

Taking to the water — in April



Page 1C

STEELE COUNTY
Times



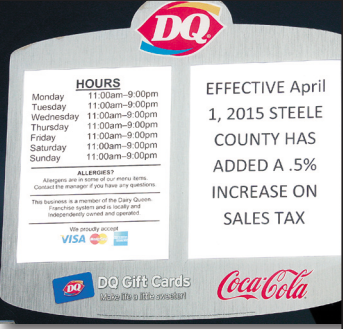
Blooming Prairie boys get clean win

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Tuesday, April 7, 2015

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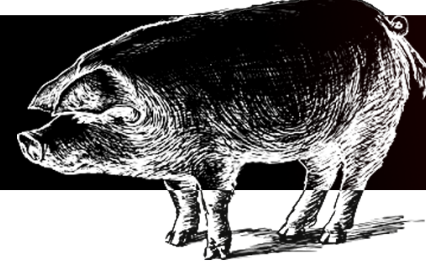
Staff photo by Brian Sandford
Visitors to Dairy Queen in Blooming Prairie got this reminder about Steele County's 0.5 percent tax increase.

It's official: County's tax rate up 0.5 percent

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

Steele County businesses now are required to collect a new sales-and-use tax. The 10-year, 0.5 percent Steele County tax took effect April 1. It's in addition to the 6.875 percent state sales tax and is aimed at funding road improvements. The county resolution states the tax has been created partly because "funding for highway systems in Minnesota has remained stagnant and is failing to keep pace with the demands of a growing population or to provide the resources necessary to maintain ... that system and preserve the investment." It adds that that investment in transportation is worth more than \$95.6 million, representing 64 percent of the county's total assets. Some residents have been caught by surprise by slightly higher prices, but not at Dairy Queen. Multiple signs advise residents about the increase. Manager Nick Schiefert said he wanted to make sure his customers were informed. "I got a little feedback yesterday, when it was April Fool's Day," he said April 2. "Several people thought it wasn't real." He added that the small price increase hasn't bothered customers much. "It's not that big a deal to most people," he said. For more information about the tax, go to bit.ly/1BUE0XQ.


Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Richard Wandrey spent nearly 29 years with the Steele County Detention Center.



FEEDLOT CONTROVERSY

Westfield meeting starts with a surprise

Ordinance is a big undertaking, attorney warns

By KAREN JORGENSEN
Staff Writer

Westfield Township residents met last week to discuss whether the township should establish its own zoning ordinance. But the meeting generated more questions than answers as the two sides now debate whether the meeting that was held was the one that was advertised. Controversy surfaced almost immediately. During the first item on the agenda, designated as supervisor business, an attorney presented an interim ordinance that would temporarily prohibit establishing new land uses and land-use and zoning regulations and restrictions in the township. The presenting attorney, Jack Parry, was attending at the request of Supervisor Bruce Wolf.

Parry said he specializes in land-use issues, and Wolf had asked him for an opinion on the petition presented at the annual meeting that led to last week's session. That petition, Parry said, asked for a meeting where citizens would be able to give their input on possible local zoning regulations. "It's a major undertaking," Parry said of a local ordinance. First, he said, the township would need a comprehensive plan, and then residents would have to decide what type of zoning ordinance they want. The township would need to decide how to implement and enforce any plan, and a zoning administrator would need to be hired. "There's a price tag for having a zoning administrator," he said. The petition presented, Parry said, is to look at zoning regulations and decide how residents want to proceed. "The question is, do you want to turn it over to the citizens to vote, or do you want to have some control over it?" he said.

FEEDLOT MEETING
Continued on Page 4A



Staff photos by Karen Jorgensen
A crowd listens during a meeting last week about whether Westfield Township should establish its own zoning ordinance.



Attorney Jack Parry speaks during last week's meeting.

Accusations, proposals served up after meeting

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

No sooner had the special meeting of Westfield Township ended March 31 than there were allegations of impropriety flying about the way township officials handled the meeting. Sonja Trom Eayrs, a Twin Cities attorney whose father, Lowell Trom, farms in Westfield Township and who represents a special interest group, is upset that no vote was taken asking the board to adopt restrictions on planning and zoning. She claims the board took action at the meeting that was not authorized. Specifically, she alleges, the board should not have hired an attorney or passed a moratorium on planning and zoning at last week's meeting. Trom Eayrs points to the published notice prior to the meeting, which outlined that the only item on the agenda was to discuss if the township should adopt planning, and zoning. She said no action was taken on planning and zoning, but instead township officials proceeded to take action on items not previously given proper notice to the residents. "It has been a complete failure of democracy," Trom Eayrs told the Times. "It's an embarrassment to the State of Minnesota, Dodge County and Westfield Township. What a huge disappointment to the residents of Westfield Township." Jim Peters, an attorney representing Trom Eayrs' group, Dodge County Concerned Citizens (DCCC), said the township violated the basic law of what business can be conducted. "They pretty much violated all the rules related to township ordinances," Peters said. "If the township digs in its heels and does not follow the law, that's troublesome," he added. Peters agrees with Trom Eayrs' assessment of the meeting, saying a vote should have been taken of the residents to determine if the township should get involved with planning and zoning, as the group's previous petition had called for.

WHAT'S NEXT
Continued on Page 4A

Ex-jail official battles cancer

Benefit planned next month for Richard Wandrey

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

With a deep love for his work, it didn't come as any big surprise that one of the hardest days of Richard Wandrey's life would be when he was forced to quit for medical reasons. After almost 29 years with the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna, Wandrey admits he head tears in his eyes when he turned in his notice in February. He had served as assistant jail administrator for the past four years and wanted to hit the 30-year mark, but his body is failing and won't allow him to hit that milestone. Over the years, Wandrey got into a few scrapes with unruly inmates, but he's now in for the biggest fight of his life. He is dying from cancer. Doctors have told Wandrey, 63, that his life is nearing an end, though he doesn't want to focus on that and wishes to not disclose what the exact timeline is that he has been given. "I don't want to say I'm done because I'm not," he said during a recent interview filled with some tears and lots of laughs. "I don't dwell on it because I know I'm going to go further than the outlook they gave me. I'm not thinking of dying." Asked if he will ever give up the fight, Wandrey said: "Hell no. I don't have one foot in the grave. I'm looking to stay alive." But the battle is becoming more difficult as the days go on. Wandrey says he could care less about food any more because "I can't taste anything." He is also often exhausted and naps a lot. His former wife, Sherry MacPherson, has turned into Wandrey's caregiver. He also has two daughters and three grandchildren around the Owatonna area. "Dick is a tough, private guy," MacPherson said.

Rare form of cancer
Wandrey was diagnosed with stage 3 papillary renal cell carcinoma.

CANCER BENEFIT
Continued on Page 6A



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Opinion

Our view

Company is doing Owatonna proud

Viracon is taking the glass making industry to a new level.

As many know, the company with strong ties in Owatonna has been designing and building glass for the new Minnesota Vikings stadium in Minneapolis. The glasswork has been seen in many newspapers and on several television programs these past few months.

Recently, publisher and owner Rick Bussler had an opportunity to tour the plant. His story and photos are in this week's HometownExtra on Page 10C.

Viracon continues to grow in Owatonna. It is right up there with Federated Insurance as companies with the largest employee bases in the community and Steele County. Reports state Viracon is expected to hit \$1 billion in sales this year.

Much of that has been generated by the Vikings stadium project. The \$1 billion stadium is expected to generate no less than \$5 million in revenue for Viracon.

While the Vikings stadium may not be a record project for Viracon, it's a "nice, big, high-profile project and it's in our backyard," company officials said in today's article.

Viracon has become the top glass fabricator in the United States. Of the 500,000-square-foot Vikings stadium complex, an estimated 190,000 square feet is glass or, more important, Viracon glass. The glassmaker will provide 10,000 glass panels over the next eight months. This means that 40 truckloads will have made the trip to downtown Minneapolis.

In 2013, Viracon started a \$30 million addition, which brought the promise of new technology, job preservation and new jobs to the area. The 100,000-square-foot building was constructed on 4th Avenue, an area that runs between the buildings that were there at that time. Construction was completed last year just in time to bring this major Vikings project.

And there is no doubt that major projects will be coming Viracon's way. That is only good news for our economy.



Finding Easter's real meaning

Christ has risen!

Christians across the world celebrated Holy Week and Easter to mark the most significant event in human history—the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

My parents always instilled in me the importance of Easter going back to my childhood days of getting up in the wee hours of the morning to attend sunrise services at 5 a.m. at our country church.

As I sat down to ponder the morbid, yet awesomeness happenings of Easter this past weekend, I couldn't help but wonder if the real story of the holiday has been lost over the years. I often worry about what we are really passing on to our children, grandchildren and others.

In a survey done a few years back fewer than half of Americans mentioned Jesus' death and resurrection when asked about the significance of Easter. At the same time, we spend more than \$13 billion on the holiday for food, clothes, candy and greeting cards.

Chocolate eggs, bunnies, egg hunts and mountains of jellybeans fill the shops and stores and our own lives.



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

Hollywood blockbusters fill TV schedules. Many people use it as a spring getaway. At times, it looks and feels like we focus on the materialism associated with the holiday instead of the painstaking reality Jesus faced at the cross.

As with Christmas, the true meaning of Easter seems to be getting lost on a largely secular society.

I know some people who simply look at Easter as just another Sunday of the year. And one where they don't attend church just like most other times of the year. There is no specialness of the holiday in their eyes.

But there are many that mark this special time in unique ways. That's evident at area churches like

Trinity Lutheran in Owatonna. Each year they have a special children's service on Good Friday. Children wave palm branches proudly as church members of all ages act out nine scenes of the life and death of Jesus.

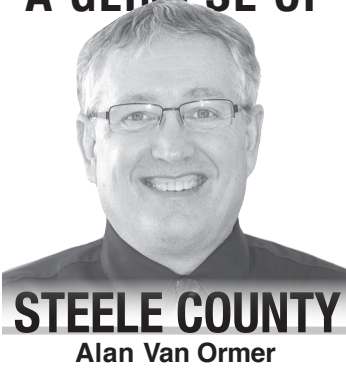
It has been said, and I would agree, that Easter is more important than Christmas.

Easter gives us a chance to meditate on this astounding symbol of God's forgiveness and bigheartedness while pursuing a way to practically model those traits in our own lives. Easter reminds us of God's call for us to live a more godly, morally-based and grace-filled life. It also reminds us to live as a human being — the way Jesus prescribed.

Lives can be changed through the real meaning of Easter, but not the secular things we often get sidetracked with.

It's my hope that the meaning of Easter will be that of honoring and recognizing Jesus Christ's death and resurrection from the dead, and his glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in him. This is definitely something worth going in hot pursuit of filling our lives with.

A GLIMPSE OF



Bringing home the gold ... and not in a sport

About this time last year, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District was celebrating a state basketball championship – the girls' second consecutive title. This year the Panthers won another highly competitive competition and it wasn't in basketball or in any other sport, for that matter.

It was of all things – trigonometry. The TrigStar competition recognizes the best students of trigonometry from around the state. And three NRHEG juniors brought home the gold. Abby Christopher, Eli Lutgens and Torrie Stencel finished in three of the top five places to earn the first place finish for the school.

Many times people forget why these students attend classes. It is not to play athletics at a higher level. Although, as we have seen, former NRHEG basketball star Carlie Wagner shined at the University of Minnesota this past basketball season, and, there are several other seniors graduating this year around Steele County who could also make their mark in the sporting arena.

But at this moment it is about these three young students who made a mark of their own. They had one hour to solve four trigonometry problems. For some of us, just trying to spell the word trigonometry is difficult. But these three youth breezed through the competition each in less than 49 minutes. In fact, Lutgens completed the mission in the second fastest time at the event in 45 minutes and 45 seconds. Stencel and Christopherson came in with times of 48 and 49 minutes, respectively, good enough for third and fifth place overall. Each scored 100 percent. The overall average was 76.5 percent.

What an accomplishment! And from what I understand after the competition, the hallways were lined with students and teachers congratulating these three youth on their achievements. What an incredible feeling that must have been! I'm sure that is something none of those three will ever forget.

The morale of the story is that Steele County students are doing incredible things not only in sports but in all other aspects of their high school lives, also. And it is important to always remember that.

Guest column

Is \$15 in tax cuts for every \$1 right priority?

By REP. PAUL THISSEN

Many Minnesotans had high hopes going into the 2015 legislative session. Our state's economy was continuing to improve, we had a \$2 billion budget surplus, and an opportunity to move forward on the issues that really matter to hardworking Minnesotans.

But the House Republican budget plan introduced last week, and sponsored by Representative Daniels, is actually most notable for the Minnesotans that are left behind- especially our kids and students.

The center of the Republican budget plan is \$2 billion in tax breaks. They have not specified exactly who would get them, but it bears mentioning that HF1 – their top priority - was largely tax cuts for big corporate interests. It is safe to say that corporate special interests will cash in with hundreds of millions of new tax breaks in the Republican budget supported by Rep. Daniels.

Putting all of the eggs in the "tax breaks bucket" means that kids and students are getting a raw deal. Most striking to me is

the fact that Republicans plan to give away \$15 in tax cuts for every \$1 they invest in Minnesota's school kids. That's less than a 1% increase in funding for education. This likely means our schools will face budget cuts. Our college students will see tuition increases again as well.

The Republican plan stunts the progress we made over the last two years in education, from funding all-day kindergarten to freezing tuition for Minnesota college students.

Despite all of their rhetoric during the campaign, Greater Minnesota is being left behind by the Republican plan. Along with underfunding Greater Minnesota schools and colleges, the Republicans actually cut funding for jobs and economic development budget. That means needed investments in broadband infrastructure and job and workforce training are likely to be thwarted. And



Thissen

despite our \$2 billion surplus, the Republican budget would cut more than \$1 billion from health care services for Minnesota workers, seniors, and our most vulnerable - cuts that would disproportionately hurt Greater Minnesota seniors, families, and workers. Rep. Daniels and other Republicans are determined to give tax breaks to their corporate allies at the expense of hard-working Minnesotan workers and students.

The Minnesota legislature is on its legislative break over the next week. I encourage you to contact your local legislator and tell them your priority for the \$2 billion surplus. Is \$15 in tax cuts to every \$1 for education the right balance for Minnesota's future?

I would submit we can do better. We should be working to build more economic opportunity for all Minnesotans and investing in our kids- not just catering to corporate special interests and the wealthy few.

Paul Thissen is the House leader for the Minnesota DFL.

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

This week's question:
Will you visit the Vikings' new stadium and view its Viracon-made glass?

Yes, I'm looking forward to seeing the design
No, I'm not a fan
No, tickets are too expensive

Last week's question:
Do you believe the economy is growing in Steele County?

* Yes, we are seeing tremendous growth. 38%
* No, the economy is weak. 25%
* Don't know for sure. 38%

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

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

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2014
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2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.



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

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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News/Commentary



Photos submitted by Kristina Makarenko
This is among the sights taken in by ex-Bloomington exchange student Kristina Makarenko back in her homeland of Russia.

Ex-Blossom starts life anew back in her native Russia

By KRISTINA MAKARENKO

In July 2013 my exchange year was over in Bloomington and I had to come back to Irkutsk, Russia and start a new life. In Russia 11th grade is a senior year in high school so I was in 11th grade twice: my junior year in Bloomington and my senior year in Russia.

After 11th grade, we all have to take super important state exams. Russian students can be accepted to universities only with their state exam results. Examination is more important than all 11 years of studying in school. Every university and every specialization requests a certain result for different exams, but Russian and Math are required for all students. For example, to study journalism in Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk, I had to take Russian, math, literature and English.

You can study in University for free if you get more points than everybody else. There are about 10 free places in a group of 30-40 students and only state exams results can help you to pay nothing at all for education. Fortunately, I was the first one to get a free place in my University with the best exam results.

Students from other cities usually get a place to live in a dormitory. It is not free, but 10 times cheaper than renting a room or a flat in Krasnoyarsk. However, I didn't get my place in a dormitory and I still do not know why. My hometown is 1024 kilometers away from Krasnoyarsk and it takes me 18 hours to get home on the train. Renting a flat with two other girls is still rather expensive for me and I am thinking of transferring to Irkutsk State University in my hometown.

People responsible for placing students in a dormitory told me there were no places for students studying journalism or philology. It seems like humanitarian and language specialties are not important in my country. To be honest, I hear it every day during classes. Our teachers say journalism as a profession is going to disappear soon and there is no need in studying journalism as anybody can write articles nowadays. I do not want to believe it so I keep studying and dreaming about getting a good job in journalism one day.

The first of September is the first day to start studying for all students in Russia, both in schools and universities. It is hard to believe that my first year of University life is almost over.

Usually all students study five or six days a week, Saturday is a work day for schools and universities all over the country. There is about three or four classes a day lasting 90 minutes each. Almost all classes are lectures. All we have to do is to listen and write whatever we find important. Every three months we have exams. Last year of studying is state exams just as it was after school.

University life is usually the first step for all students to start working and getting more responsible for their actions and their choices.

Kristina Makarenko lives in Russia and was an exchange student in Bloomington during the 2012-13 school year. She is in her first year at Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk and is studying journalism.



Mailbag

Moody's considering Steele credit downgrade

March 31st I went to a commissioners meeting and at long last some transparency in Steele County. The truth came from a Moody's Investors Report on Steele County finances. It was very revealing.

Moody's are considering a possible downgrade of our credit rating. Steele County Communities for a Lifetime (SCCL) failed to make their debt payment in March. You know this as our wonderful new nursing home – the KODA/Benedictine creation of Tom Shea and the old county commissioners.

We also have been funding the ice rink operations from day one. It has never been self-supporting.

Our jail was over sized so it is a gift to the state and other counties. They give us their prisoners and we subsidize each one, as they don't pay the full cost of their care. If we hadn't oversized we wouldn't find our self in this predicament.

The incompetence with which this county has been run is a complete disgrace. At the same time the people responsible for this walk about proud as a peacock. There is not a turnout-quiet large enough to stem this bleed. So now you know why taxes and market value continue to increase and you still don't have anything to show for it.

I say not one more dime of bonded debt for Steele County. We have a huge mess to clean up. This new MN Prairie Alliance I predict will be an even bigger bleed than the above named ones. If Moody's downgrade our credit rating it will be more expensive to borrow.

So now you see "The Emperor has no clothes."

Marlene Nelson
Owatonna

Board should review mishandling of money

I was at the meeting commissioner James Brady arranged with representatives from Steele County, State of Minnesota, FEMA and Homeland Security last Friday morning.

In the audience were concerned citizens and representatives to our state government. The meeting was arranged so as everyone involved in the decisions of the flood damaged property in 2010 could voice their respective opinions and grievances.

Also representing the county on speaker phone was the law firm hired to mitigate between the county and various government agencies in determining what funds were available and how they could be spent.

It was my understanding this firm was paid a substantial amount even though the county has an employee on board to do exactly that. Parts of the meeting were dominated by a FEMA representative from Chicago, also on speaker phone, and the rep from the law firm. The FEMA rep repeatedly said the decision had been made to provide approximately \$1.5 million to bring the site into flood compliance and fix damaged property.

Apparently the county reps Anita Benson, Tom Shea and the law firm had submitted appeals and extensions, which FEMA says they never received. It seems to me if you are being paid, either as an employee or a hired firm, it would have been your responsibility to check this out sometime in the nearly five years since the flood. Whether the appeals will have any effect on the outcome remains to be seen. Also in several county newspapers it was stated

by county people that the building had been destroyed in the flood.

After the meeting, I approached a FEMA rep and asked if they had people that inspected these type of damages and if so why hadn't they done so. He replied that yes indeed they do and an attempt was made to inspect the building. I am not clear as to why but he said they were unable to do so in this case even though they tried. I also gave correspondence to our state rep Vicky Jensen that perhaps she should be allowed to inspect the site. Mr. Petersburg was in attendance also but left before I could relate the same to him.

What is vividly clear is the people representing the taxpayers in this matter failed to dot their I's and cross their T's. The dollar amount including rent, law firm fees and related costs far exceed \$1 million. It seems to me the county board needs to strongly review the people responsible and take appropriate action, up to and including dismissal. They should include the many employee problems still being mitigated in their review.

One thing I do not understand in this whole process is why we send billions of dollars to the federal government and then have to go through an expensive process to get some back. It would be far better to keep these funds at a local or state level.

David Nielson
Owatonna

Thanks to staff for work on Farm Living section

Just a quick note to let you know how much we appreciate the fine job you and your people have done in putting together all of the information in "Farm Living." It is great!

Gene Trom
Bloomington

Times filled with stories found nowhere else

I look forward to getting this newspaper every week! The staff does a great job in putting together a quality paper with stories you wouldn't see anywhere else!

Joshua Kiel
Owatonna

Westfield supervisors took our right to vote

Westfield Township Special meeting was called by the people. Unfortunately, the Township failed and refused to conduct the people's business. The Westfield Township Supervisors inappropriately hijacked the Special Meeting. They conducted business at a Special Meeting - actions which are prohibited by Minnesota law, including 1) the hiring of Jack Perry (who happens to represent the Maschings) and 2) adopted an interim ordinance that was not properly noticed.

By doing so, they disenfranchised the citizens of Westfield Township and took away their right to vote at the Special Meeting. The Township Supervisors had a single job at the Special Meeting - to set up the ballot box and allow local citizens to vote "Yes" or "No" to a simple question: Shall the board of supervisors adopt zoning and regulations and restrictions?

Sonja Trom Eayrs
Dodge County
Concerned Citizens

You can help ensure our great July 4th event doesn't go away



Luke Swenson

Being raised an Awesome Blossom, as I suspect many of you reading this were, I cannot imagine Bloomington without our Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration.

This is, by far, the largest event the Bloomington Area Chamber of Commerce holds each year with the support of local businesses and countless volunteers over the years. Each year includes one of the best parades in the state, great food vendors, fireworks, and many family friendly activities such as the

peddle pull competition, miniature golf and the list could go on and on.

I cannot imagine a 4th of July in BP without hearing "peddle, peddle, peddle," or watching the parade and fireworks... getting my annual shish kabob (or three) and all the other things I've come to enjoy while celebrating our country's independence and I hope my children can enjoy as much as I have.

But how much longer will our great community be able to host this great annual event? The answer

to that question may be up to you. Over the years volunteers in preparation for this event have dwindled and while some new volunteers have joined, the number of people involved has continued to drop. I am positive there are more willing and able volunteers out there, which is why I am writing this. There are many tasks to be completed each year to keep this event going. Some tasks are small and some are large. Some could use a strong back and some elbow grease and some are

more clerical and detail oriented. My point is, if you are willing and able, I'm sure there is a way you can help.

If you are interested or just want more information please contact the BP Area Chamber of Commerce office either by phone, 507-583-4472, or by email, bpcocf@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Luke Swenson is the president of the Bloomington Area Chamber of Commerce.

FEEDLOT MEETING

Continued from Page 1A

“It seems Mr. Wolf wants the board to have some control.

“It looks like 150 to 200 people are here. So you want their input.”

Parry said the ordinance he was suggesting could remain in effect for up to one year, or the town board could rescind it at any time. It would give the board time to look at the issue, hear from residents and make a decision, Parry said.

Attorney Jim Peters, who represents Lowell and Evelyn Trom in a lawsuit against Dodge County regarding feedlots, countered that if an ordinance was to be considered, the township should have given public, published notice that the issue would come up.

Peters asked, unsuccessfully, several times for the notice from the newspaper to be read.

“You need publication; posting does not meet the standard,” he said.

“There was never anything that came out that an ordinance might be adopted.”

Township supervisors passed the interim ordinance before moving to the public-comment portion of the meeting.

Discussion on the ordinance mainly involved the two attorneys, and the board passed it on a 3-0 vote.

Residents speak

Wolf then was chosen as the moderator for the citizen-input portion of the meeting, and discussion was initially limited to residents of the township or those who “had a taxable interest.” It ultimately was opened up to anyone wishing to speak.

Much of the discussion fo-

cused on questions regarding feedlots and included comments from several feedlot owners.

Dodge County Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm was present to answer questions, as were several other county officials.

Gamm said the county requires that a feedlot be at least 1,000 feet from a residence.

A question also arose about putting a feedlot on a parcel of 6 acres, as opposed to 53 acres for a home.

Gamm said a minimum of 3 acres is needed for a home, but there is a limit to how many 3-acre parcels can be in a section. There can only be one 3-acre parcel per quarter-section, and if that density is already met, 53 acres is considered a farm.

Jim Ostlie, a livestock specialist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, was also on hand, saying his job is to track zoning ordinances in townships.

The Department of Agriculture supports livestock agriculture, Ostlie said, but also understands that zoning is sometimes necessary. In those cases, he said, the department offers help to townships and to make sure restrictions are fair and science-based.

Sonja Trom Eayrs spoke on behalf of the group Dodge County Concerned Citizens, which had originated the petition calling for the meeting. She said it was unfortunate that the issue of planning and zoning had to come up in the context of feedlots, but it was reasonable to talk about it.

She said citizens cannot trust the state or county to do the right thing, and there was no water or manure management in the

county. Only six feedlots in the county have water-use permits, and only one (Jim Masching’s) is in Westfield Township. Only 37 have manure-management plans, she said.

“The air and water belong to all of us,” Trom Eayrs said.

A number of farmers also spoke about the importance of livestock agriculture to the area in supporting businesses and allowing young people to continue or begin farming.

Nick Masching said he is a third-generation farmer in the township, and livestock farming will allow him to start a family, send kids to school locally, support local businesses and continue the family farm.

Westfield Township already has planning and zoning, resident Jerry Wilson said. Residents already have to deal with the county and state and in some cases the federal government, he said.

“This just adds another layer,” Wilson said. “We don’t need another layer.”

There was another round of discussion over the interim ordinance as board members decided how to proceed.

Parry recommended that the board allow two more weeks for written comments to accommodate residents who might not be comfortable speaking in public. He further recommended that the board reconvene next month.

Peters again questioned the approval of the interim ordinance and how it was posted.

He also said he was not trying to “shut down agriculture,” but to help.

“Do you want venture-capital firms coming in and buying up land?” he asked.

Having an ordinance would not mean the township would have to have a zoning adminis-

trator, he said, nor would it be costly.

“You may not want an ordinance now,” he said, “but in a few years you may want one.”

Board members took Parry’s advice and will accept written comments for two weeks and discuss the issue again next month, although there was little board support for a zoning ordinance.

“On March 10,” said Paul Fiebiger, “we had an election. There were 151 votes; Lowell got 34, I got 117. I thought it settled it with the election.

“That’s what I thought. It was a landslide.”

“The board is not in favor of zoning,” said Wolf. “What bothered me was the mistruths of this petition.

“I kind of got offended by this petition going around. We do look out for the residents.”

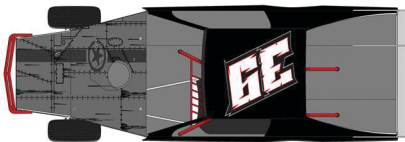


Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen
Carol Kirkebon speaks during the Westfield Township meeting.

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Public Safety

911 center gets new leader

Operations manager takes over as director at Rice-Steele center

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The area’s 911 emergency communications center is getting a new director, but it’s no stranger to the organization. Long-time employee Jill Bondhus has been appointed interim director of the Rice-Steele 911 dispatch center. The announcement came Wednesday during a joint powers board meeting in Faribault after former director Tim Boyer made the recommendation. Bondhus has been with the center since 2000 and has served in a variety of roles, including dispatcher, shift supervisor and most recently operations manager. Prior to joining the Rice-Steele center, she worked for five years as a dispatcher for Dodge County. She will serve in the interim role for six months at which time a determination will be made on whether to make her permanent. The board is expected to meet in October to make that decision. As director, Bondhus will be responsible for 22 employees



Submitted photo
There has been a changing of the guard at the Rice-Steele 911 Center in Owatonna. Jill Bondhus has taken over the reigns as interim director of the center from Tim Boyer, who left for a similar job with the Minnesota State Patrol. Bondhus has been with the center since 2000, most recently as operations manager.

and a \$2 million yearly budget. The center provides dispatching services for police, fire and EMS agencies in both Rice and Steele counties. All 911 calls in both counties are routed to the center located in Owatonna. The new director admits she

Blotter Spotlight:
On March 30, a woman called 911 and stated she had the wrong number. When deputies went to investigate, they found a domestic disturbance going on in the residence in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center. One person was charged with domestic assault and taken to jail.

Crime brief

Drug call results in 2 arrests

A suspected drug offense in Owatonna has landed two people in jail. Police responded to a call of a vehicle at a resident that may be involved in drug activity Thursday afternoon on the south end of town. When the officer arrived, he knew the driver did not have a valid license. The vehicle was stopped in the Casey’s lot on 18th Street SE. In addition to the man who had a revoked license, the officer found a woman with a small child who was not in a car seat. When police tried to identify the woman, she provided her sister’s name, knowing she had outstanding warrants. She was found to be in possession of a hypodermic needle that contained presumptive methamphetamine. Kaylynn A. Smart, 27, has been charged with felony possession of a controlled substance and providing a false name to police. Corey J. Tollefson, 45, was charged with driving after revocation and a child seat violation. It appears Tollefson may be a slow learner when it comes to illegal activity. About five hours later he was seen driving the same vehicle. Officers jailed him a second time.



Smart



Tollefson

Spring brings more traffic on roadways

Police urge motorists to look out for cycles, mopeds

As the weather warms, motorcycles and mopeds use will increase. The Owatonna Police Department encourages motorists to look twice for motorcycles and mopeds as they are back on the roads. Likewise, motorcycle and moped operators have additional duties and laws to follow. Inherently, motorcycles can be hard to see – so all drivers must be attentive and look twice for mo-

torcycles before starting, turning, and entering the roadway. Motorcyclists are entitled to the full use of their driving lane and have all the rights and duties of other drivers. Motorcycles must have basic safety equipment in working condition, such as headlights and taillights must be on at all times, a brake lamp, horn, windshield, mirror, muffler, brake and footrest for passengers, if the vehicle is designed and intended for use by a passenger. In addition, motorcycle operators must have protective eyewear even if the vehicle is equipped with a windshield. Operators and

passengers under the age of 18, must wear a DOT approved helmet; although helmet use is recommended for all operators and passengers. Additional riding rules include: operators may not carry articles that interfere with keeping both hands on the handlebars, drivers and passengers must be seated forward and tall enough to reach the footrests, splitting traffic [driving between vehicles] is not only dangerous for others sharing the road, but it is against the law. A valid driver’s license with a motorcycle endorsement is required, in addition to current registration and motor vehicle insurance.

Police warn that additional restrictions and equipment are required for motorcycle permit operators, such as a required DOT approved helmet, no passengers, no interstate and nighttime riding. Mopeds have increased in popularity among youth operators. A moped by definition is a vehicle that has a piston displacement of 50cc or less, a maximum of 2 horse power, and a maximum speed of 30 mile per hour on a flat surface.

ROADWAYS
Continued on Page 6A

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
March 30
Vandalism. Officer took property damage report in the city at 1:42 p.m.
Owatonna Police
March 27
Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 600 block of 24th St. NE at 9:50 a.m.
Vandalism. Officer took property damage report in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 10:19 a.m.
Restraining Order. At 6:05 p.m., a restraining order was violated in the 900 block of Brook Lane NE.
Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 500 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 5:56 p.m.
DWI. Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 8:11 p.m.
March 28
Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 1:02 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene.
Warrant. At 10:21 a.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 2000 block of Greenwood Dr. NE.
Shoplifting. Officer responded to a shoplifting incident in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 6:09 p.m. An adult was arrested at the scene.
March 29
Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 4:53 p.m.
Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance at 5:40 p.m. in the 500 block of State Ave. NW.
Trespassing. At 10:04 p.m., officer arrested a subject for trespassing in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.
March 30

Child Protection. Officer took child protection report in the 300 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8:40 a.m.
Animal. At 8:25 a.m., officers responded to an animal call in the 800 block of Cedar Ave. S.
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 3:12 p.m. and in the 2900 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:07 p.m.
Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:45 p.m.
March 31
Death. Police began a death investigation in the 100 block of 24th St. NE at 6:52 a.m.
Disturbance. At 8:18 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S.
Domestic. Police responded to the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. for a domestic disturbance at 11:31 a.m.
Restraining Order. A citizen reported that a restraining order had been violated at 2:53 p.m. in the 300 block of 16th St. NE.
Shoplifting. At 4:30 p.m., police took a shoplifting report in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW.
April 1
Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:18 p.m. and in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 9:39 p.m.
Burglary. At 12:46 p.m., police responded to a burglary in the 700 block of Willowbrook Dr. NE.
Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred at Bridge St. W. and State Ave. NW at 2:57 p.m.
Shoplifting. At 6:49 p.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.
Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE at 6:58 p.m.
April 2
Crash. A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 2400 block of Mossy Creek Dr. NE at 5:48 a.m.
Suspicion. Police received a sus-

picious activity report from the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:57 a.m.
Theft. A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 900 block of Crestview Lane NE at 2:57 p.m.
Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 2000 block of Sunlight Ave. SE at 5:02 p.m.
Forgery. Counterfeit money was found in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:08 p.m.
Arrest. A traffic stop resulted in a motorist being arrested in the 2000 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:06 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
March 27
Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at 118th St. SE and Hwy. 218 at 12:02 a.m. A juvenile was arrested at the scene.
Arrest. Deputy took a motorist into custody following a traffic stop in the 8000 block of 21st Ave. NW at 7:01 a.m.
Assault. At 2:09 p.m., deputies responded to an assault in the 600 block of School St.
March 28
Animal. Deputies received a dangerous animal report from the 4400 block of Cedar Ave. at 8:03 p.m.
March 29
Crash. At 2:15 a.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 700 block of 58th St. SE. One of the drivers was arrested.
Drunken Driving. Deputy made a DWI arrest at County Rd. 3 and County Rd. 45 S. at 2:38 a.m.
March 30
Vandalism. At 2:25 p.m., deputy took property damage report in the 8600 block of Dane Rd.
March 31
Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE at 2 p.m.
Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of 92nd Ave. SW at 5:10 p.m.

April 2
Burglary. At 4:08 p.m., deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 6600 block of 14th Ave. SE.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 23 with Judge Joseph A. Buetel presiding:
Thomas R. Gibson, 32, St. Cloud State Prison, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics and controlled substance. He was sentenced to \$262 and 72 months in St. Cloud State Prison.
The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 23 with Judge Gerald Wolf presiding:
Andy J. Hiebert, 38, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of controlled substance. Hiebert was sentenced to \$381, no possession of firearms, and 5 years of supervised probation.
The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 23 – 27:

MN State Patrol Rochester
Gerald E. Anderson, 64, Bismarck, ND, seat belt, \$106; Rhonda K. Boxmeyer, 51, Rockford, IA, speeding, \$131; Alexis C. Brech, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Oswaldo F. Carnacho Zepeda, 31, Bloomington, speeding, \$141; Joseph D. Carlino, 29, Bellechester, window tint violation, \$81 and 6 months of unsupervised probation;
Bruce D. Evert, 50, Sabin, falsified entries in log book, \$181; Dominique R. Fabiyi, 27, Austin, speeding, \$381; Matthew A. Fredenberg, 37, St. Cloud, suspended license, \$281; Jennie L. Gappa, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Heidi L. Kemper, 21, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$281;

Valerie J. Meyer, 19, Stillwater, speeding, \$131; Wendy H. Peterson, 49, Madison, WI, speeding, \$141; Wendy M. Rasmussen, 34, Lake Crystal, no insurance, \$281;
Jason R. Royer, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Conner P. Schmidt, 20, Forest City, IA, speeding, \$141; Bryan S. Valencia, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281.

Owatonna Police Department
Lamario J. Anders, 29, Owatonna, false name, \$131 and 26 days in county jail; Jack S. Bass, 46, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181;
Jason C. Borwege, 43, Chicago, IL, domestic assault, \$381, domestic abuse evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and no possession of firearms; Mildred A. Diaz Rodriguez, 20, Albert Lea, no insurance and speeding, \$331; Joshua J. Emmerson, 29, Austin, DWI, \$506, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;
Shaun R. Fedder, 37, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$181, 20 days in county jail, no possession of firearms and 1 year of supervised probation;
Steven F. Groening, 56, Owatonna, public nuisance, \$181 and 6 months of unsupervised probation;
Payton F. Hinchley, 18, Owatonna, underage possession of alcohol, \$181; Ashton A. Kane, 19,

Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Brittany E. Louks, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;
Jason C. Meixner, 37, Blooming Prairie, DWI, \$1,106, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Darrin L. Olson, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Marion A. Pirkil, 81, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Patrick D. Powell, 41, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181;
Abbas N. Said, 20, Owatonna, underage drinking and driving, \$181, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Beverly A. Willert, 75, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office
Neil T. Dickie, 32, Waseca, DWI, \$431, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Thomas S. Forthun, 53, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Paul W. Friesen, 54, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Hunter J. Jirele, 18, speeding and no insurance, \$341; Nakia R. Jones, 42, Shakopee, shoplifting, \$131 and 90 days in county jail;

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 6A

SHERIFF’S TIPLINE

866-878-7964

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

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

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Abdulmajid Mohamed Khalif- Theft- No bond.	Timothy Ballard Koger- DWI- 2nd Degree- \$12,000 bail.	Michael Craig Laursen- Theft- \$10,000 bail.
Marie Tracy Kinard- DWI-2nd Degree- \$12,000 bail.	Monique Lynn Kraay- Traffic- \$500 bail.	Ulises Lazcando- Speed, no MN license- \$500 bail.
Georgia Nora Kingswan- DUI- No bond.	Anna Marie Christine M. Kramer- No proof insurance- \$500 bail.	Miguela Lazú Martinez- No valid license- \$500 bail.
Ronald Kirkbride- Civil Warrant- \$1,000 bail.	Kyle William Krause- Burglary- 2nd Degree- No bond.	Jesus Leal- Domestic assault- \$1,000 bail.
Larry Jon Kittelson- DWI- No bond.	Anthony Jeremiah Lake- Driving after revocation- \$500 bail.	Michael Lavern Lee- DWI- refuse test- \$1,000 bail.
Vern Klostriech- DWI- \$12,000 bail.	Trevor Lee Lambkins- Assault- 5th degree- \$1,000 bail.	Sylvia Mary Lee- Taxes- \$110,000 bail.
Matthew Richard Knafel- DWI- \$500 bail.	Kenneth William Lane- False name- \$1,000 bail.	Michael S. Lehnertz- Contempt of court- No bond.
William Earl Knutson- DWI- \$3,000 bail.	Christopher Douglas Larson- Driving after suspension- \$500 bail.	

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Almost Retired

Dear Almost,
There are actually two kinds of Social Security claiming strate-

gies that can provide retirees a big lump-sum benefit, but you need to be past full retirement age to be eligible, and there are financial drawbacks you need to be aware of too.

First, let's review the basics. Remember that while workers can begin drawing their Social Security retirement benefits anytime between ages 62 and 70, full retirement age is currently 66 for those born between 1943 and

1954, but it rises in two-month increments to 67 for those born in 1960 and later. You can find your full retirement age at ssa.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

At full retirement age, you are entitled to 100 percent of your benefits. If you claim earlier you'll receive less, while if you delay you'll get more – roughly 8 percent more for each year until age 70.

Lump-sum options

If you are past full retirement age and have not yet filed for your benefits, the Social Security Administration offers a retroactive lump-sum payment that's worth six months of benefits.

Here's how it works. Let's say you were planning to delay taking your Social Security benefits past age 66, but you changed your mind at 66 and six months. You could then claim a lump-sum payment equal to those six

months of benefits. So, for instance, if your full retirement age benefit were \$2,000, you would be entitled to a \$12,000 lump sum payment.

If you decided at age 66 and four months that you wanted to file retroactively, you'd get only four months' worth of benefits in your lump sum, because SSA rules prohibit you from claiming benefits that pre-date your full retirement age.

Another option that provides even more cash is the "file and suspend" strategy. Again, this option is only available to people on (or after) full retirement age.

Here's how this strategy works. Let's say you're 66, and you decide to delay your benefits. You could file for your benefit and then immediately suspend it.

This gives you the ability to collect a lump sum going back to the date you filed. So if you need money at age 69 for example,

and your full retirement age benefit was \$2,000, you could get a three-year lump sum of \$72,000.

Drawbacks

The big downside to these strategies is that once you accept a lump-sum payment, you'll lose all the delayed retirement credits you've accrued, and your future monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to reflect the amount you already received.

Here's an example of how this works. Let's say that you are entitled to a \$2,480 monthly benefit at age 69. By taking a three-year lump sum payment, your future benefits will shrink back to \$2,000 per month, which is what you would have received at your full retirement age. This also affects your future survivor benefit to your spouse or other eligible family members after you die.

You also need to consider Uncle Sam. Depending on your

income, Social Security benefits may be taxable, and a lump-sum payment could boost the amount of benefits that are taxed. To help you calculate this, see IRS Publication 915 "Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits" at irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf, or call 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a copy.

One other caveat: If you're married and you "file and suspend" your Social Security benefit, you cannot file a "restricted application" too, which gives you the ability to collect spousal benefits while delaying your own retirement benefit past full retirement age.

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 29, 2005

The deployment of thousands of National Guards was much of a surprise since the National Guards have initially been stationed stateside helping with homeland disasters. Some of our local friends and neighbors are now in Iraq with the Austin National Guard Unit 50th Battalion, Company B.

Gladys Marie Seavey Peterson, 84 of Bloomington, died Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at her home. She was born to Charles S. "Sam" and Ella Seavey April 2, 1920, in Udolpho Township, Mower County, Minnesota where she grew up and attended country school.

First Lutheran Church in Bloomington will be hosting an inspiring concert with contemporary Christian music,

puppetry, drama, and personal testimony on Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m. for people of all ages. The concert will focus on this year's theme "Calm the Storm".

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
March 28, 1995

Prizes for the After-Prom Party April 21 begin to pile up. All seniors, junior and their dates are encouraged to attend the After-Prom Party at the Bloomington Prairie High School. Tickets are on sale April 10, 11, 18 and 19. They will be sold during lunch hour in the commons; cost is \$5.

The family of Jerome and Romaine Simon, Ellendale, invites you to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house on Sunday April 9, 1:30 to 5 p.m.

The Minnesota Board of Pardons refused March 22 to commute the prison sentence for Harvey Cole, the Bloomington Prairie man who was convicted of shooting his wife. The 77-year old man shot his wife and then ignored her pleas for mercy and fired a second, fatal, shot in 1989. His wife, Margaret Cole, 75, was found on a bed in a bedroom in the couple's home, dead of two gunshot wounds in her back. Cole was lying next to her and a gun was between them.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, and Vryle Krejci, Editors
April 1, 1965

Bernard Kubicek, Bloomington Prairie, is a patient at Methodist Hospital, Rochester, and will undergo major surgery sometime this week. As yet, sometime this week. As yet,

doctors have not set the exact date for the operation.

Street Commissioner Glenn Dennis announced Tuesday that the Village dump grounds will be closed until further notice. The road leading into the area is impassable at this time, necessitating the closing of the disposal site.

Mrs. Bill Kaplan underwent surgery at Owatonna City Hospital Monday for a fracture of her left hip. Mrs. Kaplan was hospitalized Friday afternoon following a fall in front of her home. Mrs. Kaplan is well-known in the business district, having been employed at Ressler Lanes Cafe for many years.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
March 28, 1940

The building formerly oc-

cupied by the Triple-S Electric home appliance store has just been leased to Donald Schultz of Litchfield, Minnesota, according to a late announcement. According to Mr. Jim Birgin, owner of the building, it will be used as a variety store. Lawrence Lysne, local contractor, will do repair work on the interior. The store is expected to be open about May 1.

Miss Margaret Jensen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Jensen, of near Brownsdale, formerly of Austin, became the bride of Donald E. Ingvalson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Ingvalson, of Udolpho, Easter Sunday, March 25th, at 2 p.m., at the St. Olaf parsonage in Austin.

Many friends and relatives were present at the 79th birthday celebration held in honor of Mrs. J. G. Johnson Sunday. Mrs. Johnson received many beautiful and useful gifts, and the



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Community

Menus

Seniors Menu

April 7: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, Baked Custard
April 8: Hawaiian Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Creamed Peas/Caul, Orange Slices, Snickerdoodle Brownie
April 9: Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Alt: Carrots, Baked Apple
April 10: Crab Salad, Dill Batter Bun, Melon Wedge, Coconut Custard Square
April 13: Meatballs, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Rhubarb Muffin, Grapes
April 14: Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Cranberry Mold
April 15: Ham/Scalloped Potatoes, ALT: Ground Beef Patty, Dilled Carrots, Mixed Greens Salad, Moon Cake

BP Elementary School Breakfast Menu

April 7: no school
April 8: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 9: Ultimate Breakfast Round, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 10: Iced Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 13: WG Apple Bosco Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 14: Fruit Yogurt w/ Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 15: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch Menu

April 7: no school
April 8: Beefy Nachos w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce, Hamburger on Whole Grain Bun, Steamed Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Radishes, Choice of Fruit
April 9: Parmesan Chicken Bites, Marinara, WG Pasta, Hot Ham & Cheese on WG Bun, Green Beans, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit
April 10: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Crispy Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Glazed Carrots, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit
April 13: Chicken Nuggets, Whole Wheat Bread, Turkey BLT Flatbread, Steamed Corn, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
April 14: Chicken Alfredo Pizza, Pulled Pork on WG Bun, BBQ Sauce, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
April 15: Popcorn Chicken Bowl-, Salisbury Steak Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Radishes, Choice of Fruit

BP Middle School Lunch

Menu

April 7: no school
April 8: 2 Hot Dogs on a Bun, Chili Topping, French Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Green Peas, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
April 9: Tex Mex Pork Bowl-pork, rice, bean & corn salsa in a shell, Cauliflower, Tomatoes, Tender Green Beans, Choice of Fruit
April 10: Parmesan Fish Filet, Lemon-Herb Pasta, Celery Sticks, Black Beans, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit
April 13: Turkey BLT Flatbread Sandwich, Apple Waldorf Salad, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
April 14: Stromboli with Marinara Sauce, Roasted Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Green Beans, Choice of Fruit
April 15: Meatballs & Gravy with Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Steamed Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

BP High School Breakfast Menu

April 7: no school
April 8: Turkey Sausage Biscuit, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 9: Breakfast Fruit Crisp, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 10: Iced Cinnamon Roll, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 13: Bacon Breakfast Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 14: Fruit Yogurt with Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 15: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP High School Lunch Menu

April 7: no school
April 8: 2 Hot Dogs on a Bun, Chili Topping, French Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Green Peas, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
April 9: Tex Mex Pork Bowl-pork, rice, bean & corn salsa in a shell, Cauliflower, Tomatoes, Tender Green Beans, Choice of Fruit
April 10: Parmesan Fish Filet, Lemon-Herb Pasta, Celery Sticks, Black Beans, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit
April 13: Turkey BLT Flatbread Sandwich, Apple Waldorf Salad, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
April 14: Stromboli w/ Marinara Sauce, Roasted Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Green Beans, Choice of Fruit
April 15: Meatballs & Gravy with Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Steamed Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Obituaries

David Ferguson, 80, Austin

David Eugene Ferguson, 80, of Austin died Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at Comfort-care Good Samaritan Center, Austin.



He was born on a farm near Newry, Minnesota, in Freeborn County where he grew up. David graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1953 and obtained his two-year mechanics degree at Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis before going to work for several auto and farm machinery dealerships, including implement dealers in Madelia and Owatonna. In 1978 he built his own diesel repair shop near Lansing at Interstate 90 and Highway 56. David operated the shop for over 50 years and also lived there. David repaired all kinds of engines but specialized in diesel injection (mostly self-taught). He was internationally known for his diesel innovations and solving problems after other diesel shops failed. Happiest when he was talking about or working on tractors, David conducted diesel seminars are the Gathering of the Orange in Hutchinson, Minnesota, and other tractor shows. He collected classic farm tractors of all makes. He enjoyed showing off his tractors at antique tractor pulls, and many area antique tractor shows. He was well-respected for his high quality work restoring classic Allis Chalmers tractors. His innovations were featured in books and magazines, including antique tractor magazines, and he continued to receive inquiries from overseas even after he sold his business property and moved to the Cedars of Austin in 2012. His participation in tractor shows and his expertise will be missed. He will be especially missed by family and friends. Survivors include two brothers, A. Owen (Lorraine) Ferguson of Blooming Prairie and Phillip (Linda) Ferguson of Rochester; two sisters, Norma (William) Johnson of Englewood, Colorado, and Carol (Ward) Voorhees of Morris, Minnesota; nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, two great-great nieces and other relatives and friend. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ross and Florence Ferguson.

Anna Nelson, 89, Blooming Prairie

Anna Lucille Heatherton was born Nov. 22, 1925, in West Des Moines, Iowa, to William R. and Margaret (Daniels) Heatherton. Anna's mother died when Anna was very young, so Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, Sr raised her. On Jan. 16, 1945, she married Vernon Nelson in Decorah, Iowa, where the couple made their home before moving to Rochester. Anna worked as a waitress at the Kahler Coffee Shop in Rochester, and then was hired by Methodist Hospital where she worked with adolescent patients and later in orthopedics. Vernon passed away in January 1994. Following her retirement, Anna moved to Blooming Prairie where she became a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church. She enjoyed the companionship of her cats, going dancing and spending time with her family and friends. Anna is survived by her children, Marcia (Keith) Burfeind of Kimball, Minnesota, and Mike (Patti) Nelson of Albert Lea; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends. Her parents



William and Margaret Heatherton, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly Sr., her husband Vernon Nelson, her daughters Marleen Nelson and Mary Beckrich and several brothers and sisters preceded her in death. Memorial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, with Father Steve Peterson officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Stewartville, Minnesota, at a later date. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. In accordance with Anna's wishes, her body has been donated to the Mayo Anatomical Bequest Program. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 7 Myrtle Jacobson, Kaylee Farr, Ethel Christianson, Ramiro Salinas, Payton Esplan, Dorothy Johnson	April 12 Riley Johnson, John Dean Olson, Joshua Winn, Galen Peterson, Zachary Piller, Kaiden Alwes, Jay Klemmensen
April 8 Tamara Harms, Annie Anderson	April 13 Suzy Kramer, Joel Ingvalson
April 9 John Dale Worke	Anniversaries April 7 Stuart and Brenda Yentsch
April 10 Resha Koster, Emily Harber, David Long, Jorgan Harshbarger	April 10 Chad and Julie Eischens
April 11 Felicia Krampitz, Micah Andrews, Jeremy Cochlin, Carol Kirkebon, Katelyn Eischens, Anita Angell, Greg Skillestad	April 11 Gale and Rick Miller Lloyd and Jane Prihoda Mr. and Mrs. Bob Haberman
	April 12 Doede and Eleanor Harms Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Johnson

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The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation would like to thank you for helping make our 2015, Twelfth Annual Education Foundation Auction a great success! With over \$70,000 in proceeds, this will definitely help us give the children of the Blooming Prairie Schools the opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. Over the years we have been able to provide in excess of \$500,000 in programs and activities to our kids. This year's auction results are nothing short of amazing! The thought that we can raise \$70,000 in one night is truly a statement of the kind of Community we live in. Whether you are a bidder, donor, or just a school supporter, your contributions are appreciated so much! Whether your contributions are large, or very small, or whether they are of services, material items, or if you helped in any way, we want you to realize that it is all of those things **together** that make our efforts a success. It is because of this entire community and the love of its kids and school system that allows our foundation to be able to continue to help give the children of School District #756 the best education possible.

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Area Church Spotlight



St. Aidan's Catholic Church, Ellendale

Pastor's Corner

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

In the spring of 1919, F. Scott Fitzgerald was in New York preparing to publish his first novel, "This Side of Paradise." He received a letter from his fiancée, Zelda Sayre. She had visited an old Confederate cemetery near Montgomery, Alabama, and described the experience for her future husband in this way:

"I've spent the day in the graveyard trying to unlock a rusty, iron vault built into the side of a hill. Why should graves make people feel in vain? . . . Somehow I can't find anything hopeless about having lived — all the broken columns and clasped hands and doves mean romances — and I think I shall like having young people speculate on whether my eyes were brown or blue."

The Gospels tell us that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb of Jesus early on Easter morning. I wonder what she would have written about that first Easter morning? Perhaps it would have been something like this: "I went to the graveyard that morning — not really knowing what drew me ... I knew what I would find — a tomb, a stone, stillness and death. But, I loved this Jesus." Mary's love called her to the tomb early that first Easter morning. She thought she knew what she would find, but she went out of love, out of hope, out of deep sorrow over

the agony and death of Jesus. It was her love that brought her to the tomb and love that brought her Easter joy. That joy came from an empty tomb and an encounter with the Risen Lord whom she did not recognize. It was only when He spoke her name that her eyes were opened.

We know that Jesus' tomb is empty. But what about our own tomb? Not our cemetery lot but that deep-down place in our hearts and heads where we bury our jealous thoughts, our lustful desires, our hurtful habits, our uncharitable judgments. We even talk about being "buried in work" or "buried in debt." Perhaps our tomb contains a love that we have let grow cold. Take a moment today to revisit your tomb and see just how far from empty it is.

The message of Easter is that God wants us to live. God wants to empty our tombs. And so he speaks our name and invites us to new life in Him. He wants to free us from the burial cloths in which we wind ourselves and allow us to walk free. Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen! Alleluia!

The Rev. John Sauer
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
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Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Jonathon Davis
(507) 676-5696

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
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. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
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
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The Rev. Ronald Prigge

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

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

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



TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 a.m. worship
10 a.m. Sunday school

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

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

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

Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
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Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Steve Peterson
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Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday
Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Cronin, Parochial Vicar
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Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,
9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish
Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
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The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
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ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
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Pastor Randy Cirksema
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www.ellendaleumc.org
Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday



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Momentum worth reading!



BLOOMING PRAIRIE
Gala changes things up
By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer
When you think of a community gala, you think of a formal dinner. But the Steele County Times Gala is anything but formal. It's a fun, festive event that brings the community together. The gala is held at the Steele County Courthouse and features a variety of activities, including a silent auction, live entertainment, and a raffle. The Steele County Times Gala is a great way to support the Steele County Times and the community. It's a fun, festive event that brings the community together. The gala is held at the Steele County Courthouse and features a variety of activities, including a silent auction, live entertainment, and a raffle. The Steele County Times Gala is a great way to support the Steele County Times and the community.

New prosecutor hopes to make county safer
By RICK BESSLER
Publisher
With a law degree and law enforcement background, Rick Bessler is well-qualified to make Steele County safer. Bessler is the new prosecutor for Steele County and is committed to making the county a safer place for everyone. Bessler is a former law enforcement officer and has a deep understanding of the challenges facing Steele County. Bessler is committed to working with the community to make Steele County a safer place for everyone. Bessler is a former law enforcement officer and has a deep understanding of the challenges facing Steele County. Bessler is committed to working with the community to make Steele County a safer place for everyone.

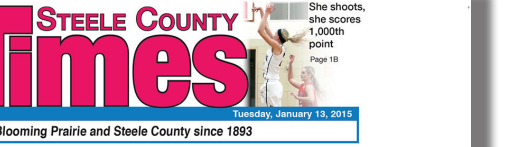


STEM COURSES PART 1
The learning tree
STEM is apple of McKinley's eye
Story and photos by Shannon Kinley
The Steele County Times is proud to present the first part of a series of articles about STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. These are the fields that are driving the future of our world. STEM education is essential for our children to be successful in the future. The Steele County Times is committed to providing our readers with the latest news and information about STEM education. The Steele County Times is proud to present the first part of a series of articles about STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. These are the fields that are driving the future of our world. STEM education is essential for our children to be successful in the future. The Steele County Times is committed to providing our readers with the latest news and information about STEM education.

BPPD to seek part-time help
By ALAN VAN ORSBERG
Managing Editor
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County board chooses next administrator
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Alert clerk is link in missing man case
By RICK BESSLER
Publisher
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Welcome to winter
By ALAN VAN ORSBERG
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A blessed Easter

I feel so blessed. I do so, not only for the rejuvenation of my faith through the impressive Easter services, but also because my entire family had a chance to visit before and after an uplifting performance of “Mary Poppins.” The stage play, patterned after the popular 1964 movie by the same name, is now at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

The production features some of those familiar songs that one keeps humming long after leaving the play. Tunes like “A Little Bit Of Honey” and that song that nobody can pronounce without minutes of practice make the retelling of the children’s book by an English author more than entertaining for several hours. I thought both the singing and acting shone throughout the production, and I would certainly recommend it for children of all ages.

As for the family time, we had some lively and entertaining family talk over the course of the afternoon, and I thought it very heartwarming and memorable. At my age now, every opportunity to be with family is a joy, and I appreciate it very much. Hopefully I will utter the same thoughts after the annual Fourth of July celebration.

On a related note, my granddaughter Becca will graduate from Concordia College in Moorhead on May 3, and her family is real proud of her accomplishments. Although she had to give up her hockey career after her sophomore year because of injury, she has shone in her pre-engineering course of study and is ready to enter engineering school at the U of Minnesota next fall. I probably will write more about her before she leaves college.

And so it begins

Today is the day our big spring sport tab is published, but it also marks the beginning of a hectic couple of months of almost non-stop athletic contests. I think fans will enjoy both occasions.

All the teams, except golf, started their seasons last week, with mixed results. The baseball team got a very well-pitched game from Sam Swenson in their win over B.A. on the home field. In addition to Swenson’s fine pitching, even more surprising was the defense for the Blossoms. They played through all seven innings without an error and as Coach Kittelson declared, “Errors were one of our big downfalls last year.” What a difference a year can make.

The softball team, on the other hand, couldn’t compete with the hard-hitting B.A. Cardinals and lost the season opener. Four errors, seven walks and a couple of visitor home runs didn’t help either. There are several players at new positions this year, and it may take some time to become acclimated to that change. I think we can trust, however, that Coach Ali Mach will get the team competitive before too long.

Finally, the track teams competed for the first time this season in an indoor meet at Mankato. I thought the most encouraging aspect of that meet hinged upon the success of the relay teams for both the boys and girls. Some individual performances also gave cause for optimism, but the relay teams really impressed everyone. Go, Blossoms!

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 3B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASEBALL



Sam Swenson pitched a complete game on Thursday, April 2, allowing only one run off five walks and six hits. Swenson threw four strikeouts in the game.

Staff photos by James Knoop

NRHEG track and field roundup

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys and girls track and field teams both took second place at their home invite on Tuesday, March 31.

Maple River took first place in both boys and girls and Medford took third in both.

Two days later, both NRHEG boys and girls took third place at the Waseca invite. Once again, both boys and girls team finishes were the same, with Waseca winning both events, and New Ulm, NRHEG and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, respectively.

For the girls, Maddie Wagner remains undefeated in the high jump, reaching 4-10 in windy condition Thursday.

Hailey Schuller also made some noise, winning both 100 and 300 hurdles, placing first with her 4x200-meter relay team and placing second in the long jump at 14-5 1/2.

At its home, the NRHEG boys took first in the 4x200, 4X400 and 4x800-meter re-

NRHEG ROUNDUP

Continued on Page 2B

No errors in home opener



Senior Sam Swenson swings early in the game against Bethlehem Academy on Thursday, April 2. The boys came away with a 5-1 victory.

By LEMAR NELSON

Staff Sports Writer

What a difference a year makes.

The Blooming Prairie boys team played error-free baseball against Bethlehem Academy Thursday, April 2, and the team won the season opener 5-1 on the home diamond.

Sam Swenson scattered six hits, with four strikeouts and five walks in the seven-inning complete game.

BP scored twice in the second inning on consecutive walks, a passed ball, Swenson’s RBI single and another passed ball. Christian Von Ruden and Swenson then pitched scoreless ball until the fifth inning, when Pete Clark took a hanging slider from Swenson and knocked it over the left field fence to cut the Blossom lead to 2-1. Neither team scored again until the bottom of the sixth.

Brad Staska led off the inning

with a walk, and consecutive walks to Ethan Arett and Camden Heimerman with one out. Swenson then hit a line drive to right field to plate Staska. With the bases still loaded, Riley Olson stepped in and poked a single right field, scoring Arett and Heimerman.

“Not having any errors,” commented first-year coach Matt Kittelson. “When was the last time that happened? It all kind of came together, and I couldn’t be more proud of this young group of players.”

Swenson led the attack with two hits and two RBIs. “The good thing about today, he kept calm, didn’t panic and kept the ball down in the strike zone,” Kittelson added. “Errors have been a big problem in the past, and this was a good performance.”

BP had five runs, four hits, zero errors; B.A. had one run, six hits and no errors.

OWATONNA

Improved Brooktree Golf Course opens for season

By JAMES KNOOP

County Sports Editor

Over 100 golfers enjoyed the improved Brooktree Golf Course in Owatonna Thursday, as it opened for the season at 12 p.m.

According to Owatonna Director of Parks, Recreation and Government Buildings Jim (Corky) Ebeling, the opening was a week or two earlier than usual, but nice weather and anticipation for showing off improvements motivated the early opening.

“We’re really excited,” said Ebeling. “They had a really good (opening) day. Hopefully it warms up here a little bit, and we can get some more golfers out here.”

Ebeling said regulars to the course will notice many changes this season, including a brand new outside patio with a gas fireplace. Ebeling said the patio will be used on a daily basis, though it may also be rented out for banquets and other events.

For those wishing to ride across the course, 25 new, roofed golf carts have been added, and to help out, over 12,000 linear feet of paths have been laid, so golfers can ride along the entire course, even after a heavy rain.

“In the past we didn’t allow that,” said Ebeling, adding that this will help keep the course open to golfers of all ages even after inclement weather.

Golfers may also notice renovated bunkers, with more playable sand, a new bridge and remodeled pro shop and kitchen.

“We really spruced up the place,” said Ebeling. “Added new things to make it nice.”

The course is currently open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m, but will have extended hours as summer goes on. More information can be found on the website: <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/brooktree-golf>.



Submitted photo

One of the first groups to play at Brooktree Golf Course in Owatonna opening day, Thursday, April 2. From left to right: Mike Sethney, Mike O'Neill and Lee Kostelecky.

NRHEG ROUNDUP
Continued from Page 1B

lays, as well as placing second in the 4x100-meter relay. At the Waseca invite, the same relays placed third in the 4x100-meter relay and second in the other three.

Waseca invite 4-2-15
NRHEG

Girls results

1. Waseca 115, 2. New Ulm 78, 3. NRHEG 46, 4. JWP 17

100-meter dash - 4. Marnie Wagner, 13.6
200-meter dash - 4. Maddie Wagner, 28.95
800-meter run - 4. Kelly Harden, 2:50.12
1,600-meter run - 5. Annie Prigge, 6:48.17
3,200-meter run - 5. Sandra Quezada, 14:21.0
100-meter-hurdles - 1. Hailey Schuller, 17.25.
300-meter-hurdles - 1. Hailey Schuller, 55.59
4x100-meter-relay - 2. NRHEG, 57.38
4x200-meter-relay - 1. NRHEG,

1:59.3.
4x800-meter-relay - 3. NRHEG, 12:10.97
High Jump - 1. Maddie Wagner 4-10.
Long Jump - 2. Hailey Schuller, 14-5 1/2
Shot Put - 2. Emily Eder 29-9

Boys results

1. Waseca 128, 2. New Ulm 66, 3. NRHEG 32, 4. JWP 28
3200-meter run - 2. John Cole, 11:09.53
4X100-meter relay - 2. NRHEG
4X200-meter relay - 1. NRHEG, 1:45.1
4X400-meter relay - 1. NRHEG, 3:59.08
4X800-meter relay - 1. NRHEG, 9:26.17



Staff photo by James Knoop
Noah Sletten (left) Nate Krause exchange the batton during the 4x200-meter relay. NRHEG placled first in the relay at their home meet on Thursday, April 2, and finished second of three at the invite.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SOFTBALL

Girls drop home opener to Bethlehem Academy in high-scoring game



Staff photos by James Knoop
Bloomng Prairie sophomore Bria Baldwin steps out of the batter's box after a strike during Thursday's 14-16 loss to Bethlehem Academy.

Blossoms
score 14
in loss to
Cardinals

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

It was not the kind of opener Coach Ali Mach envisioned, but Bethlehem Academy ambushed the Bloomng Prairie softball team 16-14 on the home diamond Thursday, April 2.

The teams traded big innings early with 15 runs crossing the plate in the first two innings.

The Cardinals added to the lead in four of the last five innings, while BP added runs in just three other innings. The Blossoms tallied five times in the sixth to draw within two runs, after the visitors had counted a single run in the top of the sixth. The locals had opportuni-

ties in the last inning, but two fly outs and a groundout stifled any chance of a comeback.

“We have been stressing defense, but we made four errors and gave up too many hits to be successful in this one,” Mach commented. “Elly Strunk also walked seven, which was a little high for her. We will have to regroup fast, as we have to travel to NRHEG Thursday, April 9.”

Bria Baldwin had two hits, including a triple and two RBIs for BP, Anika Nowlan went four for four, and Strunk had three hits in six tries. B.A. had 16 runs (11 earned) and 13 hits including two home runs and two errors; BP had 14 runs, 15 hits and four errors.

The loss gave the Blossoms a 0-1 start to the season. The girls will next face the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers at New Richland. The Panthers are coming off a 10-8 season.

Ladies Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS (as of April 1)

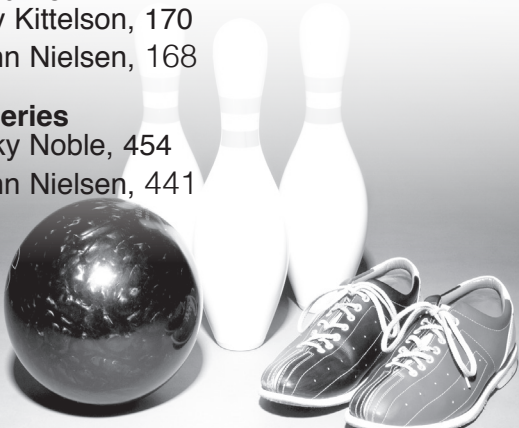
	Wins	Losses
1. Epic Contracting	32	12
2. F & M Bank	27.5	16.5
3. Kosters Car Korner	15.5	28.5
4. J&H Liquors/DQ	15	25

TEAM STATS

High team (Scratch) F & M Bank, 2,133
High team (handicap) Kosters Car Korner, 1,955
INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game
1. Mary Kittelson, 170
2. Joann Nielsen, 168

High Series
1. Becky Noble, 454
2. Joann Nielsen, 441



Elly Strunk delivers a pitch during Thursday's 14-16 loss to the Cardinals of Bethlehem Academy.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



SAM SWENSON

One of BP's senior athletes, Sam Swenson, led the baseball team to a satisfying season opener for the Blossoms. Swenson scattered six hits over seven innings and allowed just one run in the complete game performance. He also had a pair of RBI's and two hits in the game. The team played errorless ball behind his pitching to get the season started on a high note.



LEAH SCHIEFERT

Not counting the relays, sophomore Leah Schiefert earned two places in the indoor track meet last Thursday. She finished second in the 400-meter dash with a 1:13:70 time and then placed fourth in the pole vault. Schiefert is the first pole vaulter for BP in a couple of years. The track teams travel to Hayfield today (Tuesday) for a meet and then don't compete again until April 18.

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Four youth wrestlers to state

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Four Blooming Prairie youth wrestlers recently qualified for the state youth wrestling tournament at Rochester. The meet went from Thursday, March 26, through Sunday, March 29, and included literally hundreds of young athletes from around the state.

The four local wrestlers included seventh-grader Colton Krell and three second-graders: Alex Lea, Lucas Smith and Bo Zwiener. All four Blossoms won at least one bout, and Zwiener placed third in the 90-pound weight class.

Zwiener defeated Masyn Akerman of Luverne 8-0 in the third place bout. Zwiener drew a first round bye, but then lost to Carson Gilbert (BBE) by a fall in the first period. Gilbert ended up the champion of his class. In the losers' bracket Zwiener bounced back to pin Evan Friese (Quad County) in the first period, defeated Evan Senst (North Shore), 8-0.

At 150 pounds Colton Krell defeated Jaiden Bahr (Marshall/Lakeview,) 13-7, but then lost to Kyle Miller (Thief River Falls,) 12-6. In wrestle backs Krell



Second-graders Alex Lea, Lucas Smith and Bo Zwiener each placed second at the state meet in Rocheser on Thursday, March 26.

pinned Jack Steil (Riccori) in the second period, but then lost to Alex O'Connor (Hastings) by a 15-5 count.

Lucas Smith decided Noah Jensen (Minnewaska,) 7-3 in his first bout, but then lost his next two at 85 pounds. At 75 pounds

Alex Lea took an 11-3 verdict over Benedict Heim (Rockford). But he also lost his next two bouts to finish his day.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TRACK AND FIELD

Boys second in first indoor meet

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

By winning two relays and finishing second in a third, the Blossom boys began the track season with second place at University of Minnesota at Mankato Thursday, Apr. 2. Maple River won the division., while the track girls placed third behind WEM and Maple River in their division.

Besides the relay wins, Cole Byers-Sunde won the long jump with a leap of 20-7 1/2 and Collin Wobschall took the shot put first with a throw of 40-9 1/4. The 4x200-meter relay team ran first in 1:42.6, and the 4x800-meter relay team timed a 9:41.

The distance medley was one of four seconds earned by the boys. That relay timed a 4:22.22, Sunde ran the 60-meter dash in 6.75, Angel Villarreal ran the 200-meter dash in 26.37, and the 4x400-meter relay team raced to a 4:05.77. Anthony Nelson finished third in the 200-meter dash at 27.00,

and Jesse Schewe placed third in the 1600-meter run at 5:32.81. Quentin Kubista finished fourth in the triple jump at 33-5.

The girls also earned first in two relays - the 4x400-meter relay and the 4x800-meter relay in times 4:39. 69 and 11:05, respectively. Leah Schiefert took second in the 400-meter relay at 1:13.70, and Asia Thostenson ran the 60-meter hurdles in 10.19 for third place.

The girls placed fourth in seven events - the 4x200-meter relay (2:05.32), Lindsey Schiefert in the 200-meter relay (28:34), Jayde Wacek in the 400-meter relay (1:14) Lauren Larkoski in the high jump 94-6, Leah Schiefert n the pole vault (6-0) Wacek again in the long jump (12-6), and Leah Inwards in the shot (24-10 3/4)). For a first out-ing, results pleased everyone, particularly with the relay wins.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

Odds and ends

The baseball Twins opened the 2015 season yesterday, and all Minnesota fans are tentatively hoping that the team will vastly improve this year. If the pitching holds up as spring training gave some promise for, it could be a more exciting season.

After all, when the team has been mired in four years of 90 or more losses there is really nowhere to go, but up. I hope the early hopes don't get dashed right away. It is up to a better pitching staff and rebound seasons for Joe Mauer and company for that better year everyone needs.

This week, besides all the sports contests, Chad and Julie Eischens are celebrating 20

years of business in Blooming Prairie. They will be hosting an open house this Friday, April 10, and we wish them 20 more years of community support for their business. A tip of the hat this week to the Eischens for their service to the area.

A final accounting still has a few donations trickling in, but the annual Education Foundation auction will realize almost \$74,000 by the time final tabula-

tions are complete. Once again, I think that event is truly remarkable for a community this size, and kudos are in order again for volunteers, donations and the public for its success.

My softball updates for former Blossom players continues. Just as I suspected, both Tricia DeBoer and Shelbi Swenson are improving their batting averages weekly. DeBoer is now hitting .282, and she had the only St.

Cloud hit in one game last week. She has 22 hits and five doubles for the 19-15 Huskies.

Swenson had four hits in one game last week and is now hitting .228. Two doubles, a triple and a home run are among her hits, and the Royals now have a 14-10 record. They have just one loss in their conference. Keep it up, girls.

Here is one other bit of wisdom from a church bulletin; "On

March 10 the prayer group met at the home of Margaret Roberts, who is no longer able to attend church. What a blessing!" Think that over, and we'll talk again.



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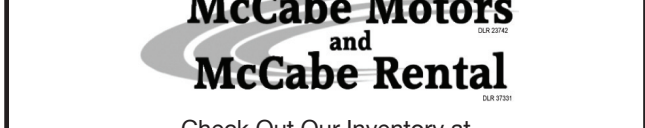
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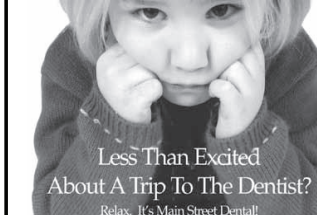


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Education

Blooming Prairie educator becomes principal in Dodge County

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A local educator is getting a new opportunity.

Michelle Krell of Blooming Prairie has accepted the principal job at Kasson-Mantorville Middle School, effective July 1. For the past five years, she has been principal at K-M's elementary school.

"This will be a whole new challenge, and I'm excited about it," Krell said.

She said the fourth-graders at her elementary school are excited because she is following them into the middle school. Krell has created a bond with them as she began in Kasson when they were in kindergarten.

Krell admits that middle school can be a challenging time for many children.

"Those are tough years



Krell

for kids with lots of ups and downs emotionally," she said. "It will be a good challenge and opportunity for me."

Though she won't officially start until July, Krell is getting a jump on things. She is meeting with each teacher and staff member for a half-hour to learn more about the middle school. She wants to know what they value about the school, what they are

most proud of, their expectations of her and what improvements could be made.

"That will create a road map for me as to where we need to go," Krell said. "I'm not coming in with a personal agenda. I'm taking their lead as to where we need to go," she added.

The middle school in Kasson is a six-year-old facility that houses about 700 children in grades 5-8.

"It's a beautiful facility, and it has a unique look to it," Krell said.

Last fall, Krell was recognized as one of the best elementary school principals in America during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. She is a 1988 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. She and her husband, Rodney, live on a farm outside Blooming Prairie.

Krell replaces Al Hodge, who is retiring at the end of the school year after 12 years as principal. K-M is hiring principals to replace Krell as well as a retiring high school principal.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Bringing home the gold during a recent TrigStar competition were juniors Abby Christopherson, Eli Lutgens and Torrie Stencel.

NRHEG math stars bring home gold from trig tourney

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

In past years, many times New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) math students have watched as Mankato West students brought home top honors in a state trigonometry competition. Not this year.

Three juniors - Abby Christopherson, Eli Lutgens and Torrie Stencel - captured the gold during the 13th annual TrigStar competition. The program is an annual competition that recognizes the best students of trigonometry in high schools across Minnesota.

"The biggest impact that winning this competition has on

these kids, and the whole team, was the recognition they are excellent math students," said NRHEG Math Instructor Jennifer Stoesz. "There is generally less recognition for academic accomplishments. All of my students that competed excel academically and this gave them a place to shine."

Lutgens predicted that the team would win the competition.

"I thought we were going to win from the beginning because our class is intelligent," he said. "No one else did because we had never won before."

Stencel admits she wasn't expecting to win. "I was kind of nervous and wasn't expecting us

to do so well. We did," she said. "Hearing our names called and the awards we won was a good feeling."

The students were also excited for their math instructor, Mrs. Stoesz.

"It was really exciting because Mrs. Stoesz always worked for us," Christopherson said. "Our school has always placed well. We were ready going into it and we kept a positive mind."

The object of the competition is to solve four questions related to trigonometry as quickly and accurately as possible. The questions start with basic ones but end on a complex surveying question. Students had one hour to complete the exam, but were

placed by highest score in the fastest time.

Lutgens had the fastest time of the three students completing the process in 45 minutes. Stencel ended it in 48 minutes, while Christopherson was timed in 49 minutes. Lutgens finished second overall, while Stencel was third and Christopherson fifth overall.

To prepare for the event, Stoesz had the students studying trigonometry as part of the school district's pre-calculus course. The students had been working for several weeks preparing. Then the students spent four days prior to the competition in class to practice for TrigStar by using tests from previous years that are provide to the

schools for practice.

Christopherson thought the team worked well together throughout the week.

As for test day, Stencel said the last question was tough. "It was like a puzzle," she said. "You needed certain things to know other things."

The last question asked for six different measurements, Lutgens said. "A calculator can store 27 different numbers," he said. "I had 20 different numbers stored in for letters to solve for six different questions because you need exact answers. The last question took 35 minutes to do."

Stoesz said the three students impressed her with their perseverance during the test. "The

problems are long and tedious, so many students tend to just give up. These kids plugged through, for nearly an hour to solve each and every problem."

Stoesz said it was fun to see the students win.

"We have attended this event for the past 10 years, and we usually have at least one student place in the top five and as a team we usually finish second to Mankato West," she said. "To have three of the top five finishers and to take the team championship as well was great."

Student's view; here's an inside look at Blooming Prairie's FFA Toy Show

By SASHA KATZUNG

The 12th Annual Blooming Prairie FFA Toy Show went very well. We had an amazing turnout with the very nice, spring-like weather. There were a lot of vendors selling all kinds of antique toys and other odds and ends.

I had a good time watching so many people come in with big smiles and leaving with various toys and antique tractors or other collectables. I enjoyed seeing all of the vendors and their own personal toy collection that they had collected throughout time.

What I got out of it was the

great things people save and the enjoyment of what they have and the pride of agriculture pulling people all together.

Kallie Klemmensen of the Blooming Prairie FFA says what she got out of the experience was "that a lot of people care about agriculture and collectible farm toys."

Kate Grunklee of the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter shared "that there is a lot of support in the community."

What I enjoyed the most was seeing the pride in the vendors' faces of all of the stuff they have and the smiles on all of the people's faces

when they left the Toy Show with new toys and antiques.

We had a lot of food for everyone who came. We had sloppy Joe sandwiches with chips, pop and potato salad.

We hope that everyone who came out had an amazing time and that they can come again next year and see all the new things that are there and to come out and support your local FFA chapter!

Next year's Blooming Prairie FFA Toy Show will take place Saturday, March 12.

Sasha Katzung is a reporter for the Blooming Prairie FFA.



Visitors check out the offerings at the recent FFA Toy Show at Blooming Prairie High School.

Submitted photo

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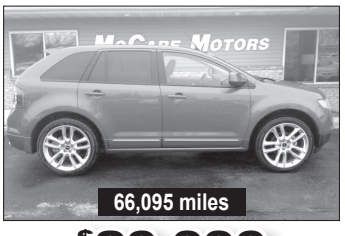
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Quilting: The fabric that unites 6 Blooming Prairie-area women

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

“I am so hooked on it,” exclaimed Judy Bishop of Blooming Prairie as she worked to create a barn quilt that will adorn her front porch.

Judy is one of six Blooming Prairie-area residents who have been part of a barn quilt class led for five weeks at the home of instructor Renee Holmes of Ellendale.

Others in the class include Linda Christianson, Becky Noble, Cheri Krejci, Imogene Symes and Julie Naatz.

The six classmates went together and bought an item on a Blooming Prairie Cancer Group auction. That item happened to be a class on how to make a barn quilt. Instructor Holmes donated her teaching time and expertise for this auction item at a price none of the class members chose to divulge.

Cheri submitted the bid on behalf of herself and her classmates. “It all goes to a great cause,” she said. The six students also have the experience of learning the art and get to take home one of their creations.

What is a barn quilt? Barn quilt instructor Holmes has the answer. “It’s a picture of a quilt block and painted on plywood,” she explained. “The size of the barn quilt is only limited to your creativity,” she said.

Renee has made quilts as small as 1x1 feet and as large as 8x8 feet.

Visitors to the rural Ellendale residence of Renee and Tony Holmes will soon see Renee’s artwork as it is displayed around the farm yard on various buildings and cement standards. “You can make them any size you want but I suggested all of our class members make one measuring two feet by two feet.”

The creative pieces are made on either plywood or sign board. The auction item of learning how to make a barn quilt included not only Renee’s teaching time and talent but it also included plywood donated by Geneva Lumber and paint and other building supplies donated by B to Z Hardware in Blooming Prairie.

Renee said her students all are “quick learners” and have been so inspired that it is likely that their first barn quilts will not be their last. “It’s addicting,” she said. Students from this class have also been involved in fabric quilting.

Renee, a fabric quilter, got her start after seeing them on barn quilt trails in southern Minnesota. One of the trails took her and husband Tony to barn quilts in the Caledonia area. Go to http://www.visitcaledonia.com/Visit_Caledonia/Visit_Caledonia.html to see the barn quilts.

“After traveling around the countryside looking at the barn quilts, I went on the Internet and decided to give it a try,” Renee said. Her first barn quilt was a six by six and featured six designs. It is on the end of a farm shed at the Holmes farmstead.

Renee has eight large barn quilts and 10 1x1 feet quilts displayed on their farm property. “They don’t last forever in the weather and will deteriorate,” Renee said.

The process of making a barn quilt begins with picking out a pattern. Four of Renee’s students, Judy, Becky, Imogene and Julie, picked the same pattern. It is called “Farmer’s Daughter.” Linda chose a pattern called “Doves in a Corner” and Cheri selected a pattern called “Star in the Middle.”

On the first night of class, the Blooming Prairie students sanded and weather-proofed their wood. The next challenge was to draw a pattern on the wood, tape it and paint it. Those steps were not done all in one night. Putting paint on the board is “when it gets to be fun,” Renee remarked.

The classroom which serves as a farm shed is perfect for Renee’s instruction. She plans on teaching a New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva community education class on barn quilting in late April.

Let’s take a peek into

ONLINE

Are you interested in creating your own barn quilt? Check out two free tutorials at bit.ly/1Ci7LA3 or bit.ly/1DFxPeJ
SOURCE: Craftsby of Denver

Renee’s classroom and see how the students are doing.

There is no lack of chatter among the students, but they are all serious and intent on creating their masterpieces. “This will take forever,” said Linda Christianson as she measured and taped segments of her pattern.

“Oh, come on now,” Imogene said in coaching herself to make a straighter line on her pattern.

Julie said the most challenging part of the process for her was drawing patterns on wood.

“It’s a lot of work but the painting is next and I don’t mind doing that,” she said.

Renee said her students “are so focused” on their work. “I really worked them hard last week,” she laughed.

“Taping isn’t what it is made up to be,” added Cheri Krejci. “It’s more involved than we thought, but it is fun,” Cheri added.

As the taping ended and the painting commenced, students seemed to be enjoying their assignment even more. “Why is this color looking like this?” a student asked. Renee was constantly overseeing her students’ work and would answer the simplest and also the most difficult of questions.

Renee said students can take their finished products home in a “wet” state, or they can leave them up at another time. Giving her students another learning lesson, Renee said it is important that the first coat of paint is dry because if it is not and a second coat is applied, it will take off the first coat, she said.

“Does anyone need the green brush?” one of Renee’s students asks. “Anybody want red?” another asks.

“It’s not like painting a house but it is equally as satisfying,” Julie said.

Where are the students going to hang their barn quilts? Let’s find out:

- Judy: “I can see it on our front porch or on a farm shed.”
- Becky: “I will hang it on my house, on a granary or on a shed, actually wherever Mark wants to hang it.”
- Cheri: “I plan to put it on the front porch.”
- Linda: “It will look nice on my patio fence facing Memorial Drive.”
- Imogene: “I’m putting it on the front porch because when you drive up our long driveway, it will be the first thing you will see.”
- Julie: “It will go either on my front porch or on the picket fence in the flower bed.”



Holmes



It is serious business as six Blooming Prairie women work on their barn quilt patterns with the tutelage of Renee Holmes of Ellendale. Shown from left are Linda Christianson, Judy Bishop, Becky Noble, Renee Holmes, Cheri Krejci, Imogene Symes and Julie Naatz.



Above left, Julie Naatz stays within the lines as she paints on her pattern, “Farmer’s Daughter.” Above right, Linda Christianson studiously measures and tapes her barn quilt pattern. Linda’s pattern is titled “Doves in A Corner.”



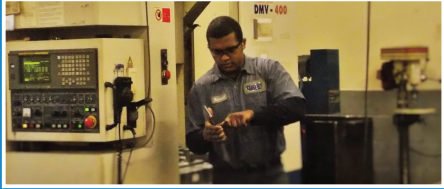
“It’s easy to get inspired when doing this project,” said Renee. “Making barn quilts is a reason to spend time together with friends,” Renee believes. She urges everyone to go on some barn quilt tours and also go on the

Internet and look at the hundreds of images found there. Renee said she has had men in her classes in the past but says her husband Tony is not one of them. He spends time making bean bag boards in a workshop he built after

the family farm was ravaged by a tornado in 2010. Tony makes four at a time and uses many different designs including sports themes: Gophers, Packers and Vikings. Tony says the process of making the bean bag boards is

similar to that of making a barn quilt. His daughter Collette was the driving force in suggesting her father make bean bag kits. When traversing Steele County, you may see one of the creations of Judy, Becky, Cheri, Linda, Imogene and Julie.

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Johannes named teacher of the month at Medford School

By **SHANNON KINLEY**
County Staff Writer

It is uncommon for people to like their first job out of college so much that they stick with it and never explore other options. For Jerome Johannes, that is exactly what has happened. Johannes was recently recognized for his efforts as a teacher as well as his involvement in after-school activities by being nominated teacher of the month. “He plays a critical role in so many different places in the school from the classroom, to the football coach, to the student council adviser. He has a constant presence in the school and is a good influence on all the students,” said Secondary Principal Chris Ovrebo. “I think that the effort he puts in on the behalf of our students and the passion that he has for their learning is second to none. He really

does so much for the kids.” Johannes has taught at Medford School for 12 years. He teaches American studies, political science and a leadership elective. He is originally from Albany, Minnesota and graduated with a degree in social studies education from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2003. Shortly after that he attended a Minnesota education job fair where he was introduced to the former principal and was invited to do an interview for the position in June. He was offered the job shortly after that. “It was the only job I really applied for. Originally I had plans of staying in Moorhead to do some coaching and a potential job was going to open up in Fargo that I had my eye on, but I applied for this one and got it,” Johannes said. Johannes is happy with his decision and appreci-



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Jerome Johannes recently was recognized for his efforts both in the classroom and in after-school activities.

ates the small class sizes. “I’m a guy who likes to stay busy,” he said. “I enjoy the fact that I can be involved with so many different things with coaching, with school activities, working the scoreboard, being able to be involved in

the school. I think in a big school there are a lot more people, and you don’t quite get the same opportunities as you do in a small school.” Besides teaching, Johannes serves as the student council adviser, an assistant track coach

and the head football coach, and he runs the scoreboard at boys basketball games and serves on a couple of teaching committees. Johannes said he enjoys the interactions he gets to have with students both in and out of the classroom. One of Johannes’ favorite units to teach is the World War I unit. He divides the class into six groups, each representing one of the countries that started the war, and the students then do a simulation of the war. “They get the ability to negotiate, to create treaties and to declare war. The kids really enjoy it. They have to really try to make decisions of what would be best for their country based on the information that they have,” he said. Johannes lives in Owatonna with his wife, Jessica, and their two sons Cain, 8, and Luther, 4. He says he doesn’t miss the commute he had from

Shakopee to Medford for the first nine years of his career. Johannes was humbled by the recognition of teacher of the month. “There are so many good teachers here that really do deserve it (the award). It is humbling to be thought of as a Teacher of the Month. It is nice to know that the hard work I’ve done has paid off, and people see the stuff I have done at the school,” he said. One of his students, senior Fabiola Mendoza, is in his political science class and says that he is her favorite teacher. “I like that he is funny. He pretends to be mad, but it is funny he is not serious about it,” Mendoza said. “He is nice and he doesn’t give us too much homework; it is just the right amount.” She added that he is deserving of this recognition because he is such a good leader.

Here’s a look into the lives of three of Medford’s ‘original settlers’

Let’s go back to the summer of 1853. A party of five men, all natives of New England, followed the Straight River south from Faribault in search of good place to claim land. They were Smith Johnson Jr., his younger brother Orlando, Abner L. Wright, Chauncey Lull, and L. M. Howard. When they reached the area that is now Medford, they staked their claims. Lull and Howard later relinquished theirs and moved farther west, while the Johnson brothers and Wright remained on their claims and became Medford’s “original settlers.” Each of these three men would play important roles in the development of the Medford community over the next six decades. Smith Johnson, Jr. was born in February, 1828 at Chenango County, New York. Four years

ANOTHER
TIME

John Gross

after arriving in Medford he married Sabrina Wilkins on November 10, 1857, and the couple operated the first hotel in the community. Mr. Johnson represented Steele County in the first session of the Minnesota State Legislature, from 1858-1860. The couple then farmed near Medford, Merton, and in the Dakota Territory before coming back in 1884 to the original Johnson farm

site on the eastern edge of Medford. They raised four children. Mr. Johnson died in Medford on August 12, 1906, at the age of 79. Sabrina, then lived with her daughter, Mrs. George Corey, until her death on June 19, 1918. She and her husband are buried in Riverside Cemetery. Orlando Johnson, the youngest of eleven children was born in 1831 in Chenango County, New York. He made his way to Wisconsin at the age of twenty, and then to Illinois where he taught school before traveling by steamboat to St. Paul in 1852. He claimed land in Faribault early in 1853 and led the party which included his older brother to Medford that August. Several years later Orlando moved to California where he served with the First California Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War. After the war, he returned to Min-

nesota where he married Olive Hulett in Faribault on November 1, 1865. The couple then settled on a farm near Medford until Mr. Johnson became involved in the operation of the Medford Cheese Factory in 1873. He and Olive raised three children. After selling the Cheese Factory in 1891, he served for many years as a Director of the National Farmers Bank of Owatonna. Orlando Johnson passed away at the age of 79 on September 18, 1910. His widow then moved to Minneapolis where she died on November 23, 1922. They are buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery in Faribault. Abner Wright was born in Franklin County, Mass., March 1, 1828. He started farming at the age of ten, operated a boot and shoe store for six years and then worked for a short time as

a stonecutter. He too decided to head west and arrived by steamboat in St. Paul on May 3, 1853. He claimed land near Medford that August and married Phoebe Hayes on March 22, 1855. The couple moved to Cannon City in 1863, where they remained until 1885, when they purchased a farm just east of Medford. They had a family of

five children. Phoebe died after a lengthy illness in November, 1907 and Abner later went to live with his daughter Nettie at Cannon City. Abner Wright was the last of Medford’s three “original settlers” to pass on. He died at Cannon City at the age of 87 on March 25, 1915. He and Phoebe are buried in the Cannon City Cemetery.

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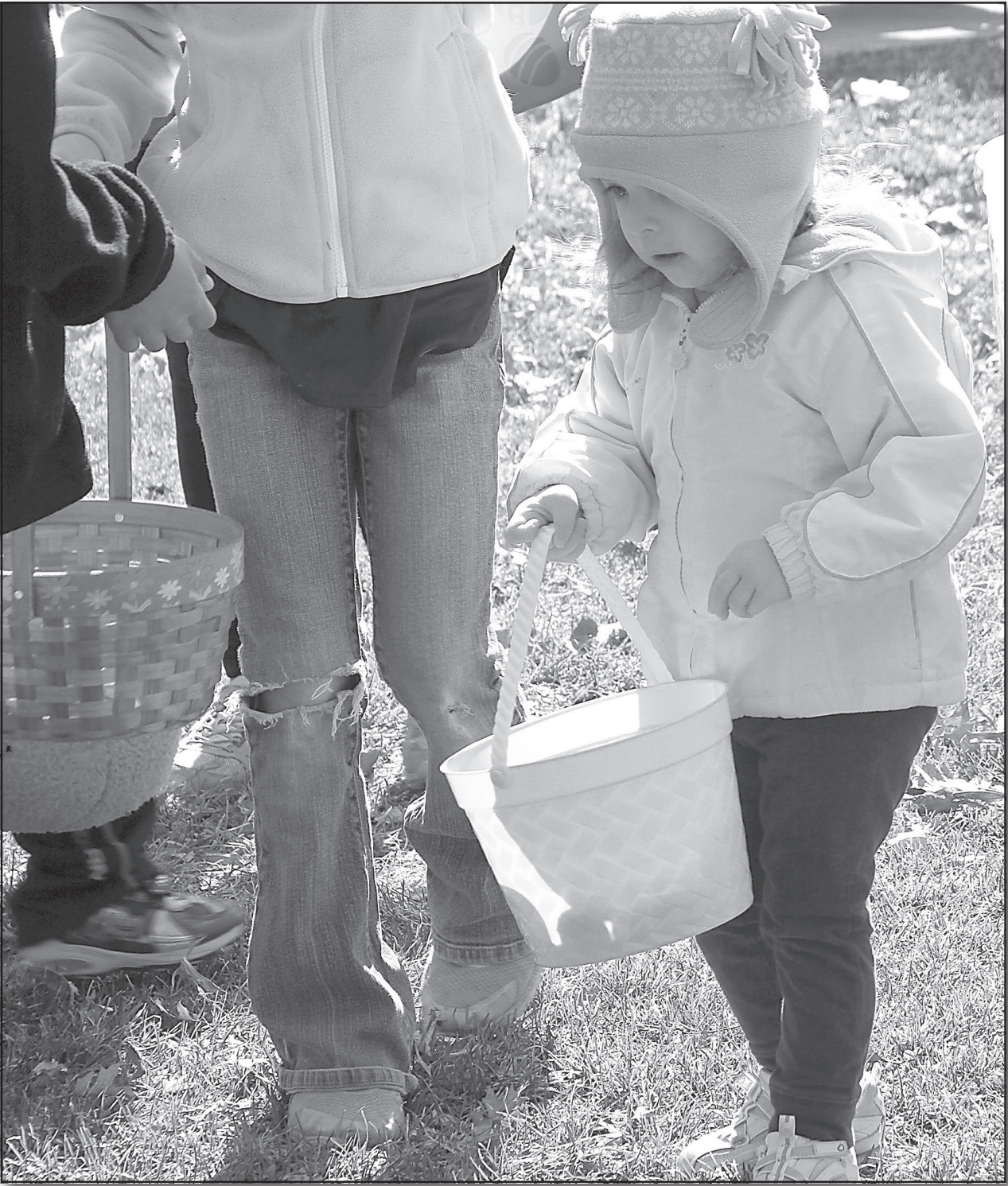
Staff photos by James Knoop

MAD DASH

Children make quick work of eggs at Blooming Prairie hunt



Hundreds of parents and children gathered at Blooming Prairie's Central Park on Saturday morning for the city's Easter egg hunt. The children displayed speed and agility in quickly clearing the park of plastic eggs. Above, Kazaiya (3), Bentley (5) and Ambriella Miller (6) show off the eggs they found.





Submitted photo
B to Z Hardware owner Greg Johnson hands over a check amid boxes of Girl Scout cookies recently at Prairie Manor Care Center.

B to Z organizes cookie delivery

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

Multiple generations mingled last Saturday when Girl Scouts delivered cookies to residents at Prairie Manor Care Center.

The donation was orchestrated by B to Z Hardware owner Greg Johnson, who purchased 80 boxes of the signature cookies.

His mother stayed at Prairie Manor for about two years, he said; she passed away about 18 months ago.

Johnson said he wanted to benefit multiple groups.

“The Girl Scouts made a little money — selling cookies is their big fundraiser of the year — and it’s something different for the people at the Manor,” he said.

Four troop leaders and six or seven girls took part, Johnson said. He enjoyed watching the girls interact with residents.

“You can always see a little brightness going around, with the residents getting to talk to them,” he said. “It was great to see that.”

Johnson said it was his first such donation, but it won’t be his last.

“I think this will become an annual (event) for us,” he said. “It gives (residents) something different in their day. All they have is time there, so it’s something different.”

Prairie Manor Activities Director Mandi Tweet said she appreciated the gesture but made clear that Johnson deserved all the credit.

“It was all his idea,” she said. “His mom used to be a resident. He was really appreciative of our facility, I guess.”

Prairie Family and Sports marks 20 years

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic of Blooming Prairie will mark 20 years in business with an open house on April 10.

“We’ve been here 20 years, it’s been fantastic, we’ve raised our family in Blooming Prairie ... it’s a super community to have a business in,” said owner Chad Eischens.

The business handles Department of Transportation health cards that drivers of commercial vehicles must have. It also handles pre-employment screenings, as well as drug and alcohol testing.

“We’re keeping it simple,” Eischens said about the open house. “We’ll have some cake and cookies and punch and stuff like that. Prizes and giveaways throughout the day.”

Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic can be reached at <http://prairiefamilysportschiro.com> or 507-583-2271. It’s at 344 E. Main St.

Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic is one of a number of Blooming Prairie businesses that have marked 20- or 30-year anniversaries in recent years, said Chamber Director Becky Noble.

“I think that just goes to show that the community supports businesses in this community,” she said. “Chad’s been a good person, besides being a good businessperson.”



Racing champs

Submitted photo
Participants in the Pac 260 Pinewood Derby held March 29 in Blooming Prairie are shown. The winners where Drake Zilm, first; Cooper Cooke, second; Justin Nease, third; and Carson Wacek, fourth. They also held a contest for the best design, with the Scouts voting on which car they liked the best. The winner was Lucas Schammel.

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Still, the tax agency wants to know about your payments received or investments in virtual currency. For example, the IRS has declared that wages paid to employees in virtual currency are taxable income. That also means the fair market value of virtual currency is subject to federal income tax withholding, Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes and unemployment taxes. It also must be reported on the employee’s W-2 form. Ditto for such payments to independent contractors who’ll find the value

of their virtual income payments reported on 1099 forms.

As for holdings of bitcoin, investors will report gain and loss transactions as they do other assets, paying ordinary income taxes on short-term gains or lower capital gains tax rates on realized profits.

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Public works building decision still up in air

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

After a two-hour meeting Friday morning, there are still questions needing answers involving the Steele County public works building.

The meeting consisted of representatives from the state, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Steele County Board of Commissioners.

It has been five years since a major flood destroyed the public works build-

ing. Since, county officials have been working with Homeland Security and FEMA to come up with a satisfactory settlement. Steele County has received more than \$535,000 in payments toward the project. Once the project work sheets are complete, the county is expected to receive more than \$100,000 more.

Recently, now-former Steele County Administrator Tom Shea sent a letter to the Minnesota Governor's office asking for support, including \$6.1 million for Steele County in a bonding bill to assist with the replacement of the public works building in Owatonna.

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.

The disparity between \$6.1 million and \$1.5 million was just one of the issues the Steele County Board of Commissioners felt needed to be addressed. Despite objections and discussion, the board was told the \$1.5 million was the final number and there could be no appeal.

County Board Chair Nina Huntington sent a detailed email to those attending outlining other concerns the county board had. She also put together a detailed agenda items list for those attending.

During Friday's meeting there was still some confusion as to where documents were and whether they had either been received or received on time. Steele County representatives claimed they had submitted documentation on certain

SETTLEMENT
Continued on Page 3C

STEELE TALKIN'



Deb Knutson

Measles get a flurry of attention

Disneyland! Measles?!?

The measles (sometimes referred to as red or hard measles) has received a flurry of attention since December, when several children were infected with the disease at Disneyland. It is highly contagious, resulting in a multi-state outbreak of 173 measles cases. Most of the cases are linked to Disneyland.

Measles were once considered a routine childhood disease, as nearly everyone born prior to 1957 was infected. For most, it was a painful course of fever, rash and runny nose, followed by a complete recovery. When the MMR (Measles, Mumps Rubella) vaccine became available in the 1960s, the vast majority of US children were vaccinated. Since then, the incidence of all three diseases has decreased 99 percent.

When more than 96 percent of a population is vaccinated, vaccine preventable diseases can be greatly reduced and even eradicated (small pox, and in most parts of the world, polio). This herd immunity protects babies and children too young to be vaccinated and also those who can't be vaccinated because of a compromised immune system, as is the case with cancer.

As the result of a high vaccination rate, once common diseases became so rare that many people don't know of anyone who had them, let alone died as a result. This success has led some parents to opt out of having their children vaccinated, as they feel shots are no longer necessary. Or that vaccines pose a safety risk or cause disease. When fewer people are vaccinated, herd immunity is lost. Disease cases increase and spread more quickly.

Children who are not or cannot be vaccinated due to age or compromised immune systems are at the highest risk of disease. Measles can still be very serious or even fatal. One in 1,000 diseased persons will develop brain damage and 1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, in spite of the best medical care.

One thing we need to remember is that all parents truly want their children to be healthy. Fear of vaccine side effects can result in some parents not vaccinating their children. Although serious vaccine side effects are possible, they are extremely rare.

The choice to vaccinate or not can be approached by checking reliable web sites that are based on current and science-based reproducible studies. A reputable site will display the date of the last revision and will cite medical articles which reveal the original source of facts and figures.

American Academy of Pediatrics Immunization Initiatives: www.cispimmunize.org

Immunization Action Coalition: www.immunize.org

Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: www.vaccine.chop.edu

State Department of Health: health.state.mn.us/immunize

Steele Talkin' is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Deb Knutson, PHN, BSN is the immunization coordinator for Steele County Public Health. She can be reached at 507-444-7655.



Above, at a boat and water safety class at West Hills in Owatonna last Saturday, DNR officer Chris Hoe teaches students the importance of boat safety and how to use flotation devices in case of an emergency. Below, a boy floats placidly in the class.

Owatonna DNR teaches water safety

Course previously was held in Waseca

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Boys and girls attempting to sink canoes and boats might usually be frowned upon, but not when it comes to education.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday at West Hills in Owatonna, DNR officers jumped in the pool with students 12 and up to teach boat and water safety. The class was broken into two sessions, a class session and in-pool session.

About 10 kids came for the class, as well as one adult, 73-year-old Michael Tobin of Owatonna.

"I have grandkids, and I wanted to see how they worked with kids, so I can work on this with my grandkids," said Tobin.

While Tobin attended the class period, he elected to watch the in-pool session from outside the water, but he still paid close attention to the tips, rules and instructions of the officers. Tobin said he was drawn to the class, not only for tips on teaching his family, but also for his own learning.

"The laws change," said Tobin. "This is the 2015 handbook, so it's the most current."

While this is only the second year the event has taken place in Owatonna, Park and Rec Administrative Assistant Mary Jo Knudson

WATER SAFETY
Continued on Page 3C



Owatonna's airport set to unveil master plan soon

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Owatonna's Degner Regional Airport is flying at great heights to plan for its future.

Information and display boards will be set up for residents to review. Officials will address topics such as airport inventory, airport forecasts, facility recommendations and alternatives analyzed. The airport's consultant and staffers will be available to answer questions.

Dave Beaver, manager of the airport, said the planning process for the master plan has been going on for the past year. "This is an important process for us. We're excited and we want the public to be involved," Beaver said. "The purpose of the open house is to receive feedback from the community," he added.

One of the biggest questions facing the airport is whether the current runway

will meet the future needs of the area. The runway is 1,500 feet and handles many corporate jets. Beaver said about 17 companies in Owatonna use the airport on a regular basis.

As part of the master plan, one idea being kicked around is extending the runway an additional 1,500 feet to allow for future aircraft needs. Beaver said it's important to unveil such a plan so the airport can avoid getting landlocked in the future.

"Our runway is plenty big right now, but we need to look ahead and be ready for whatever happens down the line," said Todd Hale, who is vice chairman of the Owatonna Airport Commission. He added he expects more jet traffic to use the local airport in another decade or more.

A master plan advisory group was

AIRPORT
Continued on Page 3C



Dave Beaver, manager of the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport, wants the public to join airport staffers for an open house Tuesday, April 14. Officials plan to unveil the airport's 20-year master plan.

Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Blooming Prairie Living

Lawyer joins BP office

Jason Iacovino joined the Henefeld Law Office in Blooming Prairie as an associate attorney April 2.

Iacovino attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2006. He was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in October 2006 and has been clerking for the Honorable Bradley C. Walker in Mankato since May 2007. He is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association.



Iacovino

"I am thrilled to be serving the great people of Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area. It really is a dream come true for me," he said. "My experience with Judge Walker, a former small-town lawyer himself, has prepared me for this new chapter in my career."

Iacovino was raised in Blooming Prairie and is a 1997 graduate of the city's high school. He lives in Owatonna with his wife, Shannon, owner of Owatonna Gentle Dental and their two children, Lauren (5) and Fletcher (3.)

The Henefeld Law office provides legal services including real estate, estate planning and corporate law and serves as the Blooming Prairie city attorney.

Henefeld has provided legal services to the Blooming Prairie area for 43 years. Henefeld has no plans on retiring, but is planning on taking more time off now that Iacovino has joined the firm.

Iacovino will be doing general legal work, focusing on Blooming Prairie city attorney duties as well as estate planning, real estate transactions and other areas.

The office also includes Kim Trotman, who has served as a legal assistant for more than five years.

Correction

Kendra Schroeder attends University of Wisconsin River Falls. Her last name was misspelled and her school was incorrect in last week's issue.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Joe's Repair Service owner Joe Haberman, right, and Mike Sunde, left, work on a customer's vehicle. Car and truck repair is a featured service at Joe's, at 163 5th St. NE in Blooming Prairie.

Joe's Repair Service focuses on both cars and heavy trucks

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Most vehicle repair shops do not offer a combination of automotive and heavy truck service. Joe's Repair Service of Blooming Prairie does.

Owner Joe Haberman is proud of his shop, which offers four auto bays and two truck bays.

Joe's Repair is up to date on the latest diagnostic equipment and also features precision-driven alignment machines. "We can also do a full computer programming analysis of any car or truck," Haberman said.

Haberman has two shop technicians, auto tech Mike Sunde and diesel tech Ross Bissen. Haberman said he works on both, having gone to school to be a diesel tech and growing up working on cars.

Sydney Basness, a law enforcement student at Riverland Community College, is a part-time bookkeeper for Haberman.

Haberman, a Blooming Prairie High School graduate, started his involvement in auto and truck repair at a site 4 miles west of town. He said a great aunt "was gracious enough" to allow him use a small shop to make his early living.

In 1996 Haberman bought Braaten's Service Garage from Laverne Braaten, who was retiring. Haberman also drove a truck for Gateway Foods three days a week. After being laid off by Gateway, Haberman decided to

IF YOU GO

What: Joe's Repair Service
Where: 163 5th St. NE
When: Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Owner Joe Haberman can often be found at the shop on Saturdays, too, working on a truck.
Call: 507-583-7994

concentrate solely on repair work.

Thirteen months after Haberman bought Braaten's shop, the shop was destroyed by a tornado. The building was declared a total loss. Haberman kept his business going in a makeshift arrangement in a building nearby.

Joe's Auto Repair Service moved into its new building Dec. 10, 1997. It has steadily grown since. One of Joe's major customers is the Bixby Feed Mill.

The majority of Joe's business comes from within a 20-mile radius.

"It's most satisfying to have a loyal customer base that we have developed," he said.

When not working on cars or trucks, Haberman finds time to follow NASCAR racing and drag racing. He also loves fishing and is planning to get away this summer on a Canadian trip.

To have your business featured in the Chamber Spotlight, contact Steele County Times Managing Editor Alan Van Ormer at bpalan@frontier.com or 507-583-4431.

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CountyLiving



Staff photo by James Knoop
DNR officer Chad Davis and Parks and Rec Administrative Assistant Mary Jo Knudson help students with gear during the boat and water safety class last Saturday.

WATER SAFETY

Continued from Page 1C

run the class in Waseca as well. Knudson said the class helps teach students rules and regulations, and that the water sessions helps instruct what to do in an emergency. Knudson

added that the in-pool session was only added last year, partially triggered by a drowning accident.

“The students learn that you can use many things as flotation

devices. Even a duck decoy can keep you afloat,” said Knudson. To help teach the point, the pool was filled with coolers, duck decoys, seating pads and other common things found in boats. Third-year DNR officer, Chad Davis, added that even weight-

ers can keep an individual afloat, if they are able to trap air in it. David added that many of the things taught in the pool are lessons DNR officers learn in the academy. Students were taught to re-enter a boat after falling out, fill weighters with air, hold on

to a flipped canoe, safely walk across a boat and many other safety tips. “They are learning things here that will be with them the rest of their life,” said Davis. “Hopefully they never need it, but if they do, we’ve taught them what to do.”

SETTLEMENT

Continued from Page 1C

items — some that were submitted on more than one occasion. Several times FEMA and state representative response was that there were pieces of information that had not been received. Recovery and Mitigation Branch Director John Moore stated that supporting documentation, receipts and invoices is needed showing that the project is completed.

One piece of documentation that FEMA officials claim they did not receive was a three-ring binder that held approximately 60 percent of the details of contents of the flooded building. As for the remaining 40 percent of the content, Steele County is asking if it is required to detail and can the board get in writing confirmation from the state or FEMA.

Moore said the challenge the

state has had from the beginning is that FEMA project officers (free of charge) wanted to assess that damage within the facilities. “The FEMA project officers who were creating the project worksheets were needing to see those damages and weren’t allowed in it,” he said. “In my opinion, that is why we are at today in that issue when that could have been resolved in 2010 or 2011.” Steele County Engineer Anita Benson countered saying that there were people going in the buildings all the time. “No request from FEMA or the State was ever denied regardless of time or day of the week. That statement Mr. Moore made is very disturbing.” But very accurate, Moore said. “I don’t want to turn this

into a he-said, she-said. But the conversation the last five years in this recovery had been one-sided. Fingers have been pointing everywhere except where maybe they should be pointing,” he added. “Our only goal for the state of Minnesota is to pay the eligible reimbursement.” Adjusters International is a consultant hired by Steele County to assist with FEMA applications. Skip Cerminaro, senior disaster recovery manager with the firm, said the problem that continues to drag this on is the state’s inability to forward Steele County’s information to FEMA. “We find that out in ev-

ery meeting.” Moore responded, “If you have information where my staff is not forwarding information to FEMA, that is my responsibility. I do have control over those issues. If that is what is going on you have to address it with me so I can address it with the staff.” Huntington said that we’ve already seen evidence of that three times here in this short meeting. She also questioned if it was the state and FEMA’s intent to help and be an advocate, because it doesn’t feel that way from her standpoint. “There is a huge disconnect,”

she said. Toward the end of the meeting, agencies were asked how they would move forward. Joseph Kelly, director of Homeland Security since January, said his department would provide all the documentation that’s been requested. Kelly said it is troublesome to me the county says it submitted it, FEMA said it never received it and we say we have forwarded everything that we received. He wasn’t sure where the breakdown occurred, but did say, “The shortest distance between here and there is to find copies or receive copies of that information and get it down to FEMA.”

AIRPORT

Continued from Page 1C

established in October 2013. The group is made up of members from the city, city council, economic development authority, airport commission, aviation business owners, surrounding landowners, county staffers, airport tenants, MnDOT and FAA. The group supports a runway expansion to help the airport meet the needs of the existing and future users, and to support the economic growth of Owatonna, according to Beaver.

There has been extensive growth around the airport in recent years. “With the community growth, we want to make sure we are planning for our future growth,” Beaver said. He said the advisory group and the city will have to approve the master plan. Once it is approved locally, it will be sent to MnDOT and the FAA for review and approval.

Owatonna is one of 140 airports across the state and is considered one of 25 “key systems airports.” There are 54 aircraft based out of the Owatonna airport. Beaver said he expects more growth and use of the airport. He looks at the airport as “another tool for economic development” of the area. He said the airport is often factored into the decision of companies looking to relocate to the area. “It serves the public pretty well,” Beaver said of the local airport. “We’re pretty proud of our existing airport. There is an investment here that we want to protect.”

WHAT’S NEXT

What: An open house at Degner Regional Airport in Owatonna.
When: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.
Why: The unveiling of a 20-year master plan, a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). A short presentation will take place at 6 p.m.

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PROM HAIR HOW-TO

Prom and graduation season has arrived, and students everywhere are on the lookout for formal attire to wear to these special occasions.

Once promgoers have chosen their beaded gowns and sleek tuxedos, prom-worthy hair is next on their priority lists. A fresh haircut or an intricate updo can perfectly complement a well-planned wardrobe. Some promgoers will dabble in styling techniques and products at home, but many will be visiting salons to perfect their prom looks.

For girls, prom presents an opportunity to indulge in a complete grooming package that will include hair, makeup, nails, and faux tanning.

Salons are bound to fill appointments quickly, so teens should start planning their prom looks early on. The following tips can help you look your best come prom night.

SELECT YOUR DRESS AND JEWELRY FIRST. Choosing your dress and jewelry first allows you to customize your prom hairstyle to complement the rest of your look. Many girls want to follow a theme, such as romantic or sleek, come prom night, and hairstyle is an important element of such themes.

BOOK A TRIAL APPOINTMENT AT THE SALON. When booking your hairstyle appointment, which should be done at least a month in advance of prom night, book a trial appointment as well. Bring photos of your gown to your trial appointment and ask the stylist to make suggestions on which looks will complement the gown.

KEEP YOUR HAIR TEXTURE AND CUT IN MIND WHEN CHOOSING A HAIRSTYLE. Although great stylists often can work magic with your hair, they can't do the impossible. If you have short hair and want a long, cascading style, you will need to invest in extensions. Ladies with naturally curly hair may have to spend more time in the chair having their hair straightened if they want a sleek bob. Sometimes it's in your best interest to work with your hair's natural texture.

GET A GRASP OF YOUR ROLE IN CRAFTING YOUR HAIRSTYLE. Speak with your stylist about how long before prom you should undergo any chemical processes, including perms, coloring, straightening, or relaxing treatments. Do not make drastic changes right before the prom. Any modifications should be made a few months before the big night so you can get acclimated to your new hair and make any necessary adjustments.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HAIR SO THAT IT IS HEALTHY ON PROM NIGHT. Stick to a regular hair maintenance schedule, including trims every four to six weeks, so your locks look healthy on prom night. Depending on your hair texture, a stylist may recommend deep-conditioning treatments. Always be gentle with your hair, avoiding tugging or harsh brushing while it is wet, as such treatment can lead to breakage.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE IF YOU ARE GOING IT ALONE. Make several trial runs if you plan to do your own hair, asking a friend or family member for help if you have difficulty working on your own hair.

DON'T GO CRAZY CLEANING YOUR HAIR. Oftentimes, complicated styles are more easily achieved with slightly "dirty" hair. Do not wash your hair the day of the prom; do so the day before so your hair has more grip and will be less likely to slip out of pins or other hair accessories on the big day. Adding a little texturizer or pomade to hair can thicken it up and give it more hold as well.

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN AT THE READY. A backup plan covers you if your hair simply isn't cooperating or if the weather is not conducive to the style you selected. A sleek chignon or a messy French twist can reign in problem hair.

CALL THE SALON BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE TO ENSURE THE STYLIST IS RUNNING ON TIME. Call ahead so you aren't left twiddling your thumbs as you wait for a tardy stylist at the salon. In addition, wear a shirt that can be removed easily without disrupting your newly styled hair as you change into your dress.

DON'T FORGET HAIR ACCESSORIES. Ask your stylist to recommend any accessories you may need to keep your hair looking great through the night and don't forget them at home.

KEEP YOUR MAKEUP ARTIST IN THE LOOP. If a makeup artist will be doing your makeup, be sure he or she is brought up to speed on your prom night hairstyle and the type of dress you will be wearing.

Prom night is a chance for teens to add some glamour to their lives. Hairstyles are a big part of the finished look, so consideration should be given to styles and the work necessary to keep hair looking great through the night.



Book prom hair appointments early and ask your stylist to try a few different looks so you find one you like.

PROM DATES:

Blooming Prairie: May 2 • 4 p.m. - High School Gym
Triton: April 25 • 3 p.m. - East Gym
NRHEG: May 2 • 4 p.m. - High School Gym
Owatonna: May 9 • 4-Seasons • 9-Midnight • 7:30 Grand March
Medford: May 2

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OwatonnaLiving

Renovation of old power plant closer to done

Flood five years ago destroyed its bottom floor

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Nearly five years after the June 2010 flood, the Owatonna Public Utilities revamp of the old power plant is nearing completion.

After the flood destroyed the first floor of OPU's previous office, formerly on the south side of the plant, and wreaked havoc on the power plant, OPU had a decision to make.

"We had to figure out what to do. People were displaced. We needed to get the community involved and have our customers help us make the right decisions," said OPU General Manager Mark Fritsch.

OPU explored many options, including relocating to a different area of town, repurposing the power plant or tearing down it down. After the flood, the Owatonna City Commission had a big decision to make and wanted to include the public, so it held various presentations around the community to gather input.

"The comments we got back when we started looking at the different options were that people saw this power plant as an iconic part of Owatonna. Typically, old power plants are seen in some cities as eyesores and they can't wait to get them torn down, but this became such a big part of the city for a lot of different reasons ... the employees working here, the tours, the steam whistle ..." Fritsch said.

The commission also explored the economics behind the decision. In the end, it would have been much more costly for OPU to relocate, build a new facility and tear down the power plant.

"It would've been more expensive to build in a green field area, and then you have the cost of what to do with this building. You have a building with well over a million dollars' worth of hazardous materials, waste and asbestos," he said.

Fritsch estimated it would've been around a \$20 million project, plus an additional \$2 million to do something with the old plant. Although repurposing the plant had its own challenges, OPU decided it was the best option.

"It wasn't ideal for operations because in a green field we could've built everything together all at once. When you looked at the economics, it was the best option for us to stay here and repurpose the plant," he said. "It wasn't optimal, yet it met our main purpose. It would've been great if we could have storage, a warehouse and a whole bunch of other vehicle storage in place, but there is not enough room here to do that."

In 2012 OPU came up with a



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley
Owatonna Public Utilities opted to turn the area's old power plant into its new office after the old one was destroyed in the June 2010 flood.

master plan, and demolition began July 2012 with construction starting in July 2013.

The original total project was estimated to be \$14 million, with \$4.7 million being covered by FEMA and the rest coming from OPU's reserves. However, a few changes and unexpected costs came along the way.

Originally the thought was to complete the third floor of the plant at a later date; however, it was recommended to do it all at once by the construction company, Owatonna-based Rocon Construction, as the building would have to be shut down during the project.

During ground excavation crews found the soil had been contaminated by fuel oil along with a parking lot that was in bad shape and had to be replaced. When it was all said and done, the total had gone up to around \$15.2 million.

"One of the goals the commission had was that we needed to come up with a plan that wouldn't affect rates, so we needed to fund this with whatever reserves we had as well as

FEMA money," Fritsch said.

The renovation included the demolition of old equipment and added a lobby, a break room, a wellness room for employees, restrooms and a large conference room for the commission to meet in, which can be used by nonprofits.

The architect behind the design, Leo A Daly, tried to incorporate many old pieces from the power plant into the new and updated design. The original beams still stand, the old grading from the plant that was used to walk on is incorporated into railing, canopies and walls and some of the old glass is used alongside the new glass from Viracon.

There are also old trinkets around the facility such as old water valve wheels, temperature gauges and boiler doors.

"The whole design was set around how to keep the iconic nature of the facility and still meet all of our operational needs that we needed to do on the inside," Fritsch said.

The building also was designed with the expectation that it will flood again.

"We know the Straight River is going to flood again. This plant was designed to flood. We have flood vents down below that will open up when the water pressure hits a certain point, once the river goes down we just have to flush and clean that area out and we are good to go again. We won't have to evacuate the plant like we did before," Fritsch said.

Fritsch added a big benefit of

the project is that all the groups of OPU are now housed together under one roof, which enhances their efficiency and communication.

All that is left to be completed of the project is a parking lot, the east entrance and the landscaping around the building. Fritsch says everything will be completed well before the open house, June 18. During the open house the public will be invited to go on tours of the facility and

key players behind the renovation will be recognized in a ceremony.

Fritsch says they hope to add on a warehouse in the future, an estimated \$6 million project, but they do not have the funds to do so currently. The third floor will lie vacant for now with the potential of OPU renting it out as office space or for some other purpose.

OWATONNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL '15



- APRIL 7 - Coaches meeting for Youth Soccer
- APRIL 11 - Lightning League Softball evaluation at Willow Creek School
- APRIL 11 - Pre-season evaluations for Little League at OJHS
- APRIL 13-16 - Youth Soccer begins
- APRIL 21 - Annual BGA meeting at Brooktree Clubhouse 7pm
- APRIL 21 - Adult Softball schedule handout, Annual Meeting, mandatory managers meeting
- APRIL 25 - 2nd Annual Munchkin Market at the Four Season Centre 1-4 pm
- APRIL 25 - 2nd Annual Bark and Rec at the Four Seasons Centre 9 am-1 pm
- APRIL - Last week in April-League play begins this week at Brooktree Golf Course

MAY '15



- MAY 5 - Summer Registration Begins
- MAY 5 - Summer Brochure Out
- MAY 8 - Deadline for Youth T-ball, and Squirrel ball
- MAY 24 - Tennis & Fitness Center closed
- MAY 25 - Memorial Day - Park & Recreation office, Senior-Place and Tennis & Fitness Center closed
- MAY 26 - Little League Baseball kickoff at the Four Seasons
- MAY 30 - Elk's Shootout

Parks & Recreation



OWATONNA PARKS AND RECREATION
WWW.CI.OWATONNA.MN.US
507-444-4321 EXT. 3

JUNE '15



- JUNE 1 - Coaches meeting for T-ball and Squirrel ball
- JUNE 4 - River Springs Water Park opens for the season 12:00-8:00 pm
- JUNE 13 - Therapeutic Recreation Friday Camp begins
- JUNE 9 - Learn to Skate Hockey begins
- JUNE 20 - Movie in Central Park

JULY '15



- JULY 3 - Parks & Recreation office, SeniorPlace and Tennis & Fitness Center Closed
- JULY 6-7 - Jr. Golf program begins
- JULY 17 - Movie in Central Park
- JULY 17-19 - Owatonna's 5th Annual Weekend out

Weekly crossword on Page 7D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

R	A	S	P				A	R	B				U	C	A
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OwatonnaLiving



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley
Sisters Karen Rogers, of Owatonna (left) and Ida Hennagir of Bertram, Minnesota, enjoy repurposing what others would consider “junk” into pieces of art.

Two sisters specialize in turning the unwanted into treasures

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Many people would consider broken mirrors, chair legs and ceiling fans junk, but for sisters Karen Rogers and Ida Hennagir, it is far from that.

Hennagir has been repurposing stuff for about 35 years, and Rogers for 20. Four years ago it became a hobby they could do together.

“We grew up with our parents fixing and using what they could,” Rogers said. Hennagir added, “We were taught to never throw anything away. For me it was out of necessity. We had little money, so I made what we needed and it got to be fun.”

The two laughed and said, “we have turned into our parents.”

Whereas Rogers enjoys repurposing furniture, Hennagir enjoys doing tiling and mosaic projects.

The two work on projects on their own but try to meet up weekly to work together. This is a challenge because Rogers lives in Owatonna and Hennagir four hours away in Bertram, Minnesota.

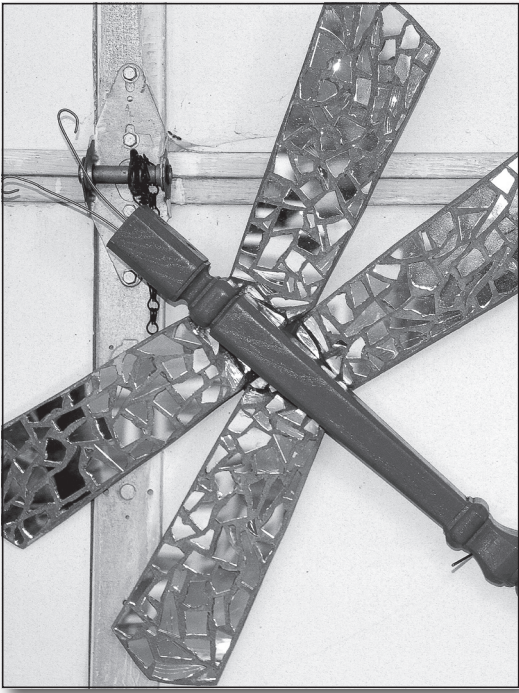
Over the years the two have made a variety of things from the “junk” that no one wants anymore. Hennagir has made a lawn ornament for her garden by covering a bowling ball with broken pieces of a mirror and a birdbath out of an old TV dish that she covered with mosaic pieces. Rogers has made a coffee table out of old apple crates and bead board and shelves out of an old chicken coop.

“For me it is just fun to find something and see what we can do with it,” Rogers said. Hennagir added, “It is finding something that someone is going to throw away or finding it somewhere really cheap.”

Together the two have made flowers out of lawn mower blades, turned an old outhouse into a garden shed and repurposed windows to be a decoration by drawing or painting them.

“We don’t leave too many things on the side of the road. We pick up whatever we can find,” Hennagir said.

One of their newest creations is making dragonflies out of old ceiling fan blades, chair legs and broken mirrors. Hennagir got the idea last summer after she saw someone else repurpose fan blades and saw an overwhelming number of dragonflies.



Hennagir showed her finding to Rogers and together the two have completed about 25. The process starts by picking out the fan blades for the wings and the chair leg for the body. Then they spray-paint the wings and body the color of their choosing, break pieces of the mirrors, cover the wings with a silicone adhesive and add the broken pieces of glass to the wings to give it a mosaic look. The final step is adding the body to the wings.

They have made small, medium and large ones, with the small ones taking five hours to complete, including the drying time if they were to do it all at once.

Normally, though, the sisters do a little bit at a time.

“I do it (repurpose) because I love to. It is a hobby for me. It is relaxing and it’s a stress-reliever,” Rogers said. “It is fun to see what you can create.”

Hennagir added, “I like working with my hands. I just do it so I can keep doing stuff, trying new stuff and having enough money so I can buy supplies.” Once the dragonflies and other creations are complete, the sisters either give them away as gifts, donate them or sell them online through various Facebook groups such as “Buy and Sell Crafts ~ Furniture, Owatonna.”



Rogers and Hennagir look at the makings of some of their work, which also is shown above.

FROM SCIENCE TO THE ARTS

A German-born artist made an uncommon career change

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Claudia Poser, a former poly scientist, never imagined that one day her heart would lead her in a different direction and she would become a professional artist.

Poser grew up in Germany and always had an eye for the arts, thanks to her mother.

“I always liked making things, and I had spent a lot of time looking at art as a kid because my mother was very interested in it. She took me to lots of art museums and we spent a lot of time looking at buildings,” she said.

Poser moved to the United States in 1966 when she was 13 years old after her dad’s company opened a branch in South Carolina. She decided to pursue a career in the sciences, attended the University of Massachusetts and graduated with a PhD in chemistry.

Poser then moved to Minnesota in 1979 to begin her career as a poly scientist doing research for 3M, but after 10 years she decided to call it quits because the large corporate environment was not a good fit for her.

“I think the reason I became a scientist was partially because parental pressure and that is what I was good at, but once I had done it for 10 years I just wasn’t happy doing it. I decided to quit and try to figure out what I did want to do when I grew up,” she said.

Poser decided to start writing as a form of relaxation and eventually published a memoir about her family titled “Dreaming in German.” While she was writing she started taking classes at Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis.

“I was going crazy spending all my time alone with the computer. Gradually I got really interested in ceramics, and after I finished the book I got more serious about it,” she said. “I just somehow felt that I was somehow all out of words. I couldn’t write anymore. Doing work with my hands was much more accessible at that point in my life.”

In 1996 Poser decided to rent a studio space, and in 2007 and 2008 she participated in the WARM Mentor Program in Minneapolis, where she got to work alongside a more established artist to get her feet wet in the industry.

“I was trying to find my artistic voice and at the same time I was also trying to learn how to get my work out into the world. It is a really great program, the people in the program. You get to know a lot of other women artists, so you establish a nice network of people,” she said.

From there her career took off, and success came “rather quickly.”

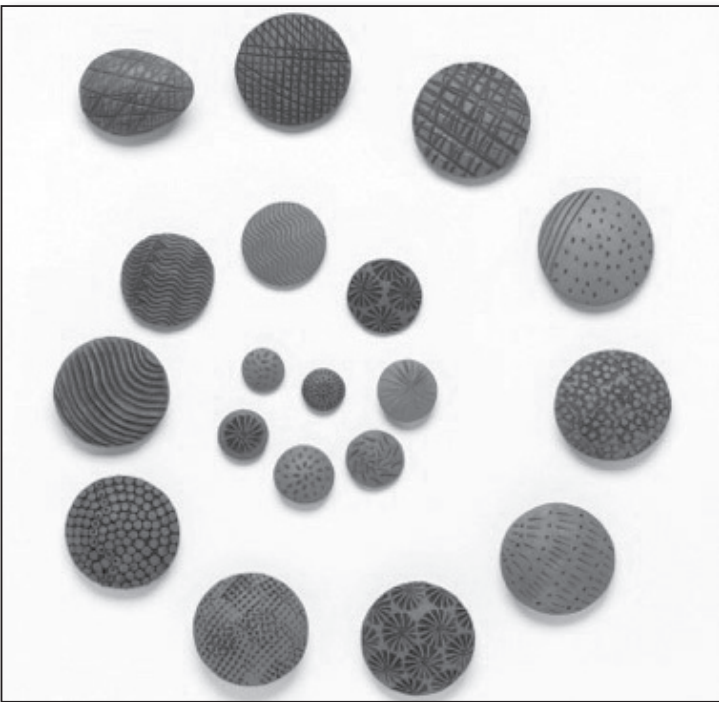
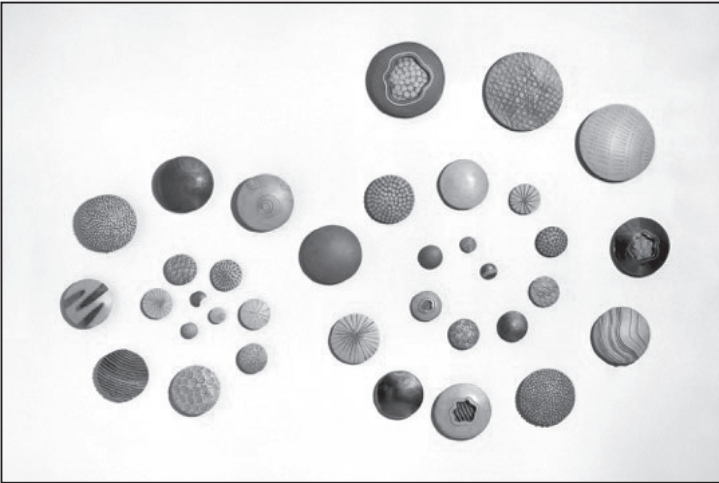
“I posted some of my work on mmarists.org and shortly after I got contacted by an art consultant who had seen my work and commissioned me to do a 12 feet by 12 feet piece for the lobby (of the Westin Edina Galleria),” she said. “When that happened I was pretty surprised. I hadn’t ever sold anything bigger than a bowl and I had never made anything much bigger than 3 feet by 3 feet. It was exciting and a real boost to my confidence.”

Today Poser serves as a mentor of the WARM program and shows her work in her own studio as well as other galleries across the state. Typically she does three to five shows with other artists a year and one solo show.

“I love working with my hands and the creative surprises that you get. Often when I start working on something I have a vague idea of what I am trying to do and while I am working I come up with such great ideas and they are often a surprise to me,” she said.



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley
Claudia Poser, who started out her career as a poly scientist, is now an established author and artist. She lives in Maplewood and owns her own studio in the Northrup King Building in Minneapolis. Some of her work is shown below.



Poser says the biggest challenge is trying to find the time to dedicate to her art because other things always come up, such as parenting, taking care of a family member or life in general. It is also a challenge to balance the amount of time she spends on actually making her art versus marketing it.

If you go

Claudia Poser’s work will be on display from Tuesday, April 7, through Sunday, April 25, at the Owatonna Arts Center.

Poser’s medium is terra cotta or red clay.

“One of the reasons I like to use red clay is because it was used a lot by Mediterranean potters, it goes back to Greece and Rome and I’ve always felt really connected to those cultures. It feels like I am working with something really old,” she said.

Poser will have a collection of about 16 pieces on

display ranging in size with the largest being 6 feet wide by 4 feet tall. Poser’s work mainly consists of many smaller pieces arranged together to create one large piece.

“I make work that tends to be a piece that is repeated. I repeat a shape and do it in different sizes and textures, and then I use that in various patterns. I make the pieces and I arrange them until they feel right,” she said.

Her work uses very earthy and basic colors and draws from inspiration from patterns she sees in nature. One of the pieces on display was inspired by cave paintings and another is a tribute to endangered animals.

Silvan Durben, OAC artistic director, said that “It is her sensitivity to shape and form, the organic feeling of the pods and the tactful and essential images that come to mind when seeing the arts.” Her sensitivity to media, use and interpretation that attracted him to her work.

Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Out with the old, in with the new: Ellendale sign plans finalized

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
News Editor

A new sign soon will greet people entering Ellendale from the west.

The truck stop that had stood there has been torn down, and the replacement will include an 80-foot sign for Casey’s General Store featuring digital elements near the southbound lanes at Interstate 35. No timetable for installation was discussed.

Also during Thursday’s City Council meeting:

- Mayor Mark Skroch asked if members had received feedback about a previous public hearing, during which Skroch spoke in favor of canceling the city’s police-coverage contract and Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele recommended keeping it. Skroch said he’d heard from people who favor canceling the contract; other council members said they’d received mixed feedback. A vote on the issue is expected at the council’s next meeting, set for April 9.
- City Clerk Lee Ann Hojberg said she had been receiving calls about the city’s annual cleanup day. The council agreed to hold it on the first Saturday in May,

as usual.

- The council approved giving \$3,000 to the fire relief fund as a thank-you; it goes toward members’ retirement.
- Hojberg asked if anyone wanted to attend a League of Minnesota Cities conference in late May in Duluth, adding that it costs \$125 provided the fee is paid by May 1. She said she attended a convention for clerks last year in St. Cloud, describing it as “really, really good.” Skroch said he instead would attend one of the regional meetings held in Mankato, Kasson and Rochester.
- The council reviewed and agreed to pay claims in the amount of \$15,591.
- Hojberg said the city fire department and council are interested in creating an addition for the department’s building so all fire vehicles can be stored in the same place.
- A motion was made and accepted to hire James Blilie.
- Skroch mentioned interest in placing a dehumidifier in council chambers, saying visitors had been complaining about odor.
- The council approved giving \$500 to the church summer recreation program.



Only rubble remains in the place where a new sign for Casey’s General Store soon will rise at Ellendale.

Staff photo by Rick Bussler



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Norrine Jensen of Ellendale has been monitoring the ice on Beaver Lake from her front yard for the past 26 years for a New York professor. She records both the ice-on and ice-off dates every year. This year’s official ice-out date on Beaver Lake was March 20.

Beaver Lake hit its ice-out date March 20

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

A definite sign of spring is in the air, and in the water, in Steele County.

Beaver Lake, located several miles west of Ellendale, is back to liquid again as it became ice-free on March 20, about three weeks ahead of the past couple years. The “ice-out” is a perennial rebirth of the summer recreational season.

Norrine Jensen, who lives on the lake, has been monitoring the ice on Beaver Lake since 1989.

She records both the ice-on and ice-off dates each year. The information is passed onto Dr. Kenton Stewart, a biological professor at the State University of New York.

Beaver Lake is one of 200 lakes across the country monitored by Dr. Stewart. It’s not exactly clear what he uses the data for, but Jensen speculates it may have something to do with

a project on global warming.

Jensen said she has no idea how a New York professor ever picked Beaver Lake to monitor ice data.

Since 1989, the earliest ice-off date was March 6 in 2000 and the latest was April 18 in 1993, according to Jensen’s records.

“It’s interesting,” Jensen said of collecting ice data. She added helping get accurate data makes her feel responsible.

This year’s ice went pretty fast, Jensen said. She noted that within two weeks, the lake went from being totally covered with ice to having none.

She enjoys keeping a watchful eye as her living room overlooks the lake. Jensen said it’s fun to watch the lake in its final days of becoming ice-free. She looks for moats when the water is opening up around the edges. She said she knows when the ice is about to go because it changes color from white to blue.

Heat, warmth and the wind are key factors to the ice disappearing, according to Jensen.

“The wind really activates the ice disappearing,” she said.

Jensen is not sure what the ice depth of Beaver Lake was this past winter, but in the past it has usually been around 36 inches.

In addition to keeping ice data, Jensen and her husband have kept lots of history on the lake for decades. They have a scrapbook filled with photos and news articles about the lake over the years.

“We both love history,” Jensen said.

She is not certain how long she will continue with the ice data project.

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TFN

Menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
April 7: Egg, Sausage & Cheese on English Muffin
April 8: Oatmeal Round
April 9: Pancake & Sausage Bites (No Salad Bar- Ellendale)
April 10: Cinnamon Roll
April 13: 2-hour late start
April 14: Mini Waffles
April 15: Muffins, Yogurt

NRHEG Lunch Menu
April 7: Chicken Patty, French Fries, Baked Beans, Pineapple
April 8: Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Veggies, Diced Peaches, String Cheese

April 9: Chicken Strips, Whipped Potatoes, Fresh Veggies, Applesauce, Fresh Fruit
April 10: Corn Dogs, Soft Pretzel w/Cheese Sauce, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges
April 13: Beef Taco w/Top-pings, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Applesauce
April 14: Turkey Gravy, Biscuits, Cranberries, Peas, Cooked Carrots, Diced Peaches, Cottage Cheese
April 15: Hamburger on Bun, Chips, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges, Rice Krispy Bar

Student of the Week

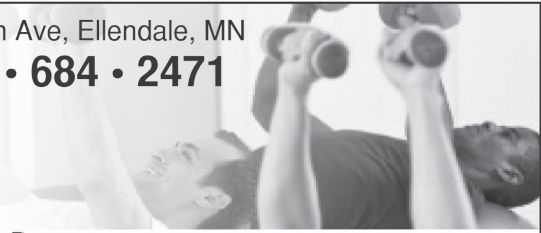
Kia Buendorf is in Ms. Wimer’s third-grade class. She is the daughter of Chad and Kari Buendorf, and they reside in New Richland. Kia loves cheerleading and dance. Kia’s positivity is infectious to everyone around her. She has a bright outlook on school and life in general.



She is always the first to volunteer to help when someone is in need. NRHEG is very lucky to have such a positive role model in Kia!

Student of the Week is sponsored by:

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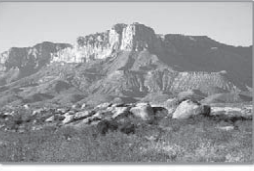
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MedfordLiving

Seeking a home in Medford? Odds are good

Officials have heard residents want more housing options

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

People who are looking to build a home in Medford are in luck. There are about a dozen lots for sale within the city limits.

“There are approximately 10 lots that are available in the development near the public school and a couple lots available in the area of 5th Avenue Southwest,” City Administrator Andy Welti said.

In addition, the school recently put the old football field (south of Third Avenue Southeast and east of the abandoned railroad) up for sale.

As part of preparations for the city’s recent Comprehensive Plan, officials learned that residents would like to see more housing options such as duplexes, small-lot homes and townhouses as well as the continued development of single-family homes.

According to the Comprehensive Plan, Medford has the highest growth rate in Steele County. Medford has had an average growth rate of 16.32 percent each decade from 1960 to 2012, meaning it grew from 567 to 1,392 residents.

Welti said the city wants to get the

WHOM TO CONTACT

For information on lots for sale in Medford, go to medfordminnesota.com or call City Hall at 507-455-2866.

word out that there are options for both residents looking to build homes and sell their old ones and for new residents.

“What we are finding at City Hall is that there are several people who are looking for homes. If residents are looking at possibly building a new home and selling their existing home, now may be a good time to list their home,” he said. “Now is a prime time for people who are looking to build new homes, so we want to make sure they know that there are around a dozen buildable lots that are available.”

Welti also mentioned that there has been “steady interest” from people wanting to buy existing homes.

“We know that the number of homes that are for sale in Medford aren’t meeting that demand,” Welti said.

In Medford, Realtor.com lists seven houses for sale, three of which are listed as pending, four lots for sale and zero rental properties available. Berkshire Hathaway lists four houses for sale, four lots for sale and zero properties available for rent. Edina Reality has six



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

About a dozen lots are available in Medford. Medford School recently put its property of the old football field south of Third Avenue Southeast up for sale.

houses for sale, two of which are listed as pending, four lots for sale and zero properties available to rent.

“Medford is a highly desirable community because of the school district, the small-town feel and because it is located between two regional centers, Owatonna and Faribault. It is within an

hour drive of Rochester, Mankato and the Twin Cities,” Welti said.

To determine the city’s housing needs and plan for the future, Medford officials are looking to do a comprehensive housing study with the Owatonna Housing Redevelopment Authority in 2016.

The study will indicate how many buildable lots, rental units, single-family homes, multi-family homes and assisted-living facilities the community would need to meet future demand.

Welti guesses the study would be held in early 2016, with the information being available in summer 2016.

Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

April 7: WG French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 8: Breakfast Fruit Crisp OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 9: Yogurt w/ Fruit and Homemade Granola OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 10: Ham and Cheese Bagel OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 13: Bacon Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 14: Banana Chocolate Chip, Bread w/Hard Boiled Egg OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 15: WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

April 7: Sloppy Joe or Fish on WG Bun, Turkey Sub, Harvest Chicken Salad, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Corn, Choice of Fruit

April 8: Beefy Nachos w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Turkey BLT Salad, Spinach, Baby Carrots, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

April 9: Parmesan Chicken Bites, Marinara, WG Pasta, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Cravin Craisin Salad, Green Beans, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Choice of Fruit

April 10: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Yogurt Pak, Taco Salad, Glazed Carrots, Green Peas, Broccoli, Choice of Fruit

April 13: Popcorn Chicken Bowl-, Combo Sliders, Chicken Caesar Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

April 14: Chicken Alfredo over Pasta, Garlic Breadstick, Deli Sandwich, 7 Layer Salad, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

April 15: Hot Dog on WG Bun, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Chef Salad, Tator Tots, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Comprehensive plan will be a foundation for Medford

By LOIS M. NELSON

Since the beginning of the year, the City of Medford has been organizing around the now completed and accepted comprehensive plan. The plan will serve as the community’s foundation for residential and economic growth for the next five to 10 years.

On March 2, Andy Welti, accepted and started as our fulltime city administrator. Last fall, the Council had identified a number of tasks for the new administrator to be researched and developed early this year. Andy has been with us since the end of October in an interim assignment so has been involved in finalizing the 2015 budget, working with all city staff, appointing board members and the Council, and being introduced to numerous business people and residents.

In addition to Andy, we have a number of experienced staff members that are visible daily and do much of the work of city operations. Often behind the scenes, they are the ones who take care of the city infrastructure-streets, water and wastewater, manage the office reporting systems and keep our municipal liquor store operating.

Craig O’Hearn has been with us for 18 years as Muni Manager. He and the entire muni staff have the responsibility of service to the public of both on and off-sale liquor sales, working with the pool and dart players, managing the Friday night meat raffles, and scheduling of events that bring in more people with a goal of generating revenue that can be designated to the general fund helping to reduce annual taxes to businesses and residents.

Rich Kucera, Department of Public Works Director and Amber Kniefel, City Clerk, have both worked for the city for more than 10 years. Both individuals are involved in the day-

to-day operations of the city and with their valued years experience provide history and background to our planning process.

Two additional fulltime employees are part of the public works team—Adam Jirak and Jason Biesterfeld and you can find them around town taking care of the season’s accumulated potholes, plowing snow, providing general maintenance and working at the water and wastewater operations.

We’ve just finished the ice skating season and planning for the pool season-an operation that is scheduled to open the week following the last week of school. The city has a number of part-time seasonal people that have the responsibility of operating these areas that serve our residents and visitors with added outside activities. Steve Clark, part-time-seasonal employee, had started cleaning up the winter debris at Straight River Park prior to the recent snow storm. He will be out working on city properties with warmer weather.

Each of the Council members has advisory roles to staff in various key areas of the city operations. The assignment is based on both personal interest and knowledge of the area of responsibility. Marie Sexton is the longest serving Council member serving since 1997 with a few years off. Her commitment to all city park areas is commendable as the city works to maintain all properties and develop them to meet the interests of our residents. Over the years, she has researched and organized grants to defer some of the project costs for the city. She also represents Medford on the Steele County Parks and Recreation Committee. Marie also serves on the city budget committee.

Chad Merritt began his



Jensen

second term on the Council in January. With his background in construction management, he serves as advisor to our street projects. The city will be more aggressive in scheduling regular maintenance for our streets to prolong their lives in the next few years. We do know

that in 2019-2020 reconstruction of Main Street-County Road 45 will be done in collaboration with the county. The water and sewer lines are both undersized and too shallow resulting in work on their replacement as well as updating the street, sidewalks will be part of the discussion and planning prior to actual construction. Since Main Street is also the home of numerous businesses, access to them to minimize loss of customers will be critical.

Keith Maas also began his second term in January. Keith brings a special perspective as both a long-time city employee and now, working for the City of Owatonna at its waste-water facility. He serves in the advisory role for our sewer and water operations. He also serves on the city’s human resources committee.

Linda Dusek joined the council the beginning of the year. She serves on both the Economic Development Authority Board for the city and is a part of the capital planning committee. As a 15-year resident of the community and involved in the local business, J&L Collision, her perspectives on business growth are critical in the years to come.

As Mayor, I also serve on the committees mentioned and the EDA Board. On this board, we have two council members. Retaining businesses that are out growing their facilities and attracting new businesses are a part of this board’s continued

effort. Building on collaborations and expanding our contact network, will lead to more interest and inquiries. The EDA Board in reviewing the comprehensive plan also recognizes that housing is a critical issue in Medford. We have numerous acres available for housing and need to work with interested developers to build family housing and retirement communities to possibly free up some of the existing housing stock.

Other boards are also established to support various respon-

sibilities with the community as are a number of non-profit organizations. Future columns will introduce them to you as well.

Dealing with continued, manageable growth in the City of Medford will have our attention for at least the rest of this decade. Visit us and see why many of us are committed to calling Medford home!

Lois M Nelson is now serving in her third year as Medford Mayor and can be reached at City Hall, 507-455-2866.

GRIEF RELIEF

Sometimes children don't seem to care. It's not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child's honest expression and don't make the child feel guilty or pressured.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.

Cory Michaelson

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RECIPE CORNER

Hamburger Hot Dish

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cans cream-style corn
- 8 med. potatoes
- Salt & Pepper

By Shirley Johnson

Brown ground beef in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and celery. Add salt and pepper, corn and potatoes. Simmer until done.

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Farmer's market season is right around the corner.

Staff file photo



SPOT LIGHT

Bridges and Kindergarten Orientation meeting set

A Bridges and Kindergarten Orientation Meeting will be held later this month in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Ellendale School.

Bridges (Pre-Kindergarten) Orientation, a Bridge between preschool and kindergarten for five year olds, is slated for 4:45 p.m., Monday, April 20, in the elementary music room. A kindergarten orientation will be held at 4:45 p.m., Monday, April 27, in the elementary music room.

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower

April 7:

1 p.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

April 8:

Lyle City Council Meeting
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library

11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle

April 9:

Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center

8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College

10:30 a.m. Big Day on Campus, Riverland Community College

10:30 a.m. Storytime, Austin Public Library

3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market - Canceled

6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)

6 p.m. Uncork & Create: Dandelions, Austin ArtWorks Center

7 p.m. 2015 Austinaires Show: It's Movie Night!, Austin High School

7 p.m. AHS Austinaires Show, AHS Christgau Hall

7 p.m. Classical Music for Dummies with Brad Mariska, Austin ArtWorks Center

7 p.m. GM Firearms Safety Certification, Rm A119

7:30 p.m. GM Yoga, Gym

April 10:

Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center

LeRoy-Ostrander School Carnival

8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College

10 a.m. StoryTime! :, Grand Meadow Public Library

11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle

1 p.m. AAUW State Convention, Austin Holiday Inn

5 p.m. Adams SD ES Art Show & Supper, ES Gym

5 p.m. Open Studio at the Austin ArtWorks Center, Austin ArtWorks Center

6 p.m. Autism Family Respite Night at the YMCA, Austin

7 p.m. 2015 Austinaires Show: It's Movie Night!, Austin High School

7 p.m. Open Stage, Coffee House On Main, Austin

April 11:

Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center

5 p.m. Adams SD ES Student Council Activity, Rose Creek ES Gym

7 p.m. 2015 Austinaires Show: It's Movie Night!, Austin High School

April 12:

Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center

8 a.m. Gourmet Pancake Breakfast, Cunningham Hall, Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Austin

1 p.m. GMHS Open Gym

1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room

2 p.m. Adams SD Open Gym, M/HS Gym

2 p.m. Austin Symphony Presents the Beethoven Bash II - with Fei-Fei Dong, Pianist, Austin High School

5 p.m. Fundraiser Evening at the Austin Country Club, Austin Country Club

April 13:

Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center

American Legion & Auxiliary Meeting, Lyle LeRoy-Ostrander FFA Region 8 Banquet

8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College

OWATONNA

April 7:

9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall

7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

April 9:

2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films

4 p.m. OJHS Conferences

5:30 p.m. Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge

6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time

7 p.m. Steele County Free Fair Board Mtg, Mothers Rest

April 10:

6 p.m. Owa Washington PTO Carnival

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MEDFORD

April 7:

7 p.m. Medford Park Brd

April 8:

4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

April 9:

2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

April 10:

Medford Student Council Convention

April 11:

Medford Student Council Convention

April 12:

Medford Student Council Convention

2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

April 15:

6 p.m. Medford EDA (odd months only)

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IN BRIEF

Airport house open meeting April 14

An informational open house regarding the Airport Master Plan Update is slated for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., April 14 at the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport.

The topics will include an overview of the master plan project including airport inventory, airport forecasts, facility recommendations and alternative analyzed.

For more information contact Airport Manager Dave Beaver at 507-774-7141.

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April 7:

7:30 p.m. Eastern Star

April 8:

10:30 a.m. BL Story time

4:30 p.m. EDA Mtg

April 9:

4:30 p.m. BP Police Comm. Mtg

7 p.m. BP AAUW, HS GYM

April 10:

April 11:

April 12:

April 13:

5 p.m. BP Education Foundation, HS Library

6:30 p.m. BP Brd of Review

April 14:

BP Card Club & Luncheon

2:30 p.m. BPPU Comm. Mtg

3 p.m. BPES Book Fair

7 p.m. BP VFW

7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary

7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, First Degree &

Regular Mtg, St Columbanus, BP

7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons

April 15:

10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

12 p.m. BP Chamber of Commerce

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TOAST

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

April 7:

7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

April 9:

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

NRHEG 2 hour late start

6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

April 14:

7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl



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A SCORE FOR STEELE COUNTY

Local glass fabricator outfits Vikings stadium

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A giant glass castle is taking shape as the new home of the Minnesota Vikings. Featured prominently throughout the \$1 billion stadium will be glass manufactured in Steele County.

Within the past few months, glass panels for the stadium began rolling off the production lines at Viracon's sprawling factory in Owatonna. Glass will continue to be made, off and on, until October or November.

While workers are thrilled to be involved in the largest sports complex to ever be erected in Minnesota, they're taking it all in stride and realize it's just another day of work.

"This is just what we do every day," said Seth Madole, director of customer service, as he led a tour around Viracon's plant. "We have 27 to 30 projects in the works at one time," he said.

The Vikings project is expected to generate less than \$5 million in revenue for Viracon. The company was on pace to grow 12 percent to \$930 million for the fiscal 2015 year that ended in March.

While the Vikings stadium may not be a record project for Viracon, it's a "nice, big, high-profile project and it's in our backyard," company officials have said.

Viracon, which was founded in Owatonna in 1970 and has become the top glass fabricator in the country, will have a huge influence on the new Vikings stadium, as 190,000 square feet of the 500,000-square-foot complex will be covered with glass. The glassmaker will supply 10,000 glass panels over the next eight months. By the end, about 40 truckloads will have made the trip from Owatonna to downtown Minneapolis with the glass securely wrapped up.

Said Madole: "The stadium has a ton of glass."

The steeply pitched roof will let natural light stream in, making the covered, glass-centric stadium seem more like it's outside. The covering will be the world's largest transparent roof.

The glass going into the stadium isn't just any ordinary glass. Viracon is providing high-performance insulated glass panels. They are 5 feet by 9 feet and weigh approximately 160 pounds each.

Each panel will consist of two pieces of glass separated by a dehydrated air space, according to Garret Henson, Viracon's vice president of sales. One surface will be a solar controlled coating, while the other piece will be heat-treated glass, he noted.



Viracon made T-shirts marking the work on the Minnesota Vikings' new stadium for all its employees.

"The glass combines not only performance, but the ascetics wanted," Madole said, adding Viracon hopes the glass will also promote occupant comfort.

One of the prominent features of the stadium that excites Viracon is the huge glass doors leading into the complex. "The massive operating doors will allow more of a feel of openness and that everyone is interactive with what's going on," Madole said.

Madole said Viracon is using a transparent glass that "allows people to be more engaged with what is happening in the building." He added that people would be able to see fans from outside of the stadium.

The process of getting the glass ready for shipment to the stadium takes about three weeks on Viracon's production floor. Workers begin the process with 120-by-204-inch glass sheets. They are cut to size, washed, heat treated at 1,200 degrees, cooled down and coated.

Viracon, Madole said, is the only place in North American that coats its glass products.

As for the special heat treatment, it makes the glass stronger, according to Madole.

He estimated that 150 of Viracon's 1,500 employees would have had a hand in the glass production for the Vikings stadium.

Excitement has been building across Viracon since a design team began working with architects about two years ago on the stadium project. Once the glass began rolling off the factory lines in February, there has been an even greater sense of purple pride overtaking the plant.

In fact, Viracon made Vikings T-shirts commemorating the company's involvement for all of its employees. It's the second time in company history where that has happened.

What's adding to the excitement for Viracon is that employees will see the finished product close by once the stadium is complete. "It's rare that we get to see the end result of what we do because

Viracon's influence on new Vikings Stadium

Glass panels: 10,000
Size of panels: 5 feet by 9 feet
Glass coverage in stadium: 190,000 square feet
Delivery method: 40 truckloads required for delivery of glass



At top, an artist's rendering shows what the Minnesota Vikings stadium is set to look like. Above and below, Viracon employees tend to their duties at the company's factory in Owatonna.



of the widespread nature of our projects," Madole said, noting most of the company's biggest projects are spread out across the country.

"This is exciting for the employees because it gives us an opportunity to show our families what we do," Madole said. "We take pride in the fact that our work is going 60 miles up the road."

Added Henson: "Emotionally, this is quite important because this is our home state. Any time you can be a part of something in your own community and watch it

go up from beginning to end and have your employees be able to get there rather easily is super important to us."

Owatonna Mayor Thomas Kuntz shares in the excitement of Viracon's touchdown with landing the stadium contract.

"We couldn't be more proud to have Owatonna represented in the new stadium," Kuntz said. "The glass is what makes the stadium so attractive and that attractiveness comes from the Owatonna community."

Some of the other major projects Viracon has supplied glass for include Free-

dom Tower, also known as World Trade Center Tower One, in New York, City Center in Las Vegas and Willshire Grand, which will be the tallest building on the West Coast in California.

Viracon has also been involved in other sports projects, including stadiums for the Dallas Cowboys, San Francisco 49ers and Miami Dolphins.

New projects call for Viracon glass in the new stadium in Atlanta, the Mall of America addition in Bloomington and the new Wells Fargo towers rising

next to the Vikings stadium.

Madole said the design of buildings within the past five years has pushed toward more glass architecture. "There is a push from the design trend to increase the amount of glass in a building," he said.

About 15 percent of Viracon's work is international, according to Madole.

The increasing demand for glass led Viracon to expand its Owatonna facility last year with a \$40 million addition. Viracon received help with the project from the state and city of Owatonna. The new factory includes a state-of-the-art machine that applies energy-efficient solar-coating to the glass so it can block UV and infrared rays and keep a structure cool.

Mayor Kuntz is thrilled that Viracon made the additional investment into Owatonna. "We were fortunate enough to get the coater (machine) to come to Owatonna," he said, adding that Viracon had also considered a couple of other locations for its expansion.

Viracon is the largest employer in Steele County with about 1,500 workers.

The new Vikings stadium is slated to open for the 2016 season, and Minnesota has been awarded the Super Bowl in 2018.

"We're excited to be a part of it," Madole said. "It means a lot to us because of the local nature."

"The glass is what makes the stadium so attractive, and that attractiveness comes from the Owatonna community."
Thomas Kuntz, Owatonna mayor



File photo

Back in action

Preparation is underway because it's the time of year for farmers to return to their fields.

Minnesota crop, livestock incomes diverged in 2014

Strong prices and lower costs brought record profits to many Minnesota livestock farmers in 2014, while crop producers saw earnings deteriorate for the second consecutive year.

Those were among key findings in the annual farm income analysis conducted jointly by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) and University of Minnesota Extension. Researchers pointed to signals that both livestock and crop producers, however, will face tougher times this year.

Overall, the median net farm income for farmers in the study was \$43,129, up 3 percent from 2013 but substantially lower than 2012's record profits.

Net farm income includes the farm's contribution to family living expenses, income taxes, retirement and business growth.

"These farms are businesses that need to earn a return on their investment as well as feed their families from these funds," said Keith Olander, director of AgCentric, a MnSCU Center of Excellence in Agriculture.

The median income for crop farms was \$17,003, down from \$48,120 in 2013 and \$260,940 in 2012, when drought impacted many states but not Minnesota. Prices for Minnesota's primary crops were generally below cost of production in 2014, following several years in which farms benefited from increased commodity prices.

"Minnesota crop and livestock farms have been on different paths for several years now," said Dale Nordquist, Extension economist.

Last year was the best year ever for many livestock farmers, with median income at \$138,037, compared to \$97,669 in 2012 and \$38,479 in 2013. Livestock producers, who struggled with high feed costs and low prices over the past few years, benefited from lower feed costs as corn and soybean prices fell. Plus, meat and milk prices hit all-time highs in 2014.

Crops: Prices and yields fall

Most of the attention in farm country has been on declining crop prices in the past year.

The average price received for corn sold by participating producers declined from \$6.28 per bushel in 2013 to \$4.37 in 2014. With costs of production averaging \$4.57, the average corn producer lost money on each bushel of corn produced.

Sugar beet producers in the Red River Valley and West Central Minnesota did not fare any better. In 2012, the average value of beets was \$64 per ton. By 2014, it had fallen to \$35 per ton. The average producer lost \$230 on beets in 2014.

Soybeans sold for \$11.67 per bushel, down from \$13.59 the previous year.

Wheat sold for \$6.33 per bushel compared to \$7.66 in 2013.

In much of the Corn Belt, record crop yields compensated some for decreasing prices. In Minnesota, though the average yield for farms in the study was 158 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from their 10-year average.

"The growing season didn't do any favors for Minnesota farmers. Most Minnesotans remember how cold and wet last May and June were," Nordquist said. "That got the corn crop off to a really slow start and we never totally recovered. There is no bright light at the end of the tunnel for most crop producers, either. Things could change but at current prices, most crop farmers will struggle to get their costs of production out of the market this year."

Livestock: Big profits appear short-lived

The story was much better for beef, pork and milk producers. As crop prices declined over the past two years, so

have feed prices. At the same time, prices for meat and milk increased dramatically. The average price received for milk increased from \$20.36 per hundred pounds in 2013 to \$24.42. With the average cost of production around \$20.00, dairy producers netted about \$1,200 per cow compared to \$300 in 2013.

Beef and pork producers experienced much the same results. The price of market weight beef increased from \$1.25 per pound in 2013 to \$1.51 in 2014. Lean pork prices increased from 89 cents per pound to \$1.01.

"Beef supplies are still struggling to recover from the 2012 drought so beef prices look to remain strong for at least another year," Nordquist said.

University of Minnesota Extension is a 100-year-old partnership among the university and federal, state and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public.

Here's what to know about taking good soil samples

Soil test analysis data collected from a field or garden can be no better than the sample. Therefore, proper collection of the soil sample is extremely important. Representative samples are as important to get good data back for those farming thousands of acres to those planting the home garden.

Soil tests can be submitted to a private soil testing lab or they can be submitted to the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory. Many local county extension offices have the submission forms and soil testing bags. The informational sheets are listed on the U of M Soil Laboratory Website: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/> or you can directly contact the laboratory at (612) 625-3101.

Soil test data can provide data that indicates soil fertility, pH, and organic matter. Fertilizer recommendations are made corresponding to the soil test data. Common tests include phosphorus (P), potassium (K), organic matter, and pH requirements. The most common fertilizer used for a fertility program is nitrogen. Nitrogen (N) is not tested for as often with a soil test due to nitrogen's ever changing chemical forms in the soil.

Start by dividing the field/garden/lawn into areas that have the same soil color and texture, cropping history, and fertilizer, lime and manure treatments. On farmland and acreages, use of soil survey maps that indicate soil types, slope phase and erosion phase are useful because organic matter, nutrient levels and soil pH can vary following these map units. One sample should not represent more than 20 acres on level, uniform landscapes, or 5 acres on hilly or rolling land. Soil sampling using an intensive grid pattern of at least 2.5 acres in size is another option for growers working with a crop consultant or agricultural professional.

Sample each area for composite samples, which

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

means you are pulling a large amount of samples and then you will condense. Within each area collect 15-30 sub samples (cores, borings, or spade slices) in a zig-zag pattern throughout the designated field area. The more variable the soil, the more sub samples should be combined per area sampled. Scrape off all surface residues from the sub sample site.

Sample the soil to a depth of 6-8 inches (plow layer) for cultivated crops, or 3 inches for pasture, lawns or sod fields. Sample row crop fields between rows, except for ridge till plantings. Also avoid sampling dead or back furrows, terraces, old fence rows, lime or fertilizer spill areas, headlands, eroded knolls,

low spots, or small saline areas. Sample at least 300 feet away from gravel or crushed limestone roads because their dust changes soil pH.

Mix the sub samples thoroughly in a clean plastic pail, and fill the sample box or bag to the fill line (1 pint). If the samples must be taken wet, they should be dried before being mixed and submitted to the Laboratory. Do not exceed a drying temperature of 97F, and do not use a microwave unless only the nitrate test is requested.

Short videos on soil sampling are available by visiting the University of Minnesota Extension YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/umnsmallfarms>. Additional resources such as submission forms, sample bags and soil testing interpretations can be found by contacting the Steele County Extension at 507-444-7685 or Rice County Extension at 507-332-6109.

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.



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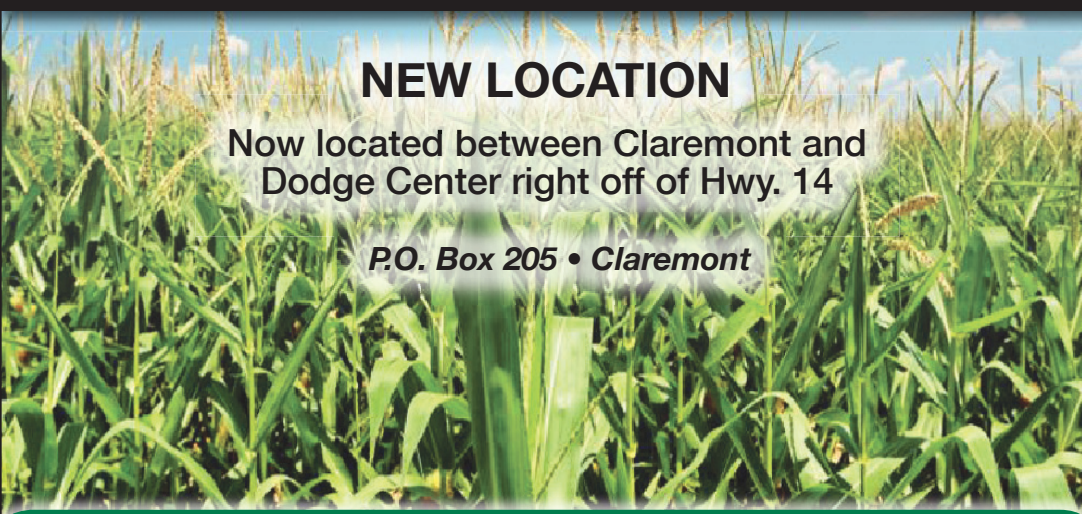
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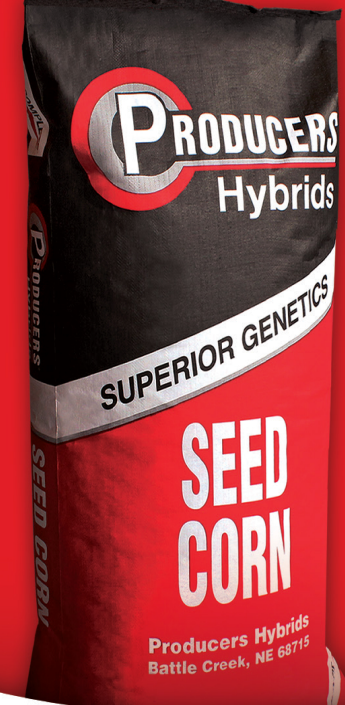
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has a full time opening for a
CDL Driver/Applicator
at the Grand Meadow location
Potential employees must be familiar with farm equipment, mechanically inclined, must have a Class A or B CDL and be able to obtain a HazMat and tanker endorsement.
CHS offers competitive pay, health insurance, and a retirement plan.
If you have questions about the position, contact Mike at 507-754-5125 EOE

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Owatonna
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has openings for
Seasonal CDL Drivers
Potential employees must have a Class A or B CDL and will need to obtain a current medical card before employment start date. Applications are available at any CHS location.
If you have questions about the position, contact Mike at 507-754-5125 or Troy at 507-657-2234 EOE

Employment
CONNECTION



Sacred Heart Care Center
Home Health Aide
Part time position in home care with potential for regular hours.
Day shift includes every other week-end
CNA experience required.
Call Donna McLaughlin 507-433-1905
Sacred Heart Care Center
1200 12th St SW, Austin, MN
EOE



Sacred Heart Care Center
RN CASE MANAGER
1 - 2 days/wk (day hours) and 5th weekend on-call.
Responsibilities include establishing and coordinating home care services to reflect the physician's plan of care.
Experience required.
Call Donna McLaughlin 507-433-1905
Sacred Heart Care Center
1200 12th St SW, Austin • EOE

Help Wanted

Person familiar with operation, repair, and maintenance of aggregate equipment. MSHA experience helpful. Owatonna area.

Call
456-4310
or
451-2873.





Sacred Heart Care Center
POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Cook/Baker
Part time Days
Nursing Assistant
Part time Days or Evenings
Apply in person
Sacred Heart Care Center
1200 12th St SW, Austin, MN EOE

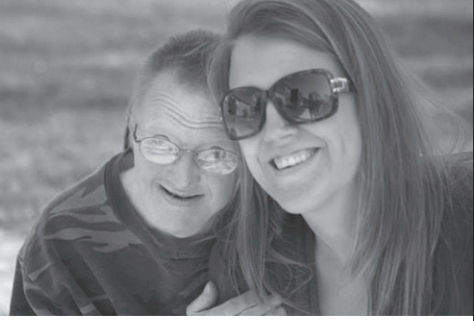


Sacred Heart Care Center
RN/LPN
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Call Kim Klingfus 507-433-1808
Sacred Heart Care Center
1200 12th St SW, Austin, MN
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CDL/OTR DRIVER WANTED
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REM
WOODVALE
Is currently accepting applications for full-time, part-time, and overnight Direct Support Professionals in the Albert Lea, Austin, Kasson and Owatonna areas. This position assists adults with developmental disabilities with day-to-day activities to increase their independent living, social and community skills. All positions include e/o weekend hours.
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Contact 507-451-1296 x11 for more information


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Faribault
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ASSEMBLING LAWN SPRAYERS, GENERATORS, AND POWER WASHERS, NEED TO BE MECHANICALLY ORIENTED
\$11/hour

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\$12+/Hour
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Administrative Assistant
Owatonna Area
Pay Based on Experience
Experience with Microsoft Office Suite and Associates Degree Required.

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Abstractor
In Faribault.
Evaluation Hire
Up to \$18/Hour
Experience Required

812 South Elm St. Owatonna
507-455-3002
www.expresspros.com/owatonna

Assistant Cook
Milestone Senior Living located in Faribault, MN seeking a part time, averaging 20 - 25 hours per pay period including every other weekend, performing duties of preparing or assisting with the preparation of savory food for the residents and tenants. Experience working as a cook of assistant cook preferred.
Employment application can be printed off from the website or requested by calling the campus. Please reply by preparing your cover letter, resume and employment application to:
Ms. Sarah Dunn Assistant Director, Ms. Dana Jerrow head Chef
Milestone Senior Living
2500 14th Street NE
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 331-8819 • www.MilestoneSeniorLiving.com
Equal Opportunity Employer



Join A Dynamic Team Of Caregivers

Mental Health Practitioner
Rule 36 provides safe & accessible healthcare services for individuals with mental health disabilities. We have a current opening for a full-time Mental Health Practitioner in our Austin, MN facility. Position is 32 hrs per wk; 3pm-11pm shift.

- ARE YOU: Compassionate, Energetic, Dependable
- RULE 36 OFFERS: Competitive wages, Medical, Dental & Aflac insurance, Vacation/Sick pay, 401k, Flexibility
- JOB FUNCTIONS: Assist clients in maintaining a clean, safe & positive living environment, Meal prep, Train & assist clients in all aspects of their life, Client activities & transportation
- REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor Degree in Human Service/related field & 2000 supervised work hrs (OR) Master's Degree in Human Service/related field (OR) 6000 supervised work hrs (3 yrs), Valid driver's license, Successful completion of Department of Human Services background check

Please send resume/obtain an application:
Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth
Attn: Lynn Braun
600 25th Avenue South
Suite #105
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-2996 [fax]

lynn.braun@rule36ofduluth.com
www.rule36ofduluth.com
EOE/AA



\$7,500 SIGN-ON BONUS
OTR TRUCK DRIVERS


ASK FOR DOUG
507-463-2679

KECK ENTERPRISES, INC OF OWATONNA is looking to hire several **OTR reefer truck drivers**. Class A driving experience is a must. We are currently offering a **\$7,500 Sign-on Bonus**. Earn up to 47 cents/mile on all dispatched miles. **Vacation Days & Holiday Pay**. Driving schedule is open to your needs, just let us know.

Employment Opportunities!
Full and Part-time Positions Available

Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) program located in Austin, MN is seeking qualified professionals for various openings. Duties include not limited to medication supervision, resident transport & recreational activities, meal prep, housekeeping, monitor & document behavior, assist in daily living activities & promote positive, healthy, secure environment.

Mental Health Rehabilitation Workers
Full-time; 12am-8am Awake overnight shift/32 hrs wk
Part-time; 4pm-12am/20 hrs wk
Associate degree or two years post secondary
3 years of personal life experience with MI or 4000 supervised work hours

Mental Health Practitioner
Full-time; 12am-8am/32 hrs wk
Bachelor Degree & 2000 supervised work hours, Master's Degree, or 6000 supervised work hours
All positions include weekend and holiday rotation.

We offer competitive wages. Qualified candidates must be 21 years of age, high school diploma; degree in social services or related field preferred, MI/CD experience, & must successfully pass criminal background check.

Please send resume/obtain an application:
Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth
Attn: Lynn Braun
600 25th Avenue South
Suite #105
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-2996 [fax]

lynn.braun@rule36ofduluth.com
www.rule36ofduluth.com
EOE/AA

Employment CONNECTION



NOW HIRING!

New Fashion Pork has immediate full-time, permanent openings in Waldorf, MN

Maintenance Technician: Responsible for preventative maintenance, repairs and general on farm projects. Looking for applicants that are mechanically inclined. Must be able to do welding and electrical work.

Farrowing Technician: Assist with all daily aspects of swine farrowing.
Competitive Wages - Compensation Package

Apply online at www.nfpinc.com OR call 507-835-3229

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ENVELOPE STUFFERS

7-3:30 in Owatonna Must
be able to sit & stand and
lift up to 35 lbs.



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507-455-3002
www.expresspros.com/owatonna

10 Call Center Reps Needed

Must have prior customer
service experience, 5000+
keystrokes/hour and
knowledge of Word & Excel



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812 South Elm St.
Owatonna
507-455-3002
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Master Electrician

Come join our team!

Lakeside Foods is now accepting applications for a master electrician position. Qualified individual seeking this opportunity must have certification by the stat to meet all requirements necessary to hold the electrician rating, experience in installing/repairing/wiring, electrical fixtures, motors, control equipment and must be competent in all phases of electrical work.

We offer a competitive wage and an excellent comprehensive benefit package. Interested candidates should send resume to jzaragoza@lakesidefoods.com or apply within:

Lakeside Foods Inc

900 N. Cedar Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
EOE M/F/D/V

LAKE SIDE FOODS

Plant Mechanic

Come join our team!

Lakeside Foods is now accepting applications for a plant maintenance position. Duties include assisting with the efficient flow of product through the plant, ability to make major repair and maintenance to all machinery in the assigned area. The candidate must be able to read, write, communicate in English, past related experience, good safety record and high school diploma.

We offer a competitive wage and an excellent comprehensive benefit package. Interested candidates should send resume to jzaragoza@lakesidefoods.com or apply within:

Lakeside Foods Inc

900 N. Cedar Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
EOE M/F/D/V

LAKE SIDE FOODS

Quality Assurance Supervisor

Come join our team!

Lakeside Foods is accepting applications for a quality assurance supervisor. Duties include monitoring quality, record review, periodic training/inspections, keeping with requirements of Safe Quality Foods (SQF), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and FDA standards. Candidates must have strong computer skills, great customer service skills and the ability to read, write, and communicate in English. We prefer a technical or bachelors degree in food science or related experience.

We offer a competitive wage and advancement opportunities, and an excellent comprehensive benefit package. Interested candidates should send resume to jzaragoza@lakesidefoods.com or apply within:

Lakeside Foods Inc

900 N. Cedar Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060
EOE M/F/D/V

LAKE SIDE FOODS

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- Home weekly. • Medical, dental, life ins. available.
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1-800-242-2402, ext. 122

Send resume to kevin@buesingbulk.com

CLASS A CDL DRIVER

Gerard Academy, a residential treatment facility that offers programs for boys and girls ages 6-19 with emotional and behavior issues is hiring for the following positions:

Counselor • Night Counselor Special Education Teacher • Therapist

Minimum state requirements; must be 21 yrs. old, have HS Diploma or GED, pass background, driver records check and pre-employment physical. Please visit our website for each position's unique requirements. EEO/AA/Minority/Female/Vet/Disab

For consideration go to www.nexustreatment.org

Gerard Academy

Austin, MN 55912



Distribution Center

Immediate Freight Delivery Driver Needed

Come Join Our Professional Team of Drivers!

Top wages being paid for local driving positions. We will train.

Requirements:

- Class "B", with willingness to get Class "A" within 60 Days
- Drive Evenings and have your days free
- Hazmat Endorsement will assist
- Medical Certificate
- MVR & Background Check

Please contact HR at

507-446-7564

or apply on-line at www.napaautojobs.com
and use key word Owatonna.

DRIVERS: Seasonal Agriculture

CENTRAL VALLEY'S BLOOMING PRAIRIE AGRONOMY DIVISION has seasonal positions available for drivers with a Class A license. Current medical certification is required. The right candidates will provide accurate, safe and efficient deliveries to our applicators in the fields. Team work is a priority, in addition to working overtime and weekend hours. Agricultural experience is a plus, but not necessary.

Apply on-line: centralvalleycoop.com/careers



Growing with you!

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Legal Notices

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,
NA 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

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:

PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

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

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 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 November 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
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-003-2104
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$140,383.78

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, 2016, or the next business day if May 5, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032

DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: 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

Foreclosure

13-093361

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: \$136,774.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Dustin L. Stewart and Alicia L. Stewart, Husband and Wife

MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed November 10, 2009, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000065185
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Seven and the West 24 feet of Lot Six, all in Block Eight in Kuether's Addition to the City of Owatonna
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 721 School St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-143-0807 COT# 17647
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

Dated: March 18, 2015
JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/24,3/31,4/7
4/14,4/21,4/28



sales opportunity

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.

507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY
Times

Foreclosure

15-099841

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 15, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$140,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): James E. Hougas and Colleen E. Hougas, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 24, 2003, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 52675
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 20, Block 1, Tricentennial Addition
REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1065 Barney Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-334-0120 COT# 14595
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$115,849.24
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 19, 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 November 19, 2015, or the next business day if November 19, 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 26, 2015
Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

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3/31,4/7,4/14
4/21,4/28,5/5



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Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 3/17/2015
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
1. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Agenda. Ayes all.
2. Brady/Schultz to approve the February 26, 2015 Board Minutes. Ayes all.
3. Schultz/Brady to approve the Consumption & Display Permit for Finch's Pub, LLC. Ayes all.
4. Brady/Ebeling to approve the On Sale & Off Sale Licenses for Finch's Pub, LLC. Ayes all.
5. Schultz/Ebeling to approve the Tobacco License for Finch's Pub, LLC. Ayes all.
6. Schultz/Glynn to approve the Review of Conditional Use Permit #390 for O'Connor Fertilizer Bldg with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
7. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the Review of Conditional Use Permit #391 for Ahrens Bulk LP Tank with conditions per the Planning Commission and to approve the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
8. Ebeling/Schultz to place on file the correspondence from the Steele County Historical Society. Ayes all.
9. Ebeling/Brady to approve the purchase and installation of a drop box for tax payments. Ayes all.
10. Schultz/Glynn to authorize advertising to fill a Mechanic Highway Maintenance Aid or Technician position for the Highway Department. Ayes all.
11. Ebeling/Brady to approve the pay range for Seasonal Employees. Ayes all.
12. Schultz/Ebeling to approve the Vacation Accrual overages for 5 LEC Employees. Ayes all.
13. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the base compensation and eligibility requirements for post-retirement health care savings plan for the Attorney, Auditor, Sheriff and Treasurer. Ayes all.
14. Glynn/Brady to rescind the previous board action of February 26, 2015 approving the bid for one SUV police interceptor and to accept the low bid from Owatonna Motor Co. in the amount of \$28,172 for one 2016 Oxford White utility police interceptor. Ayes all.
15. Brady/Schultz to approve the promotion process for the Lieutenant and Captain positions at the Detention Center. Ayes all.
16. Ebeling/Glynn offered a Resolution that the County Engineer is hereby authorized to erect and maintain signs plainly indicating the prohibitions and restrictions at each of the County Highways and Roads affected thereby and to determine the end date for Spring Load Restrictions in Steele County. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
17. Glynn/Brady to award the bid for CP 74-015-01 to Traffic Marking Services in the amount of \$102,009.30 for four inch striping on county highways throughout the county contingent on County Attorney concurrence. Ayes all.
18. Brady/Ebeling to approve the low quote from Groundsmasters, Inc. for Parking Lot Sweeping in the amount of \$1,570 for spring clean-up sweep and \$975 for any additional sweeps requested by the County. Ayes all.
19. Schultz/Glynn offered a Resolution that the County Board of Steele County has determined that CR 107 (formerly CSAH 7), from 18th Street SW to the cul-de-sac on the north side of US Highway 14, described as a County Road under the provisions of Minnesota Statute 163.11 is more appropriate as a City Street. Minnesota Statutes 163.11, the County Board of Commissioners of Steele County, Minnesota, does hereby revoke jurisdiction of CR 107 from 18th Street SW to the cul-de-sac on the north side of U.S Highway 14 approximately .7 miles in length, in the City of Owatonna, Minnesota. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
20. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the Smoke Free Grounds Policy on Steele County grounds. Ayes all.
21. Glynn/Schultz offered a Resolution authorizing the application for Minnesota Housing & Finance Agency for Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
22. Ebeling/Brady to approve the outline for the joint CHS Administrator and direct development of a formal agreement between Dodge and Steele County. Ayes all.
23. Brady/Schultz to approve the 2015 SCHA/Steele County Delegation Agreement and authorize the Board Chair and Public Health Director to sign. Ayes all.
24. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the 2015 Child Support Enforcement Inter-Agency Agreement and to authorize the County Attorney and Sheriff to sign. Ayes all.
25. Glynn/Brady to approve the MN Prairie Lease Agreement and to authorize the County Board Chair to sign. Ayes all.
26. Brady/Glynn to approve the Personnel Report. Ayes all.
27. Glynn/Ebeling to approve writing off the Delinquent Mobile Home Taxes from 2009 and prior for a total amount of \$73,963.92, comprising of \$29,895.59 in taxes and \$44,068.33 of interest and penalties. The write off of these taxes will not relieve the taxpayers of their tax liabilities as the liens assessed on the parcels will remain intact. Ayes all.
28. Schultz/Brady to approve the low bid of Radio Link in the amount of \$6,000 for the purchase of the Medford Tower contingent on an agreement with the landowner. Ayes all.
29. Ebeling/Brady to approve the Bargaining Unit Contracts with the Courthouse, Highway Dept., Detention Correctional Officers and LELS. Ayes all.
30. Commissioner Reports:
Schultz reported on his attendance at the AMC Policy Committee, SEMCAC, Steele County Historical Society and Fair Board meetings.
Glynn reported on his attendance at the City of Blooming Prairie Council Meeting and the Annual Township meetings.
Ebeling reported on his attendance at the Joint Dispatch 911, AMC and Extention Committee meetings.
Brady reported on his attendance at the SE MN Water Resources Board, Cannon River Watershed, Soil & Water, City of Ellendale and 6 Township Election meetings.
Huntington reported on her attendance at the MN Prairie meeting, AMC Conference and Criminal Justice meeting.
31. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
3/17/2015

30th Place, LLC	21,635.09
A'viands, LLC	16,431.11
Allina Hospitals & Clinic	5,240.88
APG Media of Southern Minneosta, LLC	2,146.45
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	7,656.34
Briggs & Morgan, Pa.	2,371.25
Businessware Solutions Corporation	2,677.72
CDW Government, Inc.	10,569.22
Cedar Valley Services, Inc.	2,633.40
Central Valley Cooperative	7,036.21
City of Ellendale	3,318.26
Compass Minerals America	11,599.76
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	14,062.72
Express Services, Inc.	3,025.50
Four Seasons Center	3,535.00
Stanley A. Groff	10,492.94
Hewlett Packard Company	3,074.25
Hillyard Hutchinson	3,877.44
Honeywell, Inc.	2,302.47
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	2,091.61
Intergra Telecom	2,871.53
Jones Haugh & Smith, Inc.	9,654.39
L & L Street Rods & Sport Trucks	2,465.00
Local Government Information Systems	39,839.25
Magtech Ammunition	5,682.00
Mayo Clinic	6,330.00
MN Dept of Transportation	473,800.00
NEC Financial Services, LLC	4,269.61
Office of MN IT Service	2,211.01
Owatonna Fire & Safety, LLC	2,470.50
RDO Equipment Co, Inc.	3,323.05
Rice County Auditor- Treasurer	3,247.93
S & T Office Products, Inc.	3,596.34
SCR Southern-Rochester	3,006.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	5,181.72
Steele County Highway, Dept.	2,597.62
Steele County Revenue	2,888.48
Steele County Treasurer	18,840.58
Streamline Communications, LLC	2,794.82
Trane U.S. Inc.	2,725.00
Turnkey Corrections	16,614.68
WatchGuard Video	15,060.00
221 Warrants Under \$2,000	88,271.82
Total:	\$853,518.95

32. Schultz/Brady to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 8:17 p.m. Ayes all.

4/7

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA
CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE
AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 16, 2015
Regular School Board Work
Session–High School Board
Room

7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2015
Open Public Forum–High
School Media Center

7:15 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2015
Regular School Board
Meeting–High School Media
Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER -
CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD
ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Employment
B. Additional Administrative Position
C. Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract
D. Resolution Proposing to Place Personnel on Unrequested Leave of Absence
E. Class Sizes/Sections
F. Staff Development Allocation 2015-16
G. Prom DJ
H. Student Insurance Program
I. MSHSL Membership Resolution
J. Title I Resolution

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

- Committee Reports
- Enrollment Data
- Dates to Note

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

4/7

BP School

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
April 13, 2014
6:30 P.M.

Board of Review

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the February
Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
B.P. Public Utilities
E.D.A.
B.P. Planning & Zoning
B.P. Fire Commission
B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business
Change Date of June Meeting
6th Street NW Project
Approve Main Street Project
Transfer of Property
Purchase of Used Street Sweeper
Personnel Policy Change

City Administrator's Report
Reminder of Public Hearing for
Main Street Assessments
Purchase of New Furnace for
Library
Hire of Two New Part-time Police
Officers

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

4/7

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WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2015—
AN INTERIM ORDINANCE ENACTING A TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF (1)
NEW LAND USES AND (2) LAND USE AND ZONING
REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WITHIN
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP.

THE WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Intent. It is the intent of this Interim Ordinance to allow the Westfield Township Board to study and review the implications of and costs associated with its adoption and application of land use and zoning regulations and restrictions within Westfield Township

SECTION 2. Authority and Purpose. The Westfield Township Board is empowered by Minn. Stat. 462-355, subd. 4 to pass an interim ordinance, applicable to all or a portion of its jurisdiction for the purpose of protecting the planning process and the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

SECTION 3. Temporary Prohibition. For one year after the effective date of this Interim Ordinance (or until such earlier time as determined by the Westfield Township Board), no new land uses and no land use and zoning regulations and restrictions shall be established within Westfield Township. This temporary prohibition applies to any pending requests for (1) new land uses and (2) land use and zoning regulations and restrictions within Westfield Township.

SECTION 4. Misdemeanor. Any person, persons, firm or corporation violating any provisions of this Interim Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, punished pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 609.02, subd. 3, plus costs of prosecution.

SECTION 5. Injunctive Relief. In the event of a violation of this Interim Ordinance, the Westfield Township Board, on behalf of Westfield Township, may institute appropriate actions or proceedings, including requesting injunctive relief to prevent, restrain, correct or abate such violations.

SECTION 6. Separability. It is hereby declared to be the intention that the several provisions of this Interim Ordinance are separable in accordance with the following: if any court of competent jurisdiction shall adjudge any provision of this ordinance to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect any other provisions of this ordinance not specifically included in said judgment.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This Interim Ordinance shall take effect immediately, and it shall remain in effect until one year after the effective date, unless a shorter period of time is approved by the Westfield Township Board.

PASSED 3 to 0 by the Westfield Township Board
this 31st day of March, 2015.
DATED: 3/31/15
WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

4/7

Independent School District #756

Invitation For Proposals For Transportation Services
Pursuant to M.S.123B.52, subd. 3

Notice Is Hereby Given that sealed proposals will be received by Independent School District #756 located at 202 4th Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 until 4:00 p.m. on April 17, 2015, for the purchase of Transportation Services commencing with school year 2015-2016.

At that time authorized persons of Independent School District #756 will review proposals, make recommendations and schedule interviews, if necessary, prior to the regularly scheduled School Board meeting of May 18, 2015.

General specifications may be obtained by contacting Barry Olson, Superintendent of Schools, located at the above address or by calling 507-583-4426, ext. 227.

Questions regarding specifications will be answered through the close of business on April 15, 2015.

Proposals must be mailed or hand delivered in an envelope clearly marked "Transportation Services Quotation for Independent School District #756" to Barry Olson, Superintendent of Schools, at the above address.

Independent School District #756 reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive irregularities therein, and further reserves the right to award a contract that is in the best interest of Independent School District #756.

Dated this 31st day of March, 2015

3/31,4/7

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April 13-17, 2015



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Amy has been an Audiologist since 1989 specializing in many different brands of hearing aids. She was awarded her Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Disorders in 1987 from the University of Minnesota and went on to acquire her Master's Degree in Audiology, also from the University of Minnesota in 1989. She spent about

5 years dispensing hearing aids for Mayo Medical Ventures in Rochester, MN and many years after that working in private practice. Amy's doctorate degree in Audiology came from the Arizona School of Health Sciences in spring of 2010. Now with over 20 years of experience she is confident she can help you hear better!

Dr. Amy Swain is a member of the Minnesota Academy of Audiology as well as a fellow member of the American Academy of Audiology. Her hearing centers are also a member of the Better Business Bureau.



Senior Focus

Creating a grant program for assisted living facilities

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Assisted living facilities would get assistance to help seniors stay independent longer through a bill that would create a grant program.

The bill was referred to the Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee, where it awaits its first hearing.

“Assisted living facilities help provide quality care for our elders each and every day,” said Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, in a press release. She introduced the legislation. “One common concern I’ve heard, as I’ve spoken with staff and managers at assisted living facilities, is the struggle that these facilities go through to stay financially afloat while keeping up with maintenance and repairs to their homes and facilities. It’s my hope this grant program can help alleviate some

of that pressure.”

Bennett said in a phone interview on Wednesday that funding is very tight for elderly care. “That is a priority in our caucus this year to address a lot of those places who are on a razor thin margin,” she said.

If the bill passes the legislature would appropriate \$5 million for the biennium beginning on July 1. The grants must be used to employ assistive technology to help residents remain in the community as an alternative to placement in a nursing home or for infrastructure maintenance and repairs. Any unexpended funds in the first year do not cancel and are available in the second year. This is a one-time appropriation. Only licensed facilities would be able to participate in the grant program.

Bennett said the bill was inspired by her visit to an assisted living facility

in Albert Lea earlier this month with House Speaker Kurt Daudt, where they heard from staff about the struggle to pay for technology upgrades such as chair lifts, as well as basic maintenance for the home, in addition to staff, care and other costs.

She added that another factor driving the financial need for assisted care facilities is increased state regulation throughout the years. “The additional regulations are not necessarily bad, but they do take a lot of money for facilities to comply,” she said. “This grant will help with compliance costs, such as remodeling a shower for handicapped access or a stair lift.”

The grant program would not be used for staff salaries, Bennett said.

“I think this will have a good impact in helping people to remain more independent before they have to go into a nursing home,” Bennett said.



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MAY BRANSON	MAY 1 - 4, 2015	\$579
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HOLLAND, MI TULIP FESTIVAL	MAY 8 - 10, 2015	\$459
DOOR COUNTY, WI	MAY 15 - 17, 2015	\$399
NW CIRCLE & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	JUNE 11 - 26, 2015	\$2349
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	JUNE 12 - 14, 2015	\$449
PORT WASHINGTON, WI - SALMON FISHING	JUNE 21 - 22, 2015	\$399
CALGARY STAMPEDE & CANADIAN ROCKIES	JULY 4 - 12, 2015	\$1539
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR	JULY 18 - 26, 2015	\$1499
SUMMERTIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI	JULY 22 - 24, 2015	\$469
CHICAGO, IL GANGSTER TOUR	AUGUST 7 - 9, 2015	\$459
TRAINS IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES	AUGUST 13 - 22, 2015	\$1499
UTAH CANYON COUNTRY PARK TOUR	AUG 23 - SEPT 3, 2015	\$2399
NEW YORK CITY	AUG 29 - SEPT 5, 2015	\$1469
NOVA SCOTIA & ATLANTIC CANADA	SEPTEMBER 7 - 23, 2015	\$2899
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 2015	\$449
FALL MYSTERY TOUR - All new 6 day tour!	SEPTEMBER 15 - 20, 2015	\$879
NEW ENGLAND FALL COLOR TOUR	SEPT 26 - OCT 7, 2015	\$1719
WASHINGTON DC & GETTYSBURG	OCTOBER 12 - 18, 2015	\$1099
KANSAS SPEEDWAY - SPRINT CUP & NATIONWIDE RACES	OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2015	\$569
AUTUMN IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS	OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2015	\$899
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 6 - 9, 2015	\$579
<i>Pam Tillis & Lorrie Morgan, A Tribute to Patsy Cline, Presley's Country Jubilee, A Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons</i>		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 13 - 16, 2015	\$579
<i>The Osmond Brothers & The Lennon Sisters, The Famous Herman's Hermits, A Tribute to Marty Robbins, Legends in Concert Tribute Show</i>		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 20 - 23, 2015	\$579
<i>The Texas Tenors, The Famous Lettermen, Dixie Stampede Dinner Show, Charley Pride</i>		
A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN	DECEMBER 1 - 6, 2015	\$1199
HAWAII - COMPLETE PKG W/ AIR	JANUARY 16 - 24, 2016	\$3649
DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	MARCH 5 - 18, 2016	\$2149
SPRING MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 7 DAY TOUR!	APRL 11 - 17, 2016	\$999
MYRTLE BEACH & CHARLESTON, SC	APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2016	\$1349
GRANDPARENTS, GRANDKIDS & FAMILIES TO KANSAS CITY	JULY 14 - 17, 2016	Adults \$449 Kids \$299
ALASKA - LAND & CRUISE - COMPLETE PKG W/ AIR	JULY 27 - AUG 7, 2016	starting at \$5199

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Vision changes as you age

As a person gets older certain bodily changes are to be expected. For example, muscle tone may diminish and bones can become more fragile as we age. Exercise and healthy eating may be able to stave off some of the effects of aging, but avoiding vision problems may require some additional effort.

Vision naturally diminishes as we age, but not all vision changes are related to aging. Many natural changes are not severe and may only require a minor adjustment in prescription glasses or contact lenses. Improved lighting or bigger print may help remedy other issues, including blurry text.

However, certain conditions that people blame on getting older really may be hereditary or a byproduct of an illness. There's a difference between changes that are the result of aging and those that are not. Recognizing the differences can help individuals get the treatment necessary to prevent permanent eye damage.

Age-related changes

Difficulty seeing clearly for reading and close work is one of the most common age-related vision issues. This condition can begin as early as age 40 and worsen as a person gets older.



Variation in the eyes' ability to focus properly is called presbyopia, and it will worsen over time.

Other normal signs of aging include problems with glare from headlights or the sun. Lens changes in the eye can cause light to be scattered rather than focused on the retina. This leads to more glare. In dim conditions, a person may find he or

she needs more light to see well. That's because muscles that control pupil size and reaction to light lose some strength.

Changes in color perception also may begin. The normally clear lens of the eye can discolor, making it difficult to distinguish between certain hues.

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DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COUNTY OF STEELE
Court File No 74-PR-15-576

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION
OR HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Jesse B. Pike, Jr.,
Decedent

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 adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of P. Kelley Giblin, whose address is 1720 Brant Circle, Eagan, MN, 55122 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 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:
2015.03.19

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver
& Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
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Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@owatonnaattorneys.com

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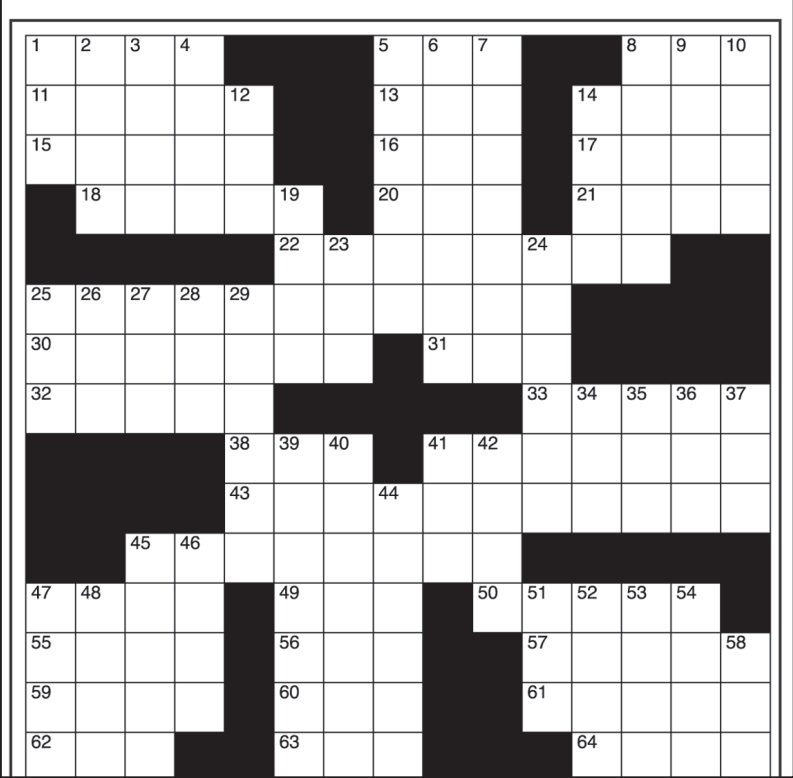
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

- Harsh grating sound
- American Resource Bureau (abbr.)
- Fiddler crabs
- Mex. soccer goalie Guillermo
- After B
- Jai __, sport
- Brief ad or notice
- Certified public accountant
- Vexation
- Rough gemstone
- Annual grass of Europe and N Africa
- Metal cooking vessels
- Suspiciousness
- "Purple Haze" musician
- In a way, built up
- Runner used for

- gliding over snow
- In a way, initiated
- Was inclined
- Divides evenly into
- Born early
- The Ocean State
- Rifle blades
- Whale ship captain
- Scientific workplace
- Fill with high spirits
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 7th Greek letter
- Peoples of the Middle East
- Height x width
- A way to drench
- Artificial waterway
- Possessed
- Turns into noun
- Capital of Yemen



CLUES DOWN

- Take by force
- Liberal rights organization
- Avoid and stay away from deliberately
- Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
- Harmoniousness
- Fixes
- A member of the Beat Generation
- Arm bones
- Abel's brother (Bible)

- Small Island (British)
- __ Dhabi, Arabian capital
- Egyptian cobras
- Overly precious (British)
- Not or
- Foreigners
- Stab
- Frost a cake
- Microgram
- George's brother composer

- Famished
- Snakelike fish
- Doctors' group
- Anais __, author
- CNN's founder
- Bad water disease
- Given
- Favorite
- Lift
- Discuss opposing points
- Bleated

- Swedish rock group
- Indian housemaid
- Israeli dance
- Insect secretion used in shellac
- Macaws
- Source of the Blue Nile
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Patti Hearst's captors

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor



Submitted photo

District governor gives membership awards

It was Governor's Night at the April 1 regular meeting of the Blooming Prairie Lions Club. Gov. Harry Klenke of District 5M-2 brought greetings from the International President and also presented membership awards to five club members. Gov. Klenke is at far left. Also shown, from left to right, are: Paul Fiebiger (10 years), Laverne Johnson (35 years), Jeff Kramer (25 years) and Barry Olson (25 years). Not present to receive a 10-year award was Jim O'Connor. The Blooming Prairie Lions Club is observing its 60th anniversary in 2015.

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Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

where they can be checked out. We have received items from Duluth, the metro area, and even North Dakota. There is also a newer option to help you choose a library book using the online catalog, accessed either through www.owatonna.info or www.selco.info. On the catalog page is a new section titled Home Rooms. The Home

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