

DNR to look into wells in Dodge

Crackdown will target illegal water users

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

In response to concerns about water wells drying up and large feedlots potentially draining water without proper permits, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is stepping up efforts to nab violators.

The DNR has launched a compliance sweep of the region's growing livestock industry. The areas targeted right now will be Dodge, Freeborn, Blue Earth and Martin counties.

A lifelong resident of Westfield Township, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said he filed a complaint with the DNR because he has been experiencing problems with his water levels

DNR CRACKDOWN
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Staff photo by Annie Anderson

A real who-dun-it

Deirdre Connell (Sandy Jones) is a neighbor and writer who focuses on storytelling and Irish myths. Connell was one of nine characters throwing clues to the audience to help uncover a "murder" during the dinner theater play "Patrick Murphy's Wake" at the Servicemen's Club on Saturday, March 14. To see who committed the crime, see Page D8.

Man, 28, charged in death of friend

3 felony counts against Logan Kaiser in crash

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The death of a man after an ATV crash last summer in rural Steele County has resulted in felony charges against one of his best friends.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh has charged Logan David Kaiser, 23, of Owatonna with three felony counts of criminal vehicular homicide, driver fail to stop for injury and death and failure to notify police of personal injury. The most serious count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

The crash claimed the life of Justin Schuler, 22, also of Owatonna. He was found injured on the side

DEADLY CRASH
Continued on Page 3A

Reunited with man's best friend

Hope fire survivor finds traumatized dog days later

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

First he lost his house by fire. But then the real kicker came when his life companion took off apparently distraught over what had happened.

After the early March blaze, Steve Jensen of Hope experienced several restless nights wondering if he would ever be reunited again with his life partner, a black and white English Springer named Chelsea. The two have been together for nearly 11 years ever since Chelsea was five months old.

"She's like a wife to me," said Jensen, who is single

and lives alone with his dog. "She means a lot to me. She's my companion and with me most of the time."

The saga began in the morning hours of Monday, March 2 when Jensen's house went up in flames after a malfunctioning wood burning stove ignited the single story structure. During the commotion, he put Chelsea in his truck next to the blazing house. Jensen suffered smoke inhalation while trying to put out the fire and was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was held for more than a day.

Meanwhile, Jensen's brother came to Hope to pick up Chelsea as firefighters battled the fire. When his brother brought the dog to his home in Owatonna, Chelsea escaped from him and bolted away.

Upon hearing what had happened, Jensen admitted, "I was a little upset."

But that's when community organizations, a local radio station, complete strangers and even Jensen's pastor sprang into action in an effort to bring a happy ending to what had already been a tragic week for Jensen.

The Steele County Humane Society posted a notice on its website about the wayward dog. Within a day, the society had 5,400 views from around the county.

A big break came on Wednesday when someone spotted Chelsea by Aurora Lutheran Church located on the eastern edge of the county. Acting on the tip, Sandy Miller, pastor of First Lutheran Church of Hope where Jensen is a member, drove around for nearly three hours looking for her, but she came up empty-handed

LOST AND FOUND
Continued on Page 8A



Staff photos by Rick Bussler
After fire ripped through Steve Jensen's home in Hope on March 2, his life partner, Chelsea, took off and was on the run across the county. The two were reunited three days later.



Staff Photo by Karen Jorgensen
April Hafstad was recognized as School-Site Big of the Year, meeting weekly with Samera at her school since October 2011.

Backers raise funds for Big Brothers/Sisters

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Enterprise Staff Writer

Supporters from a four county area gathered at the Steele County Historical Society Friday night for "An Evening for Kids' Sake" to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota and to honor the 2015 Bigs of the Year.

It was also announced that Angela Herzog, who was honored as the local Big Sister of the Year has also been named Minnesota Big Sister of the Year and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota will be re-

ipient of one of the Gold Standard Awards given out nationally. Fewer than 20 of the 340 national organizations will receive the honor.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota now covers four counties, said Director Greg Zweber who emceed the event along with board member Julie Rethemeier. The organization began in 1972 in Rice County, Zweber said, with Steele County joining in 1987. Dodge County was added in 2001 and in 2014 Waseca County became part of the organization.

The organization matches children and

teenagers with an adult mentor.

Each of the honored "biggs" spoke briefly about their experiences.

Herzog who has been matched with her "little" since 2007 expressed her pride that her "little" will be moving on next year as she becomes the first in her family to be accepted to college.

As state Big Sister of the Year, she is now in the running for the national honor.

Big Brother of the Year Kasey Kamholz said he was matched with his "little" right

FUNDRAISER
Continued on Page 3A

12th Annual

B.P. EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PICK OF THE AUCTION TICKET \$50

AUCTION: SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2015

ONE WINNER GETS THEIR CHOICE FROM THE LIVE AUCTION

DRAWING PRIOR TO START OF THE LIVE AUCTION - 6:00 PM

MUST BE PRESENT - OR DESIGNATE SOMEONE PRESENT

Opinion

Our view

Agriculture on our minds this week

As you are reading this week’s editorial we are in the midst of National Ag Week across the nation. On Wednesday, March 18, many will be celebrating National Ag Day — a day to honor the American farmer.

Agriculture plays an important part in our area and throughout Minnesota. Agriculture is an important economic driver. Farmers and producers provide us much-needed food and many types of jobs other than just in the ag field.

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom is a program that has been around since 1985 and has continued to grow over the past few years.

It has a simple vision and simple mission. The program provides material that supports agriculture being valued by all and increases ag literacy throughout the school systems in the state.

Alan Withers, the program director for Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, said we are empowering agriculture through our materials.

“Our market is K-12 and is heavy into science, social studies and language arts,” he said. “We’ve tried to provide materials in various formats so teachers can look at our menu.”

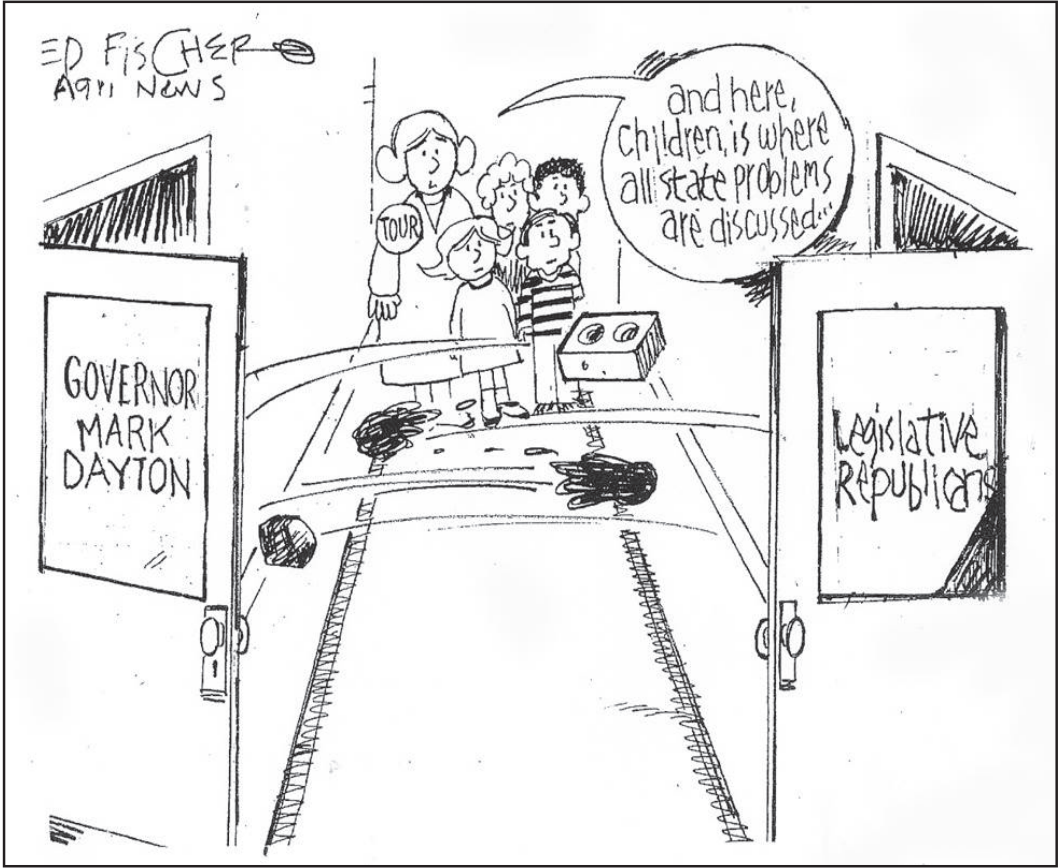
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom has helped Americans understand the farming community. It has been part of a national network since 1981, when the program was initiated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1985, the state hired Withers to start a program in Minnesota. He has been the only program director and is the longest-standing program director in the nation. In 2011, he was able to hire Sue Knott as an education specialist.

Minnesota Ag in the Classroom has a website that offers educators various resources including lessons, ag links and a place to order materials. Possibly the most popular information comes from AgMag and AgMag Junior.

For more information about Minnesota Ag in Classroom, visit mda.state.mn.us.

Agriculture continues to play an important part in our rural areas. And it is programs such as Minnesota Ag in the Classroom that continues to make all of us aware of what agriculture is all about.



Sunshine weeks prompts openness, transparency

Writing a weekly column can be difficult at times. It’s not so much the writing aspect of it, but rather coming up with a relevant topic that is going to have broad appeal to readers.

Over the past five years since I began this column, I have written about a variety of topics. Some of them seem to come up from year to year. While I don’t like to write about the same topics over and over, sometimes it can’t be helped. That’s where it becomes my job to try and put a little different twist on it.

This week I’m focusing on something I have never written about before, though the broad topic has been addressed in the past. This week is Sunshine Week. No, it’s not a goal to see if the sun can shine during one week in March, but rather to make it shine every day as we focus on doing our best to serve citizens.

Started in 2002 in Florida, Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Those are two heavy topics that are near and dear to all newspapers. The week has expanded throughout the country since then.

Though it was created by



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

journalists, those pesky people who seek information and the truth, the week is about the public’s right to know what its government is doing, and why.

The week enlightens and empowers people to play an active role in their government at all levels. It also aims to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

We saw a small example of this last week during township elections across the state. In little neighboring Westfield Township, located just outside of Blooming Prairie, more than 100 people turned out for the township supervisor election and annual meeting. Tensions ran a little high,

but it’s nice to see so many people take an interest in their local government.

This initiative is increasing public awareness, it’s coming up more often in policy conversations, and the efforts of participants are being cited as real forces for moving the public away from simply accepting excessive and unwarranted government secrecy.

It’s important for the media, including this newspaper, to let people know about problems encountered with or ideas about accessibility when it comes to transparency of government.

Greater government transparency and openness can improve the way we live. Transparency can nurture a culture of trust in our elected officials, further an understanding that government serves important functions for citizens, and provide a measure of accountability.

When information is curtailed, we nurture a culture of mistrust and cynicism. We need to do everything in our power to prevent this.

It is vital that we all fight every attempt to hide the public’s information behind a big, padlocked door. We all need to go in hot pursuit of letting the sun shine in.

A GLIMPSE OF



Baseball, tabs go together

This past week’s temperatures makes it seem like spring is here. But living in Minnesota, I’m sure that there will be at least one, if not more, days of cooler weather and possibly even snowstorms heading our way.

When I think of spring I really think of baseball. I enjoy sitting in Target Field watching the Twins play. Last year I attended 10 games, and the Twins only lost one. There had been a stretch over the years in which, if I counted right, I went to 10 or 12 straight games in which the team lost. It was kind of a standing joke among the family.

I also think about the continuous onslaught of special sections that we put together from now until the end of August. We just finished our recent spring farm special section, or tab. And it is easy to see that it is probably the best special tab we have put together in the time that I have been here. You should have received your copy of the 64-page publication this week.

It was interesting sitting at our weekly meeting Friday going over the farm tab and seeing what other papers in the region do. It is safe to say that our publications — the Steele County Times and News Enterprise — are comparable to any other newspaper in the region.

And that credit goes to our staff. We have added a couple of new pieces recently who I believe will make our products even better. We have a graphic designer and a news editor. Those two will be joining a veteran staff that knows what it is like heading into the next four or five months. We will be inundated with special tabs starting with our farm tab and including our spring sports tab, our graduation tabs, our 4th of July tab and finishing with our county fair tabs.

It is safe to say that spring and summer will be a blur for us. But it will be an enjoyable time and hopefully our readers will reap the rewards of all the tabs that will be coming their way.

Mailbag

Council should publish its meetings in the newspaper

City Council!
The minutes of your meetings are supposed to go in the paper. People have a right to know what goes on in this town. Be honest — put your minutes in the paper!

Mrs. LaVerne Johnson
Blooming Prairie

avalanche of e-mails, phone calls and letters going to our elected officials in St. Paul. We need all of the help we can get! I believe it is our turn to get our roads back into driving condition.

Gene Trom
Blooming Prairie

Lack of road funding is unacceptable

Your letter in the March 10th edition was real interesting. You opened our eyes to a situation that most of us were not too concerned about. I am referring to the nearly \$2 billion dollar windfall.

I believe that most Minnesota citizens would agree with you that this money should be used to get our roads and bridges back in condition. Also, I am certain that there are a number of southern Minnesota people including myself that were not aware that the battle for funding of the Highway 14 improvement has been going on now for 20 years. That is unacceptable!! It is time to start a movement to get this project finished. For safety reasons this project should have been set up to receive most of the gas tax money several years ago.

The completion of this project would also be a huge benefit to many, in both small and large communities. So, we need an

When did girls sports begin at BPHS?

Letter to the Editor:
Just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading LeMar’s column “Did You Know? A moment in Blossoms history.” Did anyone else notice that in the March 10 column about 1968-69 sports no girls are mentioned? I’m sure LeMar can tell us when female sports first appeared at BPHS.

Thankfully, we’ve come a long way and ‘throwing like a girl’ and ‘running like a girl’ are no longer joked about but recognized for being equal to male sports.

Ruth Anderson
Owatonna

Editor’s Note: LeMar Nelson reports that girls sports did not begin in Blooming Prairie until 1972.

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

This week’s question:
Is agriculture an important subject to be taught in Steele County schools?
Yes, it’s one of the cornerstones of our economy. No, other core subjects are more important. Maybe, depending on students’ goals later in life.

Last week’s question:
Should the City of Blooming Prairie publish its council minutes in the newspaper?
* Yes, openness and transparency are important. 88%
* No, requesting a copy at city charge is good enough. 0%
* Not sure, more information is needed. 13%
Readers are encouraged to go to the Steele County Times website at www.steeledodgenews.com to cast their opinion about the current question. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers’ views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015
Seven state awards.

2014
Three state awards.

2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.

(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

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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
Out of state\$42

News/Commentary

Youth team sweeps chamber’s Broomball tournament

The first annual Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Broomball tournament was a slushy success. On Saturday, March 7, young people and adults alike enjoyed a warm March day playing broomball at the Blooming Prairie Ice Rink near Victory Field. A game for children began the day. Eighteen children grades one through six played a hard-fought match. The children played for an hour and all looked tuckered out by the end. Concessions were served in the

warming house highlighted by skin on wieners from Dean’s Smoke Shop located in Geneva along with baked good from The Bakery located in Blooming Prairie. The 7th grade – adult tournament began at 9:30 a.m. consisting of four teams. I had the honor of serving as referee for the tournament and from the beginning there was a mix of fun and competitiveness (and exhaustion for some, you know who you are). Ice conditions changed dramatically from game to game as tempera-

tures increased making for all the more excitement for both competitors and spectators. Beginning the first game players struggled to gain traction as they attempted to score the broomball in the opposing net. By the time the final of six round robin games were played competitors were sloshing around in a half inch or so of slush at times making waves as they slid (some intentional sliding, but mostly unintentional). At the end of the day one team stood above the rest. “The High Flyers”,

as they chose to be called, consisted of all Blooming Prairie High School students. The Prairie Manor Sponsored team had seven members. In no particular order they were Richy Feeney, Scott Romeo, Jake Decker, Sam Swenson, Rylie Olson, Mitchel Jones and Ethan Strunk. A big thank you to Prairie Manor for donating the broomball equipment as well as sponsoring a team. Thank you to Farmers and Merchants State Bank for donating the traveling trophy listing the winners each year

and The Dairy Queen of Blooming Prairie for sponsoring a team. Also thank you to all the volunteers for their support and the City of Blooming Prairie for the use of the facility. Lastly thank you to all the youth and adult players. I hope you can all join us next year for more fun. This is just one more fun event on a long list in this great community.

Luke Swenson is president of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reflections. . .

and How



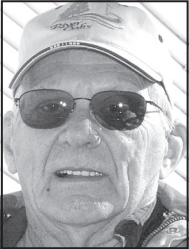
Howard Lestrud

Heartbeat still exists at Magnuson School

One-room schools are getting to be an item of the past but the heartbeat still exists for the old Magnuson School, since converted to the Newry Township Hall. That heartbeat has been kept alive by a strong value of history shown by Larry Helgeson, supervisor on the Newry Township Board. The former District 135 building still stands tall at its location in Freeborn County, about six miles southwest of Blooming Prairie. Helgeson, a student at the one-room school for nearly eight years, used his construction expertise to remodel the school building for township use. In doing so, he and fellow supervisor Bob Kittelson tried to save as much of the flavor of the old school house as possible. Most of their work was done in 2006. One of the first challenges was

to remove the suspended ceiling and expose the beautiful, decorative ceiling made of steel. In showing off the ceiling, the building takes on more of its original personality created in 1915 when the school house was built. The old ceiling was then sand-blasted and repainted. “There must have been two inches of sand on the floor following that project,” Helgeson said. Old garage windows were also replaced with new windows. The hardwood floors remain intact and still show the nail marks where the tracks were attached for the old cast iron wooden desks. Helgeson and Kittelson remodeled the men’s and women’s bathrooms and also added some new touches to the town hall kitchen. The outside property was also cleaned up considerably when the township took over the building, Helgeson said. The entire school building includes about 800 square feet on the main floor. A full basement is still used for storage. is columnist, a student at the school for six years, was blown away by how the building has been preserved. Mainly missing are the 30 school disks that were once mounted on the four floor and spaced in four rows. The main meeting area is now home to a large conference table but positioned in the corner of the school house is an old, wooden desk used by Magnuson School teachers. Helgeson also obtained copies of some school photos from Ardell (Ward) Swenson who still lives just a stone’s throw away from the old

school building. Some class photos are framed and adorn part of one wall. Guess who is on one of the class photos? Yep, yours truly, with a colorful cowboy shirt. Shown alongside our teacher Emma Soli, are some of my school mates: Jerome Christianson, Janet Christianson, Marilyn Christianson, Gary Christianson, Larry Helgeson, Scarlett Krupicka, Donald Jensen, Lawrence Goodnature, Delores Jensen, Darlene Lestrud, Robert Lee and others. Other photos include my sister Janice and twins Billy and Bobby Noble. Billy, still a resident of Blooming Prairie, said he only went to Magnuson School for a half year and then went 7 1/2 years at a one-room school on his parents’ property near the St. Mary’s Catholic Church. “Learning and discipline went hand in hand, he said. Helgeson recalls some of the politics involved with the school district building. A farmer living just west of the school petitioned the Blooming Prairie district to allow his sons to attend school there. Helgeson’s father also sent in a petition. Magnuson’s petition was approved and Helgeson’s was not approved. Larry Helgeson actually started ninth grade in Blooming Prairie but was then transferred to the large Austin High School



Helgeson



Staff Photo by Howard Lestrud The old School District 135 building still exists at its rural Austin location in Freeborn County, 6 miles southwest of Blooming Prairie. The school, then named the Magnuson School, is now owned by Newry Township and is used as a town hall.

building. “I was petrified” with the hugeness of the school, Helgeson said. “We also had only three to four minutes to get from class to class. I can totally share Larry’s overwhelmed feeling about Austin High School. I went six grades at Magnuson School and then went my seventh grade year in the gigantic, three-story Austin High School building that fills a city block. Larry was one of five Helgeson kids attending Austin schools. His siblings included Henry, Gloria, Cindy and Kathy. Being the eldest in his family attending the Magnuson School, Larry recalls the building having no water. “We had to go to the neighbor, Selmer Magnson, for water and we also had two outdoor toilets.” Larry and I are on the same

page when we believe learning was learning in those years because we received individual tutoring from our teacher and also, seated at our desks, we were learning by listening to our teacher going over lessons with students at a conference table. The atmosphere of learning was open but it seemed like we all listened more carefully and were not distracted by fellow students or by electronics. Discipline and focus were two key words in education in those days. I know there are many other residents of the Blooming Prairie area who attended one-room schools in the area. “We have fond memories of our school days and made some good friends,” said Ardell Swenson. In those days there were one-room schools about every two

miles. “There were more people in the area, lots more farm places, many of which don’t exist any longer,” Ardell said. Larry resides just a half-mile from the old school. His son Michael lives near there, too. Much of Larry’s construction knowledge was honed during his years working for the City of Austin. He said he built many of the bathrooms and shelters in parks around Austin. He retired from that job in 2003. He and wife Cheryl also have a son Bryant and a daughter Stephanie, both living in Rochester. I recall my first days of school. I was a mamma’s boy and cried when I had to go to first grade. I did grow out of that. I remember blackboards encompassing much of the school room. A daunting look from a President George Washington portrait also stared at us. Our teacher, Miss Soli, was very kind and took time to give us all one-on-one attention. I recall coming to school with my arm in a cast after breaking it playing baseball at home. Miss Soli took time to teach me how to write with my left hand. Christmas programs and basket socials were highlights for the students and their families. We actually had a stage that was erected in front of the school desks. School days were not always fun and I still carry a couple of scars gained from a sledding accident at the school. The memories of one-room schools are strong and indeed laid a foundation for our future. The town hall is available to rent for parties and Larry Helgeson is the man to see.

New workforce coordinator would unite region’s school districts

Since coming here in 2013, I’ve brought a rural perspective to every policy conversation I’ve been in. We have an urgent need to solve the problems we face in outstate communities, and I’m glad to be able to be at the forefront of these solutions. The most pressing problems that I’ve heard over and over again are education and workforce development, infrastructure, and property taxes. We have a critical shortage of teachers in our rural communities, and it’s straining our schools’ resources and impacting the quality of our students’ education.



Jensen

who teach in rural communities or hard-to-fill subject areas. Graduating teachers are facing record levels of student debt, and this will make teaching in rural

That’s why I’m working on two bills to directly address this issue. I have a bill to create a student loan forgiveness program for teachers

districts a more attractive option. I’m also working on establishing a new workforce coordinator position that would unite local school districts, colleges, and businesses in preparing our young people for the workforce. This position would focus on building the relationships between schools and businesses that are necessary to ensure that students are being trained for the demands of the local labor market. It would also bring best practices to our communities that are being implemented in other areas of the state. These

steps are critical to ensuring our kids get a productive education. We also need to make sure that our communities have the resources they need to attract new businesses or help existing businesses expand. This session I’m working to fund the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program (BDPI). In order to make our communities attractive for business growth, we need the infrastructure to support them. Sometimes that requires significant investments that a community can’t do on their own. These

grants provide up to half the cost of these infrastructure projects. Owatonna used this program just last year with fantastic results. An area that affects not only individuals but also schools and the community as a whole, is property taxes, especially on agricultural land. The impact to property taxes can make the difference in communities being able to fund projects like building new schools or maintaining old ones. I’m cosponsoring the targeted agricultural land property tax credit, which would cap the increase on property tax increases

on agricultural land. Under the program the state would reimburse land owners for any property tax increase over eight percent in a single year, limiting the financial impact that can come from investing in local projects. There is no single solution to the problems we’re facing. But by taking steps like these, we’ll be on the road toward keeping rural Minnesota truly great.

Sen. Vicki Jensen (DFL) represents District 24. District 24 includes Steele County and portions of Dodge County.

DEADLY CRASH

Continued from Page 1A

of 48th Street SW near the Monterey Ballroom around 11 p.m. on June 21. Mayo One airlifted Schuler to St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester where he died nine days later. Court records indicate he died of complications of multiple blunt force injuries with an underlying cause of an ATV accident. According to the criminal complaint, sheriff’s deputies found a dirt bike on the side of the road along with a 4-wheeler sitting farther down the road. Neither the ATV nor dirt bike was equipped with headlights or taillights. Deputies determined the ATV appeared to have hit the back of the dirt bike, sending the dirt bike skidding into the ditch. The impact appeared to have caused the ATV’s wheels to turn to the left due to the skidding pattern in the gravel, causing it to roll onto its right side, the complaint said, adding the ATV appeared to have rolled several times. The complaint said witnesses told police that Kaiser fled the scene prior to arrival of officers. Deputies went to Kaiser’s residence that evening, but he was not home. Kaiser spoke to police about the incident three days later. He told police that he followed Schuler out of the driveway and went right. Kaiser



Logan David Kaiser and Justin Schuler

said he stopped because he didn’t see Schuler’s dust anymore. Kaiser went on to say after stopping in the roadway, Schuler came from behind him and T-boned him. During the police interview, Kaiser admitted to drinking a few beers for a buddy’s birthday, according to the complaint. Kaiser told police he didn’t tell anyone about the crash and just left the scene, the complaint said. After a court appearance last week, Kaiser released a statement through his attorney, Max A. Keller of Minneapolis. “I, Logan Kaiser, and my family are devastated by the death of one of my best friends,” Kaiser said in the statement. “I could not immediately call 911 because I was lying in a ditch in shock after being thrown from my dirt bike by the force of the impact, and I did not have a cell phone with me.” Kaiser went on to say, “My family

and I want to thank all of our relatives and friends for the outpouring of love and support they have given us.” Said Kaiser’s attorney, Keller: “The state’s case is based upon rumors, innuendo and hearsay, not facts. The police interviewed many people who candidly admitted that they were not witnesses to the accident between Mr. Schuler’s 4-wheeler and Kaiser’s dirt bike. These same people also were not witnesses to the immediate aftermath of the accident such as who called 911 and when the ambulance arrived to treat Mr. Schuler.” The attorney continued, “The police investigation is very incomplete and misleading, which is very unfortunate for the families of both the young men involved in this horrible tragedy.” Keller pointed out Kaiser volunteered to answer questions for police the next day, but police cancelled the appointment and told him to come back the next day, which he did. “These are not the actions of a person with a guilty mind or a guilty conscious,” Keller said, adding he looks forward to seeing all the facts come out in court. Keller has been an attorney for 18 years and previously served as an assistant attorney general for five years. He now practices exclusively criminal defense.

FUNDRAISER

Continued from Page 1A

before Christmas 2011 and it was the “start of something special and remarkable for both of us.” The match, he said, was a “win-win” situation. April Hafstad, honored as School-Site Big of the year, was matched with her “little” in 2011. She said they originally met at the school during activities such as recess and lunch time. The relationship has now changed from school-site to community which gives the two more opportunity to interact. Her “little” is now asking how old she has to be before she can become a “big.” The Big Couple of the Year, Ken and Cheryl Deason, have been matched with their “little,” Jesus, since 2010. They felt the need to get involved, Deason said, when they heard that there were 100 children on the waiting list to get into the program. Their “little,” they said, is the oldest of five children

and as such has always had to share many of his things and parental attention. The couple said they are able to give him one on one attention he needs. “This night is not about the “bigs,” Deason said. “It’s about the “littles.” Zweber also told those attending that the organization is especially proud of the mentoring program it has started for children who have a parent either incarcerated or otherwise involved with the legal system. Currently, Zweber said, 100 of the more than 400 children involved in the program have parents who are involved with the criminal justice system. “If we don’t do anything,” Zweber said, “70 percent of these kids (who have a parent who is incarcerated) will be incarcerated themselves at some point.” The evening was also a fundraiser with both silent and live auctions.

Over two dozen items were donated to the live auction including tickets to the Minnesota Wild, a BBQ Dinner for 10, a hockey clinic with New Jersey Devils player Seth Helgeson, a weeklong stay at a home in Asini, Greece and a year’s lease on a new Chevy Spark automobile. The final item to be auctioned off was opportunity to Be A VIP at next year’s event. The 2016 VIP table included dinner for eight, centerpieces, a special gift, VIP reserved parking and personal wait staff. The live auction was sponsored by US Bank. 2015 Agency Partners were Federated Insurance, Gopher Sport, Walser Foundation and Bremer Bank. Upcoming Big Brothers Big Sisters events include Bowl for Kids’ Sake from 4 to 8 p.m., April 17, at the J & J Bowling Center in Faribault and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 18, at the Spare Time Entertainment Center in Owatonna.



Photo by Howard Lestrud

Prize pork

Cale Braaten, 8, of Blooming Prairie was one of 25 winners at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's ham bingo Thursday night, March 12. Minimizer donated the hams. Hope Butter was donated by Victor Mrotz of the Hope Creamery, and Geneva Meats donated meat for the meat raffles. Proceeds go to the BP Cancer Group.

Charles Thompson, 94, Austin



Charles Clinton Thompson, 94 of Austin, died Thursday, March 12, 2015, at St. Mark's Lutheran Home, Austin. He was born June 21, 1920, in Austin to Andrew Clarence and Judith Ronellie (Aldahl) Thompson. He graduated from Austin High School in 1939. On June 18, 1943, Charles married Betty Raimer. They were blessed with five children. Betty passed away on February 6, 1979. On Aug. 8, 1981, Charles and Irene Feldt Ellingson were married in Austin. Charles made

his living operating the family farm one mile west of Corning, Minnesota. A member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Charles also belonged to The Gideons International and the Sons of Norway. He enjoyed farming, spending time in his workshop, visiting with family members, researching his genealogy, playing cards, fishing, having conversations in Norwegian and traveling with his wife Irene. Charles is survived by his wife Irene Thompson of Austin; his children Barry (Mary) Thompson of Austin, Rodney (Janelle) Thompson of Oakland, Minnesota, Charlane (Mike) Benson of Walker, Minnesota, Rhonda (Brooks) Heimer of Henderson, Nevada and Scott (Brenda) Thompson of Austin; 13 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren;

two great great-grandchildren; his brother Sylvester (Bernice) Thompson and his sister Selma (Harvey) Lysne, both of Austin. He was preceded in death by his parents Andrew Clarence and Judith Ronellie Thompson, his first wife Betty Thompson, and his sister Agnes Anderson. Funeral services were held on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin with Pastor Lindsay Stolen officiating. Interment was in Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to The Gideons International. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com. 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' 2 Timothy 4:7.

News briefs

Fabulous Love Handles to perform

The Fabulous Love Handles will be performing 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., March 27 at the Eagles Club in Owatonna. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Kottke Jewelers and CashWise Foods. Proceeds will go to the Pa-

tient Care Fund at Homestead Hospice. This fund allows anyone in need of end-of-life care to receive it regardless of finances.

Storm spotter training is April 2

The National Weather Service is holding a SKYWARN Sever Weather Spotter Training in Dodge Center on April 2.

The training will be held at the Dodge Center Fire Station starting at 6:30 p.m. The class will last around two hours and includes a multimedia presentation. Training is intended for storm spotters or potential storm spotters, but is open to the public and free of charge. A review of past tornadoes will be included. You can view the training schedule at http://www.weather.gov/lacrosse/?n=skywarn_schedule.

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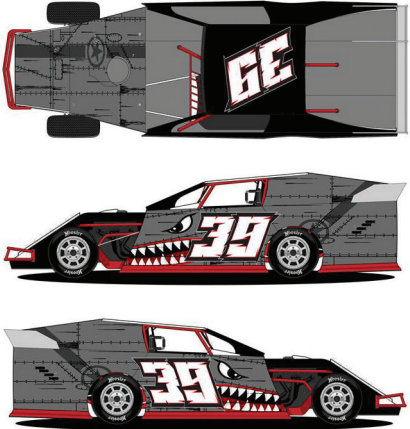


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Dear Savvy Senior,

How does Medicare cover home health care? Because of my illness, my doctor suggested I get home health care, but I want to find out how it's covered before I proceed.

Need Some Help

Dear Need,

Medicare covers a wide variety of intermittent in-home health care services (usually up to 28 hours per week) to beneficiaries,

if you meet their specific requirements. Here's how it works.

In order for you to secure coverage for home health care, Medicare first requires that you be homebound. This means that it must be extremely difficult for you to leave your home, and you need help from a device (like a wheelchair or walker) or a person in doing so.

You will then need your doctor to approve a "plan of care" confirming that you need skilled-

nursing care or skilled-therapy services from a physical or speech therapist on a part-time basis. Your doctor can also request the services of an occupational therapist and a home health aide to assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and using the bathroom. Your doctor must renew the "plan of care" once every 60 days.

You will also need to use a home health agency that is certified by Medicare.

If you meet all of the requirements, Medicare should pay for your in-home care.

But, be aware that Medicare will not pay for home health aide services (such as bathing, dressing or using the bathroom) alone, if you do not need skilled-nursing or skilled-therapy services too. Homemaker services, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning are not covered either.

You also need to know that Medicare has recently changed their home health care policy regarding degenerative diseases. They will now pay for in-home physical therapy, nursing care and other services to beneficiaries with chronic conditions like multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease in order to maintain their condition and prevent deterioration. In the past, Medicare would only cover home health services if the patient were expected to make a full recovery.

If you have original Medicare, you can locate a Medicare-certified home health agency by calling 800-633-4227 or by visiting medicare.gov/homehealthcompare. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you should contact your plan directly and ask which home health agencies work with the plan and are within the plan's network of providers.

For more detailed information on how Medicare covers in-home health, see the "Medicare and Home Health Care" online booklet at medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/10969.pdf.

erans and their spouses is a benefit called "Aid and Attendance" that helps pay for in-home care, as well as assisted living and nursing home care.

To be eligible, you must need assistance with daily living activities like bathing, dressing or going to the bathroom. And, your annual income must be under \$21,466 – minus medical and long-term care expenses. If you're a surviving spouse of a veteran, your income must be below \$13,794 to be eligible. Your assets must also be less than \$80,000 excluding your home and car.

To learn more, see va.gov/geriatrics or call 800-827-1000.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
March 8, 2005

Remember to donate food and/or money to the Food Shelf this month. This is the biggest collection point of the year for them. Steele County Executive Director Stormy Trom, volunteer James Gefre and Ade Floresch and food shelf manager Alonso Hernandez take a break during work at the local food shelf. Many food collection campaigns are being held here in Bloomington Prairie as well as throughout the county.

Viola Anna Gilderhus, 96, of Waltham, Minnesota died Friday morning, March 4, 2005, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Bloomington Prairie, Minnesota. Viola was born July 21, 1908, the daughter of Julius and Anna Beckman in Mower County, Minnesota.

Saint Mary's University electronic publishing and public relations major, Karl Hatteberg, son of Kurt and Susan Hatteberg of Fort Wayne, Ind., and formerly of Waltham, Minn., was nominated for the university's Outstanding Senior Male Award.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
March 14, 1995

Did you know it's possible to hide a safe - a bank safe? Apparently that's what was done, because when First Bank moved its headquarters down the block two weeks ago, as they were moving furniture and belongings, lo and behold, they uncovered a safe not used for several years.

Melvin Timothy Johnson, 95, of Bloomington Prairie, died

March 11, 1995 at Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Bloomington Prairie. He was born February 4, 1900 in rural Bloomington Prairie to Ole and Anne Johnson. He never married. He lived in the Bloomington Prairie area for most of his life and was a carpenter.

Friday, March 31, marks the 42nd Annual Dairy Princess Banquet, cosponsored by the Steele County Extension Office, Northwest Bank, and the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce. Four girls will be competing for the 1995 crown following the banquet at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
March 11, 1965

The sub-district speech con-

test was held at Ellendale Saturday, March 6, with Bloomington Prairie leading the six schools in the sub-district to advance 15 students to the district contest. Judges were from Gustavus Adolphus College.

Mrs. Herman Kruckeberg, Bloomington Prairie, was winner of a pair of nylon front tractor tires, given away at the Ille Hardware & Tire Service last weekend during their two-day Goodyear Farm Valu Fair. Carlo Hansen, Bloomington Prairie, was winner of second prize, a set of dinnerware.

Charles Olson, Bloomington Prairie, is mourning the sudden death of his father, Howard L. Olson, of Austin. Mr. Olson, together with his wife, was enroute home from a vacation in Florida and had stopped off at Mauston, Wis. to visit with his sister. His death came sud-

denly Wednesday March 3, of an apparent heart attack. He was 62 years of age.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
March 7, 1940

The parking situation in Bloomington Prairie was discussed Monday evening at the village council meeting. A plan, which will ban double parking and restrict truck parking to side streets, is being given consideration.

George Tonolli, who was formerly employed at the Johnson Hardware, joined the Times' staff Monday. Mr. Tonolli graduated with high school honors from the local high school in 1938. Immediately after graduation he secured employment, and began studying advertising.

Local firemen responded to a call coming from the Joseph Ressler home Tuesday afternoon, where they succeeded, after some difficulty, in extinguishing the blaze. The fire apparently started as a result of a spark from the chimney, and had gained some headway before it was discovered.



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Community

Obituaries

LaVonne Simonson, 84, Owatonna

LaVonne Mae Simonson, 84, of Owatonna, died Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at Koda Living Community.



She was born June 23, 1930, on the family farm in rural Blooming Prairie, the daughter of Alvin and Hilda (Hintz) Eaker. She grew up on the farm with her siblings Elsmer, Audrey and Vivian. She attended St John's Parochial school and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1948.

She was married to Jacob Simonson on Dec. 15, 1949, at St John's Lutheran Church near Claremont. The couple made their home in Blooming Prairie until 1979, when they moved to Owatonna. She worked at the Bixby store after high school.

Later she worked at Prairie Manor Nursing Home and Federated Insurance. They were blessed with seven children. LaVonne loved babysitting her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They gathered frequently at the family cabin at French Lake where they played in the water, played cards and games, and fished. LaVonne greatly enjoyed quilting, reading, fishing, gardening, baking, and taking walks. She was an avid sports fan and enjoyed the Minnesota Timberwolves, Twins, Vikings, Lynx and Gophers. She loved our Lord Jesus.

LaVonne is survived by her husband of 65 years, Jacob. She is also survived by her children, Gene (Mary) Simonson of Rochester, LaVerne (Barb) Simonson of Eagan, Ronald Simonson of Lakeville, Douglas (Connie) Simonson of Rochester, Larry (Becky) Simonson of Owatonna, Gail (Joel) Drube of Blaine and Brian (Margaret) Si-

monson of Rochester.

They are very proud of their 13 grandchildren: Jeremy, Jackie, Paul, Amanda, Jenny, Tyler, Jill, April, Cori, Jamie, Patrick, Dominic and Christopher. They have nine wonderful great-grandchildren: Ella, Seth, Ali, Owen, Kaia, Sophie, Chloe, Spencer and Amelia.

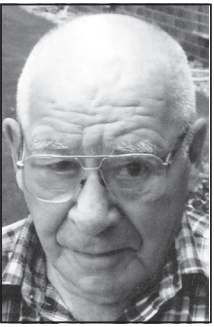
She is also survived by her siblings, whom she was very close to, Elsmer (Gladys) Eaker, Audrey (Bob) Bohlman, and Vivian (Mike) Quast, all of Owatonna, plus many nieces, nephews, cousins and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, an infant brother and infant sister.

Funeral services were held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna, with Pastors Mark Rosenau and Greg Schlicker officiating. Interment followed the service at St John's Cemetery in Owatonna. Michaelson Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Kenneth Lee Nihart, 92, Austin

Kenneth Lee Nihart, 92 of Austin, died Monday, March 9, 2015, at Our House Assisted Living, Austin.



He was born Oct. 30, 1922, in Dover, Minnesota, to Lawrence and Anna (Johnson) Nihart. Kenneth attended Dover schools, and made his living as a farmer and as a laborer at Hormel Foods Corporation for 38 years, retiring in 1980. He was also a school bus driver for Austin Transportation for 14 years.

On Nov. 19, 1944, Kenneth was married to Elvera Olstad at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. The couple

raised three children. In the early years of their marriage, the Niharts lived in Blooming Prairie. Kenneth served his country in the U.S. Army from March 1945 until his honorable discharge in 1946, when he and Elvera moved to Austin. A lifetime member of the American Legion and V.F.W., he also belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Moose Lodge and Crane Community Chapel. Ken enjoyed camping and traveling. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Kenneth is survived by his daughter Barbara Flom of Glencoe, Minnesota; his five grandchildren, his great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren; siblings Margaret Condon of Lyle, Minnesota; Lois Papenfus of Concord, California; Billy (Bev) Nihart of Remer, Minnesota; Lawrence (Betty) Nihart

of Babbitt, Minnesota; and Lynn (Barbara) Nihart of Ely, Minnesota. He was preceded in death by his parents Lawrence and Anna Nihart; his wife Elvera 'Ione' Nihart in 2006; two sons, Kermit and Michael; one brother Don Nihart; and sister-in-law Margaret Williamson.

Funeral services were held at on Friday, March 13, 2015, at the Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin with Pastor Dale Christiansen officiating. Interment will be in Grandview Cemetery, Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to recipient of donor's choice. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

cred Heart Catholic Church with The Reverend John Sauer officiating.

Death notices

Melissa Kay Eastberg, 39, Owatonna,

Melissa Kay Eastberg, 39, of Owatonna, died Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Seasons Hospice in Rochester, Minnesota after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Visitation will be at Michael-

son Funeral Home on Friday, March 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m. at Sa-

Loretta M. Moe, 78, Owatonna

Loretta M. Moe, 78, Owatonna, died Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Homestead Hospice House.

Visitation will be at Aurora Lutheran Church on Friday, March 20, one hour prior to the

service. Memorial services will be held Friday, March 20, at 2 p.m. at Aurora Lutheran Church with The Reverend Jonathan Davis officiating.

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Menus

Seniors Menu
Mar 17: Unstuffed Cabbage, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Brownie/Mint Green Icing
Mar 18: Chicken ala King Over Biscuit, Peas, Coleslaw, Orange-Apricot Gelatin
Mar 19: Ham Balls, Alt: Ground Beef Pattie, Sweet Potatoes, Baked Beans & Apple, Flavored Ice Cream
Mar 20: Cream of Broccoli Soup, Cheese on Rye, Salad, Lemon Bar
Mar 23: Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Orange Glazed Carrots, Fruit Cup
Mar 24: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, California Medley, Fruit Delight
Mar 25: Sweet Pepper Steak Over Rice, Cauliflower, Tossed Salad, Pumpkin Crisp

BP Elementary School Breakfast
Mar 17: Fruit Yogurt w/Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 18: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 19: WG Cinnamon Dipper w/Icing Cup, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 20: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 23: Banana Chocolate Chip Bread (or Blueberry Loaf), Hard Boiled Egg, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 24: Yogurt Parfait w/Homemade Granola, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 25: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch
Mar 17: Beefy Nachos with Homemade Cheese Sauce, Cheeseburger on a WG Bun, Spicy Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
Mar 18: Chicken & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Deli Sub, Mashed Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit
Mar 19: Spaghetti w/Meat-sauce, Garlic Breadstick, Chicken Patty, on WG Bun, Roasted Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Diced Beets, Choice of Fruit
Mar 20: Grilled Cheese Sand-

wich and Tomato Soup, Taco Salad, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 23: Crispy Corn Dog, Italian Meatball Sub, Calico Bean Bake, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 24: Roast Pork and Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Chicken Tenders, Dinner Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Choice of Fruit
Mar 25: Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Green Beans, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

BP Middle School Lunch
Mar 17: Pulled Pork Nachos, Pico de Gallo, Refried Beans, Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
Mar 18: Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Spring Corn Salad, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit
Mar 19: Rotini with Meatsauce, Roasted Broccoli, Breadstick, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Diced Beets, Choice of Fruit
Mar 20: Mediterranean Vegetable Soup with Cheesy Flatbread, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 23: Italian Meatball Sub, Calico Bean Bake, Garbanzo Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 24: Roast Pork & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cinnamon Roll, Corn, Broccoli Florets, Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit
Mar 25: Cheesy Pizza Bake, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Sliced Radishes, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

BP High School Breakfast
Mar 17: Fruit Yogurt w/Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 18: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 19: Sliced Radishes, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
Mar 20: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 23: Banana Chocolate Chip Bread (or Blueberry Loaf), Hard Boiled Egg, Vege-

table Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 24: Yogurt Parfait w/Homemade Granola, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk
Mar 25: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit/Juice, Milk

BP High School Lunch
Mar 17: Pulled Pork Nachos, Pico de Gallo, Refried Beans, Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
Mar 18: Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Spring Corn Salad, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit
Mar 19: Rotini with Meatsauce, Roasted Broccoli, Breadstick, Broccoli Florets, Baby Carrots, Diced Beets, Choice of Fruit
Mar 20: Mediterranean Vegetable Soup with Cheesy Flatbread, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 23: Italian Meatball Sub, Calico Bean Bake, Garbanzo Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
Mar 24: Roast Pork & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cinnamon Roll, Corn, Broccoli Florets, Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit
Mar 25: Cheesy Pizza Bake, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Sliced Radishes, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit



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Sandy A. Christianson,
Tom Walters, Johnathan Manges, Pat Noble,
Dillon Easton

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Jackie Olson,
Esther Hansen, Jan Anderson,
Dwayne Gross, Calla Staads,
Mary Ann Betlach, Pam Farr,
Gordan Hjelman, Sue Rossow,
Joe Hjelman

March 22
Brady Johnson,
Jeanine Humphrey,
Kevin Christianson,
Tom Donnelly,
Dustin Hensrud,
Kristi Schwake

March 23
Amy Johns, Bob Becker,
Kelsey Wolf, Blake Symes,
Katie Wolf, Karen Thoen

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Area Church Spotlight



Ellendale United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

A way to pray



In my last article, I spoke about prayer and what it is. I then ended the article with, "What shall we say?"

Sometimes, it is hard to know where to start and what to say when it comes to prayer.

Because of this common struggle, our church is spending some intentional time during this Lenten season in prayer at the beginning of each worship service. To do this, we are using what is called the A.C.T.S. Prayer. It stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. When you are struggling to pray, or you aren't sure where to start or what to say, these are suggested steps for praying.

Step 1: Adoration – Begin by giving praise to God for all that God is – God as Creator, Lord of All, Loving Parent.

Step 2: Confession – Open up to God what is on your heart. What have you regretted doing in the past? Where do you feel stuck in life, not living as you wish you would? This is an opportunity to let go of the things we cannot change and hand them over to God, and an opportunity to think about the things that we can change,

and to ask for God's strength in changing them.

Step 3: Thanksgiving – Next, take the time to say what you are grateful for in your life. Both the people and things in your life that give you what you need. Be sure to also express your thanks for the grace that God continues to give to all of us, each and every day.

Step 4: Supplication – Finally, close your prayers by asking God to help with the needs of others and yourself. God wants to hear the needs of God's people, so don't be shy.

This is just one way to pray to God, but give it a shot. Try this four-step prayer and see what it does to your prayer life and your relationship with God.

God has given us the gift of a relationship. In any healthy relationship, both partners have something important to say and both long to listen to the other. God wants to hear your voice and what you have to say to God and God longs to listen.

*The Rev. Jonathan Davis
Aurora and Trinity Lutheran Parish*

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(507) 676-5696
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10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Jonathon Davis
(507) 633-9331
9 a.m. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Broadcast 8:30 KOWZ, 100.9FM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

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

Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
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Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474
Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 477-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otschool.org
Services: 6 p.m. Saturday,
10:30 a.m. Sunday

Holy Communion: Saturday evening
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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
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Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
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Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

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Set in stone: Students build trust by picking rocks

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

WHAT'S NEXT

For 11 years members of the Blooming Prairie cross-country team have provided 40 man-hours a year to assist farmers in picking rocks out of fields. It is an effort to assist the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation in its annual auction.

“The education foundation helps the kids in so many different ways,” said John Bruns, the school’s cross-country coach. “This is a good way to give back to that.”

Each year the students’ services are auctioned to the highest bidder. The farmers then contact Bruns, and he gathers as many as eight to 12 students to go into the field. Last year more than \$80,000 was raised for the youth.

“It is pretty time-consuming work, pretty intensive depending on the field,” Bruns said. “We can usually take care of one field.”

Sue Zwiener, who has helped orga-

What: 12th annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Silent and Live auctions
When: March 28; the silent auction runs from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Pizza Cellar. The live auction will follow at 6 p.m. in the Blooming Prairie Cue Company.

nize the event for 11 years, said it is a clever idea.

“The money spent to do it is now being donated to the education foundation,” she said. “It is something the high school kids can do for the auction.”

It usually costs farmers about \$500 to hire out for rock picking.

Bruns said he uses the activity as a team-building project.

“Some have done quite a bit of it and know what they are doing,” he said. “Some of the others have never done it nor have any idea. At the end, they see

what it is all about.”

The team-building part comes because all of the youth are working together, getting along with one another, talking to one another.

“It is a good way to get the kids together and do something positive,” Bruns said.

What Bruns finds interesting is that either the youth will pick up every rock or try to find the biggest one in the field.

“They want to have the honor of pulling that monster rock out,” he said.

What he hopes the students take from the venture is an appreciation for hard work.

“They are realizing that this is people’s livelihood, too,” he said. “They have a definite appreciation for what people do.”

He said the young people really enjoy the work and the camaraderie.

“The cross-country team is a close-knit group,” Bruns said. “They think of this as a fun activity, but it is really a team-building activity.”



Submitted photo
Blooming Prairie cross-country team members pose in front of one rock they certainly couldn’t move. Team members pick rocks out of fields as part of the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auction.

DNR CRACKDOWN

Continued from Page 1A

dropping since 2000. Westfield Township is located in southern Dodge County just east of Blooming Prairie.

The resident said he was referred to the DNR because he got no results with county agencies. A team from the DNR showed up a few weeks ago to find out why the water level in the man’s private well keeps dropping.

“My well is going dry,” the resident said. “There is too much local usage.”

He said a local well company told him that the culprit of the decreasing water levels is feedlots, namely large hog operations in the area. Since 2000, feedlot operators have built new facilities for more than 30,000 hogs within a 2-mile radius of his home.

“We’re going to find out if I have a bad well or if the water usage has increased too much,” the resident said.

The DNR has vowed to test all wells within a 2-mile radius of the man’s home. And that has

created some unwanted tensions the man would rather not deal with. In fact, it’s the reason why he doesn’t want to be publicly identified at this time.

“It’s like throwing gas on fire,” the man said. “People are not too happy to have their wells tested. They feel threatened. The DNR has a lot of authority they don’t want to get tangled up with.”

There are 234 registered feedlots in Dodge County, according to feedlot officer Chad Knutson. The largest facility contains 2,240 head of cattle in the northeastern part of the county, he said.

Going into the DNR’s compliance sweep, only six Dodge County feedlots currently hold water appropriation permits, according to Dan Girolamo, a DNR supervisor in Waterville who is heading up the crackdown.

Feedlots utilizing more than 10,000 gallons per day or 1 million gallons of water each year must have a permit, Girolamo

said. Operations that have more than 2,000 animals would consume from 2.6 million to 3.5 million gallons of water a year, based on DNR estimates.

“We’re going to work with county feedlot officers to identify operators that exceed the threshold,” Girolamo said, noting he fully expects to find operators who are not in compliance.

The DNR recently hired three new hydrologists, allowing the farm well sweep across southern Minnesota. This is the organization’s first big project. Girolamo noted that the DNR plans to broaden the sweep to other counties, including Steele and Mower, most likely later this year.

In his three years with the DNR, Girolamo said there has never been a compliance sweep done.

Said Girolamo of the crackdown: “We’re tasked with implementing Minnesota’s water laws. To not do that is not doing our job.”

He said the DNR’s primary concern is to protect groundwater resources. “We’re monitoring the water supply, which is a public resource,” Girolamo said, adding some people take groundwater resources for granted, but it has limits.

“We all need water and we need to protect that resource,” Girolamo said. “It’s not endless.”

This initiative comes at a time when DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr has expressed wider concerns that Minnesota needs to do a better job of conserving and protecting groundwater against growing farm and municipal demands.

Feedlot operators wishing to become compliant can do so by utilizing the Minnesota Permitting and Reporting System, which is available online through the DNR’s website.

Dodge County’s feedlot officer appreciates the efforts of the DNR. “I think it’s good to track water usage,” Knutson said. “It’s good to know how much these facilities are using.”

For some Westfield Township residents, the DNR’s efforts can’t come soon enough. They want their water pressure back to what it used to be without battling heated tensions displayed by some feedlot operators.

“I’ve had some intimidation,” the unidentified resident said. “It’s not pleasant out here any more. I don’t like to live this way.”

LOST AND FOUND

Continued from Page 1A

with no sign of Chelsea.

“We were all hoping and praying she would find her way to Hope, but she went east,” Pastor Miller said.

The next afternoon a neighbor called KRFO-Radio reporting a sighting of Chelsea on 38th Avenue near Bixby. “I drove out there, but couldn’t find her,” Jensen said.

Another call came in a short time later that Chelsea had been spotted on 38th Avenue east of Aurora church. Once he got into the area, Jensen found a couple pick-ups parked on the road with nobody around them within a half mile of each other. He saw someone by a shed located near by.

At last Chelsea had been found—trapped by strangers in the shed.

“She was so shook up and disoriented that she wouldn’t even come to me,” Jensen said.

Jensen and the strangers who corralled Chelsea into the shed tried desperately for about an hour to capture her. She was trapped under a camper and Jensen crawled underneath in an attempt to reunite with his pride and joy. But it wasn’t easy.

Chelsea snapped and tried to bite Jensen. “She was being offensive,” he said, noting it was totally out of character for her.

Finally Jensen grabbed a

hold of her collar and made every effort to calm her down by petting and talking to her. Chelsea then realized it was her owner and after being on the run for three days, the two were reunited once again.

“She was just so traumatized that she wouldn’t even come to Steve,” Pastor Miller said. “Once he touched her, it was all good again.”

Added Jensen: “I couldn’t believe that we found her after all that time. I think she was scared and disoriented from all the commotion (at the fire).”

By the time Chelsea was captured, she had been on the run for 12 miles and survived a couple sub-zero nights. Jensen said he is convinced she was trying to find her way back home.

After the successful rescue, Chelsea was taken to Heartland Animal Hospital in Owatonna to be checked over. She received a clean bill of health.

Jensen says there is no doubt he would have been heartbroken had Chelsea never been found. “I’m just thankful we found her,” he said. “I want to thank everyone for helping.”

Pastor Miller said Jensen is drawing on a lot of strength from the church. “It has been a real blessing to see the church in action,” she said.

“It was certainly a happy ending to a long day and a sign of hope in a very tough week for both Steve and Chelsea,” Miller said. “We give all thanks to God for his love and grace shown through so many.”

Jensen and Chelsea have been staying with his parents in Medford and plan to have temporary housing this week. Jensen plans to rebuild his house in Hope.

The church is planning a benefit for Jensen in May, though no details have been worked out.

Though he lost his house and all his belongings, Jensen feels like a lucky person. He survived the fire and he’s been reunited with the love of his life.

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Spring is here?

Spring and fall have always been my favorite seasons of the year - fall because it puts a cap on another summer, and the heat index goes down considerably. Farmers harvest the crops and ready the soil for another planting season, and waterfowl and other flying creatures head down asouth to escape another cold northern winter.

Spring, on the other hand, signals a rebirth of both plants and animals. Spring sports occupy the local high school schedule, farmers wait eagerly, and sometimes impatiently, to enter the field for planting; and trees, flowers and lawn grass come to life and offer a fresh green appearance to onlookers.

Unfortunately, because of a lack of snow over the winter and no moisture so far this spring, the threat of a summer drought has already crept into the minds of farmers and all other residents. It is too early to make any kind of predictions, but I think most people get nervous about the present weather patterns.

Most of us have heralded the unusually early warm weather with joy over the end of a long, cold winter. The drawback comes because that warmer spring temps also advance the concept of a warm, dry summer. We can hope that is not the case as March turns to April, and the spring-like weather continues.

A brief respite

All of the spring sports teams are now in practice after they all began practice either last week or Monday. It is way too soon for any predictions on success or lack of, but the Times staff is busy preparing ads, previews and schedules for our big spring sports tab, which will be published in the April 7 issue of the paper.

Staff photographers are trying to get all squad pictures taken before deadline (not an easy task, believe me), and sports editor James Knoop and I are pushing coaches for their preview information so that we can get all the articles written for the layout personnel. As of last weekend, I already had half dozen returns from coaches, and my one-finger typing skills are really getting a workout now. I just hope the finished product is worth all the effort, and readers are satisfied with the tab when it is released.

Another active weekend

Two events over the last weekend provided a great deal of entertainment to area residents. The 12th annual FFA Toy Show, sponsored by Express Pressure Washer, drew a large crowd of interested patrons of toys and miniature replicas of farm machinery new and old. The display area seemed to be busy and active most of the day, and a number of items went to avid buyers. The young and the young at heart all enjoyed the day.

Last Saturday evening, a murder mystery at the local Servicemen's Club was the focal point of an investigation, at which time the mystery eventually was solved. This type of entertainment was a first for the local club, although other communities have offered similar programs in the last few years. I think everyone attending agreed that, except for a glitch in the food service, it was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. The cast of characters in the play

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 2B

LANSING

New owners prepare for season at Chateau Raceway

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Races return to the Chateau Raceway on April 10, but the track will have new owners at the helm.

Craig Shaw, owner of CBR Drilling in Dexter purchased the track from Darin Toot, and with the help of his coworker and business partner, Jesse Antiporek, the two hope to see the raceway flourish in years to come.

While Antiporek hasn't spent much time behind the wheel, Shaw is no stranger to the race-

way.

"I've been in racing for quite a few years," said Shaw. "I've raced since the mid-90's. I started with street stalk, then went to modified, then dwarf and back to modified. It's always been an interest of mine."

When Chateau Raceway became available, Shaw's interest peaked, and Darin Toot, the former owner, helped nudge him in that direction.

"Darin kind of threw the idea out at me a couple times, and once I showed a little interest, he was pretty persistent," said Shaw. "So, we ended up meet-

ing and one thing led to another."

With the new ownership, Shaw hopes to maintain the level of excellence the track has

RACEWAY

Continued on Page 4B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Coach reflects on season and career

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Longevity in any career is admired. In sports longevity is a rather rare attribute. Imagine then two Blooming Prairie senior girls who have not only fashioned a remarkable 105 game career, but have done it without missing even one contest.

Taylor Hagen and Madison Worke have accomplished that amazing statistic, having been starters on the basketball team all four years of high school.

Coach John Worke recognized this feat, as well as other fine performances at the annual awards program held Sunday, March 15, at the local high school. The careers of the two dominating performances earned them Co-MVP honors for the 2015 basketball season.

As Worke commented, "We were hoping that this year would be the one to take us to state, but it just wasn't to be. However, we captured the conference for the first time since 2008, by running through the league undefeated, and the team compiled the third best season in school history with the 22-4 overall record. Not too shabby."

Thirteen girls earned their Blossoms letters this past season, Hagen, Worke, Kalyln Naatz, and Kaci Gwilt all earned All-Conference honors and Hannah Ahrens received an Honorable Mention All-Conference. Eight members of the team made the All-Conference academic team, and Tessa Ivers, Macaela Jensen, Hagen and Worke also made the Academic All-State team. Gwilt, Hagen



Staff photo by James Knoop
The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms went undefeated in its league, winning the conference title and massing 22 victories. Taylor Hagen and Madison worke hit new records in points, assists, steals and rebounds.

and Worke all were named to the KRFO Team of the Week, and Gwilt earned Most Improved Player.

For the season, Hagen led all scorers with 425 points, followed by Worke at 396. Gwilt and Naatz had 149 and 142 respectively. Hagen pulled down 244 rebounds, Hannah Ahrens had 105 and Naatz and Nicole Inwards had 100 each. Hagen set a new block record with 77 and Worke totaled 112 steals and 100 assists. Hagen and Gwilt added 68 and 53 steals, respectively.

Hagen and Worke set several season and career marks. Hagen's 425 points rank first in the records, and Worke is third with 396. Worke set a single season mark with 112 steals, ranked second in free throw percentage at 81.4, and third in assist at 100. Hagen also ranked second in season rebounds.

Hagen set a new record in scoring with 1,551 points, and Worke ranks second with 1,217 points. Worke set a new assist record with 300 total and steal record with 288. Hagen now leads the rebounders with 914 boards.

In his final remarks to the team, Coach Worke responded, "I want to thank you all for your commitment and dedication to the basketball program. I have coached now for 22 years, and I have been involved with this group for nearly half of that time. I appreciate that you have stuck with program and for the accomplishments of the team. Thanks."

One last honor came to the two senior leaders when the girls were two of the team's area seniors chosen to participate in the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Class A All-Star game on April 10-11. More details on that contest later.

Racers' reunion gathers old friends

By **TODD NARVESON**
Guest Writer

A racing legend himself, Mark Noble of Blooming Prairie had an idea that started small and grew to something much bigger.

"It started a while ago when Leroy Scharkey had some heart problems and my dad was sick also with some different heart conditions," explained Noble. "Talking with Leroy's family, I had some old racing movies that I had come across. I told them we had these videos and Leroy was in them. It started that I was just going to have the Scharkey's over to my house to watch the movies."

Then the gears started to turn, and an idea of having a reunion of sorts to gather racers from the 1950's-1970's started to develop.

"We thought it would be a good idea to find some of the old racers and one thing led to another," surmised Noble. "Thankfully Steve Yaggy offered up his



Submitted photo
Paul Tradup's 1938 Chevrolet which was built by Dave Tradup and Jim Bremner.

RACERS REUNION

Continued on Page 2B

RACERS' REUNION
Continued from Page 1B

race shop to have this deal. It kind of snowballed from there, and more people got involved and it grew to this.”

A number of people helped out to get the ball rolling and try to spread the word about the gathering. It turned out to be a beautiful day for the festivities. Around 30 drivers came out to see some of their racing friends that some had not seen for several decades. Dave Tradup brought a restored version of

his dad, Paul Tradup’s 1938 Chevrolet, Lyle Hinrich’s displayed a 1937 Buick that Dave Noble drove and Bob Steier had his 1981 Chevy Malibu station wagon bodied replica of Mert Williams’ last race car he drove in 1981.

There were movies shown all day from days gone by and a number of tables with racing memorabilia that were on display for everyone to walk down memory lane with.

Around 300 people came to mingle with the racing legends and exchange stories of the glory years of stock car racing in this area.

Some of the drivers that were there included Larry Fleener, Clyde Hinrichs, Fred Prudoehl, Jim Bloom, Dave Noble, Ken Correy, Ron Kester, Ron Ross, Steve Sorensen, Phil Prusak, Lyle Hinrichs, Gary Doelle, Mike Fitzpatrick, Paul Fitzpatrick, Leroy Scharkey, Mert

Williams, John Swanson, Keith Kruger, Dick Sorensen, Elmer Duellman, George Enright, Jerry Boumeester, Terry Hansen, Ron Quamme, Dave Tradup and Bob Steier.

The drivers were gathered for a group picture and Mark Noble along with Todd Narveson conducted an impromptu introduction and interview session that the people attending thoroughly enjoyed.

A big thank you to the people

that helped goes out to Mark and Becky Noble, The Scharkey family, Steve and Carol Yaggy, Mike and Elaine Sorensen, Bailer’s Engine Service, Becher’s Napa Auto Parts, Deer Creek Speedway, Ron’s Auto Repair, Buck Monson and Yaeger Implement.

Noble expressed with happiness how the day turned out.

“I think everyone had a good time and that is what this was all about. We had good food and

good entertainment. I know my dad enjoyed it, and it was a very good day. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.”

Talk and ideas are already being discussed for a possible second annual event next spring. This reunion was thrown together in a short period of time so next year’s reunion should be even bigger and better.

Ladies Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS (as of March 11)

	Wins	Losses
1. Epic Contracting	24	8
2. F & M Bank	16	16
3. Kosters' Car Korner	13	19
4. J & H Liquors/DQ	11	21

TEAM STATS

High team (Scratch) F & M Bank, 2040
High team (handicap) Kosters' Car Korner, 1988

INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game

1. Joann Nielsen, 167
2. Becky Noble, 166

High Series

1. Joann Nielsen, 486
2. Becky Noble, 419





Dave Noble's 1937 Buick which he has raced in competition.

Submitted photo

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued from Page 1B

had fun in presenting the action, and the enthusiasm and curiosity of the audience contributed to the ambience and excitement of

discovering the culprit in the mystery.

I don't think anyone really cared who the murderer was, although it was unique in that only one table of the 16 in the dining room put the clues together to name the guilty character. It was just a very fun evening, and credit goes to the cast of char-

acters and to Kari Bottin for her direction of the play.

I would guess that even John Rumpza himself is ready to start new adventures, but the Owatonna paper published its area boys' basketball area team, and Rumpza was an easy choice for one of the positions. Spencer Tollefson (the Player of the

Year) and Oakley Baker made the team from NRHEG, Dexter Leer was Owatonna's pick, and Luke Peterson was named from Medford.

Rumpza finished his basketball career at BPHS with 2,108 total points, about four assists a game and the blocks leader as well. Mitchell Jones, Anthony

Nelson, Jake Decker and Scott Romeo all earned Honorable Mentions for the Blossoms. A last tip of the hat to the local basketball boys for an interesting and successful season.

An item in a church bulletin probably needs some explanation- "Remember how Jesus compared his kingdom to a trea-

surer in a field?"

Think spring, and we'll talk again.



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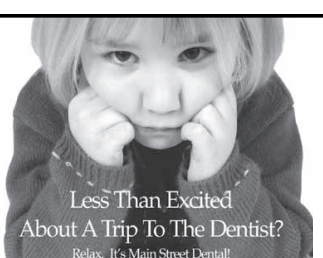
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Public Safety

Sheriff completes FBI leadership course

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

It has been back to classroom for Steele County's top cop who just completed an intensive FBI leadership course.

As part of the course, Sheriff Lon Thiele completed three different institutes, including supervisor leadership, command leadership and executive leadership. For his efforts, Thiele has been awarded the FBI-LEEDA's Trilogy Award. LEEDA is Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

The course was held at three different times throughout the past year with the most recent one completed the week of March 6 in Alamosa, Colorado. The other two parts of the course were done in Georgia and Iowa.

"I've always been one to keep my skills crisp," Thiele said. "I want to make sure I keep everything as sharp as I can. If you fail to continue to learn, I feel you will fail at your role," he said, adding that such a mindset will allow him to perform his job to the best of his ability for residents of the county.

Thiele said the course provided him with real life, contemporary and future strategies and techniques in handling organizational structure. Much of the course

focused on leading command staff with on-going change, according to Thiele.

He described the course as a development program to not only better oneself, but as whole for the entire county. Thiele has found the networking that goes on in courses like these allows him to get different ideas to perform public safety on the local level.

Part of the challenge Thiele has experienced firsthand in his department is battling the generation gap amongst employees. "It's a whole different mindset that you get with the generation gap," he said, adding he learned techniques in working with different generations at the same time.

The course was held for high-ranking law enforcement officials, including sheriffs, police chiefs and captains. Thiele said he learned about the impact of the course from other sheriffs in Minnesota.

"We've got a fantastic group of deputies," Thiele said, "And by maintaining my knowledge of being an administrator and leader, it will keep us focused on performing public safety to the best that we can."



Submitted photo
Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, right, received the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award on March 6 in Alamosa, Colorado. The sheriff completed a three-part leadership course offered through the FBI over the past year. Another police executive, left, also finished the course with Thiele. An FBI representative is pictured in the middle presenting the awards.

Crime brief

A different kind of pursuit lands man in jail

A police chase of an ATV has led to felony charges against an Owatonna man.

While patrolling the area of Morehouse Park March 10, a police officer saw a 4-wheel ATV exiting the park and traveling in an erratic manner. Police said the ATV was accelerating quickly, not signaling turns and neither the driver or passenger was wearing helmets.

The officer attempted to stop the ATV, but it rapidly sped up, causing the officer to lose sight of it momentarily. When the ATV was relocated, the officer noted only one occupant and then saw a person lying in the roadway not moving. The officer provided first aide and determined it was the passenger.

A short time later a man and woman walked up to the scene. The man had mud on his shoes, face and hat, similar to the vic-

tim found in the roadway. Police identified the man as the driver of the ATV. While speaking to the driver, the officer smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath.

Officers later responded to the driver's residence where they found ATV tracks leading into the garage. Police recovered the ATV.

Police arrested Cody A. Fonner, 20, for felony criminal vehicular operation and fleeing police in a motor vehicle.

Mayo One flew the 16-year-old passenger to a Rochester hospital with non-life threatening injuries.



Fonner

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

March 6

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the city at 10:21 a.m.

March 10

Traffic. Officer completed a traffic stop in the city at 7:07 p.m.

Owatonna Police

March 6

Drunken Driving. At 8:30 p.m., police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

March 8

Theft. Police issued a citation for a theft in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 6:22 a.m.

Vandalism. Two incidents of property damage were reported during the day – at 1:22 p.m. in the 200 block of 24th St. NE and at 8:32 p.m. in the 2100 block of Cedar Ave. N.

DWI. At 11:36 p.m., officer arrested a motorist for DWI in the 100 block of Pearl St. W.

March 9

Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:06 a.m.

Restraining Order. At 10:30 a.m., officer responded to a report of a restraining order violation in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW.

Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen from the 100 block of Strand Dr. NW at 1:07 p.m.

Crash. Police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 300 block of School St. E. at 3:38 p.m.

Weapons. At 5:11 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of Hemlock Ave. NE for a report of shots being fired. They arrested a subject at the scene.

March 10

Vandalism. Police received multiple vandalism reports throughout the day, including in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:37 a.m., in the 200 block of Broadway St. E. at 5:05 p.m. and in the 200 block of Northview St. SW at 7:17 p.m.

Restraining Order. An order for protection was violated in the 800 block of School St. E. at 5:14 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 6:40 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at Linn Ave. SW and Mann St. SW at 6:41 p.m.

March 11

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 8:53 a.m.

Stop Arm. A bus driver reported a stop arm violation at Allan Ave. SW and Young Dr. NW at 9:49 a.m.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest at 4:09 p.m. in the 200 block of Main St. E.

Theft. At 6:34 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 1700 block of Cedar Valley Dr. NW.

March 12

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:54 a.m.

Shoplifting. Officer responded to a

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shoplifting incident in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:49 p.m.

Warrant. At 1:47 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE.

Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 3:23 p.m.

Assist. Police assisted another agency with arresting an adult in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:12 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

March 7

Drunken Driving. Deputies made a DWI arrest on Hwy. 14 W. at mile marker 171 at 1:05 a.m.

March 8

DWI. Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 24th Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 12:07 a.m.

Probation. A probation violation was reported at 24th Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 12:55 a.m.

Vandalism. At 4:53 p.m., property damage was reported on Hwy. 14 W. and mile marker 170.

March 10

Shoplifting. At 12:07 p.m., deputies responded to a shoplifting incident in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W.

March 11

Burglary. Deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 4500 block of County Rd. 45 N. at 12:08 p.m.

Theft. At 5:11 p.m., deputy took theft report in the 200 block of 4th Ave. W.

March 12

Crash. At 2:42 a.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 5200 block of 34th Ave. SE.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of fraud in the 7300 block of 34th Ave. SE at 4:59 p.m.

Property Damage. Deputy took a report of vandalism in the 6700 block of 8th St. SW at 4:55 p.m.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 211 complaints for the week of March 4 – 10. Some of them include:

March 4

Crash. A white truck hit a tree on 1st Ave. NW in Hayfield at 11:09 a.m. and then left the scene.

Drug Court. A drug court violation was reported in the 56100 block of State Hwy. 56 in West Concord.

Sex Offense. Deputies received information regarding a sex offense that occurred in the 20800 block of 600th St. in Dodge Center at 1:58 p.m.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident involving a bus occurred at Hwy. St. W. and 6th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 3:24 p.m.

Assault. A Dodge Center resident reported that his son was hit on the school bus at 3:50 p.m.

Larceny. Antifreeze was reported stolen from the Kwik Trip in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 6:22 p.m.

Fire. At 8:07 p.m., deputies responded to a fire in a bedroom in the 11800 block of 710th St. in Blooming Prairie. There was smoke, but no flames.

March 5

Fraud. A Dodge Center resident reported being the victim of identity theft in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 12:44 p.m.

Domestic. At 2:27 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic assault in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Minor Consumption. Deputies received a report of intoxicated students in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 5:10 p.m.

March 6

Fraud. A fraud incident was reported in the 16900 block of 739th St. in Hayfield at 1:09 p.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a report of truancy in the 100 block of 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 2:55 p.m.

Child Abuse. At 3:17 p.m., deputies received an anonymous report of child neglect in the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont. However, deputies were unable to find the incident.

Suspicious Activity. At 10:48 p.m., deputies found that a screen door was wide open in the 400 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

March 7

Juvenile. A Claremont woman called deputies at 10:36 a.m. when she received third hand information about juveniles drinking inside a trailer with no adults around.

Mental. At 1:49 p.m., a Claremont man called deputies rambling about battles and other nonsense topics.

Vulnerable Adult. Deputy took vulnerable adult report in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield.

March 8

Vandalism. At 12:37 p.m., a Claremont resident reported that there was vandalism in the 100 block of Front St. W.

March 9

Animal Complaint. Deputies received a complaint at 1:12 p.m. of horses not being fed or watered in the 23200 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord.

March 10

Assist. At 12:10 a.m., deputies assisted with an intoxicated and disorderly woman in the 600 block of Eugene St. in West Concord. She was transported to Detox.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect in the 100 block of 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 11:22 a.m.

Sex Offense. At 11:28 a.m., a sex offense was reported in the county.

Narcotics. Deputies made a traffic stop in the 100 block of Main St. W. in Dodge Center at 10:52 p.m. Narcotics were found in the car, and two parties were arrested.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 2 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Tywan T. Clark, 23, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of three games or more of cocaine/heroin/meth. Clark was sentenced to \$131 and 48 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Chad T. Larson, 37, Coon Rapids, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. He was sentenced to \$1,460.95, 97 days in county jail, no contact with victim, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 2 – 6:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Cassandra L. Sims, 30, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Gerrardo O. Anaya, 39, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Elizabeth I. Carlson, 25, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Larry A. Coffing, 66, Northfield, seat belt, \$106; Candace Hovland, 46, Albert Lea, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Lynsey D. Hulloper, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Sharon M. Johnson, 68, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;

Janelle K. Kirsch, 56, Kasson, speeding, \$121; Louisa W. Kujawa, 47, Mankato, speeding, \$131; Patrick J. Lauderdale, 19, Eden Prairie speeding, \$141; Bryan L. McLaughlin, 36, Eyota, seat belt, \$106; Jesse D. Mickels, 34, Fairbanks, AK, speeding, \$141; Andrew W. Nibbe, 16, Lake City, speeding, \$281; Maria D. Rivera, 32, Minneapolis, suspended license, \$281;

Corey D. Roemhildt, 36, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Cole J. Roushar, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Christopher C. Sirotiak, 28, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$131; Aaron M. Sumption, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Zachary R. Wanous, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106.

Owatonna Police Department

Nashid A. Abdul-Zahir, 39, Minneapolis, theft, \$131 and 10 days in county jail; Monica A. Bruellman, 31, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Christopher L. Cameron, 27, DWI, \$131 and 43 days in county jail; Clif L. Caron, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Donna L. Centz, 54, Hanover, speeding, \$141; Johnathon W. Coult, 30, Mankato, shoplifting, \$231; Tracy L. Ellis, 44, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131;

Roberto Garcia, 41, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Lisa K. Gerds, 50, Waseca, DWI, \$606, Ignition Interlock, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3

years of supervised probation; Muna M. Hassan, 23, Faribault, speeding, \$141; James M. Joachim, 61, Owatonna, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Marlene R. Johnson, 67, Waseca, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Megan L. Kiser, 21, Waltham, shoplifting, \$185.29; Daniel P. Knutson, 39, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111;

Ahmed H. Kobeey, 44, Owatonna, school bus stop sign, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Mitchell L. Patterson, 33, Lakeville, speeding, \$141; Pablo P. Rosales, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jody L. Sjudin-Gregoire, 46, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Sally K. Storing, 56, Claremont, speeding, \$131; Carlos A. Vera Gutierrez, 29, Brooklyn Park, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$181; Gerard F. Wilmes, 50, Waterville, shoplifting, \$200 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kari M. Wright, 24, New Richland, no insurance and suspended license, \$481.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Howard W. Bryant, 57, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Jason A. Dalbec, 37, New Richland, speeding, \$141; Ritlu Gaxiola, 32, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; William J. Grandgenett, 42, Algonia, IA, speeding, \$221; James L. Halvorson, 48, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Douglas L. Johanson, 69, Winnebago, speeding, \$141; Taylor A. Juberien, 20, Waseca, open bottle, \$181; Louis E. Kaufman, 56, Urbandale, IA, speeding, \$121; Brent A. Langer, 39, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Phillip E. Postlewaite, 46, Lakeville, speeding, \$281; Darin L. Reese, 46, Ellendale, speeding, \$141; Allan G. Routh, 64, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Paige L. Schienbein, 20, Faribault, stop sign, \$131; Dakota J. Schultz, 18, Medford, careless driving, \$181; Mark E. Stanke, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Megan E. Stevensen, 19, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, \$181;

Brian J. Tollefson, 44, Austin, speeding, \$121; Matthew M. Wheeler, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Steven J. Yankowiak, 53, Claremont, speeding, \$141.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 2 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Dallas J. Laqua, 20, Steele County Jail, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. He was sentenced to 1 year and 1 day in St. Cloud State Prison.

Austin J. Balaban, 21, Steele County Jail, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. Balaban was sentenced to 155 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend sex offender program, no possession of pornography, maintain employment, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, obtain permission to leave the state, no access to Internet without approval, predatory offender registration and 25 years of supervised probation.

Turi A. Kundert, 33, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of

felony controlled substance crime. She was sentenced to \$75, 52 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, maintain employment, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 2 – 9:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Coty J. Allen, 22, Byron, violation of drivers' license restriction – no alcohol or controlled substance use, no license in possession and obscured plate violation, \$375 and 1 year of supervised probation; Jose A. Amaya, 43, Rochester, parking violation, \$32;

Timothy E. Brodman Jr., 30, Fairmont, domestic assault, \$455, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Luann M. Buechler, 53, Byron, speeding, \$220; Albert D. Cifra, 53, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Kole D. Delzer, 22, Dodge Center, careless driving, \$280;

Sydney C. Eglund, 48, Claremont, disorderly conduct, \$180; Virgil D. Evjen, 77, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Todd J. Fjerstad, 45, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$180 and no trespassing at Rite Buy Liquor Store;

Darien L. Hornes, 32, Owatonna, suspended license, \$280; Siobhan M. McKee, 22, Hayfield, domestic animal at large and animal license violation, \$120; Douglas J. Peterson, 51, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Cynthia J. Raymond, 47, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Angel Rodriguez, 19, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Terri L. Ryan, 36, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32;

Cole R. Schimek, 17, Stewartville, speeding, \$140; Jessie D. Tolzman, 31, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Omar Torres, 36, Austin, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Courtney B. Wilbur, 33, Kasson, suspended license, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised probation;

Nancy L. Wilmot, 41, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Benjamin L. Winfield, 35, DWI, \$1,085, 26 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 3 years of supervised probation.

Kasson Police Department

Benjamin L. Beck, 20, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Jesse Bromley, 30, Mantorville, domestic abuse, \$980, 3 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Ashley A. Hanson, 31, St. Paul, parking violation, \$32;

Sylvia J. Keller, 46, Claremont, DWI, \$480, chemical assessment and 1 year of probation; Linda W. Myers, 65, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Melissa M. Riess, 43, Kasson, failure to yield right of way, \$130; Eric D. Trayler, 22, Rochester, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Emily L. Drees, 33, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Bashir Y. Mohamad, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$220.

West Concord Police Department

Kristen M. Bachman, 33, West Concord, registration violation, \$110.

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

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Veronica Ann Adame- Disorderly Conduct- \$1,000 bail
Randy Jack Aguilar- Probation violation DWI- No bond
Rashid M. Ahmed- Third degree Assault- \$10,000 bail
Belen Ramos Alaniz- DWI- \$12,500 bail
Omar Antonio Alfaro- Minor consumption- \$500 bail
Abdisalam Abdi Ali- Controlled substance- \$5,000 bail
Abdiwali Isse Ali- Underage consumption- \$1,000 bail
Kim Michele Allen- Fifth degree assault- \$2,000 bail
Roger William Allen- False info to police and open bottle- \$1,500 bail
Juan Ramon Alvarez- Contribute to delinquency of minor- \$6,000 bail
Ben E. Ambrose- Open bottle- \$181 bail

Andrew David Anderson- traffic- \$500 bail
Darren Wayne Anderson- theft by check- \$5,000 bail
Darla Sue Andrews- Theft by check- \$19,000 bail
Mack Fitzgerald Anthony- Open bottle- \$500 bail
Adalit Morales Antonio- First degree drugs- \$1 million bail
Andrew Anzaldúa- DWI- \$1,000 bail
Jose Aquilas- DWI- \$12,000 bail
Jorge Alberto Mendez Arias- DWI- no bond
Michael Demond Armstead- DWI- \$500 bail
Maria Del Fefugio Arredondo- Theft- \$1,000 bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

OWATONNA FOOTBALL

Coach gives back to town that taught him

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Coach Doug Wanous has been teaching and coaching at Owatonna High School for a long time - over 20 years, in fact. But going into his 16th year as an offensive line coordinator, he is finally getting recognition.

In October of last year, Wanous was awarded the Butch Nash award, a token of honor bestowed on assistant coaches in the state. Butch Nash, who passed away in 2005, was the assistant coach for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers from 1947-1991. He also played for the Gophers from 1936-1938.

According to Owatonna’s head football coach, Jeff Williams, Wanous was definitely deserving of the reward.

“Butch Nash was a long time gophers assistant, coaching through five different head coaches. He was a real stabilizing force and a class act,” said Williams. “This award is mean to honor assistant coach who do the same thing, and that’s Coach Wanous.”

“It’s a real honor,” said Wanous. “There have been four other wonderful coaches from Owatonna who have received the award before me. It’s really humbling to follow in their footsteps.”

Wanous has been following those footsteps since his high school days, when he was coached by Ed Draheim and Ken Bey, both of whom won the Butch Nash award in 1987 and 1984, respectively.

After graduating from Owatonna, Wanous went to Concordia College in Moorhead. After a couple short coaching stints

in the Midwest, Wanous found himself back in Owatonna in 1993. After several years as the B squad coach, Wanous found his niche as an assistant coach, specifically working with the offensive line, a place he has been for 15 years.

Although the journey has provided many victories, one that shines brightest in Wanous’ memory is taking the Huskies to the Prep Bowl in the Metrodome in 2013. It was the school’s fourth appearance in the dome. The first time, Doug Wanous was the starting center. Each of the first three appearances ended in defeat. In 2013, however, with Wanous’ son, a senior on the team, the Huskies defeated Brainerd to win their first Prep Bowl.

“It was always a goal of mine to get those kids into the dome,” said Wanous. “It was such a life-changing moment. I was living the dream, being able to coach a game I love in the town that taught me the game. And to be able to experience that with my own son, I think that is every coach’s dream.”

Things liking helping his team win big-scale games certainly help win awards, but it’s the day-to-day coaching that make Wanous who he is.

“He has dedicated his life to football players in Owatonna,” said Williams. “He puts in so much time and effort.”

While Wanous is humbled by the award, he was not shy about the time and effort he puts into his team. One major reason for this is technology.

“Technology is a big change,” said Wanous. “It can make us coaches look a lot smart, as we have access to a lot of game. But it also requires a lot of time. The

more prepared the kids are, the better they play, the more success they have. It’s a full-time job.”

Coach Wanous is also known for his conservative coaching style and team unity philosophy.

“As an offensive line coach, my philosophy is that it’s not about the individual. It’s about what you do as a unit,” said Wanous. “We believe in the blue collar mentality. If the quarterback is doing well, the offensive line is doing their job.”

Williams said the offensive line has embraced this mentality with all their hearts.

“What he has built with these lineman doesn’t make much sense,” said Williams. “How many sports’ positions are there where you are never allowed to touch the ball? Wanous has developed pride in those guys.”

Williams expounded that the offensive line are the only players who meet before the team gathers in the locker room after the game.

“It’s just the blue collar guys,” said Williams. “No one else is allowed in that huddle. I have no idea what is said. And if one of them is asked for an interview, they will only do it as a unit. They won’t be singled out. They know they’re skilled. They know they’re the core. (Wanous) built that within the group. That’s huge.”

“It’s not about the glory,” said Wanous. “It’s not about the recognition. It’s about doing the job right.”

Wanous was quick to point out the group of coaches surrounding him.

“We’re like a family,” said Wanous.

In this family, Wanous and Williams are the brothers who

get along well, but think much differently.

“We’re a pretty good compliment to each other,” said Williams. “I call the plays, but he makes suggestions. I’m more emotional and go with my gut. He’s the really logical, rational type.”

Williams said sometimes he will go with his gut, but more often than not, when Wanous highly recommends a certain play, it ends in success.

“He has a great ability to see the next play,” said Williams. “He’s a great compliment to me and my personality.”

Wanous is proud of his conservative style.

“Some people would say I’m a pretty conservative coach, because I like to run. But if you can run, you’re hard to beat.”

At the end of the day and the end of each season, it’s not really the wins and losses that matter most to Wanous.

“It’s about the relationships - about teaching the great game of football. (It’s about) seeing kids go on to play at the next level, watching them progress. The highlight of winning a game you shouldn’t have because of a little subtle preparation. Seeing these gangly sophomores turn in to good football players and watching them grow into young men and raise a family.”

Those are the things that matter to Wanous.

“I’m a teacher first,” said Wanous., “and there is no greater profession than teaching and coaching.

Doug Wanous teaches AP English and American Literature classes and is the English Department Coordinator at Owatonna High School.



Submitted photo
Coach Doug Wanous has been with the Owatonna Huskies football team since 1993. He is currently an assistant coach and works primarily with the offensive line. He is a Owatonna High School alumnus and currently serves as the English Department Coordinator.

RACEWAY
Continued from Page 1B

seen in previous years.

“We’re hoping to do what past promoters have done. We want to give drivers a great track to run on and give the fans something to look forward to coming back to,” said Shaw.

“We want to build long-term relationships.”

Though thrilled with the new adventure, Shaw said it definitely isn’t something he planned on doing alone.

“It’s a lot of work to do by yourself,” said Shaw. “It takes a couple of people. It’s a big piece of pie to take on.”

Antiporek stated that since he’s been working with Shaw anyways, it seemed like a great opportunity.

While not much will change in the first year, Shaw said there will be a few minor changes. For one, portta-potties will be replaced with running-water re-

strooms. Shaw also said some entrances may be moved.

Shaw wanted to keep some things a secret, adding that fans should “come out and see” for themselves.

Fans will have that opportunity, as the first race begins Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

For Shaw and Antiporek, that date is coming up fast.

“We’re trying to make sure we’re not leaving anything out,”

said Shaw. “It’s overwhelming.”

Shaw and Antiporek stressed that the races are definitely a family event.

“We like to keep it family-oriented,” said Shaw.

The season will last from April to early September. More information can be found at chateauraceway.net or on the “Chateau Raceway” Facebook page.



Submitted photo
The first race of the 2015 season will take place April 10.

Claiming a tax deduction for medical and dental expenses

Your medical expenses may save you money at tax time, but a few key rules apply. Here are some tax tips to help you determine if you can claim a tax deduction:

You must itemize. You can only claim your medical expenses that you paid for in 2014 if you itemize deductions on your federal tax return. If you take the standard deduction, you can’t claim these expenses.

AGI threshold. You include all the qualified medical costs

that you paid for during the year. However, you can only deduct the amount that is more than 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Temporary threshold for age 65. If you or your spouse is age 65 or older, the AGI threshold is 7.5 percent of your AGI. This exception applies through Dec. 31, 2016.

Expenses that qualify. You can include the costs of diagnosing, treating, easing or preventing disease. The costs you pay

for prescription drugs and insulin qualify. The costs you pay for insurance premiums for policies that cover medical care qualify. Travel costs count. You may be able to claim travel costs you pay for medical care. This includes costs such as public transportation, ambulance service, tolls and parking fees. If you use your car, you can deduct either the actual costs or the standard mileage rate for medical travel. The rate is 23.5 cents per mile for 2014.

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

14-098978 NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 20, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,430.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Antony M. Copeland and Monica M. Copeland, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed January 4, 2011, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000375808

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 17, Block 3, Riverside Addition to City of Owatonna
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 442 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0317
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$120,280.70
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 14, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 14, 2015, or the next business day if October 14, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: February 16, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/24,3/3,3/20
3/17,3/24,3/31

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 11/30/2005
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$ 108,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Heidi Brown and Shawn Brown, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: -Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/15/2005 as Document Number A000337754 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota
ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 12/17/2014 as Document Number A000400004 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota
TAX PARCEL ID. NO.: 14-107-0102

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 1, Virtue's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota.
ABSTRACT PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 111 West Main Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1002480-0000199544-8
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$130,488.42
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes.
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele, Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 04/09/2015 at 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 10/09/2015, or the next business day if 10/09/2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
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 MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: 02/17/2015

U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust, Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee

Klatt, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2/17, 2/24, 3/3,
3/10, 3/17, 3/24

Foreclosure

14-096324-FC02

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 6, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$151,020.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph R. Ethen and Andrea L. Ethen, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100103210000575851
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: The Business Bank DBA Prime Mortgage
SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed November 10, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000367678
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: July 13, 2012 filed: July 30, 2012, recorded as document number A000385897
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: West 31 feet of Lot 14 and the East 50 1/2 feet of Lot 15, all in Block 1 in Re-Plat of Clarke-Chambers Highland Park Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, together with that part of the vacated alley attributable thereto.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 559 East Academy St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-136-0115
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$157,594.70
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 7, 2015, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 7, 2015, or the next business day if October 7, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: February 6, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
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THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

Jessica Gonzalez
Foreclosure Assistant
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952-831-4060 ext. 3160 Office
847-954-4800 Fax
jgonzalez@LOGS.com
www.zielkeattorneys.com

2/17, 2/24, 3/3,
3/10, 3/17, 3/24

Foreclosure

15-099372

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 27, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$97,465.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Nicholas J Jacobs, and Nicolette M Jacobs, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 2, 2012, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000382733
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 4, Riverside Addition to the City of Owatonna.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 216 Highland Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0403
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$95,167.55
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 21, 2015, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate

is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 21, 2015, or the next business day if October 21, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: February 17, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3.3,3/10,3/17
3/24,3/31,4/7

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-415

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

Estate of
Randolph R. Randall,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 7, 2015, 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, November 14, 2011, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Joshua H. Randall, whose address is 275 19th Street NE, 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 Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan 2015.02.27
Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnalawyers.com

3/10,3/17

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$227,778.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin P. Rosell and Patsy B. Rosell, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 8, 2003 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 15383 as Document Number T54158 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 6, Block 7, Naefke Addition, City of Owatonna, AND All that part of Lot Seven (7), Block Seven (7), in Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, lying Southerly of a line parallel with and Eight and One-Half (8 1/2) feet Northerly from, measured at Ninety Degrees, the Southerly line of said Lot Seven (7); AND Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of Lot Seven (7), Block Seven (7), in Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota thence running Northerly along the Easterly line of said Lot 7, 22 feet, thence running 90 degrees Westerly to a point on the Northerly line of Lot 6, Block 7, in Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota, thence running Easterly along the Northerly line of said Lot 6 to the point of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota

REGISTERED PROPERTY

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 837 MINNESOTA AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$219,050.13
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER:

Dated: March 5, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy
Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(13-4145-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/10,3/17,3/24
3/31,4/7,4/14

Blooming Prairie Township members

The board of the Township would like to thank our township members for their impressive turnout for voting on March 10th 2015. We had 142 voters show up to vote some of those were first time voters. It is wonderful to see so much support of our local government and a testament to all the members for caring for the election process. Basic results were Jerry Wencil 106 votes, Jim O'Connor 32 votes, Doug Krell 111 votes, and TJ Kartes 28 votes, Katie Zipse 120 votes. Various other names mentioned were Tom Trotman 3 votes, Trent Kartes 1 vote, Monica Anderson 3 votes, Carmen Krell 1 vote and James Konz 1 vote.

*With sincere thanks-
Your Blooming Prairie Township Board
Jerry Wencil, Doug Krell, Robert Haberman,
Katie Zipse & Missy Anderson.*

3/17

Public Notice

Lemond Township monthly meetings will be the 2nd Mondays of every month at 6 p.m. located at the Lemond Town Hall, Steele County.

*Dale Johnson
Supervisor*

*Janelle Olson
Clerk*

3/17,3/24

Foreclosure

15-099350

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: August 22, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$60,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Michelle M. Walburn and Guy M. Walburn, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1002839-0060802028-2
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Premier Bank
SERVICER: CitiMortgage, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 9, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000344875
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 1, Willow Creek Addition #2
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1460 Sage Ln NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-488-0102
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$62,001.76
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 5, 2015, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on May 5, 2015, or the next business day if November 5, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 6, 2015

CitiMortgage, Inc.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/17,3/24,3/31
4/7,4/14,4/21

Foreclosure

15-099161

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 23, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$225,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Stanley G. Ennis, An Unmarried Man
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 4, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000363759
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 3-107-20 described by: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4); thence North 88 degrees 57 minutes West, assumed bearing, 163.02 feet along the North line of said Southeast Quarter (SE1/4); thence South 0 degrees East 196.24 feet parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) to the true point of beginning; thence South 0 degrees East 99 feet parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4); thence North 90 degrees West 128.65 feet to the East line of Bigelow Avenue; thence North 0 degrees 3.5 feet West 99 feet along the East line of said Bigelow Avenue; thence North 90 degrees East 128.75 feet to said true point of beginning.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1735 Bigelow Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

Dated: March 9, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank,
N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/17,3/24,3/31
4/7,4/14,4/21

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No 74-PR-15-471

COUNTY OF STEELE

Estate of
Marcile L. Johnson,
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 May 5, 2015, 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, June 15, 1976, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Kristin DeLuca, whose address is 24415 W. Cedar Lake Drive, New Prague, MN, 56071, 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 Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated:
3/9/2015

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060

Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

3/17,3/24

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, in the City Hall at 138 Highway Avenue South, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 until 10 A.M., CDT, Thursday, April 2, 2015, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and all else necessary for the following:

Hansen Heights 3rd Addition

In general, Work consists of the installation of sanitary sewer, water main, services, storm sewer, and roadway construction within an undeveloped parcel. The Project consists of the following approximate quantities:

860 LIN FT 10" PVC Sanitary Sewer
2 EACH Sanitary Sewer Structures
900 LIN FT 6" DIP Water Main
430 LIN FT 12" to 18" RCP Storm Sewer
1,800LIN FT Concrete Curb and Gutter
3,390SQ YD 4" Thick Bituminous Pavement
1,140CY YD Class 5 Aggregate Base

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$20 by inputting QuestCDN eBidDoc #3755067 on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Blooming Prairie and at Stantec, 6188 Rome Circle NW, Rochester, MN 55901, (507) 282-2100.

Direct inquiries to Engineer's Project Manager, Brett Grabau, at (507) 529-6030.

Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to retain the deposits of the 3 lowest Bidders for a period not to exceed 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids. No Bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and further reserves the right to award the Contract to the best interests of the Owner.

Mike Jones, City Administrator
City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

3/10,3/17

Notice for Gravel Bids

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Blooming Prairie Township, Steele County, Minnesota, will meet at the Blooming Prairie Town Hall on April 7 , 2015 at 7:00 PM to receive bids for the purchase of hauling 5,000 yards(more or less) of class 5 ¾ crushed gravel delivered anywhere in Blooming Prairie Township.

Bids must include proof of liability, workers compensation, equipment, price per yard and location of gravel.

Gravel needs to be applied to specified roads by the deadline of July 1st guaranteed at the time of bidding.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids

Jerry Wencil, Chairman
Missy Anderson, Clerk
Blooming Prairie Township

3/10,3/17

PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE JOINT DITCH #24
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Joint Ditch #24 Board will hold a Public Hearing regarding replacement of bridges in Sections 3 and 4 of Meriden Township on Friday, March 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Steele County Administration Center. At the hearing, the Board will adopt a final Order directing the replacement of bridges on the sections stated above and assessment of benefitted landowners.

The Drainage Authority will also make a decision at this Hearing regarding whether payment will be ordered in 10 or 15 year installments with interest.

Landowners and interested parties are welcome to attend.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

Tammy Wynkoop
Waseca County
Auditor-Treasurer

3/10,3/17

Official Notice of Public Hearing
Cedar River Watershed District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Managers in the Cedar River Watershed District will hold a Public Hearing at the Cedar River Watershed District Office at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin MN at 6:00 PM on the 25th day of March to hear from the public and to consider the acceptance of revised rules.

The revised rules is on file and may be examined at the Cedar River Watershed District 1408 21st St NW, Austin, MN 55912 or can be seen on the web at cedarriverwd.org.

All interested individuals and agencies are invited to be represented at this meeting. Everyone will be given an opportunity to express his/her views.

For accuracy of record, all important facts and statements should be submitted in writing. Written statements may be handed to the administrator at the meeting or may be mailed beforehand to Bev Nordby, Administrator, Cedar River Watershed District, 1408 21st St NE, Austin, MN 55912. All statements should indicate that they are in response to the announcement. All statements will become a part of the official record.

Published by authority of the Cedar River Watershed District, Minnesota.

Bev Nordby
Administrator, Cedar River Watershed District

3/10,3/17

The results of the
Westfield Township election are:

For Supervisor:
Paul Fiebiger 117 votes
Lowell Trom 34 Votes

For Treasurer:
Larry Schmeling 132 votes
Write-Ins 7 votes

Thank you to all who voted.
The Westfield Township Board

3/17

MILTON TOWNSHIP CALL FOR QUOTES
ROAD ROCK AND SERVICES

Milton Township will accept quotes for road rock and services at its meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

For details and specifications, please see the Milton Township website: www.milton-township.com

Quotes will be opened at 8:30 p.m. All quotes present will be considered.

Questions may be directed to Tom Pyfferoen, road supervisor, at (507)254-9490.

3/17

Notice for Road Contractors

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Blooming Prairie Township, Steele County, Minnesota will meet at the Blooming Prairie Town Hall on April 7th 2015 at 7:00 PM to receive bids for Road Maintenance and Blading for the period beginning May 1st, 2015 and ending April 30th, 2016. Snow removal from October 1, 2015 to May 1st 2016.

Quotes must be on an hourly and horsepower basis, available equipment and certificate of insurance required.

The Board reserves the right to refuse any and all quotes.

Jerry Wencil, Chairman
Missy Anderson,Clerk
Blooming Prairie Township

3/10,3/17

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., April 2, 2015 for lease of approximately 45 acres of farmland located in the W1/2 of the SW1/4 Section 5-T107N-R20W in Steele County for the 2015 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 in, in their discretion, the interest of the County will be best served thereby.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

3/10,3/17

Official Notice of Public Hearing
Cedar River Watershed District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Managers in the Cedar River Watershed District will hold a Public Hearing at the Cedar River Watershed District Office at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin MN at 6:00 PM on the 25th day of March to hear from the public and to consider the acceptance of revised rules.

The revised rules is on file and may be examined at the Cedar River Watershed District 1408 21st St NW, Austin, MN 55912 or can be seen on the web at cedarriverwd.org.

All interested individuals and agencies are invited to be represented at this meeting. Everyone will be given an opportunity to express his/her views.

For accuracy of record, all important facts and statements should be submitted in writing. Written statements may be handed to the administrator at the meeting or may be mailed beforehand to Bev Nordby, Administrator, Cedar River Watershed District, 1408 21st St NE, Austin, MN 55912. All statements should indicate that they are in response to the announcement. All statements will become a part of the official record.

Published by authority of the Cedar River Watershed District, Minnesota.

Bev Nordby
Administrator, Cedar River Watershed District

3/10,3/17

Classifieds

www.steeledodgenews.com

Call: 507-583-4431 • Fax: 507-583-4445 • Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net • Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917



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For rent

LAND FOR RENT for this year. BP area, 2 partials. Different locations. Call Dave at 507-383-7890

Events

WASECA FLEA MARKET: 1.5 Miles East of Waseca on "Old" Hwy 14. Over 1,000 items. Open Fri-Sun 10-5. 507-380-1049. www.letonlineauctions.com

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Sewer crews, Grading and Street Crews, Laborers, Operators and Foreman. Metro work, union scale. Hiring/referral bonus program. Call 952/469-2121 or email resume to: info@friedgesinc.com

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

OTR AND REGIONAL

drivers needed for SW MN company. Class A CDL and verifiable experience necessary. Vacation pay. Sign on bonus. Competitive pay. 800/619-0037

SPORTING GOODS

GUN SHOW MARCH 20-22

Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. Free parking. Admission: \$6-14 & Under FREE. Buy/Sell/Trade 608/752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

EDUCATION

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES

Needed. Train at home to process medical billing & insurance claims! No experience needed! Online training at Bryan University! HS diploma/GED & computer/internet needed. 877/259-3880

MISCELLANEOUS

DISH TV RETAILER

Dish TV Retailer -Save! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) Free Premium Movie Channels. Free Equipment, Installation & Activation. Call, compare local deals!! 800/297-8706

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

MISCELLANEOUS

CANADA DRUG CENTER

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Commercial, residential & shop buildings. Economical heating & cooling. Federal tax credits, electric rebates available. Earthloop Geothermal Systems, Fosston 218/435-6379

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

80th BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE
Rosemary Johnson
at the BP Servicemen's Club
March 28, 4 – 8 p.m.



Music by
DJ DAN
No gifts, please.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times 507-583-4431
Always local, all the time.



Senior Apartment Prairie Villa II Blooming Prairie

One Bedroom apartment for elderly or disabled persons

Rent is based on 30% of net income.

Secured entry and convenient lift to second floor.



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Call Baldus Properties LLC
507-437-2074

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., April 2, 2015, 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

3/10,3/17,3/24

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page C6

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cycles/second

4. Fit for cultivation

10. Saami

12. Perceived scent

13. Liberal rights organization

14. Female flying fighters

15. Durham school

16. Ancient Scand. poet

18. Charitable performances

20. Siddhartha author Hermann

21. Letter destination

22. P.S. Buck's Pulitzer

25. Feel regret

26. Initials of e = MC2 author

27. From a distance

29. Cronies

31. Forty

32. Printing speed measurement

33. Nutty spread
40. White seedless grape

41. Hillsides

43. Inflammation of a bursa

44. Artery

45. Nail polish brand

46. A routine that is hard to escape

47. Indigo plant

48. Owners

50. Animal fluids

51. Mustelid in its white winter coat

52. Communist

CLUES DOWN

1. Come into conflict

2. A collection of things wrapped together

3. Bath spatter

4. Gunsmoke actress Blake

5. Direct to a source

6. Cartoonist Capp

7. Somewhat blue

8. 40 weekday periods
9. El Dorado High School (abbr.)

11. Heartbeat

12. Brit. rutabaga

17. Angle (abbr.)

18. Said as a greeting or wish

19. Festivals

23. Rita ____, singer

24. Belonging to us

27. Skating jumps
28. Building at 175 5th Ave.

29. Parts per billion (abbr.)

30. Atomic mass unit

32. Old Spanish currency (abbr.)

33. Insistence on traditional correctness

34. PBS wildlife show

35. Measuring blocks

36. Don't know when yet
37. Ancient city from which St. Paul first sailed

38. Breadwinner

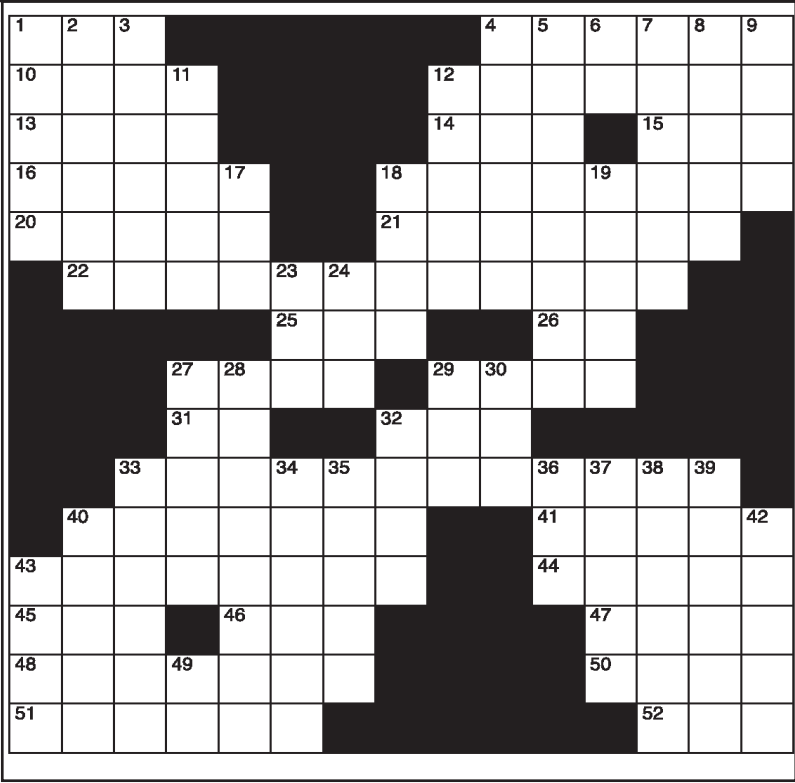
39. Go to bed

40. Highest in degree or quality

42. Tossed, potato or waldorf

43. The trunk of a tree

49. Yes in Spanish



salesopportunity

BUSSLER PUBLISHING is searching for an outside sales executive preferably with some sales experience. Print or media industry experience would be a bonus. We want a dynamite person committed and driven to selling advertising.

The outside executive is responsible for establishing and maintaining profitable relationships with customers on behalf of the company and actively prospecting for new accounts and maximizing sales potential with existing customers. The primary territory would be Owatonna and Medford. This opportunity includes sales for three publications.

The right person should possess the following qualities:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Self motivated, independent and problem-solving
- A strong sales aptitude
- Able to meet monthly, quarterly and annual revenue sales goals
- Strong persuasive and interpersonal skills
- Able to identify and meet customers' needs and requirements

EXCELLENCE is a must for this challenging opportunity. We offer a competitive compensation package, including base salary plus commission. We also offer holidays and paid time off.

Please direct a letter of interest and resume to bprick@frontier.com.

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AGRICULTURE: Sustaining Future Generations

NATIONAL AG WEEK: MARCH 15-21

America’s farmers share a commitment to protecting the land and meeting the demands of a burgeoning population. Farm families are up before the sun, day in and out, to put food on the table for us. Our farmers are sustaining future generations by feeding, fueling and clothing the world.

Ag Day is March 18 so be sure to thank farmers and ranchers every day and especially during Ag Week.

WHAT IS AG DAY?

It’s a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

WHAT IS AG DAY ALL ABOUT?

Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

WHY CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training.

By building awareness, the Agriculture Council of America is encouraging young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture.

Each American farmer feeds more than 144 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Contact the Agriculture Council of America at (913) 491-1895 • www.agday.org.

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Ellendale to vote soon on police contract

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

The Ellendale City Council is set to vote March 26 or April 9 on whether to cancel the city’s daily-coverage contract with the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. Regardless of its decision, many city residents will be dissatisfied. That much was evident at a packed public hearing Thursday night at City Hall. Some of the 25 attendees offered passionate arguments for and against Mayor Mark Skroch’s money-saving proposal to end the city’s pact, under which it pays the Sheriff’s Office about

WHAT’S NEXT

What: The Ellendale City Council will vote within a month on whether to cancel its daily-coverage pact with the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. If it does, it’s required to give the Sheriff’s Office 90 days’ notice.

When: March 26 or April 9.

\$41,000 a year for deputies to be present in the city 2.7 hours a day. Skroch and Sheriff Lon Thiele opened the 35-minute hearing, which preceded the regular council meeting,

offering their own arguments. Skroch said that when one adds up the cost of the contract over a decade, “you’re approaching a half-million dollars. Can you imagine how many streets we could pave, or curb and gutter work (that could be done)?” Thiele replied that the contract costs the city about \$110 a day, characterizing it as a worthy expenditure. “We have effectively made this town enjoyable to be in in terms of public safety, and I think you would go backwards if you terminated this contract,” he said.

NRHEG Superintendent Dennis

Goodwin also spoke in favor of maintaining the contract, saying Ellendale deals with more crime partly because of transients coming from nearby Interstate 35. The mayor replied that deputies are required to respond to Ellendale-area crimes regardless; Thiele added that the average response time from Sheriff’s Office headquarters in Owatonna is 17 minutes. A resident asked about the Sheriff’s Office’s budget. Steele County Commissioner Jim Brady chimed in that it’s

ELLENDALE
Continued on Page 2C

STEELE TALKIN’



Maren DeLaitsch

March is time for green foods

Do you ever have problems getting your children to eat their vegetables? How about you? Are you a good vegetable eater? Well, every March because of St. Patrick’s Day, I think about eating green food. It’s the “kid” in me, I guess. I love making everything green — from following Dr. Suess’ idea for “Green Eggs and Ham” to a favorite lime sherbet dessert.

The greatest challenge with green food on a daily basis, however, seems to start in infancy. For some reason we parents seem to offer sweet potatoes before we’re inclined to offer peas, beans or spinach. And what about salads? Parents tell me they’re afraid kids will choke if they offer leafy greens.

The truth of the matter is, the sooner a child is introduced to a food; the greater likelihood they will eat it. Our WIC nutrition program encourages children to move right on to vegetables as soon as their swallowing mechanism is established on rice cereal. Children as young as 6 months can experience mashed peas and green beans. It’s even better when they see the real green foods on their parent’s plates. If children smell the veggies being cooked, see them on your plates, and get to taste the vegetables that mom and dad are eating — perfect!

As for salads, starting with the crunchier greens and encouraging kids to “eat like a bunny,” makes salad eating safe and fun. Salads are one of the best ways to introduce kids to a variety of vegetables. Around age 3 as they learn their colors, they can also help their parents prepare a “Rainbow Salad” i.e. Add in something red, something yellow, something orange....you get the idea! Children are also more likely to eat what they help cook. So, even though it’s tempting to let them help with baking and stirring a batch of cookies, consider getting them to enjoy being a “Salad Chef” first. It’s great creative fun!

If you still are faced with a vegetable battle, maybe you need a little “Leprechaun Magic” help. A WIC mom from Massachusetts shared this in a newsletter a few years ago. “I grew up in Japan. Meals featured vegetables and very little meat. It’s different here. My son has always been a picky eater. To get him to eat vegetables, I’ve had to become a magician. Every week I concoct my “magic vegetable formula” that ends up in almost every food my children eat. I finely chop the vegetables, and cook or microwave them. Then I add my “magic vegetable formula” to meat loaf, spaghetti sauce, eggs, and other foods. Gradually they are developing a taste for vegetables without even knowing it.”

WIC has some other tips for “going green” and increasing vegetables in your family meals.

You can rename vegetables giving them fun names like “Yummy Beans,” Minnie Trees,” “Red Balloons,” or you can shape them into “Caterpillars” or “Pepper Boats.” Our WIC office has a lending library of children’s cookbooks and the Blooming Prairie Public Library has some great colorful kid’s cookbooks too, for more ideas.

As spring nears, we can start thinking about a vegetable garden, or growing a few veggies in containers for children to pick their own. They see it grow, water it, and harvest it, then they will eat it! WIC has a garden for all our participants to use and we’ll show you how.

May the “Luck of the Irish” be with you this month as you set a goal and “eat more greens,” or throw in a little “Leprechaun magic” to help.

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Maren M. DeLaitsch works with Women, Infant and Children Nutrition for Steele County Public Health.

County to state: Help us rebuild

Official wants money for public works building

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Enough is enough! Steele County Administrator Tom Shea has sent a letter to the Governor’s Office asking for support in including \$6.1 million for the county in a bonding bill to assist with replacing the public works building in Owatonna.

On Friday, County Administrator Tom Shea met with area legislators in St. Paul to discuss including the \$6.1 million in a bonding bill – if one is included this session. A bonding bill is usually done in even-numbered years. However, Shea said there is serious talk about not having a session next year.

“If we don’t have a session next year, we will have a bonding bill,” he said. “If they have a bonding bill, it will happen by May.”

If the county is included in the bonding bill, Shea expects the guaranteed financing would be in place to cover two-thirds to 75 percent of the cost of the building.

Sen. Vicki Jensen is expected to write a bill in the Senate. Shea is talking to Rep. John Petersburg to write a bill in the House.

This year it will have been five years since a major flood destroyed the public works building. Since, county officials have been working with Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to come up with a satisfactory settlement.

In December, Shea said, county officials met with the Homeland Security state office explaining the difficulties they were having in navigating the FEMA process.

“We asked the office of Homeland Security, who does all the submissions for the state, to have everything come through the state office before FEMA,” he said. “One of the things we specifically asked them to do was to work with us before they submitted anything. They have shown that either they are unaware of or misinterpreted FEMA regulations and are not asking the right questions in submitting our requests in the right manner.”

Shea said this is one of the reasons our awards are not what they should be.

“They failed to do that,” he said. “They went ahead and submitted everything to FEMA without consulting with us.”

FEMA has made a final determination of \$1.5 million in total project costs. The total public works project is expected to be close to \$10 million. If the bonding bill for \$6.1 million comes through, the county will pay the remainder of the balance from local funds.



Staff photos by Brian Sandford

Kendyl Sunde said her desire for mints has decreased now that she has learned they don’t actually make things colder. She was among Blooming Prairie Elementary School’s blue ribbon winners in the contest, meaning her project qualifies for the Mankato Regional Science Fair on April 25. For a list of winners, see Page C3.

Youths have projects down to a science

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

Science appeared to be anything but a stuffy subject for Blooming Prairie elementary-schoolers Monday evening in the school’s gymnasium.

At the school’s science fair, fifth-graders waiting for ribbon announcements eagerly discussed what had surprised them most while they were researching their projects. Bobbie Bruns, 11, displayed nine bagged teeth that had been damaged by various beverages as part of her project, titled “This is Why I Brush My Teeth.”

“I learned that Diet Mountain Dew damages teeth most of any of the things I eat,” she said, adding that Coca-Cola is the second-most-damaging drink she tested. Bruns acknowledged that she likes Coke and plans to cut down but not quit.

Kendryl Sunde, 11, tested whether mint-flavored products actually make things colder. She was surprised to learn that when she placed a mint in a glass of water, the water actually got warmer. The result shook her faith in mints; she said she won’t eat them as often anymore.

Fifth-grade teacher Kayla Andrist has organized the fair since her hiring at the school four years ago. She said such fairs are important because students get to experience the scientific method firsthand. Some students also will pursue greater goals as a result; purple ribbon winners



More than 100 parents and students crowded the Blooming Prairie Elementary School gym last Monday for a science fair.

SCIENCE FAIR
Continued on Page 3C

Ex-Marine, now mailman, OK with cold

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Every day of the week Brian Wendel braves the well-below-freezing temperatures so residents of Owatonna can get their mail no matter what the weather conditions may be. Wendel has been a mailman for the Owatonna Post Office for two years and switched over to be full time in November. Before becoming a mailman



Wendel served in the U.S. Marines for five years. “I got out of the Marines and then we moved back here because my wife wanted to be back home for family. I saw a post-

ing of an open position and thought it would be good since military time is federal time and so is the post office so the time can transfer over,” he said. “Plus I enjoy walking around.

It is nice being outside.” In order to become a mailman, Wendel had to first take classes to learn the basics of the job, the different types of mail he would be handling and get an overview of the rules and regulations of the job. He then took a driving course to get used to driving on the opposite side of the vehicle and finally he did a job shadow with another carrier. Wendel now works 40

MY STEELE COUNTY
Continued on Page 2C

CountyLiving

Commissioners set to decide on smoking limits at fair

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

There is excitement in the Steele County Public Health office after the Steele County Free Fair Board recommended designating a smoke-free Steele County Free Fair with the exception of designated smoking areas.

“Fairs are family-friendly events. E-cigarette and tobacco-free fairgrounds show youth

that tobacco use is not healthy,” said Steele County Public Health Educator Jane Nyquist. “It is a positive step in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and the harm associated with it.”

The smoke-free designation must be approved by the Steele County Board of Commissioners. The policy was on today’s agenda.

“The Board of Commission-

ers has the final say because it is on their grounds and buildings,” said Steele County Free Fair Secretary/Manager Jim Gleason. “This is really just during fair week. That is the only thing we addressed.”

The fair board made the decision at its March meeting.

If the county board accepts or approves the recommendation, Gleason said, the fair board will identify two or three areas where

smoking would be allowed.

“It is just a policy,” he said. “We hope it will be self-policing. We felt that was the best way to go.”

Nyquist said it is important to do this because it affects health.

“Secondhand smoke exposure is harmful outdoors, especially in crowded areas such as walkways, the midway, concert and event venues and concession stands,” she said. “At our pub-

lic health booth last summer, we received many complaints about smoking on the fairgrounds.”

She added that an e-cigarette and smoke-free fairgrounds policy reduces the risk of fire and bodily injury. Nyquist mentioned a young girl was burned in the eye by a cigarette at the State Fair in 2012.

“Tobacco litter is a leading source of litter on fair property,” Nyquist said. “This new policy

will protect the environment and beautify the fairgrounds.”

What’s next

What: The Steele County Board of Commissioners is set to discuss a partial ban on smoking at the county fair.

When: 7 p.m. today (Tuesday)

Where: County Boardroom, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna.

MY STEELE COUNTY

Continued from Page 1C

hours weeks and eight-hour shifts. He typically clocks in at 7:30 a.m. and before anything he inspects his van to make sure everything is working properly. He then has to case the mail, in other words he has to sort it and put it into the proper order for his route.

Unlike most carriers, Wendel’s job is different in that he has an unassigned route, which means each day has something new in store for him.

“I kind of pick up the slack and cover the days off of people. It gets kind of boring to do the same thing over and over again so it is kind of nice,” he said.

After the mail is cased, he loads everything into the car around 9 or 10 a.m. and starts out on his route. The majority of his day is spent walking. He parks the van on the side of the street and walks a couple blocks delivering mail and will then return to the van to move it further down the road and repeat the process all over again.

“Every house has a different setup for their mailbox, so the first day is kind of hide-and-go-seek with the mailbox and once you have done it a couple times, you know where they are,” Wendel said. “Some are up on the house, some are on the garage and some you have to open up their screen door and there is a spot on their door.”

Wendel enjoys the job because he gets to spend time outside.

“It is nice being on your own. It’s peaceful and there is no micromanagement,” he said.

The most challenging part for him is the unpredictability of the job due to the weather and the amount of mail varying each day.

Another thing that makes Wendel unique from other mail carriers in



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Brian Wendel, 26, of Owatonna, delivers mail to houses along Austin Road in Owatonna despite the well-below freezing temperatures on Wednesday, March 4. Wendel has been a mailman for two years and switched to full time in November.

the area is his age. He is 26 years old and the average mail carrier in the area is in his or her 50s.

While out on the job Wendel enjoys making small talk with the people he comes into contact with,

however this time of year there are not many people outside.

“Before starting this job I never realized how many people are actually at home during the day. There are a lot of people who are retired

and some will be there waiting for you,” he said. “You get to know people, especially if you are on the same route for years on end.”

Wendel typically doesn’t get back to the post office until around 3:40

p.m. After his job he has his hands full with his two-year old daughter, Lacey, and one-month-old son, Jameson.

Wendel plans to keep braving the elements for years to come so residents of Owatonna can get their mail.

ELLENDALE

Continued from Page 1C

about \$2.5 million a year, with \$2 million dedicated to wages and the rest to equipment and gas.

Audience member Dan Schember stressed the need for lowered costs, saying the average debt owed on each Ellendale

house is about \$17,000.

“Times are changing; we just went through some midterm elections at our national level, and that was pretty much over finances,” he said, adding, “We can’t keep raising taxes. We’ve got to be smarter.”

Audience member Patti Carlson agreed.

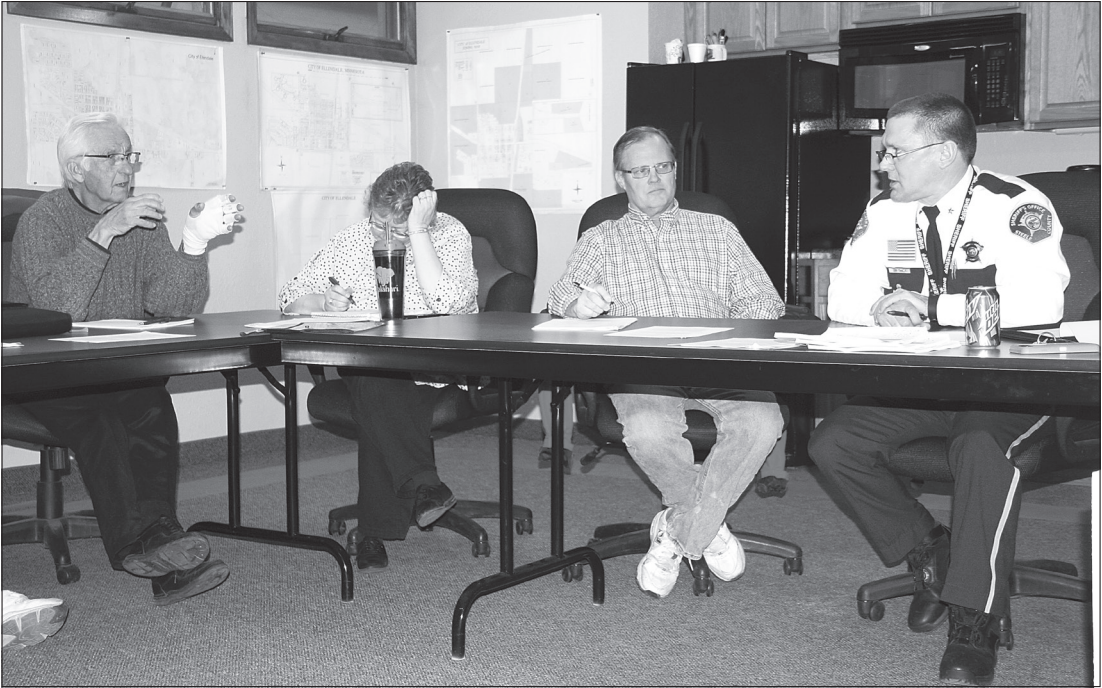
“I just don’t feel that, for a smaller town, it’s cost-effective,” she said of the daily coverage. “Our taxes are too high.”

The mayor mentioned multiple times that neighboring cities don’t have daily-coverage agreements like Ellendale’s. He asked why his city should be different.

The sheriff replied, “I’m a firm believer that if someone sees a squad car in a vicinity, he thinks twice about what he’s going to do. It’s a presence-of-power kind of thing.”

Audience member Steve Engel expressed concern that if the Sheriff’s Office loses \$41,000 in revenue from its Ellendale coverage, it will seek to raise taxes countywide. As a result, he said, the cost savings might end up being less than projected.

Audience member Dean Reiter echoed that, and the sheriff said he couldn’t answer whether costs would rise countywide.



Staff photo by Brian Sandford
Ellendale Mayor Mark Skroch, left, and Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, right, debate the merits of ending the city’s daily-coverage pact with the Sheriff’s Office during a public hearing before Thursday’s City Council meeting.

Peter Paulson said the added law enforcement presence helps prevent people from leaving his liquor store intoxicated.

“Because of the police protection in town, I can say for a

fact that we have had zero DUIs from people leaving the liquor store in Ellendale,” he said. “I cannot say the same for (neighboring towns).”

Thiele said that if the city

ends daily coverage, the Sheriff’s Office might not be able to reply to reports of nuisances such as loud parties or squealing tires.

“I’m not going to leave Ellendale hanging; we’re going to come as much as we can,” he said. “It’s just a matter of where the priorities are.”

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Also Thursday, City Council members:

- OK’d, on a 6-0 vote, use of the city credit card to hold rooms for firefighters attending a state fire convention in St. Cloud.

- Agreed on a 6-0 vote to approach the Steele County auditor about updating an out-of-date assessment on a home on Fifth Street.

- Reviewed a list of bills and OK’d paying everything on the list.

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RECIPE CORNER

Beef Stroganoff

- 1 1/2 to 2 lb. round steak
- Lots of chopped onion
- 1 scant tsp. salt
- 1 can golden mushroom soup
- 1 can of water
- 1 (4oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- Pepper

By Debbie VanRavenhorst

Cut steak into bite-sized pieces. Brown with lots of onion, salt and pepper. Add soup and water. Simmer until tender. Before serving, cut up and blend in 1 package of cream cheese. Serve over rice or noodles.

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Walking track appears out in NRHEG plan; decision set

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

It is looking more like a walking track will not be part of a facilities upgrade in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District. However, the latest scenario presented at a March 9 special board meeting involved six elementary classrooms and a SMART room in the elementary school, an elementary gym with better acoustics and a gym addition in the high school.

At the regular Monday evening NRHEG School Board Meeting, the board members were expected to make a decision on the cost of a facilities up-

grade and to approve a June 9 referendum vote within the school district.

There have been several ideas tossed around at various informational meetings over the past few months including having a walking track as part of the upgrades. However, at a special board meeting on March 9, there was a consensus that the walking track would not be part of the estimated \$15 million to \$17 million project.

With or without a walking track, school board members and those attending the March 9 meeting believe the upgrades will be a great improvement to the school district.

After the meeting, School Board President Rick Schultz said the board

has been leaning toward presenting a specific idea that covers the complete needs of the district for all of the facilities.

“We did a complete district assessment,” Schultz said. The main items that are part of the plan include finding classroom space for Ellendale, as well as address the needs of providing a better performance area for the arts.

“It really came together nicely addressing that complete district-wide need,” Schultz said.

One concern discussed during the March 9 meeting involved addressing parking issues.

Board member Lori Routh stated that one of her concerns is to make the gym

more accessible for the elderly population. She is concerned about walking distance for them. “I worry about not having enough parking,” she said.

Paul Aplikowski of Wold Architects, the firm that has been providing architectural designs of the project, addressed the concern by saying there are not capacity events every day. “Typically you would leverage the parking that you have for part of it,” he said. “Now it is difficult to get to any new gym. You want find some balance to what you have.”

As for a walking track, Aplikowski said it would make sense for buildings that are two stories for two primary reasons. “No doubt physical education

class will find a way to use it. It becomes about the feel of the gym, which is not an insufficient thing,” he said.

He continued, “Most schools now aren’t going to let the community into a building when students are in the building,” he said. “When is it really a community center? If your intentions are to get people into the building there are other things that you can do that have a higher impact.”

Aplikowski said he advises clients during the comprehensive planning that if they can foresee a need within 10 years it is worth thinking about building that space now. “If you don’t foresee the need you are taking a risk in planning that out,” he said.

Videos display students’ limitless potential

If you look on-line, you will find the “kindergarten time capsule” videotaped by teachers Becky Jensen and Shelly Mangskau in the school year 2002-2003. (Search Youtube for NRHEG Class of 2015.) The adorable youngsters to be seen there are this year’s graduating class. It is positively astounding to see those young children and compare them to the accomplished young adults they have become. Among them are members of our state championship girls’ basketball team, performers in our one-act play, students who continuously strive to earn strong grades, members of our trap shooting team, and trusted employees at businesses of every type all around our area.

The charming kindergarteners in that video, and in those from previous years which have also been posted online, are living demonstrations of the limitless potential our children represent.

For me, as a steward of public education for our district, they are also a statement of the challenges we face. Most of you reading this can recall all the celebration and excitement in 1999 leading up to the new millennium. Remember the anticipation, and the sense of privilege for being in the right place in history to experience not only a change in century, but from the one-thousands to the two-thousands ... the concern that computers would crash because

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dennis Goodwin

they wouldn’t know how to handle the change? It doesn’t seem that long ago, does it? Many of us still have specially printed dishes in our cupboards that commemorate the event.

But guess what? Most of the students in our school buildings are younger than those dishes, and they are very much children of the new millennium.

The opportunities and challenges of the future have always been similar to the horizon, persistently moving and shifting ahead of us. But for members of the current generation, it seems boundaries are expanding more quickly than ever. They live in an increasingly global society, where the advances of technology allow information to spread worldwide nearly instantly; where the pool of applicants for any job might come from anywhere on the planet; where change is the only constant.

This gives our schools the task of nurturing flexible, observant,

capable individuals who can easily recognize their personal strengths and capitalize on them. Equally importantly, it requires us to help them build a sense of balance that will steady them in the myriad of possibilities.

As I mentally review the wide range of interests and abilities which have already manifested among our students and alumni, I am astounded. Actors, musicians, a young man who has won awards for his ability as a mechanic, highly regarded athletes, educators, and business people; the list couldn’t be more varied if our communities were ten times their size. I can’t help thinking that we need to do even more to help assure that current and future students have the opportunity to keep reaching for their dreams.

Most of you are aware, of course, that the school district is planning to ask for funding to expand our facilities. Additional classrooms in Ellendale would allow for more flexible instruction, especially for the opportunity to provide enhanced learning for those students who show strengths in particular subject areas. Expanded and enhanced facilities in the New Richland building would provide growing room for many of our endeavors, including hands-on courses like woods and mechanics; for our athletic programs; and for performances by students in our music and drama offerings.

From my perspective, these improvements are not simply “helpful”. They’re necessary. Time is flying; the next thing we know, we’ll be watching the kindergarten time capsule for the class of 2028. I want them to remember coming of age with a range of opportunities and offerings that allowed them to fulfill their potential ... which, based on the people who have come before them, is invaluable.

My biggest thought is that we have to keep chasing the horizon; we have to determine what helps our students most, and do more of it. Our programs and offerings must remain flexible and forward-looking, for the sake of helping our students find themselves and continue building their futures. I have been working with members of our community who want to find programs and systems which incorporate student learning with real-life experience. Teachers have come to me with plans for new classes and extra-curricular activities to broaden our students’ opportunities. These conversations have already led to a number of new class offerings and programs.

I am pleased to speak with all parties who have the interests of our students at heart, and to consider how their ideas can benefit learning and personal growth. The more the better. After all, we have a horizon to catch.

Benefit to help young victim of farm accident

People will have a chance to help a young girl who lost her arm in a farm accident in rural Steele County last fall.

The benefit for Dana Standke will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale. There will be a pancake breakfast at the school, along with a bake sale, silent auction and live auction. A free-will offering will be taken.

Fareway Foods of Owatonna is helping out by donating



Standke

to the benefit.

Proceeds from the benefit will help the family with medical bills.

Standke, a fifth-grader in Ellendale, is the daughter of Shelly Standke and Dan Enzenauer.

Student of the Week

Maverik Bueltel is our NRHEG Student of the Week.

He is in Mrs. Freeman's fourth-grade class. He is the son of Ben and Karen Bueltel and they reside in New Richland. Maverik enjoys football, wrestling, swimming and playing video games.

Maverik recently moved to New Richland. This is his first year at NRHEG.

He exemplifies Panther Pride in every way and we are extremely lucky to have gained such a great student and kid. He is a great friend and always gives 100 percent in class. He shows respect daily to his friends and to our building. Great job Maverik!



Student of the Week is sponsored by:

Menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
Mar 17: Breakfast Pizza
Mar 18: Banana Bread
Mar 19: Pancakes, Sausage
Mar 20: Long John
Mar 23: French Toast Sticks
Mar 24: Bagels, Yogurt
Mar 25: Cinnamon Roll

NRHEG Lunch Menu
Mar 17: BBQ or Plain Chicken on Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Fresh Veggies, Diced Pears, Rice Crispy Bar
Mar 18: Beef Taco w/Topplings, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Applesauce
Mar 19: Hamburger Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, Diced Peaches, String Cheese
Mar 20: Italian Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce, Peas, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges
Mar 23: Chicken Quesadilla w/toppings, Cooked Carrots, Celery Sticks, Applesauce
Mar 24: Hot Dog or Brat on a Bun, Chicken Noodle Soup, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges
Mar 25: BBQ or Plain Pork on a Bun, French Fries, Peas, Diced Peaches, Fresh Fruit

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MedfordLiving

Residents could have new electric provider soon

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Medford residents covered by Alliant Energy could have a new electric provider within three months if everything goes as planned.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, SWCE, is in the process of acquiring Alliant Energy's territory, the company that currently serves the majority of Medford. The company mainly serves Iowa and Wisconsin, but also has service area in southern Minnesota.

Syd Briggs, general manager of SWCE, says this process started three years ago when other cooperatives in the state started having conversations about teaming up to purchase Alliant's territory that was located within their own. Twelve electric distribution cooperatives formed the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative, SMEC, to act as a single point of contact for Alliant.

"We knew the territory and we knew that Alliant's territory was within each one of those 12 cooperatives. We saw an opportunity to just ask Alliant if they were interested in it," Briggs said. "We average about five meters per mile and Alliant's density is higher than that because they have little concentration but a huge distance in between those concentrations."

Briggs added, "We knew it was within arms and anytime we can increase the electric meters for our own personal territory it helps us on spreading out fix calls, manager our calls and keep them lower than what they normally would be."

Two years ago SMEC started having

"WE ARE HOPING FOR APPROVAL IN 60 TO 90 DAYS."

- SWCE General Manager
Syd Briggs

conversations with Alliant and around a year and a half ago they came up with a tentative agreement and have been in the approval process ever since.

"They saw a way to get rid of the territory that is hard for them to get to," he said. Briggs estimates that Alliant's total meters in southern Minnesota is only about four percent of their total nationwide.

Some of the benefits of the acquisition would include delivering electricity to an additional 43,000 electric accounts throughout southern Minnesota, adding up to 70 employees from Alliant to the cooperatives and spreading out fixed costs over more member-owners.

SWCE has already held three public hearings, all of which were strongly in favor of the acquisition according to Briggs. They recently presented the acquisition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and are waiting for a ruling. They also are awaiting approval on Alliant's side from the Iowa Public Utilities Commission.

"We are hoping for approval in 60 to 90 days. It could take longer, but that is what we are hoping for," Briggs said.

If the acquisition goes through, Alliant customers' rates will stay the same

for three years and they will be invited to become members entitling them to voting rights, board representation and the opportunity to earn capital credits.

"For three years Alliant's customers rates will stay the same, they won't change at all. That gives us a chance to work the system, collect data on the system and gives us a buffer before any decisions are made," Briggs said. "We can get some good hard data before we change anything."

During those three years the cooperatives will hold a formal service study to determine what should happen with the rates.

Briggs added another benefit for Medford residents specifically is that they will have a local electric provider.

"It means that their utilities will be 10 miles away. They will have local representation on the board and input in anything that we do. Their general manager will now live in Owatonna. They can come see me anytime they want, we can discuss finances, we can discuss rates and we can talk about construction plans," he said.

SWCE, which has been around for 79 years, has almost 2,000 meters and primarily serves Rice, Steele and Waseca counties, but also serves six bordering counties. The cooperative has 30 employees and is regulated by its members, versus other electric companies who are regulated by the public utilities commission.

Mayor Lois Nelson says the city has already been working with the cooperative for some time now and developed a good relationship with them.

"We look forward to the total service area after years with Alliant. Steele-Waseca has served the city on both our east side around the school with the Oakridge and Scenic Heights Developments as well as the west side with all our commercial properties so we have had a good working relationship with them for a number of years," Nelson said. "We realize that Steele-Waseca has several programs that are tied to economic development which we hope to also take advantage of once we are fully serviced by them."

Nelson added her only concern about the acquisition, which some residents have also brought to her attention, is the fact that residents may have to pay more for electricity.

"Since it's a smaller cooperative electricity is going to cost our residents more. I am hopeful that eventually the base rate can be reduced somewhat because the Steele-Waseca area is expanding so they will have more customers with the addition of Medford as well as Ellendale," Nelson said.

The city of Medford will host an open house for residents to hear from staff from SWCE at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 23, at city hall. During the open house residents can get more information about the possible acquisition, ask questions and learn more about SWCE.

"We will talk about how this started, the process and what we have gone through, the timeframe, the rates staying the same, the services we offer, who we are and how we are organized and how each member can be involved in their electric company," Briggs said.

Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

Mar 17: WG Waffle Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 18: Apple Bosco Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 19: Yogurt W/fruit and graham crackers OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 20: Turkey Sausage Biscuit OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 23: Banana Chocolate Chip, Hard Boiled Egg OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 24: WG French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Mar 25: Iced WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly/Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit /Juice, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

Mar 17: Beefy Nachos with Homemade Cheese Sauce, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Harvest Chicken Salad, Spicy Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

Mar 18: Rotini with Meatsauce, Garlic Breadstick, Deli Sub, Chef Salad, Roasted Broccoli, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit

Mar 19: Chicken & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Taco Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Diced Beets, Choice of Fruit

Mar 20: Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Tomato Soup, Turkey Or Tuna Flatbread, Garden Vegetable Salad, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Mar 23: Crispy Corn Dog, Combo Sliders, Turkey BLT Salad, Calico Bean Bake, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Mar 24: Chicken Tenders, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Cravin' Craisin Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Choice of Fruit

Mar 25: Pizza Parlor, Cheese Pizza, Turkey Sub, Chef Salad, Green Beans, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

How do we achieve goals? Here are strategies

In an earlier article, I highlighted the new Aims for Medford Schools, which have been by the Medford School Board:

- Assure High Achievement for All Students
- Utilize Educational Best Practices with All Staff
- Provide a Safe and Welcoming Atmosphere for Everyone

I would like to share some of the many ways that we are working together to achieve the first

of these goals, including some strategies that we're using to "Assure High Achievement for All Students". This means that we have high expectations for every learner, and will provide the support and opportunities necessary for every student to reach their potential. One strategy that we use across all grade levels is to utilize educational data as the foundation around which we base our decisions

MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Rich Dahman

for curriculum and instruction. Teachers work collaboratively with their peers in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to examine student data (both grade-level and individual) and determine areas that need to be addressed. They then use the data to plan, develop, and deliver lessons and assessments to improve student achievement.

Another strategy we're using to prepare all students for successful lives after high school is to develop individualized education plans for all students. In grades K-6, Principal Ristau and the Medford Elementary School staff use data to develop individual growth plans for each student. In grades 7-12, our new Ramp Up to Readiness program involves efforts from our entire

high school staff, and is led by our Ramp Up Coordinator (Ms. Wagner), Guidance Counselor (Ms. Routh), and High School Principal (Mr. Ovrebø). Teachers, during our Ramp Up Advisory time, work with the students in their advisory group to develop individual post-secondary plans, which detail the steps needed to prepare each student for college and/or careers after high school.

In addition to the planning and instruction that is done with all students, two other ways that Medford Schools ensure that all students reach their potential are to provide additional assistance for students who have not met their standards, and to incorporate more challenging curriculum for students who have met their grade-level standards.

In Medford Elementary School, math and reading specialists are utilized to provide additional instruction for students who need additional time or support. While this additional instruction is taking place, classroom teachers are able to provide more challenging activities for other students. Students in grades 1-6 also have the opportunity to take part in our High Potential Learning Program (HPLP) after school.

There is also extra support offered for students in grades 7-12, both in their classrooms and through intervention classes. High school students who are up for more challenging courses are able to register for many courses which provide the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit.

One of the ways in which we measure our success in this area is by our performance on statewide assessments. During March and April, Medford students will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) in Reading, Math, and Science. One of our goals is to have all grade levels perform above the state average on all tests.

Another assessment coming up this spring will be on April 28, as all juniors in Minnesota, including those at Medford High School, will take the ACT+Writing test. This is the first year the state has mandated the test for all juniors and students will receive a college reportable score as a result. This will provide us with a good picture of the college readiness of our juniors and allow us to improve instruction by looking for areas we can improve. We hope this will encourage students that may not have taken the ACT due to cost to consider applying to college and seeking education beyond high school.

Our Aims are not achievable without the efforts of all of our stakeholders, including all school staff members, parents and students, and the entire Medford community. By working together, we are able to assure high achievement for all students at Medford Schools.

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OwatonnaLiving

OHS Book Club promotes reading to youngsters

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Every Monday students in the Owatonna High School Book Club meet up in the OHS library to discuss what they read, but every now and then the group strays from its routine to give back to others in the community who are in need.

Last week students in the club worked alongside students of the Key Club, a student-run volunteer organization, to hand-make 15 blankets to be given to families from the Owatonna School District that are in need.

“I thought it would promote reading to younger kids and I knew how to sew so I thought I could teach the other kids and have them give some of their time to others,” said Book Club advisor Pat Wall.

For the past two years the club has made quilts, but decided to switch to the tie blankets this year because they can be made quicker and more students know how to make them.

Every blanket is folded up and a book is placed inside along with the message “It is never too early to start reading to your child.”

Last year the club also participated in the From the Heart Race by setting up a water station for the incoming runners.

Wall says they typically do one community service project a year; however, she would like to see the club do more even though they have little to no budget.

The book club currently has around 12 students and meets every Monday from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

“It is really to promote reading, gets them to know other kids and to just have fun,” Wall said.

Wall founded the club in 2009 after moving to Owatonna from a school in Michigan where she advised a similar club. The idea was to create a club for those students who might not fit in to the other clubs.

Although the group primarily reads fiction, they will explore other genres if the members want



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

to do so. Typically the group reads one book a month with the goal of reading 100 pages per week.

“We ask them to read but if they don’t that is OK, too,” Wall said.

The club starts in mid-September and will go until they finish their last book sometime in May.

Wall says she enjoys being the advisor because it allows her to get to know the students and read books that she normally wouldn’t have picked herself.

Junior Elizabeth Ripple has been in the club for three years.

Her freshman year, when she was exploring the different club offerings, her love of reading made the Book Club seem like a perfect fit.

“I love talking to other people

about books and trying different genres,” she said.

Ripple says the one thing that sets the club apart from other clubs are the characters in the club.

“Alone a lot of us are pretty quiet and the typical nerds who are quiet, reserved and always have our noses stuck in a book but when we come together it is the weirdest thing ever. We are all of a sudden very hyper, we can’t focus on anything, and we talk about the book we are reading and then another book,” she said.

Besides developing friendships with people who have similar interests with her, she enjoys the community service aspect of the club because it encourages kids to read.

“A lot of kids don’t read. I work at the public library and when someone comes in and asks me for a book I get so excited. Reading is such an important thing,” Ripple said. “When I was little I couldn’t read very well and it impacts your schooling so much. Reading is a foundation for all education and so by doing this we are hoping to not only promote reading, but also education and in turn improve the lives of children.”

Sophomore Lydia Revier has been in the club for two years.

“I saw a table at the activities fair and noticed that they had read some books that I liked so I thought it would be a good place to find more books that I like,” she said. “I had a lot of fun last year so I came back this year.”

Revier enjoys all aspects of the club including the reading component, eating food, watching movies that go along with the books, playing games and making the blankets.

“I think it is important that people feel encouraged to read and that is part of what this project does,” she said.

Revier thinks the one thing that sets the club apart from others is its non-commitment feel.

“A lot of activities are competition or you are performing, but here there is not any of that commitment. You just come here, you have fun, you talk about a good book, you go home and your read if you want to or not if you are just not feeling it that day and you come back and participate,” she said.

News briefs

Fish dinner benefit set for March 20

The Knights of Columbus Lenten benefit fish dinner will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the KC Hall in Owatonna.

The “All you care to eat” dinner will be served in the KC Hall and in the Lounge and features baked and fried fish, whipped potatoes with country gravy, vegetable, roll, coleslaw, coffee and milk.

Cost is \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door, with children under the age of 6 eating free. Advance tickets can be purchased from the Medford Knights of Columbus or the Medford Catholic Daughters of America members and at the KC Hall, 820 S Elm Ave.

Waffle brunch March 22 at VFW

A breakfast brunch, featur-

ing all-you-can-eat Dad’s Belgian waffles and sausage, will be served as a Kiwanis fundraiser from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sunday, March 22 at the Owatonna VFW Club, 135 Oakdale St. Proceeds will benefit student scholarships and many local community service needs.

Clubs serving are the Kiwanis Golden K, Kiwanis Noon Club and the Owatonna High School Kiwanis Key Club.

Advance sale tickets at \$6.50 are available from Kottke Jewelers and Kiwanis Club and Key Club members. Tickets sold at the door are \$7.50.

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Weekly crossword on Page 7B

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Staff photos by James Knoop
Kayla Kniefel (front to back), Meagan Nowariak, Erica Paley, Krista Kniefel, Annabelle Wellnitz and Sophia Paley skate in Saturday’s “Once Upon a Blade” performance.

Skaters venture into storybook land

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

OWATONNA FIGURE SKATING CLUB

- Established in 1977.
- Nonprofit organization made up of skaters ranging from age three to over 40.
- Mission is to promote and provide recreational opportunities in the sport of ice skating.
- There are five coaches and around 20 skaters in the learn-to-skate program.
- Club skates at Four Seasons Complex.

and then back to the Lion King,” she said.

She also really enjoyed the PAN number.

“I literally started tearing up. For a lot of them this is their first time working together in a big group and seeing all of them being able to skate that number is so beautiful. It is amazing,” she said.

Seventh-grader Erica Paley has been skating with the club since the second grade. She skated in four numbers including a step out solo performance during the Harry Potter number.

“The show is a great chance for us to be able to show off our skills and have a little fun. It is nice for the people to come and see what the talent in town is like,” she said.

Paley’s favorite number was PAN because she liked the costumes, music and choreography. The biggest challenge for her this year was getting ready in the four weeks.

“Every year we only have so much time to work on the show so we really have to make every minute count,” she said.

Eighth-grader Anabelle Wellnitz has been skating with the club since the fourth grade. She skated in five numbers including a solo to a song from the movie Brave.

Wellnitz says she enjoys the ice show because she gets to skate with the other skaters.

“I like that we get to skate with everyone in the skating club because we don’t get to do that that often,” she said.

Wellnitz said this year’s show was bigger from last year’s because they had more props and numbers. She really liked this year’s theme and choreography.



Above and below, Annabelle Wellnitz skates to the theme song from “Brave” during the Owatonna Skating Club’s “Once Upon a Blade” show, containing many classic songs from Walt Disney movies.

Her favorite number was also PAN because “I really like the choreography because I have never done some of the things that are in there. It is fun and new,” she said.

Wellnitz says the most challenging part for her was remembering everything such as what choreography goes with what number and which costume goes with which number.

Fifth-grader Afton Iverson has skated with the club since the first grade. She skated in six numbers, but her favorite number was the number with the hockey boys because it was something new.

Iverson says she likes doing the show because everyone from the club and skate school gets to participate.

“We get to show off our moves to the little girls and they get to see what they can do when they are older,” she said.



2015 township election results

Last week townships in Steele County held elections for their open positions. Here is a recap of what happened in each election.

Blooming Prairie Township had the highest voter turn out in all of the Steele County townships with 142 votes. Jerry Wencil won the chairman position with 106 votes over Jim O’Connor

with 32 votes and Tom Trotman with three votes. Doug Krell won the supervisor position with 111 votes over T.J. Kartes with 28 votes and Trent Kartes with one vote. Lastly, Katie Zipse won the treasurer position with 120 votes over Monica Anderson with three votes and Carmen Krell with one vote.

Clinton Falls Township had 12 voters. Darren Hagen took the chairman position with all 12 votes along with Treasurer Cynthia Johnson, who also took all 12 votes.

Medford Township had 15 voters. Ben McAdams won the supervisor position with all 15 votes along with Jan Svenby as treasurer who also got all 15 votes.

Meriden Township had 35 voters. Keith Dinsc took the supervisor position with 28 votes over Mike Lassen’s seven votes. David Mueller took the treasurer position with all 35 votes.

Owatonna Township had a total of 13 voters. Jerry Katzung took the chairman position with all 13 votes and Dan Stursa took

the treasurer position with 12 votes.

Somerset Township had a total of 10 voters. Tom Haberman took the supervisor position and Becca Sletten took the treasurer position, both with all 10 votes.

Summit Township had 10 voters. Larry Klocek took the supervisor position and Wayne Pobberstein took the treasurer position, each with all 10 votes.

Aurora Township had 33 voters. Keven Loken took the supervisor position with 32 votes and Milt

Ebeling took the treasurer position with 32 votes.

Havanna Township had 41 voters. Julie Mussman took the chairman position with 30 votes over Dave Hamer with 10 votes and Roger Carrol with one vote. Steven Dornquist took the treasurer position with 38 votes.

Lemond Township had 14 voters. Dale Johnson took the supervisor position with all 14 votes along with Jenelle Olson who took the treasurer position with all 14 votes.

Berlin Township had 34 voters.

Charles Crabtree took the supervisor position with 23 votes over Randy Schott with 11 votes. Pat Motl took the treasurer position with all 34 votes.

Deerfield Township had a total of 22 voters. Karl Buscho took the supervisor position and Brian Karne took the treasurer position, both with all 22 votes.

Merton Township had 10 voters. Gene Peterson took the chairman position and Janet Springer took the treasurer position, both with all 10 votes.

— Shannon Kinley

“My dad was our center of gravity, so it kind of uprooted us and we all had to learn how to be a family again ...”
— Callan Paffrath

Life renewed at family business

Shop operators unite after an untimely death

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

A tragedy that would typically cause a store to close for good has had the opposite effect on the Paffrath family, owners of Paffrath Jewelers in Owatonna. They have pulled together to overcome an untimely death and are stronger than ever.

Callan Paffrath represents the fourth generation to be involved in the store. Callan has many fond memories of growing up in the store.

“I remember coming into the store during the Christmas season when I was really little and getting tips from the customers for wrapping their Christmas presents for them... I remember sitting behind the counter and pretending to polish things when he (employee Joel Earls) was actually polishing things... I remember sitting by the engraving machine and throwing the disks around when I shouldn’t have been... I remember taking home Christmas presents for my mother when I shouldn’t have,” Callan recalled.

Earls has been an employee of the store since 1991 and recalled the time when Callan took home a \$4,000 gift from the store to give to her mother for Christmas. It happened to be a gift that belonged to a customer and her father, Ted, was panicking because he couldn’t find it. On Christmas morning she brought it out for her mother to unwrap and what was once a scary situation turned into a funny story.

The store originated in Willmar, Minnesota, in 1926 and has been in Owatonna since the 1970s. The store has been at its current location on Bridge Street next to Torey’s Restaurant & Bar for 15 years.

Callan knew she wanted to pursue a career in retail and one day return to take the business over from her father. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout, pursuing a degree in retail merchandising, and after graduation went to work at Jared-Galleria of Jewelry in Burnsville because Ted wanted her to get some outside experience.

Callan was only there for about a year when she had to come back home to take on the business after her father passed away. A little over a year and a half ago, Ted was cutting down a tree when part of the tree he was cutting fell on top of him and broke his neck.

“My dad was our center of gravity, so it kind of uprooted us and we all had to learn how to be a family again, but we did and we are definitely stronger than we have ever been before,” Callan said. “As a store it was very hard. Personally I didn’t understand how much the community loved him so it was hard stepping into such big shoes, but he prepared me my whole life for this, and I didn’t even know it.”

Callan says they have received an outpouring of support from the community and had many customers thank them for remaining strong and retaining the integrity of the store and the family’s legacy.

“It used to be hard every day, but I have found therapy in being in the store every day because I hear different stories. I hear things about my dad that I never knew all the time and I’ve learned to just smile and laugh about



Top, merchandise at Paffrath Jewelers in Owatonna is shown. Above, Callan Paffrath, co-owner of Paffrath Jewelers, helps customer Tiffany Bjorge custom-design an anniversary ring that will incorporate both of her children.



Joel Earls works on re-pronging a piece of jewelry. Earls has worked at the store since September 1991.

it, be happy and live in his memories,” Callan said.

Callan says she still has some sad days but the family copes by communicating, loving and smiling because they are all still around to support each other.

Callan’s two main focuses for the store are custom design and bridal jewelry. By the end of the month they will have a new line called Bridal Bells, making them have one of the largest bridal selections in southern Minnesota.

“Our purpose is to really make that connection with the customer and to really make it a lifelong relationship. We are not here just to sell you the most expensive thing in the store. I want to make sure that you feel like you got what is best for you and your

relationship,” Callan said.

The store also has on site repair, sells Pandora jewelry and various other jewelry including birthstone jewelry, anniversary rings, baby merchandise, diamond earrings, bracelets and religious jewelry.

Callan feels the one thing that sets their store apart from others is their approachability.

“We are extremely outdoorsy down to earth people. You can sit here and talk to Joel about dog training, you can talk to me about motorcycles... you can talk to us about anything it doesn’t even have to be about jewelry. We are a part of the community and we have been here all our lives. We don’t come here and try to be somebody that we are not,” Callan said. “We have a lot of heart behind the things we sell. We are

trying to make you happy, we are not trying to make you buy something that you don’t need.”

Callan enjoys continuing her family’s legacy because she not only gets to be creative, but also gets to hear stories from all the customers.

“I get to be a part of something that is so much bigger than myself. I am lucky to say that I love coming to work every day, I love who I work with, I love what I do and not many people can say that,” she said. “It is a really special feeling to be able to say that I am fourth generation in a Jewelry store.”

Callan’s hope for the future is that they continue to be successful and grow over the years with the hopes of one day expanding to be even bigger, possibly a stand-alone store.

Customer comments

Customer Alex Terhaar grew up in Wayzata, Minnesota, and has been a customer of the company for four years. He found out about the store after he met Callan in college.

He recently surprised his girlfriend with an engagement ring that they custom designed.

“I had done no research and just asked for a few hip options. They texted me some pictures (he currently lives in Arizona) and they always go above and beyond when I call in and need something or have a question,” Terhaar said. “Not many stores will really go out of their way for every customer. Many of my friends have had great experiences there as well.”

Customer Tiffany Bjorge grew up in Owatonna and her and her parents have been customers of the Paffraths for many years. Bjorge’s sister is actually Callan’s best friend.

Bjorge recently visited the shop to design a special anniversary or mothers ring incorporating both of her children into it.

“I like to give back to the community. She is like family. It is not just another chain jewelry store,” Bjorge said.

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Celebrate National Agriculture Day March 17

D Section

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Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Understand agriculture with a simple vision and mission

Minnesota Ag in the classroom has been around since 1985

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The Minnesota Agriculture in Classroom program has a very simple vision and a very simple mission.

The vision states that “agriculture is valued by all,” and the mission says “increasing agricultural literacy through K-12 education.”

Alan Withers, who is the program director for Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, said we are empowering agriculture through our materials. “Our market is K-12 and is heavy into science, social studies and language arts,” he said. “We’ve tried to provide materials in various formats so teachers can look at our menu.”

More educators are using the program because there are less youth coming from farms, Withers said. “Our materials have become of more interest to the high school,” he said.

This week is National Ag Week across the nation. National Ag Day is being celebrated on Wednesday, March 18. National Ag Day is meant to honor the American farmer.

History dates back to 1985

The Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom is a program that has helped Americans understand the farming community. It has been part of a national network since 1981 when the program was initiated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 1985, the state of Minnesota hired Withers to start a program in Minnesota. He has been the only program director and is the longest

standing program director in the nation. In 2011, he was able to hire Sue Knott as an education specialist.

“There was a lot of momentum of teachers in public valuing agriculture, wanting to be closer to it, getting better connected and learning more about it,” Withers said.

The program also provides professional development for teachers. Knott spends time at colleges and universities training teachers.

Minnesota Ag in the Classroom has a website that offers educators various resources including lessons, Ag links and a place to order materials. Possibly the most popular information comes from AgMag and AgMag Junior.

The AgMag is produced and distributed three times each school year and is geared for use in grades 4-6. It has content for Minnesota geography and history, current events, science and factual reading. Part of our job is to give students a frame of reference where Ag was and where Ag is today. “We have to give them a historical reference,” he said.

Withers stated that in a survey last year many saw it as a source of accurate information about agriculture.

Educating students for past 12 years

Jennifer Hansen, a sixth-grade teacher at Willow Creek, has been using the materials for the past 12 years.

“I love it. I grew up in Owatonna,” she said. “My friends and family are involved in Ag-related jobs and farming.”

Each sixth-grade teacher at Willow Creek uses AgMag.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Emma Christianson waters tomatoes in the greenhouse at the garden outside of the Blooming Prairie High School last year. Christianson was part of the Garden Club.

Hansen said the material makes the teacher’s job easier because there is very little preparation. “It is so well laid out,” she said.

She became involved in the program after attending a Minnesota Council for Social Studies conference and having her first chance of meeting Withers who was showing the Ag in the Classroom materials at the conference.

“I got involved with AI and have been able to the materials right into the classroom with what I am doing,” she said. “The materials are really well done. It is a great way for students to see how agriculture impacts their lives every day in every way.”

And that is what makes the program successful. It provides the students an understanding of how agriculture works and provides them a greater awareness of the agriculture business. In addition, the youth who are in the agricultural field are able to step up and take leadership roles in the classroom.

“Sixth graders are learning more about what the agriculture field is about – where food comes from, how the food gets to them and how agriculture impacts their own personal life,” Hansen said.

She adds that her job is to teach youth about Minnesota. “Minnesota is an Ag-based state. Owatonna is an Ag-based community,” Hansen said. “They need to know where food, clothing, fibers and paper are coming from. All are Ag-related products.”

School gardens taking off

One item that has been taking off in school districts because of Minnesota Ag in the Class-

room program is school gardens. “Last year we did a comprehensive guide with 31 plant science lessons in it,” Withers said. “It is a launching pad for learning about plant systems. Part of it is developing ownership skills and responsibility among kids.”

Each teacher has a different way of using agriculture in the classroom. Through the

lessons banks, there are 100 lessons ready to go. “We look at it as giving a market basket of materials,” Withers said. “They can figure out how they want to bring Ag into context of their class.”

The job of the Ag in the Classroom program is to help educators see how agriculture impacts everyday life involving food, clothing,

shelter and substance. “They’ve now become engaged. They want to learn more about what food comes from and the processing pieces of it,” Withers said. “Ag fits the trend for STEM education. Certainly when you look at the academic standards you can fit agriculture into lots of places in social studies, science and language arts.”

The recent Ag magazine survey showed that 65 percent use it in social studies and 35 percent use it in science.

“We absolutely listen to our market,” Withers said.

For more information about Minnesota Ag in Classroom visit the website at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us>.



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Home Show soon in Steele

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The current farm bill, unmanned aerial vehicles and irrigation and drainage are just a few of the many topics farmers and ranchers will be discussing at the upcoming North American Farm and Home Show.

The event will be held March 19-21 at the Four Seasons Centre on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna. On March 19-20, the event will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day the doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be exhibits on new farm and ranch technology, feed and seed data, building technology, free educational seminars, field sprayers and planting updates and drainage and tile management.

"Like all of our farm shows we bring together farmers and ranchers from a five-state region to have exhibitors talk to them and get ideas," said Steve Guenther, show director for TradeExpos. "Farmers and ranchers look at new products and equipment."

One of the highlights of the farm and home show involves seed companies. Seed companies have been instrumental in developing seeds to resistance including those through droughts, Guenther said. "There have been a lot of strides made in the last 15 to 20 years," he said. "It is no secret there are a lot of people to feed. The Midwest is the breadbasket and is a leader in safe food production."

While there are a few different exhibitors participating, the show is sold out. There will be 236 exhibitors in the facility. In addition, several seminars will be held throughout the three days to discuss the farming industry and several hot topics.

"Everyone wants to be educated," Guenther said.

One of those hot topics is unmanned aerial vehicles. "It is a huge business now and there is a lot of interest in it," Guenther said.

Another interesting topic involves irrigation and drainage. Guenther said tiling is a big industry. "It is a proven fact that tiling helps crop production," he said.

And then there is the current farm bill; an issue that Guenther said is taking farmers 2-3 hours just to go through a few pages to figure out what it means.

One of the major seminars involves farm estate planning. "It is no secret that it is an aging farming community," Guenther said. "The last 15 years, those ages 55 to 65 realize there are a lot of dollars invested and they want to know how to pass that on to their kids and do it properly so nobody has to pay huge taxes. It is very important."

Hansen said he learned early on that there is a right way and a wrong way to do things, and one might as well just do it the right way. "I always had it hammered into me to have all of your ducks in a row," he said, adding he has always been very detail oriented.

He credits his parents as well as Tilleras and Tande for teaching him the importance of education. Hansen said it was stressed to him from an early age to not just float through life, but to do something with it.

And Hansen has.

After graduating from Blooming Prairie in 1969, Hansen achieved a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Minnesota in 1973. He



obtained a master's degree in 1978 and his doctor of philosophy in animal breeding from Iowa State University in 1981.

He has been a professor of animal science at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus for the past 33 years. He focuses solely on dairy cattle in his classes, which Hansen says isn't all that common for college professors.

Hansen teaches a semester course in dairy cattle genetics that is comparable in only one other university in the entire country. As a result of his excellent teaching skills, many of the geneticists in dairy cattle breeding companies are U of M graduates.

In addition to teaching, he coaches the university's dairy cattle judging team. The team has competed in 20 contests over the past five years and placed in the top five in the national contest. The team has captured first place in eight of the 20 contests.

As part of the judging teams, members must give oral reasons presentations outlining why they picked the animals they did. The success of the team has come from Hansen's teaching, knowledge and ability to impart enthusiasm to team members.

With the judging team, Hansen said he has "recruited and worked with top kids to make the world a better place."

Ironically, Hansen is being inducted into the Hall of Fame along with the man who was his dairy judging coach from earlier years. Joe Stransky of Owatonna was Hansen's coach during his 4-H days in Steele County.

Hansen also is the advisor for the Gopher Dairy Club, which he organized 30 years ago. The student organization has the largest membership in the country.

The professor is a noted researcher in dairy genetics, focusing on the potential of



crossbreeding. Hansen has spoken on the topic across the world, including 24 different countries.

"I've left a mark in dairy research," Hansen said. "I'm competitive and I am not complacent," he added.

He has received numerous teaching awards over the years.

At 63 years old, Hansen, who is an avid runner, loves his job

in the classroom and has no plans to retire until at least 70.

Said Hansen: "I'm so blessed today to be at one of the premier universities in the world and to be at the farm campus in St. Paul."



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Left and below, people browse at a recent farm fair. The North American Farm and Home Show is set for March 19-21 at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.



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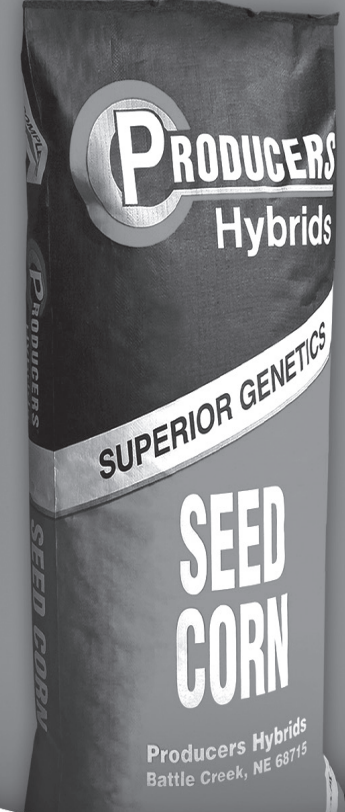
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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff Photo by Brian Sandford

Lauren Schammel, left, and Abby Aldrich tested how much electricity devices use when they're not plugged in during last week's science fair at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. They received purple ribbons and are invited to the Mankato Regional Science Fair on April 25.

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March 18:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
12 p.m. Chamber Mtg, Pizza Cellar

March 19:
BP Cancer Group Daffodil Days, available at A Touch of Charm for \$10

March 20:
BP Cancer Group Daffodil Days, available at A Touch of Charm for \$10
5 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Fish Fry #2 (ON HOLD), BPSC

March 21:
BP Cancer Group Daffodil Days, available at A Touch of Charm for \$10

March 22:
BP Cancer Group Daffodil Days, available at A Touch of Charm for \$10

March 23:
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, BPHS

March 24:
Card Club & Luncheon
Kindergarten Connection, BPES Gym
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club

March 25:
BP ISD Large Group Music, Stewartville
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

March 26:
BP ISD Band/Choir Music Trip, Chicago

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7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

March 22:
8:30 a.m. Dana Standke Benefit, NRHEG ES

March 23:
5:30 p.m. 55+ Driver Improvement Program, NRHEG HS
6 p.m. Dodge City Council Mtg
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center ElIndl

March 24:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North ElIndl

March 26:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30 p.m. Ellendale City Council Mtg (2nd & 4th Thurs), Training/Mtg Rm



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March 18:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St John Lutheran Church, Owa
4 p.m. EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall

March 19:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St John Lutheran Church, Owa
6 p.m. Owa PS Lincoln PTO Mtg
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. Owa PS All City & OHS Choir Concert
7 p.m. Steele County Historical Society, Roundtable Discussion on the Vietnam War, Wenger Room at History Center

March 20:
Owa PS No School 9-12
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St John Lutheran Church, Owa

March 21:
9 a.m. Steele County History Center Artifact Show

March 22:
8 a.m. Kiwanis Club of Owatonna, Dad's Belgian waffles and sausage, Owatonna VFW

March 23:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
6:30 p.m. Owa PS School Brd Mtg

March 24:
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR

March 26:
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time

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IN BRIEF

Breakfast brunch is set for March 22 at VFW Club

A breakfast brunch, featuring all-you-can-eat Dad's Belgian waffles and sausage, will be served as a Kiwanis fundraiser from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sunday, March 22 at the Owatonna VFW Club, 135 Oakdale St. Proceeds will benefit student scholarships and many local community service needs. Clubs serving are the Kiwanis Golden K, Kiwanis Noon Club and the Owatonna High School Kiwanis Key Club.

Advance sale tickets at \$6.50 are available from Kottke Jewelers and Kiwanis Club and Key Club members. Tickets sold at the door are \$7.50.

Fabulous Love Handles to perform

The Fabulous Love Handles will perform from 7-11 p.m. March 27 at the Eagles Club in Owatonna.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Kottke Jewelers and CashWise Foods. Proceeds will go to the Patient Care Fund at Homestead Hospice. This fund allows anyone in need of end-of-life care to receive it regardless of finances.



SPOT LIGHT

Pancake breakfast for NRHEG student is Sunday

A pancake breakfast will take place Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale. This breakfast is part of a benefit for Dana Standke, who is a fifth grader at NRHEG and had her arm amputated following a farm accident last fall. A free will offering will be taken for the breakfast.

In addition to the breakfast, there will be a bake sale, silent auction and a live auction, which gets underway at 1 p.m. Monetary donations and items for the live and silent auction would be appreciated. They can be brought to the First National Bank locations in Ellendale or Hope. For more information, contact Cindi Bartness at 507-456-6280.

Standke, who is the daughter of Shelly Standke and Dan Enzenauer, got her right arm caught in an auger on Nov. 9. The family farms about six miles north of Ellendale.

OTHER COUNTIES

Dodge

March 18:
K-M Knowledge Bowl Regional Competition
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/Spare Time Lanes
2 p.m. K-M Global Games, CE3
3:30 p.m. K-M Trash to Treasures, CE Rm CE3
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear

March 19:
1 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild Youth Art Month Art Show
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Hamburger, Fries, Chicken Sandwiches
6 p.m. Triton Choir Concert, PAC
6:30 p.m. K-M Autism & the Brain, CE MPR
6:30 p.m. K-M Kids' Fused Glass Class, Comm Rd Rm CE6
6:30 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild, Art & Wine Event
6:30 p.m. Triton Zumba, Multipurpose Rm
7 p.m. City Council Mtg, West Concord City Hall
7:30 p.m. Triton Band Concert, PAC

March 20:
K-M Knowledge Bowl Regional Competition
1 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild Youth Art Month Art Show

March 21:
10 a.m. K-M Parenting w/ a Nurtured Heart/Gym Time, Comm Ed Multipurpose Rm
1 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild Youth Art Month Art Show

March 22:
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild Youth Art Month Art Show

March 23:
1 p.m. Mantorville Art Guild Youth Art Month Art Show
6:30 p.m. K-M 5th Grd Dare Graduation, MS Gym

March 24:
Triton FFA, RCTC
9:30 a.m. Dodge Co Commission
10 a.m. Library Story Time, West Concord PL
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts



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MEDFORD

March 18:
6 p.m. Medford EDA

March 19:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
3:15 p.m. Medford ES Elementary Art Club, Rm 311

March 23:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

March 24:
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Medford School
3:15 p.m. Medford ES Elementary Art Club, Rm 311

March 26:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
3:15 p.m. Medford ES Elementary Art Club, Rm 311

First State Bank of Red Wing



Medford Branch

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Steele County Notice of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

State of Minnesota District Court
County of Steele 3rd Judicial District

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT TAX LIST

A list of real property in Steele County on which delinquent real property taxes and penalties are due has been filed with the District Court Administrator of Steele County. This list is published to inform all persons that the listed property is subject to forfeiture because of delinquent taxes.

The property owner, taxpayer, or other interested persons must either pay the tax and penalty plus interest and costs or file a written objection with the District Court Administrator. The objection must be filed by April 20, 2015, stating the reason why the tax or penalty is not due on the property. If no objection is filed, a court judgment will be entered against the property for the unpaid tax, penalty, interest and cost.

For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 11, 2015. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The period of redemption is three years, with a handful of exceptions. The redemption period is one year for most properties located in a targeted neighborhood, as defined in the Minnesota laws, and for municipal solid waste disposal facilities. The redemption period is five-weeks for certain abandoned or vacant properties.

You may also enter into a Confession of Judgment as an alternative method of paying off the delinquent tax amount and avoiding forfeiture. This allows you to pay the delinquent balance in equal annual installments with a down payment due at the time you confess judgment. The length of the installment plan varies: 5 years for commercial-industrial/public utility property; 10 years for all other properties.

If you have homesteaded property, you may be eligible for a Senior Citizen's Property Tax Deferral, which enables seniors to pay just 3% of their total household income and allow remaining amounts to become a lien on the property that may be deferred for later payment (perhaps upon eventual sale of the property).

It should also be noted by property homesteaders that you are ineligible to receive the Property Tax Refund which you owe delinquent property tax.

TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH INTEREST AND COSTS MUST BE ADDED TO PAY THE TAX IN FULL, CONTACT THE STEELE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE, STEELE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 630 FLORENCE AVE., OWATONNA, MINNESOTA 55060. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (507) 444-7410.

Kristi Maiers
District Court Administrator
3rd Judicial District

District Court Seal

Date: 1/27/15

TAX PENALTY INTEREST NAME OF OWNER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
MARTHA SKOGEBO TRUSTEE OF THE JUDITH K KOLLAR FAMILY TRUST 327 NW 3RD STREET BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	01-014-3401 SECT- 14 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 PART SW1/4 SEC 14 COM NW COR OF SW1/4 THENCE S959.3' TO TRUE PT OF BEG THENCE E373' S154.50' W42' S56' W331' TO W LN OF SW1/4 THENCE 210.50' TO TRUE PT OF BEG SUB	143.42 40.08 4.09 187.59
SHIRLEY E HOEVE 3511 SE 128TH ST BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	01-018-4401 SECT- 18 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 COM NW COR TH E 583.40' TO BEG TH E437.60' S298.65' W437.80' N298.65' TO BEG	303.00 50.30 8.33 361.63
O-RAYMOND A HOFIUS & ELIZABETH		
ANTONIO & HAILIE SINGLETON 11412 SW 42ND AVE ELLENDALE MN 56026	03-001-2101 SECT- 01 TWP- 105 RNG- 21 COM. 24 R. S OF NE COR. OF SE1/4 W 10 R-S 16 R-E 10 R-N 16 R-TO BEG. FORMERLY DIST#86	409.00 77.26 11.66 497.92
GREGORY M & MARY LINDHOLM 2803 S MAIN AVE SIOUX FALLS SD 57105-4824	04-019-3302 SECT- 19 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 COM SW COR SW1/4 TH N 11.5 RODS E 7 RODS S 11.5 RODS W 7 RODS TO BEG	10.00 21.00 0.28 31.28
RUTH AHLBORN LIFE ESTATE 5049 SOUTH COUNTY ROAD 45 OWATONNA MN 55060	05-003-4000 SECT- 03 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 NW1/4 AND 50R OF NE1/4 EX COM NW COR OF NW1/4 E1061' S306' N82°42'05"W771.40' S105.06' W295.85' N313.06' TO BEG	2,762.00 296.20 75.96 3,134.16
O-CAROL SUE AHLBORN & SEAN HUGHES		
RUTH AHLBORN 5049 S COUNTY RD 45 OWATONNA MN 55060	05-004-2203 SECT- 04 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 BEG 791' N OF SE COR SE1/4 OF SE1/4 TH W80R S20R E80R N20R TO BEG EXCEPT COM 296' N OF SE COR SE1/4 TH W336' N4' W251' N368.75' E587' S372.75' TO BEG	127.00 32.70 3.49 163.19
WILLOW RIDGE FARM LLC 2300 BOULDER RIDGE LN WOODBURY MN 55125	05-025-2100 SECT- 25 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 N 1/2 OF SE1/4 EX CON NE COR OF SE1/4 S364.73' TO POB S738.86' S75°062°0"W487.47' N383°58'41"W 148.96' N38°41'44"W280.07' N238.16'N85°55'24"W122.13' N4°37'24"E89.06 N948°33'E121.04' N45°01'36"E191.63' S80°27'18"E267.84' S68°08'08"E229.03' S88°26'00"E552.21' TO POB	1,184.00 138.40 32.56 1,354.96
DON C & MENTA K MACY 9418 LEMOND ROAD ELLENDALE MN 56026	06-007-1202 SECT- 07 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 BEG SW COR E1/2 OF NE1/4 SEC 7, TH N ALG W LN 1320', E PAR TO S LN 495', S 1320' TO S LN OF E1/2 OF NE1/4, TH W 495' TO BEG.	1,621.00 182.10 44.58 1,847.68
CRAIG N & ANNE E BLOUIN 6932 SW 75TH ST ELLENDALE MN 56026	06-015-3402 SECT- 15 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 COM SW COR OF N1/2 SW1/4 E1201.64' TO POB N1°41'53"W17412' N19°39'20"E102.81' N42°03'49"E134.17' N4°47'41"W71.07' N4°47'41"W725.02' TO CT LN OF DITCH S33°56'E248.13' S61°03'E142.69' S30°10'E131.51' W570.03' TO POB	425.84 62.58 11.71 500.13
NICHOLAS J SCHLEICHER 6949 SW 102ND AVENUE ELLENDALE MN 56026	06-018-4101 SECT- 18 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 BEG AT SW COR OF N1/2 OF NW1/4, TH ELY 1257.9', N 309.3', E 147.8', N 831.7 FT, W 503.7', S 1096', W 902', S 45 FT.	1,690.00 189.00 4.648 1,925.48
STATE OF MINNESOTA DNR DIVISION OF LAND & MINERALS ATTN: TAX SPECIALIST 500 LAFAYETTE ROAD, BOX 45 ST PAUL MN 55155	08-029-1300 SECT- 29 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 W47 AC OF FOLLOWING- S1/2 OF NE1/4 AND E40R OF S10R OF NE1/4 OF NE1/4 EX 10.7 AC TO HWY #35 AND EX 3 AC SWLY OF RIVER	1,646.00 250.44 46.91 1,943.35
PHILLIP D & KAY I PETERSON 4096 HWY 218 OWATONNA MN 55060	08-036-1301 SECT- 36 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 COM NW COR S1/2 OF NE1/4 S483' E281' N439' E1743.76' N29°51'50"W 50.75' W1999.44' TO BEG	599.96 80.00 16.50 696.46
THOMAS P CURRIER 7446 SW 38TH STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	09-028-2301 SECT- 28 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 COM: SW COR. OF SE1/4 OF SE1/4-W. 125' N. 250'-E.200'-S. 250'-W.75' TO BEG.	523.00 72.30 14.38 609.68
ROBERT W & PAMELA J BLACK 3743 NE 46TH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	10-030-4101 SECT- 30 TWP- 108 RNG- 19 COM NW COR OF NW1/4 E851' TO PT OF BEG TH S426' E1023' N TO N LINE OF SECTION TH W TO BEG	26.00 22.60 0.72 49.32

TAMERA L WELLER 8549 COUNTY ROAD 45 N MEDFORD MN 55049	11-005-1101 SECT- 05 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 THAT PT LYING W OF RR. COM 17R 8 LINKS W OF NE COR OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 TH W TO E LN RR R/W SELY ALG RW TO PT 595.1' S OF N LN OF SEC E TO IRON PIPE IN CTR HWY NELY	660.00 86.00 18.15 764.15
DARREN D HAGEN 5442 COUNTY ROAD 45 NORTH MEDFORD MN 55049	12-105-0004 SECT- 21 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 PARCEL 4 STEELE CO R/W PLAT #11	32.00 23.20 0.88 56.08
THOMAS W PFLIBSEN PO BOX 30 OWATONNNA MN 55060	13-027-3200 SECT- 27 TWP- 108 RNG- 21 SE1/4 OF SW1/4	1,842.00 204.20 50.66 2,096.86
BAERBEL D OLSON 274 SW 3RD ST BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-3030 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 COM 300' W OF NW COR LT 6, BLK 8 TO PT OF BEG; W 100', S 150', E 100', N 150' TO BEG BEING PT OF SE1/4 OF SW1/4	353.24 55.32 9.71 418.27
O-STATE OF MINNESOTA SR CIT DEF		
CHRISTOPHER J JOHNSON 230 4TH AVE NE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-103-0601 BRAINERD BLK 6 BRAINERS ADDITION COM 130' S OF NE COR BLK 6 TH S50' TH W TO E LN OF RAILWAY ST TH NWLY ALG SAID STREET TO A PT DUE W	330.37 60.05 9.42 399.84
MARTHA SKOGEBO TRUSTEE OF THE JUDITH K KOLLAR FAMILY TRUST 327 NW 3RD STREET BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-104-0204 BELL & MEEHANS BLK.2 BELL & MEEHANS LOT 4	620.49 82.05 17.06 719.60
SCOTT STANLEY & ANDREA ELDEMIRE-STANLEY 205 SW 2ND STREET BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-107-0801 VIRTUES BLK.8 VIRTUES LOT 1	529.14 94.08 15.08 638.30
LARRY W LINDQUIST 193 8TH ST NW BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-114-0204 HANSENS HEIGHTS BLK 2 LOT 4 & E30' OF LOT 3 HANSEN HEIGHTS BL PR	909.00 110.90 25.00 1,044.90
JASON L & KAYLENE R JENSEN 521 MEMORIAL DRIVE SW BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-123-0209 S/T/R 36-105-19 LOT/BK 009-002 BLK 2 LOT 9 PRAIRIE ADDITION #2	1,862.00 206.20 51.21 2,119.41
RENEE JANE WESTON PO BOX 562 ELLENDALE MN 56026	15-100-0603 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 6 LOT 3 EX E6"	968.00 116.80 26.62 1,111.42
MARK A MISGEN & SARA E DEGEN-MISGEN 14356 SW 42ND AVE ELLENDALE MN 56026	15-101-1401 FIRST RR ADDITION BLK 14 LOTS 1 & 2 FIRST RAILWAY ADDN	396.00 75.44 11.29 482.73
MARY L JENO % DENNIS & MARY KRAMER 417 S MAIN ST PO BOX 275 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-008-2014 SECT- 08 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 N66' OF E180' OF LOT 15	784.00 98.40 21.56 903.96
DENNIS E & MARY L KRAMER 417 S MAIN ST P O BOX 275 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-008-2024 SECT- 08 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 S6' OF W72' OF E180' OF LOT 15	6.00 20.60 0.17 26.77
JEFFREY P VALEK 6445 N COUNTY RD 45 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-016-4401 SECT- 16 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 COM AT NW COR NW1/4 TH SE ALG CNTR LN RD 885.16' TO PT OF BEG THE SE782.54' NE ALG WLY R/W OF RR 776.98' S86°15'00"E 117.0' S54°11'18"W 187.80' TO PT OF BEG	829.25 123.95 23.63 976.83
JOHN W & DALARE M DELANEY 115 SUNRISE DR PO BOX 195 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-100-3416 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK. 34 E 58' LOT 16	861.00 106.10 23.68 990.78
JOHN WAYNE BUSBY 105 W CENTRAL AVE PO BOX 7 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-101-0801 JOHNSON & COMPANY BLK.8 JOHNSON & CO. ADD. LOTS 1-2-3-4	24.33 22.43 0.67 47.43
DEAN D & VALERIE J ELZEN 116 NW 1ST STREET MEDFORD MN 55049	16-101-0805 JOHNSON & COMPANY BLK 8 JOHNSON & CO. ADD. LOTS 5-6-7-8-9-10	692.00 89.20 19.03 800.23
JOHN P ROSS P O BOX 147 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-101-1304 JOHNSON & COMPANY BLK. 13 JOHNSON & CO ADD. E1/2 OF LOTS 3 & 4	473.00 67.30 13.01 553.31
PAUL A BEISER & VIRGINIA SOTO-BEISER 555 OAKLAND PATH MEDFORD MN 55049	16-115-0004 SECT- 09 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 OUTLOT D OAKRIDGE BLUFFS 4TH ADDN	280.00 59.20 7.98 347.18
JUAN J & JILL M DELEON 320 6TH STREET SE MEDFORD MN 55049	16-115-0103 SECT- 09 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 3 OAKRIDGE BLUFFS 4TH ADDN	1,637.00 183.70 45.02 1,865.72
FRANCIS S PANOS 516 W CENTRAL AVE MEDFORD MN 55049	16-124-0102 SECT- 08 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 2 PANOS ADDITION	932.00 150.48 26.56 1,109.04
STANLEY ENNIS 1735 BIGELOW RD OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-003-2104 SECT- 03 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 LOT 10 OF SUBLOT 8 OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4	1,972.00 217.20 54.23 2,243.43
BMG ENTERPRISES, LLC 3035 NE 3RD AVE OWATONNNA MN 55060-3447	17-003-2304 SECT- 03 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BEG. 33' E. & 313.5' N. OF SW COR. OF SE1/4 E.75'-S.100'-W.75'-N.100' TO BEG.	1,185.45 185.96 33.79 1,405.20
JOSEPH A SAMPSON 531 S LINCOLN OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-010-2101 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 NE1/4 OF SE1/4 LYING BETWEEN RR R/W S	4,580.00 661.20 130.53 5,371.73
MACHELLE DRIVDAHL 546 E MAIN STREET OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-010-2307 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 COM. 2 R. S. & 30R E. OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 N & S 81/2R X E & W 4 R.	545.00 74.50 14.99 634.49
DANIEL LARSCHIED 327 N 54TH AVE #8 DULUTH MN 55807	17-010-3217 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 E.4R. OF LOT 10 IN SE1/4 OF SW1/4	2,300.00 342.00 65.55 2,707.55
O-RONALD G DAGIT & SHIRLEY PICHNER TRUSTEES 2025 LACASA LN SE OWATONNNA MN 55060		
MICHAEL P GRAHAM 1020 REED AVE FARIBAUTL MN 55021	17-010-3223 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 COM 9 3/4 RODS W OF NE COR L5 IN SE1/4 OF SW1/4 SEC 10 TH W 3 1/4 RODS S 8 RODS E 3 1/4 RODS N 8 RODS TO PLACE OF BEG	171.22 29.80 4.88 205.90
BETTE A ANDERSON P O BOX 477 NEW RICHLAND MN 56072-0477	17-016-2039 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 COM. 18R. E & 2R. S. OF NW COR. L.4 E & W. 5R. X N & S. 18R. IN SE1/4	851.00 105.10 23.40 979.50
DONALD & JANICE VAN SICKLE PO BOX 764 OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-016-2049 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 COM 8 RODS E & 2 RODS S OF NW COR LOT 4 IN SE1/4 TH S18 RODS E 4 RODS N18 RODS W4 RODS EX N17' AND THAT PART OF W8 RODS OF N1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 LYING E OF HWY #65	1,854.00 279.56 52.84 2,186.40
SUSAN M SIMON 206 BARNEY STREET OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-016-2119 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BEG. 82' W. OF SE COR. L3 IN SE1/4 N.132'-W.50'-S.132'-E.50' TO BEG.	1,026.00 163.64 29.24 1,218.88
MB, LLC 203 ELM ST N OWATONNNA MN 55060	17-100-1102 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 11 S1/2 OF LOTS 1 & 2 EX E62' OF S66' OF L 2 ORIG TN	3,086.00 432.04 87.95 3,625.99

ANITA MEYER 216 GROVE AVE S OWATONNA MN 55060	17-100-1410 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 14 N1/2 OF LOTS 10&11 ORIG TOWN	867.00 106.70 23.84 997.54
DANIELLE DALEN 116 PHELPS STREET E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-0117 PHELPS ADDITION BLK 1 W 1/2 OF LOT 9 PHELPS	590.36 70.54 16.24 677.14
O-KENNETH H SNOW JR & GAYLE L 4267 N COUNTY RD 45 OWATONNA MN 55060		
BBMM, LLP 960 BRAE BURN PLACE NE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-0519 PHELPS ADDITION BLK 5 N 5R OF LOTS 9 & 10 & COM NW COR L10 N8.25' E15R S8.25' W15' TO BEG EX COM 5R N & 1R W OF SE COR L9 W4R N9' E4' S9' TO BEG	3,878.00 562.92 110.52 4,551.44
BROOKE G BULVER 1031 CEDAR AVE S OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-1215 PHELPS ADDITION BLK 12 W 15R OF N 1/2 OF LOT 2 EX E 52.5' PHELPS	430.00 63.00 11.83 504.83
DAVID J FONNER 318 MAPLE AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-108-0314 E. ABBOTTS # 2 BLK.3 S.4R. OF LOT 14 E. ABBOTTS 2ND	589.00 102.46 16.79 708.25
DANIEL LARSCHIED 327 N 54TH AVE #8 DULUTH MN 55807	17-108-0326 E. ABBOTTS # 2 BLK.3 N.50' OF L.26 EX. E.7' OF N.50' E. ABBOTTS 2ND	1,352.00 209.28 38.53 1,599.81
O-RONALD G DAGIT & SHIRLEY A PICHNER TRUSTEES 2025 LACASA LANE SE OWATONNA MN 55060		
TIMOTHY MUELLER & DAWN LIPELT 216 W BRIDGE ST OWATONNA MN 55060 O-MARSHALL W WRIGHT JR & DAVID J DOMBROCK 5351 ELKTON TRAIL FARIBAULT MN 55021	17-109-0107 ABBOTTS BLK.1 LOT 7 ABBOTTS	1,998.00 299.72 56.94 2,354.66
MELBA L MCKINSTRY 650 EL DORADO ST SE APT 357 OWATONNA MN 55060	17-113-0210 MERRILL ODELL BLK.2 E. 66' OF S. 135' OF LOT 5 MERRILL ODELLS	434.00 63.40 11.94 509.34
GERALD W & ARLENE L ERICKSON 159 NW 22ND ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-119-0110 RIVERSIDE BLK 1 LOT 8 RIVERSIDE	1,282.00 199.48 36.54 1,518.02
ELAINE E JOHNSON 333 STATE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-119-1110 RIVERSIDE BLK 11 LOT 9 RIVERSIDE	428.00 62.80 11.77 502.57
LAURA & RAJ ANDY CHARLES 398 GLENDALE STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-119-1411 BLK 14 E 54' OF S 8R OF LOT 5 RIVERSIDE	677.77 110.89 19.32 807.98
DANIEL LARSCHIED 327 N 54TH AVE #8 DULUTH MN 55807	17-122-0306 DARTT BLK.3 LOT 6 DARTTS	1,462.00 224.68 41.67 1,728.35
O-MICHAEL J & SARA C HEISE 503 GUNNAR LANE ELLENDALE MN 56026		
JAMES A & RITA A BERNING 436 N PINE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-122-0509 DARTT BLK.5 LOT 8 & N1/2 ROD LOT 9 DARTTS	663.00 86.30 18.23 767.53
KAREN LYNN CORDS ET AL 224 SOUTHVIEW OWATONNA MN 55060	17-128-0209 BURKE BLK.2 LOT 8 BURKES	1,846.00 204.60 50.77 2,101.37
DAVID A HISSAM 641 EAST VINE STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-129-0110 DARTT'S # 2 BLK.1 LOT 10 DARTTS 2ND	696.00 117.44 19.84 833.28
DAVID A HISSAM 641 EAST VINE STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-129-0307 DARTT'S # 2 BLK.3 LOT 7 DARTTS 2ND	933.37 113.34 25.67 1,072.38
RICHARD J & CYNTHIA K FEDDER 440 DARTT AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-129-0506 DARTT'S # 2 BLK.5 LOT 3 DARTTS 2ND	1,480.00 227.20 42.18 1,749.38
CRAIG W & MARY J SCHWARTZ 534 ACADEMY ST E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-136-0206 REPLAT OF HIGHLAND PARK - CHAMBERS BLK.2 LOT 6 RE-PLAT OF HIGHLAND PARK ADDN	1,361.00 210.54 38.79 1,610.33
ANDREW C COLWELL PO BOX 54 MEDFORD MN 55049	17-147-0203 SPRINGER BLK 2 LOT 3 SPRINGERS	1,652.00 251.28 47.08 1,950.36
ALEJANDRO NAVA SANCHEZ & DALLA CANTU DE NAVA & ANDREA AZURA CANTU 354 LEMOND ROAD OWATONNA MN 55060	17-148-0418 CASHMAN BLK.4 LOT 18 CASHMAN	888.00 108.80 24.42 1,021.22
DONOVAN HART 321 BARNEY ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-159-0102 SOUTHSIDE SUBDIVISION BLK 1 LOT 2 EX S 15' SOUTH SIDE SUB	1,292.00 149.20 35.53 1,476.73
NICKLAUS LARSON 626 SE 15TH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-200-0111 TOWN & COUNTRY BLK 1 LOT 10 EXCEPT THE W19' LOT 11 EXCEPT THE E67' TOWN AND COUNTRY ADDN	2,198.00 239.80 60.45 2,498.25
JADE ALLYCIA BONGERS & BERNARD M & MARY L BONGERS 306 WOODLAND DRIVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-225-0109 VALLEY BLK 1 LOT 9 VALLEY	1,122.00 132.20 30.86 1,285.06
MARK A & RANAE M BREON 1223 NE 8TH AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-229-0102 SCHULTZ BLK 1 LOT 2 SCHULTZ	701.00 90.10 19.28 810.38
HARRIET L COLE 1816 NE 7TH AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-242-0206 MATHEWS BLK 2 LOT 6 MATHEWS ADDN.	1,898.00 209.80 52.20 2,160.00
TRISHA JANE NELSON 1860 BIGELOW AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-259-0203 RAY NELL BLK 2 LOT 3 RAYNELL	1,349.77 149.74 37.03 1536.54
JULIEANN EMMA ESTELLE MATTER 404 4TH AVE NW AUSTIN MN 55912	17-292-0108 CHERRY HILL BLK 1 LOT 8 CHERRY HILL ADDN	2,218.00 330.52 63.21 2,611.73
WESTWOOD APTS OF OWATONNA LLC 1108 6TH ST NE WASECA MN 56093	17-296-0102 CEDAR HILLS ESTATES BLK 1 E 176' OF LOT 2 EX BEG NW COR L2, S TO SW COR L2, E68', N37', W18', N TO N LN L2, W ALG N LN TO PT OF BEG CEDAR HILLS	1,245.94 179.75 34.90 1,460.59
PAMELA MARIE KLAGES 2215 CONDOR PLACE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-309-0111 MATHEWS # 2 BLK 1 LOT 11 MATHEWS 2	876.00 107.60 24.09 1,007.69

Steele County Notice of Delinquent Taxes continued

STANLEY G STANTON & DEE ANNA K 505 HILLTOP OWATONNA MN 55060	17-317-0401 RADEL'S COUNTRY CLUB BLK 4 LOT 1 RADELS COUNTRY CLUB	1,478.00 167.80 40.65 1,686.45
JEFFREY A LENSER 1636 ST PAUL RD OWATONNA MN 55060	17-336-0201 HEERS # 4 ALL TH PT LOT 8 BLK 2 HEERS ADDN NO 4 LYING S OF FOLLOWING DESC LN: COM SE COR LOT 8 TH N67°53'29" W95.93' TO TPOB TH TERMINATING AND LOT 1 BLK 2 LYING S OF THE N13' OF LOT 1 & ALL TH PT LOT 9 BLK 2 DESC BY:BEG NE COR LOT 9 TH N67°53'29" W95.93' S75.97°E89.88' N40' TO BEG HEERS ADDITION NO.4	1,702.00 190.20 46.81 1,939.01
RACHEL A GOODWIN 2640 NE 7TH AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-480-0503 SECT- 34 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 BLK 5 LOT 3 WILLOWBROOK ADDITION	1,047.00 114.70 28.79 1,190.49
ROBERT I & DIANNE G DUFFEE 1725 WOODLAWN AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-506-0103 SECT- 04 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 3 BRECK ADDN	452.00 83.28 12.88 548.16
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-573-0213 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 2 LOT NORTH COUNTRY ADDN	534.00 1394.76 15.22 643.98
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-573-0214 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 2 LOT NORTH COUNTRY ADDN	534.00 1494.76 15.22 643.98
HUSKY CAR & PET WASH, INC 120 HICKORY LANE NE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-574-1006 SECT- 34 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 BLK 10 LOT 6 & ALL TH PT OF LOT 5 LYING N OF FOLL: COM NW COR LOT 5 TH S02°33'37" W44.99' TO TPOB TH E146.11' TO E LN LOT 5 & THERE TERMINATING NORTH BLUFF ESTATES	4,748.00 684.72 135.32 5,568.04
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-582-0103 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 3 NORTH COUNTRY ADDN #2	1,098.00 173.72 31.29 1,303.01
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-582-0104 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 4 NORTH COUNTRY ADDN #2	1,100.00 174.00 31.35 1,305.35
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-582-0202 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 2 LOT 2 NORTH COUNTRY ADDN #2	1,076.00 170.64 30.67 1,277.31
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-582-0404 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 4 LOT 4 NORTH COUNTRY ADDN #2	1,070.00 169.80 30.50 1,270.30
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK 10 FIRESTONE DRIVE SUITE 200 MANKATO MN 56001	17-582-0407 SECT- 12 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 4 LOT 7 NORTH COUNTRY ADDN #2	1,070.00 169.80 30.50 1,270.30
TAILWIND OWATONNA LLC 530 S FRONT STREET SUITE 100 MANKATO MN 56001	17-629-0101 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 1 OAK AVENUE COMMONS ADDITION	3,110.00 455.40 88.64 3,654.04
TAILWIND OWATONNA LLC 530 S FRONT STREET SUITE 100 MANKATO MN 56001	7-629-0102 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 2 OAK AVENUE COMMONS ADDITION	10,408.00 1,477.12 296.63 12,181.75

STATE OF MINNESOTA)) ss
COUNTY OF STEELE)

Laura Ihrke, being the County Auditor of Steele County, being duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that on the 2nd day of February, 2015, she mailed the notice and the pertinent portion of the list of real estate remaining delinquent in Steele County on the first Monday of January, 2014, to those parties named in the pertinent portion of the list by placing a true and correct copy of the pertinent portion of the list in an envelope addressed to them as shown in said list and depositing the same with postage prepaid, in the U.S. Mails at Owatonna, Minnesota.

Laura Ihrke
County Auditor

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 2nd day of February, 2015.

Jodell Hartle, Notary Public



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

Branch Manager Samanth Hofer walks customer Sandy Manderfeld, of Owatonna, through the estimate process. Manderfeld would like to get the exterior of her house and garage painted this June.

Students get chance to run own businesses

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

As is if being a full time college student isn't enough to keep her busy, Samantha Hofer also works a part time job along with an internship in which she manages her own business.

Hofer, a 2013 Owatonna High School graduate, is currently a sophomore at Mankato State University and pursuing a degree in accounting. She first learned about the internship opportunity after representatives from College Works Painting visited a few of her classes.

She decided to pursue the opportunity because she thought it would give her additional experience to add to her resume and make her stick out from her peers.

"I thought that I would get more experience from this than I would ever get from sitting in class," Hofer said. "If I did an accounting internship I would be sitting behind a desk watching people, but this is very hands on and I would never learn this anywhere else."

After an initial group meeting and three additional interviews Hofer was among the one percent of applicants chosen to complete the internship. Hofer serves as a branch manager of the Northstar Division, which is made up of Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota.

College Works Painting gives undergraduate students the opportunity to build their resume by teaching them how to manage their own exterior painting business. The company currently operates in over 35 states and hires over 2,000 college students each year.

Last year the company did over 30 million dollars worth of business in the United States, making them one of the largest residential painting contractors in the nation.

Hofer began her internship in February and will go until August. As branch manager her responsibilities include doing estimates for homeowners who are interested in ex-



Hofer

terior painting, managing costs, hiring painters, painting homes, organizing payroll and managing customer relations. So far Hofer is only covering the Owatonna area, but down the road she will branch out into surrounding areas.

"You are going to get every aspect. You are going to get marketing, sales, customer service, you have to be good at everything," she said. "The list is endless. I am looking forward to gaining major leadership skills, time management skills and independence."

When asked why she thinks it's important for college students to take an opportunity like this one she said, "Not to be blunt, but I think they would be stupid not to take this opportunity. I don't think they are going to learn any of this stuff in class. They prepare you for what is really out there."

After a little over a month of the internship Hofer has already learned a lot about her customers and how business works. Learning to manage an internship that is a full time job along with being a full time student and another part time job has been extremely challenging, but in the end Hofer says it's worth it.

"You have to be super driven and if you aren't you are not going to make it," she said. "This will make or break you and you will figure out who you are and what you can handle. It shapes you to be a better and harder worker. If I didn't do this I wouldn't know what hard work is."

Hofer says she really enjoys the internship because it allows her to build relationships with her customers. The most challenging part for her has been the door-to-door marketing.

"Sometimes I don't expect people's responses like shutting the door in your face, it is surprising. I am going out of my comfort zone and when that happens I have to put a

smile back on my face and keep going and sometimes that is hard," she said.

She added another challenge is that she has to be her own motivator, as there is no one to micromanage her and tell her to reach her sales goals.

Depending on how the rest of her experience goes, Hofer says she would like to continue on with the company by becoming a district manager.

Kyrsten Harper is the district manager of the Northstar Division and handpicked Hofer to be a part of her team.

Harper is a senior at Mankato State University where she is pursuing a degree in psychology. Last year Harper was chosen to be a branch manager for the Red Wing and Hastings area and this year she decided to pursue a role with even more responsibilities.

"I decided I wanted to come back as a district manager to help other students see the same kind of success that I had," she said.

As district manager Harper is responsible for training each of the branch managers on her team on how to successfully run their own business. She teaches them about marketing, how to interact with customers, how to do accurate estimates, how to hire skilled employees and safety.

Harper started recruiting branch managers to join her team in August and continued to do so until January. During the process she thought Hofer stood out from the other applicants.

"She was very engaged in the conversation. She didn't just show up. She came prepared, she came on time, she was very talkative and very excited. She is very ambitious and she wants to be the best. I could just tell she would be a hard worker," she said.

Harper added that Hofer is doing extremely well with running her business so far.

"She is a trooper. Even through all the ups and downs she is always out there and pushing to grow her business. She might get discouraged but I can always pick her back up and she is back out there again. She is very persistent and a go-getter," she said.



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Several veterans organizations sponsored Patrick Murphy's Wake Saturday night at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Cast members included: (left to right) Kari Bottin, director; Jaclyn Schlichter as Anne Murphy; Greg Johnson as Brian Callaghan; Jake Peterson as Liam Flynn; Nolan Christianson as Colm Gallagher; Becky Noble as Bridget Gallagher; Tom Peterson as Father Michael Kelly; Sandy Jones as Deirdre Connell; and Susie Thorson as Una Reilly. The cast members are standing in front of a makeshift casket. At right, Jake Peterson mingles with some of the 200 people who came out for the event to raise money for the American Legion, VFW, their Auxiliaries, Sons of the Legion and the Servicemen's Club.



UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY

Group finds out who killed Patrick Murphy

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

The butler didn't do it. But after almost four hours of a nine-character cast throwing clues and a lot of red herrings to the audience, a murderer was uncovered. It all took place at the first-ever dinner theater play, "Patrick Murphy's Wake" at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club Saturday, March 14. From the social hour which began at 5:30 p.m. to the murderer's denouement after 9 p.m., it was a special evening. Almost 200 diners enjoyed the entire evening's entertainment, as a cast of nine presented clues and some false clues to the audience.

The play took place in Ireland and revolved around the murder of pub owner Patrick Murphy. All of the characters in the production had reason to kill Murphy, and the audience had to decipher the clues and name the murderer. As the grieving widow, Jaclyn Schlichter played the part to perfection and managed to cast suspicion on herself as a possible murderer. Greg Johnson, as Anne's brother, Becky Noble, Patrick's sister and her husband, Nolan Christianson, and Patrick's friend Liam Flynn, all had reason for murder, and even Father Michael Kelly (Tom Peterson) came under suspicion, as did Murphy's neighbor, Susan Thorson. The climax surprised everyone when Deidre

Connell (Sandy Jones), a neighbor who focused on storytelling and Irish myths, admitted that it was she who had done the dastardly act. She admitted the crime with the protection of the little people as her main motive for the crime. It was a little ironic that only one table of diners (There were 16 tables) used the clues and solved the crime. Except for a glitch in the food service the audience had a delightful time, and the boiled cabbage and corned beef provided plentiful food. The whole evening worked for many reasons, one of the main ones being the fun that the cast had in presenting the clues and reciting the dialog. The audience entered into the spirit of the mystery by trying to put the

clues together and solve the crime. As onlooker John Welch commented, "This was an engaging performance and kept the audience in suspense." Another diner, Julie Hoffman, remarked that it was a good entertainment. "There was a lot of talent n the cast, and I thought the production was well done." That seemed to be the consensus of opinion by all attending. Kari Bottin directed the production, and it seems likely that another mystery may be in the offing sometime in the future. The local Club sponsored the dinner theater as a fundraiser for club expenses, and all early results indicate a successful undertaking.



Loretta Wurst attended the murder mystery dinner all decked out in celebration for St. Patrick's Day.



Patrick Murphy's Wake focused on the murder of a popluar pub owner. Cast members had the crowd engaged as they unraveled they mystery. Pictured are Nolan Christianson, Jaclyn Schlichter, Greg Johnson and Sandy Jones.



Joanne and Roger Sorenson were two of the many guests who came out to enjoy a murder mystery dinner Saturday at the Servicemen's Club.



Cast member Tom Peterson, who played a prires in the murder mystery visited with Cheri Krejci during the event.

Staff photos by Annie Anderson