



STEELE COUNTY Times



\$1 Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

Blooming Prairie FFA gears up for 13th annual Toy Show

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The Steele County Times has compiled a series of stories about local FFA chapters, in recognition of National FFA Week.

Read more about Blooming Prairie, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Medford and Owatonna FFA chapters inside this week's C and D sections.

Blooming Prairie FFA members and community members alike are looking forward to the 13th annual Blooming Prairie FFA Toy Show, and the event is just around the corner.

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blooming Prairie High School (202 4th Ave. NW Blooming Prairie.) Admission will be \$2, and guests age 10 and under can attend for free. Proceeds will benefit the Blooming Prairie FFA Scholarship Fund, which provides two graduating Blooming Prairie seniors pursuing a career in agriculture with one \$250 scholarship each.

"It's always a good time," said senior FFA member Chris Wacek, who is helping organize this year's event. "You get to meet new people and help out the vendors. It's a good fundraiser for FFA."

Each year, the FFA members sell tables and spaces to vendors, which bring a number of items to share. "It's kind of like a swap meet," said Blooming Prairie agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor Bill Rinkenberger. "They just sell things to the general public and we provide the tables and spaces and offer food."

In past years, vendors have sold collectables, antiques, toy models, signs, owner's manuals, pedal tractors, knick-knacks and other items. There's no telling what you might find at the Toy Show, said Rinkenberger. "One year, we even had a vendor come in just to sell education books," he recalls.

The FFA chapter plans to



Staff file photos

Last year's 12th annual FFA Toy Show featured a number of items, including those pictured above. This year's 13th annual event is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blooming Prairie High School. Lunch will be available. The event will help raise funds for the Blooming Prairie FFA Scholarship Fund, which provides two graduating Blooming Prairie seniors pursuing a career in agriculture with one \$250 scholarship each.



Vendors and visitors converse during last year's annual FFA Toy Show, held in Blooming Prairie.

start dispersing flyers throughout the community soon and has already begun some other promotional efforts for the annual event. "We went up to the Albert Lea Toy Show at the North Bridge Mall and handed out flyers to vendors, trying to get some of them to come," said Wacek.

Usually, said Rinkenberger, the Toy Show sees a good turnout. The event has grown over the years, and has a special

significance for Rinkenberger. "First year of the Toy Show was my first year teaching here, and I've enjoyed just watching it grow into what it is," he said.

For Rinkenberger, it's also extremely rewarding to watch the FFA members mature and grow. "I also just like seeing how the kids transform during the whole thing, when they start out in seventh grade and go through all of it," he said.

The students also continue to impress Rinkenberger with their leadership and efforts to ensure that the Toy Show is a success. "A lot of times, the kids know what needs to be done, and they just do it," he said. "It's a lot of stress of off me and, at the same time, they're training in the next generation."

To learn more about the 13th annual Toy Show, contact Bill Rinkenberger at 507-583-4426.

Blooming Prairie Council pays bond

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

During last Monday evening's Blooming Prairie City Council meeting, the council unanimously approved a motion to pay a general obligation bond for a street project about two years early.

The Council voted to spend \$145,000 to pay the bond, which was originally \$690,000 and was refinanced in 2009. The bond's call date was Feb. 1, said City Administrator Mike Jones.

Jones further explained that the bond could be paid off using approximately \$41,147 in cash on hand, \$23,497 from sewer funds and \$83,096 from the 2016-2017 levies. The early payment resulted in an interest savings of \$4,720.

"It's not a large savings, but when I look at the fact that it's a 3.2 interest rate, if we're getting zero for the interest rate on our funds, it just seems like a decent investment," Jones said. "The bonding agent doesn't charge us for calling the bond."

"Saving four grand is saving four grand," said Blooming Prairie Mayor H. Peterson. "Saving 20 bucks is saving 20 bucks. It's never a bad idea to save."

Council then approved a pay request for the Main Street Reconstruction Project, which came in at \$955,192.30. "This actually came in below what we anticipated costs were going to be, which is great, and with the help of the County giving us that \$100,000, we didn't have to bond as much."

Jones stated that he had once anticipated that there may be some additional engineering costs, but those costs never materialized. "I'm really happy with our dealings with the County," he said. "I'd be more than happy to do any project in the future. We have enough money now through this excess funds that we might not have to even levy next year for this project, or at least not as much as we originally anticipated we'd have to levy."

Jones also updated the

'I'm really happy with our dealings with the County.'

— Mike Jones, Blooming Prairie City Administrator

council about the 2016 street seal-coating project. Again, Jones noted that Steele County would be involved in the project. "Working with the County through this Main Street Project has brought us closer together and we've just decided to try to do a joint effort with them," he said. "The first one is going to be the seal-coating project."

The projected cost for the project is only 21 cents per foot, said Jones, which is a remarkably low price. Street Superintendent Tony Motl has been working closely with the Steele County Highway Department on this project, and has also indicated that he'd like the city to join the Steele County Highway Department when bidding for future road salt.

"Governments working together: great idea," said Peterson. Council approved the cooperative agreement between Steele County and the City of Blooming Prairie for this project.

In addition, Council also passed a resolution supporting increasing Minnesota Local Government Aid (LGA) in the 2016 legislative session. Jones explained that the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities had encouraged local governments to pass the resolution, in hopes of persuading the state to provide another \$45.5 million in funding for LGA. Jones added that, if the effort was successful, about \$26,000 would be funneled back into the city of Blooming Prairie.

The Blooming Prairie City Council will meet again at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 14, in the council chambers at City Hall.

NRHEG School survey winding up

Public listening sessions slated for Feb. 18 in Ellendale and New Richland

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Early indications are that the response rate has been good to a community survey to gather input about educational priorities including facility needs in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District.

"Unofficially, I have had a number of people including employees, parents and members throughout our communities share with me positive comments about the opportunity to provide input through the use of a survey," said NRHEG School Superintendent Dr. Dale Carlson.

Board Chair Rick Schultz said we're anxious to hear the report at the next meeting. "We are

pleased with the response," he said. "Once again it shows the community is invested in the school district and appreciates the opportunity to provide their input."

The NRHEG Board of Education developed the survey to gather data to help develop the district's strategic plan, as well as a long-term plan to address district facility challenges. All employees and parents with an email address in the school system received an invitation to take the survey electronically. Also, all households in the school district were sent one paper survey in the mail.

The survey went out between Jan. 13 and Jan. 20. Respondents had through Feb. 2 to complete the survey.

The main points the district is

NRHEG Public Listening Sessions

Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m. (Two sites)
New Richland Media Center or
Ellendale Media Center

looking at addressing involves the following questions: What is our vision for the future? What are our highest priorities? Where do we need to improve? Where should we focus our resources?

"Our schools are a critical part

of our communities," Carlson said. "As we work to improve our schools we want to ensure that they will meet the needs of our students and communities, both now and in the future."

Carlson added that the school board recognizes this plan must also reflect the priorities of the employees, parents and all taxpayers of the school district. "Therefore, the school board is urging all employees and residents to participate in this important district-wide effort."

School Perceptions, the entity that is working with the school board with the survey, analyzed the data and presented a report to the school board on Feb. 16. The information will be shared with the school district's strategic planning consultants from the Minnesota School Board Association to use as part of the strategic planning work over the next several months. In addition, information from the survey results will be useful for the school board to plan next steps

in long-range facility planning.

On Thursday, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Ellendale and New Richland the school board is hosting public listening sessions. Consultants will be facilitating a session at the New Richland secondary school in the media center and at the Ellendale elementary school in the media center.

Then in March, a stakeholder committee made up of employees, students, parents and community members will work with school board members and consultants to take the information from the survey and the listening sessions to develop a foundation for our strategic plan including the vision, mission, core beliefs and goal areas, Carlson said.

Opinion

Our view

FFA amplifies opportunities for future leaders

Since 1928, FFA organizations have provided opportunities for young leaders. This week, we celebrate National FFA Week in recognition of an organization that helps youth build new skills, explore career opportunities and connect with their local communities.

This year’s theme is “Amplify”, because, according to the National FFA website, “FFA members amplify their voice when it comes to speaking about agriculture and letting others know the importance of agriculture in today’s world.”

The website further states that National FFA Week (Saturday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 27) is an ideal time for FFA members to promote the FFA motto: “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.”

Throughout the school year, there are plenty of opportunities for FFA members to get involved with various projects, activities and competitions. There are leadership rallies, state and national conventions, Career Development Events (CDEs), Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), fruit sales, toy drives and much more. The FFA members also have the opportunity to expand and test their knowledge in a number of subject matters, ranging from floriculture to public speaking, and agricultural sales to forestry.

The local FFA chapters are also devoted to giving back to their communities. The Blooming Prairie FFA chapter holds several community events throughout the year, including a toy drive for children during the holiday season and an educational Farm Safety Day for elementary students in the fall. They also raise money for scholarships, which are later awarded to graduating seniors entering the agricultural field.

At New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) high school, the FFA Chapter also participates in philanthropic initiatives, such as their annual Corn Drive. The Corn Drive is a tradition that spans multiple generations and benefits True Friends, an organization that offers programs to help enhance the self-esteem and independence of children and adults with disabilities. Over the years, the NRHEG FFA chapter has raised over \$140,000 for the organization, one of the 10 highest lifetime FFA chapter donation totals in the state.

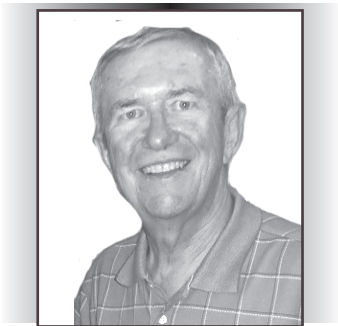
The benefits of FFA don’t stop there. Students who participate in their local chapters gain valuable life and social skills, building their confidence and preparing them to become strong leaders in and beyond the classroom.

“The thing that I like to push more than anything is the leadership skills,” said Blooming Prairie agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor Bill Rinkenberger. “Whatever you’re to go into in life, you need leadership skills. You can be the smartest person in the world and, if you have no way of communicating your knowledge to other people, you’re not really going to be useful in society.”

Today, there are 610,240 FFA members in grades seven through 12.



REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

Good luck, Alan!

Newspaper editors come and go and during my 50-plus years in the newspaper business, I have met many excellent editors but none any finer than Alan Van Ormer, managing editor of the Steele County Times for the past three years.

I have only known Alan for just a little over a year, but during that time I have gotten to know him as an excellent journalist, one who cares about community journalism.

Alan was a perfect fit for the community of Blooming Prairie and surrounding communities. He cared about his communities and it was reflected in his writing. He captured the essence of the community’s leaders and of its young school students.

The Steele County Times flourished because of Alan’s direction of the news staff and other departments.

Alan was more than a boss to his young staff of journalists and also was an inspiration to us who fall into the “war horse” category. Yes, LeMar (Nelson), I am including you in the elder category with myself.

Alan loved to teach and he not only did that with young and older journalists, he also developed a close link with young journalists at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva schools.

A visionary, Alan has been and continues to be. He has a knack of knowing what small communities want to read. Our community residents want to read about families and their successes and about business and industry accomplishments. They also want to read about individuals who have met adversity and overcome it.

The Steele County Times has also produced some excellent sports coverage and thanks to Alan, LeMar and others, sports coverage has been accurate and enjoyable to follow.

Alan always looked below the surface of a story and tried to find more facets that would appeal to a reader. One story I was most impressed with was Alan’s feature on a woman fighting depression. He really captured the emotions associated with this woman’s challenges.

Alan is also an excellent columnist and I loved the columns detailing his inability to do a pull-up, something he prided himself doing as a U.S. Marine. I also laughed about Alan taking someone out to lunch and having no money to pay the bill.

He loves to laugh and often laughed at his own antics.

I am thankful to have called Alan a professional co-worker and even more proud to call him my friend. Good luck, Alan, in your future endeavors and don’t give up your skills shown in journalistic circles.

Alarming trend on state roads

Only seven weeks into the new year and a disturbing trend is already occurring on our roadways. Fatalities are happening at an alarming rate.

So far, 36 people have died in motor vehicle crashes since Jan. 1. That compares to 25 last year at this same time.

Here’s the irony of that situation we’re facing on our roadways. During a January snow storm on the East Coast, at least 29 people sadly lost their lives, making headlines across the world. In January, 25 people were killed on Minnesota roads, yet most people don’t give it a second thought.

The roadways in southeastern Minnesota haven’t escaped the carnage. About two weeks ago, a father and 9-year-old son from Austin were killed in a head-on crash on U.S. Highway 218 outside of Blooming Prairie. A third person was seriously injured, but expected to recover.

In the recent Blooming Prairie crash, the 43-year-old father was reportedly not buckled up. His son was belted in, though he still died.

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

More often than not, seat belts prove to be a life saver.

Sgt. Troy Christianson of the State Patrol is concerned about what is happening on the roadways. “The fatalities are high,” he said. “We’re starting to see a lot more head-on crashes, but we don’t know exactly why they’re happening.”

Christianson said it’s too early to determine a trend, but he has a couple theories about why more crashes are taking place. For starters, he said, gas prices are at a seven year low.

With lower gas prices, more people are on the roadways more often. “No one is hesitating to go anywhere,” he said.

And when there are more motorists on the road, the chances of crashes increase significantly.

Christianson also wonders if more motorists are becoming distracted behind the wheel, causing them to veer into the opposing lane of traffic.

It has been said over and over, but bears repeating. Driving must be your number one priority when you are behind the wheel. All of our lives depend on drivers buckling up, maintaining the speed limit, paying attention and never driving impaired.

Many crashes are preventable, and it’s important that you do your part to keep our roadways safe. We don’t want to see our loved ones drive away and never be seen again.

Isn’t it time we all go in hot pursuit of exercising great caution with no distractions when we jump behind the wheel?

Mailbag

March 1 is Caucus Day in Minnesota

March 1 is Super Tuesday as well as Caucus Day in Minnesota.

Here in Steele County those affiliated with the Republican Party will meet with their likeminded neighbors and friends grouped by where they live in precincts or townships. We will participate

in a Presidential preference ballot by writing down who you think should be the next Commander In Chief.

The results of this Straw Ballot will officially set how Minnesota’s Republican Delegation will allocate their first ballot at the National Convention. It will be an enjoyable night of interacting with candidates and legislators and hearing about the agenda for the 2016 Legislative Session as well as plans

to win elections in November.

We will learn of opportunities to be personally involved in campaigns and the election process to fit our busy schedules and skill set. Come join me at 6:30 p.m. at the Owatonna High School for an important night of participatory democracy. It only comes around every two years, so don’t miss it!

*Pam Seaser
Owatonna*

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Congressman Tim Walz Washington D.C. Office 1034 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-2472 Rochester Minnesota Washington, DC Office	Sen. Al Franken Washington DC Office 309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-5641	Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3244 Fax: 202-228-2186
Mankato District Office 527 ½ South Front Street Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: 507-388-2149 877-846-9259	Rochester Office 1202-1/2 7th Street NW Suite 213 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 288-2003	Southern Office 1130 1/2 7th Street, NW, Room 212 Rochester, MN 55901 Main Line: 507-288-5321 Fax: 507-288-2922
	Sen. Amy Klobuchar Washington D.C. Office 302 Hart Senate	Toll Free Number: 1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR STEELE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James “Corky” Ebeling
District 4
507-451-1745
Corky.Ebeling@co.steele.mn.us

James Brady
District 1
507-835-4087
James.Brady@co.steele.mn.us

Nina Huntington
District 5
507-444-7483
Nina.Huntington@co.steele.mn.us

Mark Schultz
District 3
507-451-0468
Mark.Schultz@co.steele.mn.us

John Glynn
District 2
507-475-0473
John.Glynn@co.steele.mn.us

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
Bussler Publishing Inc.
USPS 058-340
Published weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address changes to: Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: (507) 583-4431
Fax: (507) 583-4445
bptimes@frontiernet.net

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016 8 State Awards	2011 4 National Awards (Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)
2015 4 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2014 3 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2012 2 State Awards	



STAFF
PublisherRick Bussler
Managing Editor.....Alan Van Ormer
News Editor.....Laura Berndt
Staff WritersLeMar Nelson
Advertising Sales.....Eileen Johnson
Graphic Designer.....Miranda Wadewitz

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower....\$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....\$40
Out of state \$42

2016 tax filing requirements for retirees

Dear Savvy Senior,

What is the IRS income tax filing requirements going to be for this tax season? Due to health problems I stopped working early last year, so I'm wondering if I need to file.

Unintended Retiree

Dear Unintended,

There are a number of factors that affect whether or not you need to file a federal income tax return this year including how much you earned last year (in 2015), and the source of that income, as well as your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS filing requirements. For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2015 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security

benefits, unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your age and filing status, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- Single: \$10,300 (\$11,850 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2016).
- Married filing jointly: \$20,600 (\$21,850 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$23,100 if you're both over 65).
- Married filing separately: \$4,000 at any age.
- Head of household: \$13,250 (\$14,800 if age 65 or older).
- Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$16,600 (\$17,850 if age 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and

ask them to mail you a free copy of the "Tax Guide for Seniors" (publication 554), or see irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf.

Special requirements

There are, however, some other financial situations that will require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirement. For example, if you had earnings from self-employment in 2015 of \$400 or more, or if you owe any special taxes to the IRS such as alternative minimum tax or IRA tax penalties, you'll probably need to file.

To figure this out, the IRS offers an interactive tax assistant tool on their website that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund.

You can access this tool at

irs.gov/filing – click on "Do you need to file a return?" Or, you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040. You can also get face-to-face help at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. See irs.gov/localcontacts or call 800-829-1040 to locate a center near you.

Check your state

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies.

Tax prep assistance



THE SAVVY SENIOR



Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington, MN
583-4434

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can get help through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TEC provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit irs.treasury.gov/freetax-prep to locate a service near you.

Also check with AARP, a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at

more than 5,000 sites nationwide. To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call 888-227-7669 or visit aarp.org/findtaxhelp. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

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, Feb. 21, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

The Bloomington Prairie City Council moved ahead on their plans to build a new industrial park by approving the motion to seek bids for Phase I of the plan. The BP Industrial Park Phase I includes the sanitary sewer and services, water main and services, storm sewer and street base for the project. The park is needed due to a new industry moving into the area and for future industry/business looking to locate in the community.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

Sixth grader Colin Stroup, son of Larry and Mary Stroup, survived a marathon spelling bee at the Bloomington Prairie Elementary School on Tuesday, Febr. 13,

and emerged as the District #756 spelling champion for 1996. Stroup spelled the 306th word in the contest, "tyrannosaurus", to outlast Kristi Schwake, daughter of Randy and Deb Schwake, in taking the spelling bee title. Thirty students in grades five to eight had survived local room contests to take part in this annual event, which set records for longevity and the number of words that had to be used.

In an attempt to head off a potential deficit in the sewer fund, Bloomington Prairie city council members adopted a plan that will modify current practices. By changing the current billing practice of averaging homes in the months of January, February and March in figuring the rest of the year's monthly bills, the city figures it will raise the \$30,000 needed to keep the sewer budget in the black at the end of

this year. The averaging technique was brought about on the premise that some water used in the summer doesn't go into the sewer - washing cars, watering lawns, etc. Now, all meters will have a cutoff at the 15,000 gallons level. The break would allow the maximum of \$43.50 to be paid by any household - \$12 base rate and \$31.50 usage rate.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 17, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The Bloomington Prairie Cooperative Creamery Association again enjoyed a highly successful year in 1965, with substantial increase in both sales and production reported during the twelve months' period. In announcing figures from the auditor's report, Manager Ellsworth Hall reported that total sales

amounted to \$2, 203, 284.28 for the period ending Dec. 31, 1965. The Stockholders and patrons of Bloomington Prairie's large dairy plant will hear a complete report of the association's 1965 operation at the annual meeting, to be held Saturday of this week. Activities will include a free dinner, musical entertainment by "The Moonlighters," and prizes awarded at the end close of the business session of the evening.

A total of 61 students participated in the local speech contest, held at the Bloomington Prairie High School Monday, Feb. 14. The winners will now represent Bloomington Prairie in the sub-district contest at Emmons on Saturday, Feb. 26, in the categories of Humorous Interpretation, Serious Interpretation, Extemp. Manuscript Reading, Storytelling, Original Oratory, Non-original Oratory, and Extemp.

Speaking.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Feb. 20, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Plans for a new funeral home and chapel were revealed this week by funeral director Ed Kohl. He announced that he would open a chapel here about

March 1. Mr. Kohl stated that he had purchased the Wm. Carroll residence on Third Street and would remodel it into a modern funeral home. The furniture store operated downtown by Mr. Kohl will continue to function as remodeling takes place and the new funeral services begin.

RED GREEN

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 - 7 PM
THE O'SHAUGHNESSY AT ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY ST. PAUL
Tickets available in person at the ticket office, by calling 651-690-6700 or <http://oshag.stkate.edu>
www.redgreen.com

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



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

Certified Public Accountant **Tamzen R. Johnson**

319 East Main Street, Bloomington Prairie | 888-933-6828 | Fax: 507-583-2389

Automotive



ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners
Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317
Hwy. 218 • Bloomington Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com

FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Construction

Johnson Construction & Tree Service



Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMINGTON PRAIRIE

Siding & Windows

J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.

Siding & Windows
Lic. #20533878

- Maintenance Free Siding
- Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
- Custom Trim Work
- Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
- Lifetime Warranty

For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413



Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselfers!

Dental Care

BLOOMINGTON PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER

"Dentistry for the whole family"

Jeffrey A. Schwert, D.D.S.

132 2nd Ave. NE

Bloomington Prairie ~ 583-6613

Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Dental Care



Locally Owned

Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

Bloomington Prairie

405 E. Main St.
507-583-2141

Owatonna

1170 East Frontage Rd.
507-455-1000

Mankato

287 St. Andrews Drive Suite 100
507-720-0250

Rochester

3110 Wellner Dr. NE.
507-536-7700

New Richland

132 Broadway Ave. N.
507-463-0502

Funeral Planning

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING



507-583-7561
www.worlein.com

Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans

Worlein Bloomington Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S., Bloomington Prairie, MN

Garbage



Garbage Service, Inc.

333 2nd St. NE • Bloomington Prairie

507-583-7562

William P. Walsh, Owner

"A family-owned, hometown business serving the Bloomington Prairie community for over 45 years."

Residential & Business Hauling

Recreation



Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,
Parts & Accessories

Hwy 218 S.
Bloomington Prairie

www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service



SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.

656 3rd St. NE
Bloomington Prairie, MN

Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
583-6620

Lumberyard



For all your Lumberyard & Home Design/Drafting needs.
Stop in and see Jon or Tait today!

413 West Main St. • Geneva • 507-256-0045

Community

Death notice

Guillermo Memo Dominguez, 68, Blooming Prairie

Guillermo Memo Dominguez, age 68, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota died Friday, Feb. 12, 2016, at Mayo Clinic Hospital, St. Mary’s Campus in Rochester, Minnesota.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Feb. 19, 2016, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Father Tom Niehaus officiating.

Interment will follow the service at the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Memorials are preferred to the family.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Christmas Bird Count contributes to Audubon Society reports

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

With the help of the 76 people, the Owatonna Christmas Bird Count that took place on Dec. 19 will contribute to the larger data that helps the National Audubon Society understand bird migrations and the impacts of climate change.

The count contributes to the 2016 National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count summary.

This summary provides a wealth of information for scientists and researchers interested in the long-term study of early winter bird populations across North America.

However, the Christmas Bird Count is a global activity, and it continues to grow.

Count Compiler Darryl Hill called the Christmas Bird Count the largest citizen scientific project in the world.

In 1971, Hill established the Christmas Bird Count Circle in the Owatonna area with help and support from Nels Thompson.

Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and the circle cannot overlap another circle. The center of the Owatonna circle is Havana Township. Hill said that this center was chosen carefully, as the 15-mile wide circle includes Rice Lake State Park, Mineral Springs Park, and most of Owatonna.

This year, the Owatonna Christmas Bird Count recorded 4,379 individual birds, an average count for the Owatonna area circle. Forty-five different species were recorded.

Sixty-one people counted birds at their home bird feeders for 167 hours. They count the most of one species that they see at one time. For example, if a counter sees two cardinals and then later sees four cardinals. They would jot down “four cardinals” rather than adding the two counts.

The birds seen at feeders were



more than last year. The feeder count totaled 171 Blue Jays, 274 Black-capped Chickadees, 97 White-breasted Nuthatches, 144 American Goldfinches, and 127 Northern Cardinals.

The report states “we saw our first House Finch (6) in 1989 and this year we counted 189 of these birds.”

Fifteen people participated in a field count, where they walk seven miles in open spaces to count birds. The team is split to cover quadrants, including Claremont, Steele Center, Clinton Falls and the Rice Lake State Park area.

The following birds increased in number compared to last year, 40 Rock Pigeons, 54 Mourning Doves and 12 Eurasian Collared Doves.

The number of Ringed-neck Pheasants (40) and Pheasants (43) were low. Hill reasoned that this could have been due to lack of visibility since there was no snow on the ground at the time of count. Hill called Dec. 19 “a really warm day.”

This year, there was a patch of open water on Lake Kohlmeir

where 600 Canadian Geese, 400 Mallards, 25 American Coots, and one Lesser Scaup (Blue-bill) were counted.

It was an exciting year for the bird count because it was the first year that they saw the Short-eared Owl. Three of the Short-eared Owls were spotted in a marsh area a mile or so north of Rice Lake State Park by Nels Thompson, Lowell Larson, and Terry Dorsey.

“These owls spend most of their summers in Canada but can be seen in our area during the winters,” commented Hill in the report. “With this new species, we have now seen 106 different species of birds on at least one of our 44 CBC years.”

Other Christmas Bird Count records were broken.

At 16 Pileated Woodpeckers, 10 Northern Flickers, and 18 Bald Eagles, these counts topped that of any other year for

those specific species. “Eagles are nesting in the Owatonna area more now, so we are seeing them more often than we would have just 8 years ago,” Hill states in the report.

This year also had the 2nd highest number of Robins at 17.

With 11 new counters this year, Hill called this count high in participation, an important factor to the count. “The more people you can get, the more accurate the stats are going to be,” commented Hill.

Bird enthusiasts are welcome next year. Hill said that there is no training for the count, but participants do learn the rules. He does go over each individual’s count to double check. At times, he will call someone and double-check if they actually saw what they think they saw.

Hill could not help but note the impact of climate change in bird migrations and how that is evident in the count results.

The National Audubon Society website reports on a comprehensive, ground breaking study, the Audubon’s 2014 Climate Change Report, that predicts climate could change the ranges of 588 North American birds.

Audubon predicts that over half of the 588 North American bird species are likely in trouble: “Our models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.”

The number one killer of birds in Steele County is feral cats. Hill suggests that people keep their cats indoors.

Otherwise, Hill said that people can get involved and help the birds by simply putting out birdfeeders. “Start to learn the birds that visit the feeder. It is a fun activity once you start seeing them,” he said.

CONSTRUCTION SEWER & WATER/GRADING

We are looking for an experienced sewer and water foreman, grading foreman, operators, pipelayers, bottommen, topmen and laborers. We have lots of work, offer top wages, great benefits, and an awesome work environment. Twin Cities metro area and choice to work in Fargo. We don't work west of Fargo area. Experience and references required.

Applications available at ryancont.com
Ryan Contracting EOE



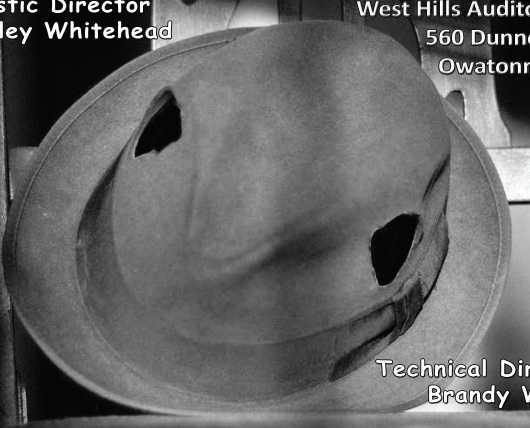
presents for the second time in 44 years, a **COMEDY** by Mary Case

HARVEY

February 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 2016: 7:30 PM
Matinee February 21: 2:00 PM

Artistic Director
Shelley Whitehead

West Hills Auditorium,
560 Dunnell Dr.,
Owatonna, MN



Technical Director
Brandy Wilker

LTO Ticket Box Office opens
Monday, February 15
507.451.0764 or
LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org

 
Brenda Gelman
Advantage Real Estate
Kathy Purdie

Harvey is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
Feb. 16
Mark Swenson
Maveda Peterson
Sophia Johnson
Jerry Ingvalson
Annette Sasser
Mary Jo Wallace
Eloise Yvonne Jenzen
Feb. 17
Blake Christianson
Derek Ingvalson
Thomas Farr
Dawn Gross
Brandy Munson
Jeff Schiech
Garret Farr
Feb. 18
Amy Snider
Maynard Johnson
Rod Koster
Carly Jo Iversen
Holly Ann Olson
Jayden Peterson
Feb. 19
Jason Jensen
Lance Lembke, Jr.
Madysan Slowinski
Riley Thompson

Diane Boyd
Feb. 20
Scott Krejci
Milayna Davis
Debra Paulson
William Butler
Feb. 21
Stuart Yentsch
Avis Krampitz
Lucy K. Boyd
Brian Betlach
Lila Schiller
Feb. 22
David Goodnature
Julie Lembke
George Ressler
Jayden Peterson
Mervin Nelson
Allan Trotman

Anniversaries
Feb. 17
Mark and Diane Lembke
Feb. 18
Tom and Paula Ressler
Feb. 20
Larry and Geraldine Wurst
Feb. 22
Marion and Joan Mast

Milestones is sponsored by:

 **Best kept secret!**

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham	Thursday - Your Choice
Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

SEMCAC senior menu

Feb. 16: BBQ meatballs, baked potato/sour cream, green bean cass, orange wedge, coconut crumb delight
Feb. 17: Beef stroganoff over noodles, stewed tomatoes, three-bean salad, bread pudding
Feb. 18: Baked ham, Alt: Beef Patty, sweet potatoes, scalloped corn, fresh fruit
Feb. 19: Salmon loaf, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, apple cake
Feb. 22: Ham/scalloped

potatoes, alt: chicken breast, oriental blend veg, coleslaw, fruit cup
Feb. 23: Vegetable soup with crackers, shredded turkey on a bun, mandarin orange salad, gingerbread/wh. Topping
Feb 24: Pork steak, dressing, spinach/vinegar, cinnamon applesauce, banana pudding



Fever and vomiting is a sign of health!

True health is when your body works correctly. Coughing, sneezing and other symptoms mean your body is working right. True health is how you function, not how you feel.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

In Memory of Steve Prihoda
March 16, 1952 To February 15, 2006

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be.
So he put his arms around you,
And whispered “Come to Me.”
With tearful eyes we watched you,
We watched you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands now rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.
Your memory we treasure.
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.

Love,
Shelley, Sara, Melissa
and families

Dean's
SMOKE SHACK

Boxes of Ground Beef Patties, Sausage Patties, Ball Tips, Ribeye, T-Bone, Strips and so much more stop in & check it out

We're just a short drive afterall!

104 E. Main St. • Geneva, MN • 507-256-0025
www.deanssmokeshack.com

ADVANCE NOTICE SPRING AUCTION

Sat. March 19, 2016 • 9:30 a.m.

Located: Hamilton Auction Co.
off Interstate 90 at Dexter, MN exit #193 then 1/4 mile east of Hwy 16

Consign your farm machinery including tractors, tillage, planters, construction equip., farm trucks, trailers, semi-tractors, pick-ups & cars by the 29th of Feb. to have items listed on sale bill.
NO TIRES Limited amount of small items accepted.

To consign call:
HAMILTON AUCTION COMPANY
507-584-0133 office
130 State Hwy. 16, Dexter, MN 55926

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

Prices Good 2/15-2/20



Snapple
6 pack
\$4.99



Canada Dry Sparkling Water
12 Packs
\$2.79



7up
2 Liters
99¢



Coke
2 Liters
3/\$4



Pepsi
.5 Liter 6 Pk
4/\$10

Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!

237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

Area Church Spotlight



Community Lutheran Church, Geneva

Pastor's corner

Lenten Journey

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over, he was hungry (Luke 4:1-2)."

The forty days before Easter in the Christian world are known as Lent. The days of Lent are filled with opportunities to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the Judean wilderness to be tempted by the devil in preparation for shouldering the Cross, and the associated way of suffering and death that would lead to our salvation.

As Christians we, too, make this forty-day journey of Lent with the Holy Spirit as our guide. Every year each Christian is invited to ponder the scriptures and the events surrounding Our Lord's

Passion—the suffering and death of Jesus—and embrace the opportunity to pray, fast and give to the poor.

It is not common for people in contemporary society to slow down, unplug and spend time in quiet so as to hear the voice of Jesus. Lent is a perfect time to dedicate some quiet time each day to reading a portion of the Gospels and reflecting on the life of Christ and the total gift He gave us in the victory of the Cross.

With so much food and other activities that fill us up, would it hurt us to go hungry for a day? I don't think it would hurt most of us to skip a meal, or an hour on the iPad, once a week to identify with those who know the pains of hunger every day. We live in a culture of great abundance, and it is not a very

popular trend to spend time practicing self-denial from worldly comforts in order to simplify our lives from unnecessary material goods. Giving what we have to the poor is an action of love towards God. For scripture reads, "One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay Him for His good deed (Proverbs 19:17)." During this Lenten journey I encourage each person to spend some time growing closer to Jesus through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Rev. Tom Niehaus
Pastor of St. Columbanus Catholic Church – Blooming Prairie and Sacred Heart Catholic Church-Hayfield



LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471
Andy & Mary Lerberg



www.minimizer.com
800-248-3855
Blooming Prairie

FLOOR TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276



3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna
507-451-7121

Garlick's Water Conditioning

Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing

800-722-1282
www.garlickswater.com



FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH
Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018

REALIFE
COOPERATIVE

**Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price**
Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna



1011 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna
507-451-2585
www.kernelrestaurant.com

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sunday Worship 10:30
Sunday School 9:15

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 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.goodshephardowatonna.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.rogllutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.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 Kristen Venne
(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 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
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Richard Sliper
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's
Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open
to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Catholic

ST. AIDAN CATHOLIC PARISH
Hwy 30 Ellendale
507-465-8217
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Tuesdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com
Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Adoration: Mondays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Sunday Mass: 9:15 a.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Family Faith Formation and Adult
Bible Study after Mass with noon
potluck; 2nd Sunday of month
Confirmation class: 2nd Sunday and
Wednesday evening

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 1 p.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna
507-451-4845

Rev. Edward F. McGrath. Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.
Adoration in Chapel - 24 hours each day

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday 5 p.m.,
10 a.m. Sunday
Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
Deerfield
507-451-4845
The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Easter thru Christmas
Winter at Christ the King, Medford

Christian

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first
Sunday of the month through Dec.
2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
followed by the free meal at 11:30
a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45
a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

303 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Sundays 10:00 AM
enter through Owatonna Fit Lab

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
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 a.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
(507) 213-9194
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods
building across the
freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
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

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

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



Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671



FARMERS INSURANCE
Michael Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-0193
Fax: (507) 451-6640



www.expressowatonna.com
507-455-3002
800-832-3002
812 S. Elm Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060



Service Center:
507-528-2233
After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158
111 Front Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN



Always local, all the time.

411 East Main Street
507-583-4431



Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT
"Creating Your Story in Stone"
1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com



Sue Zwiener
308 E. Main Street
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2200



507.256.4712
104 Central Ave. N., Geneva

THE BOLD LOOK
OF **KOHLER**

Registered
Showroom

Brush Up on Dental Hygiene With Your Kids



- Brush for a full 2 to 3 minutes at least twice a day.
- Gently floss at least once a day. Ask a dentist or dental hygienist to demonstrate proper flossing technique for your child.
- When brushing, hold the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle against the gum line, and gently brush the entire tooth in short strokes.
- Gently brush the tongue and roof of the mouth using a forward sweeping motion.



Locally Owned

Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

Bloomington 405 E. Main St. 507-583-2141	Owatonna 1170 East Frontage Rd. 507-455-1000	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave. N. 507-463-0502
Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr. NE. 507-536-7700	Mankato 287 St. Andrews Drive, Suite 100 507-720-0250	

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

VOTED SOUTHERN MN'S BEST ORTHODONTIST!

SMILE!

LOWEST FEES EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

King
ORTHODONTICS

Dr. Darrin King
Over 17 years of trusted experience

YOUR NEW SMILE IS WAITING!

- Friendly and fun team of orthocare professionals
- Most insurance accepted and we file claims for you
- Maximum comfort and efficiency technique
- Flexible interest-free payment plans
- No down payment required
- No referral needed

Schedule your free **SMILE ANALYSIS** today!

Faribault 507.332.0022
Owatonna 507.446.9000

KingBraces.com

What do Braces do?

Braces help straighten crooked teeth and they help fix the way your teeth fit together when you bite. This makes your teeth easier to keep clean and healthy, and gives you a great smile!

OVERBY

ORTHODONTICS

LOVE YOUR SMILE

OverbyOrtho.com 800-247-1425

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Sanitation & Recycling

Your Local Choice!

When you have had it with the Large Corporate Companies, We offer you a friendly Small town way of doing business. Unlike our World Wide Competitors who rely on a contract to ensure your patronage, we earn it the old fashioned way!

Or Toll Free 1-888-451-0976 • P.O. Box 321 • Owatonna email: info@stewart sanitation.com

Collision

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150

Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837
www.csiaustinmn.com

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections

- Aggregates • Hauling
- Washed Sand & Rock
- Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

507-583-2999

Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured

BISHOP BE
EXCAVATING, INC.

- EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
- DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK

Commercial & Residential Sitework

Farm

Mike & Jeff Custom Farms

Mike Ingvalson 507-456-1436
mikeingvalson@hotmail.com

Jeff Ingvalson 507-456-1439
jeffingvalson@hotmail.com

We offer:
Seed
Chemical
Fertilizer
Custom Farming
Crop Scouting

MJC Farms, LLC
13324 89th Ave SE
Bloomington, MN 55917
Fax 507-572-1337

High Yields Start Here

Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

507-583-4431
Always local, all the time.

Pets

Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.

"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"

Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. City Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schrodt
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

Cell: 507-456-3562

Storage

GT Mini Storage

BLOOMINGTON

Contact Gary Trom at 507-456-2957

10x20 Units Available NOW

Our LOW PRICES & GREAT SERVICES says it all

Truck Accessories

The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.

AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS

Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Bloomington

Tires

Mike's REPAIR

870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Complete Truck Parts and Service

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483

Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck

Mike Hartle
Owner

BP bows out of section

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Blooming Prairie wrestling team bowed out of the section team tournament, losing 45-21 to New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva at Kenyon on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Five local matmen won their bouts, but the overall strength and the forfeits to the Panthers proved too much for the locals. The individual section tournament is this coming Saturday, Feb. 20.

Even though he bumped up a weight, Ethan Arett had no trouble pinning Brett Kubiato-wicz in just 1:24 at 113 pounds. Jon Hansen scored a reversal, a near fall, another reversal, and another near fall, all in the third period to pin Tim Wicks at 138.

Colton Krell used two take-downs and a third period escape to edge Palmer Peterson 6-4 at 160, and Dylan Nirk outlasted Karter Slettenon, 9-8 at 170. Mitchell Oswald scored the other Blossom points with a pin over Alex Birkmeier in just 1:48 of the first period in the 195-weight class.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Cordell Peterson, of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, lost a 2-1 heartbreaking decision to Kenyon-Wanamingo's Jared Clawiter in the 126-pound match in section team wrestling action in Kenyon on Feb. 14.

Late spurt propels Panthers

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It took a spurt with 9 minutes left in the second half before New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva could pull away with a 60-49 win over United South Central in high school boys basketball action.

“USC came out ready to play tonight jumping on us 7-2 to start the game,” said NRHEG Coach Pat Churchill. “We really came out with no energy. We looked like we were going through the motions to start the game.”

It took the Panthers the remainder of the half to catch up. NRHEG took the lead with the last hoop of the first half for a 30-29 lead. The second half was tight for the first few minutes, but NRHEG took an 8-point lead with 9 minutes to go and was able to hold the margin the rest of the way for the win.

Oakley Baker scored 21 points and cleared 11 rebounds, while John Cole and Chad Ag-rimson each added 12 points. Cole also snared nine rebounds. Grant Becher led USC with 19 points, Ryan Kloos contributed 17 and Trevor Stencel chipped in with 10.

Baker's 43 points not enough

Oakley Baker’s 43 points were

not enough as Waseca slipped past New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, 76-70 in high school boys basketball action.

Baker had 17 points in the first half and hit 9 three-pointers in the game. “He carried us offensively,” Churchill said. “He is a great scorer and he put on a clinic scoring tonight.”

Churchill said it was a fun high school basketball game. “The game was tight for the first eight minutes and Waseca, behind Nick Dufault pushed the lead to double figures.”

Dufault was 8-for-11 in the first half for 25 points. “We had a guy chasing him and extra help when he drove,” Churchill said. “He is just a very nice player who creates space and can rise up and shoot it.”

NRHEG trailed at halftime, 39-28.

“We knew we had to do something different on Nick,” Churchill said. The decision was to put Baker and his 6-foot-5-inch frame with length on Dufault to disrupt him.

“When we took Oakley off him we were going to run doubles at him constantly when he had the ball. We wanted someone else to have to hit shots,” Churchill said. “It worked as we cut into the lead multiple times but all we could do was be down one or two and never got any closer.”

Five who thrive on mat

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Despite the fact that the Blooming Prairie High School wrestling team has struggled all season to win matches, with too few boys on the roster, five of the local matmen have managed to capture winning records in dual bouts.

“That,” remarks Coach Chad Gimbel, “speaks highly of their initiative and determination to succeed.”

What is also a little unusual is the fact that only one senior is among the five winners.

Jon Hansen, who wrestles at 132 pounds and has a 23-10 record, is the only senior.

The other four include two sophomores, a freshman and an eighth-grader.

Ethan Arett, a sophomore, is currently ranked sixth in the southeastern Minnesota area at 106 pounds and is riding along with a 27-5 record. He is among several very strong competitors in the section, but figures to get the number three seed in the upcoming individual section tournament.

Sporting the best dual mark of the five, eighth-grader Colton Krell has lost only three dual bouts while winning 32 at 160 pounds and is ranked 10th in the area. His place in the seeding process is still up in the air.

Sophomore Mitchell Oswald has been coming on strong in the latter part of the season and now holds a 25-7 record at 195 pounds. The last of the five winning records belongs to freshman Seth Peterson who is 22-13 at 145 pounds.

Hayfield routs Blooming Prairie

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

For a short time in the first half, it looked as if the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team could stay with Hayfield, but the Vikings scored the last nine points in the first half and rolled to a 67-44 victory over BPHS on Thursday, Feb. 11.

The non-conference loss dropped the locals to 8-15 for the season.

BP fell behind 14-6 and 15-7 early in the first half, but Max Romeo’s trey and a three-point effort by Anthony Nelson on a basket and free throw sparked a comeback for the locals.

The Blossoms actually took a 21-20 lead with four plus minutes left in the half, but four straight free throws and Aaron Anderson’s late basket gave the winners a 29-21 lead at the break.

Hayfield scored 13 of the first 17 points in the second half, and the rout was on. Missed opportunities and numerous turnovers popped up for the locals, and they just couldn’t recover from all the mistakes.

Nelson counted 13 for the locals, and Jake Ressler added 12 points. Marten Morem pulled down six rebounds, had an assist and two steals in the game.

The junior varsity team trailed just 22-19 at the half, but Hayfield pulled away in the second half for a 53-39 victory. Cameron Kubista scored 16 points for BP, which saw its record drop to 9-14 for the season.

BP edges B.A.

Earlier in the week the Blossoms had to hang on to defeat Bethlehem Academy, 49-45 in a Gopher Conference game on the home floor Monday, Feb.

10. It took two late free throws from Anthony Nelson with 8 seconds left to preserve the win and give a Parents Night crowd a chance to celebrate.

With a little over four minutes left in the game the Blossoms had a commanding 47-31 lead, but some full court pressure and Blossom turnovers changed all that. The Cardinals score 14 straight points to cut the local lead to 47-45. A step out of bounds for B.A. gave the ball back to the Blossoms with 12 seconds left, and Nelson made the insurance throws after being fouled.

Earlier, he had missed the front end of a 1 and 1 twice to give the losers another chance to tie. At the end, he came through with the final points. Nelson led all scorers in the game with 26 points.

The JV dropped the prelim to B.A.

The regular sports season is winding down

We are heading into the last week of regular basketball and the beginning of tournament play for both the boys and girls.

In fact, the boys will begin tourney play today (Tuesday) with a home contest against Christian life Academy. Should they win that game, they would travel to Adams Thursday night to face three-seeded Southland. The team won its last game of the regular season by nipping JWP at Janesville last Friday night, 67-66.

The girls have a very busy and tough week to finish their regular season. They played Hayfield last night, travel to a very tough Byron team tonight (Tuesday) and then finish the season with a conference tilt against WEM at home.

Hayfield has a 14-7 record coming into the game with the Blossoms, and Byron is a state-ranked team in its class, with just four defeats all season. Then the team closes out the season with a visit from WEM.

And the Bucs come to town as the Gopher Conference champions and a favorite in the upcoming sub-section tournament. If the locals could win

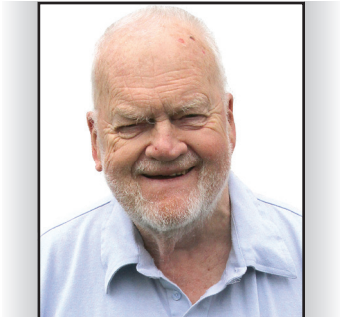
even one of those games, it would be quite an upset. The sub-section tournament for the Blossoms will begin next week.

As expected, the wrestling team dropped its opening section match to NRHEG, with all five of the Blossoms with winning records taking their individual bouts. Now it is on to the individual section tournament at Blue Earth Area next Saturday, Feb. 20. We wish those individuals the best of luck and hope that some of them will have success at that event. Ethan Arett should get a high seed, with a couple of other Blossoms in line for a chance to place in the Section.

Mother Nature still rules

We probably don’t need any reminders, but it is evident that Mother Nature is still in charge of the weather. It is a little unusual for February to be colder than January, but so far, that is the case. The below-zero temps of this last weekend should be a definite reminder that we still live in a state where winter still is the normal, rather than the

OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

exception.

About the only indication we have that the season is slowly about to change is the fact that the days are getting longer. Over the weekend, for example I did notice that I still saw daylight almost to 6 p.m. That is one definite sign of a change. We will probably notice more and more subtle hints that winter is loosening her grip on us, and that we can finally envision a little warmer weather. Many can’t wait for that to occur.

Bash leftovers

In my summary concerning the success of the annual Boys & Girls club benefit, I neglected one thank you. That big thank you goes to Ritchie Brothers Auction crew, who orchestrated the bidding in the live auction. The men did a great job giving people a chance to get bids on the floor and keep the action alive. One of the crew even drove from Cambridge to help out, and all of those who took bids earned their applause. Well done, gentlemen!

The exact totals for the Bash still may not be completely accurate, but it looks as if the event will bring in \$26,500 in receipts. A big thanks again to all the volunteers who worked to make it a success, to the many people and organizations who donated items for the auctions and to the 100 or so bidders who helped make that monetary total almost \$8,000 better than a year ago!

We already are looking forward to another successful event next year, and we will be happy to hear any ideas for making it better or for any

changes that are offered to the club and its directors. We will listen to any and all suggestions.

Fie on politics

I usually do a pretty good job of avoiding politics in this column, but I am sorely tempted to rant on the field of candidates that are vying for the presidential nominations on both sides. Neither of the democratic candidates lights a fire in my thinking, and all of the Republican candidates do light a fire, but a fire of ludi-crisy. If you will pardon my very infrequent ruminations on the subject, I am of a firm belief that Donald Trump’s triumph, as the Republican presidential candidate, would quickly make our country the laughing stock for the rest of the world.

Can you just imagine him working with Congress to implement all of his racist and anti-female harangues? I can’t imagine it, and I doubt many others can either. None of the other candidates running would be very influential either. Fortunately, we still eight months in which to decide on our choice

for the next president of these United States. I just hope that cooler heads will ultimately prevail before November rolls around.

And, as if the campaigns for president weren’t partisan enough, the sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia from the Supreme Court will roil the political waters even more. Scalia served on the court as the pride and spokesman for the conservative segment of our society.

Now, with his death, President Obama will undoubtedly make an appointment to the court, it will be fascinating to watch the Republican candidates for the presidency and conservative people in all segments of our society do their utmost to hold up the nomination until after the fall election. Politics may be pretty interesting after all.

Let’s close this week with an anecdote of a lighter touch: some people just can’t enjoy life’ the first half of their life they blame their troubles on their parents and the second half on their children. Support the Blossoms at tournament time, and we’ll talk again.

Blossom boys nip Bulldogs

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team closed out the regular season with a one-point 67-66 thriller over JWP at Janesville on Friday, Feb. 12.

The non-conference victory over the Bulldogs left the locals with a 9-16 overall record and a 4-8 mark in the Gopher Conference.

Led by Anthony Nelson's 20 points, nine rebounds, three assists and four steals, the Blossoms maintained a slim lead

throughout the game, after edging the home team 38-36 in a high-scoring first half.

Included in Nelson's totals was 2-of-3 from three-point range. The locals made 11 treys all together, with Ben Smith and Max Romeo canning three each. Marten Morem came alive for 15 points and six rebounds, and Romeo added 11 points, two assists and a steal.

BP finished the game shooting 44 percent from the field; the locals pulled down 43 rebounds in the contest, and the boys made 8-of-12 from the free throw

line. Eighteen turnovers hurt the Blossoms, but they took care of the ball at the end when ball control really counted.

Coach Brian Nelson's junior varsity team also won its last game, defeating JWP, 57-40, with the help of 10 treys in the game. Many of the shots that missed were scooped up by Trent Swenson and put back into the basket.

Romeo finished with 20 points, all in the first half, and Swenson chipped in 15 points.

The team record stands at 10-14.

Athletics run over Blossoms

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

It is never a good thing to get behind early to one of the best 1A girls' teams in the state, but Blooming Prairie did just that, and Lyle-Pacelli coasted to a 63-37 victory over the Blossoms Thursday, Feb. 11, on the winners' home court.

The non-conference loss dropped the BP record to 14-7.

"We fell behind early and we just couldn't close the gap," commented Coach John Bruns. "We also had too many turnovers in the game to give us much of a chance to make a comeback."

Both teams shot 32 percent from the field, but the winners had 37 more attempts than the locals. Sarah Holtz scored 18 points, with nine rebounds and six assists. Courtney Walters and Brooke Walters added 17 and 11 points, respectively. Marissa Larson counted 11 points for the Blossoms, and Kalyn Naatz and Sam Wurst each added seven points.

Larson also pulled down nine rebounds, blocked a shot and had an assist and a steal. Naatz had five rebounds, five blocks and a steal. Lauren Larkoski dished out two assists and had

three steals.

Lyle-Pacelli won the junior varsity contest 52-40, after the Blossoms led by 20-18 at the break. The Athletics scored 34 second half points. Rachael Oswald and Julia Worke had eight and seven points, and seven other girls counted at least four points each.

The team is now 12-8 for the season.

9th grade streak ends

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

In a game not previously reported WEM broke the ninth-grade win streak with a 30-23 victory over the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team.

Kaden Thomas and Timmy Wolf had seven and six points, but no other Blossoms managed more than four points. The Bucs

led 22-10 at the half and kept the lead throughout.

The team got back in the win column with a tough 32-28 win over Goodhue on the home court Thursday, Feb. 4. This was a game in which defenses dominated the action, as the Blossoms led just 9-8 at the half. BP outscored the Wildcats, 24-20 in the second half.

Gabe Hagen led the offense

in this victory with 13 points. Kaden Thomas and Timmy Wolf chipped in 10 and nine points.

The Blossoms trailed by a point at the half at USC on Friday, Jan. 29, and wound up with a 43-40 loss to the Rebels. Hagen led the offense with 17 points, and Wolf added 11, but no other player counted more than three points in the contest.

Women's Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS: Week 4

1. Epic Contracting	11-5
2. DOE	10-6
3. J&H Liquor/Dairy Queen	9-7
4. Kosters' Kar Corner	7-9
5. Pizza Cellar/Cue Co.	6-10
6. F&M Bank	5-11

INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game:	
1. Jerri Alves	171
2. Jess Motl	156

High Series:	
1. Jerri Alves	404
2. Mary Kittelson	401

NOW HIRING!

Assembly positions!

Call to apply: 507-455-7460

February Job Fair!

Thursday, February 18th | 10AM-2PM
Depot Building at Bosch
655 Eisenhower Dr, Owatonna, MN

www.Doherty.jobs
(507) 455-7460



EOE | DRUG FREE EMPLOYER

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Marissa Larson

The junior center made quite a splash early in the season, but Marissa Larson has been mostly quiet until recently as far as scoring goes. She has had two games in a row of good scoring totals, and she led the team with 11 points in the Lyle-Pacelli contest. She will be counted on heavily the rest of this season and on into the next year.



Jake Ressler

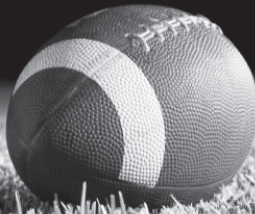
One of three sophomores who have started for the basketball boys during the season, Jake Ressler is beginning to show some of the talent most thought he had he has been a little slow in developing, but is showing signs of growing into a dominant player. His height gives him blocking ability under the basket, and if he scores at the rate he did in his most recent game, good things will happen. He had 12 points last Thursday, mostly in short range jumpers near the free throw line.

Sponsored by:



Eric R. Overby, DDS, MS

- Free Consultations and 2nd Opinions
- Email & Text Appointment Reminders
- Invisalign™ and Incognito™ Provider
- Payment Plans Available
- Online Account Access



OverbyOrtho.com

Good Luck Girls!!

OWATONNA GYMNASTICS

HEAD TO STATE!

(Section 1AA)



Above is the 2015-16 Owatonna High School Gymnastics team. From left to right in the front row are Becca Olsen, Emily An, Olivia Svenby, Beth Wilker and Allie Keller. In the second row are Ali An, Natalie Cumpean, Taitlynn Jensen, Macy Hanson, Ana Wilker and Lindsay Bangs. Third row are Erica Svenby, (manager Sam Fredin) Sydney Kretlow, Ali Golberg and Morgan Welker. And in the fourth row, are head coach Tom Smith, Heidi Lundberg, Kyla Robertson, Grace Pick, Steph Kretlow and assistant coach Sara Routh.



Owatonna American Legion Post 77

507-451-6080
137 W Broadway St • Owatonna, MN

Great Job Girls

507-451-0301
685 W Bridge St #8, Owatonna
www.paffrathjewelers.net



Stockwell Accounting Inc.

Full Range Of Accounting And Tax Planning

- ESTATE PLANNING • BUSINESS CONSULTATION
- ALL PAYROLL SERVICES • INDIVIDUAL & BUSINESS TAX PREPARATION

507-451-1873
802 N. ELM AVENUE
OWATONNA

Sweet TOWING & REPAIR

215 Cedardale Dr. SE • Owatonna, MN.
507-451-3424
24 Hour Complete Towing Service

Our Services Include

- Residential & Commercial
- Family Owned & Operated
- Certified Technicians
- FREE In Home Estimates
- Equipment Retrofit & Replacement
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

OWATONNA HEATING & COOLING

408 N Cedar Avenue • Owatonna



Over 32 years of experience

507-451-2051
www.owatonna-heating.net/



Create personalized class rings, school yearbooks, photo gifts, graduation announcements & jewelry for college, high school, hobbies, & sports.

507-455-6100
148 E. Broadway St, Owatonna • www.jostens.com



Over 40 years of School Bus Service

GOOD LUCK TEAMS

Safety First! Be On Time!

Owatonna Bus Company

Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:

Liquor. Officer took a report of a liquor violation in the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:19 p.m. on Feb. 5 in Owatonna.

State Patrol reconstructing BP fatal crash

The investigation into the Feb. 5 crash that claimed two lives outside of Blooming Prairie could take several months to determine exactly what happened, the State Patrol said.

Sgt. Troy Christianson said a full reconstruction is being done on the crash, but the results will

likely take up to six months. Once the investigation is complete, the case will be referred to the county attorney’s office for review.

He said the investigation could take longer than normal because the patrol is currently backlogged with a spike in fatal-

ity crashes around southeastern Minnesota.

The head-on crash on U.S. Highway 218 just north of Blooming Prairie killed Karl D. Erickson, 43, and his 9-year-old son Elijah of Austin. Both died at the scene, and the crash closed the highway for several hours as

the patrol conducted its reconstruction.

The Ericksons were traveling southbound in a Honda Civic when they collided with a Chrysler van going northbound. The van was driven by Paul J. Ingvaldson, 79, of Blooming Prairie.

He is recovering from injuries sustained in the crash.

Though there had been snow earlier in the week, Christianson said the roadway was dry at the time of the crash.

The patrol reported Karl was not buckled up in his seat belt. His son, Elijah, was properly

seat belted, according to the patrol. Ingvaldson was also reported to have been wearing his seat belt.

No alcohol is suspected in the crash, the patrol said.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

Owatonna Police

Feb. 5
Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 10:01 a.m.

Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 800 block of Lancer Dr. NE at 3:19 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 4:41 p.m.

Fraud. At 7 p.m., officer took a fraud report on 12th Place NW.

Theft. A theft occurred in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 7:25 p.m.

Trespassing. Police responded to a trespassing incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:49 p.m.

Liquor. Officer took a report of a liquor violation in the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:19 p.m.

Feb. 6
Arrest. At 1:34 a.m., police arrested a motorist in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Drunken Driving. Officer made a DWI arrest in the 500 block of Hazel Lane NE at 3:04 a.m.

Suspicion. Officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 10:32 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

Domestic. At 5:40 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Rose St. W. They made an arrest at the scene.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Feb. 7
Shoplifting. Officer responded to a shoplifting incident in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:20 p.m.

Feb. 8
Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 12:48 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 1300 block of Rose St. E. at 2:11 a.m.

Hit and Run. At 8:05 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Elm Ave. S. and Phelps St. E.

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 2:23 p.m.

Arrest. Officer took a subject into custody following a traffic stop at Lincoln Ave. S. and University St. E. at 11:27 p.m.

Feb. 9
Child Protection. At 3:20 p.m., police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 3 p.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 4:05 p.m.

Feb. 10
Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 400 block of Sylvan St. NW at 6:32 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 400 block of Vine St. E. at 10:52 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:47 p.m.

Feb. 11
DWI. At 12:31 a.m., officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 18th St. SE and Bixby Rd.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 12:08 p.m.

Fraud. Fraud incidents occurred in the 500 block of Murray St. SE at 12:51 p.m. and in the 400 block of North St. W. at 3:37 p.m.

Robbery. Police responded to a robbery in the 200 block of 21st St.

NW at 5:07 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
Feb. 5
Accident. Deputies assisted with a fatal accident on Hwy. 218 at 6:45 a.m.

Juvenile. At 4:24 p.m., deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of 1st Ave. NW.

Feb. 7
Restraining Order. Deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 4300 block of Cedar Ave. at 6:10 p.m.

Feb. 8
Crash. At 9:46 a.m., deputies responded to a crash resulting in property damage in the 300 block of 1st Ave. NW.

Warrants. Deputies made two warrant arrests – in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 3:19 p.m. and in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 8:28 p.m.

Feb. 9
Burglary. Deputies received information regarding a burglary in the 4500 block of County Rd. 45 N. at 2:17 p.m.

Feb. 10
Warrant. At 11:27 a.m., deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E.

Feb. 11
Warrant. Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 4:53 a.m.

Arrest. Deputies assisted with an arrest in the 1000 block of Division St. E. at 7:14 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 1 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Ismael G. Jacobo Avila, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of child pornography. He was sentenced to \$131, no access of Internet without approval, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no possession of pornography and 3 years of supervised probation.

Matthew D. Swenson, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. Swenson was sentenced to \$10,081, no possession of firearms, attend sex offender program, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no access to Internet without approval, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration and 20 years of supervised probation.

Brian E. Veach, 46, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault – dangerous weapons. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,081, 47 days in county jail, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, comply with mental health recommendations, do not associate with people actively using alcohol or controlled substances, attend 1 sober support meeting per week, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation.

Brandin D. Botten, 27, New Market, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime – possession. Botten was sentenced to \$1,081, 180 days

in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 1 – 5:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Dakota R. Cisneros, 19, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, \$111; Michael D. Dahmert, 31, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Janiffer L. Suchanek, 32, Blooming Prairie, disorderly conduct, \$131 and 11 days in county jail.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Michael J. Ambroselli, 20, Utica, NY, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Jacob R. Carlson, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Andrew J. Case-Allan, 29, Litchfield, revoked license, \$281; Debora J. Chicos, 47, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121;

James D. Crooks, 19, Prior Lake, speeding, \$131; Zeke T. Dahl, 38, Austin, speeding, \$121; Brian G. Eiken, 49, Blue Springs, MO, speeding, \$121; Samuel L. Ellringer, 20, Eyota, inspection violation, \$181; Conner J. Engrav, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Michael S. Fiedler, 31, Apple Valley, speeding, \$131;

Cory A. Frank, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Sheri K. Hoffman, 42, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Zarice L. Hoyt, 28, New Brighton, suspended license, \$281; Rene D. King, 19, Duluth, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, \$181; Maggie L. Kingery, 25, Ellendale, window tint violation, \$131; Cody V. Kolstad, 26, Faribault, speeding and registration violation, \$281; Tanner R. Kruckeberg, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$131;

Sarah R. Luyobyra, 32, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$141; Michael J. Midkiff, 48, Lynnwood, WA, speeding, \$141; Fredneschia T. Neal, 23, St. Paul, suspended license, \$281; Tyler S. Olsson, 21, Le Sueur, no MN license, \$181; Elsa A. Ortega, 31, Rochester, no insurance, revoked license and improper child passenger restraint system, \$531; Yonas T. Reinholdson, 23, Urbandale, IA, registration violation, \$111;

Alexandra N. Santaella, 34, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$121; Shirley A. Seath, 56, Ellendale, cancelled license, \$281; Michel M. Shenouda, 27, South St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Yolando B. Silbaran, 50, Wasco, CA, no MN license, \$181;

Caleb L. Sorenson, 21, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Michael S. Spangler, 41, Prior Lake, speeding, \$141; Peter I. Tate, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$221; Rosa L. Trevino, 33, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Adan Valentemendoza, 40, San Bernrdo, CA, no MN license, \$181;

Jessika E. Wager, 22, Spring Hill, TN, texting while driving, \$131; Kayla J. Wobschall, 21, Blooming Prairie, window tint violation, \$131; Christopher J. Yearling, 52, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Jacob G. Young, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$141.

Owatonna Police Department

Willie L. Anderson, 64, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Benjamin Arellano Jr., 19, Owatonna, assault, \$141, 1 day in county jail, mental health evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Segonia D. Bradley, 46, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281;

Dale R. Buytaert, 43, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Bradley L. Erickson, 42, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$281; Anthony L. Franklin, 51, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 2 days in

county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation;

Benjamin J. Hunt, 26, Faribault, theft, \$1,084.06, 103 days in county jail; Kodey T. Kiel, 16, Medford, speeding, \$141; James M. Kolling, 55, Kenyon, speeding, \$121; Monique L. Kraay, 43, Austin, suspended license, \$181;

Elliot M. Larson, 18, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$381; Serafin Martinez, 26, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Estuardo E. Perez, 20, Brooklyn Center, no MN license, \$181; Brian J. Wilkie, 37, Medford, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Zachary M. Alvarez, 19, Woodbury, theft, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; William K. Augerman, 45, Mazeppa, speeding, \$141; Hunter R. Bach, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Chad J. Blomstrom, 39, Janesville, speeding, \$381;

Claire E. Bodo, 28, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Christopher L. Bracken, 25, Faribault, disorderly conduct, \$381, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Sheila A. Christenson, 46, Bixby, speeding, \$221; Chad B. Elmer, 34, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Jesenya L. Garcia, 19, St. Paul, speeding, \$141;

Kevin R. Hanenberger, 43, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; James C. Harbal, 61, Medford, speeding, \$121; Brandon J. Heinicke, 30, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Nathaniel T. Henderson, 28, Waseca, cancelled license, \$381 and 2 years of supervised probation;

James J. Hinton, 54, New Richmond, speeding, \$121; Sara S. Johnston, 24, Rapid City, SD, speeding, \$121; David J. Keck, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Scott A. Kubicek, 45, Ellendale, speeding, \$141; Elizabeth A. Lageson, 48, Geneva, expired license, \$181;

Elliot M. Larson, 18, Owatonna, careless driving, \$381 and 2 days in county jail; Alejandra F. Maldonado Figueroa, 24, Lakeville, speeding, \$281; John D. Montoya, 50, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Caleb T. Oberg, 32, St. Cloud, speeding, \$121;

Dennis P. Pumper, 37, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Destiny R. Rietveld, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Brian A. Schema, 33, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Anna Tomovski, 21, Grosse Pointe, MI, speeding, \$141; James P. Zylstra, 60, Owatonna, speeding, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

Feb. 3
Fraud. A Kasson resident reported fraudulent activity on his bank account at 1:38 p.m.

Disturbance. At 8:59 p.m., deputies responded to an out-of-control male subject in the 800 block of 1st St. NE in Dodge Center.

Feb. 4
Intoxication. A Casey’s manager called deputies when an intoxicated female was trying to drive away in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield at 1:04 a.m.

Fire. Deputies responded to a report of fire in the 18900 block of 620th St. in Dodge Center at 5:01 a.m.

Narcotics. Deputies arrested a male subject for controlled substance crime and probation violation in the 100 block of 2nd St. W. in Claremont at 4:22 p.m.

Noise. At 11:44 p.m., deputies received a noise complaint from the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield.

Feb. 5
Suspicion. Deputies found suspicious activity at 1st St. NE and 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 2:11 a.m.

Vandalism. At 1:26 p.m., deputy took a report of vandalism at 1st St. SW and 2nd Ave. SW in Dodge Center.

Assault. A Claremont man called deputies at 4:07 p.m. to report that his son had been assaulted on the school bus in the 100 block of Front St. E.

Medical. Deputies assisted with a medical emergency involving a female who had snow collapse on her from a snow fort on South Fork Dr. SE in Kasson at 5:17 p.m.

Feb. 6
Animal. At 4:22 p.m., about a dozen cattle were running down State Hwy. 57 in West Concord.

Feb. 7
Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter regarding a vehicle repossession in the 61700 block of State Hwy. 57 in Mantorville at 2:24 p.m.

Feb. 9
Snowmobile. Deputies responded to a snowmobile accident at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 260th Ave. in Kasson at 4:37 p.m.

Disturbance. A Hayfield citizen called deputies for assistance with removing a female from his residence in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. at 7:28 p.m.

Domestic. At 7:46 p.m., deputies responded to a report of two juvenile females fighting in the 20000 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord.

Suspicion. Deputies received a suspicious activity report from State Hwy. 57 and 720th St. at 11:56 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 1 – 8:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Israel Cruz Limon, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Jessica M. Edgar, 16, Kasson, failure to yield right of way, \$130; Dennis J. Emanuel, 37, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Larry D. Haberman, 44, Blooming Prairie, suspended license, \$280; Jeremy D. Lau, 41, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Bryan S. Meaney, 32, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Scott A. Molby, 55, Oronoco, speeding, \$130; Ronda F. Rohl, 47, Waltham, parking violation, \$32; Kevin D. Smith, 27, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Samantha D. Stevenson, 50, Hayfield, DWI, \$580, chemical assessment, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation;

Anna E. Sutherland, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Anne C. Welch, 42, St. Paul, obstruct legal process, \$100 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Crecencio A. Yennie, 23, Minneapolis, no insurance, \$280; Amanda L. Zahradnik, 22, Austin, parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police Department

Rita L. Buehler, 55, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Bonnie J. Hameister, 38, Elgin, parking violation, \$32; Luis A. Macias, 37, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Samuel W. Michog, 24, Rochester, parking violation,

\$32; Daniel J. Milligan, 19, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Kaacee J. Mullins, 23, West Concord, invalid license, \$180.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jordan A. Abel, 21, Kasson, window tint violation, \$130; Bradley J. Arndt, 45, St. Charles, speeding, \$120; Kyle E. Campbell, 24, Belle Plaine, speeding, \$140; Brandon J. Driscoll, 35, Mantorville, revoked license, no insurance and expired registration, \$510; Daniel L. Hunt, 47, Claremont, speeding, \$120; Chelsey A. Peterson, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$120.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Maung Lin, 31, arrested at 1:59 a.m. Feb. 6, order for protection violation, held for court.

Theodore Ryan Haugland, 26, arrested at 2:02 p.m. Feb. 6, felony theft and fleeing on foot, held for court.

Robin Denise Scurlock, 55, arrested at 6:20 p.m. Feb. 6, assault/domestic assault, held for court.

D’Mario Antwon Holmes, 30, arrested at 2:32 a.m. Feb. 7, felony financial transaction card fraud, held for court.

Justin Ray Kadner, 35, arrested at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7, assault and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Kevin Jackson, 50, arrested at 1 a.m. Feb. 8, drugs warrant arrest, body only.

James Duane Osmonson, 28, arrested at 12:39 a.m. Feb. 9, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Andrew Robert Berndt, 31, arrested at 11:44 p.m. Feb. 8, felony possession of controlled substance, revoked license and false name, held for court.

John Thomas McGuire, 35, arrested at 10:18 a.m. Feb. 9, apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Daniel Arevalo Acosta, 26, arrested at 3:09 p.m. Feb. 9, complaint warrant, \$2,000 bail.

Steele County Sheriff

Heath John Baier, 35, arrested at 3:31 p.m. Feb. 8, felony order for protection violation, held for court.

Drew Randy Ferguson, 23, arrested at 9:31 p.m. Feb. 8, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Josef Michael Hammer, 32, arrested at 7:40 p.m. Feb. 11, probation violation warrant, body only.

Owatonna Fire

Feb. 6
Medical. Fire personnel assisted with a medical emergency in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 12:52 a.m.

Feb. 10
Arcing. At 2:13 p.m., an arcing, shorted electrical equipment incident occurred in the 500 block of 15th St. NE.

Feb. 11
Gas Leak. Fire fighters responded to a natural gas leak in the 600 block of 18th St. NE at 9:19 a.m.

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

Darren Anderson – theft by check - \$5,000 bail
Darla Andrews – theft by check - \$19,000 bail
Mack Anthony – open bottle - \$500 bail
Andrew Anzaldua – DWI - \$1,000 bail
Jose Aquilas – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Jorge Arias – DWI – no bail
Michael Armstead – DWI - \$500 bail
Maria Arredondo – theft - \$1,000 bail

Christopher Asplund – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Marcus Aye – soliciting without permit - \$500 bail
Jose Ayon – DWI – no bail
Stewart Babler – receiving stolen property - \$500 bail
William Bailey – no MN license - \$500 bail
Thomas Baker – theft - \$10,000 bail
Lionel Baldwin – weapons - \$3,000 bail

Nick Ball – no insurance – no bail
Jesus Barrera – controlled substance crime - \$100,000 bail
Kristopher Barta – false name - \$500 bail
Claudia Bautista – theft - \$10,000 bail
Richard Bazan – DWI - \$1,000 bail

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

New leadership for Blooming Prairie Recreation Association

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

John Worke, who had been the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association (BPRA) Director for 25 years, recently passed the torch to new director Gina Hendrickson. New BPRA Board members also hope to help the organization continue to thrive.

BPRA was established in 1991. At the time, Darwin Bostic was superintendent of Blooming Prairie Schools. “He wanted to work with the city to come up with a program for youth, mostly focusing on athletics but that could branch out into other areas, as well, with an emphasis on the lower level grades,” Worke said.

The original BPRA Board included members Brian Nelson, Jeff Zweiner, Jackie Flor, Lorraine Kruckeberg, John Iacovino and Craig Kruckeberg. Worke was BPRA’s first director, and continued to serve in this capacity for the next 25 years, until

BPRA Taco Night

Saturday, Feb. 20
5 – 8 p.m.

Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club

Cost: \$5

Hendrickson stepped into the role this past August.

“At the time, it was a good fit for me,” recalls Worke. “I had done some summer youth programs at that time, and I was newly hired as an elementary teacher, so I’d be in that building and could be a good advocate for these programs. It just seemed to work.”

The program quickly became a success, offering opportunities for youth to become engaged with an athletic activity in a social setting. “We want to provide great experiences for our elementary-age students while building skills for future teams at the high school,” Worke said.

The organization, he said, also offers the opportunity for students to grow. “Any time a kid participates in any program where there’s competition and groups of kids meeting on a committed basis, you certainly start developing those life and social skills,” said Worke.

Worke said that the city of Blooming Prairie has some financial ties to BPRA and that, in the past, pancake breakfast events also helped raise funds for the organization. Overall, however, Worke said that entry

fees for the various activities help support BPRA.

“As long as we break even, we are happy,” he said. “We never turn down a student because of finances.” If a student cannot afford the activity fee, said Worke, BPRA will absorb the cost for that child to participate.

The community, said Worke, has been very supportive of BPRA. Most coaches are parents, who help offer activities such as softball, baseball, golf, traveling basketball, traveling volleyball and more. “Since BPRA’s start in 1991, we have had two sports branch off a little, and they are the Football Boosters and the Wrestling Matmen Club,” said Worke. “However, BPRA is still involved with both sports in some aspect.”

Worke and Hendrickson agree that they are glad BPRA is still going strong, even after 25 years. “We’re very proud of the fact that we’ve been going since 1991, because, a lot of times, those programs fizzle,”

said Worke.

Over time, Worke said that his career continued to progress and change. Though it all, BPRA remained something he was passionate about. Other community members, like Lorraine Kruckeberg, also developed a love for the organization. “Lorraine Kruckeberg has been a key piece to the development of this entire program,” said Worke. “It’s very close to her heart, too.”

Worke taught third-grade for four years, then taught fifth-grade for three years before beginning work at the high school. His role as athletic Director allowed him to build connections with students, coaches and community members. Worke has fond memories of coaching t-ball, and said that many people still approach him to share memories and say “I remember you when you were my t-ball coach.”

“The shirt day was awesome,” said Worke. “I remember the kindergarteners out there, hitting off the tee, running the bases... that was really neat.”

Recently, Ali Mach accepted the role of athletic director, and Worke transitioned into the position of High School principal. “In my transition, we felt it would be a good time to get a new Board, with new ideas,”

BPRA
Continued on Page 6B



Steele County employment connection



Become part of our team!

An aggressive fast-growing global food ingredients company is expanding production and is hiring for the following full-time opportunities.

MAINTENANCE POSITION

- Take care of all maintenance state standards and OSHA compliance standards. Boiler check, WWTP checks
- Trouble shoot, repair and maintain functional parts of

IDEAL APPLICANTS WILL HAVE

Previous food industry experience
The ability to stand for extended periods of time
The ability to lift up to 50 pounds
Stable work history & a positive work ethic
High school diploma or GED

We are proud to offer competitive wages, employer supported health and dental coverage, PTO, the opportunity for advancement.

Please send resume to HR@AMTECHINGREDIENTS.COM
AmTech Ingredients, LLC
517 Adams Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007 • 507-373-4739
Physical & Drug screen Required

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME OPENINGS

ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE

Resident Assistants for partially independent seniors. Benefits available for those who work 30 hours or more. Ideal candidate would enjoy working with seniors and acknowledging a sense of purpose in someone’s life

Part-Time Dayshift Cook
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Must be 18 with GED or High school Diploma.
Starting pay rate \$12 - \$13 per hour*

“Where People Matter”

Apply online at www.ecumen.org/careers/career-opportunities



2480 St Paul Rd
Owatonna, MN
507-446-5855



650 El Dorado St SE,
Owatonna, MN
507-446-8334

CDL/OTR DRIVER WANTED

Driver benefits included, Paid Holidays, Vacation Pay, Health Insurance, 401K



AUSTIN, MN • 800-634-3317

CONSIDERING A CAREER IN INSURANCE SALES?

American Family Insurance is seeking highly motivated, customer-focused individual to represent our products as a sales specialist in OWATONNA. Are you a proactive problem-solver? Do you enjoy challenges? As an employee of an Agency/Owner, you’ll be responsible for attaining sales, profitability and service goals while helping our customers manage their risks and protect their dreams. If interested, we’d like to meet with you.

To get started protecting others’ dreams and pursuing your own, send your resume to:
rwakefie@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783.
010332 — 4/15 © 2015



Minneapolis Classified Advertising Network

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

CDL A DRIVERS
\$7,500 sign-on-bonus. Medical benefits on day 1 & \$65k+ in your first year!!! Guaranteed pay. Profit sharing. 401K with company match & more! Email resume: mnhr@mclaneco.com or call Hollie now! 507/664-3038

NOW HIRING
Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb’s & Co. 763/389-0610

ADVERTISE HERE STATEWIDE IN 260+ NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY \$279 PER WEEK! CALL 800-279-2979

MISCELLANEOUS

XARELTO USERS
Have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you may be due financial compensation. If you don’t have an attorney, call InjuryFone today! 800/591-7054

GOT KNEE PAIN?
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!
Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR
truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

DISH NETWORK
Get more for less! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706

SAVE MONEY!
Call your local newspaper or MNA 800-279-2979 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!

Ready to join an award-winning newspaper

The sky’s the limit!

A sales person is needed to join a growing newspaper in southern Minnesota. We are looking for an energetic, committed person who has expertise in sales and marketing or a person with the desire and dedication to work toward becoming a sales expert.

Interested?
Contact Managing Editor Alan Van Ormer at 507-583-4431 or email bpalan@frontier.com



Always local, all the time.



Oberg Freight Company

Contact:
Oberg Freight Company
Fort Dodge, IA
1-888-739-5220
ext 2



ASK US ABOUT OUR SIGN ON BONUS

COMPANY DRIVERS WANTED

- GOOD STEADY FREIGHT
- EXCELLENT HOME TIME
- CONSISTENT REGIONAL MILES
- NO TOUCH VAN FREIGHT



Putting You On the Road to SUCCESS!

www.obergfreight.com



CEDAR'S SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

30 YEARS IN AUSTIN

Now Hiring: CNA’s, RCA’s
Sign-On Bonus with Incentive Pay
Apply in Person or Online
700 First Dr. NW Austin • www.cedarsofaustin.com

TRACTOR/TRAILER MECHANICS WANTED

Full Time 1st and 2nd shifts \$16-\$24 HR/DOQ, DL and Tools Preferred, Will Train the right person.
Benefits include: Med. Ins., Pd Time Off, Uniforms, and Simple IRA

Superior Material Handling
Call or Fax Jim • 507-214-2196 • Fax: 507-214-2197



HIRING FAIR

February 26th from 1-4 p.m.
700 W. Bridge Street location

Production Positions Available on 2nd and 3rd shifts
10 Paid Company Holidays • Paid Time Off
Gain Sharing Bonus Program

Forklift Drivers • Coating Line Operators
Maintenance Mechanic • Die Cast Operators
Assemblers Punch Press Operators

1st Shift Die Cast Supervisor
3rd Shift Assembly Supervisor
Manufacturing Engineers



Classifieds

Dodge County
Independent
Dodge County
ADvantage
Steele County Times

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$30
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10c FOR EACH WORD AFTER



**REACH OVER 17,000 IN
OVER 12 COMMUNITIES**

To place an ad: Call: 507-583-4431, E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net, Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

EMPLOYMENT
PT Property Maintenance position available in Hayfield. General repair and maintenance experience preferred. Please send resume to hayfieldmidtownmanor@gmail.com 6tfc

Hiring for spring concrete construction. Hard working, reliable, laborers and finishers needed. Wage based on experience. Call Dobbs Construction now! Luke @507-259-9180 7tfc

FASTENAL®
DODGE CENTER
PART TIME
POSITIONS AVAILABLE
PT 7-NOON • M-F
WAREHOUSE SUPPORT
DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED.
MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD.
APPLY ONLINE AT
FASTENAL.COM
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. 8 tfc

LOOKING FOR STABILITY?
Join McLane and be part of a company that's been in business for 120 years!
McLane is hiring CDL A Drivers
You'll receive:
• \$7,500 Sign-On-Bonus
• Guaranteed Pay and Earn \$65k + in your FIRST YEAR!!!
• Full Health Benefits on Day 1
• Paid Holidays and Vacations
• 401k with Company Match
• Life Insurance and Disability
HIRING EVENT
Feb 17,18,19 7AM to 5PM
Email or Call Hollie at mnhr@mcLANECO.com or (507) 664-3038
Eligible CDL Applicants:
21 Years of Age HS Diploma
50,000 Safe Driving Miles



Company drivers wanted for Oberg Freight Company. Good steady freight, excellent home time, consistent regional miles, and no touch van freight. Ask about our sign on bonus. Contact: Oberg Freight Company Fort Dodge, IA 1-888-739-5220 ext 2 or www.obergfreight.com 8,9c,10nc

Zumbro Valley Recreation Club is seeking a clubhouse manager. Food and beverage experience required with solid marketing and organizational skills. Send resume to: ZVRC, P.O. Box 76 Kasson, MN 55944 7-9c

Wanted Designated Coordinator with a 2-4 year degree in Human Services field to manage a 4-bed DD group in West Concord, MN. Manage, train staff and coordinate person-centered services for individuals served. Position is FT with Full Benefits Package including medical, dental, life, disability, PTO, etc. \$32,000-\$36,000 DOE + Hiring Bonus! Must have MN

Driver's License with clean driving record and pass state background clearance. Send cover letter and resume to cenneidighinc@gmail.com or apply at 402 Heritage Place, Faribault MN 55021 9-12c

Wanted LPN or RN to manage a 4-bed DD group home with heavy medical needs in West Concord, MN. Manage staff and client health needs. Position is FT with Full Benefits Package including medical, dental, life, disability, PTO, ect. \$23 -\$25/ hour DOE + Hiring Bonus! Must have MN Driver's License with clean driving record and pass state background clearance. Send cover letter and resume to cenneidighinc@gmail.com or apply at 402 Heritage Place, Faribault MN 55021 EOE 9-12c

FOR RENT
Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Mobile Home lot and mobile homes for rent at Southside Mobile Home Park in Hayfield. No Pets. Call JMC for details. 507-536-0000. 43tfc

Prime office spaces for rent on Main Street, Kasson. High traffic location. Call 634-4307 for more information. 37tfc

Main Street store for lease, 2-3000 sq.ft. Contact Pat 319-6762. 1tfc.

2016 New Year's Rent Sale. Sign a 1 year lease and get 1 month FREE rent. In Hayfield, an 1880's renovated hotel with spacious rooms, hardwood floors, microwaves and an ambiance that is quiet small town living. We have the 1,2 or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Utilities included in rent. Call 507-796-0152 or 507-884-9706 or 701-330-9706 for sale details. 2tfc

RENT or buy, office/shop building, Kasson. Call 251-1628. 5tfc

Private quiet 2 bedroom duplex apartment in Ellendale. Must see! \$550/mo. Water, sewer, garbage included. Call (507) 456-8931 7stc

Smoke Free Senior Housing! 1 bd apartment in Kasson for 62+ or disabled persons. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. (507) 398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyle.net tdd (507) 451-0704 Equal housing Opportunity 7-9c

Storage Space: 10 x 20 secure garage for storage... individual electronic access code. \$60 per month at Heather Haus Assisted Living, Blooming Prairie. Contact Richard Feeney at 507-671-1242. 7,8,9c

1 BD Mantorville spacious apartment available in March. Month to month leases and deposit payment plans. (507) 398-6027 or (507) 451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd (507)451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 8,9c,10nc

3 BR house for rent in Kasson. Rent is based on 30% of your income. Attached garage and washer/dryer hook-ups. Must meet household criteria – minimum household size of 5 members. Go online at www.semmchra.org to complete an application or call Janeen at (651) 565-2638, ext. 203 for more information. Equal Housing Opportunity. 8c,9c,10nc

SERVICES
HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbonless forms, computer stationary. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfc

TUTORING. Learning can be fun! All grades - most subjects. Linda L. Greene 507-374-2363. 38tfc

Yoga at the Blooming Prairie High School Library Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. \$14.00 per month. Call Shelley Johnson with any questions (507) 219-4282 No need to RSVP. 8stc

WANTED
Crop land to rent. Young farmer looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area. Call David Stanton 507-951-0915. 1tfc

Reliable Middle-Aged Couple seeking a home. She active disabled, he retired, handy with tools so fixer-upper would work well. Solid, fixed income. We are selling our home in Missouri to be close to her family in the Dodge Center area. Contract for deed, rent-to-own or straight rental until MO property resolved. Currently living in the D.C. area but looking for our permanent home. Substantial down payment/security

deposit and references available. Rural or small town, 40-ish miles to D.C. preferred. Call Jim at (417) 394-2571 or Norma at (417) 793-9067. Looking forward to being Minnesotans again. 8-10p

MISCELLANEOUS
Douglas United Methodist Church, Sunday Brunch, Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m., adults \$8, ages 6-12 \$4, under 5 free. 9c

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 10 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 9nc

FOR SALE
Free-standing natural gas fire place with blower. Call 634-7114 and leave a message. 8p,9p,10nc

Frigidare gas stove, new 26" girls bike, 20 lb. L.P. tanks and 2 infra-red space heaters. (507) 884-5739 8c, 9c, 10nc

2008 16x80 mobile home 36,000 new W/D and carpet, 3 bedroom and 2 full baths. Contact (507) 251-8654 for more details. 9c, 10c, 11p



Pine Haven Community

NURSES • CNAS

com-mu-ni-ty (kə'myōōnədə)

A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals

Pine Haven would like to invite you to be part of our community.

Apply online at at www.pinehavencommunity.org 

www.facebook.com/PineHavenCommunity

Human Resources, Pine Haven Community
210 NW Third St., Pine Island, MN 55963
507 356-8304

EOE/AA 9c

Now Hiring Direct Support Staff

Hiawatha Homes provides support to people with disabilities. We offer flexible schedules, valuable experience, paid training, weekend & holiday pay, PTO & benefits. We are currently offering full and part-time direct support positions to qualified candidates.



New Increased starting wage plus a .50 cent weekend differential!

Apply online at:
www.hiawathahomes.org or in person at:
1820 Valkyrie Drive NW Rochester, MN 55901

Hiawatha Homes is an equal opportunity employer including veterans and persons with disabilities.

Make the Right Move

FIND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT KENYON SUNSET HOME

LPN/RN:.....Part time & On Call shifts available
CNA'S:.....Full-time and Part time Days and Evenings
On Call Evenings and Nights

NEW WAGES – CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

DIETARY DEPARTMENT:
Evening Dishwasher 1-3 days a week 5:00 pm-7:30pm
HOUSEKEEPING:
On Call hours available 8:30-1:00
.....

GUNDERSON GARDENS:
Home Health Aides or CNA'S
Full time and part time hours available
6-2 and 5-9 and 5-7:30 OR 7-11:00 a.m.



Check out our website: www.KenyonSeniorLiving.com
Contact: **Cristi Tungland, DON • 507-789-7122**
Matt Valentyn, Dietary and Housekeeping • 507-789-7128 or
Diane Rasmussen, Housing Manager for Gunderson Gardens, at 507-789-7138

Kenyon Senior Living offers a friendly faith based work environment and a full range of benefits including health insurance, 403B Savings Plan, PTO and 8 Holidays per year!
Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider
127 GUNDERSON BOULEVARD, KENYON, MN 55946





Join Our Team

Dodge Center, MN

Jennie-O Turkey Store is looking for individuals to join our Live Production Team as Barn Wash Crew Members. These individuals will be responsible for washing and disinfecting turkey production facilities.

These candidates will work an 8-10 hour flexible shift schedule Monday thru Friday and some Weekends. Must have previous driving experience with pickup/trailer combination and demonstrate good math, written and verbal communication skills. Starting rate of pay is \$13.77/hour with a scheduled increase at four months to \$15.18/hour.

Competitive Benefits include:

- Health/Dental/Vision/Life
- Paid Holidays & Vacation
- 401K Plan
- Direct Deposit
- Employee Assistance Program
- Funeral Leave Pay
- Employee Stock Purchase Plan
- Opportunities for Advancement

If interested, please stop by, call, or email pmadden@j-ots.com

Jennie-O Turkey Store
1116 NW 4th Ave Faribault, MN (507)-332-5320
“Equal opportunity employer/disability/vet”

BPRA

Continued from Page 4B

explains Worke. “This past summer, we revamped our BPRA Board, which includes a lot of parents with younger children, then I stepped down and now Gina Hendrickson is the new Director.”

Although Worke is no longer BPRA Director, he still cares deeply about the program’s success. “BPRA has always been close and dear to my heart, as a BP grad and someone who went through his college years coming back to Blooming and doing the summer programs,” he said. “Over the years, I know this program has had a positive effect on a lot of our youth in our community.”

Hendrickson adds that she also believes the program is invaluable for Blooming Prairie youth. “It gives the kids an outlet, a place to be active that’s safe and secure,” she said.

Previously, Hendrickson had been the Blooming Prairie head volleyball coach for 11 years, but wanted to be more available to her family. “This has been an awesome compromise for me,” said Hendrickson. “I’m still around the sports and the kids and the families, but it’s a different type of commitment. I didn’t realize half of what all the other sports were up to, and it’s been kind of fun to see that.”

In her new role, Hendrickson finds herself taking on an assortment of tasks, from mowing football lines to lending a hand with pizzas at the concession stand. Hendrickson said she enjoys the challenges, and the versatility, of her role as Director. “This kind of chaos is the perfect kind of gig for me,” she said, with a laugh.

Hendrickson said that she’s also grateful for Worke’s continued support and willingness to offer advice. “John has done this for so long, that it’s kind of a second nature to him,” Hendrickson said. “He just knew what he had to do, and when. I look forward to the point when I can be in that same position.”

Worke is happy to offer input when asked, but he’s also content to see some positive changes and new ideas develop. “What’s nice about this transition period is that I’m not too far

away,” he said.

He’s also glad to see the new Board members embracing some new ideas. “They want to do some new things and some different things, and that’s great,” said Worke. New board members include Jeremy Wangen, Katie Winzenburg, Lisa Bruns, Mandy Lembke, Chase Kelner and Mike Studer.

This Saturday, Feb. 20, is “BPRA Taco Night.” The event is scheduled for 5 – 8 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club, and proceeds will benefit BPRA. The event cost is \$5. Although tickets were available to purchase prior to the event, guests can also purchase tickets at the door. “We’re hoping to let the community meet our new board members and check out what BPRA is up to this year,” said Hendrickson, of the upcoming fundraiser.

Hendrickson also said that the Board hopes to expand some of the BPRA programs to include younger age groups, and offering a “sampler day,” so kindergarten or first grade students could try different skills or sports for a day. BPRA now has a website and Facebook site.

The BPRA Board, said Hendrickson, hopes to sustain past programs, as well. “We hope to maintain the level of programming and work together to make it as strong as we can,” she said.

The community’s support, said Hendrickson, has been essential to BPRA’s success. “The volunteerism and the creativity has been priceless,” she said. “BPRA wouldn’t exist without those pieces.”

Hendrickson is especially excited to see what the next few months will bring. “We have some new coaches with great ideas, and some new board members really willing to work,” said Hendrickson. “It’s been a nice, perfect storm for my rookie year.”

To learn more about BPRA or inquire about BPRA volunteer opportunities, contact Hendrickson at Blooming Prairie High School. She can be reached at 507-583-4426 or by e-mail at ghendrickson@blossoms.k12.mn.us.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Many people choose not to talk about the C-word (cancer). Tammy Wolf, Blooming Prairie mother of four and grandmother to one, has no inhibitions talking about her battle with cancer the past eight years.

Tammy is winning her battle thanks to surgery and treatment, but says there are no total guarantees.

When told she had cancer, Tammy said she developed a “totally different outlook” on life. “You re-prioritize life and don’t sweat the little things. Life is short and you try to make the best of it. ‘Let me get through this,’ I thought.”

Tammy is thankful to her God, her family, friends and medical experts who have walked the extra miles with her during her fight with the dreaded disease.

Those who know Tammy would be quick to say that she is a battler who does not give up the fight. “When I was told I had breast cancer, I just prayed that I could get through this after I get all my kids on their own.”

Son Tim, 15, is the last of her children at home. His siblings are Katie, 19; Kelsey, 22, and Kaylin, 24. Yes, there’s another youngster in the family, too, “an unplanned blessing” named Paisley, daughter of Kelsey.

A very involved and energetic community resident, Tammy did not let her battle with cancer get her down. She even became more determined to conquer this obstacle in life.

Tammy first became aware of cancer invading the family makeup when her father, Frank Trihus, fought colon cancer for nine months before succumbing to the disease in August of 2003. Her father’s sister also died of colon cancer.

In September of 2007, Tammy turned 40 and made a health decision to schedule a mammogram. On her way home that day and half way between Byron and Kasson, Tammy took a phone call from the medical clinic saying they wanted to check her the next day for a suspected problem.

Knowing that breast cancer did not run in her family, Tammy did not worry. On her return to Rochester, several mammogram images and an ultrasound were taken. Three days later, a scheduled MMR and 5 biopsies were taken on the cancer-

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

‘Let me get through this’



Submitted photo
Tammy Wolf and her granddaughter Paisley enjoy some quality time together. Tammy is a cancer survivor. She and her husband Bruce reside on a farm nine miles northeast of Blooming Prairie.

ous side. Two days after that she and her husband, Bruce were informed by her family doctor that she had cancer. Surgery was scheduled two weeks later.

“Things moved rather fast then,” Tammy recalls. Doctors performed a mastectomy on her left breast. Microscopic cancer in her sentinel lymph node was discovered two days after surgery. Fortunately the other 11 lymph nodes were negative for cancer and saved her from another surgery, but did change her cancer status from stage 2 to stage 3A.

“If I had put the mammogram off, the cancer would have gotten out of hand. I slid under the wire.” Her good health also helped her recovery she was told.

Her battle continued with five months of chemotherapy and five weeks of daily radiation at the Mayor Clinic in Rochester. The five months of chemo consisted of three types of chemo drugs.

Following her treatment and monitoring of her progress, Tammy was declared cancer free in 2012. She now goes to her family doctor every six months for blood work. She said her current concern is her liver since told that the enzymes have changed.

Following her one-year anniversary, Tammy said she told her doctors to re-

move the parts she did not need. She then had a mastectomy of the other breast and also underwent a hysterectomy. “I had instant menopause,” she laughs.

“I am very grateful for the action the doctors took with surgery and treatment and I am thankful to the Lord above and to my dad. All of these factors including a strong faith saved my life,” she said.

Tammy said she never “got mad” about having cancer. “It was the hand I was dealt, and I just asked the Lord to walk with me through this,” she said.

Tammy said she believes stress plays a part in cancer developing in its victims. “I tried to be super mom,” she said. She also said she has learned that since her diagnosis of cancer, several of her cousins on her paternal side have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Tammy has not undergone any genetic testing to see if the disease is hereditary.

With her health a major concern of Tammy and her family, she took a year off from substitute teaching. She continues to sub teach in the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield-Brownsdale school districts.

She also continues her photography business and follows local sports events, but she did take three trips to Europe during the past several years. Tammy is phasing back on her involvement with the Merry Lane 4-H Club in favor of dedicating grandma duty to Paisley.

Looking back on her trek down a recovery path, Tammy has had moments to cherish for their humor. She said she lost her hair after two treatments and was forced to wear a wig. She tells the story of the Naatz twins seeing her at school with short hair beneath a baseball cap and then seeing her with a full head of hair in church. “They wondered why my hair grew so fast,” she relates.

“I’m so thankful to many people, including the chemo ladies, who were wonderful. On my last treatment, I cranked the doctor’s chair all the way to the top. I also brought the chemo ladies a thank you and a pound of M&M candies,” she said.

Cancer prevention happens with early detection and treatment. Tammy Wolf is living proof of that.

Sponsored by

KREJCI



Blooming Prairie school menus

BPES Breakfast Menu:

Feb. 16: Long John, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

Feb. 17: WG Bagel with cream cheese, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Feb. 18: French toast bread loaf, vegetable selection, orange juice, milk

Feb. 19: Breakfast round, vegetable selection, fresh fruit, milk

Feb. 22: Yogurt, graham crackers, vegetable selection, canned fruit, milk

Feb. 23: Cinnamon roll, vegetable selection, apple juice, milk

BPES Lunch Menu:

Feb. 16: Hotdog on WG bun, Mexican rice; Chicken taco, lettuce/cheese, Mexican rice; Romaine lettuce, baby carrots,

beets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 17: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, 2 WG sliced bread; hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes; black beans, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 18: Tony’s cheese pizza, fruited gelatin; turkey BLT wrap, fruited gelatin; broccoli, black beans, seasonal fruit

Feb. 19: Cheese bread dunkers, Marinara sauce; chili, WG

breadstick; Romaine lettuce, green onions, tomatoes, seasonal fruit

Feb. 22: Chicken patty sandwich, tortilla chips; macaroni and cheese, baked baked; baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu:

Feb. 16: Chicken bacon ranch melt, sweet potato fries, corn,

baby carrots, beets, seasonal fruit

Feb. 17: Chili, cinnamon roll, fruited gelatin, broccoli, garbanzo beans, celery sticks, seasonal fruit

Feb. 18: Chicken fajitas, lettuce/cheese, refried beans; green beans, baby carrots, garbanzo beans, seasonal fruit

Feb. 19: Cheese pizza with Italian roasted veggies; romaine

lettuce, green onions, tomatoes, seasonal fruit

Feb. 22: Crispy chicken sub, tri tator; green peas, pinto beans, cherry tomatoes, seasonal fruit

Feb. 23: Hot dog, mac n’ cheese, baked beans; broccoli florets, baby carrots, cauliflower, seasonal fruit



TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

Did you know?

Tax season is on the horizon. Organization and good record-keeping are keys to filing an accurate return in a timely manner. Failure to submit income and expenditure information can subject a person to an audit and additional financial repercussions. To stay organized, set aside a folder to contain any items applicable to your tax filings. Make a list of expected documents, including income summaries from work,

bank interest statements, student loan information, mortgage documents, charitable donation receipts, and similar items. Check these documents off your list as you place them in the folder. If documents are missing, promptly seek them out from the appropriate sources. Once all of your the necessary documents have been compiled, make an appointment with an accountant or get to work on filing your own taxes.

Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

607 East Main St. • P.O. Box 756 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Ellen Stebbins
Accountant - EA,RAP, ABA

Phone: 507-583-6601
507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

FAST INCOME TAX, INC.

Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR ‘ROUND

- COMPUTERIZED TAX FOR FEDERAL & ALL STATES
- INDIVIDUAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, PARTNERSHIP, PAYROLLS & PAYROLL TAX
- CORPORATE & FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTING SERVICE

We offer electronic tax filing (federal & state)
204 SW 12th Street, Austin
Locally Owned & Operated - Erik C. Newhouse, CPA - Quickbooks Pro Advisor

507-437-8511

H&R BLOCK

PUT OUR
EXPERTISE
TO WORK FOR YOU.

318 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060 507-451-1491

OBTP#B13696 © 2015 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE

LISA ACKERMAN
Certified Tax Prepaer/Accounting Services

1122 South Oak, Owatonna MN
507-451-3399 | wats@gofast.am

When in Rome...

Local woman follows dreams overseas

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

Marissa Jensen, age 21, is following her dreams, which have recently led her to Italy. Soon, Jensen’s parents, Neil and Becky Jensen, of Blooming Prairie, will embark on an adventure of their own.

Marissa, a junior, is a student at Augustana University, where she’s pursuing a degree in elementary education. She’s currently studying abroad and is now in Italy. On Holy Thursday (March 24) her parents will also pay her a visit in Rome. The family hopes to witness the

‘This has been the best experience of my life so far and I can’t wait for what is to come!’

— Marissa Jensen, student studying abroad

Stations of the Cross at the Coliseum, tour the Vatican and has also been granted three tickets for Easter Mass with the Pope.

Becky said that, although the family has three tickets, there’s no guarantee they’ll be able to attend the Mass, as the Mass is a “first come, first served” experience. Regardless, said Becky,

she and Neil are still excited to visit with Marissa.

“She’s got dreams,” said Becky. “She just goes for it and she’s very independent. She just loves life. When things don’t seem to be going right, she just

STUDY ABROAD
Continued on Page 3C



Submitted photo
Marissa Jensen, a local graduate, is currently studying abroad and thoroughly enjoying the experience. Above, she poses for a photo in Venice, Italy, during the Carnevale celebration.

Volunteer group to create family-like network

By **ANNA SEGNER**
County Staff Writer

A new volunteer group called Acts is in the works.

When Allana Kern married Andrew Kern in 2014, she was struck by his large family’s constant willingness to help.

“We have so much family and friends, and Andrew has a huge family, seriously at least like 75 people, so if we need help, we can just send out a mass text,” said Alana. “A lot of people don’t have that.”

Allana woke up one morning with the idea to provide that family-like network for the community.

“I said to Andrew when he came in from milking cows that I have this crazy idea,” said Allana. “He wanted to do it with me, because he is awesome.”

“We researched to make sure there was nothing else like this in the community, because if there was, we’d just help that group instead of creating a new group to compete with that one,” she said.

Allana and Andrew have already compiled 51 volunteers. Some are family members, and many Owatonna Business women are providing help. They are asking for volunteers to be over the age of 18.

Acts has a focus on labor intensive work such as painting, moving, hauling, yard work, mechanical advice and home maintenance. However, they also hope to provide help with resume building and homework.

They are focusing their service to Steele County.

They have met with groups such as the Crisis Resource Center, Lily Sparrow House and Transitional Housing. Allana said that representatives from those services have said that there is a need for this.

“We heard that if a woman is fleeing an abusive situation, she has support for finding a new place, but she does not have that network of people to simply help her move,” Allana said.

The event is kicking off with the distribution of 150 “blessing bags” on March 1. These bags are stuffed with personal care items. Individuals at the Beaurterre Recovery Institute volunteered to stuff the bags on Feb. 29.

“We believe in demonstrating Christ through acts of service,” said Allana. Acts has Christian roots, but Allana said that in “no way shape or form is limited to only Christians.”

To get involved with Acts, email actsowatonna@outlook.com.

Broomball tournament heats things up in Blooming Prairie



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Participants in the second annual Broomball tournament enjoy a spirited game on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Blooming Prairie ice rink. Later that morning, visitors to the ice rink also had the opportunity to play “Turkey Bowling” (left).

Sweethearts dine at Litomysl Church

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

It was a special night for many as they took their sweethearts to the Second Annual Litomysl Women’s Council Valentine Dinner Saturday night at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl.

Organizer Carol Prokopec said 175 were fed a Windsor chop dinner. Last year’s crowd was recorded at 89.

Volunteers registered guests as they entered the church. Sr. Franchon PirkI puts heart stickers on all of the guests. Music was provided by half of the Twisted Sisters duo, namely Pat Motl.

The dinner was a benefit for church kitchen renovation.

Last summer, before the church festival in July, the church had to replace a convection oven before workers could make its 600 dozen, plus Buchty (filled biscuits), to sell.

Any proceeds were placed

in the kitchen renovation fund. This will be used toward the cost of new cupboards, counter tops and serving areas. Litomysl Church was built in 1940, and the kitchen was done shortly after that. “Therefore, this area needs to be changed for safety purposes as well as convenience for the kitchen workers,” Prokopec said.

The church has also had bake sales, with Buchty as the major baked items being sold. “We are hoping to start the painting and renovation project as soon as we get closer to our goal,” Prokopec said. “We have had numerous donations from church members and other interested friends, and we are very appreciative of these gifts,” Prokopec added.

Prokopec concludes, “If we have a Valentine’s Dinner next year, hopefully, we will have a new kitchen to serve our guests from. Thanks to all who have helped make this possible.”



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Sr. Franchon PirkI applies a heart sticker to Burt Knutson, a guest at the Second Annual Litomysl Women’s Council Valentine Dinner Saturday night at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl. Volunteers served 175 sweethearts.

STEELE TALKIN'



SHANNON
KRUCKEBERG

February is National Children’s Dental Health month

Nearly half of all children will have tooth decay before age 5. That shocking statistic is just the beginning.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is the leading chronic infectious disease among children in the U.S. and it can lead to developmental issues affecting eating, speaking, learning and more.

The good news is that tooth decay can easily be prevented with early and proper dental care, as well as proper nutrition.

Each of our food and drink choices plays an important role in oral health, as well as overall health. Most of us are aware that drinking beverages that contain sugar increase cavity risk. In Nov. 2015, the Food and Drug Administration recommended people over the age of 3 consume less than 50 grams of sugar per day (about the amount found in one can of Mountain Dew).

Reading food labels is important and can assist in limiting added sugar. Be aware that sugar can be disguised in the ingredient list. Some common added sugars include maltose, fructose, sucrose, glucose and dextrin.

With all of this in mind, many people are opting for sugar-free beverages for our children and ourselves. While leaving out the sugar is a good idea, this option has proven to be risky, as well. Diet sodas and other sugar-free drinks contain high levels of acid, such as phosphoric acid and citric acid, which are damaging to teeth and especially to children’s teeth. These acids cause dental erosion and eventually decay.

When possible, always offer water to your children. This should always be the first beverage choice when kids are thirsty. Teaching children to enjoy water at a young age is a gift that will help them stay healthy throughout their entire lives.

As a Dental Hygienist with the non-profit Healthy Smiles, I work in collaboration with Steele County Public Health and the W.I.C. program. Here, I have the privilege of working with children starting at a

STEELE TALKIN'
Continued on Page 4C

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Submitted photo
 Prairie Manor announced its 2016 royalty on Friday, Feb. 12. Pictured above are Queen Helen Pagakis and King Vernon Jackel.

J&H LIQUORS
 340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7557

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. JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 3: SEASON FINALE EUCHRE: JAN. 16, FEB. 20, MARCH 12 2 PERSON TEAM STARTS AT 1 P.M. SIGN UP AT THE BAR	CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 9TH "30" YEARS OF BUSINESS BEAN BAG LEAGUE: MAY-AUGUST CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE B.O.B RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 23RD ALL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BAR
--	---

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- Feb. 16:**
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
 4:45 p.m. BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
- Feb. 17:**
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
- Feb. 23:**
 7 p.m. Planning and zoning board meeting
 BP Card Club & Luncheon
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
 6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
- Feb. 24:**
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

Servicemen's Club
 210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

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

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIAL: #1 - SHRIMP, COLE SLAW & FRIES #2 - HAM & POTATO SOUP IN A BREAD BOWL	LUNCH SPECIAL (2/18 & 2/19): GOULASH & DINNER ROLL
---	--

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

- Feb. 16:**
 7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
- Feb. 18:**
 5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
 7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
 7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
- Feb. 22:**
 6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
- Feb. 23:**
 7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
 Waseca | Ellendale | Hope | Member FDIC
 fnbwaseca.com | 507-684-2691

OWATONNA

- Feb. 17:**
 Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
 Hope Property Mngr Assoc Mtg
 4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
- Feb. 18:**
 7:30 a.m. Hope State of the City Presentation
 Owatonna PS, Lincoln PTO Mtg
 5:30 p.m. Steele County Brd Mtg
 6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
- Feb. 19:**
 7:30 p.m. LTO "Harvey"
- Feb. 20:**
 7:30 p.m. LTO "Harvey"
- Feb. 21:**
 7:30 p.m. LTO "Harvey"
- Feb. 22:**
 Owatonna PS, OHS Conferences
 4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
 6 p.m. Owatonna PS, Washington PTO Mtg
 6:30 p.m. Owatonna PS, Schl Brd Mtg
 7 p.m. Hope City Council Mtg
- Feb. 23:**
 Owatonna PS, ALC Conferences
 Owatonna PS, Lincoln Science Fair
 9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
 2 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films
 5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
 6 p.m. Autism Spectrum Disorder Parent Support Group, Associated Church, Owa
 7 p.m. OPL Indie & World Films

Express
 EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
 www.expresspros.com
 812 S. Elm Ave. • Owatonna • 507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002

MEDFORD

- Feb. 16:**
 6:30 p.m. Court St. Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
- Feb. 17:**
 7 p.m. Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford
- Feb. 18:**
 2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
- Feb. 22:**
 2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

J&L Collision
 406 1st Ave SE • Medford
 507-456-1676
 Check us out on Facebook!

SPOT LIGHT

Medford Park Board Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 9

Medford residents are invited to provide a vision and ideas for the future of Medford's parks, trails and green spaces.

The Medford Park Board is hosting a Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 6 p.m. at Medford City Hall. Please attend if you have ideas to share and want to help shape the future of the community's parks, trails and green spaces.

OTHER COUNTIES

- Freeborn**
Feb. 17:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Feb. 18:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
 10:30 a.m. Music & Movement, ALPL
 5:30 p.m. City of Albert Lea Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
 6 p.m. Twilight Tales: Night-time Story time, ALPL
Feb. 19:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
 6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 20:
 ALPL Closed
 Science Fair, Albert Lea Schools
 Winterfest, Albert Lea Schools
 6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 21:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Feb. 22:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
 10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
 3:45 p.m. Book Pals (Gr. 5 & 6), ALPL
 7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers
Feb. 23:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
 10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
 3:45 p.m. Book Pals (3rd and 4th Grade), ALPL
 6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Feb. 24:
 Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

- Mower**
Feb. 17:
 21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
 11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
 12 p.m. Johnny Bird, Man of Many Hats, Mower County Senior Center
 12 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Diabetes Impact at Work - The Cost of Doing Nothing, the Gains for Prevention, Austin Public Library
 2:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning, Mower County Senior Center
 6:45 p.m. Adult Hockey, Packer Arena, Austin
 7:30 p.m. Children's Self-Defense/Safety Awareness Class, Austin Armory
Feb. 18:
 21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
 12 p.m. Brownsdale Community Lunch, United Methodist Church
 2 p.m. The Banana Wars - America's Forgotten Forays into Central America, Mower County Senior Center
 3 p.m. Free Cross Country Ski and Snow Shoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center, Austin
 3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
 6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
 6 p.m. LEGO Club, Austin Public Library
 7 p.m. Austin Artist Series: California Dreamin', Knowlton Auditorium, Austin High School
Feb. 19:
 21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
 D & R Star 3-Man Pool Tournament, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center
 11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
 5 p.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery Show: All Student Art, Austin ArtWorks Center
Feb. 20:
 D & R Star 3-Man Pool Tournament, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center
 21st Annual Rose Sale, The Arc Mower County
 LeRoy School, Farm & Home Show
 9 a.m. Harris Piano Competition, Austin
 10:30 a.m. Kids' Studio Saturday - Painting/ Drawing, Austin ArtWorks Center
 11:30 a.m. Adams Pink Party, Adams Legion Post
 1 p.m. Bob Ross Landscapes with Julie Fjetland, Austin ArtWorks Center

Minimizer
 Blooming Prairie
 800-248-3855
 www.minimizer.com

Blooming Prairie Living

Blooming Prairie schools celebrate Snow Week



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

LEFT: Students participate in a lively game of dodge ball during the Snow Week pep fest.

RIGHT: Members of the Blooming Prairie High School band perform during last Thursday afternoon's Snow Week pep fest at Blooming Prairie High School.

STUDY ABROAD

Continued from Page 1C

looks at the positive of things. It's amazing."

During her senior year of high school, Marissa took a trip with her Spanish class to London, Paris and Madrid. "That just kind of gave her a taste of traveling," said Becky.

Marissa knew she wanted to continue to see the world, and while in college, she also applied to study abroad. She worked four jobs to save money for the trip. She was a nanny for two families in Sioux Falls, is an Ulta beauty consultant and a member of the National Guard.

"This has been the best experience of my life so far and I can't wait for what is to come!" Marissa said.

She first flew into London, where she stayed for three days before flying into Florence, where she stayed for about 2 ½ weeks. On Friday, she trav-

eled to Rome. Marissa has also been taking as many excursions as possible, visiting places like Venice.

"Next weekend I have a trip booked with my friends to go snowboarding the Swiss Alps in Interlaken, Switzerland," Marissa said. "The following weekend, we planned a trip to Amsterdam. The weekend after that, I head to Sicily, and then the next weekend we are going to Naples and Pompeii. Some of these trips are through school and some we have planned ourselves."

While abroad, Marissa is participating in a language emergent class, fashion merchandising class and a photography class. Since she is interested in fashion, Marissa has even had the opportunity to tour the Gucci headquarters. She's especially excited to work in an elemen-

tary school, where she will teach English.

Of course, Becky, Neil and Marissa's sister, Macaela, miss her. But, this isn't the first time that Marissa has been far from home. In addition to her previous travels overseas, she also went to basic training for several months during the summer of both her junior and senior years of high school.

While she was in basic training, said Becky, communication with Marissa was also limited. "So, we've had that break, but it's still hard," admits Becky. We still worry."

Becky said that communication with Marissa has been "spotty" and depends heavily on her ability to get a good Wi-Fi signal. "We try to Face Time once a week, otherwise we do a text once in a while," she said. "It helps just to see her once a

week and know that she's safe."

Becky is eager to travel, and especially looks forward to Mass with the Pope. "If we can get that all worked out, that will absolutely be a highlight," she said. "I'm also looking forward to being able to see what Marissa talks about, being able to see her school and see her flat."

Most of all, however, Becky is just eager to see Marissa. And, said Becky, she's excited to see how her daughter has grown during her travels. She hopes that this experience will help make the world seem smaller for Marissa, and that it will help her become even more confident as she continues to follow her dreams.

"This was all on her own. She went after a goal and a dream," said Becky. "It just says a lot about her. If she's willing to work for it, it can be achieved."

Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus host annual fish fry



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Karl Peterson serves a meal during the Knights of Columbus Supper, held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Friday, Feb. 12.



CONSTRUCTION

HELP NEEDED
MINNEAPOLIS METRO
AREA

Northwest is a growing Union Company
With 3 Divisions: Sewer/Water • Excavating • Paving

Seeking to Hire Experienced:
Grading Superintendents, Pipe Foreman, Paving Foreman
Pipe Layers, Mechanics, Truck Drivers

*Experienced Operators for all three divisions
Experienced Laborers for all three divisions.*

Equal Opportunity Employer

www.nwasphalt.net

1451 Stagecoach Rd., Shakopee, MN 55379
Call 952-445-1003



Submitted photos

Back Row: Rose Michaud, Maggie Bruns, Megan Oswald
Front Row: Reese Millam, Emily Kubicek, Baylee Sorenson, Ashleigh Alwes



Back Row: Jesse Schewe, Salome Ramirez, Allison Pryor, Anthony Nelson, Riley Millam, Middle Row: Rachael Oswald, Mitchell Oswald, Alicia Ptacek, Leah Schiefert, Seth Peterson, Front Row: Jerrin Jax, Sally Peterson, Jake Hyland, Ethan Arett, Payton Simon

2015-2016 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

ACADEMIC LETTER WINNERS

CRITERIA

7th - 10th grade 3.818 cumulative GPA • 11th grade 3.745 cumulative GPA
12th grade 3.636 cumulative GPA

7th grade
Ashleigh Alwes
Maggie Bruns
Maren Forystek
Charlie Heimerman
Allison Krohnberg
Emily Kubicek
Rose Michaud
Reese Millam
Megan Oswald
Joseph Pirk
Rachael Riley
Kiya Thompson
Wyatt Voss
Taylor Wurst

8th grade
Kisha Aquino

Jarrett Larson
Hazel Michaud
Matthew Pryor
Baylee Sorensen
Dondi Stender
Zachary Weber
Julia Worke

9th grade
William Cardenas
Riley Millam
Rachael Oswald
Seth Peterson
Payton Simon

10th grade
Ethan Arett
Jerrin Jax
Mitchell Oswald

Salome Ramirez
Jesse Schewe
Samantha Wurst

11th grade
Elijah Baker
Thomas Braaten
Kaci Gwilt
Camden Heimerman
Jake Hyland
Marissa Larson
Carter Millam
Alison Pryor
Alicia Ptacek
Leah Schiefert

12th grade
Anthony Nelson
Sally Peterson

The Cutting Edge

583-2304

128 3rd Street SW • Blooming Prairie

**DARRICK'S
PREFERRED AUTO**

FREE LOANER CAR (with Service Work) **583-9994** **FREE SERVICES** (with service work)

24/7 Towing 507-440-0093

536 Highway 218 S.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
www.darrickspreferredauto.com

- Loaner Cars
- Nitrogen with Tires
- Alignment Checks
- Tire Rotation
- Battery Charging & Checks
- Pickup & Delivery within 15 miles
- Service Light Code Checks
- Free Towing for the year

A TOUCH of CHARM

330 E. Main • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
507-583-7637
www.atouchofcharmonline.com
Unique Gifts & Full Service Florist

Local grocers, providing fresh meat, produce and a variety of local product.

**Vandal's
FAMILY MARKET**

Hours: 7:30 am - 8:30 pm
237 Highway Ave. South • Blooming Prairie • 583-6671

frontier
Communications

High-speed Internet • Telephone
TV • Data Security

Visit our Frontier Retail Center for great service and offers
507.583.2551 • www.Frontier.com
420 First Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN

Sue Zwiener, Financial
Service Professional

507-583-2200

308 E Main St,
Blooming Prairie, MN

Ellendale Living

NRHEG hosts home performances of one-act plays

By JESSICA NAFE
Times News Intern

The New-Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) gym was filled with laughter Feb. 12 and 13, as the school’s one-act group performed two plays entitled “How to Kiss a Girl” and “That’s Not How I Remember It.”

Audience member Jennifer McKay commented, “I laughed the whole time! They are all so talented!”

One-act students performed That’s Not How I Remember It at subsections on Jan. 30, in United South Central high school’s auditorium. The group did not advance to sections, but gave a great performance that succeeded in entertaining the audience, according to Director Amanda Inouye. “The audience was laughing throughout the whole performance,” she stated. “The kids were spot on.”

The cast enjoyed performing at subsections because of the atmosphere of the competition. “You really feed off of the energy in the room,” Ben Lewer said.

Cecelia Torp agreed with Lewer. “The crowd’s laughter is my favorite part of performing,” she stated. She also enjoyed getting to see the other schools’ plays at subsections.

NRHEG students in grades seven through 12 auditioned for the one-act cast in December, and the entire crew has been hard at work ever since, practicing many hours after school and late into the evening to prepare for contest. “It’s tough on you,” Will Rudau said, “but it’s fun because we all get closer.”

Director Inouye enjoys working with the student actors during rehearsals and witnessing each students’ creativity. “They have so much natural comedy. They can come up with things to do that I would never think of,” she said.

As everyone in show business knows, chemistry on stage is important, and the close-knit group of students from NRHEG had no problem connecting, according to Lewer. “Spending time with my friends on stage is my favorite part of one-act,” he stated.

The cast of NRHEG’s one-act expands behind the curtain, as well. A group of kids, including students from wood-working classes at school, built the sets and many props used in each of the plays. Deb Bently, an English teacher at



Staff photo by Jessica Nafe
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva students perform “How To Kiss A Girl” in New Richland on Friday evening.

NRHEG, provided a number of props for the plays as well.

How to Kiss a Girl by Wade Bradford follows the story of a young boy who relies on audio advice from people of all centuries on his first date with his high school crush. The cast is as follows: Jorey Fischer as Ken, Maddie Bartlett as Minerva, Lacey Nelson as Cowgirl, Carma Pederson as Modern Girl and Sign Carrier, Lexi Combs as Mom, Rebecca Peterson as Disco Girl, Chris Stenzel as Mr. Gently, Will Rudau as Pirate, Katharine Lewer as Driver, Justin Mortensen as Dad and Sign Carrier, Mia Williams as Steph, Kallie Spooner as Pilgrim, Jill Jongbloedt as Southern Belle and Emma Tollefson as Jessica.

That’s Not How I Remember It features a father and mother telling the story of how they met, but each one remembers differently, leading the audience on a crazy adventure of romance and karate battles. The cast is as follows: Whitney McCamish as Mom (Lola), Justin Mortensen as Dad (Barry). Maurya Johnson as Lola, Ben Lewer as Barry, Lacey Nelson as Thug 1, Aubrey Johnson as Thug 2 and Partygoer 2, Nora Retallick as Thug 3 and Keymaster, Leah Morstad as Thug 4 and Partygoer 1, Will Rudau as Karl, Michiah VanSyckel as Yann 1, Cece Torp as Tricia, Carma Pederson as Jessica, Jill Jongbloedt as Melissa, Katharine

Lewer as Lola’s Mom, Jorey Fischer as Lola’s Dad, and Chris Stenzel as Yann 2, waiter and Jim.

Lights, sound and set crew for the one-act included various actors, Ben Witikko, Nicole Wallin, SaraJo Stewart, Dempsey Tucker and Cynthia Quezada.

Pay equity debate resurfaces at Ellendale City Council meeting

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

During last Thursday’s Ellendale City Council meeting, pay equity was once again a topic of discussion for the council.

Josh Otto, the city maintenance supervisor, stated that he had accepted more responsibilities, which had resulted in a significant increase in the hours he spends working. As a result, Otto requested a raise. Although council reached a consensus that Otto was doing a good job and deserved compensation for his efforts, council members also discussed the issue of pay equity.

“I would recommend we go with it,” said Ellendale Mayor Mark Skroch, of the raise request.

“It isn’t like Josh isn’t doing a good job,” responded Council Member Stephanie Lageson Kibler. “My responsibility as a council member is to make sure that we’re doing what is the best practice.”

Lageson Kibler said that it’s important to make sure that, with the raise, the city is still

compliant with state pay equity requirements, which the council had previously agreed upon. Skroch said that he had contacted the Minnesota Department of Labor to discuss the issue. After discussion, council voted to unanimously approve the raise request.

Lageson Kibler also reported to the council that she had looked into the previously discussed smell in the city clerk’s office/council chambers. A professional, she said, would be calling the city office to arrange a time to check the premise and offer additional guidance.

The meeting began with a visit from Sen. Vicki Jensen, who inquired about setting up a time and place for a town hall-style meeting later in the year. The council provided a general consensus that the Community Center, next door to council cham-

bers, would be an ideal place for a public meeting. Sen. Jensen then took time to address council member’s questions about the upcoming session.

In other news, council also heard updates from municipal liquor store manager Kiersten Knudson. Knudson reported that, while January and February are typically the slowest months of the year, she was trying different initiatives to encourage people to visit the establishment. Council approved a request for Knudson to order 15 tee shirts and 15 sweatshirts, featuring the business’ name, which will be available to purchase at the municipal liquor store.

The Ellendale City Council will meet again at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, in council chambers.

Student of the Week

Hunter McMann is in Mrs. Buendorf’s kindergarten class. He is the son of Tim McMann and Chelsey Johnson and they reside in Ellendale. Hunter has an amazing imagination. He loves to write and illustrate stories about outer space adventures with the help of his mother. His dream is to become a police officer so he can protect people from bad guys. Hunter shows Panther Pride in a variety of ways. He is very concerned for the safety of others and making sure the rules are being followed. He is very helpful to the custodians, one of which is his grandmother, in letting them know when there are issues in the hallways, bathrooms or classrooms. The staff at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) say they are very proud of Hunter and very lucky to have him be a part of NRHEG.



Student of the Week is sponsored by:

Steve’s Meat Market

210 5TH AVE. P.O. BOX 157 Home of
ELLENDALE, MN. 56026
PH. 507.684.2331
FAX. 507.684.3109
DONNAVON EAKER AND
RACHAEL LEE, OWNERS.
CELEBRATING 43 YEARS-2016



INSTALL A PROPANE WATER HEATER
AND

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$650 REBATE!

PULL THE PLUG
ON
ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

Install a propane water heater in your new home, or change out your electric or fuel oil water heater for a propane system, and \$650 could be yours! Already have a propane water heater? You may qualify for a \$200 rebate when you replace it with a new, higher efficiency propane system.

There are other advantages of propane besides the rebate. When you install a new energy-efficient propane water heater, you’ll:

- USE LESS ENERGY
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS

START SAVING TODAY.

Contact your local propane dealer for your rebate! Find a local propane dealer at mnpropane.com



Jensen
Heating, A/C,
& Plumbing
Registered Showroom

24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs

We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

THE BOLD LOOK OF
KOHLER

256-4712
Geneva, MN

Ellendale Municipal Liquor

Now Open Sundays!

THURSDAYS TACOS

5 p.m. till Gone



HAPPY HOUR

Mon-Sat 3-6 pm
All day Sun

WEEKLY FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

10 am - 10 pm M-W ♦ 10 am - 1 am Thur-Sat
11:30 am - 8 pm Sun ♦ Kitchen Open at 11 am Daily

507-684-9422
Ellendale, MN

CEO of Healthy Smiles, Inc.

RECIPE CORNER

Grandpa Ernie’s Dumplings

- 2 eggs
- 1 c. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 c. flour

By Donna Maixer

Mix together and drop by spoonfuls into boiling water or soup. Cook until done, about 10 minutes. Great added to homemade chicken soup.



Sponsored by:
Krejci Ford
14th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie • 583-2046

STEELE TALKIN’

Continued from Page 1C

very young age. It’s wonderful because the parents/caregivers are present, and we get a chance to discuss hygiene habits and dietary habits. The parents are always surprised to hear that the majority of tooth decay is attributed to just a few bad habits.

Please feel free to contact me at 507-319-6845 if you have questions, or call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7660 to schedule an appointment. I provide preventive services for children and offer help finding a dentist that meets your needs.

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Shannon Kruckeberg, RDH, is the Executive Director and

Medford Living

Medford’s FFA Wildlife team goes to state

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Which bird has a summer breeding plumage with a black-and-white checkered back, shimmering black head, a white marking around the neck, and a smaller white chinstrap marking at the throat?

These are the kind of questions that Medford FFA Wildlife team members are studying as they prep for their state competition in April. Oh, and the answer to above question is the Great Northern Loon.

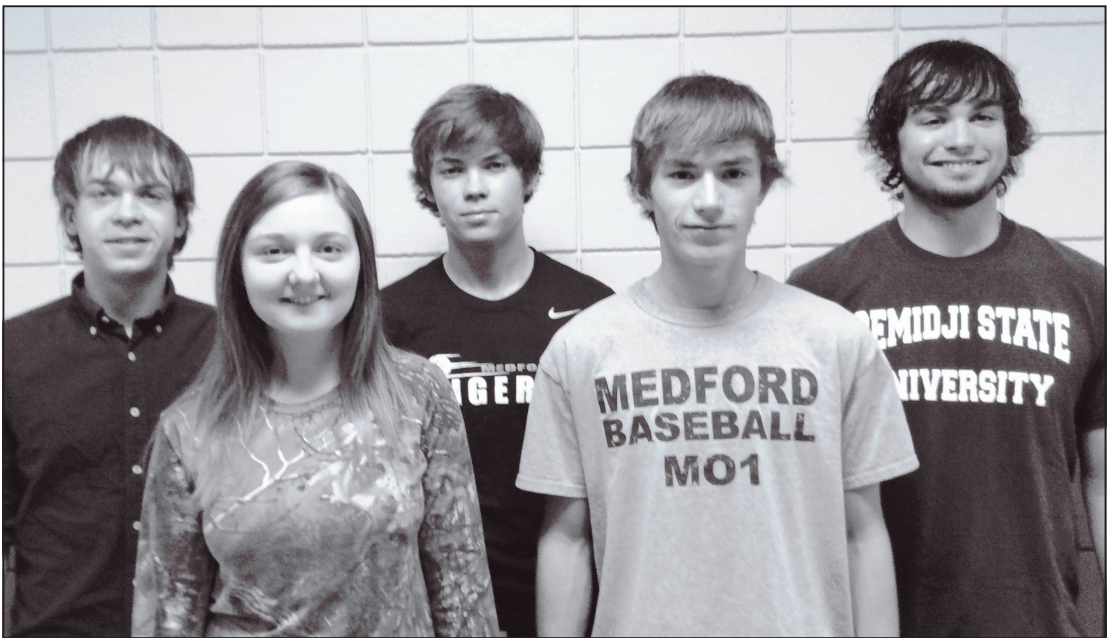
Medford’s FFA Wildlife team advanced to state after placing third at the Region 7 Wildlife Competition on Dec. 11.

The Senior High School team including Nick Meixner (12), Wyatt Volkmann, Cole Volkmann (10), Cierra “CJ” Duchene (12) and Tyler Stenzel (12) placed third out of approximately 16 other teams, which qualified them to advance in state. Nick Meixner also placed sixth individually.

The junior high team placed first out of 22 teams. Members are Madison Klein, Emily Cloutier, Kylie Cumberland and Shelby Cumberland.

FFA Wildlife Team Coach Tim Larson said that the FFA Wildlife team came along when the entire FFA program was re-started in 2000.

The wildlife contests consist of two parts. The first section is a written test of 40 multiple-choice questions. The test covers game laws, habitat, feeding habits, species reproduction and



Medford High School FFA Wildlife team including Wyatt Volkmann, Cole Volkmann, Nick Meixner, Cierra “CJ” Duchene and Tyler Stenzel placed third at the Region 7 Wildlife Competition in December. They will next be advancing to the state competition in April.

classifications.

Duchene said that students take the test spread about in the bleachers. Meixner estimated that the contests typically have a couple hundred students competing.

The second portion of the contest is the identification section, in which students have 45 seconds to identify a birds, fish, insects, and mammals based on different features like plumage, skulls, tracks and mounts. All creatures on the identification portion can be found in Minnesota.

The students agreed that the identification portion is their favorite part of competition.

Larson said that for many of students, their knowledge in wildlife began with their own love of hunting and fishing.

Duchene, Meixner, Stenzel,

Cole and Wyatt Volkmann are all hunters. Due to their hobby, they know many game laws and species already, yet they agree that there are areas that they

need to practice. Insects, for example, is an area they all agreed they could practice more.

Practice, by the way, looks a lot like academic studying. The students study on their own for the most part and make PowerPoints to help one another.

“The big thing is that this helps students gain knowledge into potential careers in wildlife, so this helps them consider careers,” said Larson. “It also helps with their time management skills, since it is very self-motivated.”

As a senior, Meixner commented that he was planning on attending Bemidji State to study

wildlife biology. Stenzel plans to attend Bemidji State to study in wildlife. Duchene also plans to attend Bemidji State to major in aquatic biology. Bemidji State University is known for its vast wildlife biology areas of study.

They agree that not only does their involvement with FFA Team amp up their resume, but they are getting an opportunity to venture further into their interests and future areas of study.

The state competition is on Monday, April 25.

“It is definitely a great opportunity,” said Duchene. “I’ve learned a lot, and we’re looking forward to competing at state!”

Staff photo by Anna Segner

10% Off Your Project

WINTER DISCOUNT

AMERICAN WATERWORKS

★ Basement Systems ★

Toll Free 1-800-795-1204

www.american-waterworks.com

(Project must be scheduled by March 1, 2016. Cannot be combined with any other offers)

10% Off Your Project

Wet Basement?

Basement Wall Bowed?

Foundation Settling?

Radon Testing & Mitigation!

• FREE Estimates

• Financing Available

FEB 25th-27th

“RAM DAYS” ANNUAL SALES EVENT

SAVE \$ NOW !!

OPEN HOUSE • WINSTED, MN

February 25th & 26th 10am-6pm

February 27th 8am-1pm

Discounted Pricing & Refreshments Provided

Drawing - Applebee's Gift Cards

LOCK IN YOUR PRICE NOW!

Build at Your Convenience!

"RAM DAYS" Giveaway!

iPad2 or Cragun's Weekend for 2

Minimum purchase of \$20,000 required.

RAM 800-710-4726

Buildings Inc. www.rambuildings.com

NEFA ACCREDITED metal sales IT'S A STAR

Specializing in Post Frame and Steel Frame Buildings

Agricultural | Storage | Equestrian | Commercial | Hangars | Residential

Medford Second Quarter Honor Roll

7th Grade Braden Barbeau Brayden Beede Jenna Berg Kinsey Cronin Roberta Domstrand Isaac Enzenauer Garrett Fitzgerald Lizbeth Gutierrez Gavin Hermes Brennon Hoffman Madison Jaster Brock Merritt Mason Nagel Luz Peralta Brooke Purrier Lily Roehrick Isabella Steffen Tyler Stursa Alex Vandereide Haley VonRuden Hanna VonRuden Miya Weber	9th Grade Andria Archibald Jason Domstrand Jacob Gasner Meredith Gillis Brett Johnson Taylore Keppers Anthony Manderfeld Jade Pekarek Noah Pirk Sophie Proehl Brandon Sisler Brianna Sisler	11th Grade Haileigh Benton Rachel Bluhm Brooke Crosby Rebecca Edel Krystal Hanson Sydney Langeslag Holly Larson Amanda Litsheim Giovanni Morales Danielle Morgan Callie Nagel Joshua Schauer Mikayla Spinler Anthony Stephens	8th Grade Austin Aase Kylie Cumberland Boden Devoe Shelby Ganske Riley Hill Reilly List Madison Masso Joshua O'Daffer Isabel Reuvers Kevin Robles Lillian Smith Tysia Smith Dylan Stenzel	10th Grade Morgan Cammock McKenzie Disher Alex Gengler Brynn Hable Amanda Honsey Kelsey Kern Tristen Kern Madison Krenske Lexianne LaCanne Gregory Larson Jenna McCarthy Nathan Meixner Jonathon Meyer Skylar Meyer Logan Rogotzke Ailee Romnes	12th Grade Cassandra Borwege Madison Dewolfe--Gillis Kelcey Gerlach Nicholas Meixner Cody Rehman Taya Sexton Zachary Valen Wyatt Volkmann Marisa Wagaman
8thGrade Natily Buck Joseph Doucette Jordan Edel Zachary Finholdt Kaylin Hanson Kallen Hoffmann Hailee Homeier Shawn Johnson Madison Klein Emma Kniefel Morgan Langeslag	10th Grade Matt Anderson Isabel Brady Cassandra Brase Madelyn Cloutier Ian Gillis Josephine Kubat Trenton Lund Jasmine Panos Kyra Rahn Taylor Theisen Cole Volkmann Kayleigh Walock Grace Wobbrock	Regular Honor Roll 7th Grade AnnaVictoria Anderson Adam Cammock Emily Chadwick Cole Dusek Krista Esch Hannah Fessel Giovanni Gonzales Jasive Guerrero Kaelan Hermanstorfer Leanna Ibarra	9th Grade Mikayla Janke Malia Kircher Matthew Knutson Blake Lawson Ernesto Lazaro Jarrett Lisowski Devin Luckey Sierra Lustig Johanna Mlenek Ruby Nellis Markessa Niner Alexander Oatway Antonio Ortiz Peyton Seiler Keondric Spitzack Kayla Tutt Chloe Van Ryn Jeffrey Westergaard Gunner White Halli Zumbunnen	11th Grade Zackariah Andrews Tanner Barbeau Mary Braasch--Turi Connor Davis Bailey DuChene Warren Garza Annelise Gedicke Ryan Hermanstorfer Luke Johnston Cody Kosel Bryce Lisowski Rachael Luebbe Bailey Purrier Kyler Rykhuss Madison Schletty Joseph Schull Austin VonRuden Kelsey Walock Eathan Wilkie	11th Grade Ellie Romnes Emily Steffen Danielle Stewart Benjamyn Sutcliffe Javis VonRuden

Sponsored by the following businesses

ANHORN'S

GAS & TIRE

Tires • Auto Maintenance • Batteries

• Auto Accessories • Towing • Bulk Fuels • Lubes and Much More...

How can we help you?

Family Owned and Operated since 1949

507-451-1651

216 S Main St • Medford • www.anhorns.com

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat 8: a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SWCE

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

The power of human connections

2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna MN 55060

507.451.7340 • 800.526.3514

swce@swce.coop • www.swce.coop

BELLA VITA SALON

A beautiful life begins... with a beautiful you!

10-8 MON-SAT 11-6 SUN 507-451-3500

6750 WEST FRONTAGE ROAD MEDFORD, MN 55049

(LOCATED IN THE MEDFORD OUTLET CENTER)

“FOR ALL YOUR MACHINING AND FABRICATING NEEDS”

Office Hours
Monday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday - 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday - Closed
Sunday - Closed

507-451-2626
Email: dave@dagry.com
www.dagry.com

Owatonna Living

Perfect Day Cakes celebrates three years in downtown Owatonna

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

For Perfect Day Cakes owner Thea Farrington, the past three years of baking cakes and cupcakes on Cedar Avenue have flown by.

Between managing the shop, baking in the back and decorating the long list of custom cakes, she has little time. Don't even mention wedding season.

She has been baking custom cakes for 11 years out of Owatonna, but has only had a storefront since 2013. She celebrated her three year anniversary with the community on Feb. 6.

"My favorite part of owning Perfect Day Cakes is making people happy," said Farrington. "People come down here when they are having a bad day needing a cupcake to cheer them up. And with weddings, I know I am making their day easier by taking care of the cake and having

everything ready."

Her dance with and around sugar begins when she was four and was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus, making her insulin-dependent.

Farrington speaks with nostalgia when she thinks of the days that her family would do anything to normalize her sugarless diet. Her father created a sugar free pumpkin pie just for her on Thanksgiving holidays and angel food cake for her on her birthday.

When her father baked, young Farrington would watch as he dumped in ingredients and stirred to make something that put smiles on her relatives' faces. Eventually she started dumping in a cup of four here and a pinch of sugar there.

She made her first cake from scratch at age 16 for a boyfriend of the time. "I was so proud of it at the time," smiled Farrington. "Looking back at it, it was horrible. Baking comes from the

heart though."

At age 18, she took a position at a "corporate bakery" and soon became bakery manager. There she learned the idea of "large order flow," which came handy in her future.

Eventually she got married to her husband, Eric, and they had a daughter, Tatiana. She was born premature, and doctors had little faith in her ability to do certain things as her life went on.

Being told that you could not do something was something Farrington could identify with. "When I was four and diagnosed with diabetes, doctors said I could not do a lot of things. I wanted to show my daughter that she could do anything," said Farrington. So, she started Perfect Day Cakes and she worked out of Custom Coffee and Sportsman Grill kitchen.

Once Custom Coffee closed in 2013, it was wedding season for Farrington, and she simply could not worry about a permanent location. The venue stayed on the market just long enough for her husband to coax her in the doors to consider.

"It was a fork in the road. I thought keep going here or stop altogether," said Farrington. She had her grand opening in Feb. of 2013.

While it has been a learning curve, she is enjoying providing sweets to the community.

Cupcakes, donuts and occasionally cookies and French macaroons grace the presence of the Perfect Day Cakes display. The stout chocolate beer cake often catches the attention of visitors, but even more so is the gamer's fuel cupcake, which contains ingredients like Mountain Dew, Doritos and cream cheese icing.

Cakes are also on display, but all cakes are custom order. She already has over 20 cake orders for Valentine's Day all ordered "by women." She laughed that men will likely come in a day or so before Valentine's Day seeking a last minute gift.

Farrington also hosts events,

classes and birthday parties at her shop.

At her three year anniversary, she started the first display of featured artists. She is going to have a different artist every couple of months and host art openings for their work in the shop.

Farrington said that she is trying to contribute to Owatonna what she can.

"I just like to make people smile," she said. "What could be better than that?"



Perfect Day Cakes owner Thea Farrington welcomes attendees celebrating the shop's third anniversary on Feb. 6.

**NEED HELP GETTING
STARTED ON YOUR TAXES?**

**CALL US TODAY
FOR ALL YOUR TAX NEEDS!**

**Johnson, Doerhoefer
& Miner P.A.**

Certified Public Accountants

583-7528

314 East Main St., Blooming Prairie

GRIEF RELIEF

Sometimes children don't seem to care. It's not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child's honest expression and don't make the child feel guilty or pressured.

*Direction with
dignity from
Michaelson
Funeral Home
in Owatonna.*

Cory Michaelson

Michaelson
FUNERAL HOME
Direction With Dignity

www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

at the Times

Blooming Prairie
High School

**SPORTS
CALENDARS**

ONLY \$1

KIK

GRAPHICS & PRINTING

YOU PICK IT WE STICK IT

612.360.9934 Tyler@kikgraphics.biz
www.kikgraphics.biz
110 Highway Ave. N.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Supporting the Steele County Food Shelf since 1994

2016 HOMETOWN Sampler

CONCERT SERIES

STEELE COUNTY FOOD SHELF
United Way

Friday, March 4 @ 7 PM
Saturday, March 5 @ 3 PM & 7 PM
Sunday, March 6 @ 1:30 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna
560 Dummell Drive, Owatonna

Join us for great local music and to support our community by helping restock the Steele County Food Shelf with admission of food or monetary donations.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors!

Express
Insurance

FEDERATED
INSURANCE

GOPHER SPORT
A Direct Marketing Company

Kent D. Rossi
LAW OFFICE

KOWZ
100.9 FM

Owatonna
GRANITE AND MONUMENT INC.

usbank



Amplify

Boost your impact

NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 20-27, 2016

Blooming Prairie FFA members embrace leadership, community involvement

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

FFA offers opportunities for students to get involved with a number of projects and activities. In addition, Blooming Prairie agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor Bill Rinkenberger said that FFA members also gain valuable skills.

The Blooming Prairie FFA chapter currently includes about 41 students. “They participate at their own level,” said Rinkenberger, of the FFA members’ involvement. “Some of them are really active, and some of them just want to participate in a few things.”

By choosing their level of commitment, Rinkenberger explains that the students also choose what kinds of benefits they’ll receive from the experience. “They get out of it what they put into it,” he said. “If they put a lot into it, they’re going to get a lot out of it. If they put a little into it, they’re going to get a little out of it. They can go at their own speed.”

Throughout the school year, there are plenty of opportunities for FFA members to get involved with various projects, activities and competitions. There’s leadership rallies, state and national conventions, Career Development Events (CDEs), Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), fruit sales, toy drives and much more. The FFA members also have the opportunity to expand and test their knowledge in a number of subject matters, ranging from floriculture to public speaking, and agricultural sales to forestry.

“We keep busy,” said Rinkenberger. February is “I Love to Read Month”, and FFA members will soon serve as “guest readers” in the elementary classrooms. The 13th annual FFA Toy Show is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 and, in April, FFA members will attend the state convention. (A number of Blooming Prairie students have already qualified to compete at the state competition.) In May, the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter will hold its banquet to close

out the school year.

Chris Wacek, a senior FFA member, said that he’s enjoyed participating in FFA for the past six years. “You get to meet new people,” he said.

Wacek also believes that being a part of the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter has helped him to become more confident. “I used to be shy and now I’m more outgoing,” Wacek said.

While in FFA, Wacek has helped with fruit sales, attended camps, conventions and helped out with Farm Safety Day. He’s also participated in multiple CDEs, and especially enjoys “Drive your tractor to school day,” traditionally held on the last Friday of the school year.

Rinkenberger said that “drive your tractor to school day” has been an enjoyable community tradition. “It’s awesome,” said Rinkenberger. “Kids love doing it. Some of the kids that are doing it are not even in FFA. That’s kind of a unique thing, because it’s not just for FFA kids. It’s for the community.”

Although Rinkenberger hopes that students do enjoy events like this one, he also hopes that FFA will help provide the FFA members with some useful skills. “The thing that I like to push more than anything is the leadership skills,” he said. “Whatever you’re to go into in life, you need leadership skills. You can be the smartest person in the world and, if you have no way of communicating your knowledge to other people, you’re not really going to be useful in society.”

FFA, said Rinkenberger, also helps students build confidence. “I’m also always getting kids to stand up in front of other people in class and talk,” said Rinkenberger. “You’ve just got to get over that fear of talking in front of people and get comfortable.”

Rinkenberger believes that this year’s seven graduating FFA members have each gained something from their experiences in the chapter. “Looking at the graduating seniors, they got to see a lot, they got to experience a lot and they got to go a lot of places and meet a lot of people,” he said.

NRHEG FFA members are state-bound

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) FFA chapter has several dedicated and hard-working members and, some of those members have earned places at the upcoming FFA state competitions.

The FFA Ag Sales Team for finished in second place at the regional event. The team included Jessica Nafe, who was the top individual in the region, Zeke Erickson (seventh place overall), Tyler Mithun (eighth overall) and Tyler Jacobson.

The Small Animals Team will also be going to state, including Katharine Lewer, who placed second overall in the region. Lacey Nelson, a junior FFA member, has also earned a spot at the state competitionfortakingfirstplaceattheregionalDairyHandlingcontest.

Dan Sorum, Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA advisor, said that the primary goal of FFA is to help develop strong leaders. “A lot of people look at FFA and think we’re here to teach kids about agriculture,” Sorum said. “The primary purpose of FFA is to develop leadership. Agriculture is the basis, but leadership is our primary purpose.”

Involvement in contests, said Sorum, helps FFA members learn to take initiative. “Their results are almost always exactly what they work for,” he said. “It’s a good lesson, I think, to teach the kids that you get out of something what you put into it.”

Dedicated teams, said Sorum, will make time to practice, despite their involvement in other activities and already busy schedules. “The teams that are serious about this will come in here during the lunch period two or three times a week, and they’ll practice” said Sorum. “It’s only for about 20 to 25 minutes, but they’ll spend those 20 to 25 minutes practicing.”

Lunchtime, he said, is one of the most convenient times for the students to practice together. “A lot of them have activities after school,” he said. “Their buses don’t come in at the same time in the morning, so lunch is often the best time for them to meet.”

State-qualifying FFA members, said Sorum, also benefit from attending the state competition. This year, the trip to state is scheduled for the last weekend in April. The competitions will take place on the same day, and the rest of the trip will include time for speakers and other group events. The competitions will take place at the University of Minnesota.

Senior FFA members Katharine Lewer and Jessica Nafe, and junior FFA member Lacey Nelson, have each competed at the state level on multiple occasions, and in multiple categories. “You meet a lot of different people from around the state, and you know the competition is harder, obviously; it’s state,” said Nafe. “I think it makes you push yourself, and it’s fun.”

Nelson said that she’s been working with cattle since she was very young. Over the years, she’s advanced from county fairs to FFA



Submitted photo
This year alone, the NRHEG FFA chapter raised over \$4,000 during their Corn Drive event. The NRHEG FFA is among the top 10 chapters in the state for lifetime donations to Camp Courage, which is now part of True Friends. Left to right are Zeke Erickson, Tyler Jacobson and Tyler Raimann.

competitions, finding success along the way. She’s even competed at the national level and, while the national competitions were more challenging, Nelson said she still learned from the experience.

Lewer remembers joining FFA because she wanted to spend more time with her friends. Soon, however, she began to become more and more engaged with the chapter, and eventually became a chapter officer. “I went out for the regional office,” she said. “I didn’t make it, but that experience of getting out there helps you push forward.”

After graduating, Lewer would like to study bio chemistry with an emphasis on agricultural research. She could create vaccines for livestock, or create chemicals to put on fields, such as insecticides or herbicides. Being an FFA member, she said, has provided her with many skills she’ll use in her future career.

Earning trips to state, Lewer said, was not something that she envisioned when first joining the FFA chapter but, was definitely a “bonus” experience.

Nafe also said she went into the FFA chapter “blind” and did lots of learning along the way. “I didn’t think I’d be going to state, but I’m thankful to have the experience,” she said.

Although it’s hard to predict how the NRHEG FFA members will do at state, Nafe, Lewer and Nelson are optimistic because they know the NRHEG chapter has been practicing and working hard. “I feel like our teams are really informed,” Lewer said. “We’re hoping to do well,” added Nafe. “I think we’ve got a really good shot.”

FFA Strong

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

After 72 years of Medford FFA Chapter’s existence, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor Tim Larson said that FFA is strong in Medford—so strong that Medford has two full-time agriculture teachers.

Medford’s FFA Chapter is unique compared to other chapters because it includes 7th through 12th graders, unlike most FFA chapters that are for high school students.

Throughout their 72 years of existence, FFA in Medford has changed and evolved.

Larson commented that many of the early competitions such as cow clipping and hand picking corn are less relevant than they once were in FFA.

It was not until 1969 that women gained full FFA membership privileges all across the nation.

“Girls were saying ‘my brothers are taking agriculture courses, why can’t I? That’s not fair,’” said Medford agriculture teacher Lisa Hoefs. “They were taking home economics courses up until 1969 instead.”

For about eight years during the 1990s, there were no agriculture classes offered at Medford school due to diminishing numbers, but in 2000 the program reopened with Larson as the ag teacher.

FFA STRONG
Continued on Page 2D



We salute farmers and pork producers who exhibit positive and responsible management practices.

You are vital to the agricultural industry. We are honored to work along side you to create the best possible products available in the world!

We now have locations in Algona IA, Morris MN, with additional locations in Albert Lea MN, Sac City IA, Harrington NE, and Lake City Veterinary in Lake City IA.

Algona (515) 295 8777
Morris (320) 589-0111
Harrington (402) 254-2444
Lake City, IA (712) 464-8911





Locally Owned since 1986

We are here to help you with Repair and Service on Auto, Truck and Tractor.



We Keep Things Running Smoothly

Tires • Brakes • Exhaust
Air Conditioning • Engine
Systems (diesel & gas),
Customized hydraulic
hoses & tuning

507-455-2679
7123 SW 82nd Ave, Owatonna
1-507-463-2679
www.kecksrepair.com



Drainage Company Inc.

Well Drained Fields Produce Higher Yields

877-528-2225 • www.hodgmandrainage.com



Tires • Auto Maintenance • Batteries
• Auto Accessories • Towing • Bulk Fuels • Lubes and Much More...

How can we help you?

Family Owned and Operated since 1949

507-451-1651
216 S Main St • Medford • www.anhorns.com
M-F 8:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat 8: a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



THE NEXT EVOLUTION

R SERIES SKID LOADERS

The all-new R Series Skid Loaders combine the reliability and features the industry has come to expect from Gehl with an all-new cab-forward design, emissions certified Tier IV engines and increased auxiliary hydraulic performance.

AVAILABLE NOW AT



2250 Austin Rd. • Owatonna
(507) 451-3131

northlandfarmsystems.com



Find us on Facebook
Gehl Compact Equipment



gehl.com

Keeping traditions alive through the NRHEG FFA chapter

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

In 1930, the New Richland FFA chapter was founded and became one of Minnesota’s 22 charter chapters. The organization is still going strong and offering New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) students many opportunities.

Dan Sorum NRHEG Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor said that many of the chapter’s traditions span multiple generations, such as the NRHEG Corn Drive. The annual corn collection raises funds for True Friends, which provides programs to help enhance the self-esteem and independence of children and adults with disabilities. Over the years, the NRHEG FFA chapter has raised over \$140,000 for the organization, one of the 10 highest lifetime FFA chapter donation totals in the state. This year, the chapter raised over \$4,000 during the Corn Drive.

“It’s something that I always like to point out, because it’s something that is not just these kids and it’s not just last year’s kids,” said Sorum. “These numbers go back to when these kids’ parents were in FFA.”

He estimates that the NRHEG Corn Drive has been a tradition for over 60 years.

The current NRHEG FFA chapter also offers other opportunities for students to become actively engaged in their communities and schools through the Partners in Active

Learning Support (PALS) mentoring program, which pairs fourth graders and high school students. Every other Wednesday, the groups meet and take part in different activities and crafts, or read together.

“Within this area, I don’t think a lot of chapters have a PALS program,” reflects Sorum. “PALs isn’t unique

This year, Sorum said that there are about 46 students in the NRHEG FFA chapter, in grades seven through 12. Each student chooses its own level of involvement with the program. While some are more active in the chapter than others, Sorum believes that there are a few important life skills that many FFA members acquire through

‘You grow and learn about agriculture together.’

– Jessica Nafe,
NRHEG FFA member

in the sense that it’s been a national program for at least 20 years but, you don’t see a lot of chapters with PALS programs because it does require a little bit of additional time investment, especially on kids’ parts. To be a good mentor, you can’t just show up once in a while when a little kid is expecting you there. If you’re not there, it hurts their feelings. So, they have to be able to commit some time.”

The chapter, said Sorum, has an especially strong group of leaders. “The officer team has got a lot of initiative,” he said. “This group is excited about getting the word out about things, and excited about having activities. They’ve been very good about bringing in new ideas and they’ve been very proactive.”

their involvement in the chapter. “Like most FFA chapters, we’re trying to be a part of the community and taking advantage of whatever opportunities we can to make our community stronger and better, and make leaders out of our kids,” he said.

Katharine Lewer, a senior FFA member and chapter officer, said that she’s truly enjoyed her time in FFA. “It really helps you figure out who you are as a person, because there’s so many different things to try,” said Lewer.

Lewer said that she’s also made several friends through FFA. “You meet a lot of people and you keep seeing them over and over again, so you start to make new friends through it,” she explained. “I was definitely shy before but, as an officer, it’s really



Submitted Photo

From left to right are National FFA Convention participants Luke Stenzel, Jack Skalicky, Ryley Koziolk and Lacey Nelson, at the Kentucky Horse Park

pushed me to get out and meet new people.”

Lacey Nelson, a junior FFA member, agrees that FFA has helped her grow. “I’ve learned leadership skills, and I like just being more out there and having those opportunities,” said Nelson.

Jessica Nafe, a senior FFA member, said that she isn’t planning to pursue a career in the agricultural field after graduating high school. Instead, she plans to study organizational communications. That doesn’t mean, however, that she hasn’t learned useful skills in FFA.

“You can still use the skills you learned from FFA in whatever setting you go into,” Nafe said. “And, even if your job isn’t specific to agriculture, you can be an advocate for it by sharing your experiences in your daily

life.”

Nafe strongly encourages other students to consider becoming involved with their school’s FFA chapter. “I think kids sometimes are hesitant to join, because they’re worried about they might not have any one from their friend group in there, but you definitely make another friend group,” said Nafe. “You expand and meet new people.”

FFA can be a beneficial experience for everyone, said Nafe. “We have wrestlers, we have cheerleaders... we have people from all sorts of different backgrounds,” she said. “You grow and learn about agriculture together. It doesn’t matter if you have a background with it or not. So, I think you’ve just got to take that step and try it out. Even though it might be a little bit scary, it’ll be worth it.”

FFA STRONG

Continued from Page 1D

When the agriculture program grew, the school decided to hire a second agriculture teacher. Current Medford High School Principal Chris Ovrebo worked as an agriculture teacher from 2007 to 2009 before Hoefs was hired.

With two agriculture teachers, Medford is able to provide the following courses in a year: animal science, small animal care, carpentry, food science, wildlife, natural resources, economics, agriculture one (plant science), small gas engines, welding, agriculture mechanics, eighth-grade agriculture and career exploration.

Students are allowed to take some agriculture courses more than once, as they can chose different projects and help expand skills of other students.

Today, Medford students participate in the following FFA

competitions: livestock judging, poultry evaluation, trapshooting, small animal care, forestry and much more.

In fact, trapshooting has the highest number of student participation second to football, according to Larson.

“The best part about trapshooting is that everyone gets a chance. Every one shoots whether they shoot 1 of 50 or 50 of 50,” said Larson.

Both Hoefs and Larson expressed that they are trying to get more kids involved in agriculture.

“FFA allows for youth leadership, and we are prompting kids to learn about agriculture even if they don’t have a farm background,” said Hoefs. “Agriculture reaches into gardening and business and math. It has grown to so much more than just agriculture.”

When it comes down to it, Hoefs and Larson are in it for their

kids. They undoubtedly care for all the FFA students.

“It’s about being part of a team and taking responsibility for something,” said Larson about FFA projects. “We’ve just got some great kids.”

Local grocers, providing fresh meat, produce and a variety of local product.



Hours: 7:30 am - 8:30 pm

237 Highway Ave. South • Blooming Prairie • 583-6671

Owatonna High School in need of part-time agriculture teacher

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Due to a major shortage of agriculture teachers across Minnesota and the United States, Owatonna High School’s position for a part-time agriculture teacher has gone unfilled all year.

This gap in the position has turned some students’ agriculture classes into study halls.

Though Elizabeth Tinaglia is the only agriculture teacher at the Owatonna High School currently, she is dedicated to providing agriculture education to the nearly 300 students that take agriculture courses within a year.

Classes being offered currently are as follows by Tinaglia: Agriculture Exploration I, Small Animal Care, Natural Resources and Ecology I, Wildlife Management, Small Engines Theory and Operation I and II, Agriculture Power and Technology I, Animal Science, Greenhouse and Food Chemistry.

She works tirelessly to make these classes as applicable to a variety of career, maybe not even directly in agriculture. For example, she said animal science has infinite similarities to a biology course.

Through the Owatonna FFA Chapter, OHS students have the opportunity to expand their agriculture education in areas of their own interest. Tinaglia and Marvin Spindler are the Owatonna Chapter’s FFA advisors.

The Owatonna FFA chapter is the oldest in Steele County and has been around for 94 years. The current agriculture building that the program exists in now was built in the early 1970s said Spindler.

Tinaglia and Spindler said that taking agriculture courses and getting involved with FFA not only enriches a student’s education, but it is introducing students to potential careers.

Students from the Owatonna chapter have proven successful in FFA. OHS graduate Megan Andrist is the current FFA region president. In 2013, OHS grad Mallory Davidson received the State Star Farmer award, which Tinaglia said is a “very big deal.”

Overall though, Tinaglia and Spindler said that FFA is about fun and growth. Their faces lit up when they remembered students that began shy and are now flourishing in leadership roles.

“It’s all about the kids,” said Tinaglia. “We are both so proud of these kids.”

We put up the poles, connect miles of wire and flip a few switches of our own. All to make sure your life is always powered. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.





Steele-Waseca
Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna MN 55060

507-451-7340 • 800-526-3514

swce@swce.coop • www.swce.coop

YOUR
ELECTRICITY
ISN'T
SOMETHING
WE TAKE
LIGHTLY.



Belle Plaine • Hollandale • Owatonna • Northwood • Osage

We're Your Local John Deere
Dealer For PARTS, SALES
& SERVICE



507-451-4054

www.agpowerjd.com

3555 SW 18th Street, Owatonna

Nothing Runs Like a Deere

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

15-102238

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: February 6, 2004 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$252,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Paul A. Beiser and Virginia Beiser, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 10013751000066342 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Lakeland Mortgage Corporation SERVICER: Seterus, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 25, 2004, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 319624 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.; thereafter assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 3, Oakridge Bluffs Third Addition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 555 Oakland Path SE, Medford, MN 55049 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-114-0301 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$217,369.50 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: March 11, 2016, 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 mortgageor(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 mortgageor(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 September 11, 2016, or the next business day if September 11, 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: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
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

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

15-102160

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Doreen R. Kruger, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,433.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 16, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 22, 2009 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 12857 as Document Number T000064998 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,975.98 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Fifteen (15) in Block Two (2) in Luedtke Addition to City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 704 CHERRY ST, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1949 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0215 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 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 mortgageor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 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. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 13, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongiri Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-0322-FC03)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Foreclosure

15-102160

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 31, 2013 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$84,850.62 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald C. Wesely, Unmarried 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 February 4, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as

Document Number A000389530 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 24, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna South Oak, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2410 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,841.76 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: March 15, 2016, 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 mortgageor(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 mortgageor(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 September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 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: January 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
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

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

15-102033

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: December 20, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,421.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Eric R. Erickson and Jodi L. Erickson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 23, 2002, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 51679, As modified of record by Document recorded on September 10, 2014 as Document Number T000071806 in the office of the Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Radel's Country Club Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 324 Meadow Lane SW, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-317-0109 COT#15898 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,408.23 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: March 15, 2016, 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 mortgageor(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 mortgageor(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 September 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 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: January 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home

Mortgage, Inc. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
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

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23



Interested in supporting our farm page?

Call the Times today!
507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Place your ad today

Blooming Prairie Township Monthly Meeting Change

Blooming Prairie Township will hold its regular monthly meeting March 1st @5pm in recognition of the Caucus that day. It will go back to regular time for the April Meeting.

Missy Anderson- Clerk
Jerry Wencil- Chairman

2/16

Advertisement for Bids Four Seasons Centre Bleachers

Close Monday February 29th, 2016
Steele County, Minnesota

Notice is hereby given that the Steele County Board of Commissioners will accept bids for new bleachers at the Four Seasons Centre until 2:00pm on Monday February 29th, 2016. Bids must be received at the office of the County Auditor, 630 Florence Avenue, Steele County Administration Center. Bids will be publicly opened and read thereafter. Contact Steve Schroht – Four Seasons Centre Director for bid specifications and documents at 507-451-1093. All bids shall be sealed and clearly marked in the lower left hand corner "Four Seasons Centre Bleacher Bid". The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Steele County

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5D

CLUES ACROSS

- Basics
- Paper container
- Diving ducks of N America having a bluish-gray bill
- Spruce
- Sacred choral composition
- Ear lobe decoration
- S Am. wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers
- Wolf drama series
- Straight, bowling or bobby
- Cotton growing region in W. Central India
- Tax saving retirement account
- Expresses pleasure
- Synoptical
- Peseta
- Oceans
- Weekday
- Octagonal motif in rugs
- Beam out
- Escargots
- Mother of Apollo in ancient mythology
- Fed
- A sleeveless garment like cloak but shorter
- Yugoslavian River
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Representational likeness
- Plundered
- Clothier
- ___ de Janeiro
- Peaceful relations
- Replaced union workers
- African people of Senegambia
- Every 24 hours
- 1/100 yen
- Summate

CLUES DOWN

- Gum arabic
- Crazy, loco, wacky
- Unconnected
- Whirring sound
- Tartness
- A group of individuals
- Bard
- Buddy
- Not an amateur
- North-central Indian city
- Chit
- Reverences
- Inspire with love
- Endocrine gland
- Biblical name for Syria
- The woman
- Heroic tale
- Daddy
- Killing yourself
- In a way, discolors
- Artiodactyls
- Resistant to change
- Northeast
- Watering places
- A way to pave
- Value excessively
- Poplar trees (Spanish)
- Elk Grove High School
- Abroad
- Author George Bernard
- Old world, new
- Tiny insectivorous W. Indian bird
- British School
- Moroccan coastal region
- Radioactivity unit
- Sheep sound

GIVE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.

Specializing in:
Mutual Funds • Unit Investment Trusts
Fixed & Variable Annuities • Stocks
Bonds • Life Insurance • Long-Term
Care Insurance • IRAs

507-434-3334 400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities, advisory services and certain insurance products and are not affiliated with Accentra Investment Services. Products offered are: • Not FDIC insured • Not Credit Union Guaranteed • May lose value.

Contact us for a complimentary consultation or second opinion – with no obligation.



Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

Legals

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Jolene M. Dahl, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,525.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 5, 2012 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 10, 2012 as Document Number A000385613 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,946.79 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 29, South Park Addition to the City of Ellendale, except the North 20 feet of Lot 6, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 JANSEN PLACE S, ELLENDALE, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-105-2906 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 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.

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

Dated: January 15, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. "Curt N. Trisko, Esq." Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-2210-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

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 conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 24, 2006 MORTGAGOR: Roger R.

Voll and Jeanne Karon Voll, husband and wife as joint tenants. MORTGAGEE: Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded July 28, 2006 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000343082. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Green Tree Servicing LLC now known as Ditech Financial LLC. Dated August 12, 2015 Recorded August 12, 2015, as Document No. A000403607. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 9 0 6 0 6 0 2 3 3 5 3 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc. dba Mortgage Depot RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 740 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.016.1148 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing 1 Rod North and 2 Rods West of the SE corner of Lot 18 in the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 107 North, of Range 20 West, running thence North 4 Rods, thence West 7 Rods, thence South 4 Rods, thence East 7 Rods to beginning COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$117,965.15

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: S t e e l e County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. 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 September 19, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "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: January 13, 2016

Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 8 - 15-010160 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/26, 2/2, 2/9
2/16, 2/23, 3/1

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of the Mortgage dated June 6, 2013, executed by Ross L. Johnson, a single person, as Mortgagor, to First National Bank, as Mortgagee, and filed for record on June 17, 2013, as Document No. 391980, in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County,

Minnesota. The land described in the Mortgage is not registered land. 2. The Mortgage has not been assigned. 3. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$55,000.00. 4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof. 5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes. 6. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage and taxes, if any paid by the holder of the Mortgage is \$57,407.13: 7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the land described as follows: The North Half of Lot One (N1/2 of Lot 1), and the North Half of the East Half of Lot Two (N1/2 of E1/2 of Lot 2), all in Block Twelve (12), First Railway Addition to the Village of Ellendale; will be sold by the County Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on March 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Department, 204 E. Pearl St., 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.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagors or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months after the date of sale. 9. 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.

Date: January 21, 2016

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

By: /s/ Karie M. Anderson Karie M. Anderson, #393522

Attorney for Mortgagee 215 E Elm Ave., PO Box 249 Waseca, MN 56093 (507) 835-5240

1/26, 2/2, 2/9
2/16, 2/26, 3/1

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 conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 17, 2006 MORTGAGOR: W i l l i a m D. Talley and Dianne Talley, husband and wife as joint tenants. MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded August 23, 2006 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000343781. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP. Dated May 21, 2012 Recorded August 8, 2013, as Document No. A000392859. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 2 4 8 9 0 6 0 8 0 0 2 5 4 9 5 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage Inc., dba Mortgage Depot RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 303 South Elm Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.100.1502 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 1/2 of Lot 1 in Block 15 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: S t e e l e ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$108,800.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$101,517.24

That prior to the commencement

of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: S t e e l e County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then 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 six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. 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 September 26, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "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: January 21, 2016

Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 8 - 15-010397 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/2, 2/9, 2/16
2/23, 3/1, 3/8

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Jolene M. Dahl, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,525.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 5, 2012 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 10, 2012 as Document Number A000385613 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,946.79 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 29, South Park Addition to the City of Ellendale, except the North 20 feet of Lot 6, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 JANSEN PLACE S, ELLENDALE, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-105-2906 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 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. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 15, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. "Curt N. Trisko, Esq." Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-2210-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/9, 2/16, 2/23
3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-174

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of Norman Dean Swanson a/k/a Norman D. Swanson, a/k/a Norman Swanson Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with the Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will dated December 14, 1990, if any, and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on March 15, 2016, at 10:45 a.m. by this Court at Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna Minnesota. 1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204 2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated 2016.01.29

BY THE COURT Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner Paul V. Sween Adams, Rizzi & Sween, P.A. 300 First Street NW Austin, MN 55912 Attorney License No: 107761 Telephone: 507-433-7394 FAX: 507-433-8890

2/9, 2/16

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-215

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Evan Oldefendt, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, February 21, 2006, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Gary Oldefendt whose address is 824 15th St. SE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated 2016.02.01

BY THE COURT Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN Attorney License No. 26190 Telephone: 507-451-3580 FAX: 507-451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonnaattorneys.com

2/9, 2/16

Education news

Minnesota students receive degrees from NDSU

More than 800 students graduated from North Dakota State University in Fall 2015.

Emily Kay Pearson, of Owatonna, graduated with a bachelor of science in Dietetics.

WWW.
steeledodgenews
.COM

All your
local news,
Fit to click!

STEELE COUNTY
Times
Always local, all the time.
Serving Blooming Prairie and Four-County Area

Legals/News

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Joshua P. Peters, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,500.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 24, 2007 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 15, 2007 as Document Number A000347775 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$108,877.33 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point on the North line of County State Aid Highway #12 and 13 feet West of the West end of Wilton Street of Medford Village; thence West for 80 feet; thence North 1 degree 35 minutes West for 164.2 feet; thence Northeasterly for 84 feet along the South bank of the Straight River; thence South 4 degrees 06 minutes East for 216.2 feet to the point of commencement, all being in Lot 8, Section 8, Township 108, Range 20 West, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 501 CENTRAL AVE W, MEDFORD, MN 55049-9511 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-008-2001 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 29, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 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. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: February 3, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Curt N. Trisko, Esq. *Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (16-0100-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/9, 2/16, 2/23
3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-217

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Charles Robert Johnson, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given on that March 15, 2016, at 10:45 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, April 4, 1960, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Roberta Carroll Boergerhoff, whose address is 7374 Van Buren Street, Fridley MN, 55432 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred

Dated 2016.02.03

BY THE COURT

Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner Eric J. Mattison Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN 55060 Attorney License No: 151609 Telephone: 507-451-3580 FAX: 507-451-3532 Email: mattison@owatonnaattorneys.com

2/9, 2/16

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-173

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Patricia Ille, a/k/a Patricia Ann Ille, a/k/a Patricia A. Ille

Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will dated May 9, 2003 has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Susan Ille, Angela Johnson and Steven Ille whose address is Susan Ille, 706 -34th Ave. Ct. NW, Rochester, MN 55901; * as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate. Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated 2016.02.06

Kris Schmitz Registrar

* Angela Johnson, P.O. Box 179, Eyota, MN 55934; and Steve Ille, 50546 310th Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Attorney for Estate Paul V. Sween Adams, Rizzi & Sween, P.A. 300 First Street NW Austin, MN 55912 Attorney License No. 107761 Telephone: 507-433-7394 FAX: 507-433-8890

2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-212

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Donald C. Tuerk Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of Decedent dated, December 17, 2013, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Angela Sartor, whose address is 203 Ninth Avenue SE, Faribault, MN, 55021 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subjects to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings to be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated 2016..2.01

BY THE COURT

Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Sonia Koshier Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner Eric J. Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545 Owatonna, MN 55060 Attorney License No. 151609 Telephone: 507-451-3580 FAX: 507-451-3532 Email: mattison@owatonnaattorneys.com

2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-177

In RE: Estate of MARY A. SPINLER Deceased ORDER FOR HEARING PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Dated 2016.02.09

BY THE COURT

Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS Benjamin M. Cass (#353279) 108 W Park Sq., Ste. A P.O. Box 271 Owatonna, MN 55060 Telephone: (507) 451-6540 Facsimile: (507) 451-1846

2/16, 2/23

Trinity Lutheran Church packs comfort items foster children

By ANNA SEGNER County Staff Writer

Trinity Lutheran Church of Medford wants to extend comfort to children that are forced into foster care with little time to gather their personal items.

"These children are afraid because they have to leave their home," said Joni Biebighauser of Trinity Lutheran Church. "Sometimes they have to pack their things in trash bags. What does that teach kids?"

The women's Bible group of Trinity Lutheran Church was asked to organize a service project for the congregation.

Biebighauser knew she found their project when she stumbled upon the organization called "Together We Rise" on Facebook.

Together We Rise improves the lives of foster children in America, who the organization feels are too often neglected or forgotten by the public. The organization, based in California, comprises many people that were once themselves in foster care.

According to their website, Together We Rise is "dedicated to transforming the way youth navigate through the foster care system in America."

The organization has helped over 60,000 kids in Foster Care by replacing a trash bag with a duffel bag and other programs.

Biebighauser said that

Trinity Lutheran Church raised \$1,000, and they were able to purchase 86 duffel bags.

They filled each duffel bag with a blanket, stuffed animal, coloring book, colors, toy, toothbrush and toothpaste.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, about 20 members of the congregation got together to paint the bags to make them look more cheerful.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, Biebighauser stuffed a van full of the duffels and delivered half of the bags to Steele County and the other half to Rice County.

The bags will be given to children when the officer or social worker facilitates the move from their home to a foster home. Biebighauser said that when she dropped them off at both county offices, they were really excited.

"My hope is that we bring kids a little bit of normalcy as they go through this tough transition," she said "We don't want them to feel alone."

The duffel bags also signify awareness.

"I also hope that members of the congregation and community will become more aware about children in foster care, and that they could use our help," said Biebighauser. "There needs to be more of an awareness, and maybe some members of the church will even consider looking into becoming foster families."

NOTICE TO FARMERS

Sealed bids will be received by the Steele County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, P. O. Box 890, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, until 10:00 a.m., March 3, 2016 for lease of approximately 20 acres of farmland located in the W1/2 of the SW1/4 Section 5-T107N-R20W in Steele County for the 2016 season.

Contact the County Engineer with questions regarding this lease opportunity at 635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, Telephone: (507) 444-7670.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any technical defects and to award the lease to other than the highest bidder, or more than one bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the County will be best served thereby.

Laura Ihrke Steele County Auditor

2/16, 2/23, 3/1



SALES OPPORTUNITY

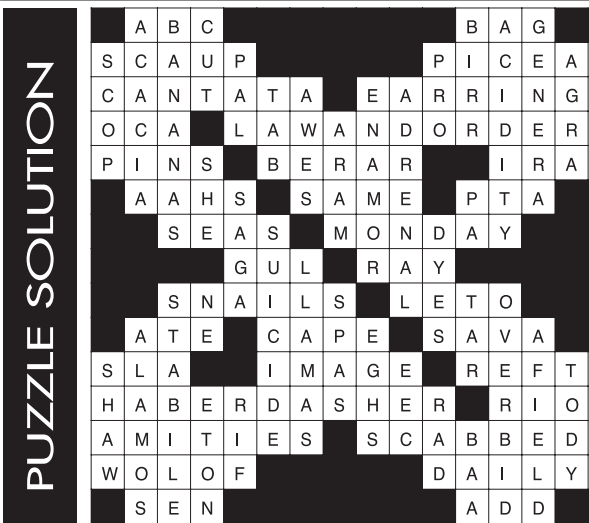
Help a growing paper flourish even more!

The Steele County Times is in need of an advertising specialist. Ideal candidate should be a self-starter, able to work independently in developing sales contacts and sales promotions for clients and balance sales through in-person visits and telemarketing over the phone. Salary plus commission available.

Send resume and letter of interest to Publisher Rick Bussler at bprick@frontier.com.

Steele County Times
Blooming Prairie

Weekly crossword on Page 3D





YOUR AGRI
CONNECTION

FARM LIVINGPLUS

www.steeledodgenews.com

March 8th cover crop workshops

If you'd like to learn more about one of the latest cover crop projects in Southeast Minnesota, consider attending one of the upcoming March 8, 2016 workshops. The morning workshop will take place in St. Charles, Minnesota, while the afternoon session will take place in Owatonna, Minnesota. All those interested in cover crops are encouraged to attend. These events are FREE, and the first 30 attendees at each workshop will receive a complimentary copy of the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide.

The March 8 workshops will include discussions on: the Southeast cover crop and soil health project, cover crop economics, cover crop establish-

ment, cover crop benefits, and NRCS programs related to cover crops and soil health. An important part of the workshops will be the group discussion where attendees can share their experiences with cover crops, voice their thoughts on what we still need to learn, and share ideas for what the demonstration acres should look at.

Project partners participating in the workshops include: Dean Thomas, Area 7 Soil Health Technician; Bill Lazarus, University of Minnesota Economist; Jill Sackett Eberhart, University of Minnesota Extension Educator; Matt Drewitz, Board of Water and Soil Resources Clean Water Specialist; and Megan Lennon, Board of Water and

Soil Resources Soils Specialist.

MARCH 8 COVER CROP WORKSHOPS:

- St. Charles, MN - St. Charles Community Center (830 White-water Ave.) 9:00 a.m. registration / 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. workshop
- Owatonna, MN - Steele County Community Center (1380 S. Elm Ave.) 2:00 p.m. registration / 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. workshop

Partners in the Southeast Minnesota Cover Crop and Soil Health Initiatives project are interested in the potential of cover crops to increase soil health, decrease soil erosion, and maintain or improve water quality. Minnesota farmers and ag, and natural resource professionals

have learned a lot about cover crops over the last few years, but there is still much more to discover. The project will be working with farmer-cooperators from 11 southeastern Minnesota counties to develop and analyze cover crop demonstration acres. The information gleaned from these demonstration acres will be shared via field days and workshops.

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Workshop series for starting or growing a small farm



KAREN
ANDERSON

Do you dream of owning acreage in the country? Do you have an existing farm that is in need of a plan and strategies for the best possible results? The Living on the Land Workshop Series, offered by University of Minnesota Extension, will equip you with the education and resources to be successful.

The eight-week course is designed to arm landowners with agricultural information to enable them to be good stewards of their land. The course will begin with goal-setting and individual property inventory, then address soil, plant, water and animal basics.

The Living on the Land curriculum addresses a growing need for information regarding small acreages. The series incorporates knowledge and experience from a team of instructors to address topics including: what do you have and what do you want, what you can do with your land, protecting water quality, what to do about weeds, lawn and pasture maintenance, getting down

and dirty with soils, and caring for and managing your animals. The series also includes a farm tour.

The series will be taught by Extension educators and other subject matter experts at the State Bank of New Prague (basement meeting room), New Prague. The series will be held 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in New Prague (March 15-May 3). Light meals are provided at each session.

Early registration is \$199 until Monday, March 14 for New Prague. A \$10 late fee applies to registrations on or after March 15. Each registration is valid for up to two people representing a single farm who will share materials. For example, a husband and wife team or two siblings may attend together. Benefits include useful educational publications, an educational farm tour, soil test kit, a site visit/consultation from a University of Minnesota Extension educator in your area, as well as the tools to help you succeed with your goals and dreams on your country acreage.

For more information, please contact Abby Neu, 952-492-5386, neu0012@umn.edu or Karen Anderson, 507-332-6165, ande9495@umn.edu.

To access a brochure with registration information please go to: <http://z.umn.edu/New-Praguelotl>

For access to online registration: <http://z.umn.edu/2016lotl>

Nurture Your Farm, Your Land, Your Life

SPRING 2016 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
TO THE DODGE COUNTY SHOPPER & THE STEELE COUNTY TIMES

Our expanded popular Spring section will contain excellent local stories on the impact of agriculture in our area. It reaches out to the strong agricultural areas of Dodge, Steele, Freeborn, Mower and Olmsted Counties.

Delivered to more than 30,000 households in 15 communities, this agricultural section will be inserted in the ADvantage Shopper on March 8 and mailed directly to other areas.

ADvantage

DODGE COUNTY

Call Today
to reserve advertising space
in this popular special edition!

Phone 507-634-7503 • Fax 507-634-4446
Ask for Annie Anderson, bpannie@frontier.com, cell: 507-319-1549; or Brandi Josselyn, brandidci@kmtel.com

Final Deadline for Advertising is Thursday, February 18

SunOpta™

Grains and Foods Group

Hope • Ellendale • Blooming Prairie

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

We can also help you with:

- Aggregate Products
- Waterway Cleaning
- All Excavation Projects
- Hauling
- Septic

LOKEN

Excavation & Drainage, Inc.

Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!
507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568
3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net

41 Years in Business!

Get the right combination for a better health plan

Whether you're looking for an individual health plan or a plan for your company, you have the right combination with your local Farm Bureau agent and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Expert service and outstanding health plans.

Darrell Ingvaldson, LUTCF
Brownsville
507-567-2296

Authorized independent agent of Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota, a nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

MN FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

For the health of all.

Central Valley COOPERATIVE

Serving South Central Minnesota with petroleum, agronomy, & heating and cooling products & services.

Toll Free: 800-270-2339
www.centralvalleycoop.com

Did You Know?

Do all types of farmers and ranchers care about sustainability?

The vast majority of farmers and ranchers operating all types and sizes believe sustainability is their business. If they don't take care of the land or their animals, their business will not flourish. A report released by Field to Market and the Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture demonstrates how six commodity crops (corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, rice and potatoes) are being produced more efficiently in the U.S. than they were 30 years ago, accompanied by important improvements in farm safety and economic sustainability for producers.

How do today's farms measure up to yesterday's farms in terms of sustainability?

According to the Field to Market Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, many commodity crops are being grown much more sustainably than 30 years ago. Some examples for corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, rice and potatoes from the study include:

- Soil erosion per unit of production has improved by between 47 and 67 percent (over 30 years)
- Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production have decreased between 15 and more than 42 percent for all crops (over 30 years)
- Improvements in efficiency were driven, at least in part, by improvements in yield for all crops, ranging from 25 percent to 64 percent (over 30 years)

AgPower ENTERPRISES