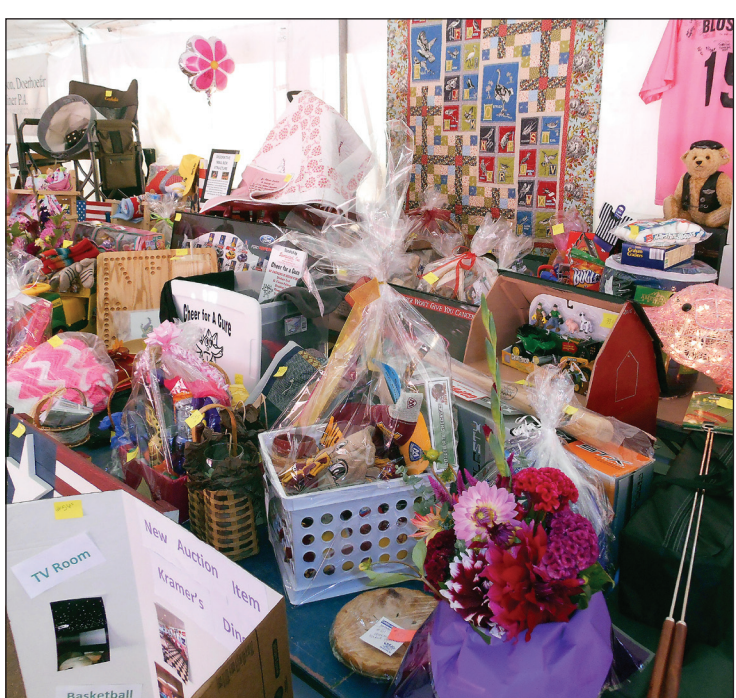


A heartfelt thank you from the Hormel Institute



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud
Aubrey Klocke of Blooming Prairie ties a pink scarf around the neck of Shelley Prihoda, Blooming Prairie, before the start of the BP Cancer Group's annual walk and run on Saturday morning, Sept. 12.

Combined total events expected to bring in over \$55,000



There was a wide array of auction items offered at the BP Cancer Group Saturday night auction in Blooming Prairie. The action was housed in a huge tent just outside of The Cue Company.

By ANNA SEGNER
County Writer

It is hope that for a cure that inspires the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. The money raised throughout the Paint Blooming Prairie Pink event on Sept. 11 and 12 goes towards the annual Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester, which supports cancer research at the Hormel Institute in Austin.

Director of public relations and development Gail Dennison attended the auction on Friday night to thank the cancer group for the local support.

"I'm just so happy to be here and say thank you. This is very important," said Dennison. "These people here [the volunteers of the cancer group] are giving up their time to put on this event and people are here spending their money all because they care."

"It's wonderful because the research is making progress. There is no hope without research," remarked Dennison.

Dennison spoke of the beauty of the funds raised through the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group being granted to a local research institution only a few miles down the road. Hormel Institute

"We're very proud of the support we get from our community."

Pam Folkens
BP Cancer Group

CANCER BENEFIT
Continued on Page 8A

Crash in Steele County claims life

A car crash in Steele County has taken the life of an Owatonna man.

Sheriff Lon Thiele identified the victim as Jason Jeffrey Ost, 30. He was driving a vehicle that hit another vehicle at County Road 45 and 58th Street about five miles south of Owatonna Monday around 7:30 a.m.

Thiele said a 17-year-old boy was driving the other vehicle. The sheriff said the boy was on his way to school when the crash happened. His name has not been released.

Both the teenager and a passenger in Ost's vehicle were taken by Gold Cross Ambulance to Owatonna Hospital and later transferred to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Thiele did not know their conditions when this edition of the Times went to press.

Preliminary investigation found that Ost was traveling northbound on County Road 45 when his vehicle was hit in the rear end by the other vehicle going eastbound on 58th Street. Upon impact, Ost was ejected from his vehicle and died at the scene, according to Thiele.

The intersection is controlled by a stop sign for traffic on 58th Street, Thiele said.

The State Patrol responded to do reconstruction of the crash scene.

Adrenaline rush



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Brad Rugg of Owatonna is the state 4-H superintendent and coordinates all the 4-H activities for more than 5,000 youth during the Minnesota State Fair. Besides his duties with the fair, he is also the director of the state's animal science programs. He has worked for the University of Minnesota Extension for 24 years. Read more inside on 10C.

Coliform bacteria detected in Blooming Prairie water system

Chlorination used to disinfect water system

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Although the recent detection of coliform bacteria in the Blooming Prairie water system was not an emergency, the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities (BPPU) department chose to treat the situation – and the water – with extreme care.

Shortly before Labor Day, BPPU received communication from the Minnesota Department of Health that prompted them to take immediate action. During routine testing, four of 13 water samples indicated the presence of coliform, a bacteria that's naturally present in the environment. This type of bacteria is usually not harmful, but, in some cases, the presence of coliform can indicate that other, potentially harmful bacteria may also present.

After further testing, com-

WATER
Continued on Page 7A

Blooming Prairie Education Foundation announces 2015 Blossom Honorees

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each year, the Alumni group of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF) honors area graduates and former educators. This year, for the first time, the celebration will take place in conjunction with the Blooming Prairie Homecoming festivities.

All are invited to attend a meet and greet on Friday, Oct. 2, following the Blooming Prairie Homecoming football game. The event will take place at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and will provide guests with an opportunity to recognize and visit with this

Ken Esplan

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HONOREES
Continued on Page 3C

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Opinion

Our view

Take time to remember our country’s heroes

Last Friday marked the 14th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Many area schools, organizations and businesses took time to remember the tragic events. Others did not.

On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, at approximately 8:45 a.m. an American Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the side of the World Trade Center's north tower. Just 18 minutes later, a second plane collided with the south tower. At 9:45, another jet flew directly into the Pentagon military headquarters. Shortly after, the Twin Towers collapsed. Meanwhile, United Flight 93, bound for California, was hijacked. Passengers aboard the flight thwarted the terrorists' plans, and the plane crashed in an empty Pennsylvania field, killing everyone on board.

Many people can remember exactly what they were doing when they first learned about the attacks. They remember their initial thoughts and feelings, and they remember the uncertainty and fear that crept into their hearts as the morning's events continued to unfold. On Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, President Barack Obama shared this message on his Twitter account: "The events of September 11, 2001, left a permanent mark on the spirit of every American."

The Sept. 11 attacks claimed over 3,000 lives, including over 400 firefighters, police officers and other emergency responders.

Emergency responders must constantly be prepared to respond to emergencies at any time. They drop everything and report to the scene of accidents, fires and other emergencies, and fight to protect and save the people in danger. They work for hours upon end, often leaving their homes and workplaces at all hours of the day and night to protect others in their community. These people deserve our respect, our appreciation and our thanks.

On Sept. 11, a different type of hero also emerged from the shadows. The people who prevented United Flight 93 from reaching its intended destination are also heroes. Those civilians boarded the plane together, unaware of the danger awaiting them and, when they realized what was happening, they made a decision to risk their own lives in the interest of preventing further tragedy.

Other heroes also surfaced on that fateful day. Citizens in New York and Washington D.C. attempted to help others, bringing water to the rescue crews and comforting distraught strangers. As people began to panic across the country, others offered words of comfort. Long after the attacks were finished, still others worked to care for the people who lost loved ones that day. In their own way, these people are heroes, too.

Sept. 11 revealed the hatred that can exist among the human race, occasionally making its presence known through senseless acts that harm innocent people and their loved ones. Sept. 11 also revealed the heroes who live quietly among us, selflessly stepping forward in times of tragedy to help complete strangers.

We must never forget the people who gave everything, including their lives, on Sept. 11, 2001. As we remember them, we honor their legacy and follow their example of service and compassion. No matter how many years have passed, we must never forget their bravery.



Cecil the Lion ordeal points to apathetic society

By now most of you have likely heard or read about Cecil the Lion. While I feel for the lion, the reaction it has caused is outrageous.

In July, an international furor came about over the killing of a collared lion in Zimbabwe. The lion died at the hands of a Minnesota dentist, who is dealing with the fallout by having protestors outside his dental practice in the Twin Cities. He has even been getting death threats and his family has been attacked through social media.

“Murderer! Terrorist!” one angry protester hurled and screamed during a recent protest.

Within hours of Dr. Walter J. Palmer apologizing for killing the lion, he went from a dentist and longtime hunting enthusiast to a villain at the center of a firestorm over the ethics of big-game trophy hunting.

I am dismayed by the controversy that the killing of the 13-year-old lion named Cecil has caused. It certainly is not a good thing for any hunter out there, but seriously, why waste our time and efforts to protest about a lion.

It’s troubling to see all the outrage, hatred and hyperbole that the lion killing has stirred up around the country. The outrage is grossly out of proportion to the tragedies that occur all over



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

the world.

What about getting upset over domestic violence and how four family members lost their lives at the hands of their father and husband last week in the Twin Cities? Where’s the outrage when we lose around 150 people to drunk driving on Minnesota roadways every year? Where is the outrage when nine people are killed in a church? More than 80 police officers have been killed in the line-of-duty so far this year across America. Why don’t people get outraged about things like that?

It makes me wonder if we have really become an apathetic society, at least when it comes to the human race.

The reaction about Cecil the Lion is characteristic of our American society today. I don’t

understand why some of these people think that the life of an animal is more important than a human being. I grew up around animals on a farm and grew quite attached to some of them. But never once did I ever put the life of an animal before a human life. It makes absolutely no sense to me at all.

It’s interesting to note that most, if not all, of the adverse reaction comes from urban people, who have no direct connection to the farm and the growing of crops and livestock. They are out of touch when it comes to the realities of nature. I love the “common sense” approach that folks in the country have and the way they care for each other.

The level of humanity shown with Cecil is appalling. I don’t understand why the world gets so upset about one specific animal, when so many others have met similar fate.

Humans never cease to amaze me. The Cecil killing is just another example of how many in the human race are putting their priorities in all the wrong places and letting their halfhearted and unconcerned emotions towards fellow humans get the best of them.

Perhaps it’s time to go in hot pursuit of taking on a worthy cause that will benefit the human race rather than some prized lion in a foreign country.

Best wishes for a great school year

By Rep. Peggy Bennett,
District 27A

Back-to-school season is here! I hope students, parents and teachers enjoyed their first week back and are ready for another successful school year. I always enjoyed the first week of school during my teacher career; parents and kids are full of energy and excitement as they look ahead to a school year full of learning and new opportunities.

During the last legislative session, lawmakers came together on a bipartisan budget that put more money in every classroom across Minnesota. Republicans pushed to ensure that new education dollars were put directly in the classroom where they can be most effectively spent by schools at the local level. Here in our community, Albert Lea schools are set to see more than \$500 in increased per-student funding. That new money means more funding to recruit and retain excellent teachers, reduce class sizes, and more.

In addition to new per-student funding, the legislature invested \$95 million in proven early education programs including scholarships and school readiness aid. These investments target our early education dollars at the kids who need it most—a way that research shows is most effective to reduce our state’s achievement gap.

We know that money alone isn’t enough to put every child on the path to a great education. That’s why we pushed for meaningful reforms including legislation to make it easier for out-of-state teachers to earn their license in Minnesota. High quality teachers who wish to move here from other states currently encounter frustrating roadblocks to earning their license in Minnesota, which could discourage others great teachers from coming here.

SCHOOL YEAR
Continued on Page 5B

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

This week’s question: Did you do anything special in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001?

- *Yes, I always do.
- *Yes, I usually do.
- *No, I usually don’t.

Last week’s question:

What’s your outlook on the harvest season?

- *I think farmers can expect a positive yield this season. 83%
- *I think farmers will see an average or below average yield. 0%
- *It’s too soon to tell. 17%

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.

Former Blossom shares experiences from Russia

My summer in Russia has passed really fast. Working half of it, I have realized that adult life can be quite boring and monotonous. However, my job is really entertaining sometimes.

I work as an office manager in the excursion center called Dauria Tour in the small village of Listvyanka. Why would anyone from a big and busy city want to work in a village? Listvyanka is known in Russia as a tourist center because it is located right at the famous lake Baikal.

Baikal is the oldest and the deepest lake in the world. It contains 20 percent of the world’s total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Baikal is about 25 million years old and 1,700 meters deep. It has 90 percent of Russia’s freshwater resources. You should see faces of foreign tourists when they see local people drinking from the lake.

Thousands tourists from different countries come to Listvyanka every year to see Baikal. My job is to help them around the village and sell excursions to the Circum Baikal

Railway, Olkhon Island and the hot waters of Arshan. I sell trips to every interesting place around the lake. During the summer, I meet people from different countries. However, most of them are big groups of Korean and Chinese tourists. The biggest problem is talking to them as they don’t speak Russian or English. This summer many tourists come to see Baikal from Austria, Germany, Australia and Switzerland. I’ve met only three people from the U.S. and one of them was a teacher from Minneapolis, Minn.

The funniest thing is that all tourists I speak to say that my English sounds really “American.” I guess my Minnesota accent is still with me.

I also meet many tourists doing hitchhiking from one city of Russia to another. People from other countries use the Trans-Siberian Railway (a network of railways connecting Moscow and European Russia with the Russian Far East provinces, Mongolia, China and the Sea of Japan.)

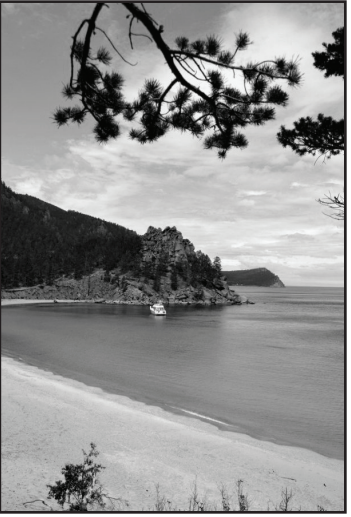


Photo submitted by Kristina Makarenko
This is among the sights taken in by a former Blooming Prairie exchange student, Kristina Makarenko, back in Russia.

Some tourists travel alone and their biggest problem is language. In Russia, not so many people speak English, especially in Siberia. When foreigners come to my office, they usually sheepishly step inside and ask me, “Do you

speak English?” When I say “yes,” they become really excited and talk with me for as long as they can. I don’t know how they manage to travel on a train across the biggest country of Russia, but they are really brave doing it! I guess it is a big adventure to go on a Trans-Siberian Railway alone to see Baikal, but it is worth it.

As summer comes to its end, there are less foreign tourists around and more Russian people coming to spend their last days of summer 2015 at the lake. Classes started on Sept. 1 and my summer job was over then. I am really excited to start my second year in University studying journalism and writing more articles about life in Russia.

Kristina Makarenko lives in Russia and was an exchange student in Blooming Prairie during the 2012-13 school year. She will soon begin her second year at Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk, studying journalism.

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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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Stay alert and don't forget to LOOK UP this harvest season!

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Roadside assistance services for older drivers

Dear Savvy Senior,
I would like to get my wife and I set up with some type of roadside assistance service in case we get a flat tire or our battery conks out. Can you recommend some good and affordable services for retirees on a budget?

Too Old to Fix a Flat

Dear Too Old,
Getting set up with a roadside assistance service you can call on day or night if your vehicle breaks down is a smart idea, and can provide you and your wife some real peace of mind. Here are some different options to look into that help you find a plan.

Already covered?
For years, auto clubs like AAA were the only option drivers had when it came to roadside assistance but, today, you have lots of choices. Most

roadside assistance plans provide services like towing, flat-tire changes, jump-starting a battery, lost-key or lockout services, fuel delivery and help with stuck vehicles.

Before you start shopping for a roadside assistance plan, you first need to find out if you already have coverage, or have access to inexpensive coverage that you're not aware of.

For example, if you drive a vehicle that is still under warranty, there's a good chance you're already covered. Most auto manufacturers now include comprehensive roadside assistance coverage for free when you buy a new or certified used car. This typically lasts as long as the basic warranty, but not always. Be sure you check.

Also check with your auto insurance provider, your credit card issuers and cell phone service providers. Many of these services provide different

variations of roadside assistance as add-on plans that cost only a few dollars per year, or they're free.

But, be aware that many of these services are limited in what they cover. When investigating these options, find out the benefit details including: Who's covered (individuals and vehicles); how many roadside assistance calls are allowed each year (three or four is typical); the average response time per service call; and the towing rules on where they will tow (to the nearest repair shop, or one that you choose) and how far (about five miles for basic plan is common, although some plans might cap the amount they pay for a tow at \$100 or less).

Auto clubs
If you find that you aren't covered, or you want a better roadside plan than what's cur-

rently available to you, you'll want to check out auto/motor clubs. Most of these clubs offer two or more levels of membership depending on how much roadside assistance you want and are willing to pay for, and they often provide a variety of discounts on things like hotels, rental cars and other services.

One of the best known and longest running clubs, AAA (aaa.com) offers comprehensive services and has an extensive network of more than 40,000 roadside assistance providers, which usually means fast response times. Costs vary widely from \$48 to \$162 per year depending on where you live and the plan you choose, plus an additional fee for adding a family member.

Some other clubs to consider that may be a little less expensive include Allstate Motor Club (allstatemotorclub.com); AARP Roadside Assis-



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tance (aarproadside.com) for AARP members only; Better World Club (betterworldclub.com); BP Motor Club (www.bpmotorclub.com); Good Sam (goodsamroadside.com) and GM Motor Club (gmmotorclub.com).

On-demand assistance
Another new money saving option to consider is pay-on-demand roadside assistance services like Urgently (urgent.ly) and Honk (honkforhelp.com). If you use a smartphone and live in their service area, these

non-membership app-based services will let you call for help via smartphone, and will only charge you for the assistance you need at a low price.

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.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005
Publishers Dan and Joyce Evans

When two American hunters accidentally happen upon a magical Scottish town, Brigadoon, adventure seems to be a fore-gone conclusion. Adventure it is for the BPHS drama department in their rendition of the popular Broadway musical by that name, the all-school production scheduled for Nov. 11, 12 and 13.

Do you remember what you were doing last Sept. 15th? Like most people in Bloomington Prairie, you awoke to inches of standing water all around town and flooding basements. As the first anniversary of one of the area's largest rainfalls on record passed last week, many are re-

minded what havoc Mother Nature can wreak, and wish that she would keep it to herself.

The 60th annual 4-H Market Livestock Sale at the 2005 Steele County Free Fair brought in a total of \$35,510. One hundred forty head of livestock went through the Saturday, Aug. 20 livestock auction. Twelve head of beef, 70 hogs, 34 lambs, 20 poultry, two goats and two rabbits went through the sale ring. The majority of the money donated goes to the 4-Hers themselves, but the Steele County 4-H Foundation also earned \$12,377 from the sale.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1995
Elsie Slinger Editor
A grandson of a local couple

recently played soccer in Europe, participating in the Stars and Stripes International Tour soccer tournaments and camps with European age-group teams. Andy Swenson, the grandson of Joe and Beverly Swenson, went on the trip July 5 to July 26. They played soccer in Germany, Austria, Sweden and the Netherlands against players their age. Swenson said he found the raw soccer skills better in Europe overall, and found their skills as technicians of the game to be totally different than what he was used to. Swenson was one of four Geneva High School players to participate on the team.

Recent thefts of aluminum cans placed in curb side bins and recycling barrels prompts a reminder to residents that own-

ership of recyclable materials placed at a curb side or in a recycling barrel owned by Steele County or Minnesota Valley Recycling, Inc. belongs to Minnesota Valley Recycling, Inc.

50 Years ago
Thursday, Sept. 16, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

Extensive remodeling of the Bloomington Prairie Municipal Liquor Store was given the "green" light at the regular monthly meeting of the town council, held Monday night of this week, Sept. 13, at the Community building. The total cost of the improvement project is expected to be approximately \$42,000.

Thomas M. Winn, Route 1,

Bloomington Prairie, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been named a Peace Corps Volunteer, having completed eight weeks of training at St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y. He is now on duty at the school system of Jamaica, B.W.I., following a brief leave at home.

Members of the Bloomington Prairie FFA Chapter placed high against strong competition at this year's Minnesota State Fair, according to Truman Tilleraas, adviser for the local chapter.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Sept. 19, 1940
Frank Krejci, Publisher

With two small Bloomington Prairie children in a Rochester hospital this week suffering of infantile paralysis, this

community is in the throes of a mild "epidemic scare" indicted by polio cases. Both are in St. Mary's Hospital and doctors report their cases to be extremely mild. Meanwhile, Dr. B. Melby, city health officer, deemed it advisable to close the first three grades in the local school this week as a precautionary measure.

Ernie Thompson, dispenser of Chevrolet automobiles here, is preparing to display the new 1941 models to the public at his showroom here Saturday, the official opening day. Ernie has had one of the new models under lock and key for several days. "It's a honey," is about all Ernie will say now, meaning that, if any one wants to see it, he must come in.

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Obituaries

Lorene V. Gosewisch

Lorene V. Gosewisch died Tuesday evening, Sept. 8, 2015, at Maple Manor Nursing Home after a short and sudden battle with Leukemia. She was born to Adena and J.R. Christenson in Blooming Prairie on Jan. 3, 1925. Lorene began a 35 year career with Prudential Insurance Company in the Twin Cities. She later moved to Mankato where she met and married her husband Edgar Gosewisch and

was an auxiliary member of the American Legion. In 1968 they moved to Rochester, and Edgar went on to work for Olmsted County for 18 years. Lorene loved animals, especially dogs. She also enjoyed reading,



playing Solitaire, doing crossword puzzles and camping at Beaver Trails Campground. She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, wheat farmer Robert Christenson of Hayfield, accountant Mildred Christenson of Minneapolis, WWII Veteran Arnold Christenson who stormed the beaches of Normandy, and her dear sister Helen Nett also of Minneapolis. She is survived by her husband,

her daughter Greta Gosewisch, her sister-in-law Janet Christenson, and many wonderful cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015, at Ranz and Vine Funeral Homes. Burial will be at Blooming Prairie Cemetery in Blooming Prairie.

Harriet Orlanda Carlson, 86, Goodhue

Harriet Orlanda Carlson, age 86 of Goodhue, died peacefully at home on Friday morning, Sept. 11, 2015. Harriet was born on January 15, 1929 in Albert Lea, MN the daughter of Martin and Emma (Fremo) Westing. She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1947, and married Elmer Carlson on July 20, 1957, in Blooming Prairie. They farmed together and raised two children, Keith and Tamara. Elmer died in 1984, and she later married Donald Trom on June 26, 1999, in Owatonna. He died in 2009. She was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Goodhue, and was involved in Bible study and quilting. She also enjoyed singing and sang in several choirs, including St. Luke's

Church Choir and Golden Tones of Owatonna. She loved being outdoors and enjoyed gardening, flowers and watching birds. She was a member of Red Wing Sons of Norway. She also enjoyed garage sales! She especially loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by son Keith E. (Lee Ann) Carlson of Goodhue; daughter Tamara Carlson (fiancé Aaron Eastvold) of Austin; five grandchildren Minde (Darik) Rude, Kristopher (Tina)



Carlson, Kerry (Beth) Carlson, Kimberlee (Luke) Lodermeier, and Kamie (Colin) Lodermeier; 12 great-grandchildren Nolan and Norah Rude, Kristopher Blake, Joslyn, Julia and Whitney Carlson, Kate, Jack and Lucy Carlson, Elmer and Emma Lodermeier, and Hayden Lodermeier; brother Helmer (Bonnie) Westing of Yelm, Washington; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law Shirley Westing of Weeki Wachee, Florida, Robert Hinrichs of Zumbrota, and Isabel Hernlem of Zumbrota; and stepchildren Danny (Beth) Trom and Roger Trom, all of Blooming Prairie, Barb (Dale) Jacobson and Brian Trom, all of Owatonna. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, step-grand-

children and step great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; daughter Jillyn O. Carlson; brother Manley Westing; sister-in-law Rosie Hinrichs; and brother-in-law Connie Hernlem.

Visitation was held on Monday, Sept. 14, 2015, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Goodhue. Funeral services were Tuesday at the church. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery, Goodhue. Memorials are preferred to St. Luke Lutheran Church and Mayo Clinic Hospice, Rochester.

Arrangements by Lundberg Funeral Home, Cannon Falls. On-line condolences may be directed to www.lundbergfuneral.com.

Julia Beth Oswald, 23

Julia Beth Oswald passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 8, 2015, at the age of 23.

Julia was a vivacious, feisty and bright young woman. She brought light and happiness to everyone she met. She could be whatever you needed at any given time; an advocate, a defender, a shoulder to cry on, a truly rare great friend. She will be sorely missed by all.

She is survived by her parents Bob Oswald and Loni Blumerich; her step-parents Sandie Sandstrom and Horst Blumerich; her siblings Steven, Alina and Kate Oswald; her nephew



Charlie; and the love of her life, Matt Shere. She is also survived by her paternal grandmother Gerry Oswald; aunts and uncles Roger and Leanne (Oswald) Hanson and Sue and Rich Brown of New Jersey; and several cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandfather Bob Oswald and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taggart.

Visitation was held Sept. 12, 2015.

Please leave a memory of Julia or words of support for the family at www.bellbrothersjavidowd.com.

Honors

James Klein, Owatonna, completed degree requirements during summer session 2015 to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Management.

The University of Minnesota Crookston enrolls approximately 1,800 full-time students and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The U of M Crookston is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution, dedicated to learning, discovery and engagement in northwest Minnesota.

Thomas Donlon, of Owatonna, joined Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Class of 2019. More than 1,400 freshmen joined the Rensselaer community on August 31 with the first day of classes. They hail from

46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and from countries all over the world.

Jacob Howe of Owatonna is enrolled at Ridgewater College for the fall 2015 semester, majoring in Marketing and Sales Management.

Ridgewater College is a community and technical college educating over 6,000 individuals each year on its campuses in Willmar and Hutchinson. For more information visit ridgewater.edu. Ridgewater College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
Sept. 16
Adam Harber
Heather Bass Schiller
Larry Knutson

Grace Fredrickson
John Kubista
Kate Ingvalson
Greg Kinny

Sept. 17
Anna Kittelson
Vicki Wacek
Jeff Zweiner
Alec Wangen
Frank Williamson
Wendy Schewe
Emma Esplan
Briella Musel
Jill Haubenschild

Anniversaries
Sept. 16
James and Amber Konz

Sept. 17
John and Elisa Wright

Sept. 18
Steve and Pat Ingvalson
Cameron and Megan Rask
Nik and Andrea Miller
Lonnie and Mandy Lembke
Mike and Sandy Jones
Mike and Andrea Farr

Sept. 19
Sarah Greer
Lachelle Wondra
Lee Morem
Edward Lindquist
Karen Njos

Sept. 19
Elaine and Ken Vermilyea
Mark Ditlevson/Renae Worke
Jon and Sarah Esplan
Rebecca and Brian Broton-Anderson

Sept. 20
Tyler Bass
Heather Pirkel
Kristin Miller
Gary Leuth
Kristen Robbins

Sept. 21
Mark Larkoski
Jackie Smith
Cathy Shawback
Krista Young
Dean Naatz
Payton Fristedt
Sam Brewington

Sept. 20
Bob and Joanne Nahlovsky
Dennis and Carol Heimerman
Mike and Jennifer Swenson
John and Angie Carlson

Sept. 22
Zach Ahrens
Sara Graves

Sept. 22
Sam and Barb Brewington

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Area Church Spotlight



Community Lutheran Church, Geneva

Pastor's corner

A season of change is upon us

It's crazy to think that summer has turned the corner into fall.

School buses are on regular routes again, temperatures are cooler, and churches are gearing up for continued ministry opportunities for all ages. Pumpkins are nearly fully formed on the vine, and the fields are beginning to ready themselves for harvest season.

In this season of noticeable change outside, things always seem to be chang-

ing inside our lives too.

A student begins the first year of technical school or college. New jobs. Elementary children begin a new year in a new classroom. There are shifts in living arrangements; empty nesters for the first time or grandchildren moving in.

Moments of adjustment to new ways of living with a new diagnosis. Like the trees and the weather outside, life really is in constant shift.

As the saying goes - the

only constant in life is change. Some of us love it; some of us loathe it. Either way, it's reality. As the leaves on the trees change colors, so do our lives.

Through the constant of change, God is constant too. Orchestrating the changing of the seasons in God's creation, so God also stays with us through every season. Seasons of school, of unemployment, of mourning, of celebration - God remains steadfast. Within us. Beside



us. As change happens, as it inevitably does, may God's presence be known to you in every season.

*Pastor Lindsay Stolen
Red Oak Grove
Lutheran Church*

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Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 676-5696
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 633-9331
8:30 Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 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.goodshepherdowatonna.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
(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.roglutheran.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.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.ots-host.org
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September
19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning
Services held at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Offered each
Saturday Evening Service and
2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each
month. Sunday School - starts
September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15
a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
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
Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 AM

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
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Sunday School

Catholic

ST. MARY'S 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
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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
and 8 a.m. Sunday,
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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The Rev. Brian Sutton,
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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,
9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish
Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
515 E. Main St., Hayfield
The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641
Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
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Deacon Patrick Fagan
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Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.

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www.ellendaleumc.org
Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Non-Denominational

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Pastor Keith Haskell
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CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10:00a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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www.destinycc.org
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and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Vanessa Syvertsen
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

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211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

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Pastor Patrick Stitt
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Sunday School: 9 a.m.
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Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

News

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

pleted after the chlorination, the State Health Department reported that some samples still tested positive for the bacteria, still most likely caused by Main Street construction. As a result, the water was chlorinated again on Monday afternoon. Follow-up tests will take place later this week to determine if the problem has been remedied.

“There was no evidence of an emergency,” said BPPU Manager Rick Kittelson. “This is a low-level, non-harmful bacteria.”

While it’s difficult to say for certain, said Kittelson, it’s likely that the findings are a result of ongoing construction and the replacement of water mains.

BPPU employee Katie Wencel adds that the Department of Health has stated that there have been no violations on BPPU’s part. In fact, it’s not uncommon for similar findings to surface in areas where construction (especially when working with water mains) occurs. BPPU does not usually add chlorine to the water because the water is actually very high quality.

When the presence of the bacteria was first detected, however, the Department of Health instructed BPPU to chlorinate the water to help disinfect the system. BPPU first learned of the findings on Thursday, Sept. 3, and took action immediately. The Department of Health calculated how much chlorine should be added to the water (104 pounds) and BPPU used that amount to disinfect the water on Sept. 4 and flushed the system on Sept. 9.

BPPU staff prepared a letter which explained the situation, and shared the information with Public Access Channel 13, local radio stations and the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. They contacted the Post Office, and inquired if the letters could be delivered to area homes in a timely manner. That day, BPPU staff printed, stuffed, sealed and stamped over 1,000 letters and delivered them to the Post Office on Friday morning. According to Kittelson, BPPU

staff was under the impression that the letters would arrive in area mailboxes on Saturday morning. The letters, however, did not arrive in most area mailboxes until Tuesday.

In the meantime, BPPU staff also personally contacted area businesses and organizations, including Prairie Manor Care Center, the Senior Center and others. While BPPU staff did not want to cause unnecessary alarm, they did want the public to be aware of the situation and receive accurate information.

“We honestly did everything we could, in the short time-frame, to get the information out to people,” said Wencel.

BPPU, said Kittelson, regrets that the information did not arrive in mailboxes more promptly. “With the limited resources we have, we thought we did the best we could to get the information out to everyone,” he said.

Another series of letters informing residents of Monday’s chlorination was scheduled to arrive in mailboxes on Monday morning.

BPPU staff encourages any residents with questions or concerns to contact the BPPU staff or Minnesota Department of Health directly to ensure that they receive accurate information. It is unlikely that the bacteria, or the subsequent chlorine treatments, will have a negative impact on residents’ health. However, residents should consult their health care professionals if they have concerns.

In addition to chlorinating and flushing the system, BPPU will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Every fall, BPPU completes routine hydrant flushing. This year, the flushing will most likely take place in mid-October. Once the date has been finalized, the department will publicize the date.

The Minnesota State Health Department could not be reached for comment.

Menus

Seniors Menu

Sept. 15: Meatloaf, Baked Potato/Sour Cream, Green Beans/Mushroom, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream

Sept. 16: Ham & Scalloped Pots, ALT: Beef Patty, Asparagus, Dinner Roll, PB Brownie

Sept. 17: Chicken Alfredo, Lasagna, Peas & Carrots, Tossed Salad, Frozen Yogurt

Sept. 18: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Dinner Roll, Fruit Cup

Sept. 21: Chicken Pot Pie, Cucumbers/Sour Cream, Beet Pickles, Dinner Roll, Citrus Fruit Cup

Sept. 22: Hunter Style Beef Tips over Noodles, Brussels Sprouts, Tossed Salad, Cranberry Bog Dessert

Sept. 23: BBQ Beef/Bun, Red Potatoes, Baked Beans, Pickle Spear, Cherry Crunch Dessert

BPES Breakfast Menu

Sept. 15: Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 16: WG Bagel w/ Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 17: Banana Loaf, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Sept. 18: UBR Round, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 21: Yogurt, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Sept. 22: Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 23: WG Bagel w/ Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

BPES Lunch Menu

Sept. 15: Spicy Soft Tacos w/ Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Potato Ole, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 16: Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Sauce, Pasta Salad, Hot Deli Sandwich (Turkey or Ham) Pasta Salad, Broccoli, Sweet Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 17: Chicken Nuggets w/

Mashed Potatoes Gravy, Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Spring Corn Salad

Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 18: Pizza Parlor Pizza, Side Salad, Hamburger on WG Bun, Side Side, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 21: French Toast Sticks, Cinnamon Apple Slices, Fish Sandwich on WG Bun, Cole-slaw, Corn, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 22: Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, WG Roll, Pulled Pork Flatbread Sliders, Potato Salad, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Hot Ham & Cheese, French Fries, Sweet Peas, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

BPES Lunch Menu

Sept. 15: Tex Mex Bowl, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 16: Orange Chicken over Rice, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 17: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potato with Gravy, Spring Corn Salad, Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 18: Pizza Casserole, Side Salad, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 21: French Toast Sticks, Cinnamon Apple Slices & Ham Slice, Corn, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 22: Pulled Pork Flatbread, Potato Salad, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Sept. 15: Waffle Sticks, Sausage Patty OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 16: Omelet, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 17: Bosco Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk

Sept. 18: Ultimate Breakfast Round OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Sept. 21: Sausage & Cheese Biscuit OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Sept. 22: Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Sept. 23: Banana Loaf OR Choice of WG Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Sept. 15: Spicy Soft Tacos w/ Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Pretzel Bites w/Cheese, Deli Sub, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 16: Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Sauce, Pasta Salad, Combo Sliders, Chef Salad, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 17: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Popeye Salad, Deli Sandwich, Spring Corn Salad, Kidney Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 18: Pizza Parlor Pizza, Side Salad, Yogurt Pak, Turkey BLT Salad, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 21: French Toast Sticks,

Cinnamon Apple Slices, Egg Salad on Wheat, Chef Salad, Corn, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 22: Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, WG Roll, Cravin’ Chicken Salad, Deli Sub, Cauliflower, Baby Carrots, Beets, Seasonal Fruit

Sept. 23: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Ham Pin Wheel, Chicken Caesar Salad, Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

NRHEG Breakfast Menu

Sept. 15: Cinnamon or Banana Bread

Sept. 16: Breakfast Pizza

Sept. 17: Pancake Bites

Sept. 18: Cinnamon Roll (No Salad Bar Ellendale)

Sept. 21: French Toast Sticks

Sept. 22: Doughnut, Yogurt

Sept. 23: Muffins

NRHEG Lunch Menu

Sept. 15: Chicken Patty on Bun, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Chips, Mandarin Oranges

Sept. 16: Pasta Bar w/Meat or Alfredo Sauce, Romaine Salad, Baby Carrots, Bread Stick, Pineapple (Ellendale no salad bar)

Sept. 17: Beef Taco w/Top-pings, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Applesauce

Sept. 18: Popcorn Chicken, Whipped Potatoes, Peas, Diced Pears, Fresh Fruit

Sept. 21: Mini Corn Dogs, Soft Pretzel w/Cheese Sauce, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges

Sept. 22: Hamburger on a Bun, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Chips, Pineapple

Sept. 23: Turkey Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Peas, Cooked Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Diced Peaches, Cottage Cheese

RECIPE CORNER

Bagel Dip

- 16 oz real mayo
- 16 oz sour cream
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3 tsp. dill weed
- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 pkg. corned beef, chopped
- 1 to 2 pkg. bagels

By Jennifer Wayne

Mix all together and refrigerate overnight. Cut up bagels into bite-sized pieces and serve with dip.

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News

CANCER BENEFIT

Continued from Page 1A

is a sect of University of Minnesota. The facility tripled in size in 2008, and the institute is in the process of another expansion to be complete on June first of 2016.

“We are doing phenomenally well thanks to community support,” said Dennis. “I am happy to say that 100% of funds go towards research. The Hormel Institute is world-renowned and belongs to everyone.”

Dennison said that the money from the Blooming Prairie Cancer group does make a difference at the Hormel Institute.

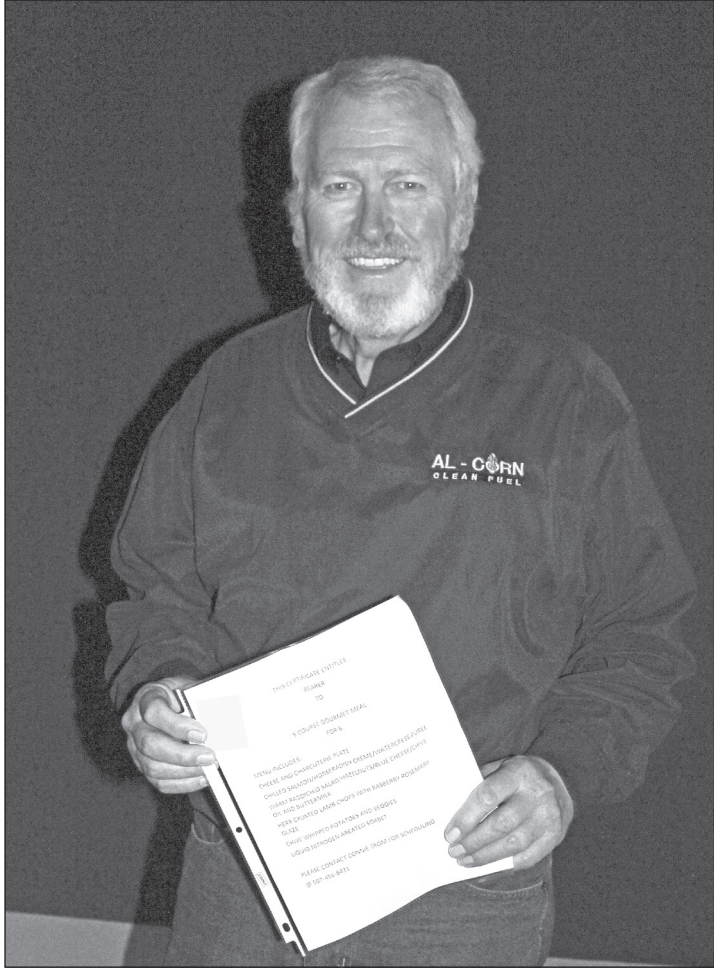
Pam Folkens, who has been a member of the Cancer Group for thirteen years, said that the group organizes the events all year long. “We’re a pretty close group,” said Folkens. “We’re very proud of the support that we get from our community.”

The community provides support in multiple ways. Some volunteer. Some donate items and handmade goods for the auction, and some give financially.

Folkens spoke about the portion of funds that goes toward the community fund. The community fund is to help support members of the community and their family that might be fighting cancer. The community fund might cover anything from fuel coverage or the construction of a ramp to a house, if necessary.

“I enjoy when families come back and say thank you. It’s a warm fuzzy thing. It makes you feel good,” said Folkens. “You just don’t know when or if you or your family might be impacted by cancer and might need some help.”

Folkens encourages anybody to who might be in need of help to please contact the cancer group, after all she said, “We are a community.”



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Randy Doyal, of Owatonna, was the highest bidder for a five-course gourmet meal, prepared by Todd Anderson, at the BP Cancer Auction on Saturday evening. The meal was donated by Todd Anderson and the family of Darrel Trom.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Rachel Winzenburg, Jasper Doocy, Betsy Gillette, Aubrey Klocke, Macy Lembke and Steven Gillette enjoyed participating in the annual BP Cancer Group's Walk/Run on Saturday morning. Above, the group takes a breather and finds a convenient spot to sit: the front of a Blooming Prairie Fire Truck.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Sitting very still, Jasper Doocy, 7, of Blooming Prairie, has her face painted by volunteer Whitney Lutteke under the tent at the BP Cancer Group's Annual Walk and Run on Saturday, Sept. 12.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Bloomington Cancer Group members Pam Folkens, Ashley Valek, Connie Trom and Mady Doocy enjoyed some pizza and the cancer auction on Friday evening.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
A thoughtful Madison Thurnau, 11, of Blooming Prairie, proudly shows 10 inches of her hair that she had cut by stylist Barb Kraling, Cutting Edge, for the benefit of Locks of Love. Kraling and others were doing haircuts under a tent during the annual BP Cancer Walk and Run on Saturday morning.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Bingo players of all ages were gathered under the BP Cancer Group tent on Saturday in Blooming Prairie. Raylee Barber, 5, of Blooming Prairie was one of the prize winners for having a bingo.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Hormel Institute's Director of Public Relations and Development, Gail Dennison (left), thanked cancer group member Cheri Krejci (right), the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, and those that came to the auction on Friday night for their support of cancer research done at the Hormel Institute.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Walkers and runners who participated in Saturday's BP Cancer Group Walk and Run were treated to water or lemonade by these young volunteers on the route. Shown from left to right are Maya Lembke, Marti Snider, Gemeni Johnson and Riauna Bishop.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Kaci Gwilt, of Blooming Prairie, participated in a couple of bean bag events, one (above) having some interesting targets. She tried her luck at the events which were part of activities at the registration tent for the annual BP Cancer Group's Walk and Run on Saturday, Sept. 12.



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LaVerne Utpadel named latest member of Equine Hall of Fame

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Writer

The late LaVerne Utpadel of Ellendale was inducted into the Steele County Equine Hall of Fame this year at the start of the Steele County Free Fair.

“To love horses and animals, treat them with respect and in doing so learn to treat people with love and respect,” was Utpadel’s philosophy and legacy, said Patrick McCarthy, previous Hall of Fame inductee.

Utpadel was superintendent of the Steele County Free Fair Horse Department from 1977-79 and was instrumental in building the first horse arena on the fairgrounds.

He was a 4-H leader for the Beaver Lake Beavers 1974-75 and 1981 and Steele County 4-H Leader of the Year in 1975.

He was a member of the Sunset Saddle Club, chairman of the Ellendale-Geneva School Board, a board member of Community Lutheran Church and a member of the Eagles and Elks Clubs.

He worked for the Steele County Highway Department from 1956 to 1965, during which time he took night classes at Dunwoody Institute. He worked for the state highway department from 1965 to 1975, leaving that position when he was asked to move to Duluth.

He was the owner of Vern’s Trucking and then Geneva Automotive.

Utpadel died in 1997.

“To have Verne receive this is such an honor,” said his wife, Sheree, as she accepted his award along with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen

Patrick McCarthy presented the plaque designating induction into the Equine Hall of Fame to the family of the late LaVerne Utpadel of Ellendale. Utpadel was superintendent of the Steele County Free Fair Horse Department from 1977-79 and instrumental in building the first horse arena on the fairgrounds. He was also a member of the Sunset Saddle Club.

International soy buyers gather in Medford

By ANNA SEGNER
County Writer

As it turns out, most international buyers of soy from southern Minnesota have never stepped foot on a farm, let alone a Minnesota farm that is producing the product they purchase.

On Sept. 12, two hundred international soy buyers gathered in Southern Minnesota to learn more about the origins of the product at the root of the industry. Everyone gathered at Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers in Medford at 10 a.m. to hear presentations, before visiting six local farms.

The buyers came from all over the world including Japan, India, Bangladesh, Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, Pakistan and various European countries.

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) official Tom Coffman spoke about soybean production sustainability. Dr. Mark Wehe of South Central College spoke on financial statements, and University of Minnesota Agronomist Seth Naeve spoke about essential amino acids in soy beans from this area and shipping effects on soy protein quality.

Coffman updated the buyers on some of Minnesota laws and regulations that impact soy bean farmers, but he primarily spoke at large about soil health.

As Coffman explained to the buyers, “If you take care of the land, it will take care of you.” Coffman explained ways that farmers are keeping their soil healthy, which includes covering soil as much as possible, disturbing soil as little as possible,

continuing plant growth year round to feed soil and diversify through crop rotation.

He also went over the different methods of tilling the land: no till, strip till, ridge till, mulch till and vertical tillage. He spoke to the advantages of some of them, primarily being less disruption of soil. On the visits following the presentations, the buyers were able to better understand some of these processes.

University of Minnesota Agronomist Seth Naeve spoke more to the value within a northern soybean and countered the information about Minnesota soybeans being low in protein.

“So, it’s logistical. The soybeans here are lower in protein, but I’m trying to show additional value in northern soybeans and a higher quality protein source with balance of amino acids,” explained Naeve. “I just want to give them a new view of Minnesota soy beans.”

Naeve spoke to the value of the buyers visiting the farms. “For the most part, these guys are city people that are used to buying and selling from their offices in Tokyo, or wherever,” he said. “They get disconnected from the product that they’re buying. It’s putting that face to a farmer, seeing the farm, remembering that—oh—he had a nice wife, or we had a nice meal. It’s the personal aspect.”

This event was made possible by Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the soy bean check off. As Minnesota Soybean Research and Promo-

tion Council communication manager Doug Monson said, the event was part of a “broader effort to bridge international connections.”

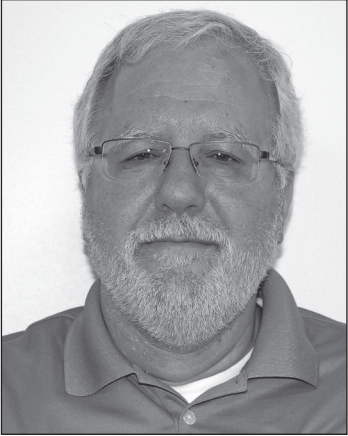
The day of presentations and farm visits were timed well to be after the U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange conference in Minneapolis. Monson said that they are very grateful to Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers for offering their space.

Minnesota Soybean Director of Market Development, Kim Nill, said that it was a lot of work putting on an event like

this, but he said it was more than worth it.

“I feel very strongly that people need to see Minnesota soybean farms. I believe they are the best in the nation,” said Nill. “We also now get another opportunity to show that our product is sustainable.”

Farmers hosting tours include Mike Riley and Sons of Amboy; Keith Schrader of Nertstrand; Bruce Schmolli of Claremont; Jeff Ignaszewski of Wells; Sam Ziegler of Mapleton; Scott Singletad of Waseca and Roger Toquam of Blooming Prairie.



Kim Nill



Doug Monson



Staff photos by Anna Segner

National Research Conservation Service Officer Tom Coffman talked with the 200 international soy buyers about soil health before they visited six farms.

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Steele County farmers care about the environment

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Central Advantage Field Technology Days on Sept. 10 and 11 attracted farmers from all over the area to learn about new equipment, planting technologies and tillage methods.

This level of interest in environmentally sound pieces of equipment leave agronomists saying that Steele County farmers are progressive.

Being progressive with farming is not only an advantage to the farmer, but it also benefits the land long-term. This allows farmers to be stewards of the land for the next generations of farmers.

As a Central Valley agronomy manager, Storm Sammon, is always thinking about land use efficiency. “The big thing is how we can be as efficient as possible with the dollar we spend and still produce the way we want to produce,” remarked Sammon.

Sammon said that the importance of the Field Technology Days is awareness for people involved in agriculture and those that are not as directly involved.

While the Field Technology Days drew farmers and agricul-

tural professionals, there was hope that it would have been a more diverse crowd. However, organizer Kevin Kruize admits that more efforts would be made next year to get more financial and academic professionals with interest in agriculture. He also said that he hopes that it will expand to the point that the general public will draw a crowd less involved in agriculture.

This year was the first time that Central Advantage hosted the event and each day drew in around 150 people. The number of participants was less than hoped for; however, the rain and relocation might have hindered participation.

Central Advantage is a precision agriculture program that began with Central Valley Co-op, but has evolved to stand on its own.

The original location of the event in Meriden saw about four inches of rain shortly before the event, so they were forced to relocate to a harvested sweet corn field south of Owatonna. The land is located by Festal Foods, which has a working relationship with Central Advantage.

Despite the last minute changes, all plans stayed true.

There were five different dealerships present, with 18 pieces of equipment on display or for demonstration. The focus of the demonstrations were planting technologies and tillage methods.

“The goal is to understand what each piece does and learn how to make better management decisions on your land,” said Kruize. “Seeing is believing. Demonstrations confirm in your mind what you learned.”

All five of the dealerships present were from Minnesota, an aspect of the event that Kruize finds unique. “It’s really cool to have all of the community working together for this event,” said Kruize.

One of the companies at the Field Technology Days was Environmental Tillage Systems with a fancy piece of equipment: the Soil Warrior. Precision Ag Account Manager, Derek Smith, explained the Soil Warrior as a new piece of equipment that performs vertical tillage with directed fertilizer application. This makes for an elevated berm with less moisture and more warmth in the soil for spring.

“It takes samples along the way that allows the farmer to see where the soil needs fertilizer,” remarked Smith. “It’s about thinking: How can we be the most effective with the dollar spent?”

The importance of this event was to continue to expand farmers’ knowledge and continue the acts of environmental progression on local farms. Farmers in the area see the value because, as Irv Arndt said, “It’s about efficiency and sustainability.”

“The better equipment you have, the better decisions you can make by properly adjusting spread,” said Arndt. He admits that equipment is, obviously, expensive. “It’s not about what you spend, it’s about what you make back in return.”

The organizers found the event a success, and they look forward to next year’s event and are hopeful for a growth in participation!



Staff photos by Anna Segner
About 100 to 150 farmers gathered each day of Central Advantage's Field Technology Days (Sept. 11 and 12), to learn about new tilling equipment and planting methods.



Despite the rain prior to Central Advantage's Field Technology Days, the event was able to relocate and do all demonstrations as planned. Rain held out for the most part during the events.



Travis Warmka explained the 240 Kinze 4900 to a handful of farmers.

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Minnesota Crop Report

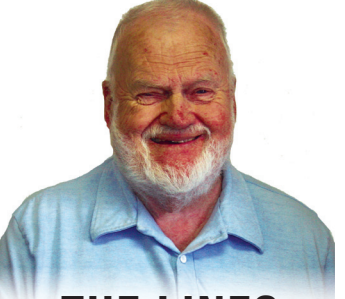
Farmers in the western half of Minnesota reported harvesting early soybeans during the 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sept.13, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities for the week included the fourth cutting of alfalfa hay in parts of southern Minnesota, harvesting wild rice, and chopping corn for silage. Portions of northwest Minnesota reported white mold in sunflower fields. With most of Minnesota's corn acreage in or beyond the dent stage, 19 percent of the acreage was mature, 8 days ahead of last-year but 2 days behind the five-year average. Corn condition rated 88 percent good to excellent. Corn harvested for silage was 37 percent complete, almost 1 week behind normal. Forty-two percent of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves or beyond, 9 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of normal. Soybean condition rated 77 percent good to excellent, down slightly from the previous week. With most of the dry edible bean crop dropping leaves or beyond, 47 percent of the crop has been harvested, 9 days ahead of average. Dry edible bean condition rated 70 percent good to excellent. Thirty-nine percent of the potato crop was harvested, with 92 percent of the acreage rated in good to excellent condition.

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

The week in sports

Sophomore Alec Ille headlines this sports week, as he won his first ever cross-country meet at the Hayfield invitational meet last Thursday. Several other runners tasted success at this invitational, and it is just too bad that cross-country numbers have shrunk this year to make full teams unable to compete.

It marked another victory for the football team, as they defeated JWP at Janesville. It was a win that could have been much more lopsided, save for four fumbles in the game all of which were recovered by the Bulldogs. A couple of late touchdowns against reserves made the score closer than the game indicated. The Blossom defense again played a staunch game for the locals.

The volleyball team continues winless in regular season matches, but the girls showed great improvement in several areas of play in the last match. It is very difficult for an inexperienced team to win, once a losing streak is established. The improvement lately, however, may indicate the streak will be ending soon. We will all hope so, anyway.

A winner again

Last week's several activities in the "Paint Blooming Prairie Pink" certainly demonstrated the entire community's commitment to the fight against cancer, and the entire event provided a lot of money for that good cause, but it also gave residents another chance to enjoy each other's company.

Having two of the 250 flags on display in honor of my wife's battle with cancer instilled within me a sense of loss, but also a sense of pride, as I remembered her courageous fight against that dreaded disease. And mine was just one small example of the many in our community who have gone through the same ordeal.

The many pink symbols and ribbons that populated the streets and the downtown businesses offered support for the campaign, and the two-night auction brought more activity and a lot of spirited bidding, all for a good cause. The entertainment provided by our own Styx of Fury added enjoyment to the entire weekend, and even the high school athletic teams entered the campaign with a lot of pink in warm-ups and shoelaces.

I think the affair was an unqualified success all around, and a tip of the hat this week goes to everyone involved in another successful charitable project. It was just the latest example of the deep pride for which this community is noted.

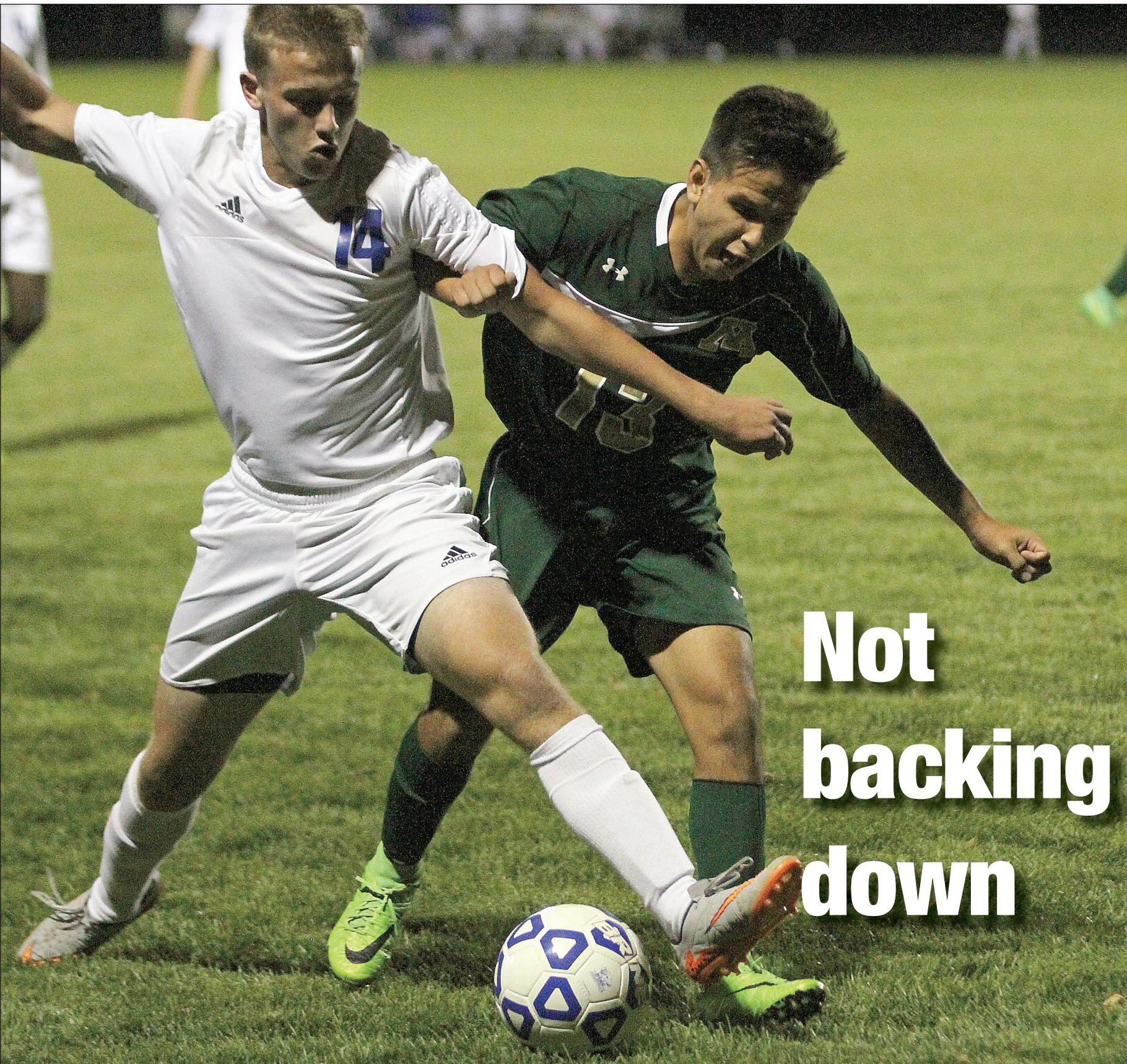
Turbines at work

For most area residents, the wind turbines near Oak Glen Lake have become familiar sights-so familiar that nobody really notices them any more. But that doesn't mean they are

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 2B

OWATONNA SOCCER



Not backing down

Staff photo by James Knoop
Jake Nelson (left) battles a Rochester Mayo opponent for possession on Thursday, Sept. 10. The Owatonna boys soccer team has still not been defeated this season, starting the year 3-0 and tying both its next two games in overtime. The Huskies will next face Mankato West on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Read more on Page 2B.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE CROSS-COUNTRY

Blossoms runner first at Hayfield invitational

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Sophomore Alec Ille won the first cross-country race of his career as he won the race at the Hayfield 12-team invitational. Running second for much of the race, he eventually overtook Peter Torkelson of GMLOS over the last mile to win on Thursday, Sept. 10, in a time of 17:01.

Elijah and Isaac Baker both finished in the top 25 runners with times of 18:29 and 19:25, Elijah came in 12th and Isaac 25th. Jesse Schewe also ran for the locals and timed 20:52. The boys still do not have enough runners to qualify as a team.

"Although we could not compete as a team for either the boys or the girls," commented Coach John Bruns, "we had some fine individual performances. Besides the three boys' times, Alison Pryor finished 12th for the girls with

a 22:01 time. It was the first time the girls covered the 5K distance (it was 4K last year), and both girls handled the new distance very well and won't have a problem with the increase."

Besides the 12th place timing for Pryor, Anika Nowlan ran the course in 26:39, as the two are the only girls to compete at the varsity level. Several junior high runners ran 1.5 miles in prelim races.

Ethan Grant finished 10th overall at 9:52, and he is running well and getting better every day. Bobbie Bruns came in 16th with an 11:19 time, and Rose Michaud and Alison Krohnberg also finished in the top 25. Michaud timed an 11:56 and Krohnberg a 12:00. Olivia Johnson ran just out of the top 25 with a 12:03 and Ashley Brown rounded out the times for the Blossom runners with a 14:01 time. The next meet for the teams will be a six-team invite at Mankato Loyola this Friday, Sept. 18.



Submitted photo
Alec Ille begins to overtake competitor at they Hayfield invitational last week. Ille took first place at the event.



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Sports

Young Blossoms team continues to improve

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Hayfield Tournament

Hayfield went undefeated at their own Invitational tournament on Saturday, Sept. 12, while the Blossoms finished in sixth place with one win and three losses. LeRoy-Ostrander defeated BP in three games for fifth place in the tournament. The Vikings beat the locals in three sets of the opening match, but then defeated Lewiston-Altura in two sets 25-17 and 25-20. BP won game one against Hayfield 25-19, but the home team bounced back to beat the Blossoms 25-11 and 15-3.

Alden-Conger defeated the Blossoms in two sets 25-22 and 25-20. In the fifth place match LO won the first set 25-20 but BP took set two 25-19. The tie-breaker went to the Cardinals 15-12 in a closely contested set.

Individually, Abby Wayne had 60 assists for the tournament, and Lauren Larkoski pounded down 22 kills. Alyssa Krohnberg, Courtney Wobschall and Marissa Larson had 12, 11, and 10 kills, with Larson adding nine blocks. Larkoski and Leah Inwards had 38 and 34 digs, and Rachel Kubicek added 26. Sam Wurst had seven kills and seven blocks, and Kylie Forystek and Hannah Ahrens both finished with 13 digs. The Blossoms now have a three and eight match record for the season, with a match at USC Thursday, Sept. 17, next on the schedule.

BP vs. Medford

Although still winless in regular season matches, the Awesome Blossom volleyball team can take away from better feelings from a three-game sweep to Medford on the home court Thursday, Sept. 10. The Tigers won the first two sets by identical 25-22 scores, but the locals had chances to win both games, save a couple of crucial errors at inopportune times.

“The girls fought hard tonight,” remarked Coach Ranell Kittelson, “and we came out with an aggressive attitude. I saw improvement in a lot of areas, and we will work on continued improvement. hard. We just have to learn to close out games and seal victories. That uncertainty is always a problem for an inexperienced team.”

Abby Wayne gave the Blossoms a 5-2 lead in game one with five straight points, and the action stayed close all the way. BP trailed 15-17 and 18-20, but Courtney Wobschall gave BP a 22-21 lead with two good serving points. The set was tied at 22, but Marnie Madson served three straight points, including the winner that climbed over the net and fell to the floor for the point and Kieara Raschke each served five points in the game.

The second set found balanced scoring for BP, but Becca Edel and Madsen each served four points in the set for the win. Leah Inwards again earned a 22-22 tie, but a missed local serve gave the Tigers a chance, and Kelcey Gerlach served the winner. Christianson and Kieara Raschke each served five points in the game.

That loss deflated the Blossoms a little, and Medford used early points from Edel to take an easy 25-13 third set and the sweep. The match did feature several long volleys, and the action got heated at times.

Alyssa Krohnberg had 13 kills, and Abby Wayne set up 21 assists to lead the Blossoms. Wayne added five blocks and 10 digs; Krohnberg had 12 digs, and Marissa arson chipped in eight kills and nine blocks. Sam Wurst had six blocks, and Bria Baldwin and Leah Inwards had 23 and nine digs, respectively.

Medford won the B squad prelim, but the sets were close with several good volleys in the game. The Tigers won game one 25-21, lost the second to the locals 25-23 and then won the tie-breaker 19-17 in overtime.

Emma Christianson, McK-

enna Hein and Ayren Ingvalson each had 10 digs in the match, Hein and Christianson each had five kills, and Leah Schiefert had 10 for 10 serving, including three aces, and 10 assists.

As Coach Mary Worke commented, “It was an excellent match. Everyone participated hard, and I am proud of the effort in this hard-fought battle.”

BP vs. Austin

Led by Austin seniors Ashley Hawkshead and Shayley Vesel, the Packers dominated Blooming Prairie and sent the Blossoms to their fourth regular season defeat at home on Tuesday, Sept. 8. In the losing matches so far, the locals have yet to win a game in any of the matches.

Austin played with much more intensity than the Blossoms, as they avenged a loss to the Blossoms just three days earlier in the Rochester Century invitational tourney. It was the first time in six years that the Packers had taken a three-game sweep from an opponent.

“They played with more intensity than we did,” commented Coach Ranell Kittelson.

“We made some critical errors and had some communication problems at times also. I have to keep reminding myself that we are a young team and have players still adjusting to new positions.”

Austin took an early lead in game one and got five straight points from Awenia Nywesh to pull away for the 25-16 victory. Abby Wayne got the second game off to a good start for five straight serving points, and a 5-1 lead. It went to 8-3, before the Packers closed the gap and took the lead. The game seesawed to a 22 tie, but Kelsey Sederquest served three points for the 25-22 win, after BP had two straight serves misfire.

The Blossoms kept the third game close, but they just couldn’t string any serving runs together. Hawkshead dominated the net from her corner position,



Staff photos by James Knoop
Junior Courtney Wobschall (right) drives the ball past her Bethlehem Academy opponent.

finishing the match with 13 kills and 13 digs. What she didn’t kill at the net, Vesel and Amber Hansen picked up the slack and slammed the ball down.

Lauren Larkoski and Alyssa Krohnberg had seven and six kills, but a lot of balls were mis-hit all night, and every ball at the net or hit clumsily by the Packers seemed to fall Austin’s way in this match. Courtney Wobschall had seven blocks, Leah Inwards and Bria Baldwin had 17 and eight digs, and Wayne finished her night with 18 assists.

“We just have to keep working,” concluded Kittelson. “We played very good in stretches at

the tourney last Saturday, and we have to use that play as a stepping stone to some wins soon.”

Both the B squad and the ninth grade teams lost to the Packers, but both matches went to the tie-breaker game. The B squad won the first game 25-5, but Austin came back for a 25-21 second game victory and then took the tiebreaker 15-11. McKenna Hein and Leah Schiefert ha two ace serves, Ayren Ingvalson had six kills, Hein had four kills, and Emma Christianson added three kills. Rylee Fawver and Schiefert had 11 and seven assists, and Asia Thostenson and Ingvalson scrambled for five digs each.

“It was a tough battle,” said

Coach Mary Worke. “Sometimes when you win the first game by a wide margin, it is difficult to keep the pressure on, and that is what happened to us. Hopefully, we will be able to hang on next time.”

The ninth grade won game one of its match 25-22, but Austin came back to win 25-8 and 15-10. Heather Pirkel had 7 assists and three digs, Julia Worke had three kills and three digs, and Rachael Oswald and Maya Lembke both had two kills and a block each. Emily Rihus added three digs.

Owatonna boys soccer ties twice; 3-0-1

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

The Owatonna boys soccer team still hasn’t tasted defeat this season, though they came extremely close with two ties this week.

The two overtime games came against Rochester Mayo and Northfield, both of which were home games.

In the first game, both teams entered without a loss, and nei-

ther seemed too eager to suffer their first. Both teams played tight defense to start the game, both goals in the 1-1 games coming in the second half just seven minutes apart.

Rochester Mayo struck first, but Owatonna answered quickly with a goal by Ryan Guenther, his third of the season.

“Both teams had chances in overtime, but both teams defense’s held the other team out,” said Huskies coach Robert Way-

pa.

Rochester Mayo outshot Owatonna 7-2 in the first half, but Owatonna just edged Mayo in the second half 6-5.

Against Burnsville, the Huskies played another close game, tying 2-2 after overtime. Both the Huskies and Burnsville scored one the first and second half, drawing Owatonna to its second straight overtime home game. Once again, no winner would be declared as both de-

fenses held the other scoreless in extra play.

The Huskies now stand 3-0-1 this season and will go on the road for the next three games against Mankato West, Rochester John Marshall and Lakeville. The game against Mankato West was scheduled to take place Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

not working.

The project began operation n 2011, and the 24 turbines have been churning 44 MWs each year since its onset. For those who never learned about the turbines, and there are many, I thought it might be a good time to refresh our memories of their size and their potential for providing electricity.

Each turbine is 410 feet tall from the base to the tip of the blade or 262 feet from the base to the hub. Each blade is 148 feet long and is constructed of reinforced fiberglass. The energy supplied from the turbines can generate enough to provide electricity to 14,000 homes for a year. That is quite an accomplishment.

By the way, information on the project came from a signboard at the weather gazebo that the project company built and furnished at the northeast corner of the city park. The Minnesota Municipal Power Agency is the parent organization that received the original license for

the project and its construction. Approximately 15 municipalities are involved with the agency. An interesting little topic, to be sure.

American tragedy

One doesn’t have to make any explanations about the attack on America that took place on Sept. 11, 2001. Parents or grandparents have told even the youngest of children about that infamous day. Only Dec. 7, 1941, can rival the date of most significance.

Last Friday marked that awful day, and like the attack on Pearl Harbor or the death of John F. Kennedy, all who were living in those years can remember exactly where they were and what they were doing. It isn’t necessary to narrate the details of that day, but it is indelibly etched in the minds of every citizen, as we commemorate last Friday as the exact day 14 years ago of that attack.

My wife and I were visiting a cousin in Michigan at the time, and we had just sat down to the

breakfast table when the small TV on the kitchen table had the news interrupted with the bulletin of the plane crashing into one of the Twin Towers in New York City. From that moment on, I don’t think any of us left the table for most of the day, as the events were broadcast and rebroadcast. The pictures alternated between New York City, to the Pentagon, to the site in Pennsylvania where some brave airline passengers stormed the terrorists and save the plane from reaching its destination at the U.S. Capitol.

Now, even these 14 years later, I can see in my mind’s eye the building collapsing, people jumping from forty and fifty floors up, and the dust and smoke rising from the streets from miles around the Twin Tower site. It is a memory that can’t ever be erased, or should it be. In 2015 we are still fearful of terrorist attacks, but we have also become better prepared to handle such attacks. Let’s just pray that such an occasion never

arises and continue to be proud of our nation.

Let’s close this week with the simple statement that the Cancer Group’s weekend proved an unqualified success. Hats off to the group and to the community. We’ll talk again.

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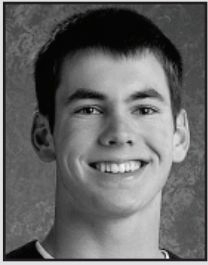
at the Times

Blooming Prairie High School

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



ANTHONY NELSON

The senior co-captain for the Awesome Blossom football team is the acknowledged leader and is a talented all-purpose back. In last week’s win at Janesville, he totaled 205 yards, with 104 coming on passes and 101 on the ground. In addition, he is also a leader on defense, as noted by his exceptional 19 tackles in the JWP victory. He consistently is one of the leading tacklers on the team.



ALYSSA KROHNBERG

Senior hitter Alyssa Krohnberg is slowly finding her niche on the BP volleyball team, with her last two matches demonstrating her strengths. In two matches last week, Krohnberg pounded down 19 kills and added almost 20 digs. She is part of a team that is improving with each match and, hopefully, will give the team a victory.

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Public Safety

Juveniles injured in crash

Last Thursday, Sept. 10, just before 10 p.m., a two vehicle accident in Owatonna injured four area juveniles.

According to a press release issued by the Owatonna Police Department, a tractor trailer, traveling northbound on 24th Avenue, struck an SUV, which had been westbound on Park Drive. Riley McMullin, 35, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was the driver of the tractor trailer, and reported no apparent injuries at the scene.

The driver of the SUV was a 16-year-old male, of Faribault, and was transported to the Owatonna Hospital by Gold Cross Ambulance. A 17-year-old male passenger in the SUV, also from Faribault, was also taken to transported to the Owatonna Hospital by Gold Cross Ambulance. Two other passengers, both 16, of Faribault, were transported to St. Mary’s Hospital, in Rochester, by air ambulance.

All individuals involved were wearing their seat belts at the time of the accident. Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be factors in the crash.

The Owatonna Police Department, Owatonna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance and the Steele County Sheriff’s Office responded to the scene.

According to Captain Eric Rethemeier, of the Owatonna Police Department, the crash remains under investigation.

Owatonna school goes under lockdown during search warrant

On Friday, Sept. 11, the Owatonna Junior High School and a nearby day care went under “lockdown” as a search warrant was executed at a nearby residence.

Both the school and day care had been forewarned prior to the execution of the search warrant, to ensure all students and children would remain safe.

At 9 a.m. that morning, the Owatonna Police Department, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit, the Cannon River Drug and Violent Offenders Task Force and their tactical teams executed the search warrant in the 600 block of Carlanna Place, in Owatonna. The Cannon River Violent Offenders Task Force served as the leading law enforcement agency for the investigation, assisted by the South Central Drug Investigation Unit.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
Sept. 5
Property Damage. Police took a report of vandalism at 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 10
Vandalism. At 7:09 a.m., officers received a property damage report.

Owatonna Police
Sept. 4
Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:51 a.m.

Suspicion. At 3:21 p.m., officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 2700 block of 26th St. NW.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:04 p.m.

Drunken Driving. Officer made a DWI arrest in the 500 block of School St. E. at 8:26 p.m.

Warrant. At 9:37 p.m., police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 2700 block of 26th St. NW.

Sept. 5
Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 5:07 a.m.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 6:06 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Suspicion. Police received a suspicious activity report from Bridge St. W. and Walnut Ave. N. at 8:04 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 12:23 p.m. and in the 800 block of Myers Dr. NE at 8:32 p.m.

Sept. 7
Child Protection. Police received child protection reports from the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 8:50 a.m., the 1300 block of Cottage Lane SE at 8:51 a.m. and in the 400 block of Kelly St. NW at 1:31 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:47 p.m.

Theft. At 9:39 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Sept. 8
Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 12:59 a.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run resulting in property damage occurred in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 8:04 a.m.

Juvenile. At 12:42 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of Vine St. E. for a juvenile complaint. They issued a citation.

Trespassing. Officers issued citations for trespassing in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:06 p.m. and in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 8:52 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 6:57 p.m.

Sept. 9
Burglary. At 10:49 a.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Elm Ave. N.

Warrant. Officers made two warrant arrests throughout the day – at 2:22 p.m. in the 3600 block of 9th St. NW and at 10:11 p.m. in the 400 block of Fairview Ave. NW.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 700 block of 12th St. NE at 8:50 p.m.

Child Protection. At 10:37 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Sept. 10
Weapon. Police responded to a report of shots at 24th Ave. NW and Harvest Lane NW at 1:43 a.m. They made an arrest.

Warrants. Officers made two warrant arrests – in the 200 block of McKinley St. E. at 8:16 a.m. and in the 800 block of University St. E. at 3:35 p.m.

Burglary. A burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Brady Blvd. NW at 8:19 a.m.

Threats. Police received a report of threats from the 300 block of School St. E. at 3:53 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a personal injury accident at 24th Ave. NW and Park Dr. NW at 9:58 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
Sept. 4
DWI. Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 southbound at Mile Marker 61 at 4:43 a.m.

Child Protection. At 1:43 p.m., deputy took a child protection report in the 8100 block of Hwy. 30 E.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 3500 block of 72nd Ave. NW at 6:42 p.m.

Sept. 5
Restraining Order. At 8:07 p.m., deputies arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 11000 block of 92nd Ave. SW.

Sept. 6
Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries in the 7700 block of 40th St. NW at 1:36 a.m.

Domestic argument leads to arrest

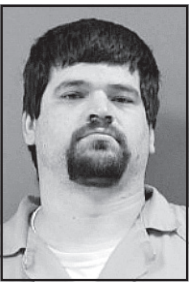
An Owatonna man has been charged after a domestic situation and allegedly fighting with officers.

Kenneth R. Haukaas, 35, faces three counts, including domestic assault, obstructing the legal process and disorderly conduct.

Police responded to a domestic in the 400 block of 16th Street NE just after midnight on Sept. 8. Officers found a victim walking with a limp and she displayed a swollen chin, bruising and lacerations to her legs.

The victim told police an argument led to a physical assault where Haukaas allegedly pushed her down, kicked her chin, shins and stomped on her knee.

When officers went to the house, Haukaas refused to come out and told them they needed to break down the door. Even after police obtained a search warrant, Haukaas still refused to open the door. Officers then busted down the door and had to use a Taser to get him under control.



Haukaas

Sept. 8
Suspicion. Deputies responded to a suspicious activity report in the 9300 block of 50th St. NE at 7:19 p.m.

Sept. 9
Warrant. At 7:17 a.m., a subject turned himself in for an outstanding warrant.

Sept. 10
Drunken Driving. At 12:12 a.m., deputies made a DWI arrest at Glendale St. NW and Riverside Ave. NW.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 31 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jacob P. Banks, 23, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft and felony controlled substance crime. He was sentenced to \$1,046.94 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Bradley J. Bergen, 28, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. Bergen was sentenced to \$81, 59 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation.

Ryan M. Horak, 25, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. The defendant was sentenced to 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Melissa M. Roseland, 29, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault on peace officer. Roseland was sentenced to \$181, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, use Roosevelt adult education site to broaden employment options and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 31 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding:

Brian J. Maestre, 28, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony knowingly violating predatory offender registration requirement. He was sentenced to \$131 and 31 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 31 – Sept. 4:

MN State Patrol Rochester
Jeremy W. Cassell, 40, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$121; Jerry L. Drake, 52, Platte City, MO, speeding, \$121; Edgardo A. Garcia, 47, Temecula, CA, speeding, \$131; Hilda S. Granados, 29, Claremont, invalid license, \$181;

Jimmy R. Grissett, 51, Panama City, FL, driving on the shoulder, \$131; Paul G. Harris, 57, Apple Valley, speeding, \$381; Zbigniew Iwanicki, 25, Chicago, IL, stop sign, driver qualification violation and no current log book, \$281; Vanessa V. Kane, 36, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; David D. Kubat, 60, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; William D. Lair, 72, La Crescent, speeding, \$131; Mao Lee, 45, Merced, CA, registration violation, \$181; Amanda M. Lisowski, 23, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; James J. Mentz, 26, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Timothy J. Merritt, 27, Medford, speeding, \$141; Edward J. Nelson, 60, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Brett M. Noland, 37, McKinney, TX, speeding, \$121; Deanna L. Olson, 39, Robbinsdale, speeding, \$131; Edwardan I. Persell III, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Brianna M. Podratz-Waters, 16, New Richland, speeding, \$141; Lori L. Robb, 54, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Lisa A. Rutledge, 53, Macomb, IL, speeding, \$121; Rakesh Sachdeva, 28, Edina, speeding, \$141; Devin R. Sprague, 21, Cedar Rapids, IA, speeding, \$121; Walker A. Stadheim, 16, Albert Lea, speeding, \$221; Dylan C. Storts, 18, Lees Summit, MO, speeding, \$121; Bradley G. Thorp, 34, St. Paul, revoked license and no insurance, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Brady D. Waldhauser, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Crystal A. Wear, 16, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; Stephanie M. White, 27, Rochester, speeding, \$221; Ronald C. Wilson, 33, Mankato, suspended license, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Alyssa M. Wobschall, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department
Amir A. Akbar, 41, Northfield, no insurance, \$281; Jesus A. Bautista Arenas, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Zachary H. Beese, 22, Owatonna, no insurance and registration stickers violation, \$311; James A. Biers, 80, Medford, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Alejandro Castro, 34, Owatonna, criminal vehicular homicide or operation, \$381, 46 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 2 years of supervised probation; Donna L. Centz, 54, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Emilio Delbosque, 71, Faribault, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Dixie L. Denhof, 35, shoplifting, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Nolan G. Gist, 63, Kenyon, speeding, \$121; Justin L. Goeman, 19, Mankato, minor consumption, \$181; Jessica L. Gonzalez, 24, Owatonna, no insurance and expired tabs, \$311; Nora H. Gutierrez, 42, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Suzann L. Halla, 32, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Alyssa R. Hayden, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Angela L. Huber, 48, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Richard L. Huber, 52, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Derek D. Larson, 25, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jacob V. Louks, 23, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Muhidin Maow, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Serafin Martinez, 25, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Reynaldo L. Mast, 37, Owatonna, DWI, \$506, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, alcohol monitor, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Richard A. Miske, 55, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, chemical

Vehicular homicide case reaches agreement

A settlement has been reached in the vehicular homicide case involving an all-terrain vehicle that killed a Steele County man.

Logan Kaiser, 24, has pleaded guilty to reduced charges in the case that led to the death of his friend in June 2014. Under the deal, Kaiser pleaded guilty to failure to notify police of personal injury, which is a felony. Two other charges will be dropped.

Prosecutors will seek a sentence of 270 days in jail as well as requiring Kasier to give presentations relating to appropriate decision-making and drunken driving.

Sentencing has been set for Nov. 24 in Steele County District Court.

The 2014 crash killed Justin Schuler, 22, who had been one of Kaiser’s best friends. The two set out from a party on a dirt bike and ATV seeking another party. They crashed along a dark roadside. Schuler’s ATV rolled several times. He died a couple weeks later at a Rochester hospital.

dependency evaluation and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Joseph F. Perone, 28, Elmont, NY, theft, \$81; Jacob R. Pratt, 22, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Jonathan J. Ramirez, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Ashley A. Schlund, 27, Buffalo Center, IA, shoplifting, \$131, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Steven D. Sivret, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Gregory L. Spraggins, 27, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Joseph V. Stahnke, 37, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Michael G. Starr, 27, Brook Park, DWI, \$1,106, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, 240 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Edward C. Williams, 30, Springfield, trespassing, \$131 and 8 days in county jail; Zamzam A. Yusuf, 20, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office
Armend Alimi, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Stephen M. Beede, 42, Owatonna, obstruction of legal process, \$381, 10 days in county jail, no alcohol use, do not enter liquor establishments, counseling and 1 year of supervised probation; Maria I. Caballero, 35, Laredo, TX, speeding, \$131; Jacob C. Carlson, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Alejandro Castro, 34, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$381; Van U. Cung, 18, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Matthew H. Elledge, 27, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$100; Elias G. Flores, 54, Austin, speeding, \$141; Valancie Garcia, 42, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Brandon L. Glomski, 33, Kasson, speeding, \$141; Amanda J. Greene, 25, Dodge Center, driving without headlights, \$121; Thomas W. Guggisberg, 31, Freeborn, speeding, \$221; Adam M. Hammes, 34, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$121; Robin C. Hamrick, 40, Garner, IA, speeding, \$131; Jacob W. Hiatt, 36, Rockwell, IA, speeding, \$131; Sarah H. Howe, 37, Ellendale, speeding, \$221; James B. Jacobson, 57, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Kristine R. Johnson, 51, Hartland, speeding, \$151; Lori A. Johnson, 54, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Sherri A. Jordahl, 45, Owatonna, assault, \$281, domestic abuse evaluation, and 1 year of supervised probation; Damir Karic, 29, New Brighton, failure to notify owner of damage to property, \$281; David J. Klemer, 50, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Ashley R. Kraudy, 23, Claremont, speeding, \$281; Maxwell P. Langheinrich, 20, Minnetonka, speeding, \$121; Dennis G.

Lau, 25, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Pete J. Lemke, 31, Wamamingo, speeding, \$141; Elane R. McClintock, 38, Janesville, speeding, \$141; David S. Mell, 47, Harris, speeding and no insurance, \$331; Jessianna Mireles, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Jacob T. Morarend, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Weston F. Myer, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Raul Noria-Grande, 42, Kansas City, KS, speeding, \$141; Robin L. Paquin, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Vedrana Pejic, 24, Austin, speeding, \$131; Jonathan L. Pogones, 24, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Megan A. Reid, 33, Owatonna, no license in possession and seat belt, \$126; Kristin R. Rutt, 29, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Garland T. Sanchez, 27, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$121; Rachel R. Schmidt, 31, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; Jonathan W. Seyon, 64, Austin, speeding, \$141; Jon P. Stelter, 47, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Douglas H. Weseman, 61, Rogers, speeding, \$141; Collin J. Wobschall, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$131; Roselyn M. Yunker, 18, Albert Lea, speeding, \$131; James J. Zabawa, 24, Austin, TX, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office handled 207 complaints for the week of Sept. 2 – 8. Some of them include:

Sept. 2
Larceny. A Dodge Center resident reported at 9 a.m. that a female party stole his tote while he was moving out on Main St. W. The tote contained several prescriptions and all of his VA paperwork.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a report of an ex-girlfriend showing up to a residence and throwing rocks at a male party in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 8:28 p.m.

Sept. 3
Child Endangerment. At 12:21 a.m., deputies received in-

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 6B

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.
The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Tina Disher – assault - \$1,000 bail	Jonell Dowdell – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Brenda Dominguez – no insurance - \$500 bail	Richard Doyens – deprive parental – no bail
Jessica Dominguez – abandoned vehicle - \$200 bail	Joshua Drabek – drugs – no bail
Panfilo Dominguez – DWI - \$6,000 bail	Nicholas Dube – theft, shoplifting - \$1,000 bail
Eric Doran – weapons - \$6,000 bail	Brady Dubose – theft, shoplifting - \$1,000 bail
Loretta Dorsey – trespassing - \$2,500 bail	Socct Dungey – DWI - \$3,000 bail
John Douthit – cancelled license - \$3,000 bail	Angel Duran – assault – no bail

Alonso Duran-Castillo – invalid license - \$500 bail
William Durham – domestic assault - \$2,000 bail
Rosa Dusbabek – controlled substance - \$30,000 bail
Douglas Eckerman – DWI – no bail
David Ecklund – DWI - \$500 bail
Glenn Ellison – forged check - \$1,000 bail

SHERIFF’S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



If you have information about any crimes in Steele County, call the sheriff’s tipline. You may remain anonymous.

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Exhibit portrays positive Muslim impact on Minnesota

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

There is a lot of misunderstanding of Muslim people and the Islamic faith in Minnesota. Local people, primarily of older generations, gathered to visit the traveling exhibit “Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880” at the Owatonna Arts Center for the reception on Sept. 13.

Board member with the Islamic Resource group, Naaima Khan, came to the arts center to discuss the exhibit. The exhibit features large black and white canvases featuring photography of Minnesotan Muslims and two short paragraphs conveying their identity as professionals, members of the community, family members and Muslims.

Khan lives in Minneapolis with her husband. She is originally from Texas, where she studied at the University of Texas. Her parents immigrated to the United States from India in 1979.

Khan was thankful for the audience coming to the exhibit to learn more about Minnesota Muslims and their positive role in Minnesota. Khan has been working on the exhibit with other members of the Islamic Resource Group since 2013.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Naaima Khan, board member of the Islamic Research Group, visited the reception on Sept. 13 at the Owatonna Arts Center for the exhibit “Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim experience since 1880.”

A mission of the Islamic Resource Group and this exhibit is to counteract some of those negative forces that are misrepresenting Muslims. Khan said that the exhibit is to be “neutral and objective.”

“Tracks in the snow is our metaphor for the Minnesota Muslim’s social fabric that has left an imprint on our Minnesota society,” said Khan.

Khan clarified many misconceptions about Muslim individu-

als as well as the Islamic faith. One of those misconceptions that was clarified during the discussion was the fact that not all women or men wearing headscarves are of the Somali Muslim community, though that is possible since there were thousands of Somalis who sought asylum in Minnesota after fleeing their country’s civil war. However, that person could just as easily be Asian, African-American, Indian or Hispanic.

“It’s amazing and critical to mention that Muslim people are diverse, different, of many different ethnic backgrounds, ages and of all walks of life. We are not one homogenous group,” explained Khan. “I think there is an idea one really rigid mode of being, but in fact, that is not the case. Muslims have been here a long time, dating back to the 1880s, and few people recognize that.”

“Muslims came here in early times from Turkey, Syria and Lebanon to establish themselves as tradesman and for better opportunities. They chose Minnesota,” said Khan with a smile. “Not only is Minnesota home to Muslim communities, but the Muslims communities have been through support of great Minnesotans.”

Upon request of OAC artistic director, Silvan Durban, Khan happily spoke to some of the basics of the Islamic faith. She spoke to the five basic beliefs of Islam: one God, his angels, his messengers, the holy book the Quran, and final judgement. She also explained some of the main practices and traditions of Islam.

After some interrogation, Khan encouraged individuals to understand that there is a large difference between what many media sources say is in the Quran and what is actually in the Quran.

Through discussion with the audience, Khan and Owatonna community members found some common ground between Christian faiths and Islam. Certainly at the root of both religions is the belief in one God.

The exhibit “Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880” is on display at the Owatonna Art Center until Sept. 27.

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Foreclosure

15-101173
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: November 13, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$184,500.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Otto McKinstry, Jr. and Melba L. McKinstry, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 10, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000361010 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that tract of parcel of land lying and being in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit: The East 66 feet of the South 135 feet of Lot 5 in Block 2 in Merrill Odell's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota (also described as commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 5 in Block 2 in said Addition, running thence Northwesterly along the Easterly line of said Lot 135 feet, thence running Southwesterly and parallel to Mineral Springs Avenue 66 feet; thence running Southeasterly 135 feet to the Southerly line of said Lot; thence running Northeasterly along the Southerly line of said Lot 66 feet to the point of beginning.) PROPERTY ADDRESS: 550 Ridge Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-113-0210 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$108,781.98 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: October 9, 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 12 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 October 9, 2016, or the next business day if October 9, 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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.”

Dated: August 6, 2015
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 237788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

8/18, 8/25, 9/1
9/9, 9/15, 9/22

Foreclosure

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: January 6, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$48,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Sean Hughes, a single person; Carol Sue Ahlborn, a single person; and Ruth M. Ahlborn, a single person MORTGAGEE: Community Bank Owatonna DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: January 17, 2006, Office of the County Recorder for Steele County, Minnesota, as Document #A000338484 MODIFICATIONS OF MORTGAGE: Modification of Mortgage dated February 17, 2009, filed March 6, 2009, as Document No. A000362530; and Modification of Mortgage dated March 12, 2012, filed March 28, 2012, as Document No. A000383726. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: N/A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The NW 1/4 of Section 3, Township 106 North, Range 20 West, EXCEPT: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4; thence North 90° East 1061 feet along the north line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 306 feet; thence North 82°42'05" West 771.40 feet to a point 208.00 feet South of the North line of said NW 1/4; thence South 0° East 105.06 feet; thence North 90° West 295.85 feet to the West line of said NW 1/4; thence North 313.06 feet to the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 being the point of beginning. TAX PARCEL NO.: 05-003-4000 STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 5049 S. County Road 45, Owatonna, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$25,894.63 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: October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, 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 twelve (12) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 20, 2016.

“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 24, 2015
COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA
By: /s/ Mark J. Rahrick
Mark J. Rahrick
SMITH, TOLLEFSON,
RAHRICK & CASS
108 W. Park Square, Suite A
P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-6540
Attorney Reg. No. 252402

ATTORNEYS FOR COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA, MORTGAGEE, AND ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY BANK OWATONNA

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/1, 9/9, 9/15
9/22, 9/29, 10/6

Foreclosure

15-101130

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: May 5, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$68,600.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Steven T. Gilman and Becky E. Hohenstein, both single MORTGAGEE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan SERVICER: New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 10, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000341133 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; thereafter assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP. Thereafter assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, described as: Commencing at a point on the South line of 5th Street of Village of Blooming Prairie, 475.6 feet West of the point of intersection of West line of Oak Street with South line of 5th Street, thence due West along the South line of 5th Street, 60 feet, due South 170 feet, due East 60 feet, due North 170 feet to point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 239 1st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,057.44 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: October 27, 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 April 27, 2016, or the next business day if April 27, 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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.”

Dated: September 3, 2015
The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4 Assignee of Mortgage
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 2373788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

9/9, 9/15, 9/22
9/29, 10/6, 10/13

Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CIVIL DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Case Type: Action to Determine Adverse Claims to Real Estate
Court File No. 20-CV-15-1709

Gary S. Piepho and Martha C. Piepho, Plaintiffs

Patricia A. Parrott, Gordon A. Becker, Sister Barbara C. Becker, Constance E. Pick, Lawrence W. Becker, MaryLee Becker, surviving spouse of Lawrence W. Becker, James M. Becker, Donna M.S. Becker, and also any

unknown assigns and successors of the above-named Defendants; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein, Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO PATRICIA A. PARROT, GORDON A. BECKER, SISTER BARBARA C. BECKER, CONSTANCE E. PICK, LAWRENCE W. BECKER, MARYLEE BECKER, JAMES M. BECKER, and DONNA M.S. BECKER

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.
2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at:

Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 North Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complain. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.
4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond.
A default judgement can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.
5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.
6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.
7. This Action involves, affects, or brings in question real property situated in the County of Steele, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

The following property situated in Steele County, Minnesota: Beginning at a point 1106 feet South and 382.62 feet East of the Northwest Corner of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 2, Township 107 North, Range 20 West; and running thence East 131 feet; thence South 115 feet; thence West 131 feet; thence North 115 feet to the point of beginning.
The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiffs Gary S. Piepho and Martha C. Piepho are the owners of that real estate and that none of the Defendants have any estate or interest therein.

Dated: August 17, 2015

EINHAUS, MATTISON, CARVER & HABERMAN P.A.
Eric J. Mattison
MN# 151609
202 North Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
Facsimilie: (507) 451-3532
e-mail: Mattison@owatonnaattorneys.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

9/1, 9/9, 9/15

Order to Show Cause

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File Number: 74-CV-15-1404

In the Matter of the Petition of FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE for a New Certificate of Title After Mortgage Foreclosure Sale.

TO: CARLOS A. AZHAM AND LETICIA AZHAM:

Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 19th day of October, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not enter an Order as follows:
That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 15601 and enter a new Certificate of Title for All that part of Lot 21, of Block 1, Country Club Addition No. 1 to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the Northwesterly line of said Lot 21, which point is 90 feet northeasterly of the west corner of said Lot 21; running thence southwesterly along said northwesterly line to the west corner of Lot 21; running thence southeasterly 120.05 feet to the south corner of Lot 21; running thence northeasterly along the southeasterly line of said Lot 21 a distance of 90 feet; running thence northwesterly to the point of commencement in favor of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation free of the memorial of the following documents:
#T000043806; #T000046936;
#T000049034; #T000049035;
#T000049036; #T000049338;
#T000049484; #T000056929;
#T000056997; #T000057038;
#T000059810; #T000059845;
#T000067514; #T000072150;
#T000072213; #T000072340;

9/15, 9/22

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 8/25/2015
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Glynn/Schultz to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
2. Schultz/Glynn to approve the Minutes of August 11, 2015 with the changes to the Personnel Report. Ayes all.
3. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the personnel actions. Ayes all.
4. Schultz/Brady to approve the Tobacco License for Casey's Retail Company in Ellendale, Minnesota. Ayes all.
5. Brady/Glynn to approve the revised Agreement between Steele County and Waseca County for a shared Court Services Director services correcting the fees and fees payment to quarterly. Ayes all.
6. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the replacement of the Technical Clerk I position in the Recorder's Office. Ayes all.
7. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the recruitment of a full-time Adult Probation Officer position in the Probation Services Office. Ayes all.
8. Schultz/Glynn to approve the out of state travel request for Ron Hamman and Paul Prissel to attend the annual Zuerchers User's Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on October 7 - 9 2015. Ayes all.
9. Glynn/Brady to approve the DVR upgrade at the Detention Center and to accept the quote from Reliance Telephone, Inc. in the amount of \$4,619.00. Ayes all.
10. Glynn/Schultz to approve Amendment No. 1 to the project Cooperative Agreement to utilize Local Road Improvement Program Grant Funding to offset \$100,000 in Blooming Prairie on CSAH 42 (Main Street East) Improvements. Ayes all.
11. Glynn/Brady to approve the Access Variance request for Dan Deml for an access onto CSAH 27. Ayes all.
12. Ebeling/Schultz to approve Option 2 for the new Public Works Building Project. Three Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioners Brady and Glynn voting against.
13. Schultz/Ebeling offered a Resolution that the Steele County Board of Commissioners enter into the Grant Contract with Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
14. Commissioner Reports:
Schultz - reported on his attendance at the South Central Human Relation and the Fair Board meeting.
Glynn - reported on his attendance at MNPrairie meeting.
Ebeling - none.
Brady - reported on his attendance at the Water Quality Huntington - reported on her attendance at the MNPrairie strategic planning, South Central Health Alliance and MNPrairie budget meeting.
15. Brady/Ebeling to approve the listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
8/25/2015

Ancom Technical Center, Inc.	5,540.40
Jessica Bendzick	2,000.00
Central Valley Cooperative	4,650.44
Crane Creek Asphalt	10,244.60
Cretex Concrete Products Midwest, Inc.	4,579.43
Steele County Engineer Co. LLC	2,364.00
L & L Street Rods & Sport Trucks	2,525.00
Local Government Information Systems	24,375.75
Mayo Clinic	3,635.50
Southeast Service Cooperative	3,137.40
Southern MN Construction, Co. Inc.	2,353.43
Steele County Treasurer	18,840.58
Turnkey Corrections	13,078.97
University of MN Regents	2,758.21
Waste Management of WI-MN	51,698.30
142 Warrants under \$2,000	74,399.94
Total:	\$226,181.95

16. Brady/Glynn to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 7:38 p.m. Ayes all.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 3B

formation regarding small children left alone in an apartment in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center.

Harassment. A Hayfield citizen reported being the victim of harassment via Facebook at 1:13 p.m.

Child Abuse. At 6:53 p.m., deputies received a call that a child is accusing his father of abuse in the 10600 block of 640th St. in Claremont.

Sept. 4
Environment. An environmental dumping incident occurred at 740th St. and 240th Ave. in Hayfield at 2:26 a.m.

Violation of Conditions. At 2:08 p.m., a subject turned himself in at the Sheriff's Office for violating his conditions of release. He was transported to the Steele County Jail.

Harassment. At 6:53 p.m., a Dodge Center resident reported being the victim of a harassment-stalking incident on Airport Rd. S.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect in the 200 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center at 11:42 p.m.

Sept. 6
Damage. At 8:25 a.m., deputies received a report that a box for self-serve apple sales was tampered with to provide easy removal in the 18200 block of 635th St. in Dodge Center.

Domestic Assault. Deputies responded to a domestic assault in the 500 block of 5th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 2:19 p.m. They arrested one subject and transported him to the Steele County Jail.

Juvenile. At 10:38 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint that a woman's 16-year-old daughter left in the 400 block of 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Sept. 7
Assault. At 3:47 a.m., a male party showed up to a residence in the 100 block of 4th Ave. NE in Dodge Center. He stated that he was just beat up and that his phone was taken. Deputies, Kasson Police and Dodge Center Ambulance responded and he was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

Rape. Deputies began an investigation of rape in Hayfield at 2:22 p.m.

Juvenile. At 2:37 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint that juveniles were messing around the

Hayfield City Quanset buildings.

Crash. Deputies, MN State Patrol, Blooming Prairie Police and Blooming Prairie Ambulance responded to a one-vehicle roll over at State Hwy. 30 and 740th St. A male party was ejected from the car and had received a laceration on his head.

Harassment. A Claremont citizen reported that she felt that she was being stalked in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 9:17 p.m.

Sept. 8
Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 2:11 p.m.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 31 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Shyanne M. Jensen, 24, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal vehicular homicide. Jensen was sentenced to \$3,311.25, 6 months in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

Andrew D. Plummer, 20, Ellsworth, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. He was sentenced to \$2,947.99, 96 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health screening, no contact with victim, write letter of apology, obtain GED, maintain housing, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Alex J. Schimek, 27, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. Schimek was sentenced to \$1,155, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 100

hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Bryce A. Suess, 34, Mankato, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of a controlled substance. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,155, 6 months in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, no contact with person associated with illegal drugs, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

Terry L. Tiffany, 56, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of no contact order and felony domestic assault. Tiffany was sentenced to \$205, 154 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, domestic abuse counseling, mental health evaluation, and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 31 – Sept. 7:

Dodge County
Sheriff's Office

Jessica K. Clark, 24, Claremont, speeding, \$140; Ryan T. Fawver, 41, Austin, speeding, \$140; Kyle T. Hiller, 48, Kasson, DWI, \$1,005, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, Ignition Interlock Program, chemical dependency treatment, 90 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Bradley J. Kazos, 44, Rochester, give peace of-ficer false information, \$355 and 1 year of probation; Karla K. Martin, 30, Claremont, damage to property, diversion program and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Thaddeus G. Reniker, 35, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280; Halie N. Sivahop, 25, Stewartville, speeding, \$130; Bryan J. Smith, 24, West Concord, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

Kasson Police
Department

Michael D. Corcoran, 59, Stewartville, seat belt, \$105; Jace M. Gray, 16, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; McKenzie R. Hemann, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Blake R. Klinger, 18, Kasson, careless driving, \$180; Daniel P. Trageser, 20, Fairview, PA, speeding, \$140.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Joel A. Bush, 48, Claremont, speeding, \$140; Jackie Carroll, 51, Memphis, TN, seat belt, \$105; Terry L. Dahl, 35, Blooming Prai-

rie, revoked license, \$280; Pat G. Nelson, 35, Memphis, TN, seat belt, \$105; Debra J. Olson, 58, Rochester, speeding, \$380; Billy A. Ramus, 54, Mankato, speeding, \$140; Justin K. Rostad, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Craig J. Schlichting, 48, West Concord, speeding, \$130.

West Concord
Police Department

Shane A. Matthees, 36, West Concord, disorderly conduct, \$180; Trevor L. Ness, 22, West Concord, damage to property, \$180; Zachary T. Possehl, 23, West Concord, disorderly conduct, \$180; Jessica L. Woratschka, 19, St. James, minor consumption, \$180.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Antonio Taylor, 34, arrested at 8:55 p.m. Sept. 4, DWI, \$12,000 bail.

Drew Randy Ferguson, 23, arrested at 10:12 p.m. Sept. 4, felony receiving stolen property, held for court.

Jayvadan Ramabhai Patel, 38, arrested at 6:55 a.m. Sept. 5, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Becki Lynn Berks, 43, arrested at 1:52 a.m. Sept. 6, felony DWI-test refusal, \$12,000 bail.

Kenneth Ray Haukaas, 35, arrested at 3:34 a.m. Sept. 8, assault, domestic assault and resisting arrest, held for court.

Gene Phillip Wells, 22, arrested at 5:25 p.m. Sept. 8, felony tres-

passing and possession of prescription drugs, held for court.

Taylor Ross Jacobs, 20, arrested at 9:12 a.m. Sept. 9, felony burglary, fleeing on foot and warrants arrest, held for court.

Bryan Christopher Delbridge, 27, arrested at 10:17 p.m. Sept. 9, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Lacey Beth Wellentin, 30, arrested at 6:17 p.m. Sept. 9, warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.

Corey Jay Tollefson, 45, arrested at 2:09 a.m. Sept. 10, felony assault, domestic assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Kaylynn Alicia Smart, 27, arrested at 2:09 a.m. Sept. 10, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Jonathan Tyler Blair-Hanson, 27, arrested at 4:02 p.m. Sept. 10, probation violation apprehension and detention, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Nicholas Ross Richards, 26, arrested at 11:01 a.m. Sept. 5, warrant arrest, held for court.

Paul Allen Treganza, 53, arrested at 10:23 p.m. Sept. 5, Danco violation, held for court.

Zachariah Andrew Roberts, 29, arrested at 8:32 p.m. Sept. 8, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Kyle William Krause, 28, arrested at 5:12 p.m. Sept. 9, warrants arrest, body only.

Wyatt Luke Jackson, 32, arrested at 12:29 a.m. Sept. 10, DWI, held for court.

Randal Darrell Jones, 42, arrested at 2:12 p.m. Sept. 10, felony drug court apprehension and detention, held for court.

Jasmine Angelique Dortch, 25, arrested at 6:10 p.m. Sept. 10, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Martin Luther Leason, 20, ar-

rested at 6:17 p.m. Sept. 10, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

MN State Patrol

Tyjuan Lavell Williams, 28, arrested at 5:50 p.m. Sept. 7, harassment restraining order violation and fleeing on foot, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

Sept. 4

Grass. Fire fighters responded to a grass fire on 92nd Ave. NW at 1:17 p.m.

Controlled Burning. At 2:45 p.m., fire personnel assisted with an authorized controlled burning in the 5200 block of Dane Rd. NE.

Sept. 8

Carbon Monoxide. A carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 500 block of Hazel Lane NE at 8:02 a.m.

Hazardous. At 8 p.m., fire fighters responded to a hazardous condition in the 2000 block of Bridge St. W.

Sept. 9

Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 1000 block of Rose St. E. at 7:26 a.m.

Sept. 10

Accident. At 9:58 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries occurred on 24th Ave. NW.



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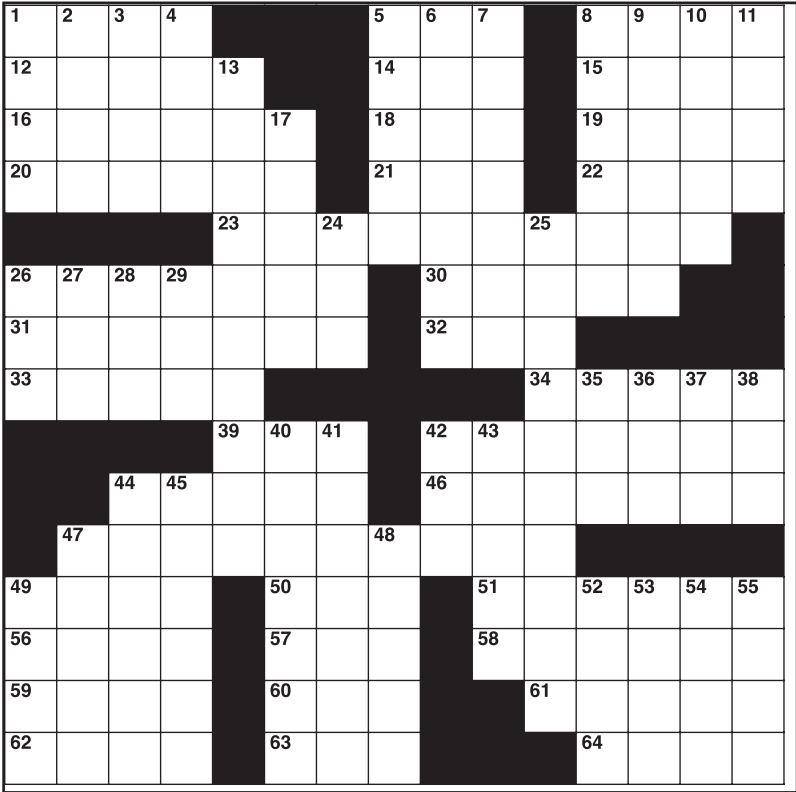
Answers on Page 7C

CLUES ACROSS

1. W. Loman's failed son
5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
8. Wanes
12. Lifeless geologic period
14. No (Scottish)
15. Filled chocolate cookie
16. Circular chordophones
18. Short-term memory
19. Any small compartment
20. Poisonous gas
21. Cologne
22. Scaleless fishes
23. Ormolu
26. Well-known & respected
30. Man-made river embankment
31. Yearned after something
32. Before
33. Garlic mayonnaise
34. California white oak
39. CNN's founder Turner
42. Removed contents
44. Frighten
46. Responded
47. "Extant" star
49. Aba _____
50. Honeymoon
51. Box (abbr.)
51. Reptile leather
56. Norse goddess of old age
57. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
58. Inspire with love
59. Affirm positively
60. European sea eagle
61. Congresswoman Giffords
62. Emit coherent radiation
63. Fall back time
64. Masses of fish eggs

CLUES DOWN

1. Leavened rum cake
2. Moslem women's garment
3. Quilting duo: _____ & Porter
4. S W Pacific state
5. The start of something
6. Edible
7. More coy
8. From 56 to 34 million years ago
9. Small wind
10. Disney heroine
11. Helios
13. Existing at birth but not hereditary
17. Paris river
24. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. More than charged
26. A major division of geological time
27. Japanese apricot
28. Initial public offering
29. A quantity of no importance
35. Securities market
36. Sharp part of a tool
37. Downwind
38. Doctor of Education
40. Built up
41. Borrowers
42. Stray
43. Country singer Haggard
44. Eurasian marten pelts
45. Fashion magazine Marie _____
47. Turkish candy
48. Regarding
49. Distribute game cards
52. Princess Anne's daughter
53. Planned pipeline from Burgas to Vlore
54. An academic gown
55. Removes moisture



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SCHOOL LINKED SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL IN BLOOMING PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

South Central Human Relations Center is accepting applications
for the full time position of Mental Health Therapist to work in the
Blooming Prairie school district.

**The Mental Health Therapist will provide mental
health therapy services and will:**

- Develop and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients, parents and other family members
- Assess the needs of clients
- Develop and implement treatment plans and regularly evaluate effectiveness of these plans
- Conduct individual therapy with clients including, as needed, family and group therapies
- Collaborate with school staff regarding referrals and scheduling
- Maintain contacts with clients throughout the school year and summer months

Required qualifications:

- Current and valid licensure as LICSW, LMFT, LP or LPCC
- Master's degree in behavior sciences
- Previous experience with children, adolescents and families in a therapeutic arena
- Must have reliable transportation, and a valid driver's license, acceptable driving record based on agency driver eligibility requirements, acceptable criminal background check based on agency and Department of Human Services guidelines

Preferred qualifications:

- Experience collaborating with school systems and school personnel
- Proven success collaborating on interdisciplinary teams

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may vary according to schedule needs.

Applicant must possess or be eligible for
a Minnesota Peace Officers
Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.)
License and must possess a current
Minnesota driver's license.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BY 3:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON
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HOMETOWN

EXTRA

Blooming Prairie



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud
Sweet music comes out of his harmonica when in the hands of Ken Trom, resident of Udolpho Township. He played the harmonica for his fellow soldiers when he served in the U.S. Army in Korea in 1954-55.

His harmonica is a part of his daily life



By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

*In a cavern, In a canyon,
Excavating for a mine,
Dwelt a miner forty-niner,
And his daughter Clementine.*

Chorus:
*Oh my darling, Oh my darling,
Oh my darling Clementine,
You are lost and gone forever,
Dreadful sorry Clementine.*

Put a harmonica in his hands and the old western folk ballad, “Oh My Darling, Clementine” comes to life. “That doggone music is something you can use all your life,” says Udolpho Township resident Ken Trom, 80. Trom has been accused of hiding his musical talent until just recently, when he was part of a musical group that performed at a Blooming Prairie flower show. Trom also brought out his harmonica and played at a Norwegian celebration this summer in Willmar.

Admitting to playing one or more of his seven harmonicas every day, Trom said “the music becomes part of you.”

Trom learned to play the harmonica as a young lad growing up on a farm near Blooming Prairie. He learned his talent listening to music note by note and “putting them all together.”

He also packed a harmonica in his bags when he left for the Korean War in 1954 to serve the U.S. Army. It was during times in a tent that he entertained some of his fellow Army troops. “There were about nine of us who would sing and make music,” Trom recalls.

Three of Trom’s brothers, Ralph, Charles and Richard, served in World War II. Trom and brother Lloyd served in the Korean War. Trom has two other brothers, Gene and Lowell.

Trom’s first exposure to the harmonica came when he was about 10 years old. He recalls his brother Charles sending a box of souvenirs from Germany. The box contained three harmonicas. Trom said he commandeered one, a Hohner chromatic push-button harmonica.

“I just kept playing one tune at a time until it sounded good,” Trom said. He taped his harmonica music and has continued to do that to the present day. “I never learned to read notes,” Trom confessed.

Trom bought his first harmonica, a Hohner Echo Harp, at Kopet Music in Austin in 1948. He paid \$7.95 for the 48-hole instrument. His last harmonica, a carbon copy of his first, was purchased this year and cost \$168. One side contained the key of A and the other the key of D.

During his teenage years, Trom became more proficient at playing the harmonica. There was no way he was going to be separated from his eight-inch mouth organ when he enlisted in the Army. “That old draft board was closing in on me in 1954, and I decided to enlist in the Army,”

Trom related. Trom and six of his Blooming Prairie friends enlisted with him. His fellow enlistees were: Dale Hanson, Bob Kruger, Jack Prokopec, Joe Prokopec, Vernon Strand and Eugene Lysne. Trom took basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and followed with advanced training at Fort Lee, Virginia. He then went directly to Inchon, South Korea.

Trom was eventually assigned to a supply company near Seoul, Korea. He spent nearly 18 months distributing cold weather gear to the troops. The fighting in the war actually ended in August of 1953, and Trom continued to serve during a time called the Korean Conflict (police action.) More than 300,000 American troops were deployed in Korea during the war, Trom said.

“We were so cotton-picking busy at the supply depot, and I believe this was as hard as I worked my entire life,” Trom says. He reported for work early in the morning and did not return to his tent until midnight.

While on duty at the supply location, Trom remembers his unit battling pilferage from the

Koreans. “We caught a lot of them breaking into our buildings,” he said. “They were our friends, even though we were strangers in their land. They had nothing and got desperate.”

To break the monotony of work at the supply camp, Trom would bring out his trusted harmonica, “the dented one,” he said. He would play some folk ballads including “Clementine,” “You Are My Sunshine,” “Strawberry Roan” and “Red River Valley.” He also would play some old-time polkas and waltzes, Trom said.

“It would get pretty noisy in our tent and I’m surprised

we didn’t catch heck from the guards,” Trom laughs.

“We needed lighter moments from the drudgery of our daily lives,” he said. He said his unit was lucky to have a Zenith trans-oceanic radio. “We could pick up the states,” Trom said. That’s when he picked up some other musical favorites, including “This Land is Your Land.”

Trom’s song list has grown over the years as he added some gospel tunes including “Just as I Am,” “Shall We Gather at the River” and “My God and I.”

Ken Trom
Local musician

He has also added several patriotic tunes including the “Army Marching Song” and the “Marine Hymn.” He said he has three more to learn, Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy. His Christmas tunes include “Joy to the World” and “Silent Night.” Another favorite tune of his is “May I Sleep in Your Barn Tonight, Mister.”

Last month, Trom played in a group at the Norwegian Hallinglag celebration in Willmar.

His sister Darlene played the guitar, Gilmore Lee played guitar and violin and Ardis Knutson played the piano. Trom took his newest harmonica for this

performance. “My old harmonica went flat on me,” he revealed.

“It was all done in fun, and if you can’t have fun, you might as well stay home,” said Trom, a man not known to mince words.

Asked what his wife Gloria thinks of his musical talent, Trom replies quickly, “She thinks it’s okay.” The Troms were married in 1962. They live on 152 acres in the woods near the Cedar River.

Trom is a veteran of 42 years in farm credit and banking. He said some of his Korean friends were ones who urged him to go on to school when he was discharged from the Army. He remembers with fondness, a ceremonial rice bowl given to him by his Korean friends. It was decorated with artillery shell casings. Trom followed his friends’ advice and went on to school, studying at Mankato State.

Trom is retired but stays active in business consulting, dedicating time to SCORE, an organization providing free and confidential business counseling tailored to meet the needs of small business and personal objectives.

Trom has also been involved in Vision 2020, a grassroots movement in Austin. Hundreds of volunteers are engaged with a variety of community organizations including government, business, non-profit and education to improve the quality of life by the year 2020.

When not active in business efforts, Trom picks up a harmonica and relaxes with some favorite tunes. Trom jokingly calls himself a “starving artist.”



Ken Trom, 80, of Udolpho Township, loves to play the harmonica. He practices on his instrument almost daily and just recently has made a few public appearances. He owns seven harmonicas, his first one was purchased in 1948.



Revved up for suicide prevention

By ANNA SEGNER
County Writer

Three years ago, Angela Howe and Robert Sikel of Claremont lost their son, Jacob Sikel, when he took his own life at the age of fifteen. While this was a serious time of mourning for their family, it was also an awakening to the need of awareness about suicide and prevention methods.

“We wanted to do something, so we started Open Arms Yellow Ribbon,” Angela said. Open Arms Yellow Ribbon is a chapter of the international Yellow Ribbon organization. The goal of the chapter is suicide awareness and prevention.

On Sat. Sept. 12, about 300 people and nearly 200 motorcycles gathered together for a ride across southern Minnesota.

Before the event, 160 motorcycles and about 20 cars registered. Many more joined the day of the ride, as the weather cooperated. Both Robert and Angela understood the weather to be a sign that Jacob was with



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Pictured here are just a few of the riders who took part in the fourth annual Jacob's Run, a fundraiser that benefits the Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program in memory of Jacob Robert Sikel. This year, around 160 bikes pre-registered for the event.

JACOB'S RUN
Continued on Page 6C

Let's get together at the Fall Shindig

By ANNA SEGNER
County Writer

As the weather cools with the arrival of autumn and summer activities slow, Owatonna Parks and Recreation believes that it is a perfect time to get together, and why not get together on the new patio at Brooketree Golf Course?

On Wed. Sept. 23, Brooketree Golf Course will be hosting the first ever Fall Shindig on their brand new patio, a project that has been recently completed. There will be “Buck-a-hole” golfing that day, music and various food and drink deals.

The new patio was a part of a series of projects in the Club House that Brooketree has seen recently. The patio has brick flooring, a fireplace, pergola roof, and landscaped siding. The kitchen has also been remodeled.

“We created the Fall Shindig as an event for the community and to show off our new patio and facility,” said one of

the event organizers, James “Corky” Ebeling. “The sun will set around 7:30, and it should make for a great atmosphere to enjoy the music.”

The Fall Shindig will be featuring an acoustic performance from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. by Jake Jones, a Minneapolis based performer. As Ebeling said, “It is an opportunity to see him before he is famous.”

Ebeling has been a longtime fan of Jones and his music, as Jones and Ebeling's son were friends in college. Ebeling said that he hears a little of Bob Dylan and Merle Haggard in Jones' raspy voice.

“Everyone that hears him just loves him. People walk away saying, ‘Man he's good, I have to see him again,’” commented Ebeling.

Jones plays a type of music that he said falls under “Americana,” which he described as something between country

SHINDIG
Continued on Page 6C

Goodbye to a local icon



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Last week, one of Blooming Prairie's most colorful buildings was concealed as part of ongoing work on the building's exterior. The former “Welcome to Blooming Prairie” mural, once depicting an idyllic landscape, is visible no more. It's believed that the original mural (visible above) was first painted by Ernie Fortner. In August of 1994, brothers Reynaldo L. Mast and Rolando L. Mast were hired to paint a complimentary farm scene adjacent to the original mural (not visible above.) The two brothers were commissioned by the B.P. Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee, and the paint was donated by the local business owners.

Barn Dance raises money to pay off loan

By ANNA SEGNER
County Writer

Now that the barn is up, the annual Barn Bash is now the Barn Dance. For the past three years, the Barn Bash was in efforts to raise money for the construction of the Allan R. Radel Family Livestock Pavilion.

This year on Saturday, Sept. 19 beginning at 2 p.m., the Barn Dance celebrates the erection of the barn, while also raising

money to pay off a loan that was granted to the Steele County fairgrounds from the county.

Fair manager Jim Gleason also said that there are always extra costs in maintaining the grounds year-round. For example, next year, the fair will have to look into replacing the roof of the Curling Club building. The fair will also have to look to replace two dairy barns in the future.

The Barn Dance will be different than the Barn Bash. There

will not be multiple different food vendors; instead, there will be a pork burger meal option. Instead of the kiddie rides, face painting and pony rides, there will be primarily music and dance entertainment.

“This is a fundraiser, but we're in the entertainment business, so we're providing free entertainment for the community,” commented Gleason, as he emphasized the word “free.”

Gleason said that they are hoping for a stronger response to the

Barn Dance than the Barn Bash. The Barn Bash raised money; however, it was not as successful as the Barn Bash committee would have hoped.

The Barn Bash saw great support from concessionaires, as a few of the stand were the first to support and volunteer time to be at the Bash. While the timing of this year's Barn Dance conflicts with another county fair, Gleason said that he was touched when a few of the vendors came in with a donation.

At the Barn Dance, there will be refreshments and a full cash bar. They hope to have the food available outside of the Allan R. Radel Family Livestock Pavilion.

At 2 p.m., there will be square dancing by the Steele Steppers Square Dancers. Beginning at 3 p.m., the pork burger supper will be served. Dan Stursa is volun-

BARN DANCE
Continued on Page 6C

Fair Board going through some changes

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

After fifteen years of serving on the Steele County Free Fair Board, Ron Van Nurden verbally announced his resignation at the Sept. 8 meeting. In fact, he submitted his letter of resignation to fair secretary-manager, Jim Gleason, that Thursday morning.

The announcement of his resignation was prompted during a discussion about the possibility of utilizing the Allan R. Radel Family Livestock Pavilion during the summers for livestock shows, particularly horse shows. For over a year, Van Nurden has worked hard on this project, but the board has still not made a decision.

“I'm to the end with this. I submitted my resignation today to Jim, and it's up to you now to deal with it because I'm done... for other reasons as well,” remarked Van Nurden.

The use of the pavilion during the summer for other events than the fair has been an area of much discussion for the fair. Board president Dan Deml brought the topic of the 2016 horse events up with caution and admitted that he sensed resistance from the board.

“We've been beating this around for a while on whether we want an indoor or an outdoor arena,” said Deml. “Ron has been pursuing an indoor arena, but quite frankly, I'm just speaking to what I've gathered from the group is that we don't have a lot of support for that, and there's going to be a lot of cost involved.”

The Allan R. Radel Family Pavilion was finally erected last summer in time for the fair. The cost was over \$840,000 and in efforts to pay off the loan on the pavilion, the idea was brought up to use it during the summer beyond the fair. Anita Grant, of the Equine Hall of Fame, spoke to the fair board last October about the possible use of the pavilion for horse shows, possibly even for the summer of 2016.

As one of the leads in the barn committee, Van Nurden poured a lot of effort into creating a proposal including an outline of costs and plans to create the arena. This proposal had hopes for shows in the pavilion during the summer of 2015. When the proposal was discussed with Grant, there were concerns when the time line shifted closer to summer and shows were relocating.

Van Nurden announced that there has already been two groups interested in hosting horse shows in the pavilion.

At the recent meeting, multiple members expressed concern about making a decision without concrete costs laid out. While there was a lot of hesitation, especially since the board would be taking a chance with this—a chance that could potentially be profitable in the future.

Van Nurden compared the leap of faith as similar to selling lollipops. “You build a stand, start with a few lollipops and see if people want to buy one. It's the same deal here,” remarked Van Nurden.

Board member Rick Ellingson announced that indeed it sounded like a smart idea to utilize the pavilion during the summer. However, he regretted that there was just not enough information at the meeting to make a decision and feel comfortable with that decision. Therefore, Ellingson proposed a motion to table the issue until the next meeting. That motion was carried, and the topic will be revisited.

THE 2015 BLOOMING PRAIRIE
Education Foundation Banquet
will be held on
Saturday, October 3
at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

**SAVE
the
DATE**

The honorees:

Clair Coughlin - Distinguished Service	Ken Esplan - Male athlete,
Wayne Ruhter - Distinguished Service	Bill Underwood - male athlete,
Lisa Zwiener Bruns - female athlete	and Ken Behnken - educator.

Tickets will be available at the New York Life office,
Julie Noble, or a BPEF board member.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Anna Segner
The sight of school buses signifies the end of summer vacation and the beginning of school! Owatonna students walked back into the old routine as they loaded the school buses on McKinley Street for their first day of school on Sept. 8.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
WINE & WOMEN: WED. 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M.
@ J&H SEPT. 15 & OCT. 6 (NOV. - MAY DATES AVAILABLE LATER)
HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE & BEER TASTING: THURS. NOV 5
HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES: FRIDAY DEC. 4
HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER: SAT. DEC. 12
NEW YEAR'S EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE
EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- Sept. 15:**
2:30 p.m. BPPU Mtg
4:45 p.m. Boys N Girls Club Brd
5:30 p.m. BP Ambulance Comm Mtg
- Sept. 16:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
12 p.m. BP Chamber of Commerce
- Sept. 19:**
Punt, Pass, & Kick Competition/McFarlin Field, BP
- Sept. 20:**
Abelskiver Dinner, BP Servicemen's Club
9 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, BP Aebleskivers Breakfast, BPSC
- Sept. 22:**
BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
- Sept. 23:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
5 p.m. BP Business After Hours, Boys & Girls Club

Servicemen's Club
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- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - MEATBALL SUB & POTATO WEDGES #2 - REUBEN ON A PRETZEL BUN & CHIPS
LUNCH SPECIAL (9/17 & 9/18):
PULLED PORK & COLE SLAW

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

- Sept. 15:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North ElIndl
- Sept. 17:**
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
- Sept. 21:**
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center ElIndl
- Sept. 22:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North ElIndl

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OWATONNA

- Sept. 15:**
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
2:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group, OPL
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd Mtg
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd, Gainey Rm
6:30 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
- Sept. 16:**
4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
- Sept. 17:**
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
- Sept. 19:**
5:30 p.m. Harvest for History, Steele Co History Cntr
- Sept. 21:**
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
- Sept. 22:**
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
6:30 p.m. Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Steele Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR

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MEDFORD

- Sept. 15:**
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
- Sept. 16:**
6 p.m. Medford EDA
7 p.m. Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford
- Sept. 17:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
- Sept. 21:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City Hall

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SPOT LIGHT

Blooming Prairie veterans' organizations host membership supper

On Thursday, Sept. 17, a membership supper will take place for the local American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Auxiliary members at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour, followed by a fried chicken supper at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. a program will also take place.

OTHER COUNTIES

- Mower**
Sept. 15:
National Barrow Show, Mower County Fairgrounds
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
5:30 p.m. History Happy Hour: The History of the Mill Pond, Hormel Historic Home
7 p.m. Monarchs in a Changing World: Conservation of an Iconic Insect, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
- Sept. 16:**
National Barrow Show, Mower County Fairgrounds
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Picnic In the Lot, Mower County Senior Center
5 p.m. 55+ Driver Improvement Program, Alden City Hall (from 9/8)
5 p.m. Grand Meadow Farmers Market
- Sept. 17:**
2 p.m. Frank Bridges - History of Early Austin Theatre, Part 2, Mower County Senior Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market - Apple Festival
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. LEGO Club, APL
- Sept. 18:**
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle
7 p.m. Renner Live on The Way Cafe Stage, The Way Cafe, Austin
7:30 p.m. Music@ the Bank: Evan Koehler, Austin ArtWorks Center

- Freeborn**
Sept. 15:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
1 p.m. American Red Cross, Sport Clips Haircuts offer, United Methodist, AL
- Sept. 17:**
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
- Sept. 18:**
ACT Registration Deadline, ALHS
- Sept. 21:**
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers
- Sept. 22:**
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
- Sept. 23:**
Homecoming Week, AL Senior HS

- Dodge**
Sept. 15:
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:45 p.m. Dodge Center Park Brd
6 p.m. Kasson Park Brd
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
- Sept. 16:**
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
- Sept. 17:**
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Hamburger, Fries, Chicken Sandwiches
6:30 p.m. Triton Zumba, Multipurpose Rm
7 p.m. WC City Council, City Hall
- Sept. 20:**
2:30 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild, Painting Class
- Sept. 21:**
WC Study Club
6 p.m. Triton School Brd Mtg
6:30 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild, Fall Quilted Table Runner Class 9/14 & 9/21
7 p.m. Hayfield City Council Mtg, City Hall
- Sept. 22:**
9:30 a.m. Dodge Co Commission
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
- Sept. 23:**
WC American Legion Auxiliary, Quilting

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Blooming PrairieLiving

HONOREES

Continued from Page 1A

year’s Honorees: Clair Coughlin (Class of 1953), Kenny Behnken, Bill Underwood (’50), Ken Esplan (’66) and Lisa Zwiener Bruns (’96.) Wayne Ruther (’64), who has passed away, will also be honored this year.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the BPEF Banquet and Award Ceremony will also take place at the Servicemen’s Club.

This week, The Times introduces three of the six 2015 Honorees. Read the next edition of The Times for more information about the other three Honorees.

Kenny Behnken

Behnken, who is recognized as an Honored Educator, has lived in Blooming Prairie for 47 years. He served as a science and math teacher at BPHS for 31 years, and also coached numerous school sports teams, including basketball and track. (Prior to teaching and coaching in Blooming Prairie, Behnken also taught and coached in West Concord for three years.) Behnken has also served with numerous local organizations, including the Ambulance Association, Blooming Prairie Country Club, Lions Club and the Jaycees. Behnken and his wife, Betty, have four grown children (Jay, Jef, Jon and Sarah) and are proud grandparents, as well.

“I was totally surprised,” said Behnken, of being named a 2015 Honoree. “I feel good about it, too.”

Behnken fondly recalls his time at BPHS. “I enjoyed the administration,” he said. “I had a lot of great people to work with. I enjoyed working with the kids and my coaching duties. I coached every year of my 34 years of teaching. It was a lot of hours put in, but it was enjoyable, or I wouldn’t have done it.”

Often, Behnken reconnects with his former students. “Quite a few (former students) mention things they have learned and either apply them in their home life or their job,” said Behnken. “It feels great.” Behnken is also proud to say that many of his former students have pursued careers in the education field.

Behnken also strove to inspire the student athletes he worked with. “I tried to get across some life-long lessons,” Behnken said.

Behnken recalls working with an especially great group of girls track athletes in 1984, who would earn the title of State Class A Track Champions. And, 1997, a 4x100 relay team also won the state championship. “It was a nice retirement gift,” said Behnken, with a laugh.

Behnken also adds that he greatly appreciates his family’s continued love and support, especially throughout his years of coaching. He looks forward to sharing the Honoree experience with his family.

Ken Esplan

Esplan, joining the “Blossoms Forever” Athletic Hall of Fame, made Blossom history before becoming an alumni, becoming the first BPHS student to go to the state tournament. Esplan and his family moved to Blooming Prairie when he was just three years old, and said that the only time he lived away from Blooming Prairie is when he served in the army. “This is my hometown, and it is the only town I’ve ever known,” he said. “I love it here.”

For 37 years, Esplan served as a rural postal carrier. “The job was pretty perfect for me,” he said. “I always run into a lot of nice people in town.”

Esplan also served as an assistant wrestling and track coach for a number of years. “It was more than just coaching,” said Esplan. “I enjoyed getting to know people.”

As both a student athlete and adult coach, Esplan said that sports helped him build strong bonds with great people. What’s more, it helped him stay ambitious and find an added sense of enjoyment while in school. “It served me well,” Esplan said, of his involvement in athletics. “It was more than just something for me to do while I was in school. I learned to think on my feet, work ethic and teamwork.

It stays with you for life.”

Esplan found coaching especially meaningful. “It was fun,” he said. “I learned to get the best out of them, and it was a learning experience for me, as well as them.”

Esplan and his wife, Judy, have four children (Justin, Jenny, Nicole and Natalie.) He’s happy to report that they all live relatively near the area.

“It caught me by surprise,” said Esplan, of the Honoree nomination. “I think it is a huge honor.”

Lisa Zwiener Bruns

Zwiener Bruns, who joins the “Forever Blossoms” Athletic Hall of Fame, was a well-rounded student, engaged in both athletics and other extracurricular activities while attending BPHS. As a student, she participated in the National Honor Society, was class president and earned All-Conference Academic Awards. She also played basketball, golf and softball. She holds a number of school athletic records and earned the title of the Blooming Prairie Country Club Ladies’ Champion from 2000 to 2002. She’s also a kindergarten teacher at Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

As a student, Zwiener Bruns reveled in the opportunities available to her in this school district. “I think that’s something great about smaller towns,” said Zwiener Bruns. “There’s lots of opportunities for kids, whether it’s in sports or the fine arts.”

Zwiener Bruns was a very successful student athlete, but adds that participating in sports also helped her to grow as an individual. “It teaches you different life skills,” she said. “It has taught me a work ethic that goes far beyond just sports.”

In 2004, she began teaching in Blooming Prairie, after teaching for four years in another district. Working with young students,

she said, is very rewarding. “It’s fun to see their innocence, not only for learning and school, but for life itself,” Zwiener Bruns said. “It’s amazing to see their growth from the beginning to the end of the school year.”

Zwiener Bruns and her husband, John (who is also a teacher) have four children: Maggie, Bobbie, Jack and Jeffery. Zwiener Bruns said she is proud to be a “Forever Blossom.” “I’ve lived here my whole life,” she said. “I just love the close-knit feel. My whole family is here, and my husband and I both love being part of the school system. We are very excited to have our kids attend school here. Blooming Prairie is a great place to be.”

When Zwiener Bruns learned of her “Forever Blossoms” nomination, she was honored. “I was surprised, very much so,” she said. “It’s kind of a fun group to be a part of.” Zwiener Bruns already knows two of the nominees: Kenny Behnken was her science teacher and Ken Esplan’s daughter was her college roommate.

Zwiener Bruns is especially honored to be recognized by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. “I love what the Education Foundation does for the school, and I love how much the whole community supports the Education Foundation,” said Zwiener Bruns. “People in Blooming Prairie are so dedicated to what they do. Whether it’s the Education Foundation or the Cancer Group, the community always pulls behind it. That’s what I love about Blooming Prairie.”

This article included information gathered by BPHS Alumni and Blooming Prairie Education Foundation member Doug Myers.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic, P.A. presents:



“HEALTH MATTERS”

With Dr. Chad

Stress

Stress is the anxiety that one experiences everyday in reaction to events, both mentally and physically. It becomes a problem when one cannot relax after meeting those challenges. This stress can be hazardous to your health and well-being if not managed properly. Stress can increase symptoms of many diseases and postural difficulties as well as slow the healing process. Controlling your stress level is an important part of your health care that you can do yourself. Here are some tips for managing and reducing stress:

- Take a warm bath.
- Meditate for 15 minutes.
- Perform gentle static stretches for 15 minutes.
- Take breathing breaks. Do 4-6 deep cleansing breaths throughout the day.
- Close your eyes and daydream.
- Read a calming novel.
- Talk to a friend and unload your problems.
- Take a slow walk.
- Go see a soothing movie.
- Take up a relaxing hobby.
- Play with your pet.
- Participate in regular exercise workouts.
- Prepare for upcoming stressful situations.
- Eat more nutritious meals.
- Watch a comedy or read a funny book, and LAUGH!
- Take a stress management course or get a book on stress management
- Slow down, Say NO if you have to, and take time to enjoy the world and people around you.

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How did a teacher change your life?

With the new school year kicking into full gear this past week, the Steele County Times is searching for stories about teachers.

Specifically, we’re looking for area teachers who’ve made an impact on their students. We want area residents, young or old, to share stories about the teachers who have made a difference in their lives.

We are confident that everyone has someone who did something or said something or believed something about them that changed the way they thought, or learned, or felt. The one who made such an impact on our lives that 10, 20, 30, 40, even 50 or more years later, these people stand out.

We would like residents to submit a story (300 words or less) about their teacher experience. We plan to publish the stories during the month of November as part of American Education Week, which is celebrated Nov. 16-20.

Please submit your stories by emailing to bptimes@frontiernet.net or mail to Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or they can be brought to our office in person.

Publisher Rick Bussler



CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

South Main Street businesses party in the alley

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was a nice late afternoon stroll through the back lots of Blooming Prairie on its south side.

More than 50 locals on Wednesday night, Sept. 9, attended a special event promoted by the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce. The event was the second version of a “Party in the Lots” to acquaint shoppers with back door entrances of businesses on the south side of Main Street.

A north side lot party was staged on Aug. 12.

The Wednesday night gathering on the south side was located just behind B to Z Hardware. “I’ll have two dogs and no buns,” Billy Noble said, putting in an order with his wife Margaret.

“I didn’t know this was happening until 20 minutes ago,” said Billy Noble, commandeering his favorite golf cart to the event. “It’s nice to see the construction workers back in there with heavy equipment after the rain.”

“Is this where the party is?” shouted Harlan Hinzmann as he and Bob Navhlovsky joined the party-goers. “Do you do this every week?” Hinzmann laughed.

Many businesses in the downtown area of Main Street have been affected to varying degrees by road reconstruction that began June 15 east of Highway 218 and on July 6 west of Highway 218.

Blooming resident Doris Rasmussen was one of the local shoppers who enjoyed a hot dog, chips and soda, and then went into B to Z Hardware and purchased a mailbox.

Kathy Johnson, wife of B to Z owner Greg Johnson, was in charge of cooking hotdogs and said she gave away close to 90 of them to some hungry customers. The price was right, as the hotdogs were FREE.

Aaron Ressler, owner of Bunkie’s, supplied some of the hotdog buns, actually made from scratch from his restaurant, Terry’s, at Bunkies Grille & Lanes.

Joking about the north and south business owners, Ressler said it reminded him of the Dr. Seuss characters, a north-going Zax and a south-going Zax.

The two Zax meet face to face and stubbornly refuse to move (east, west or any direc-



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

It was a family affair for Andy Kasperek, who works at B to Z Hardware in Blooming Prairie. He helped serve food at a “Party in the Lots” event organized by the BP Area Chamber of Commerce. He is shown with his four children, Shelby Kasperek, 3; Haley McIntosh, 5; Carly McIntosh, 9, and Emily Kasperek, 2.



Kevin Mans, of Blooming Prairie, doctors up his hot dog at a “Party in the Lots” on the south side of Main Street.

tion, except their respective headings) to get past each other, and the two become stuck. The Zax stand so long that eventually a highway overpass is built around them, and the story ends with the Zax still standing there “unbudded in their tracks.”

Admitting that the street construction has been an interruption and had an effect on his business, Johnson of B to Z said, “We will survive and it will be nice in the end.” He said his parking lot, featuring about 20 spaces, has been well used during the construction.

Linda Klemmensen, of Sportstitch, said her business has not been adversely affected by construction, since most of her business is done through email and the phone lines. “It sure will be nice when the work is done; it will be beautiful,” Klemmensen said.

The actual construction project is due to be completed on Oct. 31.

The main objective of the alley parties was to make shoppers comfortable with the back doors of Main Street businesses.

Fifteen Main Street businesses on both sides of the street are sponsoring different games Mondays through Fridays to bring customers into Main Street stores, and also to give customers a chance to win prizes and a chance to benefit from special bargains.

This past week to tie in with the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group’s bushel basket full of activities, customers were asked to identify pink items in a store and then get their name in a drawing.

Blooming Prairie Mayor H. Peterson and wife Jean attended both alley parties. Mayor Peterson said the construction has placed some businesses under stress and he hopes they survive.

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Ellendale Living

Council sets levy increase, accepts Municipal Liquor Store manager’s resignation

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

During the last meeting of the Ellendale City Council, council members voted to set the preliminary levy increase at four percent. In addition, the council formally accepted Municipal Liquor Store (MLS) manager Pete Paulson’s resignation.

Paulson had previously informed the council of his decision and explained that a new job opportunity had presented itself. He plans to work with current staff to help prepare them to temporarily manage the store. Paulson said that he is certainly willing to help with the transition process and that he hoped to be able to work into the month of October. Council members thanked Paulson for his service and accepted his resignation. Council briefly discussed the future of the MLS and concluded that they will advertise for someone to fill Paulson’s position.

During the meeting, council member Stephanie Lageson Kibler also provided a spreadsheet, detailing the numbers that the council had previously approved in pay equity. They unanimously approved to implement the new wages, beginning

Oct. 1, 2015. Council needed to approve this motion in order for the city to remain in compliance with the state pay equity requirements, which council had previously agreed upon.

Council then reviewed preliminary numbers for the 2016 budget. Taking into consideration the increased labor cost resulting in the updated pay equity, which they estimated would be over \$23,700, they then moved to set the preliminary 2016 levy increase at four percent. During discussion, council members stated that this figure can be decreased, but cannot be raised. They will revisit the matter in future meetings.

Lageson Kibler added that she feels it’s important to consider a future city needs, and to allot for them in next year’s budget, as appropriate. Citing possible improvements to the community center doors and other potential projects, Lageson Kibler said, “It’s our responsibility to maintain what we already have.”

“I’ve got to feel sorry for the taxpayer,” Ellendale Mayor Mark Skroch said, referring to the preliminary levy increase. He stated that taxpayers are already tasked with paying for the new \$12.6 million dollar county

public works building.

City Clerk Lee Ann Hojberg also provided the council with updated information regarding the city’s year-to-date spending. “We’re actually really on track with our expenditures at this time last year,” Hojberg said.

In other news, Council also reviewed the city’s dog ordinance, in light of two recent incidents within Ellendale. Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele was in attendance and also shared his input about the current ordinance. “There is an ordinance in place and it is very comprehensive,” said Sheriff Thiele. Council highlighted a few main points of the ordinance, noting that all dogs must be on a leash and that the owner must be in control of their dog at all times. If the dog may bite, the dog must wear a muzzle. Dogs are prohibited from running at large. Interested residents may obtain a copy of the ordinance at the Ellendale City Clerk’s office.

The Ellendale City Council will meet again on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Clerk’s office.



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud
Part of the 113th anniversary celebration at the Ellendale United Methodist Church featured two anthems by the Ellendale United Methodist Church Choir. Pastor Randy Cirksema delivered the sermon.

Homecoming Sunday at the Ellendale United Methodist Church

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Members, former members and guests of the Ellendale United Methodist Church helped the church celebrate its 113th anniversary with a special Homecoming event on Sunday, Sept. 13.

The celebration was anchored in the new Methodist church that opened on the western edge of Ellendale nine years ago.

The church was all decked out for the special occasion, and featured two anthems by the Ellendale United Methodist Church choir. The choral introit was entitled “God’s Wonderful People.”

Maryalice Hanson and Jan Prescher performed an organ and piano duet.

Pastor Randy Cirksema delivered the message, emphasizing homecoming celebration. “This is a time to get together and celebrate our baptism, confirmation and membership,” Pastor Cirksema said. “We experience a number of homecomings and



“I’m full,” exclaimed two-year-old Gracie Blaha of Hope after she finished her dinner at the 113th anniversary celebration at the Ellendale United Methodist Church on Sunday, Sept. 13. She is the daughter of Heather and Andrew Blaha.

it’s just being back together again,” He added.

Pastor Cirksema talked about Jesus’ homecoming with his disciples. “We are reminded of where we have come from and where we have been,” the pastor said. “We live out our home-

coming to see the face of Jesus,” he concluded.

Following the church service members and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner. Mementoes from the 2006 church opening were also available for those in attendance.

Local firefighters recognized on Sept. 11



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
During the Friday, Sept. 11, football game at NRHEG High School, local firefighters joined officials on the field for the coin toss. Prior to the game, the crowd held a moment of silence to remember the firefighters, law enforcement, ambulance crews and other heroes who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

Heroes of the Faith series begins soon at Vibrant Life

A number of famous people will soon be visiting Vibrant Life Assembly of God Church in Ellendale. From John Wesley to Billy Graham, guests can enjoy hearing their stories.

Other speakers for the Heroes of the Faith series include C.S. Lewis, Charles Parham, Lillian Trasher, John Wycliffe and Justin the Martyr. Of course, the famous persons themselves won’t actually be in attendance (in fact, many of them have already passed away.) Through their stories, however, these larger than life characters will come to life as listeners learn about their trials, tribulations and most treasured life lessons.

The series begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Vibrant Life Assembly of God Church, in Ellendale, on Sunday, Sept. 20. (The church is located at 702 3rd Street South.) Childcare is provided for all ages, and all are welcome to attend. The last date in the series is Sunday, Nov. 1.



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Medford Living

Sea salt caramel for the win at Curly Girlz Candy

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Candy maker and owner of Curly Girlz Candy, Paula Trendera, was delighted when her handmade chocolate-covered sea salt caramel was recognized as “Top of the Pantry” in the rookie division at the Midwest Pantry Trade Show.

Besides being homemade, the sea salt caramel and the other candies in the shop are made with many local ingredients. Trendera said that Hope butter and Sorenson’s honey (out of Owatonna) is a must.

To make her famous chocolate-covered sea salt caramels to Trendera “is really quite simple,” which is easy for her to say since she admits that many of her candy recipes are memorized by heart.

“It’s basically five ingredients for the caramel: butter, heavy whipping cream, sugar, corn syrup and vanilla,” she said. “To alter that, we add that sea salt. Then, dip it in dark chocolate and sprinkle on some coarser ground salt.”

To try one of these sweet delicacies, one can visit her shop, which is located at the northeast end of the Medford Outlet Center. Trendera is relatively new to the mall with a one year anniversary coming up, though she has been making candies for years.

As a child, Trendera spent a lot of time with grandparents that baked, cooked and canned. While her candy making started as a hobby, about ten years ago she became a certified chocolatier. As she continued to make more candies, she found out that family and friends were interested in not only “taste testing” her chocolates but also purchasing to use as gifts.

As she became increasingly busier candy making for friends and friends of friends, she said that holidays and other busy



Owner of Curly Girlz Candy Paula Trendera stands proudly with her award-winning chocolate-covered sea salt caramels.

Staff photo by Anna Segner

times just got “out of hand” to the point where she was turning people away. After all, she had a full time job as a business administrator at Sacred Heart Church.

At that point, she decided that it was a good time to take a leap of faith and do candy making full time. She started Curly Girlz Candy on Aug. 30 of last year, and she is having an anniversary celebration on Sept. 19 and 20. The celebration will include giveaways, drawings, and specials all weekend.

While Trendera’s chocolate-covered sea salt caramel is award winning, other popular candies at the store include turtle caramels, salted nut rolls, toffee, fudge, and butter caramels. As it is apple season, Trendera makes candy apples with apples from Trump’s Apple Orchard out of

Faribault.

The candies mostly range between \$.95 and \$1.25 for a piece of candy, depending on weight.

The busy season for Curly Girlz Candy is Thanksgiving time through the first of January. Of course, around and near Valentine’s Day was also a successful time for Trendera. “It’s been steady this summer. People are traveling and shopping. This is turning out to be a decent choice for location,” commented Trendera.

Some of the perks of the location, according to Trendera, are the fact that the mall gets many shoppers that are there to discover what the mall has to offer. Many people are willing to treat themselves to a chocolate for their day of shopping.

However, Trendera admits that the hours are a little long, as it

is a part of the mall, and has to follow the mall’s hours. Those hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. all days except for Sunday, when hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stop by Curly Girlz Candy for an award-winning bite of something sweet!

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Record Enrollment at Medford Schools

MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Rich Dahman

Along with the increase in enrollment, we have also seen an increase in the number of students who are registered for college credits, which can be earned in a number of different ways at Medford High School.

One way, which was implemented last school year, is through our College Now courses. These courses, offered in partnership with Southwest MN State University, allow students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit a completing a year-long rigorous course of study. We currently are offering College Now courses in Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Biology and Literature, with a total enrollment in the four classes of 65 students.

Rich Dahman is the Superintendent of Medford Public Schools.

Weekly crossword on Page 9B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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1ST PLACE
Gary Miller

Wins one pair of Chanhassen Dinner Theatre Tickets (\$150 value)

STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

2ND PLACE
Dominique Jewison

Wins one pair of Renaissance Festival Tickets (\$42 value)

3RD PLACE
Sarah Connelly

Wins one year subscription to the Steele County Times (\$38 value)

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Pork Burger Supper ★ 3:00-Close
Dan Stursa Band ★ 3:00 p.m.

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Owatonna Living

Safety First during a tour of Cybex in Owatonna

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Many people in the Owatonna community took a break from their work day on Sept. 9 to tour Cybex and learn about the safety precautions that they regulate on their manufacturing floor.

Cybex is a fitness equipment manufacturer for both commercial and consumer use. Their new facility is only seven years old and large at a whole 80 acres under one roof.

Cybex was happy to open up their doors to the members and guests of the Safety Council. Over 30 individuals took the tour.

Carlton Yanke, machine operator at Wenger Corporation was one of the many individuals that took advantage of the opportunity to tour the new Cybex facilities. There was a handful of individuals representing Wenger Corporation at the meeting.

“I wanted to see in the factory to compare and contrast how it is different than ours,” remarked Yanke. “When we get back, we’ll talk about what we learned, because they have a lot of similar things, some of the same departments even.”

The tours walked through many departments of Cybex, including the welding areas (both robotic and manual), painting, sewing, graphic design and more.

Touring local companies and



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Cybex welding manager, Steve Herron, takes a group of the Safety Council members around the manufacturing floor to tell them about various safety practices and procedures.

their facilities is just one of the many educational opportunities that the Steele County Safety Council offers employees of local companies. Companies that have been toured by the safety council in the past have been Wenger Corporation, Lakeside Foods, Owatonna Fire Department, Modern Metal and Bosch among many.

As chair of the safety council, Kevin Dillemoth finds the active sharing of ideas between companies and their employees to be a positive connection.

“Our goal is always to get messages out about health and

safety, but the tours are great for members to go back to their employer with ideas that they discovered on the tour,” said Dillemoth. “If you are stuck in one place for too long, you don’t learn anything.”

The safety council meets once a month, and they cover a gamut of safety and health topics. Council member David Fitzgerald said that they try to pick hot topics for the time period, so for example a hot topic might be the flu pandemic, safe winter driving practices, or even labeling chemicals.

Other important topics cov-

ered have been first aid, CPR, heat stress, emergency response, forklift safety, eye safety, proper ear protection, security and ladder safety. These topics are usually addressed through a guest speaker that is considered an expert on the area of concern.

There are 54 companies that are involved as members of the safety council, which means that the company can send a handful of employees to meet and report back on the important topics at hand. The mission of the company is to provide monthly educational opportunities to local professionals, businesses and the general public.

The upcoming meetings will feature presentations. On Oct. 14, Fire Chief Mike Johnson will be presenting on the fire department and fire truck safety. On Nov. 11, the focus will be the Mayo Clinic Trauma Center.

Meetings consist of lunch at the Eagles Club at 11:30 on the second Wednesday of every month. Please note that the location has been recently switched from the Elks Club to the Eagles Club. At 12, the presentation will begin. Tours are typically once a year.

It is now necessary to RSVP for lunch, so if interested in getting involved with the safety council, e-mail Kevin Dillemoth at owatfirehouseliquor@msn.com or call at 507-475-2185.

SHINDIG

Continued from Page 1C

rock and southern rock. Jones has already released an EP “The Arrowhead,” and Jones and his band are in the process of recording a new album.

At the Fall Shindig, Jones will be performing vocals and guitar with his friend and fellow band member Sam Johnson on guitar. Jones said that he will be playing an acoustic set of his new album, as well as songs from his EP. He also said that they love playing recommendations from the audience.

“He talks to the audience and tells stories. He has really good involvement with the audience,” said Ebeling.

Jones said that the audience is one of his favorite parts of performing. When asked what makes a good audience, he responded: “Engagement. A lot of times people are distracted,

but when we can chat back and forth, it’s more fun.”

Along with the music, the event is to promote and use Brooketree’s restaurant. “We want to be known for golf, but we want people to know that it can be used by non-golfers too,” commented Ebeling.

Some of the food deals for the event include a \$5 taco bar from 5 to 7 p.m., and \$2 off pizzas and half price appetizers from 7 to 10 p.m. Tap beers will be two for the price of one from 5 to 10 p.m. As of now, the restaurant is not open all year, but it is open all of the golf season, which is dependant on the weather, but is usually about Apr. 1 to Nov. 1.

There is enough space to seat 500, as there will be tables and bleachers; however, Ebeling encourages people to bring lawn chairs, because it is difficult to

predict how many people will attend.

The event will run rain or shine, as the club house has a large space that for events. Besides the restaurant, the space can also be reserved throughout the year.

This is the first year for the Fall Shindig, but Ebeling hopes that it will be successful and be-

come an annual event. He even hopes that it could become a series similar to that of the 11 at 7 concert series on Thurs. evenings in Central Park.

“There’s not a whole lot after the summer winds down and school starts, so this is just a great reason to get together,” remarked Ebeling. “This should make for a fun event.”

BARN DANCE

Continued from Page 1C

teering his time and performing at 3 p.m.

The D-C Drifters will play at 5:30 p.m. “The D-C Drifters were rained out during the fair. They had Sept. 19 open and they wanted to come perform,” said Gleason. The D-C Drifters will certainly be playing some throwbacks.

For the first time ever, Chris Brooks and the Silver City Boys will be performing at the fairgrounds. The band plays their country rock music at 8 p.m.

A live auction will include about fifteen hot ticket items. For sure, there will be a Cabela’s grill, a Toro lawn mower, Holiday Inn and Serengeti Water Park \$500 package, Wenger crafted flower container, lower level Minnesota Wild tickets, Country Inn and Suites package, and much more.

As office secretary, Sharon Kline, said that the “barn adds a great dimension to the fair that we didn’t have before.” The barn has many uses during the warmer months, but Oct. 15 to Apr. 15, the barn is available for winter storage. If interested, contact the fair office.

This year, the barn displays a banner with donors listed. For a minimum donation of \$100, an individual or business can see their name on the plaques that will be placed on the pavilion’s wall. The fair is a 501 C3 orga-

nization, so donations are tax deductible.

As for the Barn Dance, it’s time to celebrate the pavilion with some music, food and drink!

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Early Bird Sales	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Booths Re-open, Dinner, Games	11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Farmer's Market
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Games
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JACOB'S RUN

Continued from Page 1C

them that day.

The ride started at the Spare Time Entertainment bowling alley in Owatonna. The ride began at 10:30 a.m. and the group traveled looped through Austin area, St. Ansgar, Hayward and Blooming Prairie, then returned to Owatonna for a pulled pork dinner around 4 p.m. The meal was made possible because of Jim and Denise Atkinson and Broskoff Structures.

The motorcycle event, Jacob's Run, is fitting for Jacob's interests. Jacob and his dad Robert spent endless hours in the garage working on four-wheelers, bikes or enduro cars. His family laughs and said that he was always in the garage.

For Angela and her husband, Jeff, and Robert and his significant other Brenda Bergstrom, emotions run high when they see the amount of people that support their cause.

When the engines rev, Robert said that it is very emotional.

"I guess for the most part, emotions are high. It is such a bitter sweet. On one hand, it is so amazing to see such support but on the other hand, it is sad why we are here," remarked Robert. "The first year we had 100 bikes. It was three months after Jacob's death, and that was probably the most emotional."

"Most people who do come don't want this to happen to another family," said Robert. "I know Jacob is looking down and thinking 'Why did I do what I did?' I know he is. It's about asking for help."

Registration costs were as follows: \$15 for a motorcycle with one rider and \$20 for a passenger. It costs \$15 to drive along in a car and then an added \$5 per passenger. The money raised is for Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program.

Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program is dedicated to educating the community on suicide and what can be done to prevent suicide. As members of this organization, Robert and Angela go to schools and speak to students about suicide. They educate people from all aspects, whether that means detecting signs in oneself or in another person.

Open Arms Yellow Ribbon passes out a double-sided card that is to be used in an emergency instance with thoughts of suicide. One side of the card acts as a guide for a person experiencing suicidal thoughts, as it encourages one to seek help in a friend, parent, family member, teacher, guidance counselor or doctor.

A person seeking help can hand the card to a trusted party in a moment of despair, and the card has instructions on how to help. The message is simple: truly listen and call for help.

Money raised through Jacob's Run also goes towards scholarships for students. Angela said that this was created last year, as it would have been the year that Jacob would have graduated high school. The scholarships are \$500 and are in Jacob's memory.

The members of the Open Arms Yellow Ribbon are 100 percent volunteers and the group consists of a lot of Jacob's family members. This is the fourth annual Jacob's Run, and Angela said that she is always touched by the support received.

"I'm always happy to see people come to support us every year. It is so sad because of why we are doing this, but at the same time... this support. It's amazing," Angela commented. "If Jacob were here, he'd be excited."

GRIEF RELIEF



What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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Farm Safety & Health Tips



Contrary to the popular image of fresh air and peaceful surroundings, a farm is not a hazard-free work setting. Every year, thousands of farm workers are injured, and hundreds more die in farming accidents. According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is the most hazardous industry in the nation.

Health and safety hazards on farms

Farm workers—including farm families and migrant workers—are exposed to hazards such as the following:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemicals/Pesticides• Cold• Dust• Electricity• Grain bins• Hand tools• Highway traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifting• Livestock handling• Machinery/Equipment• Manure pits• Mud• Noise• Ponds | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silos• Slips/Trips/Falls• Sun/Heat• Toxic gases• Tractors• Wells |
|--|--|---|

High risk factors on farms

The following factors may increase risk of injury or illness for farm workers:

- Age – Injury rates are highest among children age 15 and under and adults over 65.
- Equipment and Machinery – Most farm accidents and fatalities involve machinery. Proper machine guarding and doing equipment maintenance according to manufacturers’ recommendations can help prevent accidents.
- Protective Equipment – Using protective equipment, such as seat belts on tractors, and personal protective equipment (such as safety gloves, coveralls, boots, hats, aprons, goggles, face shields) could significantly reduce farming injuries.
- Medical Care – Hospitals and emergency medical care are typically not readily accessible in rural areas near farms.

How you can improve farm safety

You can start by increasing your awareness of farming hazards and making a conscious effort to prepare for emergency situations including fires, vehicle accidents, electrical shocks from equipment and wires, and chemical exposures. Be especially alert to hazards that may affect children and the elderly. Minimize hazards by carefully selecting the products you buy to ensure that you provide good tools and equipment. Always use seat belts when operating tractors, and establish and maintain good housekeeping practices.

Here are some other steps you can take to reduce illnesses and injuries on the farm:

- Read and follow instructions in equipment operator’s manuals and on product labels.
- Inspect equipment routinely for problems that may cause accidents.
- Discuss safety hazards and emergency

procedures with your workers.

- Install approved rollover protective structures, protective enclosures, or protective frames on tractors.
- Make sure that guards on farm equipment are replaced after maintenance.
- Review and follow instructions in material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and on labels that come with chemical products and communicate information on these hazards to your workers.
- Take precautions to prevent entrapment and suffocation caused by unstable surfaces of grain storage bins, silos, or hoppers. Never “walk the grain.”
- Be aware that methane gas, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide can form in unventilated grain silos and manure pits and can suffocate or poison workers or explode.
- Take advantage of safety equipment, such as bypass starter covers, power take-off master shields, and slow-moving vehicle emblems.
- Take precautions to prevent entrapment and suffocation caused by unstable surfaces of grain storage bins, silos, or hoppers. Never “walk the grain.”
- Be aware that methane gas, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide can form in unventilated grain silos and manure pits and can suffocate or poison workers or explode.
- Take advantage of safety equipment, such as bypass starter covers, power take-off master shields, and slow-moving vehicle emblems.

The Benefits of Improved Safety and Health Practices

Better safety and health practices reduce worker fatalities, injuries, and illnesses, as well as associated costs such as workers’ compensation insurance premiums, lost production, and medical expenses. A safer and more healthful workplace improves morale and productivity.

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News

Free youth trap shooting event held in Owatonna



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Instructor Ron Hammann teaches Owatonna third grader Andres Meyer how to shoot a gun safely at the Owatonna Gun Club for the Steele County Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants Free Youth Trap Shoot. The event was on Sept. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many families brought their kids (ages 16 and under) to try trap shooting. Young children had the opportunity to shoot BB Guns. The event had a barbecue lunch included.

Owatonna Human Rights collaborates with Austin

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Owatonna Human Rights commission “picked the brain” of Austin’s Human Rights Commission Chair Richard Lemons about what their commission has done for successful community interactions.

During the meeting on Tues. Sept. 8, Lemons presented a layout of what their commission believes and tries to instill in the Austin community.

“You want your mission to roll off your tongue when someone says ‘Hey, what is it that you do,’” remarked Lemons. “So, our mission is to cultivate a just and inclusive community where diversity is valued and human rights are respected.”

He maintained that the Austin commission shares this mission by networking within the Austin community and outside of the community. He said that their commission has gone to

organizations like Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Club, Mayo Clinic, Hormel Foods and the Rochester Diversity Center to begin a community conversation about the people of the community: who they are and how to bridge relationships.

“In Austin, our city is actually getting younger, as our average age is dropping,” said Lemons. He also reported that 25% of the Austin community is of color.

Lemon called their first of the six “community conversations” about human rights a success, and he said that it is about extending the invitation. “We are really focused on how to be a force of positive change,” said Lemon.

The Owatonna Human Rights Commissioners asked questions regarding networking, linking with other advocacy groups, appealing to the community and raising numbers of participation in Human Rights events.

Owatonna Human Rights

commission has many things in the works, including a suicide prevention and awareness event.

Another project in the works is the Tapestry Project, which is a seven-week class to address specific barriers to self-sufficiently provide housing, parenting, safety and health education to refugees and former refugees living in the area. This project has been successful in Mankato, and the hope of the Owatonna Human Rights Commission is to bring the program here.

In support of South Country Health Alliance

Our agency, South Central Human Relations Center (HRC) delivers a variety of behavioral health services to over 3,000 individuals in this community. We have contracted with South Country Health Alliance since 2001 to deliver a variety of these services to many of our clients, who are South Country members. As most know, South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) is county-based health plan is located in Owatonna and serves residents of Steele, Dodge, Waseca and nine other counties.

A decision by the Minnesota Department of Human Services in July to award 2016 contracts for Medicaid and MinnesotaCare to other health plans has been a recent news topic. This will reportedly impact a large portion of SCHA business, possibly putting the company out of business. Our agency is concerned that the potential loss of South Country will leave a large gap due to their demonstrated commitment to service access, coordination with local health services and their focus on local health goals. Other health plans may be assigned to serve the Medicaid and MinnesotaCare recipients in counties now served by SCHA.

Currently, we are serving over 1,000 SCHA members in a variety of programs that we offer. These include Outpatient Mental Health, Psychiatry, Adult and Children’s Mental Health Targeted Case Management, Dual Recovery Program, Tri-County Nursing, Care Coordination, Project Home, Adult Mental Health Rehab Services and Assertive Community Treatment. We have appreciated the dedication of South Country in working together to deliver services that benefit our mutual clients who often have multiple and complex health needs.

The organization is consistently involved in ongoing dialogues on multiple levels to be pro-active and preventative in solving health challenges for

STEELE TALKIN’



Melissa Koch

children and adults. SCHA has actively sought information from community partners to learn what the local needs are and stepped up to find ways to resolve these. The result has been the development of multiple successful, effective services.

Here are existing services that demonstrate this:

Healthy Pathways program

This is an innovative, preventative new grant funded program that was developed by a workgroup including SCHA and county representatives. This started July 1, 2015. It will be a “safety net” service for mental health clients who demonstrate mental health needs, but who do not yet qualify for Medicaid funded services. Referrals could come from Emergency Departments, the Mental Health Units, Public Health, Law Enforcement. SCHA created a workgroup in 2014 that met regularly and developed the program concept, later approved by the SCHA Joint Powers Board.

Systems Care Coordinator program

This began in April 2009, after months of planning with representatives from SCHA, Allina and South Central Human Relations Center. This service is for frequent users of the Emergency Department, delivered by a senior social worker. It is an award winning program (2011 Commissioner’s Circle of Excellence) duplicated by other hospitals around the state. SCHA has been a planning and funding partner since the start. Outcome data is

impressive, showing significant reductions in total Emergency Department and Hospital costs from the baseline.

AbilityCare Care Coordination

Through SCHA funding, our agency can deliver Care Coordination for over 100 clients who are disabled and eligible for Medical Assistance and Medicaid. The Care Coordinator has regular in person contact with the patient and has developed with the patient a Community Support Plan, which addresses medical issues, management of comorbidities and lifestyle issues. This population often has medical challenges in addition to a serious and persistent mental illness. Care Coordinators work with a multidisciplinary team.

Pharmacy and Medication Formulary

At HRC, we have a medical team of psychiatrists and nurses. We have found that working with the SCHA Pharmacy Benefits Manager – PerformRx has been positive. A number of our clients have had long-term success with medications that are not on the list of approved medications (formulary.) However, PerformRx staff works with our medical team to overcome administrative barriers and find a solution to meet the client’s needs. SCHA’s selection of the pharmacy partner demonstrates commitment to client access to needed services.

These are only a few examples of the commitment to the health of members that has been demonstrated by South Country leadership and staff. Our agency staff wants to acknowledge that this organization lives up to its mission statement, to promote member health and build connections for delivery of quality services and be accountable.

Steele Talkin’ is a monthly feature written by various organizations. Carolyn Wheeler, MSW, LICSW, is the Executive Director for the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna.

You are remembered

Lighting the Path event held at the former Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Between 1886 and 1945, the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children was home to 10,635 students. On Saturday night, visitors gathered on the grounds to remember those children.

Although the children learned and played on the grounds, which has since become an orphanage museum, there were also times of sorrow at the school. Children arrived at the school in Owatonna when they had no place left to go. Many arrived at the school malnourished, had been previously abused, or were seriously ill. Over time, 197 children were buried in the school cemetery, perishing from disease and injuries.

Arlend “Buzz” Wilson attended the Lighting the Path event on Saturday evening. Wilson is a former the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children student, and his three sisters also lived at the school. “I left thinking I was a victim,” Wilson said, reflecting on his time at the school. “But I am a survivor. Hindsight is 20/20, and I think it was the best thing that could have happened to us.”

Despite the trials of life at the school, the children did learn and grow together. Some staff were dedicated to the children’s well-being and offered them op-

portunities for expanding their knowledge and enjoying their childhood. The grounds offered recreational activities such as sledding and sports. The children worked to complete farm chores and also tended to the facilities’ gardens and greenhouse.

During Saturday’s event, historian Barry Adams spoke about the children who lived at the school. Many people have called these children “forgotten” and Adams implored the group to remember them. “There really is a story for every one of them,” Anderson said.

Anderson also shared stories about the 1990s restoration movement, during which area volunteers worked to preserve the history of the school and to mark the graves with the names of the children buried there. Although many people have helped to further the mission, Adams said that the work is far from complete. “We still need to support the preservation efforts,” he said.

In closing, the group (which included a number of former State School students) held well over 30 seconds of silence as they reflected on the children who once lived at the school. As the train echoed in the night and the mist rose from the cemetery, Adams read, “To the children who rest here: May the love you lacked in life now be your reward in heaven. You are remembered.”

JENSEN AUCTIONEERS

JENSEN AND JENSEN AUCTION

(12) JOHN DEERE & FARMALL TRACTORS
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DIESEL PICKUP

LOCATION: 4759 SE 48th St., Owatonna, MN. Take U.S. 218 South of Owatonna 3.5 miles to S.E. 48th St., then East for 1 mile to auction site. Watch for Jensen auction signs.

Sat., Sept. 19, 2015 9:30 A.M.

TRACTORS
John Deere 5020 diesel tractor, WF, PS, 3-pt., dual hyd., 24-5-32 tires, 5,248 hrs., SN: 017796R (nice tractor) – John Deere 2020U tractor, gas, PS, WF, 3-pt., fenders, 14-9-28 tires, 4,185 hrs., SN: 661650T – John Deere 2010 gas tractor, NF, PS, fender, lights, 3-pt., 12-4-36 (new tires), 3,400 hrs., new paint, SN: 17378 – John Deere A gas tractor, NF, rear step, 14-9-38 (new tires), new paint, SN: 546261 – John Deere 730 diesel tractor, pony start, float seat, PS, NF, single hyd., flat-top fenders, lights, 15-5-38 tires, 2,575 hrs., SN: 7328297 (restored) – John Deere 830 standard diesel tractor, pony start, WF, PS, single hyd., lights, float seat, 18-4-34 tires, SN: 8302476 (restored) – John Deere 4630 diesel tractor, WF, PS, cab, radio, AC, rock box, 3-pt., dual hyd. outlets, 18-4-38 tires, quad range, 5,970 hrs., SN: 004935R – Farmall F-12 on steel, new front rubber tires, 2-owners only, original manual, original bill of sale, SN: 75232 – Farmall 350 gas tractor, fast hitch, lights, torque, Schwartz WF, 13-6-38 tires (good), SN: 14233 – John Deere 2940 diesel tractor, WF, fenders, lights, 3-pt., 480-85R-34 tires, rear weights, 7,042 hrs., SN: 407814L w/Westendorf hyd. loader and 6’ bucket (nice) – Farmall Super MD diesel tractor, NF, lights, fenders, new paint, 14-9-38 tires, SN: 31168 (restored) – Farmall Super M-TA gas tractor, WF 14-9-38 tires, lights, SN: F82120 (restored).

COMBINE
JD 4400 diesel combine, cab, radio, 3,767 hrs., SN: 203452 (very good), used fall 2014 – JD Model 213, 13’ platform (nice), SN: 328827H – JD 443 corn head, 4-row (very nice).

SKID LOADER
2008 Mustang 2026 skid loader, Gehl T-handle controls, aux. hyd., Yanmar diesel engine, enclosed cab, canvas front door, 269 hrs. (bought new by Ken) – Mustang attachments: 5’ material bucket, step through pallet forks, 4’ manure bucket, Erskine 5’ brush mower, Loftness 5’ snowblower, hyd. spout, Baby Boomer backhoe attachment (all look new).

PICKUP
2007 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 4x4, reg. cab, 8’ box, Duramax diesel w/ Allison trans., SS running boards, new tires, 44,310 miles, 1-owner (excellent shape).

HAY EQUIPMENT & MOWERS
OMC 590 round baler, very good – 6’ Brush mower, 3-pt., like new – Sitrex Series RP-4, Model 82569 3-pt. wheel rake – White Model 5407 7’ disc, 3-pt. mower (nice).

TRAILERS
2011 PJ bumper pull 8’x20’ deck over trailer w/ramps, 3’ dovetail, 14K GVW, tandem axle (like new) – 1997 H&S bumper pull 10’ livestock trailer, single axle (very clean).

WAGONS
Minnesota 365 gravity box on 12-ton MN gear – Minnesota 260 gravity box w/grain ext. on 10-ton MN gear – (2) Flat bale racks w/gears – Parade wagon 8’x14’ seating w/benches, canopy, on MN HD running gear (must see).

HORSE EQUIPMENT
New Idea hay loader, on steel – McCormick 5’ hay mower, on steel – Single row horse drawn cultivator, on steel – John Deere 614 1-bottom plow, on steel – Int’l 6’ horse drawn disc on steel – Int’l 2-row corn planter on steel – Kovar 2-section 3-wheel digger on steel – (2) 2-bottom plows, (1) 2-bottom slate bottom – Russel 7’ pull-type road grader (new blade).

FARM MACHINERY & MISC.
JD Model 550 pull-type sprayer, 500 gal., 40’ boom, 540 hyd. pump (nice shape) – Int’l cycle 400 4-row planter w/all drums, used in 2014 – OMC Model 224, 12’ stalk chopper – Brillion Model CPP-02, 12-shank 3-pt. ripper – Int’l Model 53, 3-pt. cultivator (parts) – Int’l Model 45 vibra

VIEWING DATES:
Sat., Sept. 12
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
and
Auction Day Sat., Sept. 19

shank 19’ field cultivator w/Noble 2-bar drag – Badger BN3210 manure spreader – 4-section drag and cart (nice) – Dearborn Model 13-4, 7’, 3-pt. digger – John Deere 12’ 3-pt. rotary hoe – John Deere RWA 20’ wheel disc, nice – John Deere front mount 4-row cultivator (off 730) – Int’l cycle 400 planter for parts – White Model 588, 5-bottom plow, semi mounted, spring loaded coulters, very good – JD Model F650A 3-bottom plow, hyd. lift, large rear wheel, very good – Int’l 3-bottom plow, fast hitch, new coulters, new lays and mold boards, very good – Band duals (1) 18-4-38, (1) 18-4-34.

GOLF CART
2012 Club Car golf cart, elec., w/top and side enclosures, like new.

SHOP & MISC. YARD EQUIPMENT
Ariens Rocket V17 rear-tine tiller w/7 hp, nice – Brave 32-ton commercial vertical/horizontal wood splitter, 8 hp on trailer, nice – Gandy 3-pt. cherry picker – Large wood splitter, 3-pt., 16” wedge, hyd. – Large cement mixer w/trailer, PTO driven – John Deere #1B hand corn sheller – ALKOTA Model 216AX4 power washer, hot/cold, 220, hose reel (bought new by Ken) – JD Model 185 hydro mower and deck, needs repair – Win-Power generator, 12KW, PTO, on cart – AC 2-pt. 3-bottom plow, parts only – Misc. tractor weights – (4) 9.5L-14 implement wheels and tires – C-Aire II air compressor, 60 gal., 6 hp, 230V, 1 PH single stage, vertical – 3-wheel yard cart – Fanning mill – (2) Grinding stone wheels – Bobsled frame, (3) Platform scale – 2-man saw – Buck saw – Endless belt – Saw blades, (3) 30”, (1) 27”, (1) 24” – Grass seeder – Lightning rod w/glass ball – (2) Horse collars – (2) Large piles of split wood – Sioux round bale feeder – Pride of the Farm SS hog feeder – (2) Hot Shots – Rubbermaid 70 and 100 gal. water tanks – Stewart Shearwater w/extra blades – 20th Century stick welder – Load binders – Log chains – (2) Floor jacks – Alum. loading ramps – Nielsen Model “50” chain saw sharpener – Electric cords – Handyman jack – 40’ Alum. ext. ladder – 16’ Alum. ext. ladder – 20’ Fiberglass ext. ladder – 5’ Stepladder – Land Measure Master Wheel – Wards paint sprayer – Lots of forks and shovels – (4) 20# LP tanks – 3.0 shop vac – (3) Battery chargers – Manual tire changer – Duracraft 3/4 hp bench grinder on stand – 2-ton foldable engine hoist – Ryobi leaf blower – HDC bench parts washer – HDC 1” SDS rotary hammer drill – Large anvil on stand – Craftsman 4-drawer toolbox – DeWalt 1/2” elec. impact – DeWalt 1/2” elec. drill – Cummins air grinder – Bolt bin and new bolts – Safety lights – Lots of hand tools – Cummins 8-pc. screw ext. set – DeWalt 18V cordless drill and case – DeWalt elec. reciprocating saw w/case – 1/2” Torque wrench – 30” Bolt cutter – Large 20-ton press – Smith oxy and acetylene torch w/ cart, nice – Stihl Model FS75 weed whip – Stihl MS180C Mini Boss chain saw, 13” bar – Stihl pole saw – Jonsered 2065 turbo chain saw, 24’ bar – McCulloch Pro Mac 850 chain saw, 27” bar – McCulloch Mac GHT 17” gas hedge trimmer – Backpack sprayer – Lots of hoses – Large metal cabinet on wheels – Office chair and desk – (8) Lateral cabinets – Plus much more.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: If you are looking for quality items you don't want to miss this sale. Lunch and restroom available. TERMS: Cash or good check w/proper ID. Everything sells as-is, where is condition. Everything must be paid for on auction day. Not responsible for accidents. Verbal announcements take precedence over all printed material.

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State Fair 4-H Results

Champion:

Riley Arthur – Market Lamb Advanced Showmanship; Cameron Deml – Lama-Showmanship; Lila Ann Carlson – Netherland Dwarf-Junior Doe; Jarrett Larson – Polish-Senior Buck; Brandon Peeters – Poultry Issue-Breeding; Emma Loveless – Registered Southdown-Yearling Ewe.

Purple:

Zach Kubicek – Registered Duroc Barrow; Molly Hawkins – Wether Dam-Black Face; Jenna Zeman – Crossbred Barrow; Ethan Arett – Market Heifer; Kaden Nelson – Lightweight Black Face Market Lamb; Lauren Arthur – Middleweight Black Face Market Lamb; Laura Bloomenrader – Middleweight Black Face Market Lamb; Riley Arthur – Heavyweight Black Face Market Lamb; Grace Arthur – Wether Dam-Black Face; Joshua Katzung – Dairy Steer; Bailey Kruesel – Market Gilts; Beth Ann Hanson – Clothes You Make; Mariah Schroht – Crossbred-January Gilt; Emily Keck – Exploring the Environment; Katelyn Rysavy – Fashion Revue-Clothes You Buy; Marisa Wagaman – Holland Lop-Junior Doe; Ryan Haberman – Holstein Registered Summer Junior Yearling; Kiya Erler – Holstein Registered Spring Junior Yearling; Maggie Bruns – Jersey-Fall Senior Yearling; Jack Skalicky – Market Goat Showmanship; Zach Finholdt – Meat Breeding Yearling Doe-Dry; Kallen Hoffmann – Meat Breeding Yearling Doe-Dry; Kallen Hoffmann – Meat Doe Showmanship; Hunter Jensen – Potatoes; Justin Johnson – Poultry Issue-Other; Luke Kubicek – Registered Duroc-February Gilt; Jarren Hoffmann – Registered Duroc-January Gilt; Lanie Rieck – Registered Other Breed-Mar Ewe Lamb; Katelyn Rypka – Registered Purebred Simmental-Junior Yearling; Brandon Peeters – Self-Determined; Luke Kubicek – Shop-Primarily Wood.

Reserve Champion:

Lacey Nelson – Ayrshire-3 & 4 yr. old cow; Beth Ann Hanson – Lightweight Market Goat-Does; Zach Finholdt – Meat Doe Showmanship.

Honorable Mention:

Abby Haberman – Red & White 2-year-old.

Blue:

Caleb Wannarka – Aerospace; Samantha Fredin – Brown Swiss-Fall Calf; Kylie Kruckeberg – Brown Swiss-Spring Junior Yearling; Lilly Zollner – Brown Swiss-Senior Yearling; Jerret Utpadel – Crossbred Barrow; Cole Ignaszewski – Crossbred Barrow; Katelyn Crabtree – Lightweight Black Face Market Lamb; Gabriel Dahle – Lightweight Black Face

Market Lamb; Logan Nelson – Crossbred & Other Breeds Steer; Abby Wilker – Crossbred Barrow; Dakota Thiele – Crossbred Barrow; Taitelynn Jensen – Crossbred Barrow; Joseph Stransky – Crossbred & Other Breeds Steer; Landon Thurnau – Market Gilts; Mitch Dinse – Market Gilts; Cassandra Borwege – Market Gilts; Amelia Manderfeld – Dairy Steer; Grace Lewison – Dairy Steer; Aaron Dahlin – Heavyweight Market Goat-Does; Lexie Ignaszewski – Market Gilts; Walker Nelson – Registered Yorkshire Barrow; McKenna Schroht – Registered Yorkshire Barrow; KalyN Naatz – Dairy Steer; Jack Skalicky – Middleweight Market Goat-Wethers; Tanner Nelson – Registered Other Breeds Barrow; Jacob Katzung – Dairy Steer; Tory Buck – Crossbred Barrow; Mikayla Spinler – Middleweight Market Goat-Wethers; Noah Loveless – White Face Market Lamb; Emily Haas – Clothes You Make; Amelia Manderfeld – Clothes You Make; Pratt Commandoes – Club Banner; Joseph Prostrollo – Club Community Pride; Joshua Prostrollo – Club Community Pride; Mitchell Borwege – Crafts; Courtney Kath – Crossbred & Other Breed-Senior Yearling;

Cameron Deml – Dairy Goat Showmanship-Novice; Matthew Sey; kora – Electric; Allie Keilen – Fine Arts; Lexie Ignaszewski – Flower Gardening; Lizzy Hagen – Foods and Nutrition; Becca Zollner – Foods and Nutrition; Cassandra Borwege – Global Connections;

Georgia Jirousek – Guernsey-Calf; Taylor Jirousek - Guernsey-Junior Yearling; Michael Kanne – Health; Matthew Seykora – Holstein Grade-Fall Calf; Desiree Svoboda – Indoor Gardening; Elizabeth Karl – Jersey Woolly-Senior Doe; Cameron Deml – Lama-Obstacle Course; Wyatt Garten – Lama-Public Relations;

Cameron Deml – Lama-Public Relations; Wyatt Garten – Lama Showmanship; Gabriel Dahle – Livestock Demonstration; Brandon Peeters – Livestock Demonstration;

KalyN Naatz – Livestock Demonstration; Aaron Dahlin – Market Goat Showmanship; Mikayla Spinler – Market Goat Showmanship; Beth Ann Hanson – Market Goat Showmanship; Greta Jacobson – Meat Breeding Yearling Doe-Dry; Emily Dahlin – Meat Breeding Yearling Doe-Dry; Great Jacobson – Meat Doe Showmanship; Sarah Manderfeld – Milking Shorthorn-2-yr-old; William Behne – Mini Lop-Senior Doe; Madison Jaster – Needle Arts; Tristan Simon – Other Small Breed Purebred-Junior Buck;

Parker Aase – Other Small Breed Purebred-Junior Buck; Courtney Kath – Photography Elements; Hudson Aase – Poultry Issue-Biosecurity; Wyatt Garten – Poultry Issue-Breeding; Grace Logan – Poultry Issue-Other; Alivia Kubista – Prospect Calf-Steer;

Mikayla Dinse – Prospect Calf-Steer; Hailey Rysavy – Quilting; Zacharia Stransky – Red & White Junior Yearling; Ben Finholdt – Registered All Other Breeds-Senior Yearling; Cassidy Worrell – Registered Purebred Simmental-

Junior Yearling;

Tristan Simon – Shooting Sports; Logan Hanson – Shooting Sports; Caden Kubicek – Shop-Primarily Wood; Zach Kubicek – Shop-Primarily Wood; Oliver Hansen – Small Engines; Cameron Deml – Unrecorded Grade-Junior Doe Kid; Erin O’Brien – Veterinary; Bailey Keck – Water/Wetlands.

Red:

Jasmin Willette – Child & Family Development; Elisabeth Buck – Crossbred Barrow; Leah Tucker – Entomology; Logan Stenzel – Entomology; Anthony Manderfeld – Food Preservation; Elizabeth Karl – Food Review; Arica Kath – Holstein Grade Fall Calf; Hailey Rysavy – Holstein Grade-Summer Junior Yearling;

Wyatt Garten – Lama-Obstacles Course; Grace Logan – Livestock Demonstration; Emily Dahlin – Meat Doe Showmanship; Adam Manderfeld – Milking Shorthorn-Junior Yearling; Marissa Larson – Netherland Dwarf-Senior Doe; John Pfeifer – Performing Arts; Jacob Pfeifer – Performing Arts; Lucy Paschke – Plant and Soil Science; Austin Mundt – Shop-Primarily Wood.

White:

Jasmin Willette – Demonstration.



Cameron Deml, 16, of Owatonna, won senior llama showmanship and a blue ribbon in a performance course with his alpaca at the Minnesota State Fair.



Cole Ignaszewski, 17, on the far left, listens intently to the judge on the far right during conference judging at the Minnesota State Fair. Ignaszewski, a member of the Lemond Snappy Boosters, earned a blue ribbon for his shop project. Other 4-H’ers from around the state also took part in the judging.

4-H official thrives with coordinating statewide activities

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Coordinating activities for thousands of youth requires some precise planning and organization. And that’s where Brad Rugg, of Owatonna, comes into the picture to pull it all together.

As the state’s top 4-H superintendent, Rugg gets excited about the Minnesota 4-H program, which is the biggest at any state fair in the country.

“I thrive on this. I run adrenaline on major events coordination,” Rugg said. “I don’t know why, but it’s me.”

It’s Rugg’s responsibility to make sure everything runs smoothly at what has become known as the 4-H Hilton on the state fairgrounds. Over the course of the 12-day state fair,

more than 5,000 youth will come through the 4-H Building.

Said Rugg: “The good Lord put me on the face of this earth to do major events. When you take that and put it with kids, there isn’t anything better out there.”

In addition to state fair, he has also had experience coordinating the World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin for several years.

Rugg finds no other program better suited for youth than 4-H. He created his own memories many years ago as a 4-H member from his home of Mower County. Rugg still remembers his bunk in the dorms and the barn stall where he showed livestock at the state fair. He grew up on a dairy farm outside of Austin.

Because of his positive expe-

riences with 4-H as a teenager, Rugg strives hard to make the same for youth today. “Life-long memories is what we want to create in a positive way,” he says.

The 4-H program has run into its own challenges in recent years as the size of families has shrunk and youth are bombarded with many different activities to participate in. But Rugg said 4-H is holding its own.

For example, dairy farms in the state have dropped 40 percent in the last 15 years, but at the same time the 4-H dairy enrollment has only gone down 10 percent. Rugg credits the leasing program in which non-farm kids can still show animals with helping maintain healthy enrollment numbers.

Enrollment in the poultry proj-

ect has actually skyrocketed almost 40 percent during the same time period, according to Rugg. The goat project is also showing steady growth, he noted.

In recent years, 4-H has put forth a diligent effort to expand its audience into the urban areas of the state.

“It’s hard,” Rugg acknowledges. “We have to compete with a longer list of school activities for kids,” he said.

The 4-H program is the largest youth group in Minnesota as it reaches out to 90,000 kids every year, Rugg said. It is available in every county expect Cook in the far northern part of the state.

Asked about the state of the 4-H program, Rugg said, “It’s in great hands. Fairs and animal science are a critical fabric of 4-H in Minnesota.”

Rugg said the 4-H program is more than showing projects and winning ribbons at the fair. “If we manage it right and remember we’re about kids, we have wonderful opportunities for kids to gain life skills,” he said, adding some of those skills are decision making, critical thinking, communication and animal husbandry.

“We should be teaching the life skills first before the competition,” Rugg said. He added that 4-H aims to “build good character in kids.”

Though he is in charge of 4-H on a statewide level, Rugg holds a special spot in his heart for Steele County. He was the 4-H program coordinator for Steele in 1989 for two years before taking the state job. Even prior to that, he served as a 4-H sum-

mer assistant in Steele County in 1973. He has lived in Owatonna for the past 26 years and drives to St. Paul every day for his work.

“Steele is one of the strongest livestock counties in the state,” Rugg said. “Steele County has a tremendous reputation of supporting its kids,” he added.

On the state level, Steele is looked at as one of the model counties for 4-H, Rugg said. Steele County is one of the only counties in the state to have two 4-H program coordinators.

On a personal basis, 4-H has been with Rugg his entire life and helped him with his career paths both in and out of 4-H.

“It’s near and dear to my heart,” he said. “It’s what gave me my leadership skills.”

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State Fair

Minnesota State Fair’s “2015 Best Awards”

Minnesota State Fair presented awards to the very best of the State Fair’s 1,100 commercial exhibits, attractions and food vendors in the Great Minnesota Get-Together’s 2015 Best Awards. In a ceremony held on the International Bazaar Stage, State Fair General Manager Jerry Hammer presented the following awards:

Best Product or Service: JM Kremp’s Boys Adventure Store (located in the Grandstand, upper level, east section)

Best Food or Beverage: San Felipe Tacos (located in the Food Building, east wall)

Best Attraction: Bonanza Shooting Gallery (located on the east side of Cooper St. between Lee & Randall avenues, at The North Woods)

Best Value: Midway Men’s Club (located on the east side of Underwood St. between Wright & Dan Patch avenues, next to Visitors Plaza)

Best Customer Service: Corn Roast (located on the southeast corner of Dan Patch Ave. & Nelson St.)

Best Midway Ride: Rock It (State Fair Services, owner/operator)

Best Midway Game: Drag-A-Fish (Candice Anderson, owner/operator)

Best Kidway Ride: Monkey Maze (Alamo Amusement, owner/operator)

State Fair superintendents and other State Fair organizers nominated exhibitors, vendors or concessionaires for the “2015 Best Awards.” A committee then reviewed nominations and selected winners in the eight categories.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world, attracting 1.8 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 days of fun, ending on Labor Day. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information. The 2015 Minnesota State Fair ran Aug. 27 - Labor Day, Sept. 7.

All tuckered out at the fair



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Showing and taking care of animals at the Minnesota State Fair can be an exhausting experience as Courtney Kath, 13, left, and Arica Kath, 14, found out. The sisters caught a little shut eye in between showing as they laid in the straw next to their animals. The Kath’s showed dairy cows at state after winning trips at the county fair. They are members of the Meriden Meadowlarks 4-H Club.

Leasing allows non-farm kids to show animals



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Maggie Brun’s, 12, of the Merry Lane 4-H Club, leased a cow this year and won a trip to the Minnesota State Fair where she earned a purple ribbon and eighth place in showmanship. She is the daughter of John and Lisa Brun’s, of Blooming Prairie.

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

Maggie Brun’s may not own any animals, but she has found a way to show them any way in competition through the 4-H program.

The Blooming Prairie area youngster joins a growing number of 4-H members who “lease” animals for their project without actually owning them. Brun’s competed for the first time at the Minnesota State Fair after winning a trip during the Steele County Fair last month.

Brun’s walked away with a purple ribbon with her fall senior yearling Jersey cow, who she named Jinger, and finished eighth place in showmanship at the state fair. She leased the cow from the Demmer Farms of Ellendale.

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for them,” Brun’s said just after showing at the state fair. “I’m just really thankful the Demmers let me lease from them,” she added.

Brun’s recalls getting interested in cows at a young age thanks

to Amy Demmer, a family friend and teaching colleague with her mother. “Amy introduced us to cows as little kids and we’ve always liked them,” said Brun’s, who is a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club.

Even though Brun’s doesn’t own her cow, she still takes responsibility for taking care of it and getting it ready for the fairs. Throughout the summer she went to the Demmer farm at least once a week to work with her cow.

“You have to put in a lot of time or else your cow won’t cooperate or trust you,” Brun’s said. “Sometimes she doesn’t cooperate, but I forgive her and continue to try to make her happy,” she added.

Appearance is important in showing cows, according to Brun’s. She feeds her cow a special feed called Beet Pulp, which she said, “makes them look better in many different ways.”

The hard work seemed to pay off and has allowed Brun’s to grow quite attached to Jinger. “She trusts me and I trust her,” Brun’s said in explaining their

special bond.

Brun’s, who has been in 4-H for five years, is continuing a longstanding family tradition with four generations of her mother’s family having been involved in 4-H.

With 4-H focused on community service, among other things, Brun’s has found 4-H to be a great way to help out the community. “I like to help people and I’ve met a lot of good people (through 4-H),” she said.

Brun’s already has her sights set on winning another state fair trip next year.

Asked what was most memorable about state fair, Brun’s replied: “All the friends I met.” She stayed in a dorm at Bailey Hall on the University of Minnesota campus located next to the fairgrounds, allowing her to bond with kids from other parts of the state.

“It’s been a really good experience,” she added.

Smiles abound in show ring as animal auctioned off

Top animal earns \$22K at state

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

Some 4-H livestock exhibitors at the Minnesota State Fair came away with huge smiles after their animals were sold for big bucks.

Jenna Zeman of Owatonna won a prestigious purple ribbon with her market barrow, earning it placement into the 4-H Livestock Auction Aug. 29 at the state fairgrounds. Only purple ribbon animals are allowed into the auction. Zeman walked away with \$4,500 for her market barrow.

“This is the best out of the best in the state, so it’s always nice to be a part of that,” said Zeman, a member of Steele County’s Meriden Meadowlarks 4-H. “This is the highest achievement for livestock.”

Zeman’s auction earnings were a far cry from the \$11,000 garnered by the champion gilt and \$22,000 champion beef cow, but she’s not complaining one bit.

In all, the auction generated more than \$590,000 with 20 percent of the proceeds withheld for the 4-H program and the rest going directly to the 4-H members. The auction eclipsed the \$5 million mark this year after being in existence for 36 years, according to Brad Rugg, state 4-H superintendent.

While Rugg is pleased with the auction’s outcome and the money generated for the state 4-H program, he thinks the time has come where the prices may be getting a little out of hand. “We need to find a balance,” Rugg said. “We don’t want to encourage something that isn’t real world agriculture.”

Rugg said there is a 4-H livestock auction committee closely monitoring the situation. One idea being kicked around is placing limits on how much a single animal can be purchased for, he said.

For now, 4-H’ers like Zeman will continue to sell their prized winning animals for whatever auction supporters are willing to pay. This year was Zeman’s second time in the auction. The last time she sold an animal was 2012.

“It’s really hard to get into,” she said. “There is great competition up here.”

Zeman looks at the auction as a great opportunity for 4-H members to show off what they’ve worked so hard on throughout the summer.

In Zeman’s case, she worked with her barrow every day during the summer months. “Sometimes I worked with him twice a day,” she said. “You get kind of attached to them after working with them all summer,” she added.

Besides her state earnings, Zeman also received \$1,800 for her barrow at the auction held during the Steele County Fair in August. In contrast, a single hog would bring about \$200 through the open market. As for her earnings, Zeman has already made plans.

“It will go to my college fund,” she said. “It’s always nice to receive the money. I appreciate it.”



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Jenna Zeman, 15, of Owatonna was all smiles at the Minnesota State Fair when her market barrow earned \$4,500 in the 4-H Livestock Auction. This was Zeman’s second time of qualifying for the auction, which only allows purple ribbon animals to be sold. She is a member of the Meriden Meadowlarks 4-H Club.

THE HIGHLIGHT



REEL

James Knoop

The Hoppe Speech

Sometimes you lose, and sometimes the score isn't even close.

The young team

It was my sophomore year of high school, and my basketball team was at the final tournament of the year in St. Cloud. It was the second game of the six-team tournament and the winner went to the championship game. Our opponent was Valley Christian, a team we had defeated the year previous to win the championship. My brother had hit a half-court shot at the buzzer to win the game (more on that later).

This year would be much different. We had lost four starting seniors, and we were left with two juniors, three sophomores, two freshman and a few eighth-graders. Valley Christian had only lost one player.

I don't remember what the score was as halftime approached, but it wasn't pretty. I'm sure we were down by at least 30. Yet, if you'd looked at the faces of the two teams, you may have guessed we were winning.

You see, while every team has its own reputation, Redstorm's (my team) was never giving up - literally. Sometimes people looked at that quality and applauded. Sometimes it just made them mad.

The ugly play

In this particular case it was the latter.

Down 30 with less than a minute left in the first half, we were still in a full-court press. After all, why not go into halftime only down by 28?

As the seconds ticked off the clock, Kirby (the same one from my baseball story last week) forced a bad pass from our opponent, sending the ball speeding towards out of bounds. A fellow Valley Christian player leapt out of bounds, retrieved the ball while still in the air and hurled the ball at the upper-body of my teammate, Isaiah Hoppe.

The ball trickled out of bounds and the crowd booed. Technically, it was a legal play, but just about everyone knew he'd been targeted for more than a possession. Valley Christian was livid that they had to continue beating a full-court press when up by so much. Their game was getting sloppy, they were yelling at each other, fouling more and this was the icing on the cake.

I remember pointing towards the action and looking at a ref for a penalty, but I knew it was legal. We gathered around Isaiah, and I think most of us were thinking of ways to retaliate.

However, before any plans could come to fruition, the halftime buzzer sounded, and we made our way to the locker room.

The speech

I'm not entirely proud of my attitude walking into the locker room. There was a mix of disgust with the other team, a pride

Owatonna
Northfield
34
23
Page 2D



Blooming Prairie
JWP
39
23
Page 4D



NRHEG
GFW
41
6
Page 5D



Medford
Bethlehem Academy
13
18
Page 6D



OWATONNA

There and back again

A Huskies tale



Submitted photo

Assistant football coach Matt Skala stands was named to the 2015 Owatonna High School Athletics Hall of Fame. He was a 1999 graduate and lettered in football, basketball and baseball.

Former athlete returns to coach: named to hall of fame

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Huskies 34-23 win over Northfield on Friday was made even a little sweeter for fans with the induction of five former athletes into the Owatonna High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

Among the inductees were former Huskies Coach Ed Draheim, 1982 graduate Jody Neuleib-Young, 1986 graduate Scott Kostelecky, 2000 graduate Mike Lundstrom and 1999 graduate and current Running Backs Coach Matt Skala.

'He's one of the very finest players who's ever played here.'

— Jeff Williams, Owatonna football coach

Skala made quite a name for himself as a student at Owatonna and not just in football. Skala lettered nine times between football, baseball and basketball, was named All-State in football and baseball and led the Huskies to the Prep Bowl finals his senior year.

"He's one of the very finest players who's ever played here," said football Coach Jeff Williams. "He was just a stallion, a great team leader and an awful lot of the reason we went to the Prep Bowl finals in 1998."

Just as Skala left a lasting impact on Owatonna, the high

HALL OF FAME
Continued on Page 3D

NRHEG

Panthers bounce back with 41-6 win over GFW

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

After losing last week to a tough Waterville-Elysian-Morristown team, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Panthers fought hard in Friday's game with a fierce determination that left their opponents trailing in their dust.

That night, the Panthers hosted a home game against the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop (GFW) T-Birds. The Panthers brought their best effort to the field, managing to score 21

points in the first quarter alone, after running only 12 plays.

"They loaded the box like crazy and they're still able to run the ball effectively," said NRHEG head coach Dan Stork. "That's very impressive."

The Panthers first earned a touch down at the 8:43 mark. Junior Jason Jongbloedt ran for one yard to earn the points, and the PAT by junior Sam Prigge was good.

The second touchdown came

NRHEG

Continued on Page 5D



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Senior Lucas Herrmann (76) prepares for the next play. Beside him on the left is junior Jack Schultz (60) and, on the right, is senior Palmer Peterson (7.)



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Owatonna



Staff photos by James Knoop

Owatonna’s Sam Hylle surveys the Northfield defense as he makes his way down the field. Hylle ran for 168 yards against Northfield and scored two touchdowns.

Huskies pound the ground against Northfield; win third straight

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Running it and running it and running it. That was the game plan for the Owatonna Huskies Friday night, according to Coach Jeff Williams.

The Huskies executed nearly flawlessly in the first half, jumping to a 27-3 lead over Northfield, more than even to carry them to a 34-23 victory in their second home game.

“I wouldn’t say that we caught them off guard in the first half, but the first time kids see our power running game, it’s very difficult to defend,” said Williams.

That run-powered scheme paved the way for two first-quarter touchdowns from senior Sam Hylle, including a 53-yard dash on the Huskies first drive.

“That’s unusual,” said Williams of the long touchdown. “We haven’t talked much about Hylle being a homerun hitter, but he’s a workhorse, and it’s good to see him get into the secondary and run around.”

Williams praised Hylle for grinding it out in the running back position all game, even after spending most of the game on defense as well.

“I’m really proud of the kid,” said Williams.

The 24-point lead at halftime was also aided by a one-yard run

from senior quarterback Alex Emanuelson and a 94-yard kick-off return touchdown from up-and-comer Bryce Goodwin.

“Goody,” as Williams calls the junior, is the fastest player on the Owatonna team.

“He got a really good block from Brett Solie, but once he broke into the clear, there was nobody that was going to catch him. He’s a fast kid, and a kid that we’re going to have to start working into the rotation. I think he’s earned that right.”

The second half proved much more productive for Northfield, as the Raiders went on a 13-0 run in the third quarter, bringing the score to a much more manageable 27-16.

“They were much more patient in the second half — throwing the ball into underneath routes trying to move the chains,” said Williams.

Despite the switch in momentum throughout the third quarter, Williams was proud of the way his defense played, calling them “stout” against the Raiders, especially when it came to a couple of mismatches. The most difficult of these was perhaps wide-receiver Luke Harris.

“We don’t have a guy to match up for [Harris],” said Williams.

Harris is listed at 6-9 on the roster, and stood eight inches taller than anyone defending him Friday night.

‘The first time kids see our power running game, it’s very difficult to defend.’

— Jeff Williams, Owatonna football coach

The Raiders two scores in the third quarter may have stung a little deeper had Northfield been able to connect on a couple deep passes in the first half that just slipped past receivers’ fingers.

Still, Northfield’s come-from-behind win last week against Mankato East was sure to make some fans a little uneasy as the Raiders pulled within two touchdowns.

Yet, Owatonna stuck to its game plan, grinding its way down the field.

“We chose to remain pretty conservative in the second half,” said Williams. “It wasn’t pretty, but we didn’t want to jeopardize our lead with a potential big play the other way. So, if it was an ugly game the second half, and we didn’t generate much offense, that’s on me. I don’t apologize for it.”

The conservative offense, only managed seven points in the second half, but the squad did manage to tear away at the

clock on each drive. The touchdown came from the arm of Emanuelson, whose 20-yard passing touchdown proved to be more than a third of his total for the night. He finished 5-12 for 51 yards.

William’s admitted that had the game been a one or two-touchdown game throughout, Emanuelson would have received the call for some more passing plays.

“There are some things I think we could do with their secondary that we just chose not to do with a three or four score lead.”

With the score 34-16 after Emanuelson’s pass, the Raiders managed one more touchdown off a 35-yard run with five minutes left, but the team’s desperate onside kicks and deep throws would be to no avail as the Huskies held on for a 34-23 win.

The win is the Huskies third in a row, after a disappointing loss to Mankato West to begin the season. Owatonna will now go back on the road for two weeks,

facing Austin, followed by a section game against Rochester Mayo.

“We’ve got to be road warriors and find a way to get some things done,” said Williams.

Owatonna	34
Northfield	23

Friday, Sept. 11 at Owatonna

	1	2	3	4
OWA	14	13	0	7
NTF	7	7	0	7

Scoring
First quarter

OWA—Sam Hylle 53-yard run (Aidan Buryska kick is good), 10:26.

OWA—Hylle 7-yard run (Buryska kick is good), 3:24.

Second quarter
NTF— Isaac Stadler 23-yard field goal, 8:46.

OWA— Bryce Goodwin 94-yard kickoff return (Buryska kick is good), 8:37.

OWA— Alex Emanuelson

1-yard run (Buryska kick is no good), 6:44.

Third quarter

NTF— John Vitito 1-yard run (Two-point conversion is no good), 6:41.

NTF— Luke Harris 30-yard pass to Trevor Lyon (Stadler kick is good), 0:06.

Fourth quarter

OWA— Emanuelson 20-yard pass to Dalton Kubista (Buryska kick is good), 9:15.

NTF— Brandon Foster 35-yard run (Stadler kick is good), 5:32.

Statistics
TEAM *Total yards:* OWA 318, NTF 289. *Rushing:* OWA 267, RJM 111. *Passing:* OWA 5-12-51, RJM 13-31-178.

INDIVIDUALS
Owatonna
Rushing: Hylle 27-168-2, Wiese 12-66 Emanuelson 11-33-1
Passing: Emanuelson 5-12-51-1
Receiving: Borchert 1-7, Wiese 2-16, Hylle 1-28, Kubista 1-20-1.



The Owatonna defense lines up against Northfield in the fourth quarter.



Offensive lineman Ryan Bos chases Northfield’s Tanner Ernst.

Owatonna

HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page 1D

school left one on him as well. “All of the programs I participated in meant the world to me,” said Skala. “You grow up and get excited to play with friends. You have dreams and goals. You want to be the best you can, so you train hard. It just means a lot to represent the blue and silver and give it your all.” With the lessons he’d learned, Skala graduated from Owatonna headed to the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire to become a police officer. That plan, however, never came to fruition, and

‘My name goes on a plaque, but so many people are attached to this honor... There is no way I could be here without that love and support.’

— Daniel Callahan, an interesting fellow

with college sports behind him, Skala decided to begin coaching. After a short time at Eau Claire Regis High School, Skala

found himself back home in Owatonna teaching special education and intermediate algebra at the high school and coaching football and baseball. “It’s special,” said Skala of the return. “All three of my [high school] head coaches either coach with me or are still friends. I never guessed that my coaches would have been my best friends. It means a lot.” Williams agreed, adding, “It’s kind of fun, because we had a guy who went into the hall of fame who I coached with and two kids who I coached. Matt being on our staff is just a really neat deal — to go from being our captain and leading rusher to being the running back’s coach. It’s just neat having that coach-player relationship evolve into a friendship.” Skala added that it’s wonderful to be back in the town where he has many family roots. “I’m not taking anything for granted, and I’m representing Owatonna the best I can.” Now as the running backs coach, Skala continues to pass

on the things that were taught to him. “There’s a lot of lessons,” said Skala. “Football is one of those sports that’s grueling. It’s a lot of hard work and very physical. There’s a lot of great moments and a lot of moments you ask, ‘What am I doing? Why is this happening to me?’ The thing I love about football is that there is a new play every 20-25 seconds. If something bad happens, erase what happened. Treat every next play as your best.” With records on the school walls and a collegiate career behind him, Skala knows just how quickly these games and memories come and pass for his athletes. “Enjoy this time,” said Skala. “Athletic careers are short. Take advantage of it and have fun.” Skala was reminded of just how fast those days pass by as he stepped onto the field to be honored as one of the newest members of the Owatonna High School Athletics Hall of Fame. “I’m humbled,” said Skala. “You see the list of people in the hall of fame, and a lot of those guys or gals you grew up watching or read about or played with. I’m completely humbled to be part of the process. My name goes on a plaque, but so many people are attached this honor - my parents and coaches. There is no way I could be here without that love and support.”



Five former athletes and coaches were inducted into the Owatonna High School Athletics Hall of Fame. Left to right: Scott Kostelecky, Ed Draheim, Mike Lundstrom, Jody Neuleib-Young and Matt Skala.

Hall-of-fame inductee Matt Skala stands with his wife Kristin and four children. Skala holds Brinley and Camryn and pictured below left to right are Kelsey and Megan.



Jaden Dowhaniuk (right) hears a few words from his coach Friday night.



Northfield's receiver comes down with a one-handed catch late in the fourth quarter as Owatonna defenders prepare to bring him to the ground.



Owatonna's Darik Elstad punts late in the fourth quarter against Northfield.



The Owatonna cheerleaders created a tunnel for the victorious Huskies after their 34-23 win.

Blooming Prairie



Staff photos by James Knoop

Blooming Prairie's Anthony Nelson (left) chases down a JWP running back Friday night.

Blossoms leash Bulldogs: advance to 3-1

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Led by Anthony Nelson's dominating performance, the Awesome Blossom football team defeated JWP 39-23 at Janesville Friday, Sept. 11.

'The best thing about this game is that the players didn't hang their heads after the early mistake, but came back to dominate the game.'

— Chad Gimbel, Blooming Prairie head coach

The score could have been much worse, except for four fumbles by the Blossoms, all of which were recovered by the Bulldogs.

The first of the fumbles led to an early touchdown for the home team on a seven-play drive. Tony Gannon ran the end for the final 19 yards and a 7-0 lead with 9:11 left in the quarter. BP fumbled again on the next possession, but the defense

held this time, and the locals tied the score at seven on a 10-play drive. A Nelson run of 19 yards took the ball to the one, and he got into the end zone on the next play. An Ethan Strunk tied the score at the 3:07 point.

After the Bulldog touchdown

“Nelson just had one of those games it is hard to forget,” remarked Coach Chad Gimbel following the game. And as good an offensive game it was for him, he shone on defense as well, making 19 tackles in the contest.”

The teams took turns taking penalties in the third quarter, and the locals also coughed up the ball on their fourth fumble of the night. In the final quarter Noble scored from 10 yards out to up the score to 26-7 at the 11:09 mark. He passed to Max Romeo for 25 yards and another touchdown, and reserve quarterback Seth Peterson ran 10 yards for the final score.

"The best thing about this game", concluded Coach Gimbel, "is that the players didn't hang their heads after the early mistake, but came back to dominate the game. The seniors really stepped up, and the defense stayed strong until those last meaningless touchdowns the reserves surrendered."

Sam Eustice ran the end for 62 yards and a touchdown, with less than three minutes left, and



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Blooming Prairie's quarterback, Lucas Noble, celebrates after an 80-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Nelson.

and Riley Clark broke through the middle for 35 yards for another score. The two-point conversions succeeded after each of the touchdowns. Except for those runs, the Blossom defense proved almost unbeatable. Besides the 19 tackles for Nelson, Wyatt Grundmeier had 15 tackles, and Riley Olson added 11.

Blooming Prairie 39

JWP	23	Statistics
<i>Friday, Sept. 11</i>		INDIVIDUALS
<i>at Janesville</i>		<i>Rushing:</i> Nelson 104, Romeo 55, Noble 47. <i>Passing:</i> Noble 101, Eischens 51, Romeo 31.
	1 2 3 4	
BP	7 13 0 19	
JWP	7 0 0 16	



Jon Hatch paves through JWP defenders during Friday's game in Janesville.



Lucas Noble passes to Anthony Nelson in the second quarter against JWP. The pass was completed for an 80-yard touchdown.

JV loses to Cyclones

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Cyclones broke a scoreless game open in the second quarter on the way to a 32-0 victory over the Blossom JV team at St. Clair Tuesday, Sept. 8. It dropped the locals to 1-2 for the season, with the next game last night against JWP on the home field.

Defenses dominated the first quarter, as the blossoms could not get untracked. Of course, six turnovers in the half, four in

the first quarter, did not be conducive to a lot of conversation. St. Clair took advantage of one of the turnovers to score, and they counted another touchdown and two-point conversion for a 16-0 lead at the half.

The second half mimicked the first half, and St. Clair finished the game with a 32-0 shutout. BP had a couple of good chances to score in the second half, but the boys just couldn't take advantage of it. The Cyclone linebackers and defensive backs turned away

the few opportunities presented to the Blossoms.

"Overall, I thought the boys played with a lot of heart and competed hard," remarked Coach Nathan Piller. "However, the many turnovers really hurt any chances we had to score touchdowns. I did think we lost some focus in the second half, and the team can't do that against tough opponents. Our execution faltered in spots tonight, also."



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NRHEG



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

The Panthers return to the field after a timeout. Front and center is senior RB Trey Hoppe (44.)

NRHEG

Continued from Page 1D

came later in the first quarter, following sophomore Perry Peterson’s 30-yard run and another successful PAT by Prigge.

NRHEG just couldn’t be stopped. Jongbloedt then ran for 24 yards, securing the third touchdown of the evening. With Prigge’s good PAT, the score was now 21-0, in favor of the home team.

In the second quarter, more points came in for the Panthers. Senior Palmer Peterson had a complete pass to senior John Cole for five yards, earning yet another NRHEG touchdown. Prigge’s PAT was good once again.

Now down 28-0, the GFW team was battling to get some points on the board. Yet, the next touchdown belonged to the Panthers. With 9:42 left in the third quarter, Palmer Peterson sent another complete pass to Cole, this time for 32 yards. Prigge’s PAT was good.

Much to the visitors’ relief, the T-Birds finally earned a touchdown in the tail end of the third quarter. With just 50 seconds left on the clock, senior Gustavo Muñoz sent a complete pass to senior Jacob Woods for 24 yards for the touchdown. The subsequent two-point conversion run by Muñoz, however, was no good.

In the fourth quarter, both teams held one another score-

less – until the last two minutes of the game. NRHEG freshman Lucas Bailey ran for 41 yards, and earned the touchdown that would raise the Panthers’ total score to 41 points. Prigge’s PAT was no good.

By the game’s end, the Panthers secured the victory 41-6, dealing the T-Birds another loss. NRHEG is now 3-1 overall.

Coach Stork said he saw a lot of nice effort during Friday’s game. “Palmer Peterson threw some beautiful balls tonight,” said Stork, after the game. That night, Peterson completed seven of 10 pass attempts, with an average of more than 24 yards per pass.

Another Panther who excelled on the field was John Cole. “Johnny Cole is proving to be one of the better receivers around, that’s for sure. (He had) some nice catches.”

Jason Jongbloedt and Perry Peterson, said Stork, also ran the field well and kept the team going, even when the team ran into a few challenges.

Stork was also satisfied by the teamwork he saw from his linemen. “I thought, at times, our linebackers played very well tonight,” said Stork. “Zeke Erickson and Jack Schultz, Wyatt Fitterer, Alex Buckmeier and Lucas Herrmann, coming in playing center... those guys played outstanding tonight. My front five

were on both sides of the ball.”

Another player that’s impressed Coach Stork lately is junior Chad Agrimson. “Chad Agrimson did an outstanding job at tight end and defensive end. He really is playing well and I’m really, really pleased with him,” Stork said.

Despite the great strides the team has made, Coach admits that the team also has plenty of room for improvement. “You know, we got conservative in the second half,” Stork reflected. “We were up 28 and they got a touchdown right away to go up 35 they were loading the box. Man, it’s hard to run against that team; you’re out-numbered. So we kind of tried to grind it out, and were still able to get some yards. That was impressive.”

Stork also adds that he wasn’t completely satisfied with the team’s performance. “I was a little disappointed that we had too many penalties tonight, and they put the ball on the ground a couple too many times.” These mistakes, Coach Stork said, need to be remedied soon.

Next Friday, Sept. 18, NRHEG will travel to Arlington for a match-up against the 3AAA Sibley East Wolverines. Game time is 7 p.m. at Sibley East High School. “They just try to power you down the field, so we’re going to have to come up with some big run stops there,”



NRHEG junior Chad Agrimson pushes toward the end-zone early in the first quarter, with GFW’s junior Mitchell Schroeder (12) at his feet.

said Stork, of the Sibley East. “They like to pound the ball.”

In the coming week, Stork says that the team will work hard to correct some of the problems that showed themselves during the game against the T-Birds.

They’ll focus on their reads and hope to play some sound defense next week. “And, hopefully, we can run the ball and throw the ball effectively, both like we did tonight, and come away with another win,” said Coach Stork.

NRHEG	41			
GFW	6			
	1	2	3	4
NRHEG	21	7	7	6
GFW	0	0	6	0



NRHEG senior WR John Cole (4) and GFW senior Jacob Woods (11) go head to head in the first quarter.



The NRHEG cheerleaders cheer on the Panthers during Friday’s home game against the T-Birds.

Medford

Loss overshadows major steps by Tigers

Medford loses nail-biter at home to Bethlehem Academy; drops to 0-4

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The Medford Tigers may have lost their fourth straight game of the season, but the 18-13 defeat to Bethlehem Academy may well be the brightest spot of the 2015 season.

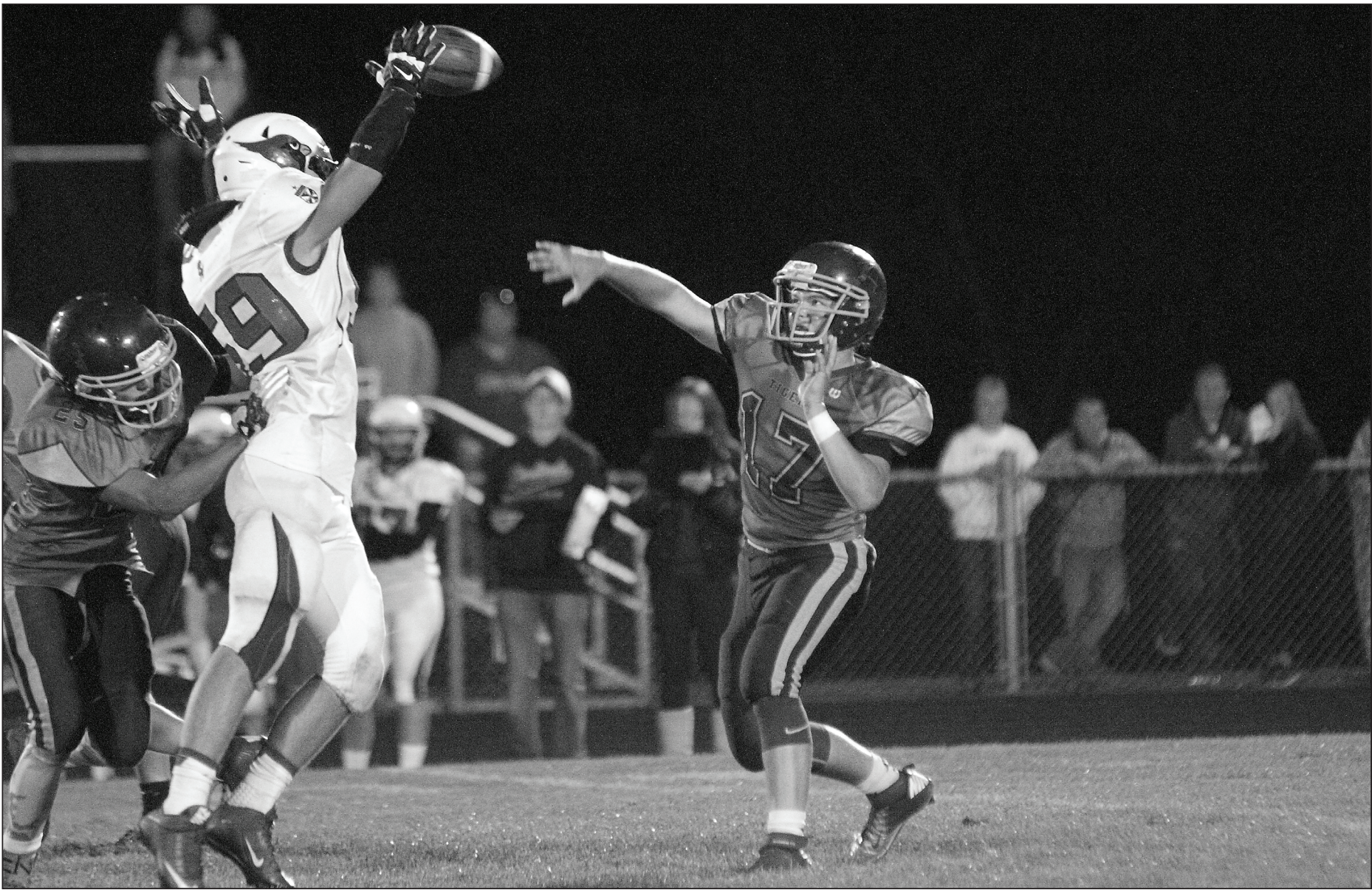
Beginning the year 0-3, the Tigers entered Friday night's game having allowed 143 points to opponents, an average of over 47 points a game. Against the Cardinals, Medford allowed only 18 points.

While this may be good news for the Tigers moving forward, the Cardinal's final six points, scored on a 20-yard touchdown pass in the closing seconds of the game was a dagger to Medford's heart in the moment.

Still, the stout defense is something that could certainly give the Tigers confidence moving forward. If the team can put together more offense while playing that kind of defensive game, Medford could find that first win sooner than later.

The first chance for that elusive victory will come this Friday night, Sept. 18, at Kenyon-Wanamingo High School. The Knights are 3-1 this season, having also played a close match with Bethlehem Academy, topping the Cardinals 17-4.

That game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.



Sophomore Javis VonRuden attempts a pass during Friday night's game against Bethlehem Academy. The Tigers lost in the final seconds as the Cardinals scored a touchdown to win 18-13. The loss dropped the Tigers to 0-4 this season.

Staff photo by James Knoop



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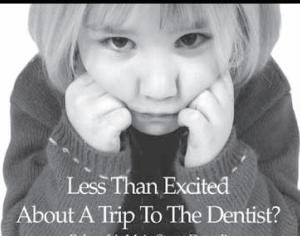


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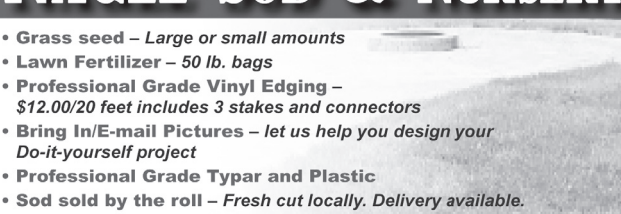
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Football weekend forecast

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Steele County teams nearly went undefeated in week four of the 2015 football season, with the Medford Tigers falling to Bethlehem Academy in the closing seconds of Friday’s game. Blooming Prairie, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Owatonna all soared to 3-1, while Medford fell to 0-4.

NRHEG bounced back from last week’s loss with a decisive 41-6 victory over Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop. The win keeps NRHEG undefeated at home, but the team will travel this week, heading to Sibley East to take on the Wolverines. Sibley East has won a single game this year, also a lopsided victory over GFW.

Owatonna also stayed undefeated at home, winning its third-straight game of the season. The 34-23 victory over Northfield boosted the Huskies to 3-1 with two road games ahead against Austin and Rochester Mayo. Austin currently stands winless at 0-4.

Blooming Prairie built on last week’s victory with its first road win, a 39-23 victory at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. The Blossoms return home this week to take on fellow 3-1 Mankato Loyola.

Medford remains winless afte a devastating 18-13 loss against Bethlehem Academy. Despite the loss, the Tigers displayed an impressive defense in the matchup. Medford will be back on the road this week facing off against 3-1 Kenyon-Wanamingo.

Mid Southeast-West

	Div.	Overall
Blooming Prairie	2-1-0	3-1-0
United South Central	2-1-0	3-1-0
Bethlehem Academy	2-1-0	3-1-0
Mankato Loyola	2-1-0	3-1-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	2-1-0	3-1-0
JWP	1-2-0	1-3-0
St. Clair	0-3-0	0-4-0
Medford	0-3-0	0-4-0

South Central-Blue

	Div.	Overall
Maple River	3-0-0	4-0-0
Waterville-E-M	3-0-0	4-0-0
NRHEG	3-1-0	3-1-0
Mayer Lutheran	3-1-0	3-1-0
LeSueur-Henderson	1-2-0	1-3-0
Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity	1-2-0	1-3-0
Sibley East	1-2-0	1-3-0
Norwood Young America	1-2-0	1-3-0
Lake Crystal-Wellcome	0-3-0	0-4-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	0-3-0	0-4-0

Sig Southeast-Red

	Div.	Overall
Rochester Mayo	2-0-0	4-0-0
Owatonna	2-0-0	3-1-0
Rochester John Marshall	1-1-0	2-2-0
Northfield	1-1-0	2-2-0
Rochester Century	0-2-0	0-4-0
New Prague	0-2-0	0-4-0

Football State Rankings

Class 1A
1. Minneota
2. Minneapolis North
3. Braham
4. Mahanomen
5. Upsala/Swanville
6. Browerville
7. Deer River
8. Pine River-Backus
9. Dawson-Boyd
10. Fillmore Central

Blass 2A
1. Caledonia
2. Pipestone Area
3. Moose Lake-Willow River
4. Eden Valley-Watkins
5. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
6. Lewiston-Altura
7. Breckenridge
8. Ottertail Central
9. Maple River
10. Redwood Valley

Class 5A
1. Mankato West
2. Spring Lake Park
3. Elk River
4. St. Thomas Acadmey
5. Moorhead
6. Robbinsdale Cooper
7. St. Francis
8. Rochester Mayo
9. St. Paul Central
10. St. Louis Park

Source: mnfootballhub.com
Rankings as of Sept. 10.

Steele County Football Schedule

Blooming Prairie

Aug. 22... at Mankato East L 19-52
Aug. 28... vs. Maple River L 15-54
Sept. 4...vs. St. Clair W 24-3
Sept. 11... at JWP W 39-23
Sept. 18... at Mankato Loyola
Sept. 25...at Medford
Oct. 2.... vs. United South Central
Oct. 8.... at Kenyon-Wanamingo

Medford

Aug. 22... vs. Lewiston-Altura L 61-7
Aug. 28... vs. JWP L 41-28
Sept. 4...at Mankato Loyola L 41-14
Sept. 11... vs. Bethlehem Academy L 18-13
Sept. 18... at Kenyon Wanamingo
Sept. 25...vs. Blooming Prairie
Oct. 2.... at St. Clair
Oct. 8.... at United South Central

NRHEG

Aug. 22... at Mayer Lutheran W 14-7
Aug. 28... vs. Lester Prairie W 34-6
Sept. 4... at WEM L 13-7
Sept. 11... vs. G-F-W W 41-6
Sept. 18... at Sibley East
Sept. 25... vs. LeSueur-Henderson
Oct. 2.... at Lake Crystal-WM

Owatonna

Aug. 22... at Mankato West L 28-6
Aug. 28... at Rochester JM W 27-21
Sept. 4... vs. Faribault W 55-0
Sept. 11... vs. Northfield W 34-23
Sept. 18... at Austin
Sept. 25... at Rochester Mayo
Oct. 2.... vs. New Prague
Oct. 8.... vs. Rochester Century



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie’s Jon Hatch (left) and Wyatt Grundmeier attempt to take down a JWP running back.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Nate Meixner attempts to prevent an interception against Bethlehem Academy.



Staff photo by James Knoop
The Medford offense lines up for a play in the second half against the Cardinals.



Staff photo by James Knoop
The Owatonna defense attempts to tackle Northfield’s Luke Harris. Owatonna players include Chandler Buckhalter (67), Brandon Moen (29), Sam Hylle (12) and Ben Staska (51).



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Seniors John Cole (4) and Palmer Peterson (7) go up for the catch, with GFW’s senior Jacob Woods (11) close by.

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

Continued from Page 1D

that we were getting into their heads and a subtle thought of revenge. I usually only had about one penalty going into halftime, so I could use my next four creatively.

My thoughts were interrupted by my assistant coach, Bill Hoppe, speaking to the team.

Bill had been the assistant coach with this team for about 10 years. He’d seen five head coaches come and go in that time, but never wanted to be anything more than an assistant coach.

Our head coach, Aaron Morehart, wasn’t much for halftime speeches yet (more on that later), and I’m so glad he let Bill speak in that moment.

“This is when people see who you really are,” said Bill. “Look at your jerseys,” he said. “What do they say?”

The answer was “Cloverdale Christian.”

“This is your chance to show people what ‘Christian’ means on the basketball court. How do you play when you are losing by 30? How do you respond when the other team plays dirty? I don’t care what the score says or if we lose this game. This is the most important part of the game of basketball. How do you respond to adversity?”

This is, of course, a paraphrase. At the time, I was planning on being a world traveler, not a journalist, so I didn’t ex-

actly record the speech or take notes.

The lesson

We still lost the basketball that day by a lot of points. But that game probably remains in my top five sports moments that I have been a part of, because for the first time, even though I’d heard it a thousand times before, I finalized realized that sports are a reflection of who we are as people. It’s an opportunity to show people something you have that they might be missing. That’s why sports are so important. If you lose your temper and quit in the face of adversity, you will do the same in life. But if you give it your all, while repre-

senting well the things that matter to you the most, not only will you do that in your life as well, but people around you will notice. You really never know who is watching you, waiting to see how you respond to the worst life can hurl at you.

Coach Hoppe knew that.

I don’t know if Bill wanted to make sure that each and every one of the hot-tempered high-schoolers in that locker room learned a life lesson that day, or if he just wanted to get us through the game without any technical fouls. Whatever the motive, I’ve never forgotten the “Hoppe Speech.”

I don’t think I ever will.

Steele County Times 2015 Football Contest

Football Contest Rules

Contest: There will be 30 games each week during the contest, which begins on Sept. 2 and runs for 12 weeks.

How to Win: Pick the team you think will win in each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter Steele County Times, 411 E. Main St., P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN, 55917. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

What you Win: The Times will award \$10 Blooming Prairie or Owatonna Chamber Bucks to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a Chanhassen Dinner Theatre ticket. An additional \$10 BP or Owatonna Chamber Bucks will be awarded if the winner correctly predicts the outcome of all 30 games. Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie-Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 15 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc.

This weeks winner is David Grunklee. He had 5 wrong.

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*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *