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OUR VIEW

Ellendale sale a welcome relief for taxpayers

It's not prohibition, but rather a friendly sale that has caused the city-owned liquor establishment to cease in Ellendale.

Within the past two weeks, Ellendale city officials unloaded the elephant in their city operations: a liquor operation that tapped out the city's general fund just to keep the doors open. The almost 50-year-old municipal liquor store was sold to a family-run business. The sale brings an end to municipal liquor operations dating back to the early 1970s.

In its heyday, the city-owned liquor store churned a big profit and it made sense for the city to be in the liquor business. But the store has fallen on hard times over the past decade as profits have shriveled up to big losses. In fact, the store has shown a profit for only two out of the past nine years. The losses have mounted to as much as \$60,000 just in one year.

Last week, the Minnesota State Auditor released a report showing Minnesota municipal liquor stores posted record sales led by Lakeville with \$15.28 million. However, the majority of the most profitable stores is in the Twin Cities metro area. It's a much different story in outstate for smaller stores like Ellendale.

Only 19 metro cities run municipal liquor stores, but theirs are larger and more profitable than those in the rest of the state. Metro stores accounted for 35% of total sales and 38% of net profits last year, the report showed. There are 190 Minnesota cities that run their own liquor stores. Now, it'll be down to 189 with Ellendale dropping off that list.

There were 38 cities that reported losses in 2018, and Ellendale is included on that list. Ellendale had the seventh highest loss of any municipal in Minnesota in 2018. Among the Greater Minnesota cities that posted losses last year, two-thirds have populations below 1,000.

The other area municipal in Medford showed a \$17,000 profit in 2018, according to the report.

Ellendale did the right thing in selling the liquor store. It's fortunate that Ellendale was able to attract a privately run establishment. Finally, the store was sold to the family of its manager for the past several years. Many cities aren't as lucky.

Stephanie Kibler, who serves on the city council, didn't hold back when asked about the sale. "It was an albatross for us," she admitted. She said the city was forced to take money from its general fund to keep the liquor store operating at the expense of other projects not getting done around the city. "We couldn't do things for our park," she pointed out as one example.

With Ellendale underperforming as a municipal liquor store mainly because of expenses out of the city's control, it is a welcomed relief to take that burden away from taxpayers and focus on other essential expenses.



Stressed with the holiday push

I have officially gone into a panic.

Some promote give to the max this time of the year. I promote stressed to the max.

Christmas gifts to buy, presents to wrap, lights to string, tree to chop down and decorate, holiday cards to send, goodies to bake, parties to enjoy and the list is overwhelming.

For some reason, I just can't seem to get ahead of the game this holiday season. I feel like I have been in a perpetual state of stress.

The calendar wasn't in our favor this year. Thanksgiving was the latest it can ever be, the 28th of month. For starters, that didn't help matters one bit. I have this mental block in my mind that I can't start with anything Christmas-related until after Thanksgiving. Well, by my accounts, that means I lost an entire week this year by doing so. Shame on me!

We had a live nativity event scheduled at our church a few weeks ago that I was really looking forward to attending.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Sadly, I hate to admit, I was glad it was cancelled because of inclement weather. It gave me a few extra hours to tackle the above list.

What complicates my push toward being ready for the holidays is this week. Between the two newspapers in Steele and Dodge counties, I have to put together four newspapers in five days because of early deadlines for next week. I feel like I'm suddenly running a daily newspaper operation. There goes whatever extra time I could have had for holiday preparations.

As I was editing this week's paper, I came across the Steele Talkin column by Andrea Mar-

shall from Steele County Public Health. Just in the nick of time, she provides suggestions for helping us all deal with the inevitable stress that comes with the holidays. Check out her column on Page 1B.

One of the suggestions she provides is taking a breather by listening to soothing music. That's exactly what I have been trying to do over the past few weeks with holiday music playing in the background.

I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling the mounted stress and pressure this holiday season. I know this is easier said than done, but don't let yourself get stressed out. Enjoy the season for what it is and embrace family members around you. The true meaning of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and being together with family.

For me, it's going to be a mad dash to the finish line on Christmas Eve. That's only six days away. Maybe once it comes I'll go in hot pursuit of settling in for a long winter's nap.

Winning coach: God has a plan for us

A strong commitment to his faith has been helpful in coaching young people, says Chad Gimbel, head coach of the Class 1A championship football team, the Blooming Prairie Blossoms.

Coach Gimbel on Wednesday, Dec. 11 took time from his busy schedule as a coach and as a teacher to visit with confirmation students at First Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, senior pastor at First Lutheran Church, moderated a question and answer session with the coach of the Blossom football team.

Gimbel has been head football coach of the Blossoms for the past 23 years. The football championship his players earned was the first ever by a Blooming Prairie football squad.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Gimbel. "It's because of good players and great assistants," Gimbel replied. "I still can't believe that we finally made it as state champions," he added.

Talking more about his faith, Gimbel said he gives the team a motivational talk before a game and then had the players hold hands and pray The Lord's Prayer.

our farm," he remarked.

Asked who his role model was as he grew up, Gimbel said it was his 73-year-old father. "He's unselfish and cares about kids first," Gimbel said.

Coach Gimbel also pointed to his high school football coach, Jerry Grand, as a mentor. "We only had 28 kids on our team and I played in the line as a 128-pounder," he laughed.

Discipline was an important ingredient in his mentor's coaching philosophy, Gimbel said. He further explained that he believes in discipline and encourages players to play to their ability. "Play the game the right way," he challenges his athletes.

Gimbel said his players know when he is upset with a development in a game



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Chad Gimbel, coach of the state champion football Blossoms team, spoke about his faith last week at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Gimbel said he is "always learning" as a coach and learned how important his faith was when his son, Seth Peterson, broke a leg while playing football for his father. "I felt like something was taken away," Gimbel said.

"Seth told me God had a plan for him and for me," Gimbel said, fighting back emotions. Gimbel said Seth told him that God's plan was to help the team by mentoring his successor Kaiden Thomas. "He indeed had a good perspective on this unforeseen development," explained Gimbel.

Coach Gimbel said his faith began to grow by his involvement in a youth group at his home church in Browerville, Minn.

Challenging the confirmands to "build a unique you," Gimbel said he had other words of wisdom, too:

- Put down the phone and learn how to read body language.
- Pick out someone you don't want to disappoint.

Gimbel also quoted three processes to follow, suggestions offered by college basketball coach Jimmy Valvano when he was fighting cancer. Those processes are: 1) Laugh; 2) Think or meditate and 3) Take time to cry.

"Why are you so awesome?" a confirmand asked

Gimbel said he played on the Browerville football team but was not a good football player. "I was too small and too slow," he grinned. Wrestling was his favorite sport. Gimbel also coaches wrestling for the Westfield team, consisting of Hayfield and Blooming Prairie athletes.

Gimbel said he grew up on a small hobby farm and rode Western Pleasure horses. "That was not my favorite thing but my sister loved horses and convinced me to ride, too," Gimbel said. "We had cows, pigs and sheep on

"because I don't say anything and the athletes know they are in trouble."

The x's and o's of football are important to Gimbel who says he prefers running the offense and letting his assistants run the defense. "They (assistant coaches) made me look good," he says.

He says his passion is coaching kids. "You can never prepare for that, and I am still learning how to motivate kids," Gimbel says.

"You can't treat everyone the same," Gimbel emphasizes. "You have to look at each kid individually."

STAR SENIOR: named Academic All-state FROM A1

been selected as one of 14 Minnesota Class A Academic All-State individuals. Three other area players, Carter Kylo of Hayfield in Class A and Zach Wetmore of Medford and Mason Ferber of NRHEG in Class AA, were also named to the special honor.

Head coach Chad Gimbel said he nominated Larson for his academic success as well as success on the gridiron this fall. Nominations are forwarded to a coaches panel through the Minnesota Football Coaches Association for final selection.

Requirements to become a member of the elite team are senior varsity letterman for the current season who is a starter, must have outstanding football and leadership ability plus academic excellence, must carry 3.0 GPA in sophomore, junior and beginning of senior year and no eligibility penalties or infractions during high school career.

"I think the biggest thing that Jarrett represents to our football team is hard work paying off," Gimbel said. "Jarrett works extremely hard at everything he does—in the

classroom, in the weight room, on the football field, at home on the farm and volunteering," he added.

Gimbel called Larson's success a testament to his work ethic. "Everything Jarrett does, he does to the best of his ability, no shortcuts," Gimbel said. "I hope every underclassmen looks at Jarrett's example and follows what he has done. If they do that, we will continue to have very successful football teams, but also young adults doing great things outside of the school."

As far as this year's best football team in the school's history, Larson said it has been extra special for him. "We have a really strong group of guys," he said. "We have been playing together since fifth grade. That gave us the extra drive and motivation to get to the next level."

Larson attributes the success of this year's Blossoms team to the players trusting each other and playing for each other. He said the work and dedication put forth by this group of guys during the off-season led to their success this year. He noted that they

were committed to early morning weight lifting throughout the year.

"We held each other accountable working out three days a week," Larson said. "The whole team really bought in," he said, adding it's not comparable to any other year.

In addition to football, Larson also plays basketball and baseball, though he admits football is his favorite. Asked why he likes football, Larson replied: "It's the best team sport there is for accountability, teamwork and trust."

Larson is well above the minimum requirement for the award as he carries a 3.8 GPA. During his senior year, he is taking calculus, English 12, art, social studies and industrial trades, which he considers his favorite class. "I like building stuff," Larson said. "Anything hands-on is interesting to me."

Following graduation next spring, Larson plans to go into either ag engineering or ag business. He is still undecided about which college he will attend. After all, he's had a little bit of football on his mind lately.



Steele County Sheriff's Office deputy checked in at the Shop with a Cop event at the Owatonna Target last week. Each law enforcement officer was matched with a youngster to help them look for Christmas gifts.

SHOP WITH A COP: Youngsters buy presents with police, deputies

Target shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday. After the parents filled out some final paperwork, half of the youngsters were paired with an officer to begin their shopping excursion. While the first group went shopping the second group was treated to a sandwich supper courtesy of the Owatonna Jimmy John's.

When the first group finished shopping they were directed to two check-out lines where the total of their purchases were added up. The first group then went back to the starting point where

they enjoyed their food while the second group of youngsters was paired up with officers and headed out to shop.

The event was a cooperative effort between Steele County law enforcement agencies and the Salvation Army along with Target and Jimmy John's.

Tom Kuelbs, regional manager for the Salvation Army, said the money for the shopping trip came from Salvation Army kettle donations as well as a grant from the Target Corp. Jimmy John's donated the food for the event, he said.

Each child was allowed to spend \$50 on clothing for themselves as well as \$75 for toys and gifts for siblings and parents.

The officers had information with them about the child they were with and their siblings so they could help the children in making their purchases.

The event helps the youngsters be able to buy presents for their family, get some new clothing for themselves and also it helps reacquaint them with police officers in a friendly environment, said Kuelbs.



While waiting his turn to go shopping with an office, Zander Moriarity gets a sandwich donated to the event by Jimmy John's in Owatonna.

COURTROOM DRAMA: leads to prisoner escaping

courtroom and down the stairs to the first floor. As the two got to the front door of the Bailiff's office, Flategraff turned and ran down the stairs and out the emergency door at the bottom of the stairs.

Owatonna Police joined the sheriff's office in searching the area for Flategraff, who was last seen running south past the county attorney's office on Cedar Avenue. Faribault Police also responded with a K-9 unit.

The K-9 track ended in the area of the 100 block of School Street East. Officers received permission from the renter to search the property. The renter told police the attached garage was locked and isn't normally locked. Police used a pocket knife to pop the door open. Officers searched the garage and no one was located.

Police continued to search the same area with the renter again consenting for officers to search the apartment and garage. Officers announced for Flategraff to come out or the K-9 would bite him. Shortly after the K-9 went into the garage to search, officers heard a man groaning. They found the K-9 biting Flategraff, who was

on the floor hiding in the northwest corner. He had a tan sheet covering him up.

Prior to escaping, Flategraff appeared before Judge Bueltef for a Feb. 25, 2017 case in which he caused gross negligence of great bodily harm during a traffic crash on Interstate 35 near Ellendale. Flategraff was operating a semi-tractor trailer that crashed into five cars on an ice and snow covered roadway.

During a post-crash inspection, the State Patrol retrieved the event recorder data from Flategraff's semi. The data indicated Flategraff was traveling 47-50 mph from 1-10 seconds prior to the chain-reaction crash, which was started by Flategraff's semi. Upon the heavy brake application at the 1 second mark after brakes were applied, Flategraff was still traveling 35 mph. The patrol also determined after Flategraff applied his brakes, it took 11 seconds to come to final rest.

Flategraff told troopers that he had looked over at his GPS unit just prior to the crash. Flategraff said he looked at the GPS for "like two seconds." He also acknowledged to investigators that he knew

the road was icy just past Owatonna as he was heading southbound.

A 32-year-old man suffered a brain bleed with traumatic brain injury along with many other injuries as a result of the crash.

Patrol investigators determined the crash was entirely the result of Flategraff's driving demeanor. He admitted to investigators that the roads were bad, admitted the road south of Owatonna had ice in both lanes and acknowledged he'd been passing traffic traveling slower than he preferred.

The patrol investigator concluded, "Everyone but Flategraff clearly recognized the threat ahead. Everyone but Flategraff slowed their vehicles. Had Flategraff's attention been focused on his surroundings, current road conditions and he'd of driven at a speed with which he could have safely stopped his semi, then this crash would never have happened."

The maximum sentence for the new escape from custody charge is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

He is currently locked up in the Steele County Detention Center on \$50,000 bail.

LAST CLUE: revealed for BP Medallion hunt

This week's clue:
This last clue might be the ticket
Don't get lost
Hunt at all cost
Get in high gear
What a way to end the year!
Previous clues include:
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; **Clue #3-** Walk the path, do the math, the medallion is near, if you

find it we will cheer!
The winner should contact Becky Noble at the Chamber Office. The winning prize is \$50 in BP Bucks and a subscription to the Steele County Times.
Good luck in your holiday ventures!

GUEST COLUMN

Lawns to legumes

BY JULIE WANOUS

Recently, I received information on a "Lawns to Legumes" class offered in Rochester—for free!—on how to transform your lawn into a more bee-friendly one. As I am a hobby beekeeper and always wanting to learn more about bees, I signed up for the class! Whether it explored honey bees or bees native to Minnesota, I was eager to learn from them, as both species are important to our world.

While waiting for the class to begin, I paged through some of the many handouts available outside the classroom, finding that we'd be focusing on bees native to our region, more specifically the Rusty Patched bumblebee, Minnesota's state bee! Through a joint effort, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Metro Blooms, and the non-profit Blue Thumb were able to offer this class. Though this was only the second time it was presented, the sponsoring organizations expect to present 30 more classes over the next 3 years to create more habitat for our native bees.

When we think of bees pollinating plants, quite often our mind goes directly to honey bees and the challenges they face with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In doing this, we don't consider the numerous other pollinators important to our distinctive regions, such as our Rusty Patched bumblebee, which the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists as an endangered species.

With a single queen and female worker, the Rusty Patched bumblebee lives in colonies underground. Producing new queens and males in the late summer, the colony necessitates a late-season food source. You can identify the bumblebee by its black head, and males and workers bear a rusty patch on their backs, inspiring its name. If ever in doubt about any

bee in your yard, there are several websites and apps available, including bumblebeewatch.org, that allow you to upload a photo directly from your smartphone and will then identify the bee for you.

As explained to me in the "Lawns and Legumes" class, the Rusty Patched bumblebee could be found throughout the entire state of Minnesota. However, as we transformed grasslands into roads, cities, and farmland, we changed their habitat. Diseases and pesticides also threaten the bumblebee; these factors, in addition to a few others, contribute to the decline of all our native bees.

What can I do as a homeowner to help the bee population? I was relieved to hear that the class organizers were not asking me to till up my entire yard and plant native-blooming gardens: that is not a very practical approach. But, they did encourage us to plant small plots, about 10 square feet in size, as a stopping garden for bees. Buzzing about, bees expend a great amount of energy flying long distances between food sources. If small stopping gardens were planted, it would provide an opportunity for bees to rest and forage in your garden until it moves onto another food source. Thus, more food and habitat creates healthier bees.

Well-planned native gardens—with taller plants to the middle or back of the garden and shorter plants to the front and outer edges—have more visual appeal than a wild mixture of plants, which often look more like weed patches. Trust me, I've made this mistake in my own yard! Come spring, I'll be digging and rearranging of plants to create a more appealing garden. Early-spring bloomers, such as columbine, wild ginger, and wild geranium, serve as a great food source for the bees that emerge from the ground in April and May. Necessary as a winter food

source, late bloomers include bee balm, aster, and turtlehead. On the Blue Thumb website, there is a great list of native plants, both woody plant materials, as well as perennials.

If you have a larger acreage, planting a meadow of natives is also encouraged. However, it will entail more work keeping ahead of tree saplings and invasive weeds from moving into your meadow, especially while first establishing it. Weeding out saplings and digging up invasive species takes persistence and muscle but has its rewards with the abundance of bees, birds, and wildlife you will have living in your meadow.

To slow down runoff and create habitats for native pollinators, well-planned and well-maintained rain gardens are also encouraged. Online, you can find many helpful tools and instructions on how to properly install a rain garden; simply search up rain gardens or go to bluetumb.org for more help.

During the class, the instructors also encouraged us to apply for financial assistance when preparing to install native gardens. You can apply for cost-share on bluetumb.org; there you can also find a wealth of information to aid you in planning your project. However, as of when this was written, Blue Thumb's website is being redeveloped, so, if not successful the first time, try again later.

While contemplating improvements or changes to your yard for next year this winter, consider adding a small area of Minnesota's native plants. Whether you have a sunny or shady yard, there are a variety of plants suitable for your own yard type that will help build a healthier native bee population, specifically that of the Rusty Patched bumblebee. Bee healthy, bee happy in 2020.

Julie Wanous is a master gardener in Steele County.

Winter mess, crashes lead to closure of I-35

Last week's winter mess created a roadway mess that involved the closure of Interstate 35 in Steele County.

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the State Patrol handled a multi-car and truck pile-up on I-35 south of Owatonna around 9:20 a.m. In all, 20 vehicles were involved as well as six jackknifed semis.

According to the patrol, a trooper was assisting

with a vehicle in the center median near I-35 and Hwy. 14 interchange when the chain reaction began of many other vehicles. While the trooper was on scene, a second vehicle went into the center median behind him.

The patrol said 20 passenger cars and six jackknifed semis were involved in separate crashes that led to closing the interstate.

No serious injuries were reported.

I-35 was reopened at 12:35 p.m.

All crashes are currently under investigation, the patrol said.

Assisting the patrol at the crashes were MnDOT, Steele County Sheriff's Office, Owatonna Fire Department and Mayo Ambulance.

CRIME BRIEF

Domestic violence leads to man's arrest

A man has been charged with felony assault in connection with a domestic disturbance in Owatonna.

Franklin Powell, 45, of Owatonna,

faces second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and two counts of domestic assault, which are all felonies.

Police received a 911 call to a residence on East Fremont for an assault involving a knife and that a gun may be involved Wednesday, Dec. 11. In light of the information received, police diverted traffic around Fremont for the interest of public safety



Franklin Powell

and to allow officers to negotiate with Powell to come out of the house.

A short time later, Powell voluntarily came out of the residence and was taken into custody.

Police learned a dispute took place inside the home between Powell and a woman. According to police, Powell allegedly grabbed the woman by her hair and punched her. Powell is accused of pulling a pocket knife on the victim and waving it at them.

Powell has two previous felony domestic assault convictions in Rice County.

Public safety info to appear next week

Because of early deadlines with the holidays, the bulk of this week's public safety information will not appear until the Dec. 25 edition.

The court news, blotter information, arrests and warrants will all appear in next week's paper. Please be assured that none of the information will be missed.

We appreciate your patience and understanding over the next few weeks.

Publisher Rick Bussler

Why the Risk of Heart Attack Rises in Winter



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:



Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I've read that people with heart problems need to be extra careful during the winter months because heart attacks are much more common. Why is this?
Cautions Senior

Dear Cautious,
Everyone knows winter is cold and flu season, but many don't know that it's also the prime season for heart attacks too, especially if you already have heart disease or have suffered a previous heart attack. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you protect yourself.
In the U.S., the risk of having a heart attack during the winter months is twice as high as it is during the summertime. Why? There are a number of factors, and they're not all linked to cold weather. Even people who live in warm climates have an increased risk. Here are the areas you need to pay extra attention to this winter.
Cold temperatures: When a person gets cold, the body responds by constricting the blood vessels to help the body maintain heat. This causes blood pressure to go up and makes the heart work harder. Cold temperatures can also increase levels of certain proteins that can thicken the blood and increase the risk for blood clots. So, stay warm this winter, and when you do have to go outside, make sure you bundle up in layers with gloves and a hat, and place a scarf over your mouth and nose to warm up the air before you breathe it in.
Snow shoveling: Studies have shown that heart attack rates jump dramatically in the first few days after a major snowstorm, usually a result of snow shoveling. Shoveling snow is a very strenuous activity that raises blood pressure and stresses the heart. Combine those factors with the cold temperatures and the risks for heart attack surges. If your sidewalk or driveway needs shoveling this winter, hire a kid from the neighborhood to do it for you, or use a snow blower. Or, if you must shovel, push rather than lift the snow as much as possible, stay warm, and take frequent breaks.
New Year's resolutions: Every Jan. 1, millions of people join gyms or start exercise programs as part of their New Year's resolution to get in shape, and many overexert themselves too soon. If you're starting a new exercise program this winter, take the time to talk to your doctor about what types and how much exercise may be appropriate for you.
Winter weight gain: People tend to eat and drink more and gain more weight during the holiday season and winter months, all of which are hard on the heart and risky for someone with heart disease. So, keep a watchful eye on your diet this winter and avoid binging on fatty foods and alcohol.
Shorter days: Less daylight in the winter months can cause many people to develop "seasonal affective disorder" or SAD, a wintertime depression that can stress the heart. Studies have also looked at heart attack patients and found they usually have lower levels of vitamin D (which comes from sunlight) than people with healthy hearts. To boost your vitamin D this winter, consider taking a supplement that contains between 1,000 and 2,000 international units (IU) per day.
Flu season: Studies show that people who get flu shots have a lower heart attack risk. It's known that the inflammatory reaction set off by a flu infection can increase blood clotting which can lead to heart attacks in vulnerable people. So, if you haven't already done so this year, get a flu shot for protection. And, if you've never been vaccinated for pneumococcal pneumonia, you should consider getting these two shots (given 12 months apart) too.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Dec. 22, 2009

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

For the last five years, Blooming Prairie Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt has been researching the Klu Klux Klan in the Blooming Prairie area from 90 years ago. Her interest was sparked by her grandfather's experiences with the KKK in Winona County in the early 1920s. She plans to write a book once her research is completed.
A house fire in Blooming Prairie sent several family members and a police officer to the hospital and left a family temporarily without a place to live. Blooming Prairie Fire responded to a kitchen fire at the Paula Sime residence at the end of Central Park on First Street at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Officer Mark Lang arrived and used his fire extinguisher to put of the flames in the kitchen. Sime and her two adult sons as well as Officer Lang were treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.
A Dodge County man will spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury convicted him of first-degree murder in the death of a Claremont man. Danny Ortega Jr. was found guilty on all four murder charges against him in Dodge County. Judge Lawrence Aagerter handed down the mandatory life in prison without parole sentence. Ortega Jr. killed Troy Ulrich in Claremont just hours after Ulrich's birthday in February 2008.
Blooming Prairie Schools has implemented School Messenger to assist in notifying staff and parents of weather-related cancellations and emergencies. School Messenger is a company that delivers voice, email and SMS messages. The school has already used it twice with fantastic results.

20 Years Ago Dec. 21, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Robert and Donna Turnmire were the "Famous Twins" after heart bypass surgeries at St. Mary's Hos-

pital. Both are recovering at home in rural Blooming Prairie. The couple both are recuperating from coronary bypass surgery less than a month ago. Today they celebrate being alive because each knows it could have easily been just the opposite.
The City of Blooming Prairie's plans for inspecting homes for illegal sump pump connections has got off to a rousing start, according to city administrator Mike Rietz. He told the city council 209 inspection notices were sent last month and the "phone has been ringing off the hook" at the waste water treatment plant where appointments are being made.
Blooming Prairie Police and Steele County Sheriff's Office received an additional \$1,000 to help pay for costs associated with their Safe and Sober campaign. A couple months ago the two police agencies received \$23,000 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to combat speed violators, drunk drivers and seat belt violators.
Tom Jensen, a maintenance employee at Tandem Products, was voted the Quality Person of the Year for 1999. Jensen received a bonus check from maintenance supervisor Charlie Johnson.

50 Years Ago Dec. 17, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

In the spirit of Christmas, this year the Blooming Prairie Chapter of Future Farmers of America will help in the annual drive for gifts to be distributed to mentally challenged people throughout the state who are in institutions. Named as chairman of the drive is Robert Schlichting of rural Austin.
The Blooming Prairie School Board at its regular meeting Dec. 9 received and then awarded contracts to replace windows in the 1921 elementary building at a cost of \$10,263. The contract was awarded to a company out of St. Cloud.
Steele County commissioners approved subsidies for three separate ambulance services in the county in

the total of \$15,000. The county plan would allocate \$9,000 for the City of Owatonna, \$3,600 for the Village of Ellendale and \$2,400 for the Village of Blooming Prairie.
Arrangements have been completed for Santa Claus to make his traditional visit in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, Dec. 20. Old St. Nick will arrive at the Community Building in Blooming Prairie and distribute treats to all children 8 years of age and younger. In another holiday-related note, Blooming Prairie stores will remain open until 9 p.m. Dec. 17-20 and 22-23 for the convenience of Christmas shoppers. Local merchants report that they still have a large variety of ideal Christmas gifts and area residents are urged to do their shopping locally.

75 Years Ago Dec. 21, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The annual meeting of the First Lutheran Church held at the church building on Dec. 13 elected new officers. Trustee for three years will be Emil Ingvalson while M.B. Johnson will serve as secretary and G.R. Johnson as treasurer. The organist is Mrs. Palmer Peterson.
A Holiday Message from publisher Frank Krejci to readers: The true meaning of Christmas... its spirit of friendliness and good will... are most deeply appreciated in times like these. But as we enter this holiday season, we're cheered by brighter prospects of better days ahead. As it carries on with the tasks of today, America builds for tomorrow with firm determination to preserve the free way of life her men have fought for. Our sincere thanks for your understanding, cooperation and tolerance. May your Christmas be filled with good cheer... your New year with abundant good health and success.
Another Blooming Prairie son has paid the supreme sacrifice as a result of wounds received in action on the German front. Pfc. Lester N. Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Hanson, passed away Nov. 25.

Association of Townships offers scholarships for juniors

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2020 Scholarship Program, which will award up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. This is an increased amount from previous years.
All students currently enrolled in 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial school, or a home-study program, are eligible to apply for this program. Since its inception in 2001, the MAT Scholarship Program has had almost 2,000 submissions and 82 winners.
Applicants should submit a written essay on the theme of MAT's 2020 Education Conference, "Township Day," by May 1. Winners will be chosen by an independent panel of judges and will be notified by Oct. 1. They will also be invited to attend MAT's

Awards Banquet in St. Cloud on Nov. 20.
For more information and application details, please call the MAT offices at 1-800-228-0296 or visit www.mntownships.org.
"Townships are proud to offer the Scholarship Program, and encourage as many high school juniors as possible to apply, whether they are from the largest cities or from smaller rural areas. We know the MAT Scholarship Program has made a real difference for our recipients in furthering their education. It is also an opportunity for learning about township government, which embody the values of "grassroots government" where local citizens directly participate," said MAT Executive Director David Hann.
There are approximately 914,174 township residents in 1,781 town-

ships in Minnesota. Townships exist in every area of the state, including the metropolitan area. Some, with populations of more than 1,000, function in much the same way as

a small city. While many townships remain rural agricultural centers, other host a variety of residential, light commercial, and industrial development.

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Oscar Dalle, 80, Owatonna

Oscar “O.D.” Dalle, 80, of Owatonna, died on Dec. 11, 2019 peacefully surrounded by family at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.



Funeral Mass was Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Owatonna, with Rev. John Sauer presiding. The Owatonna Knights of Columbus recited the Rosary at the funeral home on Monday night. Burial with Military Rites will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Born Oscar George Dalle in Clifton Township, rural Marshall, Minn., on Jan. 18, 1939 the son of Gaston and Anna (Sinave) Dalle. Oscar graduated from Minneota High School. He continued his education at the University of Minnesota in Agricultural Economics.

He was united in marriage to Sylvia Vizenor on Oct. 14, 1961 at Our Lady of Victory in Minneapolis. Shortly after O.D. enlisted in the Army serving from 1961–1964 and was honorably discharged as a SP4 E-4. The couple made their home in Minneapolis before moving to Owatonna. O.D. worked for the Owatonna Canning Company for over 40 years and retired as the Director of Operations, a career of dedicated service to the company that O.D. loved. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Owatonna Knights of Columbus Council #945.

O.D. is survived by his loving wife, of 58 years, Sylvia; children, Julie (Bruce) Nasser of Maplewood, John Dalle of El Centro, Calif., Kim (Rick) Degen of Owatonna, Kathy (Jon) Ballou of Alexandria; grandchildren, Anthony, Alex, Danika, Annamarie, Taelynn, Samantha, Jack, Katina, Josh, Emma, Jonathon, Kalia; siblings, Bertha Bottelberghe, Leona McDougall, Andrew Dalle, LaMonde Dalle, as well as many nieces and nephews.

O.D. is preceded in death by Albert Dalle, Hector Dalle, Louis Dalle, George Dalle Jr., Martha Dalle and Maggie Maserek.

Memorials may be directed to the Homestead Hospice Patient Care Fund.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

Home Ec group offers scholarship

The Steele County Home Economics Association is offering its Jean and Jessie Partridge Memorial Scholarship.

The \$500 scholarship is offered to individuals majoring in home economics, family consumer sciences or related fields (consumer sciences, textiles, food science, child development

and parenting, housing and family social sciences) at any accredited college or university. Eligible students must have completed two years in the major.

For more information, please call Judie Buerman at 507-451-2537 or Barbara Paulson at 507-451-9686. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Dec. 19- All American burger, hot ham and cheese flatbread, California blend vegetable.
Dec. 20- Cheese pizza, corn dog, corn.
Dec. 23- Christmas Break begins

BP High School

Dec. 19- Chicken fried rice, California blend vegetable, bread stick, BBQ rib sandwich, pop-corn chicken bowl.
Dec. 20- Cheesy Italian flatbread, broccoli salad, hotdog on whole grain bun, build your own sub.
Dec. 23- Christmas Break begins.

DON'T miss out on

STEELE COUNTY Times

THIS WEEK!

The Steele County Times is available at the following locations:

Blooming Prairie

Casey's Vandal's Steele County Times office

Ellendale

Casey's Lerberg's Grocery Store

Owatonna

Hy-Vee Kwik Trip Oak St.

Kwik Trip Mineral Springs

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Rocsi has been waiting for a Big for over 4 years. She is known for being nice and helpful and loves swimming, drawing, painting, and playing freeze tag. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up. Rocsi said she would love to be matched with a Big Sister so she can have fun and meet someone new.

Help end the wait for Rocsi. 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

BOOK NOOK

A great resource for area seniors

Last month I wrote about social infrastructure and how libraries fill a need for people to connect. We here at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library hope that you feel comfortable coming to the library. Today I would like to focus on how the library serves and connects the seniors in the area.

Seniors can often feel isolated and alone which can lead to depression and poor physical health. It is so easy, especially during the long, dark days of winter, to stay home and do nothing. Many seniors do not like to be out at night, so the library will again be offering afternoon movies beginning in January. We are planning to have a new Arm Chair Travel series that will introduce us to new places around the world. Each January we offer a Computer Class designed specifically for seniors so you can find out how to connect in this techie world. Deliveries are also available for seniors who live within the city limits. The library is also a great place to read the newspaper and visit with others.

The Friends of the Library welcome new members and offer opportunities to volunteer at events or with special projects. We are currently sewing Boomerang Bags and could use more help to build up our stockpile before we begin giving them out in January. Some volunteers help put books away or help with decorating the library.

Whatever needs you or your senior relative have, let the library help out with programs, information, and other resources. Call for more information at 507-583-7750.

As you plan your holiday activities, please note that we will be open on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, from 10 a.m. to noon. We will be closed all day on Dec. 25, Christmas Day, and then open with regular hours on Thursday, Dec. 26.

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Word Search Corner

Getting Ready for Christmas

J Q D G R E I N D E E R T H K L M N Y T C
A O S D F V H J U T U I T R E E O P K J S
W R Y Q D V C F H N J K L U Y L L O J A R
G N H N M S K L U L U E S N E S D C N Q B
M A L B T Z N C E S X W I D F G H T T Y U
P M P A U K L O V G T A J N M H A I S W E
W E R R T Y N J W K R U H B V F R N E A L
B N E K L L K I U T N M J H B G V S E R F
T T S U I O C A N D Y C A N E G H E N M B
W S E H B N M H G Y J K L X D B R L N R H
Z C N V B R E W R S F G H J M N B V E E E
L K T O I U J G L I G H T S A C F X W T B
F G S G N I K C O T S H G B N M K L I N J
H J U K L M N B G T F T C D E S E T H I W
P D F G O H U Y T F R E M D E D O W G W T
L E R F H C V X G H K M O A R Y H F I E A
O S G X O F G H Y T V G H N S M K I E U Y
D W E R H O L L Y G Y H L G F V B K L L D S
U Q E D O G F V C X D F E O T E L T S I M
R E R F H H J K W R E A T H P O L K A G C

CANDY CANE
CHRISTMAS
ELF
HOHOHO
HOLLY
JOLLY
JOY
LIGHTS

MISTLETOE
NOEL
ORNAMENTS
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DEC. 16
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BRENNEN TOQUIAM
KEITH HOLMAN
DEVIN ZILM
WALLY WILKE
NORMA HENEFIELD
DEC. 17
MARIESA ROSSOV
JESSICA ALVES
JEAN PETERSON
TIM PIKRL
DOROTHY PETERSON
VIOLET LANE
HOLLY VOGT
DEC. 18
ERIN NAATZ
AMY DOERHOEFER
LAYLA COLEMAN
HENRY POST
KAYLIN WOLF
DEC. 19
AVA LEA
ELIJAH ADAMS

DEC. 20
KAY NOBLE
JARED SCHEWE
EASTON VALEK
JAS HOLLAND
DEC. 21
SAM ESPLAN
MICHELLE WALLACE
AMANDA SCHIEFERT
DEC. 22
SHARON LEA
LYNNAE NELSON
PAUL HEIMGARTNER
PAGE EDWARD NELSON
DOREEN BLOME
LISA ANDERSON

ANNIVERSARIES

DEC. 15
TODD & ERICA NELSON
DEC. 21
TOM & CHRIS BUTLER

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www.prcnaa.org

Recipe Corner

Mediterranean Beef Ragoût

Makes 8 servings

2 pounds trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1-inch cubes and patted dry

2 tablespoons olive oil, divided

2 onions, chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

2 tablespoons ground cumin (see note 2 below)

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 teaspoon grated lemon zest (optional)

1/2 teaspoon salt

12 teaspoon cracked black peppercorns

1 cup beef stock

1/2 cup dry red wine

1 14-ounce can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, including juice

2 bay leaves

2 roasted red bell peppers, thinly sliced, then cut into 1-inch pieces

1/2 cup sliced pitted green olives

1/2 cup finely chopped parsley leaves

1. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add beef, in batches, and cook, stirring, adding more oil as necessary, until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware as completed.

2. Reduce heat to medium. Add onions and garlic to pan and cook, stirring, until onions are softened, about 3 minutes. Add cumin, thyme, lemon zest, if using, salt, and peppercorns and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add beef stock, wine, tomatoes with juice, and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Add to slow cooker and stir well.

3. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours, until mixture is bubbly and beef is tender. Stir in roasted peppers, olives and parsley. Cover and cook on high for 15 minutes, until peppers are heated through. Discard bay leaves.

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PASTOR’S COLUMN



Pastor Paul Thompson
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WEST ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, HAYFIELD

The countdown to Christmas

Thirteen years ago, a concert musician, Barry Faldner, and Chip Altholz, a manager and promoter for musicians and actors, invented a device: a digital clock that does more than simply tell you the time. By imputing your age and gender, it will display the remaining amount of time you have to live, based on standard mortality tables, in hours, minutes, and seconds.

The idea came out of a fascination with Beethoven. Faldner

remembered reading a book in his youth about Beethoven, which described him, at the end of his life, being angry with God and saying, “I need more time! I need more time!” Faldner concluded that if a great musician like Beethoven needed more time on earth, then everyone must. So they came up with the idea – a clock that tells you, literally, how much time you have left to live.

This season of the year is one in which we pay much attention

to time. In many of our congregations we light candles on Advent Wreaths during the four weeks that lead up to Christmas, an additional candle each week until the whole wreath is lit. This serves two purposes: 1) it keeps us mindful of the arrival of the great feast of the incarnation of the Son of God at Christmas; and 2) it brings more light into a world which nights get longer and longer. Lighting candles doesn’t add days to our lives, but it hopefully focus-

es our thoughts more on doing the work God calls us to do.

This past year has been a challenge for those who farm among us. A late, wet Spring, and an early, wet Autumn have proven to be a bad combination. But still we light candles, knowing we hope in a God of grace who sees us through all troubles. Still we count the weeks until Christmas, knowing the in Christ, God really is with us.

In Jesus’ name

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

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

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Scott Jakel
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

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

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna
Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday

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

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
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BP bands perform Holiday tunes



PHOTOS BY DARRELL HANSEN
Three Blooming Prairie High School bands under the direction of Ross Reishus perform a Holiday Concert Dec. 12 in the high school gymnasium. Performing were the senior high band, junior high band and jazz band. Far left: Sam Pirk plays the conga drums during the senior high portion of the concert. Closest left: Lilly Wacek, an eighth grader, was decorated like a Christmas tree as she played the clarinet in the concert.

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United Way still needs \$100K

With Christmas right around the corner, the United Way of Steele County is nearing the end of its annual campaign and local nonprofit organizations are counting on the United Way to meet its fundraising goal.

Community members and local businesses have donated \$693,178 to date, but that is still a long way from the \$800,000 necessary to meet the growing need for services in 2020.

The UWSC funds 27 local programs that strengthen families, assist community members to meet their basic needs, increase access to healthcare and affordable prescription medications, give seniors and disabled resident the support they need to live independent lives and youth the tools the require to succeed.

“United Way is able to sustain a safety net of direct services in our community, and respond to crises as well as prepare our children for the future and help seniors to age in place because of the generosity of our community,” said Kim Schaufenbuel, United Way president. “Citizens and local businesses are heroes to the children, moms and dads, grandparents, and workers of Steele County aided through United Way programs.”

In 2018, 40% of Steele County residents seeking services needed help with basic needs: 4,110 needed food and clothing, 284 experienced housing insecurity, and 945 received help or advocacy for domestic violence or child abuse. An additional 2,669 children received safety and success services.

SEE UNITED WAY, B2



PASTOR SUE FROELICH

‘OK God, you have me’

Froelich takes over as interim pastor at Red Oak

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Assuming lots of pastoral-type duties at her rural, southeastern Wisconsin church gave Sue Froelich a desire to be a pastor.

“God kept working on me through other people to become a pastor,” Pastor Froelich says.

It was her 4-year old nephew who many years ago encouraged her to “go to Jesus school.” She did just that, going to seminary at Wartburg College in Dubuque, Iowa.

near Rome in southeastern Wisconsin. Rome is located, not in Italy, but half way between Milwaukee and Madison with less than 400 population.

After graduating from a consolidated school district, Jefferson High School, she attended Iowa State University in Ames and earned a bachelor’s degree in micro biology.

Her schooling led her to work with a Dairy Herd Improvement organization. She was part of a team who took milk samples after a 24-hour period to develop history on a dairy herd.

She worked on her family dairy farm at the same time, from the mid-1980s to 1997.

She also worked in a factory owned by Briggs & Stratton. She worked in the generator section. “I wasn’t enthralled with working in a factory,” Froelich confesses.

During her time at the factory, she took an opportunity to work at a farmers market.

She then also became very active in her church, serving as an organist, teaching Sunday School, teaching confirmation and serving on Altar Guild and Worship and Music committees.

That’s when her nephew, 4 years old at the time, urged her to go to Jesus school. Froelich also credits her pastor at her Wisconsin home church for convincing her to go to seminary

“The people are so friendly here.”

Pastor Sue Froelich
Interim Red Oak Pastor

“OK, God you have me now,” Froelich smiles widely with pride of choosing to become a Lutheran pastor.

Froelich is now interim pastor at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, located seven miles south of Blooming Prairie in Mower County.

She succeeds Pastor Lindsay Stolen. The Red Oak Grove Church Council is now working with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to determine which direction to go in selecting a pastor, either a full-time pastor or a sharing proposition.

Pastor Froelich grew up on a small dairy farm

SEE OK GOD, B2

A different Christmas

Our middle son, age 22, started the difficult group text conversation about our Christmas gathering with, “I think I’m opting out of gift this year, so don’t feel like you need to get me anything.” Our other son chimed in, with “I feel the same, quality time with everyone is all I want.”

I felt a sense of relief. Maybe this year we don’t have to worry about all the gift-giving. Not that it isn’t fun to give and receive gifts but the financial stress we are all feeling due to so many college expenses (three of our five children are currently in college) has made it very difficult to stay within a budget. Plus the stress of feeling like you need to find just the right things can sometimes supersede the immediate gratification of gifts.

Although our family decided to forgo or at least considerably cut back in the gifting department, I feel conflicted with this on an emotional level because it’s not the traditional Christmas our family is accustomed



Steele Talkin’
ANDREA MARSHALL

to. I counter my feelings with a sense of obligation to teach my adult children responsible spending and remind them that the true meaning of Christmas is the joy of all being together. I’m hopeful that our new version of Christmas will not be one of feeling unfortunate, but of having a better understanding of what it means for us as a family.

In place of presents, we are brainstorming ideas of fun activities we can do to spend our time together and truthfully it’s been a little stressful trying to come up with fun ideas much like it feels to try to get them the right gift! Although stress is a part of everyone’s life, the holidays seem to bring on special stressors. If your holidays are somehow changing due to life circumstances, know that you are not alone. Share your thoughts and feelings with others who can offer understanding and reassurance. No one’s holiday is perfect. Commercialism has impacted

SEE CHRISTMAS, B2

Future entrepreneurs



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Swarms of patrons circulate the stalls during St. Mary’s School’s small business fair held last Friday. During the fair, fourth graders sell homemade items to help raise money for a local charity of their choice.

St. Mary’s School holds small business fair

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It has become a tradition each year for St. Mary’s fourth graders to try their hand at small business. The young students are tasked with bringing homemade objects to the annual event, which raises money for charity.

“About 10 years ago, I went back to college to get my master’s degree with some other teachers from St. Mary’s. We had to choose a focus for our final action research project,” St. Mary’s social studies teacher Stacy Wobschall explained. “I wanted to bring my social studies curriculum more to life for the students.”

Wobschall devised a fun and engaging approach to help students learn more about small business. “So, during our unit on the Free Enterprise System, I decided to have the students actually create their own business and produce a product to sell,” she said.

Since its inception, the event continues to draw in crowds of fellow students and parents who are looking for some fun homemade gifts for the holiday season. “Each year it has gotten bigger and bigger and has been a great learning activity in business and service,” Wobshall said. “We donate all of the money to area organizations of the students’ choice.”

“I love to see the creativity in the students’ products. I think when they attend the fair as a younger student, they already have their brains thinking about what they will do,” she said of what she enjoys most about each year’s fair. “I think they enjoy the actual day of the sale when they get to sell their items and make people happy.”

This year’s sale was held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at St. Mary’s School in Owatonna. During the sale, the young entrepreneurs were busy making sales pitches to prospective buyers and checking out their peers’ wares.

“My favorite part is getting to make money,” St. Mary’s fourth grader Heidi said. “Then our class is going to decide on a charity to donate it to.” Heidi was selling handmade stickers using a process she learned from her older sister. But she also got to do some holiday shopping for her friends and family, saying, “I’m excited to give them out.”

The small business fair teaches young students about economics while also promoting the importance of giving back. “They learn about producers and consumers. We discuss what it takes to make a profit, and supply and demand,” Wobschall said. “They get to take ownership of what they make and sell and they are very proud of themselves.”



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

St. Mary’s fourth grader Heidi with some of her homemade stickers. She was selling the stickers during last Friday’s small business fair, which helped raise money for a local charity that will be chosen by the students.

“It is also a lesson in service as 100% of the money will get donated to organizations of their choice,” she continued. “They all know we are very blessed and there are many people who are less fortunate and could use the helping hand!”

Each year the students continue to impress Wobschall and the other teachers with their fun and creative items. “Every student’s product is special. I have had everything from homemade apple fruit roll ups to doggie treats to jewelry to bath bombs to slime to Christmas ornaments,” Wobschall said. “There have been hundreds of great products created by fourth graders over the years.”

“The consumers are as excited as the producers and everyone enjoys the sale. The producers will be wearing their Santa hats and selling their wares

as we have renamed the actual fair ‘Santa’s Workshop.’ Many of the items that the kids make are great gifts for others,” she said. “Often, the students are buying gifts for their family members, which is so neat to see. I am looking forward to the actual sale and the excitement on the students’ faces.”

With a heavy turnout, Wobschall expected that this year might just break their record. “The first year we held it we made \$200, but last year we came close to \$1,000,” she said. “Next week, the students will decide which charity to donate it to.”

After all the sales were tallied, this year’s sale reached a total of \$1,078.57. Thanks to all the hard work and dedication from these young tycoons, a local charity’s holiday season will look a lot brighter this year.

Municipal liquor no more in Ellendale

City finally unloads ailing liquor store

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A collective sigh of relief is setting in with city leaders in Ellendale after the city finally unloaded what had become a financial burden to the city.

After being on the market for several years, Ellendale is finally getting out of the liquor business as it sold its municipal liquor store. The store has been city-owned since the early 1970s.

On Dec. 2, Rosemary Goedtel of Hills, Minn., purchased the liquor store for \$75,000 plus an addi-

tional \$19,220 for liquor inventory. Goedtel’s brother, Ralph Diaz, has managed the liquor store for the past several years. With the sale, the name of the liquor store has changed to 5th Avenue Bar & Grill.

Though the sale price ended up being far lower than the original asking price of \$295,000, city officials are glad to be out of the liquor business. “It was an albatross for us,” said Stephanie Kibler, city council member. “I’m very pleased that we have a private owner. We are thrilled Ralph has it,” she added.

City clerk Tiffany Krueger said the liquor store has shown only two years (2013 and 2014) of profits over the past nine years. The store has lost as much as \$60,000 a year, she noted.

According to the most recent Minnesota State Auditor’s report just released within the past two weeks, the Ellendale Liquor Store showed a \$22,482 loss for the 2018 fiscal year.

In dealing with continued losses at the store, the city has transferred money in from the general fund to keep the liquor store operating, according to Krueger. “The liquor store

is great if you can earn a profit,” she said, “but if you don’t, you can see it’s a major burden.”

Even though the city couldn’t get it to make a profit in recent years, it wasn’t from a lack of effort. The city made valiant efforts to turn a profit with the liquor store in recent years, Krueger said. About seven years ago, a kitchen was added to serve food.

Kibler said the biggest struggle Ellendale faced with the liquor store was PERA contributions as well as pay equity. PERA is a

SEE MUNICIPAL LIQUOR, B2

Arndt elected to 761 Foundation Board

The 761 Foundation Board recently elected Lucas Arndt to serve a three-year term on its board of directors.

The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that administers scholarships and funds educational opportunities and programs in Steele County not usually supported by tax dollars

A 2016 graduate of Owatonna High School (OHS), Arndt recently graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. He returned to Owatonna to work for the Farm Service Agency, with a future goal of taking over the family farm.

While at OHS, Arndt was on the student council, an offensive lineman for the Huskies' football team, a choir member and a theater student. In college, he had a part-time job on campus, sang in the Minnesota State University Chorale, served as CEO of Q2O company in the Integrated Business Experience Program, and was the vice president and chair of the Student Events Team where he helped plan more than 85 events each year



Lucas Arndt

Other 761 Foundation Board members include: Bruce Paulson, Jan Mittelstadt Tippet, Mary Larson, Greg Stroik, Mark Dietz, Samona Grubish, Paul Knutson, Mark Sebring, George Dow, Charlie Herrmann, Barbara Judd and Sara McKay.

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

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

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On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Proper tillage warms and dries the soil, assists with weed control, incorporates fertilizer, and breaks up compacted layers. Unfortunately, tillage also breaks apart soil aggregates which results in smaller-sized particles prone to a whole host of issues. These issues include soil erosion, soil surface crusting, hard pans, water quality issues, and a decrease in soil organic matter over time. Despite being aware of the potential issues tillage may cause, some row crop farmers are concerned about yield reductions due to cool and wet soil conditions, preventing them from adopting reduced-tillage.

But, advantages of less frequent and/or aggressive tillage to the crop producer can include better

Multi-state, multi-year research project reveals multiple benefits of reduced tillage

economics, less wear and tear on equipment, improved biological populations and diversity in the soil, and better water holding capacity of the soil. Fortunately, there has been an increase in tillage options over the past 25 years; there are different configurations of shanks, disks, and shovels that till the soil at different depths and aggressiveness levels. This gives farmers more options to address their various concerns about both crop yield and soil health.

In spite of the multiple potential benefits, there is often some concern that reducing tillage will affect crop yield. To address that concern and explore the effects of various tillage practices, a four year, multi-state effort involving University of Minnesota Extension, North Dakota State University, and the Minnesota and North Dakota Corn and Soybean associations evaluated

which tillage practices maximized early-season soil warming and crop yields while simultaneously improving soil health.

The farms in this study ranged in soil series with sandy, loamy, and clayey textures, providing local farmers with a realistic picture of low-tillage impacts on their own acreage. Full scale equipment was used in farmers' fields.

The tillage systems included:

1. Chisel plow
2. Vertical tillage
3. Strip till with shank
4. Strip till with coulters

As far as moisture and temperature, the researchers found that the chisel plow and strip-till treatments consistently had the driest and warmest soil conditions. These were followed by strip-till and vertical till. Those conditions were tested in spring and early summer.

Interestingly, trends in soil moisture and temperatures did not correspond to

any differences in soybean or corn plant populations, growth, or yields. Soybean yield was not affected by tillage at any of the farms during the four growing seasons, except for one farm during one year. At that farm, both strip till treatments yielded more, on average, than the chisel plowing and vertical till. Yield difference trends were observed in corn in some years, but these differences were not consistent. There were no trends year-to-year, farm-to-farm, or among the tillage practices.

The research shows that crop producers can do less tillage and leave more residue on the soil surface, while still maintaining their crop yields.

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

OK GOD: you have me FROM B1

at Wartburg. He was an alumni of Wartburg.

Her seminary schooling spanned a time frame from 2006 until 2010 when she graduated.

Her first pastoral call came from Calvary Lutheran Church of Rapidan, Minn., located just south of Mankato. She accepted and served this rural church of 250 for just over six years.

Froelich then took a year leave, after which she accepted the interim call in October from Red Oak Grove. She will not be a candidate for the next pastoral position at Red Oak, she says.

Froelich said she loves the people of the Red Oak Grove community. "The people are so friendly here," she says. She

recently delivered the Thanksgiving message at an ecumenical church service held prior to Thanksgiving at First Lutheran Church in Bloomington Prairie.

She currently resides in Good Thunder, south of Mankato near Mapleton.

When not assuming pastoral duties, Froelich tries to find time to read and do jigsaw puzzles. "I like murder mysteries," she says.

Froelich also loves to cook, making bread, soups and chili. "I learned to make pies, cakes, breads and cookies from scratch and that comes from my German heritage, she admits.

If desiring a church visit, she encourages people to call the church office at 507-583-2038.

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FROM B1

state retirement fund for city workers. She noted employees at the liquor store were among the highest paid in the area. Bartenders, for example, were paid between \$11-\$15 per hour. "Right there (PERA and pay equity combined) is a chunk of cash that goes out," she said.

Despite the dilemmas the city had in turning a profit, Kibler is confident the business can do well. "It can be successful with a private owner," she said.

There were as many as 10 staff members on the city's liquor payroll, Kibler said. She added all the employees have stayed on under the new ownership.

Krueger said the city hasn't decided yet what to do with the proceeds from the sale. For now, the mon-

ey will remain in the liquor account. She expects it will remain there until at least next June at which time a final audit will be completed on the liquor store. "I don't think there is a rush," she said. "We don't need to be in a hurry to spend it."

Kibler agreed there is no hurry to spend the proceeds. She said a few ideas have been kicked around, but nothing has been decided.

She pointed out that because the city was constantly funneling money into the liquor store, other areas within the city like parks went without upgrades in recent years.

Added Krueger, "We want to make sure decisions are well thought out. We want to wait until there is a need instead of a want."

UNITED WAY FROM B1

Over 1,789 senior citizens received meals or help needed to stay at home.

United Way of Steele County is the only organization providing funding for direct human services to local nonprofit organizations. Agencies with programs being funded in 2020 are: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota, Blooming Prairie Youth

Club, Cedar Valley Services, Children's Remedial Fund, Crisis Resource Center, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Free Clinic of Steele County, Healthy Seniors, Let's Smile, SEMCAC, South Central Human Relations Center, SMRLS – Southern MN Regional Legal Services, Steele County Food Shelf, Steele County Clothesline,

Steele County Transitional Housing and Workforce Development, Inc.

Additionally, special programming partners include: Tiger Club of the Medford School District for Afterschool Care Scholarships, Steele County Clothesline for Boots to Work, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity for Incent to Save, and SMART for Preschool Transportation.

The mission of the

United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. This year's goal of \$800,000.00 will fund 273 critically needed programs operated by local nonprofit agencies. To make a contribution go to www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org, mail a check or pledge to United Way, 1850 Austin Rd, Ste. 103, Owatonna, MN 55060, or text UWSC to 40403.

A DIFFERENT: Christmas FROM B1

how we perceive holiday celebrations should be and reality reminds us that it is relationships that are most important.

The Mayo Clinic offers these 10 suggestions for helping us all deal with the inevitable stress that comes with the holidays:

Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close

to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.

Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. They can offer support and companionship. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.

Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if your adult children can't come to your house, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos.

Set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.

Stick to a budget.

Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend. Then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts.

Try these alternatives:

- Donate to a charity in someone's name.
- Give homemade gifts.
- Start a family gift exchange.

Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list. That'll help prevent last-minute scrambling to buy forgotten ingredients. And make sure to line up help for party prep and cleanup.

Learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity. If it's not possible to say no when your boss asks you to work overtime, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.

Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt.

Try these suggestions:

- Have a healthy snack before holiday parties so that you don't go overboard on sweets, cheese or drinks.

- Get plenty of sleep.

• Incorporate regular physical activity into each day.

Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm. Some options may include:

- Taking a walk at night and stargazing.
- Listening to soothing music.
- Getting a massage.
- Reading a book.
- **Seek professional help if you need it.** Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, plagued by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, and unable to face routine chores. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or mental health professional.

Steele County Public Health wishes each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

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NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Nicholas Cross. He is the son of Bob and Ann Cross-Reich and they reside in New Richland. He is in Mr. Fischer's fifth grade class.

Nicholas is always showing Panther Pride. He's especially noticed for his kindness towards his peers and his respect. He works very hard in class and wants to do his best.

A fun fact about Nicholas is that he loves spicy food. Keep up the great work Nicholas!

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

DEC. 18
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,
BP Library
5 p.m. – Business After
Hours, F&M Bank

DEC. 25
City Offices Closed–
Merry Christmas!

DEC. 28
6-11 p.m.- Third Annual
Cornhole Tournament-
Servicemen's Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

DEC. 18
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

DEC. 19
5 p.m.- Steele County
Board Meeting

DEC. 20
11 a.m.-5 p.m.- Red
Cross Blood Drive at Hy-
Vee, Owatonna

DEC. 21 & DEC. 28
7-10 p.m.- I'll be
Homicidal for Christmas-
Owatonna Country Club

DEC. 22
9 a.m.- Orchestra
Worship at Associated
Church, Owatonna

DEC. 25
City Offices Closed–
Merry Christmas!

DEC. 26
4:15 p.m.- Cycling at
Owatonna Fitness

DEC. 28
9 p.m.- Arena ROCKS at
Reggie's Brewhouse

DEC. 31
5-8 p.m.- New Year's Eve
Dinner- Owatonna Country
Club
6-8 p.m.- New Year's Eve
Pajama Party- Associated
Church, Owatonna

Driver discount
program offered in BP

The Minnesota Highway Safety Center will be offering a 55+ Driver Discount course on Monday, Jan. 27. The 4-hour refresher course will take place from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie City Center, 138 Hwy. Ave. S. Courses are also available online at www.mnsafetycenter.org. This class will save you up to 10% on your auto insurance. Completion of an

8-hour course qualifies for the discount. To maintain the discount, you must complete a four-hour refresher every three years. A Minnesota Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor will update you on defensive-driving tips, changes in laws, vehicle technology and traffic safety. The cost of the refresher course is \$22. For more information, call 888-234-1294.

Dairy farmers
invited to
Winter
Dairy Series
meeting

University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Dairy Initiative, Minnesota Milk, and Midwest Dairy Association will host a free, dairy-focused educational event in Montgomery. Dairy producers throughout Southern Minnesota are invited to attend. This combined meeting and educational seminar will start at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 20, at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79, 102 Elm Ave. SW, Montgomery. The event includes a free lunch and will run until 3:30 p.m. Consumers are demanding more information about how their food is produced. Their concerns about the effects of eating certain foods can have real power over farmers and businesses' bottom lines. As a result, dairy producers must be ready to field questions about their farm's environmental sustainability and discuss how they are striving to improve their operation. Dr.

Erin Cortus, professor and University of Minnesota Extension Specialist in Biosystems Engineering will present "Calculating and Communicating Carbon Footprints in the Dairy Industry." "A carbon footprint is one of the many ways we can describe environmental stewardship to the public," Dr. Cortus said. "In the future, carbon footprints or similar metrics will increasingly be used in supply chains as well as product marketing." This talk is designed to assist dairy farmers in communicating their operation's environmental impact to dairy consumers. Attendants will also have the opportunity to participate in the Midwest Dairy Association District 15 and Minnesota Milk's promotion updates after the carbon footprint presentation. This free event is also an opportunity for camaraderie and informal learning among dairy producers.

2018 Farm
Bill crops
education
meetings
underway

Starting this month, the Farm Service Agency and University of Minnesota Extension will begin a series of free education meetings to help crop producers understand decisions regarding the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization of ARC and PLC programs. The seminars are offered all across the state, being held in 46 different counties and will be led by Extension educators and FSA; no registration is required. Details are available at z.umn.edu/2018FarmBill. There will be a meeting held in Owatonna at the Steele County Community Center (1380 S. Elm Ave.) on Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The ARC Program is an income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. The PLC Program provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. All farm producers with interest in cropland must make a farm program election by March 15. This election will apply to the farm for 2019 and 2020. Crops grown in Minnesota that are covered by this program include: corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, canola, sunflowers, oats, sorghum, lentils, dry peas, garbanzo beans, and flax. "This program offers different options to help producers mitigate risk, but the choice of which program to enroll in can be difficult due to the complexity of it," said Kevin Klair, University of Minnesota Extension economist and program leader at the Center for Farm Financial Management at the university. "We encourage producers to attend an educational meeting and to use the national decision aid tools to run scenarios for their farm." Producers will need to communicate with landowners on program decisions, Klair added. For instance, yield updates are landowner decisions, while other program decisions are made by the farm operator. Those who are interested in learning more but are unable to attend an in person meeting are encouraged to view online presentations at farmbill.umn.edu. More information from Extension on the Farm Bill and events is available at <https://extension.umn.edu/business/abm-events>. For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA service center or visit farmers.gov/recover.

Gift wrap fundraiser for
Habitat in Rochester

Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity is ready to make your Christmas shopping experience easier while helping efforts to serve those in need. After shoppers make their purchases in the Apache Mall in Rochester, Habitat for Humanity volunteers will wrap the gifts. If you bought gifts from another location, you can also bring them in for gift wrapping. Look for Habitat's gift wrapping tables by Macy's at the Apache Mall. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Dec. 23 and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 24. "We would like to thank the generosity of the Apache Mall for donating the space, the volunteers working the

booth and the contributions of our wonderful sponsors," said Ken Quattrin of Habitat for Humanity. "All of your donations will go directly toward building strength, stability and self-reliance for local families." Two Rivers serves families throughout Dodge, Steele, Olmsted, Wabasha and Waseca counties.

Blood is key to saving lives,
donors wanted

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. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give blood and be the life-line 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. Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 20-31:

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. 23: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1701 4th St. NW

Steele
Owatonna
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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Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Third annual Coyotes Fun Cancer fundraiser on Jan. 4



Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, thanks Coyotes "Fur" Cancer fundraiser organizers Elliott Herdina and Craig Anderson. The second annual event last year raised over \$25,000. The third annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer event is planned for Saturday, Jan. 4. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will again be the beneficiary of a very special fundraising event called Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer. The third annual event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4 with hunters going into the field during the day and ending up at the Cue Company in Blooming Prairie at about 6 p.m. The hunters then pose for a group photo with the results of the hunt. Hunters will gather at the Cue Company to enjoy a chili and soup feed plus participating in raffles and auctions for a cost of only \$20. The event is open to the public. Last year's event, the second annual, raised over \$25,000. The first-time event brought in over \$16,000. Monies from the fundraiser are earned from raffles, auctions and general donations. Most of the prizes are donated. Elliott Herdina and Craig Anderson are co-chairs of this unique fundraising event. "It's just amazing and we are so thankful what the group did the first two years," said Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group. "We are anxious to see what this year's event will do," she added. This year's first prize on a raffle ticket will be a Tikka T3x223 rifle. Second prize will be a Savage Axis II XP Snow Camo .22-250. Third prize will be a Ruger Precision Rifle, .17 HMR. Some auction items will include: • Hunt for 4 hunters in the fall of 2020 on Tom Butler's property (this is the same land where the governor hunted) • One-day fishing with Brett King • Michael Kors purse • REAL Cuban cigars Anderson and Herdina agreed that this event brings people and communities closer together. "People are so generous," Anderson and Herdina concur. Nine pelts were turned in at the close of the second annual hunt at The Cue Company. Lack of snow made it more difficult for hunters last year. On the first year's hunt, 20 pelts were brought in. The day-long event last year drew more than 200 hunters and sportsmen. Follow Coyotes Fun Cancer on Facebook for all of the updates. Coyotes for Cancer clothing is also available. Contact Gail Anderson for orders and information, at 507-461-0145. T-shirts are available for \$15, hats for \$20 and special jackets are available for \$35. The apparel was created by Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch and by Tyler Kruckeberg of KIK Graphics.

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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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Nirk and Archer's performances bring momentum to Westfield wrestlers

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Westfield Razorbacks got off to a good start at the Dave Scharberg Memorial Invite on Saturday, Dec. 14, but eventually they settled for third place after dropping their last two matches.

Despite the 1-2 record, Head Coach Shane Masching said his team had a good day overall.

“Our team looked very good today. I feel like our conditioning is good and our younger kids are stepping up their game,” he said.

In addition to the younger kids stepping up, he was pleased with how his whole team performed against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown/Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (WEM/JWP).

“Our match against Waterville was very physical. We pinned where we needed to,” he said. “They were doing the little things right during the matches.”

However, against their last two opponents, it was more difficult for the Razorbacks to succeed, especially since some of the youngest wrestlers didn’t compete.

“Against Byron and Dover-Eyota, we were wrestling underclassmen, especially when we wrestled Dover. We sat three kids [who wrestle at] 106, 113, and 120. We have seventh-graders there. They stepped up and did a great job when we thought it was appropriate to wrestle them against Byron when their opponent was the same age or close,” he said.

While the Razorbacks didn’t have the team success they were hoping for, Masching mentioned there were a couple individual Westfield wrestlers who had undefeated days.

“We had two kids go 3-0 during the day, Tyler Archer and Dylan Nirk,” he said. “Also, we had a seventh-grader, Hunter Simonson, get a pin for us at 106. [It was] great momentum for our team.”

On the other hand, he said there’s plenty of room for improvement.

“We need to do a better job getting out on the bottom. We have a lot of time, it’s early yet,” Masching said. “Overall, I believe we had a lot of things go right and I’m proud of the team. I preach to them that it is all about doing the little things right!”

The Razorbacks next opportunity to do the little things right is when they travel to Rochester for a tournament at Rochester Community and Technical College at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20.

Westfield 42, WEM/JWP 31: 106 – Hunter Simonson (BP) won by forfeit open 6-0. 113 – Lucas Morsching (WEM) pinned Breanna Subbert 2-7/2:37. 120 – Bo Zweiner (BP) dec. Gavin Krause 4-2. 126



Razorback wrestler Tyler Archer, bottom, gets Byron’s Will Wharton up in the air during his match last Saturday. Archer won via decision, 7-2.

– Lane Lembke (BP) won by forfeit open 6-0. 132 – Keegan Bronson (BP) pinned Cody Codwin 2-0/1:19. 138 – Tucker Rients (WEM) won by forfeit open 0-6. 145 – Jack Cahill (WEM) dec. Sam Skillestad 5-10. 152 – Kurtis Crosby (WEM) maj. dec. Cody Nirk 1-12. 160 – Ethan Rider (WEM) pinned Bradley Simon 0-2/1:25. 170 – Tyler Archer (BP) dec. Ted Carlson 6-1. 182 – Dylan Enmke (BP) pinned Zeke Peterson 4-1/1:59. 195 – Sam Carlson (WEM) won by forfeit open 0-6. 220 – Colton Krell (BP) pinned Jaden Taylor 7-1/2:59. 285 – Dylan Nirk (BP) pinned Mike Sheehy 2-0/1:46.

Dover-Eyota 51, Westfield 23: 106 – Bolton Thesing (DE) won by forfeit open 0-6. 113 – Bolton Thesing (DE) won by forfeit open 0-6. 120 – Landon Lehnertz (De) won by forfeit open 0-6. 126 – Lane Lembke (BP) maj. dec. Jackson Welsh 16-1. 132 – Gavin Gust (DE) won by forfeit open 0-6. 138 – Treyton Thesing (DE) dec. Keegan Bronson 0-5. 145 – Taylor DeFrang (DE) pinned Sam Skillestad 0-2/0:56. 152 – Aidan Gasper (DE) pinned Bradley Simon 3-6/3:45. 160 – Tyler Archer (BP) pinned Tyler Mix 4-0/3:32. 170 – Tyler Shea (DE) pinned Matthew Pryor 0-5/2:59. 182 – Gavin Dabelstein (DE) pinned Dylan Ehmke 0-1/3:49. 220 – Colton Krell (BP) pinned Reece Lemke 6-1/1:03. 285 – Dylan Nirk (BP) pinned Spencer Welsh 2-0/1:51.

Byron 54, Westfield 27: 106 – Hunter Simonson (BP) pinned Austin Langworthy 0-2/1:10. 113 – Gavin Bartel (B) pinned Breanna Subbert 2-0/0:35. 120 – Jake Thompson (B) won by forfeit open 6-0. 126 – Maxwell Petersen (B) pinned



Westfield’s Lane Lembke controls the lower body of Dover-Eyota’s Jackson Welsh. Lembke won by major decision, 16-1.

Lane Lembke 14-3/2:36. 132 – Keegan Bronson (BP) pinned Eli Haight 0-2/3:48. 138 – Parker Kline (B) won by forfeit open 6-0. 145 – Seth Haight (B) pinned Sam Skillestad 6-2/3:32. 152 – Wyatt Nemecheck (B) pinned Bradley Simon 4-2/3:13. 160 – Tyler Archer (BP) dec. Will Wharton 2-7. 170 – Kyle Stahler (B) pinned Matthew Pryor 2-0/0:23. 182 – Dylan Ehmke (BP) pinned Kaleb Kraetsch 0-2/0:23. 195 – Beau Lorenton (B) won by forfeit open 0-6. 220 – Vicente Deleon (B) dec. Colton Krell 13-12. 285 – Dylan Nirk (BP) pinned Carter Geerts 0-2/0:23.

Lopsided victories kick off BP boys season

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

There was nothing wrong with the offense, but Coach Nate Piller gave a lot of credit to the defense in a rout over NRHEG on the home court. The Awesome Blossoms defeated the Panthers 75-25 on Friday, Dec. 13.

Blooming Prairie held the visitors to just 10 points in the first half. BP led at the break 42-10.

“The boys played pretty well,” commented Piller, “especially in the first half. We were aggressive on both ends of the floor against an NRHEG team trying to get healthy from some crucial injuries.”

The Blossoms had three players reach double figures, with Kaden Thomas leading the way. Thomas counted 20 points, including 3 treys, and Zach Archer and Gabe Hagen both added 14 points. Twelve players scored in the contest.

“We do have to work on free throws,” concluded Piller. “We would hate to see a game depend on free throws, if the team wasn’t shooting much more than 50%. It was good to have

Hagen back after his stint with the South team in the All-Star football game. We are off to a good start, and the goal now is to keep it going.”

Opener win
“Without a great deal of practice,” remarked Coach Piller, “I didn’t know what to expect, but the boys took over in good shape.” The Blossoms 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 trouble 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 Vigeland contributed 11 points, and Drew Kittelson added 9. Keck Robb led the Cardinals with 15 points, and J.J. Malecha added 9.

BP girls continue unbeaten season

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

It is still early in the season, but the Awesome Blossom girls are beginning to think they may have something special. The team earned number four without a loss in convincing fashion 65-46 at New Richland Friday Dec. 13.

Defense got a lot of credit for the win, although the offense gave a good performance.

“We won a big conference game in convincing fashion tonight,” remarked Coach John Bruns. “We were able to make them take tough shots all night, and we kept them out of their fast break game. Offensively, we got big contributions from several players at big moments.”

Megan Oswald led the scoring with 25 points, and Julia Worke and Bobbie Bruns counted 13 and 11 respectively. Allison Krohnberg had a big first half, scoring 8 points, including two treys. Sidney Schultz and Teagan Sutter had 11 and 10 points for the Panthers. “Overall, it was a great team win for the Blossoms who are 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the conference,” concluded Bruns.

Both the BP JV team and the C team lost to NRHEG in the prelims. The JV team fell to the Panthers 45-25, after falling behind 26-12 at the half. NRHEG really moved the ball well,” commented Coach Cory Hendrickson, “and we got out of position often. They also played really tough defense.”

The C team dropped close contest 34-33 to drop its record

to 1-1. The JV team fell to 3-1. Anna Kittelson scored 8 points and Shawntee Snyder 6 in the JV game, and Snyder and Hannah Hammersma both had 12 points in the C games.

BP notches third

A fast start enabled the Awesome Blossom girls to notch win number 3 at Maple River Tuesday, Dec. 10. The Blossoms built a 34-9 edge before the Eagles got untracked and ended the half on a 9-2 run.

Play got a little ragged in the second half, but the locals were able to control the game and never let MR closer than 10 points. Worke and Bobbie Bruns combined for 19 first half points, and then Megan Oswald carried the team with 12 points in the second half.

“We jumped to an early lead,” commented Coach Bruns, and held it until just before the half when Maple River outscored the locals 9-2. “We controlled the second half and never let the home team get closer than 10 points.”

Oswald led all scorers in the game with 16 points, but Julia Worke had 14, and Bobbie Bruns added 9. Claire McGregor counted 13 for MR The Blossoms made 5 treys to 0 for the Eagles and made 10 of 12 free throws in the game. BP led 36-18 at the break.

The JV team also stayed unbeaten with a nail-biting 30-29 victory over the Eagles. Anna Pauly had 11 points for the Blossoms and Emily miller and Macy Lembke added 6 and 5 points respectively.

Going strong

It is still early in the season, but the Awesome Blossoms girls have won their first four games without a loss, and the team is starting to believe that this may be a special season. Three of their wins have been conference victories, and both defense and offense have been strong.

Megan Oswald, Julia Worke, and Bobbie Bruns have given the team three good scorers, and a supporting cast of defenders highlight every game. A tip of the hat this week goes to the Blossom girls.

The varsity boys also are unbeaten in two games, but they are barely started because of the championship run from the football team. Kaden Thomas has been the scoring leader in the two games played, and now with Gabe Hagen back from the football All-Star game, things should get even more interesting.

Wrestling is also behind in getting its season going, but the grapplers should be getting up to speed soon. All three sports for the winter schedule pose interesting and, hopefully, successful seasons. We are enthused about the teams.

Still Fall

I was most surprised the other day, when I looked at a seasonal calendar and discovered that we are still in the fall season. Actual winter doesn’t begin until Dec. 21, and there are still several days before that time. It just goes to prove that one can’t really withstand the weather by following a calendar. That did remind me that we are another week closer to Christmas and the celebration over the birth of the Christ child.

Christmas Memories

I have several memories of past Christmases, and I will share a couple of them with you in the next two weeks. One activity that always thrilled me when a young lad growing up in rural South Dakota centered around our usual trip to my grandfather’s for Christmas Day festivities.

We had an Oldsmobile coupe with a rumble seat that we usually drove the three miles, but as you old-timers know, winter snowfalls in those days (the early 40s) sometimes prohibited car travel around Christmas time.

Grandpa had a team of horses that he would hook up to an old-fashioned sleigh and come the three miles to pick us up and bring us out to the farm. One such trip that remains clear in my mind even today necessitated the trip by sleigh. The problem popped up, when this particular year dumped so much snow that roads were entirely impassable, and even travel by sleigh posed a real problem. My memory of this occasion remains clear because the huge snowdrifts didn’t bother grandpa.

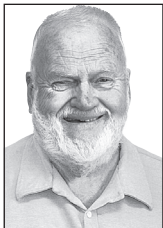
He piled us in the sleigh and off we went to the farm. He didn’t bother looking for roads, however, and just reined that team of horses cross-country out to the farm. Fences didn’t bother him, either, as we just sleighed right over fence lines and the huge piles of snow. That is quite a memory, and would guess that modern families cannot believe such conditions ever existed. But they did.

Roads have been raised over the years, and snowplow equipment much improved, but there is no question but that we don’t have nearly as much snow in a year as we did years ago. Sure, there is that anomaly of a major snowfall occasionally, but it pales in comparison to those of years ago. I was just a lad in the 40s, but I still remember building snow forts up to 10 feet in height and having snowball fights with my friends.

My dad drove a Standard Oil bulk truck for nearly 30 years, and there were times in the winter when his truck traveled on roads where the banks of snow towered higher than his truck. And with only push plows to clean the roads of the piled snow, it was sometimes three or four days before roads were passable. My, how times and Mother Nature have changed.

Christmas Drawings Near

One week from now, Christmas Eve will be here, and everyone will be preparing to celebrate that most holy day. Does it seem to you as if people have suddenly become cheerier and happier to walk the streets and greet neighbors and friends. I wish the mood I feel and the smiles I see could last the whole year through, but I guess I should be satisfied at what I get. Enjoy the days leading up to Christmas, and we’ll talk again.



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

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

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: April 27, 2018 MORTGAGOR: Raul Padilla, a single person MORTGAGEE: Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, a credit union organized under the

laws of the United States of America
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: recorded on April 30, 2018, as Document No. A000417987, in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Steele County, Minnesota.
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: None
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: N/A
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 835 Mineral Springs Road, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 17-195-0105
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 5, in Plotz's 1st Addition, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$104,000.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$106,761.20
INTEREST RATE AND PER DIEM: Current interest rate is 4.50%, with a per diem of \$12.62.
That prior to commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 2, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Steele County Law Enforcement, Center, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor, their personal representatives or assigns.
DATE AND TIME MORTGAGOR MUST VACATE THE PREMISES: 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 July 2, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.

“THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE (5) 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.”

Dated: November 8, 2019

MESSERLI & KRAMER P.A.

By:/s/ Michelle R. Jester

Michelle R. Jester (Lic. #247479)
1400 Fifth Street Towers
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1217
(612) 672-3600

Attorney in Fact for
Affinity Plus Federal
Credit Union
15845-954

IMPORTANT NOTICE
This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

11/13, 11/20, 11/27
12/4, 12/11, 12/18

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-CV-19-2244
Case Type: OTHER CIVIL
(REFORMATION OF INSTRUMENT/ QUIET TITLE)

Aaron Alan Armstrong and Alvin Jay Armstrong as Trustees of the Charles J. Armstrong Living Trust dated November 4, 2015,

Plaintiff,

v.

Charles S. Armstrong, Mary C. Armstrong, The Trustee(s) of the Charles S. Armstrong and Mary C. Armstrong Revocable Living Trust, Michael J. Schema, Gary E. Steffen, The Trustee(s) of the Susan

J. Anderson Trust Agreement dated January 24, 2000, Springer Family Limited Partnership, Jerome D. Kern, Lorinda M. Kern, Richard H. Hanson, Carol A. Kensy, Brian C. Aase, John McCool, also known as John B. McCool, Scott P. Kasper, Dawn C. Kasper, and also, all other persons or entities unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien, in the real estate described in the complaint herein, including the heirs at law, and legatees and devisees of any of the foregoing defendants who are deceased or dissolved, Defendants.

SUMMONS

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS.

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you.

The original Plaintiff's Complaint is on file at the office of the Court Administrator of the above named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at the following address:

Law Office of
Shawn Vogt Sween LLC
Shawn Vogt Sween,
Attorney at Law
104 Main Street
Grand Meadow, MN 55936

3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not answer within 20 days, you will lose

this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.
7. THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY located in Steele County, State of Minnesota, legally described on the attached Exhibit A. The object of this action is to determine that the defendants have no right, title, estate, interest, or lien in or on the above described real estate.

8. 557.03 NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 557.03 you are hereby served with notice that no personal claim is made against you and that any defendant upon whom this notice is served who unreasonably defends this action shall pay full costs to the plaintiff.

LAW OFFICE OF SHAWN
VOGT SWEEN, LLC

Dated:

Shawn Vogt Sween
MN# 0387368
104 Main St S
Grand Meadow, MN 55936
Telephone: 507-754-4555
Facsimile: 507-754-4554
e-mail: shawn@svslawoffice.com

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
The Southeast Quarter of Section 14 and the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23, all in Township 108 North, Range 19 West, Steele County, Minnesota.

12/18, 12/25, 1/1

Э	Х	У	Н	В		У	Н	И		Н	У	Э	А
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CLUES ACROSS

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55		56					57					58	59
60							61				62		63
64							65				66		
67							68				69		

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Islamic prayer leaders
 6. Waterproof raincoat
 9. Millisecond
 13. Popular pie nut
 14. A field of mowed grass
 15. RCO organic group
 16. Pomace brandy
 17. The innermost parts
 18. Gull suborder
 19. Became more intense
 21. Sound absorption unit
 22. Rattling breaths
 23. Indicates doctor
 24. For instance
 25. A doctrine or system
 28. Foot (Latin)
 29. Dirt shoulder
 31. Horn sound
 33. Mumbai film industry
 37. Disturbance
 39. Zedong or Tse-tung
 40. Cibi river city
 42. Kate's sister Pippa
 45. Twitches
 46. Formal close (music)
 47. A baglike structure

49. Lease
50. Typographical space
52. Pa's partner
53. King mackerels
55. Ceremonial staffs
57. About money
60. Spoiled child
61. Infants
62. Semitic fertility god
64. ___ Frank's diary
65. Reimbursed
66. English pennies
67. 365 days
68. G. Gershwin's brother
69. Stopping device

- CLUES DOWN
1. Inches per minute (abbr.)
 2. Medieval honey drink
 3. Land area unit
 4. One who carries #55 across
 5. Tin
 6. Adult female horses
 7. Overwhelmed with wonder
 8. Brain and spinal cord

- (abbr.)
9. Inept
 10. One who replaces a striker
 11. Any habitation at a high altitude
 12. Hold fast to
 14. Sad from being alone
 17. Slang for famous person
 20. Soft infant food
 21. Small mergan-sers
 25. Big Blue
 26. Appear to be
 27. Greek verse intended to be sung
 29. Next to
 30. Flying Pegasus corp.
 32. Records walking steps
 34. Broad back muscle
 35. Teased apart
 36. Cut into small cubes
 38. Icelandic poems
 41. American time
 43. City of Angels
 44. Nostrils
 48. Narrow canvas bed
 50. Force into a bay
 51. Sept. 1914 battle
 53. Sergeant fish
 54. Cavalry-sword
 56. Town of Jesus' 1st miracle
 57. Picasso's mistress Dora
 58. Frog genus
 59. Talk tiresomely
 61. Characters in one inch of tape
 63. Side sheltered from the wind
 66. Lead

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING
Westfield Township

Notice is hereby given to citizens of Westfield Township that affidavits of candidacy may be filed with John Fouarge Township Clerk at his home starting January 2nd 2020 and closing January 16th at 5 p.m. for the office one Supervisor for a three year term and one Clerk for a two year term.

John Fouarge (Clerk)
507-208-3759
Westfield Township
c/o 75020 118th Ave.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

12/18, 12/25

2020 MINNESOTA CITY SUMMARY BUDGET DATA

The detail of the City budget is on file in the City Administrator's Office at the City Center 138 Hwy 218 South, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

City of Blooming Prairie Budget Summary Statement

	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
2020 Budgeted Governmental Funds		
Revenues		
Property Taxes	\$ 734,189.00	\$ 769,460.00
Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 8,000.00
Tax Increments	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -
All Other Taxes(franchise fee)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Special Assessments	\$ 30,981.00	\$ 29,113.00
Licenses & Permits	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
State General Purpose Aid(LGA)	\$ 716,481.00	\$ 737,357.00
State Categorical Aids	\$ 74,400.00	\$ 73,400.00
County Aids	\$ 22,200.00	\$ 22,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 42,300.00
Ambulance Building Lease	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 10,900.00
Interest on Investments	\$ 7,550.00	\$ 11,700.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 17,450.00	\$ 15,450.00
Lieu of Taxes	\$ 58,670.00	\$ 58,670.00
Township Fire Equipment	\$ 68,070.00	\$ 72,735.00
Transfers from Other Funds	\$ 214,759.00	\$ 229,156.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,067,320.00	\$2,137,241.00
Expenditures		
General Government	\$ 329,000.00	\$ 306,350.00
Public Safety	\$ 618,900.00	\$ 638,225.00
Streets & Highways	\$ 266,150.00	\$ 272,175.00
Culture & Recreation	\$ 248,880.00	\$ 243,050.00
Economic Development	\$ 38,890.00	\$ 23,390.00
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	\$ 7,550.00	\$ 7,450.00
Debt Service - Principal	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 315,000.00
Debt Service - Interest & Fiscal Charges	\$ 78,778.00	\$ 95,397.50
Capital Outlay	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 105,000.00
Other	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 2,720.00
Transfers to Other Funds	\$ 124,000.00	\$ 124,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,076,488.00	\$2,132,757.50
Fund Balance		
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance - Budgeted Governmental Funds	\$ (9,168.00)	\$ 4,483.50

City Administrator Andrew Langholz
12/11/2019 (507)-583-7573



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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®

Syndicated Newspaper Column

By Shannon Nordstrom And Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,

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

Don in Carroll Iowa

Dear Don,

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

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,

I have a 2005 Dodge Caravan SE that we bought used and it was not equipped with power windows, door locks, or power sliding doors. We would really like to add these features and keyless entry. Can this be done for a reasonable price and where do we go to get it done?

Janet in Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Brandon,

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

Take care, the Motor Medics

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2 BDRM HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY. Stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer provided. No pets. No smoking. Two written references. \$700.00 a month and a security deposit of \$1,000.00 Call 507-635-5301 (52-1-3 pd)

GREENFIELD MANOR APARTMENTS 1 BD ~ KASSON Smoke free apts for 62+ or disabled persons open Jan. \$510 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases & deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (52-1-3 chg)

ROZELL II APARTMENTS DODGE CENTER RENTALS Smoke free 2 bd apts open Feb. 1 1/2 baths, blinds, large closets, DW & decks. \$755 p/mo + elec. Garages also avail to rent. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO (52-1-3 chg)

GREENFIELD VILLAGE APARTMENTS 2 BD ~ KASSON Newly updated & open January. \$540 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (52-1-5 chg)

HOT JOBS

CAREGIVER OVERNIGHT. Available hours-Friday or Saturday night, 10-12-hour shifts at \$13.25/hr. to start. No experience necessary. No Heavy Lifting. If interested, please call 507-289-2756 (50-52pd)

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APPROX. 100 OLDER SPICE TINS, some cardboard containers, some are very rare. \$50 for all, or best offer Please call 507-450-5395 (52-1-5 pd)

24 Blue-Green Quart Canning Jars with Lead lids. \$50.00 for all or best offer 507-450-5395 (1-4pd)

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.

Place your employment ads with us.

Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

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Cook

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• PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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CITY OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE ELIGIBILITY ROSTER FOR PART-TIME PEACE OFFICERS

The Blooming Prairie Police Department is accepting applications for 2 part-time Police Officers. Applicants must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Applicants must meet the minimum selection standards set by MN POST Board and be licensed or eligible to be licensed by the date of hire. Our hiring process will include an oral interview, extensive background investigation, psychological exam and physical exam.

Applications, supplemental questionnaire, and a full job description may be obtained at Blooming Prairie City Hall located at 138 Highway Avenue South, Blooming Prairie MN 55917. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a completed City of Blooming Prairie application.

For more information, please contact Police Chief Greg Skillestad at 507-583-7885. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled, with priority given to applications that are received by December 30th, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Weekend and Holiday availability is expected.

City of Blooming Prairie

138 Hwy Ave S.

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

507-583-7885

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REM WOODVALE

Semcac People Are Our Business

Semcac is currently accepting applications for a Food Shelf Assistant, up to 13 hours per week, at the Kasson Contact Center.

Must be able to multi-task, complete paperwork, provide food shelf services and support to clients. A positive attitude, networking with other community organizations and groups, working with volunteers, and computer skills required.

Applications and more information available at www.semcac.org, or by contacting Barb Thompson at barb.thompson@semcac.org or 507-864-8202.

Applications must be received by January 7, 2020. EOE

silent night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin,
Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from
Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



Christmas Eve
Carols and Candles
4:00pm and 5:30pm

Christmas Day
Worship with Hymns
10:30am

2500 7th Avenue NE Owatonna
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com



St. Columbanus Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Mass
4 pm, Holy Trinity, Litomysl

Christmas Day Mass
8 am, Sacred Heart, Hayfield
10 am, St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie

Solemnity of Mary Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

12-31, 5 pm, Sacred Heart, Hayfield
1-1, 8:30 am, St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie

114 E Main Street | Blooming Prairie | (507) 583-2784

Building a family in Christ,
to reach families for Christ

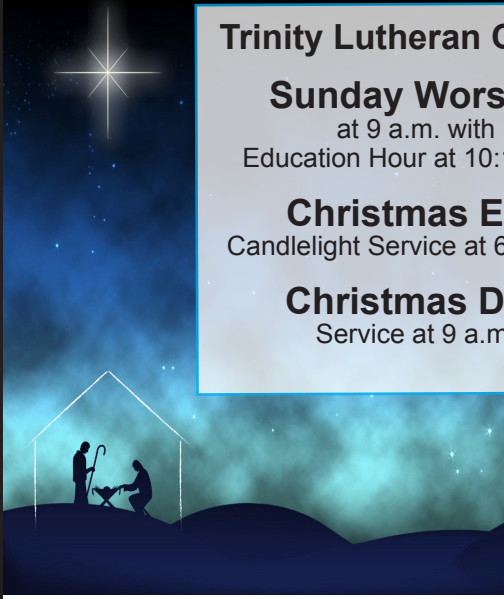
Christmas Services



Christmas Eve Service Monday,
December 24 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for worship and song to fill your heart
with the love of Jesus' birth. Everyone Welcome!

1500 18th Street SE | Owatonna | 507-446-5850
www.cornerstoneowatonna.com



Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship
at 9 a.m. with
Education Hour at 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Service at 9 a.m.



Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 209
102 3rd Street SW
Medford, MN 55049

www.tlcmeford.org
tlcmefordoffice@gmail.com
507-451-0447
or 507-676-4275

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

810 S. CEDAR AVE
OWATONNA, MN 55060

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. & 9:30 pm 7:00 pm (en Español)	Christmas Day 8:00 am 10:00 am
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www.sacredheartowatonna.org



St. John Lutheran Church

1301 Lincoln Ave SE, Owatonna

Christmas Eve Family Service	4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	9:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	9:30 a.m.

434 FIRST STREET SW
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN
507.583.6621 FIRSTLUTHERANBP.COM
-THE WELCOME PLACE-

All are welcome!

2019 Christmas Schedule First Lutheran Church

Tuesday, December 24
3 pm Family Worship
5 pm Candlelight Worship - Senior Choir
9 pm Candlelight Worship - Worship Team

Wednesday, December 25
9 am Worship

Sunday, December 29
9 am Lessons & Carols

All Services
Christmas Eve & Day
include Holy Communion

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service & Blessing	3:00 PM
Candlelight Service & Blessing	5:00 PM
Candlelight Service & Communion	9:00 PM

oursaviorsowatonna.com
1909 Saint Paul Road | P.O. Box 423 | Owatonna | 507-451-4853

Celebrate
the birth of Christ
at worship!

Christmas Eve

Family Blessing 9:30 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm	Candlelight & Communion 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
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Christmas Day
10:00 am with Communion



 **TRINITY Lutheran Church**
609 Lincoln Avenue | Owatonna MN
507.451.4520 | tlcowatonna.org