

Annual Ham Bingo event scheduled for March 10

Third annual event to raise funds for Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Ham Bingo

Thursday, March 10
7 p.m.

Pizza Cellar party room

All proceeds benefit the BP Cancer Group

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Supporters of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will be hamming it up on Thursday, March 10, at the third annual Ham Bingo event. The fun begins at 7 p.m. and proceeds will benefit the local Cancer Group. “It’s really become a fun thing that people look forward

to,” said Cancer Group member Cheri Krejci.

Once again, Ham Bingo will take place at the Pizza Cellar’s party room. This year’s event is sponsored by Craig and Robyn Kruckeberg. Bingo winners will take home their choice of a ham or Hope Butter and a meat raffle will also take place.

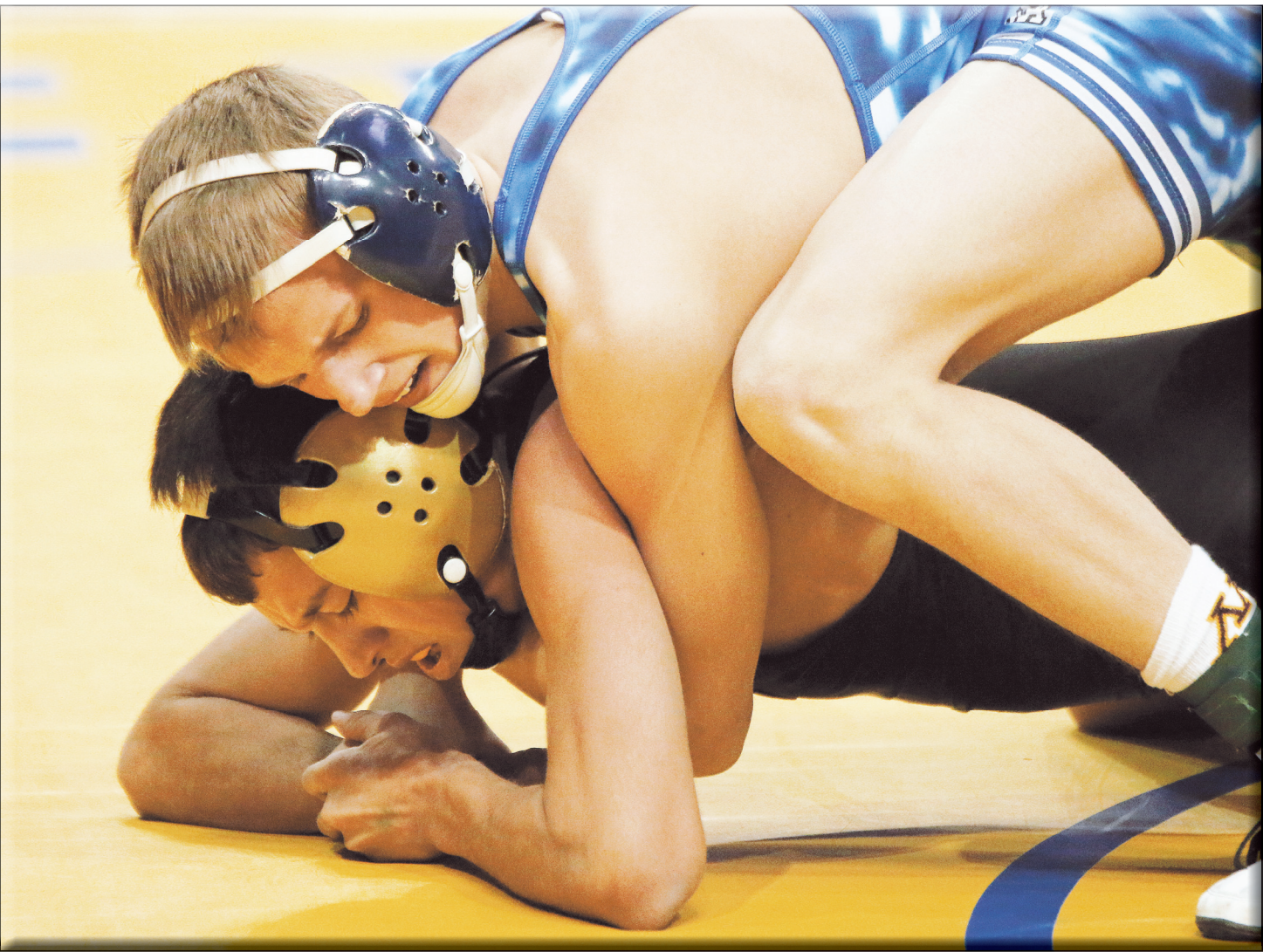
The evening will feature 25 games of Bingo, and it costs \$1 per game to play. Krejci said that this year’s event will also include a few surprises, although guests will have to attend the event to see what those surprises entail.

“It’s continued to grow,” Krejci said, of Ham Bingo. “We do have a plan, so if we’re packed, we know how to make a little more room. We’ll make sure there’s room for everybody that wants to play.”

Before, during and after Ham Bingo, guests are also able to enjoy a meal at the Pizza Cellar, which will offer their usual meals. There will also be many volunteers on hand to ensure the event runs smoothly, including a mix of Cancer Group members

HAM BINGO
Continued on Page 6A

Robb, Moen take home state titles



Staff photo by Chris Schad

Several Steele County wrestlers enjoyed success at the state wrestling tournament, held this past weekend. Above is Peyton Robb, wrestling at 120 pounds, who earned his second state individual championship for Owatonna. Another Owatonna wrestler, Brandon Moen, also claimed his first state title, and Tanner Cole, of Owatonna, also took third at 138 pounds. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Genevas’s NRHEG’s Wyatt Fitterer also placed second in the 285-pound bracket in Class A. A number of other wrestlers also did well at the tournament. Read more, and see more photos, inside this edition’s B section.

Father charged with maliciously punishing child

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A girl who had difficulty walking and sitting in school has led to charges against her father.

Don K. Perkins, 33, of Blooming Prairie, has been charged in Steele County District Court with four counts of malicious punishment of a child and domestic assault in connection with the incident. He faces two gross misdemeanors, as well as a pair of misdemeanors.

Police responded to Blooming Prairie Elementary School Thursday afternoon to investigate a report of child maltreatment. A school staff member called child protection after noticing a 10-year-old girl was having trouble walking and sitting.

The girl told police that she gets spankings from her dad if she doesn’t finish household chores or if she steals candy or food from the kitchen. She also indicated her father uses a light brown paddle with a handle that looks like a cutting board.

According to the complaint, the girl said her dad spanked her on Feb. 23, two days before the police were contacted. Perkins allegedly spanked her butt with the wood paddle and stopped counting at 22 spankings, the complaint said. The girl said he usually wears a heavy duty work glove to hold onto the paddle so it hurts even more.

After the spanking episode, the girl reportedly had to take an ice bath. She told authorities that she has received similar punishments from her dad in the past.

Police also interviewed the victim’s sibling, who confirmed that the spankings took place at the hands of their father. The court records say the sibling commented that “paddles accidentally break because of the spankings.”

The child protection worker examined the girl’s injuries and found bruising and split open skin on her buttocks, court documents said.

In an interview with police, Perkins said he disciplined his daughter because she had been stealing. He told police, “if she takes something sweet from the kitchen she knows she’s not supposed to have, then she gets disciplined.”

Perkins stated he gives his children different amounts of swats depending on what they have done ranging from lying to using profanity.

He made an initial appearance in court Feb. 25 and bail was set at \$10,000. His next court date is scheduled for March 10.



Peace Officer of the Year happily surprised by honor

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

There was a look of pure shock on the face of Corporal Jacob Peterson of the Blooming Prairie Police Department (BPPD) when Chief Greg Skillestad announced that he was being honored as “Peace Officer of the Year” at the Exchange Club of Steele County meeting on Friday, Feb. 26.

“I did not know this was happening,” Peterson admitted right away. “I thought I was just speaking, like last year.”

However, he was a little suspicious when his wife and three children showed up at the meeting.

Peterson has been with the BPPD for 13 years. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician with the ambulance and a volunteer fireman. He is also founder of Stix of Fury with his wife, Alicia.

Skillestad said that Peterson maintains many of the BPPD grants and IT work. He also specializes in fighting internet crimes against children.

Peterson is a local to Blooming Prairie. He said, “It can be tough sometimes, but we have found it worthwhile.”

“I started 13 years ago and have had offers to serve elsewhere, but I chose to stay in Blooming Prairie,” said Peterson. “I like where I’m at and want to keep serving Blooming Prairie.”



Staff photos by Anna Segner

ABOVE: Corporal Jacob Peterson of Blooming Prairie Police Department was shocked when it was announced that he was named “Peace Officer of the Year” by Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad.

LEFT: Exchange Club of Steele County President Randy Sobrack congratulates Corporal Jacob Peterson of Blooming Prairie Police Department for being awarded “Peace Officer of the Year” at their meeting on Friday, Jan. 26.



Opinion

Our view

Local man named Peace Officer of the Year

Last Friday, Jacob Peterson of the Blooming Prairie Police Department was honored as “Peace Officer of the Year” at the Exchange Club of Steele County.

Peterson is a husband, father and has also been with the BPPD for 13 years. He’s also an EMT, a volunteer fireman and, along with his wife, founded the high school drumline, Stix of Fury, and serves as the group’s director.

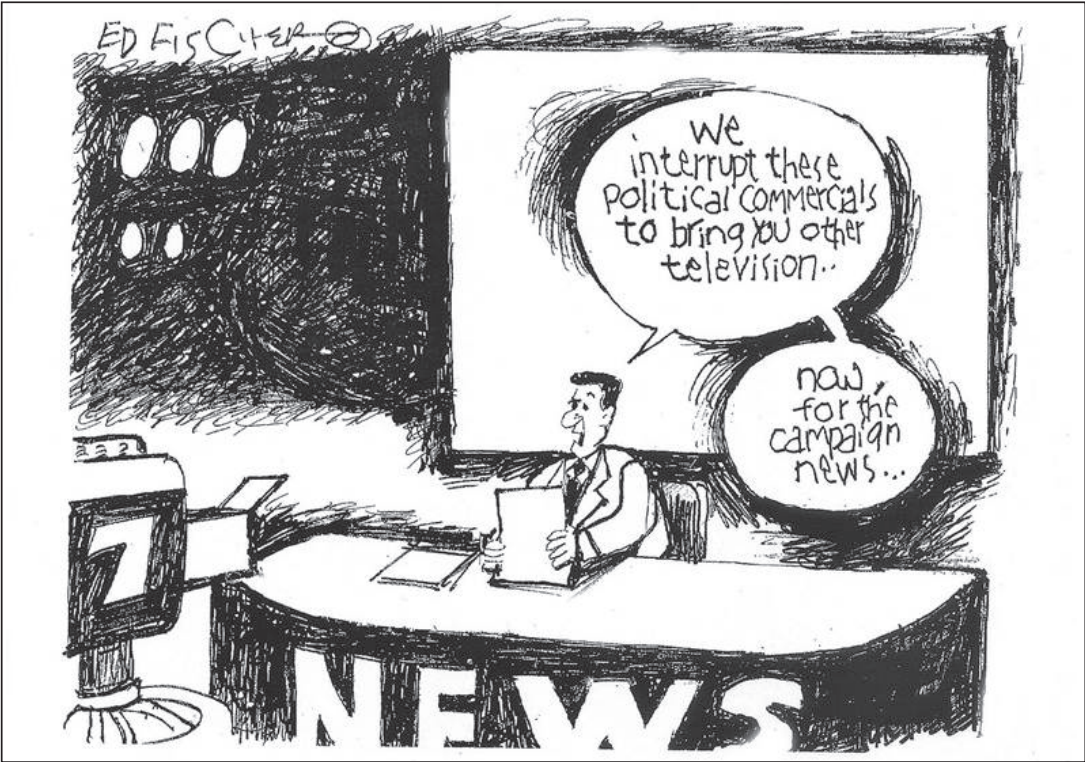
During the meeting on Friday, Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad described Peterson’s devotion to his job, and the extra effort he takes to protect his community. Upon the announcement, Corporal Peterson expressed his surprise; yet, the honor was certainly well deserved.

It’s people like Peterson who keep our community safe and, while most of us hope that we will never need the services of the local police, ambulance or fire departments, it’s comforting to know that there are people living among us who are ready to help in times of trouble.

The men and women who serve on these departments are ready to respond to an emergency at a moment’s notice. They work long hours and are on-call at all hours of the night and day. At any time, they may be called away from their homes and families to help people in need. Thanks to the work of our police, ambulance service and fire department, we are able to feel safe in our own homes, schools and communities as a whole. They quietly go above and beyond the call to serve.

Like Peterson, these people sometimes earn recognition for their efforts and devotion to their communities, but moments like these are often few and far between. Our local police officers, fire fighters, ambulance crew members, 911 dispatchers and still others who work behind the scenes to keep others safe deserve to be reminded that their work is valued and that their community’s support is interminable.

Next time you encounter one of the men and women who serve our community, be sure to tell them “Thank you” for all they do. These two words take only a few seconds to say, but their impact reaches far deeper than you’ll ever know.



Section focuses on small town living

Celebrating life in small towns. That’s exactly what we’re doing this week through our annual special section focusing on progress around the area.

In the past, we have always focused on the business community and how businesses are flourishing and changing.

But this year we thought we would give our progress edition a little different twist. We decided to do profile features on people in each of the communities throughout Steele County.

Our editorial team picked four different days back in January to hit the streets of Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford and Owatonna. Our team of skilled writers and photographers dug up interesting stories about people from sunrise to sunset in each of those communities. And they came back with some great features to share with our readers.

The goal was to capture a slice of life in small town America. Basically we wanted to do a “day in the life” of each community. What we found is that there are some ordinary people doing lots of extraordinary things to make life easier and more fulfilling for everyone else. As our stories and photos will show, this is a pretty special place to live and call home.

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

The progress section is the beginning of a long list of special tabs we will be doing the rest of the year. There will be tabs focusing on farming, home improvement, public safety, graduation, Fourth of July, county fairs and much more. Next week our spring farm tab will mailed out to the entire area no matter if you’re a subscriber to the Times or not.

We take great pride in the special sections that we produce throughout the year. They are an excellent way for us to showcase the works of our editors and writers. We put extra resources and time into each one of these sections.

And the work doesn’t seem to go unnoticed. Our readers often comment how much they like the special sections.

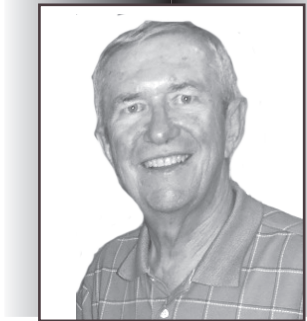
Plus our peers in the journalism field also think we’re doing a great job with the sections. In January, we won a journalism award of excellence through the Minnesota Newspaper Association for a special section on last year’s Steele County Fair. It’s not the first time we’ve won awards for the special sections. And I’m confident it won’t be the last time, either.

The special sections would not be possible without the generosity of the businesses and organizations who advertise in them. Their advertisements allow us to produce some high quality sections for everyone to enjoy. Without the advertising support, there would not be any special sections. So I’d like to extend a special thank you to all those who advertise in any of the sections during the year.

I hope you will take a little extra time to read our special sections, including this week’s progress tab. We’d also love to hear what you think about the sections. Feel free to drop us a line via mail or e-mail.

As detailed in this week’s progress section, there is much to celebrate about small town living. Grab an extra cup of coffee and go in hot pursuit of reading about some of your friends and neighbors around the county.

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a nail-biter to the end

It was definitely a nail-biter to the very end, and it was one of the most exciting basketball games I have ever witnessed in person.

I am speaking about the University of Minnesota women’s basketball team’s 90-88 overtime victory over powerful Ohio State in Big Ten Conference action at Williams Arena (“The Barn”) on Wednesday night, Feb. 23.

The Buckeyes came into the game as No. 5 in the nation, with its 23-4 overall record and 15-1 conference mark.

A picture-perfect short jumper by New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva (NRHEG) star Carlie Wagner gave the Gophers a 90-88 lead with only eight-tenths of a second remaining. The Buckeyes inbounded the ball and took a shot from the left base line and saw it miss the mark.

Jessie Edwards put the Gophers ahead 78-76 in regulation time with a basket underneath, coming on a missed Rachel Banham jumper. Ohio State then inbounded the ball near their bench with a half second remaining. Ameryst Alston tossed the ball high to Alexa Hart, who put it in easily to tie the score and force overtime.

My night started by getting caught in downtown Minneapolis traffic at 6 p.m. and then shooting the loop around TCF Stadium and Williams Arena to find a parking place. The crowd for the game was listed at 6,434 fans, thus I wasn’t the only one looking for a parking place.

This game had special appeal because it was senior night and signaled the last game at The Barn for seniors Shayne Mul-laney, Rachel Banham and Mikayla Bailey, all three adorning the night’s program booklet.

Looking for a parking space, I even resorted to asking a policeman if he knew of a good parking spot. Pointing to a long line of cars entering a lot about three blocks away, he said, “I can’t believe there is space left.” I entered, paid my 10 bucks and found a spot.

I then hoofed it as quickly as I could to reach Williams Arena and met my friend from the Twin Cities who conveniently had already bought \$8 tickets for the game. The lines for the ticket windows were out the door.

My friend Jack and I then scooted to our seats and, on the way, I purchased a program booklet. I paid my \$2, only to discover a special surprise when I got to my seat. I opened my program and found a \$20 bill

REFLECTIONS

Continued on Page 6A

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Mailbag

What are our priorities?

Once again it appears the county engineer has miscalculated and painted herself into a corner.

I’m referring to the short-fall in the sales tax revenue, which was projected to finance improvements to the county highways.

In order to finance needed improvements, they had to dip into next year’s revenue. There are just a few concerns we need to look at. If revenues continue below expectations and land values continue to drop, how are we going to make up the difference?

Another one is the most expensive option to the new shop; should not our roads and bridges have priority?

Another thing that has and is going to be extremely expensive is the northern beltline. We have been told that Co. Road 34 needs massive changes to accommodate

present-day traffic, and yet we need to have the northern route, which will make it even worse. Why is this such a priority when many of our present roads need improvements?

The county road system already is in place to bring traffic around the proposed route. Yes, you must contend with a number of stop signs, but we have the 14 by-pass and I-35 to quickly get us to the north end. I realize thousands have already been spent in acquiring property, and it would be a black mark on those pushing it, but once again what are our priorities?

Another thing I’ve noticed is that we always must hire a consulting firm to plan and administer these projects. Maybe it’s time to look at eliminating some positions in the engineering department and let these firms take over those responsibilities. Mistakes made by the current engineer have been costly, and need to be addressed when the position is up for review.

Continuing problems in

how workers are handled should also be listened to.

*David Nielson
Owatonna*

Let our voices be heard

We the people are fed up with the lies and deceit of the greedy politicians who think more of themselves than the people they represent.

They are a group of self-righteous individuals who capitalize on every opportunity to benefit themselves. Our voice is being heard loud and clear.

Politicians, you will mistreat us no more. We will elect a person who is not a politician and cannot be bought. One who is on a mission to take this country back and restore the greatness that it once had.

We will elect a one Donald J. Trump. And so it shall be.

*George Devine
Kokomo, Indiana*

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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	



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DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower\$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota\$40
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How to avoid Medicare mistakes when you’re still working

Dear Savvy Senior,
Should I enroll in Medicare at age 65 if I’m still working and have coverage through my employer?
Almost 65

Dear Almost,
The rules for enrolling in Medicare can be very confusing with all the different choices available today. But when you postpone retirement past age 65, as many people are doing, it becomes even more complicated. First, let’s review the basics. Remember that original Medicare has two parts: Part A, which provides hospital coverage and is free for most people. And Part B, which covers doctor’s bills, lab tests and outpatient care. Part B also has a monthly premium of \$104.90 in 2016 (though it’s higher for individuals earning \$85,000 or more a year). If you are receiving Social Security, you will be enrolled automatically in parts A and B when you turn 65. If you aren’t yet receiving Social Security, you will have to apply, which you can do online at SSA.gov/medicare, over the phone at 800-772-1213 or through your local Social Security office. If you plan to continue working past the age of 65 and have health insurance from your job, your first step is to ask your benefits manager or human resources department how your employer insurance works with Medicare. In most cases, you should at least take Medicare Part A because it’s free. But to decide whether to take Part B or not will depend on the size of your employer. **Small employer** If your current employer (or spouse’s employer if it’s providing your coverage) has fewer than 20 employees, Medicare

will be your primary insurer and you should enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period. This is a seven-month period that includes the three months before, the month of, and the three months after your 65th birthday. If you miss the seven-month sign-up window, you’ll have to wait until the next general enrollment period, which runs from Jan. 1 to March 31 with benefits beginning the following July 1. You’ll also incur a 10 percent penalty for each year you wait beyond your initial enrollment period, which will be tacked on to your monthly Part B premium. **Large employer** If your employer has 20 or more employees, your employer’s group health plan will be your primary insurer as long as you (or your spouse if the coverage is from his/her employer) remain an active employee. If this is the case, you don’t need to enroll in Part B when you turn 65 if you’re satisfied with the coverage you are getting through your job. But if you do decide to enroll in Medicare, it will supplement your employer insurance by paying secondary on all of your claims. Once your employment (or group health coverage) ends, you will then have eight months to sign up for Part B without a penalty. This is known as the Special Enrollment Period. **Drug coverage** You also need to verify your prescription drug coverage. Call your benefits manager or insurance company to find out if your employer’s prescription drug coverage is considered “creditable.” (Creditable prescription drug coverage is one that is considered to be as good as or better than the Medicare prescription drug benefit.) If it is, you don’t need to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. If it isn’t, you should purchase a plan (see medicare.gov/find-a-plan) during your initial enrollment period or you’ll incur a premium penalty (1 percent of the average national premium for every month you don’t have coverage) if you enroll later. For additional help, visit Medicare.gov or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at Shipta-center.org. The Medicare Rights Center also offers a free helpline at 800-333-4114. *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.*

erage is from his/her employer) remain an active employee. If this is the case, you don’t need to enroll in Part B when you turn 65 if you’re satisfied with the coverage you are getting through your job. But if you do decide to enroll in Medicare, it will supplement your employer insurance by paying secondary on all of your claims. Once your employment (or group health coverage) ends, you will then have eight months to sign up for Part B without a penalty. This is known as the Special Enrollment Period. **Drug coverage** You also need to verify your prescription drug coverage. Call your benefits manager or insurance company to find out if your employer’s prescription drug coverage is considered “creditable.” (Creditable prescription drug coverage is one that is con-

sidered to be as good as or better than the Medicare prescription drug benefit.) If it is, you don’t need to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. If it isn’t, you should purchase a plan (see medicare.gov/find-a-plan) during your initial enrollment period or you’ll incur a premium penalty (1 percent of the average national premium for every month you don’t have coverage) if you enroll later. For additional help, visit Medicare.gov or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at Shipta-center.org. The Medicare Rights Center also offers a free helpline at 800-333-4114. *Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.*



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History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

Wayde Bishop, Benji Bishop, Eric Bishop, Matt Potter and Kevin Christianson purchased the Budget Mart Convenience Store on Feb. 23 from Twin Cities Avanti Stores. The five individuals are all graduates from Blooming Prairie high school and have deep roots in the community. They have been very busy cleaning up the facility and making improvements, let alone learning the business and making the right decisions. To keep things running smoothly, they hired Sue Helgeson as manager, who has received help from the previous owners. The group of owners plans to keep the convenience store community-oriented, stating that Blooming Prairie needs a good, clean and stocked store. Along with a restaurant and deli that features breakfast, lunch and dinner options, the convenience store will feature an ATM, “Hot Stuff” products, and other items for “customers on the go.” Overall, the local owners’ goal for the Budget Mart is to create a clean and attractive business that can put pride back into the community.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, March 5, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

Pastor Richard Hegal of Frist Lutheran Church traveled with nine other parishioners to the Holy Land. The 10-day trip concluded on Wednesday night, with all Blooming residents returning safely back to the states. A total of 39 people were on the trip, including groups from the Twin Cities and Seattle Washington. Lead by a Jewish tour guide, the group visited the West Bank area, Moschav, Mount Beatitudes and many other historical sites. Joan and Marion Mast, Wayne and Dona Gullickson, Ron and Shirley Anderson, Nels and Vonnie Lee, and Kris Pietz went on the trip. Kristi Beckman, a seventh grader from Blooming Prairie, won the local geography bee. She will advance to state competition. Ninety-five students from BPHS competed in the bee, and 10 finalists were named. The contest is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and is run for students in fourth through seventh grades in thousands of schools across the United States, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The ten local winners take a written examination, which is forwarded to the state contest. Invitations will be sent to students who qualify for the state contest in April.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, March 3, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

Blooming Prairie High School’s basketball team won the Gopher conference championship for the fifth consecutive year last Friday night, Feb. 25, when they closed their regular season play with a win over New Richland by a score of 73-50. The victory gave the local Cagers a record of 11-1 in conference play and outright possession of the title. Three Austin youths miraculously escaped injury when the 1956 Chrysler in which they were passengers went out of control, somersaulted, and ended up approximately 200 feet off the highway in a plowed field just south of town. The accident occurred at about 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. The auto belonging to John Grouin of Austin was towed to Dave’s Standard Station and is considered a total loss.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, March 6, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Lloyd Jacobson, owner and manager of the new Federal Store here, turned over his interests in the firm Monday to his brother, Harold A. Jacobson, who will manage the business under the same policy the store has followed since its opening last November. Lloyd has bought a furniture store and mortuary business at Benson, Minnesota, which he took charge of this week. Mr. Jacobson’s brother Harold has been in Blooming Prairie several weeks getting acquainted with businessmen here. Steele County is not included in the next draft call, which will take 1,354 men from Minnesota to report for induction at Fort Snelling between March 11 and 20.



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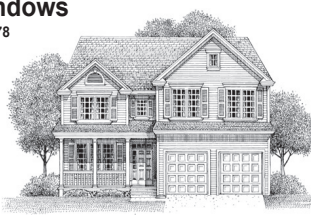
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Community

Obituaries

Thomas L. O'Connor, 84, Blooming Prairie

Thomas L. O'Connor, age 84, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, at Mt. Vista Medical Center in Mesa, Arizona.

Thomas Lawrence was born Sept. 21, 1931 in Westfield Township, Dodge County, Minnesota, to Thomas Sylvester and Mary Lavilla (Kru-ger) O'Connor. He attended Westfield Country School and Blooming Prairie High School. Tom was united in marriage to Barbara Ann Angell on Jan. 3, 1952, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie.

Tom was born to farm, and he and Barb raised their family and have farmed in Newry Township their entire married life. He was one of the first to invest in start-up business ventures that would benefit the ag community, and was proud of his 45-year affiliation selling Pioneer Seed. It was Tom's wish to leave a lasting farming legacy for the next generation and continue the remarkable family tradition in agriculture from 1858 to the present.

Tom was a longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Newry Township, as well a St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, of which his great-grandparents were founding members. He was also active in several fraternal organizations including the Elks, Eagles, Moose and was a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Over their lives, Tom and Barb traveled throughout the world, including extensive motorhome travel throughout North and South America. For the last five years, they have enjoyed winters at their home in Montesa at Gold Canyon, Arizona. They were fortunate to have developed lasting friendships throughout their married life and their many travels. Tom enjoyed golfing, bowling and playing cards. A man with a generous heart, he was always willing to help others.

Survivors include his wife



Barb; children Michael (Beverly) O'Connor of Blooming Prairie, Ellen (Larry) O'Connor Stebbins of Blooming Prairie, Julie (Greg) O'Connor Schiller of Austin, Jim (Kelli) O'Connor of Blooming Prairie; grandchildren, Michelle (Michael) Miller of Austin, Mary Beth (Daniel) Donnelly of Austin, April O'Connor of Austin, Kristine (Nathan) Whiting of Lakeville, Ryan (Marya) Stebbins of Dundas, Melissa (Todd) Johnston of Owatonna, Kelly (Elizabeth) Trom of Hudsonville, MI, Katie (Sam) Wencil, Patrick (Krystal Klemmenssen) O'Connor, Megan (Jacob Lightly) O'Connor, all of Blooming Prairie; great grandchildren, Mariah, Thomas, Micah, Regan, Garrett, Connor, Bradley, Olivia, Liam, Nicholas, Kayce, Madison, Shelby, Alexis, Lukas, Ashley, Sadie, Bennett; great granddaughter Brooklynn; step grandchildren

Clara, Kaitlin, Mark; sisters Patricia Kermes of Hayward, Frances (Dennis) Njos Bramsted of Blooming Prairie, Eileen Ptacek of Owatonna; many nieces and nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, with Fr. Thomas Niehaus officiating. Interment will be in St. Mary's Church Cemetery in Newry Township, Freeborn County. Visitation was held on Sunday, Feb. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, and continued on Monday morning for one hour prior to services at church. There was a 5 p.m. Knights of Columbus Rosary Sunday afternoon at St. Columbanus Catholic Church.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Merley Ruth Phiefer, 88, Owatonna

Merley Ruth Phiefer, 88, of Owatonna, died Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, at the Owatonna Hospital in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Merley was born Dec. 21, 1927, in Merrill, Wisconsin, the daughter of Arthur and Edna (Latzig) Priebe. She moved with her family to Owatonna in 1932, and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1946. Merley married Melford Phiefer on June 23, 1947. They later divorced in 1967.

In her early years, Merley worked at various restaurants. She then worked 20 years at the Hy Line Hatchery, and for 17 years at Owatonna Tool Company.

Merley volunteered at the

Steele County Food Shelf for many years and participated and volunteered at Senior Place, where she also enjoyed playing bingo. She was an official score keeper in the 50s for men's fast pitch softball tournaments and bowling league tournaments for the VFW, American Legion and Eagles. She was recognized as Steele County Senior Citizen of the Year in 2009 by the National Exchange Club Unity for Service. She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church and VFW Auxiliary member for 50 years. Merley enjoyed baking, watching the Minnesota Twins



and Professional Bull Riding. She loved horses and adopted many pets from the Humane Society.

Most importantly, Merley adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved spending time with them, sharing her love of baking and gardening.

She is survived by her son, Dale (and Cindy) Phiefer of Owatonna; grandson, Jeff Phiefer of Owatonna; granddaughter, Stephanie (and Brian) Busho of Owatonna; two great granddaughters, Taylor and Lauren Busho.

She was preceded in death by

her parents; sister, Janice Priebe; and infant sister.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, from 5 to 7 p.m. The VFW Auxiliary Ritual was held at 5 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Private family funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016, at Michaelson Funeral Home with Pastor Dave Klawiter officiating. Interment will be in the Owatonna Memorial Gardens in Owatonna. Memorials are preferred to Steele County Humane Society, St. John Lutheran Church Building Fund, or the Steele County Food Shelf.

Death notice

Virginia Lois Johnson, 91, Austin

Virginia Lois Johnson, age 91, of Austin, Minnesota, died Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, at Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie.

Memorial services will be

held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at Grace Lutheran Church in Austin, Minnesota. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church. Interment will be at Red Oak

Grove Cemetery, Austin, Minnesota, at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Grace Lutheran Church in Austin, Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

Worlein Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

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Unfortunately, the most common treatment approach has been to wait and see how bad it gets, resorting to unsightly braces, or eventually surgery, if it progressed too far.

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To learn more about scoliosis and chiropractic, log on to our website at www.drchad.org. Feel free to e-mail Dr. Chad through the website with any questions. Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic is here to serve you and your family with gentle and effective chiropractic care. We are located at 344 East Main Street, Downtown Blooming Prairie. Call us at 583-2271 or toll free at 1 (866) 5DR-CHAD to schedule an appointment.

Weekly crossword answers

Crossword on Page 5D

A	S	C	I		A	T	O	N	E	S						
E	T	O	N		B	I	R	D	L	I	M	E				
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I	N	G	O	D	W	E	T	R	U	S	T		R	E		
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			S	N	O	R	E	S			H	A	E	T		

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
March 1
Taylor Hagen
Barry Olson
Nikki Farr

March 2
Kim Symes
Mark Anderson
Keith Thomas
Mason Simon

March 3
Sandy Shaw Kerrigan
Justin Krell
Norm Wonderlich
Jake Peterson
Adam Dahl

March 4
Phillip Milton
Gwen Klinger
Kris Sheppard
Jacob Weinberger

March 5
Ken Vermilyea
Dee Dee Machin

Sharon Glynn
Nicole Richards

March 6
Sylvia Swenson
Hannah Severtson
CJ Coleman
Adam Dahl

March 7
Marissa Wacek
Brendan McCabe
Shirley Hinzmann
David Miller
Allyson Skillestad

Anniversaries
March 1
Jeremy and Brieanne Wangen

March 4
Richard and Imogene Symes

March 5
Henry and Lucy Post

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Wednesday - Turkey

Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef

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SEMCAC senior menu

March 1: Chicken breast/ sauce, wild rice pilaf, spinach w/vinegar, Waldorf salad, pudding

March 2: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, batter bun, fresh fruit

March 3: Beef tips in gravy over noodles, parslied carrots, tossed salad, spring dessert

March 4: Porcupine meatballs, ALT: baked fish, baked potato, creamed peas, crasin oatmeal cookie

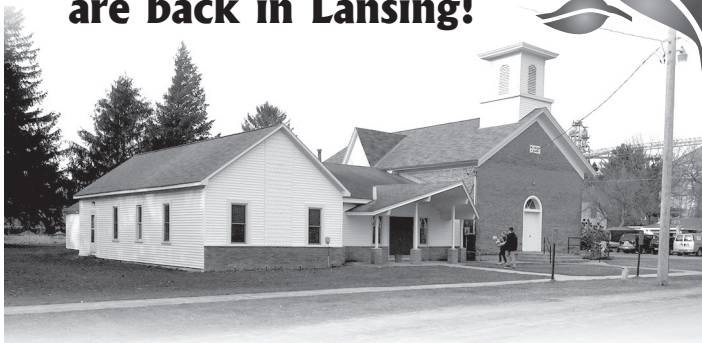
March 7: BBQ pork loin, mashed potatoes, peas/carrots, citrus fruit cup

March 8: Chili con carne, crackers, corn muffin, cottage cheese/apricots, apple pie

March 9: Hawaiian chicken, parslied buttered potatoes, asparagus, snicker doodle brownies

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Area Church Spotlight



St. Columbanus Catholic Church, Blooming Prairie

Pastor's corner

Seasons

I love all seasons but especially spring! Today as I write in mid- February, the days are getting longer, temperatures are in the mid 30s, snow is melting and soon the crocuses will pop up, robins return and more. I can't wait for spring!

Our lives also have seasons. Perhaps spring is when we're young and growing up, summer our young adult to midlife years, fall retirement and slowing down and winter the season of loss and death. Recently, it seemed there was more winter than usual in many of the lives closest to me. Many ones I know lost friends and family very close to them.

A lot of reflecting often occurs during these times. At the end of one of the memorial services I attended, the son of a church member who passed away

at a fairly young age reminded all in attendance that we must not take any of our loved ones for granted; hug and kiss your loved ones and don't wait until tomorrow to express your love for them. As Ephesians 5:16 says, "Redeem the time". We have no guarantees anyone we care for will be here tomorrow. Even children and teens who seem to be in the spring of their life can die unexpectedly.

However, all those who die in Christ will go from winter (physical death) to spring (alive with Christ) in a moment. This spring of being present with Christ is just as certain as the natural spring that returns to our earth after every winter. And it's a spring that will never end! The Scripture says, "We will all be changed, in a moment, in the blink of

an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 15:52). When those in Christ die, they awake immediately in the presence of Christ, free of pain, suffering and death. Because of that, we who know Christ, though we grieve our loss of loved ones in Christ, we grieve with hope.

Thank God for the seasons of our earth as well as of life. Redeem the time because we don't know for certain what season those we love are in. And, thank God for the spring that never ends, that await those in Christ!

*Pastor Aaron de Neu
Cedar Creek Church, Hayfield*



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

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

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
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The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

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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

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Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open
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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

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The Rev. Adam McMillan,
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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

stcolumbanuschurch.com
Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

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

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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.

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Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday 5 p.m.,
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Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

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Christian

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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
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Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
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Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE 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.

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26875 539th Ave., Lansing
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Addictions program- Fridays at 7
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BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
303 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

Sundays 10:00 AM

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CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
Hayfield

Pastor Aaron de Neu

(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

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Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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Dennis Martin

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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

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Blooming Prairie Education Foundation allocates funds to school district



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Last Thursday, Feb. 25, Julie Noble, President of Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (right) presented a check for \$10,000 to members of the Blooming Prairie Robotics Team. In February, the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation allocated approximately \$26,000 to the Blooming Prairie School District.

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF) recently allocated approximately \$26,000 to the Blooming Prairie School District, and \$10,000 of that was presented to the Blooming Prairie High School Robotics Team.

“It’s really just to help support them in their competitions and help them be able purchase the kits that (the Robotics teams) have to purchase to create the robot,” said Julie Noble, President of Blooming Prairie Education Foundation. “Since it’s a new program, we think that it’s extremely important and we especially want to give our support to it.”

Through the Robotics Team, which is in its first year at BPHS, participants design, build and program a robot. Then, the students and their robot will attend a competition where the robot is tasked with completing a number of challenges. In addition to science, technology, engineer-

ing and math (STEM) concepts, the Robotics Team members also benefit from strengthening teamwork and leadership skills. They even help promote the team in the community, forming partnerships with local businesses and organizations and presenting their work at community functions.

This year, the high school team created two robots and will attend two competitions. The first took place earlier this year and the second competition takes place later this week. Next year, the team will be broken into a junior high and senior high team.

“We’re hoping that it’s something that, through the years, continues to expand and involves more and more kids each year,” Noble said.

The BPEF has also provided funding for the Lego Club at Blooming Prairie Elementary School, which provides a similar hands-on learning experience for students in grades 1-4. The Lego Club, also in its first year at Blooming Prairie, has

also attracted a large following and challenges participants to develop engineering and problem-solving skills. “Maybe those kids, in a few years, will do Robotics,” Noble said. “(The Education Foundation is) hoping to support new things like this that will help our kids get a better education.”

BPEF, however, doesn’t just fund STEM programs like these. In the last two years alone, BPEF has given back over \$100,000 to the school district.

The Foundation strives to support the local school district in a variety of ways, helping fund technology purchases, equipment, projects and other programs. The Foundation’s mission is to “enhance the educational opportunities for the students of Independent School District 756.”

The BPEF’s 13th annual fundraising auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 2. The silent auction begins at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie at 3 p.m., followed by a live auction at 6 p.m. at the Cue Company.

HAM BINGO

Continued from Page 1A

and other community members.

Another new addition to this year’s Ham Bingo fundraiser offers yet another opportunity to give back to local people who have been touched by cancer. Leanne Hanson, owner of A Touch of Charm, will be selling daffodils at the event as part of her local extension of “Daffodil Days.”

Until 2013, the American Cancer Society held Daffodil Days once a year, encouraging people to buy the flowers and support the fight against cancer. When the American Cancer Society discontinued the event, Hanson decided to start her own version of the fundraiser in Blooming Prairie.

“Everybody just enjoys it so much, I just didn’t want it to end,” said Hanson. “I thought, ‘There’s just no reason I can’t do it on my own and make it

work.’”

Starting on March 7, Hanson will offer 10-stemmed bunches of daffodils for \$10 at A Touch of Charm, and proceeds will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group’s Community Fund. The fund provides assistance to local people with cancer. “It’s nice to help support our community and help local people out,” Hanson said.

Hanson will have 90 bunches of daffodils available and said the sales will be on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Hanson will also attend Ham Bingo and sell the daffodils there.

“Anybody that doesn’t get into the store to pick up their daffodils can pick them up while they’re at Ham Bingo,” explained Krejci.

To learn more about Daffodil Days, or to purchase a bunch, visit A Touch of Charm dur-

ing the week of March 7. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or, visit the Pizza Cellar starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, and play Ham Bingo and purchase daffodils that night.

Krejci said that many people are looking forward to Ham Bingo. “We’re just excited to do it again,” she said. “It’s just a fun way to raise some money and have some fun on a Thursday night. The kids like it, and it’s just a couple hours so it doesn’t get too late for the kids.”

Later this spring, the Cancer Group will also hold their spring luncheon, on the day of the Blooming Prairie City-Wide Garage Sales.



Staff file photo by Howard Lestrud
Cale Braaten, of Blooming Prairie, was one of 25 lucky winners at last year’s annual Ham Bingo event. This year’s event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at the Pizza Cellar’s party room in Blooming Prairie.

REFLECTIONS

Continued from Page 2A

tucked inside. I still don’t know how it got there.

The pre-game ceremonies saluting Gopher seniors was very inspirational and heart warming for families and friends of the players.

The action then started, rather slowly, with both teams having difficulty finding the net. Ohio State led 14-9 after the first quarter and 34-30 at the half.

Banham continued her heroics on the court, making long rainbow threes, and finishing with 35 points before fouling out.

Charlie Wagner didn’t find her groove of shooting until the second half. She eventually finished with 26 points.

The rafters were shaking as the third and fourth quarters rolled ahead. The nearly 7,000

fans made The Barn resemble a capacity crowd of 17,000.

As the game waned in regulation, my bladder began to make its presence known and I was hoping the game would be soon over. It wasn’t. The Buckeyes’ beautiful planned “alley oop” play worked to perfection, and forced the game into five more minutes of playing time. Of course, there were lots of time

outs mixed in there, too.

Things looked bleak when Banham fouled out with under a minute left. That’s when Wagner became the team leader and put the game on her back.

As the Buckeyes failed in their desperation shot at the end, I edged closer to the aisle and headed to a rest room. The chatter in the hallways echoed, “Wasn’t that a great game?”

My challenges were not over for the night. I began the walk to my car, and suddenly realized that I wasn’t sure where I had parked. I was heading the wrong way, and saw areas I had not seen before.

It’s kind of like getting lost in the woods when deer hunting. It’s a terrible feeling.

I then changed directions and retraced my steps to Williams

Arena. I noticed some familiar landmarks and saw my parking lot in the distance. I clicked my key fob and rejoiced as I heard the car beep back at me.

The rest of the night was uneventful, but I was very thankful to have witnessed one of the most exciting basketball games ever played at Williams Arena.

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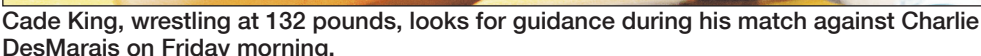
Mike Hartle
Owner

Fitterer earns second place finish for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva



Bryce Goodwin, at 145, tries to fight his way out against Will Harter of Stillwater.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG)'s Cordell Peterson looks to keep his balance during his opening round match with Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Brewerville's Jadon Buntjer on Friday afternoon.



Sports

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Winter season wraps up with successes

Sometimes fortune smiles on one team, and such was the case for the Blossom girls in the overtime win over Southland last week in the sub-section quarterfinals. With the free throw shooting woes the team suffered, and the manhandling by the Rebels in rebounds, the team has to consider itself lucky to come away with the victory.

As Coach John Bruns remarked, “Southland is a team that didn’t we want to face, as the Rebels are a good team of athletic, quick players. Their tough conference and non-conference schedule make their win-loss record somewhat misleading.” That assessment certainly proved true, as the visitors gave Blooming Prairie (BP) all it could handle. The Blossoms would get a lead, but the Rebels came back each time and eventually force an overtime contest.

Of course, the locals get some credit also. The team got great balance in scoring, and the girls scrambled every bit as much as did Southland in going for loose balls and fighting to control the action. A tip of the hat to Hannah Ahrens for calmly hitting the two free throws that put the Blossoms ahead, when everyone else was having a woeful night at the charity stripe. It may have been a fortunate victory, but it also was a deserved one.

By the time readers see this column, the semi-final game will be history, but no matter what happens in that game, the team is to be commended for the winning season. Not too many Blossom basketball fans would have predicted that success before the season. I will report summaries for both the boys and girls when they become available later this month.

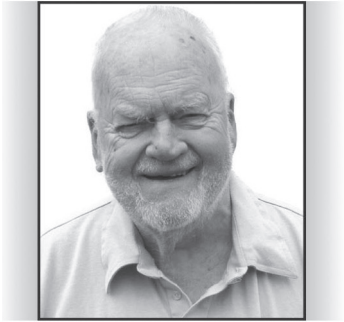
One last word is due the Blossom wrestlers. Although the team was disappointed that none of the individuals could qualify for state, several of the individuals finished the season with winning dual records, and they can be proud of their efforts and their success and accomplishments. A very good effort, boys!

I realize that it has been just over a week ago that the basketball season ended for the boys, and I would imagine that the players have been evidencing some feelings of withdrawal. I know that I have, and I am pretty far removed from that aspect of high school sports I would guess that the same will happen when the season ends for the girls.

A lot of time is invested in winter sports, not only for the competitors, but also for ardent fans of the local teams like me. It makes the period between winter and spring sports a long one, and it isn’t long before athletes and fans alike look to spring and spring sports with eager anticipation. I know I do.

A well-deserved honor

The Steele County Exchange club made a wise choice last week when BP Police Chief Greg Skillestad introduced Jake Peterson as the Exchange Club’s Peace Officer of the year. The occasion took place at Valleyview Assisted Living Friday, Feb. 26, and it could



LEMAR NELSON

not have happened to a more deserving lawman. To have the county organization recognize someone from our small community is a feather in the cap for Peterson and for the local police force.

His many accomplishments were extolled in the presentation, but for me, knowing Peterson personally, and seeing him on his regular rounds is most comforting and gratifying. His volunteer work in organizing the community Stix of Fury drumline showed a flash of inspiration that has resulted in a group that draws both community and area recognition.

That is not nearly all that Peterson does in the community. He is a registered EMT and a member of the local ambulance association, and he has continually taken training in courses to maintain his credentials as a competent police officer. The recently promoted corporal has been on the local force for 13 years and is a proud BPHS graduate.

Many other community contributions can be attributed to Peterson, and the honor is a tribute to Peterson and the entire community. Peterson should be justly proud of the recognition. A more worthy individual could not have earned it. Well done, Jake!

Here and there

Mentioning Stix of Fury as we just did, that group held a drumline camp Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at BPHS. Students from 5th through 12 grade interested in twirling a flag, playing a drum, or clanging a cymbal were invited. I hope it resulted in some new recruits for that fine organization.

Although I am well past that time in life, Saturday also marked the second Tail of Heeling formal at the local servicemen’s club. It is one good chance for adults in the community to drag out formal attire one more time, and reports indicated that the affair was deemed a success.

Next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday the annual Hometown Sampler will be held at the Little Theater in Owatonna. Several musical groups will perform, and all proceeds go to the Steele County Food Shelf. This is a most worthy cause, and residents are encouraged to attend for good music and the opportunity to contribute to the county food shelf. Hours of performance can be found in the local newspapers.

The local Boys & Girls Club continues to add members, and just last week, Branch Director Marcy Sundine and volunteer Paul Haberman organized a volunteer crew to install new carpet in the large game room at the south end of the club. A big thanks goes to Tim Wacek and Floor Tech for the carpet contribution.

I am out of time and space, but we’ll talk again.

Two Blooming Prairie wrestlers end career

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The wrestling team at Blooming Prairie High School this season had only two seniors on the team, and both have ended a satisfying last year as Blossom competitors.

Jon Hansen and Riley Olsen have no regrets for their time on the mat and expressed satisfaction overall with the team accomplishments.

The team had difficulty winning matches, because of a lack of competitors and very little depth, but the individuals, including Hansen and Olson, had good results. Hansen, who wrestled at 138 pounds most of the season, finished with a 27-12 dual record and has been wrestling since fifth grade.

Olson began his wrestling career in seventh grade, anchored the line in football last fall, and is a starter on the baseball team, as well. His dual record this season ended at 12-20.

Among his disappointments in wrestling, Hansen’s not making it to the state tournament ranks as one of the greatest. He did finish third in the section this season,



Hansen



Olsen

which ranks as his most satisfying moment in his career. Olson was most disappointed in that he failed to have a winning dual record in the season. Probably the most satisfaction for him remained the fact that he stuck it out through his whole career, despite some times of discouragement.

Hansen plans to attend Riverland College and study some form of sports therapy, while Olson will attend Winona State College and work on an accounting degree. It is understandable, then, that math is Olson’s best subject, while Hansen probably does the best in the sciences. Advanced placement English and math are the hardest subjects for the two, respectively.

For hobbies, Hansen admits that he has no particular outside interests, except play-

An ‘almost perfect season’

Owatonna gymnastics team and individuals score well during first trip to state competition

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

During the Owatonna High School (OHS) gymnastics team’s first trip to state, the team tallied many points and earned sixth place overall. Most importantly, said head coach Tom Smith, the team had a positive experience at the competition.

“It capped what was almost a perfect season,” Smith said. “We hit 149.4 (points) in state back in January and, if we had hit that again, I know we’d have walked away with the state championship.” Although the team ultimately earned a team score of 146.125 at state, Smith said he wasn’t disappointed. “That, by far, was their perfect meet of the year,” he said.

The state team competition took place on Friday, Feb. 19, followed by the individual state competition on Saturday, Feb. 20. St. Cloud Tech earned first in the state team competition with 149.125 points and Roseville Area High School claimed second with 147.925. East Ridge came in third, garnering 147.375 points.

Owatonna was close on the heels of the fourth-place team, Champlin Park High School, which earned 146.8 points, and the Huskies were a meager .075 points behind the fifth-place team, Cambridge-Isanti High School.

“We were really close,” reflected Smith. “We were 1.125 out of third place. It was a good state meet.” Smith noted that other competitors, such as St. Cloud Tech and Roseville, have made multiple trips to the state competition in the past. For Owatonna’s first trip, Smith explains, the team had an exceptional performance.

“All week long, I said, ‘It’s just another practice; try not to get all caught up in all the hype.’ It’s nothing more than that; if you practice like you want to compete, the jitters won’t be there,” Smith recalled. At the state competition, said Smith, the team maintained their composure and, despite a few falls, kept their nerves at bay.

OHS also sent three gymnasts to the individual state competition: senior Steph Kretlow, sophomore Rebecca Olson and seventh-grader Lindsay Bangs. Kretlow finished 28th in the state floor exercise, with 9.025. Kretlow also earned second on the vault with 9.7125,



Staff file photo by Laura Berndt
Ali An practices on the bars during gymnastics practice earlier this season at the Owatonna Gymnastics Club.

falling just .025 points behind the first-place finisher, Sophie Redding of Henry Sibley, who had earned a 9.7375.

“(Kretlow) was tied for first, and they had to break the tie,” recalls Smith. “After the first tie-breaker, they were still tied. It was really impressive to see.”

Bangs, a seventh-grader, took ninth place overall on the balance beam, with her average of 9.3.

Smith adds that Olson also had a “good meet,” placing 30th overall, with an average of 8.3.

This season, said Smith, there was no shortage of community support. In fact, a strong fan-base and devoted following has always been a major asset to the OHS team. “The Owatonna Gymnastics Club took people up and the crowd support was just amazing,” Smith said, of the Huskies’ trip to state. In addition, said Smith, the gymnasts’ parents are quick to offer assistance and support the team in any way they can.

“Parents even helped moved the floor during conference and sections,” Smith said. “They are just amazing.” Smith adds that he appreciates the constant support from the Owatonna Gymnastics Club as a whole. The team

it’s the team itself that should claim credit for this season’s successes. “With Steph Kretlow and Emily An, our captains, it was great leadership,” he said. “They lead the team. The team bonding they created was just amazing. They coached themselves and they pushed each other. This is probably one of best teams I have ever coached.”

This year, the team graduates two seniors, Steph Kretlow and Kyla Robertson. While the OHS team will miss these two athletes, Smith said that there’s still plenty of talented and hard-working gymnasts returning again next year. “We’re young, but we’re set for a while,” he said.

Looking ahead to next season, Smith is optimistic about the team’s future. “The biggest thing is keeping that strong bond, little cliques are one thing that can destroy a team,” Smith said. “These girls have been competing together and they grew up in the Owatonna Gymnastics Club. I think this group of girls is going to stay close-knit. There are a lot of new skills I think they’re going to come up with for next year, and I believe our scores are only going to go higher.”

also receives guidance from assistant coach Sara Routh.

While the community’s support is important, Smith said

Ladies Bowling League

Week 6

	Won	Lost
Epic Contracting	15	9
Kosters’ Kar Corner	14	10
J&H Liquor/Dairy Queen	14	10
DOE	12	12
F & M Bank	9	15
Pizza Cellar/Cue Co.	8	16

HIGH TEAM (scratch)
F & M Bank

526

HIGH TEAM (handicap)
Kosters’ Kar Corner

541

HIGH TEAM SERIES (Scratch)
F & M Bank

1529

HIGH TEAM SERIES (Handicap)
Kosters’ Kar Corner

1582

HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL

1. Terri Zwiener 168
2. Nancy Dean 159

HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL

1. Nancy Dean 434
2. Carol Heimerman 416

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Sports

Owatonna Adapted Floor Hockey prepares for big match



Staff photo by Anna Segner
The Owatonna adapted floor hockey team remains undefeated and is preparing for one more big game. If the local team earns the win, they will also earn a trip to the state tournament. Learn more in next week's edition of the Times. Above, the Owatonna Adapted Floor Hockey team pulls together another win against the South Suburban Jets on Feb. 18.

BP girls squeak by Southland

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Bloomington outscored Southland 6-3 in the overtime period to escape with a 47-44 victory over the visiting Rebels Thursday, Feb. 26. The quarterfinal win put the Blossoms into the unenviable position of facing state-ranked Lyle-Pacelli in the subsection 1A tournament.

Coach John Bruns surmised correctly when he said, "If there was one team I didn't want to see opposite us after seeding, it was Southland. They are a solid, well-coached team with very good athletes. Because of the tough conference and non-conference schedule they play, their record is not a good indication of how good they really are."

Coach Bruns' comments were correct in that the Blossoms had to scratch and claw out the victory against the quick and tenacious Rebels. Much of the credit for the local victory goes to senior forward Hannah Ahrens, who calmly sank two free throws to break a 43-43 tie and added another for a three-point advantage with 36 seconds left in the overtime.

This came after the Blossoms uncharacteristically had missed 10 free throws in a row, and made only 14 of 35 attempts in the entire game. What could easily have been a double-digit win turned into a real nail-biter, because of the poor shooting from the free throw stripe.

BP took an early lead and went up by eight points on two free throws by Marissa Larson with five minutes gone in the half, but Southland came back on a 17-7 run to end the half. Senior Sydney Bendsten counted seven of the 17 points in the comeback.

The Blossoms retook a seven-point lead six minutes into the second half, but Southland again came back to trail 41-38 with time running out. After taking the ball out of bounds, McKendry Kennedy swished a three-pointer from the top of the circle at the buzzer to send the game into the extra frame. The Rebels scored first, but Kalyn Naatz tied the score on a rebound basket to set Ahrens up for the winning free throws.

BP shot 32 percent from the field on 16 of 50 attempts, while Southland made just 22 percent on 15 of 57 tries. The Blossoms got points from eight different players, with Naatz counting 11, Ahrens 9, and Lauren Lar-



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Bloomington's Marissa Larson drives the ball toward the basket on Thursday evening in Bloomington. That night, the Blossoms narrowly defeated the Southland Rebels 47-44 in the sub-section match-up at Bloomington.

koski 7. Bendsten led the Rebels with 13, but Kaysie Allen had 10 and Kennedy added 8. Southland won the battle of rebounds 47-37, with Naatz completing a double double with 11 rebounds to go along with her 11 points.

As Coach Bruns summarized, "Tonight's game was a battle throughout. We were able to get leads, but Southland would always come right back. It was a great high school playoff game with stands full, and both student sections were loud. We were fortunate to come out on the winning end of this one."

BP takes a 15-10 record into the sub-section semi-finals.



Kaci Gwilt, a Bloomington junior, prepares to pass the ball during the first half of Thursday's sub-section game against the Southland Rebels.

NRHEG advances

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Panthers advanced to the next round of the 2A sub-section with a 44-41 victory over St. James Area at Blue Earth on Saturday, Feb. 27. After a slow first half, the Panthers turned up the action and closed out the win in an easy manner.

According to Coach Onika Peterson, "We didn't play our best basketball in the first half, but we are happy we can move on to face Blue Earth Area next Thursday at Mankato East. We played much better in the last half."

The Panthers shot 33 percent from the field, making 21 of 64 attempts. St. James shot 34 percent on 13 of 38 tries.

Marnie Wagner and Maddie Wagner scored 19 and 15 points, and Rachel Collins and Kayley Camerer both chipped in 13. Maddie Wagner pulled down nine rebounds, handed out four assists, and had three steals in the contest. Camerer added six rebounds and four assists.

Panthers close with wins

Two wins in the last week of the regular season gave the NRHEG Panthers good impetus for the sub-section tournament.

The Panthers struck down Triton 77-34 on Monday, Feb. 22, after defeating Bethlehem Acad-

emy (BA) Cardinals on Friday, Feb. 19, in the final Gopher conference game, 79-56. The team finished the regular season 20-6, and they were 9-3 in conference play.

Both wins gave Coach Onika Peterson a chance to give all her players an opportunity to gain experience. "The girls competed the whole night against the Cobras," commented Coach Peterson, "and they never slowed down. That gives us a lot of excitement for the sub-section, as we prepare for St. James."

Maddie Wagner and Hailey Schuller both scored 13 points against Triton, and Marnie Wagner and Sophia Fischer chipped in 11 each. NRHEG shot a blistering 48 percent from the field, to just 31 percent for the Cobras. Kayley Camerer pulled down 10 rebounds for the winners, and Maddie Wagner added seven boards. The Panthers turned the ball over 15 times, but Triton had 21 mistakes in the contest.

In the BA game, NRHEG shot 46 percent from the field again, while the Cardinals made 34 percent of their attempts. Marnie Wagner scored 22 points for the Panthers, and Maddie Wagner counted 16. Rachel Collins and Camerer added 12 and 10 points.

Maddie Wagner led the team in rebounding with 11, and Marnie Wagner added nine. Maddie Wagner handed out 7 assists and pilfered the ball three times. Both teams turned the ball over 16 times in the contest.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Ethan Arett

Although he didn't qualify for the state tournament, Ethan Arett compiled an enviable individual record in wins this season. He almost reached thirty victories and finished high in several invitational tournaments, as well as in conference dual matches. Just a sophomore, Arett is primed for a banner year next season and will certainly be one of the team leaders for the wrestling team.

Hannah Ahrens

One of the three seniors on the girls' basketball team, senior co-captain Hannah Ahrens made the two free throws that put the Blossoms ahead of Southland in the overtime victory that moved the team to the sub-section semi-finals. She has consistently been one of the leading rebounders on the team all year, and had six rebounds to go along with her nine points in the contest against Southland.

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight:

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 9:55 p.m. in Blooming Prairie on Feb. 19.

New security system at courthouse is up and running

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

It might take a little bit longer to get to Dodge County Court Services than it did before but, so far, no one has been complaining.

With the remodeling of the old County Courthouse almost complete a new security system is in place to protect both the court staff and the public. The courthouse and annex have been remodeled and the former Mantorville School has been turned into the Government Services Building.

One of the biggest changes that visitors will find is that now there is only one entry into the courthouse, and they must go through a security checkpoint before entering.

Judge Jodi Williamson will continue to hold court in temporary facilities in the Government Services Building for a few more weeks until construction is complete and the security system is up and running, according to Sgt. Richard Allee, who has been tasked with supervising security.

Before entering the secured

area, he said, individuals must remove items from their pockets, remove their jackets and place all bags, purses and briefcases on the table to allow Allee to search them.

A walk through a metal detector is also required.

He also has a handheld wand, he said, that he can use if a person sets off the metal detector. The detector has been set at a sensitive level, he said, and common things can set it off, such as steel-toed boots or hip or knee replacements.

Allee says he asks everyone seeking to enter the area if they have any knives, weapons or other such items on their person. If they do, they are told they can take them to their vehicle, or drop them in an “amnesty bin.” Otherwise, Allee said, he confiscates them.

If the item is confiscated or placed in the bin the owner does not get it back, he said. And, if the confiscated item is illegal, the individual is subject to arrest.

The process, he said, is similar to what one expects when going through security at the airport.

Allee said any deliveries from



Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen
Sgt. Richard Allee checks County Resident Dan Doman through the checkpoint as he stops by to apply for a permit. With the exception of those working directly in the public safety area, all visitors are required to undergo screening.

UPS or Fed Ex are also delivered to the checkpoint and, before the delivery driver leaves, Allee said he calls the recipient to see if they are expecting a package.

The Minnesota State Supreme Court has mandated that security systems be installed in all courthouses, Allee said, although counties have been given several years to get the systems in place.

For Dodge County, he said, it was logical to do it now as the courthouse was already undergoing major remodeling.

The primary purpose of the security, he said, is to protect the District Court Judges. Any county that does not have a security system in place after the state deadline has passed, he said, may find that they are un-

able to conduct court sessions.

The court security check applies to everyone, he said, except those who work in the court area.

Court employees are able to enter without going through the checkpoint, he said, although the Sheriff’s Office reserves the right to do random checks at any time.

Everyone else, including a deputy or law enforcement officer who is not on duty, is subject to the security check. Like all other people, off duty officers are also not allowed to carry a weapon into the secured area, he said.

Court security, he said, goes beyond having visitors go through a metal detector.

The checkpoint is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but Allee said he arrives at 7 a.m. to do a outside perimeter check and interior check of the Government Services Building, checking all offices, hallways, restrooms and elevators.

He then goes to the courthouse and annex and does the same thing there.

He repeats the same process, in reverse, at the end of his shift.

During his shift, from his desk at the security checkpoint, Allee said he is able to keep watch on all areas of all three government buildings through security cameras. He is able to scroll through a list of camera locations and get live views of the courtroom county board room, holding cells, hallways outside offices, booking areas, parking lots and numerous other locations.

Dispatchers are also able to watch the security cameras allowing the buildings to be under surveillance 24 hours a day.

Allee said the new system helps employees in all of the county government buildings feel more secure.

After less than two weeks, Allee said, the system is working well.

“I thought it might be boring at first,” he said, “but it is interesting.”

There is a reason for the added security, he said.

“I’d rather be proactive than reactive,” he said. “It’s a good thing.”

Too often, he said, needed changes are not made until something bad happens.

Oil spill occurs in Owatonna



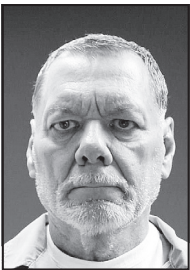
Staff photo by Anna Segner
Early Friday afternoon, approximately 50 gallons of oil was spilled in the northeast parking lot of Cabelas. The Owatonna Fire Department responded to the scene, and they said that “their main objective was to get it cleaned up.”

Level 3 predatory offender with ties to area arrested in Texas

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) has confirmed that Douglas Lynn Peterson, a level 3 predatory offender with ties to the area, has been arrested in Texas.

Peterson, 66, was originally released from prison on Nov. 5, 2014. His criminal history includes felony criminal sexual conduct convictions. In 2001, he was sentenced to prison for criminal sexual conduct against juvenile males. According to the DOC, he has ties to the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield areas.

Peterson had been living in Minneapolis, but became a fu-



Peterson

gitive on Jan. 17 when he absconded from his supervision. The DOC then sent out information to local law enforcement members and media outlets and encouraged the public to share news about Peterson’s whereabouts with the DOC.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the DOC announced that Peterson had been arrested in southern Texas and was in the Guadalupe County Jail. While no further information was available, DOC staff expressed their gratitude to law enforcement, the media and the public for their cooperation with this case.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Feb. 19
Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 9:55 p.m.

Feb. 20
Domestic. At 7:18 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the city. They made an arrest at the scene.

Feb. 25
Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the city at 4:45 p.m.

Owatonna Police

Feb. 19
Warrants. Officer arrested subjects for outstanding warrants in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 1:43 p.m. and at Cherry St. NE and Mineral Springs Parkway at 9:29 p.m.

Crash. Police responded to a motor vehicle accident with property damage at Broadway St. E. and Cedar Ave. N. at 3:28 p.m.

Feb. 20
Arrest. At 1:18 a.m., officer arrested a motorist at Cedar Ave. N. and North St. E.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported at Hoffman Dr. NW and State Ave. NW at 12:34 p.m.

Suspicion. At 12:58 p.m., police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Feb. 21

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 3:11 p.m.

Traffic. Police made a traffic stop at Allan Ave. SW and Bridge St. W. at 5:06 p.m. They arrested the motorist.

Drugs. At 8:34 p.m., police responded to a drug court incident in the 500 block of Hazel Lane NE.

Feb. 22
Juvenile. Police received juvenile complaints from the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:27 a.m. and at 7:21 p.m. and in the 1900 block of 6th Ave. NE at 9:25 p.m.

Disturbance. At 3:01 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint in the 300 block of Hoffman Dr. NW. They issued a citation.

Arrest. Officers arrested a motorist in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:31 p.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:33 p.m.

Theft. Police took a theft report in the 2200 block of 4th Ave. SE at 3:24 p.m.

Feb. 23
Theft. Officer received a theft report from the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 8:55 a.m.

Burglary. At 10:02 a.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 2200 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Pearl St. E. at 11:47 a.m.

Restraining Order. Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 700 block of Phelps St. E. at 1:04 p.m.

Suspicion. At 9:08 p.m., a citizen reported suspicious activity in the 1000

block of Elm Ave. S.

Feb. 24
Child Protection. Police received four child protection reports throughout the day.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:43 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 5:04 p.m., officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Feb. 25
Burglaries. Police responded to burglaries in the 300 block of McKinley St. W. at 6:44 a.m. and in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 11:16 a.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 8:42 a.m.

Vandalism. At 10:02 a.m., police received a vandalism report from the 300 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Steele County Sheriff

Feb. 21
Traffic. Deputy made a traffic stop in the 4000 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 6:11 p.m.

Feb. 22
Warrant. At 4:39 a.m., deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant on Hwy. 14 E.

Arrest. Deputy made a traffic arrest at 74th Ave. SE and Hwy. 14 E. at 6:37 a.m.

Feb. 24
Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:15 p.m.

Feb. 25
Warrant. Deputies made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 10:49 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 15 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Shavon L. Hodges, 27, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of controlled substance. She was sentenced to \$131, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, drug court, 200 hours of community service and 15 years of supervised probation.

Isiah Y. Perez, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. Perez was sentenced to \$2,628.84 and 28 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 15 – 19:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Wilfrido Dominguez-Dominguez, 42, Blooming Prairie, no MN license, no insurance and frost on windshield, \$421.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Abdirasak S. Ali, 33, Golden Valley,

stop sign and failure to signal, \$131; Jessica L. Brussels, 22, Minneapolis, move over law violation, \$131; Christian P. Buttshaw, 21, Austin, suspended license, \$281;

Chariti L. Evenson, 31, no MN license, \$181; Abdirahman A. Farah, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Cassandra L. Fogarty, 26, Kasson, texting while driving, \$131; Camille T. Franklin, 36, Minneapolis, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Rito Gaxiola, 32, Le Sueur, no MN license, \$181;

Phillip T. Gills, 33, Austin, no MN license, \$181; Ibrahim N. Gure, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$100; Samantha J. Halvorson, 26, Albert Lea, speeding, \$131; Marjorie G. Holzemer, 71, Medford, speeding, \$281;

Dylan R. Hondl, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Alphan D. Kennedy, 26, Brooklyn Park, revoked license and no

insurance, \$481; Allison A. Mitchell, 25, Waterloo, IA, speeding, \$131; Michael L. Pitt, 60, Northwood, IA, following too closely, \$131; Nick A. Rancourt, 31, Faribault, speeding, \$121;

Jamie C. Schammel, 35, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Bartolo Sosa Castillo, 49, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$181; Sonya L. Sullivan, 55, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281;

Rebecca S. Thalacker, 34, Waseca suspended license, texting while driving and no insurance, \$531; Juan Vasquez, 39, Albert Lea, speeding, \$221; Sergio A. Villanueva, 25, Apple Valley, suspended license, \$281; Brianna C. Winge, 25, Eagan, speeding, \$221; Angelina X. Yang, 23, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$131.

PUBLIC SAFETY Continued on Page 5B

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

Michelle Brodersen – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
Renise Brooks – disorderly conduct - \$1,000 bail
Dyreesse Brown – theft - \$10,000 bail
Tina Brown – criminal vehicular operation - \$20,000 bail
Jeffrey Bruce – abandoned vehicles - \$200 bail
Jessica Brueck – theft - \$1,000 bail
Marilyn Bryant – false name - \$6,000 bail

Jacinda Buchanan – obstruction - \$1,000 bail
Mario Burciaga Jr. – threats – no bail
Chaz Burgdorf – DWI – no bail
Chioke Burnett – no MN license - \$500 bail
Michael Bussert – drug possession - \$500 bail
Jose Cabrales – violation of conditions of release - \$12,000 bail
Garcia Calderon – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail

Alfredo Calvario – no license - \$500 bail
Gonzalo Camarillo Jr. – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Shawn Campbell – disorderly conduct - \$3,000 bail
Carolina Campos – no MN license - \$500 bail
Evelio Candanoza – DUI – no bail
Veronica Cano – revoked license - \$500 bail

SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

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

Public Safety

County employee resigns, case still pending

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Sarah Dillon, 37, has resigned from her position at the Steele County Sheriff's Office Records Department, following her arrest earlier this year, and a case against her is still pending in court.

The Records Department is maintained through a joint effort of the Sheriff's Office and Owatonna Police Department. Dillon had been employed there prior to an incident that took place earlier this January. "When we became aware of the incident, she was placed on administrative leave," said County Administrator Laura Elvebak. Dillon later resigned, effective on Monday, Feb. 22. Elvebak also said that an internal office investigation had been underway, prior to Dillon's resignation.

In January, Dillon was arrested

ed on a number of charges including felony aiding and abetting a felon in possession of a firearm, knowingly purchasing a firearm for a person ineligible of possessing a firearm and a misdemeanor for falsely reporting a crime, stemming from an incident that allegedly occurred on New Year's Eve.

According to the criminal complaint, Dillon had reported to the Owatonna Police Department that a firearm she'd recently purchased had been stolen. Dillon reported that she'd gone out with Frank Tubbs, 38, and Kia Lee, 35, on New Year's Eve.

Dillon told police that she'd returned home after Tubbs became angry, but that Lee had



Dillon

showed up on her doorstep hours later, claiming that she needed a place to stay. Dillon told police that she'd gone to get blankets for Lee, but when she came back with blankets, Lee was gone. Dillon further reported that, when she went to look at her recently purchased gun, it was missing, and that Lee was the only person who could have taken it.

Detectives spoke with Lee, Tubbs and others. Throughout the investigation, they discovered several discrepancies in Dillon's story and invited her to tell her story again. This time, Dillon admitted that she had fabricated parts of the story and that she had actually purchased the gun for Tubbs and later gave it to him, according to the complaint. Dillon also admitted that she knew both Lee and Tubbs were convicted felons and were not allowed to possess a firearm.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4B

COURT NEWS Steele County

Owatonna Police Department

Asha A. Ahmed, 38, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, \$381; Hannad A. Ahmed, 23, Columbus, OH, disorderly conduct, \$281; Jamison W. Allen, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$200; Alexander Alvarez, 20, Waseca, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Joseph R. Aubin, 28, Waseca, suspended license, \$281;

Daisy J. Barrington, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Angelique J. Brown, 28, Owatonna, suspended license (2), no insurance (3) and revoked license (3), \$2,086; Tony R. Burciaga, 23, Waseca, theft, \$131; Clarence L. Burr, 38, Plymouth, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

Jason L. Champion, 38, Inver Grove Heights, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Cher R. Cooper, 42, Claremont, shoplifting, \$199.44; Reymundo Cruz, 20, Kenyon, false name to peace officer and underage drinking and driving, \$381, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 1 year of supervised probation; Anival Cuellar, 38, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Jessica L. Cuevas, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Daniel J. Decker, 36, Faribault, criminal sexual conduct and indecent exposure, \$1,081, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, psychological-sexual evaluation, no access to Internet without approval, no possession of firearms, and 2 years of supervised probation;

Joni J. Eichhorst, 58, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181, parenting class and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Lucas J. Ernst, 28, Hayfield, fleeing a peace officer, \$281, 21 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Deandre J. Forbush, 20, Blooming Prairie, speeding and possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$321;

Matthew R. Gengler, 22, Medford, theft, \$284 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Tilish P. Graham, 42, Austin, shoplifting, \$131; Bashi M. Guled, 26, Mankato, speeding and no insurance, \$481; Scott A. Helgeson, 22, Faribault, trespassing, \$281, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, 2 days in county jail and 6 months of supervised probation;

Davina L. Herron, 24, Owatonna, license violation, \$181; Jamal A. Idle, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Nasteho A. Idle, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$100; Tawna M. Johnson, 40, Owatonna, shoplifting, 5 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kevin Kelling, 51, Owatonna, parking violation, \$20;

Steven M. Olson, 40, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Raymond Perez, 23, Hesperia, CA, toxic substances violation, \$131 and 4 days in county jail; Raul A. Reyes-Xala, 44, Medford, suspended license, \$281; Chris A. Rivas, 19, Waseca, shoplifting, 4 days in county jail; Ja-

mie R. Rocha, 38, Mankato, suspended registration and no insurance, \$581;

Steven R. Slater, 19, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Bartolo C. Sosa Castillo, 49, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Antonio Taylor, 35, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$181, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rebecca S. Thalacker, 34, Rochester, suspended license (2), \$476; Corey J. Tollefson, 46, Owatonna, seat belt, suspended license (2) and no insurance \$787;

Jennifer J. Tuttle, 31, Owatonna, theft, \$131 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Alexander J. Van Bogart, 20, Faribault, shoplifting, \$131; Robert L. Weaver, 50, Owatonna, assault, \$131 and 6 months of supervised probation; Jennifer M. Weller, 32, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Daniel L. Adams, 35, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Amanda M. Bale, 39, Rochester, speeding, \$221; Brett M. Baumgartner, 24, Owatonna, muffler violation and speeding, \$191; Molley Bility, 27, Austin, speeding, \$121; Carl E. Clark, 32, Faribault, revoked license, \$281;

Jacqueline M. Dulas, 83, Medford, speeding, \$131; Doane M. Edge, 63, Austin, speeding, \$141; Reginald R. Gales, 26, suspended license and speeding, \$341; John Gayed, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$100; Macario R. Guzman, 19, Owatonna, equipment violation, \$121;

Muna M. Hassan, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Chengzhong Hu, 34, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$131; Anthony M. Jackson, 34, suspended license and speeding, \$341; Derek J. Kelling, 19, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$581; John T. Killoren, 74, Deer River, speeding, \$221;

Scott T. Kirby, 44, Lakeland Shores, speeding, \$121; Stanley I. Koslosky, 17, Medford, speeding, \$121; Per D. Kvalsten, 32, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Samantha A. Miller, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jacob R. Neuharth, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Destiny R. Reich, 25, Mankato, speeding, \$221; Sarah P. Shonley, 35, Fairmont, speeding and no insurance, \$331;

Hattie A. Stadheim, 25, Rose Creek, expired license, \$181; Danielle B. Stewart, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael V. Sullivan, 56, Kasson, no MN license and speeding, \$231; Ibrahim Toure, 28, Brooklyn Park, suspended license, \$281; Enoch E. Yarlatee, 33, Austin, speeding, \$221; Blake A. Yearling, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

Feb. 17 Abandoned Vehicle. Deputy found an abandoned vehicle at 132th Ave. and 585th St. in Claremont at 12:46 a.m.

Assist. Deputies assisted human services in the 73900 block of 110th Ave. in Blooming Prairie at 7:25 a.m.

Narcotics. At 12:26 p.m., deputies responded to narcotics activity in the

100 block of Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance over non-payment of rent in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 6:24 p.m.

Harassment. A woman reported that her ex contacted her via a third party, which violated a restraining order in the 500 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 6:48 p.m.

Feb. 18 Burglary. Deputies responded to an attempted burglary in the 200 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 7:17 a.m.

Disturbance. At 5:21 p.m., a physical altercation over property issues occurred in the 100 block of Olive St. in West Concord.

Harassment. A Mantorville woman reported that she was receiving harassing phone calls in the 25600 block of 590th St. at 6:37 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies received a report that there were people that wanted to 'break up' a male subject at the Hayfield bowling alley on 2nd St. NE at 9:27 p.m.

Feb. 19 Fire. Deputies responded to a fire in the 700 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 4 a.m.

Marijuana. At 9:15 a.m., deputy found a small amount of marijuana on 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center.

Vandalism. Deputy took a property damage report on Main St. W. in Dodge Center at 6:21 p.m.

Narcotics. At 10:39 p.m., deputies found suspicious activity regarding narcotics in the 600 block of 1st Ave. SW in Hayfield.

Feb. 20 Environment. At 11:42 a.m., environmental dumping occurred on Main St. W. in Dodge Center.

Juvenile. Deputies found two juveniles walking at 130th Ave. and State Hwy. 30 in Blooming Prairie at 8:31 p.m.

Feb. 21 Vandalism. At 8:53 a.m., a Dodge Center resident reported that a subject drove through his yard and ran over his mailbox and tree in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance with a male and female yelling and fighting on 2nd St. SE in Dodge Center at 9:26 a.m.

Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 4:49 p.m.

Feb. 22 Juvenile. At 7:32 a.m., deputies assisted with an out of control 14-year-old in the 21300 block of 605th St. in Dodge Center.

Disturbance. A Dodge Center resident reported that his neighbor was throwing rocks at him and taking pictures of his property in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 3:01 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 15 with Judge Jodi L. Williams presiding:

Man injured in I-35 accident

A 31-year-old Owatonna man was injured during an accident on Interstate 35 last Monday afternoon.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, Matthew Chandler, 31, was northbound on Interstate 35 last Monday, Feb. 22. At approximately 12:37 p.m., Chandler lost control of the vehicle and hit the cen-

ter median cable. Chandler was ejected from the vehicle, which came to rest in the ditch.

The Minnesota State Patrol reports Chandler was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash. When the crash occurred, the State Patrol indicates that roadways were dry.

No alcohol was detected in Chandler's system. He was

transported to Owatonna Hospital, where he received treatment for non-life threatening injuries.

The Minnesota State Patrol, Owatonna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance Service and Steele County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene.

Spring load restrictions in Steele County

Spring Load Restrictions began on Steele County highways on Monday, Feb. 22. They will remain in effect, with signage, until further notice. Highway maps showing the load postings that will be in effect are available on the Steele County website: www.co.steele.mn.us. Check the site frequently for updates.

son presiding:

Tyler J. Sweet, 34, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,075, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Zachary E. Thompson, 36, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. Thompson was sentenced to \$1,075, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, maintain employment, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 15 – 22:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Tina M. Berg, 40, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Bradley A. Bollum, 50, Kasson, cancelled license, \$375, provide proof of ignition interlock and 2 years of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; John A. Hasseler, 56, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Teresa M. Jorgenson, 22, Stewartville, parking violation, \$32; Jesse M. Knutson, 34, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$130; Daniel

Martinez, 38, Claremont, parking violation, \$32;

Daren D. Phillips, 31, Dodge Center, barking dog, \$100; Emilio M. Quinones, 20, Rochester, DWI, \$1,085, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Douglas E. Sowers, 56, Sargeant, parking violation, \$32; Bryce A. Suess, 35, Grand Meadow, revoked license, \$280; Jonathan J. Wipf, 61, Dexter, speeding, \$130.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Shawn M. Becker, 40, Minneapolis, speeding, \$130; Kenneth L. Bronk, 47, Winona, seat belt, \$105; Richard A. Ferguson, 46, Rochester, failure to yield, \$130; Joseph D. Hemker, 26, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Terrence S. Kubat, 54, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Ryan J. Sivesind, 24, Byron, speeding, \$130; Nicole K. Snyder, 27, Chatfield, speeding, \$140; Mir R. Subla, 55, North Mankato, speeding, \$120; Christopher J. Wilson, 54, Hayfield, no MN license, \$180.

West Concord Police Department

Jordan A. Adame, 22, Atlantic, IA, permit violation, \$110; Nicholas M. Sibley, 30, Rochester, revoked license, \$280.

Steele Arrests

Blooming Prairie Police

Don K. Perkins, 33, arrested at 5:54 p.m. Feb. 25, domestic assault and malicious punishment of child, held for court.

Owatonna Police

Ryan Andrew Hollerich, 39, arrested at 1:31 p.m. Feb. 22, cancelled license. Ray Dominick Cabrera, 18, arrested at 3:02 p.m. Feb. 23, felony sale, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Marty James Sackett, 50, arrested at 6:40 a.m. Feb. 22, cancelled license. Daniel Paul Escalera, 46, arrested at 10:10 p.m. Feb. 23, danco violation, held for court. Jacob Clinton Carlson, 23, arrested at 10:50 p.m. Feb. 25, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Owatonna Fire

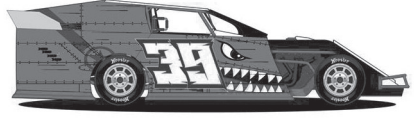
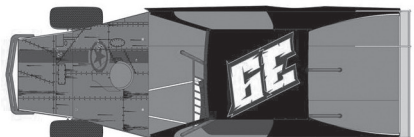
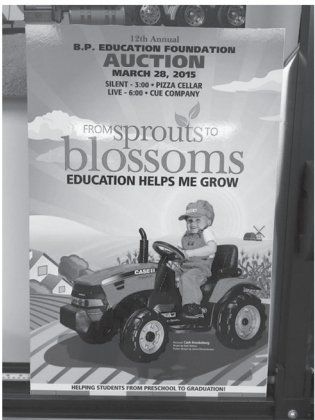
Feb. 22 Crash. At 12:41 p.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Highway 35.

Feb. 25 Spill. Fire fighters assisted with an oil or other combustible liquid spill in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 1:13 p.m.



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RECIPE CORNER

BLT Bites

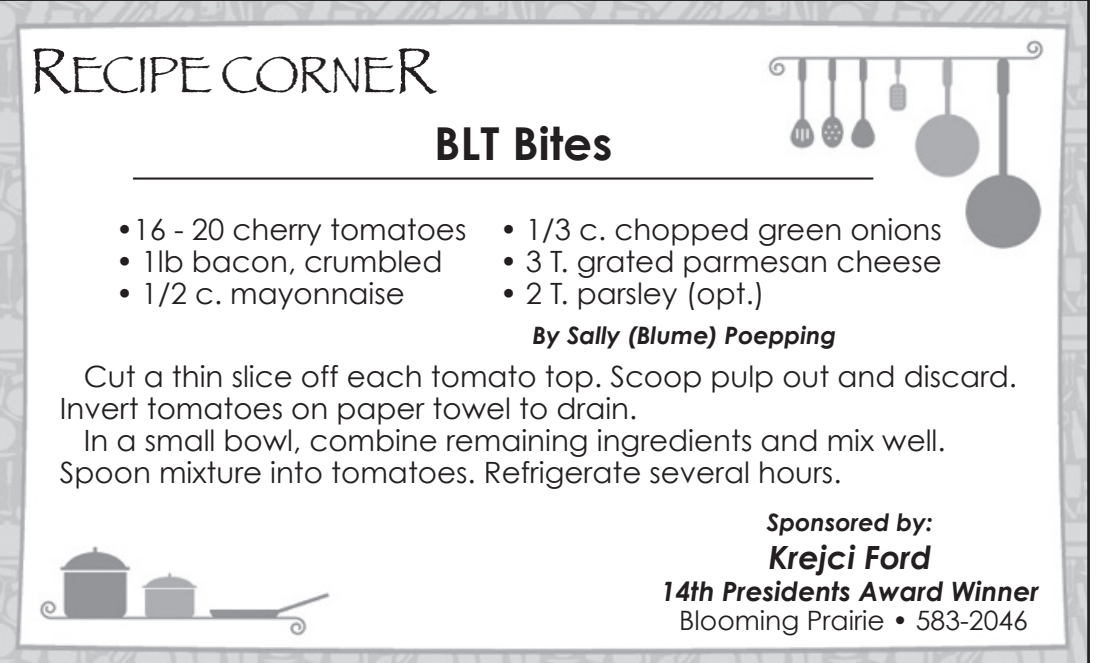
- 16 - 20 cherry tomatoes
- 1lb bacon, crumbled
- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 1/3 c. chopped green onions
- 3 T. grated parmesan cheese
- 2 T. parsley (opt.)

By Sally (Blume) Poepping

Cut a thin slice off each tomato top. Scoop pulp out and discard. Invert tomatoes on paper towel to drain.

In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Spoon mixture into tomatoes. Refrigerate several hours.

Sponsored by:
Krejci Ford
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CONGRATULATIONS STEELE COUNTY WRESTLERS ON YOUR REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE STATE WRESTLING TOURNEY!

State
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State
Champion



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OWATONNA - 195 POUND STATE CHAMPION

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OWATONNA - 138 POUND THIRD PLACE

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Electric bikes are the possible wheels of the future

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Electric bikes, also known as e-bikes, are becoming a hit in the metro area for millennials commuting to and from work, but electric bikes are making a hit in rural areas, too, for a different reason.

Co-Owner of Straight River Sports and Fitness Anne Paulson said that people in the process of healing from cancer or other invasive illnesses are finding the electric bikes an ease back into fitness.

“The bike can meet you where you are physically able to be, but you can still go the same pace as your cycling companion,” said Paulson.

Straight River Sports and Fitness sells Pedego electric bikes as of November, and they have already sold five. Of the five sales, three were to people in the process of healing.

“All of them have made a point to call or stop and tell me how life changing the bikes are,” said Paulson. “If people wanted to go out, but they were slowed down by cancer or something, they can hop on the bike and keep up with their family or friends.”

While the electric bikes look just like a normal two wheel bicycle, there is a built in battery that sits above the back tire. The battery offers propulsion for the rider.

On a device on the handlebar, the cyclists choose which level of pedal assist the battery will provide. A rider can choose to propel the bike to a certain speed by pedaling a lot, a little, or not at all.



Owner of Straight River Sports and Fitness Anne Paulson demonstrates how fun and easy it is to ride the electronic bicycles.

“The pedal assist is helpful to fill that gap of energy you want or are able to put in to the bike ride,” said Paulson. “A lot of people want to commute to

work, but they might not want to be all sweaty when they get there. People could totally put their cars away with this bike.”

Many might wonder where

the work out is in electric bikes, but electric bikes can easily function as a regular self-propelled bicycle. It is easy to switch between functions,

as the control is on the handle bars.

The battery is removable by key for charging. According to Paulson, the battery can go up to 60 miles per charge. The charger plugs into the wall.

Paulson said that if people use the e-bikes to get to and from places around town, they are living more “environmentally friendly” by cutting down on their carbon footprints.

“This is the next big thing,” said Paulson. “It is getting people out and about, and it meets people where they are at physically. Plus, you aren’t putting all of those fumes into the air.”

With so many benefits to the e-bikes, the sticker price is higher than a regular bicycle. Paulson said that, depending on strength and style, the bikes can range anywhere from \$2,500 and \$3,200. The batteries are around \$500 have to be replaced approximately every four years.

“It’s an investment, but it is so worth it if it allows you to do what you love with the people you love,” said Paulson. “Plus, these bikes are so fun! We had a customer that just couldn’t stop laughing while she tried it.”

By purchasing e-bikes through Straight River Sports and Fitness, people can rest assured that the store has experts that can answer any questions or fix most anything that might need fixing on the bike.

Straight River Sports and Fitness is currently taking pre-orders for preseason on the e-bikes. Paulson encourages anyone interested to come over, hop on an e-bike and take it for a test spin.



JERRY F. ZETAH

What it’s like to be homeless

Joe Girzone was real. His latest book, “The Homeless Bishop,” was written as a novel. However, it reads like a true story.

A contributor to NCR wrote a complimentary book review about Joe. Joe Girzone was an ordained Carmelite priest from 1955 until his death in 2015. Much of his ministry was devoted to the poor, the homeless, and those without a voice.

He turned to writing after being told by his doctor that he was destined for a short life if he didn’t ease up. The proceeds from his Joshua series were turned back to the destitute. In 2009, his book “The Homeless Bishop” came off the press.

Carlo, the main character, was a bishop who decided to become and live as a homeless beggar for 1½ years in order to understand why Jesus so loved the poor.

“I think I know now why Jesus had such a tender spot in his heart for the poor,” says Carlo. “It takes great faith and simplicity of spirit to be poor and not despair. It takes enormous courage to decide to keep on living. The homeless are remarkable people. Their way of life is a prayer — desperate, silent, unspoken pleading with God to keep them alive. And by some miracle, no, not one miracle, but a continuous chain of miracles all day long and night, they do stay alive, especially in freezing cold days and nights.”

My guess is that not too many of us would have the courage to become and to be a homeless person for a day, let alone for 1½ years. However, Transitional Housing used to invite the young and old to sleep overnight within a Box City at the softball diamond.

Rather than guess what it must be like to be homeless, I invited the men at the Hospitality House to finish this statement: “I wish the people of Owatonna and surrounding areas knew that homelessness is ...”

- scary, frightening to have nowhere to go.
- humbling, want to stand up straight and move forward.
- serious, some are struggling to survive due to a drug epidemic for a lot of them.
- very difficult and troublesome.
- one of the darkest, most alone feelings that a person can feel - like a snail traveling through the desert.
- not a disease, not a choice.
- frustrating, hungry, cold, lonely.
- a struggle, dangerous.
- being at rock bottom.
- a very serious issue here.
- does not mean we are bad people.
- eye-opening.
- a very scary reality of nothingness.
- still a person.
- winter and child support add to stress.

As a Hospitality House board member, I say thank you for creating many small miracles. These miracles help the homeless among us.

Or, as the last line of “The Homeless Bishop” reads, “The homeless beggar belonged everywhere and to everyone.”

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Jerome F. Zetah, Ph.D., is a board member of Hospitality House in Owatonna and a former therapist at South Central Human Relations Center.

Brooktree Golf Course to get new restaurant

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Excitement for the new restaurant at Brooktree Golf Course is already alive among golfers, dog walkers, runners and bicyclists that frequently use or pass by the facilities. Many envision warmer weather and a meal and drink on the patio.

“There aren’t any restaurants in this part of town, so people are excited,” said Recreation Superintendent Mary Jo Knudson. “The neighbors are excited.”

The new restaurant “Master’s Bar and Grille” is set to open on April 1, and unlike the past, the City of Owatonna will not be managing the food and drink portion of the clubhouse. This allows for a full bar, as the city was only allowed a license to serve a few light beers before.

Tim Cockram, of Owatonna Catering LLC, is taking on the challenge of managing the restaurant and bar. Restaurant and bar staff will not be considered city employees.

Knudson said that the separation allows the Parks and Recreation department to focus on the “part that we do best, and let the catering experts take care of the food and drink.”

“Food and drink is not our expertise,” said Knudson. “We want to provide the best of both worlds.”

Cockram plans to transform the sort of “blank slate” interior of the clubhouse into more of a sports bar and grill atmosphere with golf aesthetics. The redesign will be minimal for now, but television sets and dart boards are

Area schools celebrate National FFA Week 2016



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

ABOVE: Blooming Prairie 7th graders Joe Pirkel and Madison Suchanek participate in the pedal tractor races during lunch at Blooming Prairie High School last Thursday. This was just one of the many FFA Week activities that took place at the school during National FFA Week, Feb. 22-26.

Staff photo by Anna Segner

RIGHT: Millie Spindler (left), Tammy Ebeling and Kathy Jensen enjoyed their breakfast prepared by Owatonna Chapter FFA students for the FFA appreciation breakfast on Feb. 25.



HometownLiving

Community Calendar

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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 ALL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE 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
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OWATONNA

March 1:
 Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
 9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
 5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission,
 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
 7 p.m. Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall,
 Council Chambers
 7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Cham-
 bers, City Hall
March 2:
 Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
 March 3:
 6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
March 7:
 1 p.m. Owatonna, Womanâs Club bridge group,
 SeniorPlace
March 8:
 Steele Co Commission
 9:30 a.m. OPL It's TALE TIME!
 7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
 7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Sheph-
 ard Lutheran Church, Owa, 2nd Tues Sept - June

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

March 1:
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
March 2:
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
March 8:
 BP Card Club & Luncheon
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
March 9:
 4:30 p.m. Economic Development Authority
 meeting
March 9:
 10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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---	--

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

March 1:
 7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
March 3:
 5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
 7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
 7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
March 6:
 Free Meal Sundays at Ellendale United Methodist
 Church, Ellendale
March 7:
 6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
March 8:
 7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl


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OTHER COUNTIES

Freeborn
March 2:
 7:30 a.m. AL Port Authority Mtg, AL EDA
 2 p.m. Dr. Seuss' birthday, ALPL
March 3:
 10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
 10:30 a.m. Music & Movement, ALPL
 5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council
 Chambers
 6 p.m. Night-time Story time, Albert Lea Public
 Library
 7 p.m. Band Concert, ALHS Auditorium

Mower
March 2:
 Hot Reads For Cold Nights
 21st Annual Rose Sale
 11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
 2:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning, Mower County Se-
 nior Center
 7 p.m. Extraordinary Fiddle Concert, Austin Pub-
 lic Library
 7:30 p.m. Children's Self-Defense/Safety Aware-
 ness Class, Minnesota National Guard- Austin Ar-
 mory



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SPOT LIGHT

Choirs to collaborate in Owatonna

The recording "Life and Breath: Choral Works by René Clausen" recently received the GRAMMY for Best Choral Performance. Now, Clausen will bring The Concordia Choir from Moorhead, Minnesota, to perform in Owatonna.

The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Sat-
 urday, March 5, at St. John Lutheran Church (1301
 Lincoln Ave. S.) The concert stage will be shared with
 the Owatonna High School Concert Choir, under the
 direction of Chris Harris. Tickets are available online
 at ConcordiaTickets.com, by calling 800-838-3006,
 or get tickets at the door.

MEDFORD

March 3:
 2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior
 Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
March 7:
 2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior
 Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
March 8:
 5 p.m. Medford EDA (2nd Wed odd months)
March 9:
 4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
 6 p.m. Medford Park Board's community open for
 developing Medford's future parks, trails and green
 spaces at City Hall, 408 2nd Ave SE



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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kilowatt hours are their business

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
 Staff Writer

What is a kilowatt-hour?
 Ask Jerry Mausbach, general
 manager of Blooming Prairie Pub-
 lic Utilities (BPPU). He and his
 staff will quickly tell you that it is
 electricity measured in kilowatt-
 hours (kWh).

One kilowatt-hour of electricity
 is enough to watch television for 10
 hours, wash 12 pounds of laundry,
 listen to the radio for 20 hours, vac-
 uum for one hour, cook breakfast
 for a family of four, and work on a
 computer for 5 to 10 hours.

Electricity is not the only concern
 of BPPU. Water is also an important
 component that the utilities compa-
 ny monitors and supplies.

The BPPU business office is lo-
 cated eat 333 2nd Ave. NE and the
 power plant is located at 146 3rd
 Ave. SE.

BPPU currently is a member of
 the Southern Minnesota Municipal
 Power Agency (SMMPA). The plant
 generates power needed for the city
 of Blooming Prairie and also ties
 into the City of Austin, also a SMM-
 PA member.

A non-profit entity governed by a
 utilities board, BPPU oversees the
 safe, reliable and economic deliv-
 ery of electrical and water services
 to residents and business people of
 the city, said new general manager
 Mausbach.

BPPU has an annual operating
 budget of \$3 million. Commission-
 ers are appointed by the city mayor



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
 Blooming Prairie Public Utilities
 (BPPU) General Manager Jerry
 Mausbach joined the local utilities
 entity last Jan. 4. He is shown
 above with office employees Ana
 Trom and Katie Wencel.

and confirmed by city council. Cur-
 rent BPPU Commission members
 are Dennis Heimerman, Amy Doer-
 hoefer and Michael Ressler.

Mausbach's staff includes Tom
 Swenson, power plant manager;
 Chuck Romeo, lineman; Jared
 Brown, power plant operator and
 water operator; Isreal Wacek, ap-
 prentice lineman; Katie Wencel, of-
 fice manager/bookkeeper and Ana
 Trom, office assistant.

BPPU has two bucket trucks,
 a backhoe/loader and two pickup
 trucks. It is the responsibility of
 crews to read meters and do main-
 tenance including tree trimming,
 tightening hardware and trouble-
 shooting.

Mausbach took over the general
 manager duties on Jan. 4 of this year,
 succeeding Rick Kittelson, who re-
 tired. Kittelson remains a SMMPA
 member representative and serves as
 SMMPA board president.

Prior to joining BPPU, Mausbach
 worked as operations manager of the
 Nobles Electric Co-op in Worthing-
 ton. He served there for four years.
 That position was preceded by sev-
 en years as line superintendent and
 utility manager of the Lake Crystal,
 Minnesota, Public Utilities.

Mausbach and wife Brandy have
 three children: Montgomery, 5, Al-
 exander, 3, and Joselyn, 1.

Numerous long-range capital im-
 provement projects are currently
 being examined. BPPU is also in
 the beginning stages of exploring
 upgrades to the water tower and
 pumping house. Because of the age
 of some of the equipment, it is time
 to replace parts of the infrastructure,
 Mausbach said. He works with staff
 and takes recommendations to the
 board.

It is necessary to be forward think-
 ing when talking about future utility
 projects, Mausbach said. "It is a joy
 to work with staff in studying differ-
 ent perspectives," Mausbach com-
 mented.

BPPU moved its business offices
 to the northeast part of the city in the
 former ambulance garage within the
 past year. Customers can leave pay-
 ments at the front desk or at a drive-
 by drop box. Office hours are 7:30
 a.m. to 4 p.m. five days a week. For
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Lions attend convention



Submitted photo
Three Blooming Prairie Lions attended the District 5M-2 Midwinter Lions Convention in Mankato on Saturday, Feb. 13. Shown from left to right are BP Lion Paul Fiebiger, BP Lion Howard Lestrud, Gov. Marvin Grimm and BP Lions President Harvey Farr.

Consider joining the Creative Memoir Writing class

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Have you always wanted to write your life story so those wonderful (and not so wonderful) experiences of your life could be recorded? Do you want your grandchildren to know you, even if you live far away?

We invite you to a Creative Memoir Writing class at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Kevin Strauss, author, storyteller and promoter of reading and writing, will be conducting a six-week session

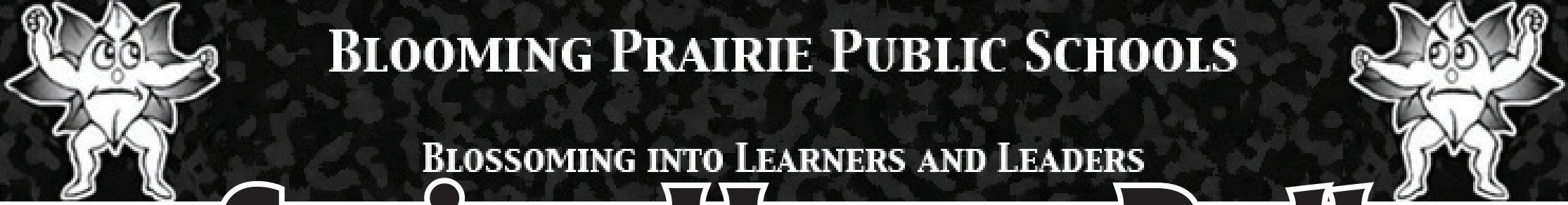
at the library. The tentative dates for the workshops are from 6-8:30 p.m. on Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2 and 16.

Thanks to a Library Legacy grant, made possible with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the people of Minnesota, we are able to offer this series free of charge to library patrons. Kevin will introduce us to the Turning Points approach to thinking about, remembering and

recording the important people, places and objects in our lives. To learn more about Kevin and his background, look at his website www.naturestory.com.

If you are interested in attending the classes, please call the library at 507-583-7750 or email us at bpbl@selco.info. More information will be coming as we approach the beginning of the classes.

See you at the library!



Spring Honor Roll

'A' Honor Roll

7th Grade
ASHLEIGH ALWES
MAGGIE BRUNS
EMILY KUBICEK
ROSE MICHAUD
REESE MILLAM
MEGAN OSWALD
8th Grade
BAYLEE SORENSEN
9th Grade
RILEY MILLAM
RACHAEL OSWALD
SETH PETERSON
PAYTON SIMON
10th Grade
ETHAN ARETT
JERRIN JAX
MITCHELL OSWALD
SALOME RAMIREZ
JESSE SCHEWE
11th Grade
JAKE HYLAND
ALISON PRYOR
ALICIA PTACEK
LEAH SCHIEFERT
12th Grade
ANTHONY NELSON
SALLY PETERSON

'A-' Honor Roll

7th Grade
RYLIE CISNEROS
MAREN FORYSTEK
COLE GRAVES
CHARLIE HEIMERMAN
SHYANE JORGENSON
ALLISON KROHNBERG
LUKE LARKOSKI
MACKENZIE MADSEN
GRACE MAGNUSON

JOSEPH PIRKL
JESSICA RESSLER
RACHAEL RILEY
GRETCHEN SUNDE
KIYA THOMPSON
MICALYN TRIHUS
WYATT VOSS
TAYLOR WURST
8th Grade
KISHA AQUINO
ZACHARY ARCHER
RIAUNA BISHOP
LILA CARLSON
RAYNEE FAWVER
GEMINI JOHNSON
ADAM LARSON
JARRETT LARSON
MAYA LEMBKE
HAZEL MICHAUD
CHASE PETERSON
MATTHEW PRYOR
DONDI STENDER
VIRIDIANA VILLARREAL
JAYDE WACEK
ZACHARY WEBER
JILLIAN WIGHAM
JULIA WORKE
9th Grade
WILLIAM CARDENAS
CASAUNDR GREEN
COLTON IVERS
10th Grade
RYLEE FAWVER
McKENNA HEIN
SAMANTHA WURST
11th Grade
ELIJAH BAKER
THOMAS BRAATEN
LAURA GRANT
WYATT GRUNDMEIER
CAMDEN HEIMERMAN
LEAH IN WARDS

ROSE JOHNSON
SASHA KATZUNG
RACHEL KUBICEK
CARTER MILLAM
HAILEY NAATZ
TAYLOR PETERSON
LILLIAN ABBE

'B+' Honor Roll

7th Grade
COLE CHRISTIANSON
ETHAN GRANT
BRIAN JIMENEZ
DYLAN JOHNSON
ALEXANDER MILLER
CHRISTOPHER NAATZ
JACOB NAATZ
CHRISTOPHER SHEPARD
HALLE STRUNK
RACHEL THOMPSON
8th Grade
HOPE JOHNSON
COLTON KRELL
ANDREW MARTINEZ
HEATHER PIRKL
GRACIE RUDLONG
MARTI SNIDER
KADEN THOMAS
KARSON VIGELAND
9th Grade
JACKSON BALTAZAR
RAEANN GRUNDMEIER
JESSICA GWILT
CALEB KUBISTA
JEANNETTE LOZANO
TIMOTHY WOLF
10th Grade
KATHRYN BORCHERT
LINNEA BYERS-SUNDE
AYREN INGVALSON
MARTEN MOREM
RACHEL PIRKL

KIEARA RASCHKE
NICHOLAS THOMPSON
ASIA THOSTENSON
11th Grade
JASMINE ANDERSON
RICHARD FEENEY
KYLIE FORYSTEK
ELLYSIENNE MAGNUSON
RACHEL PETERSON
MARNIE REESE
ZACHARY SISLER
BENJAMIN SMITH
ELLY STRUNK
COURTNEY WOBSCALL
12th Grade
HANNAH AHRENS
DILLON EASTON
KATELYNN GRUNKLEE
KALLIE KLEMMENSEN
ALYSSA KROHNBERG
KALYN NAATZ
ETHAN STRUNK
ABBY WAYNE

'B' Honor Roll

7th Grade
ADRIANNA BERMEA
ABBY BRAATEN
THOMAS DONNELLY
MACKENZIE GRUNKLEE
BRIANNA HENSURUD
LANE LEMBKE
MAGGY MOTL
DANIELLE PENNA
ALEXANDER PILLER
MADISON SUCHANEK
BRENDA TALAMANTES
8th Grade
MORGAN ANDERSON
KASSIDY BORDEN
GABRIEL HAGEN
EMILY KRAMPITZ

DYLAN NIRK
ALEXIS OLIVO
ANNA THOSTENSON
9th Grade
NICHOLAS FREESE
ISAAC HANSON
JACLYN HYLAND
HANNAH KINNY
COLIN LERUM
AMY PETERSON
CLINT PETERSON
TRENTON SWENSON
IAN WAYNE
10th Grade
BRIANNA ARTHAUD
KYLER CHRISTIANSON
THOMAS ERICKSON
JACOB GWILT
JONATHAN HERRON
BRANDON JIMENEZ
TALON KENT
ERICA LAGANIERE
JAKE RESSLER
BRADLEY STASKA
CORY WAGAMAN
11th Grade
BRIA BALDWIN
AUSTIN CHRISTIANS
KAYLEIGH DOUGLASS
JORDAN PAULSON
ZACHARY PILLER
12th Grade
BRODY CARLSON
NOAH CRABTREE
KEVIN EISCHEM
BRIANNA GREEN
JONATHAN HANSEN
MARGARET JONES
MITCHELL JONES
LAUREN LARKOSKI
RILEY OLSON
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Students enjoy Lego Club at Blooming Prairie Elementary

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each week, Blooming Prairie Elementary School (BPES) becomes a place for young engineers to build, create and learn during the weekly meeting of the BPES Lego Club.

The group, open to students in grades 1-4, is run through the Community Education program. Although the Club is in its first year, BPES Principal Chris Staloch said that there has been a high level of student interest. “We had 59 students sign up,” Staloch said. “Due to the large



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Blooming Prairie Elementary students work together during a recent Lego Club session after school in Blooming Prairie.

number signed up, we will be running two separate classes. One class will be held each Thursday in February and the other will be held each Thursday in March.”

Staloch adds that the goal of the program is to be as inclusive as possible. “We aren’t going to turn anybody away,” he said. “We want all the kids who are interested to have the opportunity to do this.”

Teachers Kim Lea and Rachel Harberts provide instruction for the students, and the two agree that the experience has been positive for everyone involved. “It’s just really taking our science standards and having them come alive for the kids,” Lea said. “And they don’t really realize they’re learning science!”

A generous donation from the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation (BPEF) has helped keep down the cost for students to participate and, Staloch, Lea and Harberts each expressed their gratefulness to the Foundation. “(Without BPEF), we’d have to charge more, so it’s really fantastic that we’re able to keep it at a low cost to the public,” Lea said. “It’s good that everybody is able to be exposed to it.”

First, the students learned about the six simple machines, and then built those six simple machines with Legos. They work with different kits, each including essential Lego pieces and instruction booklets. Students are then encouraged to take on a number of challenges, such as building a Lego fishing pole, hook and fish. Then, the students perform a series of tests and experiments with their creations, applying scientific principles and “thinking like engineers” during the process.

“This is learning at its finest,” reflected Staloch. “The students don’t even think they are learning; they are just having so much fun doing it.”

“The Lego education system also has the different engineering steps you have to go through, too,” explains Harberts. “You have to think about it first, then construct it, then test it and go back and re-evaluate what you could do differently.”

Harberts and Lea said that the Club teaches numerous skills, including teamwork, science, math and engineering concepts and problem-solving skills. “Problem solving is probably one of the greatest skills they can learn,” Staloch said.

The teachers said that working together in small groups also helps engage all types of learners. “The learning styles that pop out are interesting,” Lea said. “Then, when you put them with a team, they really find different learning styles.”

Lego Club also encourages participants to be innovative. “Sometimes they had instructions, and sometimes they did not have instructions,” Lea added. “So, it was fun to see them



Teachers Kim Lea and Rachel Harberts provide instruction during Lego Club. Above, Lea congratulates one group of students, who have just mastered an exciting engineering concept.

try to build the machines without instructions. They came up with their own ideas.”

The students aren’t the only ones who are learning. Harberts and Lea agree that this first session of classes has also been an opportunity to grow as educators. “It’s new for us, also,” Harberts admits. “We’re also working through it and learning with them.”

The two teachers have also discovered that, although the students are covering numerous topics in the Club, there is also much more that the program has to offer. “We are just touching the surface on these kits,” said Harberts. “We’re only doing simple machines, but they have force and motion and lots of different things that relate to our standards.”

At the high school, a group of students is also participating in the first Blooming Prairie Robotics Club. The Lego Club, said Staloch, compliments the high school’s program nicely.

Harberts and Staloch said that school staff began discussing the formation of a Lego Club last year and, this year, the idea became a reality. Next year, it’s likely that the program will continue and possibly even expand.

“We do hope to do it again next year,” Staloch said. “We want to build it. If we continue to have the interest, yes, we want to keep going.”

BROOKTREE

Continued from Page 1C

in the works.

A brand new patio was added to the clubhouse last year, so Cockram plans to utilize that space. “There aren’t too many patios to sit and have a drink, and this has a beautiful view of the course,” he said.

Similar to the Fall Shindig, Knudson said that they hope to host a series of folk concerts on

the patio. She also has some other events such as a movie on the patio and a “women, wine and golf” event planned.

“We are looking at having some more fun night for couples and parent/child nights too,” said Knudson.

Cockram has over ten years of culinary experience. He worked as Executive Chef/Director of

Food and Beverage Operations at the Owatonna County Club for many years, so his experience in a clubhouse setting was appealing to the City immediately.

“Doors just kind of open the right way at the right time,” he said, about the timing of the opportunity. “Our goals coincided and we envisioned what it could

be, so I’m really excited.”

He said that the food will be bar and grill inspired, but he admits that he tends to “do stuff with a twist.” Cockram emphasized his love for fresh and local food, and he said that he has already been in communication with a few local farmers and grocers.

Since Brooktree will now

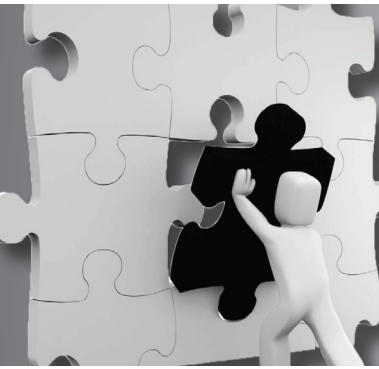
have a full bar, Cockram is looking forward getting creative and doing some drink specials.

“I don’t think he’s had one bad idea yet,” laughed Knudson, about Cockram’s vision. “And I don’t think he’s capable of bad ideas. It’s good that way to have such a good fit.”

Cockram will be looking to hire around 20 part-time em-

ployees for the restaurant and bar portion. He plans to host two open houses for potential employees to come and submit their application.

All updates on Master’s Bar and Grille will be posted on the Brooktree Golf Course Facebook page.



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Medford school hosts science fair

Staff photos by Anna Segner

RIGHT:
Senior Preston Hanson intently listened to 5th grader Noah Hested as he explained their science project titled "The best ice melter."

BELOW:
Fourth graders Sydney Chapek and Jackie Cole demonstrate their invention Flubber Soap, which can remove tough stains at the Medford Science Fair on Thursday, Feb. 25.



ZED Art Show on display visits Blooming Prairie

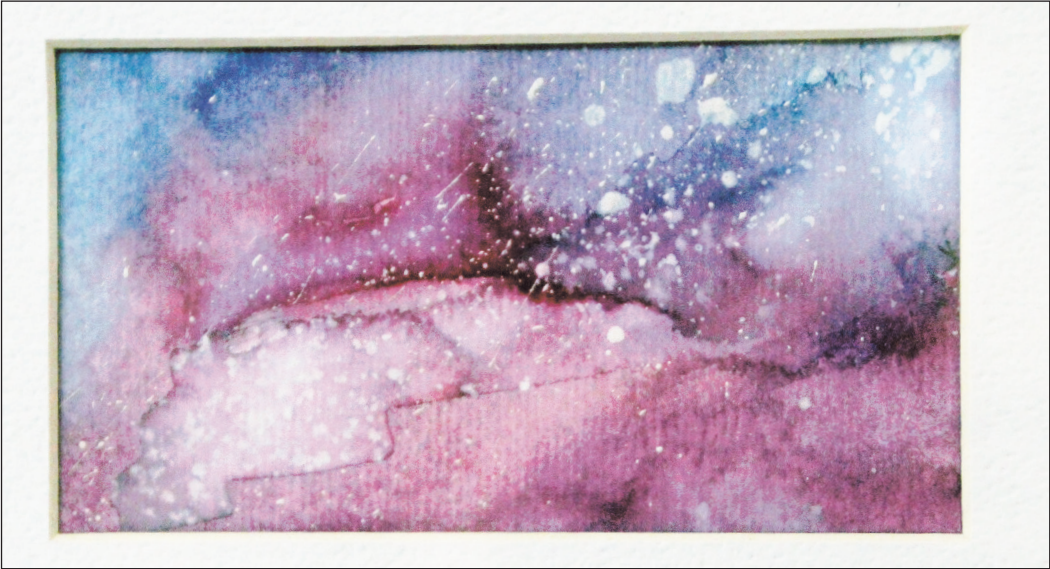
By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

A traveling art display, sponsored by the Zumbro Education District (ZED) is currently making its way around the seven schools in the district and was just on exhibit at Blooming Prairie High School.

The display has already been at Stewartville and Hayfield and is scheduled for stops yet at Byron, Triton, Kasson-Mantorville and Pine Island.

Each school in the consortium could offer five examples of various art mediums, per instructor, and local art teacher Nathan Piller submitted all five for which he was eligible. The BPHS examples include two graphite drawings, two acrylic subjects and one pen and ink example. Two 8th graders, a freshman, a sophomore and a senior are represented from the local high school.

One of the most striking offerings is the pen and ink drawing by senior Alyssa Krohnberg. The intricate detail and the creative design catch the eye immediately, and stand out from almost all of the other examples from any of the schools. Sophomore Kate



Acrylic art by sophomore Kate Borchert was on display at the Zumbro Education District (ZED)'s 22nd annual traveling art show, which recently stopped in Blooming Prairie.

Borchert's depiction of a scene of nature uses soft tones to get the effect, and freshman Carlton Ivers' example of a young steer captures the image successfully.

One of the graphite examples by 8th grader Chase Peterson is the picture of a kitty hanging by its paws over a tree branch. Three other graphite example is that of a couple people together and is the work of Hazel Michaud. When grouped with the other schools represented in

the show, approximately four-dozen works of various mediums of art were on display. The exhibit at the local school ended Monday and went next to Triton, where it will be shown from March 3 through March 10. Kasson-Mantorville, Byron and Pine Island will ultimately have the exhibit after the Triton dates.

ZED's mission statement declares that it offers many various programs to enrich and add to the education of the students

in the district.

Besides the traveling art display each year, the organization sponsors the academic triathlon, at least two group choral clinics each year, the Scripps spelling bee and other specialized services for groups and individuals, such as the creative writing contest.

The seven schools in the ZED cooperate in several projects and do much to foster communication between the various schools.



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Ink artwork by senior Alyssa Krohnberg is on display at the Zumbro Education District (ZED)'s 22nd annual traveling art show.



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Dodge, Steele soybean harvests per acre among best in state

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
County Staff Writer

Dodge and Steele counties ranked among the top soybean producers per acre in 2015, according to statistics released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Fifty-five Minnesota counties had record high yields of more than 55 bushels an acre, the USDA reported. The South Central District, which includes Steele County, ranked first with an average of 59.2 bushels an acre, and the Southeast District, which includes Dodge County, was second with an average yield of 57.1 bushels an acre.

Dodge County ranked first in the Southeast District at 60.6 bushels an acre and was third statewide.

Martin County had the highest yield per acre at 61.7 and Faribault County was second at 61.3 bushels an acre. Rounding out the top five statewide were

Waseca and Nicollet Counties, both with an average yield of 60.1 bushels an acre.

Steele County farmers had an average yield of 58 bushels an acre.

Statewide, the average yield per acre was 50 bushels for 2015, compared with 41.5 bushels per acre in 2014.



Dodge County per acre production was up from 51.5 bushels in 2014, while Steele County increased from 48.1 bushels per acre in 2014.

There were 93,800 acres in Dodge County planted in soy-

beans in 2015 with 93,100 acres harvested. In Steele County, 78,800 acres were planted and 78,300 acres were harvested.

Five Minnesota counties harvested more than 10 million bushels of soybeans, led by Renville with 11.9 million, Redwood with 11.4 million, Faribault 10.2 million, Polk and Blue Earth at 10.1 million.

Dodge County harvested 5.6 million bushels and Steele County harvested 4.5 million bushels.

State-wide, the USDA reported, 377.5 million bushels were harvested compared to 301.7 in 2014.

While yields were up over 2015, market prices were down.

The market average price per bushel for 2015 was \$8.60 compared to \$9.96 in 2014, the USDA reported

11th annual southern MN organic crops day March 29

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

The eleventh annual Southern Minnesota Organic Crops Day will be held Tuesday, March 29 at the Steele County Community Center.

This year's program aims to provide current and future organic crop producers with additional tools and knowledge to help their operation succeed. Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 3:00 p.m. There is a cost of \$15 at the door, which includes reg-

istration, materials and supper.

Topics and speakers for the day include:

- Organic Grain Marketing 303 with Tim Ennis, National Farmers Organization

- Soil Fertility for Organic Vegetable Production and Field Crops with Paulo Pagliari, Nutrient Management Specialist, UMN Extension.

- Strategies for Managing the Weed Seed Bank with Jared Goplen, UMN Graduate Student

- Blasted Weeds! New Form of Weed Control for Organic Crops with Frank Forcella, Research Agronomist, USDA – ARS

- Understanding the Nitrogen Cycle with Brad Carlson, UMN

Extension Crops Educator

This event is sponsored in part by Albert Lea Seed, Grain Millers, and SunOpta in cooperation with University of Minnesota Extension. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information contact Karen Anderson, Extension Educator in Steele and Rice Counties at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.

The Steele County Community Center is located at 1380 South Elm Avenue in Owatonna, Minnesota, next to the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Submitted by Steele County Extension Ag Educator, Karen Anderson

National Farmers Union brings annual convention to Minnesota

Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President, Doug Peterson welcomes the 114th National Farmers Union (NFU) convention to the Radisson Blu in Mall of America March 5-8, 2016.

"The last time that NFU hosted their convention in Minnesota was in 1968," said Peterson. "We are looking forward to welcoming all members of Farmers Union back to Minnesota, and expect to have a full discussion about the policies that are affecting America's family farmers. This discussion will build the policy that Farmers Union will use when we fight for family farmers at the legislature."

The full agenda welcomes guests such as Secretary Vilsack and General Clark as keynote speakers. Many awards will be presented for the hard work that members have done to assist in building and strengthening Farmers Union. Breakout sessions will highlight local foods, food safety, farming grants and more.

The most up-to-date convention information, including a tentative agenda and hotel in-

formation, can be found on the NFU website at www.nfu.org/convention.

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Fun farm facts:

- Mature turkeys have more than 3,500 feathers.
- There are 47 different breeds of sheep in the U.S.
- Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world.
- The average person consumes 584 pounds of dairy products a year.
- 160 degrees Fahrenheit is the correct cooking temperature to ensure safe and savory ground beef.
- Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use a soybean-based hydraulic fluid.
- Like snowflakes, no two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots.
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.
- Twenty-nine cuts of beef meet government guidelines for lean.
- The average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk a day, 2,100 pounds of milk a month, and 46,000 glasses of milk a year.
- Turkeys originated in North and Central America, and evidence indicates that they have been around for more than 10 million years.
- Agriculture employs more than 24 million American workers (17% of the total U.S. work force).
- Today's American farmer feeds about 155 people worldwide. In 1960, that number was 25.8.
- Raising beef cattle is the single largest segment of American agriculture.

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News

Minnesota State Patrolman talks with driver’s education students in Medford

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Medford driver’s education students had many questions for Minnesota State Patrolman Troy Christianson about driving safety, laws and regulations when he visited their class on Feb. 23.

The students were able to try on goggles that mimicked the visual impairment of different levels of blood alcohol content.

Students Joey Schull, Camisha Chavis, Journey Anderst and Jack Schrot tried out various challenges while wearing the goggles. They all wobbled a little while walking in a straight line for four steps.

Christianson gave students some real-life examples of students that have lost their lives from drinking underage and driving. “It isn’t worth losing your life,” said Christianson.

Upon answering a question about how the .08 alcohol-concentration level was decided, Christianson said that the level was decided by science. He shared that the rate of drunk driving is highest among males between the ages of 21 and 35.

It is also becoming more common for younger people to be on drugs while driving, which is enforced the same way as alcohol impairment.

Students also asked when drunk driving occurs most frequently. According to Christianson, the day before Thanksgiving, the day of the Super Bowl, St. Patrick’s Day, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve are the days that drunk driving are more likely to occur.

While drinking and driving was a major topic of conversation, Christianson also warned against the dangers of distracted driving. It is illegal for drivers

under the age of 18 to use a cell phone while driving, and it is illegal for all drivers to read or compose text messages while driving.

A story about a high school student that died from an accident that happened because of her texting while driving was shared. He warned against other forms of distracted driving, such as fiddling with the radio, eating, or drinking a beverage in the car.

Lastly, students asked Christianson what determines whether a speeding driver gets off with a warning or a ticket. He said that there are suggested speeds per consequence, however, the candor of the driver determines a lot.

“If drivers are nice and helpful, that makes a difference,” said Christianson. “We want to be treated professionally and with respect.”



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Journey Anderst, Camisha Chavis, Joey Schull, and Jack Schrot tried taking four steps while wearing goggles that mimic the vision impairment of being under the influence of alcohol. This was a learning tool brought to their driver’s education course by Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol.

Public welcome to attend Medford Park Board’s Open House

Families, teens and area residents are invited to the Medford Park Board’s Open House, on Wednesday, March 9, beginning at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 408 2nd Ave SE.

Maps of the city’s parks, green spaces and trails will be displayed. The public is encouraged to look them over and share ideas on improvements and expansion now, and in future decades.

Like the city, which has completed a twenty plus year plan for maintenance and capital improvement, the Park Board is collecting information for the years to come. They have also visited with the University of Minnesota about assistance with design and future growth through a grant funded research project. Community input is critical to the overall future of these



LOIS M. NELSON

areas throughout the city.

Health and wellness, and spaces for pickup basketball, tennis, picnics, walking and biking, are all assets to a healthy community. We’ve heard from junior high students that they would like a skate park, adults suggesting a dog park and others have made mention of disc golf. The

public is encouraged to visit with the Park Board Members and city staff on March 9. We value these ideas.

Our Park Board has worked together for this past year in becoming well acquainted by the city’s public spaces in doing site visits and brainstorming amongst themselves. Thank you to each of them for dedicating their time and energy to the Medford community. This board consists of: Jerry Paschke, Chair; Missy Underdahl, Secretary, Ben Goodwin, Grace Bartlett and newest appointee, Steve McMahon. Additional thanks go to retiring board members Chad Meixner and Julie Brussel for your years of service. Councilmember, Marie Sexton, also serves as advisor to this board.

With all this unseasonably warm weather, you might

be considering a remodeling project or two this spring. Windows, siding, roofs, cement driveways and fences all require building permits as identified in city code, which is available on the city website at www.medford.minnesota.com.

I encourage you to check out your own communities’ permitting ordinances. If you have questions as to permit requirements, just give Andy or Amber a call at 455-2866 during regular office hours or stop by City Hall.

Thank you for taking care of your property. It, too, is a wonderful example of a healthy community.

Lois M. Nelson is now serving her fourth year as Medford Mayor.

Ellendale Council hears Blandin update, approves backhoe lease

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Donnavon Eaker approached the Ellendale City Council last Thursday evening, asking them for their support as she and others work to make their community stronger.

Eaker was the lone Ellendale representative at a five-day leadership retreat, the Blandin Community Leadership Program. A total of 24 people from Blooming Prairie, Medford and Ellendale gathered at the Sugar Lake Resort, near Grand Rapids, to learn more about building and growing healthy communities.

After the retreat, the group was tasked with finding ways to use their newly developed leadership skills to benefit their own communities. The group has met multiple times since the retreat and Eaker reported to the council that she saw the communities of Blooming Prairie and Medford already putting their ideas into action, and hoped Ellendale could do the same. In order to move forward, however, Eaker stated that she would need the support of the council.

More people from Ellendale were originally accepted into the program, but some could

‘I was just so honored to be able to learn about all the different things we can do in our community.’

— **Donnavon Eaker, attended Blandin Community Leadership retreat**

not attend due to last-minute family emergencies and other conflicts. “I was disappointed that there were not more people there from Ellendale but, by the end of Wednesday night, I felt that I was the luckiest person in Ellendale because I was learning about community and leadership,” Eaker told the council. “I am here to request your public support in the coming months and years for what could be very positive for our community.”

Eaker provided an overview of what she had learned during the retreat and likened healthy communities to a wheel, explaining that there were different spokes, or aspects of the community, that make the wheel turn. If just one of those

spokes was faulty, said Eaker, the wheel would wobble. If two or more spokes were inadequate, she said, the wheel would simply stop turning. Eaker explained that she and other community members would soon begin working to ensure that each essential aspect of a healthy community was present in Ellendale.

“There are so many different groups of our community that can be tapped,” Eaker said. “So much is here, and we have the people. I was just so honored to be able to learn about all the different things we can do in our community.” Eaker said she hoped to engage people from all walks of life, and hoped young people would also become engaged with the projects.

Eaker reported that she’d already assembled a group of eight to 10 people who would be willing to serve on an action committee that would work together to make positive changes in the community.

She also presented a draft of a flyer for a “Call to Action” community meeting. Eaker said that she would like to schedule a meeting at the Ellendale Community Center (date to be determined) so that all interested community members could offer their input and ideas. She

also asked if the flyers could be mailed to all Ellendale residents, ensuring every resident had an opportunity to attend.

Later in the evening, the council agreed that they would be in support of Eaker’s efforts and would talk with city staff about mailing the flyers advertising the community meeting, although they would probably mail them individually, instead of mailing them with the monthly water bills, as Eaker had suggested.

The council also heard from City Maintenance Supervisor Josh Otto and Jake Jensen, RDO representative, about backhoe leasing options. The council had previously reviewed the leasing option with Otto, who explained that the current equipment was 10 years old and could be facing some costly repairs in the near future.

The council discussed financing options, and asked Jensen why the annual payment appeared to be a more expensive option than monthly options. Jensen said he would investigate the matter and get in touch with City Clerk Lee Ann Hojberg. The council approved a motion allowing Otto to pursue the leasing option, pending final confirmation for pricing.

Instructional Coach encourages ongoing teacher learning

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Medford School believes in continuous learning and growth for teachers, even after tenure.

In the state of Minnesota, a teacher’s first three years of consecutive employment are considered in a “probationary period of employment.”

During this three-year period, a peer review process takes place. Based on consultation between the peer review process and the school board, the annual contract with any teacher may, or may not, be renewed, according to the Minnesota teacher Development and Evaluation Statute.

Medford follows the three-year cycle for new teachers, but they also follow all teachers throughout their careers with goals, peer review and other forms of peer feedback based on that three-year cycle.

High School Principal Chris Ovrebo and Instructional Coach Tricia Wagner carry this through.

Wagner’s position as an instructional coach is part time, and she covers kindergarten through 12th grade teachers.

It is Wagner’s eighth year with Medford School. Her first six years were spent as a high school English teacher before she switched to Medford’s first instructional coach for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ovrebo said that it took one year to design, plan and approve the process and instructional coach position.

Each year, Medford teachers pick a goal and spend the year making that goal a reality. Oftentimes, Wagner helps teachers find a goal that is suitable.

“A lot of high school teachers have focused their goal on learning objectives, so making sure that their students are knowing their daily listen and what they are learning,” said Wagner. “Goals range from behavior management to communications with parents.”

Wagner helps each teacher reach their goal by first and foremost being available to offer support and discuss “how things are going.”

“I’m here to encourage and support,” she smiled.

She also observes in the classrooms and provides teachers with feedback. She also pairs teachers up to observe in their colleagues classroom. “This is really focused at professional development,” she said.

Ovrebo commented that Wagner has also been a great link for teachers to resources available to them for career growth.

For the first two years of a teacher’s cycle, they work with Wagner. On the third year of a teacher’s cycle, they work with Ovrebo.

Since this cycle system just began last year, Ovrebo and Wagner said that it has been successful so far. Wagner said that there was some hesitation at first, but now teachers are enjoying the comradery and professional development.

“Our three year cycle for all teachers is unique,” said Ovrebo. “We’re all learning, and we’re all improving.”

“I think that this has been a great opportunity to expand teacher’s horizons,” commented Wagner. “It has been very successful. I think it has created a more collegiate atmosphere, because everyone is developing.”



Wagner

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507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.



Legal Notices

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: Mortgage 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 0 2 3 3 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: 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: Steele 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."

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: William 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 May 29, 2012, as Document No. A000384862. And thereafter assigned to: Green Tree Servicing LLC now known as Ditech Financial LLC. Dated June 6, 2013 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 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

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

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: Steele 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: Steele 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

Dated: January 21, 2016

Attorney for 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

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-270

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Gloria R. Nupson Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 29, 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, March 28, 1979, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Sally Jane Johnson, whose address is 140 Cedar Place NW, 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 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 2016.02.09

BY THE COURT Karen Duncan Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher Court Administrator

Attorney of Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: 507-451-3580
FAX: 507-451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnaalawyers.com

2/23, 3/1

Westfield Township

Westfield Township Annual Town Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Township of Westfield, in the County of Dodge, State of Minnesota, will be held on the second Tuesday of March being the 8th day of March, 2016.

Polls will open at the close of the meeting until 8 p.m. to elect the following officers for the following terms:

- One Supervisor for a three (3) year term

- One Clerk for a two (2) year term.

Business meeting at 3 p.m. to transact town business as required or permitted by law. In case of bad weather, the meeting will be held March 15th, 2016.

Julie Peterson
Westfield Township

12/23 & 3/1

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-280

Estate of Dorothy Fischer, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 29, 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 10, 1993, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Brian A. Fischer, whose address is 2020 Diablo Drive 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.

Dated: 02-10-2016

BY THE COURT
Karen R. 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@owatonnaalawyers.com

2/23, 3/1

Foreclosure

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT CASE TYPE 14: OTHER CIVIL MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE Court File No.: 74-CV-15-1089

Federal National Mortgage Association,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Gregory M. Lindholm,
Mary Lindholm,
Thorp Loan and Thrift Company
d/b/a ITT Financial Services,
John Doe and Mary Roe,
Defendant(s).

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 25, 2011
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$179,300.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Gregory M. Lindholm and Mary Lindholm, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Suntrust Mortgage, Inc., thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.
LENDER: Suntrust Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
Loss Mitigation Phone Number: 1-866-570-5277
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded November 02, 2011, Steele County Recorder's Office, as Document No. A000380944
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 8693 SE 34th Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 04-019-3301 and 04-019-3302
AMOUNT DUE UNDER JUDGMENT & DECREE: \$212,836.17
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a Judgment and Decree granted and entered in the above-cited action on the 19th of January, 2016, a certified copy of which has been delivered to me directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due said Plaintiff in the above-entitled action from said Defendants, Gregory M. Lindholm, and Mary Lindholm, the Sheriff of Steele County will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, on April 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060, the premises and real estate described in said Judgment and Decree:

A tract of land in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 106 North, Range 19 West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 19; thence North 0 degrees, 0 minutes, 0 seconds East (assumed bearing) 300 feet along the West line of said Section 19 to the point of beginning, thence continuing North 0 degrees, 0 minutes, 0 seconds East 434 feet; thence North 90 degrees, 0 minutes, 0 seconds East 425 feet; thence South 02 degrees, 38 minutes, 19 seconds West 434.46 feet; thence South 90 degrees, 0 minutes, 0 seconds West 405 feet to the point of beginning (containing 4.1 acres, more or less),

AND Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 19, thence North 11 1/2 rods; thence East 7 rods; thence South 11 1/2 rods; thence West 7 rods to point of beginning. Containing .503 acres, more or less.

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 the confirmation of sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, will be six (6) months from the date of the sale confirmation.

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.

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Steele County Sheriff
By: /s/ Steele County Deputy Sheriff

By: /s/ John P. Dockry

Dated: 02-10-2016

John P. Dockry #0395340
Kalli L. Ostlie #0329678
Deputy Sheriff
Attorneys for Plaintiff
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
Telephone: (952) 831-4060
Facsimile: 1-847-954-4800

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS OFFICE IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT AND DOES NOT IMPLY THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT MONEY FROM ANY-

ONE WHO HAS DISCHARGED THE DEBT UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

2/23, 3/1, 3/8
3/15, 3/22, 3/29

Foreclosure

16-102916

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 30, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$138,775.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Lanny Louks, a single man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100867104377691779
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 30, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000391091
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, in Block 1, Hartle Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 402 18th Street SW, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-243-0113
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$135,788.94
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: April 19, 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 mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 19, 2016, or the next business day if October 19, 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: February 19, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

B

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

2/23, 3/1, 3/8
3/15, 3/22, 3/29

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 19, 2016

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – A demonstration was given by the Robotics Team.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal; High School Principal; Associate Principal; Members of the BPTA; Member of the Press; Student Representatives

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, and Treasurer's Report Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the minutes, bills, and treasurer's report. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

B.Designation of Local Depositories, Newspaper, and School Attorney

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to designate financial institutions as depositories for school funds and investments through January 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve authorization of specific staff to perform electronic or paper transactions for the district. These authorizations are through January 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the Steele County Times as the official school newspaper through January 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, PLLP, Austin, MN, as the district's designated school attorney through January 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the promulgation of the seniority lists for the teaching staff. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

D. MSHSL Foundation Resolution (Form B/C) Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the MSHSL Form B/C which helps provide additional professional development and training for our coaching staff. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Robotics Activity Fee

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve a \$50 activity fee for those students participating in robotics. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Technology

Discussion of future technology plans which will be presented at the February meeting.

B. Committee Reports

A report update was given by the following committees: Education Foundation, Staff Development, Technology, and ZED.

C. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year as of January 13, 2016, was 408 at the elementary school and 299 at the high school (293 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 2 seniors and 4 juniors which will all attend full-time.

D. Dates to Note.

The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Superintendent Olson gave an update of information received at the recent MSBA Conference that he attended.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will

be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 14, 2016

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2016, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rodney Krell

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the January 19, 2016, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

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): Adam J. Gregor, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$58,500.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 25, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 14, 2009 as Document Number A000368307 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: \$51,627.84 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 7, Brainerd's Addition to the City of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 513 FIRST ST NE, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917-1216 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: 14-103-0702 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: April 19, 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 October 19, 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 25, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, 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
(16-0269-FG00)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/1,3/8

Show of Cause

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 74-CV-16-117

In the matter of the Petition of

Dennis W. Johnson

For an Order Showing Cancellation of a Contract for Deed

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

TO: MICHAEL J. GODDARD AND AMBER N. GODDARD:

Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 1st day of April, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not enter an Order as follows:

That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 17374 and enter a new Certificate of Title for Lot 5, Block 1, Tricentennial Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota In favor of Dennis W. Johnson free of the memorial of the following documents: #T000063192; #T000063474; #T000065153; #T000072599; and free of the memorial of this Order, but subject to all other memorials and recitals appearing on Certificate of Title No. 17374.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order be served:

(a) at least 10 days prior to such hearing upon the above named parties residing in this State in the manner provided by law for the service of Summons in a civil action;

(b) it shall be served at least 14 days

prior to such hearing upon any of the above named non-residents by sending a copy of this Order to such non-residents their post office address, by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested;

(c) it shall be served upon any party who cannot be found by two weeks published notice and by sending a copy of this Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing by first class mail to their address as stated on the Certificate of Title if an address is so stated.

(d) upon a dissolved, withdrawn or revoked business entity governed by Minn. Stat., Chp. 302A, 303, 317A, 322A, 322B or 323 in the manner provided by Minn. Stat. 5.25. (Note: return date on the Order to Show Cause must be at least 30 days after the date of mailing by the Secretary of State).

YOU NEED NOT APPEAR IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

BY THE COURT
/s/ Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
02/10/2016

Attorney for Petitioner:

Mark J. Rahrlick
Smith, Tollefson, Rahrlick
& Cass P.A.
108 West Park Square
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Approved as to form:

By: /s/ David L. Einhaus
David L Einhaus, Examiner of
Titles

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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

Steele County Commissioner

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 1/26/2016
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Glynn/ Brady to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
2. Schultz/Brady to approve the minutes of January 26, 2016. Ayes all.
3. Glynn/Schultz to approve the consent agenda. Ayes all.
4. A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Personnel Report
- C. Approve Lease Agreement with MRCI WorkSource
- D. Approve Renewal of Consumption & Display Permit for Finches Pub, LLC.
- E. Acceptance of Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes
- F. Acceptance of Public Works Policy Committee Minutes from February 4, 2016
- G. Authorize proceeding with the project to replace the Scales of Justice Request
- H. Accept Recycling Summary 2011-2015
- I. Accept Informational Probation Services Dashboard
- J. Approve Landfill Concrete Crushing Services- Rogers & Sons
- K. Accept Informational- Highway Dashboards
5. Brady/Glynn to authorize advertising for bids for Seasonal Materials and set the bid opening date for March 8, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the County Boardroom. Ayes all.
6. Glynn/Schultz to authorize advertising for bids for bids for the 2016 Countywide Pavement Striping project CP 074-016-01 and set bid opening for March 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Boardroom. Ayes all.
7. Brady/Glynn to authorize advertising for bids for CP 74-016-02 – 2016 Seal Coat Project and set bid opening for March 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Board room. Ayes all.
8. Schultz/Glynn offered a Resolution for the 2016 County Highway & Road Weight Restrictions. Upon the vote being taken, 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Huntington absent and not voting.
9. Glynn/Schultz offered a Resolution that the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve this advance for financing approved County State Aid Highway Project(s) of the County of Steele in an amount up to \$3,157,479 in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subp. 9. I hereby authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular/Municipal Construction Account of said County from future year allocations until fully repaid. Upon the vote being taken five commissioners vote in favor thereof, none absent not voting.
10. Glynn/Brady to authorize the sale of the 1971 self-propelled pneumatic Bros Roller from the Highway Department to the Steele County Ag Society for \$1.00 pending MCIT concurrence. Ayes all.
11. Huntington/Schultz to authorize advertising for bids for a Farmland Lease and set the bid opening date for March 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Boardroom. Ayes all.
12. Huntington/Brady to authorize the Steele County Landfill to purchase of a 2003 Sterling Tandem Dump Truck in the amount of \$29,820 from the Steele County Road and Bridge Department. Ayes all.
13. Schultz/Huntington to authorize the Park and Recreation Director to advertise for Lawn Mowing Proposals for the 2016 Mowing Season. Ayes all.
14. Brady/Glynn to approve out of state travel request for a Highway Sign Technician to attend the ATSSA's "How to Training & Education Workshop" course March 15-16, 2016 in Fargo, ND. Ayes all.
15. Glynn/Huntington to approve the ditch levies for JD #6 unpaid balances- 5year levy plus interest and CD #21 unpaid balances- 10 year levy plus interest. Ayes all.
16. Schultz/Glynn to approve the Purchase Agreement with the American Legion Club-Post 11. Ayes all.
17. Huntington/Brady offered a Resolution that the County of Steele has entered into a Purchase Agreement dated February 9, 2016, whereby Steele County will purchase property located at 1903 44th Ave SE, Owatonna, MN 55060 with Steele County Property. Upon the vote being taken five commissioners vote in favor thereof, none absent not voting.
18. Commissioner Reports: Glynn reported on his attendance at the MNPrairie and County Ditch #27 meeting. Huntington reported on her attendance at the MNPrairie, SCCL, SCHA JT Powers Board, Health & Human Services meeting and MNPrairie meeting. Brady reported on his attendance at the MNPrairie meeting. Schultz reported on his attendance at the Fair Board, SEMCAC, County Ditch #27 and the MNPrairie meeting. Ebeling reported on his attendance at the County Ditch #27, Tourism Conference, EDA Committee and MNPrairie meeting.
19. Huntington/Glynn to go into Closed Session at 7:35 p.m. for Minn. Stat. §13D.05 (Attorney/Client Privilege) regarding Sylvia Mary Lee vs. Steele County (and others). Ayes all.
20. Brady/Schultz to re-open the Board Meeting at 7:43 p.m.
21. Huntington/Brady to approve entering into Agreement with Jardine, Logan & O'Brien, P.L.L.P. and to authorize the expenditure of a preliminary budget up to \$20,000 and return to the Board if additional funds are necessary, define both current and former employees listed within the suit as covered individuals and permit the County Administrator to sign. Ayes all.
22. Glynn/Schultz to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILL
2/9/2016

30th Place, LLC.	21,268.02
B & W Control Specialists	11,354.50
Bishop Excavating, Inc.	5,040.49
City of Blooming Prairie	7,264.52
City of Medford	6,890.61
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	4,386.39
Curts Truck & Diesel Svc.	2,806.69
Four Seasons Centre	3,423.75
Integra Telecom	2,762.59
Kiesler's Police Supply, Inc.	3,196.54
Kwik Trip, Inc.	3,210.63
Metro Sales, Inc.	2,625.00
Oertel Architects	12,940.18
Office of MN IT Service	2,205.36
Owatonna Heating & Cooling, Inc.	2,549.00
Owatonna Public Utilities	18,160.12
RDO Equipment Co. Inc.	5,877.47
Rice County Solid Waste Dept.	2,726.00
SCR Southern- Rochester	13,163.75
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	2,271.87
Steele County Highway Dept.	8,159.29
Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc.	36,114.67
Stream Works	7,904.00
Turnkey Corrections	10,194.53
163 Warrants under \$2,000	54,454.91
Total	\$250,950.88

23. Huntington/Glynn to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 8:32 p.m. Ayes all.

3/1

NOTICE TO MATERIAL SUPPLIERS

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 11:00 a.m., March 8, 2016, for seasonal material requirements for the following:

Plant Mixed Bituminous Material and Aggregate Materials.

Bids are to be submitted on the prepared proposal forms which can be secured at the Office of the County Engineer, 635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, Telephone: (507) 444-7670 or on the Steele County website at www.co.steele.mn.us

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any technical defects and to award the contracts to other than the lowest 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

2/23,3/1,3/8

Tail of Heeling held in Blooming Prairie



Magician Tyler Erickson enlists help from audience member Sheri Tapp as he performs a card trick during the fourth annual Tail of Heeling fundraiser, which raised money for the Blooming Prairie and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Parent Teacher Organizations. This event was held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Blooming Prairie FFA members earn Minnesota State FFA Degree

On Friday, Feb. 12, the Blooming Prairie FFA had two members go to Region 7 Proficiencies Review for State Degree interviews.

These two members included Kalyn Naatz and Chris Wacek, two high school seniors at Blooming Prairie High School (BPHS). Both of them will be getting their Minnesota State Degree at the end of April, during the Minnesota State FFA Convention. The State FFA Degree is given to the top members of a State FFA Association, to receive a State FFA Degree members must meet the requirements listed by the National FFA Organization.

Kalyn Naatz, a BPHS FFA senior, has been working at Sportsstitch for the past two

years during her Work Release class and also during the summer months.

Chris Wacek, BPHS FFA senior, has been employed by O'Connor Family Farms since April of 2015, and also as part of his Work Release class.

Kalyn Naatz also earned first place and a Gold Rating in her Proficiency Area of Agricultural Services and will be advancing on to state. Chris Wacek earned a Bronze Rating with his Proficiency in Diversified Agricultural Production.

The BP FFA Chapter couldn't be anymore proud of these two!

Submitted by Kate Grunklee, Blooming Prairie FFA Reporter.

Education news

Marissa Larson, of Blooming Prairie, earned a place on the President's List during the fall semester at Riverland Community College in Austin. Larson is a Blooming Prairie junior attending Riverland Community College as a full-time PSEO student. Full-time students (earning 12 or more credits) at Riverland Community College who achieve a 4.0 grade point average qualify for the President's List each semester.



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Author visits Blooming Prairie



Staff photo by Laura Berndt Julie Klassen, author of multiple award-winning books, paid a visit to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library last Thursday evening. Klassen, who writes historical Regency romances, spoke about her experiences as a writer and what it's like to create a book, from finding inspiration for her stories to adding the final touches to the book's cover. This event was part of the SELCO Winter 2016 Author Tour and was a library legacy program. The library legacy programs are made possible by the Clean Water Land & Legacy amendment, SELCO and the Minnesota Library Legacy.

Student of the Week

Kenley Gehrke is the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Student of the Week.

She is in Mrs. Jensen's kindergarten class. Kenley is the daughter of Ryan and Angela Gehrke, and they reside in New Richland. Kenley enjoys playing with her friends Jovey and Harlee. She also enjoys going out with her family, especially to Buffalo Wild Wings.

Kenley shows Panther Pride in a variety of ways. She is a good listener, helpful to her peers and works very hard. She's polite and waits her turn, she walks quietly in the halls and is an excellent helper to her teacher. We are very proud of you, Kenley! Keep up the great work.



Student of the Week is sponsored by:

Steve's Meat Market

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FAX. 507.684.3109

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 4A

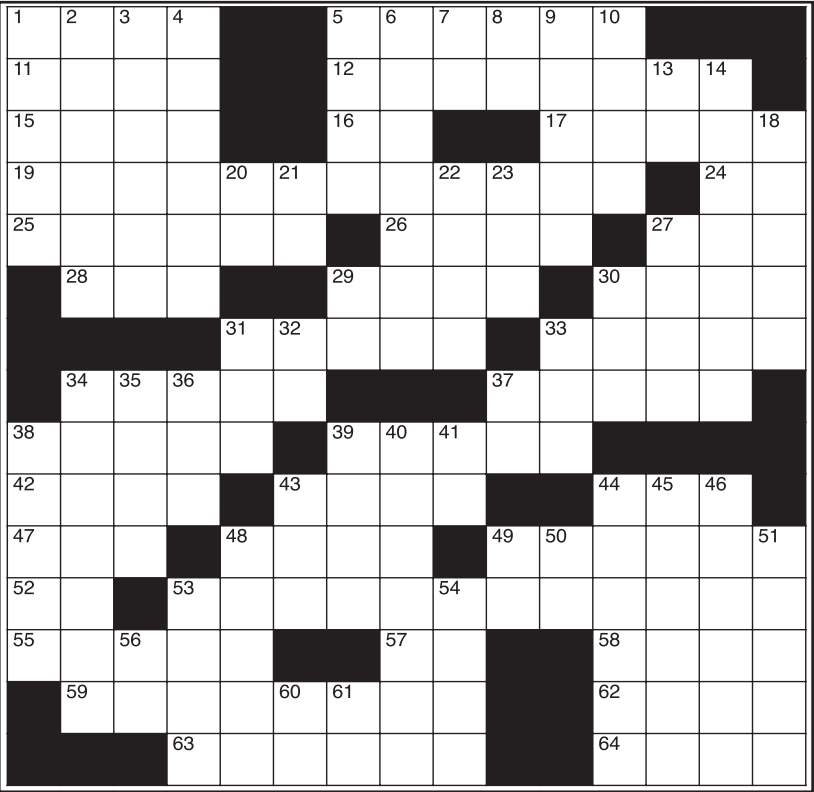
CLUES ACROSS

1. Plural of ascus
5. Repents
11. British School
12. Adhesive to catch birds
15. Male children
16. Oil company
17. Intestinal
19. Money slogan
24. 2nd tone
25. In actual truth
26. Belgian-French River
27. Rural Free Delivery
28. Point midway between S and SE
29. Texas armadillo
30. 2nd largest Hawaiian island
31. Pile up
33. Changes liquid to vapor
34. Yemen capital
37. Byways
38. V-shaped cut
39. Painting on dry plaster
42. Daminozide
43. Papa's partner
44. __-fi: fiction/movie genre
47. 1st Soviet space station
48. Latvian capital
49. Come into view
52. Blue Hen school
53. Maine water company
55. Picture & word puzzle
57. Atomic #18
58. Xiamen dialect
59. Being overzealous
62. One who did it (slang)
63. Night breathing noises
64. A minute amount (Scott)

CLUES DOWN

1. Race of Norse gods
2. Large pebbles
3. Latin line dances
4. The inner sole of a shoe
5. A French abbot
6. Moves stealthily
7. An alternative
8. 39th state
9. Lotus sports car model
10. River fill
13. Of I
14. Many noises
18. Ghana monetary units
20. Actor Hughley
21. The Cowboy State
22. Jest at
23. America
27. Surprise attack
29. Daddy
30. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
31. Express pleasure
32. Cellist Yo-Yo
33. Bronx cheer
34. A more firm substance
35. Essential oil obtained

- from flowers
36. Company that rings receipts
37. Largest church in Christianity
38. Capital of Wallonia
39. Heroic tale
40. Send forth
41. The Golden State
43. 1/1000 of an inch
44. Angel of the 1st order
45. Ukrainian peninsula
46. Disregard
48. Colophony
49. Spanish be
50. Military policeman
51. Cleopatra's country
53. Br. drinking establishments
54. Removes moisture
56. Liberal Arts degree
60. Execute or perform
61. Atomic #77



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NRHEG students explore the arts through Artist in Residence program

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

Each winter, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) students have enjoyed a unique opportunity to expand their artistic skills with the Artist in Residence program. This year, artist Steve DeLaitich returned to NRHEG Elementary to work with students once again.

The program is sponsored by the NRHEG Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and allows the students to learn the fundamentals of art with a local artist. Second through fifth grade students participate in at least five one-hour sessions with DeLaitich, who has been an artist for about 40 years. DeLaitich grew up in Owatonna and now lives in Waseca. He paints and exhibits his own work regularly.

DeLaitich estimates that he's been working with the local school as an "Artist in Residence" for about 10 years. He continues to help out with the program because he comes from a family of educators and believes that art is an essential part of a well-rounded educational experience.

"My dad and uncles were educators and my grandma taught at a country school," said DeLaitich. "I believe that art is a strong component of a strong educational system and I don't believe leaving art out is a good system."

DeLaitich especially enjoys working with the students. "They are always excited," he said, "and art engages them just as well as electronic toys do."

"Steve is an extremely talented individual who was done a remarkable job of working with our students," said NRHEG Elementary Principal Doug Anderson. "His background knowledge of art, his talent and ability to work with elementary students has allowed our students the opportunity to experience and create art in a way that typically is not available to them."

In the art classes, the students focus on different aspects of art, including the elements of drawing (line, form, shape and values), painting (brush technique, color mixing, the color wheel, basic color theory, complementary colors and warm and cool colors) and sculpture (basic sculpture and techniques and



Submitted photos
Students create artwork at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Elementary School, under the direction of Artist in Residence Steve DeLaitich. This program is sponsored by the NRHEG PTO.



Above is just one example of the creative and colorful pieces NRHEG students created during the Artist in Residence class sessions.

creating and modeling.)

"There are so many elements and it all becomes one experience of creating things," DeLaitich said. DeLaitich believes that the students benefit from collaborating on projects and working with their hands. He also said that he tries to focus on projects that they can relate to their everyday lives. This, said DeLaitich, helps them to use their imagination and better understand their world at the same time.

At the end of the sessions, the students select some of their favorite pieces, which are then displayed during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Many pieces of artwork were on display at the school last Monday and Thursday, but DeLaitich said that these pieces are just a small sampling of the students' work.

"I think one thing people don't realize is how quickly we do create the art," he said. "The

art on display is just one piece picked out from the whole portfolio we do. We do a lot of art; that's the whole idea."

DeLaitich said he genuinely enjoys being a part of the school district, as well. "They have a really wonderful in school in Ellendale," he said. "They have really committed teachers; they support me 100 percent. We want to offer a real art experience, with real art, real imagination and build real skill sets."

Mindful Fork hosts open house



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Co-owners of Mindful Fork, Beth Wall and Reagan West, spoke with Diane Ristau about Mindful Fork meal plans and shipments at their open house on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Change improves local Club

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Many changes at the local Boys and Girls Club in 2015 included a redevelopment process for the Club advisory board.

In an effort to build upon the relationship with the parent Club in Rochester and maintain the momentum created around the major facility upgrades in 2014, the local board embraced a process of expansion and development, visioning and goal setting.

Part of that process included the creation of a Sustainability plan for the Blooming Prairie (BP) Club. In response to this effort and renewed vision, the parent Club in Rochester committed to continue in earnest with its support and to build upon the strength of the part-

nership. The Rochester Board decided to invest \$31,000 in the BP club to clear all expenses of operation left in arrears for recent years.

Furthermore, the parent Club will continue to provide a variety of administrative and chapter support in a nominal cost-sharing arrangement with the BP Club. The local board is excited about the future sustainability of this important program for the kids in our community and the strengthened partnership with the parent Club in Rochester.

Community residents can take pride in the support they gave the recent Benefit Bash, as a record total income was generated by the event. Final

figures indicate that receipts totaled \$28,265. Of that total, the raffle accounted for \$2,310, bid numbers \$445, sponsors \$4,400 and the two auctions \$18,317. Of that amount, \$14,998 came from the live auction.

Again, credit goes to all who took part in that annual event, and special thanks is due co-chairs of the Bash, Lianna Doocy and Cheri Krejci. All proceeds from the event go back to the local Boys and Girls Club for programming and activities. The fund-raising project and the new sustainability plan should ensure continued success in the Club's effort to provide a safe place for the kids in the BP community.

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