



STEELE
COUNTY

Times



A THANKSGIVING EXTRA

‘God has gotten us through this’

Vorliceks thankful despite year of health setbacks



Diane and Frank Vorlicek have valiantly fought health issues and have much to be thankful for, they claim. Diane recovered from a kidney transplant and Frank has been fighting UTI (Urinary Track Infection).

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It will be a special Thanksgiving this year for Diane and Frank Vorlicek. The Vorliceks will be celebrating a miracle times two. The Vorliceks have an attitude and that is one of meeting their health issues head on and solving them. Diane received a kidney transplant on July 11, and her husband Frank came home from a rehab stint to their Blooming Prairie home on July 1. Since that time, Diane and Frank have resumed their busy schedules and have again conquered health challenges.

“Thanksgiving is a time to pause and say thanks.”

Diane Vorlicek
Kidney Transplant Recipient

The 2019 year has given the Vorliceks a new lease on life and that is because of the attitudes they possess. This Thanksgiving will indeed be special. The Vorliceks can celebrate this special holiday with their family, knowing that it is because of their deep faith, some caring medical personnel and a loving family that this husband and wife of 52 years has overcome some serious health setbacks.

Diane was fighting a kidney disorder and Frank was battling UTI (Urinary Track Infection). Both thought at times that their life was in the balance. Diane says she is indebted to her daughter Auna Hildahl of Roberts, Wis. and to an unknown kidney donor. Diane’s first battle was with Lymphoma cancer 15 years ago. She is now a cancer survivor. The Vorliceks will host a family Thanksgiving on Friday, a day following the traditional Thursday date. The meal will be served at 4 p.m., hopefully after the Blooming Prairie Blossoms football team

SEE THANKSGIVING EXTRA, A3

Firey Hwy. 14 crash claims 2 more lives

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Less than three weeks after the groundbreaking for the Hwy. 14 expansion through Steele and Dodge counties, two more lives were claimed in a firey head-on crash. The State Patrol identified the latest victims as Jay Wayne Logan, 57, and



SEE FIREY HWY. 14, A8 Jay and Elizabeth Logan

Parade to light up the holidays

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Owatonna is ready to light up the holidays. On Thursday, Dec. 5, the community will host its annual Lighted Holiday Parade beginning at 6 p.m. Approximately 70 units all outlined with bright holiday lights and decorations are expected to take part in the holiday celebration, according to Shirley Schultz, MainStreet director with the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce. For Owatonna, it’s a

tradition that has been the kick off to the holiday season since the early 1990s. There are as many as 4,000 people that typically line up throughout the downtown area to watch the parade and program in Central Park. After the parade, the ceremonial lighting of the lights in Central Park will take place at 6:45 p.m. Carolers from Owatonna High School will entertain folks with Christmas music. And, of course, Santa

SEE PARADE TO LIGHT, A8

The hunt for BP Medallion returns

The holiday season means one thing for Blooming Prairie area residents. It’s time again for the annual Medallion hunt. Beginning this week, the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce is giving out clues for young and old alike to head outdoors and find the hidden medallion. The lucky winner who returns the

medallion to the chamber office will receive \$50 in BP bucks and a one-year subscription to the Steele County Times.



THE FIRST CLUE: 2019 Medallion hunt is here. Whether working or playing, the medallion could be near. Go out and look and have no fear.

Building instead of appraising at least for a day for area company

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

They’re typically used to appraising homes, but on this particular fall day members of Mangelsen Appraisals of Owatonna decided to get their hands into helping build a house. Workers from Mangelsen volunteered their time on a recent Saturday in October to help build a home for Habitat for Humanity in Claremont. Jessica Bennerotte of Kenyon will be moving into the home once it’s completed. The house is being constructed on a lot given away free by the City of Claremont. “Our group hasn’t done anything like this before,” said Tara Choudek, marketing coordinator for Mangelsen. “Our group had a lot of fun with it.” Choudek, who used to work for Steele-Waseca Habitat for Humanity, pitched the idea to her boss, Bobby Mangelsen, as a way for the company to become more involved in the community. “He isn’t very well known in the community,”

Choudek said. “My goal is to get the business more involved,” she added. About a dozen of Mangelsen’s employees and other family members put their carpentry skills to use to help with the house. Also helping out was Rev. Robert Hamilton, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Claremont. Some worked on staining and varnishing mill work while others helped with siding on the exterior of the house. There was also sanding of the walls and sheet rock that needed to be done. “We just wanted to do something for the community,” said Mangelsen. “We want to give back in some way.” Added Choudek, “It makes you feel good to be able to help somebody out.” Mangelsen said his crew members were happy with the work they did and indicated they would be willing to do it again. He added this was the first time that they have been involved with a Habitat for Humanity project. Choudek said there is often a misconception about Habitat for

Humanity. “A lot of people have the perception that it’s free and it’s a hand out versus a hand up,” she said. It’s quite the opposite, she points out. The recipients of Habitat homes must be willing to work on their own house along with volunteers as well as another house, according to Choudek. Habitat, Choudek said, carries the mortgage on the homes for the new owners. “It saves them quite a bit of money,” she said. She noted the homeowners must have a job and have the financial means to sustain themselves. “It’s definitely not free.” Mangelsen has been a real estate appraiser for 23 years and operated his own company since 2005. There are currently five appraisers on staff and additional office support. They primarily cover a 13 county area stretching from the south metro throughout southern Minnesota. The Steele-Waseca chapter merged with Olmsted County about a year ago to form a new chapter, Two Rivers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As their t-shirts suggest, volunteers from Mangelsen Appraisals of Owatonna are living generously and helping mankind by building a Habitat for Humanity home in Claremont. Involved with the project are, back from left: Todd Busse, Brian Busse and Chris Busse; front- Misty Rees, Sharon Langerfeld, Barbara Briggs, Kevin Briggs, Bobby Mangelsen, Scott Choudek, unknown and Rev. Robert Hamilton.

OUR VIEW

A festive way to help area food banks this holiday season

All abroad for a festive holiday season! Next week, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will roll into Steele and Mower counties as it makes more than two dozen stops on its annual ride through the northern U.S. The train is scheduled to stop in Owatonna at 3:40 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Austin at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6.

The train first appeared in southeast Minnesota in 2008 and alternates its stops through various communities each year. It has been operating throughout Canada and the U.S. since 1999. In that time, the train has raised almost \$16 million and collected 4.5 million pounds of food.

As the train makes its way into our region, it will bring live entertainment and Christmas cheer in exchange for donations to local food banks. Owatonna's stop will benefit the Steele County Food Shelf.

For those who haven't experienced the holiday train before, it is something worth seeing. Holiday magic comes to life as the train is 1,000 feet long with 14 brightly decorated rail cars. Each car is decorated with hundreds of thousands of LED lights and holiday designs celebrating the spirit of the giving season.

Besides bright lights, visitors can enjoy free musical performances by Meghan Patrick, Tanika Charles and Kelly Prescott at each stop. All you need to bring is a little holiday excitement and some food or cash donations to benefit the local food shelf.

A typical train event involves the train arriving with the stage door lowering and the band opening with its first song. After that, a brief presentation takes place with local food bank officials and other dignitaries. Once complete, the band resumes performing a mix of traditional and modern holiday-themed songs. It runs for about 30 minutes.

The holiday train encourages people to bring heart healthy donations. Heart health education and awareness is a tenet of Canadian Pacific's community investment program, CP Has Heart, which focuses on improving the heart health of men, women and children in communities across North America.

Each and every month, millions of people across North America use food banks to make ends meet. Through the holiday train, CP not only wants to restock food banks, but also ensure people have access to healthy and nutritious food. Everyone deserves the same opportunity to eat well and protect their hearts.

We urge people to get out and help the holiday train make a difference one stop at a time. After all, isn't that what the true spirit of the season is all about?

A gobble of generosity

"It's a Gobble Time" promotion has turned into being a gobble of generosity.

A few weeks ago our newspaper ran a promotion with various businesses giving away free turkeys just in time for Thanksgiving. It was pretty simple and straightforward: just clip out the entry form and return it to the participating business for a chance to win a turkey.

I enjoy finding different ways for businesses to promote themselves in our publication. I have found the turkey promotion is a way for businesses to express their gratitude and appreciation for customers coming into their stores or shops throughout the year.

Last week I got the opportunity to draw the winner for the Steele County Times. It happened to be one of our faithful readers in Owatonna: Georgia Minard. With time ticking away to the big turkey holiday, I decided to deliver the coupon for a free turkey to Minard's residence. And what I found was more than heart warming.

Once Minard found out she had won a turkey, she was overwhelmed with joy and reached out to hug me. She told me she was now going to be able to have a real Thanksgiving and planned to invite



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

people over for what else, a turkey dinner. Prior to winning the turkey, she had not planned to do much for the holiday.

Minard says she loves to cook and couldn't wait to make her turkey. But what excited her even more was the fact that she could invite people over to enjoy the holiday with her.

It proved to be a lesson for me in realizing that you never know when or how you're truly going to impact someone's life. What seemed as a little gesture in promoting our newspaper turned into something so much more. It's priceless to be on the receiving end of such gratitude like what was displayed by Minard.

This week is a good time for us to all to share a little extra dose of gratitude, which is a healthy attitude. When most people think about Thanksgiving, they focus on food, family and football watching. But put-

ting "thanks" back into Thanksgiving is a good start in improving your heart health, according to researchers.

It goes without saying that a grateful heart is a healthier heart. Patients who express higher levels of gratitude suffer from less depression, less anxiety and slept better.

We certainly all have more room to practice being more grateful. We all have a multitude of things to be grateful for. It's important to show it and express it to others.

Even when you're down, science says gratitude may be exactly what you need to lift you back up. Grateful thinking can help people rebound from stressful events because it's contradictory to focus on feelings of gratitude while consumed with fear, stress and anxiety. Staying focused on the good in life may have long-lasting benefits.

Through Minard's small, but powerful reaction to winning a turkey and displaying her gratefulness, it has made me realize that gratitude is the attitude we all need to focus on.

I hope all of you go in hot pursuit of sharing some gratitude even in subtle ways this Thanksgiving holiday. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and thank you reading our newspaper.

YOUR VIEW

Appreciates coverage of Parkinson's

To-the-Editor:

We just wanted to write and tell you what a great article you did on our Parkinson's "Power Punch." We have received a number of comments from our friends. In today's mail, a friend sent us a copy of the article. She included a note which read: "We receive the Steele County Times because of articles like Power Punch and this is one of those articles-truly a wonderful article. It is a

small town paper with a lot of news." Hopefully, this article will encourage others with Parkinson's to come and exercise with us!

Also, thanks for your coverage of the Huskies football games.

Keep up the great newspaper! We sure look forward to it each week!

Rollie & Ann Truelson
Owatonna

'I was too small and too slow'

It's time to rumble at the U.S. Bank Stadium.

The Blooming Prairie High School Blossom football team is playing in its first Prep Bowl championship game ever when it takes the field Friday morning, Nov. 29 against the Warriors of BOLD.

This columnist visited with Blooming Prairie's head football coach Chad Gimbel and asked him if it was a war of nerves preparing for the BIG GAME on Nov. 29.

"We must stay focused," Gimbel said calmly as he counted the days before the Blossoms attempted to capture their first state high school football championship. The Blossoms represent Class 1A.

It's ironic that the Blossoms and the Warriors of BOLD (Bird Island, Olivia, Lake Lillian and Danube) square off against one another because Gimbel's home school of Browerville played against BOLD in the semifinals when Gimbel was in high school.

The Blossoms met up with the Warriors last year in the state tournament at the U.S. Bank Stadium and were beaten, 37-7.

Gimbel was a 1988 graduate of Browerville High school and lettered in three sports, football, baseball and wrestling. "I was too small and too slow to be a star in football," Gimbel says.

Not having size of speed, Coach Gimbel said he knew the "X's" and "O's" of the game. Indeed he does know the inner mechanics of football, otherwise he wouldn't have been the head football coach at Blooming Prairie for the past 23 years.

Gimbel's opposing coach, Derek Flann, is a first-year coach.

Gimbel said he "got fortunate" to get a teaching job right out of college at Moorhead State University. He was an assistant coach for two years under Mike Olson and then took the reins as head coach.

Coach Gimbel gave his players two days off after they had defeated Ada-Borup in the



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD



COACH CHAD GIMBEL

semifinals of the state football tournament. The Blossoms drubbed Ada-Borup, 41-0 to advance to the championship game.

The week of the BIG GAME has indeed been a week to remember, says Gimbel. "Our Blooming Prairie community has been great in supporting us," remarked Gimbel.

Does the head coach stay calm? "I keep busy and that helps time go by faster," Gimbel replied.

"The kids are excited but they know they have a job to do in preparing for this game," said Gimbel.

"We don't want to over prepare for this game and it is possible for the players to get too wired for the important game.

The coaching staff and players have been busily preparing by watching lots of film, 13 different games played by the unbeaten Warriors (13-0). The Blossoms are also 13-0.

Gimbel says this year's BOLD team is similar to last year. Even with a new coach, the offense looks the same and that's maybe because Coach Flann was BOLD's offensive coordinator the past several years.

Coach Gimbel has nothing but praise for the Blossoms' fans. "They have been awesome, just great," he says. "The fan support has been unbelievable and they travel well," further stated Gimbel.

Many alumni have been traveling to the Blossoms' games. "That support is appreciated by the players and coaching staff; it is exciting to see all of that support from this community," he said.

Gimbel said Blooming Prairie is a "pretty special town" and the football team is anxious to further showcase its talents in Friday's championship game.

"There are lots of schools that cannot experience what we are about to experience," said Gimbel.

"When the whistle blows it's football between the lines," said Gimbel.

GUEST COLUMN

Students safer than ever, says school security expert involved with Columbine

BY DON HEINZMAN

A school safety expert says school students are safer today because of lessons learned from the mass shootings in schools from Columbine to Sandy Hook to Parkland.

Rick Kaufman, the executive director of community relations and emergency management for Bloomington Public Schools, was among the first to arrive at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. After providing triage and rescue operations, he was assigned the responsibility of co-leading the Crisis Response Team to one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history.

Kaufman was a district administrator with Jeffco Public Schools at the time. Columbine was one of the 150 schools in Colorado's largest school system.

When the shooting ended, 12 students and one teacher were murdered, and 26 others wounded. The student killers died by suicide shortly after unleashing an attack on their school.

A common thread among school shooters is a trail of signs – online posts, drawings, and plans – that are often shared on social media, stressed Kaufman.

Acting upon those early signs cannot be ignored, says Kaufman.

"We must continue to teach and encourage students, and parents, that If they 'see something, say something.' When information is provided in a timely manner, school staff can respond and intervene to prevent the worse-case scenarios," said Kaufman. "When we empower students to come forward, they can make a difference, and one that may save lives," says Kaufman.

There is no greater challenge today than creating safe schools, said Kaufman.

"It requires a major commitment and effort by school leaders, staff, parents and a supportive community. A safe school is an absolute foundation to the success of its academic mission, Kaufman said.

"Research shows when students feel safe in school, achievement improves and behavioral issues decrease. Despite all too frequent headlines of active shooter incidents, students find safe havens in schools thanks in large part to a multi-layered approach that focuses on the four pillars of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, planning and recovery.

"Prevention is evident in schools when teachers and staff build a rapport and trust with students, and the school culture

embraces the physical and emotional safety of schools."

"Accidents and tragedies are part of life. As educators, we protect students the best we can and we're prepared for the unthinkable. In a crisis, we serve children best by recognizing and responding to their psychological and emotional needs," said Kaufman.

Based on his experience, Kaufman advises school districts to have a three point plan.

One is having a single point entry to all schools, having a visitor sign in, receive an identification badge and be escorted to the visitor's destination.

Second to examine and if necessary replace the locks on the doors and have alarm buttons under desks to alert the building. "Look at all the keys that could give perpetrators access."

A third is software: training the staff and having the drills to prevent anything serious and the worst from happening. Students go through 10 drills a year: five lockdown, five fire safety and a weather.

"Train for the response rather than the threat," said Kaufman. He advises school safety directors to have a mental-health trained staff member in every school to handle students who are a threat to themselves and others.

If the student is uncontrollable, Kaufman advises a call to 911 that brings law enforcement and an emergency technician to the school who assess the situation and take appropriate action.

Kaufman is optimistic over improvements in school security. More school boards are having voter referendums passed authorizing more money to be spent on school safety, he notes.

In the nearly 30 years Kaufman has worked with schools, he said the key to school safety is teaching and modeling a culture and climate of safety, respect and emotional support.

"It's relationships ... connecting with every child must be an integral part of a school's mission. When we genuinely care about the social, emotional and safety needs, our students stand the best chance to continue on their pathway to success in schools and beyond."

Don Heinzman is a retired newspaper journalist who lives in Bloomington. He has provided editorial direction to the Steele County Times in the past.

Megers host food shelf benefit



Glen A. Meger and Cheryl Meger, owners of Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna, collected 92 pounds of food at their 20th Annual Food Shelf Benefit Social.

Glen and Cheryl Meger hosted their 20th consecutive food shelf benefit social Nov. 20 at the Reception Center at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home for fellowship and a meal.

The annual event brings together spouses and members of the Msgr. Henry Speck Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. They are treated to egg rolls made from Meger's own "secret" recipe and grilled pork kabobs. Hors d'oeuvres

and desserts are furnished by members.

Attendees made cash donations and also donated non-perishable food items. At the conclusion of the event a total of 92 pounds of food and \$495 was collected for the Steele County food shelf.

Host Glen Meger said, "We are pleased to have hosted this event for the past 20 years and the generosity of my Brother Sir Knights certainly exemplifies the first principle of the Order, that being Charity."

GOD HAS GOTTEN US: through this

FROM A1

has claimed the Class 1A football championship.

Diane and Frank plan on going around the table, asking everyone to share for what they are thankful.

The two July dates, Diane's transplant date of July 11, 2019 and Frank's discharge date from the Fieldcrest Care Center in Hayfield on July 1, 2019, will be forever be ingrained in the Vorliceks' memory bank.

After undergoing kidney dialysis for 2 1/2 years, Diane learned that she would be receiving a kidney transplant due to the love of two individuals who she calls her angels.

Diane's daughter Auna was not a match for a kidney transplant but she could donate a kidney to the National Registry and receive credit to have a kidney donated to her mother.

"I think we have become closer since our health problems."

Frank Vorlicek
Recovering From Health Setbacks

Diane said she hopes to put a letter together, thanking her anonymous donor.

"Thanksgiving is a time to pause and say thanks," said Diane. "We should also say thanks for our many gifts every day of the year," she added.

Diane last week visited doctors at Rochester's Mayo Clinic on a four-month checkup. She was given an "all-clear" after her numbers from a biopsy of her kidney were declared "super," said Diane. She will visit there again in one year.

Diane says she feels "like a new person" following her transplant. She said her energy has returned.

Previously, she said she was constantly tired and didn't want to talk to anyone. "Just let me be," Diane said. Now, she can go to her grandchildren's activities because her energy has returned.

The dialysis was performed three times a week, four hours each time.

The Vorliceks' four children, Auna, Heidi, Jason and Trent have been lovingly supportive of their parents during their health challenges.

Heidi is an LPN in Columbia Heights and has served as an unending resource for her parents during their journeys toward better health. She took her mother to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after her condition became dangerously serious.

Diane was then declared a candidate for a

transplant. "Transplants are necessary for good health and every organ has its purpose," remarked Diane.

Frank and Diane totally agree that their faith and the many prayers they received from family, churches and the Blooming Prairie community led them to recovery.

The Vorliceks saluted Father Tom Niehaus, formerly of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church and Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church for their constant vigil of the Vorliceks' health.

Always ready with a humorous quip, Frank said "it seemed like people crawled out of the woodwork" to help Diane and him.

Two families, Bill and Joanne Neuman and Joanne's sister Becky Johnson, brought delicious evening meals to the Vorliceks every Wednesday for 1 1/2 years.

The journey to recovery for both Diane and Frank has been a struggle at times. During her fight with a kidney disease, Diane fell and broke her femur on her left side and then shattered her right hip. "It wasn't easy at times," Diane says.

Frank was a resident at the Fieldcrest Care Center for four months of rehabilitation. He said Diane visited him every day.

Because of his UTI, Frank said he "was out of my head" for about three weeks. "We thought he was going to die," Diane said. "I couldn't walk and had everything wrong with me," Frank relates.

Frank said he had lots of company when he was at Fieldcrest but can't remember who was there to visit him.

Frank turned the corner at Fieldcrest and praised the care center for providing him with lots of smiles and some extraordinary therapy.

Always a lover of gardening, Frank said he will not ever be as intense with this passion. "It's been an adjustment and there are changes in life you have to accept," he said.

Both Diane and Frank say they cry a lot. "God has gotten us through this and I don't know how some people can get through family emergencies without faith," says Frank.

Frank, a former teacher, is known for his sharp wit. "Sometimes, he gets annoying," Diane says with a smile. "I think we have become closer since our health problems," believes Frank.

"You've got to make the best of what you've got," says Diane saying a positive attitude by both has led to their recoveries.

Former mayor, first lady to be honored as top citizens

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President Miranda Camery had some special news to bring before a group of 50 members and guests on Nov. 20.

Camery, chairing the meeting in the absence of President Dan Peach, announced that former Blooming Prairie Mayor H. (Harold) Peterson and former First Lady Jean Peterson have been chosen as the 2019 Blooming Prairie Chamber's Citizens of the Year.

The Petersons will be honored at an annual recognition banquet on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Camery said the Petersons have continually given volunteer time and have made a positive difference in promoting Blooming Prairie. Mayor H served as mayor for 19 years.

Last week's annual meeting had a special flare to it. The venue was the Pizza Cellar, transformed into a banquet hall. The tables were covered with white table cloths, and Chamber members were treated to celebratory beverages.

Pre-meeting music was also provided by Jesse Smith, a member of the Sondog band from Austin.

Surprise mystery guests turned out to be Blooming Prairie High School football cheerleaders. The cheering types led the room in two sets of cheers.

Vice President Camery procedurally went through a prepared agenda, which was framed in lamination to look especially attractive.

Retiring Chamber secretary Sarah Esplan presented minutes of the Oct. 16 meeting and then gave members a pep talk about the community's Fourth of July celebration.

She said it was amazing what a small community like Blooming Prairie could accomplish with its Fourth of July celebration. "It makes wonderful family memories," she said.

Esplan said Barb and Jerry Kaplan will no longer sponsor the Fourth of July car show. She said she was hopeful that someone else would come forward to chair this event.

It was also announced that Karen Forage will no longer chair the parade after this year.

Nick Schiefert has also resigned as Chamber chairman of the Fourth of



The Blooming Prairie High School football cheerleading team visited the BP Area Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting at the Pizza Cellar on Wednesday, Nov. 20.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Sarah Esplan, secretary of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce presented BP business owner Nick Schiefert with an Awesome Award, paying recognition to his work as Chamber Fourth of July chairman for the past many years.

July. Esplan praised him for his work as chairman, sandwiched in between owning a business (Dairy Queen), serving as a firefighter and serving as a school bus driver.

Schiefert was presented an Awesome Award for his work with the Fourth of July.

Bonnie Coughlin of the Civic/Ambassadors/Promotions Committee reported that plans have been finalized for Small Business Saturday on Saturday, Nov. 30. Karen Peterson, Greg Johnson and Miranda Camery are also on the committee.

Jackie Vorlicek of the Beautification Committee said four new flower pots have been purchased for the downtown.

Mayor Curt Esplan reviewed city projects and said Highway 218 will be redone in 2023. He urged Chamber members to make their voices known on this major project.

Esplan was asked about the possibility of a new water tower being built in Blooming Prairie. He said it is possible a new tower may be built in the next three years.

Linda Klemmensen reported on the Junior Entrepreneur program, most recently completed with second graders at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. The program will be continued for fifth graders next spring. Klemmensen was assisted by Rachel Klemmensen and Michelle Vigeland.

Past Chamber president Greg Johnson thanked retiring Chamber gambling manager Amanda Schumacher. He introduced her successor, Darla Skalicky. Johnson said gambling project helps supplement the local chamber.

Jamie Klemmensen gave a report on creating a new Chamber website. She said it is still a work in progress.

Blooming Prairie police

officer Jake Peterson was the featured speaker for the evening. He currently is a police officer, ambulance volunteer and firefighter. He is also widely known as being the leader of the Stix of Fury drum corps.

Peterson reviewed his path from wanting to be a nurse to being a police officer. "My passion is to help people," he said.

Chamber members also elected officers for 2020: Dan Peach, president; Miranda Camery, vice president; Jackie Vorlicek, secretary and Lisa Noble, treasurer.

Camery urged members to be thinking about a vision for the chamber for 2020. "The biggest thing is how do we keep local business local," Camery said. "Take a look around before you go out of town," Camery said.

Jackie Vorlicek said the Chamber needs to promote bringing out of town people into Blooming Prairie as customers.

The Chamber is continuing to grow with the announcement of 19 new members.

The new members are: Hen House & Co., Women of Today, Stix of Fury, Saddle Butte & Ag, Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club, Blooming Prairie Backpack Program, Karen Hofstad, Jake & Alecia Peterson, Just Take the Cake, Kruckeberg Services, Amy Snider, CJ Home Inspections, Emily's Beauty Bar, Epic Contracting LLC, Geneva Bar & grill, Pam and Don Hameister, Pat & Kyle's Reclaimed Wood, Prairie Home Floral, Decor & Gifts and Emily Kay Photography.

Many voices sought during strategic planning at BP Schools

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The future of Blooming Prairie School District 876 will hopefully be in as many hands and voices as possible, says first-year superintendent Chris Staloch.

Staloch has been captain of the ISD 876 ship since last July 1 and one of his major tasks during the first year of his administration is to carve out a strategic plan for the school district. He was previously principal at the BP Elementary School.

That challenge has already been accepted by Staloch and he soon will put together a team that will build a strategic plan for the district.

Strategic planning is an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. Many corporations and school districts formulate mechanisms to guide strategic planning.

During Staloch's interviewing for the superintendent's job, the school board sought Staloch's ideas about strategic planning.

The board asked Staloch what he wanted to see in

respect to focusing a direction for the district in the future.

"Looking at the future of the district in the next 3-5 years, I said I wanted to gain input from the district residents who are stakeholders in education," Staloch said.

Showing a desire and determination to look into the future of Blooming Prairie education, Staloch said he is excited to look at Blooming Prairie education from a different lens than when he was principal of the Blooming Elementary School.

One of Staloch's first actions as superintendent was to hold a special public meeting with the school board for the purpose of charting a course of action for school district strategic planning.

Staloch gave the board a list of eight questions and put board members' responses on a white board. Staloch was seeking a board vision of future goals.

"We created a rough draft of board goals and board vision and then shared this information with staff during a back to school workshop last September," Staloch remarked.

The next step was to survey staff, parents,

students, organizations and local business and industry leaders. From this point, the data will be used to develop a strategic plan. A team will then be formed by Staloch and it will consist of parents, board members, teachers, community and students.

A goal is to form this team by early December, Staloch said.

Surveys were sent to many different groups, individuals and businesses. The survey, sent out to approximately 350 mailings, asked respondents to focus on what we can do or should do, not what hasn't happened.

The five questions were:

1. What do you see as the purpose of BP schools?
2. What are areas of strength for BP schools?
3. What do you see as needs for the future of BP schools?
4. What should BP schools be known for (values/beliefs)?
5. What challenges does the district face?

"We want to put together a plan to set our students and staff up for success in the near future and for many years to come," stated Staloch.

Late this past summer, Staloch met with area su-



SUPERINTENDENT CHRIS STALOCH

perintendents. "We looked at some finished products of other schools," said Staloch. "We didn't have to re-invent the wheel," he pointed out.

Other school districts have different students, different needs and different perspectives in comparison to Blooming Prairie, Staloch commented.

"We have to be Blooming Prairie and must look at what our hopes and dreams are," Staloch explained.

The survey responses contained "a lot of positive comments about staff and about what we are doing in the district," said Staloch.

Respondents elaborated on what can be added, changed or kept and continued to be built upon.

The 12-15 member team will look at the survey

SEE MANY VOICES, A10

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

Two men taken down in drug raid

A pair of men has been charged in connection with a drug bust at a home in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Michael McClatchey, 45, of Owatonna with two counts of fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and illegal possession of ammunition/firearm.

Also charged in connection with the case is Jordan Kelly, 35, of Faribault. He has been charged with the same crimes as McClatchey.

According to police, both McClatchey and Kelly have been previously convicted of a crime of violence and are ineli-



Michael McClatchey



Jordan Kelly

gible to possess a firearm or ammunition.

On Nov. 13, agents with the South Central Drug Investigation Unit raided a home at 721 N. Oak Ave. in Owatonna. Police said the home has been under investigation since March.

Two vehicles seen leaving the home were stopped and the drivers subsequently arrested for possession of controlled substances. One of the drivers admitted to purchasing the drugs at 721 N. Oak Ave.

During the raid, meth residue, 5.3 grams of meth, Schedule III anabolic steroids, Schedule IV Clonazepam pills and more than 5 ½ pounds of marijuana were seized.

Sgt. Lang honored for 20 years

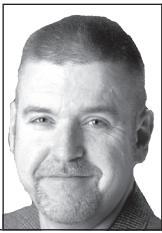


SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sgt. Mark Lang of the Blooming Prairie Police Department was honored recently for his 20 years of service with the city. He received a pin and special recognition from Chief Greg Skillestad

at a Nov. 12 meeting of the BP City Council. Sharing with the honor are Lang's wife Kelly and boys. A certificate reads: "Mark Lang, a dedicated police sergeant that handles each emergency with uncompromised competence and integrity, for being the steady voice in a storm, for using courage and compassion, and for providing such a meaningful service to the citizens of Blooming Prairie."

Law enforcement caught in the crosshairs



Behind the Badge
SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

A few weeks ago I wrote a column about how divided our country has become. After seeing everything that took place outside the Trump rally in Minneapolis, it is apparent that the divide in this country is not only our new sad reality, but it also has law enforcement in its crosshairs.

We now have communities calling to disarm entire police forces and calls to reduce and even eliminate law enforcement altogether, even as violent crime in many parts of our country are escalating to alarming numbers. We have public safety review boards full of people who know nothing about law enforcement, many with political agendas, there to determine if the split second decisions our officers have to make were justified or not. We have police chiefs, even in our great state of Minnesota, pushing the political agendas of their city councils. Worse yet, we have no true national news outlets anymore – on either side of the isle. Nobody reports the news anymore. It's all opinions, agenda driven, and politically motivated –to either the left or right. Who do we turn to for the facts anymore? I wish I had that answer.

The Minneapolis Police Chief, seemingly following

in the anti-Trump footsteps of his boss (Mayor Jacob Frey) reported that protests at the Trump rally were vastly peaceful and respectful with only one citation and one arrest the entire evening. However, video coverage of the protesters outside appear to indicate it was often anything but peaceful and respectful. It is amazing there were no serious injuries – at least which were reported. The videos also showed protesters harassing and threatening police officers, signs that said BLUE LIVES DON'T F####ING MATTER, chants by protesters "Save a life! Kill a Cop!" or "F#### Police! F#### what you stand for!" To my knowledge, these videos never made most of the mainstream media – the same media that vilified what took place inside Target Center, while seemingly whitewashing the violence and riotous behavior that took place outside on the streets.

This type of leadership is analogous to the trends we are seeing nationwide in many of our metro areas – leadership that is motivated by power, politics, and elections. Our communities risk dangerous consequences anytime our leaders put political interests ahead of public safety. In doing so they jeopardize the safety of our communities, our officers, and our first responders.

The 87 sheriffs in Minnesota are voted for every four years on a non-partisan election ballot in part for this exact purpose – to help prevent political leadership and interests from influencing decisions that may affect public safety.

Who wants to go to college and commit to a career that is constantly second-guessed and berated throughout the nation because of false narratives put out on social media by anti-police activists? Who wants to be labeled the next "racist" or "trigger happy" cop smeared all over social media when they are forced to use deadly force to protect themselves or others? Who wants to be stalked and attacked with water buckets and anti-police mobs like in New York City and be ordered to ignore it? Who wants to be constantly videotaped, told it's for their safety, then armchair quarterbacked by every special interest group and anti-police group when things go bad on a call, using those false narratives and emotions to push forward their campaigns or agendas before any facts are released. Who wants to work in a field where substance abuse, depression, PTSD and other challenges have become so prevalent within the ranks of co-workers? Who wants to put on a badge and serve in a climate and time where we have more officers killing themselves each year than those killed in the line of duty? Who wants to take on all of this with a wage that often requires them to take on a part-time job just to help make ends meet?

I'll tell you who. Some pretty amazing men and women. Young and old, right out of college or coming in as a second or third career. Men and women who still believe in right and wrong. Men and women who will put their lives on the line for you and your family any day of the week.

Men and women who live and work in the communities they serve. Men and women who feel driven, who feel a calling to do their small part to help our community a safer place for us to live and raise our families. Men and women who sacrifice so much of their lives to help ours be a little better. Men and women who will always be there to help you regardless of race, gender, or political preference. Men and women whose families make sacrifices every day for us.

Do some of them make mistakes? Absolutely, cops are human too. But the vast majority are very special people, in spite of what the media might lead you to believe.

It breaks my heart to see how some in these communities berate and belittle their troopers, deputies, and officers – most who simply signed up to try and make a difference and help people. Dodge County has always been very supportive of our men and women serving in law enforcement, and I hope to God that never changes. I think about these amazing local heroes day and night, pray they stay safe out there, and thank them every chance I get for their great work and dedication to our communities. I hope you all will do the same. A simple thank you goes a long way to remind them that we all appreciate the often thankless and difficult work they do.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose is serving his second term as Dodge County Sheriff. His column appears in this newspaper regularly.

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COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 11 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: Enke Fernandez, 29, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. The defendant was sentenced to \$500.05, 227 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation. Ron H. Jaeger, 36, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony attempted murder and felony assault of correctional employee, probation officer, prosecutor or judge. He was sentenced to \$1,931 and 1 year in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 11 – 17:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brayan E. Mata, 24, Austin, cancelled license, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Gary L. Scholljegerdes, 72, Waseca, deer hunting violation, \$375.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Mohammed Q. Abdi, 28, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100;

Brett L. Anderson, 53, Sanbron, seat belt, \$106; Renee E. Baldwin, 38, Albert Lea, speeding and seat belt, \$240; Georgiy P. Cholak, 58, Lakeville, speeding, \$115; Melvina Conrath, 84, Waseca, driving wrong way on one way street, \$175; Erik J. Craig, 37, Onalaska, WI, speeding, \$115; Joseph R. Edlund, 19, Woodbury, failure to yield, \$231; Jake T. Fee, 24, St. Peter, speeding, \$275; Shiloh L. Fletcher, 41, Boyd, TX, speeding, \$121; Christine J. Gerovac, 49, New Berlin, WI, speeding, \$125; Connor T. Getchell, 20, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Dana C. Gostomczik, 40, Rochester, no license, \$175; Angela J. Howe, 46, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Paul H. Howieson, 76, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Michael A. Jensen-Scherlin, 31, Shakopee, speeding, \$121; Gabriel H. Martinez, 25, Des Moines, IA, speeding and no license, \$321; Samantha A. McDonough, 21, Anoka, suspended license and child passenger restraint system violation, \$331; Brian L. Morrison, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Maria S. Omana Marin, 18, Farmington, speeding, \$125; Cristian I. Overland, 28, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Douglas J. Peterson, 56, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Walter L. Rath, 28, Elk Grove, CA, speeding, \$135; Remigio A. Rodriguez, 32, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Rajeev Sharma, 58, State College, PA, speeding, \$125; Anthony R. Spada, 43, Miami Beach, FL, speeding, \$115; Jewel M. Stewart, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Scott D. Ulrich, 60, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Ryan L. Weber, 42, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joseph P. Alberts, 48, Medford, expired tabs, \$105; David Barajas, 27, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$321; Bethany L. Butler, 35, Owatonna, restraining order violation, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Noah A. Harazin, 32, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Rebecca T. Jock, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Tanner R. Kruckeberg, 25, Dodge Center, speeding, \$131; Amanda Pichardo Garcia, 20, Owatonna, reokved license, \$275; Amanda K. Preble, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, no insurance and registration violation and failure to deliver title, \$781; Mason D. Rhoades, 19, Owatonna, underage drinking and driving, stay of adjudication, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Charity A. Schmidt, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Heidi D. Schmidt, 76, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Lyle F. Sellers, 37, Waseca, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Noriah M. Tabor, 23, Owatonna, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$331; Dajaun D. Wadley, 23, Owatonna, no insurance, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Katherine J. Davis, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$131; Amy L. Ihrke-Johnson, 45, Kasson, speeding, \$125; Mindy L. Jackson, 48, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Mark L. Kilgore, 46,

Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Chloe L. Kleinschrodt, 23, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$131; Daniel A. Limon, 29, Medford, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Bryant A. Oneal, 60, Dubuque, IA, invalid license, \$181; Steven A. Sands, 34, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and DWI, stay of adjudication, \$50, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Alejandro Vega, 22, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Oscar E. Velazquez Gomez, 24, South St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Taylor A. Ziemke, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$135.

ARRESTS

Steele County

Owatonna Police

Adam James Trimble, 30, arrested at 1:07 p.m. Nov. 14, felony probation violation, held for court. Dakota Reid Cisneros, 23, arrested at 4:55 p.m. Nov. 16, violation of conditions of release, held for court. Sam Irvin Thompson, 22, arrested at 8:31 a.m. Nov. 17, felony possession of stolen property, held for court. Jose Hernandez Jr., 36, arrested at 1:41 p.m. Nov. 18, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court. Jonelle Suezette Hill, 38, arrested at 7:30 a.m. Nov. 19, warrant arrest, held for court.

SEE BLOTTER, A5

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

1. Lori Hanson – DWI - \$3,000 bail

2. Ronald Heard Jr. – domestic abuse - \$1,000 bail

3. Andrew Heidemann – theft - \$300 bail

4. Juan Hernandez – motor vehicle - \$1,000 bail

5. Jeffrey Herzog – disorderly conduct - \$1,000 bail

6. Faithful Hill – damage to property – no bail

7. Rodney Hill – traffic - \$1,000 bail

8. Laquan Hillard – weapon without permit - \$3,000 bail

9. Fahad Hilowle – DWI - \$12,000 bail

10. Damian Hortop-Rocha – burglary – no bail

11. Dominic Hosteller – disorderly conduct - \$400 bail

12. Spencer Hutchinson – DWI – no bail

13. Trung Huynh – drugs – no bail

14. Gloria Ibarra – warrant - \$30,000 bail

15. Angela Jellum – DWI - \$12,000 bail

16. Jose Jimenez Jr. – domestic assault – no bail

17. Andrew Johnson – failure to appear - \$1,000 bail

18. Cody Johnson – warrant - \$2,000 bail

19. David Johnson – dishonored check - \$1,000 bail

20. Lawrence Johnson – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail

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

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Need Help

Dear Need,
There are actually a number of free and low-cost legal resources that can help seniors in need, but what's available to you will depend on where you live, the type legal assistance you need and your financial situation. Here are several options to check into.

Legal Aid: Directed by the Legal Services Corporation, legal aid offers free legal assistance to low-income people of all ages. Each community program will differ slightly in the services they offer and income qualifications. See LSC.gov/find-legal-aid to locate a program in your area.

Free Legal Answers: This is an online program created by the American Bar Association that matches low-income clients with volunteer lawyers who agree to provide brief answers online for free. This service will not answer criminal law questions, and it's not available in every state. Visit ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org to look for a program in your state.

Pro Bono and Senior Legal Hotlines: Usually sponsored by state or local bar associations, pro bono programs help low-income people find volunteer lawyers who are willing to handle their cases for free.

There are also a number of states that still offer senior legal hotlines, where all seniors over age 60 have access to free legal advice over the telephone. To find out if either of these services are available in your state, go to LawHelp.org, and click on "Find help near you."

Senior Legal Services: Coordinated by the Administration on Aging, this service may offer free or low-cost legal advice, legal assistance or access to legal representation to people over the age of 60. Your Area Agency on Aging can tell you what's available in your community. Call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 to get your local number.

National Disability Rights Network: This is a nonprofit membership organization that provides legal assistance to people with disabilities through their Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program. If you are disabled, visit NDRN.org to find help in your state.

OTHER OPTIONS

If you can't get help from one of these programs, or find that you aren't eligible, another option is to contact your state or local bar association, which may be able to refer you to a low-fee lawyer. Or, you may want to consider hiring a lawyer for only part of the legal work and doing other parts yourself. This is known as "unbundled legal services."

Many bar associations offer public service-oriented lawyer referral services that will interview clients and help identify the problems a lawyer could help them with. If a lawyer can help with your problem, the service will provide you with a referral to a lawyer. If the problem does not require a lawyer, the service will provide information on other organizations in your community that may be able to help. Most of these lawyer referral services conduct their interviews and make referrals over the phone.

To contact your state or local bar association, go to www.FindLegalHelp.org.

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Dec. 1, 2009

RICK BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Jeff McCabe has been named president of Spray Control Systems, Inc. of Blooming Prairie. Spray Control is the holding company for Minimizer poly fenders, bracket kits, tool boxes and mud flaps. The McCabe family lives in Blooming Prairie.

Israel Clark was recognized for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. Israel is the son of Pam Clark and a 2009 graduate of Blooming Prairie.

Tina Bush, owner of Bush Garden Gladiolus in Blooming Prairie, is proud of her new business in Owatonna. She started Panache Floral on North Cedar Avenue at the end of July and business has been wonderful for the local business owner.

On Dec. 7, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be making a stop in Owatonna. The train will make its stop at the railroad crossing at 1145 Park Dr., which is near the Owatonna Bus Company and Wenger's. The train is decorated with thousands of lights.

20 Years Ago Nov. 30, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Matt Kittelson received a scholarship check from Dollars for Scholars. Kittelson is majoring in physical education at Minnesota State University at Mankato. He is the son of John and Mary Kittelson.

Grand opening week is Dec. 1-7 for Alliance Bank in Blooming Prairie.

The bank is offering a cool cub teddy bear for anyone who opens up a new account as well as a box of free standard checks.

Ardis Knutson was honored with the McKnight Binger Award for human service last week. She served on the Blooming Prairie Center board of directors.

Beginning Nov. 15, Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie will have an ATM/Debit machine available in the community. Transactions will be able to be made 24 hours a day.

The proposed budget for the City of Blooming Prairie for 2000 is \$1,035,261 compared to the actual budget of 1999 of \$999,231. This represents a 3.6% increase.

50 Years Ago Nov. 26, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Because the FBI has entered the case of a \$20,000 bank burglary at Medford, two suspects are being held in the Hennepin County jail in Minneapolis. Two Owatonna youths were picked up by Steele County Sheriff Bud Coufal and the Owatonna police force Saturday in Owatonna and transferred to Minneapolis. Sheriff Coufal reported that a total of \$18,529 has been recovered. On Saturday, with the aid of the FBI, \$2,596 was recovered in Rice County.

Janny Randall, 17, of Owatonna, was crowned 1970 Steele County "Junior Miss" at the pageant Nov. 22 in the Blooming Prairie High School. Miss Ann Cashman, 17, also of Owatonna, was named first runner-up in the competition and Polly Ann

Jensen, Owatonna, was picked second runner-up.

Blooming Prairie's first United Fund Drive closed recently and was a huge success, with contributions and pledges exceeding the quota established prior to the opening of the campaign. Final tabulation of contributions and pledges amounted to \$5,210 or \$1,210 more than the budget set-up by the committee in charge of the campaign here.

75 Years Ago Nov. 30, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie's hemp mill will not close until the 1943-44 crop has been completely processed, so advises Senator Henrik Shipstead by a direct letter received from Secretary of Commerce Jesse D. Jones, and forwarded to Merville C. Bray, president of Blooming Prairie's Commercial Club.

Rev. Father John M. Misiak, pastor of St. Columbanus Church in Blooming Prairie for the past 14 months has been transferred by his bishop at Winona to Minnesota Lake, a parish that compares in size to Blooming Prairie.

Steele County dairy farmers receive \$285,008 in subsidies. This was for butterfat and milk produced during the period of October 1943 through August 1944.

Intercounty Telephone Company announced that telephone companies are extending and improving rural telephone service after the war.

Specials this week at M. Nelson & Company in Blooming Prairie: men's curlee suits, 100% wool, \$33.50; lace tablecloths, \$2.25; 10 pound sack of onions, 31¢ and a bushel of apples for \$1.69.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Leo Rivera Gaxiola, 40, arrested at 9:58 p.m. Nov. 15, felony criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

April Murphy, 44, arrested at 6:30 a.m. Nov. 19, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Sean Martin Cicero, 39, arrested at 11:05 p.m. Nov. 20, probation violation, held for court.

Ruon Yang Tut, 26, arrested at 8:07 a.m. Nov. 21, warrant arrest, body only.

MN STATE PATROL
Ashley Lynn Myers, 28, arrested Nov. 18, warrant arrest, \$300 bail.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMINGTON POLICE

Nov. 19 Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 700 block of Industrial Dr. NE at 1:16 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE
Nov. 15 Truancy: At 8:16 a.m., police received a report of truancy.
Shoplifting: Officers arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 8:55 a.m.
Weapons: Police responded to a weapons-related incident in the 2400 block of Water Tower Lane NE at 9:35 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of School St. E. at 9:50 a.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 100 block of State Ave. NW at 8:47 p.m.

Nov. 16 Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 9:28 a.m.

Threats: At 11:38 a.m., a subject made threats in the 300 block of Main St. E.

Domestic: Police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of North St. W. at 4:34 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 43rd St. NW at 8:19 p.m.

Nov. 17 Stolen Property: At 8:31 a.m., officers arrested a subject after stolen property was recovered at Walnut Ave. S. and School St. W.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 4:16 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 4:22 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft: Police took a theft report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 9:20 p.m.

Nov. 18 Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 12:21 p.m. and the 2600 block of 18th St. NW at 12:59 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police received a report of criminal sexual conduct in the city at 2:11 p.m.

Restraining Order: At 3:59 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 500 block of Hillcrest Ave. SE.

Missing Person: Police assisted with a missing person from the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:15 p.m.

Nov. 19 Shoplifting: At 1:19 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

DWI: Police made DWI arrests in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 2:36 a.m. and at 24th Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 3:57 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported at the law enforcement center at 7:46 a.m. and the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:46 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 8:57 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 43rd St. NW at 9:56 a.m. and on Prospect St. E. at 8:17 p.m.

Arrests: Police arrested motorists during traffic stops at Walnut Ave. S. and Mill St. W. at 10:34 p.m. and

the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:47 p.m.

Nov. 20 Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Oak Ave. S. and McKinley St. SW at 1 a.m.

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 8:10 a.m.

Suspicion: At 12:41 p.m., officers responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Restraining Order: At 4:48 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1700 block of St. Paul Road NE.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. NW at 7:23 p.m.

Nov. 21 Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 2:06 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 800 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 11:16 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 15 Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 3100 block of 168th St. SE in Summit Township at 12:31 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies arrested a subject for criminal sexual conduct in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 4:41 p.m.

Nov. 16 Fire: Deputies responded to a fire call on Interstate 35 in Owatonna at 1:48 a.m.

Suspicion: Deputies received information regarding suspicious activity in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Medford at 9:42 a.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 7:18 p.m.

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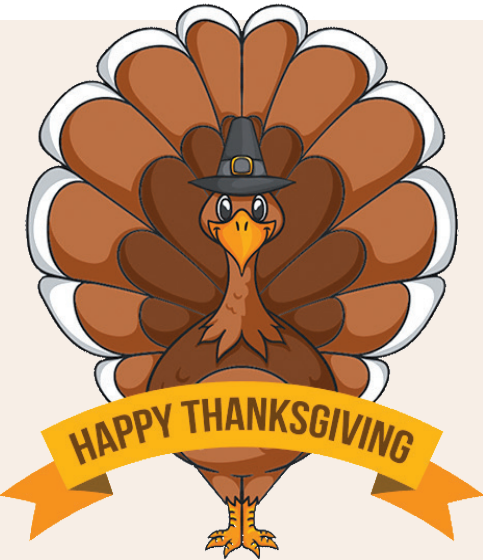
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More turkey responses... How do you cook a turkey?

Okay, sheer 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. Or shall we say the experts—third graders at Blooming Prairie Elementary School—have saved Thanksgiving. Last week we heard from

students in Angie Avery and Alli Schmidt’s classes. This week we share with you students from Becky Johnson’s class. Their responses are real and genuine. They have not been edited and are used in their original form. A special thank you to each of the teachers for helping us out with this project. Happy Thanksgiving!



Andrew Schwarz carefully writes his “How to Cook a Turkey” instructions.

MRS. JOHNSON’S CLASS

First, buy a turkey to cook. Second, you set the oven to 600 or 700 dgres. Third, you sesen it with salt and peper. Then, poot it in the oven. Next, when you hear the ding, let it cowl of.

■ Zoey Olsen

First, go buy the turkey at your grocey store and then put it in the crock pan and leave the wrapper on it for a minute. Second, turn on the oven to 400°F to make sure it ready for the turkey, and make sure to take off the wrapper. Next, when you hear the oven ring put the turkey in the oven and make sure it’s at the right. Last, when you hear the over ring check to mack sure it’s ready to eat if it’s not put it back in the oven for about two minutes. Then cut it up that way you could actually be sure it’s ready to serever then ready to eat it dodn’t forget the drink.

■ By Lily Evans

First, biy a turkey. Second, poot the turkey on a pan and then poot it into the ofen. Then, tack it out of the ofen and sessen the trcke. Last eat the trcke.

■ Levi Skillestad

First, you go in a deer stand. Secened, you take your ame. Three, you shoot a turkey. Four, you hop on a ranger or truck and bring it home. Fith, you put on gloves and open it up. Six you take the guts out and thow it away. Seven, you take the heart out and throw it away. Eyiht, you close it and put it in the oven. Niht, you preheat the oven for 45 minutes. Ten, you take it out and let it cool down for a coupl hours or minetes. Eleven, you decorate it whith

leafes, misotole and put red berry’s around the turekey. Twelv, the you tak it to the table and you dig in.

■ Andrew Schwarz

Frist, buy the turkey. Second, go home and put it in the pan. Therd, pree heat the oven. Forth, put it in the oven. Fith, put salt and pepper on it. Sixth, cut the turkey. Next, give the turkey to lots of people. Last, eat the delishas turkey. Yummmmmmmmmmm. I love turkeys.

■ Bristol Hansen

First, you cut the head off. Second, you put the over to 360 f. Third, you put the turkey in the oven. Fourth, you set the oven for one hour. Fith, check on it with a cook temp. Sixth, make sure the turkey temp is over 300. Next, let it cool. Last, eat it.

■ Emery Schleicher

First you trun the noeud to 10 dgres. Secont cut the tureky into OK pesace. Put the turekey in the pan next you tack the turkey owt next put the so it no it next you scvit next say thance nest you can eat last you clean up.

■ Carson Salyes

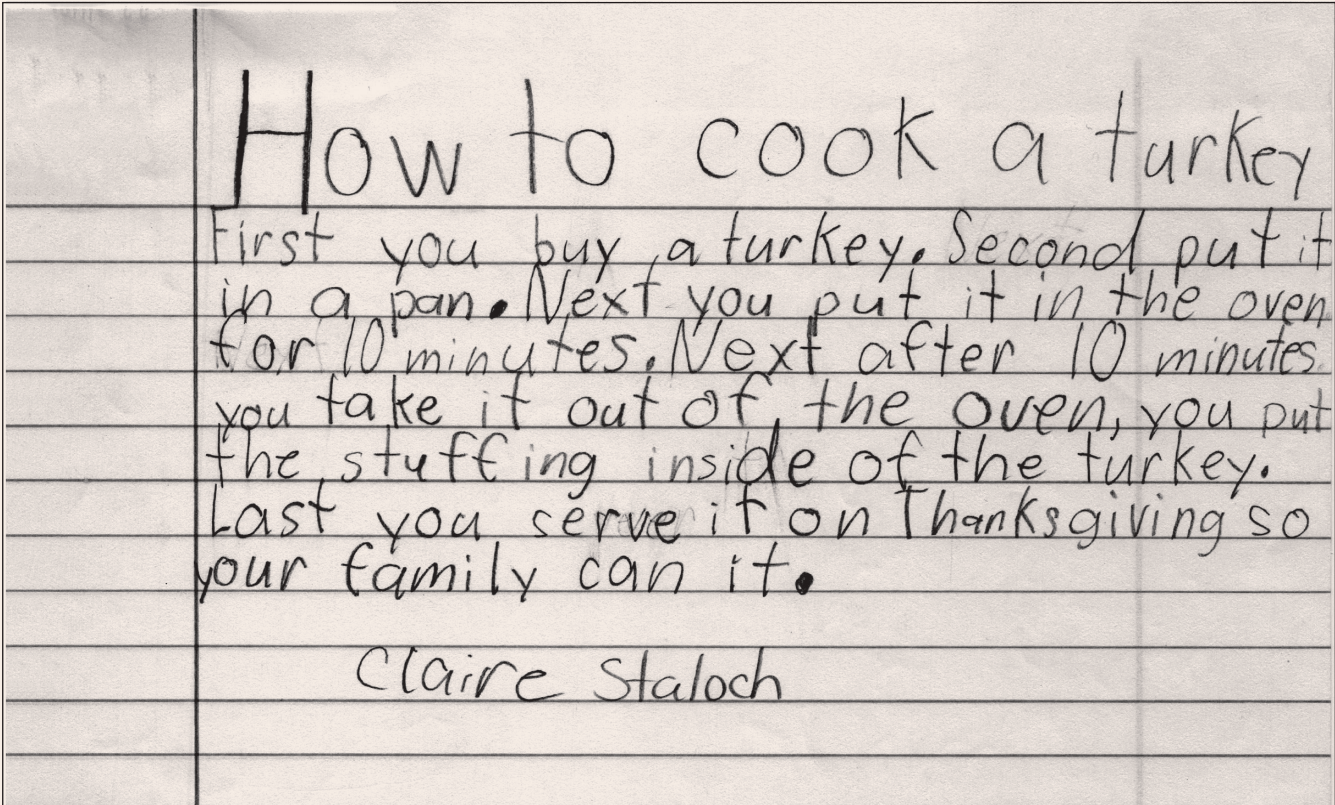
First, you put the over at 300?. Second, you put a turkey in a pot and put it in the oven. Then, you cook it for 30 minutes. Last, you take it out of the oven and eat it.

■ Jeffrey Bruns

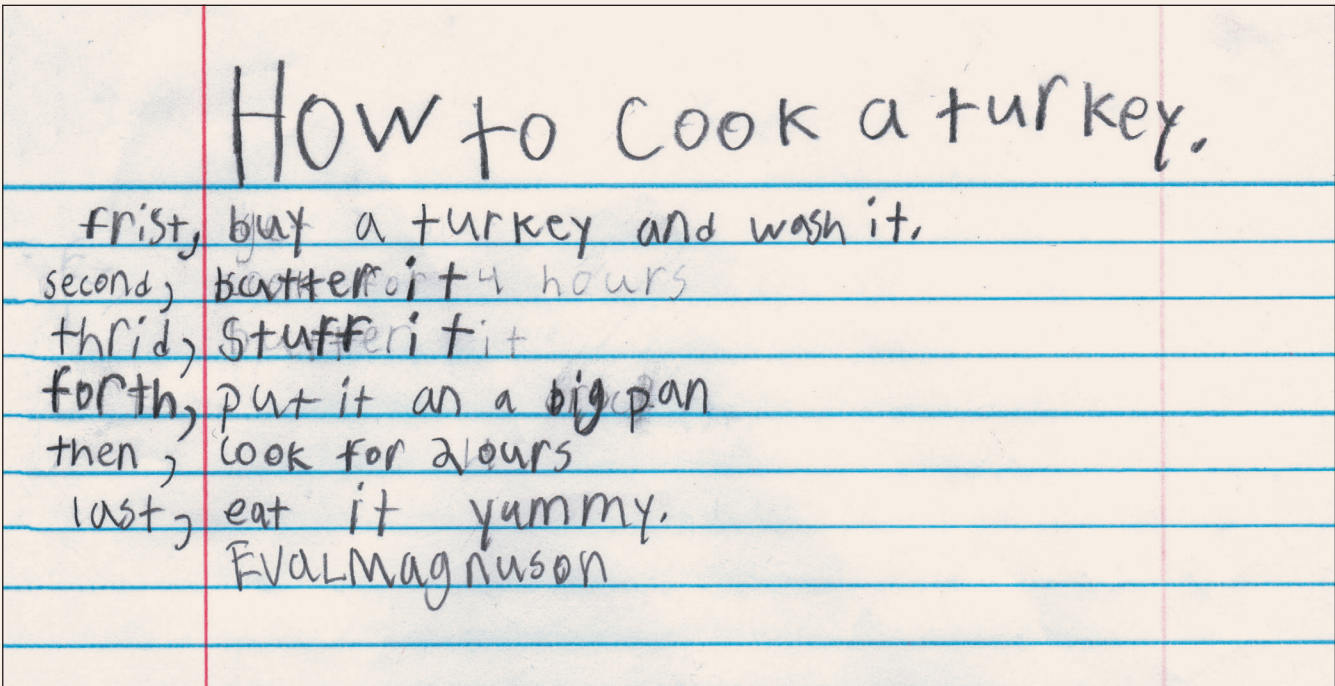
First, buy turkey from Hy-Vee. Second, put in oil. Third, put in some sugar and cinimon and let sit. Fourth, flip in the oil and let sit. Then, put in pan and cook for 20 minuts. Last, take out of oven and surve.

■ Addison Hjelman

First, set the oven to six hundred degrees. Second, put the turkey into the oven. Next, wait about an



Claire Staloch



hour and a half. Last, take it out of the oven then wait intell the turkey is done cooling down. Then you have to make sides that will take about half an hour. Then you can eat your happy Thanksgiving meal for a happy Thanksgiving year!

■ Aaron Janning-Smith

First, thaw the turkey. Second, put it in a crockpot. Next, cook for 2 or 4 hours. Then cut it and stuff it. Last, let it cool of and enjoy.

■ Rayanne Alves

Frist get the turkey. Second put it in the roster. Then you take it out. Last you eat it.

■ Owen Gimbel

First, buy or hunt a turkey. Second, put the turkey in a crockpot. Next, preheat the oven. Then, take the turkey out of the oven. Last, eat the turkey.

■ Amelia Pauly

First, you seasin it. Then you cut it. Second, tast it sever if no bade. Last you sever it.

■ Shane Johnson

First you go hunt a turkey. Second you cut out its guts, brain and all that stuff. Therd you put sailt and peper on it. Fourth you cook it for one hour. Last you eat it and say yum.

■ Max Hendrickson

First, preheat the oven to five hundred dgreece. Second, put it in the oven for five owers. Therd, tack the tukey out of the oven then put eny senening you

want to. Fith, cut the tukey in a pan. Sith, put the turkey on the table. Then, put the turkey on platce. Then, eat the turkey.

■ Elizabeth Johnson



Third grader Damien Koning ponders what to write next. He is in Angie Avery's class.



Teacher Becky Johnson goes over the turkey instructions with some of her third grade students.



With a smile, Karmen Fleming gets every detail down on paper. She is in Alli Schmidt's third grade class.



It's all concentration for Claire Staloch as she writes the instructions to cooking a turkey. She her handwriting above. She is in Becky Johnson's class.

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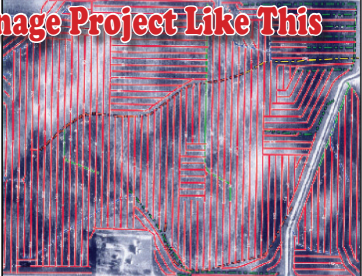
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FIREY HWY. 14: crash claims 2 more lives FROM A1

his wife, Elizabeth Ann Logan, 52, of New Richland. They were killed instantly on Nov. 20 at about 6 p.m. when they collided head-on with a semi-tractor trailer.

The crash happened along Hwy. 14 at County Road 3 on the east edge of Claremont. It was the same location where Rachel Harberts and her daughter, Emerson, died in a crash in September 2018.

Last week's crash is the fourth fatal crash along the 12-mile two-lane stretch of roadway between Dodge Center and Owatonna since July 2018. In those four crashes, six people have now died. The roadway has become infamously dubbed, "The Highway of Horrors."

In the most recent crash, the Logans were traveling eastbound in a Ford Fusion that collided with a westbound International Semi. After impact, the semi went into the ditch and caught on fire. The driver of the semi, Lyle Davis Merritt, 75, of Cleveland, Minn., escaped from the cab and was taken to a Rochester hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The patrol said both Jay and Elizabeth as well as Merritt were wearing their seat belts and no alcohol is believed to be involved in the crash.

The roadway was shut down for approximately four hours while emergency crews cleared the wreckage. Claremont Fire, Dodge Center Fire, Kasson Police, Dodge Center Ambulance and sheriff's offices from Dodge and Steele counties assisted the patrol at the crash scene.

The crash left the tiny community of Hope devastated. "Last night Hope took a punch in the heart," Spurgy's Bar and



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING
Emergency crews extinguish a fire at the scene of the deadly crash along Hwy. 14 at County Road 3 near Claremont Nov. 20. After a car collided with a semi, the semi went into the ditch and caught on fire. Two people in the car were killed instantly and the semi driver was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The wreck closed down Hwy. 14 for about four hours.

Grill posted on Facebook. "We lost two great people. Both very much imbedded in the community. Hope, Ellendale, Geneva, New Richland, we all grieve together."

Jay Logan grew up in Clarks Grove and graduated from Ellendale High School. The couple lived in Ham Lake for several years. They moved to rural New Richland in 2005 at which time Jay started his career with Hope Creamery. Beth worked for Hope Creamery and an

insurance agency in Albert Lea prior to starting her career with Federated Insurance in Owatonna.

The couple is survived by two adult children, Tyler and Grace.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. They were buried at First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale.

Though groundbreaking took place on the expansion to four lanes, the project won't be completed for at least two years.

Gobbling up bingo



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Ethan Hullopeter, 5, of Blooming Prairie and his sister Kayla had some fun gobbling up bingo at the BP Cancer Group's annual Turkey Bingo on Nov. 14 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. The Hullopeters were two of the younger Bingo players. About 140 people of all ages came out for the fundraiser.

HWY. 14 DEATH WATCH

12-mile stretch between Dodge Center and Owatonna

4 fatal crashes, 6 deaths since July 2018

- **July 18, 2018:** Dodge Center man killed at Hwy. 14 & Hwy. 56 north
- **Sept. 7, 2018:** Dodge Center woman and daughter killed at Hwy. 14 & CR 3 by Claremont
- **Feb. 2:** Owatonna woman killed on Hwy. 14 in Steele County
- **Nov. 20:** New Richland couple killed at Hwy. 14 & CR 3 by Claremont

PARADE TO LIGHT: up the holidays FROM A1

Claus is expected to make his jolly appearance with some treats.

One change this year from the past, Schultz said, is that a \$25 registration fee is being charged for businesses and groups to take part in the parade. The money raised through the registration fees will be utilized to purchase new Christmas lights on Main Street and the surrounding allies, she noted.

To add to the excitement for parade entrants there will be a trophy awarded this year for the best lighted unit.

The parade typically features floats, cars and groups of people with holiday lights lighting up their path through the route. "Some have so much fun with this," Schultz said. "There is real excitement about being downtown."

One of the more festive units is typically a city

snow plow that features the most lights of any unit. The plow also features moving snow blades and toots its horn.

Schultz said the parade got its beginnings with carolers strolling through the downtown singing Christmas carols. "People would walk and sing and it morphed into bigger groups," she explained.

She said the parade creates holiday fun for many. "All the businesses get excited and give back to the community," Schultz said. "The community just loves to come together. It's a reason to get out."

This year the chamber, for example, is getting into the excitement by featuring a station wagon with a spoof replicating the vehicle used in the hit holiday movie, Christmas Vacation. Schultz said the wagon will have a Christmas tree on the top. "We want to show enthusiasm

for the community," she said.

Schultz calls Owatonna's holiday parade "one of the best in Minnesota." She said she is not aware of many communities offering such a parade like Owatonna does.

While nobody has control over what Mother Nature does, Schultz is hoping for a third straight year of temperatures in the 30s. Regardless, people typically show up no matter what happens. "We live with the cold, we can bear it," Schultz said. "Bundle up."

Besides the festivities downtown, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will also be roaring into Owatonna earlier in the day. At 3:40 p.m., the train will be stopping at 1145 Park Drive at the rail crossing near Owatonna Bus Company.

The train is a great way to get into the festive spirit. It is about 1,000 feet long



With bright lights twinkling, a youngster enjoys the Owatonna Holiday Lighted Parade in 2018. This year's parade will be Thursday, Dec. 5.

with 14 brightly decorated rail cars. Each car is decorated with hundreds of thousands of LED lights and holiday designs celebrating the spirit of the giving season.

Otto Bremer Trust awards grants in Owatonna

The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded \$12,855,616 in grants and program-related investments as part of its most recent grantmaking cycle.

"The Otto Bremer Trust is proud to continue investing in a broad range of programs and organizations that are making a positive impact in people's lives across the region," said Brian Lipschultz, co-CEO and trustee, OBT. "Partnering in this way is at the core of our continued long-term commitment to the Upper Midwest and exactly what Otto Bremer envisioned 75 years ago when he saw a need to help communities prosper."

The Otto Bremer Trust is a bank holding company and a private charitable trust based in St. Paul, that works at the intersection of finance and philanthropy.

OBT is the 86 percent owner of Bremer Bank, a regional financial services company, and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. Since its founding, OBT has invested more than \$700 million in people, places, and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Visit ottobremer.org.

Two grants have been awarded in Owatonna. The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has received \$50,000 to build and connect agricultural business assets to ensure community viability in southern Minnesota. The Steele County Transitional Housing, Inc., has also received \$50,000 for general operations to provide rent subsidies and case management for homeless families and individuals fleeing domestic violence in Steele County.

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Kenneth Winzenburg, 84,
Blooming Prairie



Kenneth Winzenburg

Kenneth William Winzenburg, age 84 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna. Kenneth was born July 11, 1935 in Freeborn County, to Merrill and Annette (Peterson) Winzenburg. He attended Freeborn County country school, then his family moved to Blooming Prairie, where he graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1953. After graduation, Kenneth worked for a short time, then in April of 1954, he joined the Army, serving in the Korean War and earned the rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in February of 1956. After returning from the Army, Kenneth started on a route with Marigold Dairy in Austin, then returned to Blooming Prairie and was a self-employed milk hauler and also drove school bus. On April 28, 1956, he was united in marriage to Lois Underwood at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. Their marriage was blessed with eight children. Kenneth started farming in 1961. In 1964, he bought his parents farm west of Blooming Prairie, where he continued to farm until 2000. From 1985 until his retirement in 2000, he also worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Faribault.

Kenneth was a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, where he was a Grand Knight. He was also active in the American Legion, volunteering at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, and drove van for the Steele County Veteran's Services. He enjoyed traveling, golfing, and served on the Blooming Prairie Elevator and PCA board. Kenneth will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Winzenburg of Blooming Prairie; children, Mary Jo Winzenburg of Owatonna, Steve (Ann) Winzenburg of Blooming Prairie, Nancy (Brad) Johnson of Lakeville, Timothy (Ronald Lee) Winzenburg of Denver, Thomas (Suzanne) Winzenburg of Knoxville, Tenn., Jeanne (Tom Conroy) Johnson of Minneapolis, Daniel Winzenburg of Burnsville, Peggy (Don) Nordine of Rochester; 15 grandchildren, Lucas (Katie), Jessica, Patrick (Sara), Danielle, Brandon, Meagan, Stephanie (Matthew), Ashley (Mark), Camden, Mack (Brooke), Collin, Seth, Samuel, Isaiah, and Maya; 13 great grandchildren; brothers, Henry Winzenburg of Owatonna, Edward (Jackie) Winzenburg of Owatonna, George (Sandy) Winzenburg of Blooming Prairie; brother-in-law, Don Hoium of Rochester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merrill and Annette Winzenburg; and four sisters, Alice, Anita, Elizabeth and Marilyn.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. Interment was in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, Blooming Prairie. Military honors were by the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard. Memorials are preferred to Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, St. Columbanus parking lot fund, or recipient of donor's choice.

Services were prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Nov. 27-29 No School-Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2- French toast sticks, sausage patty, ham n' egg-wich, breakfast potatoes.
Dec. 3- Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, garlic breadstick, BBQ rib sandwich, California blend vegetable.
Dec. 4- Cheese bread and marinara sauce, ham deli sub sandwich, cucumber ranch salad.

BP High School

Nov. 27-29- No School-Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2- Buffalo chicken wrap, breakfast potatoes, BBQ rib sandwich, chef salad, chicken Caesar wrap, ham and tator tot breakfast bake.
Dec. 3- Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, garlic toast, crispy chicken sandwich, pizza, chef salad, chicken Caesar salad, taco bar.
Dec. 4- Cheeseburger, Cucumber ranch salad, homemade chocolate chip cookie, corn dog, chef salad, breakfast burrito.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

India Enter has been awarded the Silvan Durben scholarship for 2019. She is currently studying music in Nebraska.

Arts Center awards scholarship

The Owatonna Arts Center is honored to present the Silvan Durben scholarship to India Enter. The scholarship committee had eight worthy applicants from which to select one individual. They chose India Enter. She is working toward a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance with a minor in French at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Arts Center encourages individuals to apply for the 2020 scholarship by checking the web site, www.oacarts.org.

MANY VOICES:
sought during strategic planning

FROM A3

results and evaluate them from different perspectives, Staloch said. Superintendent Staloch obviously is the lead on the project. "I've been doing a lot of listening and will serve as a mediator on the project," he related. With the committee, its purpose will be to ask the right questions in setting goals and in how to achieve the goals during a specified timeline utilizing proper resources. Staloch said he believes the district staff members are doing "a lot of great things." He said the district's teaching staff cares about kids. "I think we are headed in the right direction; sure there are areas to improve upon," he added. Staloch said he is proud of what the community does for its kids. He saluted the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation for its commitment to improving education. He also said that local business and industry supports education. The strategic planning process will reflect a team effort, Staloch believes. The plan is to set some short-term and long-term goals. Staloch will reach out to parents, board members, teachers, community and students in selecting a strategic planning team. This team will then give Staloch and the board some direction. "The process is exciting and it's good to listen to the community in determining how we can make the district better for our students. We want to create an environment that helps all students." Staloch continues to emphasize that he wants the planning process to be a transparent one. The superintendent said strategic planning results will be shared with the public. "It will be important that our district residents learn what our long-term and short-term goals are," Staloch said. "I am proud of what we have done and I want to see us continuing to improve," Staloch concluded.

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Happy Thanksgiving

BOOK NOOK

Some gratitude from the library

As we approach Thanksgiving I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library throughout this year and throughout many past years. Thanks to the City of Blooming Prairie for its financial support and for providing our great facilities. The City Administrator, City Council, and Mayors give us oversight, funding, and security. The Owatonna Public Library, of which we are a branch library, offers their expertise in library direction, collection management, and their personnel. Special thanks to the Owatonna Public Library Foundation, which provides extras to the library including the children's play area and specialized online databases. I am grateful for the Friends of the Library organization and their members who are willing to advocate for library needs, as well as provide funds for programs and furniture. Thanks need to go to local businesses who support the Friends group and also donate products or services to the library. The problem with thanking individuals is that I am concerned that I may forget someone. So thank you to all who help at the library: bringing snacks for programs, attending programs, donating books and movies, picking up toys, helping with fish, putting books away, providing craft materials, bringing animals for children to enjoy, and so many other thoughtful acts. Thank you all! And finally, thanks to Laura Thomas and Kisha Aquino for serving our special library patrons. Happy Thanksgiving!



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Word Search Corner

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Recipe Corner

Minnesota Wild Rice Soup

Makes 8 servings

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

3 carrots, finely diced

2 leeks, white and light green parts, finely diced

2 celery stalks, finely diced

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

2 quarts Chicken Broth

3/4 cup wild rice

1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste

3/4 cup heavy cream, hot

3 tablespoons dry sherry

1/4 cup minced chives

3 tablespoons chopped parsley

Heat the butter in a soup pot over medium heat. Add the carrots, leeks and celery. Cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to low, add the flour, and stir well. Cook gently, about 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the broth gradually, whisking well with each addition to eliminate flour lumps. Bring to a simmer. Add the wild rice and salt. Continue to simmer until the rice is tender but still somewhat chewy, about 45 minutes. Stir in the heated cream and sherry. Season with salt. Serve in heated bowls, garnished with chives and parsley.

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“Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:19) This is what Jesus told a man whom he had just cured of leprosy.

In the Gospel of Luke chapter 17:11-19, we hear a story of healing – a story of physical healing but also a story spiritual healing. It's a story of one man's faith shown through gratitude.

One day there were 10 men, suffering from the crippling disease of leprosy, who saw Jesus walking. From a safe distance, the men called out to him and asked Jesus to cure them. *They said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”* When he heard their plea, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the local priest. That was it. They didn't have any other interaction with Jesus; they didn't have to do anything, they didn't have to profess any certain prayer, nor did they have to prove

their worthiness. All the men did was ask Jesus for help and mercy.

“As they went, they were made clean.” These men whose lives has been destroyed by this horrible disease. These men who lost everything because of an illness. These men, who were isolated and kept at a “safe distance” from all of humanity, were cured as they walked. Their lives were restored to them in the blink of eye. All that was lost was now regained.

One of the men, a foreigner from Samaria, realized that Jesus has cued them just as they asked. This man returned to Jesus “praising God with a loud voice” and acknowledging what had happened to him. He came back to say thank you to Jesus.

He could have been angry – angry that he had this disease in the first place. He could have felt

that being cured was his right, what he deserved. He could have continued on his way back to the life he had before his illness – never acknowledging what God did for him. He could have done that... But he didn't. This Samaritan Man returned to Jesus and said thank you! You have answered my prayers.

When Jesus and this man were face to face, Jesus asked him, *“Were not 10 made clean? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”*

All 10 men were cured of their disease, but only this man's faith made him “well.” It seems that being cured of an illness and being well are two different things. All the men were healed so all were physically made well, but only the one who was thankful was told “your

faith has made you well.” Only one came back and praised God. And it was this one who was well.

There is power in saying thank you. There is healing in saying thank you. There is wellness in appreciating and acknowledging the blessings in our lives. It is through gratitude that we are made humble. It is through gratitude that we are in right relationship with God, with ourselves, and with our possessions.

Tomorrow we celebrate Thanksgiving, a day set a side in the United States for giving thanks. For many of us Thanksgiving is a day of food, family and football. These are all wonderful parts of the holiday, but I hope you take time and say thank you to God, and your family, for all that you have been given. It's in saying Thank You, that you can be well, too, just like the man cured of leprosy.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-684-4288
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.,
Bloomington 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., Sergeant
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 Klawiter 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 Oppeward
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 KING205 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 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., Bloomington 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.
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CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT540 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 PENTECOSTAL230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST43089 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 Cirkse
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
Rev. Scott Jakel
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 COMMUNITY130 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
507-363-3099www.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 MENNONITE13638 750th St., Bloomington 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 SAINTS404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCHPresbyterian 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 PRESBYTERIAN109 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 ADVENTIST2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD702 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 BAPTIST104 First Ave. NE,
Bloomington 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 LIFE105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.**Minimizer**
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Cancer advocates urge federal support from Hagedorn

Discoveries that accelerate answers to cancer and impact human health can't happen without federally funded research. On Nov. 6, Congressman Jim Hagedorn visited The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, to meet with cancer researchers, the American Cancer Society, and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to discuss the importance of increasing federal research budgets.

"Our community – through the leadership and generosity of The Hormel Foundation and local donors – has developed The Hormel Institute into a state of the art cancer research center," said Ann M. Bode, professor and interim executive director for The Hormel Institute.

"What is critical for continued success and progress is for our expert scientists to receive national grants to support the innovative research they want to and are prepared to do. We rely on national funding agencies to do this so discoveries can flourish in our effort to improve human health."

The Hormel Institute has been an innovative research institute since its beginning in 1942, providing contributions to science to benefit people worldwide. In 2008, The Hormel Institute tripled in size and again doubled in size in 2016, growing from five labs and 60 jobs to today's 20-plus research sections and 140 faculty and staff employees. Future growth is expected to continue, with The Hormel Foundation and local community providing critically important annual support. Though facilities, state of the art technologies, startup funding for scientists, annual operational costs and some research funding is provided by The Hormel Foundation and the community,



U.S. Congressman Jim Hagedorn stopped by the Hormel Institute in Austin on Nov. 6 to meet with scientists, the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Hagedorn is shown in the front center.

grant funding for The Hormel Institute's research comes from the American Cancer Society and federal agencies such as National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense.

Congress was unable to come to a federal funding deal for fiscal year 2020 by the September deadline and instead passed a continuing resolution to keep the government open until Nov. 21. While a final deal is still in flux, the U.S. House passed legislation earlier this year that would increase NIH funding by \$2 billion in fiscal year 2020 and the Senate released a draft bill that would boost NIH funding by \$3 billion.

"The Hormel Institute is doing its part in leading the world in the fight against cancer," said Keely Couillard, American Cancer Society's director of corporate relations.

"Currently, the American Cancer Society funds 16 research grants across the state of Minnesota, including an important melanoma research project underway at The Hormel Institute."

The American Cancer Society is the largest non-government, not-for-profit funding source of

cancer research in the United States. Since 1946, the American Cancer Society has invested more than \$4.9 billion in cancer research to find more – and better – treatments, uncover factors that may cause cancer and improve quality of life for cancer patients. The program primary funds early career cancer research investigators, giving the best and brightest a chance to explore cutting-edge ideas at a time they might not find funding elsewhere. Forty-nine Society-funded researchers have gone on to receive the Nobel Prize.

"Budget constraints understandably require the President and Congress to identify the most pressing national priorities," said Emily Myatt, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Government Relations Director in Minnesota.

"With cancer expected to kill nearly 10,020 Minnesotans this year, certainly funding for cancer research and prevention that hold the promise of eliminating death and suffering from this disease should rise to the top of the list. We are at a point where advancements in research are saving more lives than ever, and it's critical that we keep this momentum going forward."

Holiday open house at Vandal's



Owner Brandy Holmberg proved to be quite a host as she brings out another plate of goodies during the store's annual holiday festival.



There was fun for all ages during the open house. Sisters Emily and Shelby Kasperek got the opportunity to decorate some cookies.



Clayton Kaplan, 8, of Blooming Prairie, takes a big bite of some goodies provided by Vandal's.



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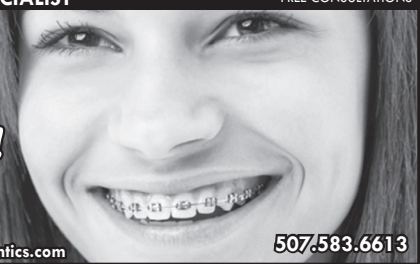
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Mineral Springs Brewing brew masters Tim Pelton, left, and Mark Sebring proudly stand next to their fermenter as they brew up some potables while they ready for the weekend crowds. Mineral Springs Brewery recently opened in Owatonna and offers a variety of craft beer choices.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Hometown brewing

Mineral Springs Brewery offers local brews to thirsty public

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It all started in Tim Pelton's kitchen. Inspired by his daughter and her friends, who started brewing during graduate school, Pelton found himself a hobby in the art of brewing. "I mentioned to two of my longtime friends, Matt Kottke and Tom Hilstad, that we should start brewing and so the next thing you know we got a kit and started homebrewing in our kitchen and did that for a few years until we had a boil over in my kitchen," Pelton recalls. "My wife told me that we needed to find a new place to play." From there the three homebrewers moved to

Matt Kottke's basement and then into Pelton's garage until he received a call from Mark Sebring. "Mark called me up a few years ago and told me that they were thinking of starting a brewery and asked if I was interested," Pelton said. "When it was just Jon, Matt, and myself, and we were homebrewing, we called ourselves Mineral Spring Brewery," he said of the name. "Mineral Springs is a pretty big deal here in Owatonna, the healing waters and so much more." Along with Sebring, Bill Cronin, Rod Baker, and Mark Knutson joined in the endeavor, comprising a team of five brew masters along with Pelton. "We just started kicking around a variety of

different ideas," Pelton said of the initial stages. After a building became available right by the river and a few steps away from the local trail system, the team scooped it up. "We thought it was a pretty neat spot, and it is a neat spot," Pelton said of their current location, 111 Walnut Ave. N, in Owatonna. While the location was a perfect fit, the building needed a lot of work. Originally an old autobody shop, the team worked hard to convert it into a brewery complete with inside and outside patio seating. "We have seven beers on tap right now," Pelton explained. "The lightest would be a cream ale, then there would be a Kolsch, we

have two IPA's, one which I would say is very citrusy, another which is more traditional, and we have a Scotch ale, a Vienna lager, and a Stout." These were recipes which carried over from his homebrewing days. "We just had to convert it up from making 5 gallons at a time to 150 gallons at a time," Pelton explained. "We got a lot of help from other people in the industry." "Dual Citizen Brewing in St. Paul, they were probably the guys that gave us the most help," he said. "They opened up all the ports to us and explained where you get all of this stuff. They got their equip-

SEE HOMETOWN BREWING, B3



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Owatonna Police Officer Casey Martin and his new K-9 partner, Vegas. Vegas was recently brought into the department to serve as one half of a narcotics and criminal apprehension K-9 unit in Owatonna.

New K-9 team hits the streets

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna Police Department has a new four-legged officer. Vegas, an East-European Shepherd, will be prowling the streets along with his owner, Officer Casey Martin. It has been nearly two years since OPD's previous K-9 unit left. Now, with this new asset, the department will be able to utilize Vegas' unique set of skills. "That's what working with the dog is all about, having a good attitude all the time and trying to get the most out of him and being patient," Officer Martin explained. "It's something that I've always wanted to do and started here with the intent to do that," he said of his new role with Vegas. After acquiring Vegas from a breeder in Slovakia who specializes in police dogs, Martin and the shepherd went through a 10-week training course. "He comes from Slovakia, all the dogs in the class did because they have one specific kennel that they hand picked the dogs from," Martin explained. While the dogs are not pre-trained beforehand, they are acclimated to certain sounds and are raised to be well-rounded. "It starts with a lot of dogs, and only a small number

end up getting picked by people to go and work as police dogs in the U.S." Martin has experience with K-9 units, having previously worked at Mall of America where he was a handler for a bomb dog, named Maverick. He explained that typically dual-purpose dogs like Vegas will specialize in either narcotics or bomb detection paired with criminal apprehension.

"He's happy, he's energetic, and he's ready to go."

Casey Martin
OPD's New K-9 Handler

"Criminal apprehension involves biting somebody, tracking, and also things like article searches," Officer Martin said. "Frequently we'll practice with credit cards or something and that would be useful if someone threw a firearm or dropped narcotics, whatever it may be, he would be able to find it and would be able to help with that." Vegas' honed abilities lend him perfectly to building and area searches. "He could smell if someone was in a room, let's say we go into a house and there's a person hiding behind a

SEE NEW K-9 TEAM, B2

A reminder of homelessness in Steele County

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Owatonna and Steele County residents gathered at the Owatonna Holiday Inn last week for the 11th annual Transitional Housing of Steele County Eliminate Homelessness Breakfast. Transitional Housing is an interfaith organization that helps individuals and families with their housing needs. More than 1,100 individuals have been housed since the group was organized in 2000. Each November the group has an early morning breakfast and noon lunch that serves to remind local residents that there are people in Owatonna who are either homeless or facing homelessness.

As it does every year, this year's breakfast event included comments by an individual who has been helped by Transitional Housing. Last week it was Jeri Renk who explained how Transitional Housing has changed her life. She explained how she had struggled with homelessness and addiction from time to time throughout her adult life and finally ended up in jail. She ultimately went through treatment and had a job but a medical diagnosis of COPD once again made her unemployed. Then her landlord told his tenants that the apartment building was being sold and they needed to move. By June of 2018, she said, she was living in her vehicle in Owatonna. She kept



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN.

Jeri Renk shared her story of how Transitional Housing helped her move away from homelessness with those attending Transitional Housing of Steele County's annual fundraising breakfast last week in Owatonna.

Thank you for believing in us, for never giving up on us, and for convincing us that we could succeed. We will never forget you."

Jeri Renk
Transitional Housing Recipient

looking for apartments, she said, but could not find one she could afford. "Still, I never strayed from my faith," she said. "I continued to call around to apartments and churches. That's when a friend put me in touch with Transitional Housing." It didn't happen immediately, she said, but Transitional Housing, along with the Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul, helped cover the deposit and first month's rent. In December of 2018, she said, she was admitted to the two-year transitional housing program. Her rent is subsidized monthly and she pays a portion. She has a case manager

who helps with budgeting and goal setting. Today, she said, she and her daughter never have to worry about where they will be laying their heads from one night to the next. "I will never forget what you donors have done for us," she said. "Thank you for believing in us, for never giving up on us, and for convincing us that we could succeed. We will never forget you. Praise be to God!" To carry out the mission of responding to people with housing needs, Transitional Housing works with groups to help create and locate affordable housing for homeless families and individuals, said Deb

Langer, a member of the group's board of directors. "Right now, hundreds of people are homeless in Steele County," said Board Member Kristy Thiel. "Many of them are children. As we approach the cold winter months in Minnesota, people are tucking their children in at night, not sure where they will sleep the next day. "Homelessness touches each of our elementary schools, middle school and high school," she said. "These are children. Children the age of your daughters and sons. Oftentimes, those children end up homeless as well as they grow into adults." The organization, she said, prevents homelessness by providing eviction prevention assistance for those facing eviction due to an inability to pay rent. This program can cover the cost of rent for one month to keep them safely housed. For those already homeless, she said, they help families and individuals find apartments and provide ongoing rent assistance according to income and also deposits, budgeting help and case management for the two years they are eligible for the program. They also partner with the Crisis Resource Center and U.S. Department of Justice to offer advocacy and housing for victims fleeing domestic violence, Thiel said, as well as working with the Steele County Detention Center to provide housing assistance to qualified offenders as they re-enter the community.

Seasonal Affective Disorder kicks in

A few weeks ago, people set their clocks back to Central Standard Time from Central Daylight Time. This annual occurrence allows more daylight hours during the spring and summer. At about the same time, some sufferers of Seasonal Affective Disorder began to experience symptoms of depression that can last throughout the fall and winter months. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a mood disorder associated with episodes of depression related to variations of light. The amount of sunlight that people experience during the spring



Steele Talkin'
MARK SKRIEN

and summer is greater than in the late fall and winter. It is thought that if sunlight affects the hibernation and other seasonal activities of animals, it may also affect humans. A theory is that when the daylight decreases, it may change our biological rhythms, causing an individual's "biological clock" to be different than their daily schedules. Symptoms of SAD are: depression (including excessive eating and sleeping), weight gain, loss of energy, decreased activity, general sadness, and craving for sugary

SEE AFFECTIVE DISORDER, B2

Auditions set for “The Odd Couple” at Little Theatre

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced auditions for its winter production of “The Odd Couple” by Neil Simon.

The auditions will take place from 6:30–9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, and Monday, Dec. 9, at LTO, 560 Dunnell Drive in the West Hills Complex in Owatonna.

Jeffrey Jackson is the artistic director, and Kathy Purdie the technical director.

This classic comedy centers around uptight, neat Felix Ungar and easygoing, disheveled Oscar Madison as new roommates. Set in an apartment on Riverside Drive in New York, it opens as a group of the guys assemble for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar. And if the mess is any indication, it’s no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix, who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed, and all too tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action unfolds, Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as *The Odd Couple* is born.

The Odd Couple was first presented on Broadway by Saint Subber at the Plymouth Theatre in New York City on March 10, 1965. It was directed by Mike Nichols.

The cast is comprised of six males and two females.

Oscar Madison is a slobby sports columnist for the New York Herald, often seen with a ball cap and cigar. He loves to bet on the horses.

Felix Unger is neurotic neat freak commercial photographer who constantly has to clean the apartment. He’s also a hypochondriac.

Gwendolyn Pigeon – Oscar and Felix’s giggly upstairs neighbor, one of a pair of English sisters. She is a widow.

Cecily Pigeon – Oscar and Felix’s other giggly upstairs neighbor, one of a pair of English sisters. She is a divorcee.

Speed – A poker buddy. Gruff and sarcastic, often picking on Vinnie and Murray

Murray – A NYPD policeman, one of Oscar and Felix’s poker buddies.

Roy – A poker buddy and Oscar’s accountant. Roy has a dry wit but is less acerbic than Speed.

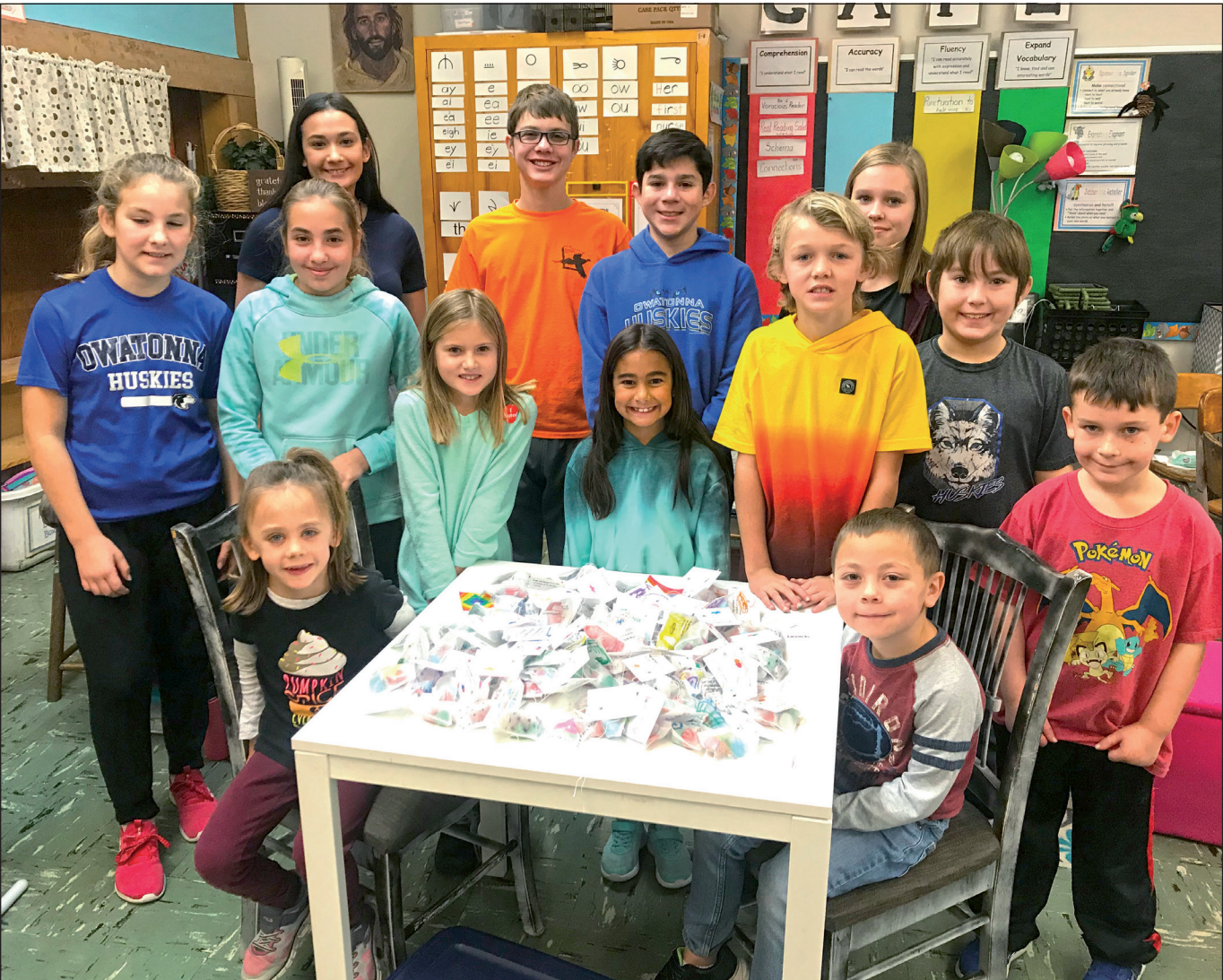
Vinnie – A poker buddy. Vinnie is mild-mannered and henpecked, making him an easy target for Speed’s verbal barbs.

Audition packets are now available at the Owatonna Public Library, at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 1880 Austin Road, Suite 1 in Owatonna and online at littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14, 15, 21, 22 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Feb. 16 and 23.

“**The Odd Couple**” is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company and is sponsored by Old Town Bagels.

A lesson in humility



Students at St. Mary’s School in Owatonna are learning about the virtue of humility and sharing their gifts with others. They were recently given the opportunity to put that virtue into practice by creating Hershey kisses and hugs treat bags, which will be given to as many as 1,000 guests of the Owatonna VFW Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. This is a long-standing tradition that St. Mary’s students find rewarding as they spread holiday cheer. Included in one of the spirit groups are, seated from left: Averi and Liam; middle: Anna, Tegan, Paige, Emery, Cooper, Charlie and Anthony; back: Joanna, Tucker, Jose and Nevaeh.

Foundation mini-grant awards exceed \$100K

The 761 Foundation recently awarded about \$110,000 through its mini-grants program for use during the 2019-2020 academic school year.

The awards will fund – partially or fully – 53 of 71 mini-grant requests received from teachers and principals in Blooming Prairie, Medford, New Richland and Owatonna public schools.

“Although assets have grown significantly since the Foundation’s start in the early 1990s, programming needs continue to outpace our ability to fund mini-grant requests,” said Bruce Paulson, chair of the 761 Foundation.

Included in this year’s awards was \$26,000 in funding from the Wenger Trust to purchase instruments for the Owatonna Middle School and High School orchestras.

Every year, the 761 Foundation awards about \$100,000 to teachers and principals to fund creative and innovative programs that benefit a large number of students and is not likely to be funded through traditional school funding.

The 761 Foundation was established in 1993 to support students and staff with opportunities and programs not usually funded with tax dollars. Since then, the 761 Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in mini grants to Owatonna Public Schools teachers and principals for programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students.

More information about the Foundation, its history and its work may be found its website at 761Foundation.com or by calling 507-444-8610.

NEW K-9 TEAM: hits the streets FROM B1

door, he’d be able to come down the hallway, smell the doors, realize there’s no one in the other ones, smell this door, and he would start barking at this door,” Martin explained.

“It’s easiest and most practical in a field or somewhere that people aren’t walking, like a softer surface,” he added about Vegas’ tracking ability. “Generally softer surfaces like grass and gravel, just things that aren’t paved streets, or snow also is different, you have to build time to get your dog to be able to track in snow. It’s a totally different skill.”

Although the 10-week course was able to get Vegas up to a basic level, the training never ends. “It gets you to a baseline where you can start taking on your training by yourself and start to work it up,” Martin said about the continued effort which goes into handling Vegas.

“It’s permanent forever, I have to train myself, because I want a good dog and I want to be a good team, so I train every day with him,” he said. “That’s what you have to do if you want a successful dog. If you stop at training and you don’t do it, you’re not going to be able to certify your dog, and also it’s going to go downhill.”

“They say to expect that with your dog it will take about a year to a year and a half to where you get to where you want to be, and then you can work on maintaining that and working on special situations or unique situations,” Martin explained. Vegas is required to be certified in criminal apprehension and narcotics yearly.

The certification process tests obedience and basic measures to make sure the handler has control of the dog, and that the dog can do what is required of them at a basic level. This also involves a challenge to test the dog’s courage. “It’s to make sure your dog will engage someone who is threatening them,” Martin said.

The officer never lets Vegas more than a 100-feet from him, and the two live together. “I have two other dogs so it’s a ton of work,” he joked. “This is a job with a specific specialty and you have to be very passionate about it and if you’re not it will show.”

In his short time with the OPD, Vegas has already proven to be an asset. “The second day back our drug task force called us out and we assisted on a couple of traffic stops,” Officer Martin said. “Earlier this week we made a traffic stop and got a gentleman out for a warrant for arrest and we were able to expand the scope of the traffic stop.”

During the stop, Martin had reason to do a search, and by utilizing Vegas’ skills discovered that the driver had been using methamphetamine prior to driving the car. “I thought this was a great training opportunity,” he said. “I ran him around the car and he alerted me to the door handle of the vehicle.”

The suspect admitted that he had been smoking meth prior to driving and had touched the door handle before driving. “I was impressed by that because it was raining,” Martin said. “We used that to turn it into a DWI instead of just a warrant arrest so that was really cool.”

“In general it’s all just a game to him, we pick dogs that have a high prey drive but that are not mean,” Martin explained. “Everything is fun for them, you have to be fun, and you have to be energetic. He is always kind of in the same mood, he’s happy, he’s energetic, and he’s ready to go.”

SEASONAL: Affective Disorder kicks in FROM B1

and starchy foods. Some sufferers are described as sluggish and lethargic. These symptoms can impact marriages, other relationships, and work-related activities.

Most SAD symptoms subside in spring as daylight hours begin to stretch by a few minutes each day. The most difficult months for SAD sufferers are January and February.

The most common theory about the cause of the disorder is the increased level of melatonin, a sleep-related hormone secreted by the brain. In the dark, it is produced at increased levels. When the days are shorter and darker, the production of the hormone increases, thus giving the body messages about sleeping, slowing down, i.e. messages that are similar to the symptoms of SAD.

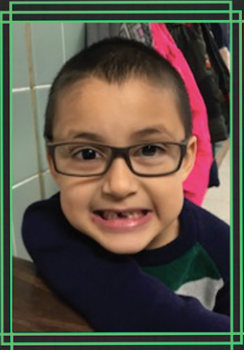
Seasonal Affective Disorder should not be confused with “holiday blues,” although they share some of the same symptoms including sadness, weight gain, and lower energy. The latter is the result of increased stress during the holiday season.

Phototherapy or bright light therapy suppresses the brain’s production of melatonin, thus informing the body not to go to a sleep mode. Many individuals respond well to phototherapy. A phototherapy light box uses white fluorescent lights and a metal reflector. The person turns the light on and sits in front of the light for a period of time (about a half hour) each day. Bright light therapy has proven to effectively reduce the intensity of the SAD symptoms.

Anti-depressant medication and brief therapy for support can also be effective treatments for some sufferers of SAD.

A mental health professional can correctly diagnose and offer suggestions for treatment of Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Mark Skrien is a licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist and the retired clinical director of South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



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Panther of the Week

Sponsored by:





Kylie Warke

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week’s Panther of the Week is Kylie Warke. She is the daughter of Josh and Kelly Warke and they reside in New Richland. She is in Mr. Beynon’s third grade class.

Kylie chooses to show Panther Pride in a number of ways. She’s very attentive in class, always smiling, and she particularly enjoys helping others. She’s not afraid of challenges and enjoys working through them. She sets a great example for other kids in class.

Kylie enjoys jumping on her trampoline! Her favorite food is spaghetti and her favorite movie is, The Meg. Keep up the great work Kylie!

What's in a name?

*For Awesome Blossom,
there is rich history, tradition*



BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Every couple of years the question of the Blooming Prairie nickname comes up for discussion.

Some are always agitating for a change to something other than the Awesome Blossoms. After all, they maintain that the current nickname is a very “sissy” name for athletic teams. However, they do not know the history of the name, and they cannot understand the pride that the BP students and alumni have. In fact, the nickname BP possesses is a unique one not found any place else in the country. Because of that, it is probably time that we again explain the origin of the name.

In the early 1900s, the Austin newspaper wrote about contests with Blooming Prairie and Austin by saying that Austin played the boys from blossom town. That became the usual name in their stories, and it naturally then became the name for the Blooming Prairie School.

At various times students have begun drives or campaigns to change the name. In the late 50s, such a campaign was begun, but the students voted any change down, and the Blossom nickname remained. After the boys' basketball team played in the state tournament in 1966, another campaign was started to change the name to something more ferocious, but again it was defeated soundly.

However, in the late 60s, students did agitate for a change, and eventually Tom Ressler, Class of 1981, drew a new design in art class. A contest was held to name the new mascot look, and seventh grader Shay Robinson drew the face of the Blossom a little more ferociously. A contest was held to name the new mascot, and Robinson won the contest by calling it an “Awesome Blossom.” The name was adopted, and it has been the Awesome Blossom ever since. By the way, Robinson won a season pass to all BPHS sports contests for the year by winning the naming contest.

Local resident Yvonne Walsh drew a large design, which was placed in high school gym, and it still remains there. All the logos on athletic programs and other school printings have used that design since that time. The first time the logo actually appeared in publications was in the “Black and White Chronicle” in 1982 and then in the 1983 “Prairie Schooner.”

A costume to have an Awesome Blossom was also designed and worn by Carol Ruhter, Class of 1969, and she used the costume at many events. Eventually, it was placed in storage, but Ruhter's sister, Melissa, Class of 1984, wore it in September of 1983 again. Since that time it has been used rather infrequently, but it can be seen occasionally again at athletic events now.

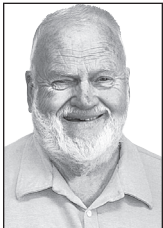
As to why it has never been changed, a former student, Melissa Ault, probably has the best explanation for that. She used a study by a school class in Indiana to

show that BP's nickname was a good one because it was so unique. That class found that there were 80 schools in the entire country with one-of-a kind nicknames, and Blooming Prairie was one of the 80. And if one thinks that the BP name is so bad, the study also found several other names that were just as unusual.

For just two examples, the Jasper, Minn., Quartz-Siters got their name after the quartz stone quarry in the community, and the Sturgis Scoopers from Sturgis, S.D., were named after the days when the U.S. cavalry was stationed in that community. The soldiers would go into town in their free time and gamble, and then come back to their barracks complaining about their money being scooped by the local townspeople.

When it comes right down to it, as Ault said, it is fun to have a nickname that is one-of-a kind because people do remember it. And if the teams are good enough and strong enough, even a name like the Awesome Blossoms will not bother anyone connected with it, and no one will be ashamed of it either. Which would stick in your mind longer- The Blooming Prairie Cardinals, for example, or the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom? Although BP gets its share of heckling, your answer will likely be the second of the two. So just be proud that you can be an Awesome Blossom from Blooming Prairie High School. You are one of a kind, and that is good enough for most fans!

Psyched for the Blossoms



Outside
the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

There is something rather confusing about the time when the hiatus between football games is more than a week. I hardly know what to write about, as there is so much time between contests. Now, however, it is time to get the competitive blood boiling again and psych ourselves into really backing the Awesome Blossoms again, as they prepare for Friday. I am sure a good share of the community will be at the stadium to cheer on the team.

There will be time to ponder and reflect over the past season next week, but for now it is all about the present. We will cheer loudly and hope that this fourth time at the state playoffs and this first time in the finals will be a winning time. Go, Blossoms!

TIME MARCHES ON

I passed another milestone last week, but I don't feel a darn bit different. I guess when one gets to my age, a birthday is a rather commonplace occurrence. I must admit that I feel a year older most of the time, but my spirits remain high despite the breakdown of my body. I continue to enjoy life and family, and my writing and other hobbies do a very good job of conspiring to keep me from drifting into any sort of doldrums. Good for me.

A DAY OF THANKS

In just a day or two most families will be sitting down to a table loaded with traditional and non-traditional foods. And while we gather there, my hope is that all will take moment to give thanks for the bountiful life of the past year. Although outside influences, such as a lost job, medical setbacks or other hardship may have interrupted our existence, I would venture to guess that we are still much better off than a large population of the world.

Now that is something of which to be proud. We should count our blessings every day, but the least we could do is to pause in our busy lives and give thanks for all the good things it is our privilege to possess.

Talking about Thanksgiving as we were reminds me of how almost everyone is now convinced that climate change is really with us. I notice it when we start talking about past holidays and celebrating them. I can still remember quite clearly rare years when my family celebrated Thanksgiving at my grandfather's farm, and we had to use the horse and slight to get there. It didn't happen often then, but Christmas was often the only way the entire family could observe that special occasion.

My granddad would hitch up the team of horses to the sleigh and then sleigh the three miles from the farm to town and pick us up for the shot ride back to the farm. People today have trouble believing it ever happened, but deep snow in late November was not unheard of, and the occasional necessity for that mode of travel to Grandfathers did happen.

USHER IN HOLIDAYS

Once Thanksgiving is a memory, it is time to usher in the Christmas season, and observing the annual Holiday Dazzle celebration is a perfect time to initiate the season. We are hoping that the weather will cooperate, as businesses and individuals descend on Blooming Prairie to have some fun, begin the Christmas shopping season with specials from various retailers, and bring the little ones forward for a short visit with Santa. It is an ideal way to start this favorite time of the year.

It certainly has been a momentous season of the year. If the football team can bring back a championship to Blooming Prairie, it will have been an unforgettable fall sports year for that reason. Add to that the recognition for 50 years of BPHS All-School musicals, and it has been a unique year. It is good to be a Blossom, and we'll talk again.

NRHEG girls win opener

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Winning a season opener is always fun and doing it on the home court makes it better. The NRHEG girls ran past Kenyon-Wanamingo 71-44 Thursday, Nov. 21, after playing to a 28-28 tie at the half.

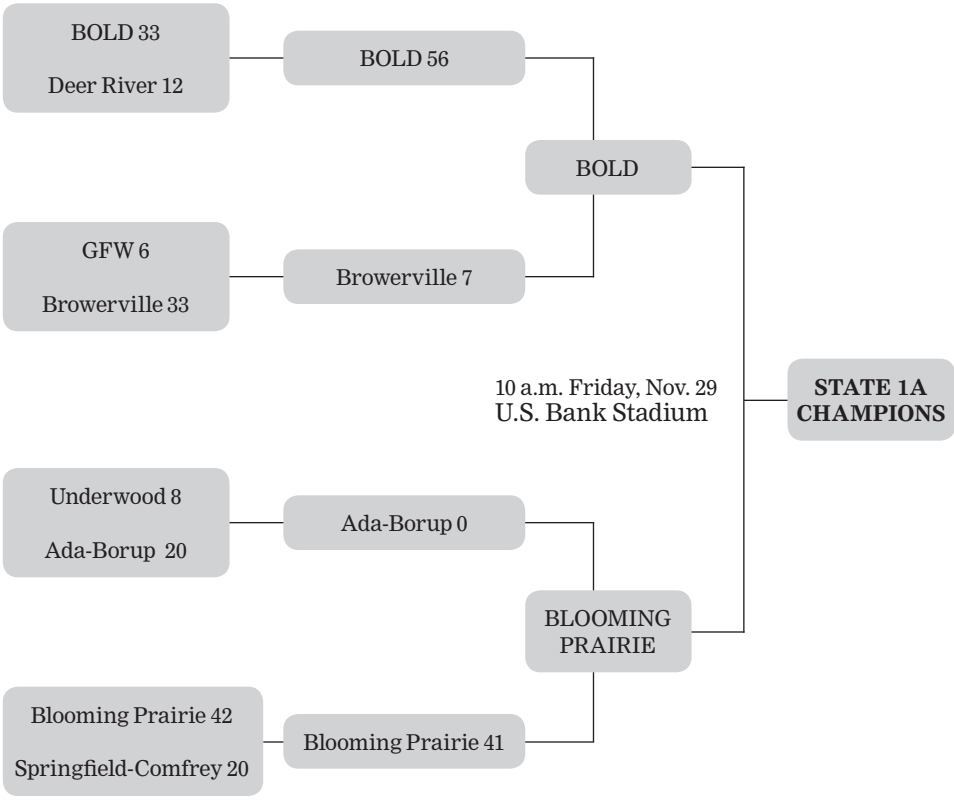
“We got a slow start in the first half,” commented Coach Onika Peterson, “but we

rebounded well in the second half and were able to run the floor much better. It is always good to win a season opener.”

Sophie Stork had 34 points and 7 rebounds to lead the Panther attack. Sidney Schultz contributed 25 points and 6 assists, and Haile Schultz 6 rebounds and 5 assists.

All but two girls had at least one point in the game.

Class 1A Football



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FOOTBALL CONTEST
ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

Tie-breaker: 3. Detroit 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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Senior Lifestyles

By CARL WIEMAN

Denise and I worked with SCCA Pro Racing at the Formula E Races, Rounds 12 and 13 in New York City this year. This was the final event of the series for 2019. This was held on July 12-14. This was my second year working a Formula E Race and the first for Denise.

For those people not familiar with Formula E, it is 100% Electric Racing with a formula race car. That is correct, not a hybrid, no gasoline or anything else, just battery power. I have never been involved with any type of electric car before. My experiences have all been with internal combustion engines, such as gasoline or ethanol. I have done experiments with ethanol in car engines while going to school at Mankato State University, as well as our youngest son had a go-kart in Solo competition for a few years that ran on E-95. Many years before that in the 1970s, I converted a 4 cyl, Honda car engine to a 2 cyl. engine and won a SAE Mileage Competition and a few weeks later, reinstalled the original engine and won a Solo event.

Then there was the American Sedan V-8 Mustang that I crewed on for many years and going to the Runoffs. That is just some background to give you an idea that I did not think I would ever get involved with a 100% electric vehicle, let alone work at a race, and enjoy it. I found that I love the technical side of these cars and the access that they give to spectators the most. There is much more freedom for spectators than many other series.

Being electric, these cars accelerate faster than any gas engine race car. It is instantaneous. This also requires the driver to know how to accelerate without burning the tires off of the car, but still accelerate faster than their competitor. And this is on a version of street tires, not soft racing slicks. The race was also held on old asphalt, with no rubber laid down from previous races. The race was at the Red Hook Harbor in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The weekend starts on Saturday morning with two Practice sessions, then four groups of Qualifying, and a Super Pole Qualifying. This year there were other activities in between the FE sessions. Harley Davidson had about 12 E-Bikes there that took to the track a few times.

The Jaguar I-PACE cars were also on hand with a race on Saturday and Sunday. Every vehicle on track this year was electric, except the tow trucks. The pace car and safety cars were all electric as well. BMW did have one large SUV as a safety vehicle that was a hybrid, as in gas/electric. All of these electric vehicles made for a fairly quiet week-

end of racing. Normally I wear a headset, but this weekend I used only my ear piece in one ear hooked to my radio. Each of the Race Staff have a whistle so that when we see a car coming, we blow it to warn everyone down pit lane. When the cars are coming into the pit/garage area especially, they are fairly quiet while letting up, making it hard to hear them. These cars have a high pitch electric motor whine when they accelerate. When the cars are in a group, some people said they sound like the storm troopers from the Star Wars movie as they go by on the straight in front of the Garages. In the Garage area when going slow, they are quiet. There is no Whoomah sound like an A Sedan race car.

On Saturday, Race #12 was held at 16:04 for 45 laps, which takes about one hour. There is no work done in Pit Lane. If a car needs any work or adjustments, they come into the garage. While in the garage, a large fan is blowing on the batteries, with dry ice dumped into the hopper on the fan to help cool the batteries quicker.

On Sunday morning there is one Practice session and four groups of qualifying again followed by the Super Pole Qualifying. This year they put all the cars on the track a few times each day, before some of the sessions and opened the gates to allow spectators to walk next to the cars for photos with the cars and drivers. Sunday's race started at 16:04. I am not sure why the races start at what some people would think are hard to remember times, such as 16:04, and not 16:05 or 16:00.

I worked with the Pit Lane/Garage Team at Pit In. I was on the inside corner as the cars came off the track towards the garages. My main job was to watch for problems in the garage area, and warn the driver with a yellow flag as well as warn everyone that a car is coming with my whistle. This year there was a large screen across the track from me, so I could look at it and watch some of the race as it happened in other parts of the track as well as some very interesting information displayed. This was also very helpful for me to know when cars were coming into the garages so that I was ready for them.

Being these are electric cars, sometime the screen would show the kilowatts being used by the car at the moment. If the driver was accelerating, the kw went high, and during decelerate, it would be low to negative sometimes. Last year, they had Gen1 cars and had to change cars about half ways through the race. The Gen2 cars this year made the whole race without changing cars for lack of battery power.

Denise worked in worker registration and as a Steward's runner. As technical as this

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Submitted Photo

Carl and Denise Wieman of Owatonna volunteered earlier this year for the Formula E Races in New York City.

series is, there is still a need to have some forms, such as penalty sheets taken to the teams during the session. Luckily there were not a lot of penalties, so her job was a little boring, but very much needed. This did, however, give her the opportunity to get up very close to the teams and cars in each garage.

We flew into New York on Wednesday and flew out on Tuesday. Denise and I spent a few days before and after the races to do some site seeing of the area. We took a tour of the Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, as well as the Twin Towers Memorial. That is a very somber tour. No photos are allowed and nobody is laughing and jok-

ing. But it is very informative and worth the visit when in the area.

Carl Wieman lives in Owatonna with his wife Denise. In his semi-retirement, he is active in various activities, including mission work as well as the annual Multiple Sclerosis River Road Run.

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Shopping for an assisted living facility

The decision to move yourself or a family member to an assisted living facility can be difficult. When men and women begin to experience difficulty with everyday activities, such as bathing, dressing or getting around, families may need to explore assisted living facilities.

Millions of people in North America reside in assisted living facilities. The majority of residents in senior living are those who may need assistance with one or two daily activities, but who are otherwise mobile and self-sufficient. Families faced with moving relatives into assisted living facilities can consider the following pointers to find facilities their loved ones will enjoy.

- Consider the arrangements and services offered. Some facilities offer single rooms, while others provide apartment-style living. Most assisted living facilities provide a variety of services, such as housekeeping, laundry, exercise and wellness classes, and social activities, for their residents. Investigate the offerings at each home you visit, looking for a facility that best suits your loved one's needs.
- Inquire about staff and their schedules. It is important to know how many staff mem-

bers a facility has and how many people are working at any given time. Do staffing schedules differ at night? If a resident has a particular rapport with one staff member, can he or she be requested? Look for a facility that is well-staffed and adept at dealing with elderly men and women.

- Learn about individual service plans. Many assisted living facilities create individual service plans, or ISPs, for their residents to ensure individualized care is given. These plans are important for the safety and comfort of residents and also can help maximize a person's independence. Some communities offer memory care programs for those with Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive disorders.
- Consider the security in place. A good assisted living facility has a 24-hour support system in place and immediate access to care. Rooms may be equipped with emergency phones that can be accessed day or night. Many homes have check-in desks so that residents are accounted for when going on outings and for announcing guests.
- Check on licensing. In the United States, each state has its own licensing requirements for assisted living facilities. Confirm



a facility is licensed and that it meets the expectations of the local regulatory agency. In addition, check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the home.

Assisted living facilities can meet the needs of people who cannot live independently but do not require the around-the-clock care of a nursing home.

Managing the costs of assisted living

As individuals age, various circumstances have to be reassessed. A current living situation may not be meeting the needs of a senior who may be having difficulty caring properly for himself or herself. Families often consider senior residences to provide welcoming and safe environments for their loved ones during the golden years of their lives. These facilities may range from independent living homes with minimal care offered to nursing homes that provide more intensive care when needed. Somewhere in the middle lies assisted living homes, which blend the independence of personal residences with other amenities, such as the housekeeping, medication reminders or meal services.

Assisted living can be a viable option when a person can no longer live alone, but such facilities come with a price. According to a Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs conducted by MetLife, the national average for assisted living base rates was \$3,550 per month in 2012. In the 2015 Cost of Care Sur-

vey conducted by Genworth Financial, the assisted living, national-median monthly rate was now \$3,600 — and it's only expected to grow. Affording these homes and apartments can be challenging for those with fixed incomes, but there are some strategies that can help.

The payment method that serves you best will depend on your unique circumstances, but there are options available.

- Long-term care insurance: Long-term care insurance is specialized insurance that is paid into and may cover the cost of assisted living facilities and other medical care, depending on the policy. The American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance says that only roughly 3 percent of Americans have this type of insurance, but it is something to consider during working years.
- Personal savings: Some people have the means to pay for assisted living with their own savings and retirement nest eggs. However, it's easy for savings to become depleted when facing

a \$40,000+ per year bill.

- Life insurance: A financial advisor may advocate to pay for assisted living with a life insurance policy. Some companies enable you to cash out for "accelerated" or "living" benefits, which usually is a buy-back of the policy for 50 to 75 percent of the face value. Other third parties may purchase the policy for a settlement of a lump sum, again roughly 50 to 75 percent of the policy's face value, according to Car-ing.com, an online source for support and information about the needs of aging people.
- Location: Costs of assisted living facilities vary depending on location. It's possible to get a lower monthly rate simply by choosing a facility in a different state.
- Negotiation: Not all prices are set in stone. Speak with a manager at the facility

and see if there is any price flexibility or move-in incentives. You also may be able to get a lower rate by negotiating certain a-la-carte costs against all-inclusive pricing. Perhaps you do not need laundry or shopping services, and family members can fill in the gaps, reducing your bill.

- Veteran's benefits: Many veterans are eligible for care benefits that can offset the cost of assisted living care.
- Rooms: Opting for a smaller room or sharing a space can keep costs down as well. See if shared rooms are a possibility.

Assisted living is a necessity for thousands of people. Explore the ways to finance this purchase.

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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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Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

140 have fun at Turkey Bingo in BP

Shirley Seath was the grand prize winner at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's Turkey Bingo party on Thursday, Nov. 14. The Bingo party drew 140 players. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

Gobble! Gobble! Bingo! Bingo!

It was a fun Bingo Night for 140 Bingo players of all ages at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie on Thursday, Nov. 14.

Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, could not believe the turnout for the annual Turkey Bingo night. She estimated the crowd at 140.

Connie Trom was the bingo caller, using the new pink podium that was donated to the BP Cancer Group.

Shirley Seath was the grand prize winner, yelling Bingo after she reached a blackout. She was the recipient of a huge gift basket including a turkey breast, a whole turkey, 5 pounds of Hope butter and various Thanksgiving decorations.

Jennie O donated the turkey breasts, Arkema donated the whole turkeys and Victor and Kelli Mrotz of the Hope Creamery donated Hope butter.

Molly Walsh and her new husband, Christopher Slater, were two of the lucky Bingo winners. Chris had never played Bingo before.

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Enter to win Craft Beer Club monthly pkg. for December.

Women of Today Santa House-
2-5 p.m.- City Center
Open House- 2-5 p.m.- Public Library

Wagon Rides- 5-7 p.m.- Main Street
Announce 2019 Scrooge- 5:30 p.m.- Prairie Home

Snowball Toss- 6 p.m.- Contact B-Z Hardware for more details

Wooden Nickel Toss- 6:30 p.m.- Main Street

Carolers and Instrumentalists- 5-7 p.m.- Main Street
Snowballs will be randomly given out at the Holiday Dazzle

Lucky numbered snowball drawings for BP Bucks- 7 p.m.- Middle of Main



FREE SAMPLES
PEPPERMINT
HOT COCOA
BLIZZARD



317 Hwy Ave S
Bloomington Prairie
583-2296



Merry Christmas

Dec. 6 • 2-5 p.m.

- * Enjoy refreshments
- * Holiday Subscription Specials
- * Register to win tickets for Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

STEELE COUNTY Times
411 E. Main St. • Bloomington Prairie





Clogg & Christmas Treats

Celebrate a little holiday cheer with us!

5-7 p.m.

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

314 E Main St E,
Bloomington Prairie
583-7528

FREE slice of pizza and pop
3-5 p.m.

•Register to win a \$50 gift certificate all day long

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

237 Hwy Ave. S, Bloomington Prairie • 583-6671



Sportstitch inc.

20% OFF

Nov. 30 to Dec. 7

Sign up for holiday drawing.

341 E. Main St • Bloomington Prairie
507-583-7001

Check out the BP Wish Tree

5-7 p.m.

Holiday crafts & treats.

Register for Oral B Electric tooth brush

Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry

507-583-2141
405 E. Main Street, Bloomington Prairie

Happy Holidays!

Join us for Open House with refreshment
9-4 p.m.

usbank

Bloomington Prairie Branch
236 East Main St.
507.583.6627
usbank.com
Member FDIC

Merry Christmas
PEACE • LOVE • JOY
Member FDIC



LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Friday, Dec. 6
2-5 p.m. Servicemen's Club

Featuring: Over 20 Vendors and Creative Crafters

Find creative gifts for loved ones... and yourself! Bring a group of friends for a Ladies Night Out of shopping, fun and amazing door prizes!

\$10 Gift Certificates Given Out EVERY HOUR

Stop and Shop after Holiday Dazzle

Register to win Amazing Door Prizes! The more you shop, the more chances you have to win

Cheeseburger & Fries - \$6.00





BP Servicemen's Club

3-6 p.m.
- Drink Specials
- Cheeseburger & Fries- \$7.45

6-9 p.m.
Ladies Night Out/Local Crafters/Vendors

Find creative gifts for loved ones or yourself!

210 4th St NE, Bloomington Prairie • 583-7884

BP Community Center
across from the library

Hosted by Bloomington Prairie Women of Today

Friday Dec. 6
2PM - 5PM
Santa House
Christmas Shopping

Bring The Little Ones To Shop For The Entire Family

Enjoy Tasty Treats While You Wait

FREE gift Wrapping!



Shop after attending the Holiday Dazzle

Concert at the Elementary School

1-5 p.m.

Purchase \$30 in treats

- Caramels
- Jam/Jelly
- Cookies
- & Much More

Get 1 Paint Your Own Cookie FREE

Confections by Karen
118 2nd St. NW

