



STEELE COUNTY Times

STATE CHAMP
SPECIAL SECTION

Inside

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
A3 & B SECTION



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Bloomington, Minnesota

Lighting up Steele with holiday cheer



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER AND HOWARD LESTRUD

A weekend of holiday fun in Steele County began Thursday night in Owatonna with a holiday lighted parade lighting up the downtown. The festive parade featured 72 units of mostly lights and lots of Christmas cheer. Top: Manke's Outdoor Equipment decked out a Toro lawn mower with lights, a flag and a Santa sleigh. Bottom left: You're never too old or too young to play a little holiday bingo. Liam Peters, 6 months, shows off his pretty Christmas outfit for his great-grandmother, Myrtle Peterson of The Oaks assisted living facility in Ellendale, during the Christmas in the Country in Ellendale Saturday. Peterson will turn 100 on Jan. 27, 2020. Bottom right: Bloomington kicked off the holidays with its annual Holiday Dazzle Friday night. Santa Claus drew the most traffic of any activity during the festivities. While being the guest of honor at Farmers and Merchants Bank, Santa met up with 5-month-old Cleo Ehmke and Laurel Ehmke, 3. See page 3A and various pages in Section B for more holiday celebration photos and stories.



Brothers sentenced in Ellendale armed home invasion

Ring leader gets 30 years in federal prison

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

More than a year after a violent home invasion in Steele County, the people responsible for the crime have been sentenced to federal prison.

On Dec. 3, Lennie Dwayne Brooks, 34, Randy Lorenzo Brooks, 24, and Autumn Marie Nichols, 21, were sentenced in U.S. Federal Court in Minneapolis for their roles in a string of violent home invasion robberies around the state, including a private residence in Berlin Township near Ellendale on Sept. 23, 2018.

Senior Judge David S. Doty sentenced Lennie to 30 years in prison while Randy got 20 years and Nichols 10 years. On Nov. 5, another co-defendant, Esperanza Cardenas, 30, received 4 years.

During the Steele County invasion, the brothers broke into a home and held two victims at gunpoint while Lennie searched the house for money and valuables. They stole about \$40,000 in cash, which was the business proceeds of Holland Auction Company. Cardenas waited near by in the getaway car.

The brothers also broke into a private residence in the Twin Cities where one of the victims went into cardiac arrest and died.

They were also connected to other home invasions around the state.

"Lennie and Randy Brooks carefully planned and carried out multiple violent home invasion robberies, one resulting in the death of a victim," said U.S. Attorney Erica MacDonald. "Although nothing can replace the lost sense of safety and security of one's home or the loss of a loved one, today's sentences offer some measure of justice for the victims."

Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Field Division in St. Paul Terry Henderson said, "After more than a year of investigation and court proceedings, the Brooks brothers' victims have justice."



Lennie Brooks



Randy Brooks

SEE BROTHERS SENTENCED, A4

BP Medallion hunt marches on



We're heading into the third week of the hunt for the illustrious BP Medallion hidden some place in Bloomington, Prairie.

This week's clue is:

Walk the path
Do the math
The medallion is near
If you find it we will cheer!

Previous clues were: **Clue #1-** 2019 Medallion hunt is here. Whether working or playing, the medallion could be near. Go out and look and have no fear; **Clue #2-** Big or small, short or tall, the entrance to the hunt is open to all.

The winner will receive \$50 in BP Bucks and a subscription to the Steele County Times.

Best wishes in your hunt for magical holiday treasures!

Rough housing at home spurs killer attack on the gridiron

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Ever since Mitchell Fiebigger began rough housing around home as a child with two older brothers, football has become a big part of his life.

Mitchell's brothers, Alex and Weston, played football during their high school days at Bloomington, Prairie. But, at least according to their father, Jim Fiebigger, the best was saved for last. "They all played football, but Mitch is the best," Jim says. "Mitch is a really good football player. He's a rough and tumble player."

Jim attributes Mitchell's success as a linebacker on this year's state championship Awesome Blossom team to

"I said it six years ago that this team would win state."

Jim Fiebigger
Football Parent

his upbringing with two older brothers. "I don't want to say they abused him, but they were very rough with him," Jim said. "He was taught very early on. They got him ready. He is very competitive."

As one of the main clogs on BP's defensive attack this year that held opponents to just 119 points, including four shut outs, Mitchell, who is a junior, loves the physical aspect of football. "He loves the contact. Mitch has



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was non-stop cheering for Jim Fiebigger of Bloomington, Prairie as he watched his son and other Blossoms cruise to a state championship on Nov. 29 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

SEE ROUGH HOUSING, A2

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AREA DEATHS

Randy Matejcek, 55, Crosby

Serving
Bloomington, Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Celebrating Christmas in small-town America

What a show throughout Steele County to kick off the holiday season over the past week.

It started on Thursday with the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train rolling into Steele County to raise funds for the Steele County Food Shelf. CP presented the food shelf with \$5,000 and hundreds of folks made food donations by the train.

Later the same evening, Owatonna hosted its annual Lighted Holiday Parade with a record number of 72 parade units taking part. It's a spectacular scene to see all the dazzling holiday lights wrapped around the floats in areas one wouldn't even imagine.

The parade's sponsor, MainStreet, began charging an entry fee of \$25 this year as a way to raise funds for purchasing new lights in the downtown area, including the back allies.

On Friday, Blooming Prairie hosted its annual Holiday Dazzle with fun activities and events for folks of all ages. The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce has been hosting the kickoff to the holidays for many years. There was no lack of activities going on as most of the Main Street businesses joined in to offer holiday treats, refreshments and specials.

And not to be left out, Ellendale shared its Christmas in the Country with residents over the weekend. Area folks got the opportunity to play Bingo, enjoy bags of goodies, prizes and of course, a visit from the big fellow dressed in red.

This is definitely a magical time of the year. And it's neat to see each community continue with rich holiday traditions to keep that magic alive.

Small towns offer charming festivals, mom-and-pop stores with one-of-a-kind gifts and cozy spots decked out for the season. These destinations provide the kind of personal, homey touches you can't find in a big city.

It's special to see communities in Steele County committed to making it a Hall-mark Christmas for their residents and share in the excitement of the season.

Small town, big dreams

Something struck me as I watched the Blossoms blaze their way to a state football championship at U.S. Bank Stadium a few weeks ago.

I couldn't help but notice the cheerleaders on the field providing support not only for the players, but also for the thousands of Blooming Prairie fans.

What's interesting is that BP was without cheerleaders for football for several years until three years ago when Ashley Rye stepped onto the local scene. Rye moved from Austin to Blooming Prairie and decided to resurrect the football cheerleading squad. She was a football cheerleader in Austin for four years.

I'm not sure if Rye knew something big was coming or what, but good thing she made things happen when she did so that BP would have cheerleaders for the 2019 championship team.

Previously a coach for dance, Rye found something missing from the BP gridiron sidelines: cheerleaders. "I never imagined a football team without a cheerleading team," she said from the sidelines of U.S. Bank Stadium as the Blossoms were beating up on BOLD rather handily.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

that the cheerleaders have found the fans to be "so responsive" to their cheers, which creates a special kind of cohesiveness.

Cheerleading, Rye says, is not about the cheerleaders. "It's about creating the atmosphere for the players," she said. She has found the players support the cheerleaders just as much as they support them. "We've really created that bond between us," she added.

Blossom pride is contagious, according to Rye. "There is so much pride in it," she said. "We take pride in being a little different," she said referring to the Awesome Blossoms mascot.

Going into the state tournament, especially the state championship game, provided just a little bit of extra anxiety for the cheerleaders. Rye and her assistants coached the girls on being there for the

said. "I'm glad I got to go out with a big bang."

Some of Sorensen's favorite cheers were the "reloads," which cheerleaders are tossed in the air and caught by others. "You get an adrenaline rush," she said excitedly.

If you noticed the Blossoms cheerleaders being a little more noisy than usual, you weren't imagining things. Something new that Sorensen and the other cheerleaders learned this year is how to utilize their diaphragm. "We're using our diaphragm and it increases the volume. It's loader," she explained.

This was Rye's first experience with a state championship game. "It's really a humbling experience," she said. "It's super exciting to be where the big shots play."

Rye credits cheerleading with increasing her overall self esteem. "I was very shy in high school," she confessed. "It gave me the self esteem and confidence that I needed."

What sticks out most for Rye is the caliber of team Blooming Prairie had this year. "I can't think of someone who deserves this more," she said. "They are such good people purely kind and deserve it."

Like most everyone, the cheerleaders have

ROUGH HOUSING: at home spurs killer attack on the gridiron FROM A1

a strong competitive spirit," Jim relates. "It's a gladiator sport. He wants to win at all costs," he added.

Mitchell started as a running back on the varsity team in eighth grade, but he didn't get to catch the ball so he ended up switching to linebacker. "He wanted to run it and catch," Jim said.

This year's championship team, Jim says, has been at least seven years in the making. He remembers back to a sixth grade youth football league in Rochester. At the time, Mitchell was only a fifth grader and had been pulled up to play with the sixth graders--this year's group of seniors.

"They were really good," Jim recalls of the youth team. "I said it all along that we would have a state championship team with that group of kids," he said. "I said it six years ago that this team would win state. There are so many of them that are so athletic."

Besides having talented athletes, Jim was quick to point out the youth coaching efforts of Charlie Wallace and Greg Nirk. "That's where it all starts and gets them prepared," Jim said.

Jim also credits the high school coaching staff for the Blossoms' success this season. "We have tremendous coaches," Jim said, referring to Coach Chad Gimbel and assistant coach Matt Kittelson and the rest of the assistants. "They know how to get the most out of each player," he added.

Another secret to BP's success has been the commitment of the players to prepare off the field. "Mitch had his alarm going off at 5:30 (a.m.) and he was lifting weights by 6 a.m.," Jim revealed. "They thought they would be able to do it last year so they were determined to win this year," he said.



Jim Fiebigger gives his son, Mitchell, a big congratulatory hug after winning the Blossoms captured the state title.

During this year's championship season, both Alex and Weston came to every game to see little brother and other teammates beat up on the competition. It has also been an extra special season for Jim watching his son and the rest of the Blossoms conquer on the gridiron and rack up an undefeated season of 13 victories. "I'd quit my job before I would miss a game. I love football," Jim said.

Jim pointed out that everyone has referred to this year's championship contest against BOLD as revenge from BOLD knocking the Blossoms out of state semi-finals last year. But Jim says it goes back much further. In the mid-1970s, Blooming Prairie lost to Bird Island (the B in the current BOLD) in the state semi finals. "This has been a 45-year grudge match and revenge trip," Jim said.



Smiles were evident on the faces of Blossom players, parents and fans after Blooming Prairie marched to its first state championship ever. Mitchell Fiebigger was congratulated by his parents, Jim and Kristi Fiebigger. Kristi wore a shirt that proudly proclaimed, "That's my #81 Boy!"

GUEST COLUMN

DHS mess continues

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

Costly mistakes. Troubling dysfunction. Admitted lawbreaking.

All of these definitions have been used to describe uncovered actions within Minnesota's Department of Human Services over the past several months.

The agency, which has seen its commissioner and assistant commissioner resign this year, is in chaos.

Among the problems lawmakers have learned about:

- The Legislative Auditor reported on "pervasive fraud" in the childcare system. The DHS inspector general was placed on investigate leave for her role in this -- and it still getting paid.
- Employees have been fired, mistreated, or retaliated against for raising concerns about agency practices.
- DHS owes the federal government \$30 million due to overpayments to two tribal governments.
- DHS overpaid chemical dependency providers, which costs taxpayers \$70 million.
- DHS paid out \$3 million for people who were already dead.
- DHS broke the law more than 200 times on contracts totaling more than \$52 million.
- DHS is now being scrutinized for not accommodating employees with disabilities.

And those are just the tip of the iceberg.

Two weeks ago we learned 11 counties in Southern Minnesota received a bill for nearly \$1 million from DHS stemming from the mismanagement of funds for substance use disorder treatment. This includes Steele County, which is now staring at a nearly \$128,000 notice.

Keep in mind, DHS has a \$19 billion budget. And now it wants counties to pay for its mistake.

On Dec. 2, the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Finance Committee heard an update from the agency's new commissioner. At the hearing, the commissioner indicated that no one has been disciplined for tens of millions in overpayments to tribes, and was reluctant to endorse Republican calls for a forensic audit of all DHS spending.

It's time we got some answers, and an audit would certainly get to the bottom of this DHS mess.

I'd also like to see Governor Walz take a little more active role in this problem, considering we're hearing negative news almost weekly on DHS and it is his agency. Let's hope that happens before session begins.

John Petersburg is a state representative for District 24A, which includes Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.

CORRECTION

On Page 12 of the special section honoring the state champion Blossoms in this week's newspaper, a girl in one of the photos was misidentified. She is Marti Snider, who is cheering on her approval as the Blossoms score another touchdown against BOLD.

The special section had an earlier deadline than the regular newspaper, which explains why we are able to correct it in this section within the same week. We apologize for the error.



Blooming Prairie's cheerleaders had a thrill of a lifetime cheering on their Blossom football players at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis Nov. 29. Here, they are shown on the stadium's scoreboard.

In the first year, Rye recruited eight girls for cheerleading. Since then she has average about 14 girls, including this year's squad of six seniors.

Rye credits Blooming Prairie with having so much community support for its athletes, especially this year's championship run. "Our jobs are to bridge the gap between the fans and the football team," she said. She added

boys. "There is no room for silence in this game," she said pointing to the championship game.

The excitement of the championship game has proven to be a big moment for senior captain Baylee Sorensen. Crazy, busy and exciting are just a few words Sorensen used to describe cheering in the biggest game of the year for BP. "It's really exciting to be here," she

swelled with incredible pride over the past few weeks. "There is a thrill that really can't be described," Rye said. "Our motto is small town, big dreams. We're living vicariously with them."

A small town in hot pursuit of big dreams. In this case, it wasn't a dream, but rather reality for a town hungry for its first ever state football title.

Loving to be a QB



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

It is so true that everyone likes to be a quarterback. A quarterback is usually the No. 1 leader on a football team. When the quarterback rolls, so does the team. The Blooming Prairie Blossom certainly rolled this season completing an unbeaten season with a state championship in Class 1A. Part of that success credits the support of the Blooming Prairie High School football team by the BP Quarterback Club. The Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club was founded in the spring of 2008 to assist and support football programs in the community of Blooming Prairie.



This is the design that will appear on the Blossom championship merchandise.

With the support and hard work in fundraising by the QB Club, a strong and solid youth and high school football program has been built in Blooming Prairie. The Blossoms last year reached the semifinals at the state tournament in U.S. Bank Stadium but lost to a strong BOLD team. Right after that loss, returnees to the Blossoms made up their mind that they would be back at state in 2019 and would emerge as state champs.

It's been two weeks since the Blossoms made their small community proud and that pride of accomplishment continues to get stronger with the BP Quarterback Club sanctioning an attractive fundraising campaign with the creative help of Linda Klemmstien and her staff at Sportstitch. The Quarterback Club offered lots of championship merchandise including t-shirts (both long sleeve and short sleeve), crewneck and hooded sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, baseball hat, pom stocking hat, beanie stocking hat, window decal and an attractive Christmas ornament. All proceeds for this fundraiser go to support the football program beginning with the fifth graders. Funds also help pay for helmets, shoulder pads, uniforms, HUDL sideline video and replay, coaches headsets, practice equipment and more. The Quarterback Club is led by a group of dedicated Blossom football fans with T.J. Kartes as president, Ryan Heimerman as vice president, Tricia Steckelberg, secretary-treasurer, leading a board of directors that includes a representative from each grade, fifth and up. It's because of strong fan support, spearheaded by the Quarterback Club, that Blooming Prairie's football program has grown and has been ultra successful. Winning is contagious and you can bet that the underclassmen from this year will want to return to state next year and hopefully repeat as Class 1A champions in football. Other Blossom sports teams will also set their sights on winning a state championship. Congratulations Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club on your success in helping build a powerful football program. Thank you also go to the many fans who have been following the Blossoms for many years. The joys of winning this state championship will keep you warm all winter. See you next season!

Cookies, carols, Santa at Village of Yesteryear



Cayden and Grayson Page took some time Friday night to decorate frosted sugar cookies at the General Store at the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna.

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

There were cookies, caroling, Santa Claus and much more at the Village of Yesteryear and the Steele County History Center last Friday and Saturday for the annual Christmas in the Village. Activities got under way Friday with the Soup and Chili Supper and the cookie sale. Hans Horhmann got the evening started as he played Christmas carols on his accordion during the supper. The Owatonna High School Carolers and Straight River Strings were among the other local entertainers who played during the supper. The always popular cookies sale also drew a large crowd Friday night as shoppers chose their favorite combinations of cookies. The History Center displays and gift shop were also open. For those who chose to tour the village, there were a variety of activities.

Virtually every room of the Dunnell House was decorated for the holiday season. The pianists played Christmas carolers and later in the evening accompanied a group of village carolers as they stopped by the Dunnell House. Arleen Roberts was demonstrating making bobbin lace and Bev Falteysek was serving freshly baked cookies. There were also plenty of cookies over at the General Store where youngsters had the opportunity to decorate frosted sugar cookies. There was music in the Saco Church and visitors were welcome to stop by the school house and get a glimpse of education in the early 1900s. Steve and Nancy Hunt were also there giving wagon rides with their team of horses. The cookie sales, village activities and wagon rides continued on Saturday as Owatonna and Steele County residents welcomed the holiday season.

A Christmas to Remember at BP School



Kindergartner Santiago Hernandez participated in A Christmas to Remember, performed twice at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Friday, Dec. 6.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was indeed A Christmas to Remember as presented by students of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School two times on Friday, Dec. 6. Parents, grandparents and friends of students were treated

to a musical gala performance in the morning and to another in the afternoon. The gymnasium was packed with standing room only during both shows. The concert featured fifth and sixth grade bands opening the show. The General Music classes in grades kindergarten to sixth grade also performed. In the finale, 445 kids took the stage to sing A Christmas to Remember. The bands were directed by Ross Reishus, the grades 5-6 choirs were directed by Kari Bottin and Krista Reeder directed K-6 General Music. The fifth grade band performed Good King Wencelas, Jingle Bells and Jolly Ol Saint Nicholas. The sixth grade band performed Bennett's Switch and Frosty the Snowman. The 5-6 Choir sang Winter Bells Across the Snow and Showbiz Snowman. Kindergartners sang Rudolph

the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Next was the first grade with Frosty the Snow Man, Snowflake Snowflake and Snowman, Where'd You Go? Second graders sang When Santa Clause Gets Your Letter, I'm Gonna Give a Gift and Hip Hop Elves. Third graders performed Let's Build a Gingerbread House, The Christmas Song and Everlasting Fruitcake. Fourth graders were on stage to do Let's Make It Shine, Oh Christmas Tree and We Need a Little Christmas. Next to perform were fifth graders with their version of Make a Buck, Little Drummer Boy and Nice Not Naughty. Sixth graders performed Believe, Christmas Hymn Medley and Old Fashioned Holiday. The Grand Finale was A Christmas to Remember sang



Playing the clarinet at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School's A Christmas to Remember was fifth grader Veronica Brown. The concert featured 445 students.

by all students. Special portable bleachers, purchased by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, were used for this special concert. School music events coming up include a high school band concert at the high school at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12 and a choir concert at First Lutheran Church on Monday, Dec. 16.

Making a list, checking it twice

Eager young shoppers get in the holiday spirit for annual Shop with Santa

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday, area kids were able to get in some early Christmas shopping without parents snooping at their presents during the annual Shop with Santa event. The event, organized and put on by Steele County 4-H, has been held for 30 years and shows no sign of slowing down. This year, kids were able to peruse a variety of items and pick out the perfect gifts for their family and friends at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. "All of the gifts are homemade gifts that each 4-H family is asked to make," 4-H Program Coordinator Tracy Ignaszewski explained. "Each family is asked to make eight items per 4-Her, and so they bring the items and donate them." Not only do the 4-Hers donate the gifts, but they also help each young shopper find the right present for those on their list. "This year we were up on gifts that have been donated, about 2,700 items came in," Ignaszewski said. "It's open to any youth from 4 years old to sixth grade," she explained. "They don't bring parents in to shop, and they're assigned a youth 4-H helper and then they get to go around and do all the shopping themselves." The event is a great way to give back to 4-H, but also a great way for kids to find that special something for someone on their Christmas list. "They have their gift

list and their gift tags and they get everything wrapped here and a name put on and when they leave, they have presents ready under the tree," Ignaszewski said. Each shopper gets to choose from a variety of homemade gifts priced from 50 cents to \$5. "Some of these gifts, if you went to a craft show as an adult, you could probably pay \$15 for," Sandy Jirele, who helps organize the event each year, said of the array of possible presents. "All the stuff is donated and handmade." Proceeds from the event support youth programming in Steele County.

"With 4-H, community service is one of our big pushes and every club has to build in community service, and this is kind of our county-wide community service," Ignaszewski said of the event. "Everybody in the entire county participates in it, and we have around 60 workers who come here to work and help put it on." The event is organized and coordinated by a passionate committee who looks forward to seeing the joy that they bring each year. "Some people on the committee don't have kids in 4-H anymore," Jirele said. "I have grandkids in

4-H now and it's just a very fun event." "I would say that it's probably one of the highlights of 4-H," Ignaszewski said. "They look forward to it, and they come and they have a good time doing it, and it's the paycheck. It's not only for them but for all of us. It's fun to see that bond between the 4-Hers and the shopper." With some holiday music playing on the piano, and shoppers circling the homemade wares, the event filled one's heart with warmth for the holidays. "It's looking at the child as they're waiting to have the gift wrapped and they have smiles on their

face and the satisfaction that they've done the shopping on their own, and mom and dad don't know what's in there, and that's the best part," Jirele said. Although the kids are told to keep their gifts a secret, sometimes the excitement for the Christmas unwrapping is overwhelming. "We tell them, now don't tell mom and dad, wait until they open it," Jirele explained. "Of course, sometimes they'll come running out and tell their parents exactly what they got them, and it's fun to see that and know that excitement. We enjoy it and that's why we're here!"



Shopping with Santa. Local kids from across the county got to check off some names from their Christmas lists during the Shop with Santa event held last Saturday at St. John Church in Owatonna.

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

Drug unit nabs man with cocaine

A man faces felony drug charges in connection with an incident where he was allegedly in possession of cocaine. Henry Fox, 36, of Owatonna has been charged with first-degree sale of cocaine and driving after revocation. An informant tipped off the South Central Drug Investigation Unit about Fox selling cocaine back in April. A deal was made where the informant bought a 1/4-ounce of cocaine from Fox in the downtown



area, police said. A few days later, the informant arranged a second deal in the parking lot of Owatonna Hospital where about a ?-ounce of cocaine was purchased. Police arrested Fox last week while he was driving without a license. A 2014 Ford Fusion has been seized and is subject to forfeiture for being used in the second drug sale, according to police.

Henry Fox



FILE PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Little Brooklyn Peterson tells Santa Claus what she wants for Christmas. That was last year. Brooklyn hopes to meet the jolly guy again this year on Friday, Dec. 13 in the city council chambers.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 25 – Dec. 1:

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Grant C. Kylo, 23, Blooming Prairie, failure to validate deer tag, \$100.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Sean P. Ebert, 22, Rogers, speeding, \$215; Aaron

M. Gramse, 19, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Riley J. Hustvedt, 16, Faribault, speeding, \$215; John P. Iacovino, 63, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Christopher H. Waggoner, 62, Puyallup, WA, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Klayton R. Ament, 38, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, \$381, 7 days in county jail, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised

STEEL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Corbin M. Born, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$275; Teriann Powell, 37, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Sara Vazquez, 23, Dodge Center, speeding, \$215.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Nov. 29
Crash: At 4:32 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 300 block of 6th Ave. SE.

OWATONNA POLICE

Nov. 26
Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 3600 block of County Road 45 N. at 9:41 a.m., the 300 block of School St. E. at 4:24 p.m. and the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 4:31 p.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of 16th St. NE at 10:16 a.m.
Nov. 27
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 26th St. NW and Cedar Ave. N. at 6:55 a.m.
Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 8:32 a.m. and the 400 block of North St. W. at 2 p.m.
Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:04 a.m. and the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 3:13 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of School St. E. at 12:33 p.m.
Restraining Order: At 5:05 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 800 block of 14th St. NE.
Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly St. SW at 11:08 p.m.
Nov. 28
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:58 p.m.

ESTATE [TAG] SALE

Thursday, DEC. 12 12 P.M. – 5 P.M.
Friday, DEC. 13 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Saturday, DEC. 14 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

MILO (MIKE) & JANICE HOEL ESTATE
319 4th Street NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Directions: Off Hwy. 218, take 3rd St. NE, go to 2nd STOP SIGN (Nursing Home Corner) turn right 1 block to 4th St. NW, turn left to 319d Street NW. Watch for signs. Everything must go!
Oak Vintage Pump Organ, Organ Stool, Oak Dresser w/Mirror, Several Rockers (all vintage), Round Maple Table w/2 leaves, 6 Antique Chairs, Many Maple Chairs, White Wicker Chair, 4 Drawer Chest, 8 ft. Sofa, Living Room Chair, School Desk, 2 Handmade Cradles, Marble topped Cupboard, Older Refrigerator, Trunks, Elec. Mintronic Piano, Vintage Wringer Washing Machine, Oak Wall Clock, Bench/TV Stand, Plant Stand
50+ Pcs. Of Pewter inc. Pitchers, Creamers & Sugars, Candle Holders, much more, Books, books & more books Paperbacks & Hard Covers, Lots of Vintage Life Magazines, LP Records, CD's, Set of Pfalsgraf Stoneware inc, Lots of serving pcs., 3 sizes Blue Glasses, Stemware, Lots of Fabric, Dress Patterns, Vintage & Newer Tins, Toys & Board Games, Tonka, Nylint & Ertl Farm Toys, Lg. Tonka Firetruck (like new), Shirley Temple Doll, Paperdolls, Doll Bed & many misc Dolls, Vintage Lunchboxes, Vintage Plates, Many Pictures, Misc. Christmas items inc, Ornaments in orig. Boxes, Small Appliances, Lots of Misc. Kitchen inc, Collectibles, Cookie Cutters, Syrup Pitchers, Juicers/Reamers, Candles, Dozens of Rugs, Quilts, Bedspreads, Sheets, Pillowcases, Doilies & Dresser Scarves, Towels, Slide Projector & Screen, Few tools, Wooden Extension Ladder, Lots of Misc. too numerous to mention

MUST BRING HELP TO LOAD HEAVY ITEMS
AS WE HAVE NO ONE TO HELP YOU!

Conducted by Dixie King, Austin, MN (507) 440-2474
with help from Judy Laskewitz (507)-438-7070 & friends

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

1. Joseph Majewski – theft - \$3,000 bail

2. David Martinez – DWI - \$500 bail

3. Felipe Martinez – DWI – no bail

4. Victor Martinez – obstruct legal process - \$12,000 bail

5. Paul Mason – traffic - \$100 bail

6. Lakia Massey – counterfeit money – no bail

7. Emmanuel Mata – burglary - \$10,000 bail
8. Robert Mattson – revoked license – no bail

9. Victoria Mays – assault - \$1,000 bail

10. Meghan McMahon – theft - \$300 bail

11. Randy Mensing – check forgery - \$15,000 bail

12. Matthew Metro – indecent exposure - \$1,000 bail

13. Jesse Moe – registration violation – no bail

14. Imaan Moloo – criminal sexual conduct - \$10,000 bail
15. Dayson Montanto – DWI - \$1,000 bail

16. Michael Moore – violation of conditions of release – no bail

17. Omar Moreno Jr. – damage to property - \$5,000 bail

18. Jose Mota – theft - \$1,000 bail

19. Guadalupe Munoz – false name - \$3,000 bail

20. Deris Murillo-Benitez – DWI - \$12,000 bail

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

BROTHERS SENTENCED:
in Ellendale armed home invasion FROM A1

Henderson pointed out that the ATF has worked closely with the victims in this case to provide status updates, resources and support to help recover from the traumatic experiences resulting from the brothers' violent crime spree. "No one deserves what these people went through, and our hope is that peace can be found in the finality of this sentencing," he said. "We are grateful to our many law enforcement partners whose efforts led to the apprehension of those responsible for these crimes and ultimately for the success of this case," he added.

The brothers were prosecuted under the Hobbs Act, which prohibits actual or attempted robbery affecting interstate or foreign commerce "in any way or degree." The act was passed by Congress in 1946.

Area law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation were Owatonna and Albert Lea police departments and Steele and Freeborn sheriff's offices.

HOME INVASION SENTENCES

Lennie Dwayne Brooks, 34
Zumbro Falls
– 365 months in prison
– 3 years of supervised release
– \$288,483 in restitution to victims

Randy Lorenzo Brooks, 24
Wabasha
– 240 months in prison
– 3 years of supervised release
– \$288,483 in restitution to victims

Autumn Marie Nichols, 21
St. Paul
– 120 months in prison
– 3 years of supervised release
– \$50,000 in restitution to victims

Esperanza Cardenas, 30
Conger
– 50 months in prison
– 3 years of supervised release
– \$238,483 in restitution to victims

ALL POINTS BULLETIN:

Santa to stop at BP Police this week

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Look for Santa Claus' sleigh to be double parked in front of the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Friday, Dec. 13. Santa and his friendly elf will be holding office hours in the Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers from 5-7 p.m. No, Santa will not be in jail. Santa plans to listen to all requests from kids 2 to 102. He has made the stop at the Bloom-

ing Prairie PD the last two years. Because lots of kids came to visit with Santa, the location has been changed to the council chambers this year. Activities with the BP Library and treats are planned for everyone. In the past, Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen has donated colorful Christmas cookies and Nick Schiefert of the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen has donated Blizzard (12 oz.) gift certificates for the youngsters.

Enter the city center, either on the east side or the west side. Once in the doorway, kids will spot Santa and his elf. Each youngster will receive a bag of candy. Chief Greg Skillestad and officer Dan Peach believe that Santa's visit provides a way for kids to interact with the local police department. "If kids need help or need someone to talk to, they can reach out to the police," Peach said. "It's cool to have the trust of the kids," he added.

STEEL COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 29
Theft: At 5:59 p.m., a theft occurred in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic in the 3100 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:16 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
Nov. 30
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 500 block of Maple Dr. NE at 12:12 p.m.
Crash: At 1:22 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred at 46th St. NW and Frontage Rd. W.
Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:55 p.m. and the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 5:12 p.m.
DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 100 block of 18th Place NE at 10:56 p.m.
Dec. 1
Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of 17th St. NE at 5:02 p.m.
Dec. 2
Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 11:49 a.m. and the 200 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 7:07 p.m.
Restraining Order: At 11:32 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1000 block of St. Paul Road NE.
Shoplifting: At 4:11 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW.
Theft: A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 5:42 p.m.
Dec. 3
Juvenile: Police received a juvenile complaint from the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 3:50 p.m.
Dec. 4
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:02 a.m.
Hit and Run: At 1:20 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred at Phelps St. E. and Elm Ave. S.
Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 18th St. SE and Austin Road SE at 5:26 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.
Dec. 5
Child Protection: Police

received a child protection report from the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 9:41 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:21 a.m.
Crash: At 6:34 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 100 block of Main St. E.
Restraining Order: At 8:23 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW.

STEEL COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 27
Warrants: Deputies made warrant arrests in the 300 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Medford at 2:11 p.m. and the 3900 block of Highway 30 W. in Ellendale at 7:07 p.m.
Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 5700 block of Frontage Rd. E. in Medford Township at 4:25 p.m.
Crash: At 7:19 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 128th St. SW and 72nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township.
Nov. 29
Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity at 28th St. SE and County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 12:52 p.m.
Nov. 30
Welfare: Deputies arrested a subject after conducting a welfare check at 58th St. SE and Austin Road in Aurora Township at 6:19 a.m.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Deputies received information regarding criminal sexual conduct at 5th Ave. W. and 3rd St. in Ellendale at 10:13 a.m.

arrested at 11:25 p.m. Nov. 30, felony DWI and cancelled license, held for court. Tawna Marie Johnson, 44, arrested at 2:38 p.m. Dec. 2, warrants arrest, held for court.

STEEL COUNTY SHERIFF

Sarah Ann Jorgenson, 37, arrested at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 27, warrant arrest, body only. Rosalinda Teressa Banuelos, 20, arrested at 12 p.m. Nov. 27, warrant arrest, \$500 bail. Danial Patrick Winzenburg, 51, arrested at 6:07 p.m. Dec. 1, violation of conditions of release, held for court. Robert James Stockwell, 52, arrested at 1:58 a.m. Dec. 2, warrant arrest, body only. Anthony Thomas Wright, 29, arrested at 3:07 p.m. Dec. 2, warrant arrest, held for court. Shane Joseph Anderson, 28, arrested at 4:02 p.m. Nov. 27, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. Carlos George Reygez, 43, arrested at 7:35 p.m. Dec. 2, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail. Nicholas Michael LaCroix, 32, arrested at 9:26 p.m. Dec. 2, restraining order violation, held for court.

MN STATE PATROL

Pablo Cesar Sanchez-Tellez, 24, arrested at 8:05 p.m. Dec. 5, felony controlled substance, held for court. Deyanira Ramirez-Aguilar, 23, arrested at 8:05 p.m. Dec. 5, felony controlled substance, held for court. Jessica Aguilar, 19, arrested at 8:05 p.m. Dec. 5, felony controlled substance, held for court.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Patrick Keyoneau Powell, 23, arrested at 9:24 a.m. Nov. 27, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. Henry Courtney Fox, 35, arrested at 3:44 p.m. Nov. 28, felony controlled substance sale, held for court. David Sullivan Thornton Jr., 26, arrested at 11:14 p.m. Nov. 29, domestic assault and violation of order for protection, held for court. Jose Antonio Sanchez, 46,

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 24 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Joshua J. Kuehl, 29, Winona, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,080, 9 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance

SEE BLOTTER, A5

How to Manage a Loved One’s Social Media Afterlife



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
How do I go about changing or canceling a person’s social media accounts when they die? My sister passed away several months ago and her social media accounts are still active. Inquiring Sister

Dear Inquiring,
I’m sorry for your loss. This a question that’s become more frequent in recent years as most Americans have participated on some type of social media platform. Here’s a run-down of how you can change or cancel some different social media accounts after a loved one dies.

FACEBOOK

Let’s start with the biggest and most frequently used social media platform on the Web today. When someone with a Facebook profile dies, there are two different things someone with authority over their account can do. You can either “memorialize” it or “delete” it.

A memorialized account serves as a place where friends and family can share stories, photos or memories to celebrate the deceased person’s life, with the word “Remembering” shown next to the deceased person’s name. Once an account is memorialized, content the person shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, the user’s profile will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

If you don’t wish to memorialize your sister’s profile, you can also have her account permanently deleted from Facebook.

Facebook allows users (when they’re alive) to choose a “legacy contact,” which is a person chosen to look after their account once they’ve passed away, or users can request to have their account permanently deleted after they die. (To do either of these tasks, click on “Settings” on the top right of Facebook, then click on “General” on the left-side menu and then on “Manage Account.”)

If your sister didn’t set up a legacy contact before she passed, you can submit a memorialization request at [Facebook.com/help](https://www.facebook.com/help) – type in “How do I report a deceased person on Facebook that needs to be memorialized?” in the search bar. You’ll be asked to provide proof of death by providing a copy of either an obituary, death certificate or memorial card.

Or, if you would rather have her account deleted go to [Facebook.com/help](https://www.facebook.com/help), and type in “How do I request the removal of a deceased family member’s Facebook account?” This also requires proof of death plus verification that you’re an immediate family member or executor of the account holder.

INSTAGRAM

Instagram’s policy on a deceased users’ account is similar to its parent company, Facebook. A deceased users’ account can either be memorialized or removed, which you can request at [Help.Instagram.com/264154560391256](https://www.instagram.com/264154560391256).

Like Facebook, to memorialize an Instagram account requires proof of death, but to remove an account you’ll also need to provide verification that you’re an immediate family member.

TWITTER

If your sister was a Twitter user, Twitter will work with anyone who is authorized to act on behalf of her estate, or with a verified immediate family member to have an account deactivated. To request the removal of your sister’s account, go to [Help.Twitter.com/forms/privacy](https://help.twitter.com/forms/privacy).

After you submit your request, Twitter will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID, and a copy of the deceased’s death certificate.

LINKEDIN

If your sister also had a LinkedIn profile, the only option is to delete her account. To request this, see [LinkedIn.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp](https://www.linkedin.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp). You’ll need to provide her name and URL to her LinkedIn profile; the relationship you have to her; her email address; date she passed away; link to an obituary; and company she most recently worked for.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.savvysenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Dec. 15, 2009

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

A blizzard fell on Steele County on Dec. 8 forcing numerous schools throughout the area to close. An onslaught of about a foot of snow fell on the region. It was the most snow in the area since February 2007 when the area was dumped with 14 inches of snow.

Ryan Hurd, 22, was charged with second-degree murder in connection with the body found dumped along a ditch in rural Steele County. Hurd is accused of killing Kathryn Rose Anderson of Eagan. She had been stabbed 109 times.

Minnesota State Sen. Dick Day of Owatonna has announced he is resigning from the Senate and will be the president of Racino Now. Day will leave the Senate on Jan. 8, 2010, ending his 19-year run in the Minnesota Senate. Racinos are horse race tracks and casinos.

20 Years Ago Dec. 14, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Bloomington Prairie has been hit with a rash of vehicle thefts, especially this past weekend, Dec. 11-12. Police reported that eight unlocked vehicles had items stolen out of them. They warn citizens that they should lock their cars when they are left, no matter where they are parked. There have been more than 30 vehicle thefts reported in the last two months.

Winners of the Holiday Dazzle drawing were Hazel Steward of Hayfield, Lois Conklin of Bloomington Prairie and Marj Wonderlich of Bloomington Prairie.

Jerry Kokoschke officially retires after 35 years of teaching next week. He has spent the past 30 years as English/German instructor at Bloomington Prairie High School. Also retiring this month is Chuck Wead, who has taught in the science department at the high school for many years.

Kerry Kruckeberg received a scholarship from Dollars for Scholars recently from the group. Kruckeberg is majoring in exercise physiology and pre-physical therapy at the College of St. Scholastica. She is the daughter of Kevin and Cheryl Kruckeberg.

50 Years Ago Dec. 10, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Bloomington Prairie Civic Progress Club has set the 1970 Petunia Festival for July 18 and 19. The board accepted a carnival contract from Rodney Hopp. Otto Jensen volunteered to serve as co-chairman of the 1970 festival under condition that another co-chairman be secured to work with him.

Dave Noble and Joe Wurst, Bloomington Prairie stock car drivers, placed among the top five point winners for the 1969 season at Chateau Speedway in Lansing. They were presented with trophies at a recent banquet.

Twenty-five more winners, including one for \$100, were reported in the second week of the Christmas Sweepstakes promotion underway in Bloomington Prairie. To-date a total of 41 area people have won “script” money in the pre-Christmas promotion and \$355 in prizes have been awarded since the start of the event two weeks ago.

Mrs. Carl Olson has taken over the 218 Cafe in Bloomington Prairie. She

reports that she is operating the business and serving delicious foods. The cafe is open seven days a week.

75 Years Ago Dec. 14, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Pfc. Lester N. Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Hanson, Bloomington Prairie, has paid the supreme sacrifice in the battle against the German Huns. He passed away Nov. 25 from wounds received in action on the German front. The Hansons received the distressing official wire from the War Department Saturday evening at 8:30. Health Seal sales in Bloomington Prairie and community this season will exceed the 1943 totals if the response of the citizens continues during the next week. Mrs. George Curtin, bond chairman reports that the American Legion and Auxiliary each have purchased Health Seal Bonds.

Death came suddenly to Arthur Christianson, 37, in his small radio repair shop last Thursday evening at 8:30. The fatal accident occurred while Christianson was working with an apparatus designed by himself to rejuvenate radio tubes. Christianson had received a heavy electric shock Thursday morning that had left burns on his hands. His death came instantly when he made contact with two live wires intended to pass through a defected radio tube.

After being more or less dormant for several months, Bloomington Prairie’s commercial club took on a new lease on life Monday night when newly-elected president Merville Bray presided over his first meeting. Approximately 60 fine roast beef suppers were served by ladies of St. Columbanus Catholic Church alter society to those present.

SMIF awards various grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved seven grants totaling \$101,740 to support organizations, units of government and public institutions in SMIF’s 20-county region.

The Economic Impact Grant Program seeks to support current or future business growth, access or expansion of resources to underrepresented populations, and/or grow the community’s ability to embrace and develop a grow-your-own community culture.

The 2019 Economic Impact Grant award recipients are:

- \$13,300 to the City of Dodge Center to create a program that increases and diversifies the business community in Dodge Center.
- \$9,200 to Dodge County Economic Development Authority to conduct

economic development outreach to the Hispanic community in Dodge County through information sessions, business counseling and grantmaking.

– \$19,990 to Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment Through Research (HACER) to support “Creando Ando (Create and Advance)”, a program that will build personal confidence and entrepreneurial mindset through Design Thinking among Latinx businesses in Rochester.

– \$4,200 to Lanesboro Economic Development Authority to host educational workshops free of charge to local business owners.

– \$15,050 to the Regents of the University of Minnesota to provide applied learning opportunities on business succession planning for small businesses in southern Minnesota.

– \$20,000 to South Central Region Small Business Development Center to support women entrepreneurs and small business owners in south-central Minnesota through trainings, educational events and peer networking.

– \$20,000 to the City of Saint James to provide business development services in Spanish and English to support the Latinx community.

“At SMIF, we strongly believe that communities which invest in their people are ultimately investing in their local economy,” said Pam Bishop, vice president of Economic Development at SMIF. “These grants will support ideas to grow economic opportunities in southern Minnesota.”

For more information on SMIF’s grantmaking, contact Jennifer Heien at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 24 – Dec. 1:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Eric D. Thompson, 29, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Dana M. Turtle, 39, Byron,

DWI, \$980, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kareem I. Hollins, 29, Rochester, stop sign and revoked license, \$330; Cory R. Peck, 35, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Brittney R. Ulrich, 25, Kasson, revoked license, \$280.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Joel A. Deflieger, 62, West Concord, unsafe passing, \$130; Tanner W. Fisher, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Gregory O. Moen Englund, 37, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Anthony J. Paulson, 49, Kasson, speeding, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
Tina D. Vigasaa, 43, West Concord, domestic assault, \$380, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation.

OWATONNA FIRE
Nov. 29 Fire: Firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire at Cedar Ave. N. and 22nd St. NW at 6:19 p.m.
Nov. 30 Smoke: Fire personnel assisted with smoke removal in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. at 11:01 a.m.
Dec. 6 Crash: At 8:01 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 900 block of Alexander Dr. SW.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

TICKING PAST A CENTURY



The interior of Jurgenson and Kottke, about 1920. Carl Kottke is to the left.



Kottke's Jewelry has a more modern look today.

Kottke Jewelers serving Owatonna for 100 years

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

For the past 100 years Owatonna and Steele County residents have headed to downtown Owatonna to Kottke Jewelers for watches, jewelry, wedding and graduation gifts.

Kottke Jewelers actually got its start as Jurgenson and Kottke in 1919 with Carl Kottke and John Jurgenson as the owners, said Carl's grandson, Matthew Kottke. Kottke became the sole owner in the late 1920s when Jurgenson left to go into the bulk oil business and it has remained in the Kottke family since then.

Carl Kottke was 16 years old when he started work at Jostens as an apprentice. At that time Jostens was involved with watch repair as well as jewelry and the young Kottke spent five years in the jewelry department and five years in watch repair, said his grandson. At the time, Jostens was located on the second floor of the Roxy Theater next to the Fire Station.

Carl also served in the Army during World War I, stationed in Rochester, N.Y., where he calibrated instruments for the Army.

Matt Kottke said in the early days his grandfather was involved with designing and creating fine jewelry, repairing watches and clocks as well as selling china, crystal, silverware, fountain pens and even wire-rimmed glasses.

"They instilled a philosophy of giving back to the community. It's a win-win. If the community is strong, businesses do well."

Matt Kottke
Kottke Jewelers

Over the years, Kottke said, the business continued to do watch, clock and jewelry repair but also became known for its quality bridal and engagement items as well as silver and flatware.

In 1965, after graduating from Drake University in Iowa, Carl's son Bill moved his young family back to Owatonna and joined his father in the business. Bill Kottke would work beside his father for the next 20 years until Carl died in the mid-1980s. Carl, Kottke said, was 93 when he died and he had continued working up until two weeks before his death.

Bill Kottke continued to run the business until his death in 2014. With his father's death, Kottke said, the family faced a decision regarding the business.

Matt Kottke had been working at Truth in Owatonna for 31 years and when his father's health began to decline, he decided the timing was right for him to leave his job and come to work in the family business. Today, he is the third generation Kottke at the store pointing out that he "just works here" and his mother, Faye, is the owner of the business.

The store has been at the

same location for its entire existence, he said, and at his father's death in many ways it still looked as it always had.

While there have been some changes and "freshening up" of the store "we're very conscious of maintaining the same charm," Kottke said. The jewelry cabinets are the original ones, he said, and they used all local companies for repainting, new carpeting and new cabinet lighting.

"I've really maintained the same business philosophy that's been good for 100 years," he said, including serving the customers with quality service. That includes, he said, free gift wrapping and handmaking all the bows for the boxes.

The tradition of "The Kottke Watch" has also continued since it was started by Carl in 1923. Each year at the Steele County Free Fair an engraved watch is given for the champion 4-H Dairy animal.

"Owatonna and the surrounding communities have been very supportive of the jewelry store and the family," Kottke said.

After 100 years the business continues to do well, he said, even though there have been changes over the



Matt Kottke stands in front of the safe at Kottke Jewelers. Even after some remodeling the store maintains its original charm, Kottke said, as original cabinets and lighting have been upgraded but the jewelry cases were not replaced.

years with the focus now more on jewelry.

When Carl first went into business, Kottke said, all watches were mechanical and many were pocket watches, not the battery operated, digital timepieces of today. Today, though, he said, more traditional watches are making a strong comeback.

"Younger people see them as kind of a fashion statement," he said. Both men and women are coming back to watches, he said.

In the early days of the business, Kottke said, his grandfather had two other watchmakers working for him and now a retired watchmaker and jeweler comes in once a week to work on mechanical watches.

His grandfather and father were both involved in the community and Kottke said he has tried to follow in their footsteps.

"They instilled a philosophy of giving back to the community," he said. "It's a win-win. If the community is strong, businesses do well."

His grandfather, he said, served on the school board and his father was active with the Chamber of Commerce. Both also were involved in a variety of civic activities.

"I've kind of followed that myself," he said.

When he was growing up, he said, he wondered why his father and grandfather were so involved in so many things but "now I get it."

Kottke sees a bright future not only for Kottke Jewelers but also for downtown Owatonna. The business, he said, is the oldest business in Owatonna that is still run by the same family and still in the same location.

And for Owatonna, he said, "there is a new and exciting energy downtown."

Record appraisals help company hit milestone

An appraisal company based in Owatonna has experienced a record year.

Mangelsen Appraisals, Inc. recently hit 1,000 appraisals this year. In honor of the accomplishment, Mangelsen's owner, Bobby Mangelsen, presented Affinity Federal Credit Union in Faribault with a commemorative World Series baseball. Brenda Nelson of Affinity wrote the loan for the person purchasing a home that became the 1000th appraisal hit of 2019 for Mangelsen.

According to Tara Choudek, sales coordinator with Mangelsen, the company is almost at 1,100

appraisals for 2019. Last year the company finished with about 930 appraisals. Choudek noted that December is usually a slower month for the appraisal industry.

In addition to growing in appraisals, Mangelsen has also experienced growth with appraisers. The company added two additional appraisers to its team this year, Choudek said. There are currently five appraisers on staff and additional office support.

Mangelsen covers a 13-county area stretching from the south metro through southern Minnesota.



Bobby Mangelsen of Mangelsen Appraisals in Owatonna presents a commemorative World Series baseball to Brenda Nelson of Affinity Federal Credit Union in Faribault. Nelson was involved in writing a loan to a homeowner who purchased a home that became Mangelsen's 1000th appraisal of the year.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Zumbrota Ford gives back to local communities

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COURTNEY WRITER

Giving back to the communities they serve is part of the philosophy of Zumbrota Ford, said owner Steve Johnson, and they recently continued that tradition with a fund-raising program for Triton Elementary School.

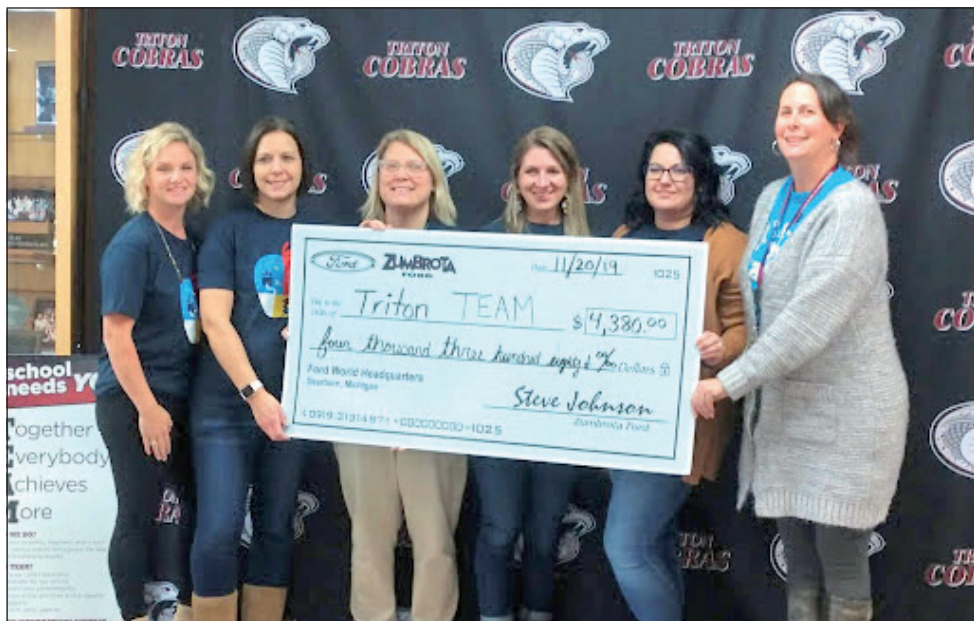
During the Triton High School Homecoming activities, the parent-teacher group at Triton Elementary joined with Zumbrota Ford and the Ford Motor Company to raise in excess of \$4,000 through a “test drive a new vehicle” fund-raising program.

Zumbrota Ford brought a line-up of new cars and trucks to the school parking lot before the Homecoming game. Those who stopped by to take a test drive were asked to fill out a survey. For every survey completed the Triton TEAM group received \$20. The company recently presented the check for \$4,300 to the group.

Johnson said that they have done the test drive program, which is sponsored by Ford Motor, in several area schools including Pine Island and Zumbrota.

In Triton’s case, the company’s sales manager, Jared Maes, lives in Dodge Center and wanted to help the local school.

Johnson said he also wanted to thank Krejci



Members of the Triton TEAM parents group and Principal Mary Morem accept a check from Zumbrota Ford for \$4,380 raised during a Homecoming fundraiser last fall. Involved in the presentation were, from left: TEAM members Jessie Maes, who also represented Zumbrota Ford, Erica Wennes, Tessa Ogren, Katie Henslin, Keri Ginder and Principal Mary Morem.

“We try and give back to the community... I believe in that, in giving back and supporting the community.”

Steve Johnson
Zumbrota Ford Owner

In addition to special projects like the test drive, he said, the company regularly supports the Jeremiah Program, Salvation Army, Ability Building Center in Rochester, the Zumbrota Food Shelf and Toys for Tots.

At the Triton test drive event and in general, Johnson said, the favorite models

were the Ford F150, the Escape and the Explorer.

Johnson said he has been selling cars for 47 years and for the past 20 has been the owner of Zumbrota Ford. Earlier this year, he officially opened his second dealership in the city, Zumbrota Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram.

Minimizer adds Lundell in Human Resources

Eager to add to its growing team, Minimizer has hired Debra Lundell, PHR, SHRM-CP, as its new Director of Human Resources.

“I’ve always been attracted to thriving companies that are in transition, and Minimizer fits that description to a ‘T,’” Lundell said.

“We interviewed a number of highly qualified candidates, and Deb was a perfect match,” Minimizer CEO Christopher “CT” Thorpe said. “We’re seeing significant growth right now, and her background of scaling and expanding HR departments for growing companies is something that appealed to us.”

Lundell brings more than 26 years of experience with her, holding HR positions with Kraft Cheese, the state of North Dakota, and Automatic Data Processing (ADP), Inc.

“I wanted to work for a company with integrity; one that doesn’t treat people as disposable,” Lundell said. “We need to offer employees the things they need to be successful.”

Lundell is a Minnesota native who returns to her home state after spending the last several years in Florida.

“I’m a Minnesota girl at heart,” Lundell said. “I missed the ‘Minnesota Nice.’ That’s the culture I grew up in and that’s what I wanted to return to.”



Debra Lundell

Down with the old

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Car Time of Owatonna recently demolished its old facility on Hoffman Drive to make room for a new building located directly behind it. A backhoe didn’t waste any time in bringing down the old building on Nov. 11. Car Time is a used car dealer and auto repair service center servicing Steele County and surrounding areas.



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Dealership achieves specialized dealer status to serve farmers

Whitewater Jeep Ram Chrysler Dodge (CDJR) of St. Charles has completed the stringent requirements to become an official RAM Agriculture Dealership to help them better understand the specific requirements that farmers, ranchers and growers need for the trucks on their agricultural operations.

The Ram Agriculture Dealership designation enables them to be able to offer a specialized *AgPack* package to farmers and growers that provides a first ever return on their truck investment. The *AgPack* partner offerings are worth thousands of dollars to farm customers and lets the 74,542 Minnesota farmers, ranchers and growers know the dealership understands the uniqueness of agriculture. Those who purchase a new Ram truck from Whitewater CDJR can then access *Ram AgPack*.

This truck industry exclusive package includes a \$2,500 rebate on any Titan® or Goodyear® farm tire product; 25% off MSRP on Rhino Ag Products plus a gift card valued between \$100-200; a \$1,000 seed corn or \$250 soybean seed rebate from NK Seed; 1-year subscription to AgriEdge; a \$1,000 credit towards AgroLiquid Crop Nutrition; \$1,000 toward a new Reinke Irrigation system or \$500 towards parts on any existing Reinke system; industry exclusive discounts on many Gallagher Livestock Products; up to \$1,000 after purchase rebates on EBY trailers – stock, equipment, or grain; a \$250 rebate on Knapheide upfit to the purchased Ram truck; and special financing from AgDirect®, Powered by Farm Credit®,

offering flexible payment terms to match a farm’s income stream.

Plus, all these benefits can be stacked on top of any manufacturer or dealer incentives currently being offered. To see this exclusive offer only available through a Ram Agriculture Dealership go to: <https://www.ramagdealer.com>.

To become part of this elite dealer group as a Ram Agriculture Dealership, Whitewater JRCD was required to select a minimum of three team members to successfully complete an agricultural curriculum endorsed by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. The agriculture specialists at Woodhouse CDJR include Erik Fisher, Evan Silver and Cody Nagel.

With the initial curriculum complete, the Whitewater CDJR will now participate in continuing education that extends their knowledge of everything important to Minnesota agriculture, as it happens in real time. Ongoing education, combined with what the ag specialists learned through the Ag Awareness curriculum, will allow this dealership to become an educated partner with area agriculture by pro-actively anticipating and meeting the changing demands of its family of agricultural customers.

To learn more about the program call any of the Ram Agricultural Specialists at 507-932-8100 or stop by and visit them at 2162 Enterprise Dr. in St. Charles or their web site at: www.ramagdealer.com/certified-dealers/whitewater.

Hy-Vee helps veterans and their families

Hy-Vee, Inc. has announced that its annual Hy-Vee Homefront Round Up and Veterans Day breakfast raised more than \$227,750; provided more than 85,000 free breakfasts; and collected 100,000 letters of appreciation for current service men and women stationed around the world. The events took place at more than 265 Hy-Vee stores across the company’s eight-state region.

From Nov. 1-17, customers had the opportunity to donate in store and online by rounding up their purchase to the nearest dollar, or other amount. Customers raised more than \$127,000 at the check-out and Hy-Vee donated \$100,000 to the initiative, raising a total of \$227,750. All proceeds will benefit Hope for the Warriors, Operation First Response and

the American Red Cross. Since the first round up in 2013, Hy-Vee and its customers have raised more than \$1.9 million support for veterans, active-duty military members and their families.

During Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Hy-Vee served more than 85,000 free breakfasts to veterans and active-duty military members. In addition, Hy-Vee and Hallmark offered 100,000 complimentary cards to customers with the opportunity to write letters of appreciation to current service men and women stationed overseas. In cooperation with A Million Thanks, these cards will be sent to active military members stationed throughout the world.

To learn more about Hy-Vee’s Homefront initiatives, visit hy-vee.com/homefront.

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BOOK NOOK

Holiday magic
at the library

Ready or not, Christmas is coming!

To help you get ready, be sure to stop at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. You can choose from holiday books and music. Browse through our selection of Christmas DVDs, including some of the classics you may have grown up with. Every year we receive holiday books from Taste of Home and Better Homes & Gardens which contain tried and true recipes and craft ideas, as well as new ideas you may want to try.

Be sure to stop by on Friday, Dec. 13 from 5-7 p.m. The Blooming Prairie Police Department is having its fourth annual Holiday Open House. This year the library is joining in the fun. We will be gathering in the City Council Chambers in the City Center. Santa and his elf will be here. Mrs. Claus will be reading some of Santa's favorite books. Take part in crafts and activities. There will be treats from Confections by Karen. Come and meet our wonderful police officers and join us in celebrating this fun holiday season.

See you at the library!



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Story of Nativity
shared at First
Baptist



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Pastor Matthew Fennell greets guests at a Christmas tea at First Baptist Church of Blooming Prairie last Tuesday. Eighty women attended this special evening with The Story of the Nativity done in scripture and song.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Story of the Nativity was presented Dec. 3 at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie with local presenters.

Marilyn Wohl, Tamzen Johnson and Alex Johnson presented the Nativity story in scripture and song. Tanya Fennell offered a welcome and prayer. She also accompanied the presenters.

Following the presentation, an estimated 80 women

adjourned to the lower level to enjoy coffee, tea, salads and Christmas goodies.

Men and young people of the church served those in attendance.

A homemade gift was sent home with each guest.

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Randy Dean Matejcek, 55,
formerly of Owatonna



Marge Deml

Randy Dean Matejcek, 55, formerly of Owatonna, died at his home in Crosby, Minn., Nov. 3, 2019.

He was born to Burgess and Junita Matejcek in Owatonna on Aug. 25, 1964. He graduated from Owatonna High School in 1983. Machinist by trade, he worked at many manufacturing plants in Minnesota.

He was a Harley enthusiast and loved riding and being with friends.

He married Cynthia Wendt Aug. 12, 2000 and they moved up north where he enjoyed living the rest of his days.

He is preceded in death by grandparents, parents and his sister, Lori Matejcek.

He is survived by his wife, Cyndi; his children, Josh, Tessa, Sara and Cody; his sister, Marcia Halverson and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Bridge Tavern north of Crosby.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Dec. 12- Roasted hotdog, mini corn dogs, dill seasoned potato wedges.
Dec. 13- Chicken parmesan with pasta, garlic toast, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, warm cinnamon apples.
Dec. 16- Beefy nachos with cheese sauce, tortilla chops, chicken fajitas, black beans, Mexican corn.
Dec. 17- BBQ rib sandwich, crispy chicken sandwich, coleslaw.
Dec. 18- Crispy chicken tender basket, fish nugget basket, baked beans, French bread.

BP High School

Dec. 12- Oven roasted chicken, garlic mashed potato, rib stick breadstick, corn dog, pizza, turkey BLT salad, choice of cereal.
Dec. 13- Biscuits and gravy, grandma's apple pie smoothie, cheese stick, warm cinnamon apples, crispy chicken nuggets, build your own sub.
Dec. 16- Sloppy Joe on a bun, Mexican corn, crispy chicken sandwich, crispy chicken salad, turkey BLT wrap, pasta bar.
Dec. 17- Chicken parmesan with pasta, coleslaw, cheeseburger, pizza, crispy chicken salad, turkey BLT wrap, taco bar.
Dec. 18- Turkey nachos supreme, Mexican corn, corn dog, crispy chicken salad, chef salad, chicken bites.

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HARLAN HINZMANN
MAURICE LEMBKE
MIKE JONES

DEC. 12
KRISTINE SMITH
JOSHUA JONES
JOHN FOUGARGE
JAMES KONZ

DEC. 13
BOB ARETT
TONY SCHILLER
ERICA TOQUAM
CHLOE WEBER

DEC. 14
HARVEY R. FARR
JOAN McDONALD
KATIE JO ALDERETE
JAKE RESSLER
NIKKI RYKS

DEC. 15
RICK HOCKING
IAN-THOMAS CAMPBELL
DARRELL ERICKSON
ISAIAH TOQUAM
GREGG FRISTEDT
LEADER DOG SUMMIT

BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 11
MIKE & MELISSA TRIHUS

DEC. 12
TOM & BARBIE JOHNSON
GWEN & GALE KLINGER

DEC. 15
TODD & ERICA NELSON

DEC. 17
WAYNE & DONNA GULLICKSON

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COLLEGE NEWS

Area students to graduate from
Minnesota State at Mankato

Minnesota State University, Mankato will award 1,709 degrees at the end of the fall semester, with commencement ceremonies scheduled for 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 14 in Taylor Center's Bresnan Arena on the Minnesota State Mankato campus.

Among the graduates are Haily Adams and Lindsey Schiefert of Blooming Prairie. Adams will graduate with a bachelor's degree in sociology while Schiefert will earn a bachelor's degree in special education: academic and behavioral strategy. Schiefert will also graduate magna cum laude.

Graduates of the College of Arts & Humanities, College of Business and College of Science, Engineering and Technology will participate in a 9 a.m. ceremony, and graduates of the College of Allied Health and Nursing, College of Education and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences will participate in a noon ceremony.

Graduates will wear purple caps and gowns for the first time. Purple is one of Minnesota State Mankato's school colors (along with gold). Graduates have worn black caps and gowns in previous commencement ceremonies.

Live-streaming captioning services will be provided for each ceremony.

Candidates for graduate degrees will graduate with the college of their affiliation.

More information about the Minnesota State Mankato spring commencement is at www.mnsu.edu/graduation/.

Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive university with 14,297 students, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 30 colleges and seven universities.

Owatonna student to graduate
from Moorhead

James Dahlgren of Owatonna is set to graduate from Minnesota State University Moorhead on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m.

Dahlgren will graduate with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

The commencement will be streamed live online at www.mnstate.edu/registrar/graduation. Congratulations can be sent via tweet at #MSUM2019.

Word Search Corner

CHRISTMAS
WORD SEARCH

O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V
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Makes about 3 cups

2 cups cooked black
beans, drained, rinsed
and mashed (see tip 1
below)

1 cup diced tomatoes
(see tip 2 below)

4 green onions, finely
chopped

2 roasted peppers
(poblano or
sweet), peeled and
diced

1 roasted jalapeño,
seeded and diced, or

1 chipotle pepper in
adobo sauce

1 teaspoon puréed
garlic (see tip 3 below)

1 teaspoon finely grated
lime zest

2 tablespoons freshly
squeezed lime juice

2 cups shredded
cheddar or Monterey
Jack cheese

2 tablespoons finely
chopped cilantro
leaves

Finely chopped green
onions

In slow cooker stoneware, combine beans, tomatoes,
green onions, poblano, jalapeño peppers, garlic, lime
zest and juice, and cheese. Stir well. Cover and
cook on high for 1.5 hours, until mixture is
hot and bubbly. Stir in cilantro, sprinkle with
green onions, if using, and
serve.

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PASTOR’S COLUMN

Take a step back and notice God’s exit signs



Rev. Stephanie Wood

AURORA LUTHERAN, OWATONNA

Two years ago, I was driving from Chicago to my parent’s home in Omaha, Neb. It was two days before Christmas and I was excited to go home. In my mind this was my “last” Christmas. At least it was my last Christmas before I became a pastor. After this year, I knew I would be working in an unknown town and my holiday would no longer be my own. Depending on where I lived, I might not make home for Christmas for several years.

The weathermen were predicting a snow storm and I left thinking I had enough cushion for me to still arrive in time, besides the storms always were weaker and later then the weathermen predicted.

After passing Des Moines, it became more and more difficult to see. The wind blew the snow across the fields and over I-80 only to make it a bubble of white. I trailed the car or truck ahead of me hoping to follow their path and cursed every semi that passed with a whooshing of snow that would temporarily blind. Soon few cars were still on the interstate and our speed had reduced to a snail’s pace.

I was only an hour away from home when I was sitting white knuckled, strangling the steering wheel as I hunched as close as possible to the window. I mentally marked every town I passed and how close I was to the next one. I was determined to make it home for my last Christmas. At some

point, I noticed I had begun a mantra, “O God, O God, oh please God.” Underneath that mantra was a prayer for safety. I prayed that I would get home in one piece.

It’s strange, how the prayer I had unconsciously begun to whisper was simple and there was a solution. I was praying for my safety and with each town I passed there was an opportunity to remove myself from danger. However, I didn’t want to consider pulling over because it might mean I would spend Christmas in a hotel, gas station or my car. As I continued to pray my mantra, I realized that God was providing me safety with each exit sign I passed. I reluctantly pulled over just 40 minutes from home.

The next day as I drove the slowest I have and will likely ever drive on the interstate, I inched my way home. Along the way I saw cars, vans and even semis in the ditch. I couldn’t help but wonder if that could have been me. I gave thanks to God that I was safe and prayed that those passengers were as well. I recognize not all prayers are so simply or as easily answered. Yet I wonder how many could be answered if we took a step back and noticed the exit signs God has provided, the solutions we may not like but are perhaps the best. I pray you have a safe and blizzard free Christmas and that you may listen to how God is talking to you throughout your journey in life.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN	RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS	ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC	NON-DENOMINATIONAL
AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.	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.	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.	114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday	BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	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.	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.	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 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.	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.	ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.	DESTINY CHRISTIAN 2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht www.destinycc.org Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship Service- 9 a.m. Sunday School- 10 a.m.	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA 1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna Pastors Dave Klawitter and Jacie Richmond 507-451-7293 stjohnowatonna.org Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday	CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinich Deacon Patrick Fagan Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat. Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.	ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship
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.	ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Antony Arokiyam 507-234-6244 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday	NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-413-0209 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Brian Beavers 651-955-4032 Worship: 11 a.m. Sat. Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
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.	ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMC 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	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	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	UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S., Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
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.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna 507-451-4520 tlcowatonna.org Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy Deacon: Kris Oppegard Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	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	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 404 31st St. NW, Austin Bishop Rick Bremner 507-433-9042 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
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.	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.	MORMON PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie Bishop Dennis Martin 507-583-7532 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VICTORY LIFE 105 2nd St NE Geneva Pastor Diane Butler 507-402-0960 Worship on Sundays Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m. Church Service: 9:30 a.m. Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.

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Nine living members of the Prestigious Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery recently gathered in Louisville. They include: back row, from left: Dr. David Hawkins, Michigan- 2013, Dr. Maynard Hogberg, Iowa- 2016, Harold Workman, Kentucky, 2003 and Dr. Roger Hunsley, Kentucky, 2005; middle row: David Nichols, Iowa, 2015, Bob Hall, Kentucky, 2019, Tom Burke, Missouri, 2017 and Dr. Gary Minish, Texas, 2012; front row: Jack Ragsdale, Kentucky, 1992. Burke grew up in the Blooming Prairie area and was honored with a Distinctive Service award from the BP Education Foundation earlier this fall.

Living members of Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery gather

At the 2019 North American International Livestock Show in Louisville, Kentucky this past November, nine of the 12 living members of the Prestigious Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery gathered together.

Among the nine living members was Tom Burke, who graduated from Blooming Prairie in 1961 and now lives in Missouri. He was also honored earlier this fall by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation with a Distinctive Service award.

The Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery has been in existence since 1903, existing for 117 years. During that period of time, 374 legendary livestock leaders have been inducted including Presidents of the United States: George Washington, Franklin Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Ulysses S. Grant along with Past Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and the first Secretary of Agriculture Isaac Newton, who was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

The Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery is the largest collection of Portraits dedicated to one Industry to be found anywhere in the World. At the present time the living member of the Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery are in the process of organizing a Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Foundation to preserve this Historical Collection for years to come.



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12 Kids of Christmas

Meet Paige
Paige has been waiting for a Big for nearly 1 1/2 years. She is a sweet young girl with a very caring and loving attitude. She enjoys drawing, building with Legos, shopping, doing gymnastic and being silly. The best Big for Paige would be someone who loves to stay active, express creativity and can help her build her social skills. With a future Big, Paige would love to go shopping, take walks or do hands on activities.

Help end the wait for Paige. YOU could be the Big who ignites her potential. Become a Big today.
For more information call Megan at 507-451-5922 or visit www.bbbsouthernmn.org



Cortney Espe
Cortney Espe- Senior
The senior high student of the month is Cortney Espe, who is a senior. Cortney's favorite class is anatomy. "It is challenging but yet rewarding when I do well," she says.
"Cortney is a wonderful leader in class, and she works hard every day," said one of her teachers. "She always has a smile on her face and she is ready to go."
Other teachers commented about Cortney:
- Cortney is one of the most energetic and charismatic students I've ever met. She strives to be the best at everything she works hard to accomplish her goals.
- Cortney is great to have in class, very easy to talk to and get along with. She works hard when challenged and leads well in group work.
Her special interests are arts and politics. She has three siblings: Elizabeth, Shalena and Michelle. She also has several pet dogs: Zena, Daisy and Sammy.



Kylee Loth
Kylee Loth- 8th Grade
The junior high student of the month is Kylee Loth, who is in eighth grade. Her favorite class is science and art. She said she likes "activities using hands."
Some comments shared by staff members about Kylee include:
-"Kylee is a hard worker and very polite to both students and staff members."
-"Kylee is a super sweet and caring student. She always meets you with a smile and a warm greeting."
-"Kylee is a very nice girl who always has a smile on her face. She is a very hard worker in the classroom."
Kylee's special interests are dragons. She has several siblings, including Devon, Emily, Christopher and Neaveh. She also has pet dogs, Luna and Diesel.

BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH
Blooming Prairie High School

Congratulations, Cortney and Kylee, on your awesome classroom accomplishments!

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Hometown Living

All aboard!



Canadian Pacific's Holiday Train features 14 brightly decorated rail cars with each car decorated with hundreds of thousands of LED lights and holiday designs. The train made a stop in Owatonna Dec. 5 in front of hundreds of people.

Holiday Train rolls into area, leaves cash for food shelf

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

All aboard for a festive holiday season!

When the Canadian Pacific Holiday train rolled into Steele County last week, it not only brought holiday spirit for hundreds of people, but also some extra cash for the Steele County Food Shelf.

During a stop in Owatonna Thursday afternoon, CP presented a \$5,000 check to Nancy Ness, director of the local food shelf. "This is over half of the amount we need each month," Ness said cheerfully. "What a great gift."

In addition to the cash donation from CP, folks who came out to see the Holiday Train brought food items to donate to the food shelf, which had a volunteer dressed as a snowman accepting donations. Ness estimated they received around 200 pounds of donations.

"We rely on donations," Ness said. As she looked over at the donations brought in from the Holiday Train, she said, "What a treat it is."

The local food shelf serves an average of 760 households each year for the monthly program in

SEE ALL ABOARD, B7



Nancy Ness, director of the Steele County Food Shelf, accepts a \$5,000 check from Canadian Pacific during last week's Holiday Train stop in Owatonna.



Once the train rolls into town, the stage door on one of the cars lowers and singers pop out to entertain folks with holiday music. The band performed a mix of traditional and modern holiday-themed songs. This year's train featured Tanika Charles, who worked her magic to get folks into the holiday spirit. Also performing were Meghan Patrick and Kelly Prescott.

Tis' the Season of giving



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

As welcome in the month of December, we pull out our colorful lights, vibrant wreaths, and decorate our trees and stuff them with gifts. Tis' the Season of giving after all. But what exactly does that mean?

For the Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE), the season has brought out the best in the Ellendale area residents.

As we move closer towards the renovation of the Community Center kitchen, community members have answered the request for funding. While additional funding is still needed, the CFE Board of Directors and the City of Ellendale are grateful for the support of the community.

The renovation of the Community Center kitchen will benefit a wide-range of organizations in the Ellendale area—SEMCAC, Lions, Commercial Club, Fire Department, to name just a few. In addition to groups, the Community Center is rented by individuals throughout the year for graduation, birthday and other celebrations.

The kitchen will be completely gutted and brought up to MN Health Code standards including stainless steel prep areas, two commercial stoves/ovens with griddles and burners, a large refrigerator and a freezer. Other options the CFE and city are looking at include a steam table, commercial roasters and commercial coffee maker.

To date CFE has worked with the city on installing ADA compliant doors and updating the restrooms in the Community Building. In addition to the Community Building renovation, CFE also offers a Trades Program Scholarship to a NRHEG Senior.

If you would like to donate to the kitchen renovation or to CFE general fund and ensure we can continue offer scholarships, please mail your contribution to P.O. Box 364, Ellendale, MN 56026. Checks should be made out to the Community Foundation of Ellendale.

Stephanie Kibler is a resident of Ellendale and serves on the city council as well as executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



Gene Dornink of Hayfield is returning to the political scene for 2020 as he announced his candidacy for the Minnesota District 27 Senate currently held by Dan Sparks. Dornink also ran against Sparks in 2016. Some of his grandchildren joined him in making the announcement.

Dornink to run for District 27 Senate

A Dodge County man is getting a jump on next year's political campaigning.

Gene Dornink of Hayfield announced his campaign for Minnesota State Senate District 27, on Dec. 3 in both Austin and Albert Lea. He was joined by Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka.

"I worry about the influence of Metro policies on the area I love, southern Minnesota," Dornink said in announcing his candidacy. "I have lived in southern Minnesota my whole life and it's time we choose a leader who cares about our people and businesses."

He said, "I have the real working experience and common sense to effectively represent District 27 in the Senate and stand up to the Metro policies that hurt our district and people."

Dornink says it's time to have someone who cares about and relates with farmers and hard-working citizens. "That is why I am running. As a union carpenter, small business owner, and farm kid, I know what it means to work hard and get the job done," he said. "I am highly motivated to serve this community and represent their values at the state capitol," he added.

The hard working citizens of Minnesota District 27 deserve to have someone in office who will be proactive in determining which bills will serve the needs of this community, Dornink said. He went on to say citizens also deserve someone who will pound the pavement seeking input from its citizens to address future dilemmas and opportunities and someone who knows how to build on the infrastructure already in place that supports this community and the state of Minnesota.

"As your State Senator, one of my top priorities will be isolating one issue per vote and promoting a simpler, more cooperative legislative system," Dornink said. "My constituents will know exactly what I voted for or against based on the merit of each bill. I strongly believe that all politicians should be

accessible and accountable to their voting public."

Dornink indicated that it's time for a change from current senator, Dan Sparks of Austin. "He has been in St. Paul for 18 years and his voting record lines up more with his metro friends than his neighbors in the district he represents," Dornink said.

"The time is right for a working man with common sense to effectively represent his neighbors in Austin, Albert Lea, Wells, and all the communities in between. I would consider it an honor to carry southeastern Minnesota values up to St. Paul as your next State Senator," said Dornink, who also ran for senate in 2016.

Sen. Paul Gazelka spoke about the importance of this senate race to the Republicans in the state Senate. He emphasized the importance of holding the Senate to prevent extreme policies from becoming law such as gun control, gas tax increases, and government run healthcare. Gazelka also spoke about the importance of Dornink's union background and how Republicans are working hard to provide for union members across Minnesota.

Dornink grew up on a dairy farm in southern Minnesota where he learned the values of faith, family and hard work. After graduating from the Austin Vo-Tech with a carpentry degree, he married the love of his life, Vicky. They were blessed with 12 children while he began his 22-year career as a union carpenter with local 1382. During that time, he worked side by side with other skilled tradesmen who know the rewards of hard work. Like so many others, Dornink was laid off during the economic downturn of 2009. He knew that just waiting for things to get better was not an option, so he and his family worked tirelessly to build a successful and thriving carpentry business, which they still operate today.

District 27 covers southern Dodge County, including Hayfield, the City of Blooming Prairie and most of Mower and Freeborn counties.

Child knocked down during Holiday parade

A scary situation left some people gasping during Thursday night's annual Lighted Holiday Parade in Owatonna.

A small girl was knocked down on the ground next to the Trinity Nursery School float mid-way through the

72-unit parade Thursday around 6:30 p.m. She was picked up by an adult and carried to near by emergency personnel.

Owatonna Police and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to the scene.

The girl reportedly escaped serious injury and only had a few scrapes.

Day care grants available from SMIF

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is currently accepting applications to support child care start-up and expansion projects.

Child care centers and family child care programs in SMIF's 20-county region are eligible to apply. Requests of up to \$10,000 for child care centers and \$2,000 for family child care programs will be considered.

"We are grateful to the State of Minnesota for providing funding to help increase the supply of quality child care in the region, and honored to support this program," said Rae Jean Hansen, vice president of Early Childhood at SMIF. "Increasing the number of child care slots in our region is a critical need for working families."

Applicants are encouraged to consider submissions to support new or existing programs that demonstrate an increase in overall child care slots

using the grant dollars. There will be a focus on programs that provide full-time, year-round child care for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children.

To provide additional support for development of grant applications, SMIF will be hosting two online information webinars to provide grant program overview and answer questions from interested parties:

Jan. 6 | 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/441952467>

Jan. 7 | 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/876468258>

Applications are due by Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. via email to jenniferh@smifoundation.org or postal mail to: Grants Coordinator, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, P.O. Box 695, Owatonna, MN 55060.

For the application and guidelines, visit smifoundation.org/childcaregrants. Contact Heidi Coulter, Early Childhood Project Manager, at heidic@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7015 with any questions.

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Teen leads effort to raise 48-star flag

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It's finally cool to see some wind get to it."

That's what 16-year-old Drake Zilm said after he raised a 48-star American flag above the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7.

The young Zilm, a member of the Sons of the American Legion as is his father Dean, purchased a 48-star American flag at a Blooming Prairie auction from the Srsens last summer.

Drake checked into the possibility of flying the flag locally and the Committee of Seven who created the Veterans Memorial idea approved flying the

flag for one day. Drake's father Dean thought Pearl Harbor Day would be an appropriate day.

A special ceremony involving just a few people from the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard and the Sons of the American Legion was held early last Saturday.

A 48-star American flag flew from 1912-1959. In 1959, Hawaii was added as the 49th state. Alaska came next, making the stars total 50.

It is said that no American flag every becomes obsolete. This flag is still a legal flag and may be flown at any time.

Drake remembers the day he purchased the flag at the Srsen auction sale. He said the auctioneer

asked for bidding to start at \$50. It started at \$10 and ended at \$20, with Drake becoming the lucky bidder.

Drake said the flag was wrapped in its original package.

It's possible Drake may enter the military some day himself. He said he is very proud of his grandfather's name (Daniel Zilm) being etched into the Veterans Memorial.

As Drake cranked the flag raising equipment into action, members of the BP Honor Guard and Sons stood at attention.

Drake is a sophomore at Blooming Prairie High School and would like to study to become an agricultural mechanic following high school.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A 48-star American flag was hoisted atop the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial on Pearl Harbor Day, Saturday, Dec. 7. Placing the flag on the Veterans Memorial for one day was Drake Zilm. He purchased the 48-star flag at an auction this past summer.

Habitat completes wheelchair ramp at Owatonna home

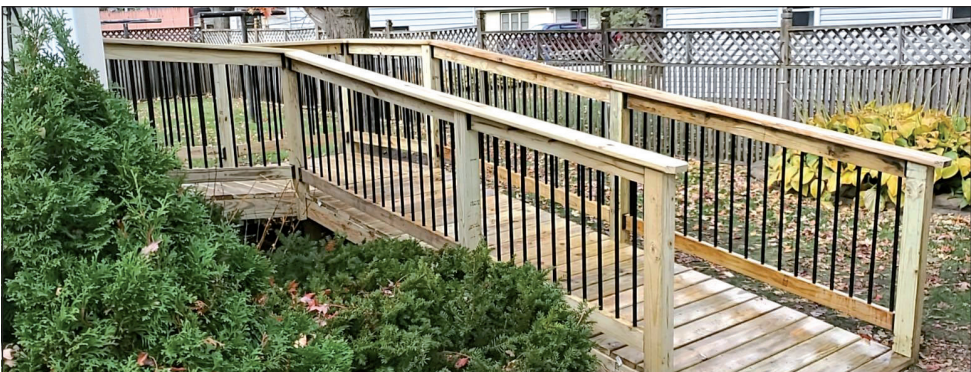
Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce the completion of a new wheelchair ramp at a home in Owatonna.

As a part of the Critical Home Repairs program, Two Rivers believes in providing health, safety and stability to its partner families. While Habitat for Humanity is known for building new homes, Two Rivers Habitat also provides initial home repairs that helps improve those three areas. A Habitat partner, who uses a wheelchair and a walker, reached out to the organization for help due to poor accessibility in and out of the home.

"Before this ramp was built, I did not feel safe going in and out of my house. Going to multiple doctors' appointments each week, I simply did not feel safe. Thanks to Habitat, I feel safer and I have my mobility back," said the homeowner.

Two Rivers has multiple new projects to close out 2019 and several new projects in the works for early 2020 in Owatonna, Claremont, New Richland and Medford.

Two Rivers serves



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

An Owatonna resident recently received a new ramp to improve accessibility into the house through Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity. These are before and after shots showing the improvement made.

Steele, Waseca, Dodge, Olmsted and Wabasha counties. The former Steele-Waseca Habitat organization recently merged with Two Rivers. There are offices in Owatonna and Rochester.

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need



of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

CLA donates gift to Owatonna Foundation

CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) recently made a donation of \$2,500 to the Owatonna Foundation.

"We are extremely grateful to CLA for their ongoing support. Their commitment helps us to continue the Foundation's mission of

improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education," said Foundation Executive Director Laura Resler.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 61st year of serving the Owatonna

community, provides capital grants in Owatonna and its environs.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more

than 12 million dollars in grants to Owatonna projects and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students.

For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call 507-455-2995.

NRHEG

PANTHER of the Week

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Jaren Surat

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Jaren Surat. He is the son of Lisa Surat. He is in Mrs. Schultz third grade class.

Jaren is a quiet leader that is always ready to lend a helping hand to others. He's also a math wizard; he's already mastered both his multiplication and division facts!

Jaren loves to read books and enjoys playing ball outside. Keep up the great work Jaren!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CliftonLarsonAllen of Owatonna has made a donation of \$2,500 to the Owatonna Foundation. Involved with the donation are from left: Cindy Scheid, Ray Stawarz, Todd Hale, Brandon Wayne, Jerry Deetz, Dale Gandrud, Leah Cochran, Chad Lange, Gregg Drager, Denny Meillier, Sharon West, Sarah Theobald, Jodi Kruesel, Anna Edel, Paul Zelmer, Alyssa Kluzak, Jason Van Houdt, Dale Buytaert, Mathew Walters and Amy Gilles, Steve Smith and Bob Heers.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 12 4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting 5 p.m. – Chamber Meeting, Bunkie's 7 p.m. – BPHS Band Concert, BPHS Gym	7 p.m. – BPHS Choir Concert, First Lutheran
DEC. 17 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	
DEC. 18 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library 5 p.m. – Business After Hours, F&M Bank	

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

DEC. 12 7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building	6:30 p.m. – NRHEG School Board Meeting, NR HS Media Center 7 p.m. – NRHEG Senior High Band/Choir Christmas Concert, NR HS Gym
DEC. 13 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building	
DEC. 16 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building 6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Dept. Meeting, Community Building	

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 12 2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library 5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge 5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building 6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library 6:30 p.m. – Caroling the Night Away, Village of Yesteryear	10 a.m. – Cocoa with Santa, Arts Center 7 p.m. – I'll Be Homicidal for Christmas, Country Club 7 p.m. – Christmas Traditions – Music and Memories of the Season, Arts Center
DEC. 13 6:30 p.m. – Toys for Tots Holiday Concert, Trinity Lutheran	
DEC. 14 9 a.m. – 4 Seasonz Market, Elks Lodge	
DEC. 16 4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building	
DEC. 17 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library 4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library 7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building	

Holiday concert planned at Trinity

Memories are in the making at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. On Friday, Dec. 13, Trinity will host a holiday concert as a Toys for Tots benefit event at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy or make a freewill donation. There is no admission fee to the concert. Musical performances will include the local talent of the jazz band, dinner ensemble and dance team from Owatonna High School, ballroom dancers Lynette and Brian Dahle, Bad Tangerines: Bev Cashman, Gail Thompson and Sharon Gearin and carolers from the high school. The emcees for the event are Tim Van Gelder and Rev. Amanda Floy. Trinity is located at 609 Lincoln Ave. in Owatonna.

Mental Health Support Group offered in Albert Lea

A NAMI Connection peer support group for adults recovering from a mental illness meets on Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m., at Next Step Clubhouse, 216 S. Washington Avenue, in Albert Lea. Trained facilitators who are also in recovery lead NAMI Connection groups. The free group is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For information, contact Sara at 507-377-5483 or 1-888-NAMI-Helps.

SimpleGifts coming to Paramount

A 2019 Christmastide Holiday Tour will be coming to the historic Paramount Theater in Austin. The tour, which features SimpleGifts with Billy McLaughlin, open Morgan Dickman and friends, will be the only stop in southeastern Minnesota. It will take place Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be ordered at austin-areaarts.org or by calling 507-434-0934. SimpleGifts musicians combine violin, Celtic whistle and bagpipes, piano, acoustic guitar and percussion with angelic three part female vocals to create a "modern Old-World" sound. Performers are Billy McLaughlin, acoustic guitar; Billy Oehrein, percussion; Heather (Garborg) Moen, vocals and ciolin; Laura MacKenzie, wooden flutes, whistles, concertina and bagpipes; Karen Paurus, vocals and Amy Courts, vocals and melodica. Moen has a special Austin connection as her husband is Lee Moen, a graduate of Austin High School and the son or Debbie and Barry Moen.

Strategic Farming – A new webinar series

University of Minnesota Extension is launching the five-part Strategic Farming – Optimizing Management for 2020 webinar series beginning Dec. 19. This webinar series is an opportunity for farmers to gather and learn about research-based, crop production information throughout the year. The primary target audience for the series is farmers, but all interested agricultural professionals, agency personnel, educators, etc. are welcome to participate. There is no fee to join the webinars, but you will need to register for each "live" webinar individually to join the discussion. Join live or tune in later as all sessions will be recorded and available for viewing at your convenience. The First webinar in the series will be on Dec. 19, from 2-3 p.m., Back to the Basics Approach to Nutrient Management. On Jan. 16, from 12-1 p.m. will be Soybean Management for 2020 and Beyond. On Jan. 29, from 12-1 p.m., the topic is Cover Crops, Matching your Management Strategies and Goals. On Feb. 13, from 12-1 p.m., New Pests and Pathogens complicate Minnesota soybean and corn production will be discussed. The final webinar will be on Feb. 29 from 12-1 p.m., Hot topics in Weed Management, Putting the Pieces Together. Visit the Strategic Farming: Optimizing management for 2020 webpage for more information and to register: z.umn.edu/strategic-farming.

Christmas in the County coming to Mower County

The Mower County Historical Society is getting ready for the holidays with its annual special/fundraising event "Christmas in the County," which will take place Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13-14. Jump start your holiday baking and eating at the Pre-Sell BAKE Sale – Friday (3-5:30 p.m.). The main feature will again be Christmas cookies selling for \$5 a dozen. Lefse, breads, pies, candies, and goodies galore will also be available for purchase. The Pre-Sell BAKE Sale will be in the Administration Building at the Mower County Historical Society. The Main Event will be on Saturday (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) with most activities taking place in the Pioneer Building. Activities for the kids include: cookie decorating, rock painting, pine cone bird feeders, Christmas card crafting and much more. There will be horse drawn wagon rides around the fairgrounds. You can also ring the bell and blow the train whistle on the 1004 Steam Engine. The food stand will include homemade chili, hot dogs & chili dogs. The annual raffle drawing will take place on Saturday at 3 p.m. Tickets sell for \$1 each and the grand prize is a beautiful quilt made by Virginia Bissen entitled "President's Pride" along with many, many other prizes! There is also a HUGE Silent Auction with over 100 gift baskets for the bidding. You can bid on items Friday afternoon as well as all day Saturday. Last bids will be accepted at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and winners announced by 4 p.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus will also be visiting from the North Pole! Christmas in the County has truly become a holiday tradition, so bring the whole family and enjoy an 'Old Fashioned Christmas' at the Historical Society. All proceeds from this special event/fundraiser will benefit the Mower County Historical Society, a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. We are so grateful for the support from businesses and individuals from all over the county who have donated items for this event. The Mower County Historical Society is located on the east end of the Mower County Fairgrounds at 1303 6th Ave. SW. Call 507-437-6082 or email collections@mowercountyhistory.org for more information.

Holiday party set for Sons of Norway

The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet on Monday, Dec. 16, for the annual Christmas party. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$8 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine Street. Come and enjoy "Holiday Norwegian and American Fiddle Tunes" with David Swenson. If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

Civil War group to host dinner

The monthly meeting for the Cannon Valley Civil War Roundtable will be on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. There will be no speaker, but rather the 15th Annual Civil War Recipe Potluck Dinner. Each is to bring a dish to pass prepared from a Civil War (era) recipe. Possum Stew this year? Someone usually brings Salt Pork and some kind of Buffalo or Dog Stew. The dinner will be at the home of Dan Peterson, 16440 Cannon City Blvd., Faribault. It is open to members only. For questions, call Peterson at 507-459-3140 or email dnl1.peterson@gmail.com.

Ringling for donations



Salvation Army bell ringers of Steele County set up shop outside of B to Z Hardware during Holiday Dazzle evening activities on Friday, Dec. 6. Ringing were Roger Wencel and Kristi Jorgenson. The Salvation Army will be collecting donations for its kettle drive throughout the month.

Need for blood doesn't stop for holidays, donors needed

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, more than 1 million units of blood could be transfused in the United States. Individuals are urged to give a lifesaving gift this holiday season by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets and help the American Red Cross ensure a sufficient supply is available for patients throughout the holiday season. Those with type O blood are especially needed. On Sept. 28, 2018, MaKenzie Schienebeck experienced a complication during her pregnancy and found herself losing blood extremely fast. She was in and out of consciousness and felt her life slipping away. Schienebeck was given blood transfusions on the way to the hospital, during emergency surgery and after surgery. "I would not be alive today if it was not for the American Red Cross and the gracious donors who gave their blood," said Schienebeck. "Blood is more than just blood. It's the key to saving lives." During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give blood and be the lifeline patients need. Make an appointment now by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. In thanks for helping meet the urgent need, those who come to give blood or platelets now through Dec. 18 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane. (Restrictions apply; see amazon.com/gc-legal. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Thanks.)

UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES DEC. 11-31:

Dodge
West Concord
Dec. 20: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., West Concord Historical Society, 600 W. First St.

Freeborn
Albert Lea
Dec. 20: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 404 Fountain St.
Dec. 23: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., National Guard Armory, 410 Prospect Ave.
Dec. 31: 12 p.m.-5 p.m., North Bridge Mall, 2510 Bridge Ave.

Mower
Austin
Dec. 16: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 2001 6th Ave. SE
Dec. 23: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1701 4th St. NW

Steele
Owatonna
Dec. 13: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Famous Dave's, 4355 W. Frontage Road
Dec. 20: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Owatonna Hospital, 2250 26th St. NW
Dec. 20: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Hy-Vee, 1620 S. Cedar
Dec. 23: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Lowe's, 1280 21st Ave. N.
Dec. 30: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 815 E. University St.

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WINTER EVENTS

Holiday Hours

Dec. 6: Holiday Dazzle Downtown Festivities 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 7: Chili Cook-Off 5 p.m.-7p.m.

Dec. 14: Harvey's Holiday Cheer 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec 21: EUCHRE 1 p.m.

Dec. 24: Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dec. 25: CLOSED..Merry Christmas

Dec. 31: New Years Eve Munchies 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Champagne @ Midnight
Jan. 1: Closed..Happy 2020!!

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Carolers from Owatonna High School share the magic of the holiday season through Christmas carols during the tree lighting ceremony in Central Park Dec. 5.



Lighting up downtown Owatonna



The holiday lighted parade attracted 72 businesses and organizations with floats and displays. Many went to great lengths to showcase their floats with hundreds of dazzling lights, including this road grader.



Santa Claus enjoys sharing the magic of the holiday season with youngsters. At last week's holiday kickoff in Central Park, Santa stumbled across the Kreiner sisters, from left: Alexandra, 5, Elizabeth, 3 and Samantha, 5.

Parade lights up the holidays

PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER
BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Holiday magic came to life in downtown Owatonna last week. Seventy-two lighted units from various businesses and organizations sparkled with lights and decorations of all types during the annual Lighted Holiday Parade on Dec. 5 winding through the downtown area and ending at Central Park.

For the first time this year, MainStreet, an organization connected with the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce that hosts the parade, offered a contest for the best parade units. The winners were Foam Craft, first; City of Owatonna plow, second and Cementone, third.

Another first this year was a \$25 registration fee for each parade unit. The money will be utilized to purchase new Christmas lights on Main Street and the surrounding allies, according to Shirley Schultz, Main-Street director.

The holiday parade was the first time for Diana Schmidt, who serves on the Main-Street board of directors. "It's quite big for such a small town," Schmidt said. She said she likes all the thought that businesses and organizations put into their floats.

What impresses Schmidt the most about the holiday event is the community involvement with the event. "It's a nice way to come together for holiday cheer," she said.

Schmidt said the holiday kickoff recognizes that Owatonna has a strong downtown. Adding to the festive atmosphere was the official lighting of Central Park after the parade. This year 100 new strands of LED lights at about \$2,000 were added to the park. The lights are funded through donations.

During the lighting of the park, carolers from Owatonna High School entertained folks with holiday music. And, the celebration wouldn't be complete without a visit from Jolly Old St. Nick. Santa Claus made his rounds throughout the park handing out candy canes and snapping photos with young and old alike.

"I love seeing the kids so excited," Schmidt said. "This is a nice way to kick off the holidays."



Folks in the parade even decked themselves out with colorful lights hanging around their bodies and some even stuffed themselves into boxes with bright holiday wrapping.



BP hoopsters open with a cake walk

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

“Without a great deal of practice,” remarked Coach Nate Piller, “I didn’t know what to expect, but the boys took over in good shape.”

The Blooming Prairie Blossoms boys basketball team

rolled to a 73-40 victory over Bethlehem Academy Friday, Dec. 6. at Faribault. It was a good way to open the season. Senior Kaden Thomas led the offense in defense of teammate Gabe Hagen, who was Minneapolis practicing for the MSHSL All-Star football game. The offense had a little trou-

ble getting started on offense, but great defense and good ball handling made up for the lack of scoring. The team eventually got the offense in gear, and the scoring followed. BP led at the half 40-19.

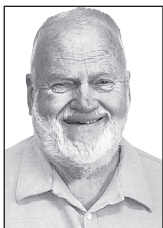
Thomas ended with 24 points, including four three-pointers. Karson Vige-

land contributed 11 points, and Drew Kittelson added 9.

Keck Robb led the Cardinals with 15 points, and JJ Malecha added 9.

Blooming Prairie will open its home season Friday against NRHEG at 7:15 p.m. The Blossoms will then host Goodhue on Dec. 17.

So it begins



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

The winter season began its schedule last week, with the basketball girls starting auspiciously with a pair of wins. I know two wins this early don’t have much value, but the number of points scored in each game provides some optimism for the team.

It looks like they have some scoring punch, with sophomore Bobbie Bruns complementing already good scorers Megan Oswald and Julia Worke. If that is a true indication of their strength, it should be a fun and exciting season for the girls. Add a pretty good defense, and fans will like what they see.

Because of the football playoffs, the wrestling team saw its first action Saturday. Most of the wrestlers also played on the football team; thus the late start. The team lost only one senior last year, and that brings back a lot of experience.

The main problem for them is at the lower weights where there is some problem filling the positions, as the strength of the team is found at the upper weights. In my humble opinion, sometime during the season the team will have at least three wrestlers ranked in the state’s top 10 in their class. We will see.

MORE PUBLICITY

Kudos this week to Gabe Hagen for being chosen to play with the South squad at the annual All-Star football game at U.S. Bank. Last week, the south team won the game. And more publicity came to Awesome Blossoms’ Hagen and Kaden Thomas. A publication called Basketball news has named both athletes in the top 50 Class A players. The publication has been published yearly for several years and includes top players, top teams, and highlights, stories, and photos of Minnesota athletes.

THE BEST MONTH

I would guess that the month of December is the most important or meaningful month of the year. There may be several reasons for that, but certainly the religious aspect of the time has to stand out. Most of the Christian world begins preparations for the birth of Christ celebration weeks before Christmas, and it is the one time of the year in which all emphasize the occasion and its importance to everyone.

I know that for me, this period of time occupies much of my thinking and most of my emotions as I await again the birth of the Christ Child in that humble manger in Bethlehem. It is a solemn, but deeply religious moment in my life.

When the religious emphasis ends, there is always the family gathering, with the overabundance of delicious food, and the conversation and games. It is hardly a surprise, and then, that December remains a favorite month for almost everybody.

SNOWBOUND?

While I was sitting here writing my column and wondering how much, if any, snow we will experience in the next day or so, I was reminded of one of my favorite poems growing up. The first lines said, “The sun that brief December day,” and then it went into a description of a major snowstorm. It isolated a farm family for several days, while the snow fell and the winds blew it into all sorts of shapes and heaps. I don’t think we have to worry about that for the weathermen to predict that this time.

In fact this is one time when we have hardly any snow predicted and the week ahead will be tolerable if you are a cod weather fan. Temps are supposed offer us our first below zero ones of the winter. That won’t bother me much, as long as I don’t have to be out fore very long.

I guess I rambled on for longer than I needed, and deadline has approached. Enjoy this wonderful holiday season, root hard for the local sports teams, 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 even 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.

Racing awards given out at Chateau

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The 63rd Anniversary Season of Racing at Chateau Speedway in Lansing was officially wrapped up on Saturday Night with the Awards Banquet held at Lansing Corners Supper Club.

The annual awarding of trophies saw the top five drivers in each of the six full time classes (Y Waste WISSOTA Hornets, Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stocks, Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks, WISSOTA Midwest Modified, Action Builders USRA B Mod, and French’s Repair USRA A Mod) picking up hardware as well as the top three in the one part-time class (KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods). The track took the opportunity to make it a “Toys for Tots” collection night and those in attendance did a great job of bringing something to contribute to the charitable effort.

Final numbers for the season were pretty impressive with 352 drivers and cars competing over the course of the 19 shows that were run at Chateau. Of those, 126 drivers took home at least one win on the season with a heat, consy or feature. There were 382 races run this year.

Even more impressive was the fact that of the nine classes that ran either on a weekly basis or during specials, seven track records were set. Leading the way was USRA A Mod Driver Jason Cummins of New Richland who reset the record for that class. He also ran the fastest lap of the season, a 15.309 tour of the track, which comes out to an average speed of 78.384 MPH.

Blake Anderson of Elk Mound, Wis. broke the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2019 Chateau Speedway season champions include: back row, from left: Mark Wytaske – Owner, Troy Maas-Pure Stock Champion, Noah Grinstead-B Mod Champion, Zach Elward-Street Stock Champion, Ryan Goergen-Midwest Mod Champion, Annette Wytaske-Owner; front row: Brandon Davis-A Mod Champion, Justin Schelitzche-Hornet Champion and Michael Bryant-Mini Mod Champion. Elward and Davis are both from Hayfield.

record for the Traditional Sprints during their special in August with a 15.501 lap (77.414 mph). During the IMCA Stock Car Special in May, Dean Cornelius of New Prague reset the record for that class at Chateau with a 17.535 (68.434 mph) lap.

Records also fell in the Pure Stock Class where Brady Krohnberg of Walters shaved a few hundredths off their mark, Kory Adams of Stacyville, Iowa lowered the record for the Street Stocks, Seth Scholl of Holmen, Wis., reset the record in the Hornet Division, and Nathan Kilwine of Glenville reset the mark for the Outlaw Mini Mods. The only two classes that ran at all during the season that did not lower their record times were the Midwest Mods and the B Mods.

Kylie Kath of Claremont had the fastest lap of the season in the Midwest Mods but was

about two tenths slower than the 2014 record. Kadden Kath of Owatonna had the fastest lap of the year in the B Mods but was still 2 ? tenths slower than the mark set in 2016. The overall Track Record still belongs to Late Model Driver Jason Utter of Columbus Junction, Iowa in 2012. Utter laid down a 14.936 second lap, which comes out to an average speed of 80.342 MPH, the only driver to ever go under 15 seconds on the 3/8 mile oval.

The 2019 list of champions included five first time champions in the seven divisions, including one first year driver. And Among the 33 drivers honored on the night were 12 former track champions accounting for 32 past titles. So at the end of the night, there were 17 champions with 40 titles among them among those honored on the night.

This year’s awards included:

Slow start for NRHEG boys

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

A very slow start plagued the NRHEG basketball boys, and Hayfield took advantage to forge a 76-45 victory over the Panthers Friday, Dec. 6. The loss pushed NRHEG to an 0-3 record for the season.

“We didn’t start out very well in this game,” commented Coach Isaiah Lundberg. “Hayfield started 9-0 and upped that lead to 19-3 midway through the first half. The Vikings were up 39-22 at the break.”

The Panthers cut the lead to 54-40 in the second half, but several turnovers stopped any comeback, and poor shooting also hurt. Hayfield got offensive rebounds and putbacks to keep the wide margin to close out the game.

Ethan Slaathaug scored 22 points to lead all scorers in the game, and Easton Fritcher added 14 points for Hayfield. Tory Christensen counted 18 for the Panthers, and Lonnie Wilson contributed 10.

Opening loss

The NRHEG boys stayed with Albert Lea through the first eight minutes, but the Panthers fell behind 18-9 and then went into a scoring drought for about five minutes. The Tigers used the drought to put distance between the two teams and eventually forge a 79-48 victory Dec. 4. The Tigers broke to a 41-25 halftime margin.

“Actually,” remarked Coach Isaiah Lundberg, “I thought we played pretty well for our first game. We played hard with a lot of energy, but we had that one scoring lapse and never cut the margin under ten points again. They made shots where we couldn’t, making nine threes to our three. I thought a lot of good came out of the game, and it was good to play a team like Albert Lea.”

Dexter Lee and Lonnie Wilson both notched 12 points to lead the Panther scoring, and Kirdell Schlaak added 10. Javanus Mucha Owens led all scorers with 23 points for the Tigers. Connor Veldman contributed 12 points to the total.

Season begins with pair of wins for BP girls

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

A poor shooting night didn’t hinder the Awesome Blossom girls from winning their second straight game, as they took Faribault Bethlehem Academy to task in a 51-23 victory on the home court Dec. 5. It gave the girls a 2-0 record in the young season.

Midway through the first half, the team trailed 13-15, but the team regrouped with stellar defense and scored 13 straight points for a 26-15 edge at the break.

The team rolled easily in the second half, with Julia Worke and Bobbie Bruns leading the way with 18 and 13 points. Bruns handed out 5 assists and stole the ball four times. Worke swished 4 three pointers and Megan Oswald and Maya Lembke contributed 6 and 4 points for the locals.

Coach Cory Hendrickson’s JV team also starts the season 2-0. The Blossoms defeated Bethlehem Academy 46-23 after winning a close contest over JWP 48-44 earlier in the

week. Anna Pauly scored 9 points to lead the offense.

WINNING OPENER

Scoring the first 16 points of the game gave the Awesome Blossom girls some immediate confidence, and the team rolled to a 64-23 victory over Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Dec. 4.

BP took a 48-19 halftime lead, as Megan Oswald counted 12 points in the first five minutes of the contest.

“We got that first big early lead,” commented Coach John Bruns, “and forced numerous turnovers leading to fast break points. Especially in the second half we did a better job of isolating their better scorers and held the Bulldogs to just 4 points.”

Bobbie Bruns had 18 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, and 5 steals to lead the Blossoms, and Maggie Bruns added 7 points. Maya Lembke cleared the boards for 6 rebounds, and nine different players scored for the Blossoms.

Anna Kittelson scored 17 points in the JVJ WP victory and Anna Pauly and Micalyn Trihus added 9 and 6 points.



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Tennis & Fitness Center: 507-444-4290
Fax: 507-444-4299

West Hills Social Commons: 507-444-4280
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Brooktree Clubhouse: 507-444-2467
Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370
Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086

WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process of lakes, rivers, and ponds. The extra weight of snow also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Watch our Facebook page to know when the Morehouse Chalet will be open for skating!

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

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Opportunities**

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

Apply online today at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/owatonna/default.cfm>

WINTER SCHEDULE

December 12: Winter Swim registration begins	January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Adult Snow Volleyball Tournament
December 14: 3-6th grade basketball begins	January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Free Tennis at West Hills Tennis Center
December 18: Learn to Skate session 2 deadline	January 25: Winter Weekend Out: Rock on Ice at Morehouse
December 27-28: December Lifeguard Training review course	January 26: Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmeier
January 4: Saturday Swim lessons begin	January 31: Family Swim OMS
January 5: Sunday Swim lessons begin	February 11: Spring Brochure released
January 7: Tuesday Swim lessons begin	February 20: Spring Registration Begins
January 8: Wednesday Swim lessons begin	February 24: Spring Registration Night
January 9: Thursday Swim lessons begin	March 5: Spring Registration Deadline
January 22-26: Owatonna's Winter Festival	April 21: Summer Brochure released
January 24-26: Owatonna's Winter Weekend Out	April 23: Summer Registration begins
January 24: Winter Weekend Out: Free admission to West Hills Fitness Center	

SPECIAL WINTER EVENTS

Special Events

- Bold and Cold/Winter Weekend Out

Programs coming in the Spring Brochure (released February 2020)

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

Refund/Cancellation Policy
The entire policy can be found on the Parks & Recreation website.

—A request for a refund is accepted when submitted prior to the start of the activity. A \$10 cancellation fee will be assessed; remainder of the fee is refunded

—If a class or activity was cancelled by Park & Recreation, fee is refunded on a pro-rated basis

Give the Gift of Recreation!

Purchase a Parks and Recreation gift card this holiday season and give the gift of recreation and fun! Our gift cards can be used for any registration, program and at any one of our facilities (Brooktree Golf Course, Tennis & Fitness Center, River Springs Water Park or West Hills Social Commons). River Springs Water Park passes will be available in person and online beginning December 1 for the 2020 season.

Fitness Center College Student Special!

Show your College Student ID at West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center December 1st –January 31st and get a monthly membership at the discounted rate of \$21.33, that's a savings of over \$17.00!

Middle School Pool-Family Open Swim

Cost: \$4 per/person
Time: 6:30-8:30pm
Dates: 11/22, 12/6, 1/31, 2/28, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22

Middle School open swim is an opportunity for families to come and

enjoy swim time together. During this time there will be 2 lifeguards on duty and the diving boards will be open. All children must be accompanied by a parent. Children with lifejackets must be within arm's reach of a parent at all times.

Youth Tennis Lessons

Colan Surratt, Tennis Director for the City of Owatonna, manages youth tennis lessons. Graduated compression balls in tandem with properly sized racquets and courts help promote success and fun for every student! Racquets are available for those who do not have them to borrow during class. All classes take place at West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center. Email Colan with any questions—surrattcolan@gmail.com

Outdoor Public Skating

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

Cross Country Ski Trails

The Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department maintains and grooms cross country ski trails in the following areas from mid-December to mid-February (if weather and snow conditions allow): Kaplan's Woods Parkway from Morehouse Park through Kaplan's Woods and into Owatonna Country Club (8+miles), Brooktree Golf Course (2 miles).

West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center Open House

West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center is hosting a special open house to help the people in our community look and feel their best. We will be offering FREE use of the gym, weight room, cardio room, track, and sauna on January 2nd only. Sign up for a yearly membership on the day of the open house and receive \$25 off! Stop in for more information and a chance to win prizes!



Dr. Deborah J Lien
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Kinley Adams, 9, of Ellendale whispers her wishes for Christmas to Santa Claus on his visit to Christmas in the Country in Ellendale last Saturday, Dec. 7.



Santa Claus was seen walking around Ellendale during its Christmas in the Country celebration last Saturday, Dec. 7. He eventually made it to The Oaks assisted living facility where he handed out candy bags to some 50 youngsters.

Christmas in the Country comes to Ellendale

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus was seen walking the streets of the small community of Ellendale last Saturday afternoon. Apparently, Santa took a wrong turn when attempting to go back to the North Pole after visiting some of his young friends in Ellendale on this particular day. After realizing where he had ended up, Santa went to The Oaks assisted living facility and handed out nearly 50 bags of goodies to

area youngsters. Oh yeah, he also listened carefully to the wishes of his youthful admirers. Prior to Santa's arrival, youngsters played Bingo as organized by the Ellendale Commercial Club. The Christmas in the Country celebration saw some little ones playing Bingo to win a prize. Fifteen prizes were distributed. Christmas in the Country organizers were: Lee Ann Hojberg, Allison Muilenburg and Jackie Forman. Winner of the grand

prize, a Blue Tooth FM radio, was Kayla Hulloper, 7, of Blooming Prairie. Brian Wayne and Scott Groth of the Commercial Club ran the game of Bingo. The youngest person coming to the Oaks to meet Santa was Liam Peters, 6 months, of Geneva. He sat on Santa's lap and did not mutter a defying cry. Oldest person to sit on Santa's lap was soon-to-be 100, but who's counting, Myrtle Peterson of Ellendale. Myrtle, who is Liam's great-grandmother, will turn 100 on Jan. 27, 2020.



Some attractive prizes were won by young Bingo players at a Christmas in the Country activity in Ellendale last Saturday afternoon. Prize winners from left are: Lilly Sanchez, Hailly Sanchez, Zai Padilla and Dominto Huerta.

ALL ABOARD: Holiday Train rolls into area, leaves cash for food shelf FROM B1



The Steele County Food Shelf collects food donations with the help of Santa Claus Thursday afternoon at the Holiday Train in Owatonna. Joining Santa are Nancy Ness, director of the food shelf, and Troy Bice, a volunteer dressed as a snow man. The food shelf collected about 200 pounds of food donations at the event.

Steele County, according to Ness. She said the need has been increasing every year. Just three years ago, the food shelf served 530 families. In addition, the food shelf serves 1,600 folks with the daily program. "We have a lot of traffic from people all over the county," Ness said. Ness refers to the food shelf as a happy place to be. "We're a steady place that they can always depend on us," she said. "We're there to help," she added. As for the Holiday Train itself, Ness finds it helps bring recognition that there is a need for a food shelf as many families are dealing with food insecurities. "It reminds people that there are people that don't have their needs met," she points out. Plus, there is an added bonus for the Holiday Train, which offers free entertainment from singers

that perform from a train car. "It just puts people in the holiday spirit," Ness said. "It helps people go back to what the holidays are really about—a time to give back." 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. The musical performance lasted for about 30 minutes before the train rolled on and made another stop in Waseca. CP's Holiday 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. During that time, the train has raised almost \$16 million and collected 4.5 million pounds of food.



The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train rolled into Owatonna Thursday afternoon and took off into a beautiful sunset for its next stop in Waseca. The train was decked out with hundreds of thousands of lights on 14 train cars.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 1, 2012 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$120,937.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Connie L. Holter, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 9, 2012 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 16940 as Document Number T000069335 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 1, Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota. REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1071 SOUTH LINCOLN AVE , OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$105,687.17 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo

Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-174-0108 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060. to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 4, 2020. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PER-

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

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

Dated: December 3, 2019 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee TROTT LAW, P.C. By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Michael van Muelken, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (19-1471-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/12, 12/19, 12/26 1/2, 1/9, 1/16

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-JV-19-2046 Case Type: Juvenile

Summons and Notice Child in Need of Protection or Services Matter

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

Evangelina Castro (Mother) Mark Alexander Cruz (Father) Zachary Daniel Keller (Father) Andrew Padilla (Father)

Parent

NOTICE TO: Mark Alexander Cruz, above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at **Steele County District Court** 111 E Main St.Owatonna, Minnesota,

alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) is/ are in need of protection or services. 2. **Notice is hereby** given that the matter of said Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located at **Steele County District Court** 111 E Main St, Owatonna, Minnesota, on **January 8th, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** or as soon after as the Matter can be heard. 3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date. 4. You have a right to be represented by counsel. 5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable Joseph A. Bueltel Judge of District Court

BY: Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

12/11

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No: 74-PR-19-2008

NOTICE AND ORDER OF

HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of Shirley Ruth Winter Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 6, , 2020 at 2:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street , Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Robert A. Winter whose address is: 412 10th Ave. NW, Waseca, Minnesota 56093 as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. With the honorable Joseph A. Bueltel.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are re-

quired to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Joseph A. Bueltel, Judge of District Court 11/14/2019

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator 11/14/2019

Attorney for Petitioner Molly Byron Byron Law Office, PLLC 122 North State St Waseca,MN,56093 Attorney License No: 0163843 Telephone: (507) 835-3355 FAX: (507) 835-3303 Email: byronlawofficewaseca@gmail.com

12/11, 12/18

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CLUES ACROSS

- A roll of insulation
- Brazilian dance
- Something that is owed
- Middle Eastern chieftain
- South African village
- 6th Jewish month
- Sandwich shop
- "Air Music" composer
- Extinct flightless bird
- Exabyte
- 1/1000 of an inch
- 4th US state
- Boater
- Quarterback throws
- Dentist's group
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Ursidae family
- Removes an apple's center
- To have supper
- Back breaking work
- Public promotion of a product
- Point midway between N and E
- Dull in appearance
- Change by reversal
- Attack on all sides

CLUES DOWN

- Cover with condensation
- Rhizopodan (alt. sp.)
- '_ death do us part
- Denotes three
- Swedish krona
- A pleasant odor
- One who navigates a ship
- Yellow edible Indian fruit
- River in Upper Austria
- Scientific workplaces
- Prickly seed covering
- Frozen water
- Move back and away from
- Fipple flute
- Bladed tool
- Actress Farrow
- 2001 Spielberg film
- An explosive device
- Explosive sounds
- Duffels
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- Seraph
- Scottish hillside
- Czar (alt.)
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- Metal food containers

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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 manufacturers 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.
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TWO OLDER BOOK DISPLAY racks, each holds approx.. 50-60 books. Racks came from Hallmark store. \$40 for both, or best offer. Call 507-450-5395 (52-55pd) **APPROX. 100 OLDER SPICE TINS,** some cardboard containers, some are very rare. \$50 for all, or best offer Please call 507-450-5395 (52-55 pd)

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 33tfc

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 27tfn

PIERSON LAWN AND SNOW. Now giving bids for snow removal for this winter. I plow for residential and commercial properties. If interested, please call 507-696-3849 and leave a voice message for your free estimate.

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed Free estimates. Call 507-421-7945

I JUST WANTED TO LET PEOPLE OUT there know that I would like to start a small snow removal business in the Blooming Prairie Area! I live in Blooming Prairie and if you are interested or need somebody to shovel your driveway and sidewalk(s) I would be happy to help, if interested my number is 507-774-9366.

Find us on Facebook

Place your employment ads with us. Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

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YEAR END AREA FARMERS AUCTION
MATT MARING AUCTION CO.
Saturday, December 14, 2019 • 9:30 a.m. CST
Location: Maring Auction Lot, Hwy 56 N. Kenyon, MN 55946
FULL DETAILS & ONLINE BIDDING AT:
[www.maringauction.com](#)

From Dale Meyer Farm Retirement Red Wing MN

'81 JD4440 Quad Range, 9,572 Hrs, Rear Weights, New A/C, Fresh Oil, 18.4x38, '78 JD4240, 6,474 Hrs, Fresh Oil, 18.4x38, 8 Sp PS; JD 210 Disc, 16.5 Ft; Notch 8 Bale Round Bale Wagon; '95 SS 18' Livestock Trailer, New Tires; JD 450 Hydra Push Manure Spread; NH 190 Tandem Axle Manure Spreader; Westfield 8" x 51' Grain Auger, PTO; Schulz 2 Ton Holding Bin; JD 60" Bucket For 148 Loader; 3 Section Spike Tooth Drag On Cart, 16'; (2) Bin Sweeps, 6' & 8'; Dura-Built Round Bale Feeder; 14'-16' Sioux Gates

Semi's, Straight Trucks & Forklift

'99 Mack CH613 Day Cab, Wet Kit, 13sp, Jake, E7-460, 22.5, Nice; '01 Mack 612 Day Cab, Single Axle, E7, 9sp, 22.5; '98 Mack CH612 Single Axle E7, 9sp, 22.5; '04 GMC TopKick Single Axle W/Air Tag, 3208 Cat, 5 x 2, Willmar 10 Ton Box Tender; '01 GMC Straight Truck M-11, 10sp, Air Brakes, 2-1500 Gal Poly Tanks, Indicator; '93 Chevy Kodiak Single Axle, 6sp, 3116 Cat, Tyler 10 Ton Box Tender; '95 Ford F350, 7.3L, Dually, 2WD, Road Runner Aluminum 17' Rollback, 5sp, 134,000, Exc Cond; '02 IHC 4700 Low Pro, Single Axle, 466 Diesel, 6sp, 20' Flat Bed; Morgan 24' Van Body, Roll-Up Rear Door; Cat 40 Forklift Elec, Charger, Hard Tires, 48" Forks, 5,730 Hours; '90 Mack CH613 Dump Truck, Spring, Pintal Hitch, E6-300hp, 8sp, Like New 22.5, Crysteel 16' Dump Box w/Roll Tarp

Livestock & Related Machinery

Vermore BP7000 Bale Chopper, 1000 PTO; Peterson Built Feeder Wagon, 32 Head Locking Gates; Gehl 120 Mixer Mill, Hydro Orbit; H & S 8' x 16' Throw Rack; NH 499 Haybine; NH 316 Baler; NH 28 Blower; NH 1012 Bale Stalk Wagon; Roto Mix 354-Elevator; For-Most Head Gate

Tillage; Byron 8400 Harvester; Dump Cart; Gravity Flow Boxes; Snowblower

J&M TF212 Soil Conditioner, Double Rolling Basket, Tine Harrow, Hydro Fold, 26.5'; Like New; Byron 8400 Harvester 4x4 Hi/Low 16' Conveyor, JD Diesel, 15,836 Hrs, Byron 3600 Corn Head 6R30; Byron 1512 Hydro Dump Cart, 20.8x38 Tires; AGCO White 6105 2WD, 540/1000PTO, AGCO 670 Hyd. Loader, 2hyd (Engine is stuck); (2) Danuser 3pt, 74" Mud Scrapers; JD 3300 Dsl Combine, Gear, 2,694 Hrs, 18.4x26; JD 343 Corn Head, 3R30"; JD213 Bean Head; IHC 710 Plow, 4x18's, 3pt; Bush Hog, 3pt, Chisel Plow, 7 Shank; MF880 Plow, 4x18's, 3pt; DMI 4200 Anhydrous Tool Bar, 42"; (2) Farm King Augers 8-51 And 8-36; (6) Good 3pt Snowblowers; Gleaner 3000 Corn Head 8R30"; Elec. Deck Plates, SP Hook-Up, Clean; (2) 5,000 Gal, (2) 4,000 Gal, (2) 1,500 Gal Poly Tanks; (6) Good Gravity Boxes From 600-200 Bushel, Parker 7255, Parker 4000

Pickups, Autos, Tools & More

Floe 100"x18" Alum Snowmobile Trailer; Kubota 6500 Watt Generator; Aero 50' Windmill With Head & Tail; Cardboard Baler 22"x42", Single Phase; 3pt Wood Splitter; '07 Chrysler Town & Country Van, 140,000 Miles; Several Good 2WD - 4x4 Pick Ups; Trailers From 12' - 20'; Good Amount Of Snap-on Hand Tools; Snap-on Tool Chest

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MANTORVILLE TOWNSHIP Filing Notice

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Township Clerk beginning Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and closing Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:00pm for the following Offices.

One (1) Supervisor for a three-year term
One (1) Treasurer for a two-year term

Carol Allen, Clerk 635-5580
Mantorville Township
25582 590 Street
Mantorville, MN. 55955

12/12, 12/19

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If you have a caring-giving heart...
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• FT 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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**Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING**

Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN • EOE

**KASSON-MANTORVILLE KOMET'S**

KASSON-MANTORVILLE Elementary School is seeking two long-term substitute teachers:

Special Education
(Approximately March 3 - May 29, 2020)
Grade 1
(Approximately March 30 - May 11, 2020)

Please complete an application on-line at [www.komets.k12.mn.us](#) and resume, application letter and reference letters.

BP puts a little dazzle into the holidays

PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD



The 2019 Blooming Prairie Scrooge is none other than Nelda Haberman of Vandal's Family Market. She is crowned by BP Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Becky Noble.



The newly crowned Scrooge, Nelda Haberman, poses with three of her friends, Stacy Salinas, Ann Weideman and the Grinch.



Kelly LaMotte and daughter Lake set up a booth at the Pizza Cellar party room during Holiday Dazzle 2019.



Emma Decker, 7, and Claire Decker, 2, unveil a little Christmas gift, their little brother Sterling, 2 months old. The three Deckers were visiting the Santa House during Holiday Dazzle 2019.



Siblings Natalie (left) and Justin (right) Schumacher used their creativity to do some artwork at Main Street Dental during Holiday Dazzle activities on Friday, Dec. 6.



Savannah Kramer, 9, shows off her Disney friends, Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and Olaf at Girls Night on the Town at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club as part of Holiday Dazzle 2019.



Santa Claus greets a long line of kids and their parents at Farmers & Merchants State Bank on Friday night, Dec. 6 as part of Holiday Dazzle. Santa was brought to the bank by the Pittman horses.



Enjoying their s'mores thanks to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department are siblings Andrew Schwarz and Joseph Schwarz.

Sponsored by these local businesses.

Your ad could be here!

STEELE COUNTY Times

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