

*Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893*

OUR VIEW

Blossoms pride swells to all-time high

Football fever is running at an all-time high this week in Blooming Prairie. On Saturday, the Awesome Blossoms made school history. For the first time ever, the football team cruised into the state championship title game by blasting past Ada-Borup 41-0.

Coach Chad Gimbel got a little emotional over the team's success at a press conference after the game Saturday afternoon. He is obviously super proud of his team led by captains Matthew Pryor, Jarrett Larson and Gabe Hagen. With tears welling up in his eyes, Gimbel said, "As a coach and a player that's been through it for so many years to finally drag through and get that opportunity that's a huge step for us and for our program and for our kids."

It was energizing to see the fan's excitement and emotions after the game at U.S. Bank Stadium. There were cheers of excitement, tears of joy, hugs to cherish the moment and Blossom mania to cover the entire complex.

The best part of this is that fans will be able to savor the excitement for at least two weeks as the state championship isn't played until the day after Thanksgiving. The Blossoms have a well-deserved break this week to gear up for the state finals.

Throughout the season it has been exciting to watch the Blossoms on the field. Perhaps what's most exciting about this team is that there is really no one player stealing the limelight. As captain Jarrett Larson pointed out after Saturday's victory, "It was a total team effort." And that can be used to describe the success of this Blossom team throughout the entire season.

Revenge is one thing that is sticking in the minds of the Blossoms as they prepare for the state title game. Last year they lost to BOLD in the state semi-finals 37-7, giving the Blossoms their only loss of the past two seasons. Let's hope the Blossoms can bring home the school's first ever state football championship by knocking down BOLD.

It's time to see Blooming Prairie added to the list of state champions for football. It's an honor that would be so well deserving of a group of talented athletes that has made Blooming Prairie swell with so much school pride this fall.

Go Awesome Blossoms!

Let's remember the real warriors in the Hwy. 14 expansion

Over the past few weeks we have written several stories, editorials and columns about the Hwy. 14 expansion between Owatonna and Dodge Center finally getting underway after decades of political fighting to find the funding.

At the groundbreaking a couple weeks ago most of the ceremony seemed to center on area politicians whooping it up and taking credit for finally getting the bill passed. One senator flashed his own personalized license plate "Hwy 14" to the crowd while others passed around the champagne bottles with a "Hwy 14" sticker attached to them.

Much of our coverage has centered on politicians taking all the credit for the expansion. It truly was a big celebration and well deserved. And, yes they deserve kudos, but...

While I'm not here to take anything away from what the lawmakers accomplished, I can't help but think about the families that have been affected by the horror and grief caused by Hwy. 14 over the years. In amongst the celebrations by the lawmakers, I think the victims are kind of minimized and perhaps even at times forgotten about.

The troubled Hwy. 14 roadway is, for obvious reasons, a very emotional issue for many people.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Beth Hodgman of West Concord is one of them. She lost her husband, Scott, in a crash in 2012.

It may be seven years ago since the crash claimed the life of the popular Dodge County businessman, but the pain is still real. After the groundbreaking, I exchanged a hug with Beth as our paths have crossed numerous times over the years in an effort to get people to understand what's at stake with a roadway that has become known as the "Highway of Horrors."

She acknowledged super excitement over the latest developments with Hwy. 14, but it doesn't come without great pain. "It's exciting, it's emotional, it's been hard," she said fighting back tears. "Scott's death can't be for nothing."

As the Hwy. 14 project picks up steam and machines begin moving dirt over the next year, I hope people will never the hurt folks like Beth Hodgman

continue to deal with on a daily basis. Survivors of Hwy. 14 crash victims are dealing with a lifetime sentence of heartache and incredible pain.

Hwy. 14 is getting taken care of because of fighters like Beth, not lawmakers seeking re-election every two or six years. Beth and others who achieve no political gain from this are the real heroes in the Hwy. 14 expansion. I may step out on a limb with this, but I don't think Hwy. 14 would have ever gotten done if it wasn't for Beth. She spent endless hours battling at the State Capitol.

As she reminded me on the day of the groundbreaking, she had a story and it was real. Losing a loved one is the ultimate price one can pay.

Don't let the politicians fool you. They may know the strings to pull to get things done, but in the end it got accomplished because of survivors like Beth Hodgman. And for that we all need to be forever grateful.

I'm sorry that Beth and so many others are living a nightmare every day. It's my hope, however, that you can take a little comfort in knowing your loss will help so many other people for decades to come.

There is no question that expanding Hwy. 14 will go in hot pursuit of saving lives.



Carpentry students at BPHS build storage shed

What's going on behind closed doors at Blooming Prairie High School?

It looks like they are building a house in the industrial arts area located on the south end of the high school.

No, it's not a house; it's an outdoor storage shed that Construction Technology class members are building.

The nine class members are directed by Bill (Rink) Rinkenberger, vocational agriculture instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor. This shed represents the seventh structure that a Rinkenberger class has built.

Rinkenberger has seen membership in FFA grow from 12 members in 2003 to 54 in 2019. That is quite a credit to his teaching ability.

Rink also works as a farmhand in the Claremont area.

Two of the seven sheds were constructed for the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's annual auctions. "There was a lot of interest in community members buying the shed the first year, but interest trailed off the second year," Rinkenberger said.

The construction technology class has also built a storage shed for girls softball storage and one for Blossom football storage.

On this particular day, students were on scaffolding putting the structure together. Their project is to build a 16 by 12 foot wooden shed with a mini steel rollup door.

The shed is being built for a private party who pays the school a contracted price.

Rinkenberger says the students "really enjoy" working on this construction project.

In addition to developing building skills, the students utilize their math skills in shaping a construction plan. Rinkenberger said. "The kids learn how to calculate figures for angles, feet and pitch of the building."

The students are very involved and committed, Rinkeberger says. He some-



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

times gets involved, hands-on the project but at other times, he says he sits and watches the young carpenters.

Each student has a job, says Rinkenberger, for example two people are in charge of quality when building the shed's walls.

"The kids love to come to class and they hate to leave when the bell rings," Rinkenberger remarked.

After the students have finished cleaning up their work

area, they retire to the classroom where they are given a treat, two boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

It becomes a free-for-all as the class members attempt to claim some cookies. "Each person gets two cookies," Rinkenberger tells the students.

This class can lead some of the students toward a career path, Rinkenberger says.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A Construction Technology class member saws a piece of wood to be used for finishing construction of an outdoor storage shed at Blooming Prairie High School.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Young carpenters from the Construction Technology class work on building an outdoor storage shed at Blooming Prairie High School. Student workers use scaffolding to work on a section of the shed.

YOUR VIEW

Thanks for veterans coverage

To-the-Editor:
I just want to say thank you for the superb coverage you have given Squadron #52 – the Blooming Prairie Sons of the American Legion, the Committee of 7, and the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Corporation, for the last five years.

The Steele County Times has been our voice in reaching out to the Blooming Prairie and the surrounding communities.

The Veterans Memorial Special Edition for Veterans Day was especially touching and poignant in helping us all to remember our Veterans.

Your support of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial is admirable. Thank You for all you have done!

Tom Peterson
Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Blooming Prairie VFW and Auxiliary again sponsored the Voice of Democracy Audio and Essay Contest. Three winners were selected. Shown from left are: Chloe McCarthy, second place; Susan Smith, first place and Abby Hefling, third place.

Susan Smith wins local Voice of Democracy contest

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Fourteen ninth graders from Blooming Prairie High School competed in the patriotic audio/essay contest sponsored by VFW Post 878 and its auxiliary.

Susan Abigail Smith was judged the winner of the contest and will receive a \$100 cash prize.

Chloe McCarthy was second, winning \$75 and Abby Hefling placed third, earning \$50.

Theme for this year's contest was "What Makes America Great."

Teacher Kurt Foster coordinated the contest with a class assignment.

Voice of Democracy (VOD) is an annual nationwide scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). It is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12.

The program annually provides more than \$2.3 million in scholarships.

The Blooming Prairie VFW's first-place winner now advances to the district contest. Winner of the district contest

goes to state and the state winner goes to the national where the first place finisher receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

The Voice of Democracy Program began in 1946 and was originally sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters.

Initially, there were four winners selected, representing the North, South, East and West regions of the country. Each winner received a \$500 savings bond and a wristwatch.

The second year of the program, a student by the name of Charles Kuralt, the late television news broadcaster and author, was one of the winners.

Historically, the Voice of Democracy theme (chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief annually) is purposely kept broad in scope to allow the participant flexibility in interpretation, and thus, encourage originality.

Judges for the local contest were Roger Sorenson and Marilyn Witzel. Diane Nelson was chairperson of this year's local contest.

Who is the SCROOGIEST of all?



KEN BEHNKEN



NELDA HABERMAN

BP kicks off holidays with Scrooge contest

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The hunt is on once again to name Ebenezer Scrooge for 2019 in Blooming Prairie.

Every Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Dazzle features a Scrooge contest.

Becky Noble, executive director of the Chamber, announced the names of four candidates. They are Ken Behnken, Nelda Haberman, Jason Vorlicek and Terry Zwiener.

Money collection jars are located at four Blooming Prairie area

businesses: Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gifts, J & H Liquors, B to Z Hardware, BP Servicemen's Club, Vandal's, and the Pizza Cellar.

Take some money out of your wallet and place in the jar of the Scrooge you would like to see win the contest. Homecoming king Seth Peterson was last year's winner.

Voting continues from now until Friday, Dec. 6, the day of the Holiday Dazzle event.

Monies from the contest go to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Light Fund.



JASON VORLICEK



TERRY ZWIENER

Wine tasters attend pre-Holiday Dazzle

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

An estimated 80 persons attended the annual Pre-Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting Party on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

The event's proceeds went to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

Liquors, Johnson Doerhoefer & Miner, Krejci Ford, Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic, BP Servicemen's Club, US Bank, Vandal's, Eunice Doocy, Monica Doocy and Becky Noble.

Mystery prizes were provided by B to Z Hardware, BP Public Utilities & SMMPA, BP Chamber, Casey's, Courtney Vermilyea, Cutting Edge, Farm-



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Suzie Pechacek and Kay Noble were big winners of prizes at the annual Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting Party on Nov. 7 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Chamber member Nancy Farr of J & H Liquors chaired the event.

Three wine reps participated in the popular event. They were:

- Paustis Wine Co., Justin Esplan
- Phillips Wine Co., Willie Huebner
- Wine Merchants, Mark Weimer

Donating appetizers were: The Bakery, BP Cue Co./Pizza Cellar, Casey's General Store, J & H

ers & Merchants Bank, J & H Liquors, Koster's Car Korner, Krejci Ford, Main Street Dental, Pizza Cellar/Cue Co., Prairie Plumbing & Heating, Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gift, Sportstitch, US Bank, Highway 218 Off Sale and Vandal's.

Helpers were: Kathy Anderson, Taylor Farr, Karen Dording, Monica Doocy, Becky Noble, Jennifer Milton and Cheri Krejci.

They keep coming back at BP Library

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A boomerang keeps coming back, and, so do Boomerang bags being created by Friends of the Library volunteers in Blooming Prairie as part of a Thrivent event.

Nine creative women got together last Wednesday, Nov. 13 to make some Boomerang bags. What

are Boomerang bags any way? They are handcrafted cloth bags carrying many colorful designs.

Linda Christianson of Friends of the Library chaired the event and had eight other participants. Working on the project in the city council chambers were: Christianson, Judy Bishop, Marti Walters, Barb Blome, Carol Holman, Nancy Hansen, Nancy Vail-

lancourt, Catherine Lightly and Marilyn Severtsen.

The Boomerang bag concept was originated in Australia, says Christianson. Two young women wanted to eliminate plastic bags and replaced them with reusable bags.

Christianson bought the fabric with funds given by Thrivent. She acquired 22 different designs.

Here's a sampling of

some of the patterns: books, dinosaurs, dog bones, construction equipment, unicorns, mermaids, Star Wars characters, Paris scene, hunting and fishing, baking, baseball, dogs and Day of the Dead.

Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch, Blooming Prairie, provided red logo designs that will be sewn onto the bags.

The bags will be avail-

able at the BP Library. The first 25 youngsters receiving the bags will also receive a special gift inside, a t-shirt with a special design.

The goal is to make up to 100 of these bags, Christianson said. "We have lots of good sewers," she pointed to the busy sewing machines in action.

Austin and Faribault have both sponsored this project in hopes to elimi-

nate plastic bags.

To illustrate their dedication, some volunteers took the fabric home and are completing the bags on their home turf.

"I'm so grateful for the Friends of the Library making this happen," said Vaillancourt.

At the end of their first work day at the Blooming Prairie City Center, volunteers completed 12 bags.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Boomerang bag group members show some reusable bags they made at a recent work session at the Blooming Prairie City Center. Shown from left to right are: Barb Blome, Marti Walters, Carol Holman, Judy Bishop, Linda Christianson, Nancy Hansen and Catherine Lightly.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Barb Blome was one of several Friends of the Library members who gathered at the Blooming Prairie City Center recently to make Boomerang bags for youngsters who visit the BP Library.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

CRIME BRIEF

Man nabbed for child exploitation

Another case involving child exploitation has a man facing serious felonies.

Zacharish Montgomery, 34, of Rochester, has been charged with attempted third degree criminal sexual conduct, engaging in electronic communications relating/ describing sexual conduct with a child and distributing electronic communication describing sexual conduct to a child.

Owatonna Police received the investigation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last week. The case involves the social media site KIK and an adult attempting to engage in sexual contact with a child.



Zacharish Montgomery

According to police, Montgomery reached out to a DHS agent who was posing undercover as a 15-year-old girl and solicited the undercover agent for sex in Owatonna. Montgomery is also accused of exchanging a sexually explicit video of himself to the undercover agent.

Local detectives staked out the planned meeting spot in Owatonna and quickly made the arrest when Montgomery showed up. In an interview with police, Montgomery admitted that he planned to meet in Owatonna to have sex with a child.

Police made a similar arrest in late September involving a 49-year-old man.

Police probe second bomb threat

Police in Owatonna are investigating a second bomb threat.

On Nov. 7 at about 5 p.m., officers responded to the Target store in Owatonna for a bomb threat. Target management evacuated the store and officers assisted staff with a search of the building. The all clear was given within 30 minutes.

Officers also handled a bomb threat at Daiken Applied on Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. In that case, a suspicious device was located and had to be handled by the St. Paul Bomb Squad.

Anyone with information related to the most recent bomb threat or the threat at Daikin is encouraged to call Owatonna Police at 507-774-7207.

Police build awareness through Citizen's Academy

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Since 2013 the Owatonna Police Department has offered local residents the chance to learn more about the work they do each fall by offering a Citizen's Academy.

"It's an opportunity for us to meet with people who live and work in Owatonna and our ultimate goal is to help people understand the Owatonna Police Department and what we do," Chief Keith Hiller explained. "We build community awareness."

The course runs for eight weeks. This year's course began on Oct. 28. "They get a strong understanding of police operations and a comprehensive overview of different sections, including the detective bureau, a day in the life of a judge, the SWAT team, and we cap it off with a class on gangs and drugs," Hiller said.

Hiller said that they have received consistently positive feedback from those who participate in the program. "It's just a wonderful opportunity for people to meet with police officers so they can make an informed opinion about our department and about our community," he said.

One of this year's participants, Kevin Gallagher, said that he had always wanted to take the course. "I've known about it and thought about it for a number of years and thought this is the year I would do it," Gallagher said. "I'm glad I did."



PHOTO COURTESY OWATONNA POLICE

Local residents get the opportunity to learn more about the Owatonna Police Department and the work they do as part of the Citizen's Academy. The program is offered every fall by the OPD and helps to build understanding and appreciation between the community and the department.

"We don't always have the appreciation for the situations that these men and women are put in on a daily basis."

Kevin Gallagher
Citizens Academy Participant

Gallagher has both a son and son-in-law who work as police officers, and was eager to learn about the work they and others like them do. "It covers things that I think anybody should be interested in," he said.

"The classes we've had so far have been incredibly well-prepared and I don't think that there's

any question that the next six weeks will be just as well-prepared and informative," Gallagher opined. "It's very interesting with good information."

An important part of the program is bridging gaps between the department and the community. "I think the information presented helps to instill a

better understanding and a deeper appreciation for what these brave men and women do day-in and day-out when they put on the uniform," Gallagher said.

"We don't always have the appreciation for the situations that these men and women are put in on a daily basis," Gallagher added. "I know the OPD does a fantastic job, and I recommend everyone to take advantage of this program."

Chief Hiller echoed the sentiments of Gallagher, saying, "anytime you can have a program where people can gain public knowledge about the department and have an opportunity to gain understanding, it develops a bond and provides a fun and open environment for learning."

"I think sometimes people have the perception that the police department is something of a mythical entity or that it is separate from the community," Hiller said. "We want to demonstrate that we are very much a part of the community and we are only successful because of our community."

With such a great program available for local residents, that understanding is all the more apparent. "We care a great deal about the community, and we take great pride in taking care of their safety," Hiller said. "I think they get to see that in our eyes and they have a very different understanding of police and police services when they participate in all eight weeks."

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 4 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Jeffery A. Peltier, 40, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession or sale of stolen or counterfeit check. He was sentenced to \$1,060.59 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Jeremy R. Trevino, 29, Ft. Worth, TX, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. Trevino was sentenced to \$131 and 75 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 4 – 10:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mikayla J. Olson, 19, New Richland, speeding, \$115.

MN STATE PATROL GOLDEN VALLEY

Denzell A. Walker, 29, Burnsville, speeding, \$121.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Benjamin P. Acosta, 42, East St. Paul, no license, \$181; Jose M. Arriga, 47, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Marcello Bermea III, 35, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Tyler S. Breidel, 26, Rochester, no license, \$181; Carter R. Bublitz, 18, Mason City, IA, no license and seat belt, \$206; Gabriela Y. Castro Esquer, 23, Claremont, no license, \$175; Said M. Farah, 32, St. Louis Park, owner allow illegal operation, \$181; Mark A. Froemming, 52, New Ulm, seat belt, \$106; Noe E. Hernandez Mendoza, 22, Chicago, IL, possession of marijuana, \$125; Jose G. Hernandez Rosales, 31, Hurst, TX, no license, \$175; Gage M. Johnson, 21, Warsaw, speeding, \$115; Tanner L. Kadrlík, 25, Hope, speeding, \$135; Raymond J. Kubat, 74, Medford, seat belt, \$106; Juanita E. List, 50, Medford, speeding, \$115; German Lopez, 28, presence of alcohol, \$375; Kiana R. Louks, 19, Owatonna, unsafe change of course and permit violation, \$181; William B. Manke, 70, Mendota

Heights, speeding, \$115; Abraham D. Ryan, 26, Owatonna, illegal u-turn, \$131; Mirrela I. Salas Medrano, 20, Mankato, permit violation, \$131; Amy L. Scheeler, 34, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; David J. Schnorenberg, 37, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$125; Prince K. Smith, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Braden J. Stork, 23, Claremont, seat belt, \$106; Glenn A. Weidendorf, 31, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brandon D. Berg, 29, Owatonna, reckless driving, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Douglas M. Blouin, 59, Ellendale, revoked license, \$281; Shawn J. Brown, 33, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131; Maria L. Castellanos, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$85; Ralph E. Cowell, 66, Owatonna, littering, \$175; Adam D. Edmunds, 27, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$131; Lindsay K. Falvey, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; David N. Fournier, 57, St. Paul, DWI, \$375, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency

evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Aldo O. Garcia, 49, Faribault, cancelled license, \$281; Leason Hedson, 36, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Dylan D. Hohenstein, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Ashley D. Hyde, 27, St. George, UT, invalid license, \$181; Abby M. Koch, 22, Owatonna, open bottle, \$175; Allen I. Mark, 24, Faribault, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$175; Sabrina R. Schmitz, 24, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Kimberly J. Schultz, 33, Owatonna, theft, \$131; Casey C. Schueneman, 38, Owatonna, stalking, \$131, 117 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, maintain employment, mental health evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Alex D. Stewart, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Travis T. Stigney, 33, Moorhead, damage to property, \$818 and 28 days in county jail; Rafael E. Villegas Curetty, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Paul A. Alberts, 42, Kasson, speeding, \$215; Isaac R. Barr, 22, Marshall, MO, speeding, \$115; Breanne M. Burich, 29, speeding, \$141; Malik Q. Freeman, 23, Sun Prairie, WI, speeding, \$115; Alberto Garza, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Justina Z. Gaye, 21, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$221; Jafar M. Kini, 34, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$115; Austin T. Kofstad, 16, New Richland, speeding, \$125; John Long, 40, Waseca, possession of marijuana, \$50, 1 day in county jail,

maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 232 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Derek J. Lysne, 24, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Asmo N. Mahamed, 19, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; James M. Matsun, 38, West Concord, speeding, \$221; Terry L. Picha, 56, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Gurmeet Singh, 36, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$121; Janice E. Stafford, 54, Austin, speeding and expired tabs, \$151; Katrina M. Tillman, 39, Ellendale, permit violation, \$125; Thomas J. Wencil, 46, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121; Jessica M. Williams, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$221.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

Nov. 8 Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 800 block of 18th St. SE at 9:06 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:14 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 9:59 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Elm Ave. N. and 15th St. NE at 10:46 p.m.

Nov. 9 DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:31 p.m.

Nov. 10 DWI: Police made DWI arrests in the 200 block of Allan Ave. SW at 12:08 a.m. and at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 1:21 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 8:48 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Nov. 11 Arrest: Police responded to the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 10:50 a.m. after receiving a tip line call. They took a subject into custody.

Child Protection: Police received child protection reports from the 800 block of Elm Ave. N. at 3:03 p.m. and the 200 block of South St. E. at 3:04 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:55 p.m.

Nov. 12 DWI: Officer arrested a motorist for drunk driving at 46th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 12:54 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 26th St. NW and 4th Ave. NW at 2:14 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: At 12:16 p.m., police arrested a subject for criminal sexual conduct in the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 2 p.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:31 p.m.

Fire: Officers responded to a fire call in the 100 block of South St. E. at 11:54 p.m.

Nov. 13 Arrests: Police arrested motorists during traffic stops in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:01 p.m., the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 1:54 p.m. and the 100 block of Vine St. W. at 1:58 p.m.

Nov. 14 Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:46 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600



Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Meet Emily

Emily has been waiting for a Big for over 3 years. She is known for her friendly attitude, kind heart and good manners. She enjoys arts and crafts, playing games, baking, decorating and shopping. Emily does well academically and shared that her favorite subject is art. The best Big for Emily would be someone who could help her work on her science homework and encourage her to try new activities.

Help end the wait for Emily. YOU could be the Big who ignites her potential.

Become a Big today.

For more information call Megan at 507-451-5922 or visit www.bbbsouthernmn.org

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

1. Anthony Galloway – DWI – no bail

2. Ezequiel Garcia – failure to register sex offender – no bail

3. Jose Garcia – revoked license - \$3,000 bail

4. Jose Garcia – drugs – no bail

5. Alfredo Garza Jr. – no insurance, cancelled license - \$9,500 bail

6. Domach Gatluak – DWI – no bail

7. Zachary Gilliver – DWI – no bail

8. Conrad Ginter – DWI – no bail

9. James Gleason – hit and run - \$500 bail

10. Mark Gomez – assault - \$10,000 bail

11. Miguel Gomez – theft - \$1,000 bail

12. Carlos Gonzalez Jr. – speeding, revoked license - \$500 bail

13. Hiran Gonzalez – dishonored checks – no bail

14. Anthony Graham – theft - \$1,000 bail

15. Sameria Graves – false name - \$500 bail

16. Brandon Grunwald – DWI – no bail

17. Mercedes Guerrero – theft - \$500 bail

18. Steven Gustafson – warrant - \$2,000 bail

19. Ricio Guvrra – theft - \$300 bail

20. Mark Hage – indecent exposure - \$1,000 bail

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

How to Know When an Older Parent Has a Gambling Problem



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus



220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm worried that my 76-year-old father has become addicted to gambling. He spends at least two days a week at an Indian casino about a half-hour's drive from his house playing slot machines. What can I do?
Worried Daughter

Dear Worried,
Problem gambling among older adults is unfortunately on the rise. Studies suggest that more than 4 million Americans, age 65 and older, could have a gambling problem. The reasons behind this growing problem are because seniors have time and money on their hands and the influx of casinos that have cropped up around the country have made access to gambling much more convenient. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources that can help your dad if he does indeed have a problem.

PROBLEM GAMBLING

For most older adults, gambling is simply a fun recreational activity, but for those who become addicted to it, it can be a devastating disease that can financially wipe them out.

There are a number of reasons why seniors can be vulnerable to gambling problems. For starters, seniors are often catered to by casinos with free bus transportation, free drinks, discounted meals, special rewards and other prizes as a way to entice them.

In addition, many seniors use gambling as a way to distract or escape feelings of loneliness, depression or even a chronic health condition. Some may have financial problems they are seeking to overcome. And some may have cognitive impairment that interferes with their ability to make sound decisions.

Adding to the problem is that many seniors may not understand addiction, making them less likely to identify a gambling problem. Or they may be confused or embarrassed that they can't control their urges to gamble and reluctant to seek help because they think that at their age, they should know better. And even if they recognize that they have a problem, they may not know that help is available or where to get it.

You should also know that while there are many gambling options for people to get hooked on today, casino slot machines are far and away the most popular among seniors. Slot machines are much more addictive than the old machines of yesteryear with spinning lemons, cherries and melons. Many of today's slot machines offer intense sensory stimulation with large video screens, music and vibrating, ergonomic chairs.

GET HELP

How can you know if your dad has a gambling problem? Gamblers Anonymous offers a 20-question online test at *GamblersAnonymous.org* that he can take to help determine if he has a problem. In the meantime, here are some questions you can ask to help evaluate his situation.

- Is he preoccupied with gambling, constantly talking about it, or planning to gamble versus doing his normal activities?
- Is he gambling more and more money to get the same level of excitement?
- Is he using his retirement funds or other savings to gamble, or is he pawning or selling personal items to get money to gamble with?
- Has he lost control to the point that he can't set a limit of time and money to spend in the casino, and stick to it?
- Does he become uncomfortable, angry or lie when you ask him about his gambling activities?

If your dad answers yes to any of these questions, he may have a problem. To find help contact the National Council on Problem Gambling (*NCPgambling.org*), a non-profit organization that operates a 24-hour national hotline at 800-522-4700. They can direct you to resources in your area, including counselors who have been trained through the National Certified Gambler Counseling Program.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Nov. 24, 2009

RICK BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The Awesome Blossoms had a hard-fought season come to an abrupt end at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. The football team lost 49-26 to Minnesota in the state playoffs and had to settle for a semi-final plaque.

Two people lost their lives and 21 were injured when a charter bus coming back from Diamond Joe's Casino crashed on Interstate 90 Nov. 18. Blooming Prairie EMTs were paged to assist at the crash scene. Three people were airlifted and the rest were taken to hospitals in Austin and Albert Lea.

For every farmer in the Blooming Prairie area, it has been a tough go this year. An unusually cool summer made way for a wet and dreary October. The light at the end of the tunnel has come with the warm and sunny November we are experiencing.

20 Years Ago Nov. 23, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Post secondary option guidelines are on the books now, thanks to action taken by the Blooming Prairie School Board Nov. 15. Although it has been handled in the past, now there are written guidelines informing juniors and seniors options available and requirements expected of them. Administration recommended the policy for the board's approval.

Alliance Bank has a new Blooming Prairie office. It will be located on the main floor of the Blooming Prairie Clinic building.

Thomas A. Kuntz, general manager of Owatonna Public Utilities, has been elected to a one-year term as president of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. Richard D. Kittelson, general manager of utilities in Blooming Prairie, was elected vice president.

Kasey Kruckeberg of Blooming Prairie received a scholarship check from Dollars for Scholars. He is majoring in fisheries management at Lake Superior State. He is the son of Kevin and Cheryl Kruckeberg.

50 Years Ago Nov. 19, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

"Christmas Sweepstake," the pre-holiday promotion, will get underway in Blooming Prairie on Nov. 24, it was announced by the Civic Progress Club. This event is being held again this year after proving so successful in 1968.

James Poole, highly successful coach in the Blooming Prairie school system since 1958, has resigned as head basketball mentor and assistant track coach effective at the end of the current season.

The Blooming Prairie Garden Club elected new officers at its regular monthly meeting Nov. 17. Elected to serve during the coming year are Mrs. Frank Thissen, president; Mrs. Ruth Gilmore, vice president; Mrs. Charles Holmes, Jr., secretary; Mrs. Hermine Haubenschild, treasurer; Mrs. Grace Morgen, Sunshine committee and Mrs. Gladys Srsen, publicity.

75 Years Ago Nov. 23, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie has a new pastor. Rev. Father S.E. Mulchay of Windom is set to take charge of the parish. He has been at Windom since June 1939.

A War Department telegram from Washington, D.C. was received Monday bearing news that Chet Johnson was slightly wounded while in action somewhere in Germany. He entered the service on Jan. 20 of this year.

There are 3,422 children between the ages of 6 and 16 inclusive attending public and parochial schools in Steele County this year. The number of children under 6 years of age is 1,937. Those between the ages of 17 and 21, together with the children 16 years of age not attending school number 1,271. The grand total representing all of the children under 21 years of age is 6,630.

Special advertisement: "Boys! Boys! Boys! It's for You!" A youth victory center featuring boxing, ping pong and shuffle board, something for all ages, open Monday evening at 6:30 beginning Monday the 27th in the basement of the Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie.



OFFICERS of the 761 Foundation for 2019-20 are standing from left: Jan Mittelstadt Tippet, vice-chair, Greg Stroik, treasurer, and Mary Larson, secretary; seated is Bruce Paulson, chair.

Paulson re-elected chair of 761 Foundation

The 761 Foundation Board recently re-elected Bruce Paulson as chair of the philanthropic organization for the coming year. Also re-elected were: Jan Mittelstadt Tippet, vice chair; Greg Stroik, treasurer; and Mary Larson, secretary.

The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that administers scholarships and funds educational opportunities and programs in Steele County not usually supported by tax dollars. It provides curriculum support for agriculture, language arts, math, science, social studies,

music, art, and career and technical education, to name but a few areas.

Paulson, a retired vice president of Evapco and former president of King Company, has served on the 761 Foundation board since 2012. Tippet, a retired newspaper publisher and editor, has served on the board since 2016. Larson is a founding member of the Foundation board. She served on the Board of Education from 1971-1986. These three officers are all graduates of Owatonna High School.

Stroik has served as the treasurer of the board since its inception. He retired as the CFO of Federated Insurance in 2013.

Other 761 Foundation Board members include: Mark Dietz, Samona Grubish, Paul Knutson, Mark Sebring, George Dow, Charlie Herrmann, Barbara Judd and Sara McKay.

The Independent School District 761 Foundation has awarded nearly \$3.5 million for programs and scholarships since its inception. Its goal has been, and still is, to provide resources for programs not funded by tax dollars and to provide for post-secondary scholarships.

More information about the Foundation and its grants and programs may be found at *761foundation.com* or by calling 507-444-8610.

Now through Feb. 22, 2020!

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- KARE 11

"MY, MY, I can't resist it!"
- WCCO TV



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STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local, all the time.

12 Quilts of Valor awarded

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“These women have put their hearts, time and talents into these quilts.” That was a comment coming from Chris Butler, originator of the Quilts of Valor program in Blooming Prairie. Butler was paying tribute to the many women who hand crafted 12 quilts for members of the military.

Since Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2014, the local quilting group has made 162 Quilts of Valor and given them ceremonially to deserving members of the military.

As each service man and woman received their quilt, pride swelled in the recipients and with their families who were part of the 225 present at a special Veterans Day program Monday night, Nov. 11 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club.

Joyce Johns, president of VFW Post 878 of Blooming Prairie, served as emcee for the Quilts of Valor program.

Prior to the ceremony, Johns introduced leaders of the five service organizations in Blooming Prairie: Joyce Johns, president of the VFW Auxiliary; Bruce Kubicek, commander of American Legion Post 52; Brian Hoveland, commander of VFW Post 878; Becky Noble, president of the American Legion Auxiliary and Joe Motl, commander of the Sons of the American Legion.

Johns also paid tribute to Andrew Kubista who just returned from deployment in Kuwait.

American Legion Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary members Barb Blome and Vikki Wacek provided a touching ceremony about the POW/MIA soldiers.

Johns then introduced Tom Peterson, chairman of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee. Peterson and many others participated in a dedication ceremony for the memorial earlier in the day.

“This memorial is beautiful, awesome and



A father and son combination received Quilts of Valor during an evening Veterans Day program at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on Monday, Nov. 11. Showing off their quilts are Greg Skillestad, left, and his father Don, right.

impressive,” said Johns. Peterson then took the microphone and said, “I thought when we were done, we were done but we’re not done yet,” said Peterson, explaining that additional funds over the goal of \$250,000 are being used for murals and blacktop of the Memorial area.

“This was happy work,” Peterson said in referring to the project which involved many service members and many business, volunteer organizations and industrial people in the community. Many individuals also contributed to making the memorial a reality.

Peterson also acknowledged Terry and Suzie Buchetti from Idaho who donated \$10,000 on Veterans Day.

Buchetti spoke and tossed compliments to Peterson for his efforts. Speaking to the gathering, he said, “You people are truly blessed to have a man like Tom Peterson leading this effort.” Peterson then received a Standing Ovation from the audience.

Next on the program was the introduction of the Quilts of Valor recipients.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started

with a Blue Star mother, Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware in 2003. The first quilt the foundation made was for a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost a leg in Iraq in 2003.

The first two recipients were introduced by Johns and invited to bring their families up front. Johns was part of the families because the first two recipients were her brothers.

Marilyn Meshke of the VFW Auxiliary introduced the remaining 10 recipients and told who pieced the quilt and who quilted it.

The Quilts of Valor theme reads: “May this quilt keep you safe from harm. May it be your good luck charm. What you hold in your arms...is a quilters’ embrace.”

Here’s the roll call of who received the Quilts of Valor:

1. Ronald Lewison: Ron’s quilt was pieced by Bev Hoveland and quilted by Bev Wacek.
2. Gerald Lewison: Gerald’s quilt was pieced by Bev Hoveland and quilted by Bev Wacek.
3. Larry Otto: Larry’s quilt was pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by Calico Hutch.
4. Larry Wencl: Larry’s quilt was pieced by Shirley Nelson and quilted by Bev Wacek.
5. Charles Stoelk: Charles’ quilt was pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by Chris Butler.
6. Andrew Kubista: Andy’s quilt was pieced by Lucy Post and quilted by Bev Wacek.
7. Greg Skillestad: Greg’s quilt was pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by Bev Wacek.
8. Don Skillestad: Don’s quilt was pieced by Diane Anderson and quilted by Calico Hutch.
9. Richard Jensen: Richard’s quilt was pieced by Shirley Greeley and quilted by Gina Larson.
10. Kathy Samuelson: Kathy’s quilt was pieced by Marilyn Meshke and quilted by Bev Wacek.
11. Gilman Peterson: Gilman’s quilt was pieced by Marti Walters and quilted by Bev Wacek.
12. Ron Janning: Ron’s quilt was pieced by Shirley Nelson and quilted by Bev Wacek.

“Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor,” remarked Meshke in directing her comments to the Quilts of Valor recipients.



A light moment was enjoyed by three of the key players in the dedication of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11. Shown from left are: Tom Peterson, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee; Command Sergeant Major Marcus Erickson and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas Miner

IT’S A PRETTY: *big day* FROM A1

“This is all about remembering our veterans.”

Tom Peterson
Vets Memorial Chair

mylyea, Marilyn Meshke, Sandy Jones, Fred Vokoun and Doug Miner.

Peterson also recognized the corporation board of directors: Keith Holman, Kurt Blome, Jaclyn Schlichter, Doug Miner and Tom Peterson.

Many contractors helped make this dream become a reality, Peterson said. He paid special recognition to: Owatonna Granite & Monument; Bishop Excavating, Inc.; Keith Johnson Construction; Lembke Masonry; Dapper Services; Krell Electric and Southern Minnesota Electric.

“It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with these key people,” Peterson said.

He also recognized major financial contributors: Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Kruckeberg Family, Bishop Excavating, Keith Johnson Construction, Ricky and Nancy Hansen, Lembkes, Doug and Kristi Miner, Dennis and Carol Heimerman and John and Barbara Heerema.

The salutations continued with Peterson thanking Terry and Susie Boschetti of Idaho for their attendance at the dedication and for their donation of \$10,000.

Larry Rowe of Metal Services helped design the Memorial archway which carries the declaration: “Freedom is not Free.”

“Squadron 52, mission accomplished,” Peterson concluded. The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 52 initiated the Memorial project.

Prior to going outdoors for the flag raising at the Memorial site, fourth graders gathered in front of the stage at the BP Servicemen’s Club. Army veteran Doug Miner and Navy veteran Doug Johnson shared their military experiences with the fourth graders.

Miner quizzed the fourth graders about Veterans Day and explained that Veterans Day was first observed on Nov. 11, the 11th month and the 11th hour as Armistice Day and was first observed on Nov. 11, 1918.

Command Sergeant Major Marcus Erickson spoke to the fourth graders and urged them to thank veterans for their service and carry it one step farther. “Look around the room and thank the veterans and then ask them what their story is,” Sgt. Major Erickson said.

“Their history is your history,” Sgt. Major Erickson remarked. “You will learn a little bit about our history that way,” he said.

Fourth grader Derek Miner read a true story about patriotism, captured in an e-mail from an Arkansas teacher. See elsewhere in this issue.

Sgt. Major Erickson and Air Force Col. Cheryl Heimerman spoke to the group gathered indoors at the Servicemen’s Club.

“This is a special day for us,” commented Heimerman, a veteran of 22 years of service.

Col. Heimerman reflected on past wars, starting with the Revolutionary War, which saw 24,000 lives lost. She then mentioned the Civil War with 620,000 lives lost. World War I saw 53,000 American casualties due to battle and 63,000 deaths due to disease. World War II saw 420,000 American casualties.

“We are veterans and proud of it,” said Col. Heimerman. “Be sure to thank service men and women for their service and don’t allow their service to die with them,” she emphasized.

“This is all about remembering our veterans,” interjected Peterson.

This monument speaks to our past, present and future, said Erickson. “What you have done with this monument is huge,” he continued. “It’s almost heroism,” he said.

“I thought when we were done, we were done, but we’re not done,” Peterson said. Blacktopping is in the future.

“Thanks everybody for all of those who helped, this was happy work,” Peterson concluded. He was greeted with a standing ovation.



Twelve Quilts of Valor were presented to deserving veterans during a ceremony on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. Recipients are, from left to right, Front Row: Ron Lewison, Gilman Peterson, Greg Skillestad, Don Skillestad, Larry Wencl and Kathy Samuelson. Back Row: Jerry Lewison, Andrew Kubista, Ron Janning, Larry Otto, Richard Jensen and Charles Stoelk.

They paid a price for you

Editor’s Note: Derek Miner, fourth grader at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School, read this patriotic piece at the dedication of the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, 2019.

In September of 2005, a social studies school teacher, Martha Cothren from Arkansas, did something not to be forgotten.

On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom.

The kids came into first period, they walked in; there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, “Where’s our desks?”

The teacher said, “You can’t have a desk until you tell me how you earn them.”

They thought, “Well, maybe it’s our grades.”

“No,” she said.

“Maybe it’s our behavior.”

And she told them, “No, it’s not even your behavior.”

And so, they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing. Third period, too. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon TV news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom.

The final period of the day came and the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom.

She said, “Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are normally found in this classroom.

“Now I’m going to tell you.”

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked

into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk.

And, they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks, those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Their teacher said, “You don’t have to earn those desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went half way around the world, interrupting their education, careers and families so you could have the freedom you have.

“Now, it’s up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students and good citizens. They paid a price for you to have that desk to sit at, to have the freedom to get an education. Don’t ever forget it.”

This is a true story. The teacher is Martha Cothren. She is the



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas Miner is especially proud as he listens to his son Derek, a fourth grader, read a patriotic message entitled “Teacher of the Year.”

daughter of a WWII POW and in 2006 the Veterans of Foreign Wars named her their “Teacher of the Year.”

Mrs. Cothren was right. The freedoms we have in this country were earned by our U.S.

Veterans. Now, it’s up to you to sit in your desks responsibly, to learn, be good students and good citizens. Let’s always remember the men and women of our military and the rights they have earned for us.

BP ADVANCES TO: *State Finals* FROM A1

on the defensive side, but to do it at this level against that caliber of a team with weapons the have I would say so. The defensive line didn't give them any holes to break through."

Added senior Jarrett Larson, "It was a total team effort."

At a press conference after the semi-final victory, Coach Gimbel welled up when asked about his team's success. "As a coach and a player that's been through it for so many years to finally drag through and get that opportunity that's a huge step for us and for our program and for our kids," he said with tears of joy in his eyes. "This is quite a step that not everybody gets to endure this."

Gimbel has been head coach for 23 years and this is the team's fourth time in state playoffs with this year being the best they have ever achieved. He credited

"As a coach and a player that's been through it for so many years to finally drag through and get that opportunity that's a huge step for us and for our program and for our kids."

Chad Gimbel
Blossoms Head Coach

"a great group of senior leaders" for the Blossoms going as far as they have.

With the state title game set for the day after Thanksgiving, Gimbel gave his players Monday and Tuesday off. "Take a deep breath. It's been a grind," he said of the two-day pass. "Let them decompress" The Blossoms were scheduled to be back once again at practice today (Wednesday).

As for the ice breaker of finally getting past semi-finals, the senior captains were quick give credit where credit is due. "This just isn't our accom-

plishment," senior Jarrett Larson said, "this is for all the Blooming Prairie football players before us that carried on the Blossom way taught us tradition taught us how to play Blossom football the right way."

The captains were also complimentary about each other. "He's a crazy wide receiver, very talented," Pryor said of Gabe Hagen.

Coach Gimbel said, "I'm super proud of these guys and they way they played."

Blooming Prairie will take on BOLD in the state championship Friday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. at U.S. Bank Stadium.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:47 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:22 p.m. and the 1900 block of 24th Ave. SW at 1:41 p.m.

Fraud: At 4:23 p.m., a fraud incident occurred in the 200 block of Front St. E. **Arrest:** Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 7:31 p.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 9:10 p.m. **Shoplifting:** At 11:18 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF Nov. 8

Fraud: At 4:31 p.m., a fraud incident occurred in the 6300 block of 50th St. NW in Deerfield Township. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:14 p.m.

Nov. 9 **DWI:** Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 in Summit Township at 3:38 a.m.

Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 500 block of 2nd Ave. W. in Ellendale at 5:57 p.m.

Crash: At 7:43 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 59th Ave. NE and 270th St. E. in Merton Township.

Nov. 11 **Fraud:** Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 7500 block of 66th St. NW in Deerfield Township at 10:12 a.m.

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 18000 block of 168th St. SE in Summit Township at 11:12 p.m.

Nov. 13 **Restraining Order:** At 11:25 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 300 block of 1st Ave. NE in Medford.

Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford at 12:11 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Hannah Jean Anderson, 29, arrested at 2:20 p.m. Nov. 8, felony probation violation, held for court. Robert Lynn Hagmann, 39, arrested at 11:07 p.m. Nov. 8, felony probation violation, held for court. Joseph Jacob Wallin, 33, arrested at 11:55 a.m. Nov. 12, felony probation violation and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, held for court. Zachariah Michael Montgomery, 34, arrested at 12:16 p.m. Nov. 12, felony criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

Lorita Dora Placencia, 43, arrested at 4:35 p.m. Nov. 12, felony probation violation, held for court. Jordan John Kelley, 35, arrested at 6:22 p.m. Nov. 13, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court. Jessica Marie Dube, 45, arrested at 5:54 p.m. Nov. 13, felony drugs, held for court. Michael John McClatchey, 45, arrested at 6:37 p.m. Nov. 13, felony controlled substance, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Emily Ann Dolezal, 30, arrested at 3:49 p.m. Nov. 12, warrants arrest, \$3,000 bail.

MN STATE PATROL

Christopher Andrew Hondl, 48, arrested at 5:55 p.m. Nov. 13, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 3 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Tanner R. Kruckeberg, 25, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal vehicular homicide.

He was sentenced to \$1,080, 150 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 3 – 10:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Fooday H. Ahmed, 31, Rochester, passing parked emergency vehicle, \$130; Ryle J. Chilson, 26, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; James T. Cooley, 50, Rochester, no insurance, \$280 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Nikita E. Furness, 22, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$180; Mariah L. Koktavy, 20, Claremont, invalid license and rear lamps violation, \$220; Mercedes K. Luepke, 29, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Richard W. Lundgren, 57, Billings, MT, speeding, \$220; Tyler G. Selbrade, 26, Owatonna, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and 1 year of supervised probation; William I. Shillingford, 29, Dodge Center, DWI, \$480, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Juan D. Thompson, 38, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Christopher L. Ungs, 53, Mantorville, DWI, \$480, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Erica P. Wilkinson, 27, Kasson, suspended license, no insurance and speeding, \$620.

SEE BLOTTER, A8



540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office & Cancellation Line: 507-444-4321
Tennis & Fitness Center: 507-444-4290
Fax: 507-444-4299
West Hills Social Commons: 507-444-4280
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Brooktree Clubhouse: 507-444-2467
Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370
Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086

WAYS TO REGISTER:

- **On-Line:** www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
- **Walk-In Registration:** (begins at 7 a.m.) at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle.
- **Call In:** Call our office at 507-444-4321

THANK YOU PARK BOARD MEMBERS!

Greg Posch, Angie Malo, Greg Louis, Nicholas Elsner, Jonathan Thiel, David Christiansen, and Andi Arnold

OUR MISSION:

The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

Studies have shown that exercising in cold weather makes you burn more calories, strengthens your heart, and boosts your mood! The Owatonna Park & Rec department makes it easy for you to exercise outdoors in the winter by clearing and maintaining hard surface trails year round!

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*Water Aerobics Instructor-Substitute
*Seasonal/Temporary Park, Grounds, and Golf Maint.

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WINTER SCHEDULE

November 22: Family Swim OMS
November 24: Owatonna City Deer Hunt Season 2 begins
December 1: River Springs Water Park-punch cards and season passes available!
December 1: WSI Session 1 begins
December 2: K-2nd grade basketball coaches meeting
December 6: Family Swim OMS
December 7: Kindergarten-2nd Grade basketball begins
December 12: Winter Swim registration begins
December 14: 3-6th grade basketball begins
December 18: Learn to Skate session 2 deadline
December 27-28: December Lifeguard Training review course
January 4: Saturday Swim lessons begin
January 5: Sunday Swim lessons begin
January 7: Tuesday Swim lessons begin
January 8: Wednesday Swim lessons begin
January 9: Thursday Swim lessons begin
January 22-26: Owatonna's Winter Festival
January 24-26: Owatonna's Winter Weekend Out
January 24: Winter Weekend Out: Free admission to West Hills Fitness Center
January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Adult Snow Volleyball Tournament
January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Free Tennis at West Hills Tennis Center
January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Rock on Ice at Morehouse
January 26: Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmer
January 31: Family Swim OMS
February 11: Spring Brochure released
February 20: Spring Registration Begins
February 24: Spring Registration Night
March 5: Spring Registration Deadline

SPECIAL WINTER EVENTS

- City Archery Deer Hunt
- Bold and Cold/Winter Weekend Out

rate of \$21.33, that's a savings of over \$17.00!

City Archery Deer Hunt: November 2-23 and November 24-December 20, 2019. Application fee is \$20-non-refundable. Registration deadline is September 13th. All applicants must pass a proficiency test using the same equipment with which they will be hunting. 50 applicants are randomly drawn to test.

Programs coming in the Spring Brochure (released February 2020)

- Youth Soccer
- Little League Baseball (current grades 2-5)
- Fastpitch Softball
- Association Baseball and Fastpitch Programs
- T-ball and Squirt ball programs

Fitness Center College Student Special!

Show your College Student ID at West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center December 1st-January 31st and get a monthly membership at the discounted

Middle School Pool-Family Open Swim

Cost: \$4 per/person
Time: 6:30-8:30pm
Dates: 11/22, 12/6, 1/31, 2/28, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22
Middle School open swim is an opportunity for families to come and enjoy swim time together. During this time there will be 2 lifeguards on duty and the diving boards will be open. All children must be accompanied by a parent. Children with lifejackets must be within arm's reach of a parent at all times.

Outdoor Public Skating

Ice rinks located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinski chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street. Check our Facebook page and website for opening date!

NRHEG
Panther of the Week

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Ellie Clark

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Ellie Clark. She is the daughter of Eric and Jennifer Clark and they reside in New Richland. She is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class. Ellie's attitude is infectious. She is always laughing, smiling, and making others laugh. She loves to participate in our discussions and does a great job helping her peers. She is the spark that makes our classroom go. Ellie loves gymnastics and basketball. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and her grandparents. Keep up the great work Ellie!

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ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
DDS, MBS

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PASTOR’S COLUMN

God helps you be all that you can be



Deacon Kris Oppegard

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OWATONNA

In his book, Beloved, Henri Nouwen, writes, “...we are called to more faith, to continue to listen to the voice of God, who calls us the beloved, to continue to be at the feet of Jesus. That’s where my identity is rooted, that’s who I am.”

In my role, as Deacon of Faith Formation, I have been blessed to see faith formed in so many ways, across the generations. From families re-connecting during funerals to kids laughing as they prepare for their Confirmation service, God calls us to more faith. And, it happens in so many ways.

I feel that our world is so divided and chaotic these days. I find solace and strength in my faith and my relationship with God. But

it needs work. It isn’t easy. I find myself finding more faith as I personally meditate, pray and do daily devotions. For each of us, we are on our own journey to form, re-shape and strengthen our faith each day and over the years of our life.

2 Peter 1: 5 says, “For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge.” The book of 2 Peter is a letter written to a general Christian audience. This letter warned the early believers against becoming distracted and losing heart in God’s promises. Knowing that early Christians struggled to “keep the faith” shows us the importance of doing the same.

Faith must be more than belief in certain facts; it must result in action and discipline. In 2 Peter, Peter lists several actions of faith, including learning to know God better; developing endurance and godliness, and loving other. These actions don’t come automatically; they require hard work. All of this must be a continual part of the Christian life. But here’s the good news: God will help you be all that you can be. Our world may be different than the early Christians but the struggle to form faith and strengthen faith is the same. It takes work. It takes discipline. It takes a community.

As a parent raising two athletes, I see how hard they work

to become better at their sport. From what they eat to how they train, they want to be at their best for themselves, for their coaches and their teams. It is the same for faith. The Bible and Henri Nouwen reminds us to be called to more faith, to make every effort to support our faith. It is where your identity is rooted as a loved, Child of God. The world around us is unsettled. We need to find solace and strength in God and in our faith. So, find a place of worship, find a group of people, explore new ways personally to hear God’s voice to center yourself and continue to form your faith in new ways. You need it. The world needs it.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Men’s Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday (Kids church- 9 a.m. and Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m. followed by Youth Group- 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW.,
Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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
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
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
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. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawitter and Jacie
Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday &
Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30
a.m. Sunday

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

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

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15
a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday
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. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinich
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Father Antony Arokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father Peter Schuster,
Parochial Administrator
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
with Children’s Church
8 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Faith Formation classes for
K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial
Administrator
507-477-2256
Mass: 4:30 pm Saturday &
8:30 am Thursday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
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 Peter Schuster, Parochial
Administrator
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 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 James Starasinick
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)
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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 PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy 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
2515 Harvest Lane NW
Owatonna
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

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

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

(Fellowship, Church School, and
Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept –
May (see website for schedule)

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

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.

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna’s oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy 507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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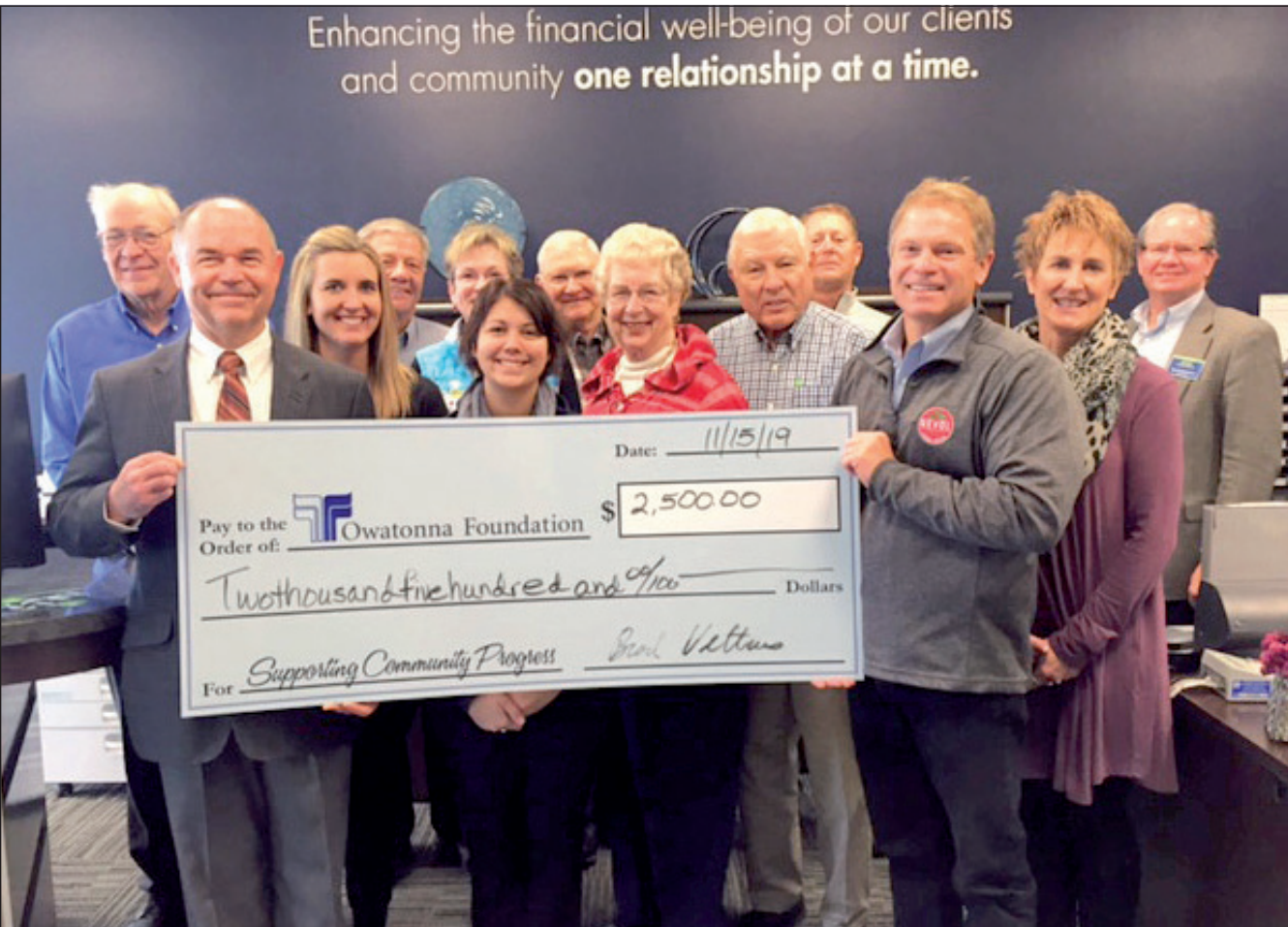
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Foundation receives gift from Home Federal



Home Federal Savings Bank of Owatonna has made a donation to the Owatonna Foundation. Those involved in the donation include, front row from left: Brad Vettrus, Emily Johnson and Tasha Kilen of Home Federal; Sharon West, Chad Lange and Jay Johnson, Foundation trustees and Connie Kniefel of Home Federal; back row: Foundation trustees Dale Gandrud, Dave Ramsey, Betsy Lindgren, Ray Stawarz, Bob Heers and Tim McManimon, who also is with Home Federal.

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to announce that a \$2,500 donation has been made to the Foundation by Home Federal Savings. Home Federal Savings Bank was chartered in 1934 in Spring Valley and is now headquartered in Rochester. Home Federal is a full service bank with offices in Owatonna, Rochester, Winoona, La Crescent, Austin, Albert Lea, Eagan, Sartell, Marshalltown, Iowa, and Milwaukee. The Owatonna branch is located at 1015 Frontage Road West #100. “We’re thrilled to be able to make this donation to

the Foundation. For many years we have enjoyed a wonderful quality of life in Owatonna, and the Foundation has been a big part of that with the many projects they have funded,” said Brad Vettrus, market president at Home Federal. Foundation Executive Director Laura Resler stated, “We are very appreciative of this gift from Home Federal Savings. Their commitment to the Foundation’s mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that

focus on community, arts, recreation and education is what continues to make the Foundation so successful. It is this local support from many business and individuals that enables us to continue to fund important projects in Owatonna.” The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 61st year of serving the Owatonna community, provides capital grants in Owatonna and its environs in four areas: community, arts, recreation and education. The Foundation also annually provides \$30,000 for both traditional and non-traditional scholarships for 2-year colleges and technical schools. The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$12 million dollars in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students. For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, grants or scholarships, please visit www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call 507-455-2995.

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TOTAL DOMINATION

Blossoms stifle Ada-Borup 41-0 to advance to state finals

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Several years of frustration disappeared quickly Saturday, Nov. 16, at U. S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis when the Awesome Blossom football team pitched a shutout over Ada-Borup 41-0 in the state playoff semifinals of Class 1A.

The win earned the Blossoms a second meeting against BOLD in the title game on Friday, Nov. 29. The Warriors defeated BP in the state semi-finals last year.

The Blossoms have taken great pride in the team balance over the season, but this victory gives major credit to the defense. "This was probably our best defensive effort of the season," commented Coach Chad Gimbel.

Linebacker Mitch Fiebiger led the defense with 10 tackles, as BP held the Cougars gained just 91 yards on the ground and only 141 total yards in the game.

BP began its offense early in the first quarter. A short drive was triggered by a 14-yard pass to Karson Vigeland that brought the ball to the 11-yard line, and Matthew Pryor ran a draw play the last 11 yards for the touchdown. BP led 7-0 after Colin Jordison's point after.

In the second quarter, Gabe Hagen snagged a -yard pass from quarterback Kaden Thomas for a crucial first down, and Vigeland caught a 10-yard pass from Thomas for a touchdown. With Jordison's extra point kick, the Blossoms led 14-0.

This was a game in which Thomas didn't have to carry the whole offensive load, and he finished 12 for 20 and 137 yards and two touchdowns.

The Blossoms continued to roll up points. A 10-play drive culminated in a 2-yard push by Pryor and a 21-0 edge. The biggest play of the quarter went



It's the squeeze play with a pair of Blossoms sandwiching an Ada-Borup ball handler. Luke Larkoski (60) and Colton Krell (on the ground) played key roles in BP's defensive attack, which shut down Ada-Borup's offense and held them scoreless.

to Hagen after he rose up for a pass and burst down the sideline for 48 yards for a touchdown. The extra point kick was blocked and BP took a 27-0 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter, Pryor ran a draw play for 30 yards to highlight an 11-play drive, and Tyler Archer ended the scoring with a run of a yard after an 11-play drive by the second string. The extra point kick failed. At the end of the third quarter, the Blossoms were coasting to a 33-0 lead.

BP added another insurance touchdown in the final quarter with

about 4:07 left in the game when Archer scored on a 1-yard run. Drew Kittelson scored on a 2-point conversion run, giving the Blossoms a commanding 41-0 lead.

Besides Fiebiger's big defensive day, Jarrett Larson added eight tackles, and Luke Rennie finished five tackles, two behind the lines.

The win continued 12 straight wins for the Blossoms, the second year in a row they have gone undefeated over the regular schedule and set up the title 1A contest in the battle of unbeaten Friday, Nov. 29, in a hard-fought battle of unbeaten.

GAME SUMMARY

Blossoms 41, Ada-Borup 0
Blooming Prairie 7 20 6 8-41
Ada-Borup 0 0 0 0-0

PASSING Comp-Att Yds. TD Int
Kaden Thomas 12-20 137 2 2

RECEIVING No. Yds. Avg. TD
Gabe Hagen 2 53 26.5 1
Karson Vigeland 2 24 12 1
Alex Baldwin 2 21 10.5 0

Bradley Simon 3 19 6.3 0
Matthew Pryor 2 15 7.5 0
Colin Jordison 1 5 5 0

RUSHING No. Yds. Avg. TD
Matthew Pryor 18 181 10 3
Bradley Simon 5 35 7 0
Tyler Archer 6 33 5.5 0
Cade Christianson 1 19 19 0
Drew Kittelson 4 15 3.8 0
Mitchell Fiebiger 1 9 9 0
Gabe Hagen 1 3 3 0



Coach Chad Gimbel credited his team's potent defensive attack for the Blossoms' semi-final win against Ada-Borup. No less than three players go in for a tackle on an Ada-Borup ball handler, including Luke Larkoski (60), Karson Vigeland (15) and Luke Rennie (21).



BP's Matthew Pryor cruises into the end zone with an Ada-Borup player clinging onto him for one of his three touchdowns after a 30-yard run in the third quarter. The Blossoms killed Ada-Borup 41-0 to advance to the state championship Nov. 29. Pryor had 181 yards of rushing in the game.



Karson Vigeland (15) attempts to prevent an Ada-Borup player from catching the football in Saturday's state semi-final game at U.S. Bank Stadium. Vigeland scored one touchdown in the game for the Blossoms.

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A power lift



Awesome Blossom eighth grade girls basketball players are just a few of the student athletes who use weight equipment recently purchased by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. Shawntee Snyder works on a weight machine with the assistance of teammates Hailey Schumacher, left and Shanna Halverson, right.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

BP Ed awards grant for aging weight room

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie High School weight room underwent a face lift recently and it now is one of the most used spaces at the high school, says Ali Mach, activities director.

Thanks to an allocation from the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, the weight room has taken on a new look with the acquisition of a substantial amount of equipment.

The equipment carries a price tag of \$38,000.

“We really appreciate this commitment by the Ed Foundation,” says Mach. “The equipment will make our students and athletes stronger and healthier,” Mach added.

The monies come from a Big Ideas Challenge application submitted to the BP Ed Board by Brittany Hoban, high school physical education instructor.

“Brittany did a lot of the work to evaluate the school’s needs in the weight training area,” remarked Mach. The allocation request was based on the needs for the physical education department and for Blooming Prairie’s sports programs.

The weight room had not been updated since 2001, said Mach. “It needed an overhaul,” she emphasized.

Most of the new equipment is in place after students and staff recently spent one day putting the equipment together. Flooring supporting the equipment is still in the process of being installed.

The equipment was ordered last spring. It consists of six half-racks with four weight platforms put into place. Other equipment includes a whole set of rubber dumb bells, an ab machine and a neck machine. May workout exercises are linked to the half racks.

Already, the equipment has made a difference for the physical education students and student athletes, Mach believes.



Blooming Prairie High School senior Adam Larson spends considerable time in the high school weight room. Here, Larson works on some of the equipment purchased for the school by the BP Ed Foundation. He is working with 25-pound weights on each arm.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The weight room is used before and after school and during phy ed classes during the day.

With the addition of more weight training equipment, the high school is able to keep current with the many changes in education, Mach pointed out. “This is another way to help our kids and a big thank you goes to the Ed Foundation,” Mach commented.

An end result is “a healthier lifestyle for our kids,” said Mach. “The kids really like it and take pride in using the equipment that carries

custom Blossom logos.

The Blossom football team, led by Coach Chad Gimbel, has reaped benefits of the weight program. Coach Gimbel’s players have spent considerable time in the weight room working on various training exercises.

Blooming Prairie High School does not have a weight trainer as do many other Minnesota high schools. Blooming Prairie coaches and phy ed instructors handle the training.

Rolling into the state finals

“Good things happen to those who patiently wait” or “If at first, you don’t succeed, try, try again.”

Either one or both of those tired old sayings could apply to the Awesome Blossoms football team, as they found success in the semi-finals of the state football playoffs last Saturday and culminated their second straight undefeated season leading up to the finals.

In their fourth try, they shut out Ada-Borup and exercised the demons of three other semi-final losses over the last eight years. And it couldn’t have happened to a better or more deserving group of football players. As Coach Chad Gimbel expressed at a post-game press conference, “After 23 years of coaching, success of this magnitude is almost hard to believe.”

As in all the games this season, credit for the win has to go to the whole team. It is a team that has displayed a powerful blend of offense and defense. While the offense has rolled up nearly 60 points a game, the defense has pitched near shutouts in over half the contests on the schedule. One couldn’t ask for much more than that.

Now the team will face BOLD again in two weeks, the team that sent them home in the semi-finals last year. Everyone knows that it will be a tough challenge, as they struggle against another undefeated team. But I don’t think any player or Blossom fan will approach that contest with apprehension or fear. Bring the opposition on, and let’s see what happens.

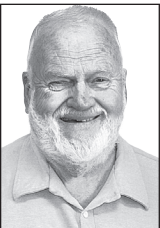
TIME PASSES BY

It hardly seems possible that we are more than halfway through November, and there is still some farm work to finish. It certainly has been a difficult year for farmers, and we can all sympathize with their plight. Some farmers in the Red River Valley will have an almost nonexistent harvest because of the terrible weather conditions early in this growing season.

All we can do is hope that those individuals can withstand this year and get a better break from Mother Nature in the next season. That would seem to me to be the fair thing to happen. We all know it would be a deserving situation.

TURKEY DAY

In just over a week, most families will gather to



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

celebrate and observe what most people have labeled “Turkey Day.” This particular holiday has foods specific to that day, besides the turkey, like green bean casserole, candled yams, dressing, potatoes and gravy, and cranberry sauce.

Of course, the turkey remains the main item of food. Forty-five million turkeys were consumed in 2015, just to give one example of its popularity. And when you add all the side dishes, it is understandable that Thanksgiving is probably the one festive holiday that has its own specific dishes. Some other holidays like Christmas find ham creeping in as one of the main meats to serve, and other holidays find some other meats growing in popularity.

In fact, the observance of Thanksgiving remains one of our older and most admired ones. It was celebrated way back in colonial times when Pilgrims and Indians gathered to bless the harvest and give thanks for the preceding year. Way back in 1863 the date was set to celebrate the day on the fourth Thursday in November, but it didn’t settle into that date permanently until it was legislated to be the fourth Thursday.

It is rather surprising that many countries around the world do observe Thanksgiving and how many do it on a date similar to our United States. So when we settle down and put on our bibs in preparation for partaking of the traditional turkey, take a moment to remember its history and add thanks for the occasion.

DATES AHEAD

It isn’t too early to note a couple of events. Thanks to Becky Noble and the local Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, Nov. 30 has been designated as local Small Business Saturday, and patrons are encouraged to shop locally. Retailers will have specials on that day, and trade at local businesses will be brisk.

Nor is it too early to start reminding the public of the Holiday Dazzle celebration marking the beginning of the holiday season. This is set for Friday, Dec. 6, and the community is looking towards another cooperative weather day as happened a year ago. This will be a day with excellent reasonable retail deals, games and music to fit the occasion. Mark your calendars now take all this in, and we’ll talk again.

BP volleyball team awards season ending honors

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2019 volleyball season culminated with a 500 record at 15-15, and the team handed out several awards at the annual honors program.

Julia Worke earned the MVP award and also made second team Gopher Conference All-star squad.

Micalyn Trihus was named MVP on offense and earned an All-Conference Honorable mention; and Maren Forystek walked away with the MVP honor on defense. The Most Dedicated award also went to Worke. Megan Oswald earned an All Conference Sportsmanship award.

Twelve Blossoms earned letters for the season, and 10 players made the academic All-Conference team. Haile Most Improved

and Maya Lembke earned the Awesome Blossom Team Spirit honors.

Riauna Bishop, Lembke, and Worke earned Coaches association All-state Academic Awards, and the team was named the association’s Academic Gold Team award winner.

“We had five or six matches that we could have won,” commented Coach Ranell Kittelson, “but I thought each player contributed in their particular area of play. Julia Worke proved a real standout all over the court, Micalyn Trihus set a school record for a single match kills with 30, and Heather PirkI recorded her 1,000 assist in the first match of the season.”

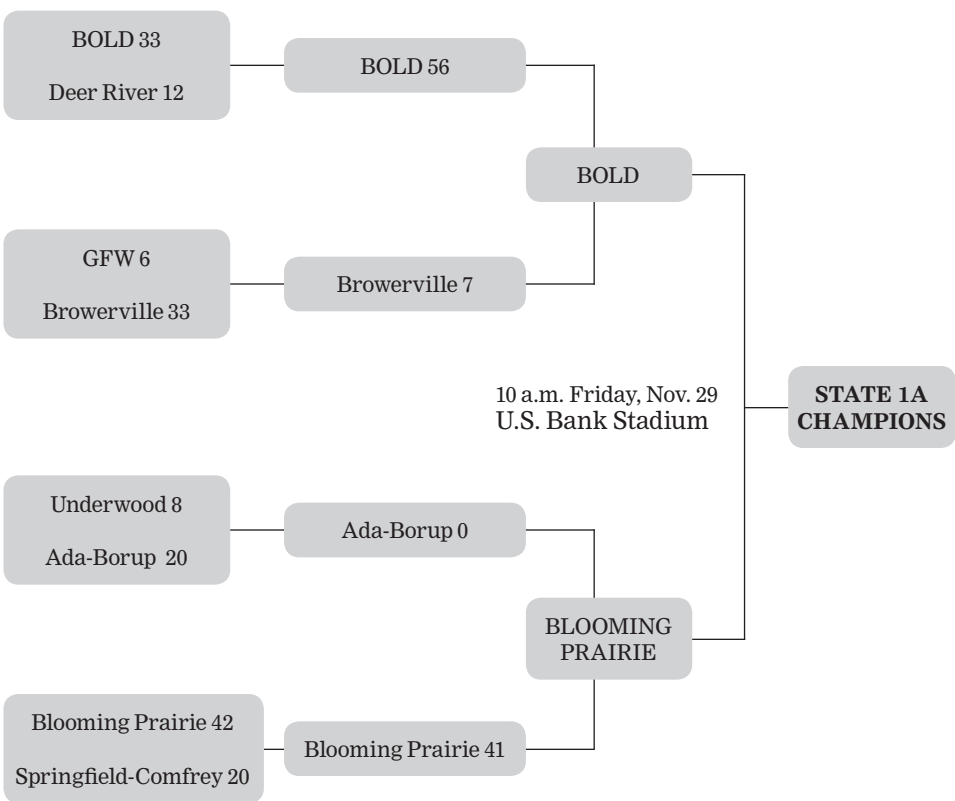
Kittelson went on to say, “Although we didn’t get some of the wins we should have, it was a fun season, and it was fun as a coach

to watch the girls improve, build relationships, and make great memories of the season. I have no regrets.”

Several categories of statistics found leaders of note. Trihus led the team in ace serves with 3, Maggie Bruns had 21, and Heather PirkI added 0. Trihus piled up 285 kills, Worke totaled 208, and Oswald added 93. Alison Krohnberg had a 2.33 passing average, Worke a 1.96, and Strunk a 1.85. Trihus had 74 blocks to her credit, Oswald 30, and Worke 26. PirkI finished the year with 288 assists, and Bruns added 229. Finally, Worke scrambled for 322 digs in the season, Maren Forystek had 305, and Lembke contributed 186.

These are all statistics of which the players can be proud, and it put a deserving finishing touch to another Awesome Blossom volleyball season.

Class 1A Football



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FOOTBALL CONTEST
ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

Tie-Breaker Score _____

2. Wisconsin at Minnesota*

Football Contest Rules

- Contest period: Sept. 11-Nov. 27
- How to win: Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with corresponding number. Cut out and send or drop off at Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or Dodge County Independent, 121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944. You may enter in person, mail or e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net or dcj@kmtel.com. Must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday prior to games. (Note: the selected games are for the following week, not the current week.)
- Tie-Breaker: You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.
- Prizes: We will award a gift card to local restaurant or grocery store to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. There will be a grand prize awarded to the person who picks the most correct games throughout the entire 12 weeks. All decisions by judges are final.
- Eligibility: Open to anyone age 14 or older, excluding staff of newspapers.



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5. Ohio State at Michigan

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8. Buffalo at Dallas (11/28)



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9. New Orleans at Atlanta (11/28)

10. Green Bay at New York Giants



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15. New England at Houston

16. Minnesota at Seattle (12/2)

Historical Society elects board members and honors volunteers

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

The Steele County Historical Society elected new board members, gave out a variety of awards and heard a presentation from Kent Whitworth, executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society at the group's annual meeting last week.

"This is a strong organization," said Executive Director James Lund-

gren. "It has a very bright future."

Two incumbent board members and three new members were elected. Re-elected to new terms were Ryan Gillespie and Ken Hendricksen. New members are Char Ost, Keith Holman and Dave Effertz.

A variety of awards were also given out. Preservation Awards went to Tory's and Wells Fargo in downtown Owatonna and the Community Partnership

Award went to the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department.

Individuals recognized included MaryAnn Higgins, Noah Moore, Bev Falteysek and Kaye Fransen.

History is relevant to today and "incredibly valuable to our future," said Whitworth. One of the thing history does, he said, is connect us.

Eight or 10 years ago, he said, he was in Washington, D.C. with others in the history field lobbying mem-

bers of Congress as to the relevancy of history. They felt as if they were invisible because all anybody wanted to talk about was STEM, Whitworth said.

The history professionals loved science, technology, engineering and math," he said. In fact, he said, some of the greatest advocates for history came from these fields and never meant for history to be left out. A few years later

SEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, B5



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
Kent Whitworth, executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the speaker at last week's annual meeting of the Steele County Historical Society.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Abby Cloutier is shackled with chains as Pugsley Addams during the Addams Family play this past weekend in Medford.

'Living or dead, family is still alive' at Medford

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For Randy Domstrand, who directed this year's high school musical at Medford, there is one line in the play, "The Addams Family," that always makes him chuckle: "Living or dead, family is still alive."

"It kind of captures all the closeness of family and the silliness of the show," said Domstrand.

The story of a weird, ghoulish family took center stage at Medford High School this past weekend as the school's fall musical. It is the most popular high school play in the country right now, according to Domstrand.

The actual plot tells the story of Wednesday Addams, the daughter of the family. She's grown up, fallen in love and arranged for her love interest's family to meet her rather morbid family. Wednesday is portrayed in the play by Lily Roehrick, a junior.

"The show revolves around Wednesday's turmoil," Domstrand said. "She is a little high maintenance."

The other main characters are Gomez Addams played by Rian Cloutier, a freshman, and Morticia Addams played by Irene Charro Vico, a sophomore foreign exchange student.

Domstrand called the trio of main cast members "pivotal and essential" to the success of the play. He described the play as "a dark comedy." He said some may have gotten spooked by the zombies, but in general it was "dark in a silly way."

Auditions for the play started back in mid-September. Domstrand said

the biggest decision as a director is casting the show. "If you cast it well, shows can come together seamless," he noted.

One of the greatest challenges this year was the decision to involve students in the play that were also committed to other school activities. "We allowed athletes and cheerleaders to participate in the show," Domstrand said. He praised the decision for opening up a lot of opportunity for more students, but found it was challenging in trying to schedule around everyone.

Another challenge was the fact that Domstrand experienced serious health issues this fall and had to rely heavily on his co-director, Benjamin Beaupre, to pull things together. "Without his presence, it might have been insurmountable," Domstrand said.

For Domstrand, he has the most fun seeing



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Roberta Domstrand takes on the role as Grandma in the popular high school musical, "The Addams Family." She even takes a lick of a little creepy critter during the performance.

the performers pull it all together. "I love seeing students experimenting with their character," he said, adding he prefers to let students come up with

their own character rather than directing them to be a certain way.

There were 34 students in grades 7-12 involved in this year's play.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Look out! Gomez Addams (Rian Cloutier) pulls a sword during the Medford school play with a little fear setting in from Alice Beineke (Emily Cloutier).

Board learns health alliance exceeding budget projections

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last Tuesday's regular county board session, the commissioners heard from South Country Health Alliance CEO Leota Lind.

Lind gave an update on the current financial standing for the county-based health service. "I am pleased to be able to say that the information I will be sharing today will be a lot more positive than the information I shared the last time I was here," she said.

Last year was a down year for SCHA, which Lind described as an "anomaly" rather than a trend. Part of this was due to an unusual amount of high-cost medical claims, including multiple transplants.

This year, SCHA has posted a net income of \$2.6 million as of the end of September. "We were budgeted to be at only about a \$32,000 net income for the year," Lind explained. "We're exceeding our budget projections."

"Driving the results, we've had increased

membership for 2019, and as you'll recall we took a very conservative approach for our membership projects for 2019 because we had seen such a decline in 2018," Lind said. "We're running about 2% above budget on our membership."

All of this is good news for SCHA, which recently had been involved in a legal battle with the Department of Human Resources after they notified SCHA they would be rejecting a proposal to provide health care. This issue was resolved through mediation, and since then SCHA has continue to successfully operate as a county-based health plan.

"When we look at revenue, revenue is very much driven by membership, and our DHS Medicaid revenue is up about 1.9% so it's very much in line with the 2% additional membership," Lind told the board.

Lind also gave some perspective on the 2020 year. "As we look ahead

SEE BOARD LEARNS, B5

How much is too much?

I'm a people watcher. I love to observe human behavior and interaction. When I decided to consciously put my own phone away and close my laptop when out and about, I clearly saw what was happening all around me. I observed the countless people on their phones at what I would consider inappropriate, or at the very least, unusual times.

What have you noticed? Among my observations are families out for dinner with a child on their phone with headphones on, adults in meetings, trainings, or on the job while almost constantly on their phone, even my own grandparents on their phone during face to face conversations seemingly more interested in what's happening on-line than in the room. All this observation makes me ask, "How much is too much?"

Smartphones, tablets and computers have become prevalent in our modern society, and the youth of today will never know what it's like to not have the instant gratification of the internet in their lifetime. While the benefits of technology are numerous and include:



Steele Talkin'
ANDREA MARSHALL

increased connectivity to people worldwide; business entrepreneurship; ability to learn, seek help, and raise awareness for worthy causes, it is not without some alarming drawbacks.

According to mental health professionals, excessive use of cell phones can result in both physical and psychological health issues including:

Online Compulsions. Gaming, gambling, stock trading, online shopping or bidding on auction sites like eBay can often lead to financial and job-related problems.

Information overload. Compulsive web surfing, watching videos, playing games or checking news feeds can lead to lower productivity at work or school and isolate you for hours at a time. Compulsive use of the Internet and smartphone apps can cause you to neglect other aspect of your life, from real-world relationships to hobbies and social pursuits.

Cybersex addiction. Compulsive sexting, nude-swapping, pornography or adult messaging services can negatively impact your real-life relationships and overall

SEE HOW MUCH, B5

HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
elects board members

FROM B4

the arts were added to make STEAM but it still seemed like history was excluded, he said.

But then, he said, they realized they might be partly to blame themselves because of the way they talked about history and did not emphasize the value of history.

So they came up with a statement for the field that's helpful to reframe the relevance of history, he said. One of the things, he said, is the sense of identity that individuals have through their past yet they just sort of presume it when they should talk about it.

Another area where history is valuable to individuals is the skills people develop as they engage with the past. Anyone who has done any research, he said, has developed really important critical thinking skills.

History has so many valuable skills embedded in it, he said, when

we don't just teach names and dates. Skills like critical thinking that are needed, he said, to develop a work force that is being trained for jobs that do not even exist yet.

The next big event for the society will be Christmas in the Village Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7.

The Village of Yesterday and History Center will be open from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday with the Soup Supper from 4:30 to 6:30 in the History Center's Wenger Room.

Other Friday activities will include a Fancy Cookie Sale in the History Center, hands-on children's activities in the Village and the History Center, live music, a gift shop and visits with Santa.

The activities will continue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday will feature the Historical Society's Holiday Home Tour.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter is once again joining hands with the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.

Their objective is to put smiles on the faces of little kids fighting medical issues.

The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester provides a home-away-from home and offers support to families seeking medical care for their children.

This is the fifth year that the local FFA chapter, advised by Bill Rinkenberger (known to his students and friends as Rink), is looking for community help in collecting toys that can be sent to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester.

The community toy drive starts Monday, Nov. 25 and will end Sunday, Dec. 8. Dropoff points are the Blooming Prairie High School office, the BP Elementary School office and the Prairie Manor Care Center.

The toys need not be wrapped.

FFA members ask that community members bring something new or nearly new. Rinkenberger suggested these items as possibilities for donations: stuffed animals, puzzles, books, crayons, color books and anything a kid could use.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter is again collecting toys and other items for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Helping make collection boxes are, front row: Bo Zwienen; second row: Bill Rinkenberger, Lexi Ripka, Naomi Lebak, Jaylee Schleicher, Madelaine Stoen, Oliva Anderson, Carter Bishop and Sophie Schiller; back row: Kaiden Finley, Chris Naatz, Cortney Espy, Cyprus Schleicher, Brandon Ripka and Grady Steckelberg. Missing was Lexi Steckelberg.

The project gained a beginning on the urging of FFA advisor Rinkenberger, a native of Fosston, Minn.

Rinkenberger said he was stricken with cancer in 2003 and was transferring his medical records to Rochester. On a visit for therapy in Rochester, Rinkenberger said he had some time to wander around the hospital.

"I ended up in the children's cancer wing and saw some heart wrenching examples of little kids threatened with the effects of cancer," Rinkeberger relates.

"I thought if there was a way to help, the Ronald McDonald House might be the answer," Rinkenberger said. He made the connection and the project has continued.

Rinkenberger commandeers a seven-passenger van from the Blooming Prairie School District to take the toys to the Ronald McDonald House.

The project involves most of the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter members. The chapter recently broke the 50-member mark and now has 54 members. The chapter had only 12 members in 2003, Rinkenberger related.

"We get a tour of the facilities and I wish we could talk to the kids but we must communicate with staff because of privacy concerns," Rinkenberger said.

The Ronald McDonald House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Governed by a volunteer board of trustees, the House hosts 42 families

each night and has been in operation since 1980.

In 2017, 1,079 families were unable to stay with us because when they called, no rooms were available. In the past four years, the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester has turned away more than 4,000 families who needed our services.

To address this need, the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester opened an expansion of the current facility along Second Street SW.

The House celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 16. The expansion increases the number of guest rooms from 42 to 70 and adds much-needed community spaces, including indoor and outdoor play areas for children.



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to 2020, we have signed the contracts with the State of Minnesota for 2020, and we've received the base rates at the end of October," she said. "We won't know the final rates until the end of December."

"With the base rates, they were favorable compared to what we had used for our assumptions for our 2020 forecast, so we're comfortable moving ahead with those contracts," Lind explained to the board.

Due to the positive financial trend this year, all of the commissioners were glad to hear of SCHA's recent success. "Last year was pretty devastating," County Commissioner Rick Gnemi said before complimenting Lind on this year's progress.

"Thank you, it's very commendable what you've been able to accomplish."

Also, during the meeting, the board held a public

hearing for the 2020-2024 Highway Capital Improvement Plan with input from county engineers Greg Ilkka and Paul Sponholz. The county has numerous projects on the horizon, including both standard road maintenance, rehabilitation, and larger reconstruction projects on county roads.

"We've got several funding sources for most of our projects here and a lot of it is state aid funding," Sponholz said. "Then you have the sales tax and the wheelage tax that the county board approved several years ago. We're bringing in about \$2.6 million from sales tax and about three quarters of a million from wheelage tax."

For the 2020 year, the Highway Department has numerous projects on the docket. "This is the part of the Capital Improvements Plan that is most locked

down in our opinion," Sponholz said of the bevy of proposed projects for the 2020 year.

Some of the proposed projects include construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 34 and Highway 45 as well as 20 miles of pavement that will be pulverized and replaced throughout the county. There will also be many projects continued from the 2019 year, including 10 miles of new pavement.

"We tend to like to resurface portions that are in fair condition, depending on what we've done with that road in the past," Sponholz explained. "If we can catch a road in that fair condition and put an overlay on it, we can extend that life another 10 or 20 years, but after we've done an overlay or two then it's time to consider more of a rehabilitation-type project."

Sponholz predicted that the Highway 14 expansion by the Minnesota Department of Transportation could result in additional projects. "That's going to make some changes to traffic, the old 14 is getting tied into Highway 180, so I know there have been some intersection proposals but we've kind of tabled that depending on where traffic will be after Highway 14," he said. "We'll see where that all goes."

The new high school facility to be located at 18 Street SE in Owatonna will also likely result in the need for additional projects. "What would be ideal is if we had a traffic impact study for the new high school done and be able to incorporate that," County Engineer Greg Ilkka concluded.

The next regular county board session is scheduled for Nov. 26 at 5 p.m.

BOARD LEARNS: exceeding budget projections

FROM B4

emotional health. Spending hours engaging in fantasies impossible in real life, may make it more difficult to develop healthy intimate relationship and can damage existing relationships.

Virtual relationships. Social networking, dating apps, texting, and messaging can extend to the point where virtual online friends become more important than real-life interactions. Online friendships can be appealing as they tend to exist in a bubble, not subject to the same demands as messy real-world relationships.

Increasing depression and loneliness. While it may seem being connected online would help people fill the void, research has shown just the opposite. There is a high correlation between high social media usage and depression and anxiety. People, especially teens, tend to compare

themselves unfavorably with their peers which can promote feelings of inadequacy and fear of missing out (FOMO).

Increasing stress and decreasing productivity. The persistent buzz of your smartphone can distract you from important tasks, slow your work and interrupt moments that are crucial to creativity and problem solving. The mere presence of a phone in a work/school place tends to make people more anxious and perform poorly on given tasks. The heavier a person's phone use, the greater the anxiety.

Encouraging self-absorption. People who spend a lot of time on social media are more likely to display negative personality traits such as narcissism. Snapping endless selfies, posting all your thoughts or details about your life can create an unhealthy self-centeredness, distancing you from real-life relationships and making it harder to cope with stress.

What are some signs or symptoms of too much

smartphone use and possibly addiction? These are just a few questions you can ask yourself:

- Do you have trouble completing tasks at home or work because you've been busy chatting online, texting, or playing games?
- Is your social life suffering because of the time you spend on your phone or other device?
- Do you conceal your smartphone use? Do you get irritated or cranky if your online time is interrupted?
- Do you feel a sense of dread, anxiety or panic if you leave your smartphone at home or if the battery runs low? Do you feel phantom vibrations from your phone?
- If you feel you are struggling with the overuse of technology. Here are some self-help tips to help you keep it under control. While you can initiate many of these individually, it would be easier if you had outside support from friends, family members or a professional therapist.
- Recognize triggers that make you reach for your phone and find healthier more effective ways of

managing your moods such as practicing relaxation techniques, playing with children or pets, or getting outside.

- Understand the importance of face to face interaction verses online. Face to Face conversations, making eye contact and responding to body language can make you feel calm, safe and understood and can help you better manage stress. A virtual hug does not replace a real hug in times of crisis or happy celebrations.
- There are many apps, such as Flipd or Mute, that you can use to modify or limit your use of smartphones.
- Turn it off. Set specific times of the day you will use your phone rather than checking it every moment you get.
- Cell phone addiction doesn't have to ruin your life, your work, or your relationships with others. If these tips still don't help, it might be a sign that cell phone addiction is more of an issue in your life than you realized. Seek professional help and treatment if you can't reduce it on your own.
- So, set the phone down, close the laptop and look around. The people and places around you can be interesting to observe!



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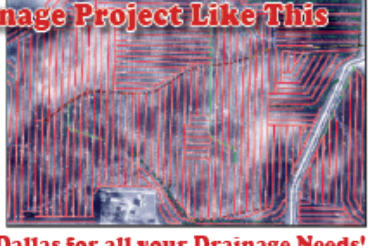
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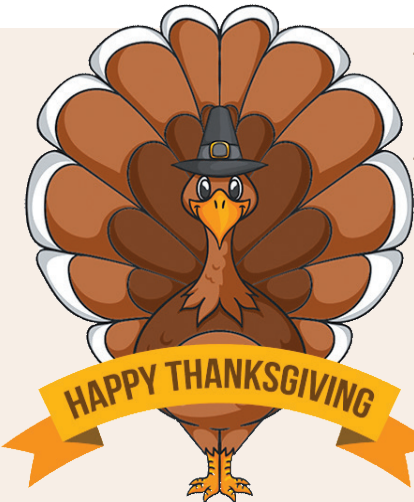


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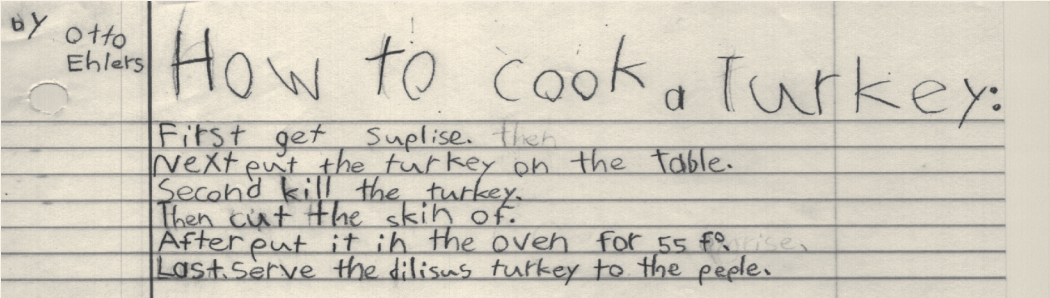
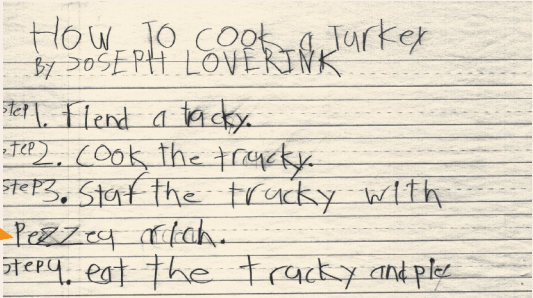


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Andrea Marshall is a health educator with Steele County Public Health. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations around Steele County.



How do you cook a turkey?



MS. AVERY & MS. SCHMIDT'S CLASSES

First you get your cooking suplies. Secound you grab your cook book and read the ingredients and then you follow the direcins. 3. You do what the ingredients to make a turkey. 4. You take the turkey and put it in the roster and then after a willy and then you take the rop of the turkey and put it back in the roster for like 5 to 10 min and then take it out at 5 min and eat a tiney pice and try it if you think it is fin you take it out a cet it and it is done if you think it could be cook more put it in and take it out 10 min and try it if it is good take it out and cut it and your turkey is done. Finally. Your turkey is done.

■ Peyton Lembke

Step 1: It depens on the season. Spring is probaly the best time. Winter not so much. Because winter you have to build a igloo. So make sure its spring.

Step 2: Get some wood and some rocks. Place the rocks in a circle. Then take the wood you have and make it into a teepee. But make sure your wood is thick and short.

Step 3: Blow really hard on the wood or take to rocks or sticks and rub them really fast together for about till it makes smoke. Then you have a fire.

Step 4: Take two tall skinny sticks and stick them in the ground one on the left side of the fire and the right side.

Step 5: Take a gun and shoot the turkey. But shoot a big one so you can have a big meal.

Step 6: Take the turkey to shot take a knife and cut all the feathers off so its naked. Then take a stick and poke it through the turkey.

Step 7: Place the stick that you stabbed through the turkey and place it on the sticks on the sides of your fire.

Step 8: You have cooked your turkey, now you can eat it all.

■ Unsigned

First get splise. Next put the turkey on the table. Second kill the turkey. Then cut the skin of. After put it in the oven for 55f°. Last serve the dilisus turkey to the peple.

■ Otto Ehlers

1. First you wosh the turkey.
2. Next you tack stuf out of the turkey.
3. Then you put it in the uven.
4. Last when it is rede you eat et.

■ Unsigned

Step 1: Get a well chras amumul.
Step 2: Kill the turkey
Step 3: bo all of this stuf it is scret thow.
Step 4: Clin a pan.
Step 5: Put the turkey on the clin pan.
Step 6: Pot sisuning on it.
Step 7: Turn the tepther up to 30 Farin hit.
Step 8: Wate 30 minits.
Step 9: Tack it out.
Step 10: Put all frowts and veshudols around it.
Step 11: Pot it on the taball.
Step 12: Eat it.
■ Love, Karmen

Okay, shear panic has set in as you attempt to figure out how to pull your Thanksgiving feast together. But wait, you just ran into a major stumbling block and have absolutely no idea how to cook the showcase piece of the feast—the Thanksgiving turkey.

We may have saved the holiday for you. We enlisted helped from the experts—third graders at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Over the next two weeks, we're going to provide their responses as

Step 1: You have to git a live turkey.
Step 2: You kill it.
Step 3: Go get tools from the store to pull it ingredients and copy a cook book.
Step 4: Tack the stuff out of the turkey that you can not eat.
Step 5: You have to get a pon out.
Step 6: Set the oven to 350?.
Step 7: Wate for the oven to beep.
Step 8: Put the turkey in the oven.
Step 9: Tack it out and put stuff that mack it tast good.
Step 10: Put it on the tabel and cook other food to mack it look good and mack it look lick a feest.
Step: EAT IT!
■ Unsigned

Step 1: You buy your ingre-dients.
Step 2: You get a nice and big space to cook.
Step 3: Go to your oven and start it at 230F? and leve it for a few min.
Step 4: Get a turkey and put water and spray on it and put it in the oven.
Step 5: Take it out and eat it.
PS: Have fun!
■ Sencerly, Aubree

Step 1: Go by a turkey.
Step 2: Set the oven to 450 degrease for 1 hour and 30 minuts.
Step 3: Take it out of the oven.
Step 4: Cut up the turkey.
Step 5: Serv it.
Step 6: Prey
Step 7: Enjoy
■ Addison

First. You find a turkey catch it put it in a cage. Then you chop it's head off and let it run around then you catch it agian put it in steaming hot water.

Next. After a couple of hours you take it out of the steaming hot water. Then you pluke it's feathers. Then you wash it off. Then you put part-chment paper on a pan put the turky on the pan. Doen't forget to turn the oven to 500? and let the oven sit for a little bit.

Last. After a little bit you put the turkey in the oven. After like 20 minutes of it being in the oven you take it out of the oven and let it cool down. Finally. You can eat it.

Happy Thanksgiving.

■ Unsigned

First you wash the turkey. Next you put the turkey in the oven. Put the oven to 50 degrees. Second you wait for 30 minutes. Then you make sure its not burned. Then you let it cook for 40 minutes. After you take the turkey out of the oven. Finally you let if cool off.

■ Nevaeh Nelson

First you buy all the ingre-

dients at the grashre store. Next you set the tempetcher at 534. Then peel the skin off. Then you put it in the smoker you take it out and out the sesaning on it. Now it is ready to eat.

■ Justin Schumacher

Step 1: You got to kill it, then you have to pull off the fethers.
Step 2: Go to the groshry store and get seazing and chicken broth.
Step 3: You have to set the turkey on a mat and seazen it to profecten.
Step 4: Turn the dagrie on 450f. Then put the turkey in a pot of some sort and put it in the oven.
Step 5: Keep it in for about aaaa 10 hr the take it out and cut it up and eat it.
■ Leah Watson

First, tack it out for a ittle whill. Next, get sum or a lot of seesning. Rub the seesning all over it. Then, let it rest for one haf uf a hour. After, let the smoker get up to tempicner. Then, poot it in the smocker for the night and I wold stay up and check it. After, tack it out. Then, let it rest for 1 holl hour. Finally, cut it and eat it.

■ Caroline

Step 1: You shoot a turkey.
Step 2: You pick it's fethers off.
Step 3: You put the turkey in the ovin.
Step 4: When the turkey is done, you can put anything on it.
Step 5: When you put something on it you can cook something else like potatos and corn or a fruit.
Step 6: When you do that you can eat it.
■ Trenton Johnson

First you need a turkey if you like spicy things like my family you wald seasen it so poot peapir on it and maby salt and then you shold of poot it in sonpthing first. Next you nead a frier of an oven maby eaven a grill. You nead to heat your frier or oven and if you think a grill wil work you nead to heat it up. You can poot some soas on it if you wold like it goosie and then you nead to poot the turky in your frier or oven or gril the fier fore one or tow howers the oven I don't now how long I don't now how long to poot it in the gril fore iethir. When it is done ow wate make shufe you watch it out and maby seasen it agen so poot salt and peapir on it. Finely you serv it. I hope it is good.

■ Unsigned

You cook a turkey. Then you eat it. And you can put anything on it.

■ Unsigned

to how turkeys should be made. Their responses are real and genuine. They have not been edited and are used in their original form. This week we're going to hear from students in the classes of Angie Avery and Alli Schmidt. Next week, we'll share the responses from Becky Johnson's class.

A special thank you to each of the teachers for helping us out with this project. Happy Thanksgiving!

Step 1: You should have a clean aiflea.
Step 2: You get all your material's redy.
Step 3: You can bie a turkey or hunt a turkey.
Step 4: Then put some vege-as in the turkey.
Step 5: Next you put it in the uven for about 2 hours too 1 hours.
Step 6: Then you get a cook-ing brush and you can put some gravie.
Step 7: Then you can put some seasing on and maby some barbiq.
Finally: You can get the other vegeas.
■ Unsigned

Step 1: Get ingredients for turkey.
Step 2: Put turkey in the water.
Step 3: Put in grill.
■ Unsigned

First, you get corn srup, corn, rice, carites, selre, tma-tow, turkey, butur, gluofs. Next, get a tray and put vegetable oil on it get the turkey put it on the tracp put gluofs on stik your hand in the turkey. Then, stuf it with your ingredients.

■ Unsigned

8 Steps
Step 1: Boil the turkey.
Step 2: Put stuffing in the turkey.
Step 3: Roste it.
Step 4: Boil it.
Step 5: Wait for 5 mins.
Step 6: Put more stuffing.
Step 7: Cut it.
Step 8: EAT IT!! (most inoportent)
■ Hannah Garcia

Step 1: Get a turkey.
Step 2: Prep it.
Step 3: Get your smowker out and ready.
Step 4: Put the turkey on the smowker.
Step 5: Cook it till you like it.
Step 6: Take it out.
Step 7: Vechtables and letace.
Step 8: Put the turkey on a tray with the letace and vechtables.
Step 9: Put it on the table then eat.
■ Briella Musel

1. Kill a turkey.
2. Put stuffing in the turkey.
3. Put the turkey in the oven.
4. Keep the turkey in the oven for 30 min.
5. Take the turkey out.
6. Let the turkey col.
7. Cut the turkey
8. Put the turkey on a plate.
Final step: Put turkey on table.
■ Damien Koning

1. You put orange and onins inside the turkey.
2. You put stuffing in the turkey.

3. You put it in the oven.
4. Let it sit in the oven for a hour and a half then you will say
5. It is so good.
6. Cook some caret's and put it on the side.
7. Cook mashed potatoes and gravy and put it on the side.
8. Then their you go a lovely dish.
■ Aireanah Thomforde

Get a turkey.

1. Cook the turkey
2. Tak it out of the hufin.
3. Let the turkey souk in watr.
4. Pout sesuning on it.
5. Let it souk ofv nite.
6. Than eat it.
■ Avery Wicks

Firt you have to find one then kill it. Then bring it home then stuff it then put it in the uven for a liyle. The cut it open then cut in to pages.

■ Levi Staska

1. Get the guts owt.
2. Then we put the juse on it.
3. Then we put it in the ofen for 40 min.
4. Then we take it owt wen it is done.
5. Then we wate 5 min.
6. Then we ate it.
■ Kinanna Carlson

Step 1: Buy a turke from the store.
Step 2: Take it out of the package.
Step 3: Put the turkey on the pan.
Step 4: Put seasoning on it.
Step 5: Get the crock pot ready.
Step 6: Take the turkey of the pan and put it in the crock pot.
Step 7: Cook the turkey.
Step 8: Take the turkey out and let it cool.
Step 9: Cut up the turkey.
Step 10: Serve the turkey.
■ Emmerson Nelson

Step 1: Buy a turkey.
Step 2: Clean it.
Step 3: Put stuffing in it.
Step 4: Put it in the oven.
Step 5: Take it out of the oven.
Step 6: Eat it!
P.S. If you want you can put seasoning.
■ Melanie Thoen

1. By the turkey
2. Cook it
3. Put seasoning
4. Eat it yum
■ Kinzie Wangen

Step 1: Buy the turkey
Step 2: Cook it
Step 3: Put seasioning on it
Step 4: Leave it to cool done
Step 5: Wants it is all done cooling put it on the table
Step 6: and eat it yummy tats all your done
■ Emily Loth

Step 1: Get a terkey
Ssep 2: Take it out of the package
Step 3: Make stuffing then put it in the terkey
Step 4: Put lemons in the terkey
Step 5: Put it on a pane and then put seasoning on it
Step 6: Put it in the oven for about 15 minutes.
Step 7: When it's done let it cool down and then you can eat it then you are done
■ Reid Jensen

1. Take out guts you can not eat
2. Put it in oven at 500?F
3. Let it cook for 2 hrs.
4. Take it out of oven
5. Put it on a plate
6. Put sauce sesing
7. Cut turkey
8. Sever
■ Cooper White

1. Buy a turkey
2. Put sesning on it
3. Put it in a pan
4. Put it in the oven
5. Tack it out of the oven
6. Let it cool down
7. Eat it!
■ Coen Abel

First you take out the guts and the eyes and then you put some seesining and then you can put other stuff like carrots and lettuce and like other stuff so then you see if it is the right and good kind of turkey and then you can preheat the oven for like a our and then when your done put the turkey in and then you set for a hour again and then when you are done you can put on some more seasoning and cabage and then set the table get forks and plate cups and cut the turkey and then you eat it and enjoy it.

■ Elaine Schwarz

1. Poud
2. Sout a turkey
3. Rost a turkey
4. Put sult and peper serving
5. Put stuf ovr it
6. Get familey
7. Get cusen
8. Eat
■ Levi Staska

Step 1: Buy a turkey at the store
Step 2: Take the packegnign off
Step 3: Stuff the turkey
Step 4: Put it on a pan to sesin it
Step 5: Put sesining on it
Step 6: Put the crotpot on meiden
Step 7: Put two lemon skesis in the crotpot
Step 8: Put beff huice in the crotpot
Step 9: Take the pan and take the turkey off
Step 10: Put the turkey in the crotpot cook to 30 minites to 1 hour. Enjoy
■ Annastyn Peterson

You go to the stowery and by a turkey. Then go hoem and defrost it. Then preheat the uven to 350?F. Wait entel the uveny is ready and then put it in the uveny and then cook for 2 howers. Wenu it is all done taacke it out of the uveny and put sume sesuning and yo are all doune. Enjoy.
■ Elliot Schiller



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NOTICE
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
September 16, 2019

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.
I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister
ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, Associate Principal; CLA Auditor
MEMBERS ABSENT:
None
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
V. AUDIT PRESENTATION
Craig Popenhagen, Clifton-LarsonAllen auditor, presented the district's fiscal year 19 audit. Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the audit. Roll Call Vote. (7 Aye- Meshke, Thurnau, Sunde, Ille, Krell, Braaten, Hameister/0 Nay) Motion carried.
VI. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Ms. Mach, and Ms. Mach on behalf of Mr. Worke.
VII. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Donations
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the following items. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
* minutes from the August 15, 2019 regular school board work session; August 19, 2019 regular school board meeting; and August 21, 2019 special school board meeting
* July (FY 20) handwritten checks in the amount of \$118,429.81; August handwritten checks in the amount of \$38,339.24; and September bills in the amount of \$131,053.37;
* Treasurer's report as presented with a transfer on August 30, 2019 in the amount of \$600,000.00 from Farmers and Merchants State Bank to MSDLA MAX in order to avoid overage of collateral
* budget year-to-date comparison for 2018-19 to 2019-20
* no donations requiring approval since the July 15, 2019 meeting
B. Employment
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Emily Henslin as an assistant track coach with placement on step 0 of the prevailing Extracurricular Schedule. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Volunteer Coaches
No additional volunteer coaches at this time.
D. BPTA Master Contract 2019-2021
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the BPTA Master Contract settlement with an overall increase of 6.80% over two years along with sick leave bank, e-learning days, and other miscellaneous changes. Roll Call Vote. (7 Aye-Meshke, Thurnau, Sunde, Ille, Krell, Braaten, Hameister/0 Nay) Motion carried.
The BPTA voted to also approve the contract on August 29, 2019.
E. E-Learning Days
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve an "E-Learning Plan" as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. Proposed Levy Limitation and Certification 2019 Payable 2020
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the "maximum" proposed levy limitation and certification 2019 payable 2020. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
G. Property and Casualty/Workers' Compensation

Insurance
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve renewal of the district's property and casualty insurance with Wright Specialty along with the renewal of the district's workers' compensation insurance with Midwest Insurance. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve optional "cyber liability coverage" with Wright Specialty. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
H. Homecoming DJ
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve Chris Moe Entertainment as the DJ for the September 27th homecoming dance. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
I. Steele County Area Mental Health Collaborative Contract
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the Service Agreement with the Steele County Children's Mental Health Collaborative for the 2019-20 school year. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
J. Handbooks
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille

to approve the Paraprofessional Handbook and the Substitute Teacher Handbook. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
K. Iowa Designee for EDIAM
Language must be in our approved minutes for the required "Designation of an Identified Official with Authority for Education Identity Access Management". Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the designation authorizing Christopher Staloch. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
VIII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committees: Community Education, Education Foundation, Technology, and ZED.
B. Enrollment Data
Tentative enrollment for the 2019-20 school year as of September 11, 2019, is 423 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 367 at the high school (grades 7-12) (356 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 4 seniors and 5 juniors with atten-

dance being full-time plus 4 juniors with attendance being part-time.
C. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.
IX. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. MSHSL is facing a deficit which may result in possible additional sports activities fees.
2. MREA review of Ag-2School data.
X. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, October 21, 2019, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center

(Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).
A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

11/20

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®
Syndicated Newspaper Column
By Shannon Nordstrom And Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I'm tired of the high fuel prices as I bet we all are. What's even worse than the high fuel prices is a car that gets bad fuel mileage. I have a 2004 Ford Taurus with the 3.0 engine that's well taken care of and I have about 110,000 miles on it. I average about 24 mpg per tank which my shop tells me is about right for this car and my driving habits but many vehicles get much better. I would like to improve my fuel mileage and have been looking into changing my air filter to one of those lifetime filters you see advertised everywhere. I have had many different conflicting reports as to how this will affect my car ranging from raving fans to don't do it. What is your opinion as guys who work on cars every day? I'm sure you've had this question before.
Don in Carroll Iowa

Dear Don,
Aftermarket air filters have been around a long time. There are several different filter manufactures and many are similar in performance. Most all of these are washable units that allow repeated use for many years before replacement is necessary so you won't have to purchase another one. Many are also oiled and the biggest problem we see is over oiling which can cause problems with the intake sensor if the oil reaches it. As for performance, you may gain a small amount of mileage with the filter.
Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
Daily Car Repair and Advice Tips Question
48 Adding Power Windows
Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2005 Dodge Caravan SE that we bought used and it was not equipped with power windows, door locks, or power sliding doors. We would really like to add these features and keyless entry. Can this be done for a reasonable price and where do we go to get it done?
Janet in Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Brandon,
Power features have become standard on vehicles or at least it seems that way. More and more vehicles, especially ones that are used for hauling the family like a van seem to almost always have full power in them. It is a rarity for one to come into our shop that does not have at least power windows and locks but they are out there. The cost of the accessories will be dependent on the shop and the quality. As for adding them to the front doors that should not be that big of an issue. Many companies offer aftermarket power windows and lock kits and remotes can be added easily as well. The power sliding doors are another story and I have not seen anyone who makes an aftermarket unit for those but there may be out there.
Take care, the Motor Medics

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Deadline for applications is November 27, 2019 or open until filled.

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BLOSSOM MAGIC CONTINUES



Gabe Hagen (8) and Luke Rennie (21) work their magic in closing the holes to keep Ada-Borup from scoring. Mitchell Fiebiger (81) comes up from behind to assist.

The Blossoms football team made school history by qualifying for state finals on Nov. 29. We wish them well as they try to keep their perfect season alive by ending with a state title!



BP's Zach Weber, left, and Mitchell Fiebiger (81) drag a ball handler for Ada-Borup off the field in Saturday's impressive playoff win for the Blossoms.



Late in the fourth quarter, the Blossoms added another touchdown on a short run from Tyler Archer (30). BP killed Ada-Borup 41-0.



Drew Kittelson (4) attempts to run past an Ada-Borup player during the semi-final contest.



Quarterback Kaden Thomas (3) slides on the field to successfully pick up yet another first down for the Blossoms.



Bradley Simon takes off with the ball for Blooming Prairie with a defensive player trying to stop him from behind.

Good luck in state finals against BOLD!

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Great job Blossom players and coaches. Good luck at state finals!

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