

STEELE COUNTY Times

GOPHER 50 B1

FAIR COVERAGE B10

www.steeledodgenews.com | TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

SNAP, CRACKLE AND POP



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

After the rains subsided on the Fourth of July, the Motl Dairy Farm of Blooming Prairie created its own parade by driving through Main Street with a wagon filled with people, including a few kids sticking their heads out the back with American flags draped on both sides. It wasn't exactly the parade every one hoped for, but those on the wagon still had a good time parading around town.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Raindrops fell on Blooming Prairie on Wednesday, July 4th and washed out the parade. The cancellation marked the first time in the 44-year history of the parade that it had been cancelled by a rain storm.

Thunderstorm forces first ever cancellation of Fourth parade

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was the "snap, crackle and pop" that did it.

No, it wasn't that familiar sound heard when pouring Kelloggs' Rice Krispies into a cereal bowl.

Instead, it was a sharp lightning bolt followed by a loud clap of thunder. The lightning reverberated throughout Blooming Prairie on this particular Fourth of July day and was felt by nearly every resident and visitor in town that day.

Blooming Prairie's population was estimated to have been between 20,000 and 30,000 before the rains came.

There were lots of disappointed kids and adults "but it was the right thing to

SEE **4TH OF JULY, A10**



Owatonna to host Bike MS Tuesday

By RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The ride for multiple sclerosis will be pedaling its way across Steele County.

Next Tuesday, July 17, Owatonna will host the 2018 Bike MS, a ride that cuts across Minnesota in an effort to find cures for MS. Bike MS: Ride Across Minnesota is formerly known as TRAM.

"It's a huge ride," said Karen Pehrson, director of Owatonna Tourism. "It's one of the biggest fundraisers for MS."

Ride across Minnesota starts in St. Peter on Sunday. The ride will go from St. Peter to Northfield on Monday, Northfield to Owatonna on Tuesday, Owatonna to Waseca on Wednesday, Waseca to Mankato on Thursday and Mankato back to St. Peter on Friday.

More than 400 riders will travel through picturesque scenery and experience the rich history of central Minnesota. Riders have the option to ride a three-day route or take on the full five days.

Pehrson said there will be a number of local riders taking part in the ride.

For the Owatonna portion of the ride, shuttle busing will begin at 12 p.m. Tuesday from the Holiday Inn by Clinton Falls as well as other motels in Owatonna. The shuttles will end at 10:30 p.m.

There will be many activities taking place for MS riders as well as others at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

People interested in helping volunteer at the fairgrounds should contact the Owatonna Chamber Office at 507-451-7970.

A food stand will be operated by Steele County 4-H. The Steele County History Center will offer beer throughout the afternoon and early evening.

Southern Minnesota Sisters have been rocking the Midwest with their covers of popular bands in multiple genres. They will be taking stage at the fairgrounds at 5 p.m.

SEE **BIKE MS, A3**

Youths help others in far away places

Area teens travel to Houston for 2018 Youth Gathering

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Personally, I was moved and really saw God."

McKenna Hein
Youth Gathering Participant

For a moment, in fact for a week, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota moved to Houston, Texas.

The heartbeat of Blooming Prairie was transfused into the city of Houston, Texas with 24 youths and five adult leaders descending on Houston for the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Youth Gathering.

Twenty of the youths were from First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie and four youths were representing Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, located seven miles south of BP. Four of the adult leaders were from First Lutheran and one was from Red Oak Grove.

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering started on June 27 and concluded July 1 after more than 31,000 Lutheran youths and their adult leaders came together for five days in Houston, Texas.

The Gathering, held every three years, brings together teens of the ELCA from across the nation.

Youths gathered for faith formation, exuberant worship, interactive learning, thoughtful Bible study, meaningful service projects throughout the city, and fun-filled fellowship.

In days prior to the main Gathering, there were smaller gatherings for multicultural youth (MYLE) and differently-abled youth (tAble).

"The experience made me think about how God helps everyone; he helps in so many different ways," said Blooming Prairie High School junior Karson Vigeland.

"It's amazing how so many people can come together and view the world the same," remarked BPHS junior Baylee Sorensen.

At the mass gatherings held every night at NRG Stadium, the youths sang, prayed and listened to a variety of speakers. These speakers told of their trials and triumphs," said the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, who attended as clergy from First Lutheran.

The trip was Pastor Heidi's second to a Youth Gathering. She attended on in Dallas, Texas in 1991.

First Lutheran adult leader Chad Forystek attended a Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas in 1988. Jacob Ulland, an adult leader from Red Oak Grove, was part of a Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Ga., in 2003.

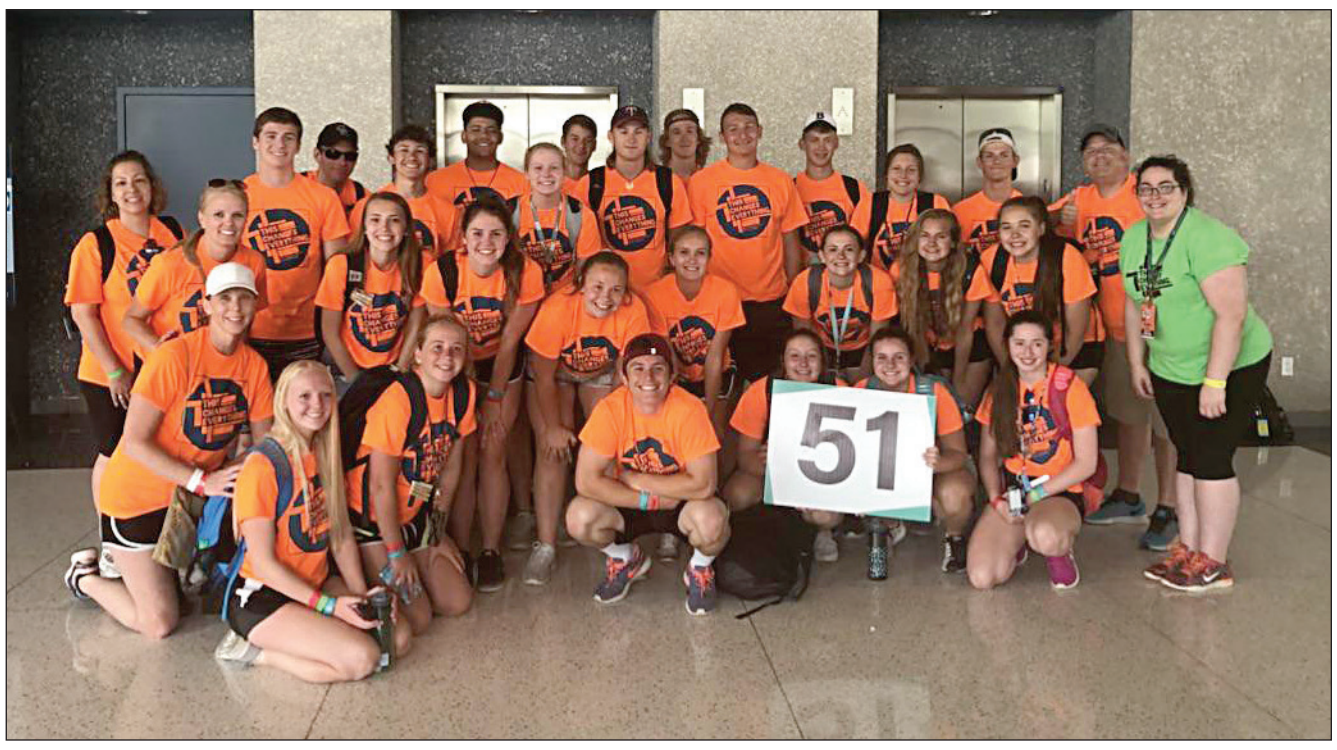
Nicki Bishop, one of the original instigators of the Youth Gathering for First Lutheran youths, said the highlight of the week was "seeing over 30,000 people from all over the United States gather and being there because of their faith."

The Gathering allowed youths to think about things differently, Bishop commented.

The speakers at the Gathering made a point to say everyone has a value in their life, Bishop said.

The speakers were evidence they had seen the light of God, said Vigeland. Sorensen said her favorite speaker was well-known author

SEE **YOUTH GATHERING, A3**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICKI BISHOP

Blooming Prairie's youth group of 24 youths and five adult leaders get together for a group photo before embarking on their service project at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. The #51 signifies their service project number. Their project involved moving books at a senior high school in Houston.



PHOTO, COURTESY OF NICKI BISHOP

Jesus was their rock during the week of the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Twenty four youths from Blooming Prairie attended the Youth Gathering from June 27 to July 1.



Framed in a live puzzle during Southeast Minnesota Synod craft time at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas were: from left, Riauna Bishop, Kiya Thompson, Ayren Ingvalson and McKenna Hein.

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AREA DEATHS

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

Don't rain on our parade

Don't ever underestimate the power of Mother Nature. Get her mad and look out.

Not sure that anyone got her mad in this particular situation, but Mother Nature whipped a real doozy on Blooming Prairie on the Fourth of July.

Just as the parade was about to begin on the Fourth, the skies quickly darkened and the clouds opened up with buckets of rain. Added into the mix were some nasty lightning strikes and bolts of thunder. Together it left thousands of eager parade goers without a parade to attend.

For the first time in at least 44 years, Blooming Prairie officials were forced to cancel the popular Fourth parade. The disappointment and mumblings of "I can't believe it" could almost be heard just as loud as the thunder claps throughout the community. It left people thinking collectively, "Don't rain on our parade."

But, unfortunately, in this case, Mother Nature had the last say so. With the threat of even more severe weather looming, city officials did the right thing and cancelled the parade. It's not a popular decision by any means, but as the city's police chief pointed out, "It was the right thing, safety first."

When thousands of lives are at risk, safety has to be at the forefront of any decision- making. As difficult as it may have been, officials prevented a mass casualty from taking place by cancelling the parade.

It's definitely a shame to see all the hard work poured into the parade evaporate in just a matter of minutes. Even though we didn't get to see the parade, we would like to commend Karen Fouarge and Nick Schiefert for their tireless efforts in organizing the parade as well as the entire Fourth celebration. Without these volunteers, living in Blooming Prairie would not be as special as it is.

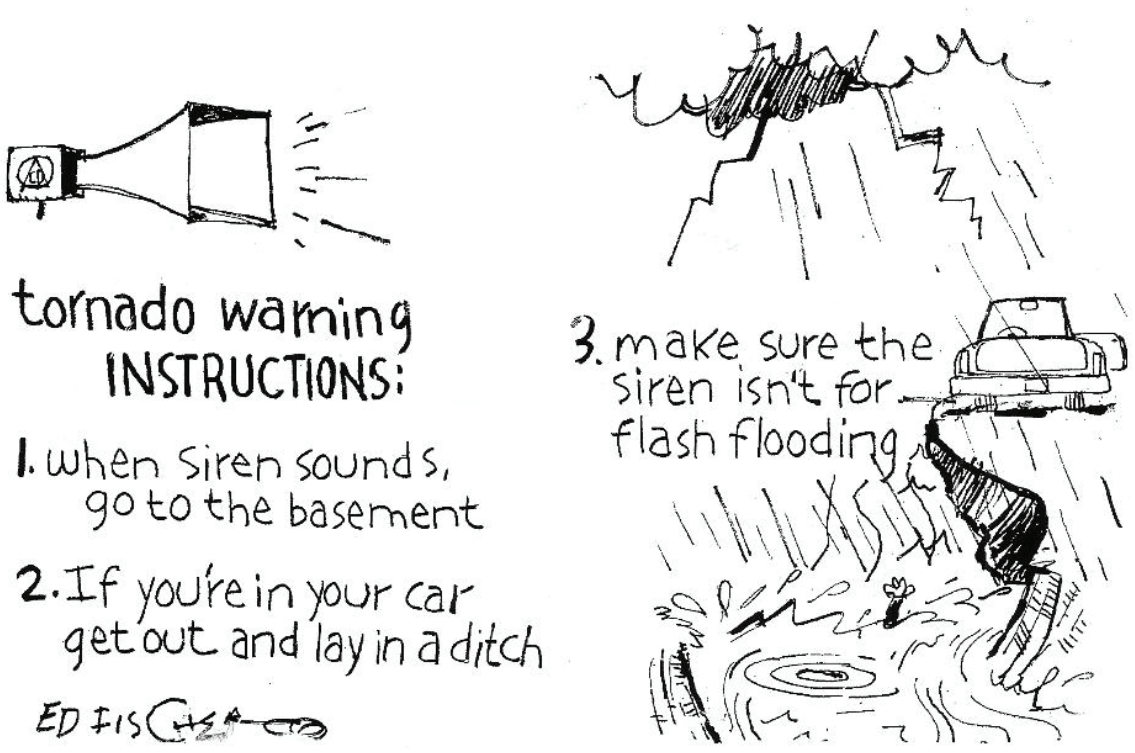
We hope and pray that it will be at least another four decades or longer before any Fourth parade has to be cancelled again.

Let this message resonate with Mother Nature before she gets any more funny ideas in the future: "Don't rain on our parade."



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

David Drenth of Hollandale proudly shows off his 1935 Ford entered in the Sweet Rides Car Show at the Blooming Prairie 4th of July festivities.



A new tradition for the Fourth?



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

It has become a family tradition for the Fourth of July.

We may not be natives of Blooming Prairie, but our family has always enjoyed the Fourth of July celebration in BP. At least for the past nine years since I took over operation of the local newspaper.

Folks have lightly become used to me cruising up and down the parade route on foot snapping photos of the big celebration. All was set to happen again this year.

We had just arrived to town when I stopped by the office to make sure my camera was ready for battle with the usual hot sunshine and muggy temperatures that seem to become as normal as kids popping in the streets to scoop up candy.

Just as we were ready to leave, the rains came and the skies darkened. "This can't be," I murmured to myself. No sooner had I said that when the power at the office went out. Bolts of lightning and enormous claps of thunder seemed to have made a grand entry into Blooming Prairie.

"Who invited Mother Nature to be the grand marshal?" I asked out loud. "Doesn't she know that behaviors like that will not go undetected and cause great concern?"

A few minutes later people came streaming by our office on Main Street and cars began lining up attempting to venture onto U.S. Highway 218. "Boy, this isn't the parade I was counting on," I reflected.

My worst nightmare had just been confirmed when I learned the parade had been cancelled for the first time in at least 44 years. Mother Nature got to make her grand entrance by leading parade lovers right out of town and kids empty handed from treats of all kinds.

With pounding rains creating chaos around town, I was left stranded without a parade to cover.

"What about all those cute parade photos readers come to enjoy every Fourth?" I asked Mother Nature.

No response.

What a dirty and cruel joke Mother Nature unleashed on thousands of parade lovers as well as readers of this newspaper. It just can't be. But it was to no one's liking.

My Fourth celebration suddenly turned into a clean the office afternoon. I'm sure my family really appreciated that grand idea. But we used the time to do some badly needed deep cleaning around the office. It's amazing what a little cleaner will do to freshen things up.

In the weekly grind of churning out a newspaper, cleaning is one of those things that often gets shoved aside. I guess it was Mother Nature's way of making sure I take care of business around the office once in a while.

I would have much rather been outdoors covering the parade. It always warms my heart to see people having a great time celebrating our nation's birthday. But I guess this year it just wasn't meant to be.

Perhaps I've started a new tradition of cleaning the office on the Fourth. Second thought, let's scratch that idea and get back on track with the parade again next year.

My apologies to those who were hoping to see lots of cute parade photos this week. The newspaper seems so empty without them.

Now I'm forced to go in hot pursuit of tracking down other stories and photos to fill the void.

GUEST COLUMNS

Early literacy promotes lifelong success

By TIM PENNY

Summer is here which means families are finally able to enjoy the outdoors after a long winter.

As campfires burn out and kids get ready for bed, many parents will pull out a book and read a bedtime story. This is important because studies consistently show that reading at a young age drastically improves a child's educational trajectory.

According to Minnesota Compass, the ability to read by the end of third grade often predicts future academic and life success. Fifty-seven percent of third graders in Minnesota are proficient in reading, and our 20-county region is only a fraction above the statewide average. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we know it is important to invest in early literacy efforts as a long-term strategy to support our communities and future workforce.

One way we support this effort is through our Literacy Grant Program. We recently distributed more than 18,000 books - English, Spanish and bilingual - to 41 organizations in our region through this grant. These organizations – libraries, schools, public health organizations, reading centers, and more – work with children birth to age five. The beauty of this program is that these organizations will distribute the books to children who will be able to take them home, hopefully encouraging a lifelong love of reading. Minnesota-based publishing companies, ABDO Publishing and Capstone, generously donate the majority of the books for this program. Over the years of partnering with these companies, we have been able to distribute more than one hundred thousand books throughout the region.

Our AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative is another way we facilitate early literacy. LEAP stands for Learning Early Achieves Potential, which is the mantra that guides this program. Each year between 10 to 20 AmeriCorps members are placed throughout the region at preschools and nonprofit organizations. Our members work on social and emotional development with children who are at risk of falling behind. Reading exercises are a major part of the program.

I have always appreciated how our AmeriCorps members take reading a step further by applying the book's storyline to other teachable activities, also known as "expanded learning." One member who served in St. Peter read a book called Big and Small to the classroom. After the reading, she sent the children in pairs to look for pictures of big bugs and small bugs around the room. During the reading the children were learning how to sit still and listen. During the search for bugs, the children were practicing skills of cooperating, taking turns, and taking pride in how many they found together. These are lessons that will serve these children throughout their lives.

Additionally, our Parenting Matters program brings early literacy education to parents in the workplace. A series of parenting sessions are provided over the lunch hour, allowing for easy, and free, access to working parents. During the literacy session, parents are given ideas on what types of books are best for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The connection between literacy skills and early writing skills is made, and parents are given books to encourage the development of those skills early on at home. The other classes include identifying and managing emotions, teaching children self-control and problem-solving strategies, and reducing stress at home. Over the years companies like Jostens in Owatonna, Profinium in Fairmont, Mankato and Owatonna, and Roundbank in Waseca have taken advantage of this program. We are currently facilitating a program at the Southeast Service Cooperative in Rochester.

As we continue to invest in early literacy efforts, we hope to see the reading proficiencies rise in our region. Our partner organizations and grant recipients are doing wonderful work ensuring that our future adults will be prepared for success in life. We are proud to be a partner in these efforts.

We are currently seeking AmeriCorps members for our 2018–2019 term. Contact Barbara Gunderson at barbarag@smifoundation.org or 507-456-0353 to learn more. As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation based in Owatonna. He is a former Congressman, representing Minnesota's First District in the U.S. House from 1982 to 1994.

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2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards, 8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards, 7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards, 3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards, 7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

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

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

DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $42
Elsewhere in Minnesota $44
Out of state $46

'70 Olds takes Best of Show

Sweet Rides car show benefits Eric Kaplan Scholarship Fund

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Turn back the clock and enjoy some vintage cars and trucks.

That's what happened on Wednesday, July 4 in Blooming Prairie. More than 80 entries were recorded in the annual July 4th Car Show held at Victory Field.

The show, sponsored by Sweet Rides, benefits a scholarship given to a Blooming Prairie High School student each year.

The scholarship is given in memory of Eric Kaplan who was killed in a car crash four miles from home at age 21. He was a 2002 Blooming Prairie High School graduate.

Eric's 1950 Chevrolet truck that he restored was on display with two large photos of Eric with his truck. He finished the truck on May 2, 2002 after working on it for more than two years.

Eric's parents, Jerry and Barb Kaplan coordinated this year's show.

Eric was planning on being a mechanical engineer.

Rod Brown took Best of Show with his 1970 Oldsmobile. He also won first place in the 1970-79 category.

Here's the complete results of the show:

Cars 1940 and before: David Dunnette, Ford 3 window, first and Dave Kahnke, Chevy couple, second.

Cars 1950-59: Richard Knutson, 1957 Bel Air, first and Bill Herberg, 1956 Corvette, second.

Cars 1960-65: Dale Jacobson, 1965 Ford Mustang convertible, first and Matt Warner, 1965 Ford Mustang, second.

Cars 1966-69: Rod Stoen, 1968 Chevy Camaro, first and Roger Trom, 1967 Chevy Malibu, second.

Cars 1970-79: Rod Brown, 1970 Oldsmobile, first and Isaac Morgan, 1970 Dodge Charger RT, second.

Cars 1980-present: Craig Sletten, 1983 Buick Regal, first and Jeremy Schlichter, 2099 Dodge Viper ACR, second.

Motorcycles: Steven Ranvek, 2033 Santee Chopper, first and Kyle arndt, 2010 Harley Davidson Road King, second.

Special Interest: Jerry Paul, 1968 Dodge Dart, first.

Trucks: Stephanie Gerber, 1978 Ford Ranger, first and Dave Drenth, 1935 Ford two-ton truck, second.

Best of Show: Rod Brown, 1970 Oldsmobile.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Barb Kaplan stands in front of a display paying tribute to her son Eric who restored the 1950 Chevy. The vehicle was at the start of the annual Sweet Rides Car Show held as part of the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration in Blooming Prairie on Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Richard Knutson proudly sits next to his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air. He won first place in the cars 1950-59 category at the annual Sweet Rides Car Show held at Victory Field on July 4 in Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Riley Kahnke, 8, of Ellendale, stands by his dad's 1929 Chevrolet coupe, judged a second place winner in the Sweet Rides Car Show held as part of the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration on Wednesday.

AREA TEENS:

ELCA Youth Gathering

FROM A1

Pastor Nadia Balz-Weber of Denver. Her entire life was filled with struggles but she persisted and overcame them, said Pastor Heidi.

Worke said she loved the bishop's sermon and never was bored.

During sing-alongs, kids and leaders swayed together and shined lights from their cell phones.

"We were all there together worshiping God," said Mary. Watching students' reactions to the speakers was special, she added. "It was very clear about the need to live with God's grace," she said.

"Personally, I was moved and really saw God," said an emotional McKenna Hein. She said she saw others affected similarly.

A common thread was the bonding of the more than 30,000 youth, related Trent Swenson. "All these kids got together in the same spot to help different people reach the same goal, that being to help others," Swenson said.

In addition to going to the huge gatherings at night, the youths in Houston worked on service projects.

The Blooming Prairie contingency was assigned to help employees of the Kashmere Senior High School in Houston. That assignment was to help with a school garden. Since the kids arrived later than normal, their service project turned into helping the school move books from one location to another.

Swenson, Vigeland and Seth Peterson were on a team to move boxes. While at the school, the Blooming Prairie kids bonded with two female custodians.

When not working on an assigned service project, some of the BP youths came up with their own service project.

Swenson said he and some of his BP friends went to a mall, bought some sandwiches and came back to their hotel to dine.

"We had some sandwiches left over, so we took them with us on our way to the Metro and distributed them to some of the homeless on the streets," Swenson said.

During times of relaxation, the BP youths played card games like Phase 10, Taboo and dice. "We also played volleyball," Hein informed.

Vigeland was one of the travelers who had never flown before. "He was looking out the window the whole time," teased Pastor Heidi.

All of the youths were impressed with the city of Houston. "It is the biggest city I have been in," confessed Swenson.

The kids participated in zip lining, rock climbing, bull riding (Vigeland rode the mechanical bull for 30 seconds),obstacle courses, karaoke and a game called "Unfair Four Square."

Swenson said the kids even swam completely around Texas (the swimming pool shaped like the state of Texas).



PHOTO, COURTESY OF NICKI BISHOP

New friends were made and other friends were reunited at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas last month. Meeting up with Pastor Jeff Sandgren were Nicki Bishop, Mary Worke and Pastor Heidi Heimgartner. Pastor Jeff served as an interim pastor last year at First Lutheran. Pastor Heidi is senior pastor at First Lutheran.

"I was impressed with how easy it was to get around in Houston," said Hein. The BP kids and their leaders stayed at the Marriott Marquis.

In addition to the uplifting faith experiences during the week, the BP kids said they made lots of friends. "I met someone from Austraila and loved the accent," Hein said.

Swenson said he met new friends from Blue Earth, Alden-Conger in Minnesota and also from South Dakota, Montana and New York.

The BP kids and adult leaders saw some of the remnants of the hurricane that struck Houston last year. "We saw some garbage on the curbs," Mary Worke said.

The floods even damaged the school where the group performed their service project. "There were lots of abandoned properties caused by the flood damage," interjected Pastor Heidi.

"The people of Houston were so welcoming to us," said Sorensen, noting that First Lutheran always promotes itself as the Welcome Place.

Pastor Heidi said worldwide, the ELCA is known for its youth gatherings. The ELCA Youth Gathering has a long history going back to 1902. It will be hosted in Minneapolis in 2021. Many of the First Lutheran and Red Oak kids say they hope to volunteer for that Youth Gathering.

The ELCA sums up the week of the Youth Gathering as follows:

"The seed of faith is there."

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner
First Lutheran Church

- 1,248 units of blood donated from 987 donors
- 40,000 books donated at Blast Off for Books
- 700 individuals attended MYLE and visited 13 service sites
- $260,000-plus raised for ELCA's Global Farm Challenge
- Thanks to 31,242 registered Gathering participants

"If we get the kids there (to the Youth Gathering), God will be there too," said Pastor Heidi.

"The whole week is an interesting leadership experience and the kids don't know they are learning because they are having so much fun," Heimgartner reasoned.

"The seed of faith is there and the fruit of the Youth Gathering will be remembered forever," Heimgartner said.

Referring to Ephesians 2:18, Pastor Heidi said God's call changes everything, God's love changes everything, hope changes everything, grace changes everything and Jesus changes everything.

The leaders and youths offer many thanks for a supportive community.

The students at First Lutheran raised over $35,000 to fund the trip. Any leftover monies will be diverted to future Gatherings.

Hein and Swenson both encouraged those younger than them to "take a shot" at attending future Youth Gatherings.

"If you're on the fence about going, I say 'do it,'" said Swenson.

An appreciation dinner is planned at a date to be determined and will be held at First Lutheran Church.

"I'm really glad I was able to go on the trip and the real rewarding part was going on this type of trip with these great kids," Bishop volunteered.

BIKE MS:

Owatonna hosts

FROM A1

Bike MS announcements will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A French toast breakfast will be offered from 5-8 a.m. on Wednesday before the riders leave the area.

"Your participation drives breakthroughs in MS research and ensures people with MS have what they need to live their best lives," Bike MS organizers say. "This is the ride of a lifetime."

Riders can pair up as teams or ride as individuals in the Bike MS. There are currently 64 teams registered for this year's ride. The largest team has 25 riders scheduled to participate.

The top team has raised more than $34,000. Money raised helps change the world for people affected by multiple sclerosis.

More than $300,000 has been raised so far for this year's MS Ride, according to Pehrson. MS hopes to achieve its goal of $655,000.

Symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving closer to a world free of MS.

Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20-50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.3 million worldwide, but there is still no cure.

"This ride brings to light the disease," Pehrson said, adding it also shows people working together to fight MS and help support research.

Pehrson said the ride also helps promote Owatonna. "This is a great time to lift up Owatonna and show bikers what we have to offer," she said. She hopes out-of-town riders will like the area so much that they will come back down the road to visit.





BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 5:28 p.m. on June 29

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 25 – July 2:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Batula A. Abdi, 48, Rochester, failure to yield, $100; James T. Cooley, 49, Hayfield, revoked license, $100 and 1 year of probation; Jennifer L. Davis, 41, Montgomery, parking violation, $32; Javier Dominguez, 35, Rochester, parking violation, $32; Tyler B. Gannon, 25, Kasson, DWI, $505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Amy L. Hildreth, 39, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Tiffany K. Holder, 31, Kasson, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, $80, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Benjamin C. Johnson, 23, Oronoco, parking violation, $32; Alexandra M. Krueger, 21, Mantorville, speeding, $220; Benjamin C. Lerum, 21, Austin, speeding, $280; Roselia C. Marin, 43, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Michael E. Nelson, 64, Hayfield, parking violation, $32; Hawo A. Omar, 26, Rochester, speeding, $130; Jesse M. Polk, 33, Lakeville, speeding, $280; Zachariah W. Reniker, 37, Hayfield, theft, $200 and 6 months of probation; Charles W. Sarmiento, 31, Hayfield, parking violation, $32; Chad L. Sarver, 52, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Anthony M. Suazo, 22, Owatonna, parking violation, $32; Cheryl L. Verhey, 55, Burnsville, parking violation, $32; Robert D. Walechka, 27, Dodge Center, speeding, $220.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Guy S. Bock, 50, Kasson, parking violation, $32; John S. Brundige, 42, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Matthew N. Carpenter, 20, Rochester, parking violation, $32; Keith A. Cloutier, 40, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Derek P. Evans, 39, Suffolk, VA, seat belt, $105; Joni Z. Garcia, 31, Kasson, suspended license and speeding, $340; Robert A. Hall, 63, West Concord, seat belt, $105; Mary K. Hanson, 47, Rochester, failure to yield, $180; Randall M. Hemker, 59, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Jacob F. Hillesheim, 29, Rochester, parking violation, $32; Entr Lsg Co MN LLC, Eagan, parking violation, $32; Carla J. Marquette, 35, Dodge Center, seat belt, $105; Scott A. Marshall, 45, Kasson, parking; Jared R. More, 31, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Paula J. Nelson, 53, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Nathan M. Reller, 35, Kasson, seat belt, $105; James A. Rydman, 52, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Thomas R. Schwenke, 41, Stewartville, parking violation, $32; Cody M. Siegele, 26, Dodge Center, DWI, $505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; John Todor, 43, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Edward D. Ward, 68, Kasson, parking violation, $32.

MINNESOTA STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Jorge A. Gonzalez, 19, Austin, suspended license, $280; Suzanne K. Musolf, 51, Kasson, unsafe passing on right, $130; Tak O. Ojwato, 43, Rochester, speeding, $140; Willie M. Perry, 47, Farmington, failure to yield, stay of adjudication, $105, driver improvement clinic and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Tessa A. Sjol, 22, West Concord, seat belt, $105.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 25 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Alexander J. Brown, 23, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of firearms. He was sentenced to $131, 1 year in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Willie A. Smith, 40, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. He was sentenced to $131 and 20 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 25 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Rogelio R. Aguilar, 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault with a dangerous weapon. Aguilar was sentenced to $131, 241 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA, no contact with victim, anger management, obtain permission to leave the state, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Tony T. Fisher, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft and misdemeanor fleeing a peace officer. He was sentenced to $381, 96 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Delmer G. Weiss Robbins, 24, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony attempted assault. The defendant was sentenced to $131, 42 months in St. Cloud State Prison and predatory offender registration.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 25 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Deanna K. Keller, 32, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Keller was sentenced to $131, 46 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 25 – 29:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

John L. Kramer, 66, Hayfield, revoked license, expired tabs and no insurance, $511; Michael E. Levorson, 27, Brownsdale, revoked license, $281; Sergio O. Martin, 28, suspended license and windshield violation, $321.

MINNESOTA STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Elizabeth J. Bishop, 22, Hastings, speeding, $121; Brennan L. Bornhorst, 21, Excelsior, speeding and possession of marijuana, $191; David T. Downey, 51, Plymouth, speeding, $131; Jacob D. Goerdt, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Gregory J. Harris, 33, Lonsdale, seat belt, $106; Jessica A. Liverseed, 26, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Lashaunda M. Logan, 34, Waterloo, IA, no license, $181; Ryan C. Rogers, 38, Council Bluffs, IA, no child passenger restraint system, $131; William H. Rose, 54, Buellton, CA, move over law violation, $131; David D. Simonson, 59, Lakeland, seat belt, $106; Mitchell A. Smith, 22, Rochester, speeding and window tint violation, $191; Grabiela Venegas, 19, El Reno, OK, seat belt, $106; Margarito Zaratevillegas, 56, Waseca, no license and unsafe change of course, $231.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Becky L. Arellano, 18, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, $381; Mary J. Banker, 54, Owatonna, DWI, $181, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Sylvia P. Cramer, 32, Albert Lea, possession of marijuana, $381, 20 days in county jail, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Peyton N. Crow, 24, Waseca, controlled substance crime and unlawful possession of pharmacy legend drugs, stay of adjudication, $200, 5 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, cognitive skill training and 1 year of supervised probation; Erika D. Degollado, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Max T. Degrood, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Tony T. Fisher, 40, Owatonna, fleeing a peace officer, $181 and 90 days in county jail; William J. Gillies, 23, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Skylar A. Guggisberg, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Katelyn D. Hanneman, 23, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Heather M. Hays, 40, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Martin Huerta-Robles, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Sonia J. Mathison, 46, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Anthony T. Nelson, 47, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Andrew O. Nordby, 41, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Alise M. Padilla Buentello, 29, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Ray A. Polan, 27, Morristown, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Deandre L. Rogers, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, $581 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kusheenya I. Rogers, 28, Owatonna, financial transaction card fraud, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Jade R. Underdahl, 30, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Katelynn R. Weise, 18, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Eric E. Wiese, 38, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Jenni M. Williams, 35, Owatonna, assault, $380.61, 2 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Matthew J. Williams, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; James E. Wimbush, 43, Owatonna, revoked license, $281.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Haily A. Adams, 26, Blooming Prairie, improper information on license, $106; Joshua D. Albers, 22, St. Peter, speeding, $121; Brandin D. Botten, 29, Medford, domestic assault, $81 and 143 days in county jail; Jade F. Froehlich, 26, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $281; Timothy J. Grubish, 56, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 30 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, electronic monitoring and 2 years of supervised probation; Joshua L. Hansen, 19, Rochester, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, $181, no alcohol or controlled substance use, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Tessa L. Heathman, 30, Geneva, speeding, $121; Hai N. Moo, 20, St. Paul, speeding, $141; Joshua J. Nelson, 32, Minneapolis, suspended license and possession of paraphernalia, $562; Jacob O. Seltun, 30, Blue Earth, DWI, $381, 39 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Brianna L. Sosa, 23, Owatonna, no insurance, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Cole A. Vandenheuvel, 31, Wichita, KS, speeding, $121.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 29

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 1000 block of Grove Ave. S. at 3:24 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 5:28 p.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:24 p.m.

June 30

Domestic: At 5:11 a.m., police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Welfare: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:14 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 10:41 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

July 1

Missing Person: Police received information regarding a person missing from the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:23 a.m.

Driving Complaint: At 1:56 p.m., officers responded to a driving complaint in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW. They arrested a subject at the scene.

July 2

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:01 a.m., the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 10:26 p.m. and the 300 block of Murray St. SE at 10:48 p.m.

Warrant: At 9:44 a.m., officer arrested a juvenile for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of State Ave. NW.

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 400 block of School St. E. at 8:25 p.m. They issued a citation.

July 3

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:52 a.m. and the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:26 a.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 2:03 a.m. They issued a citation.

Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 1200 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 6:49 a.m. and the 300 block of 16th St. SW at 8:37 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 6:13 p.m.

Disturbance: Police responded to disturbances in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 7:01 p.m. and the 1900 block of Rosewood Dr. NW at 9:51 p.m.

Driving: At 11:55 p.m., police responded to a driving complaint in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. They arrested a subject at the scene.

July 4

Theft: At 1:35 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1100 block of Grove Ave. S.

Disturbances: Police responded to disturbances in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:06 a.m. and the 600 block of Broadway St. E. at 12:32 p.m.

Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:31 a.m.

CRIME BRIEF

MAN ACCUSED OF PHYSICALLY NOT LETTING GO OF WOMAN

An Owatonna man is accused of failing of let go of a woman even in the presence of police officers.


RAMIREZ

Christopher Ramirez, 35, has been charged with felony false imprisonment with intentional restraint as well as domestic assault.

Police saw a couple in an embrace in the parking lot of Casey's on 18th Street SE June 30. But officers found that looks can be deceiving. As the officer rolled down her window, she heard the woman yelling, "Get off me and let me go."

The officer intervened at which time Ramirez let the woman go. Once police spoke to both subjects, they were allowed to go on their way. However, as they walked away, Ramirez allegedly grabbed the woman by the wrist pulling her to walk with him. The woman pulled away and yelled at him to let her go. He yelled back and would not release the woman and continued to pull her up the hill.

Officers intervened a second time and arrested Ramirez. In an interview, the victim indicated while they were walking away from the officers, Ramirez said, "I'll beat you up in front of these cops." He also told the woman he is a gangster and runs the town.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 6:50 p.m.

July 5

Thefts: Police received theft reports in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 10:25 a.m. and the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 2:25 p.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Bridge St. W. and St. John Dr. NW at 11:28 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

June 29

Domestic: At 5:21 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 35000 block of 32nd Ave. NW in Clinton Falls Township. They took a subject into custody.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 9:47 a.m.

Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 11:20 a.m. June 30

Drugs: Deputies responded to drug activity at Highway 30 W. and 35th Ave. SW in Summit Township at 1:26 a.m.

July 1

Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a juvenile in the 82000 block of 18th St. SW in Meriden Township at 2:11 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 100 block of Sunrise Dr. NE in Medford at 9:28 p.m.

July 2

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 2:07 p.m.

July 3

Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests at the detention center at 5:56 a.m. and the 51000 block of 48th St. SE in Havana Township at 8:35 p.m.

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 2200 block of Clinton Falls Road in Clinton Falls Township at 8:18 a.m.

DWI: At 9:16 p.m., deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township.

Crash: Deputies assisted with a vehicle hitting a deer in the 73000 block of 82nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 10:59 p.m.

July 4

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 4000 block of County Road 45 N. in Owatonna at 10:58 a.m. July 5

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 7:28 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Isaac Romel Smith, 32, arrested at 5:47 a.m. June 30, probation violation, held for court.

Christopher Ramirez, 35, arrested at 11:45 p.m. June 30, felony domestic assault and false imprisonment, held for court.

Andrew Olaf Nordby, 41, arrested at 3:09 p.m. July 1, felony drug possession, DWI and theft, held for court.

Reginald Wilberton Jr., 20, arrested at 12:12 a.m. July 2, warrant arrest, $1,000 bail.

Zakeria Michael Newman, 33, arrested at 10:53 p.m. July 2, warrant arrest, held for court.

Ernest William Melcher Jr., 47, arrested at 12:30 a.m. July 3, felony extradition hearing for out of state warrant, $5,000 bail.

Cody Lee Blaha, 20, arrested at 4:34 p.m. July 3, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

Wyatt Luke Jackson, 35, arrested at 5:15 a.m. July 4, felony assault, held for court.

Derek Paul Denelsbeck, 36, arrested at 10:15 a.m. July 5, felony terroristic threats, held for court.

Stanley Allan Brown, 26, arrested July 6, obstruction and theft and warrant arrest, held for court.

William Robert Wheeler, 31, arrested at 5:23 a.m. July 6, revoked license, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jajuan Deonte Ward, 25, arrested at 1:25 p.m. June 29, warrant arrest, $5,000 bail.

Shandra Michelle Saufferer, 47, arrested at 8:39 p.m. June 30, probation violation, held for court.

Sean Michael Wocelka, 39, arrested at 8:52 p.m. July 3, warrant arrest, body only.

Scott Alan Iverson, 59, arrested at 9:52 p.m. July 3, DWI, held for court.

Tyler William Musel, 34, arrested at 11:11 a.m. July 4, cancelled license, held for court.

Raul Alejandro Leon, 18, arrested at 3 p.m. July 5, theft warrant arrest, body only.

FIRE CALLS
Owatonna

June 29

Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 2400 block of St. Paul Road NE at 5:31 a.m.

July 1

Elevator: At 11:24 a.m., fire personnel removed a victim from a stalled elevator in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave.

July 2

Crash: A motor vehicle accident with no injuries occurred on Main St. E. at 11:53 p.m.

July 5

Crashes: Firefighters responded to motor vehicle accident with injuries on Bridge St. at 11:28 a.m. and on Interstate 35 at 6:21 p.m.

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

1. Alan Castro – domestic assault – no bail
2. Noe Cavazos – DWI – no bail
3. La de Felipe Cerda – DWI - $750 bail
4. Otis Chineth – cancelled license - $1,500 bail
5. Sheila Christenson – contempt of court - $500 bail
6. Melvin Cisneros – DWI - $700 bail
7. Luis Clara – DWI - $1,000 bail
8. Scott Clark – no insurance - $2,000 bail
9. Calvin Collier – assault - $1,000 bail
10. James Collingwood – worthless check - $2,000 bail
11. Stephen Collingwood – worthless check - $2,000 bail
12. Robert Connell – shoplifting - $1,000 bail
13. Mario Contreras – DWI and no license - $500 bail
14. Abel Cordova – DUI – no bail
15. Omar Cordova Jr. – stalking, revoked license – no bail
16. Alberto Corona – DUI – no bail
17. Mario Alexandro Correa – robbery – no bail
18. Harold Crafton – false name - $500 bail
19. Elias Cruz – DWI - $12,000 bail
20. Jose Cruz – DWI - $1,400 bail

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

Fourth of July tractor pull may have been the finale



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Turning the power on, this tractor puller does his best during the Fourth of July competition near Victory Field on July 4th. Twenty classes were run before the rains came in the early afternoon.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A popular event during the annual Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration each year has been the antique tractor pull staged at Victory Field.

This year's pull on Wednesday may have been the last.

Denise Krell, the organizer of the event the past 15 years, informed Becky Noble, executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce that this year will be her last.

Krell said she has always enjoyed working the event but said it was time for someone else to step forward to chair the event. Larry Balzer of Blooming Prairie has always provided the skid for the competition and said this was his last year, too.

Twenty-five classes were planned for this year's tractor pull event. Competitors were still pulling when the rains came at about 2 p.m.

"We had finished 20 of the 25 classes," Krell reported.

Fifteen helpers worked with Krell on this year's race. Initially, funds were given to the Relay for Life cancer drive in Steele County. Most recently, the funds are given back to the community.

Here's the results:

FARM STOCK

3500 -- Tony Kartes, Blooming Prairie, first, Allis WC.

4500 -- Vincent Tims, first, WD45 AC; Robert Benson, second, WD45 AC.

5500 -- Bob Kidder, Owatonna, Massey Harris 44, first; Jacob Holst, Dexter, JDGM, second.

6500 -- Doug Kiefer, Owatonna, JD 70, first; Jonny Kraling, Blooming Prairie, JD G, second.

7500 -- Carl Larish, Kenyon, 800 Case, first; Matt Herget, Owatonna, MM U, second.

8500 -- Greg Rogers, 560, first and Carl Larish, Kenyon, Case 800, second.

ANTIQUE CLASSIC

4000 -- Lucas Bailey, WD45, first; Robert Gerhardt, Super H Farmall, second.

4500 -- Tony Foster, Massey Harris 44, first and Jerrett Larson, Blooming Prairie, second.

5000 -- Jerry Schultz, New Richland, Massey Harris 44, first and Tony Foster, Massey Harris 44, second.

5500 -- Thad Sunsdahl, Faribault, JD, first and Mark Kramer, second.

6000 -- Jonnny Kraling, Blooming Prairie, JD G, first and Thad Sunsdahl, Faribault, JD, second.

6500 -- Jonny Kraling, Blooming Prairie, first and Thad Sunsdahl,

Faribault, Case 800, second.

OPEN CLASS

4100 -- Joe Reese, Blooming Prairie, WD, first and Tony Foster, Massey Harris 44, second.

4600 -- Ben Michel, Mankato, M Farmall, first and Butch Vlasak, Oliver 88, second.

5600 -- Paul Hanson, IH 560, first and John Kraling and Ben Micel, Mankato, M Farmall.

6600 -- Paul Hanson, IH 560, first and John Kraling, Blooming Prairie, W9, second.

7600 -- Justin Mortenson, MM U, first and Dylan Mortenson, MM U, second.

8600 -- Jacob Knott, Kenyon, MM GU, first and Jake Gilbert, 706 D, second.

Magic entertains young folks during Fourth celebration

By MARISSA LARSON
STAFF INTERN

There wasn't a dull moment near the judge's stand on the Third of July—activities from hula hooping to stick horse racing kept the kids busy. To polish off the evening, Mike Prestby put on a breathtaking magic show that astonished young and old alike.

Prestby was asked by Blooming Prairie Chief of Police Greg Skillestad, who is also a skilled magician, to come up from Mason City, Iowa to do a show this past week. It was pretty much a no-brainer for him, as he is constantly traveling around Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas and even Jamaica to impress multitudes with his magic illusions.

Jaws dropped, and gasps could be heard in the crowd as Prestby pulled off tricks left and right. One act involved turning two doves into a rabbit, and another consisted of him pulling a $20 bill out of an un-cut lemon. Throughout the course of the show, he asked for several different volunteers to come up and be his assistant. Prestby commented that he is very passionate about what he does, and added, "If I make a kid—or anyone for that matter—smile, then I've done my job."

At just 8 years old, Prestby's love for magic ignited after receiving a kit for Christmas. He began practicing and taking weekly magic classes for 10 weeks. Despite the help he received along the way, most of everything he knows today was self-taught through reading books and watching videos. He has been doing magic on and off for almost 40 years now, and has made appearances at community festivals, fairs, libraries, birthday parties, schools, and company picnics. He has tricks up his sleeve geared towards all age groups from children to seniors.

Perhaps a highlight of Prestby's magic career happened while he was taking a college algebra class. "My professor told us that we would be needing this math later in life," Prestby recalls. "I didn't like math, but I needed to pass the class, so I proposed an idea to the professor."

He asked the professor whether he would let him pass if he was able to stump him with a magic trick. "He agreed to it, not expecting to be fooled," Prestby said. He pulled off his trick, and the professor could not explain how he had done it.

"I ended up passing the class, and to this day I find magic to be more useful than the algebra I still haven't used," he chuckled.

In a few weeks, Prestby will be heading out to Las Vegas for the Big Magic Convention. He appoints Harry Blackstone Jr and Doug Henning as inspiration for what he's enjoyed doing for the majority of his life, and for what brings smiles to those he performs for.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARISSA LARSON

Mike Prestby brought his magic show all the way from Mason City to Blooming Prairie for the Fourth celebration on July 3. Pretsby is shown just a moment after magically transforming two doves into a rabbit.

KID POWER

120 youngsters demonstrate what it takes to pedal pull

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was KID POWER at its finest on Tuesday, July 3 in Blooming Prairie.

The 2018 Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration was officially kicked off with the annual pedal pull. Competitors are ages 4-11.

Local volunteer Pam Ingvalson registered 120 young competitors for the family event. The kid pullers compete against each other in their own age group.

Rick Scholbrock of Hanlontown, Iowa brings his special pedal pull equipment, which includes six different tractors. He introduces all entrants and coaches the young kids as they pedal their legs toward the finish line.

As the kids pedal a small tractor, more and more weight is put on the skid as it is pulled forward.

Some youngsters only get a few feet but some go the entire route, which measures 30 feet.

The event started with 4-year-olds. Ryker Long was the first boy to compete in the pedal pull event. Whitni Wangen, wearing a colorful summer hat, was the first girl to ride the tractor toward the finish line.

Some impressive trophies were given to the first three place finishers in each category. The kids tractor pull was sponsored by MJC Family Solutions and by the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

For age 4, Bennett Wencl of Blooming Prairie was first. Charlie Hendrickson of BP finished second. Third place went to Carter Zender of North Mankato.

Here's the other results for the various age divisions:

AGE 5 -- Emmett Brugeman, Blooming Prairie, first; Jack Ulland, Millville, second and Mason Johnson, Blooming Prairie, third.

AGE 6 -- Weston Johnson, BP, first; Brody Bishop, BP, second and Mavrick Schlichter, BP, third.

AGE 7 -- Elliott Schiller, BP, first; Jace Berndt, Rochester, second and William Ulland, Millville, third.

AGE 8 -- Savannah Johnson, Ellendale, first; Max Sorenson, BP, second and Landon Olivo, BP, third.

AGE 9 -- Gracelyn Anderson, BP, first; Isabella Schiller, second and Evan Westphal, third.

AGE 10 -- Carsten Ingvalson, BP, first; Willie Deml, BP, second and Allison Brugeman, BP, third.

AGE 11 -- H. Smith, BP, first; Gacy Mullenbach, BP, second and April Konz, Claremont, third.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration officially kicked off on Tuesday, July 3 with the kids pedal tractor pull held in Central Park. First competitor in the ever-popular kids pedal pull was Ryker Long in the four-year-old division.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Trophies were presented to the first three finishers in eight age categories, 4-11, in the kids pedal pull at Central Park in Blooming Prairie Tuesday, July 3. Four-year-old winners were Carter Zender, third; Charlie Hendrickson, second and Bennett Wencl, third.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Whitni Wangen, 4, of Blooming Prairie, gave her best while competing in the Kids Pedal Pull as part of the annual Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie.

Winners announced for Rib Fest

The annual Blooming Prairie Youth Club Rib Fest was held June 30 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Here are the results from Rib Fest:

Ribs
1st- Patrick Roles (PT Ribs)
2nd- David Wradislavsky & Greg Johnson
3rd- Apple Pie BBQ
4th- Big Joes BBQ

People's Choice Wings- David Wradislavsky & Greg Johnson

People's Choice Ribs- David Wradislavsky & Greg Johnson

Best Sauce
1st- Patrick Roles (PT Ribs)
2nd- Apple Pie BBQ
3rd- Big Joes BBQ
4th- David Wradislavsky & Greg Johnson

Steak Cook-off
1st- Apple Pie BBQ
2nd- PT Ribs
3rd- David Wradislavsky & Greg Johnson
4th- Big Joes BBQ



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 8th annual Blooming Prairie Youth Club Rib Fest was a grand success. David Wradislavsky and Greg Johnson won the People's Choice awards for best ribs and for best wings.

4TH OF JULY

Winning July 4th Button Numbers

For 50 BP Bucks The Winning Numbers Are: #1317, #1202, #1348, #392

For 100 BP Bucks The Winning Numbers Are: #246, #1268, #1014

If You Have The Lucky Button, please bring it to Farmers & Merchants Bank to claim your BP Bucks.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Thompson twins (Opal and Liesl) from Minneapolis really enjoyed the Blooming Prairie Lions Club's Pancake Breakfast on Wednesday, July 4th. The twins are five and are the children of Peter and Liz (Malkered).



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Seven-month-old Linnea Kruckeberg was dressed in patriotic colors over the 4th of July in Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Behind the wheel and having fun at the antique tractor display over the 4th of July in Blooming Prairie is Harper Fox, 3 1/2 of Arlington.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Corn dogs are the favorites of many who take in the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration. Here, Lexy Mullenbach gets ready to enjoy a food-long corn dog.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Three members of the Blooming Prairie High School baseball team helped serve pancakes with the Blooming Prairie Lions Club on the fourth of July at the Prairie Manor Care Center. From left are: Tim Wolf, Karson Vigeland, Seth Peterson, Lion Ken Behnken and Lion Bob Wolf. The BP Lions helped finance dugouts built at the high school baseball field.

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
July 8th, 2008
DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Benefit Group has been busy preparing for their 7th annual Benefit Auction. They are teaming up with the Blooming Prairie Fire Department to sell raffle tickets for their big ticket items such as lawn mowers and a golf car. Last year, the Benefit Group was able to donate $33,000 to the Eagles Cancer Telethon. Cheri Krejci mentioned that they are always looking for more volunteers to join in and help with benefits and fundraisers.

Elliot Herdina competed in the Minnesota Football High School All-Star Game, which was held at St. Cloud University on June 29th. Herdina did not disappoint, hauling in two catches for just short of 50 yards. Additionally, he was on the kickoff team and handled one kick return. Blooming Prairie Head football coach Chad Gimbel said that it was an honor to have Blooming Prairie represented in the all-star game for the third year in a row.

Chateau Raceway in Lansing, powered by Minnesota Outdoor and Recreation, kicked off the 4th of July weekend with a bang as it presented another full night of "Amsoil Dirt Track Racing Series Action". Over 100 cars filled the pits for the first time in a couple seasons setting up a 23-race program.

20 Years Ago
July 7th, 1998
ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The sun came out just as the parade was to begin and organizers of the Old Fashioned Fourth of July announced another resounding successful campaign. Around 225 entrants gathered and lined up their rigs and as they made it through the 16-block parade route, they saw nearly 30,000 people expressing their approval.

For students with special needs, the Zumbro Education District (ZED) has offered summer school for the past seven years, and this year the program is in Blooming Prairie. Between the two sites of Pine Island and here, around 200 students travel to work on language needs, learning disabilities, and other areas of concern. The program addresses the needs of the seven schools of ZED and works to prevent students from losing what they learned the previous year.

50 Years Ago
July 4th, 1968
VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The fund drive for a Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie is off to a good start; contributions total $63,575—half of the goal amount. Fund Chairman Dr. E. D. Bock stated that the majority of the community's residents are not yet aware of this project but will soon be contacted and given the opportunity to share in this worth-while endeavor.

Village Engineer C. V. Jones presented his estimates of costs for such improvements as curb and gutter, sanitary and storm sewers, and black-topping at the regular monthly meeting of the Town Council. After studying these estimates and discussing procedures for financing the work, Jones was authorized to prepare advertisements for bids for these village improvements.

Four Blooming Prairie area students were named to the honor roll for the spring quarter at Winona State College. Cited for their scholastic achievements were Kennth Jacobson, Daniel McGuinnes, Esther Pechacek, and Valerie Sanders.

75 Years Ago
July 8th, 1943
FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Inspection of nearly all of the hemp fields around Blooming Prairie has shown that the hemp is making good progress overall. In a few spots, growth has slowed as a result of hail damage and excess moisture, according to James Anderson and Frank Eppard, managers of the Blooming Prairie Mill. Construction of the hemp mill is well underway—pouring of the concrete and laying of cement blocks will begin soon.

C. O. Johnson, manager of Blooming Prairie co-operative creamery states that patrons of the local creamery are 100% in opposition of the government's rollback price subsidies on dairy products. The proposed rollback in farm product prices was initiated with the five cent rollback in butter prices. This started the fireworks from groups representing organized agriculture, especially those who are thinking of the interest of producers.

What's the Difference Between Alzheimer's and Dementia?



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Savvy Senior
What's the Difference Between Alzheimer's and Dementia?

Dear Savvy Senior,
What's the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia? My aunt has dementia, but they don't know if she has Alzheimer's disease, which is very confusing to me.

Trying To Understand

Dear Trying,
Many people use the words "Alzheimer's disease" and "dementia" interchangeably, but they are not the same thing. In fact, you can have a form of dementia that is completely unrelated to Alzheimer's disease. Here's what you should know.

Dementia versus Alzheimer's
Dementia is a general term for a set of symptoms that includes memory loss, impaired communication skills, a decline in reasoning and changes in behavior. It most commonly strikes elderly people and used to be referred to as senility.

Alzheimer's disease is a specific illness that is the most common cause of dementia. Though many diseases can cause dementia, Alzheimer's – which affects 5.7 million Americans today – accounts for 60 percent to 80 percent of dementia cases, which is why you often hear the terms used interchangeably.

But there are many other conditions that can cause symptoms of dementia like vascular dementia, which is the second most common cause, accounting for about 10 percent of dementia cases. Vascular dementia is caused by a stroke or poor blood flow to the brain.

Other degenerative disorders that can cause dementia include Lewy body dementia, Parkinson's disease, Frontotemporal dementia, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), Huntington's disease and Korsakoff Syndrome. Some patients may also have more than one form of dementia known as mixed dementia.

Dementia is caused by damage to brain cells, but the symptoms can vary depending on the cause. In the case of Alzheimer's disease, protein fragments or plaques that accumulate in the space between nerve cells and twisted tangles of another protein that build up inside cells cause the damage.

In Alzheimer's disease, dementia gets progressively worse to the point where patients cannot carry out daily activities and cannot speak, respond to their environment, swallow or walk. Although some treatments may temporarily ease symptoms, the downward progression of disease continues and it is not curable.

But some forms of dementia are reversible, which is why it's important to be evaluated by a physician early on. Vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems, brain tumors, depression, excessive alcohol use, medication side effects and certain infectious diseases can cause reversible forms of dementia.

Another treatable form of dementia is a condition known as normal pressure hydrocephalus, which is caused by a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain that can be relieved by surgically implanting a shunt to drain off excess fluid. This type of dementia is often preceded or accompanied by difficulty walking and incontinence.

To learn more about the different types of dementia, including the symptoms, risks, causes and treatments visit the Alzheimer's Association at ALZ.org/dementia.

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.

Meet the Beetles
Ash trees face detrimental insects

BY MARISSA LARSON
STAFF WRITER

They're non-native insects imported from Asia. They are detrimental to the structure of Ash Trees, and they've become widespread across the United States. They're the Emerald Ash Borers (EAB), and they need to be stopped.

Eric Foley of Maier Tree & Lawn states that EAB were first found in Minnesota in 2013 and have since destroyed an alarming number of our trees. They have been recently spotted in counties of Southeastern Minnesota. The first U.S. sighting was in Detroit back in 2002. Since then, they have managed to spread east all the way out to Pennsylvania and as far west as Colorado. Because Minnesota is home to over 1 billion Ash Trees—more than any other state, our trees are at a very high risk for infestation.

The adult beetles are quite harmless to the tree; in fact, they just feed on the leaves of the tree. The problem lies within the larvae. Upon hatching, they begin tunneling into the bark, which subsequently cuts off the tree's water and nutrients. Adults feed the most during the summer, while larvae are most active in the fall and winter.

Ash Trees alone make up a significant portion—about 35 percent—of all the trees in urban communities. "In order to successfully replace what is lost to EAB, trees of several different species must be planted in the given area," Foley said. "By using this proactive approach, further tree loss can be more effectively prevented," he added.

Foley says that once a tree becomes infested, it's not necessarily doomed. If it is recognized early enough, the tree can be preserved. However, there is quite a lengthy, ongoing process involved with preventative and treatment measures. An arborist must first take an inventory of the existing Ash Trees before assessing their location and condition. Next, they determine which trees are worth preserving based on the tree's structure and location, keeping in mind that not all trees are worth saving. Trees that are suitable for preservation will receive an injection into the trunk, which gets spread throughout the tree via the vascular system. The dosage is based on the size of the tree, and it kills insects that attempt to feed on the tree for the following 2 years.

When the USDA confirms infestations in a given county, treatment begins right away. If you think your trees may be infested by EAB, you are encouraged to contact a local arborist, who can then investigate the trees on your property. Signs of EAB include D-shaped holes in the trunk, as well as a large increase in woodpecker activity. If the infestation is near ground-level, it is likely too late for treatment. Even so, seeking direction from an arborist in such cases could help prevent further infestation in other trees. "It is important to remember that it is an infestation, not an infection, so treating just one will not prevent others from becoming affected," Foley says.

Hundreds of thousands of Ash Trees have already been wiped out by EAB; don't let yours be next.

Recipe Corner
Molasses Oatmeal Loaf

Makes 1 medium loaf

- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1, 1/3 cups buttermilk
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1, 2/3 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1, 3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into cubes
- 1 extra-large egg, beaten
- 1 8 x 4 x 2 1/2-inch loaf

Mix the molasses and the buttermilk in a large bowl. Stir in the oats and then let soak for 30 minutes.
Preheat oven to 400 F.
In another bowl, mix the flours, baking soda and salt. Add the pieces of butter and rub in, using the tips of your fingers, until the mixture looks fine like crumbs.
Add the beaten egg and the mixture of soaked oats and mix well with a wooden spoon to make a fairly heavy dough. Scrape the mixture into the greased loaf pan and, with floured fingers, press it into a neat loaf shape.
Bake for 10 minutes, then reduce the oven temperature to 350 F and bake for a further 35 minutes.
Turn out the loaf onto a wire rack and let cool to room temperature before slicing.
Keep tightly wrapped and eat within 3 days, or toast. The loaf can be frozen for up to 1 month.

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All Aboard!



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A popular Blooming Prairie 4th of July event is the open house at the BP Fire Department. Firefighters take out their antique truck and give rides to kids and adults. It was still sunny at this time of the day on Wednesday, July 4.

I-35 weigh station project begins in Freeborn County

Northbound Interstate 35 motorists will encounter some lane closures and traffic delays during a weigh station improvement project that began Monday north of Albert Lea in Freeborn County, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Crews will install weigh-in-motion sensors on the northbound lanes of I-35 near mile marker 17 north of the I-90/I-35 interchange near Albert Lea, construct a new building at an existing weigh station site and improve the lanes leading in and out of the new weigh station.

Motorists will encounter single lane traffic and short delays during the installation of the weigh-in- motion sensors. Southbound I-35 traffic will not be impacted.

The weigh-in-motion system is a series of devices to record axle and gross vehicle weights while a vehicle drives over a measurement site in the road. The weighing process is more efficient for trucks because the weight is measured while the vehicle is in motion on the roadway. To learn more about the weigh-in-motion process and other MnDOT traffic data collection methods, go to http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/coll-methods.html#WIM.

Ulland Brothers of Virginia, Minn. is the prime contractor on this $2 million project. Construction is expected to be completed in early November.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Library partners up with other groups to promote reading



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

We are very fortunate at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library to have partners who help us in promoting reading and learning. Two of those partners have each presented six programs every summer for several years.

The first is the Adventure Club, which is put on by the University of Minnesota Extension Office in Steele County. These instructors who work with 4-H youth come with an amazing variety of experiments, crafts, and learning opportunities. Designed for children ages 5 and up, Adventure Club will meet three more times this summer: Wednesdays July 11, 18, and 25 at 10 a.m.

The second program is Pony Tales, which also meets Wednesdays. As a horse lover, this is one of my favorite programs because I often get to help groom, lead, or even ride a horse. Volunteers from Refuge Ranch Ministries led by Stephanie Bruggeman engage the children with horse stories and activities. (There are some great gallopers in the group!) Crafts are shared and then there is time to help care for a real pony. The horses are used to being around children and welcome the attention. The final Pony Tales for the summer will be on July 11 and 25, and Aug. 1 and 22 at 2 p.m.

Thanks to our willing partners who help provide fun activities related to reading. See you at the library!

STEELE COUNTY Times



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ELLIS HARSHBAGER
MAX BROTEN ANDERSON

JULY 11
ELLE MASTER
MARK ROMEO
CHARLIE ROMEO
SOPHIA ESPLAN

JULY 12
AMANDA HOCKING
CHARLIE LEONARD
KENT LEA
CHAD GIMBEL
BENTLY RAMSEY
TOM BUTLER

JULY 13
SANDY DALLMAN
ALLAN RAMSEY
PEGGY STENSVOLD

JULY 14
KENDYL SUNDE
MARILYN WAGNER
PAT NJOS
KYLER CHRISTIANSON
BRADLEY SIMON
ZACHARY KOSTER
JEFFREY BRUNS

JULY 15
BILL NOBLE

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 11
KENT & KIM LEA
GINA & CORY HENDRICKSON
JOSH & ERICA TOQUAM
GLORIA & GREG SNIDER
BRIAN & KRISTIN RUTT

JULY 12
JEREMY & AMY DOERHOEFER

JULY 13
TIM & SANDY BASS

JULY 14
JOHN & LISA BRUNS

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Become a person of value



John Allen
Interim Pastor
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Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value.
--Albert Einstein

In our nation, we are fed on the milk of success from our childhood. We are told in school of the great "empire builders," of the American West. We are taught that we can be successful at anything we set our minds to. We honor great athletes, and admire famous celebrities. The magazine covers displayed in the super markets shout the news of the rich and famous. It's a poorly kept secret that money buys political power, despite our professed allegiance to a government, "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Don't get me wrong, it's still a great country. According to Winston Churchill, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time…." And, how does our religious faith enter in this public debate? What would Jesus say?

Well, Jesus did say, "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?" --Matthew 16:26 (NRSV). And he said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." --Matthew 16:29 (NRSV).

I suppose we need successful people in the world, but I believe truly great nations are made up of a majority of those whose goal in life is to be people of value. God bless the humble people everywhere!

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. BibleStudy; 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.,
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Rev. Heidi Heimgartner,
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firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
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www.roglutheran.org
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Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
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Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
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
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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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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. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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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 PENTECOASTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
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
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422 North St., Owatonna
Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

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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

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Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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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 Brian Beavers
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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FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: *Severe weather cancels* FROM A1



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The Motl Dairy Farm paraded through the streets of Blooming Prairie with a tractor and wagon pulling lots of Fourth of July enthusiasts Wednesday after the Fourth parade was cancelled because of the weather. This group didn't let a thunderstorm ruin their Fourth of July festivities, giving it a thumbs up as they paraded along Main Street.

do, safety first," said BP Police Chief Greg Skillestad.

The lightning struck a tree and a transformer on the northwest part of BP at about 2 p.m., 30 minutes before the expected start of the parade. There was a power outage in portions of the city, including the downtown area, for about 30 minutes.

"That's all it took for us to pull the plug on the parade," explained Nick Schiefert, Fourth of July chairman for the past 20 years.

Schiefert consulted with parade chair Karen Fouarge, and the lightning strike and thunder boomers convinced them quickly as to whether to cancel the parade.

The parade cancellation was the first in the 44-year history of the parade. This year marks the 44th year of the parade. The record books will show: July 4, 2018 Blooming Prairie cancelled due to a driving rain storm.

Blooming Prairie police wisely watched the weather radar and saw ominous clouds coming toward Blooming Prairie.

Led by Sgt. Mark Lang, the BP police used their three squad cars and some ATVs to travel up and down the streets, using a public address system and asking people to take cover and leave the premises.

Officer Dan Peach said police had the keys for the high school and elementary school and were ready to move people there if necessary.

Fire Chief Dean Naatz also dispatched some fire department weather watchers to travel on the outskirts of town to analyze the threatening weather.

A tornado warning had been issued for northeast Freeborn County. That's just a few miles west of Blooming Prairie.

Siefert, Fouarge and Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, all agreed that they knew of no previous parade cancellation in the city's history.

Noble said she went home twice to change clothes because she was drenched by the rain. She was in charge of the Beer Garden and said the washout also washed out the Beer Garden.

Parade chair Fouarge said about 85 to 90 percent of the 100 units expected in the parade had already begun lining up for the parade.

"You have to give people credit for having a lot of common sense," Fouarge said, explaining that the downpour and the lightning and thunder forced the parade watchers to head for shelter.

With the parade cancelled, many people turned disappointment into parties in houses and garages, said

> "It was the right thing to do, safety first."
>
> **Chief Greg Skillestad**
> Blooming Prairie Police

Officer Peach.

With many leaving town at the same time, a severe traffic jam occurred on Highway 218 North, said Chief Skillestad. "We had quite a traffic jam but the people worked it out themselves," he added.

"It's disappointing because we had some new units this year but we just hope that all our parade units return for 2019," said Fouarge.

Schiefert thanked the public for its understanding of the decision to cancel. He also thanked the parade committee which consists of himself, Fouarge, Becky Noble, Sarah Esplan, Becky Hoffman, Sandy Jones, Judy Esplan, Pam Ingvalson, Jerry Kaplan, Ron Janning and Denise Krell.

The fireworks display planned for the night of the Fourth was also called off and rescheduled for Thursday night. Streets were packed with fireworks watchers starting at dusk and staying jammed until they ended after a 20-minute display at about 10:20 p.m.

Siefert, owner of the BP Dairy Queen, said the fireworks rescheduling allowed him to set up shop and sell three freezers of ice cream he had left over from the Fourth. Tommy's food stand was also open during the fireworks.

Some vendors remained open in Central Park following the rain storm, but most packed up and went home.

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Thursday, July 19
- **7pm** Thunderbird Open Stock Car Races

Friday, July 20
- **7pm** Tri-State Truck & Tractor Pull

Saturday, July 21
- **10am** Free Antique Tractor Pull
- **6pm** Power Wheels Kiddie Demo Derby
- **6:30pm** DC Championship Demolition Derby

Sunday, July 22
- **3pm** Dodge Mayhem Trailer Races ***NEW THIS YEAR***!

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Ellendale pastor, church members preparing for trip to Africa

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Later this month, young people from different social, economic, cultural, political and even theological backgrounds will come together in Johannesburg, South Africa to share their stories with one another at the 2018 Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC) of the United Methodist Church.

Ellendale United Methodist Pastor Randy Cirksena Jr., and church members Vicki Cress and her daughter, Destiny Hill, were asked to attend the event as part of the delegation from the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

The North Central Jurisdiction is conglomeration of state's including Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Cirksena said he hopes the group has the privilege of learning of Jesus Christ works through other cultures and how God addresses certain issues, both in terms of Christian living and in terms of social, political and economic circumstances in various countries and regions around the globe, and to work for the greater good of God's people.

"It's going to be a wonderful experience," he said. "I just want to thank the people of Ellendale and the greater Steele County area for their support of our ministry, and for their support of Vicki, Destiny and the trip that lies ahead. It's going to be a real blessing."

The GYPC is a quadrennial (every four years) event. The first one was held in December 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa; the second in July 2010 in Berlin, Germany; and the third in July 2014 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

Young people will worship God in a variety of languages and expressions, celebrating each other as members of the family of God.

This is the most extensive global gathering of United Methodist young people. GYPC is a time for leadership development as these young leaders attend workshops, share ministry stories from their contexts and learn from other young people who came from different countries and cultures.

> "It's going to be a real blessing."
>
> **Pastor Randy Cirksena**
> Ellendale Methodist Church

Cirksena said people who speak German, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and many of the African and Asia languages will attend the event.

GYPC brings together the voices of young people from around the world. Through the Legislative Forum, young people will discuss significant issues being faced by the church and the world where they live. The Forum will produce legislation that will go directly to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Through this, young people have a chance to shape the direction of the church.

"All the topics affect youth and young adults across the globe," Cirksena said. "The groups there will be discussing a wide range of topics that pertains to youth and young adult issues including sex trafficking, poverty, sexism, racism and upward mobility and education."

This isn't Cirksena first time traveling outside of the United States for his religion.

In 1988, Cirksena was one of the representatives from the United Methodist Church in a delegation that traveled to Moscow, Russia.

"We were part of a celebration of the 1,000 anniversary first Christian baptism in that region of the world," he said. "I also had the privilege of going with that delegation to what was then, East Germany. It was before President [Ronald] Reagan helped take down Berlin Wall. That was just a real privilege."

Cirksena travels have also taken him to the country of Georgia hosted by the Georgian Orthodox Church.

"I got to meet, what would be considered the patriarch or like the pope of the Georgian Orthodox Church," he said. "The crazy thing is I'm Facebook friends with him now. It's just so weird to think that I'm old enough but yet young enough to where technology has changed enough so that I'm actually friends with the patriarch."

Cirksena said the most rewarding part of that delegation was that he had the



RANDY CIRKSENA

opportunity to make contact with a Georgian Orthodox Seminary in Tbilisi, Georgia.

"They were begging for theological books and bibles at that time because those 'Iron Curtain' countries were prohibited from practicing any form of Christian religion," he said. "So for years, we raised money and we sent theological books and bibles until it became legal for them to do that."

Cirksena said he looks forward to bringing the knowledge and lessons learned from GPYC back to his congregation in Ellendale.

It's a perfect night for Mike Marlar at Gopher 50

Blooming Prairie spotlighted at the races in many ways

By HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The spotlight was on Mike Marlar as he crossed the finish line to win the 39th Annual Gopher 50 at the Deer Creek Speedway on Saturday night, July 7.

The Gopher 50 race is sanctioned by the World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series.

In partnership with the Deer Creek Speedway, the Gopher 50 is sponsored by Bigelow Homes and Miner's Outdoor. Gopher 50 is a non-profit foundation, with monies channeled to the Blooming Prairie Lions and to the BP Fire Department.

Saturday's race on a perfect weather night drew an estimated 3,000 spectators.

The spotlight was also on Blooming Prairie. Jerry Ingvalson led a group of Blooming Prairie Lions to handle various responsibilities. Ingvalson and the Lions have been actively involved with the Gopher 50 for many years.

It first started in 1980 at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing and then moved to the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna until 2004. After a stint there, it moved in 2005 to the Deer Creek Speedway in Racine.

Ingvalson has involved the Lions, the Blooming Prairie Fire Department and many other groups and individuals from Blooming Prairie.

Doug and Kristi Miner of Miner's Outdoor Sports supplied 20 golf carts to be used to transport guests across the grounds. Lion Bob Wolf and his grandson Tim Wolf picked up many guests in the parking lots and delivered them to the front gate. Wayne Hansen, wearing a Lions hat, drove a tractor pulling loads of guests to the front of the speedway grounds.

Kristi Miner led the pace vehicle before the feature race.

Melissa Stoen of Blooming Prairie sang the National Anthem with a captivating delivery. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department brought its ladder truck and hoisted a large American flag during the National Anthem. Del Peterson and Dave Wradislavsky led the flag crew.

Lions Dean Zilm, Harlan Hinzmann and Dave Goodnature sold t-shirts. "Do I have a deal for you," barked Hinzmann to

SEE **GOPHER 50, B2**



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The Blooming Prairie Lions were super salesmen on Saturday night at the Gopher 50 Outlaw Series race at the Deer Creek Speedway in Racine. Lions working the shirt booth were Harlan Hinzmann, David Goodnature and Dean Zilm. Their customers are Alisha Eischens, left, of Taopi and Amber Hayes of Grand Meadow.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

These two Outlaws racers are neck and neck on the final turn during a hot lap race at the Gopher 50 event Saturday, July 7 at the Deer Creek Speedway in Racine.

I-35 project underway near Faribault

Motorists on Interstate 35 near Faribault will encounter single lane, head-to-head traffic, ramp detours and traffic delays beginning Monday, July 9 as crews start a concrete overlay project, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Crews will pave approximately 4 miles of southbound I-35 from Rice County Road 9 to Highway 21 with an unbonded concrete overlay. Additionally, crews will repave the Highway 21 exit ramp, extend the deceleration lane off southbound I-35 to Highway 21 and repair culverts along I-35.

Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. of Shafer, Minn. is the prime contractor on this $8 million project. Construction is expected to be completed in fall of 2018.

Motorists can expect single lane, head-to-head traffic and detours during construction. Traffic delays are expected, especially during peak traffic hours.

For more information about this project, or to sign up for email updates, go to our project web page at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35-concreteoverlay/index.html.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

Staying healthy while on the job



Steele Talkin'
DANIELLE DAVIS

My name is Danielle Davis. I am an Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services practitioner for Youngdahl Living, a 16 unit permanent supportive housing program in Owatonna.

It is part of South Central Human Relations Center/ HRC. Youngdahl has a "housing first" approach. This offers permanent, supportive housing as quickly as possible to individuals experiencing homelessness, and then provides the supportive services and connections to community-based resources people need to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. Services are offered, but are not required. We find that most tenants do accept services.

One service that goes along with the meaningful work I do for HRC involves working with people to help them learn emotional regulation and coping skills and to help them gain a better understanding of their symptoms of mental health. I have been contributing to the monthly newsletter provided to each resident on a series on happiness. I would like to share some of the insight from a few of the articles I have written in hopes that it opens your mind up to your

SEE **STEEL TALKIN', B3**

A slice of volunteerism

Volunteers key to bringing pizzas to hungry guests

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As hundreds flock to tiny Berne every Wednesday for a mid-week pizza party, dozens of people behind the scenes are making the novelty event enjoyable for everyone.

From cashiers to pizza makers to people manning the hot ovens and serving the freshly fired pizzas, volunteers are needed to serve as many as 800 pizzas each week. It's no easy task and takes 60 volunteers each night to pull off.

Jeremy Wahlstrom of Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center took her turn with helping out last week on the grounds of Zwingli Church for Berne Pizza's summer season. She was turning flat cardboard into pizza boxes ready to be loaded with fresh wood-fired pizza.

"Volunteering. That's what we do," said Wahlstrom as she got yet another box ready to go. "Service is the price you pay for living."

A group of volunteers from Faith Lutheran helped with various jobs last week. It was the group's first time of volunteering at Berne Pizza.

Zwingli Church pays $50 for a full shift, and $25 for a half shift, for each volunteer to the organization they represent, according to Angela Organ, coordinator of Berne Pizza. She said the pizza event allows many organizations around the area to raise thousands of dollars throughout the 13-week summer season.

Organ said some organizations end up making as much as $6,000 throughout the entire summer for sending volunteers.

In Faith Lutheran's case, the money they raise from working at the pizza event will be used for the church's Pantry of Faith, a food distribution center for needy folks in Dodge County. Under the previous food shelf Faith Lutheran operated, they served about 40 families each month. The Pantry of Faith just started in May.

West Concord Fire and Ambulance sends six members every other week throughout the summer, according to Rick Braithwaite, a volunteer firefighter. The money they raise is used to purchase equipment and tools for the department.

But Braithwaite quickly points out they're not out there for the money. "We just want to give back to the community," he said. "People never see us unless they are in need," he added.

Braithwaite enjoys manning the wood-fired ovens, which get up to about 1,200 degrees. Pizzas are fired for three minutes, but

SEE **PIZZA, B2**



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Kaleb Schuck waits with an armful of pizzas to put into the wood-fired ovens at Berne Pizza June 27. The pizzas are freshly made in the kitchen and cooked right away in the ovens for about three minutes.

GOPHER 50: FROM B1

prospective customers. His lingo worked as all shirts were sold.

Lions Paul Fiebiger, John Fouarge, Paul Dale and Howard Lestrud helped out with the will call tickets.

Ingvalson's biggest job is recruiting drivers to enter the Gopher 50 race each year.

The Blooming Prairie connection also included Doug Hillson (#72) driving in the B-2 feature modified class race. He placed 11th.

Marlar won his heat race and dominated the 24-car field during the 50-lap Sears Craftsman Feature. It was his third series win of 2018. He won first place money totaling $10,000.

With the Gopher 50 win, Marlar drew only two points from passing Chris Madden for the lead of the World of Outlaws Championship point standings.

Results of the feature race with earnings is as follows:

Sears Craftsman Feature (50 Laps): 1. 157-Mike Marlar [2][$10,000]; 2. 25-Shane Clanton [1][$5,000]; 3. 91-Tyler Erb [4][$3,000]; 4. 1-Brandon Sheppard [6][$2,500]; 5. 9-Devin Moran [13][$2,000]; 6. 32-Chris Simpson [3][$1,700]; 7. 44-Chris Madden [8][$1,400]; 8. 28-Jimmy Mars [7][$1,300]; 9. 30-Brian Birkhofer [14] [$1,200]; 10. B1-Brent Larson [12][$1,100]; 11. 7W-Ricky Weiss [9][$1,050]; 12. 77-Jordan Yaggy [16][$1,000]; 13. 18c-Chase Junghans [10][$950]; 14. 15-Nick Anvelink [22][$900]; 15. 7-Rick Eckert [5][$850]; 16. 111-Steven Roberts [23][$800]; 17. 16-Tyler Bruening [17] [$770]; 18. 10-Paul Parker [15] [$750]; 19. 58e-Dave Eckrich [18][$730]; 20. 11-Pat Doar [19] [$700]; 21. 85-John Kaanta [20] [$700]; 22. 54-David Breazeale [11][$700]; 23. 76-Blair Nothdurft [24][$700]; 24. 58-A.J. Diemel [21][$700].

PIZZA: FROM B1

need to be constantly rotated.

Asked if it's a hot job, Braithwaite responded holding up his hands, "These are fire gloves and my hands are burning. If you don't leave with a blister, you weren't working hard enough."

Other groups that helped out last week were Mantorville Theatre, St. Paul's Lutheran of Pine Island and Faith in Action of Dodge County. There is also a core group of volunteers from Zwingli Church that help out every week. Sixty percent of the volunteers are from Zwingli while 40 percent come from other organizations, Organ said. Throughout the summer, more than 400 volunteers will be utilized to help put on the pizza events.

"It's a very effective way for groups to make money without very little planning and risk," Organ said, adding that most of the organization is done by her and other volunteers from Zwingli.

There is a waiting list of community organizations wishing to help out, according to Organ. She has at least seven organizations that won't be able to assist at all this year.

Organizations don't only benefit from providing volunteers. Each year Berne Pizza selects 12 non-profit charities to donate the money raised from the pizza nights. Organ said "it's pretty moving" to hear how the charities utilize their donations from Berne. "It's touching. One hundred percent goes directly to the source," she said, noting there are no administrative costs involved.

"Our mission is to help people locally as well as abroad," Organ said.

Berne Pizza has proven to be beneficial in other ways. Zwingli Church has gained members from volunteers that helped out. "A lot of small churches are dying. We're not," Organ said. "People come here and want to be a part of it—the growth and fellowship in our own congregation."

Organ said the neat part about it is "these random people end up in the middle of no where."

It leaves volunteers like Wahlstrom impressed with the work being done. "Everything out here is volunteering," she says. "It's amazing the coordination it takes for a tiny little church to pull this off."

Wahlstrom said it's a nice way to spend a Wednesday night.

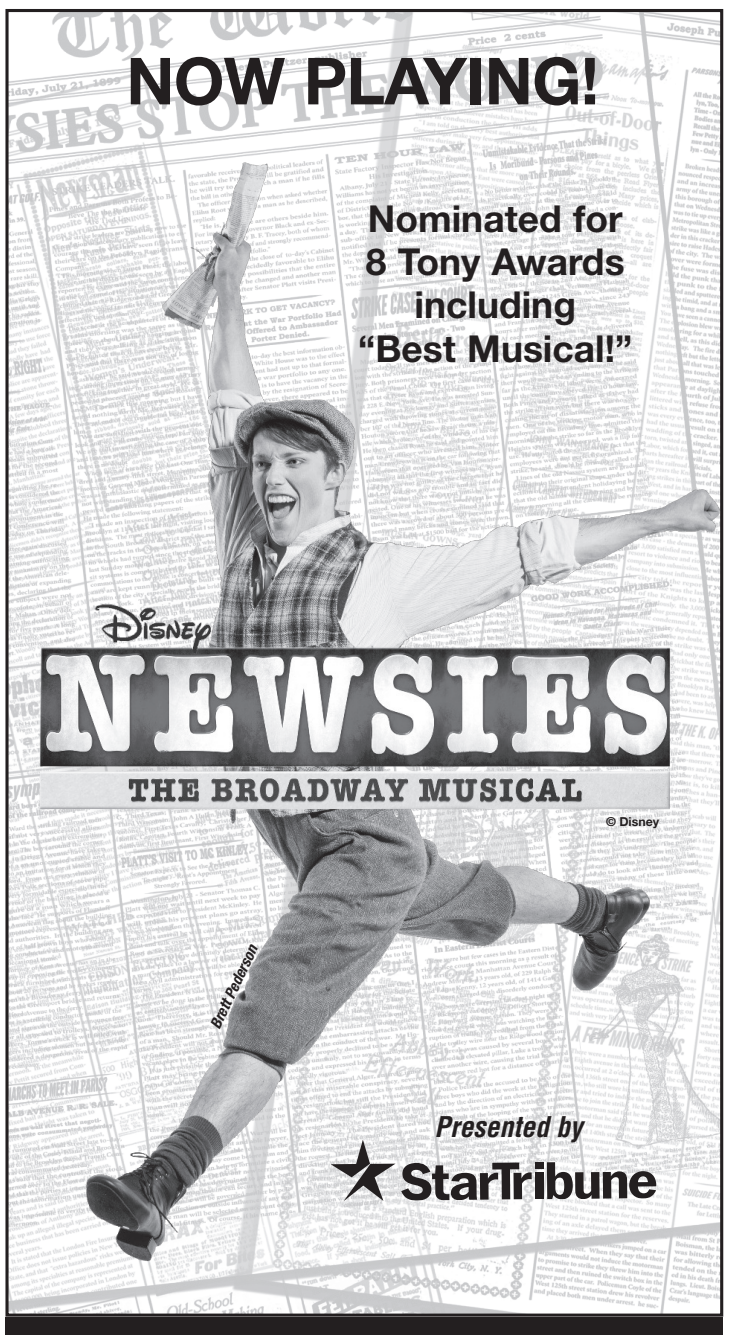
Oh, yeah don't forget about the pizza.

"It's darn good pizza," she said.



Volunteering is an important part of what Berne Pizza is all about. Rick Braithwaite, left, Lynne Kenworthy and Jon Streiff take a moment to enjoy a little music while making pizzas in the wood-fired ovens located behind them. About 60 volunteers are needed each Wednesday throughout the summer to serve pizzas.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



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Dairy Queen | Jennifer Johnson
Vandals

We look forward to see more participation next year.

Assisted Living Housing Supervisor, RN

Heather Haus is a 20 bed assisted living community. As Housing Supervisor you would be responsible for the business aspect of the facility as well as the care aspect. Must be an RN.

Some duties are…

- Adhere to the administrators budget for the facility.
- Ensure all staff are getting proper training, background checks, fulfilling duties, etc.
- Create, Review, and revise policies regarding operations and care throughout the facility.
- Report to the administrator relevant happenings in a professional manner.
- Act as the face of the facility and establish yourself as the main contact for the communities assisted living needs.

Email or call Joseph Mason jmason@prairiemanorinc.com 583-4434

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Activity Director

As Activity Director of this Skilled nursing facility you would be responsible for providing a variety of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs to our residents. Organized activities must be thought ahead and meet the needs of each resident. If not trained, formal training will be provided. Some duties include…

- Creating/planning activities and making a monthly calendar of them.
- Spearheading our quarterly newsletter
- Taking residents on facility outings
- Resident charting & note taking
- Facilitating resident council

Email or call Joseph Mason
jmason@prairiemanorinc.com 583-4434

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Hayfield Fire Dept. Chicken Fry and Street Dances

July 13th -14th, 2018

Chicken served 4 - 8 pm at the Fire Hall on Sat, July 14th (Delivery available 477-2674)

Field of Flags at Field Crest
July 9-15th
11 am on Sat., July 14th
Galen Bungum 507-365-8935

Viking Pride Golf Tournament
Friday, July 131h-Oaks
10:00 am Shotgun Start
Lana 507-272-9891
Oaks 507-477-3233

Miss Hey Days Pageant
Friday, July 13th
7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

FRIDAY NIGHT STREET DANCE FEATURING: COUNTRY LINE DRIVE
July 13th
8:00 pm-12:30 am
Sponsored by the Hayfield Fire Department and Hayfield American Legion
Must be 21
Wristband required

Bingo
Friday & Saturday Night
6:30 pm
Hayfield Legion
All Ages Welcome!

Turkey Sandwiches
Friday July 13th 5:00 pm
@Fire hall Served by Am. Legion

Volleyball Tournament
All Day Saturday
Earl Himle Park
507-272-4193 or 507-696-8332

Parade - 2:00 pm
Saturday, July 14th
Ryan 507-696-8693
Steve 507-469-1463

SAT. NIGHT STREET DANCE
Fire Hall
8:30 pm - 12:30 am
Music by
Hitchville
Must be 21
Wristband required



Beer Garden & Full Bar
Friday
@Fire Hall
4 pm -12:30 am

Bloody Mary Bar
Saturday
9:00am
@Fire Hall
Full Bar All Day

SK Walk/Run
Sat., July 14th - 8 am
Earl Himle Park
Kathy Demmer 507-477-3655

Bean Bag Tournament
Saturday, July 14th
10 am Sign Up
Earl Himle Park
Chad O'Connor 507-273-5624

Boy Scout Pancake Feed
Sat., July 14th 7:00 am to noon
Fire Hall

Lion's Brat Stand
Opens 10 am, Saturday
Earl Himle Park

Kid Activities/Games
Saturday, July 14th
Uncle Mony's
4:00 pm- 10:00 pm

Fireworks at Dusk
Saturday, July 14th
near Field Crest



Omelets & Bloody Marys
Sunday morning
American Legion
8 am-noon .

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Give running for office some consideration



Mayor Lois
LOIS NELSON

The filing dates-July 31-Aug. 14 are coming up for filing for local school board and city council seats. This is the third column where I've shared my own journey of service to the Medford School Board of nine years; and now, into a third term of serving on the Medford Council and 10 years as Mayor. In sharing my own story, I'm hopeful that you may seek or encourage someone else to consider filing for a term of office.

It was not long after my service on the School Board in the 1980s that some good citizens approached me about running for mayor. I knew little about city government. Also, I felt a council seat would be a way to learn more about government at this level; and in so doing, see if there was anything, I could bring to both it and possibly, the mayor's position.

Again, I walked the town—this time with the help of grandchildren. Longtime resident and civic leader, Frank Woodfill, stopped one evening. He had made a green painted stick with a leather loop on the end—about 8 inches in length. This was to go in my pocket with the loop hanging out. His experience with dogs in the community was that the loop would distract the dog and if it came to close, I could take the stick out of my pocket and whack the creature across the nose. In 'walking the town with purpose' is the way I describe the commitment when running for city office now a total of six times; and Frank's dog distractor is with me. By the way, I never had to use it.

During those early months of council service in 1995, I realized quickly that possibly another mode of operating could be brought to the council table. I did file for the Mayor's seat after two years on the council in 1997. I walked the town collecting concerns and ideas. Won! Then the work really began. I did make a choice to work 30 hours a week at my job so I could commit almost the same amount of time to the city. One of the first realizations was that this growing community was one of very few cities our size not having a city administrator. Also, I recognized that the community would have to grow with acceptance of the position so through our Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board we researched and developed a partnership with SE Development Corporation from Rushford and contracted with Diane Wilson to assist us in developing tools for retention, growing and attracting businesses to our area.

The city was then involved in expansion on the west side of the interstate, two housing developments, initiating its first ever comprehensive plan, participating in the Design Team's visit to Steele County, improved budget processes and Y2K—hardware conversions throughout the city as everyone speculated on what might happen with the new millennium and all data accumulation.

Another term, felt easy with the decision to run again as the city had made great strides; and there was more to do. Someone else filed so I was challenged for the seat. I walked the town, collected residents' concerns and suggestions. Lost by six votes. Four years later, I was approached by a number of citizens and encouraged to run again. Did so. Lost by five votes. At the time, I felt elected responsibility had been good, but now, I was done. Losing is also a learning experience.

During the 2000s, I had the pleasure of serving at both the state and national levels of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization. It's a wonderful group of women from all over the country. They sharpened my parliamentary skills and understanding of diversity.

With retirement in 2011, I was looking forward to going through closets and traveling. I walked for fresh air and exercise. A number of citizens and business owners approached me about running again '...for better communication from City Hall and to get things going again…' With family support, I filed, 'walking the town with purpose' and was elected; and then, re-elected two years ago.

This column serves as one way to communicate beyond the Medford city limits as I have come to realize that people are interested in what their neighbors are doing. Showing up at events is the easiest way to stay in touch with residents. Critical to any of us who serve is encouraging others to consider the experience. You will soon learn there is always more to the project story and homework is involved. Your decisions and votes will not please all the folks all the time. Yet serving at the local level is one of less complication than serving at any other level of government. Do give it some consideration-the filing dates are again July 31-Aug. 14.
Mayor Lois

Lois M Nelson is now serving her sixth year as Medford Mayor. She writes monthly for this newspaper.

Basketball star comes home



PHOTO COURTESY OF MN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Former Gopher star and NRHEG standout, Carlie Wagner, spent the past weekend as the grand marshal of the Farm and City Days Parade in her hometown of New Richland. The small-town star joined the Minnesota Lynx, but was released by the team in May. Wagner was a third round pick who played 25 minutes in two pre-season games with the Lynx.

STEELE TALKIN: FROM B1

ability to create and seek happiness for you and your family.

As we all work to find balance in our life, seek meaningfulness, and find the things that bring us joy; I took a minute to reflect on the subject of joy. It has been proven throughout time that happy people do things differently. As referenced by Dr. Mercola on www.Mercola.com, there are 22 positive habits of happy people. A habit is something we form as person by diligently repeating the same action until it becomes part of our routine. The following are the 22 habits of happy people. The 22 habits are as follows: letting go of grudges, treating everyone with kindness, regarding your problems as challenges, expressing gratitude for what you have, dreaming big, not sweating the small stuff, speaking well of others, avoiding making excuses, living in the present, waking up at the same time every day, not comparing yourself with others, surrounding yourself with positive people, realizing you don't need the approval of others, taking time to listen, nurturing social relationships, meditating, eating well, exercising, living minimally, being honest, establishing personal control, and accepting what cannot be changed. Also it is proven that a new habit takes 21 days to form.

The first Habit of Happy People is letting go of grudges. I see grudges as little bits of anger or resentment that plant themselves in our mind like seeds. We water them and nourish them with repetitive thinking and pent up emotions, until they are towering redwood trees, with their roots grounded deep and difficult to lift out and remove. The wild fire needed to eliminate the weed like spreading trees is difficult to manage. There are some things you can do to work towards letting go of grudges. Take time to verbalize what happened and how it made you feel. Sometimes it's helpful to verbalize the hurt you feel. Keep in mind that forgiveness does not mean that you have to forget what happened. Forgiveness is not meant to change the other person's behavior. Forgiveness is more a gift to you. Forgiving does not mean that we must fully agree with the actions of others. What acceptance really means is that you can't go back and create a better version of the past. If you let anger define you it will consume you.

Kindness to others is a great way to bring joy and happiness into your life. When you take time to make kindness a direct part of you day, you start to shift you thinking towards a positive approach. Acts of kindness are often accompanied by emotional warmth. Emotional warmth produces the hormone, oxytocin, in the brain and throughout the body. Oxytocin causes the release of a chemical called nitric oxide in blood vessels. This reduces blood pressure. Oxytocin is known as a 'cardio protective' hormone because it protects the heart. The key is that acts of kindness can produce oxytocin and therefore kindness can be said to protect the heart. We all know that we like people who show us kindness. Kindness reduces the emotional distance between two people and so we feel more 'bonded'. Remember, we are wired for kindness, and negativity is a learned behavior which can be unlearned with diligence.

So, when we are kind to each other we feel a connection and new relationships are forged, or existing ones strengthened. When we're kind we inspire others to be kind which creates a ripple effect that spreads outwards. Just as a pebble creates waves when it is dropped in a pond, so acts of kindness ripple outwards, touching others' lives and inspiring kindness everywhere the wave goes. So go forth and show kindness to everyone and reap the benefits of kindness every day.

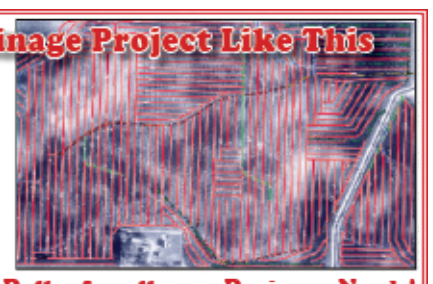
These are just a few excerpts from the first three steps to happiness that I want to share with you today. Take a moment to reflect on these and work to bring more joy to your life one day at a time.

Danielle Davis is a mental health practitioner providing service to the residents at Youngdahl Living in Owatonna. Youngdahl Living, 16 units of permanent supportive housing, is a program of South Central Human Relations Center. Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

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The Blooming American Legion Post #52 Fourth of July Raffle is history for 2018, "THANK YOU" everyone for supporting the American legion by buying raffle tickets, this is the way raise money to support the things we do for the community. Congratulations to this years winners:

Kathy Buchanan	$1,000
Joleen Zilm	$500
Kathy Buchanan	$250
Glenn Kruckeburg	$200
Mike Haubenschild	$150

"THANK YOU" to everyone for making this July 4th Raffle Ticket Sales and drawing a success again this year!

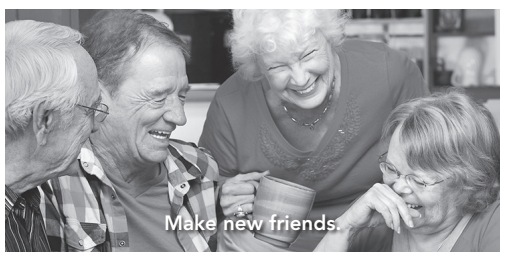
Karl Luiken American Legion Post # 52 Commander

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

SALUTING AREA VETERANS



Steve Wencl

Branch: U.S. Army Security Agency

Special Training: Defense Language Institute- Monterey, Calif. Voice Intercept- Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas.
Service: Feb. 1973

Discharged: Jan. 1988

Area Served: Ft. Leonard Wood- Monterey, Calif. Goodfellow AFB- San Angelo, Texas and Federal Republic of Germany.

Unit Served: 856th ASA, 502nd Group and 1st Operations BN, Field Station, Augsburg, Germany (two different units).

My Story:
I joined the Army in February 1973. I went on active duty on July 16, 1973 starting with Basic Training in Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. After basic, I went to language school in Monterey, Calif. After language school, I went to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas for Voice Intercept/Signal Intelligence School. In January 1975, I was sent to Augsburg, Germany. My first duty was with 856th ASA. I served in a Radio Direction Finding Team. After about three months, I was transferred to the 1st Operations BN, Field Station Augsburg. My duty for the rest of my tour was a voice intercept operator. I left active duty on July 7, 1976. After active duty, I served in the National Guard for seven years and an additional two years in the active reserve. I was discharged on Jan. 27, 1988.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 12
1 p.m. – RAD Zoo Visit, BP Library
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

JULY 16
1 p.m. – Movie Mondays, BP Library

JULY 17
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

JULY 18
10 a.m. – Adventure Club, BP Library
11 a.m. - Chamber Golf Fun Day – Golfing Begins
5 p.m. – Chamber Golf Fun Day – Dinner
6 p.m. – Chamber Golf Fun Day – Mischief & Mayhem Performing

JULY 23
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting


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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

JULY 12
10 a.m. – Community Ed (Drawing), NR HS Art Room
11 a.m. – Adventure Camp
12:30 p.m. – Community Ed (Summer Adventures)
1 p.m. – Community Ed (Youth Basketball), NR Middle School Gym
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

JULY 13
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 16
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
1 p.m. – Community Ed (Flag Football), Ellendale Practice Field

JULY 17
10 a.m. – Community Ed (String Art), NR HS Lower Commons
11 a.m. – Adventure Camp
12:30 p.m. – Community Ed (Summer Adventures)
1 p.m. – Community Ed (Youth Basketball), NR Middle School Gym
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Community Center

JULY 18
10 a.m. – SEMCAC
1 p.m. – Community Ed (Flag Football), Ellendale Practice Field

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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 12
10 a.m. – RAD Zoo Visit, Owatonna Library
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
7 p.m. – 11 @ 7 Concert Series, Central Park
7:30 p.m. – Seussical, Little Theatre of Owatonna

JULY 13
Owatonna's Annual Weekend Out
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church
7:30 p.m. – Seussical, Little Theatre of Owatonna

JULY 14
Owatonna's Annual Weekend Out
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
2:30 p.m. – Ken Bey Golf Tournament, Brooktree Golf Course
7:30 p.m. – Seussical, Little Theatre of Owatonna

JULY 15
Owatonna's Annual Weekend Out
2 p.m. – Seussical, Little Theatre of Owatonna
Noon – Extravangza, History Center

JULY 16
2 p.m. – Musical Movie Monday, Owatonna Library

JULY 17
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Time, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Library Board Meeting, Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

JULY 18
9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library
1 p.m. – Adventure Club, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – Rec on the Go, Manthey Park

Annual meeting set for Habitat group

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area invites the community to the organization's annual meeting on Thursday, July 12 at the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, 320 Hoffman Dr., Owatonna.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. in the conference room on the lower level. Habitat for Humanity will announce its new Board of Directors, share its strategic plan, and announce the organization's Volunteer of the Year.

Steele County Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1993 by a group of community members intent on addressing the affordable housing needs in the community. Waseca County joined the affiliate in 2008. Together they have built or rehabbed 25 homes providing safe, decent and affordable housing to qualified homeowner partners through an affordable mortgage financing.

Seeking to put God's love into action Habitat for Humanity brings people together by building homes, communities and hope. Together we can build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Visit the website at www.habitatswa.org to learn more or follow them out on Facebook www.facebook.com/habitatswa.

Grief Support Group set for next week

A five-week bereavement support group for those who have experienced a loss will begin Tuesday, July 17 and continue through Tuesday, Aug. 14.

This education and support group will provide materials and discussions on a variety of topics to assist participants in their grieving process. The group will meet weekly in the conference room at the Mower County Senior Center in Austin. The meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week and will be followed by an informal lunch gathering for anyone interested.

The group is open to the public and all who feel this might be beneficial to their healing and all who are supporting them are invited to attend.

If more information is needed, please contact Mary Kittleson at Worlein Funeral Home at 507-433-5000 or 507-583-7561.

Weed management in soybean in 2018

As we approach the end of June and head into July, we are seeing some weed problems in our soybean fields, especially because the rain has kept us out of the fields when we'd typically be applying herbicides. The wet weather has one upside for pest control: soybean aphids are appearing in fields, but our frequent rain should help keep aphid populations under control. We still have weeds to manage though, and I just want to mention some things to think about while you're tackling your weed pests in soybean fields this year.

U of MN Crops Educators have found that the most serious weed issues are in fields where no pre-emergence residual herbicide was applied. It was just too wet for some people to get all their pre- on this year. This can result in multiple weed species outbreaks, with a broad range of weed heights. There is not a perfect solution in such a situation, just try to tackle these fields the best you can. Due to their early emergence period, common lambsquarters, common ragweed, and giant ragweed control will be especially challenging this year.

Prioritizing fields with these weed issues is important, because in order to achieve the maximum weed control potential for any of the post-emergence herbicides, you need to target weeds at a 4 inch height or under. At this point, full labeled rates and plant coverage are critical, because tall weeds can shelter smaller weeds; and we will probably be tackling some larger weeds due to the ideal growth conditions they've had.

When it comes to post-emergence weed control in July, the risk of crop injury, herbicide carryover, environmental concerns, and food safety concerns all increase. Be sure you know which growth stage cutoffs for herbicide applications apply to you. Also, be aware of the crop rotation restrictions for the herbicides you use. We also have to think about which herbicides will still work on weeds that have gained resistance to different chemistries.

Due to the increase in weed species, which are resistant to multiple classes of herbicides, it is becoming evident that herbicides alone—both existing and new chemistries—cannot provide us with durable, sustainable weed management. To stay competitive against weeds, you'll need to diversify your management tactics, understand weed biology, and recognize the agronomic impacts of your weed management decisions.

History Center to feature car show and breakfast at 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.

The Steele County Historical Society operates the Village of Yesteryear May 1-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.

German festival coming to New Ulm

Come to New Ulm's Biggest Festival of the Summer!

Bavarian Blast, now in its 13th year, takes place July 20-22, with the Pre-Blast Party on July 19. A German & American Music Festival, it features all sorts of music, including German-style bands, old-time, rock and country music. Nationally-known musicians as well as local favorites take the stages all weekend long!

The Pre-Blast on Thursday evening features performances by: Heide & The Good Ole Boys, Rumors and Dreams: The Music of Fleetwood Mac, and I am, He Said: A Celebration of Neil Diamond. Multiple stages at Bavarian Blast feature performances Friday through Sunday by: Squeezebox with Mollie B., Church of Cash (Johnny Cash Tribute), Blue Ringers, Alex Meixner, New Odyssey, Wild Angels, Alpensterne, Walter's Wheelhouse, Concord Singers, Schell's Hobo Band, Wendinger Band, Leon Olsen Show, Brian Brueggen & The Mississippi Valley Dutchmen, The Bockfest Boys, Larry Olsen, The Original German Band, Malek's Fishermen, and the New Ulm Municipal Band.

Bavarian Blast is fun for the whole family! Activities at the Blast include the sauerkraut-eating contest, stein-holding competition, barrel rolling, bounce houses for the children, dog races, a 5K/10K, Sunday morning breakfast and Polka Service, Bavarian Blast Parade, food and souvenir vendors, craft beer and local wines, full bar, on-site camping, and free onsite parking.

Back by popular demand is the unique opportunity to attend a Polka Service with Molly B. on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The Farm-City Hub Club will be offering breakfast on Sunday beginning at 8:30 a.m. with entertainment by the Original German Band. The Bavarian Blast parade, which is annually attended by thousands, takes place at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday.

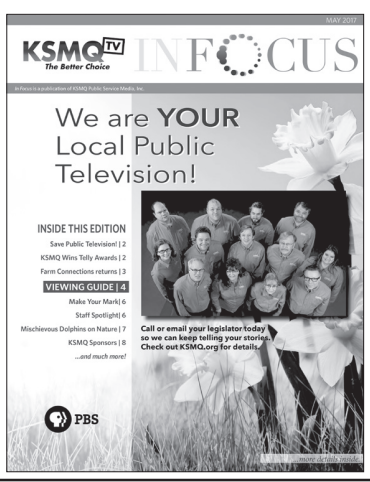
The festival offers German food such as bratwurst, pork schnitzel, German potato salad, spätzle, sauerkraut, and apple strudel. Bavarian Blast is a German-American Music Festival and you'll be able to find both German and American food options on the grounds. Plan some extra time to explore all that New Ulm has to offer: Schell's Brewery, historic attractions, vineyards, museums, monuments, and more! Learn how "Germans Have More Fun" in New Ulm! www.bavarianblast.com

For more information about the event or for the entertainment schedule, visit www.bavarianblast.com or stop into the New Ulm Visitor Center. Follow Bavarian Blast on Facebook for updates during the festival. Contact Bavarian Blast by email at info@bavarianblast.com or by phone at 1-888-463-9856 with any questions or comments.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New Ulm plays host to a big German party July 20-22. A stein holding contest will take place during the festivities.

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LACROSSE

Owatonna 10U boys claim state championship

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB MACY

The Owatonna 10U boys' lacrosse team poses for a photo after winning the Minnesota Home Grown Lacrosse Youth State Championship on June 24. Bottom row, left to right: Brennan Aus, Johnny Cole, Brysen House, Brennan Kath, Khaiden Madson, Noah Mazariego, Abram Moran, Ethan Borchert. Top row, left to right: Coach Dan McIntosh, Ryan McIntosh, Kade Hullopeter, Cooper Aul, Trey Hiatt, Wyatt Macy, Coach Jacob Macy, Jayden Jirele, Isaac Kreitinger. Not pictured: Blaine Glynn, Luke Mohs, Easton Beckel, Coach Dewey Beckel.

The Owatonna 10U boy's lacrosse team played four games against some of the best competition in the state, winning all four, in one day to claim the Minnesota Home Grown Lacrosse Youth State Championship on June 24 at Saint Michael-Albertville Middle School.

Owatonna coach Jacob May said it was extremely rewarding to see his player rewarded for all their dedication and sacrifices.

"It was awesome," Macy said. "Having the boys be rewarded for all the time, effort, blood, sweat and tears they have put into this season was incredible."

The Huskies finished the season with a overall record of 17-1-1. Their lone loss of the season came in the opening game of the state tournament in pool play when they were defeated by Maple Grove 9-8.

Macy said his team was teetering a fine line with overconfidence.

"I think it was more of us not playing to our potential, versus them doing anything exceptionally well," he said. "Our guys' heads got a little too big and that kind of brought them back down to earth."

Macy said the loss may have actually helped his team.

After losing to Maple Grove, Owatonna defeated its next two opponent by a combined margin of 28-4.

"It didn't really effect us a whole lot," he said. "It was nice to show that we can handle some adversity because up until that game we really hadn't had close game. From there we never took our foot off the gas."

Owatonna defeated Wayzatta 10-7 to earn a spot in the semifinals were they face the Trojans for the second consecutive game. The Huskies won that one a little easier, 9-4.

Owatonna earned some redemption against Maple Grove in the championship game, defeating the Crimson by a score of 11-3.

Macy said that every member of the team contributed in some way, but Trey Hiatt and Isaac Kreitinger were the team most lethal weapons on offense.

"Those two guys handle the majority of the load on the offensive end," he said. "We had a lot of other player contribute, even if the talent wasn't there, the effort definitely was everyone on the roster."

Macy said many player also contributed on defense, but Kade Hullopeter and Blaine Glynn were the teams defensive stalwarts for the season.

"They were definitely the team's better defender," he said. "We also rotated a few players at goalie, who did really well. Overall, it was pretty darn good group of kids."

Macy said a lot of programs that his team faced this season are state title contenders every year.

"The future is very bright, for sure, for Huskies' lacrosse" he said. "To be able to start out at this level and show that we can beat them at this level, means that as long as we keep the development going and we keep everyone playing and learning than we should have a chance to beat these teams when these kids get older."

DISC GOLF

Owatonna disc golfers compete at Minnesota Majestic

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR



PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Jared Johnson and Jake Sell stand for a picture at the River Rock Disc Golf Course in Owatonna.

Jared Johnson and Jake Sell, of Owatonna, recently competed at the 2018 Minnesota Majestic Professional Disc Golf Event in East Bethel, Minnesota.

Players golfed a total of 66 holes on three courses from June 29 through July 1.

Johnson finished tied for 25th place for a score of 209 and earned a $245. He shot a 74 on the first day of the tournament at Kaposia Park (24-hole), a 55 on the second day at Bethel University (18-hole) and an 80 on the final day at Ribbon Pines (24-hole). Johnson finished eight shots under par for the three-day event.

Sell finished 73rd with a score of 238. He shot an 82 on day one, a 63 on day two and a 93 on the third day.

Although Sell wasn't pleased with his overall score, he said he was proud he persevered and finished the tournament, despite battling a injured ankle.

"I'm glad I could find the strength to get through it and finish a full tournament," he said, adding that his game was regressed some since he hasn't been able to dedicated as much time to practicing due to work.

"I'm getting it back though," Sell said. "I just cashed tonight for the first time in a couple years, so I'm pretty proud of that."

Johnson said he was a little disappointed with his final score because he knows he could have done better. After all, he is the No. 3 ranked professional disc golfer in the State of Minnesota.

"Since I moved here from Boise, Idaho about three years ago I have been ranked in the top 10," he said. "I finally climbed my way into the top three."

However, Johnson may have never even put up a disc if not for some personal tragedy.

"My house caught on fire when I was 12 years old," Johnson said. "This was in Boise, and we stayed in this hotel downtown. I jumped the fence and met this kid and his dad ran a [disc golf] league there."

Johnson said he didn't know anything about the game, but he found some frisbees and just started playing.

"I didn't find out about tournament and everything until I was 16 or 17," he said. "That's when I ready got into it hard and started playing a lot. I wanted to get good fast, so I played with the best players in the valley of Boise and it went from there."

Johnson moved to Owatonna about three years ago. He set a goal of become a 1,000-rated player

"I've reached that goal," he said. "So my next goal now is move into 1,020s and move on from there."

Johnson currently has a rating of 1,009.

A PDGA Player Rating is a number that shows how close a players average round scores are compared to the course rating, called the Scratch Scoring Averages (SSA), of the courses that golfer has played in competition.

Players who average a SSA on courses played have a rating a 1,000 and are considered "scratch players."

A player who averages scores lower than the SSAs will have a rating higher than 1,000.

Johnson said, at the professional level, everyone can drive the disc and being successful often comes down to making clutch putts.

"Everyone can put the disc close to the basket," he said. "But it's putting the disc in the basket to score that counts. Putting is everything really."

Johnson said he would encourage anyone who is interested in trying the sport to do so.

"It's always good to get new people involved," he said. "That's what it is all about. We love growing the sport."

Johnson said he could typically walk anywhere from seven to 10 miles during an average day of golfing and potential players shouldn't worry if they don't have someone to play with because there are always plenty of people at area courses.

"It's a really good active sport that provides a lot of exercise.," he said. "Even for people who are just looking to be active, outside at the park."

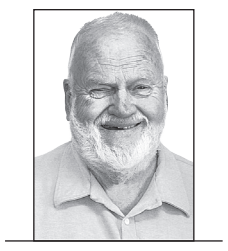
Perhaps the thing Johnson enjoys most about the sport, is something

Many golfers, both disc and ball, will not much can compare the feeling of getting a hole-in-one.

Johnson, who has 52 career aces in his career, said although it's easier to get a hole-in-one in disc golf than it is ball golf, there isn't much that can top the feeling.

"We do it all for the love of game," Sell said. "You're playing to get that next ace. It feels so good. You can't explain the rush you get when you throw a hole-in-one or make a big putt. It's addictive."

BP VICTIM OF A SOGGY FOURTH



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

A writer once said, "Into each life a little rain must fall."

I don't think, however, that he had in mind the deluge that cancelled the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July Parade for the first time in anyone's memory.

We have had parades with occasional sprinkles to dampen marchers and floats, but never an occasion in which rain poured down just a half hour before the march was set to begin, and lightning bolts not only struck nearby, but also actually hit a neighborhood, knocking out all power for approximately 45 minutes.

The disruption disappointed over 20,000 visitors who had come to renew a favorite event and had everyone scurrying for cover or motoring back out of town in a hurry.

In fact, the exodus erupted quickly enough to create a temporary traffic jam on Highway 218. It certainly proved a sudden end to the usual festivities that draw the thousands of people to town each year.

All of the other activities scheduled for after the parade were also cancelled, although the big fireworks display lighted the evening sky on Thursday night instead.

One had to feel sorry for the multitudes of volunteers who had worked many long hours to put this annual extravaganza together, to the marchers and the musical groups all set to entertain, and to the countless onlookers prepared to enjoy another old-fashioned holiday and parade. Maybe an even bigger occasion will now be in the works for another year.

OTHER EVENTS ENTERTAIN

Now that the Fourth of July holiday has passed into the history book, we are left with items of reminiscence about the annual big event.

One of the things that trigger my memory concerned the unqualified success of the Main Street walking tour the Sunday before the Fourth.

Over 100 individuals took a leisurely walk down the street and into the old barn behind Bunkies. The little tour elicited good conversation, easy listening to the music of Dunnell Lenort, and delicious malts and root beer floats in Bunkies.

It was an overall success and a welcome overture to the usual big celebration.

The annual BP Youth Club Ribfest on Saturday, June 30, had to dodge rain showers most of the day in its fundraiser, but the people who did attend had a good time and raised some funds for the club programming.

The event attracted only four rib cookers, with a couple of late withdrawals, but enough BBQ ribs went into stomachs to satisfy all the patrons. The club deserves a tip of the hat for its efforts to help the youth activities in our community.

The local community suffered disappointment from the annual Fourth of July celebration but at that, this area was still considered fortunate when other struck places in other misfortune in the deluges of rain that caused flooding of farm acres and locations, plus road washouts and overflow rivers in the southwestern part of the state.

In addition, storms at other localities left communities with damages of buildings and fallen trees in brief tornadoes striking north locations. I suppose we are still under chances that summer storms could still strike our community, but so far we have avoided anything of a storm nature. We have had plenty of rain, but Mother Nature protects our area in this environment. We can hope that we continue to avoid the storms as July revolves into August and the dog days of late summer.

We reside in that time when nature seems to catch one's breath and everything proceeds at a slow pace while crops edge towards maturity, and the season begins to march inexorably to fall and a new season again. To say that time flies is an understatement, at least for me, and the seasons spin rapidly one after another.

GOLF FUN DAY NEXT UP

After the excitement of the latest holiday, the Chamber of Commerce Fun Day at the Blooming Prairie Country Club on Wednesday, July 18, marks the next big occasion on the calendar, and it is a favorite day in which golf and conversation mix equally.

No expertise in golf is necessary, as there will be some (good and not so good golf), but plenty of entertainment.

An added attraction this year will be a concert from the combo Mischief and Mayhem at 5 p.m. following the day of golf.

This will be the last appearance of that combo, as the duo will move to Las Vegas after this concert. Beside the concert, a meal will be served, and several door prizes will be drawn to round out the day's activities.

Following this outing, the next date with which to look forward will be the Steele County Free Fair in August. This is always a much-anticipated event and this year should be no exception. Visit the scene in 2018.

Continue to enjoy summer, and we'll talk again.

RUNNING

Awesome Blossoms run is held



PHOTO BY MARISSA LARSON

Former Blooming Prairie track star Alec Ille leads the pack at the start of the Awesome Blossoms Run during the Fourth of July Celebrations.

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MS Ride to boost Owatonna's economy

"The impact riders have in our community is outstanding."

Karen Pehrson
Owatonna Tourism Director

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, July 17 a host of bikers will make its way into Owatonna for the MS Ride. The annual event, held along different routes each year, will be making its second stop in Owatonna since 2010.

The last time the ride wound its way through Steele County was in 2011. "We are very excited to have them back," Karen Pehrson, Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Director of Conventions and Tourism, said. "We are looking forward to hosting again."

According to Pehrson, the event is a boon for any community which happens along the bikers' path. "The estimated economic impact on a Bike MS host community is $50,000 for this single day event."

"The impact riders have in our community is outstanding!" Pehrson said.

She has been at the forefront in helping to organize the Owatonna stretch of the event, which will see riders circle through St. Peter, Northfield, Owatonna, Waseca, and Mankato.

Events like this are not only beneficial to their host cities, but to the state's economy at large. "A study from MNDOT showed that bicycling events, including races, non-race rides, fundraising events, mountain bicycling events, high school races, and bicycle tours, produced a total of $14.3 million of economic activity in Minnesota," Pehrson explained.

She also feels this is a perfect chance to demonstrate what makes Owatonna such an amazing city. "It's a great opportunity to showcase Owatonna and everything we have to offer here."

"The Steele County Fairgrounds will be the host site," Pehrson said. There will be food vendors, music, yoga, and shuttle busses with stops that include Central Park, West Hills, Bridge Street, and the Cannon Falls area, she noted. The bikers will be here for July 17 and 18 and will bring with them a retinue of volunteers and supporters before departing for Waseca.



Submitted photo

Maureen Lyons, an Owatonna resident who heads a team of bikers, knows firsthand how beneficial the event can be. "Small communities need to understand just how much the people who come through will contribute," she said.

"This will be a great event for not only bikers but community members, too," Pehrson said. "We've had a great response from local businesses and appreciate everyone who has offered to volunteer and sponsor the upcoming ride."

With so many logistical strides taken for an event like this, Pehrson is grateful for all of the assistance in getting the last pieces into place. Tori Urch, tourism associate intern, and the Bike MS committee, have been working very hard putting the final plans together for the ride.

"It has been great to see how the community has come together to help make this a great event," Pehrson said.

She also explained that Minnesota is definitely a bike-friendly state. "Minnesota has 69 recognized Bicycle Friendly Businesses (BFBs), which is more than any other state in the U.S.!"

Since all of the stops along the way stand to benefit, the ride is a win-win for the communities which have opted to host it. As Owatonna is among those communities for this year's ride, its looking like it will be a perfect way for riders and volunteers to get to know the town a little better before they continue on with the route.

The MS Ride will be held from July 15 to July 20 and will showcase a collection of southeastern Minnesota towns. The event raises money for Multiple Sclerosis research and awareness.

Full bloom at the Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is up and running in downtown Owatonna on Saturdays until October. The market is a great time for area entrepreneurs to show their wares, including craft items, food and plants. Brad Meier, president of Owatonna Chamber, says the market is a great way for people to sell items and draw people into the central business district of Owatonna. The market takes place at Central Park from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

Staff photo by Chris Baldwin



Business Briefs

Jodi Gillard joins RE/MAX Venture



Jodi Gillard

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 recieve 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."

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STEELE-DODGE **BUSINESS**

Czaplewski opens new funeral home in Kasson

"The community deserves something nice."

Paul Czaplewski
Funeral Home Director



Staff photo by RICK BUSSLER

Paul Czaplewski has opened a new funeral home in Kasson. He has been serving the Dodge County area since purchasing a funeral home in Hayfield in 1995. His son, Ben, will be taking over the Kasson facility after he graduates from college next year.

BY RICK BUSSLER
DCI PUBLISHER

After being in the planning stages for the past two years, Czaplewski Funeral Home has expanded into a third location in Dodge County.

Last month the family-owned funeral service opened a brand new facility along U.S. Highway 14 on the east edge of Kasson.

Czaplewski has other locations in Hayfield and Dodge Center as well as another funeral service, Ranfranz and Vine in Rochester.

The main office will continue to be Hayfield for now.

"We want to serve families in Kasson," said Paul Czaplewski, owner of the funeral home. "The community deserves something nice."

The new Kasson location features the first crematory service in Dodge County. Czaplewski said he currently has been doing about 500 cremations a year at his Rochester location and hopes to offset some of them with the Kasson facility. He anticipates doing about 100 cremations in Kasson.

"It was pushing the limit in Rochester," Czaplewski said. Czaplewski is finding more and more people are opting for cremations. About 65 percent of the funerals in Rochester are cremation while it lags a little behind at 50 percent in Kasson, according to Czaplewski. That's a far cry from the 10 percent rate for cremations when he got into the business in 1988. He expects cremations to continue growing in the coming years, but eventually it will likely level off.

The Kasson facility, which is 8,000 square feet, offers a chapel that seats up to 200 people. There is also a luncheon area for seating of 90 people. The home is large enough to utilize for visitations so that families don't need to use a church. The home can also be used for funeral services, though most of them are still usually done at churches.

Czaplewski said he had looked at many different floor plans before settling on the one he did. "This is very functional," he said. "From the public's standpoint where they walk in, it's open and has high ceilings."

He is looking forward to offering services through the Kasson location where people don't have to reach out to anywhere else. "We're a one stop shop funeral home," Czaplewski said. "We can get everything done here." Helping Czaplewski is his longevity in the area. He purchased the Hayfield funeral home in 1995. "People know who I am," he said. "People look for trust in funeral services. They put trust in us," he added.

He is looking forward to having his son, Ben, take over the Kasson location next year after he graduates from the University of Minnesota's Mortuary Science program. "My son is excited," Czaplewski said. "He can't wait to move to Kasson next year."

With his son coming on board, Czaplewski hopes he can slow down within the next 10 years.

"At least I will know I have a succession plan of turning it over to another generation," he said.

There are currently six licensed morticians serving all the locations.

One service that Czaplewski is proud to offer is prearranged funerals at no cost. Though people don't like to talk about death, he encourages people to prearrange their funerals. He said it's a gift that parents can give their children so that they don't have to deal with everything when the unfortunate time comes for a funeral.

"People can come in and give us their wishes," Czaplewski said. "Our staff helps them with prearrangements."

Business Briefs

Employer panel to focus on hiring felons

An employer panel discussion will take place on Tuesday, July 17 regarding the benefits to hiring justice-involved people.

The Workforce Development and Minnesota Department of Corrections will teach employers on the benefits of hiring individuals with felony records.

Employers will learn about career technical training the DOC provides men and women in correctional facilities to prepare them for careers upon release. The panel will also focus on innovative strategies employers are utilizing to hire people with felonies.

The panel will begin with networking and a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by the presentation from 9 a.m. to noon. It will be held at the Workforce Development Center, 2070 College View Road East, Rochester.

Registration for the panel is free, but RSVP is required.

Habitat for Humanity expands staff, adds new program

Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce the launch of its new Aging-In-Place Repairs Program.

This program will be run along side the group's home building efforts and will enable them to help even more people achieve or maintain their dream of home ownership.

To facilitate this new program, Cora Jensen has joined the Habitat staff as Aging-In-Place Coordinator. Jensen is a recent graduate from Minnesota State University with a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Studies. After interning with Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity throughout the summer of 2017, she is excited to be rejoining the team.

In her role as Aging-in-Place Coordinator, Jensen will be giving leadership to all aspects of our AIP program, including family communication, schedule coordination, the guidance of volunteers, and developing relationships with community partners that serve older Americans. Her position is being funded by a competitive grant that Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity was awarded by Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat for Humanity wants to empower older adults to remain in homes and enhance health, safety, and livability, while reducing the need for costly institutional care.

The Aging-in-Place Program helps low-income homeowners with interior and exterior home repairs and modifications to enable the homeowners to stay in their homes. These non-emergency home repairs are a hand up, not a hand out. An affordable repayment plan will be established with homeowners, so that current projects can help fund future projects.

The need for Aging-In-Place is greater than ever before, with nearly 9,000 homes in Olmsted County owned by people aged 65 and older. That's one in every five homes in Olmsted County. Everyone deserves to live with dignity in their own home and community. Through the Aging-In-Place Program, we will work to help many people in our communities do just that.









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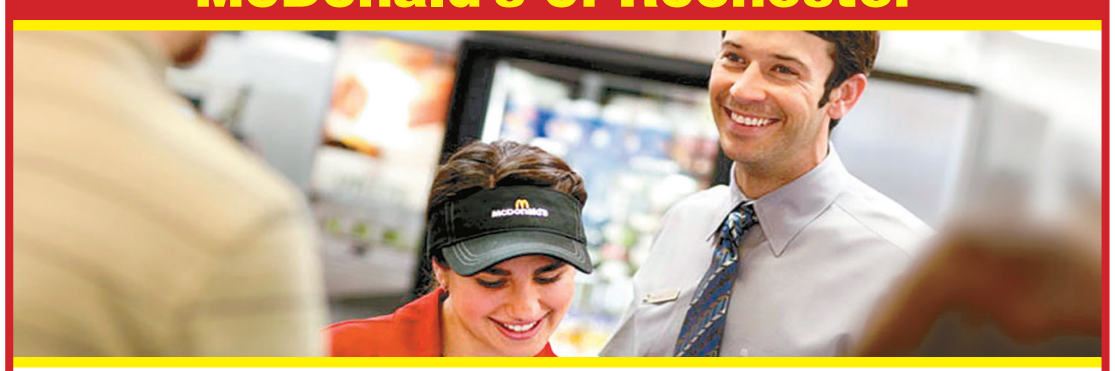
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A strong work ethic with the ability to work independently is a must. Benefit package offers insurance, paid vacation, paid travel, uniforms, tools, meal allowance, and company vehicle.

Interested applicants may apply online at **www.McCourtesy.com** or mail a resume to Courtesy Corporation, 2700 National Drive, Suite 100, Onalaska, WI, 54650.

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 Lemond 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 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: 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.

"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.
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 mortgagor(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)

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7/24,7/31,8/7

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NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No:
74-PR-18-1103

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Juan Villarreal Jr.,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on August 6th, 2018, at 2:45 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, March 1, 2000 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Amy M. Villarreal, whose address is 400 Willow Creek Drive, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT
Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
6.13.2018

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@owatonnalawyers.com

7/10,7/17

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No:
74-PR-18-1204

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT

Estate of
Rick L. Standke
Decedent

Shelly J. Standke "Petitioner" has filed a Petition for Determination of Descent.

It is Ordered that on August 6, 2018 , at 2:45 , a hearing will be held in this Court at Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota , on the petition.

The petition represents that the decedent died testate more than three (3) years ago leaving property in Minnesota. The petition requests the Court probate the decedent's last Will dated October 9, 2000 , determine the descent of such property and assign the property to the persons entitled.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the petition will be granted.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Publishing this Notice and Order in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 524.1-401(3).

BY THE COURT
Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS
Stephen J. Smith
(MN# 102799)
108 W Park Sq., Ste. A ~ P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
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7/10,7/17

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NEW 2 & 3 BD TOWNHOMES Dodge Center opening July & August 2018. $995 & $1035 p/mo. Two story with attached single stall garage. Some utilities included. No pets, no smoking, one-year leases and student & income restrictions may apply. 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-457-0704 EHO 27-30chg

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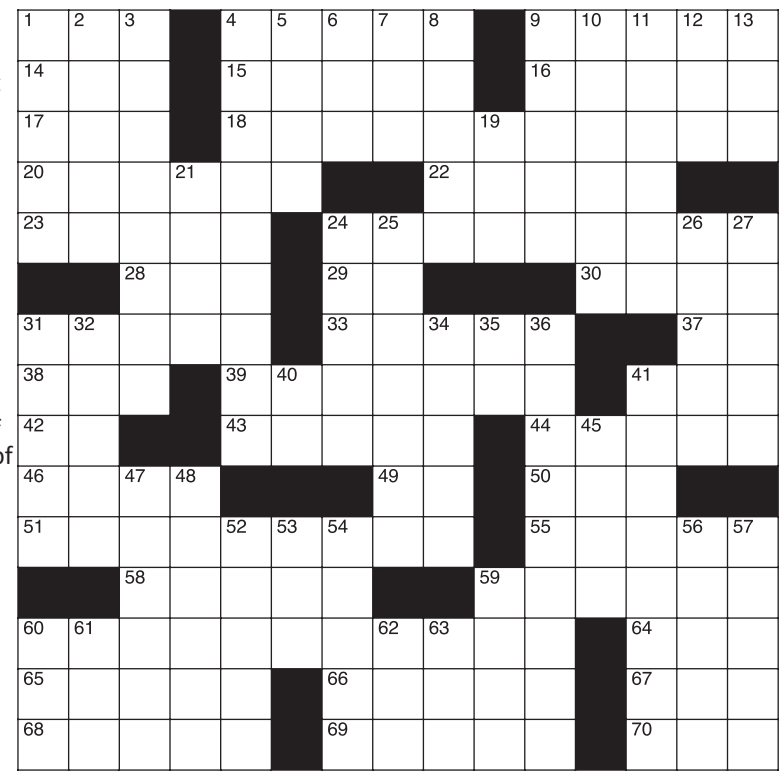
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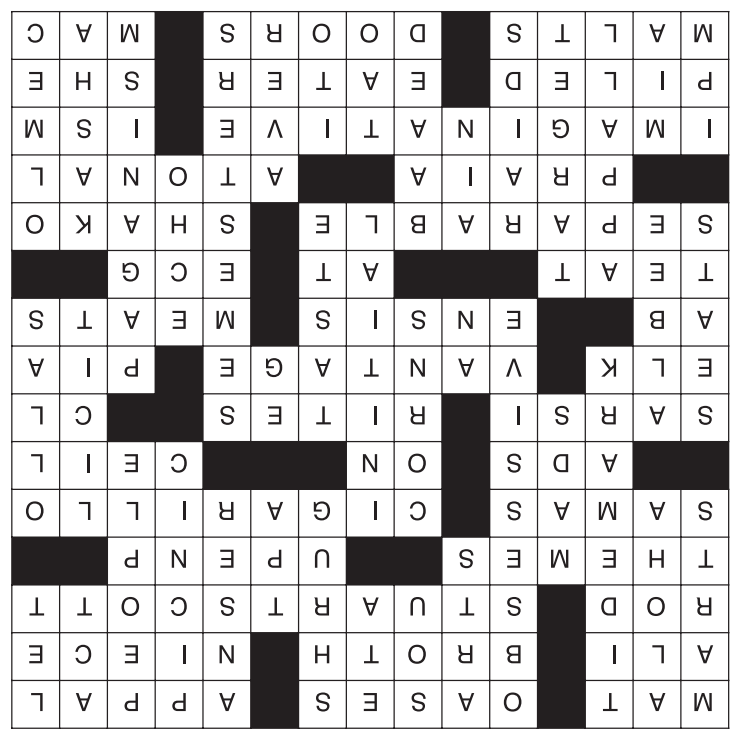
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Thick flat pad
4. Green regions of desert
9. Fill with dismay
14. Boxing legend
15. Soup
16. Your sibling's daughter
17. A long thin implement
18. Late ESPN anchor
20. Motives
22. Astronumerology term
23. Semitic Sun god
24. Small cigar
28. Promotions
29. Not off
30. Line or plaster the roof
31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
33. Rituals
37. Chlorine
38. Red deer
39. Offers a good view
41. Post-indictment arrangement
42. Blood group
43. Razor clams
44. Fleshes of animals
46. Nipple
49. Indicates position
50. Electrocardiogram
51. Can be disconnected
55. Tall military cap
58. Cape Verde capital
59. Not written in any key
60. Creative
64. Suffix
65. Stacked
66. One who consumes
67. Not he
68. Whiskey and milk are two
69. Entryways
70. __ and cheese

CLUES DOWN
1. Marketplaces
2. Hawaiian greeting
3. Mark left by the sea
4. Strongly affected by something
5. Music and painting are two
6. Small coin (French)
7. Letter of the Greek alphabet
8. A gesture involving the shoulders
9. Grey geese
10. Meal in the park
11. Human beings
12. What thespians do
13. Allow
19. Third-party access
21. "Casino Royale" villain Mikkelsen
24. Painful foot problems
25. The very first
26. Lawful
27. Ceramic jars
31. Hind ends
32. "Virginia Woolf" author
34. Try
35. For instance
36. Academic terms
40. Article
41. Religious belief outside the mainstream
45. Sound caused by reflection
47. Greatly horrify
48. Prey
52. Forays
53. River in eastern France
54. Bleated
56. Soft food cooked from buckwheat
57. Pre-Mayan civilization
59. Assert to be the case
60. Inches per minute (abbr.)
61. "Rosemary's Baby" actress Farrow
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Simpson trial judge



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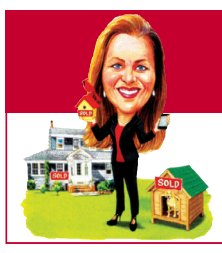
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The Sound Guy readies for yet another fair

Myron Aldrich sounds off once again

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Myron Aldrich, soon to be 90 years young, is sounding off once again.

Aldrich has been the chief sound man at the Steele County Free Fair's Fair Square Park the past 25 years and will begin his 26th year next month.

"It's gonna be some fun," chuckled Aldrich as he rode with his family on a vacation.

Aldrich turns 90 on Aug. 21 and will celebrate his 69th wedding anniversary with Lois on Sept. 23.

In the early days of working with the sound at Fair Square Park, Aldrich said he would put in 16 hours a day. He said now it has been reduced to 8 or 9 hours a day, and he has more help.

In Aldrich's early sound days, the stage had to be set up every day and taken down at night. "It looks like a semi when it's folded," he said. Now, the stage can be left up from day to day. The miles of cable can also be left from day to day, he said.

Known as The Sound Guy, Aldrich clings to that title and is proud of it.

Aldrich, a 37-year veteran of IBM, picked up the sound guy tag in 1993 when a good friend of his, Ron Houghtlin introduced him to Todd Hale, former publicity director at the Steele County Free Fair. Hale needed help with the fair sound system.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Those who attended many events at the Fair Square Park United Prairie Stage during the Steele County Free Fair may have noticed a familiar face near the sound system. That face belongs to Myron Aldrich who has been running the Fair Square Park sound system the past 23 years.

> "It's gonna be some fun."
>
> **Myron Aldrich**
> Fair's Sound Guy

The opportunity appealed to Aldrich because he already was doing the sound system at the Assembly of God Church in Owatonna.

"Myron is a most loyal sound man who used to do it all by himself in the early years and put in some very long hours," Hale commented.

Setting up the stage and sound system has been a major responsibility of Aldrich, one he handled alone until recently.

Setting up sound depends on the needs of the entertainers, Aldrich said. One of the most trying times is setting up for the talent show on Saturday and again on the day of the show on Sunday.

"There are 20-30 acts trying out for the talent show and many of the performers have not been on stage before and must be familiarized with the equipment," Aldrich said. "It's fun meeting young talent," he added.

Asked what he likes best about the Steele County Fair, Aldrich answers quickly. "I don't get to see much of the fair," he says. He confesses, however, that he does sneak away to an occasional food stand and especially likes root beer floats.

Aldrich is proud to be part of the free fair work crew. "It's one of the best fairs in the state, I know that," he said.

Aldrich's interest in staging and sound came from his lifetime vocation working with IBM and from his time spent in the U.S. Army with the Signal Corps. Aldrich served during the Korean War.

He repaired teletypes for the Signal Corps. He also shot signals into the air to propagate radio signals around the world. "I almost got into the area in the Pacific where they were testing the A-bomb," he said.

Aldrich was born near Sauk Centre and moved to Owatonna in 1953. His father owned a grocery store in Verndale.

When not doing sound at the fair, Aldrich loves to do home repairs and installing of appliances. "My wife says someone is always asking me to fix something," he says.

An objective for Aldrich is to have even sound for everyone. "Some say it's too loud and others say it should be louder," Aldrich says. Looking at the smile on The Sound Guy's face, it is apparent that the sound is just right.

The Muckle Museum



Steely's Insights
WAYNE STEELE

The Muckle Museum at the Steele County Free Fair is looking for volunteers the week of the fair. If you would be interested in helping in the museum during the fair please contact the fair office at 451-5305.

Fair workers are needed!

Many food and commercial vendors throughout the fair are in need of workers during the fair. If you would like to work for a vendor, please come into the Steele County Free Fair office to complete an application or visit our website at scff.org. Please return the application to the Steele County Free Fair office as soon as possible.

Fair Office and Parking

The Steele County Free Fair office is in need of volunteers, daily from 9:30–10:30 a.m., to deliver news letters to all the vendors throughout the fair.

The fair also needs volunteers to help with parking the week of the fair. Please contact the fair office if you are interested in volunteering.

The Steele County Free Fair is the best county fair in Minnesota because of its many volunteers.

Wayne Steele is the entertainment and publicity director for the Steele County Free Fair.



Times begins weekly fair coverage

With just over a month left to the start of Minnesota's largest county fair in Steele County, fair coverage kicks into high gear this week as the Times begins its countdown to the fair.

Starting this week and leading right up to the fair, the Times will be devoting extra space to the Steele County Free Fair and showcasing photos, columns and special features highlighting the state's largest fair and the county's largest summer celebration.

The fair runs Aug. 14-19.

As has been the tradition for the Times for the past nine years, staff members will focus on human-interest stories related to the fair.

"We love to find the interesting people who put their own special touch on the fair," said Rick Bussler, publisher of the Times. "The fair is rich with people who love to volunteer to make it the best fair in the state."

Members of the Times staff will rotate in bringing stories each and every week until the start of the fair. In addition, the Times will be publishing a special section devoted to the fair on Aug. 7.

Bussler said the fair is a big deal and needs to be treated as such through the newspaper's special coverage.

For 147 years, the fair has played an integral part in the fabric of life in Steele County as well as surrounding counties. For the past 100 years, the fair has been located in its current location in Owatonna.

"We hope to capture some of the magic through our special stories on the people who are devoted to making the fair so special for everyone else," Bussler said.

Sheriff focused on keeping children safe

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

With the upcoming Steele County Free Fair, Sheriff Lon Thiele wants to remind parents of small children about a simple solution that can make all the difference if a child gets separated from their guardian.

"We always tell people to take a picture of the child before they go to the fair," Thiele said. "That way if the child were to get separated, then we have an up-to-date picture to use to help locate them."

Thiele said lost and missing children are the main issue that officers deal with when it comes to safety and security at the fair, and in the heat of the moment, parent often forget what clothes their child is wearing. Having a picture from that day makes it easier for officers to locate the lost or missing child.

"We have a quite a few children that wonder off and get misled somewhere else," he said. "But there are a lot of people who come into town for one of the biggest, if not the biggest, county fairs in the state, so we know things like this are going to happen."

Parents should also have their child prepared in case they are separated.

"They should at least try to have the child remember their phone number," Thiele said. "Or have some kind of plan in place on how they can get a hold of them or where they can meet them."

Thiele said he wants parents to be aware of the Sheriff's Shack that is set up every year by the Muckle Museum during the fair.

"We will have the child identification tag there," he said. "That way if their child does wonder off, then at least they have a ID tag that we can use to help them find and locate their loved ones."

Thiele is currently in Washington D.C.at the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit.

He was one of 28 Chief Law Enforcement Officers (CLEO) from around the country who were selected to attend the event.

"It's all about protecting the kids," Thiele said. " I want to make sure that all the children are safe."