a very entertaining afternoon, and this year was no exception.

SCOUTS HAVE RICH HISTORY

Research by local resident Tom Walters recently afforded me great interest in the history of the local Boy Scout troop here in Blooming Prairie.

Enough information became available, which enabled me to write an article on that history that appears elsewhere in the Times.

The local scout troop was first organized in 1947, which means that the local group has been in existence for 71 years.

In that time, 53 local boys have earned Eagle Scout status, the highest rank that a boy scout can attain, the latest of which was DJ Stender just a couple of months ago.

One of the items I found most fascinating was the exploits of the canoe enthusiasts in the early 1960s.

A team of them competed in several canoe derbies over two years, and one year, three teams competed in a derby from Red Wing to Winona.

They finished first, second and fourth, respectively.

The history of the local troop is notable, and it was a very interesting read.

SUMMER IS HERE

If anyone had doubts about summer coming, the past week or so should have put that doubt to rest.

After another week of off and on rain, the temperatures and humidity soared the end of this past week and we prevailed through highs in the 80s and into the 90s.

I commented that we might as well have been living in Florida the way the humidity climbed for a few days.

The weather experts tell us that humidity in the 60s cause some discomfort, and yet we had a couple of days in which that measure-ment crept into the mid 70s.

It is no wonder that individuals like me hesitated to leave the confines of our air-conditioned comfort.

I am sure that next January, many of us will be bemoaning the old and icy streets.

When that happens the best we can do is talk ourselves into the idea that the weather will once again change into hotter temps, and we can once again say, "I wish it weren't so darn hot out."

Such is the character of us humans.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

This past weekend I attended the final play in the 2017-18 series of Broadway touring companies. "Love Never Dies" played at the Orpheum Theater for a week's run, and it was a sequel to the very popular "Phantom of The Opera", both of which were written by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Although this sequel never gained the popularity of the original, I found it to be an interesting and entertaining production.

But what struck me most about the experience centered on the very different reviews provided in the two big daily

The reviews in the two big daily newspapers in the Cities couldn't have been more different.

newspapers in the Cities.

The two reviews couldn't have been more different.

I'll admit that I pay little attention to play reviews, as most often I disagree with the reviewer anyway.

But this play elicited very different response. The Saint Paul paper gave the play a good review, although not quite as enthusiastic as for the original Phantom.

The Minneapolis paper, on the other hand, found nothing to be admired in this production and even said it landed in town with a thud.

Maybe that is why I usually don't pay much attention to play reviews.

Readers are well aware that attending plays comes in a close second to my love of sports and enjoying good drama is a passion

SEE OUTSIDE THE LINES, B6

AUTO RACING

Bandits set to make their Pennsylvania debut at Lake Erie

SUBMITTED BY JASON JOHNSON

NORTH EAST, Pa. – The Minimizer Bandit Big Rig Series has raced in a number of states, but July 7 marks the Bandits Keystone State debut.

Lake Erie Speedway in North East, Penn., is the site of the next convoy, where the Bandits battle it out for bragging rights and a \$10,000 check.

“Lake Erie Speedway is a first-class facility,” Bandit Director of Operations Brian Madsen said. “It’s going to be a change of pace for the guys, because this is the first three-eighths mile track that we’ve been on this year.”

Ricky Rude leads the point standings after winning the last a-main feature race at Concord.

The event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was postponed mid-race back on June 9, so the Bandits are itching to get their hands on the \$10,000 feature race check.

“I’m raring to go!” The Godfather Craig Kruckeberg (No. 55) said. “It’s been far too long since we’ve had a chance to compete for the checkered flag.”

As usual, the Minimizer-sponsored Fan Series Truck Show takes place prior to the start of the Bandit race. Drivers can register for the ‘wash n’ show’ style event online.

“It’s going to be a great day,” Bandit General Manager Jason Johnson said. “We have a lot planned, several sponsors on hand, companies doing driver recruiting and activities for the kids, including the traditional Bandit meet-and-greet at 5 p.m.”

Tickets for the race are available for purchase online. Check out the

2018 Bandit schedule and grab your favorite Bandit gear by going to www.banditseries.com.

ABOUT BANDIT BIG RIG SERIES

The Bandit Big Rig Series returns big rig tractor truck racing to the short track in the United States. The series was designed to be affordable and accessible for anyone wishing to put together a race team.

For additional information, please contact Jason Johnson at (507) 676-1987, or email jason@banditseries.com.

ABOUT MINIMIZER

Leveraging more than 30 years of manufacturing expertise at its state-of-the-art facility in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Minimizer is not only the leader in poly semi truck fenders: we invented the category. Minimizer poly fenders and integrated bracket kits are nearly indestructible and are guaranteed for life. Our research and development team constantly “tests and tortures” each of our products to make sure what goes on, in or is used to fix the truck meets the rigors of our tough industry. We also manufacture industry-leading light kits, mud flaps, tool boxes, tire masking kits, work benches and other accessories. Our most recent innovations include the world’s only custom molded floor mats for semi trucks, as well as the revolutionary “whole body health” Minimizer Truck Seat System. Minimizer has been family owned and operated for three generations. The company manufactures its products in the USA and makes everything tough enough to please tough people in a tough industry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN KRUCKEBERG

Craig Kruckeberg (No. 55) edges Mark Noble (No. 74) for the checkered flag during the Bandit Shoot Out at Hawkeye Downs Speedway in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on June 9.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN KRUCKEBERG

Racers battle for position during the Bandit Shoot Out at Hawkeye Downs Speedway in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on June 9.

GOPHER SPORTS

Star-studded class enters M Club Hall of Fame

SUBMITTED BY JAKE RICKER

MINNEAPOLIS — The University of Minnesota’s M Club, one of the nation’s largest and oldest varsity letterwinner clubs, today announced its 2018 Hall of Fame class. The nine-person class represents nine different Gopher programs, 26 All-America honors and nine national titles (individual and team). These Gopher greats will be officially added to the more than 350 current members of the Hall of Fame during the M Club Hall of Fame banquet on September 13 in the DQ Club Room at TCF Bank Stadium.

“It takes a special athlete to make a college team and earn a letter. To reach that level, where everyone is exceptional in some way, and then to become a stand out, to break records and earn awards and win championships, that level of greatness is what the nine people entering our Hall of Fame this year represent,” said M Club Interim Director Quincy Lewis. “The M Club Hall of Fame recognizes the most exceptional individuals in our department’s long history. Inclusion in the Hall of Fame is the most prestigious honor Gopher Athletics can present to an alumni athlete. I could not be more proud to present that honor to each person in this year’s Hall of Fame class.”

Listed alphabetically by last name, the M Club’s 2018 Hall of Fame class includes:

• **Heather (Dorniden) Kampf** (Women’s Track and Field) – First

NCAA champion in program history, two-time NCAA runner-up, program-record nine-time All-American.

• **Damion Hahn** (Wrestling) – Three-time Big Ten champion and two-time national champion as an individual, to go along with his teams winning three Big Ten titles and two national titles.

• **Laurence Maroney** (Football) – All-American, two-time All-Big Ten, second in program history in career rushing yards despite only playing three seasons.

• **Janel McCarville** (Women’s Basketball) – Two-time First Team All-American, four-time All-Big Ten, member of program’s lone Final Four team (2004).

• **James McLean** (Men’s Golf) – NCAA champion (program’s first in 54 years), two-time All-American, two-time First Team All-Big Ten.

• **Pam (Miller) Dombeck** (Volleyball) – Two-time All-Big Ten, graduated as the program’s career leader in blocks and kills, held career blocks record for 24 years.

• **Chris Paulos** (Softball, Field Hockey) – Four-time letterwinner in both sports, all-time career, single-season and game-winning goals leader for field hockey.

• **Jim Peterson** (Men’s Gymnastics) – NCAA champion, five-time All-American, eight-time individual Big Ten champion, member of three Big Ten championship teams.

• **Justin Smith** (Men’s Golf) – Three-time All-American (one of two in program history), member of program’s lone national title team

(2002).

New inductees are nominated by a research committee that thoroughly reviews the accomplishments of hundreds of Gopher alumni from all eras. Approximately two dozen finalists appear on each year’s Hall of Fame ballot, which is then distributed to former and current coaches, athletics administrators and all University letterwinners for a vote to determine who will be added to the Hall of Fame each year.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE INDUCTEES

Kampf (Women’s Track and Field, 2006-09)

She was the Gophers’ first women’s track and field national champion, claiming the indoor 800-meter title in 2006. That same year she finished national runner-up in the outdoor 800 and would later finish runner-up at the 2008 indoor championships in the same event. Over the course of her career, Kampf earned nine All-America honors (the most in program history), along with four individual Big Ten championships and six Big Ten team titles.

Hahn (Wrestling, 2001-04)

His career mark of 118-21 is certainly impressive, but he enters rarified air in a program built on championships for what he accomplished at the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments. The Lakewood, N.J. native was a three-time Big Ten champ as an individual (the fifth in program history), a two-time national champion wrestling 197 pounds (the program’s third mul-

tipl-time national champ) and a four-time All-American (the fourth in program history to reach that mark at that time).

Maroney (Football, 2003-05)

After bursting on the scene from St. Louis as the Big Ten Freshman of the Year (2003), Maroney followed with First Team All-Big Ten selections in each of the next two seasons and First Team All-America status following his junior season, a year in which he set a new program record for season rushing yards. Following that season, Maroney was selected No. 21 in the NFL Draft by the New England Patriots.

McCarville (Women’s Basketball, 2002-05)

McCarville was named the Big Ten’s Freshman of the Year and a Second Team All-Big Ten performer that first season. She went on to earn three First Team All-Big Ten honors, making her the first in program history to be all-conference in each of her four seasons. She was a First Team All-America selection her junior and senior seasons, a span that included the program’s only Final Four appearance (2004) and led to her being selected No. 1 overall in the 2005 WNBA Draft.

McLean (Men’s Golf, 1998-00)

The conference’s Freshman of the Year became the program’s second-ever individual national champion – its first in 54 years – when he claimed the crown in 1998. To this day, the Australian holds the program’s record for career scoring average (71.49).

(Miller) Dombeck (Volleyball,

1983-86)

Miller finished her career as the program’s all-time leader in career blocks and kills, with her record for blocks standing for nearly a quarter-century. She led the conference in the category both her junior and senior year. She was recognized as All-Big Ten both seasons, including First Team honors as a senior in 1986. She was also named First Team All-Region that season.

Paulos (Softball, Field Hockey, 1976-78)

Paulos lettered all four years for two different Gopher programs, in softball and field hockey. She was a star of the field hockey pitch, and is the program’s all-time leader in career goals, single-season goals and game-winning goals. She also contributed to some of the most successful teams in Gopher softball history, playing for two College World Series teams.

Peterson (Men’s Gymnastics (1943, 1947-49)

He was the first Gopher to ever win a national championship on the vault and even today, 70 years removed from that 1948 title, Peterson remains Minnesota’s only men’s vault national champion

Smith (Men’s Golf, 2001-04)

Holding the distinct honor of sinking the putt that clinched the program’s lone national title (2002), Smith has a highlight moment that punctuates an outstanding career. He finished fourth in the individual standings that year, the first of three consecutive All-America finishes.

CHATEAU:

Name goes back to Speedway

FROM B5

Wytaske said purchasing the track was something he and wife discussed for some time.

“However, we probably weren’t going to do anything until Craig [Shaw] decided to sell pretty abruptly,” he said. “At that point the township was having some meetings and we had heard that there was some red tape that we were going to have to go through if we didn’t get the track opened before this season was over. We figured we would be ahead if we just jumped into it now.”

One of the first things Wytaske did as the new owner was to change the name back to Chateau Speedway from

Chateau Raceway.

“It was always Chateau Speedway up until about 20 years ago,” Wytaske said. “They decided, to maybe, change the culture out there a little bit so they changed the name to raceway.”

He said he doesn’t know the exact reason for the name change, but for him Chateau was always the Speedway.

“Whatever it was, I didn’t care for calling it the Raceway,” he said. “I remembered it as Chateau Speedway and that’s the way I wanted it to be. That’s where it started and that’s where it should be.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNETTE WYTASKE

New Chateau Speedway owner Mark Wytaske celebrates in victory lane after winning a race at Chateau back in 2015.

OUTSIDE LINES:

Mark your calendar for Chamber golf day

FROM B5

with me.

That is why I am now looking forward to the next season of touring Broadway plays, starting with the return of “Mamma Mia” in late-July.

UPCOMING

Now that the big Fourth of July Celebration is behind us, one entertaining event upcoming is the Chamber of Commerce Golf Day,

which always promises good social conversation, some good and some not so good golf and a singular day in which to leave work behind and just have fun.

Mark July 18 down on your calendars now and make plans to attend this entertaining day. Enjoy the continuing summer, and we’ll talk again.

Local farmer moves towards sustainable family-friendly future

By DENNIS MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

When Aaron Schroht decided to switch his dairy farm to organic, he did so for financial reasons, but during the past decade he has come to the conclusion that it was a great decision for many other reasons, including having a sustainable family-friendly future.

Schroht, along with his three children, milk approximately 75 cows on their farm, Schrohaven Dairy, northwest of Owatonna. The farm's dairy has been certified organic since 2013.

Schroht said his family has been farming the land of about 80 years and in 2007 he decided to seed the entire farm.

"I thought down the road, this is something that's going to help us be able to sustain and make a living," he said. "We first went into with the idea that we were going to pasture our land off and start grazing the cattle. We were still going to sell the milk conventionally, but we would have the opportunity down the road to transition to organic."

Schroht said this was a way to expand his herd without putting a lot of capital expense into it.

In 2010, he official started the transition to organic. Schroht said one of the great

things about producing organic milk is that the sales price doesn't fluctuate like the conventionally milk market does.

"Ours does go up a little bit in the winter and down a little bit in the summer," he said. "It's just based on seasonal production treads, but our price is set in March for the whole year."

Another major influence in his decision to make the change was the higher sale-price of organic.

Schroht said there have been times where the sale-price of organic milk has been twice that of conventional milk.

"That was a really strong factor in our decision," he said. "I don't have as high of a production as all of these conventionally guys, but some of that margin is made up through the higher cost of that we receive for the milk."

Schroht said the most challenging part of the whole experience was the first few years when he saw many of expenses skyrocket.

"It was rough getting up and started," he said. "It was big learning experience coming into it because we had to buy a lot things like higher dollar feed to get where we are."

One of the conditions for the milk to be certified organic is that the cows has been fed organic feed for at



Owatonna organic dairy farmer Aaron Schroht with his three children Adeline, Weston and August.

least one year leading up to that point.

Schroht said he had some harsh times the first year of the transition when he was having to buy organic feed but still sell his milk at a conventional price.

"The organic feed was really high, so it was just brutal some months," he said. "We also had a couple poor crop years and we had some hay that winter killed which led to some poor production years that left us short on feed, and it was tough to make up the difference."

However, Schroht said he is pleased with what his vision has transformed into.

"We are getting to the point where we are close to the same production level as some of our neighbors," he said. "We are doing what they are doing, without all the chemical input."

Schroht said he is extremely pleased with his herd that consists of predominantly Holsteins, but also some Brown Swiss, Jerseys and crossbreds.

Holsteins are known as for their high production, but they have lower percent of butterfat and protein in their milk.

"There is a thing called a component-price," Schroht said. "The more components we have in our milk, the better we are paid."

Schroht said the Jerseys and Brown Swiss might not produce the same amount of pounds of milk compared to a Holstein, but their milk will have a higher percent of fat and protein that will make up the difference.

"Sometimes your shipping less milk," he said. "But you're getting paid the same or more for their milk just because it has more fat and protein."

Schroht said, now that he's made it through the trials and tribulations, the most rewarding part of the whole experience has been the extra time he now gets to spend with his family.

"Starting last year, I will actually dry the cows out for a month and half," he said. "We won't milk or ship any milk. It kind of gives us an opportunity to do other things."

"The kids are getting older, and they have summer break, and we can do more now. Whether it be normal things or something we just couldn't get to or activities we couldn't do when your milking cows twice a day."

Schroht said he dairy animals are just coming up on the point where they will be meat-sale eligible.

"It hasn't been a part of program thus far," he said. "But down the road, it probably will just because we have ample pastures in the summer."

Leave your milkweed for monarch caterpillars to munch



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

find it easier if you knew that there are so-called weeds which are the main food source for some beneficial insects. This means that it is to our benefit to leave these plants to their own devices.

Monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) will only lay their eggs on their host plant, which is milkweed, and one other plant closely related to milkweed called smooth swallow-wort. For the most part though, monarch caterpillars can eat only milkweed, which is their obligate host. Female monarchs lay one egg at a time, which is about the size of the tip of a pencil, typically on the underside of a leaf. One female will lay somewhere between 300-500 eggs over her reproductive lifetime.

The eggs hatch approximately four days after they are laid and the newly hatched larvae begin eating. We call these larvae caterpillars, and these very hungry caterpillars keep

eating almost nonstop for nine to fourteen days, until they are ready to make their chrysalis.

Milkweed is the only plant that our hungry caterpillars can eat, and man do they eat. They rarely stop even to rest. The purpose of this stage of their life is to consume as much as they can, because they get the majority of their lifelong protein that they'll use for the rest of their larval stage and their adult lives, too.

Most people seem to know that monarch butterflies are toxic to predators (which is why some other butterfly species mimic monarchs), but do you know how they become toxic? Well, this is another reason that milkweed is so important to monarchs. Monarchs become toxic to predators by storing toxins from the milkweed plants that they ate during their caterpillar stage. Milkweed contains toxins called cardenolides, which can be harmful to predators and also make monarchs distasteful.

We see five generations of monarchs in Minnesota. The first butterflies we typically see in the spring are actually the final generation from the previous year, which overwintered in Mexico. These butterflies migrate to Minnesota during the spring and proceed to lay eggs on any milkweed plant they can find. Monarchs in Generation

1 are the offspring of the monarchs that overwintered. Generation 2 monarchs are the grandchildren of the overwintering butterflies, and Generations 3 and 4 are the great- and the great great-grandchildren of monarchs which overwintered. Generation 4 butterflies then migrate south.

The name milkweed implies that the plants are weeds, but milkweeds are a diverse group of native flowers. Although a few milkweed species can

colonize disturbed areas, milkweeds are not listed as noxious weeds in any state or at the federal level. Therefore, I encourage you to consider leaving these plants in your yard or on your land so that you can provide this vital food source to our monarch butterflies.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

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

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

FORECLOSURE

18-109396

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 22, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$238,555.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Phillip E. Daley and Carol S. Daley, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 30, 2012, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000384891

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 1, South Prairie Park Addition

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1915 Leonard Pl, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-516-0101
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$196,273.87

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 27, 2018, 10:00am

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

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 26, 2019, or the next business day if January 26, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 27, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 27, 2019, or the next business day if January 27, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: June 5, 2018

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

6/12,6/19,6/26
7/3,7/10,7/17

FORECLOSURE

18-109407

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 14, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$73,979.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Michael C. Falvey and Lindsay Falvey, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1008671-0000023175-1
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

GAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed November 18, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000399642

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 25, Block 4, Belmont, an Addition to the City of Owatonna

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 212 Beech Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-132-0425
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,812.18

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 26, 2018, 10:00am

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

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 26, 2019, or the next business day if January 26, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 27, 2018, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 26, 2019, or the next business day if January 26, 2019 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: June 6, 2018

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

6/12,6/19,6/26
7/3,7/10,7/17

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 24, 1993

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$45,049.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Thomas O. Ayen and Susan M.J. Ayen, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Bank United of Texas FSB

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 1, 1993 as Document Number 238449 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: GE Capital Mortgage Services, Inc. by assignment recorded on March 31, 1995 as Document Number 246287 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on March 27, 2018 as Document Number A000417540 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The West 127 feet of Sub Lot 1 of Lot 6 in the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota.

PROPERTY: The West 127 feet of Sub Lot 1 of Lot 6 in the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 9021 13TH ST SW, WASECA, MN 56093-6215
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$2,896.95

TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Bank United of Texas FSB

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-017-4306

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: August 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgageor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 21, 2019.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: June 28, 2018

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(18-0515-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

7/3,7/10,7/17
7/24,7/31,8/7

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, July 12, 2018
Regular School Board Work Session –High School Board Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 16, 2018
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, July 16, 2018
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL CLERK

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda
- Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Donations

- B. Employment
C. Volunteer Coaches
D. School Board Meeting Dates
E. Work Sessions
F. School Board Per Diem
G. Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2019
H. Health & Safety Policy
I. LTFM FY 19
J. Valedictorian/Salutatorian

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

- A. Family Education Rights & Privacy Act
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

Caren Kircher and OBO of Minor Children Petitioner

vs.

Heather Corona Respondent

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Harassment Order For Relief has been issued in the above matter.

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request For Hearing with the Court within 45 days of issuance of the Harassment Order For Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address: 111 East Main St. Owatonna, MN 55060.

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief will not be

a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Karen Leidall
Court Administrator
Dated: June 1, 2018

7/3

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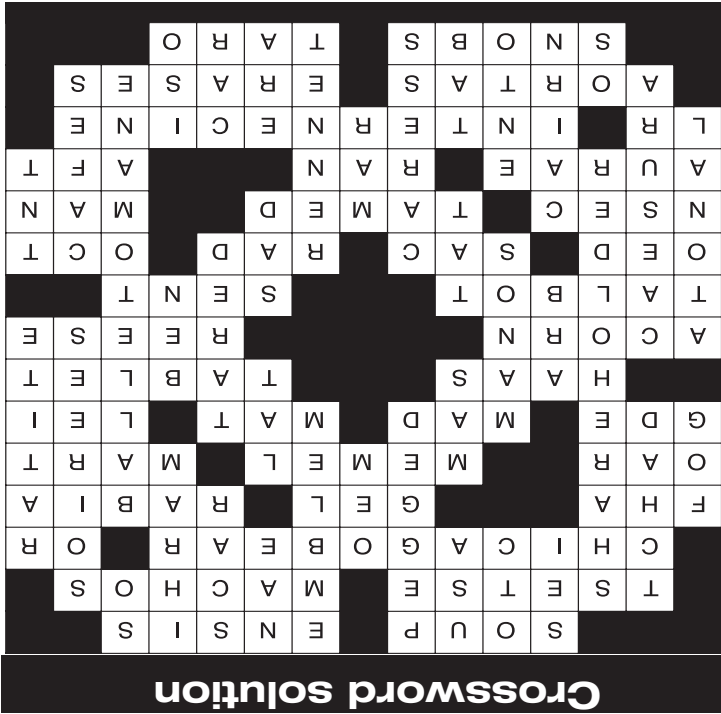
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Hot meal
5. Razor clams
10. Blood-sucking African fly
12. Chauvinists
14. Windy City football player
16. An alternative
18. Federal Housing Administration
19. Styles hair
20. Arabic female name
22. Paddle
23. Area once separated from Germany
25. Marketplace
26. Gode Airport
27. Upset
28. Where wrestlers sweat
30. Garland
31. Robert __, poet
33. An iPad is one
35. Fruit of the oak tree
37. Della __, singer
38. Women's clothing retailer
40. Mailed
41. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
42. Pouch
44. Radioactivity unit
45. Month
48. Nanosecond
50. Domestic
52. What a boy becomes
53. Breezes (anc. Greek)
55. Jogged
56. At the stern
57. Lawrenceium
58. Destructive to both sides
63. Arterias
65. Removes
66. Pretentious people
67. Tropical Asian plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of whale
2. Type of medication
3. Land of the free
4. Formed an opinion of
5. Logo
6. No (Scottish)
7. Leaves tissue
8. Sacred state to Muslims
9. Thus
10. African nation
11. Someone who has a stake in
13. Parties
15. Subsystem producers
17. Large, flightless birds
18. Compromises visibility
21. A ballet enthusiast
23. More (Spanish)
24. Skeletal muscle
27. Hands (Span.)
29. Weighed
32. Businessman
34. Famous clock Big __
35. Unkeyed
36. Break between words
39. Ink (slang)
40. Disappointed
44. Stroke
44. Curdled milk
46. Restaurants
47. Explosive
49. Type of terrier
51. Disfigure
54. Innermost cell layers
59. Bar bill
60. Distinct period of history
61. Mode of transportation
62. Equal (prefix)
64. Operating system

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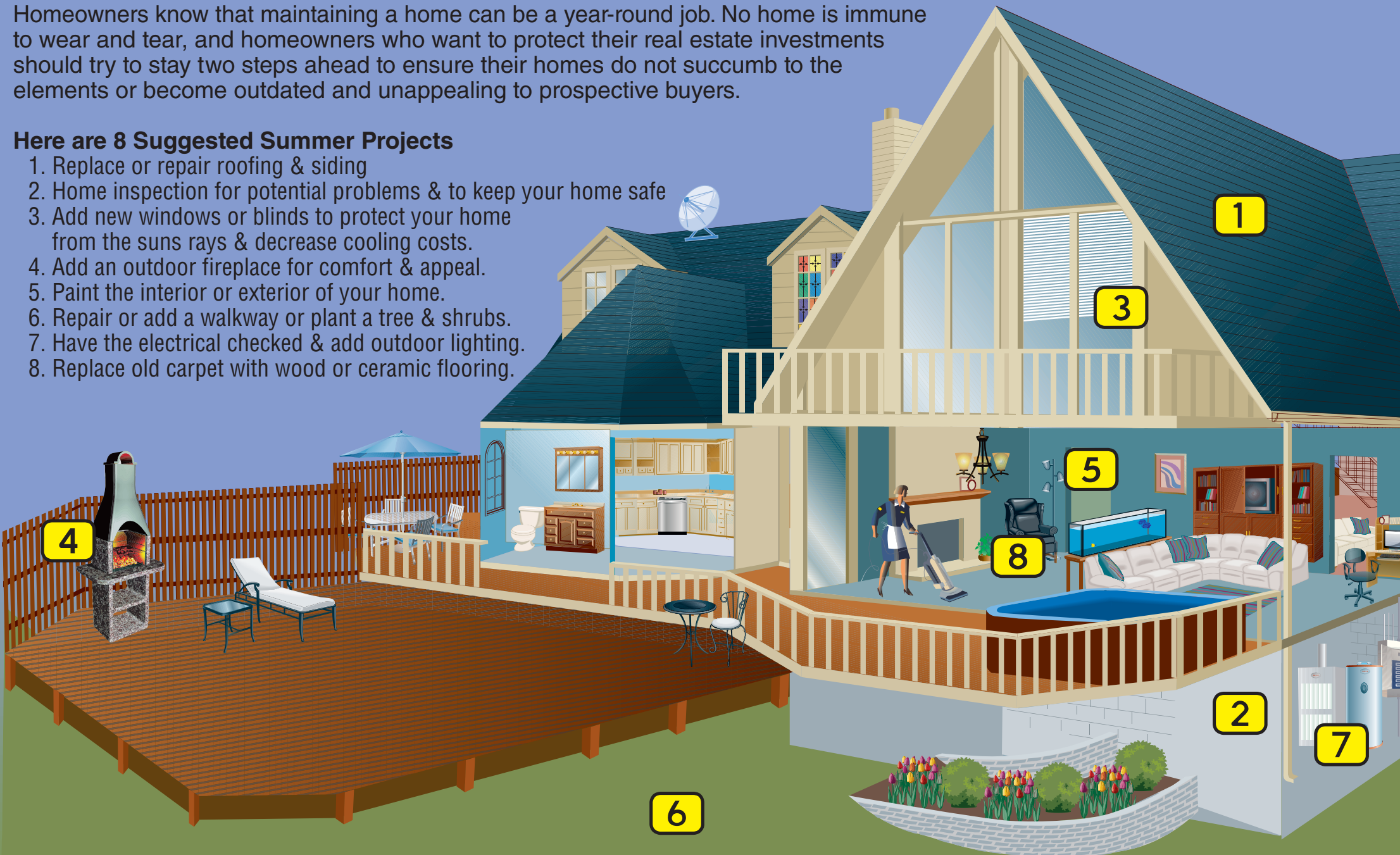
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SUMMER HOME IMPROVEMENT

Homeowners know that maintaining a home can be a year-round job. No home is immune to wear and tear, and homeowners who want to protect their real estate investments should try to stay two steps ahead to ensure their homes do not succumb to the elements or become outdated and unappealing to prospective buyers.

Here are 8 Suggested Summer Projects

- 1. Replace or repair roofing & siding
- 2. Home inspection for potential problems & to keep your home safe
- 3. Add new windows or blinds to protect your home from the sun's rays & decrease cooling costs.
- 4. Add an outdoor fireplace for comfort & appeal.
- 5. Paint the interior or exterior of your home.
- 6. Repair or add a walkway or plant a tree & shrubs.
- 7. Have the electrical checked & add outdoor lighting.
- 8. Replace old carpet with wood or ceramic flooring.





- Roofing
- Siding
- Storm Damage Restoration
- Windows/Doors
- Water/Fire Damage Restoration

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