

Former Blooming Prairie woman faces Capital Murder charges

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Angelica Marie Torres, formerly of Blooming Prairie, faces charges in connection with the murder of Patricia Torres Paz, which took place 19 years ago in Texas.

Torres, 40, was recently arrested in Rocksprings, Texas, along with her brother, George “Poche” Torres, age 37.

Edwards County Sheriff Pamela Elliot reopened the cold case on July 7, 2014, and, exactly one year later on July 7, 2015, investigators uncovered information that ultimately led to the arrests. Edwards County Sheriff’s Deputy Darrell Volkmann says that officers have known that multiple persons were involved in the murder since the investigation first began.

According to a press release from the Edwards County Sheriff, Paz, age 35, was found deceased in February of 1996 at her home in Rocksprings, Texas. Family members became concerned when they did not see Paz for a few days and went to her home to check on her. There, they found the woman’s body. Paz had been beaten and stabbed, and her throat had also been cut. The crime scene had been cleaned, and it appeared that Paz had been bathed and dressed in fresh clothes. Another article of clothing had also been placed on top of a space heater to start a fire, but the fire had extinguished itself.

Volkmann says that the incident began as an aggravated robbery, which led to murder. “They were on crack and needed more dope. They were high and did not have money,” said Volkmann. Volkmann says that Angelica and George Torres went to their Aunt Patricia’s home in search of money.

After the brutal murder, Volkmann says that the two siblings fled to Minnesota. “In 1998, Angelica went to Minnesota, best we can tell,” Volkmann said. “George did time in 1998 and came to Minnesota later.” George’s address places him in Lino Lakes, Minn. Angelica’s most recent address was listed as Blooming Prairie. According to Volkmann, however, Angelica had been living and working



Angelica Marie Torres



George “Poche” Torres

MURDER
Continued on 6A

Vandal’s Family Market celebrates Grand Re-Opening

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Vandal’s Family Market had an excellent turnout for their Grand Re-Opening celebration, as many community members stopped by to congratulate them and wish them continued success.

That afternoon, storeowners Waco Vandal, Brandy Vandal-Holmberg, Brady Holmberg welcomed customers, family and friends to the event, which featured ribs, hot dogs and root beer floats, in addition to great in-store deals and even an inflatable bouncy house for the kids in attendance.

The celebration doubled as both a customer appreciation event and an anniversary celebration for the storeowners, who have now been operating the business for one year. The trio took over the business when Brandy and Waco’s father, Allen, retired. Allen, along with many other family members, stopped by the market on Saturday to take part in the celebration.

Allen was quick to note that he doesn’t have much to do with store operations any more, but



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Davin Raschke, 12, of Blooming Prairie, enjoys some tasty barbecue ribs at Vandal’s Family Market on Saturday during a grand re-opening celebration. Lots of food including the ribs was available for store customers. Prizes were given all week.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Members of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce joined the celebration on Saturday to help Vandal’s Family Market celebrate their one-year anniversary with a ribbon cut

GRAND RE-OPENING
Continued on 6A

Owatonna School Board approves moving forward with \$77.9 million referendum

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

With heavy hearts, the Owatonna School Board reached the conclusion to carry forward with the \$77.9 million referendum. On Nov. 3, 2015, voters will be asked for the funding to address the school district’s facilities’ needs.

At the meeting on July 27, board members unanimously approved the \$77.9 million referendum for funding to improve aging facilities with increasing delayed maintenance needs, school, school safety and security, and elementary crowding.

The referendum moving forward does not include procuring land for the erection of an outdoor athletic complex and the building of that complex, which would have brought the referendum up to \$88 million.

The decision to mix the athletic complex as part of the referendum was not easy. Prior to the motion, board member Lori Weisenburger said that since the last meeting on July 20, she has had a lot of conversations with the community. “I found that when it comes to the athletic complex, support drops, and that concerns me,” said Weisenburger. “I really land on K-8 needs as number one. (With) athletic needs, as much as I see a vision for that, the time is not quite right.”

Other board members agreed with board member Eric Shuster Weisenberger, who said, “I wouldn’t have a problem backing down on the sports part,” even though he expressed that it would be nice to have the community back the purchase of land.

Others found it more difficult to swallow dropping the sports complex additions. Board members Jolayne Mohs and Bob Wottreng found the decision to

Blooming Prairie Fire Department holds grain bin training exercise

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Dean Naatz hopes that the department won’t have to respond to any calls for a grain bin rescue. But, if the need does arise, they’ll be ready.

Every month, the Blooming Prairie Fire Department (BPF) hosts training exercises to help crewmembers learn about different situations and rescue techniques. This month, the firefighters got an opportunity to practice a grain bin rescue.

“We do try to train every year for grain rescue,” Chief Naatz said. Last August, SunOpta, a local business, donated some new equipment to the department that’s used specifically for grain bin rescues. (Similar equipment was also donated to the Ellendale Fire Department.)

Special panels are placed around a person who is trapped in a grain bin, preventing them from sinking farther down. The tool also has an auger attached to it, which can help pump grain out of the bin.

Shortly after the department received the equipment, they were paged for a rescue effort involving a man trapped in a grain bin. The man had been trying to unclog soybean chunks last Sept. when he became trapped.

Last year, the Blooming Prairie Fire and Ellendale Departments received a donation of a rescue tube (shown above), auger and platforms to assist them with rescues from grain bins. Last week, the Blooming Prairie Fire Department hosted a grain bin rescue training exercise.

“We hadn’t even really had time to practice with the equipment,”

“That’s the way to learn,” he

said Naatz. “We had the call within a week to ten days.” The BPF, however, had previously participated in grain bin rescue training, and Naatz said that the training was extremely useful in this situation. This, explains Chief Naatz, is why the department continually holds training exercises each month.

said. “In a training, when one certain plan’s not working, you can hop over and try a different one. You want to be prepared for when you need to actually do it.”

The July 27 training took place at SunOpta’s grain elevator. A volunteer (wearing a safety harness) went inside the grain bin as grain was slowly let out, so the person would sink slightly into the grain, as if they were truly trapped. Then, the BPF practiced ways to get the person out safely.

Naatz says that the training took about 2 ½ hours to complete, and that the crew also invited people associated with Riverland Community College’s Fire and EMS programs to attend the training. “They relay any new techniques to us



File photo
Last year, the Blooming Prairie Fire and Ellendale Departments received a donation of a rescue tube (shown above), auger and platforms to assist them with rescues from grain bins. Last week, the Blooming Prairie Fire Department hosted a grain bin rescue training exercise.

TRAINING
Continued on B5

REFERENDUM
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Opinion

Our view

Shopping locally benefits all community members

This past weekend, one area business (Vandal's Family Market) held a combination one-year anniversary celebration and customer appreciation event. Several people stopped by the business to enjoy the festivities and congratulate the store owners on their success. While the beautiful summer weather and the aroma of freshly cooked ribs certainly contributed to the event's success, many people also used the opportunity to express their appreciation to the business owners, thanking them for serving the community.

Having a robust economy is closely linked to a strong business sector. When local businesses make revenue, they are likely to spend some of those earnings back into the community. Often, these same local businesses are more likely to support area schools, groups and other civic organizations. "Small" and "large" businesses alike are an asset to the communities in which they operate. In addition to boosting the local economy and giving back to the people who live nearby, they also often employ area residents. The people who work in these businesses are our relatives, friends and neighbors.

When residents choose to shop at local businesses, they are contributing to their community in multiple ways. Just as customers enjoy visiting with the familiar faces at their favorite local businesses, the business owners and employees also appreciate the simple act of encouragement through continued patronage. Loyal customers mean everything to businesses, especially those located within smaller, rural communities.

Right now, many local roadways are under construction. Several area businesses are working together, finding creative ways to show their appreciation for their customers and to encourage local residents to continue shopping locally. Despite the various construction projects that may require shoppers to take a different route to their favorite local places, area businesses still depend on their community's support to survive.

Next time you're in need of a few household items, a bite to eat or simply need to fill up your gas tank, consider stopping at one of the businesses in your hometown. The more we support our local businesses, the stronger our economy – and our community – will be.

Weigh in with our online poll at www.steeledodgenews.com

This week's question:

How often do you shop locally?

- *I try to shop locally as often as possible.
- *I occasionally shop locally.
- *I rarely shop locally.

Last week's question:

What disturbs you the most about the July 2015 Minnesota State Demographic Center report?

- *That 184,000 or 15 percent of Minnesota's children live in poverty. 20%
- *In 2020, Minnesota's 65 plus population is expected to be more than the K-12 population. 20%
- *About 598,000 Minnesotans, nearly one-third of them children, lived in households with annual income below the federal poverty threshold. 60%

Readers are encouraged to vote at steeledodgenews.com. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers' views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.



Making the right choice

As we all know, life is all about making the right choices. One of the areas where this is most imperative comes from operating a motor vehicle, especially when personal safety is at risk.

Beginning this week, Minnesota is sinking some teeth into its texting law with higher fines. Drivers who repeatedly choose texting over safety will be nailed with a \$225 fine for second and subsequent violations of the texting while driving law. Prior to the law change, the penalty had been \$135.

It is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

Texting has become an epidemic on Minnesota roadways. As you're out and about, I'm sure you have noticed drivers looking at their phones or drift-



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

ing out of their lane. At times, drivers are downright oblivious to the dangers they present to not only themselves, but others as well.

There are several ways this problem is illustrated. State statistics show that over the last five years, 19 percent of all traffic fatalities and serious injuries were distraction-related. Just last year, driver inattention

or distraction contributed to 61 deaths and more than 7,000 injuries on Minnesota roads.

Another way is the number of texting-while-driving citations has skyrocketed. Since the texting law went into effect in 2010, citations have gone up nearly 300 percent. In 2010, there were 847 citations issued by police officers and last year around 3,200 were given out.

"We all value the freedom and privilege of driving but we also value our lives," said Sen. Jim Carlson, author of the bill. "The privilege of driving comes with tremendous responsibility. The law we passed is designed to help keep us safe when drivers choose to focus on their phones and not the road."

There are ways motorists can avoid the temptation of distractions while they should be focused on driving. Most importantly, put the cell phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach. When it comes to music

and other controls, pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. If you're traveling with children, teach them the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.

As for texting, it's important to stop and then text if needed. Don't get caught texting while driving. Better yet, don't even try.

If you're foolish enough to do it, the consequence could be much worse than that fine. It could cost your life. Or someone else's. I don't think you would want to live with such guilt for the rest of your life.

Traffic laws are put into place for good reason. The stories we often hear or read in the news of those tragically impacted by distracted driving cannot be ignored. A strong message has been sent that texting and driving won't be permitted. Won't you go in hot pursuit of making the right choice?

Opinion

On the Road: SMIF Stakeholders Head West

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) serves 20 counties. While this is just a fraction of the state, it's a large area. It takes over three and a half hours to drive from Springfield to Spring Grove - and that's without road construction or snow drifts.

In the course of our work, many SMIF staff members travel thousands of miles every year crisscrossing the region in support of early childhood, entrepreneurial and community activities. Though SMIF's governing Board members come from 15 of our 20 counties, we recognize the need for them - along with SMIF staff - to become more familiar with our entire region.

So, going forward, every year we will schedule a bus tour of three or four counties exploring challenges, changing demographics, as well as causes for celebration.

On this year's tour we covered our four western-most counties: Brown, Faribault, Martin, and Watonwan. We passed through and stopped in many of the 36 communities located in these four counties. We heard from

current and former Board members, local business owners, civic servants, farmers, educators, the "returning" demographic of young families choosing to relocate to rural, and many others. Topics discussed ranged from entrepreneurship to education, broadband access to agriculture. The insights we gleaned will be helpful to us as we continue our Foundation's work.

Here are some highlights we heard along the way: First, manufacturing and agriculture are both strong in this area, together making up 50 percent of the south central region's economic output.

However, manufacturers, like Wayne Kahler of Kahler Automation in Fairmont, expressed concern about finding enough skilled workers, as all four counties have experienced population loss in the last decade and only 17.5 percent of those over 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher. We also listened to concerns facing agriculture including the transition of land from retiring farmers to a younger generation.

Second, entrepreneurship is alive and well. We spoke with Cup 'n Saucer Café co-owners Seth and Elizabeth Lintelman in Sherburn, where we stopped for

morning rhubarb caramel bread pudding. They won the café in an essay contest and happily took the opportunity to leave the Twin Cities to own their own business.

Similarly, we met with Derek Tonn, CEO of a national map-making company called Mapformation, who moved with his family from St. Paul to Springfield seeking a better quality of life for his kids and also to grow his business.

This highlighted a need for improved broadband services to allow small business owners like Derek who can "work from anywhere" the option of choosing rural. David Krause of Pioneer Bank in St. James stressed the need for technical assistance from organization's like SMIF's to help small and minority businesses succeed.

Third, quality education for our next generation is a top priority. At our break-out session at the St. James Library, we talked about the difficulties confronting rural schools, such as attracting quality teachers, keeping up with technology, collaborating with neighboring schools to attract resources, and handling the dynamics of both low-income students and non-English speaking families. On average, only

58 percent of third grade students in this area are achieving reading standards. We are proud that SMIF has offered our Quality Child Care Program trainings in all four of these counties, but we recognize that more needs to be done to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Finally, it is clear that community pride is strong. In New Ulm, we heard about the town's history and many cultural festivals from former SMIF Board member Denis Warta while we enjoyed Schell's 1919 Root Beer. At all our stops, people were excited to welcome us and tell us about their hopes for the future.

At day's end, when we got off the bus in Blue Earth, we felt a renewed sense of the importance of SMIF's work in the region along with a feeling of urgency to strengthen our partnerships to keep this a prosperous and growing region.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

*Tim Penny, President/CEO
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation*

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DEADLINES

News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/ writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words.

The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

ETHICS

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

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Dear Savvy Senior,
What are the best Medicare coverage options for retirees who travel a lot?
Almost 65

Dear Almost,
The best Medicare options for retirees who travel extensively depend on your destination. Let's start with a quick review of the different coverage choices Medicare offers beneficiaries today. One option is Original Medicare, which has been around since 1966, and covers (Part A) hospital services and (Part B) doctor's visits and other medical services. If you choose Original Medi-

care, you may also want to get a Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan (if you don't already have coverage) to cover your medication costs, and a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Or, you could get Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, which is sold through private insurance companies, that covers everything Original Medicare covers, plus many plans also offer prescription drug coverage and extra services like vision, hearing and dental care all in one plan. To help you evaluate your op-

Medicare options for retirees who travel

tions, the National Council on Aging offers an online tool at MyMedicareMatters.org, and your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free Medicare counseling – call 800-677-1116 for contact information. You can also shop and compare Medicare health and drug plans and Medigap policies at Medicare.gov/find-a-plan, or call 800-633-4227. Also note that whatever Medicare plans you choose to enroll in, if you find that they are not meeting your needs or your needs change, you can always switch to a different plan during the open enrollment period, which is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7.

U.S. Travel
If you and your husband are planning to travel domestically, Original Medicare provides coverage everywhere in the U.S. and its territories (this includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa) as long as the doctor or hospital accepts Medicare.

But, if you have a Medicare Advantage plan, your coverage may be restricted. This is because most Medicare Advantage plans (which are usually HMOs or PPOs) require you to use doctors, hospitals and pharmacies that are in the plan's network within a service area or geographic region. So if you're traveling outside that area, you may need to pay a higher fee, or your services may not be covered at all.

Before enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan, check the benefit details carefully to see what costs and rules apply when traveling outside your service area.

Traveling Abroad
If you're planning to travel abroad, Original Medicare does not provide coverage outside the U.S. including cruising, except in rare cases, and Medicare drug plans will not cover prescription drugs purchased outside the U.S. either. But, there are some Medigap policies that do provide limited

coverage abroad. Medigap C, D, F, G, M, and N plans will pay for 80 percent of medically necessary emergency care outside the U.S., but only for the first 60 days of the trip, and you have to meet an annual \$250 deductible first. There's also a lifetime maximum benefit of \$50,000, so you'd need to cover any costs above that amount. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, your coverage outside the U.S. will depend on the plan. Some plans offer emergency care coverage while others don't. You'll need to check your plan for details. If you want additional emergency medical coverage when traveling abroad, some good shopping sites are squaremouth.com and insuremytrip.com, which compare policies from major travel-insurance companies. Prices vary considerably, ranging from under \$100 to several hundred dollars depending on your age, what they cover and how long you'll be away.

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

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History from the news archives

**10 Years Ago
Tuesday, August 2, 2005
Elsie Slinger, Editor**
With close to 3,700 Sunday church services between them, along with countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, and thousands of daily masses, Pastor Richard Hegal of First Lutheran Church and Father Richard Dernek of St. Columbanus Catholic Church both celebrate 35 years in the ministry. Big Brother Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota is increasing service in Blooming Prairie by implementing a new program in the schools called the Peer Helper Program. This no fee mentoring program, already implemented in Owatonna for the

last three years, will match up a qualified and screened Blooming Prairie High School junior or senior with a child in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

**20 Years Ago
Tuesday, August 1, 1995
Elsie Slinger, Editor**
While most of us were celebrating the Fourth of July here in Blooming Prairie, Peggy Hammond, Route 3, Blooming Prairie and a youth mission group from the Rochester Calvary Evangelical Free Church were building playgrounds, mixing and pouring cement and spreading the word of God in and around the central mountain city of La Vegas in the Dominican Republic.

Rita Marie Glynn and Mike Joseph Johnson were united in marriage on June 24, 1995, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie.

Velzora Golda Wanous, 85, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday, July 22, 1995 in Carmichael, California.

**50 Years Ago
Thursday, August 25, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Yrle Krejci, Editors**
Mrs. Everett L. Nelson, 62, Albert Lea resident well-known in the Blooming Prairie community, died of cancer at her home Tuesday morning, July 27. A daughter of William and Mary Ballstadt,

she was born June 23, 1903, in Merton Township, Steele County. The Minnesota Supreme Court filed a decision on July 30th affirming the conviction of James L. Norgaard, Blooming Prairie, who was convicted in 1962 of indecent assault. The opinion, filed by Justice J. Murphy, upheld the proceedings and decision of Steele County District Court. Norgaard was sentenced in December of 1962 to a term of up to ten years in Stillwater prison for indecent assault.

**75 Years Ago
Thursday, August 1, 1940
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher**
Announcement was made this

week of the sale of Blooming Prairie Bakery to Martin Nelson, which has been owned and operated by Albert Wanous and Claude Cleverland for the past several months. Mr. Nelson will continue operation of the bakery producing a complete line of breadstuffs and pastries. At the same time Mr. Wanous announced that he has assumed full ownership of the Blooming Prairie Café, having bought out his partner, Mr. Cleveland. The Café and bakery were both operated by the two men. Mr. Wanous announces in an advertisement elsewhere in this edition of The Times that he is now the sole owner and extends an invitation to all to continue their patronage there. A sentence of not to exceed three years in the penitentiary at Stillwater was given Richard Miller, of Austin when he pleaded guilty to a forgery charge before Judge Norman E. Peterson here yesterday. Miller, who lives on the Fox Drive, was released only last November from the state reformatory at St. Cloud to which he had been sentenced for one year for forgery. A forged check that he passed on July 22 in Racine township was the subject of the complaint against him in his arraignment yesterday. However, he admitted that he had passed other bogus checks, some of which he had made good.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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Community

Obituaries

Evelyn M. Balzer, 95, of Blooming Prairie

Evelyn M. Balzer, 95, of Blooming Prairie, died July 31, 2015, at the Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie. She was born June 24, 1920, in Steele County the daughter of Joseph and Anna (Jirele) Wurst. Evelyn attended country school and Blooming Prairie School. She then worked a few years for Jostens before marrying Joseph Balzer Nov. 20, 1945, at Associated Church in Owatonna. The couple farmed together for many years near Bixby. Joseph died July 25, 2005. Joe and Evelyn enjoyed going on fishing trips together, and she belonged to the Bixby Westside Club. She is survived by her sis-



ters Adeline Frey of Owatonna, Berniece (Jerry Loew) Loew of Blooming Prairie; brother Joseph (Shirley) Wurst of Blooming Prairie; sister-in-law Loretta Wurst of Blooming Prairie. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Joseph; three brothers Fred, Edmund and Wilfred; and two sisters Albina Stebbins and Helen Nelson. Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, Owatonna, Monday Aug. 3, 2015. Funeral services were held Tuesday Aug. 4, 2015, with Pastor Jim Oberg officiating. Interment will be in the in Owatonna Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the Prairie Manor Nursing Home.

Sylvester (Sal) L. Thompson, 96, of Austin

Sylvester (Sal) L. Thompson, 96, of Austin, died Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at St. Mark's Lutheran Home. Sylvester was born on Nov. 14, 1918, in Freeborn County to Andrew and Judith (Aldahl) Thompson. He attended country school and after the ninth grade, he began helping his mother care for his three siblings. Sal served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was married to Bernice E. Braaten on July 21, 1942, in the chapel at St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The Thompsons made their home at Corning and worked at the Geo. A. Hormel Co. until retiring. For 33 years they wintered in Arizona. Sal would sit quietly and listen to others talk, and then his dry sense of humor would come out and have the room in laughter. He was lifelong member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church and had served on the church council. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Agnes Anderson; and brother Charles Thompson. Sal is survived by his wife Bernice Thompson, Austin; son and daughter-in-law Wayne and Peggy Thompson, Cass Lake, Minnesota; grandchildren Dave Thompson, Lansing, Thomas Burback, Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Lisa Burback, Austin; great-grandchildren Emily and Eric Thompson, Dillon Erick-



son, Roxanne Burback, Katilyn Wirth and Kami Burback; sister and brother-in-law Selma and Harvey Lysne, Austin; sister-in-law Irene Thompson, Austin; nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with Pastor Lindsay Stolen officiating. Interment was at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery with Austin Post #91 American Legion in charge of military rites.

Kenneth (Ken) S. Prestegard, 68, of Owatonna

Kenneth (Ken) S. Prestegard, 68, of Owatonna, died Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, at Homestead Hospice House. Ken was born Feb. 28, 1947, at the Owatonna Hospital to Ole Joe Prestegard and Helen E. (Moe) Prestegard. Ken attended country School District 71 through the eighth grade, graduating from Owatonna High School in 1964. He married Anne Boyd in 1967 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna. Ken graduated from Mankato State in 1968 with a major in French and a minor in German. He taught French and German at Prior Lake and Austin High Schools before beginning a career in the farm equipment industry, first by managing the Badger Northland Distribution Center in Owatonna, then in 1978, he along with two partners bought the Badger Northland facility and developed a retail farm equipment dealership they named Northland Farm Systems. They survived the turbulent 80s, and in 1995 he purchased his partners' shares of the business. He continued to own and operate Northland Farm Systems until an opportunity arose to sell the company in 2001. This allowed him to retire gradually while also allowing him to start a small hobby farm. Ken was on the church council at Aurora Lutheran Church and worked diligently at the Aurora Diner during the Steele County Fair. In 2006 he was elected to the Board of Directors of Steele Waseca Coop Electric, a job he thoroughly enjoyed for nine years. More recently



he was elected to the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) board representing six rural electric coops at the state level. Ken was also a committee member of the Farm Service Association (FSA) for Steele and Waseca counties and enjoyed being a member of the Exchange Club of Steele County and the Sons of Norway. Ken is survived by his wife of 48 years Anne (Boyd) Prestegard; three children Renee Lowery of Owatonna, Stephanie (Brian) McAleer of Savage, and Keith of Blooming Prairie; his sister Carolyn (Donald) Thorsen of Staten Island, New York; brother Allan (Bonnie) Prestegard of Pine Island; sister Jean (Jay) Hannon of Fairbanks, Alaska; grandchildren Grace, Hannah and Abbey McAleer and Alex Lowery; as well as many nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by his brother Orrin; parents Ole and Helen (Moe) Prestegard; in-laws Dr. Robert and Marcella (Johnson) Boyd; grandparents, aunts and uncles. Ken's interests were spending time with his grandchildren, hobby farming and antique tractors. Funeral service will be Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015, at 11 a.m. at Aurora Lutheran Church with Pastor David Hurtt and Pastor Paul Nelson officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the Aurora Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the Aurora Lutheran Church or the Owatonna Public Library.

Upcoming events at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library

Please join us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 1 p.m. for a special musical performance by recording artist Dennis Warner. Dennis is coming to town thanks to SELCO and the Library Legacy program made possible by the Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment. You may know Dennis as the author of the popular book, "Beads on One String," but he has also released ten CDs of his music. In 2012 his album SEEDS was named one of the top albums in folk music, and he was named one of the top musicians in folk music that year also. Dennis has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Dennis will be gearing his concert to children and will feature an anti-bullying message. Adults and family members are encouraged to attend. We gave away approximately 80 books at our July Book Fair. Let's try to give away more at our final Book Fair of the summer on Thursday, Aug. 27. See you at the library!

sicians in folk music that year also. Dennis has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Dennis will be gearing his concert to children and will feature an anti-bullying message. Adults and family members are encouraged to attend. We gave away approximately 80 books at our July Book Fair. Let's try to give away more at our final Book Fair of the summer on Thursday, Aug. 27. See you at the library!

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Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
Aug. 4
Melody Amberg
Sheena Marie Basness
Linda Kittelson
Bryan Hernandez Sr.
Pam Johnson
Katie Winzenburg
Katie Wencl

Aug. 5
Russia Smith
Vern Krebs
Craig Kruckeberg
Alex Peterson
Richard Symes
Donald Kaplan
Hannah Freese
Katlyn Nielsen
Isabel Gardner
Rebecca Kinny

Aug. 6
Herm Claussen

Aug. 7
Amy Staloch
Arri Meiners
Leah Schiefert
Roger Toquam
Jayden Kvalsten
Kristen Fristedt
H. Peterson
Madison Worke
Doug VonRuden

Aug. 8
Tobin Rutt
Kale Swenson
Lisa Cochlin
Ian Wayne
Bronson Lee
Rosemarie Jacobson
Cheryl Klug
John Rumpza

Aug. 9
Michael Hjelman
Bonnie Coughlin
La Faye Farrow
Gloria Dennis
Bud Miller

Aug. 10
English Smith

Sue Swenson
Judy Engelken
Lloyd Prihoda
Gloria Salinas
Lianna Doocy
Nina Mae Rogers

Aug. 11
Lindsey Krejci
Lucas Noble
Rosie Ditlevsn
Ann Motl
Jesse Banton
Gwen Kubista
Anna Peterson
Joyce Haffinger
Kaden Anderson

Anniversaries
Aug. 4
Dean & Marilyn Meshke
Donald & Elayne Yentsch
Tony & Jess Motl

Aug. 5
Vern & Beth Krebs
Gary & Susan Thorson

Aug. 6
Jake & Alecia Peterson

Aug. 7
Steve & Rachel Hansen

Aug. 8
Jared & Deb Brown
Neil & Julie Horn
Dawn & Dwayne Gross
Dave & Rita Goodnature

Aug. 10
David & Joan Hagen
Chad & Julie Eischens
Frank & Margaret Williams
Roger & Sharon Anderson

Aug. 11
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Bill & Carol Campbell
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Menus

Seniors Menu
Aug. 4: Chicken Pasta Salad, Cucumber Salad, Peach Halves, Dinner Roll, Baked Coconut Custard
Aug. 5: Country Style BBQ Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Italian Blend Vegetables, Wheat Roll, Frozen Yogurt
Aug. 6: Meatloaf, Red Potatoes, Coleslaw, Pumpkin Pie
Aug. 7: Cream of Potato Soup, Beef Salad on a Bun, 3 Bean Salad, Rhub/Strwb Bavarian

Aug. 10: Chicken Broccoli Bake, Buttered Beets, P/A Orange Fruit Cup, Pudding
Aug. 11: Beef Tips over Mashed Potatoes, Oriental Blend Veggies, Mixed Greens Salad, Chocolate Cherry Bar
Aug. 12: Taco Salad, Melon Wedge, Batter Bun, Cream Puff



Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

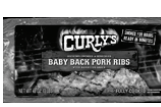
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Area Church Spotlight



Victory Life Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Poverty re-defined

A speaker at the recent ELCA National Youth Gathering defined poverty as “the absence of resources, support and community.” I quickly wrote this down because this definition seemed to challenge my more limited definition of poverty as “the absence of monetary resources.” What does the absence of support and community have to do with poverty?

I was led to look at the story of the healing of the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12. In this story the faith of the paralytic’s friends is upheld by Jesus when Mark writes (vs. 5) “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” I believe this verse points to the power

and importance of friends (support and community) in lifting one out of a state of poverty.

We may think we are in tune with solving issues of poverty by focusing on trying to increase wages or create more jobs. But, from this story, if the community of people around those in poverty fails to act personally with kind support and encouragement, poverty will continue to exist.

In view of our fight to end poverty, should we also be asking ourselves how we can be better friends and neighbors to those who live in our community? How are we lifting up and carrying the less fortunate in ways that give them hope and a new perspective

on life? I have been overlooking that it was the faith of the paralytic’s friends (or maybe the faith of the stranger next door) that moved Jesus to lift this person up from his form of poverty.

What else are we overlooking in our faith to help those living in less fortunate circumstances?



*Pastor Charlie Leonard
First Lutheran Church
Blooming Prairie, MN*

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Lutheran

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Interim Pastor David Hurtt
(507) 676-5696

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Interim Pastor David Hurtt
(507) 633-9331

10:30 a.m. Sundays
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

**FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH—ELCA**
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com
Summer Worship: 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN—LCMS**
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdawatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

**PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale, MN
(507)465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

**ST. MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN—ELCA**
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

**RED OAK GROVE
LUTHERAN—ELCA**
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.rogllutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH—LCMS**
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemerawatonna.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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Services (May - Sept. 2nd) held on
Wed. at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion
Sunday Morning Services
at 10:30am
Holy Communion Offered
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2nd & 4th Sunday Service
of each month
Sunday School
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**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH—LCMS**
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH—ELCA**
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org

Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark



(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH—ELCA**
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH - ELCA**
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

8:00 a.m. worship

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH—LCMS**
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Worship 9:30 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH—ELCA**
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520

www.tlcoawatonna.org
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday

Catholic

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(507) 465-8217

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
and 8 a.m. Sunday.

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The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 583-2784

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Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

VANDALS

Continued from Page 1A

says it's been nice to see the next generation carry on the values that drive the business. The three owners work hard to offer high quality foods for reasonable prices and enjoy helping support local producers and other area businesses. They even make deliveries to help those in need. "They are doing really well," Allen Vandal said.

Also attending the celebration was Ari Holmberg, Brandy's daughter. Ari, a former store employee, was helping serve root beer floats, with help from her fiancé Steven Pregler. The weather was ideal for ice cream on Saturday, with temperatures in the mid to high 80s and plenty of sunshine. As a result, the line for the root beer floats was long.

Around noon, members of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce formally commemorated the occasion with a ribbon cutting outside the market. Although the three store-owners had plenty to do that afternoon, they also took time to thank Chamber members for stopping by and also attempted to say "thanks" to as many other visitors as possible.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Lots of hungry patrons of Vandal's Family Market enjoyed some delicious barbecue ribs prepared by store owner Brady Holmberg. The weather cooperated and drew many visitors to the market during its grand re-opening celebration. Other store owners are Brandy Holmberg-Vandal and Waco Vandal.

Brady, Brandy and Waco agree that it has been an honor to serve the community for the past year and are looking forward to continuing to build relationships with more local customers in the months and years to come.

For more information about Vandal's Family Market, or to check out their great deals, visit them at 237 Highway Avenue South, in Blooming Prairie.

MURDER

Continued from Page 1A

in Waseca in recent years.

Although the siblings fled the state of Texas, the two couldn't hide from the evidence. By chance, a member of the sheriff's department happened to drive by a residence and noticed George Torres outside the building. "We already had the information and were going to have the U.S. Marshall pick them up," Volkmann said. "Then, one of us drove by and saw George on the doorstep."

When deputies located George Torres in Rocksprings, Texas, they discovered that Angelica was also in Texas, as well. Angelica and George had returned to Texas to visit their mother. "It was their first time back in Texas for quite some time," said Volkmann.

The siblings were arrested on

July 24 and went before a Federal magistrate on Sunday, July 26. There is no bond for this murder. The two face charges of capital murder. In Texas, a capital murder offense can result in a death sentence. The two will now be sent to grand jury to be indicted. Volkmann doesn't know when everything will fall in place for the trial and says it's possible that the process could take over one year.

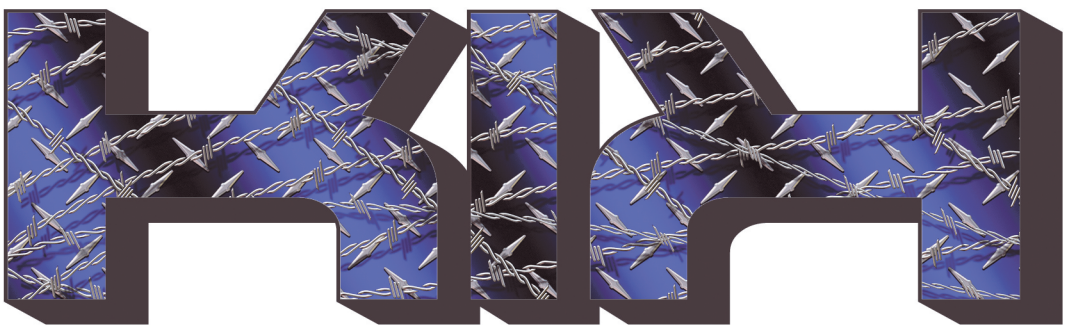
Two other warrants have also been issued in connection with the murder of Patricia Paz, said Volkmann.

In an Edwards County Sheriff's press release, Sheriff Elliott stated, "There are more suspects that are of interest, and we are closing in on them. The ball is rolling, and it's just a matter of time now; more arrests will be

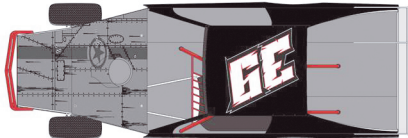
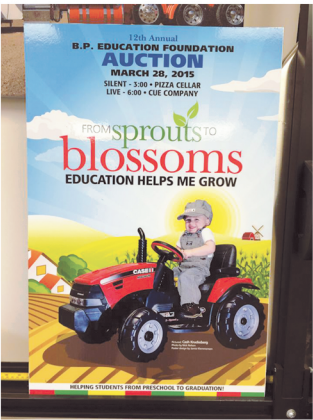
made."

In the small and close-knit community of Rocksprings, Texas, people are still mourning the loss of Paz, a woman who was described as well known and "adored by many people." Volkmann said that he never met Paz, but that others have told him that she was the type of person you could count on. If you lent her a dollar, you could bet that she would walk to your house with a dollar to pay you. "That's just the kind of person she was," said Volkmann.

While the community is still mourning, Volkmann says that many people are also relieved to have some closure. "Most of her family is relieved that they finally know who did it," he said.



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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Flood gates open

That may not be quite the exact term to use, but the heavy rain that enveloped Blooming Prairie early last Monday morning made many intersections swimming pools, parking lots fishing holes, and Main Street a grand canyon of standing water. One needed a bridge to traverse Main Street, or use the alternate of walking two blocks or more to get to the other side. It truly was a mess.

I would assume that construction on the street project would be delayed for a week or so after such a deluge. In fact, if my calculations are halfway correct, our immediate area received approximately five inches of rain from a week ago last Friday through the downpour Monday morning.

It is easy to have sympathy for the construction workers who are going to labor around all the mud, and the businesses that will continue to serve customers despite the street projects. Fortunately, most of them have access through back doors. We know it will be an excellent improvement when the entire project is complete. In the meantime a little hardship will be visited on Main Street and its residents.

Flowers flourish

I mentioned last week about the annual flower show at the local Servicemen’s Club. After taking some time to view the array of flowers and plants myself, I admit to being duly impressed with the displays. From rose- tinted roses to rainbow-colored gladioli to the brilliant orange of tiger lilies, colors assaulted the senses, Add indoor plant arrangements, and it certainly impressed the visitors to the show.

A big tip of the hat is in order this week to the American Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring the exhibit and the luncheon, plus the entertainment that was provided. It was a very pleasant way to spend a Thursday morning and afternoon, and it certainly demonstrated the fact that this community has dedicated and talented amateur florists and gardeners.

A brief history of foods

I am approaching the end of my brief vacation, but I still have time for one more article on a subject of interest to me and hopefully, to others as well. We are rapidly approaching that time of year when produce and foods of all types make their way to farmers’ markets in many communities. That raises an interesting question for me as to where these many varieties of foods originated. When did they first appear in people’s diets and who decided that they were okay to eat?

According to a recent article in National Geographic most of today’s fruits and vegetables are the result of many, many years of trial and error in cultivation and selection. Early wild varieties of the world’s top crops evolved in geographic isolation and then spread via wind or floods. Over time humans developed specific preferences, saved seeds, and experimented with growing conditions for desired foods. Geneticists call that process domestication. Farmers call it agriculture.

Just a few examples are evident: Bananas originally came from New Guinea and Southeast Asia, and strawberries are a hy-

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 2B

Medford hosts summer sports camps



One camper hurls a long pass during the final scrimmage of Medford’s youth football camp. The camp ran Monday through Thursday, July 27-30, for boys grades 3-6. Varsity and junior high coaches helped run the camp.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Medford School held several summer sports camps this past week, including football and volleyball for kids, grades 1-12.

Both the football and volleyball camps ran Monday through Thursday, July 27-30.

The volleyball camp was led by volleyball Coach Tanya Powers, who stated that the goal for the younger girls was simply teaching a love for the game.

“You want to make it fun,” said Powers.

Powers spent the four days with the younger kids working on moving feet and not letting the ball hit the floor.

“(They) can’t really pass, so we catch it without it bouncing and just work on form.”

Powers said no first graders came for the camp and only six second graders, though she admitted it’s tough to get a big turnout for such a young age. However,

SUMMER CAMPS
Continued on Page 2B



One boy practices his punting during the final day of practice.



The final scrimmage during Medford’s youth football camp included many long passes from the young boys in an attempt to win in the final minutes of play.

Youth 1st Conduct Award teaches sportsmanship

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Youth 1st is handing out around 60 awards this summer to teams around Southern Minnesota, and while the award may have the word “winning” in it, the trophy has nothing to do with victories.

The Real Winning Team Award honors teams for their outstanding sportsmanship during summer tournaments. This involves players’ conduct on the field, but it also includes coaches and even fans.

“We developed (the award) to establish a league environment that highlights sportsmanship,” said Youth 1st Director Mark Arjes.

During each game of the tournament, deserving teams receive a vote from the game umpire. They may vote for one, both or none depending on the amount of sportsmanship displayed during the game. At the end of the tournament, umpire votes are tallied to determine the winners.

So far this summer, four teams have received the award in Steele County, including: the Owatonna U11 Silver and Blue baseball teams, the Owatonna U14AA baseball team and the Medford U13 baseball team.

The program is only in its second year, but Arjes said it is expanding quickly.

“This year we’re rolling it out on a wider basis,” said Arjes. While Owatonna, Med-

ford and Albert Lea were the guinea pigs for last year, five more cities have been added, totaling 12 tournaments overall. The program also awards teams in other sports, such as hockey, football and wrestling.

“It’s pretty exciting,” said Arjes, adding, “We’ll have about 60 teams this year in baseball and softball.”

In addition to numerical growth, Arjes said the program has had an immediate effect on the summer tournaments.

“It was noticeable right from the start, as soon as we started doing it,” said Arjes. “We got comments from umpires and tournament directors saying that it made the atmosphere more positive.”

Arjes added that to help bolster awareness, posters are displayed around the sports complexes and coaches are handed business cards prior to each game to remind them that both coaches and the umpire need to work together to keep a positive environment.

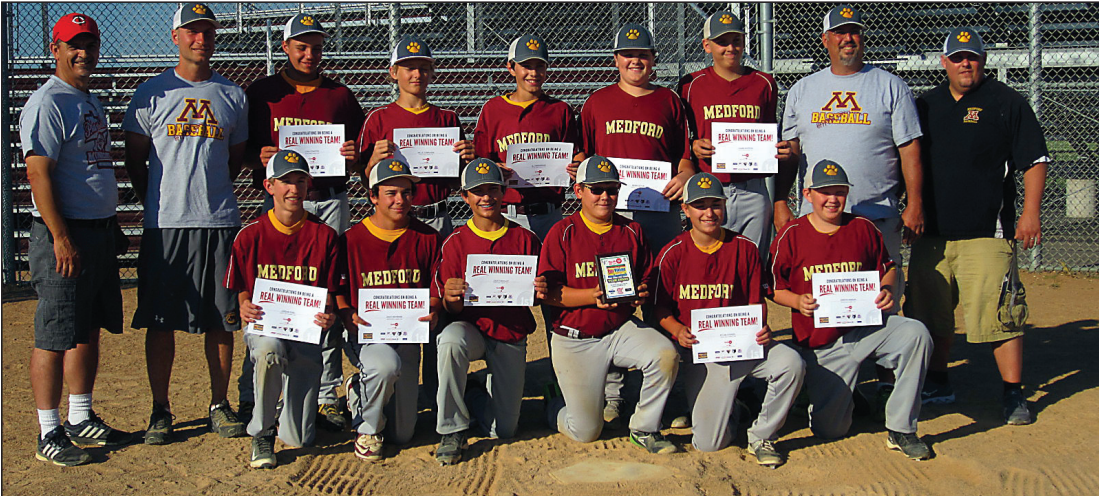
“We need to recognize value-based actions,” said Arjes. “The whole point should be teaching life lessons, developing values and building character. We see this program as our outreach to begin those character conversations.”

One way Youth 1st is able to continue the conversation is by presenting teams with their



Submitted photos

Front L to R: Dylan Roush, Payton Bauer, Averey Cords, Cole Schroeder, Gavin DeWitz, Caleb Vereide. Middle: Evan Parker, Jack Helget, Joey Dub, Michael Bobo, Aiden Stowe, Cael Dowling, Coach Darrin Helget. Back: Coach Jeremy Bauer, Brian Meiners (Bullpen Club), Mark Arjes (Youth 1st). Not pictured: Devon Roush.



Back row L to R: Mark Arjes (Youth 1st), Coach David Schroht, Josh O’Dafer, Willie VonRuden, AJ Vandereide, Bodie Devoe, Logan Keppers, Coach Chad Meixner, Jon Chappuis (Medford HS Coach). Front L to R: Jordan Edel, Zach Wetmore, Zach Finholt, Gavin Hermes, Dylan Stenzel, Jordyn Hansen.

CONDUCT AWARD
Continued on Page 2B

Public Safety

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
July 24
Animal. Police responded to an animal bite in the city at 9:38 a.m.

July 30
Burglary. At 8:09 p.m., police began a burglary investigation.

Owatonna Police
July 24
Disturbance. At 12:51 a.m., police responded to a noise complaint in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. They made an arrest at the scene.
Domestic. Officers responded to the 100 block of Chambers Ave. SE at 12:47 a.m. for a domestic disturbance.

Suspicion. At 2:51 a.m., police received a suspicious activity report from 36th St. NW and Cedar Ave. They responded and took a subject into custody.

Burglaries. Police began burglary investigations in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 11:39 a.m. and in the 500 block of Oak Ave. at 9:51 p.m.
Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:50 p.m.

July 25
Drunken Driving. Officers made two DWI arrests – at 12:27 a.m. at Exit 45 and Interstate 35 northbound and at 1:11 a.m. in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at Academy St. E. and Lincoln Ave. S. at 12:42 a.m.

Juvenile. At 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a juvenile complaint in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:48 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported at Fremont St. E. and Mineral Springs Rd. at 5:11 p.m.

July 26
Property Damage. Officers took vandalism reports in the 100 block of Valley View Place NW at 11:26 a.m. and in the 2200 block of 4th Ave. SE at 2:58 p.m.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 2:42 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 3:36 p.m., police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW.

July 27
Burglary. A burglary occurred in the 1600 block of Cornerstone Lane SE at 6:44 a.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Shady Ave. SE at 6:19 a.m.

Child Protection. At 8:16 a.m., officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 100 block of School St. E. at 10:23 a.m.

Restraining Order. A citizen reported that an order for protection was violated in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 11:48 a.m.

July 28
DWI. Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 14th St. NE and Hemlock Ave. NE at 8:37 a.m.

Burglary. Officers responded to a burglary in the 1600 block of Mineral Springs Parkway at 9:12 a.m.

Death. At 9:51 a.m., police began a death investigation in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of fraud in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N. at 10:55 a.m.

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 1500 block of Prairie Lane NE at 11:10 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 2:28 p.m.

Theft. At 3:28 p.m., officers responded to a report of theft in the 100 block of Rose St. E. A citation was issued.

Restraining Order. Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 5:26 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:28 p.m.

July 29
Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 9:45 a.m.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Clearview Place NW at 12:41 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 2:15 p.m., officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Restraining Order. Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:15 p.m.

July 30
DWI. Officers arrested a motorist for drunken driving at Cedar Ave. S. and Hwy. 14 E. at 2:11 a.m.

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 7:18 a.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 11:20 a.m.

Vandalism. At 2:40 p.m., property damage was reported in the 100 block of Wilson Dr. NW.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred at 21st Ave. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 6:17 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
July 25
Suspicion. Deputies received suspicious activity reports from the 300 block of 5th Ave. W. at 12:56 a.m. and at 26th St. NW and County Rd. 45 N. at 11 p.m.

July 26
Suspicious Activity. At 9 p.m., deputies responded to a suspicious activity report at 103rd St. SE and 89th Ave. SE. A vehicle was impounded.

July 27
Assault. Deputies responded to the 15300 block of 54th Ave. SE for an assault at 6:49 p.m.

July 28
Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 9500 block of 24th Ave. SE at 1:18 p.m.

July 30
Probation Violation. At 2:02 p.m., deputies took a report of a probation violation in the 100 block of 1st St. NE.

Drunken Driving. Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 northbound at mile marker 48 at 7:29 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 20 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Mitchell G. Vipond, 24, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. He was sentenced to \$719.96, and 17 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Stephanie M. Yates, 30, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. Yates was sentenced to \$81, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no contact with co-defendant, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, 10 hours of community service per week for indeterminate and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 20 – 24:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Christopher L. Bartlett, 21, Blooming Prairie, careless driving, \$181; Justin L. Himle, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Ariana L. Reese, 27, Inver Grove Heights, no child passenger restraint system, \$131.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Dani L. Engstrom, 35, Albert Lea, speeding, \$141; Troy L. Farr, 50, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Craig R. Harris, 53, Medford, speeding, \$141; Victoria L. Harris, 58, Council Bluffs, IA, speeding, \$131; James M. Long, 51, Commerce, GA, speeding, \$131;
Raquel M. Morales, 35, West St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Henry A. Portillo, 39, Denver, CO, failure to maintain parts and accessories in safe and proper operating condition and failure to carry proof of annual inspection, \$331;
Christopher S. Ranch, 53, Danville, CA, speeding, \$141; Shannon

M. Sneepe, 25, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Thanh Q. Tran, 63, Oklahoma City, OK, speeding, \$121; Kayla S. Winter, 26, Faribault, seat belt, \$106.

Owatonna Police Department
Isaac A. Bartlett, 23, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$131, individual therapy, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Michele R. Benolken, 43, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121; Andrew J. Bluntson, 38, Hopkins, suspended license, \$181;
Susan R. Brein, 43, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$181; Larry M. Busker, 60, Owatonna, failure to obey lane marker, \$131; Chantel L. Carson, 26, Austin, DWI, \$1,081, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation, and 3 years of supervised probation;
Amy M. Cremeans, 37, Rochester, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Scott M. Eastwood, 44, Waterville, restraining order violation, \$181, domestic abuse evaluation, no contact with victim, and 1 year of supervised probation; Adam S. Heim, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$131;
Jason R. Monsebroten, 23, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,081, 90 days in county jail; Doris M. Parks, 63, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Faviana Rodriguez, 22, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Nahom Tesfalidet, 34, Minneapolis, firearms violation, \$131 and 115 days in county jail;
Darin L. Waldhauser, 41, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$131, 2 days in county jail, no contact with victim and 1 year of supervised probation; Patrick H. Weber, 55, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Dennis W. Winkel, 28, Owatonna, impersonating a police officer, \$181, and 1 year of unsupervised probation;
Lovely L. Young, 18, Owatonna, theft, \$281, 28 days in county jail, go to Roosevelt Community Program, and 1 year of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Julie D. Anderson, 53, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Julia O. Anton, 57, speeding, \$141; Justin M. Bjerke, 28, Ankeny, IA, speeding, \$141; Mark W. Buretta, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Alyssa C. Butterfield, 17, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Isaac R. Carter, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Kay L. Cassen, 61, Owatonna, driving through barricade, \$121;
Amy M. Cremeans, 37, Rochester, suspended license, \$281; John R. Farr, 59, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Eddie A. Feliciano Velazquez, 41, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Francisco Flores, 18, Medford, revoked license, \$281; Timothy D. Gasner, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Brent S. Graboski, 25, Austin, speeding, \$131; Jason C. Hayden, 38, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;
Pah T. Hei, 26, Austin, speeding, \$141; Keylee D. Hoffstatter, 17, Claremont, speeding, \$131; Zackary J. Hughes, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;
Nicole K. Huntsman, 43, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device and passing at intersection, \$106; Dylan C. Johnson, 18, Clarke Grove, speeding, \$121; Russell J. Kiker, 51, Lonsdale, speeding, \$121; Raymond J. Kubat, 69, Medford, stop sign, \$131; Yvette M. Lopez, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$131;
Edward J. Maloney, 58, New Richland, DWI, \$581, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, comply with Ignition Interlock Program and 2 years of supervised probation; Amy L. Mandler, 42, Wells, speeding, \$131; Tyler J. McMinimee, 21, Castle Rock, CO, speeding, \$131;
Brandon D. Moen, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Benito E. Mora-Flores, 18, Medford, underage drinking and driving, \$281, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Trevor R. Nelson, 35, Waseca, driving through barricade, \$121;
Anthony M. Ohnstad, 29, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Ross W. Reishus, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jacob E. Riffe, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;
Amanda A. Rivers, 25, Owa-

Blotter spotlight:

Thefts. On July 23 at 12:52 a.m., a citizen reported that he videotaped and chased five females out of an apartment complex in the 300 block of 6th St. SW in Kasson as they had been stealing out of cars in the parking lot.

Late night munchies lead to DWI arrest

A man from the Twin Cities who was dealing with a case of the late night munchies ended up crashing his vehicle and landing in jail for the night.

Lance J. Weingartz, 35, of Burnsville, faces two counts of third-degree DWI in connection with the crash early Thursday near the County Road 45 and Highway 14 interchange in Owatonna.

Police responded to the area where they found a car unoccupied in the ditch. As the officer was investigating the crash, a man came walking out of a

w o o d e d

area near the scene. Weingartz told the officer he was the driver and ran from the scene so he could wait until morning to get the vehicle out, according to police.

While speaking to Weingartz, the officer found him show-



Weingartz

ing signs of intoxication and placed him under arrest after failing field sobriety tests. He admitted to police he had been drinking and drove from his home in Burnsville to Arby's in Owatonna. He apparently didn't go to the Burnsville location because there were too many cars so he jumped on I-35 to head to Owatonna.

Weingartz's alcohol level was reportedly .16, which is twice the legal limit, police said.

tonna, speeding, \$141; Douglas C. Robinson, 36, Kilkenny, speeding, \$141; Judith L. Schmidt, 52, Ellendale, speeding, \$381; Michael P. Wood, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$221.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 228 complaints for the week of July 22 – 28. Some of them include:

July 22
Animal. At 7:03 a.m., deputies received a report that cows were in the road at 160th Ave. and 710th St. in Hayfield.

Found Animal. A Dodge Center resident found a horse in the 59900 block of 208th Ave. at 2:40 p.m. Deputies located the owner and returned the horse.

July 23
Suspicion. A Dodge Center resident reported that a small plane was flying really low and circling her house in the 60500 block of 220th Ave. at 11:25 a.m.

Cell Call. At 12:27 p.m., deputies received a 911 open line call from the 300 block of Main St. N. in Mantorville. Deputies could hear that a female and male were arguing and walking. Deputies found out that it was an accidental dial and that everything was OK.

Assist. Deputies assisted Kasson Police when a male subject was getting hostile over the ownership of a vehicle on Crown Ave. in Kasson at 6:04 p.m.

Speeding. At 8:31 p.m., two motorcycles were found to be speeding around 100 mph at State Hwy. 30 and 100th Ave. in Hayfield.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint that five kids were on a golf cart in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 8:59 p.m.

July 24
Larceny. At 6:43 a.m., a Claremont resident that someone had gone through his motor vehicle overnight in the 300 block of 2nd St. W.

Fire. Kasson Fire and Kasson Police responded to the 200 block of 2nd St. NW in Kasson at 7 a.m. after a lightning strike hit a home.

Trespassing. A trespassing incident occurred in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center at 5:18 p.m.

July 25
Disturbance. A Dodge Center man called deputies at 9:04 a.m. when his brother had woke him and then assaulted him in the 200 block of Main St. E. Deputies responded and separated the parties.

Threats. A Hayfield citizen reported that he had received threats via phone in the 66800 block of 250th Ave. at 10:03 a.m.

Juvenile. At 2:52 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint that kids were trying to climb on grain bins on 1st Ave. SE in Dodge Center.

Disturbance. Deputies received a report that a truck was driving slowly and a female who appeared to have been crying was walking behind it at 630th St. and 160th Ave. in Claremont at 4:46 p.m.

Suspicion. At 9:26 p.m., a suspicious activity report was made after two subjects wearing all black were seen standing in the middle of the road at County Rd. 9 and County

Rd. 10 in Kasson.
Probation. Deputies responded to a report of an intoxicated female in the 700 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 11:04 p.m. They arrested a subject for a probation violation at the scene.

July 26
Juvenile. At 5:15 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint that five kids were throwing rocks at the grain bin on 1st Ave. SE in Dodge Center.

Noise. Deputies received a noise complaint that loud vulgar music was coming from the Hayfield track on 6th Ave. SE at 8:47 p.m.

July 27
Environment. At 7:56 a.m., a clothes dryer and baby stroller had been dumped in the 60300 block of 160th Ave. in Dodge Center.

Roll Over. At 2:15 p.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle roll over involving a van at 235th Ave. and 625th St. in Mantorville. They transported two subjects to the Steele County Jail.

Animal. At 7:13 p.m., a Claremont citizen reported that her neighbor's dogs were in her yard in the 400 block of Front St. W.

Harassment. A Hayfield citizen reported that she had been harassed by two females in the 700 block of Center Ave. S. at 9:16 p.m.

Noise Complaint. Loud music was reported in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 11:50 p.m.

July 28
Animal Neglect. Deputies began an investigation of animal neglect in the 500 block of Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 8:24 a.m.

Assist. Deputies assisted Kasson Police when a male subject reported that a female who used to own his car was following him on Crown Ave. at 5:56 p.m.

Juvenile. At 6:20 p.m., deputies received a complaint that juveniles were on the roof of the old school in the 100 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center. They were unable to locate the juveniles.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 20 – 27:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Ryan D. Aarsvold, 17, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Adeline J. Agrimson, 79, Peterson, speeding, \$120; Craig L. Benda, 56, Kasson, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Troy L. Benner, 41, Austin, speeding, \$140;
Mary A. Brogan, 21, Kasson,

DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Jesse J. Derouin, 33, Dover, seat belt, \$105; David K. Dickie, 80, Mantorville, cancelled license and keep to the right, \$330;

Elizabeth A. Gomez, 26, Dodge Center, failure to stop for school bus, \$380; Kenneth D. Heins, 23, Hayfield, disorderly conduct, \$380, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Damiana E. Huber, 26, Dodge Center, possession of Marijuana, \$130; Thomas L. Malles, 34, Byron, seat belt, \$105;

Marcus C. Mancilman, 36, Plainview, suspended license, \$280; Chad M. Maroo, 38, Kasson, driving without Ignition Interlock, \$200, and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Isaac C. Olson, 26, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32;

Steven E. Paulson, 63, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Korey R. Rath, 23, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Cynthia J. Raymond, 47, Kasson, expired license, \$180; Erwin R. Rebutan, 53, West Concord, failure to stop for school bus, \$300 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication;

Melissa A. Reichel, 33, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jason C. Richards, 23, Rochester, revoked license, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Dale R. Rud Jr., 37, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Larry B. Snider, 53, Dodge Center, cancelled license, \$980, and 2 years of probation.

Kasson Police Department

Julie A. Borland, 58, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Kevin M. Breault, 57, Sergeant, speeding, \$140; Alexander T. Fogal, 18, Kasson, theft, \$100, and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Roy G. Gasner, 51, Claremont, parking violation, \$32;

Randall L. Hargiss, 26, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Thomas M. Helget, 49, Byron, parking violation, \$32; Benjamin L. Hoffman, 32, Kasson, DWI, \$880, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 80 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Mark S. Johnston, 65, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Jacob B. Krueger, 28, Austin, seat belt, \$105; Michael E. Nelson, 61, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Beverly J. Rohwer, 58, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140;

Krystal M. Stearns, 28, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Sally A. Vehrenkamp, 58, Eyota, parking violation, \$32; Paul R. Ward, 35, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued on 3B

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Andrew Anderson – traffic - \$500 bail
Darren Anderson – theft by check - \$5,000 bail
Damion Andrews – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
Daria Andrews – theft by check - \$19,000 bail
Mack Anthony – open bottle - \$500 bail
Adaliti Antonio – drugs - \$1,000,000 bail
Andrew Anzaldua – DWI - \$1,000 bail
Jose Aquilas – DWI - \$12,000 bail

Jorge Arias – DWI – no bail
Michael Armstead – DWI - \$500 bail
Maria Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail
Christopher Asplund – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
Stewart Babler – receiving stolen property - \$500 bail

Richard Back – assault - \$500 bail
William Bailey – no MN license - \$500 bail
Thomas Baker – theft - \$10,000 bail
Lionel Baldwin – weapons - \$3,000 bail
Nick Ball – worthless check (2) – no bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification & apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Public Safety and News

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 2B

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

MN State Patrol Rochester

Christopher R. Decker, 43, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Nathan A. Hofmeister, 27, Waseca, speeding, \$130; James L. Luraghi, 48, Rochester, stop sign, \$130; Vrenda Murillo Estrada, 20, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Skylar A. Murphy, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$140; James V. Parker, 51, Brownsdale, seat belt, \$105; Daisey Sanchez, 28, Morristown, speeding, \$120.

West Concord Police Department

Jacob M. Ness, 25, Pine Island, speeding, 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Glen Allen Barber, 48, arrested at 2:23 p.m. July 24, felony incest and criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

Mark Allan Stokke, 26, arrested

at 11:15 a.m. July 24, domestic assault, held for court.

Jon Dorien Brown, 42, arrested at 1:30 a.m. July 25, cancelled license, DWI, speeding and improper turn, held for court.

David Donald Kaderlik, 36, arrested at 2:25 a.m. July 27, felony assault, failure to register, probation violation, held for court.

Cody James Parkos, 18, arrested at 8:50 a.m. July 28, felony possession of stolen property and DWI, held for court.

Mark Henry Ammann, 31, arrested at 11:25 p.m. July 28, order for protection violation, held for court.

Lance Joseph Weingartz, 35, arrested at 2:43 a.m. July 30, DWI, held for court.

Ashley Alonzo Hernandez, 36, arrested at 1:16 a.m. July 31, felony terroristic threats, assault, and fleeing on foot, held for court.

Desiree Lynee Anderson, 25, arrested at 1:03 a.m. July 31, felony assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Melissa Christine Clarke, 21, arrested at 4 a.m. July 31, extradition hearing – warrant, \$2,000 bail.

Steele County Sheriff

Heather Joy Marovich, 34, arrested at 4:38 p.m. July 24, warrant arrest, held for court.

Tracy Lee Herbst, 52, arrested at 2:22 p.m. July 30, probation viola-

tion, held for court.

Jeremiah Michael Chabluk, 25, arrested at 8:05 p.m. July 30, DWI-refusal to submit to test, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

July 17

Carbon Monoxide. Fire fighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 700 block of Lee St. NE at 8:20 p.m.

July 19

Medical. At 4:11 p.m., fire fighters assisted with a medical emergency in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred on Interstate 35 at 2:50 p.m.

July 20

Crashes. Fire rescue responded to two motor vehicle accidents resulting in injuries throughout the day. They were at 3:42 p.m. on Hwy. 218 S. and at 6:08 p.m. on Hwy. 14 E.

July 21

Gas Leak. Fire personnel responded to a natural gas leak on

Cedar Ave. at 9:57 a.m.

July 23

Cooking Fire. At 4:01 a.m., a confined cooking fire occurred in the 100 block of Rice St. SE.

Accident. Owatonna Fire responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Hwy. 35 at 7 p.m.

July 25

Carbon Monoxide. At 3:21 p.m., a carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 400 block of 16th St. NE.

July 28

Crash. Fire rescue responded to the 500 block of Bridge St. W. for a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at 6:11 p.m.

July 29

Waste Fire. Fire personnel assisted with an outside rubbish, trash, or waste fire in the 5500 block of 60th St. NE at 3:57 p.m.

Medical. At 7:06 p.m., fire rescue assisted paramedics with a medical emergency in the 800 block of School St. E.

July 30

Sprinkler. A sprinkler was activated due to a malfunction in the 600 block of Eisenhower Dr. at 4:30 a.m.

Minnesota's Minimum Wage Increased on Aug. 1st

More than 288,000 of Minnesota's lowest-wage workers will get a raise on Saturday, when the state's large employer minimum wage rises to \$9 an hour. In April 2014, Governor Dayton signed a bill into law raising Minnesota's minimum wage for the first time in a decade. This is the state's second of three annual minimum wage increases. The legislation will increase the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour by 2016, and indexes it to inflation to ensure Minnesotans' wages keep up with the cost of living.

"Minnesotans who work full-time should be able to earn enough money to lift their families out of poverty and achieve the American Dream," said Governor Mark Dayton. "Raising the minimum wage will improve the lives of more than 287,000 hard-working Minnesotans. I thank the Legislature for recognizing the need to make work pay in Minnesota."

"Today nearly 300,000 hard-working Minnesotans will receive a well-deserved raise," said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. "This is good progress for our

state. However, we must continue to build an economy that works for all Minnesotans."

Before the legislation took effect, Minnesota had one of the lowest minimum wages in the nation – lower than neighboring Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In fact, Minnesota's minimum wage, at \$6.15 per hour, was one of only four states in the country with a minimum wage below the national rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Raising the state's minimum wage is expected to help lift many Minnesotans out of poverty. Under the previous minimum wage of \$6.15 per hour, a single parent with two children working full-time earned an annual salary of just \$12,792. That is \$7,000 below the poverty line. Raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour will put another \$6,970 in that parent's pocket, helping them earn more to provide for their family.

Raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour will put an estimated \$472 million in additional wages in the pockets of Minnesota's lowest-wage workers each year.

MAIN STREET MAY BE CLOSED, BUT BUSINESSES ARE STILL OPEN!



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA BERNDT.

Pictured from left to right are Greg Johnson (B to Z Hardware), Tim Wacek (Floor Tech, Inc.), Harvey and Nancy Farr (J&H Liquors), Leanne Hanson (A Touch of Charm) and Tammy Johnson (Johnson & Doerhoefer).



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drop the sporting complex aspect a more difficult pill to swallow.

While Wottreng considered himself a supporter of both plans; he expressed that he had a “low grade anxiety when I thought about if this doesn’t pass because we went for more than our community might have been ready for.”

Wottreng expressed the importance of the board to not drop the need for a sporting complex entirely, even though it is dropped from this referendum.

The building of an athletic complex was born out of the findings that the Owatonna High School is overgrowing the current athletic facilities, as about 50% of high school students are in at least one sport.

After discussion, the members, including Wottreng, decided that the timing was not right for the athletic complex, and the

funding should be focused on the maintenance of buildings, school safety and security, and elementary crowding.

The needs of the school district were carefully collected, based on a comprehensive analysis completed by a 36-member Community Task Force on Facilities, a professional community survey, and other community input. The process of deciphering needs was called “careful, thoughtful and intentional” by Tom Sager, the school district’s director of operations.

Board member Peter Grant reminded the board that the last major improvements on facilities were done approximately 20 years ago. Most of those buildings were built over 50 years ago. “These infrastructures will wear out, and maintaining them becomes overwhelming,” said Grant. “Unless they are totally replaced, the systems will fail,”

said Grant.

With the approval of the referendum, building improvements will include heating and cooling and other mechanical systems. Accessibility and fire safety concerns will be addressed, and parking lots will be fixed. The improvements discussed in terms of this referendum include all buildings, except the high school.

Additions to McKinley and Lincoln elementary schools are also being considered. This will remove the portables, which were built for temporary purposes only.

While many schools were built over 60 years ago, the security needs have changed drastically. The referendum plans to upgrade safety and security systems.

Regarding elementary crowding, additions to Willow Creek and the Junior High will allow

the school district to convert Willow Creek to a K-5 elementary school and the Junior High to 6-8 middle school. The board called this a “more common grade configuration.”

If the referendum is approved, residential properties will experience a monthly tax increase of \$15, resulting in an annual tax increase of \$177.

As Grant pointed out at the meeting during the passionate discussion about the referendum, “our only goal is to make the district better.”

By Sept. 18, absentee ballots will be available. Prior to the vote on Nov. 3, the board will be hosting informational sessions. More information about the referendum can be found at www.owatonna.k12.mn.us.

that they have seen that work,” Naatz said. “There is also a lot of rigging rope that comes into play.”

People trapped in grain bins are susceptible to suffocation and other severe or fatal injuries as a result of the intense pressure the grain places on their bodies. Inside the bin, people are also exposed to carbon monoxide and other toxic fumes. The person also becomes very weak while trapped, which can make rescue efforts even more challenging.

“Grain bin calls are very labor intensive,” said Naatz. “The more people who respond, the better.”

Although the BPF is prepared to aide anyone in need, Naatz says that workers on the farm can often prevent accidents in the first place by simply taking safety precautions. “A

lot of the time, the grain stops flowing and people go in to figure out what’s wrong,” he said. “You have to be tied off with a harness to get keep from getting sucked in, and you shouldn’t be in there, any way, without locking the motor first.” In situations like this, Naatz says that it’s also important to have other people close by in case of an emergency.

Most elevators do have policies about entering bins to keep employees safe, but operators working alone or working long hours often attempt to resolve issues on their own. Naatz says this is never a good idea.

“The biggest thing is to make sure there’s other people around, and to make sure you’re harnessed and tied off if you have to go in,” says Naatz.

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Application deadline: August 12, 2015, 4:30pm
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\$12.00 - \$15.00/hour, 28 hours per week, year-round position serving multiple locations, includes pro-rated benefits.
Application deadline: August 19, 2015, 4:30pm
- **Guest Services – Tennis & Fitness Center:**
\$9.00 - \$12.00/hour, 10-15 hours per week, multiple openings.
Application deadline: August 12, 2015, 4:30pm

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Visit our Website at www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/
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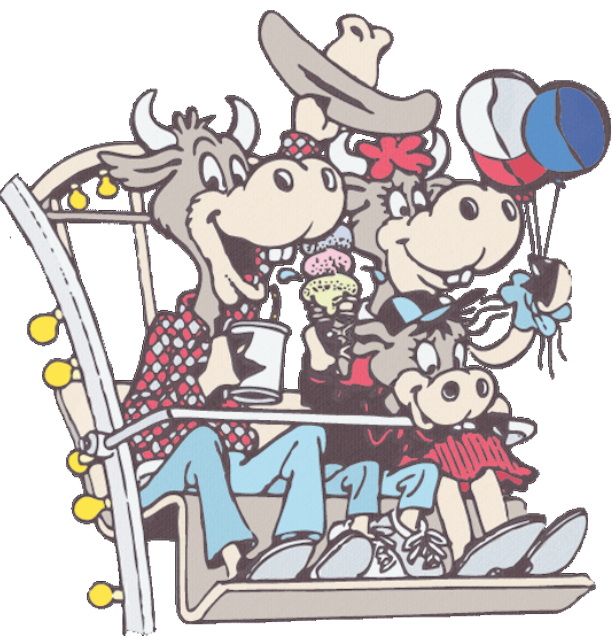
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Steele County FREE Fair ATTRACTIONS



KRFO/KAT Stage

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015

1:20 pm - Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest
5:00 pm - Ladies Nail Driving Contest
5:45pm - JAKE JONES
7:30 pm - Pumper, Peddler, and the Politician
Ludewig Financial Group

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015

1:20 pm - Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest
2:00 pm - Jill Hoggard Dancers
3:15 pm - Dain’s Dutchmen from Sleepy Eye
5:00 pm - Ladies Nail Driving Contest
5:30 pm - Blue Grass Review
6:30 pm - DeKam & Johnson
7:30 pm - Dennis Arner and the D’s
home town credit union

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015

Noon - Luverne Wanous
1:20 pm - Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest
2:00 pm - 6th Grade Jerry Kent
Memorial Spelling Bee
3:45 pm - Flemming Fold
5:00 pm - Ladies Nail Driving Contest
5:30 pm - Dave WilliamsPremier Bank
7:30 pm - Darlene and The BoysGMI

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015

12:00 Noon - Dan Stursa Band
1:20 pm - Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest
2:00 pm - Greta Jacobson
3:30 pm - Sonflower Puppets
5:00 pm - Ladies Nail Driving Contest
6:00 pm - Line Dancing
7:30 pm - Square Dancing

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015

1:20 pm - Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest
2:00 pm - Stanley Koslosky Band
4:00 pm - Lisa Murphy, Singing Cowgirl
5:00 pm - Ladies Nail Driving
5:30 pm - American Pie
7:30 pm - Dueling Pianos

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015

1:00 pm - Witness
2:30 pm - Stix of Fury
3:15 pm - Lisa Murphy, singing Cowgirl
5:00 pm - Banjo Boy Variety Band



United Prairie Bank Stage

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015

12:00 Noon - Leon Olsen Show
2:30 pm - Flemming Fold
3:30 pm - JAKE JONES
5:00 pm - Flag Raising Ceremony
5:30 pm - Owatonna Community Band
6:30 pm - Scott Rogness and the Shasta Kings
8:00 pm - Fabulous Love Handles

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015

10:15 am - Unlimited Possibilities Dance Studio
11:00 am - Kid’s Day Show: Jack Pearson
12:00 pm - Bluegrass Review
1:30 pm - Jack Pearson
2:30 pm - Bluegrass Review
4:00 pm - Jill Hoggard Dancers
5:15 pm - Concord German Singers
8:00 pm - Funktion Junction

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015
SENIOR DAY

11:00 am - Marv Nissel Band
1:15 pm - Ray Sands Polka Dots
2:30 pm - Walley Pikal
3:45 pm - Polka Dots with Ray Sands
5:00 pm - Wally Pikal
6:00 pm - Senior Citizen Volunteer Awards
6:30 pm - Logan Johnson/Noah DeKam
8:00 pm - White Sidewalls

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015

8:00 am - Talent Show Rehearsals
11:00 am - Kids Day Show -Sonflower Puppets
12:15 pm - Klondike Kates
1:30 pm - Sonflower Puppets
3:00 pm - Klondike Kates
4:30 pm - Turpentine Wine
6:00 pm - Just Friends
7:30 pm - The Jimmys

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015
(OLD TIME DAY)

Morning and Afternoon Music
11:30 am - Dan Stursa Band
12:45 pm - Chmielewski Band
2:00 pm - Dan Stursa Band
3:15 - Chimielewski Band
5:00 pm - Kris and the Riverbend Dutchmen
8:00 pm - D.C. Drifters

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015

11:00 am Outdoor Community Church Service
12:30 pm American Pie
2:00 pm - Amateur Talent Show
4:30 pm - Stix of Fury
5:00 pm -The Vegas Guys



Village of Yesteryear Stage

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

3:00-4:00 pm - TBA
4:00-5:00 pm - Ruth Emro, Carol Morsching, & Eileen Ptacek
5:00-6:00 pm - Jill Hoggard Dancers
6 pm Marion - Johnson Concertina

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

1 pm Irv’s Concertina
2 pm SeniorPlace Golden Tones
3 pm TriM W’s (Jean Krause, Audrey Parker, & Janet Dirks)
4 pm Gina Mathison Elstad and students
5 pm Emma Hellivik
6 pm Jacob Hellivik

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

1-2 PM TBA
2-3 pm Joe’s Concertina
3-4 pm Nordic Notes
4-5 pm Gogs (Dan Leer)
5-6 pm Shawn Larson
6-7 pm Ray Bissen Band

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

12-1 pm Dave and Rachel Schroeder
1-2 pm Johnny Bird
2-3 pm Dunnell Lenort
3-4 pm Leer Brothers
4-5 pm Bad Tangerines
5-6 pm Lonesome Ron
6-7 pm Dan Stursa Band

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

1-2 pm OUMC Singing Men
2-3 pm Ross Sletten



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FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

Child I.D. Kits to be available at fair

The Steele County Sheriff's office will be offering free Child I.D. kits during the Steele County Free Fair. When recovering a missing child, the most important tools for law enforcement are an up-to-date, quality photograph and descriptive information. This kit includes an up-to-date photo of your child and other pertinent information such as height, weight and other distinguishing characteristics, plus medical information. The kit also includes fingerprints of the child, which will be taken at the Sheriff's office at the fair.

So, when you come to the fair with those little ones, stop by the Sheriff's office in the Muckle Building and have your child fingerprinted. Complete the rest of the kit information and keep it in a safe place at home.

The Sheriff's office also reminds you that the child I.D. tags are available at the fair office. These should be attached to the child before you go onto the fairgrounds.

In the case of a lost child that is found wandering the grounds, the child will be taken to the Sheriff's office on the fairgrounds until parents or child-care people are found.

Support of Purple Ribbon Club

The Steele County Purple Ribbon Club is a local non-profit corporation made up of Steele County volunteers who raise funds to support Steele County 4-H programming efforts, including the Purple Ribbon Project premiums at the Minnesota State Fair, supporting both livestock and non-livestock 4-H projects. The funds also support livestock quality assurance and ethics training for 4-H members, Steele County Free Fair 4-H judge's training and project trainings and updates for 4-H members.

Donations are what support the Purple Ribbon Club. Your donation helps to strengthen the 4-H program and the youth learning that takes place in Steele County. Your donation helps to create "Purple Ribbon Kids" who in turn give back to our community through leadership and service. If you are a business, your donation insures that your business is recognized as a supporter of the Steele County Purple Ribbon Club. There are several sponsor levels ranging from \$50 to \$500.

If a Steele County 4-Her shows his or her animal in the state livestock auction, funds from the Purple Ribbon Club are used to buy back the animal. These funds go to the 4-Her. The club also awards an extra \$25 for all projects entering state competition.

While at the fair, you can show your support of the Purple Ribbon Club by purchasing a raffle ticket at the 4-H Food Stand. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$300.

Funds earned at the 4-H Pork Chop Feed on Friday night of the fair will go toward the Purple Ribbon Club.

Currently, Steele County enrolls over 1,150 youth in the 4-H Youth Development program. Approximately 500 of these youth participate in the Steele County Free Fair, exhibiting over 2,460 projects. In 2014, Steele County 4-H awarded over 90 livestock trips and over 60 general project trips to the State Fair. Over 30 Steele County 4-H youth also participated in 4-H judging teams and 4-H Project Bowl teams. In 2014, the Purple Ribbon Club awarded over \$13,000 to local Steele County 4-H participants.

Dates of the 2015 Steele County Free Fair are August 18-23. Check the fair website at www.scff.org. The fair office number is 507-451-5305.

Field of Flags will support Blooming Prairie's fight against cancer

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

For the third year in a row, Blooming Prairie will be the site of a moving display that's captured the attention – and support – of the local community.

In 2012, the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group began a unique initiative, which they called "The Field of Flags," in conjunction with their annual Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Auction. All were welcome to purchase a flag in honor or memory of someone who has been touched by cancer, and the flags were later displayed just east of Highway 218. Each year, the tradition has continued to grow. This year, the Field of Flags will fly in Blooming Prairie once again.

As the pink flags wave in the wind, they create a powerful



The Field of Flags will soon decorate Blooming Prairie once again. Each flag flies in honor or memory of someone touched by cancer. The flags are on sale now for just \$10 apiece and can be purchased from any member of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group committee.

FIELD OF FLAGS
Continued on C5

Future of South Country Health Alliance uncertain

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

The future of South Country Health Alliance is uncertain after the State of Minnesota declined to award a contract to the multi-county group to provide Minnesota Care and Medical Assistance services in their 12 county service area.

Last week Gov. Mark Dayton

and Lucinda Jesson, the commissioner for the Department of Human Services, announced the results of a competitive bidding process for the right to provide services for 2016. The state said the process will save the state \$650 million dollars.

But for South Country the decision means a nearly 85 percent loss in membership putting the future of the organization in

doubt.

South Country was informed last week that the state was only offering a contract to provide Minnesota Care and Medical Assistant contracts for services in Dodge County, said Leota Lind, South Country's CEO. South Country is a multi-county venture that also includes Dodge, Steele, Freeborn, Goodhue and Waseca Counties in

south central Minnesota. It also serves Brown, Kanabec, Morrison, Sibley, Todd, Wabasha and Wadena Counties. It provides Minnesota Care and Medical Assistance in all counties except Freeborn.

The organization currently

HEALTH ALLIANCE
Continued on Page C4

Louise Peterson wins People's Choice award at annual Blooming Prairie flower show



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

What a trio! Three talented musicians played some of our favorite melodies at the annual Blooming Prairie American Auxiliary Flower Show and Luncheon on Thursday, July 30. Shown above, from left to right, are Ken Trom, Joan Mast and Jeanette Hauschildt.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A white lily arrangement by Louise Peterson of rural Blooming Prairie won the People's Choice award at the annual Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary Flower Show on Thursday, July 30.

More than 100 exhibitors entered their floral arrangements before three judges, Sharon Schroeder, Julie Easton and Betty Behnken. Show attendees voted for their favorite floral arrangement, thus the People's Choice Award.

An estimated 170 lunches were served to flower show guests.

Peterson resides on a 139-acre farm about 4 1/2 miles south of Blooming Prairie. She also won reserve champion honors with her white lily arrangement. "I have flowers planted all around the house; come and see them," Peterson responded to a congratulatory greeting.

Verna Magnuson was named Grand Champion with her outdoor green foliage mix. She displayed her arrangement in a barrel to accent shades of purple and green. She keeps her display on the porch at her farm home just south of Blooming Prairie. "I still don't believe it," Verna said, accepting her award.

Darlene Noble, of Blooming Prairie, was presented a special award for having the most patriotic floral display.

The show featured eight classes and 22 categories.

Premium ribbon winners were: Louise Peterson, Martha Walters, David Eliason, Darlene Noble, Karen Spinler, Verna Magnuson, Marlys Schmeling, Lois Winzenburg, Judy Esplan, Barbara Lewis, Austra Hanson, Margaret Noble, Diane Nelson, Elaine Braaten, Gloria Trom, Gloria Hiese, Dorothy Johnson and Cindy Lindquist. Many of

FLOWER SHOW
Continued on C4

STEELE TALKIN'



David Wright

Co-Occurring disorders

The term, "co-occurring disorders" refers to two conditions, present at that same time. For this article, as well in the substance use treatment venue, refers to the presence of co-existing substance use and mental health disorders. In Canada and Europe, this combination is referred to as "concurrent disorders".

For many years, Minnesota has been the center of excellence in treatment for substance use disorders. It has been proclaimed for the past several decades in the treatment and recovery communities that a substance use disorder is "a disease." The disease concept had its skeptics, yet we know that mental health disorders are also "a disease," a disease of the brain. Also, for many years it was believed that mental health disorders present in a substance abuser were the product of a substance use condition and only temporary until the person engages in recovery abstinence. The degree of their success was determined by how hard they participated in their own substance use recovery. Failure to do so, or in the case of the remaining presence of mental health symptoms, often were seen as the participant's lack of application of the basic principles of substance use supports.

Earlier in my career, I had the unintended privilege and opportunity to practice under the medical direction of the late Dr. Richard Heilman while at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Drug Dependency Treatment Program. I observed the patients in our program and presence of various mental health conditions, and had posed the question to Dr. Heilman as to what his thoughts were.

He responded by telling me that individuals with substance use disorders had no higher rate of co-existing mental health conditions than did the general population, at that time roughly 12-14 percent. This was 1989, and for everything Dr. Heilman did for the treatment in our state (and arguably the nation), he was wrong.

Within the past decade and a half, research has shown that the presence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders are well into the 30th percentile or more, depending on the specific combinations of substances abused and the specific mental health diagnosis. I have seen research that suggests much higher rates of mental health conditions in those with substance use disorders, as well as the other way around.

Bipolar Disorder, for example, solidly has shown rates of substance use anywhere from 56-63 percent, depending on the various large sample studies. In addition, most of these mental health conditions have been shown as present or latent before active substance use, and without proper intervention, conditions are present during and after abstinence, making a more symptomatic and for some, a worse and miserable quality of life, thus promoting the return to substance use for mental health symptom relief.

In 2004, I established the Dual Recovery Program as part of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. The program was designed with total recovery in mind and to address the combinations of disorders

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page C4

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Motorcyclists gathered at the Steele County Fairground dirt track on Saturday, Aug. 1 for the first Owatonna Moto Mania in an effort to raise awareness for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). **Staff photo by James Knoop**

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Aug 4:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
Aug 5:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club
Aug 6:
12 p.m. BP American Legion
1 p.m. BPBL Singer-Dennis Warner
1 p.m. UCARE for Seniors: Health plan informational mtg, BP Senior Center
Aug 10:
2 p.m. BPBL Movie Day
5 p.m. BP Education Foundation, HS Library
7 p.m. BP City Council Mtg
Aug 11:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
2:30 p.m. BPPU Commission Mtg
4:30 p.m. BP Fire Commission Mtg
7 p.m. BP VFW
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Planning Mtg, BPSC
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons
Aug 12:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
4:30 p.m. BP EDA Mtg

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- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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#2 - CHEF SALAD

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Aug 4:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Aug 6:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Aug 10:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Aug 11:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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OWATONNA

Aug 4:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
9:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time
10:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time
5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
6 p.m. OPL Caregiver Support Group
6:30 p.m. Nat's Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
Aug 5:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
9:30 a.m. OPL Garden Time
10 a.m. OPL Create-a-Craft
Aug 6:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
10 a.m. Owa 2015 Chamber Golf Event, Owa Country Club
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. 11 @ 7 Concert Series, Owatonna Central Park
Aug 7:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
Aug 8:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
Aug 9:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
Camp Pillsbury Performance, Pillsbury College, Owa
Aug 10:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4:30 p.m. Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
Aug 11:
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
Steele Co Commission

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MEDFORD

Aug 4:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
Aug 5:
7 p.m. Medford Park Board
Aug 6:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Aug 7:
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Donation, Medford School
Aug 10:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Aug 12:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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SPOT LIGHT

UCare to offer Aug. 6 informational meeting

Next month, UCare will host free informational meetings about its UCare for Seniors Medicare health plan options. On Thursday, August 6, UCare will host a "Medicare 101" meeting, providing an overview of Medicare (but not UCare health plan information) at 1 p.m. in the Blooming Prairie Senior Center, located at 134 Third Avenue Southeast. To register for a meeting or to obtain more information, call 1-877-523-1518 toll free.

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower
Aug 4:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
1 p.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Donation, Our Savior Lutheran, Lyle
3:30 p.m. Family Paint, Austin ArtWorks Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
5 p.m. Clay Stamps & Surface Decoration, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. Matra Percussion, Hormel Historic Home
6:30 p.m. Water Aerobics - Session 2, Austin Municipal Pool
Aug 5:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
1st Responders Meeting, Lyle
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Donation, St Olafs Church, Austin
5 p.m. Grand Meadow Farmers Market
6:30 p.m. Peace Garden Concert: The Choo Choo Bob Show, Hormel Historic Home
Aug 6:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Donation, St Olafs Church, Aust
9:30 a.m. Senior Special: Al Batt, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
10:30 a.m. Sci Girls Day Camp, APL
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
4 p.m. LeRoy Farmers Market
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Intermediate Knitting, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Uncork & Create, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. Water Aerobics - Session 2, Austin Municipal Pool
Aug 7:
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, GMPL
10 a.m. FREE SHOW: Mixed Nuts, GMPL
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle

Freeborn
Aug 4:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
5:30 p.m. AL Planning Commission, City Hall
Aug 5:
7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA
Aug 6:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
Aug 10:
55+ DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OFFERED, Albert Lea Senior Center
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
11 a.m. Red Cross Blood Donation, Hy-Vee, AL
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
5:15 p.m. AL Human Rights Commission, City Council Chambers
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers

Dodge
Aug 4:
WC Swimming Lesson Session 2 Evening
WC National Night Out
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
2:30 p.m. Kasson EDA Mtg
4 p.m. Concussion Testing – Hayfield HS Library
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center EDA
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center Planning & Zoning Commission
6 p.m. Dodge Country Club, Ladies League
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
6:30 p.m. Claremont Planning & Zoning (1st Tuesday)
Aug 5:
WC Swimming Lesson Session 2 Evening
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/ Spare Time Lanes
5 p.m. Hayfield EDA Mtg, City Hall
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear

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Blooming PrairieLiving

Prairie Manor Care Center administrator Rich Feeney completes first year



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Rich Feeney, administrator of the Prairie Manor Care Center and Heather Haus Assisted Living, just entered his second year at the facility. He praises the community for being supportive of its health care facility.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

One year has passed since Rich Feeney took the helm as administrator of the Prairie Manor Care Center and Heather Haus Assisted Living in Blooming Prairie.

Feeney says he and his family, wife, two daughters and a son, have indeed been welcomed by the community and become an active part of it. “One of my first goals here was to make sure our family become part of the community,” Feeney said. “We care about the community, and we have found that the community cares about us,” he added.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, PA, Feeney said he always wanted to locate in a rural atmosphere. He is especially impressed with the Blooming Prairie business community and the school district.

“This whole community supports one another,” Feeney said.

Feeney and wife Patty have three children, two daughters (Johanna and Allysha) and a son (Richie.) Patty and Johanna will be attending Mankato State University this fall, Allysha attends the University of Wisconsin in Baron County and Richie is a junior at Blooming Prairie High School.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Feeney obtained a BA in business administration and majored in health administration.

Prairie Manor currently counts 43 residents. The Heather House, located adjoining Prairie Manor, has 20 apartments and is full. “We have a waiting list,” Feeney said.

Working with a board of directors, Feeney’s chief responsibility is to see that his staff provides good quality care and comfort to its residents.

Feeney is most proud of his employee force which totals 107. “We have a good record of longevity with our staff and they love to come to work,” Feeney remarked.

His leadership style has been positive, Feeney says, and he has tried to empower his employees to take charge and make changes if needed. “As time goes on, they then will be more comfortable in their job and will make changes that will be good for them and the residents,” Feeney explained.

Asked if he has set any special goals early in his second year of management, Feeney laughs, “I haven’t had time.” He does con-

Breakfast, lunch now being served at Terry’s in Bunkies Grille & Lanes

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

“We came for food,” replied two young teenage customers when asked “What are you two trouble makers up to?”

Breakfast and lunch favorites are now being served at Bunkies Grille and Lanes in Blooming Prairie. Food has returned to Bunkies from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week and this brings a wide smile to Aaron Ressler, proprietor of the grille, bowling lanes and golf simulator on East Main Street.

It’s been one year since Aaron took the reins of Bunkies, named after his grandfather, George Ressler. “We only had frozen pizzas before,” Ressler said.

“We are doing a soft opening now and will have a big grand opening after Main Street is finished,” Ressler said. The business was previously owned by Aaron’s brother, Mike. He came up with the name Bunkies and remodeled the business. Original restaurant owners were George (97) and Tillie (98), followed by their son David.

The grille is managed by Terry Pfister of Byron. She ran Terry’s Diner on the Tracks in Byron previous to coming to Blooming Prairie. On her first day open, she attracted over 30 customers. Seating capacity at Bunkies is at 80.

“People love our niche of home cooked meals and already, our homemade fries and burgers are going over well,” Ressler said. Meat loaf and goulash have been selling well, as have our homemade hash browns, pancakes and waffles,” said Pfister. “That little cafe feel and smell has come back,” he added. The cafe first opened in 1947.

Pfister said she will soon be offering her specialty of banana cream pie. She also will feature coconut cream pie.

Bunkies continues to be open for birthday parties, golf league and bowling nights. “I was searching for someone who could do the food for us,” Ressler said. Now, catering is an option “and a huge benefit for us,” he added.

Ressler laughs when he said he sometimes would scorch a pizza. “Even with frozen food, I

couldn’t get it,” he joked.

In the near future, Ressler hopes to have outside patio seating.

Owner Ressler said he has had “good local support from the friendly residents of Blooming Prairie.” He said the golf leagues have really taken off, and he hopes to get kids interested in bowling through the schools.

Aaron is a teaching pro at the Blooming Prairie Country Club and gets out to the course as often as time permits. He has run a couple of golf camps this summer.

Running a small business is Ressler’s priority, however, and he said the reward is that the business is “your own” and the downside is that the business is “your own.”

Ressler is a Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce member.

Ressler said he always tries to look ahead, and his wish is to finish the old barn behind the restaurant, using it for weddings and band events. “That’s on my wish list; more small towns need dreamers,” he said. The building is listed on National Register of Historic Places.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Terry Pfister of Byron is now serving her breakfast and lunch specialties at Bunkies Grille & Lanes in Blooming Prairie. Above, Bunkies owner Aaron Ressler, right, takes his turn to putting in an order.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nikki’s Scrapbook Nook is “Your Inspiration Destination”

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A love for art and a desire to attend an architectural school led Nikki Ryks (Dennis) to being a small business owner in Blooming Prairie.

With support from her parents, Vern and Gloria Dennis, owners of Vern’s Bikes & Trikes, Nikki took over the front part of the motorcycle shop and turned it into Nikki’s Scrapbook Nook. The business is located one mile south of Blooming Prairie on Highway 218 at 10444 Dodge Mower Rd., Blooming Prairie.

A huge inventory of scrapbooking materials can be found at Nikki’s. The location also offers classes and includes a weekend retreat option for private groups.

Nikki’s interest in scrapbooking was sparked 16 years ago when she was pregnant with her oldest child, Haley. She has two other children, Levi, age 12 and Milayna, age eight.

“I saw somebody’s scrapbook from a vacation and wanted to preserve memories,” Nikki said. She said many memories were lost when two of her siblings, Stephanie and Bobby, died in a fire in 1988. “I wanted to know more about the past,” she said. She also has a sister, Rebekah, who resides in Blaine.

Nikki’s interest in keeping and organizing memories actually began when she was editor of the school yearbook at Blooming Prairie High School. Her interest in art grew when she completed pencil drawings for an art class taught by current BP Mayor H. Peterson. Most of her subjects were animals. She remembers getting A’s on her projects.

Nikki’s scrapbooking store is one of very few left in Minnesota. More scrapbooking items can now be purchased online or at big box stores. “Many have gone to digital scrapbooking, but I still prefer hand-created items,” Nikki said.

Most of her customers are card makers, she said, while showing a handmade card about a white Christmas.

“So many people send text messages now, but how awesome is it when you get a card in the mail. It’s better than getting a mortgage bill in the mail. A card in the mail puts a smile on someone’s face,” said Nikki.

Nikki said she often sends cards to friends and places a lottery ticket in the card. “It might cost \$14 to make seven people happy,” she said.

Grand Opening for Nikki’s Scrapbook Nook was held on Jan. 11, 2013. She said her “Shark Tank” father helped her get started with her store. “I have always wanted a store with a weekend retreat offered,” Nikki related. Her



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Nikki Ryks, owner of Nikki’s Scrapbook Nook in Blooming Prairie, and daughter Milayna, 8, work on the family yearbook that is part of their inspiration destination.

mother Gloria also helps her with the store.

The store has a large classroom for up to 20 six-foot tables. The retreat has five single beds and three futons for overnight stays.

She hosted a cancer group this past February and has one organized for the Blooming Cancer Group in August. An autism group is also coming in September. Twenty-five women were enrolled in a class recognizing National Scrapbook Week on May 2.

After participating in their classes, many of her customers who do overnights said they love shopping in their pajamas and socks. The store stocks primarily paper, stamps, inks and tools. New tools are always being offered, Nikki said.

Nikki is the main instructor for the classes. She previously was a demonstrator for Stampin’ Up and earned a cruise from her efforts.

“My greatest satisfaction is showing people new tricks and techniques of scrapbooking,” Nikki said. “We all love positive attention,” she added.

Promotion for the Nook is done through word of mouth and through Facebook.

Nikki and her children put together a family yearbook every year. “Haley loves art, Levi and I have made valentines every year until he reached seventh grade and Milayna wants all new stuff so it would cost me a fortune.”

The biggest challenge to being a small business person “is that I never sleep,” Nikki admitted.

She said she is on the summer rest mode, but plans to accelerate her activity for the upcoming fall and winter seasons. In the winter, Nikki and her kids blow and shovel snow in the Blooming Prairie area.

Visit the Nook from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

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FARM TO FAMILY



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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Fishing for Knowledge at Panther Power-Up

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

Panther Power-Up is growing, and so are the minds of the students who participate in the summer learning enrichment program.

“Panther Power-Up” offers literacy, science and math enrichment opportunities for New Richland/Heartland/Ellendale/Geneva (NRHEG) elementary students in kindergarten through fifth grade who can benefit from additional learning opportunities. The program began three years ago and is designed to help students get academic help during the summer that will better prepare them for the upcoming school year. Last year, Panther Power-Up had 32 participants. This summer, nearly 60 students attended the three-week long program, which concluded with a special program on Thursday, July 30. This year’s theme was “Fishing for Knowledge,” incorporating fish, worms, Minnesota ecosystems and more into three weeks of fun-filled learning.

Panther Power-Up coordinator Diana Foster says that the growth can be attributed to the community’s support. “The school administration and staff have been profound in our growth,” said Foster. Area businesses and organizations have also helped to build the program in other ways.

This year, for the first time, bus transportation was available for students in each community, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Wells VFW, who hosted an omelet fundraiser in March. The Heartland Fire Department also made a generous donation to help fund next summer’s curriculum, and Lerberg’s Foods also donated food for the celebration last Thursday. And, thanks to the Minnesota Food Program, students also enjoyed breakfast and lunch each day. Students were also elated

when Foster announced that each student would also receive a copy of the books they’ve read together: “How to Eat Fried Worms” (for students in third through fifth grade) and “Diary of a Worm” (for students in kindergarten through second grade.) The surprise was made possible thanks to donations from First National Bank of Waseca, Russ Nelson Electric of Ellendale and Brian Wayne Pioneer Seed of Ellendale.

“We’ve been reading some really good literature,” said Foster. “We’ve learned that reading can be fun, engaging and open your up to a whole new world.”

The program was administered by elementary principal Doug Anderson and taught by several different teachers, grouped by grade level. Each student had the chance to participate in hands-on activities, each relating to fishing and/or worms, while also building a stronger knowledge of science, math, social studies and literacy.

During last week’s program, the students performed a few songs for their parents and other supporters. Each teacher also took a few minutes to share what their students have been learning and highlighted a few of the popular class activities. Some students created their own worm-related recipes, and others created graphs illustrating the average length of night crawlers. The entire group also took field trips to Cabela’s and also had the opportunity to go fishing.

After the program, a few lucky students got to take home special prizes, including fishing poles, tackle boxes and fishing nets. All students also got to take home a bobber, candy or other small treasures.

Although the students (and teachers) were sad to see the program come to an end, they are already looking forward to next year.



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Last Thursday, July 30, students in the Panther Power-Up program celebrated three weeks of learning with a special program for their families and other guests. Above, the students prepare to sing songs about worms and fishing.



Harlee Harris, age five, gets help from Kaelynn Harris, age eight, as they fill their plates with treats after Thursday’s program. On Harlee’s plate is a cup of “worms in the dirt” (gummi worms in chocolate pudding.)



During Panther-Power Up this year, students were also able to enjoy a full breakfast and lunch each day.

FLOWER SHOW

Continued from Page 1C

those who won ribbons were multiple winners.

While flower show visitors were busy viewing floral arrangements and putting their names on raffle basket tickets, three musicians entertained. Ken Trom played the harmonic, Joan Mast worked the accordion and Jeanne Hauschildt played the piano.

Some of the music selections included: “You Are My Sunshine,” “Red River Valley,” “Shall We Gather at the River” and “This Land is Your Land.”

Following the lunch and preceding the announcement of flower show awards, Johnny Carson’s Carnac the Magnificent was reincarnated by Karen Beede, a member of the Blooming Prairie American Auxiliary.

She is one of many volunteers who revived the popular flower show ten years ago.

Carnac (aka Karen Beede) was assisted in her humorous act by Jaci Hillson. “She’s my Ed McMahon,” Beede joked.

Seven Prairie Manor residents and three Heather Haus residents were special guests at the flower show and luncheon.

The event’s proceeds go toward local, state and national military and veteran programs, including the VA Hospital, Valentines for Vets, Creative Arts Festive, Haircuts for Vets at Prairie Manor and a Girls State program, which sends local girls to the Minnesota Capitol to learn about government.

Speaking to the audience, Beede thanked the many people

and businesses who made the event possible. She saluted the luncheon committee, chaired by Gloria Trom. She also thanked the flower show committee.

Beede offered thanks to those who donated prizes: A Touch of Charm, HyVee-Austin, Hilltop Greenhouse, Frank & Tom’s, Turtle Creek Nursery, Super Fresh, B to Z Hardware, Beede Apartments, Steele County Times and Mike Woods.

Raffle basket winners and door prize winners were announced late in the program. Lee Drenth of Hollandale attended her first BP flower show and won three baskets.

Alice Johnson of Arizona traveled the farthest and received a special gift.

HEALTH ALLIANCE

Continued from Page 1C

individuals receiving medical assistance and 2,096 receiving Minnesota Care. Dodge County alone would reduce South Country’s managed care clients to 951 receiving medical assistance and 54 in managed care.

“All of these members will be disenrolled from South Country effective Dec. 31, 2015, and will need to be enrolled in a new health plan as of Jan. 1, 2016,” Lind said in a memo written to Dodge County commissioners. “This will cause disruption in care for many members based on network and formulary differences of the new plan.

Other programs of South Country will also be affected, Lind said.

The Community Care Connector would likely not be sustainable at the reduced membership level, she said, and county directors and staff will have limited ability to have a voice in health plan policy and operations.

South Country also funds a major portion of the staff position for HealthCare coordinators at the Owatonna Hospital and the New Ulm Medical Center. Local primary care clinics will be impacted by loss of revenue through South Country Pay for Performance Programs

and the new Healthy Pathways Program would not be available to members, Lind said.

With the loss of the ability to provide services to Minnesota Care and Medical Assistance clients, South Country’s total enrollment would go from approximately 37,000 to 6,000 members.

“In effect that would put South Country out of business,” Dodge County Commissioner David Erickson said. Even though South Country could still provide services in Dodge County, he said, in reality that will not be possible given Dodge County’s small numbers.

The state set up a bidding process, Erickson said, and sought bids for each county from a variety of providers. The decisions, Erickson said, were made based on a formula that the state has declined to explain. The decision, he said, was not because South Country had a higher bid, but rather because of the formula.

The services will still be available to clients, he said.

“It won’t change the services for people,” he said, “but local agencies won’t have as much say.”

South Country and members’ counties were still weigh-

ing their options last week, and South Country’s board of director’s authorized working with Minneapolis law firm Lockridge Grindal Nauen to determine what actions could be taken.

The biggest impact of the state decision will be felt in Steele County. The county has the largest number of participants including 4,430 in Minnesota Care and 391 in Medical Assistance. In addition, South Country offices are located in Owatonna and employs approximately 100 people.

STEELE TALKIN’

Continued from Page 1C

together, rather than what was present elsewhere, separately, leaving clients to suffer and seek both mental health and substance use disorder treatment in two different locations, with well-meaning practitioners providing confusing and often harmful advice to their clients. This phenomenon was referred to Dr. Mark Willenbring, the successor to Dr. Heilman and my former medical director there, as “Dual SYSTEMS Disorders.”

To be sure, especially in the earlier part of our first decade of existence as a clinic, there have been skeptics, some saying that we were somehow giving “alcoholics and drug addicts” an excuse to defer blame of their condition and thus, perpetuating their individual lack of personal responsibility. Our goal has and continues to be just the opposite. By treating pre-existing mental health conditions, many clients have seen for the very first time, an ability to be mental health disorder symptom-free, thereby

making a recovery effort for both conditions more meaningful and lasting. When necessary, life-enhancing medications to address these very same symptoms are prescribed, further enhancing the client’s quality of overall recovery and life.

I am happy to report that many substance use treatment facilities had made changes in their approach to treating these co-existing conditions. In 2013, we established a statewide training effort targeting our fellow practitioners known as the “Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium.” This three-day event is held in late January in Owatonna and has created a forum of progressive ideas and practice, highlighting many of the fine and learned members of our profession statewide.

Although there is always much to do, we have learned that we can no longer ignore or defer the treatment of co-occurring disorders, which has now become the treatment standard in

the nation and most the world.

Steele Talkin’ is a monthly feature written by various organization. David Wright, MSW, LICSW is the Founder and Treatment Director of the Dual Recovery Program, South Central Human Relations Center, Owatonna.

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MedfordLiving

Fire hot street dance coming up in Medford

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Medford Fire Department and Fire Relief Association are hosting a social and street dance, featuring live music by rock and roll band Gel. The band is out of the Twin Cities and is known to get crowds up on their feet!

The social will kick off with a social starting at 6 p.m. on Aug. 8 in the fire department city parking lot, and food from Benny Boys catering will be served until 8 p.m. Then, the dance will begin at 8 p.m. Admission costs \$10, and if one buys tickets in advance, they will receive one free drink ticket. They have a liquor license, and College City Beverage will be providing beer.

Fire commander Craig Helgeson is looking forward to the event. He said that this event was designed as a community outreach. “We used to have an event like this about 18 years ago, but this is the first one in a long time,” said Helgeson. “This will help us get out there!” Helgeson explained that re-

“It’s important that we continue to talk to people and keep people aware about what we do.”

Craig Helgeson
Fire Commander

cently, ten new fire fighters have joined the crew, so this was a good time to give the new fire-fighters a chance to connect with the community in a fun way. “We try to have a team of 25. Last year, we had a lot of fire fighters retire,” remarked Helgeson. “We receive about 100 to 110 calls per year, and with a staff of 16, that becomes quite difficult.”

According to Helgeson, recruiting for the firefighting positions over the past few years has been more difficult than in the past. The lower numbers in recruitment has been something that fire departments across Minnesota have experience. “We encourage people to come, check out the fire department and staff. We want to continue

to spark that interest in firefighting,” said Helgeson. “It’s important that we continue to talk to people and keep people aware about what we do.”

The dance is also a fundraiser for new equipment, upgrading trucks, and outfitting the new firefighters. “We want to try and keep the pressure off the city and tax payers,” commented Helgeson. “By raising this money, we know we’ll need new equipment, so we’re planning for the future.”

Helgeson, the Medford Fire Department and the Fire Relief Association have high hopes: “We are keeping it fun and simple. We encourage people from all over to come and hang out with us at the social and dance!”

Medford City Council plans for city growth and improvements

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

In a study done with data from 2014, Medford’s tax levy was proven to be on the lower end compared to other cities that are considered a similar size to Medford. In fact, according to Mayor Lois Nelson, “Medford ranked third to the bottom” on a list of about 13 cities.

This study was reviewed by the city council in a working session a few hours prior to the regular meeting on July 27. Nelson believes that, while it is easy to murmur complaints about taxes, the “community should realize where they really sit.” Nelson also commented that city council always has the “goal of minimal tax levy increases.”

During that working session, Medford city council members focused on the major Capital Improvement Project, which has a proposed timeline of over the next 30 years. The project will work closely with a task force committee to identify high priority needs. The council worked with Mike Bubany of David Drown Associates. Bubany has been working with the city council as a financial advisor.

This plan has two main areas of concern, the first being a closer glance at the maintenance needs of streets. Projects might include replacing city vehicles. Mill and overlay projects are needed in many areas as well as a closer look at water and suede systems and maintenance.

Nelson recalled a few days after the meeting that Medford has millions of dollars’ worth of street projects to attend to. As many locals know, Main Street is in rough shape and water lines are too shallow, which is causing increased traffic on backroads. Nelson said that the city plans to partner with the county in the reworking. As many remember in 2007, the county worked on County Road 45 up to the city limits of Medford.

The other aspect of the capital improvement project will be a task force looking into the utility efficiency of city buildings, such as the fire department. Nelson commented that, in the years

past, there have been discussions about a multi-use complex for the fire department and the Fire Relief Association, which could possibly include other city buildings. A task force of community members will be put together, most likely in August.

The capital improvement project is a work in progress, and will be a topic of discussion brought to future city council meetings.

During the regular meeting on July 27, a major area of discussion was the Down Payment Assistance Program, presented by city administrator Andy Welti. The down payment assistance program is a grant for homeowners constructing a new home that offers up to a 10% no-repayable down payment for a new home. To comply with state and federal laws, the grant would be administered by the local EDA. The program encourages new home construction.

Nelson said that this grant is special because it is not based on income. “You can be building a \$200,000 home or a \$400,000 home with this grant,” commented Nelson. “We want to welcome more young families into the community, and this is an incentive program.”

The program brought 25 to 30 new houses to Pine Island, and it was highly recommended by the former city administrator of Pine Island. More recently, the city of Watertown has reviewed the program and is planning to move forward with it.

The Down Payment Assistance Program will receive more discussion; however, there are reasons to act soon, such as low interest rates, lower gas prices, and lower unemployment rates. Incentives for the city are increasing the tax base in Medford and bringing more dollars to local economies.

Car show to raise money for veteran’s monument

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Where there are car shows, there is love. At least, that is the case for Jason and Linda Dusek of J & L Collision & Sales Inc.

Jason and Linda are organizing the Veterans Memorial Car Show to be held in the Medford Funeral Home parking lot on Aug. 8. Registration begins at 11 a.m., and the show will be noon to 4. All cars and motorcycles are welcome. Entry fee for all vehicles is \$15.

Awards will be based on people’s choice. Each visitor may cast a vote for their favorite. Top 20 cars and top three motorcycles receive awards. Winners will receive a plaque or trophy. Benny Boys will also be catering the

event.

“The goal is to generate more money for the veteran’s memorial,” said Linda. The base of the monument has been poured. It is located on the corner of Third Street Northeast and County Road 12.

The car show is in capable hands. The happy couple, Jason and Linda, actually met at a car show years ago, and Jason proposed at the Back to the 50s car show. “We’ve always gone to car shows, drag races, and we’ve always been active with cars,” said Linda.

While this is their first time hosting a car show for the veteran’s memorial, they have hosted car shows for the Civic Club and for Straight River Days. Linda said that the veteran’s memorial

means a lot to the Duseks because Jason’s father is a veteran, and they have his name enrolled to be etched in the memorial stone.

Linda admitted that it is not easy preparing for an event like this. “It’s a lot of work. People don’t understand that until you put on a car show,” laughed Linda.

“We don’t know how many people to expect. Of course, it depends on the weather,” said Linda. “You know, people don’t like taking their old cars out in the rain.”

“I think this is going to be a good cornerstone in the fundraising process. We hope for high numbers,” remarked Linda. “All are welcome, so come on out.”

FIELD OF FLAGS

Continued from Page 1C

visual image that symbolizes the fight against cancer and the disease’s far-reaching impact. “Cancer affects everybody,” said Cheri Krejci, a member of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Krejci is all too familiar with the devastation that cancer can cause. Some of her closest relatives and friends were diagnosed with cancer, and Krejci herself is also a cancer survivor. She’s heard others say that the Field of Flags is a powerful reminder that the fight is far from over, but that there is still hope. “To me, it means that we keep fighting,” Krejci said, of the flags.

During the first year of the fundraiser, Krejci says that the group rented 50 poles from the Zumbrota Legion for the occasion, and that the flags sold out quickly. The following year, Dennis Heimerman, owner of Metal Services of Blooming Prairie, Inc., donated materials and made 150 poles for the group. Again, the flags sold quickly.

Last year, Krejci says that the group had a total of 200 poles available, which were all sold again. This year, there will be a total of 250 flags available. The sight, she says, often inspires awe from those passing through the community. Krejci shares the story of one woman who passed through Blooming Prairie every day as she battled the disease. “She said the flags made her feel like she wasn’t alone,” Krejci said.

The flags have attracted the attention of nearly everyone who drives past them. “For

people who haven’t seen it, it’s very cool,” said Krejci. “All (the flags) are in memory or honor of loved ones. It’s moving and heart-warming to walk through the field and read the names.”

All are welcome to purchase a flag. Flags cost \$10 each, and volunteers will put the flags up on Sunday, Aug. 30. “We have lots of flags available yet, but we would like to have them all sold by Aug. 30,” Krejci said. To purchase a flag, contact any Blooming Prairie Cancer Group committee members.

The Field of Flags is just one part of the cancer group’s cancer benefit, which will take place on Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12 this year. This year also marks the 15th annual auction. Thus far, the group has been able



to donate over \$500,000 to benefit cancer research, in addition to providing assistance to people dealing with cancer through the local “Community Fund.”

This year, the two-day event will feature a live auction, early bird bingo, a performance by Stix of Fury, the Cancer Me-

morial Walk, haircuts, games and more. Two weeks prior to the event, the group will also launch their “Paint Blooming Prairie Pink” campaign. Read more about the event upcoming editions of The Steele County Times.

Weekly crossword on Page 5D

PUZZLE SOLUTION	P	R	O	A	S		S	A	N	D		S	A	G	A
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GRIEF RELIEF



Sometimes children don’t seem to care. It’s not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show

little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child’s honest expression and don’t make the child feel guilty or pressured.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



Owatonna Living

New Historical Society Director to start Aug. 3

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

In the heat of the Steele County Historical Society’s busy season, a new executive director is stepping up to the plate. After 13 years, Laura Resler is stepping down to part-time for less hours, and Kim Purscell is taking her place as executive director.

Over the past few weeks, Resler and Purscell have been working together to make the transition as smooth as possible. President of Steele County Historical Society’s 15 member board, Kay Fransen said that “she has been tremendous at helping Kim through the transition.”

The transition has been during a busy time with summer events and the fair, but Fransen said that it was necessary to “get rolling.”

Fransen recalled that the job was posted until July 3, and then they went through resumes and selected the ones they wanted to

interview. The job was offered to Purscell around the middle of July.

Purscell has worked for various non-profits in the surrounding areas, such as Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, and United Way of Faribault. Fransen said that she has many of the organizational skills necessary to complete the many tasks of the job. Purscell and her husband have resided in Owatonna for over 23 years.

“The director position is not just one job; the tasks involved are very diverse with managing anything from the staff to the building. We host a lot of events here,” said Fransen. “Overall, we need someone to go with the flow.”

As far as the history aspect of the work, Purscell has little historical experience; however, Fransen said this was not a requirement for the executive director position. “It is much easier to teach the history end than the organization side,” commented Fransen. “And, Kim has

a passion for history. She will step in and do a good job. It’s a good fit.”

Fransen said that the Steele County Historical Society is very fortunate to have such strong community and volunteer support. During Purscell’s transition into the executive director position, SCHS does not have any immediate changes or new goals.

“We’re going to stick to the status quo, which is busy enough! We want people to know what a busy place this is. And this is Steele County Historical Society, so it is for everyone, all of Steele County,” remarked Fransen. “We’re very proud of the work we’ve done here, and we want to share that and educate people.”

In the near future, Fransen encourages everyone to check out the Steele County Historical Society and Village of Yesteryear during the Steele County Free Fair.

Exchange Club of Steele County inducts officers and directors



Submitted photo

The Exchange Club of Steele County inducted their officers and directors for 2015-16, during their regular June 26 meeting at Valleyview Assisted Living in Owatonna. Serving on the board of directors are (pictured above, in the front row, from left to right) Dean Hartle, two-year director; Larry Ruehling, one-year director; Mary Wencel, treasurer and Kathleen Miller, secretary. In the second row, from left to right, are Lowell Miller, past president; Mike Brown, one-year director; Vern Wilker, two-year director; Steve Frodl, two-year director; Bruce Kubicek, president-elect and Randy Sobrack, President. The Exchange Club of Steele County is among the local Exchange clubs conducting programs on Americanism, community service, youth programs, and the prevention of child abuse by raising awareness and funds for the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna.

Elks Lodge hosts 14th Annual Car Show



Staff photo by James Knopp
Vintage var and truck enthusiasts gathered on Vine Street in Owatonna for the Elks Lodge 14th Annual Car Show on Saturday, Aug. 2.

Take a kid fishing event scheduled for Aug. 8

On Saturday, Aug. 8, all are welcome to “take a kid fishing” at Cabela’s Ponds, located just off I-35 in Owatonna. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain or shine) and offers free fishing for kids, outdoor demos, minnow races, a souvenir photo shoot, hot dogs, root beer floats and tons of prizes. “Take a Kid Fishing” is possible thanks to Youth 1st, Cabela’s and Owatonna Parks & Recreation, in addition to many other proud event partners. For more information contact Mark Arjes at (612) 968-9192 or mark.arjes@youth1st.com.

River Springs Water Park announces end of season rates and hours

From Aug. 10 – Aug. 23, the River Springs Water Park in Owatonna will be open daily from 12 – 7 p.m. (Closing times may vary beginning Aug. 10.) Daily rates from Aug. 10 – Aug. 23 are \$4.

From Aug. 24 – Sept. 7, the water park will be open daily from 12- 4 p.m. (Each day is tentative, pending weather and staff availability.) Daily rates from Aug. 24 – Sept. 7 are \$3.

There are also other specials. On Aug. 16, there’s a “Pre-Steele County Free Fair” special for \$3. From Aug. 10 – 23, as part of the “Parks & Rec t-shirt special,” it’s half the price of the normal facility rate. On Aug. 23, there is a \$2 admission special. And, on the last day of the season (Sept. 7) admission is just \$2.

Musician Luverne Wanous returns to the Steele County Free Fair



By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

For over 50 years, Luverne Wanous entertained fair-goers at the Steele County Free Fair. This year, he’ll be back at the fair again one more time.

“I enjoy it very much,” says

Wanous, of playing his music. “I enjoy seeing the people having fun and dancing.”

Wanous, who now lives in Owatonna, says that he played his first gig at the fair with a friend while he was in high school. After returning from the service in 1960, Wanous decided to form a band of his own.

The seven-piece band played each year at the fair and usually played a mix of polkas, waltzes and two steps.

Later, Wanous began a new tradition that eventually became known as “Luverne’s Musimobile.” The Musimobile (a mobile bandwagon) allowed Luverne to travel around the fairgrounds, delivering smiles and song to countless passerby.

In 2013, Wanous decided to retire his yearly appearances at the fair, but continued to play his concertina at many area locations and special events. This year, however, Wanous will make another appearance at the fair to help out a friend.

Hans Hohrman, “the accordion man,” was unable to play at the fair due to his heart surgery. In his place, Wanous will return to the fair from roughly 4

– 8 p.m. each evening of the fair in the Four Season’s Centre. He will also perform on the United Prairie Bank Stage, located in Fair Square, on the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 18 (the exact time will be announced at a later date) and on the KRFO Stage on Thursday, Aug. 20, at noon.

Over the years, Wanous admits that things have changed, and that the fair has, too. “Times change with the tunes,” he says. “There are changes every year and, for all purposes, they’re for the better. The crowds keep getting bigger.”

Wanous says he has many different favorite songs, because his favorite song is always the one that people want to hear. “My favorite thing is playing what people want,” said Wanous. “I am happy when I get requests, play it and get a big smile. That is what it’s all about.”

Although Wanous says that returning to play at the fair was not something he planned to do, he also says he’s looking forward to it. “I have been very fortunate to have good help, good times and the good friends I’ve made over the years,” Wanous said. “That’s been priceless. It’s a good fair. Good people come and I can’t thank them enough.”



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Luverne Wanous is coming out of retirement to entertain fair-goers this year at the Steele County Free Fair. Above, Wanous plays a tune earlier this summer at the Steele County Relay for Life, held in Owatonna.



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USDA Announces Loans and Grants to Help Rural Businesses Create Jobs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced loans and grants for 92 projects worth \$18.1 million to help support the start-up or expansion of rural small businesses. These funds are part of more than 20,000 grants and loans to more than 85,000 rural businesses USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service has awarded since the start of the Obama administration.

"I am proud of the work USDA has done to help small businesses grow in rural America because they are the engine that creates jobs," Vilsack said. "These funds will allow small and emerging businesses and the organizations that support them to get the financing they need to strengthen their operations, create jobs and expand economic opportunities. Thanks to the 2014 Farm Bill, we can continue this work in a more streamlined and efficient way to benefit small businesses and the American taxpayer."

USDA is awarding the funds through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program.

USDA provides grants or zero-interest loans through the REDLG program to utilities that in turn fund projects to create and retain employment in rural areas. Vilsack announced \$11.7 million in REDLG loans and grants for 18 recipients.

One of the organizations receiving funds under the REDLG

program is the South Mississippi Electric Power Association, which has been selected for a \$2 million loan. It will lend part of that to the city of Greenwood, which will buy and renovate a building for the Milwaukee Tools company. This project is expected to create more than 100 jobs in Lenore County. Lenore is one of many counties across the nation USDA has targeted for special assistance through the StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity. USDA launched StrikeForce in 2010 to increase investments in rural communities through intensive outreach and stronger partnerships with community leaders, businesses, foundations and other groups that are working to combat poverty.

In the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP), Vilsack announced \$2.5 million for three IRP recipients. Colorado's First Southwest Bank is receiving a \$1 million loan for business and community development in 11 counties in the southwest part of the state. The IRP program provides 1 percent loans to non-profit groups, cooperatives, federally recognized tribes and public agencies.

USDA is awarding 71 Rural Business Development Grants totaling \$4 million. Congress established the RBDG program in the 2014 Farm Bill by combining the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program and the Rural Business Opportunity Grant

USDA
Continued on D2

Krause family honored at Farmfest

Eighty Minnesota farm families, including several from south central Minnesota counties, will be honored this Thursday, Aug. 6, as the 2015 Farm Family of the Year. The ceremonies will be at 1:30 p.m. at Farmfest near Redwood Falls.

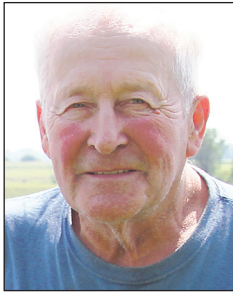
Local families include Dave and Ruth Hanson from Dodge County, Loren and Beverly Krause and family from Steele County, Bissen Farms, Inc. of Mower County and Cole and Katie Pestorius Family of Freeborn County.

Dodge County
David and Ruth Hanson
The Hansons moved to the ten acre farm in 1971. Over the next few years horses, pigs, sheep, chickens, dairy cow, beef, rabbits and obedience dogs were added to the farm as 4-H projects. As the kids grew up, they moved away from the farm and soon after, apple trees were planted. David was the agriculture and 4-H Extension educator from 1966 until 1989.

David currently raises 110 apple trees; including nine varieties that were developed at the University of Minnesota. He conducts educational tours for school children and he raises pumpkins, squash and decorative gourds for sale in a roadside stand-along with his apples.

As the family grew, everyone except David and Ruth left the farm. David and Ruth are active in the Dodge Center Lions Club and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Kasson.

David has received plaques for "dedicated service" to the Dodge County Crop Improvement Association and received the Dodge County Friends of 4-H Award. David was inducted into the Dodge County Fair Hall



Loren



Beverly

of Fame in 2010. Ruth is the first woman ever elected president of the Dodge Center Lions Club. She is still doing freelance reporting for a local newspaper.

Steele County
Loren and Beverly Krause and Family
Loren and Beverly Krause purchased their dairy farm in the summer of 1965. Starting out with 20 cows and a job off the farm, the Krause family grew their business to include 120 cows and 220 acres of land used to produce feed for their animals. The farm is also home to about 120 head of heifers and calves. The family built a free-stall barn and milking parlor in 1997. Milk from the farm is sold to Foremost Farms and goes into cheese production.

Loren and Beverly have five children: Scott, Jill, Lisa, Cindy and Terry. Scott works full time on the farm. The Krause's children, their spouses and children help when needed.

The Krauses have been actively involved in their community over the years including the Steele County Free Fair, Steele County Historical Society and Aurora Lutheran Church. The Krause Dairy Farm has also hosted farm tours to help teach children at Trinity Nursery School about the dairy industry.

Mower County

Bissen Farms
Incorporated
Dale and Sandy Bissen started farming in 1973 with a 400-acre partnership with Dale's father. They raised corn, soybeans, alfalfa, cattle and hogs. Their son, Kim, started farming after he received a gift from the Mower County Pork Producers while in high school that eventually developed into a farrow-to-finish partner with his dad.

Today the farm raises cattle and hogs in addition to corn, soybeans and alfalfa. The Bissen's also raise about two acres of grapes.

Kim and his wife Dawn have two children—Sydney and Brant who also help out on the farm.

Dale and Kim are both very involved in their local community. Dale is a member of the Northern Country Coop Board, the Mower County Corn and Soybean Board, Mower County Cattlemen Board and he is a member of the Farm Bureau, American Legion and Sacred Heart Church.

Meanwhile, Kim is involved in the Township Board in Adams, Mower County Cattlemen Board and is also a member of Sacred Heart Church, American Legion and Farm Bureau.

Freeborn County
Frontier Family Farms
Cole and Katie Pestorius and

Family
Cole and Katie co-own Frontier Family Farms outside of Albert Lea. They have three children: Danica, Bridget and Cael. The farming operation is set in an 80/20 corn-soybean rotation, and the Pestorius family has worked to restore a wetland area on their farm.

Cole is a 6th generation farmer in Freeborn County; he's also a sales representative for Pioneer Seed. Cole works side-by-side on the farm with his parents, Gary and Dawn. He currently serves as president of the Freeborn County Corn and Soybean Growers Association and has served on the Freeborn County Soil and Water Conservation Board. Cole is also a member of the Midwest Agricultural Initiatives Network and is a member of the Top Producer Executive Network.

Katie currently serves as vice-president of the Sibley School P-T-O and serves on the Corey Goodnature Scholarship Board. Katie is also on the board of the Albert Lea FFA Alumni Association.

"The farm families receiving this year's honors exemplify what makes Minnesota agriculture strong," said Bev Durgan, dean of extension. "They bring innovation, science and hard work to farming. They care greatly about the land and animals and delivering products to consumers worldwide. The University of Minnesota takes pride in honoring these families."



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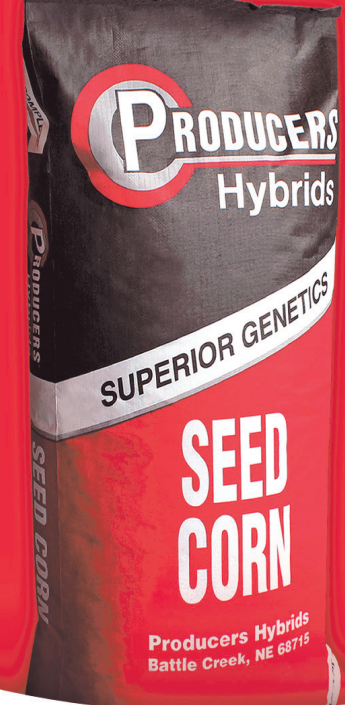
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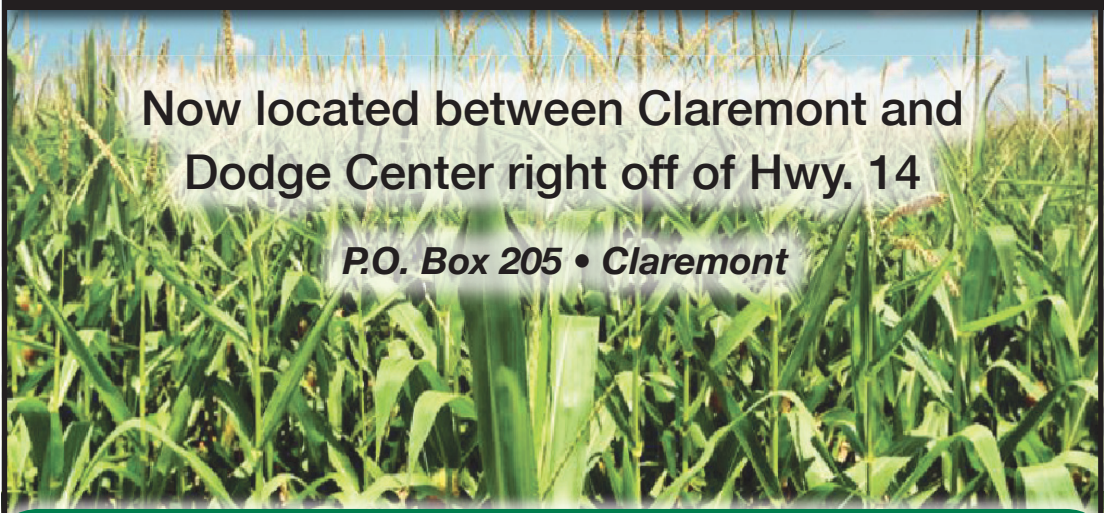
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Minnesota Crop Report

Above normal temperatures and slightly lower than normal precipitation allowed Minnesota farmers to harvest small grains during the week ending August 2, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork, the most days suitable since early May. Other field activities for the week included spraying, scouting for aphids, and baling hay. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 88 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 6 percent short, 90 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

With most of Minnesota's corn acreage in or past the silking stage, 20 percent of the crop was in the dough stage or beyond, equal to last year but 4 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition rated 87 percent good to excellent. Seventy-six percent of the soybean crop was setting pods or beyond, 9 days ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of average. Soybean condition rated 81 percent good to excellent, the highest rating since October 2010. Sixteen percent of the barley crop was harvested, with condition rated at 64 percent good to excellent. Oat harvest advanced to 29 percent complete, 2 days behind normal. Oat condition rated 79 percent good to excellent. Five percent of the spring wheat acreage was harvested, almost 1 week ahead of the previous year.

Minnesota Crop Report is sponsored by



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News

Every farm kid wants a horse at one time or another

It seems like all farm kids either grew up owning a horse or wishing they owned one.

I was that farm kid, and we had horses on our dairy farm located two miles west of Cornington on Highway 251 in Newry Township. They were not riding horses but, instead, work horses, or draft horses as they are labeled in Wikipedia online.

I barely remember my dad having a couple of horses he and his brother used to do many of their farm chores. The horses were dark in color, and both had a white splotch on their upper forehead.

My recollection of who cared for them is very sketchy. I do know that my dad treated them with utmost respect and always had them beautifully groomed after their work in the field was finished.

Wikipedia says a draft horse (US), draught horse (UK and

Commonwealth) or dray horse (from the Old English dragan meaning “to draw or haul”; compare Dutch dragen and German tragen meaning “to carry”), less often called a carthorse, work horse or heavy horse, is a large horse bred to be a working animal doing hard tasks such as plowing and other farm labor.

According to Wikipedia, there are a number of breeds, with varying characteristics, but all share common traits of strength, patience, and a docile temperament which made them indispensable to generations of pre-industrial farmers.

We had other horses in the neighborhood, but these were not draft horses.

My cousin Darlene, who lived across the road from us in Moscow Township, had a riding horse named “Thunder.” I remember her coming over to our farm and offering me a ride.

Reflections. . .



Howard Lestrud

We would often go on “Thunder” to our gravel pit and travel over the mountains of sand. There were water holes in the gravel pit and that appealed to “Thunder.” With Darlene and me aboard, the horse would enter the water and lie down in the water, giving us an instant bath.

“Thunder” lived to be old and was always a gentle horse.

I also remember my neighbor and high school classmate Barry Thompson having a Shetland

pony named Nickel. Barry and his brother Rod would often hitch up “Nickel” to a fancy cart they owned. He would haul us kids around the neighborhood.

My cousin Robert Lee owned a Palomino horse that he rode by our farm often. On one particular day, however, I remember the horse going by without a rider. The horse was riderless, but was carrying a large wooden ladder to which it was tied. Robert was close behind in a vehicle and was able to corral the horse.

Today, many hobby farms exist with horses inhabiting their acreages.

There are also some draft horses in the area, but I don’t know if any are still used for farming purposes. Give me a call if you know of someone still doing some farming with horses. Call the Times office at 507-583-4431.

Good Agricultural Practices Workshops scheduled for Aug. 11

Are you a fruit and vegetable farmer interested in learning more about Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)? Attend this on-farm GAPs workshop to learn how GAPs can help minimize food safety risks with fresh produce. GAPs are good for business and good for your customers.

The workshop is facilitated by Michele Schermann and Annalisa Hultberg, UMN On-Farm GAPs Education Program.

The workshop will be on Aug. 11 at Lake City Catholic Worker

Farm, near Lake City from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pre-registration required and participants are asked to register by Aug. 7. To register, visit <http://z.umn.edu/2015gaps>.

By the end of the workshop, participants will have: learned the most recent food safety information, including GAPs and audits and what the Food Safety Modernization Act may mean for their farm; toured the packing, washing, and storage facilities and learned about potential food safety issues on the

farm and participated in problem solving with other farmers; practiced writing food safety SOPs and risk assessment statements; and had some fun, too.

Participants will receive a pre-loaded flash drive with a food safety plan template and resources to help you learn more about food safety on the farm. There is no charge for the workshops but there is a \$15 charge for lunch, which will be made with produce and meat from the farm.

Workshops will also be held

Aug. 27 in Hutchinson and Aug. 31 in Duluth. (Same registration link as above)

For more information, please see the program website at <http://safety.cfans.umn.edu/>, email safety@umn.edu or call 612-625-1951.

Submitted by Karen Anderson, Steele County Extension Ag Educator

Local Electric Cooperatives Make History With Acquisition of Alliant Energy Electric Service Territory

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric with 11 other electric distribution cooperatives, wrote a new page in history today with the completion of the acquisition of Alliant Energy’s electric service territory in southern Minnesota. As a result, all southern Minnesota customers of Alliant Energy are now member-owners of their respective electric cooperative.

“It is a very unique situation for electric cooperatives to have the opportunity to purchase service territory from investor-owned utilities,” said Syd Briggs, general manager of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. “Further, it is the first time to our knowledge that several - we have 12 - electric cooperatives have banded together to acquire new service territory.”

In 2013, the 12 cooperatives formed Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) as the single point of contact for the purchase of electric service territory in southern Minnesota from Alliant Energy. The more than two-year process of acquiring the territory involved receiving approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Iowa Utilities Board and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The acquisition transfers approximately 43,000 electric accounts to local electric cooperatives.

For Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, the combined territory serves approximately 11,000 members. Cities added to those Steele-Waseca already serves are Bixby, Ellendale,

Hope, Litomysl, Medford, Owatonna, Pratt, Steele Center.

“We are excited to share the benefits of being a member of a cooperative with these new member-owners,” Briggs added. “Our team of local professionals has been serving this area with reliable, affordable electricity for nearly 80 years. We look forward to meeting and building relationships with these individuals, families and business owners.

All of the cooperatives’ new member-owners were mailed a transition guide, letter and postcard with their cooperative’s contact information. Member-owners can expect to receive

welcome material with all the essential information from their electric cooperative. Member-owners with questions should contact their local cooperative at 1-800-526-3514.

“It has been a win-win opportunity from the beginning,” said Briggs. “For our new member-owners, they will receive high-quality service at lower rates than if Alliant Energy had continued to serve as their electric utility. For our legacy member-owners, this acquisition grows and increases the efficiency of each cooperative by spreading fixed costs over more member-owners. We are grateful that all our members benefit so much

from this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Briggs added that every participating electric cooperative has worked with exceptional diligence over the last two years to assure a smooth transition. “We are ready to welcome our new member-owners,” he said.

Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) was formed by 12 electric distribution cooperatives as a single point of contact for the proposed purchase of electric service territory in southern Minnesota from Alliant Energy. The 12 SMEC member cooperatives are BENCO Electric Cooperative, Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Federated Rural Electric, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Nobles Cooperative Electric, People’s Energy Cooperative, Redwood Electric Cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy, South Central Electric, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

USDA

Continued from Page D1

program. One of the RBDG recipients, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Morris-town, will receive a \$110,020 grant to buy state-of-the-art equipment to train students in advanced manufacturing. The Northern Community Investment Corporation in Vermont is receiving two grants totaling \$454,892 to establish a revolving fund and to provide technical assistance and professional consulting to help small businesses.

Past examples of how these awards have helped grow the economy in rural America include:

- Sisters Kim Brigham Campbell and Terrie Brigham, in Oregon’s Hood River County, used part of an IRP loan awarded to the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to open a retail store. They sell salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and other fish harvested from sites that have been passed down within this Native American family for generations. The store opened in May 2014.

- USDA’s REDLG program is fueling the growth of a firm in Eastern Kentucky. USDA awarded a \$740,000 REDLG loan to the Jackson Energy Cooperative in FY 2011. The Cooperative, in turn, loaned a portion of those funds to Senture, which constructed a build-

ing where it provides call-center and support services for private companies and government agencies. Senture is a family-owned business headquartered in London.

- In FY 2014, USDA Rural Development awarded a \$64,990 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to Sustainable Northwest, a non-profit in Portland, Ore., to find commercial uses and markets for Western Juniper. It is a widespread and often problematic species in central and eastern parts of the state. Sustainable Northwest is using USDA’s grant to help create timber and forestry jobs in rural Oregon and contribute to ecosystem restoration by identifying additional uses for Western Juniper wood products.

The funding for today’s awardees totals \$18.1 million and is contingent upon the recipients meeting the terms of the loan and grant agreements.

President Obama’s plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President’s leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America’s economy, small towns and rural communities.

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19, 5:30 & 8:00 PM:
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THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 7:30 PM:
Hairball Concert: Opening Act “Arena.” Sponsors: Godfather’s Pizza, Noble RV, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Car Time of Owatonna

FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 7:30 PM:
NTPA Tractor Pull. Sponsors: Ag Power Enterprises Inc., Cole’s Electric, Advantage Lime & Trucking

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 8:30 AM:
Antique Tractor Pull. Sponsors: Farmers First Ag, Mike’s Repair

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 6:00 PM:
Enduro Race. Sponsors: Four Seasons Electric, American Classic & Hot Rods, A&R Auto Detailing

SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 4:00 PM:
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News

Area construction update

I-35 Owatonna
Mathiowetz Construction, the prime contractor, has completed the clay grade sub cut and sand hauling for the new road base. C.S. McCrossan, a sub-contractor, continues to work on the new bridge deck on I-35 bridge over old Highway 14 (Steele County Road 2/ Hoffman Drive). New beams are scheduled to be set in place on Friday Aug. 7 on the I-35 bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks.

Eastbound old TH 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Drive) access to northbound I-35 on ramp is unavailable from Monday, July 20, through Monday, Aug. 10, while construction crews remove and reconstruct the concrete pavement in the intersection. A delay occurred because of a grade change in elevations from new pavement to old pavement

Motorists will see single-lane, head-to-head traffic on I-35 in Owatonna as well as off-ramp and on-ramp closures for northbound traffic.

Northbound traffic is crossed over into the southbound lanes of I-35 south of Bridge Street. Northbound traffic will continue in a single lane, while southbound uses the other lane. Northbound traffic will cross back over to two lanes north of Steele County Road 2. This will continue into fall 2015.

Watch for detour signs for northbound traffic seeking to exit I-35 through Owatonna. Delays are expected during busy traffic times, especially on Fridays and Sundays.

The two-year, \$19.1 million project began in 2014 to replace the concrete I-35 roadways through Owatonna, as well as replace bridges and include additional safety features on the corridor such as auxiliary lanes. Mathiowetz Construction expects to complete it in fall 2015.

For more information about the project, please review MnDOT's project page at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35bridge-pavement-replacement/index.html> or the project's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna or www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna.

Highway 14
Mathiowetz, the prime contractor, has finished sand hauling for the new road base and will continue preparing for concrete paving, which is planned to start around Monday, Aug. 10.

Traffic remains head to head in the construction zone, using the new westbound lanes, which were reconstructed in 2014. Additionally, the eastbound onramp to Highway 14 from Highway 218 is closed.

Mathiowetz is constructing new concrete pavement at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 43 for the new

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

westbound travel lanes.

The highway will be expanded from two lanes to four lanes and is part of the Corridors of Commerce state program for highway construction in Minnesota. The \$12 million project is expected to be completed in September of 2015.

For more information, go to MnDOT's project page at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-218-to-cr-180/index.html or <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-218-to-cr-180/index.html>.

Old Highway 14 in Owatonna

Concrete paving is complete on the new west bound lanes from State Avenue over to I-35 and Mathiowetz is preparing the base for Crane Creek Asphalt to construct bituminous shoulders early during the week of Aug. 3. PCI has completed concrete pavement repairs in both eastbound and westbound directions from I-35 to the west city limits of Owatonna. This section of roadway is open to all lanes in both directions.

The work in Owatonna is being done on Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive) from the beginning of the west Owatonna city limits to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Construction on the \$3.2 million project includes pavement replacement and concrete pavement repairs as well as improvements for pedestrians.

Additionally, Old Highway 14 is closed and detoured beginning at the Owatonna city limits,

which are about 1.5 miles west of I-35. The closure will last into October for the concrete overlay work. Call 507-304-6106 for additional information. This project is being completed by the MnDOT district based in Mankato.

I-35 in Steele, Freeborn counties

Southbound traffic is head to head with northbound traffic as work continues on the unbonded concrete overlay project on I-35 from Highway 30 at Ellendale to Interstate 90 north of Albert Lea.

The southbound lanes are being repaved, so traffic is head-to-head in the northbound lanes between Ellendale and Albert Lea. The project also includes southbound ramp closures and detours. Watch for detour signs. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

The \$16.9 million project is being led by prime contractor Shafer Contracting Co, Inc.

For updates and a map of the detour route, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35-overlay/index.html or <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35-overlay/index.html>.

Highway 14 in Steele, Dodge counties

The repaving project on Highway 14 on 13 miles between Dodge Center and Owatonna began July 9 and is expected to be completed in September.

Ulland Bros. has completed milling up old blacktop pavement and overlaying Highway 14 with new bituminous pavement in the area of Steele County road 180 near the rail road tracks heading east toward Dodge Center. This section of Highway 14 roadway is expected to be single lane with pilot car on Tuesday, Aug. 4 through Saturday, Aug. 8 to complete overlaying the shoulders with new bituminous

pavement. Motorists should expect delays during this time and seek alternate routes, if possible.

The \$4.1 million project will include highway resurfacing, grading and lighting. The project begins near Highway 56 north and runs west to the current Highway 14 expansion project. It also includes two miles between Highway 218 and I-35.

Traffic delays are expected with lane closures with flaggers and a 15-day ramp detours for Steele County Road 45.

For updates, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-resurfacing/index.html or <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-resurfacing/index.html>.

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

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.

Steele County is home to key Minnesota highway connections for commerce, industry and tourism. Learn more about how MnDOT invests in and cares for the state's transportation system at Get Connected: www.dot.state.mn.us/getconnected.

Foreclosure

15-100509

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 8, 2003 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$175,750.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Timothy A. Rogers and Karen J. Rogers, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 9, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 309242 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South 240 feet of the East 1263.67 feet of the Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, containing 6.96 acres PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5300 SW 8th St, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-011-2201 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$140,738.10 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 31, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2016, or the next business day if January 31, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for July 31, 2015, at 10:00 AM, has been postponed to September 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by March 3, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: July 30, 2015.

Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Mortgagee

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Attorney for Mortgagee

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR,

Bremer Bank group president and Second Harvest Heartland board member. "Working families, children, seniors — people in every age group and ethnicity — in rural and urban communities. All can be experiencing hunger at any time.

"At Bremer Bank we are committed to doing what we can to feed the hungry in our region," Hilding said, "and that's why this campaign is so important. I'm proud of the amount we were able to raise this year, thanks to our employees, clients and the communities where we live and work."

Bremer has raised more than \$1.3 million for the hungry since launching the Meals for Many Campaign a decade ago.

Bremer Bank's Meals for Many Campaign Donations Top \$107,000

The 10th annual Bremer Bank Meals for Many Campaign raised a record \$107,000 this year, surpassing last year's total by more than \$11,000. As part of the campaign, the \$2-for-\$1 Bremer match up to \$30,000 was also met and exceeded.

The campaign supports the efforts of Second Harvest Heartland, Feeding America and a number of neighborhood food shelves to end hunger in local communities. Bremer employees throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin participate in the campaign each year by hosting cookouts, organizing food drives and coordinating a variety of other activities.

"One in 10 people in every community faces hunger daily," said Greg Hilding,



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August 11, 1945



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-Your Family

BP City

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

**6:00 a.m.
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Regular School Board Work
Session-High School Board
Room**

**7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 17, 2015
Open Public Forum-High School
Media Center**

**7:15 p.m.
Monday, August 17, 2015
Regular School Board Meeting-
High School Media Center**

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

V. ACTIONS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUIRED

A. Consent Agenda

- Minutes
- Bills
- Treasurer's Report
- Resignation
- Employment
- B. LTFM Plan
- C. Adult Meal Prices
- D. Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election
- E. Annual Policy Renewals

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports

B. Enrollment Data

C. Dates to Note

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

8/4

8/4

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Legals/Classifieds

Foreclosure

15-099899

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 1, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$87,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Jacinta Hernandez, a/k/a Jacinta R. Hernandez, a single woman MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 6, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000330944 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 12, Original Townsite, Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie PROPERTY ADDRESS: 225 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-1203 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,214.51 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 30, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: April 29, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for June 30, 2015, at 10:00AM, has been postponed to July 30, 2015, at 10:00 AM , and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by January 30, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: June 29, 2015.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
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Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-099899
Attorney for Mortgagee

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for July 30, 2015, at 10:00 AM, has been postponed to September 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM , and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by March 3, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: July 27, 2015.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-099899
Attorney for Mortgagee

8/4

Foreclosure

PUBLIC 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: June 30, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$134,982.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Kendall M Gallardo, a married person MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. as nominee for U.S. Bank N.A. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100021200000987676 SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association LENDER: U.S. Bank National Association. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Steele County Minnesota, Recorder, on July 22, 2010, as Document No. A000372406. ASSIGNED TO: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Dated: March 19, 2014, and recorded March 27, 2014 by Document No. A000396204. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Seven (7), Block Twenty-Four (24), in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 305 3rd St SW, Medford, MN 55049 PROPERTY I.D: 161012407 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Eight and 27/100 (\$140,888.27) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/ or applicable statutes; 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: 10:00 AM on September 18, 2015 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on March 18, 2016, or the next business day if March 18, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY

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

Dated: August 4, 2015

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee
Canadian Pacific Plaza, 120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 952-232-0052
Our File No. 15MN00080-1

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
A-4537400

08/04, 08/11, 08/18
08/25, 09/01, 09/08

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HP Keyboard

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Macally Keyboard

(1) Part # ikey4

Contact: Lynn 507-483-4431
bplynn@frontier.com

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Malay sailboats
6. Beach material
10. Heroic tale
14. Peers
15. Unseen
17. Plucking implement
19. Radioactivity unit
20. Stamping device
21. Quake
22. Foot (Latin)
23. Living body covering
24. Turfs
26. Gate swinging devices
29. Nail
31. Sharp bodily pain
32. Status equality
34. Horse height measure
35. Political Asylum Research & Documentation Service
37. 20's - 30's art design

CLUES DOWN

1. Anjou or comice
2. Nui, Easter Island
3. Towards the mouth or oral region
4. 4th Caliph of Islam
5. Soviet Socialist Republics
6. Moslem mystics
7. Game stake
8. Point midway between N and NW
9. Female deer pelts
10. Glaze used to stiffen fabrics

38. Payment (abbr.)
39. Food grain
40. Indefinitely long period of time
41. Rear
43. Without (French)
45. Wood sorrels
46. Express pleasure
47. Recurring artistic pattern
49. Deaf language
50. Runs PCs
53. Minimal punishment
57. Repeat
58. Give extreme unction to
59. Inflammatory skin disease
60. Large Aussie flightless bird
61. Polish Air Show city

11. Unhittable serves
12. Pathogen
13. Promotional materials
16. Setting up a golf drive
18. Lyric poems
22. Atomic #46
23. Genus Aloa
24. Claus
25. Not even
27. Fencing swords
28. Conway, N.H. river
29. Brake horsepower
30. Wild leek
31. Prefix for before

33. "Splash" director Howard
35. Sleeveless apronlike dress
36. Book of the Apostles mission
37. V.P. Quayle
39. Dish directions
42. Revolve
43. Particular instance of selling
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. Wimbledon champion

- Arthur
47. Millisecond
48. Ammo & chemical corp.
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. Expired
51. Norway's capital
52. Plant stalk
53. Macaws
54. Indochina battleground (slang)
55. Armed conflict
56. Ribonucleic acid

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Staff photos by Anna Segner
Leder Hernandez, also known as the star clown of the circus act, lured crowds into the performance tent with his juggling act prior to the show at the Carson & Barnes Circus, held in Owatonna.

Fun for all at the circus



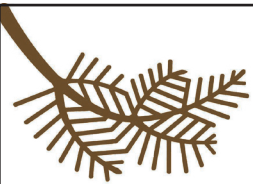
Jaeden and Kinley Ferrario take a spin around a ring on the circus ponies.



A star acrobat climbs up to do a jaw dropping performance.



Emma Johnson and Belle Miller had the unique experience of riding on the back of circus elephants.



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The Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) is offering its nationally recognized leadership training to Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, and Medford residents.

Learn more about how BCLP helps develop your knowledge and skills to address your community's challenges and opportunities, and work together to create positive force for change.

BCLP Informational Session

Date: Monday, August 10, 2015
Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
(Lunch and beverages provided)
Place: Ellendale Café
203 5th Avenue West, Ellendale
RSVP: Friday, August 7, 2015 to skmorque@blandinfoundation.org, 218-327-8732 or 877-882-2257 toll-free (please leave a message)

Applications for BCLP are due August 17, 2015. To apply, visit leadership.blandinfoundation.org

Blandin Foundation covers the cost of training, materials, tuition, room and board for participants.

For additional information contact: BCLP alum Mayor Lois Nelson of Medford at 507.390.4553/ dlnelson1167@q.com or by contacting Mayor H. Peterson of Blooming Prairie at 507.456.6264/ hcpjkpbp@citlink.net or Mayor Mark Skroch of Ellendale at 507.688.9432 or Becky Adams of the Blandin Foundation at 877.882.2257/ rmadams@blandinfoundation.org.

Leadership

you have to do it yourself, but you can't do it alone.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

Run Begins at "Field of Flags"
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Same Day Run & Registration
9am - 10am Registration
10am - Run/Walk Begins

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