

Non-flushable items a problem countywide

Improperly labeled wipes plug sewers

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
News Editor

The number of clogged sewer lines is on the rise in Steele County, potentially costing untold thousands of dollars in

pump and other repairs. The culprit? Sanitary wipes that should never be thrown in the toilet, even though their manufacturers label them “flushable.” The wipes don’t disintegrate and eventually plug sewer lines, said Blooming Prairie Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Sue Penkava. They cost the city money via the increased manpower needed to address

blockages after hours, but the price tag will go up if pumps are damaged, she said. Some of the pumps cost about \$5,000 each, Penkava said. “They’re moisturized, for adults or babies,” she said of the wipes. “We’ve seen more and more adults are using them now because of the ads on TV.” Penkava said she’d heard about similar issues in Wadena, a bit southeast of Fargo, and Brainerd. She added that

the issue has been particularly bad in Blooming Prairie in the past six months. It turns out the problem is a lot more widespread — and older. Leon Ellis, an operator with the Owatonna Wastewater Treatment Facility, said the wipes have been an issue there since the mid-1990s. One of Owatonna’s pumping stations in particular has experienced numerous issues, he said.

“It brings a very high-horsepower motor to a screeching halt,” Ellis said. “In our case, we’re fortunate enough that the station has some other pumps in it; they keep pumping. Fortunately for us, we haven’t had any backups to anybody’s basements as of yet. But it’s coming.”

WASTEWATER
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Zoning decision might be close

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
Staff Writer

The question of whether or not Westfield Township will establish its own zoning ordinance may be decided at the regular Township Board meeting at 7 p.m. on May 4. The Dodge County Concerned Citizens group has been pushing the township supervisors to approve a local zoning ordinance since late last year while the supervisors have said they are happy with zoning being handled by Dodge County. Behind the zoning controversy is the issue of feedlots. Feedlots in Dodge County moved to the forefront last year when the County Board approved a feedlot permit for Nick Masching in Westfield Township. Lowell and Evelyn Trom, who own a farm adjacent to Masching’s property, objected to the feedlot and filed suit in District Court to overturn the permit. Last December District Court Judge Jodi Williamson vacated Masching’s conditional use permit but said he could reapply when he met all the conditions of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. He did that and a second permit was granted last December. Since then, the Trom’s have filed an appeal to the county board’s second approval and the county has revised its ordinance regarding feedlots. That issue is currently being litigated in District Court. Throughout the controversy the concerned citizens group has said the only way the township can control feedlots is to have its own ordinance that can be

ZONING
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Angela and Cory Michaelson perform during Saturday’s Dancing With Our Steele County Stars competition. They received three perfect scores of 10.

By **SHANNON KINLEY**
County Staff Writer

Less than a week before Dancing With Our Steele County Stars, Cory Michaelson dislocated his knee at work. However, Cory and his wife, Angela, were able to overcome that obstacle and take home the title. The fifth annual event, held April 25 at the Medford High School Auditorium, raised money for Healthy Seniors of Steele County, a nonprofit organization that aims to provide services to seniors who need caregivers and empower them to live independently in their homes as long as possible. The Michaelsons, of Owatonna, had been asked multiple times to do the competition. “We ultimately knew that we were going to end up doing it one year, and this was the year that it worked with our schedule,” Angela said. Neither Angela nor Cory has any formal dancing experience. The Michaelsons tried to practice every day, even if that meant running through the routine a couple of times or practicing 45 minutes straight. The two performed a quick step to “Puttin’

on the Ritz” and got a perfect score of 30 (10 points from each judge), wowed the audience and raised the most funds of any couple. Cory estimates that before the event they had raised about \$7,900, shattering the record of \$4,000. Cory said he enjoyed “the friendship and camaraderie” they formed with the other couples, and Angela stated, “It is not just learning the routines, it is meeting new friends and raising money for a good cause.” The main challenge was Cory’s injury. The Michaelsons had to adapt their routine. “It was a setback. The last week you want to be putting the finishing touches on it and polishing your routine, but we couldn’t. It was hard because we should have been fine-tuning, but we couldn’t dance, so it was hard knowing that everyone else was polishing up their stuff,” Angela said. Cory added, “We had to try to figure out how to alter the dance after having memorized it and knowing it inside and out. All of a sudden we had to put in some changes to adapt it,

DANCE TITLE
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Public’s drinking a rare benefit to sheriff’s office

Training helps officers spot DUI drivers

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

After slamming down five alcoholic drinks within a two-hour period, Deana Boedecker of Owatonna quickly became intoxicated. Luckily for Boedecker’s sake it was all done in a controlled setting where law enforcement officers learning how to detect intoxicated drivers were monitoring her.

The Steele County Sheriff’s Office hosted a training session for officers from all over the region, including Owatonna Police and the sheriff’s office. The training is required for officers who work special enforcement periods throughout the year under the statewide Toward Zero Deaths program. By the time she was done with her last Southern Comfort cocktail, Boedecker brought her alcohol level to .131, which would be well above the legal limit of .08 to make an arrest

TRAINING
Continued on Page 3A



Steele County Sheriff’s Deputy Nick Donahue performs field sobriety tests on Deana Boedecker of Owatonna during a training session for law enforcement officers Wednesday.

Steele County nursing system in financial turmoil

Members aim to get group back into black

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Rapid change in the health industry has affected the elderly nursing home system in Steele County causing a default on a loan payment by the Steele County Communities for a Lifetime Inc. “All nursing homes are having problems. This is not a new thing,” said Steele County Treasurer Cathy Piepho.

Steele County, along with Benedictine Health Services, both members of SCCL, is working to straighten out the situation. Three buildings are associated with Steele County and the SCCL. Steele County is the owner of the buildings for Park Place and Cedarview. SCCL owns the building and operates Koda Living Community, while is responsible for the operations of Park Place and will eventually be responsible for the operation of Cedarview, which does not

NURSING
Continued on Page 3A

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Opinion

Our view

Contentious Westfield County zoning issue to be decided

The way Westfield Township will decide on zoning ordinances will come to a head during the regular township board meeting at 7 p.m., May 4.

Here is the issue. And it has been a controversial issue. And much of it stems from feedlots.

On one side of the debate is the Dodge County Concerned Citizens. DCCC believes that township supervisors should approve local zoning ordinances. On the

other side of the debate are the township supervisors. They believe it should continue meaning all zoning issues should be handled by Dodge County. In between are the citizens of Westfield Township. They are the ones that will decide whether or not change is necessary.

Some points to remember before this vote:

First, throughout the controversy the concerned citizens group believes the lone way to control feedlots is to have

an ordinance that is stricter than Dodge County's.

Township officials don't agree with that assessment. The thought is that the township doesn't want to take over planning and zoning responsibilities. As one of the farmers in the township stated, "This divides neighborhoods when one neighbor is making rules for another."

And township officials also believe that the majority of township residents agree with their assessment. That

will only be determined by a vote.

A second point is that the majority of those who live in Westfield Township, including those on the township board, consist of farmers and producers that should be considered the experts. They know what works best for them and what works best for their land. It is important to remember that many farmers and producers also have families that live on the land. It is safe to say that they

want no harm to come to their families, as well as any families within the township.

A final point is that all people living in Westfield Township and who can vote need to make their opinions known in this debate. And this opinion could be one that the township board does not want to hear. In any case, it is important that the members of the Westfield Township board listen to what the people say and follow their lead.



Prison camera ban outrages news media

Seeing photographs or watching videos of inmates locked up in Minnesota's prison system or any images of prison won't be happening anytime soon.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections has placed a camera ban for any prison interviews conducted by the news media. In changing the policy in February, corrections officials say it is meant to shield crime victims from harmful images of their assailants and remove the prospect of images circulating on the Internet as inmates make the transition back to everyday life.

Corrections officials are now labeling cameras as contraband, which seems totally absurd.

If news organizations like the Times want access to inmates, we'll be forced to leave our cameras at the door. Just for the record, inmates still have the option to consent or deny any interview. For example, we have been trying to interview a child molester for several months, but each time he denies our request.

As you can imagine, the

HOT

PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

move does not sit well with news organizations, especially television stations that rely primarily on video to tell stories. Journalism advocacy groups have shared a concern that barring cameras from prisons would only push inmates further into the growing, faceless mass of the state's incarcerated population.

Mark Anfinson, the attorney for the Minnesota Newspaper Association, says the public doesn't know enough about them, who they are, how they

got there and how they think. Society needs to know more because of the magnitude of the problem, he contends.

It boils down to this. It is simply bad public policy to make inmates even more invisible than they already are.

In our case with the newspaper, being banned from using cameras won't prevent the presses from rolling. We rely almost solely on the printed word. Mugshots of inmates and public records of their crimes will still be made available to us.

But it's important for us to have the option to share photographs of the subjects we're interviewing with our readers.

I always feel if something isn't broken, why fix it? This could easily be made the argument in this situation. Incredibly, this ban has nothing to do with any embarrassing or damaging event or story done by a media outlet.

We agree with critics that say this is reckless bureaucracy in full swing. The public will lose out by not having a free press

on which to rely for impartial information. The biggest losers in all of this are not journalists, but rather prisoners who are silenced. This ban should be immediately reversed.

People, including journalists, should be extra sensitive to crime victims and the traumatic experiences they have endured at the hands of criminals. We're not about wanting victims to relive the horrible crimes all over again. But we also don't feel that outweighs the importance of being allowed camera access in prisons.

Inmates have the constitutional right to talk to the media. The Supreme Court has already granted inmates free speech rights. The state's latest effort to block the media from utilizing cameras could easily end up being a great First Amendment argument to resolve in court.

It's time for corrections officials to go in hot pursuit of achieving sensibility in leaving the camera rule like it has been for years.



Thanks to graduating interns

Graduation Day is coming soon for those across the Steele County Times and News Enterprise coverage areas. Over the next few weeks those graduating will be getting everything together for that special day in May, or in some cases, June.

Our publications have two senior interns that will also be crossing the stage receiving their graduation diplomas. They are Kristin Smith at Triton High School and Macaela Jensen at Blooming Prairie High School.

For the past year or so these two young ladies have been helping us out in various ways, all with an opportunity to learn more about the newspaper industry. Macaela has chosen to take up another profession after graduation. However, Kristin is looking at trying her luck in the journalism field.

The two have always enjoyed being involved in the different projects that we are involved

with. For those who don't know, the history column that runs each week in the Times is written by Macaela. Both girls enjoy writing a story or two and have done that throughout the past year or more.

They also enjoy being involved in activities outside of the writing and photography atmosphere. If you may recall at last year's Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie, the two could be seen strolling around on their roller blades throughout the parade march. And in August, the duo were also at our Steele County Times booth during the Steele County Free Fair.

As interns, the hope is that each learned a bit about the newspaper business. And from what I gather each has learned something about journalism, which is the whole purpose behind the news internship program.

These two will be missed after they leave. Each day they would come to work with a smile on their face and would always want to be part of everything that we do. I will miss that. I will also miss the way that they take on any assignment, eager to accomplish it and ready for the next.

Not only do I thank these girls for their commitment to our newspapers, I want to credit their families for all that they have instilled in them. They will be able to accomplish whatever they wish as they grow older.

Thank you Macaela and Kristin. I wish you the best of luck after graduation. Hopefully, we will be able to find two more interns as dedicated as you were.

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

This week's question: Should the Westfield Township Board decide zoning ordinance issues?

Yes; members know the landscape.
No; it is difficult to decide against one's neighbor.
I don't care.

Last week's question: Have you started planting crops?

- * Yes, and I'm almost done. 20%
- * No; I have a long way to go. 20%
- * I'm just getting started. 60%

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.

John Beal
Faribault

Letters to the editor

Kudos; paper is arriving on time in rural Faribault

Just a quick update with "good news"

about the delivery of our paper here on the Faribault rural delivery. For three weeks now, including April 22, we have received our paper on Wednesday.

We continue to look for-

ward to each week's new addition. Keep up the good work.

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

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2014
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Seven state awards.
Two national awards.

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

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DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

News

Rock Island was a mighty fine line

*The Rock Island Line
is a mighty good road
The Rock Island Line
is the road to ride
The Rock Island Line
is a mighty good road
If you want to ride you
gotta ride it like you find it
Get your ticket at the sta-
tion for the Rock Island Line*

Those lyrics are from the blues/folk song about the Rock Island Line, a rail company that was first chartered in 1847. John Lomax first recorded the song in 1934 as sung by inmates in an Arkansas State Prison. I had the opportunity recently to learn more about the history of the Rock Island Line, thanks to an invitation by my father-in-law, Dale Mowers of Albert Lea. Mowers, a 37-year railroad worker, was employed by the Rock Island for 32 years. My wife, Judy, and I drove Rock Island Dale to the 35th annual get-together of some former Rock Island employees, most of them serving The Rock in Iowa or Minnesota locations. The site of the reunion was the St. Paul Park American Legion Post 98, and the enticement to attend other than Rock Island memories was a fish fry. The gathering resembled a high school class reunion. “Dale, I remember you,” said 94-year-old George Hargis, a former conductor for the Rock Island. Dale said he held Hargis in high

Reflections. . .



Howard Lestrud

regard as a smart railroad man. Dale was thinking he might be the oldest attendee at the reunion but Hargis beat him by five years, Dale being 89. He was the second oldest attendee. An estimated 30 old-timers attended the reunion and shared remembrances of their time working for The Rock. Two brothers, Dan and Mitch Penny, reminisced with Dale about their railroad service in southern Minnesota. Their brother Tim, not in attendance, was also a former Rock Island employee when attending college. Many will remember Penny as Congressman Tim Penny from the First District. A cake was even unveiled and revealed the theme: “Remember the Rock.” I turned reporter and asked Dale about some of his memories while working for The Rock. He said the Rock Island Line at one time was a reputable freight mover and also a mover of



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Longtime Rock Island Railroad employee Dale Mowers, former depot agent in Ellendale, renewed some old acquaintances with fellow Rock Island workers at a 35th annual reunion recently in St. Paul Park. Dale, 89, is shown with a huge Rock Island sign that is now a collector's item.

people via its passenger service. The Rock Island carried grain, fertilizer, cars “and all kinds of freight” known as dead freight, Dale recalls. Dale began his Rock Island career in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and also served the rail line in Hartley, Iowa, Owatonna and Ellendale. He logged 26 years as depot agent in Ellendale. He also worked as city clerk for 20 years during his stint as depot agent. Dale said the most challenging part of his railroad career came after The Rock went bankrupt and the line was abandoned in 1980. He then worked for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in Mason City, Iowa, Esther-

ville, Iowa, and Albert Lea. Times have changed in railroading, Dale believes. “We never saw oil trains like they are seeing now from North Dakota into Minnesota,” Dale said. He said now semis are piggybacked on trains that travel from coast to coast. Transportation via rail is cheaper than by truck, Dale pointed out. Union Pacific now serves much of southern Minnesota with a large grain terminal in Hope. Some of these trains are 100 cars or more and measure a mile and a quarter in length. “It was enjoyable to see some of these guys I had not seen for over 20-30 years,” Dale said.

DANCE TITLE

Continued from Page 1A

and that was a challenge.” After speaking with the doctor, Cory decided to do the best he could with the injury. “I decided, Let’s see what we can do over the course of five days and do the best we can. I didn’t just want to all of a sudden leave a hole in the routine. After all of that hard work, I wanted the opportunity to follow through with it,” he said. “We had a lot of support from people and a lot of people coming to watch, and I didn’t want to have that letdown.” The main challenge for Angela was trying to find a dress. She searched for weeks to find a dress that not only fit the era of the song, but fit her correctly due to her height. Both of the Michaelsons kept their nerves in check and had fun performing. “I was ready with all the preparation that we had and felt really comfortable walking out on the stage,” Angela said. Cory added, “It was fun to be at that spot where all of a sudden you get to kind of showcase all of your hard work. For me I was kind of bummed out because I knew I could do a lot of more stuff better, but it was fun to go out there and give it our all.” The two were surprised that they took home two awards, as that was never the goal. “For us it was just, Let’s just go do the best we can and whatever the results are, those are the results,” Cory stated about finishing first. The Michaelsons are happy they participated in the competition and



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Cory and Angela Michaelson show off their awards after Saturday's Dancing With Our Steele County Stars competition.

recommend it to other couples. Paul and Glenda Smith took home the other two awards: Audience Choice and Judges’ Award. Originally, the Judges’ Award was a four-way tie among the

couples that received perfect scores, including the Michaelsons, the Smiths, Beth and Brett Svenby and Jessica and Clint Williams. The judges broke the tie by giving it to the Smiths.

WASTEWATER

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It’s a matter of time until one of the city’s pumps stops working, Ellis said. He estimated the cost of one of Owatonna’s pumps at \$30,000 to \$40,000. Ellis was at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s annual Wastewater Treatment Conference in March in the Twin Cities. There, he listened to a speaker discuss problems that other towns are encountering, as well as manufacturers’ misuse of the term “flushable.” That speaker was Pete MacPherson, general manager of Dundas-based Minnesota Pump Works. His company transports pumping equipment to municipalities and businesses. The wipes aren’t just a Steele County-wide problem, or even a statewide problem, MacPherson said.

“It’s definitely a U.S. problem,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of manufacturers that are manufacturing items such as woven wipes that are used in cleaning, wiping down countertops, things of that nature. A lot of people, instead of throwing them in the trash, end up flushing them in the toilet. What people don’t realize is that there’s equipment downstream that has to move this type of (trash).” The issue has grown in the past decade as more problematic products have been developed, MacPherson said. So, what’s the solution? One is that pump manufacturers are adapting designs and adding “grinders” with knives attached that can shred clogging materials, he said. “Of course, the best way to



Staff photo by Brian Sandford
Pat Wehner, assistant operator at the Blooming Prairie Wastewater Treatment Plant, helps unload a repaired pump as Supervisor Sue Penkava watches April 22.

handle it is for the general public to refrain from putting those kinds of materials into the system,” MacPherson said. Ellendale maintenance man-

ager Josh Otto said the wipes haven’t been problematic in his city. Medford Public Works couldn’t be reached for comment.

TRAINING

Continued from Page 1A

for drunken driving. “I was surprised it got that high,” Boedecker said referring to her alcohol level. “I didn’t feel that intoxicated. I wasn’t falling down.” Drinkers like Boedecker went through a battery of standard field sobriety tests, which are the standard used by officers in the field to determine if they should arrest someone for DWI. Some of the tests included: the one leg stand, the walk and turn and a test checking the tracking of the eyes. In regard to the balance tests, Boedecker admits it was difficult to listen and comprehend the instructions and then perform exactly what the officer wanted from her. “It was interesting to go through the tests,” she said. As much as the training was important for police officers, it also proved to be effective for Boedecker and several other civilians who volunteered to drink and be subjects for the course. Boedecker referred to the experience as a “real eye opener” in learning her limits when it comes to drinking. She describes herself as being a social drinker and certainly not a stranger to alcohol. Despite being surprised at her alcohol level during this experiment, Boedecker said she would not have driven

a vehicle. “I knew I was not good enough to drive,” she said. However, she admits she likely has driven in that condition in the past. As a nurse in the emergency room at Owatonna hospital, Boedecker knows the importance of having police officers learn about detecting drunk drivers. “I see the results of drunk driving often,” she said, adding she is touched by the impact it has on the families of victims. She commends law enforcement for its commitment to learning how to take drunk drivers off the roads. Boedecker said it was a great learning experience for her and she hopes for the same with the officers. Steele County sheriff’s deputy Nick Donahue, who coordinated the training, brought together 16 different people to be drinkers over the two day class. He said the alcohol levels of the drinkers during the experiment ranged from .05 to .13. They were all provided safe rides home after the class. Boedecker hopes other people besides the officers will learn from her experience in this class. “There are a lot of bad consequences to drunk driving,” Boedecker said. “If you have anything to drink, just call a cab and don’t take the chance.”

NURSING

Continued from Page 1A

have any residents at this point. In March, SCCL missed its debt service payment on bonds involving the facilities. On March 17, Moody’s Investors Service placed Steele County’s Series 2005B Gross Revenue Health Care Cross-over Refunding bonds under review for possible downgrade, affecting \$3.2 million in outstanding debt. Currently, Piepho said Steele County is in a forbearance agreement with SCCL. “We are negotiating our interest and the payments,” she said. “This just gives us some time to work out the operational side of things.” Steele County Commissioner James “Corky” Ebeling, who is one of two members on the SCCL board, said Steele County is not in default. “It is getting intertwined,” he said. “This is one of the projects we had to work on to get all the stakeholders to understand the relationship.” Piepho said there is a list of items that Moody’s Investors Service wants to see in order to straighten out Steele County’s credit rating. “We have our attorneys working on the legalities of this arrangement to explain that we are not owners because they are naming us as owners,” she said. “We are members. It is a separate entity on its own.” The possible downgrade of Steele County’s credit rating could have impacts on future projects such as construction of the public works building. “It definitely adds some challenges,” said Steele County Administrator Laura Elvebak. “We’re going to remain hopeful and confident that Moody’s does understand the relationships and this will not have an impact on the county.” A master agreement was set up in August 2010 to start SCCL. At that time Steele County and BHS each placed \$1 million for startup costs. Since then, Steele County has placed another \$1.5 million into the organization for operational needs. Ebeling mentioned that the

money has come from Cedarview reserves. “Nothing comes from the taxpayers,” he said. At least two issues have impacted the nursing home industry throughout the state. One involves the state’s reimbursement rates for nursing home facilities. The second deals with keeping quality employees in the system. At Koda Living Community there is an 80 percent occupancy, which has fluctuated above and below that since the facility opened two years ago, Administrator/CEO Dave Vandergon stated. He said that could have easily been a higher occupancy level if there were staff available. “We have to hold off because we don’t have nurses and nurses’ aides,” he said. “Every penny we receive and spend is regulated by the state. The state tries to manage all nursing homes to break even.” That hurts Koda Living Community. “In our case, when we moved out to our new facility our labor rates were not high enough to make it possible for some of the staff to work here,” he said. “Our wages start at what fast food workers get. At those rates some employees can’t afford to own a car to get them to our new location on the outskirts of town.” The original projections were for nearly 100 percent occupancy in the 80-bed long-term and short-term facility. “We held beds open for the last two years,” Vandergon said. “That was a big chunk of revenue we lost. We trust the state knows costs are going up but year-after-year it has only given minimal adjustments.”

Ebeling hopes these issues can be resolved. “The state sets the wages of these facilities,” he said. “Problem is they (nursing home facilities) only can have so many beds filled because of the relationship to nurses on staff. If you can’t fill beds you can’t make the payments.”

ZONING

Continued from Page 1A

stricter than the county’s. Township officials have said that they do not want the township to take over planning and zoning responsibilities and they believe the majority of township residents agree with them. They point to the March township elections where Trom ran for supervi-

sor and was defeated by incumbent Supervisor Paul Fiebiger by a 117 to 34 vote margin. They also pointed to a petition circulated by the DCCC and presented to the township board. Sixty-nine of the 260 registered voters in the township signed the petition, su-

pervisors said. Supervisors have said that intimidation tactics were used by DCCC members to get others to sign the petition. Nonetheless, because the petition had the required number of signatures the township board was required to hold a public meeting on the question of a zoning ordinance, which they did last month.

At that meeting supervisors passed a temporary ordinance putting all zoning issues on hold until a decision was made. They also said residents would have another two weeks to submit written comments before the township board would make a decision. That raised another issue as DCCC

members said the petition called for a public meeting at which the residents would vote on the issue of a local zoning ordinance. At the May 4 meeting, the supervisors are expected to discuss the issue again and perhaps vote on the issue of the zoning ordinance.

Public Safety

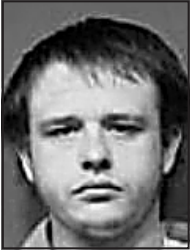
Blotter Spotlight:

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of State Ave. NW in Owatonna at 12:36 p.m. and in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:06 p.m.

Crime briefs

Suspicious activity lands trio in jail

Acting on a complaint about suspicious activity at a local motel, police arrested three people, including one for felony drug charges.



Altipeter



Drabek

Owatonna Police responded to the Best Budget Inn on April 17 when motel personnel reported a lot of traffic coming in and out of a room. As an officer approached the room, some of the occupants took off in



Maestre-Reavis

Police arrested Cody Altipeter, 21, for a probation violation and was taken to jail.

Other officers stopped the vehicle that took off from the motel. The passenger was eventually identified as Joshua Drabek, 25, a fugitive wanted by three separate counties for drug, forgery and stolen property charges.

Based on circumstances of this case, the officer suspected drug activity in the car. The officer's K-9 partner, Kash, conducted a narcotics sniff of the car and gave two positive exterior alerts. A search of the

car revealed numerous baggies and 3.1 grams of methamphetamine.

The driver, Brian Maestre-Reavis, 27, has been charged with felony fifth-degree drug possession charges. His vehicle was seized and is subject to forfeiture.

CEO allegedly defrauds alliance

A health alliance based in Steele County and designed to improve the way people receive health care appears to have been the victim of a company in dire financial straits, court records allege.

The CEO of the company will go on trial in Steele County next week on charges that he bilked nearly \$70,000 out of the South Country Health Alliance in Owatonna in early 2013. Michael Patrick Mielke, 65, of Salt Lake City, Utah, faces three counts of theft. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20

years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

According to court records, South Country had contracted with Instar Solutions to conduct a compliance audit in 2012. At the time, Mielke, who had been listed as the sole officer and director through the State of Utah, operated Instar.

South Country made a payment of \$69,750 to Instar in February 2013, court documents show. The check cleared the bank within days and had been signed by Mielke, the complaint said.

Even though Mielke accepted payment, no services were ever provided to South Country, according to court records.

Additional information obtained during the investigation by Owatonna Police indicated that an Instar employee told a private investigation that Mielke "took everyone for a lot of money." The employee also stated that the company was bringing in a lot of money, but it was not known what Mielke

did with it.

A few weeks before the company closed, another employee took out a \$30,000 loan and gave the money to Mielke in an effort to keep the business going, court records show. Employees also found out Mielke did not pay withholding taxes on their wages and he lied to them about putting money into their 401k accounts, the complaint alleged.

Police interviewed one employee who left the company because he felt "financial distress for the company was imminent," the complaint said.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh said a hearing last week yielded no settlement between both sides and the case is set for trial beginning May 4.

South Country is a county-based health plan serving 12 counties in Minnesota, including Steele, Dodge and Freeborn. It was formed in 2001 to improve the way its members receive health care. There are now over 33,000 members in

the alliance.

No serious injuries in two-car accident

There were no serious injuries after a two-car accident on Highway 218 in Mower County on April 22.

According to Minnesota State Patrol reports, a Dodge Caravan, driven by Ramona A. Freese, 61, of Austin, was making a left turn. A Ford Ranger, driven by Tammy M. Callahan, 57, of Blooming Prairie, veered to avoid colliding with the van coming to a rest in the ditch.

Lanny M. Callahan, 58, a passenger in the Ford Ranger, was transported to MCHS Austin with non-life threatening injuries, according to the report. The drivers of the two vehicles had no apparent injuries.

No alcohol was reported and all three were wearing seat belts. The Mower County Sheriff's Office and GoldCross assisted on the scene.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Bloomington Police

April 17 Drunken Driving. At 7:56 p.m., police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the city.

Owatonna Police

April 17 Drunkenness. Police received a report of drunkenness in the 300 block of Arglen Dr. NW at 1:48 a.m.

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Hazel Lane NE at 8:20 a.m.

Juvenile. At 9:52 a.m., police received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of School St. E.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of State Ave. NW at 12:36 p.m. and in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:06 p.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Phelps St. E. at 1:45 p.m.

Child Protection. At 3:27 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 1200 block of Bellflower Lane NE.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:46 p.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of fraud in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:43 p.m.

Drugs. Police issued a citation for drug activity in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 5:05 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and police responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 20th St. NE and 7th Ave. NE at 5:59 p.m.

Suspicion. At 11:16 p.m., police responded to Cherry St. NE and Mineral Springs Parkway for a suspicious activity report.

April 18 Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 1:04 a.m.

Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 4:20 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 3:16 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 12th Place NW at 4:15 p.m.

April 19 Drunken Driving. At 1 a.m., officer made a DWI arrest at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 northbound.

Theft. Police arrested a subject for theft in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 10 a.m.

Death. Officers began a death investigation in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 4:55 p.m.

April 20 Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of Pine Ave. NE at 8:08 a.m.

Shoplifting. At 9:22 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

Robbery. Police responded to a robbery in the 200 block of 24th St. NE at 10:54 p.m. An adult was arrested at the scene.

April 21 Assault. At 12:56 p.m., police responded to an assault at Elm Ave. S. and Phelps St. E.

Threats. Officers received a report of threats in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 4:31 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer took a report of shoplifting in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 5:47 p.m.

April 22 Prowler. At 2:58 a.m., police received a report of a peeper in the 900 block of Elm Ave. S.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Mill St. E. at 10:17 a.m.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 12:56 p.m.

Burglary. Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:17 p.m.

Child Protection. At 3:07 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Restraining Order. A subject was arrested in the 200 block of 21st St. NW for violating a restraining order at 4:30 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officers arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 5:22 p.m.

April 23 Suspicious Activity. At 11:43 p.m., police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 2700 block of 26th St. NW. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Steele County Sheriff

April 17 Vandalism. Deputy took property damage report in the 3000 block of 76th St. NW at 7:22 a.m.

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE at 9:18 a.m.

April 18 Property Damage. At 10:22 a.m., vandalism was reported in the 2300 block of Austin Rd.

Warrant. Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 8:42 p.m.

April 21 Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 8400 block of Rose St. at 11:40 a.m.

April 22 Animal. At 6:28 a.m., deputies responded to a dangerous animal in the 6700 block of 92nd Ave. SW.

April 23 Theft. Deputies received a theft report from the 6400 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:08 p.m.

Open Door. At 10:51 p.m., deputies responded to an open door in the 5400 block of 73rd St. SE.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 13 – 17:

Bloomington Police Department

Anthony C. Trevino, 18, Owatonna, give peace officer false information and no insurance, \$131 and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Mohamed I. Ahmed, 45, Faribault, speeding, \$131 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Whitney L. Andre, 45, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Cameron B. Batton, 20, Northwood, IA, speeding, \$141; John W. Bush, 19, Edina, speeding, \$121; Noelle N. Desmarais, 20, Central Falls, RI, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Donna L. Hashagen, 38,

Owatonna Police Department

Beth A. Barrett, 41, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Kelly A. Barry, 31, Eagle Lake, burglary, \$181, 7 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 240 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Carrie M. Butler, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Craig D. Buttera, 29, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Chad A. Christensen, 44, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Steven A. Dausey, 51, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$203.97, 10 days in county jail, mental health programming and 1 year of supervised probation; Brandi L. Davidson, 22, Owatonna, cancelled license, no insurance and registration violation, \$781;

Jess A. Decoux, 18, Faribault, minor consumption, \$181; Julie A. Flicek, 42, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$131 and 28 days in county jail; Miranda J. Goff, 38, Blooming Prairie, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ker Ker, 43, speeding, \$121; Norman A. Leaveau, 50, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation;

Joshua M. Phelps, 27, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Cole J. Simons, 21, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Alexandria J. Thompson, 20, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Chris A. Vruno, 28, Blooming Prairie, false name to police, \$131, 18 days in county jail, and 1 year of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Aaron L. Ackland, 35, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Brian J. Arrigoni, 27, St. Paul, speeding, \$141; Marilyn J. Bongers, 63, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Michelle L. Bultman, 25, Waseca, trespassing, \$181 and 83 days in county jail; Samantha A. Chappuis, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Lindsey R. Hugstad-Vaa, 30, Apple Valley, speeding, \$221;

Hunter J. Jirele, 18, speeding, \$141; David M. Johnson, 31, Albert Lea, contributing to need for child protective services, \$381, 1 day in county jail, mental health evaluation, parenting class, indeterminate hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Brandon P. Kath, 25, Owatonna, disorderly

conduct, \$281, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brandon L. Kos, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$221;

Jonathan S. Kubicek, 35, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Keith A. Lindl, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Shylah A. Morris, 37, Elysian, speeding, \$141; Mackenzie R. Morrissey, 22, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121; Michael J. Petersburg, 53, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Abel J. Rocha, 20, St. Cloud, DWI, \$81, 90 days in county jail; Kari N. Scholl, 52, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Dennis W. Zeise, 63, Medford, speeding, \$141; Aaron B. Zuckman, 21, Minneapolis, no insurance and speeding, \$321.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 234 complaints for the week of April 15 – 21. Some of them include:

April 15 Burglary. At 11:58 a.m., deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 62100 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont, A shed had been broken into and equipment was damaged.

Animal Complaint. Deputies received a complaint that a cow had been left out for a rendering truck for several days at 190th Ave. and County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 4:57 p.m. The cow was still alive. Deputies spoke to the involved parties.

Fire. At 8:19 p.m., deputies gave a verbal warning to West Concord residents for burning a small brush pile in the 55700 block of 120th Ave.

April 16 Environment. A liquid fertilizer spill occurred in the 52400 block of 140th Ave. in West Concord at 9:41 a.m.

Laser Reporting. At 9:02 p.m., the Rochester Air Traffic Control Tower reported that a laser was being shine at an airplane in Dodge Center.

April 17 Fraud. A Hayfield citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 400 block of 3rd St. NE at 5:56 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance of a subject being on a roof in the 100 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center at 8:07 p.m.

Animal Neglect. At 8:46 p.m., animal neglect was reported in the 800 block of 20th St. NE in Kasson.
Narcotics. Deputies received a walk-up complaint of narcotics in the 200 block of 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 10:03 p.m.

April 18 Fraud. At 7:41 a.m., a Dodge Center resident reported that her social security number was used in a tax filing.

Fraud. Deputy took a report of an internet scam at 9:07 a.m. A Dodge Center resident had money stolen through Western Union and/or PayPal.

Burglary. Deputies responded to a burglary in the 21300 block of 605th St. in Dodge Center at 5:25 p.m.

Fire. At 6:02 p.m., deputies received a complaint of a large fire in the 75300 block of 100th Ave. in Blooming Prairie.

April 19 Restraining Order. Deputies took a report of a harassment restraining order violation in the 100 block of

3rd St. NE in Blooming Prairie at 5:03 p.m.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Airport Dr. S. in Dodge Center at 9:57 p.m.

April 20 Weapons. At 7:40 a.m., a Hayfield man reported that he had a gun pulled on him in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE.

April 21 Theft. A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 65500 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 6:22 p.m.

Disturbance. At 2:26 p.m., a Dodge Center woman requested a deputy's assistance with the removal of a person in the 400 block of Hwy. St. W.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 13 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Gabrielle K. Henderson, 22, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony non-support of a child. She was sentenced to \$125, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health evaluation, be current with child support, 50 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation.

Salvador Ortega, 32, Sherburne County Jail, Elk River, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats and misdemeanor assault Ortega was sentenced to 90 days in county jail, \$50, write letter of apology, and 5 years of supervised probation.

Mitchell G. Vipond, 24, Alexandria, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,205, 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Terri L. Ableidinger, 50, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Fatuma M. Ahmed, 27, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Robert I. Alikandiel, 33, Bayport, permit violation, revoked license and speeding, 90 days in county jail; Kari R. Blom, 38, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; speeding, \$140; Joseph J. Bloom, 30, Aurora, IL, speeding, \$140; Eileen K. Claus, 49, Rochester, parking violation, \$32;

Evan B. Cogswell, 16, Kasson, speeding, \$220 and 6 months of probation; Luka F. Dale, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Rodney L. Dostal, 50, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Diane M. Driessen, 56, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Amanda J. Greene, 25, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Gerald E. Jacobson, 54, Claremont, DWI, \$480, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Nathan R. Larson, 43, Hayfield, failure to signal for turn, \$130; Kenneth L. Paulson, 47, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Cody P. Snyder, 22, Grand Meadow, speeding, \$120.

Kasson Police Department

Bethany L. Maynard, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Pedro A. Perez, 20, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, 90 days in county jail.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Kaleb S. Alves, 38, Owatonna, failure to signal lane change, \$130; Tyler R. McEachern, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Jagadeeswaran Natarajan, 32, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Juan Ramirez Jr., 31, Claremont, seat belt, \$105.



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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.
 Marie Tracy Kinard- DWI-2nd Degree- \$12,000 bail.
 Georgia Nora Kingswan- DUI- No bond.
 Ronald Kirkbride- Civil Warrant- \$1,000 bail.
 Larry Jon Kittelson- DWI- No bond.
 Vern Klostriech- DWI- \$12,000 bail.
 Matthew Richard Knafel- DWI- \$500 bail.
 William Earl Knutson- DWI- \$3,000 bail.

Timothy Ballard Koger- DWI- 2nd Degree- \$12,000 bail.
 Monique Lynn Kraay- Traffic- \$500 bail.
 Anna Marie Christine M. Kramer- No proof insurance- \$500 bail.
 Kyle William Krause- Burglary- 2nd Degree- No bond.
 Anthony Jeremiah Lake- Driving after revocation- \$500 bail.
 Trevor Lee Lambkins- Assault- 5th degree- \$1,000 bail.
 Kenneth William Lane- False name \$1,000 bail.
 Christopher Douglas Larson- Driving after suspension- \$500 bail.

Michael Craig Laursen- Theft- \$10,000 bail.
 Ulises Lazcando- Speed, no MN license- \$500 bail.
 Miguela Lazu Martinez- No valid license- \$500 bail.
 Jesus Leal- Domestic assault- \$1,000 bail.
 Michael Lavern Lee- DWI- refuse test- \$1,000 bail.
 Sylvia Mary Lee- Taxes- \$110,000 bail.
 Michael S. Lehnertz- Contempt of court- No bond.

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



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Dear Savvy Senior,

What products can you recommend for seniors with hand arthritis? I really struggle with anything that requires gripping and turning, which makes most activities difficult.

Grippers Joan

Dear Joan,

To find out which devices can best benefit you, a good place to start is to ask your doctor for a referral to an occupational therapist, who can test the strength and functionality

of your hands and recommend appropriate aids. With that said, here's a rundown of some helpful products for different needs.

Kitchen aids: Activities like gripping cooking utensils, cutting and chopping, opening jars and cans, and moving around heavy pots and pans can make preparing a meal much more difficult when you have hand arthritis.

For opening jars, the wall-mounted or under-counter mounted Zim Jar Opener is a

top manual opener.

Household helpers: Turning doorknobs, key locks, twist-handles on kitchen or bathroom faucets, and twist-on lamp switches can also be difficult.

Personal care: Squeezing a shampoo bottle or a tube of toothpaste, or gripping a bar of soap, a toothbrush handle or even a piece of dental floss can make grooming a challenge.

Easier dressing: Fastening buttons, pulling zippers and tying shoelaces can also present problems. To help with these chores there are buttonhooks and zipper pulls, and elastic shoelaces, which transform lace-ups into slip-ons.

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
April 26, 2005

Local Semecac director Em Phillips was one of many who listened to Christine Sass, an exchange student from Germany, last Wednesday. She talked about how much she like America, Blooming Prairie and the friendly people she's encountered. She plans on coming back in the future. Christine has been active in many extracurricular activities and has made many friends.

Kolyn Alwes would like to announce the arrival of his little brother, Kaiden Robert. He was born April 12, 2005 and weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces. The boys are the children of Jim and Alysa Alwes.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
April 25, 1995

The upcoming Blooming Prairie school board election will feature two incumbents, as the voting date draws closer on May 16. James Trotman, Jr. and Ron Janning are the only two people who filed for the two vacant spots. The seats are for four-year terms.

Robert and Joanne Nahlovsky announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Ann, to Michael Ross Witcher, son of Ross and Jackie Witcher of Arden Hills.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
April 29, 1965

Paul Goodnature, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Goodnature, rural Blooming Prairie, has been included on the Dean's honor

list at Mankato State College during both the fall and winter quarters. In order to appear on the honor listing the student must maintain a "B" or better average. Paul attended the Blooming Prairie school for a number of years.

The Blooming Prairie High School Modern Dance Club will present a dance Review on Monday evening, May 3, at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
April 25, 1940

The new flag pole, recently purchased out of a special fund set aside by the members of the Blooming Prairie gun club, is being erected this week. The thirty-five foot steel staff will be set in a deep foundation of rocks and concrete.

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Community

Obituaries

Doris Kraay, 90, Owatonna

Doris (Larson) Kraay, 90, of Owatonna, died Sunday, April 26, 2015, at the Owatonna Hospital.

Doris was born November 12, 1924, in Riceland Township, Freeborn County, the daughter of Nels and Hannah (Peterson) Larson.

She was raised in Lerdal, Minnesotan and graduated from Alden High School. She was united in marriage to Jochem "J.C." Kraay on May 22, 1943,



in Clarks Grove. J.C. served in the armed forces and after his service began farming near Hollandale. In 1956, he began farming with his brothers and formed Kraay Bros. Vegetable Farm in Owatonna.

The couple moved to Owatonna in 1961. In 1976, J.C. joined his son David in Tonna Heating and Cooling and Doris worked in the office. The couple made their

home in Green Valley, Arizona, and would summer in Owatonna. They moved back to Owatonna in 2007. J.C. died in 2009.

She is survived by two sons, David (and Leigh Ann) Kraay of Owatonna, Tim Kraay of Loveland, Colorado; daughter, Debbie (and Kevin) Grose of Owatonna; ten grandchildren; six great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband, J.C. (2009); two sons, Ronald Kraay and Michael Kraay; two daughters,

Barbara Kraay and Joan Marie Kraay; a great grandson, Aaron Kraay; her parents; and her siblings, Annie, Emma,Vanda, Ella, Vivian, Ray and Gilbert.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home on Saturday, May 2, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Memorial services will be held Saturday, May 2, 2015, at 11 a.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home with the Reverend Cindy Halvorson officiating. Interment will be in the Clarks Grove Baptist Cemetery.

Menus

Seniors Menu

April 28: Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Broccoli, Mixed Greens Salad, Rhubarb Torte

April 29: Italian Chicken Breast, Hashbrowns Au Gratin, Buttered Beets, Cucumber Salad, Pear Halves

April 30: Tater Tot Hotdish, Coleslaw, Wheat Bread, Lemon Bar

May 1: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Creamed Spinach, Applesauce, Banana

May 4: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Parslied Carrots, French Bread, Tossed Salad, Sr Cream Fruit Dessert

May 5: Chicken Pasta Salad, Cuke Salad, Peach Halves, Dinner Roll , Baked Coconut Custard

May 6: Country Style BBQ Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Italian Blend Veggies, Dinner Roll, Frozen Yogurt

BP School Breakfast Menu

April 28: Fruit Yogurt with Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 29: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 30: WG Cinnamon Dipper w/Icing Cup, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 1: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 4: Banana Chocolate Chip Bread (or Blueberry Loaf), Hard Boiled Egg, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 5: Yogurt Parfait w/ Homemade Granola, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 6: WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch Menu

April 28: Beefy Nachos with Homemade Cheese Sauce, NEW Chicken Taco "Boat" Toppings and Salsa, Spicy Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

April 29: Chicken & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Hot Turkey Sandwich on WG Bun, Mashed Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit

April 30: Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Garlic Breadstick, Spicy Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Roasted Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Steamed Green Beans, Choice of Fruit

May 1: Chicken Nuggets, Tomato Soup, WW Bread, Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Tomato Soup, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 4: Crispy Corn Dog, Italian Meatball Sub, Calico Bean Bake, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 5: Roast Pork and Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Chef Salad, Dinner Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Choice of Fruit

May 6: Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Turkey Sub, Sweet Peas, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

BP Middle & High School Lunch Menu

April 28: Pulled Pork Nachos, Pico de Gallo, Refried Beans, Pinto Beans, Broccoli Florets, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

April 29: Chicken & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Spring Corn Salad, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit

April 30: Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Roasted Broccoli,

Breadstick, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Baby Carrots, Green Beans, Choice of Fruit

May 1: Mediterranean Vegetable Soup with Cheesy Flatbread, Sliced Radishes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 4: Italian Meatball Sub, Calico Bean Bake, Garbanzo Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 5: Roast Pork & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cinnamon Roll, Corn, Broccoli Florets, Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit

May 6: Turkey Ranch Wrap, Sweet Peas, Sliced Radishes, Sweet Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 28
Patrick Trotman, Adam Walsh, Landon Rutt

May 3
Connor Fisher, Aubryana Alwes, Haley Severtson

May 4
Rodney Krell, Robert Ingvalson

Anniversaries

April 28
Ron and Diane Nelson Dale and Mary Ramsey Greg and Betty Johnson Christopher and Rena Anderson

April 29
Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Bakke

April 30
Sam and Kristin Romeo

May 1
Taylor Peterson, Morgan Davis, Alieshia Fristedt, Kari Olson Bodurtha, Barbie Johnson, Paul Smith, Hunter Wollenburg, Anthony Noble, Bricyn Thompson

May 2
Tyler Kruckeberg, Trevor Kruckeberg,

May 2
Joshua and Jenny Winn

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Did You Know?
A moment in Blossoms history



The sports scene in the 1997-98 school year at Blooming Prairie High School showed a real variety of successes and disappointments. While most teams muddled through average or below average seasons, the girls won the conference and the Sub-section tournaments, and Lisa Meshke returned to the state meet and claimed the runner-up title in her division. Despite a 5-7 season record, the boys took second in the conference and the sub-section.

In addition to Meshke's excellent performance, Megan Schwartz, Sarah Lindquist, Janelle Iacovino and Kari Olson also played a big part in the Blossom success.

Schwartz was named MVP and All-Conference, as were Meshke, Iacovino, Olson and Lindquist. MVP Tony Lea, Nick Nelson, Jason Harber, Joe Morgan and Aaron Anderson led the boys.

A 2-12 volleyball team found Jana Peterson an All-Conference pick and Katie Skala the MVP. Beth Noble, Katrina Olivo, Tricia Keefe and Ranell Goette also contributed to the team.

The football team compiled a 1-7 record, with Luke Winzenburg, Jason Johnson, Tony Lea, Ryan Schwake and Ryan Ashton some of the players on that team.

Cross-country girls ran first in the conference and second in the sub-section, with Serena Schewe the MVP and a state meet qualifier. Andrea Wonderlich, Jenny Jacobusse and Kristin Olson also ran for the girls, and Andy Hjelman, Brad Nelson, Gary Tashima and Bruce Paape led the boys to a conference title as well.

The boys finished first in four meets and second in three. Nick Balzer, Lee Trotman, Robert Salinas, Luke Winzenburg and Andy Wondra all wrestled to a 3-20 season.

Andrea Banton led the basketball girls to a 16-8 season mark, with a win over Montgomery-Lonsdale in the sub-section, before a loss to WEM. Kristin Olson, Katie Skala and Jana Peterson earned All-Conference honors. MVP Pat Boyd led the basketball boys to a 9-14 mark, with Ryan Schwake, Tony Lea, Anthony Sorenson and Aaron Stangl all on the team.

— LeMar Nelson

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This Memorial Day, let us pause and reflect.

In the May 19 edition of The Times, there will be a special tribute to relatives and friends that have passed away. You can place an "In Memoriam" ad in this special section for only \$10.

Choose from one of the following styles:

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who passed away
March 3, 2004
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

In Memoriam
John Smith
who passed away
eight years ago.
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

Gone but not forgotten
John Smith
who passed away
March 3, 2004
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Include one of the symbols below.



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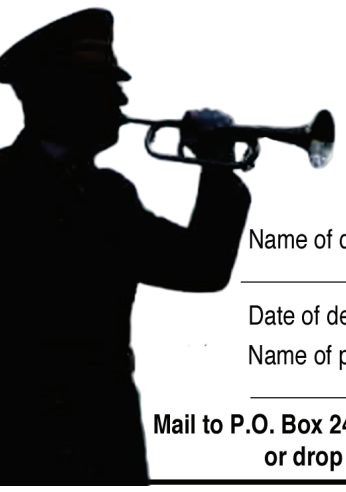
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who passed away
eight years ago.
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

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Area Church Spotlight



Victory Life, Ellendale

Pastor's Corner

A busy world still has meaning and worth

It's only nearing the end of April and yet, the summer calendar is filling up, isn't it? Family vacations, holiday weekends, special events and certain obligations. Goodness, it's going to be busy.

Busy. There's that word. It seems to be more and more a part of our everyday vocabulary. Long to-do lists, full calendars, going from one place to another. Along with the frequency of the word in our vocabulary, somewhere along the way, somehow we began to think that it was in this busy-ness that we gain our worth. That only in our constant running, lack-of-sleep states do our lives gain meaning and do we find identity. Though that may what society tells us, it's not true.

I spent time at my family's cabin in Wisconsin recently. It's in the middle of the woods. There is no electricity or running water. When you're at the cabin, you simply just be. There really is nothing to do. No to do list, no place

to run to, nothing really that needs to be accomplished. I realized how different the days were with no need to be busy. They were not task-oriented days; they were days to just be.

To be and to be reminded that, even though I wasn't busy, my life still had meaning and worth. Because ultimately, that meaning and worth and identity comes not from my calendar or to-do list. I am a beloved child of God. You are a beloved child of God. May you have time to simply be and be reminded that you are loved and a child of God.

The Rev. Lindsay Stolen,
Red Oak Grove Lutheran 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
(507) 528-2404

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

www.peaceclaremont.otschool.org

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm

Good Friday, April 3, at 7pm

April 11, 18, 25 Saturday Evenings

Services at 6pm

(no service on April 4th)

April 5, 12, 19, 26 Sunday Morning

Services at 10:30am

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2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each

month

Sunday School and Confirmation

Class 9-10:15am

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant

The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield

The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org

Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.



TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:30 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

www.tlcoawatonna.org

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday

8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday

Catholic

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
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The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield

The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland

The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
(507) 465-8217

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
(507) 583-2784

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.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor

The Rev. Brian Sutton,
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Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

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Cronin, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,

9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish

Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
515 E. Main St., Hayfield

The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641

Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna

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Deacon Patrick Fagan

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10 a.m. Sunday

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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale

Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731

www.ellendaleumc.org

Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Non-Denominational

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St., Hayfield

Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255

www.cedarcreekchurch.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
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(507) 363-3099

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Children's Zone: 10:30 a.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna

Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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422 W. North Street, Owatonna

Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson

507-254-8514

www.destinycc.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday



Following are Blooming Prairie High Schools honor roll students, front row, from left: Marissa Larson, Macaela Jensen, Kaci Gwilt, Alison Pryor and Morgan Johnson; and back row, from left: Alicia Ptacek, Taylor Hagen, John Rumpza, Madison Worke, Anthony Nelson, Alanna Grant, Jake Hyland and Thomas Braaten. Sally Peterson is not pictured.



Molly Walsh



Following are junior high honor roll students, front row from left: Julia Worke, Payton Simon, Jarrett Larson, Maya Lembke and Baylee Sorensen; and back row from left: Seth Peterson, Mitchell Oswald, Jesse Schewe, Samantha Wurst and Rachael Oswald.

Times Photos by Brian Sandford

Blooming Prairie Third Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 7

Jarrett Larson
Maya Lembke
Baylee Sorensen
Julia Worke

Grade 8

Rachael Oswald
Seth Peterson
Payton Simon

Grade 9

Mitchell Oswald
Jesse Schewe
Samantha Wurst

Grade 10

Thomas Braaten
Kaci Gwilt
Jake Hyland
Marissa Larson
Alison Pryor
Alicia Ptacek

Grade 11

Anthony Nelson
Sally Peterson

Grade 12

Alanna Grant
Taylor Hagen
Jasmine Hohenstein
Macaela Jensen
Morgan Johnson
John Rumpza
Molly Walsh
Madison Worke

A- Honor Roll

Grade 7

Riauna Bishop
Lila Carlson
Gemini Johnson
Adam Larson
Hazel Michaud
Chase Peterson
Matthew Pryor
Marti Snider
Karson Vigeland
Viridiana Villarreal

Grade 8

William Cardenas
Colton Ivers
Caleb Kubista

Riley Millam
Clint Peterson

Grade 9

Ethan Arett
Mckenna Hein
Jerrin Jax
Marten Morem
Salome Ramirez

Grade 10

Jasmine Anderson
Elijah Baker
Camden Heimerman
Rose Johnson
Carter Millam

Rachel Peterson
Leah Schiefert

Grade 11

Hannah Ahrens
Katelynn Grunklee
Mitchell Jones
Alyssa Krohnberg
Lauren Larkoski
Abby Wayne

Grade 12

Weston Myer
Rachael Rhoades
Scott Romeo
Lindsey Schiefert

B+ Honor Roll

Grade 7

Zachary Archer
Gabriel Hagen
Colton Krell
Alexis Olivo
Heather PirkI
Gracie Rudlong
Kaden Thomas
Jayde Wacek
Zachary Weber

Grade 8

Jessica Gwilt
Isaac Hanson
Jeannette Lozano
Alexyss Magnuson
Trenton Swenson
Timothy Wolf

Grade 9

Kathryn Borchert
Jacob Gwilt
Alec Ille
Ayren Ingvanson
Kieara Raschke
Jake Ressler

Grade 10

Bria Baldwin
Kylie Forystek
Leah Inwards
Aaron Larson
Ellysienne Magnuson
Hailey Naatz
Taylor Peterson
Jenna Smith
Elly Strunk
Courtney Wobschall

Grade 11

Samantha Abbe
Brody Carlson
Margaret Jones
Kallie Klemmensen
Riley Olson
Ethan Strunk

Grade 12

Cole Byers-Sunde
Tristen Haberman
Erin Naatz
Nicholas Srsen
Samuel Swenson
Kelli Wallace
Daysha Zilm

B Honor Roll

Grade 7

Kassidy Borgen
Emily Krampitz
Jillian Wigham

Grade 8

Jaclyn Hyland
Mckenzie Jensen
Colin Lerum
Brett Motl
Amy Peterson
Emily Trihus
Ian Wayne

Grade 9

Linnea Byers-Sunde
Michael Hillson
Jeremy Hocking
Rachel PirkI
Maxwell Romeo
Asia Thostenson

Grade 10

Evan Doerhoefer
Laura Grant
Wyatt Grundmeier
Rachel Kubicek
Carly Meyer
Marnie Reese
Zachary Sisler

Grade 11

Kevin Eischens
Brianna Green
Kalyn Naatz

Grade 12

Haley Behne
Jacob Carlson
Sevin Cremeans
Carissa Easton
Jessica Ferguson
Nicole Inwards
Alexis Petersen
Alexa Rudlong
Jackson Schewe
Alexandraean Thostenson
Cassy Witt

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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

Lemar Nelson

The sports week

A number of exciting events took place last week as the high school teams went into action. Although the rain disrupted a few events, the hectic pace of contests continued for the second week in a row, and several occasions were memorable.

Probably the most riveting accomplishment went to freshman Alec Ille who broke the school record in the 3,200 run. I haven't had time to research the old record, but I remember it being held by Randy Kruckeberg early in the 80s (I will have that information next week). That would make it one of the oldest records still on the books. I guess records are made to be broken, and a big tip of the hat goes to Ille for this excellent new record.

Staying with track, several local athletes had good results at the Hayfield Invitational meet. Cole Sunde earned three individual firsts and ran a winning relay leg as well. Taylor Hagen had two firsts, and she also ran a leg in a winning relay, and Asia Thostenson won both hurdle races. Add to that several winning relays, and the teams could take a lot of satisfaction away from the meet.

After three straight wins, Byron edged the softball team last Thursday, but the Blossoms still had a 3-2 record for the season. The baseball team also had a two-game streak broken by NRHEG late in the week, but have already beaten last year's win record.

Finally, Taylor Christianson earned medalist honors at a golf meet last week, and Tommy Braaten finished in the top five in two meets. Things will continue to move along this week, and it sounds as if the weather will cooperate with some warmer temperatures as well. No dull moments, I am sure.

By the way, we vastly underestimated the number of sports articles turned in last week, and many reports did not get into the paper. We apologize for that and assure readers that we have set aside four pages for sports this week. Some of the articles will probably be out of date, but everything will be there, anyway.

Hats off to NHS

With all of the emphasis on athletics, I think we sometimes forget the real purpose of school that is to acquire an education. And it behooves us occasionally to recognize and applaud those students who excel in the classroom, as well as in the sports field.

A number of those students took part last week in the an-

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

NRHEG BASEBALL

Panthers back on track after back-to-back losses

After beginning the season 3-0, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers took two hits in the loss column, culminated by a 4-3 loss to Medford. The Panthers would not stay down long, bouncing back to win handily the next day.

NRHEG at Medford

The Panthers travelled to

Medford on Monday, April 20 to face the (then) undefeated Tigers. Medford had a simple game plan, throwing strikes and keeping the speedy Panthers off the bases. It worked.

"Medford did a tremendous job of keeping us off the bases," said NRHEG Coach Drew Paukert. "Their pitcher from start to finish really had our guys guessing up in the batters box. They also made sure they

got up in the count and didn't allow our guys to sit or look for certain pitches. Medford also played great defense behind their pitcher."

In the sixth inning, the Panthers briefly took control of the game, grabbing a 3-2 lead in the top of the inning off RBI singles by Jet Wayne and CJ Schiltz. The Tigers would respond in the bottom of the inning, however, and keep control to nab

the 4-3 victory.

Senior Trevor Tracy pitched a complete game.

NRHEG vs. Zumbrota-Mazeppa

In a rare occurrence, Paukert faced off against his own high school baseball coach the following day.

After a disappointing loss to Medford, Paukert's play-

ers came out ready to put on a show for the home crowd. They would not disappoint, finishing with 16 hits from eight different players and committing no errors. In its unique style of play, NRHEG came out of the gates with back-to-back bunt singles by Dakota Thiele and Trevor

NRHEG
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE TRACK AND FIELD



Blooming Prairie's Asia Thostenson runs the 110-meter hurdles on a rainy Friday afternoon on April 24 at BMcFarlen Field.

Staff photo by James Knoop

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

BP vs. Hayfield

Although neither won its division, the Blooming Prairie track teams picked up numerous firsts at the four-team Hayfield Invitational track meet Tuesday, April 21. The girls finished first in nine events, while the boys

took seventh.

Hayfield took the team title in both divisions, outpointing the Blossoms 101-89 for the girls and finishing ahead of Bethlehem Academy and BP for the boys. The host Vikings counted 95 points for the boys, with B.A. having 75 and the Blossoms 70. Lyle-Pacelli finished fourth in both divisions.

Taylor Hagen earned two firsts in the shot put and the

discus and also ran a leg in the winning 4x100-meter relay. Hagen threw the shot 36-7 and tossed the discus 111-3. The 4x100-meter relay team of Leah Schiefert, Hagen, Kylie Forsytek and Laura Grant won that race in 55.36. Asia Thostenson also won two firsts, the 110-meter hurdles in 18.11 and the 300-meter hurdles in 55.98.

The 4x800-meter relay team of Alison Pryor, Sam Wurst,

Lauren Larkoski and Laura Grant timed an 11:07. 76. Pryor won the 3,200-meter run in 13:03.18, and Schiefert took the pole vault at 7-6.

Larkoski took runner-up in the high jump at 4-8 and 400-meter dash in 1:05.47. The 4x400-meter relay team (Schiefert, Wurst, Larkoski and Alanna Grant) timed 4:38.30 for second as well. Alanna Grant placed third in the 800-meter

run (2:42.85), and Marissa Larson and Leah Schiefert earned points with fifth places in the triple jump and 400-meter dash, respectively.

Senior Cole Sunde stole the show for the boys with three individual firsts, plus helping the 4x100-meter relay team (Sunde,

BP TRACK
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OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

Coach finds positives amidst 0-6 start

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

"Do you believe that you are a better team than you've been playing?"

That is the question Owatonna boys lacrosse coach asked his team Thursday night after the team's fifth-straight loss.

The Owatonna boys lacrosse team may have began the season 0-6, but that doesn't mean there isn't optimism among the players and coaching staff.

"I saw a lot of improvement," said Owatonna Coach Scott

Seykora after a 9-12 loss to St. Paul at home on Thursday, April 23. "I thought the kids built a lot of confidence, especially in that fourth quarter."

With the game tied 3-3 in the first quarter, St. Paul went on a shooting spree, scoring five unanswered goals, barely allowing the Huskies to even cross mid-field, let alone take any shots on goal. Down 12-5 going into the fourth quarter, it looked as though the Huskies might drop another major loss. In their previous four games they have lost 1-14, 1-12, 2-14 and 2-12.

However, the Huskies, led by senior captain Nate Clark, would not back down. Owatonna spent the majority of the fourth quarter taking shot after shot against St. Paul goalie, Lance Johnson. In those eight minutes, the Huskies scored four goals, and also missed one opportunity with a nearly wide-open net.

"Unfortunately we didn't have the same tenacity all game," said Seykora. "In the

LACROSSE
Continued on Page 6B



St. Paul's Peyton Pike celebrates after a goal against Owatonna's Aaron Tryhus on Thursday, April 23.

Staff photo by James Knoop

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASEBALL

Blossoms win two; fall to Panthers at home

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

BP vs. NRHEG

Two runs in the first inning and another eight runs late in the game proved more than enough for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva baseball team, as the Panthers coasted to a 10-3 victory over Blooming Prairie in baseball played at Blooming Prairie Thursday, April 23.

The conference game left the Blossoms at 3-4 for the season. Dakota Tracy had an RBI single after Dakota Thiele led off the game with a double, and another single got the visitors off and running with the two first inning runs. The Panthers added four more runs in the fifth for a 6-0 lead. The Blossoms counted a run in the sixth on a walk, a wild pitch and a base hit from Lucas Noble, but NRHEG promptly scored another four runs in the seventh to put the game out of reach.

“The errors came at inopportune times and led to only six of the Panthers runs being earned,” commented Coach Matt Kittelson. “We only managed four hits as well, and we usually hit a little better than that.”

Five singles and a walk counted the four fifth inning runs for the winners, and another five singles in the seventh led to the final runs for NRHEG. A walk, a wild pitch, Riley Olson’s double and a sacrifice fly scored the final two runs for the home team.

NRHEG had 10 runs, 15 hits and no errors, while BP had three runs, four hits and three errors. John Rumpza walked only one and struck out 10 in pitching the distance.

Jet Wayne had four hits for

NRHEG, and Tracy, Thiele, Spencer Tollefson and Grant Kylo all added two hits each. Olson, Noble, Brad Staska and Sam Swenson had the four hits for Blooming Prairie.

BP vs. WEM

With the temperature near freezing, and both teams struggling under the lights, the BP baseball team prevailed for a 15-14 victory over WEM at Waterville Monday, Apr. 20. The win evened the season record for the Blossoms at 3-3, one more than the team had all of last year.

“This was a very big win for us,” commented Coach Matt Kittelson. “We fought back from deficits several times, and the boys just wouldn’t give up until they took that lead at the end.”

BP scored five runs in the third. Three walks, an error and base hits from Connor Getchell and Brad Staska accounted for the scores. The locals added six runs in the sixth and one in the seventh for a 12-12 tie. John Rumpza, Noble, Camden Heimerman, and Scott Romeo all had singles in the sixth, and the seventh inning run counted on singles by Sam Swenson and Rumpza. That took the game into the ninth inning and the three winning runs.

Two walks and singes by Rumpza, Noble and Olson plated the three runs. WEM counted two runs in the ninth, but a diving catch by Noble saved the game for the locals and brought them home with the second straight victory. The Bucs got five runs in the first inning, three in the third, four in the sixth and the final two in the ninth.

Olson pitched the first 7 1/3 innings, giving up 14 hits, seven walks and 11 earned runs, but Sam Swenson collected the win

in relief, working 1 2/3 innings, with just two hits, two walks and two runs allowed. Rumpza had a big day at the plate with four hits, including a double and two RBI’s. Getchell and Heimerman each added two hits for the winners. BP had 15 runs, 13 hits, and four errors; WEM had 14 runs, 15 hits and six errors.

BP vs. Lyle Austin-Pacelli

Rumpza’s steady performance

on the mound and a three-hit day at the plate led the Blossom baseball team to an 11-4 victory over Lyle-Pacelli Saturday, Apr. 18. The win stopped a three-game losing streak by the locals.

“We have been hitting the ball good now,” remarked Coach Kittelson, “as this was the third game in a row in which we had at least 10 hits. We also limited our errors and walks, and that was huge. That has been killing us in our recent games.”

BP counted two runs in the first

inning, added a single run in the third, and then broke the game open with seven big runs in the fifth inning. Three walks, and two RBI’s’s for Noble counted the first inning runs, and singles by Rumpza and Getchell scored the run in the third. That set the stage for the big fifth inning. An error, two passed balls and base hits by Swenson, Rumpza, Getchell, Camden Heimerman, Brad Staska and Riley Olson led to the seven-run frame.

Rumpza led the offense with

a 3-5 day at the plate, including a double and two RBI’s. Riley Olson also had three hits for the game, which included two doubles and two RBI’s, and Swenson and Getchell both added a pair of hits and two RBI’s. Rumpza pitched all seven innings, giving up just three earned runs. He walked just two batters and struck out nine.

BP had 11 runs, 15 hits, and two errors; LP had four runs, eight hits and two errors.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Scott Romeo plants his foot preparing to swing at a pitch against NRHEG on Thursday, April 23. The Blossoms lost 10-3 in the conference matchup.

Blooming Prairie junior high boys and girls roundups

Junior high boys

The USC And BP seventh grade baseball teams played to a 2-2 tie at Wells Tuesday, Apr. 17, while the eighth grade defeated the Rebels 10-4. The teams have played eight games so far this season.

Zach Archer pitched the seventh grade game, and had a good solid outing. Trenton Swenson led the hitting with two hits, including a double and a triple, and the team made just two errors in the game.

The eighth grade got a very good performance from Kaden Thomas, with no walks and five strikeouts. Gabe Hagen had

three hits for the Blossoms, and Preston Rieken, Isaac Hanson, Nick Freese and Thomas all had two hits each in the offensive display. The stats speak for themselves in this one, as the team played really well.

Earlier, Coach Corey Johnson’s junior high team played five baseball games, coming away with one win in the five. The most recent games saw Medford topping the locals 13-4, and Southland winning both a seventh and eighth grade contest over the Blossoms.

BP fell behind to Medford in the third, came back to trail just 7-4, but then let errors contribute to the defeat. Karson Vige-

land pitched the whole game, striking out six and walking seven. Gabe Hagen had three hits, and Trenton Swenson and Josh Temple added two hits each.

Southland beat the locals 8-0 in the eighth grade game, with Isaac Hanson taking the loss. Poor defense and taking too many pitches did the team in. Ian Wayne and William Cardenas both had two hits for the losers. The seventh grade lost a well-played game to the Rebels 6-3. Kaden Thomas and Zach Archer both pitched for the 7th grade, and Jarrett Larson and Vigeland had two hits each.

In the earlier doubleheader with Southland, BP won the first

game 4-1 behind the pitching of Dylan Nirk. He went all four innings and struck out four, while walking three. William Cardenas, Preston Rieken, Isaac Hanson, and Nirk all had two hits each. The team played errorless ball and also hit well in the good performance. The team lost thegame 2-0, although Archer pitched well in defeat. Rieken had three hits, and Larson and Hanson each added two hits. After all the action, the team is 1-5 for the season.

Junior high girls

Coach Lonnie Lembke’s junior high softball team won one

and lost three in their first four games. The team opened the season with a 9-3 loss to Bethlehem Academy and then split a pair of games with Medford. They lost the first game 7-5, but won game two 5-3.

WEM defeated the locals 21-12 in the latest contest, although

the girls finally got some big hits in the game. Julia Worke, Emily Trihus and Rachael Oswald all hit triples. McKenna Hein and Worke both went 3-4 for the day, and Maya Lembke added two hits.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued from Page 1B

nual induction ceremony into the National Honor Society. The local NHS chapter has been in existence since the early 40s, and it exemplifies the qualities of scholarship, service leadership and character. Seven students — two seniors and five juniors took the pledge and became members to join the 10 seniors already in the outstanding group. A fine meal and an inspiring message from 1994 graduate Jessica Hultgren made the occasion a memorable one. A very big tip of the hat goes to the 17 students worthy of membership in this exclusive organization.

What’s ahead

This coming weekend I will have the privilege of attending the college graduation ceremony at Concordia in Moorhead for my youngest granddaughter, Becca Hendrickson (Teri’s daughter).

She already has a summer intern position lined up and next fall will enroll in the University of Minnesota’s engineering department. She has been an exemplary student throughout her high school days in Richfield and college, and needless to say, my family and I are extremely proud of her. Good luck to her.

Come to think of it, it won’t be before our own high school se-

niors will be taking that last walk across the gym stage to receive diplomas. I will have more to say about them in the coming weeks, but they certainly all deserve credit for their accomplishments so far in their young lives.

This coming Thursday, our curious citizenry will get their answers about Pete and Mary Kittelson’s success on Wheel of Fortune, when the episode will be broadcast Thursday night on CBS at 6:30 p.m. Does anybody want to place bets on their success? I guess we will see Thursday night.

This coming Sunday the BPRA will have its annual pancake breakfast at the Servicemen’s Club, and next week J&H Liquors is hosting a wine tasting evening on Tuesday, May 5, with all the profits going to the local Boys and Girls Club program. Pretty soon it will also be time for the annual citywide garage sale, scheduled for Saturday, May 16. Start preparing for that big event, which will be the only one scheduled this year.

Finally, it will be interesting to hear how our two local semi-truck racers came out in that first race of several scheduled all around the nation this year. That must be a novel way to race in competition.

Time marches on and I was

reminded the other day that warmer weather brings us that much closer to the end of another school year. For students and area residents alike, enjoy

the days and watch lawns, trees and all sorts of vegetation spring to vibrant life. Then we’ll talk again.

Ladies Bowling League

TEAM STANDINGS (as of April 22)		
	Wins	Losses
1. Epic Contracting	38	18
2. F & M Bank	35.5	20.5
3. Kosters Car Korner	22.5	33.5
4. J&H Liquors/DQ	16	40

TEAM STATS	
High team (Scratch) F & M Bank, 1,916	
High team (handicap) Epic Contracting, 2,032	
INDIVIDUAL STATS	
High Game	
1. Joann Nielsen, 179	
2. Kristi Fiebiger, 174	
High Series	
1. Joann Nielsen, 469	
2. Kristi Fiebiger, 412	

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

COLE SUNDE

Cole Sunde is making up for missing most of last season with an injury by having a stellar outing this year. Last week, Sunde won three individual events and also ran a leg of the 4x100-meter relay team that finished first. He took the 100-meter dash, the long jump and the triple jump and ran the opening 100 meters for the relay team. He continues to improve his performances, and he is definitely one of the leaders on the team.

TAYLOR HAGEN

Taylor Hagen led the girls in a track meet last week with two firsts, plus running a leg of the winning 4x100 relay. The senior has almost seamlessly transferred her skills from other sports to track. Last week, she won both the shot put and the discus, besides helping the relay team to its first place. Although going to college on a basketball scholarship, she is enjoying this end to her high school career with much satisfaction.

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Blossoms defeat WEM; fall to Byron on the road

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Wrtier

BP vs. Byron

Byron’s Vanessa Anderson stroked a home run in the bot-tom of the fifth inning to tie the game, and the Bears scored the winning run in the sixth for a 6-5 victory over Blooming Prairie in a non-conference game at Byron Thursday, April 23.

The loss stopped a three-game winning streak for the Blossoms and left them 3-2 for the season.

Trailing 3-0 after three in-nings, the locals tied the game with a three-run fourth. A walk to Bria Baldwin, a single and an error to Elly Strunk drove in one run. A single by Anika Nowlan drove in another run and Jessica Ferguson’s fly to right field plat-ed the third run. Byron had tal-lied two runs in the first and an-other in the third for a 3-0 lead.

“We made some mistakes early and that ultimately cost us the game,” remarked Coach Ali Mach. “Their first two runs came on consecutive errors, and another error in the fifth allowed another run to score. Otherwise, it was a good ball game.”

BP took the lead with two runs in the fifth on a walk, Tessa Ivers’ double for one run and Baldwin’s sacrifice fly for the second. Anderson’s home run followed a single to tie the game in the fifth, and two singles and two walks forced in the winning run in the bottom of the sixth. The Blossoms went down in order in the seventh.

Strunk pitched the entire game and also led the offense with two hits in three at bats and an RBI. Ivers and Nowlan each had one hit. Strunk gave up six hits, with four walks and four strike-outs. Byron had six runs (four earned), six hits and one error; BP had five runs (four earned), four hits, three walks and one strikeout.

BP vs. WEM

Down by six runs early, the Blossoms softball team fought back, forging a tie game after five innings, and then scoring five runs in the top of the sev-enth inning to scuttle WEM for a 12-7 victory. The game at Water-ville Monday, Apr. 20, improved the BP record to 3-1 overall and



Top: McKenna Hein swings and misses during the first inning against Austin on Saturday, April 25. The Blossoms lost 4-15. Below: Jasmine Anderson pitches against an Austin batter.

in the conference.

“The girls didn’t give up in this one,” commented coach Ali Mach. “We made some stops de-fensively, and we started to get more comfortable at the plate. Once we got started, things snowballed for us. We really had a good second half of the game.”

The Bucs scored five runs in the third on four hits, a walk and an error to take a 7-0 lead, but that is when the Blossoms began their comeback. Two runs in the fourth came on a walk, a single by Kalyn Naatz and a Anika Nowlan’s double. The come-back continued with four runs in the fifth. Two walks and base hits from Bria Baldwin, Abby Wayne and Naatz, plus a stolen base and a WEM error chased the runs across.

A run in the sixth tied the

game and set up the big seventh inning. Three walks, Jessica Ferguson’s double, singles from Tessa Ivers and Nowlan and two errors by the home team counted the runs. Pitcher Elly Strunk allowed only two base runners over the last three innings.

Ivers led the offense with three hits and a run, but Wayne, Ferguson, Naatz and Nowlan all had two hits. Baldwin, Ferguson and Naatz each had two RBI’s in the game. Strunk gave up six hits, struck out two and walked five Bucs batters.

BP had 12 runs, 14 hits and two errors; WEM had seven runs, six hits and five errors.



BP TRACK

Continued from Page 1B

Weston Meyer, Kevin Eisch-ens and Anthony Nelson) to a first. Sunde won the 100-me-ter dash in 11.53, the long jump with a leap of 20-9 and the triple jump with a jump of 39-10 1/4. The relay team timed a 46.69 for that first.

Alec Ille won the 3,200-me-

ter run in 10:05.14, which set a new school record in that event; Anthony Nelson took the 200-meter dash in 24.51, and the 4x400-meter relay team (Angel Villarreal, Meyer, Ben Smith and Elijah Baker) also took first. Collin Wobschall placed sec-ond in the shot put with a toss

of 42-2. Quentin Kubista did the same in the pole vault in a height of 9-6 and Villarreal, Jesse Schewe, Baker and Nelson ran in a time of 9:24.21 for second in the 4x800-meter relay race.

Schewe added a 5:21.23 for third in the 1,600-meter run, and Evan Doerhoefer ran a 5:28.65

in that race for fourth. Albert Zamarripa finished fourth in the 400-meter dash, as did Wob-schall in the discus with a toss of 118’3”. Martin Morem and Do-erhoefer ended the scoring for the boys with fifth places in the 400-meter and 800-meter runs.



Blooming Prairie’s Alison Pryor starts the 1600-meter run amidst wind and rain during Blooming Prairie’s home meet on Friday, April 24.

BP golfers compete at Janesville

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie’s Taylor Christianson earned medalist honors at the five-team invi-tational at Prairie Ridge golf course at Janesville, while Tommy Braaten led three lo-cal golfers into the top 15 in the 5-team USC invitational at Oak View course in Alden.

Both meets were held on Thursday, April 23.

USC won the team title at Janesville with a 203.5, and NRHEG finished runner-up. Neither the girls nor the boys from BPHS have enough golf-ers to count a team total.

Christianson bested USC’s

Kate Koestler by one stroke at Janesville with a 47. Alexa Rudlong carded a 60 for the Blossoms, and Sabrina Stan-lety shot a 72. Almost 30 golf-ers competed individually in the meet.

In the boys meet, Braaten trailed medalist Nate Pederson of USC by three strokes with a 41, with Brandon Sohre the meet runner-up. USC took the team title, with Bethlehem Academy second and Maple River third. Jon Hatch carded a 46 to finish seventh, and Brody Carlson placed 12th with a 51. The matches were played in cool and windy weather condi-tions in both locations.

nothing you can do about it.”

The race was postponed to this Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m.

The event, weather permit-ting, will be the first race under the new ownership of Craig Shaw and Antiporek. The two have made improvements at the track and are excited for the public to see it.

Hot laps will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the race to follow at 7 p.m.

“It’s only one rainout,” said Antiporek. “There’s really

Rain causes Chateau Raceway to reschedule season opener

Chateau Raceway in Lansing was forced to cancel its season opener on Friday, April 24.

The heavy morning rain con-firmed the cancellation early in the day, and a text alert was sent out before noon stating that the event was canceled.

Jesse Antiporek said after-wards that the weather didn’t damper spirits too much, as pre-season test runs have still taken place.

“It’s only one rainout,” said Antiporek. “There’s really

Staff photo by James Knoop

MEDFORD SPORTS

Brothers play on varsity; living the dream

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Nick and Javis VonRuden have been playing baseball together for a long time. For years it's been their dream to play on the same varsity team. This year, that dream came true.

With Javis being a freshman and Nick a senior, this season will be the two's only opportunity to play varsity ball together, but they are making the most of it.

The two received a taste of playing together when they both enrolled in summer ball in 2014, and Nick says the two talk plenty of baseball outside of practice and games. The baseball comradery between the two goes back long before varsity days.

"Most of the days in the summer when we were little, we'd throw each other some fastballs and do batting practice," said Nick. "We had a big lawn, and we just hit balls."

Nick said they would also play with their younger brother, who is a seventh-grader at Medford.

"We all would just (go) outside everyday playing baseball," said Nick.

The three brothers' favorite game was called "Batter, Pitcher and Outfielder.

Javis explained the rules.

"We had a guy batting. He'd hit it out to the outfield and the pitcher would be a cutoff. You'd try to get it in as fast as you could. That's kind of what we did every summer day. It (was) fun growing up, playing with them in the backyard."

The comradery has brought the two close on and off the field, as Nick and Javis push eachother in practice and games, as well as in the weight room.

However, as a senior on the team, Nick has also taken it in his hands to make sure his freshman brother keeps his head in the right place.

"(We're) usually pretty laid back, but Javis likes to get off task a lot," said Nick. "Sometimes it's nice, because the team is really tight during games, so his humor (helps). But when we're trying to be serious, he kind of messes us up, so I try to stay on top of that."

Javis smiled at his brother's comments.

"I'm just trying to keep everyone loose during the game," said Javis. "When everybody's loose during the game, that's when we're playing our best. I'm just trying to be me."

Nick may shake his head at his brother's antics, but the freshman is off to a quick start with the Tigers, excelling in his role as starting catcher. Javis

has already earned respect from Coach Jon Chappuis for his clutch hitting.

Javis said he didn't necessarily come into the season with statistic goals.

"I'm just coming to practice trying to get better every day, help the team improve and push everyone else," said Javis.

Nick is working on his on-base percentage, as well as eliminating errors, adding that he has the future on his mind.

"I have a goal of possibly walking on a college team next year, which is making me push myself," said Nick.

Nick plans on attending Southwest Minnesota State University next season.

At 7-1, and one game shy of breaking the school record for wins in a season, Nick and Javis are having quite the first and final season together.

"It's kind of always been my goal to play with him," said Javis. "(It's) been a great experience...especially with how the team has been doing."

The dream continues this week as the VonRuden brothers and the rest of the Medford Tigers will face United South Central and Bethlehem Academy before hosting Blooming Prairie on Monday, May 4 at 5 p.m.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Freshman Javis VonRuden (left) and his senior brother Nick have dreamed of playing varsity baseball together for years. In Nick's final season in high school, the two finally have that chance.

Tigers dealt first loss; team ready to move on

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

In Medford's two games last week, two different teams showed up. Against New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Gene-

va, the Tigers showed up fierce and hungry. Against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, they were timid.

Medford vs. NRHEG

On Monday, the Medford Ti-

gers hosted the NRHEG Panthers, a team coming into the game averaging just shy of 10 runs a game. The Tigers held them to three. Medford would score only four, but excellent pitching and no errors by the defense would make up for the

lower-scoring offense.

"The plan was to come in and throw strikes and continue to play clean defense," said Medord Coach Jon Chappuis. "We were able to do that, limit the number of base runners and have no errors. We focus on controlling what we can control. We cannot control if NRHEG hits the ball well. We focused on what we could control, making the plays that we had an opportunity to make."

With equally good pitching from the arm of senior Trevor Tracy for the Panthers, errors proved to be the key in the game.

"Trevor Tracy went the distance for us and pitched extremely well. We had a few defensive break downs that cost us a few runs throughout the game," said NRHEG Coach Drew Paukert, adding that Medford did an excellent job keeping NRHEG off the bases.

Momentarily down 3-2 in the bottom of the sixth, Medford was able to come back with two runs of their own to take the final 4-3 lead into the seventh, where they would hold on for the victory.

At 7-0, Medford had tied a school winning record. A victory over WEM the following

day would not only break that record, but the idea of an undefeated season sat in the back of player's minds.

After the game, Chappuis was quick to dismiss any such fantasies.

"At the end of that night, we emphasized that we were 1-0," said Chappuis. "At the end of the day, we were again 0-0 and focused on only the next team that we were scheduled to play."

NRHEG at WEM

That next team was WEM, a team hungry to get back on track after a nine-inning 14-15 loss at Blooming Prairie. The hosting Buccaneers made quick work against the Tigers, hitting the ball well from the start. And then the visiting Tigers began to show a side fans had not seen yet this season.

"We played a little hesitant, had a couple mental errors and three fielding errors," said Chappuis.

The Buccaneers took the gift they were given and did not let go, snatching the 6-3 victory and handing the Tigers their first loss of the season.

"WEM is a great team, and against good teams you cannot give extra outs and extra chances," said Chappuis.

es," said Chappuis.

The coach added that his players appeared down after the game. So, as the Medford players have become accustomed to, Chappuis began to preach.

"The message I gave them... was (that) they better be down and hanging their heads because they felt like we didn't play well enough to win and not because they expected to go undefeated," said Chappuis. "It is a very rare occasion that a team win's every game. The boys agreed that the errors, mental and fielding, were the difference."

After a rainout last Friday, Medford's home game against Maple River was rescheduled to Monday night, April 27. Maple River has only won two games all season, but Chappuis is not looking past any opponent.

"We only focus on the next game," said Chappuis. "Right now we are focused on playing competitive baseball against every team that we play."

The Tigers will take to the road after Monday's game, playing United South Central on Tuesday and Bethlehem Academy on Thursday before hosting Blooming Prairie on Monday, May 4.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Medford catcher Javis VonRuden throws back to the pitcher after a strike against Blooming Prairie. The Tigers are 7-1 overall this season after defeating NRHEG at home and losing at WEM.

Medford softball team loses 32-0; bounces back against WEM

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

After nabbing their first win of the season two weeks ago, the Medford Tigers fell twice last week to fall to 1-5 this season.

Medford vs. NRHEG

On a cold spring night, the Tigers fell apart defensively, giving up 32 runs to the Panthers, while remaining scoreless.

"There's not much to say tonight," said Medford Coach Julie VanLangen in an email after the game. "We weren't ready to play and let the cold weather really affect us."

The Tigers committed 10 errors and allowed 15 earned runs off 10 hits in the games. The Tiger's two hits came from Taylor Witter and Ashley Schauer.

Madi Krenske pitched four innings, allowing 10 earned runs off seven hits and 12 walks. Krenske pitched four strikeouts. Rachel Boudreau and Kori Dodge pitched in relief, throw-

ing 1/3 and 2/3 innings, respectively. Boudreau allowed five earned runs off two hits and five walks and threw one strikeout. Dodge allowed one earned run off one hit and four walks.

Medford vs. WEM

While Medford fell 14-5 to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, VanLangen was much more pleased with her team's performance.

"Even though we lost tonight, it was a very nice turn around after Monday's game," said VanLangen. "Our attitude and effort were a lot better and kept us focused during the game."

Medford followed their rough loss to NRHEG with five runs against the Buccaneers off of seven hits. The team also committed four errors, six less than their previous game.

After trailing 9-1 in the fourth, the Tigers put together four runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it a closer game.

Unfortunately for Medford,

missed opportunities proved to be the difference in the end.

"We were just missing a few timely hits tonight," said VanLangen. "We had bases loaded a few times and struggled to drive in the runs."

Aly Noble drove in three runs off two hits and Dodge hit a timely triple. Despite 11 earned runs, VanLangen was proud of Krenske's performance on the mound.

"Madi pitched well tonight," said VanLangen. "She was able to pitch a complete game. Waterville's hitters were very good, and they had some big hits tonight."

The loss brought the Tigers to 1-5 overall and 0-3 in the conference.

The team was scheduled to play at St. Clair on Monday, April 27, and at Lyle/Austin Pacelli on Tuesday, April 28. Their next home game will begin at 5 p.m. against Bethlehem Academy on Thursday, April 30.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Rachel Boudreau (left) and Steph Choudek lead off from first and second base during Medford's game against WEM on Thursday, April 23.

Minimizer sponsors two trucks at Champ Truck World Series

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Minimizer has been testing truck parts for years, but this year, their trucks will truly be put to the test, as they race them in the Champ Truck World Series.

The team at Minimizer couldn't be happier about the opportunity to not only sponsor the racing tour, but two drivers as well.

"We heard about (the tour) as they were putting it together last year," said Minimizer marketing director Caleb Ostrander. "We were just really excited to get on board. This fits perfectly with our audience and industry."

Ostrander added that the races were a great way for the company to connect with their audience. They have furthered this relationship by promoting the races through social media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube.

For Minimizer Team Tested driver Trevor Kruckeberg, this was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"I really wanted to drive," said Trevor. Admitting that he had very little racing experience besides go-carts and some snowmobiling and motorcycling, Trevor said racing semis would definitely be much different.

According to an email from Minimizer CEO Craig Kruckeberg, Trevor was a perfect fit to represent Minimizer in the races.

"Trevor was our first driver, because he's family, and I knew that he had some driving experience," said Craig.

Minimizer's second truck, Team Tortured, was driven by Brad Klemmensen.



Photo courtesy of Minizimer
Minimizer sponsored two trucks at the Champ Truck World Series at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, NJ. The two drivers included Minimizer Team Tested (left), driven by Trevor Kruckeberg and Minimizer Team Tortured, driven by Brad Klemmensen.

"I knew Brad drove a farm truck, and he was interested," said Craig.

Craig stated that the driving is not full-time employment.

"We fly them in for the event, they drive the truck and get paid for a weekend. As the series grows, it will become more of a full-time operation," said Craig.

The first races took place last weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, NJ, finishing on Sunday night. Kruckeberg said the experience was

definitely new for all the drivers involved.

"It was kind of like a practice," said Kruckeberg, adding that he and Klemmensen stayed

in the middle of the pack.

The next race will take place May 22-24 at Thunderhill Raceway in Willows, CA.

NRHEG

Continued from Page 1B

Tracy.

The hitting would explode in the third inning, as the Panthers scored 10 runs with a single out.

The panthers won 13-3. Matt Jensen pitched four innings and drove in three with a homerun.

NRHEG at Blooming Prairie

On Thursday, the Panthers picked up where they left off, scoring 10 runs against the Blossoms and allowing only three.

"(We) played great baseball for a full seven innings," said Paukert. "Dempsey Tucker went

the distance (pitching) and did a great job keeping the BP lineup guessing."

For the second game in a row, the Panthers committed no errors. Eight of the Panthers' 10 runs came in the fifth and seventh, as NRHEG scored four in each.

Jet Wayne led the team, batting a perfect 4-4 at the plate and driving in four runs.

At 5-2, first-year coach Paukert could not be happier with his team's performance.

"The team has exceeded my expectations at this point in the season," said Paukert. "We have

been able to win some close games and make big plays when needed to. I have appreciated the willingness the players have displayed for buying into a new philosophy and the commitment level of all the players."

Paukert added that, although the team's biggest question mark going into the season was offense, that has proved to be its strength. The team is averaging just shy of nine points a game.

"Defensively, we continue to improve each game and practice," said Paukert. "The players really seem to want to work and get better. At this point in

the season, we are right where we hoped we would be, which is right in the thick of things in terms of the conference race."

In a tight Gopher Conference, Paukert knows the team will have to continue improving, specifically on defense.

"As a coach, I have to do a better job of putting our guys in more game-like situations that will allow them to get work in situations they will face in games," said Paukert. "We have had some key defensive breakdowns at key moments in games this year, so we need to clean that up."

Part of the defensive improvement need to come from the mound.

"As a pitching staff we will

also need to do a better job of not giving away free bases," said Paukert. "At times, our pitchers walk too many batters throughout the game. We have and will continue to work hard in practice with our pitchers making sure they get the work in on the mound to make them successful come game time."

While the team hopes to continue improving in practices, Paukert said his team also must remember to have fun.

"Our team plays a lot more focused and loose when we are having fun and enjoying the game," said Paukert. "This starts with me as the coach, making sure the kids are enjoying practices, games and are wanting to compete with each other."

This proves to be a big week for the Panthers, as they face off against two Gopher Conference team, Bethlehem Academy and United South Central.

"This week is a critical week for us as a team in terms of the conference race," said Paukert. "With how competitive the Gopher Conference has been this year, each game is a big one. Our goal going into the season was to protect our home field and try and steal as many as we could on the road. Hopefully we're able to carry over and play baseball like we had been to close the previous week."

The team will host Bethlehem Academy on Tuesday, April 28 at 5 p.m.



Staff photos by James Knoop
NRHEG pitcher Dempsey Tucker delivers a pitch against Blooming Prairie on Thursday, April 23. Tucker pitched a complete game, allowing only 3 runs by the Blossoms.



NRHEG third baseman Matt Jensen (left) gives pitcher Dempsey Tucker a word of encouragement just before the first pitch against Blooming Prairie on Thursday, April 23. The Panthers won the game 10-3.

Allison Mach to fill new athletic director/associate principal position at BP

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Beginning July 1, Blooming Prairie's John Worke will step out of his current role as athletic director, and he will be replaced by science teacher and softball coach Allison Mach.

Mach has taught and coached at Blooming Prairie High School for 12 years, and is ready for the change.

"Ultimately, I'm at the point where I need a change," said Mach. "I feel like I've done everything I can do as a teacher, and now I'm ready to take on a new role."

Mach initially applied for the principal position at the high school, but after Worke was awarded the position, Mach applied for the associate principal and activities director position. At the board

meeting on Monday, April 20, the board voted on Superintendent and high school Principal Barry Olson's recommendation that Mach be awarded the position.

The position is brand new to the school, and Mach said the position will include many more responsibilities than the old athletic director position.

"The position I'm taking over is a large position," said Mach. "They haven't had an associate principal here. So, I'm not just stepping into what John (Worke) currently has. There's more responsibilities there."

In this new role, Mach will have re-



Allison Mach

sponsibilities Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I'll do a lot of work with curriculum and testing," said Mach. "I'll be working with other principles to make decisions and working with teachers as far as improving curriculum and test scores. There's a lot of different jobs tied in with that."

Because of her work load, Mach is unsure about her role as softball coach next season.

"At this time, I am (planning on it), but that could change," said Mach. "My number one focus is to do my administration position well, and if I don't feel I can do that and coach well, coaching might be off the table. We'll have to see."

Now that the dust has cleared in the

rearranging of the administration department, Mach said she has been learn-

"I feel like I've done everything I can do as a teacher, and now I'm ready to take on a new role."

— Allison Mach, Blooming Prairie Science teacher

ing everything she can from Worke.

"John and I have always communicated well and worked well together, and he's been a good mentor for me,"

said Mach. "I know I have a lot to learn. I've asked him a lot of questions and we talk about a lot of different things. I'll count on that as we move forward."

Mach also emphasized that her and Worke have spoken about working as a team in the next year in hopes that the transition will go as smoothly as possible.

Although she will be out of the classroom for the first time in over a decade, Mach has no intention of sitting behind a desk and losing the connection she has built with students.

"I want to be out there," said Mach. "I want to be with the kids — to see what they need and how I can help. I hope I'm still visible enough where I can have those relationships. I think I'll be able to have that contact with the kids, just in a different capacity."

LACROSSE

Continued from Page 1B

second and third quarters we kind of let down, and we just didn't have our hearts in it."

That being said, Seykora couldn't be happier with the 180-degree turnaround he saw in his team in the fourth.

"Coming back in the fourth quarter with the seven goal deficit — it's very easy for teams to roll over. That's what we've been doing — being complacent with where we're at," said Seykora. "I'm proud of the guys for how they played. We won the fourth quarter 4-0. In my eyes, that's a stepping stone."

Seykora added that he was still disappointed in the loss.

"I think that's one we could have got tonight," said Seykora.

Now standing 0-6 after a loss to Bloomington last Saturday, the team is still searching for that first win.

"Lacrosse is a lot of skill," said Seykora, "but it's also (involves) having confidence in yourself."

Seykora said he is beginning to see that confidence and is excited to see where the season will wind up if his team fully embraces the confidence he has in them.

"We need to take that fourth quarter, and we need to build on that — be more consistent with the game," Seykora told his team. "You have to have confidence (and) believe in yourself — that you can do good things on the field. Don't wait for someone else to do it. If that happens, and you start playing more as a team, good things are going to happen."

Owatonna lost in another close game against Coon Rapids last Friday in a 6-9 final. Despite the loss, the Huskies were able to keep another game close, as they inch closer to that first win.

Owatonna will have their next opportunity on Tuesday, April 28 against Northfield.



Owatonna's Austin Abbas plays defense against St. Paul's Charles Gaarder during a game Thursday, April 23. The Huskies lost 9-12 to the Bobcats.

Staff photo by James Knoop



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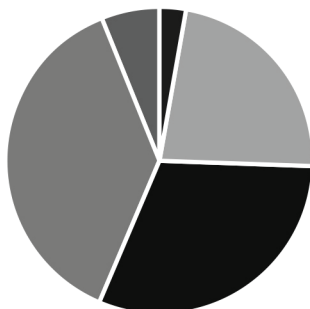
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UNDER AGE 30
80%

UNDER AGE 18
44%

38% ACQUAINTANCE
31% **STRANGER**
23% INTIMATE
6% UNKNOWN 3% OTHER RELATIVE



ATTACKER'S
RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

ABOUT

10%
sexual assault victims
ARE MEN

1 in 6
WOMEN HAVE BEEN
VICTIM OF AN ATTEMPTED
OR COMPLETED RAPE

SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE COMMITTED
BY SOMEONE THE VICTIM KNOWS

2 in 3



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Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Another round of road headaches

Motorists traveling along Interstate 35 in Owatonna will begin experiencing a second season of headaches and delays as construction began last week by ripping up the old surfaces. Traffic is down to a single lane in each direction through Owatonna as MnDOT replaces the concrete roadways as well as bridges. This is the second year of the project totaling \$19.1 million. Additional safety features such as auxiliary lanes will be added along the corridor. Construction is expected to last until fall.

Old Highway 14 work set to begin

Home and business owners along the rural segments of Old

Highway 14 from Janesville to Owatonna are encouraged to attend an open house on May 4 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the MnDOT Truck Station, 1500 S. State Street, Waseca.

Construction on old Highway 14 may begin as early as May 6. Traffic will be detoured to the new four-lane Highway 14 from May to October.

The segments of old Highway 14 scheduled for a concrete overlay include:

Waseca County Road 60 west of Janesville to Waseca County Road 18/West St.

35th Street/Lowen St./County Road 3 east of Janesville to Brown Ave/County Road 2, west of Waseca

East of Kiesler's Campground at Waseca to Steele

County Road 7, west of Owatonna

The project consists of a concrete overlay. Shafer Contracting Company of Shafer is designing and building the \$14.6 million project.

Motorists are advised to drive with caution during Minnesota's busy construction season. Watch for workers, equipment and traffic control devices – expect the unexpected.

For statewide travel information, visit www.511mn.org.

To request an ASL or foreign language interpreter or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay) or e-mail to janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us.



Telephone common cause of subluxations

Cradling the telephone between your head and shoulder is hard on your neck. If you need both hands free when you're on the phone, install a speakerphone or headset.

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Medford Third Quarter Honor Roll



High Honor Roll

Grade 7

William Chester
Boden Devoe
Joseph Doucette
Jordan Edel
Zachary Finholdt
Kaylin Hanson
Kallen Hoffmann
Hailee Homeier
Shawn Johnson
Emma Kniefel
Morgan Langeslag
Kiley Nihart
Joshua O'Daffer
Payton Powers
Brendan Rahn
Jordyn Stadler
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
William VonRuden
Zachary Wetmore

Grade 8

Andria Archibald
Camisha Chavis
Connor Davis
Jason Domstrand
Bailey DuChene
Meredith Gillis

Taylor Keppers
Anthony Manderfeld
Jade Pekarek
Noah Pirkl
Sophie Proehl
Madison Schletty
Brianna Sisler
Austin VonRuden

Grade 9

Isabel Brady
Cassandra Brase
Ian Gillis
Amanda Honsey
Kelsey Kern
Josephine Kubat
Trenton Lund
Jenna McCarthy
Jasmine Panos
Kira Rahn
Emily Steffen
Taylor Theisen
Cole Volkmann
Kayleigh Walock
Grace Wobbrock

Grade 10

Rachel Bluhm
Rebecca Edel

Ashley Gilbertson
Sydney Langeslag
Amanda Litsheim
Danielle Morgan
Callie Nagel
Jacob Pleschourt
Joshua Schauer
Mikayla Spinler
Christopher Zuniga

Grade 11

Alyssa Butterfield
Jessica Deering
Cierra DuChene
Ciera Green
Michelle Honsey
Nicholas Meixner
Wyatt Volkmann

Grade 12

Trevor Archibald
Katelyn Chester
Stephanie Choudek
Lucas Cronin
Carly Hein
Katherine Ivance
Alyssa Noble
Mary Schalm

Grade 7

Austin Aase
Alexis Amberg
Cayden Benton
Hailey Burr
Hunter Crosby
Kylie Cumberland
Andrew Esch
Juan Gamez
Shelby Ganske
Riley Hill
Logan Keppers
Madison Klein
Hannah Knutson
Sierra Larson
Reilly List
Madison Masso
Autumn Olson
Alexander Paul
Mackenzie Paulson
Isabel Reuvers
Kevin Robles
Lillian Smith
Tysia Smith
Carson Sobrack
Dylan Stenzel

Abigail Telljoh
Dale Troester
Alorah Weise
Michael Winslett

Grade 8

Journey Anderst
Zackariah Andrews
Tanner Barbeau
Mary Braasch--Turi
Olevia Cabello
Isaiah Chavis
Brittany Correll
Warren Garza
Jacob Gasner
Elizabeth Gonzalez
Ryan Hermanstorfer
Jarren Hoffmann
Brett Johnson
Luke Johnston
Salena Kelly--Ellis
Cody Kosel
Bryce Lisowski
Devan List
Rachael Luebbe
Alyah Nelson
Bailey Purrier

Kyler Rykhus
Joseph Schull
Brandon Sisler
Kelsey Walock

Grade 9

Morgan Cammock
Madelyn Cloutier
McKenzie Disher
Alex Gengler
Brandon Kern
Kaylee Kern
Tristen Kern
David Klapperich
Madison Krenske
Kayla McGivney
Nathan Meixner
Jonathon Meyer
Kristina Niner
Logan Rogotzke
Tianna Schmidtke
Sydney Stephens
Danielle Stewart
Jewel Stewart
Benjamyn Sutcliffe
Javis VonRuden
Dakota Wiersma

Grade 10

Jacob Bauer
Brooke Crosby
Tye Devoe
Ben Ficht--Babcock
Krystal Hanson
Michael Kanne
Amelia Manderfeld
Nicholas Masso
Jonathon O'Daffer
Noah Parrish
Anthony Stephens
William Stransky

Grade 11

Cassandra Borwege
Madison Dewolfe--Gillis
Alex Goetze
Rogelio Gonzales
Preston Hanson
Taylor Hooks--Witter
Marnie Madsen
Sarah Manderfeld
Cody Rehman
Karli Schienbein
Taya Sexton

Tyler Stenzel
Marisa Wagaman
Ryley Weise

Grade 12

Federico Avila
Rachel Boudreau
Nathan Carty
Aaron Chappuis
Shelby Gramse
Mickey Hildebrandt
Christopher Janousek
Jesse Kaderlik
Lorissa Kilness
Jennifer Larson
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Fabiola Mendoza
Lopez
Quinn O'Connor
Bailey Rogotzke
Nicholas VonRuden

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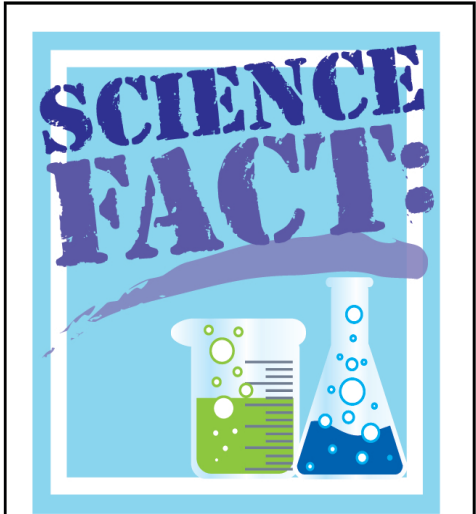
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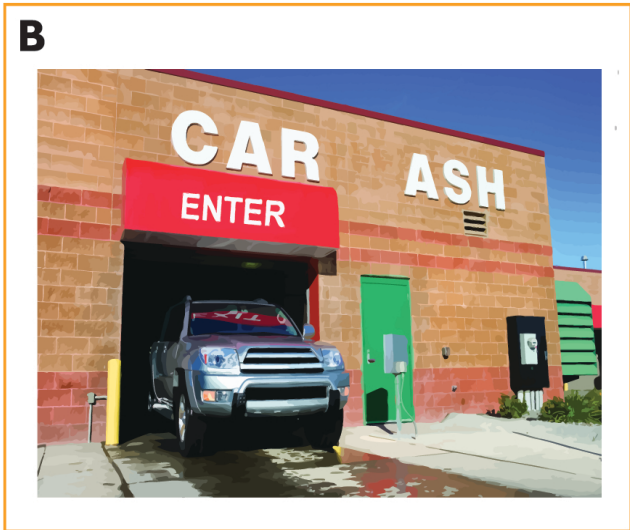
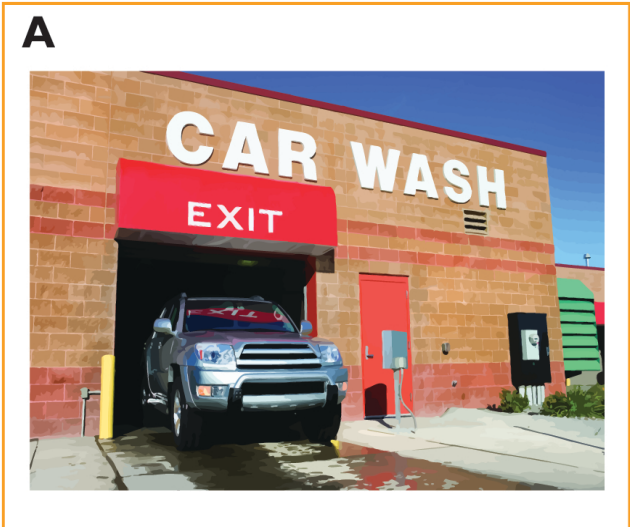
SCIENCE FACT!

THIS IS A TYPE OF ENGINE WHERE THE COMBUSTION OF FUEL OCCURS WITH AN OXIDIZER IN A COMBUSTION CHAMBER.

ANSWER: INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Sign says "enter" 2. "W" is missing 3. Door is green 4. Car mirror is gone

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

MAY 9

- 1092: LINCOLN CATHEDRAL IN ENGLAND IS CONSECRATED.
- 1945: THE CHANNEL ISLANDS ARE LIBERATED AFTER FIVE YEARS OF GERMAN OCCUPATION.
- 1974: IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS ARE OPENED AGAINST PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON.

New Word

MAINTAIN

keep something at the same level

The Chopsticks Game



Age: 6+

Each child will need a pair of chopsticks, and each child or team will need two bowls and a number of marbles, Maltesers, Smartees, peanuts or marshmallows.

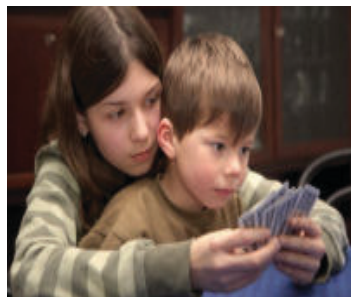
Place the bowls about 6-8 feet apart, on tables or chairs. Put the objects in one of the bowls. When you call "start", each child must pick up one of his objects, using only his chopsticks, and carry it to the empty bowl. He then returns for the next object, and so on until he has moved all his objects safely across and is the winner.

Hands must not be used at any time! If an object is dropped, it must be picked up and put back in the first bowl. You are only allowed to move one object at a time.

You can make this game easier by varying the objects. Marbles are hardest, marshmallows are easiest!

If you are playing with individual children, we suggest at least 10 objects to make the game last a decent time. For a team challenge, you might want only 3 or 4 objects, depending on the number of children in the team.

Beggar My Neighbor



Beggar My Neighbor is one of the all-time favorite children's card games. It is an exciting game of luck, best played to a time limit. The rules are below:

Number of Players: 2 - 6
Age Range: 6+

Cards: For two or three players, one standard deck of cards can be used. Any more than three players will require two decks.

Instructions: All the cards are dealt, one by one, around the group, until there are none left. It does not matter if some players have more cards than others. Each player collects his cards in a face-down pile and does not look at them.

To start, the person to the left of the dealer places his top card face-up in the centre. Then the game moves around clockwise, with each player adding one card to the central pile until someone turns up an Ace, Knave, Queen or King. The player who turns up one of these cards can then demand payment from the next player:

- An ace earns four cards
- A King earns three cards
- A Queen earns two cards
- A Knave earns one card

These payment cards are each placed on the central pile. If an Ace, King, Queen or Knave is turned up, then the next player to the left has to pay the required amount of cards, and so on. This continues until a payment is complete without Aces or Court Cards. Then, the last player who turned up an Ace or Court Card takes the whole central pile and puts it at the bottom of his own. He starts the next round, and the game begins again.

The winner is the player who first goes out by using up all his cards. If playing to a time limit, then the winner is the player with the least remaining cards when the time runs out.

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Clean
- SPANISH:** Limpio
- ITALIAN:** Pulito
- FRENCH:** Propre
- GERMAN:** Sauber

Did You Know?

UNDERINFLATED TIRES CAN FORCE A CAR TO CONSUME MORE GAS. THEY ALSO MAY LEAD TO TIRE BLOWOUTS.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MOTOR OIL CONTAINER

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Preschool-kindergarten bridge program set

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A new program that will provide a bridge between preschool and kindergarten will be underway in the fall. Over the next few months, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) elementary school leaders will be building the foundation for the Bridges kindergarten program.

“We have been saying it provides them the gift of time because there are some kids that are

just not ready,” said Ellendale Elementary School Principal Doug Anderson. “That is what this program will do: give them that gift of time and prepare them for kindergarten the following year.”

On April 27, the second of two informational meetings was set to be held in Ellendale. The current preschool teacher has come up with a list of students that would benefit in the Bridges kindergarten program. The school district has received phone calls from parents about the program,

has sent out literature and mailings to all families so they are aware of the program.

Parents had an option of attending an April 20 or April 27 orientation, or both.

“We have a strong number of kids that we know will need this program,” Anderson stated. “We’ve built in some time until the Minnesota Education Association break in October where we will be able to move kids back and forth between bridges and kindergarten.”

Anderson said that parents are key in identifying and having conversations about their children. “We can help them with providing some of the data and we can gather some information about their children,” he said. “I see it as a team effort.”

Next year’s class will have as many as 15 students.

Diana Foster, currently Title 1 coordinator and internal literacy coach for the school’s Minnesota Reading Core Program, will become the classroom teacher

in the Bridges kindergarten program. A full-time paraprofessional will assist her.

One major reason Foster was selected is her gifts and talents involving being a key resource person for literacy, Anderson said. “She has had a lot of formal training with literacy, reading and writing,” he said. “That will be key with this position as we prepare these kids to be ready for

BRIDGE

Continued on Page 2A

STEELE TALKIN’



Karen Fountaine

Pay attention when driving

No one intends to seriously injure or kill someone by driving distracted. But good intentions don’t prevent crashes; smart choices do. Distracted driving contributes to 1 in 4 crashes in Minnesota. Preliminary numbers show that driver distraction in Minnesota was a factor in 16,900 crashes last year, resulting in 7,369 injuries and 47 deaths.

Driving is a complex task that requires us to be totally focused.

According to the article “Understanding the Distracted Brain,” written by the National Safety Council, vision is the most important sense we use for safe driving. Yet estimates indicate drivers using cellphones look at but fail to see up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment. They are looking out the windshield but do not process everything in the road needed to monitor their surroundings, seek and identify potential hazards, and respond to unexpected situations. They tend to miss exits, go through red lights and stop signs, rear-end vehicles, and fail to see bicyclists and pedestrians.

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to text, email and access the Web while the vehicle is in motion or traffic. If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide. Contrary to popular belief, it’s not only teenagers who text at the wheel. According to Johnathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, “It’s actually adults between the ages of 25 and 40 who are the biggest offenders.”

What steps can drivers take to prevent injury and death due to distracted driving? The National Safety Council suggests the following practices.

- Inform frequent callers that you do not take calls while driving.
- Before you drive, do what you can to eliminate distractions, Program radio stations, adjust mirrors and ventilation controls, map out your destination route and enter the GPS route in advance, and put your phone out of reach.
- Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle.
- If you are a passenger, offer to assist the driver whenever you see him/her attempting to multitask.
- If you are a parent, model responsible behavior.

Your phone call is not as important as someone’s safety on the road. If you think distracted driving is a serious problem in Steele County and you would like to become part of the solution, please join the Steele County Toward Zero Deaths coalition. Contact Karen Fountaine at 507-444-7664 to learn more about the coalition’s work.

Karen Fountaine is a public health nurse with Steele County Public Health. She coordinates the TZD grant.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

Triton High School junior Jack Crowson hangs up decorations on the gym walls Friday, April 24. Triton’s was the first prom of the season.

Prom season’s back in full swing

By **SHANNON KINLEY**
County Staff Writer

With prom season in full swing, dress shops are picked over, hair and nail salons are booked, restaurants are booked and juniors and seniors are ready to dance and create a memory they will never forget.

Blooming Prairie

Blooming Prairie High School’s prom will be Saturday, May 2, with a frozen winter wonderland theme. The grand march will start at 4 p.m. in the high school gym, and once that wraps up, students will load buses and head to Stillwater to get on a boat through the St. Croix Boat & Packet

Co. On the boat, students will eat dinner, and the dance will follow.

Prom Chairperson Holly Naatz says organizers are expecting about 100 students to attend, and this year’s prom setting is different from last year’s.

“It is just the whole idea that they are all eating together. Last year they all found their own places to eat, whereas this year the whole group eats together, which is kind of nice,” Naatz said. “You just don’t have that transportation worry for parents. This year, that is all taken care of for them.”

Every year they rotate between a traditional prom, in which the dance is at the Servicemen’s Club and the after-prom party is at the high

school, and the prom on the boat.

After the dance, students will go to Dave & Buster’s in Maplewood for the after-prom party where they will have a variety of games to play until 3 a.m., when they head back to the school for prize drawings.

Medford

Medford High School’s prom will be Saturday, May 2, with a picture-perfect theme. The grand march will start at 4:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium, and once that wraps up, the students will load buses to Monterey Ballroom in Owatonna, where they will eat dinner and have the dance.

One thing that makes Medford’s

prom different is that the location changes every year. Last year the prom was on a boat through the St. Croix Boat & Packet Co. Aly Noble, student council president, says organizers are expecting between 100 and 120 students to attend.

After the dance, students will head back to the high school for the after-prom party, where they will get the chance to play games, win prizes, watch a hypnotist and play blow-up games until about 5 a.m.

This is Noble’s third year attending the prom. She is excited for the prom’s location and the 20-person photo booth. Her date,

PROM SEASON

Continued on Page 2A

Leader makes case again for NRHEG’s referendum

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Early comments are positive about a June 9 referendum that will upgrade facilities in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District, said School Superintendent Dr. Dennis Goodwin.

Recently, the school district put some information on its website that allows patrons to see what the tax impact will be if the referendum passes. “Early on there were some misunderstanding about tax implications,” Goodwin said. “Information we are getting is that people are pleasantly surprised the tax requirements this will have.”

On June 9, voters will vote on a more than \$14 million referendum that will upgrade school facilities in Ellendale and New Richland. According to projections, residents who live in a \$100,000 home will see taxes increase \$55.25 in 2016.

Goodwin said he is optimistic that people



Goodwin

there will be something that we may offer in the future that we don’t offer now because we don’t have the space to do so.”

If the referendum is approved, the Ellendale portion will be completed in August 2016, while the New Richland upgrade will be done in November 2016.

Ellendale’s project will consist of

will see these projects as a way to help the communities. “This isn’t about adding rooms or about adding a gym,” he said. “This is about adding locations and opportunities for kids to get more success, to find their passion, to feel a part of the community. Maybe

REFERENDUM

Continued on Page 2A



Staff photo by Brian Sandford

Feat of agility

Julie Holt, 13, left, and Lea Seykora, 12, watch Presley jump over a hurdle in the Paws 4 Fun dog-agility area in the Four Seasons Centre, where the second Bark & Rec event was held Saturday. Story and photos, Page 6C.

CountyLiving

BRIDGE

Continued from Page 1C

kindergarten.”

Foster said the program’s philosophy is to meet the children where they are at academically, mentally, socially and developmentally. “It is taking a snapshot of where they are right now and what’s the best fit to where they need to be to have success in kindergarten to have success in future years,” she said.

The Bridges kindergarten program is under construction at this point. “We’re working to develop the program,” Foster said.

The school district is using a model from the Belle Plaine School District and is making adjustments to fit it to the Ellendale students. One part of the plan would be to have a criteria and indicators that each child is ready to go on to the next step.

Students will be using Voyager Sopris curriculum. The curriculum integrates literacy, math, science and social studies and aligns them with common core standards. “It is a good fit for the preschool program going into kindergarten students that need some more exposure to kindergarten skills,” Foster said.

The school district felt there was a need for the Bridges program after several years of studying the Ellendale kindergarten program. “The data that we have identified shows that the rigor in kindergarten has increased and we have students coming into kin-

dergarten that have not had preschool experience,” Anderson explained. “We needed something to help better prepare our kids for the kindergarten experience.”

Foster said what the school district doesn’t want is for students to have two years of kindergarten. That is why a different curriculum is being used. There will still be the kindergarten classroom structure, students will be exposed to kindergarten standards, but will not be expected to master those standards.

“The pace of the classroom would be slower than what you would find of the rigors of a kindergarten classroom,” Foster said, adding, “We will be exposing them to kindergarten expectations but with different expectations so that when they go on to kindergarten the next year it is not a repeat of the previous year.”

She added that the students will be better prepared to have success in kindergarten than if they would have just gone to kindergarten from preschool.

Bridges will be a child-directed program. Along with a curriculum that incorporates literacy, math, science and social studies, there will be group instruction in all four learning areas and learning centers with purposeful play.

The major difference in Bridges and kindergarten program is the expectations of mastering the skills will not be the same. “I will work closely with the current kindergarten team and have knowledge of their essential learner outcomes,” Foster said.

The challenge is creating a program that best meets each child’s needs, Foster said. “How do I build a bridge for 15 children to be ready for kindergarten?”

Foster said students still need extra support in first grade, second grade and third grade because the rigor is so high and students are expected to move so fast with their peers. “When you come in with a deficit it is hard to make that up,” she said. “Our philosophy is if we give them that bridge that is a gift of time beforehand and set that foundation, give them another year to mature; hopefully we can help alleviate some of that. It causes stress for children and families. By first, second, third grade they know they are not reading as good as their peers, they know that they’re really struggling. It affects them.”

Anderson said the program is extremely important to the school district because teachers are spending quite a bit of time and dollars on intervention to help bring students to grade level. “We’re being proactive in providing for their needs,” he said. “They will enter kindergarten better prepared and because of that they will have a better chance of success for being on grade level.”

He added that a goal is to have everyone reading on grade level by third grade and the school district is not there at his point. “I think a program like this is going to provide our kids with the support that they need to become more successful and hopefully be on grade level,” he said.

REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 1C

remodeling the office and entry to create a secure vestibule, remodeling and adding to the former music and shop space to create eight new teaching spaces, improving gym and performance space acoustics and adding a bus loading and unloading area.

New Richland’s upgrades include remodeling the middle school science area, improving band and choir space acoustics, improving existing shared gym and performance space and adding a new 2.5 station gymnastics, fitness room and locker rooms.

Goodwin stated that the upgrades will have an impact on students in both buildings. For Ellendale, it will allow the school district to offer more programs.

“There is a lot of pressure on teachers, on parents, on administration to do all we can to progress our kids,” Goodwin said. “In Ellendale you do that through additional programs. You need space for those programs to occur.”

Of the eight classrooms, one will replace the music room and another the SMART room. The other six are new classrooms.

In addition when the auditorium is packed, Goodwin said, it is hard to hear and hard to understand what is being said. “We do a disservice to our kids who put so much effort into this, that we would like to see some additional benefits for all their hard work,” he said.

Security and parking are also school district concerns. The remodeling would improve security and would also expand the parking lot on the south side of the building. The school district is expected to close on July 1 to purchase property on the south side of the elementary school.

“We are tentatively thinking about buses going through there,” Goodwin said. “We are trying to improve safety for buses so there is no traffic and we can drop off and pick up students at a safer place.”

In New Richland, Goodwin said, there are many students interested in the arts. “Our gym, which is a sports gym, makes it difficult for those events to happen,” he said. “It is also part of our community.”

Goodwin added by upgrading the current gym it will become more of an auditorium. “I worry when I see elderly community members lean on those folding chairs. They’re just not safe,” he said. “We are also improving the seating for all our community members to come in, observe and watch the kids.”

That means a new gym will be part of the mix. The larger gym would allow NRHEG to hold tournaments and sectionals for wrestling, volleyball and basketball.

The new facility would also have a new workout facility that Goodwin believes would be safer and more appropriate for students.

PROM SEASON

Continued from Page 1C

Nick Olson, asked her with a poem and candles that spelled out P-R-O-M.

“My favorite part is dancing all night long with my good friends and having a good time,” she said.

This will be senior Katie Ivance’s third time attending the prom, and she is looking forward to the dance and after-prom party. Ivance asked her boyfriend, Matt Borash, to prom because he is in college.

“My favorite part of the prom is the dance,” she said.

ond Triton Prom and first prom at John Marshall in Rochester. She asked her boyfriend, Steve Orlowski, to prom on St. Patrick’s Day with a sign that said, “I’d be berry lucky if you went to prom with me” along with strawberries that looked like tuxedos.

“My favorite part of prom is getting pampered and then dancing all night,” Timmerman said.

This was senior Alyssa Lofthus’ second prom, which she attended with her best friend, Pamala Pater.

“I look forward to getting all dolled up to have a fun night of dancing and hanging out with everyone,” she said.

Lofthus’ favorite part of prom was attending the grand march and seeing all the dresses.

“You won’t notice, but they are behind the scenes,” she said. “These kids are part of the prom right up until their senior year. They see what happens and when they are ready to officially be on the committee and plan, then they kind of know what is going on.”

After the dance students will head to Owatonna Junior High School for the Mardi Gras-themed after-prom party from 11 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. During the event students will be able to play casino games, get hypnotized, eat food, win prizes and experience inflatables.

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva

NRHEG High School’s prom is set for Saturday, May 2, with a touch-of-class theme. Barb Hagen, prom committee member, says organizers expect about 120 students to attend.

The grand march will start at 4 p.m. at the New Richland High School gym. After the march, students will load buses and head to Wedgewood Cove Golf Club in Albert Lea, where they will eat dinner with the dance to follow.

At midnight, students will load the buses and head back to the high school for the after-prom party, which will go until 5 a.m. The prom committee wants to keep the after-prom festivities a surprise, but students will have the opportunity to participate in activities, play casino games, win prizes and eat food.

Owatonna

Owatonna High School’s prom is set for Saturday, May 9, with a “Footloose” theme. The grand march will be at 7 p.m. followed by the dance at 9, both at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna.

“It is going to be a ton of fun. It is so beautiful, what they are putting together. It is almost like a barn wedding,” said prom adviser Marilyn Olson. “I’m really surprised how we can take this ugly hockey arena and just turn it into something really beautiful.”

Olson added that organizers are expecting about 400 students to attend. One thing that makes the Owatonna prom different is that the sophomores get to be involved.

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Blooming Prairie Living

Seven Awesome Blossoms join National Honor Society

BPHS grad exhorts members to share their gifts with others

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
News Editor

Seven Blooming Prairie High School students officially joined the National Honor Society during a ceremony at the school last Wednesday night.

“Tonight is always one of our highlights of the year, recognizing students who have achieved much,” Principal and Superintendent Barry Olson told a crowd of about 60 people in the school commons. His short remarks were followed by a 30-minute dinner of chicken, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, and dessert.

After dinner, BPHS graduate Jessica Hultgren, the director of volunteer services for St. Paul-based food bank Second Harvest Heartland, spoke about the importance of service to others.

She asked audience members, “If you could collect a paycheck doing anything you wanted, what would that be?”

NEW MEMBERS

Morgan Johnson
Alyssa Krohnberg
Sally Peterson
Abby Wayne
Margaret Jones
Anthony Nelson
Nicholas Srsen

ABOUT NHS

The National Honor Society's stated goal is to recognize outstanding high school students. It began in 1921 and has an estimated 1 million members in North America and U.S. territories.
SOURCE: nhs.us

CURRENT MEMBERS

Taylor Hagen
Macaela Jensen
Scott Romeo
Samuel Swenson

Hultgren said Minnesota rates highly when it comes to volunteerism, education, health care, arts and recreation.

“I believe it’s just the fabric of who we are. ... When you travel to other parts of the world, you’ll notice that not everyone is like in Minnesota,” she said, adding that she thinks people in more rural areas volunteer more because they rely on one another more.

During her 15-minute speech, Hultgren told Honor Society members that they’re obligated to serve others.

“My challenge to you going forward, as you leave Blooming Prairie, is that you do not hoard your greatness and your talents — that you share it with as many people as possible,” she said.

Hultgren’s speech was followed by an awards presentation and a candle-lighting ceremony featuring Honor Society members.



Staff photo by Brian Sandford
Taylor Hagen lights a candle during Wednesday night's ceremony. To her left and right are Macaela Jensen and John Rumpza, respectively.

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School board OKs hiring pre-K-12 associate principal

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie School Board accepted John Worke’s resignation as varsity girls’ basketball coach and approved hiring Alison Mach as pre-K-12 associate principal/activities director at last Monday’s meeting.

Worke had been the coach for 22 years. Mach, a science teacher in the district, begins her new duties July 1 — the same day Worke, currently the district’s activities director and facilities manager — takes over as principal at the high school.

Elementary school Principal Chris Staloch told board members that a recent book fair raised more than \$5,000, a record. The mon-

ey helped pay for nonfiction books for the school’s library, and the school was able to give a free book to every one of its 400-plus students, he said.

“I’m working on building next year’s schedule,” he said. “We’re putting together class lists.”

Staloch also said May would be busy; among the scheduled events are the spring concert May 1, track and field day May 19, and field trips.

Worke said junior ACTs were coming up in a week, and that science tests in May will finish the testing season.

Principal Barry Olson said the hiring process for teachers has been slow.

“We just are not getting the quality candi-

dates that we were getting 10, 15 years ago,” he said. “It affects all of us. ... I’m very concerned about staffing and how we’re going to continue to staff our system.”

In other business

Also Monday, the school board:

- OK’d extending a staffer’s leave through May as she receives chemotherapy treatments.
- Approved participating in Student Assurance Services Inc., which is voluntary insurance coverage for students.
- OK’d renewing membership in the Minnesota State High School League.
- Unanimously approved Title I participation.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Home Sellers lives up to name

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Now “is a great time to buy, with amazing interest rates,” said real estate brokers/owners Lisa and Steve Vaith of Home Sellers of Minnesota, Inc., 423 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie.

The husband and wife have been in the real estate business since 1999. Steve also offers 40 years of experience in construction.

Jennifer Fisher has been part of the Home Sellers team since December. Jennifer has 12 years of experience and serves all of Steele County.

The Home Sellers office answers the real estate motto of “location, location and location” by being positioned at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 218.

“We can help take you through the whole buying and selling process,” Lisa said.

“I can also assist with building and structure questions,” Steve adds. Steve has built many residential homes and commercial buildings in the area. His great grandfather was a builder in Westfield Township.

Home Sellers is a full service real estate company that represents buyers and sellers. As a full service agency, Home Sellers will help you with pricing your home properly by providing a CMA (Competitive Market Analysis), staging your home and using all its resources to get your property the highest exposure.

Lisa said, “We help buyers connect with lenders and guide them through the whole buying process. Home Sellers lists and sells residential, commercial and farm properties. Help is also available in finding lots and arranging for residential and commercial new construction.”

Both Lisa and Steve are proud of the ability to analyze real estate value by using their building experience and by utilizing the Multiple Listing Service (MLS®). Home Sellers can show all listed properties and works with All Realtors® to show properties.

Lisa has served on the MLS board



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Lisa and Steve Vaith are brokers/owners of Home Sellers of Minnesota, Inc.

and is currently on the board of directors for the Southeast Minnesota Association of Realtors (SEMAR).

Home Sellers actively uses its website to meet their clients’ needs. The site is currently being revamped. “Over 90 percent of buyers view the Internet before contacting us,” Lisa and Steve report.

Search listings by finding Home Sellers at www.HomeSellersMN.com or check out new listings, the latest real estate tips and more by going to Home Sellers’ Facebook pages at www.Facebook.com/HomeSellersMN. Call the Home Sellers office at 507-583-7233.

The Vaith thumb print is on many of the real estate transactions, either in sales or building. Steve has built numerous homes in the area and constructed two apartment buildings.

New home construction and home remodeling are strong suits of Home Sellers.

“I love to work with first-time buyers and also enjoy seeing how people have updated their homes after purchasing them through us,” Lisa said.

It’s all about getting to know people and their real estate needs. “Maintaining our high level of trust with clients as well as their needs are top priorities” with Home Sellers, Lisa said.

That’s where Lisa and Steve Vaith and Jennifer Fisher can help.

Blooming Prairie fundraiser nets \$875 for Boys & Girls Club

A recent Blooming Prairie fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club brought in \$875, said unit director Mary Sherman-Ahrens.

The fundraiser was Thursday, April 16, and Sunday, April 19, at the Pizza Cellar. Participants paid \$40 each to paint their own versions of a painting placed at the front of the room. Valerie Schewe of Uniquely Yours Canvas led the session.

The club’s next local fundraiser is Rib Fest, set for June 27 at the Servicemen’s Club.

KIK

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving



Staff photo by Brian Sandford

Coming up

The Casey's General Store planned for County Road 30 entering Ellendale from the east is taking shape.

NRHEG students to get new textbooks

School board OKs spending \$70,000

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

New textbooks will be introduced to New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva student's next school year.

The NRHEG School Board approved purchasing a series of textbooks for \$70,380.04 plus shipping and handling at its April board meeting in the New Richland Media Center. "We certainly have textbook issues," NRHEG High School Principal David Bunn said.

Currently, the science books range in copyright from 2001-03, while social studies books are copyrighted from 1996 to 2003. The new science books will come from McGraw Hill and will include online access for different content.

Also, the school district's current math books come from Saxon. The school will be looking at purchasing the next set from Glencoe/McGraw Hill.

Other books that are being bought are for world geography, U.S. government and math. In addition, money has been set aside to purchase applications for iPads.

Teacher decision delayed

While the NRHEG administration pushed

NRHEG yearbook

Students can order 2014-15 NRHEG senior high yearbooks by going to www.jostensyearbooks.com or visiting Sandy Schumacher at the high school. The cost is \$55, and the last day to order is May 15. For more information, call Schumacher at 507-417-2626.

for the purchase of textbooks, administrators asked the school board to delay a decision on hiring an elementary music teacher for next year.

School Superintendent Dr. Dennis Goodwin explained that although his desire is to hire the person, he is apprehensive about taking that step because of uncertainty in school funding. There are various plans floating through the legislative chambers in St. Paul, and Goodwin is not sure what funding will be in place.

He added that the school district could use this person, but I want to visit this issue next month in hopes that the legislative funding percentages increase.

In his presentation to the school board, Elementary Principal Doug Anderson said creating this position would provide students increased access to a music teacher and increased music instruction. "If this position would be approved in our rotation, each

classroom would receive music instruction twice out of every five days compared to the current rotation which allows students music class twice out of every six days," he explained.

A fulltime vocal and band instructor would allow the elementary school to restructure its media specialist position. "That would become an intervention position while still maintaining a media check in and check out time for books," Anderson said.

The current rotation is on a six-day cycle. There are two days of music, two days of media and two days of computer. Creating the new position would change that to two days of computer, two days of music and one day of media.

"We realize the financial burdens associated in creation of this position," Anderson said. "While this position would significantly strengthen and enhance our music program and would provide opportunities that currently are not available, we too are concerned about the financial burden at this time."

Bully-free curriculum

NRHEG School District will be implementing a bully-free curriculum in the elementary school next year. Each lesson will build upon a prior lesson. Every week there will be a lesson taught in each classroom.

On May 11, third- through fifth-graders will be discussing and working on cyber-bullying education.

Council sets public meeting about pay equity

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
News Editor

It quickly became clear at last Thursday's Ellendale City Council that members weren't ready to agree on a method to comply with state pay-equality standards.

The state assigns point values — and pay standards — to municipal jobs based on duties, title and number of employees supervised. Councilwoman Stephanie Kibler said she and others with the city updated the city's assigned points through the state's job-match evaluation system and learned they're out of compliance.

Mayor Mark Skroch was critical of the equal-pay mandate, saying, "I worked 39 years teaching. A lot of people do the same job, but not everyone is worth the same pay. I don't care what job you're at. Two people

IF YOU GO

What: Public meeting to discuss city pay equity.
When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3.
Where: Ellendale City Hall.

working at any job, some people are going to dog it, some will work their butt off."

Municipal Liquor Store manager Pete Paulson echoed those sentiments.

"It's an issue at the liquor store where everybody makes the same amount of money, whether they work hard or not," he said.

Kibler said it's important to set up a compensation plan that ensures employees aren't questioning what their pay and point lev-

els are. She also warned that the city could face significant fines for being out of compliance.

Kim Zimprich is among those wondering about point levels. She said she was hired in November 2013 as deputy clerk, but her duties are listed as those of an administrative assistant.

"There's a huge difference in responsibilities" between then and now, she said.

Kibler said Zimprich's duties primarily involve assisting City Clerk Lee Ann Hojberg.

Zimprich said she's able to fill Hojberg's shoes in her absence; Kibler said it's still an administrative job.

Skroch asked, Wouldn't Zimprich be expected to fulfill Hojberg's duties if the city clerk got sick? Kibler replied that a secretary might take over some of a CEO's duties in case of illness; it doesn't make the secretary the

deputy CEO.

"It's not about the title," Zimprich said. "I was hired as deputy clerk. If I wanted to be an office assistant, I would have went elsewhere."

Skroch also expressed concern about city maintenance manager Josh Otto's lack of sick pay and vacation time, even though he works nearly full time.

Skroch suggested holding a meeting about the points-and-pay issue on the first Thursday of May. The other council members agreed.

Student of the Week

Cole Hutchens is in Mrs. Dutton's 2nd grade class. He is the son of Rob and Stacy Hutchens and they live in New Richland. Cole really enjoys playing football, riding bike, and watching sports. Cole is always a good friend to others and is willing to help when he can. He is a role model to others, returns his homework,



and is always kind to everyone. Cole brings a positive attitude and a smile to school everyday. Cole Hutchens is a great representation of what NRHEG stands for.

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Menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu

April 21: Banana Bread
April 22: Pancakes, Sausage
April 23: Bagels, Yogurt
April 24: Long Johns
April 27: Oatmeal Round
April 28: Cheese Omelet
April 29: Doughnut, Yogurt

NRHEG Lunch Menu

April 21: Sloppy Joes on

a Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Baby Carrots, Mandarin Oranges

April 22: Chicken Fajita or Taco w/Toppings, Golden Corn, Celery Sticks, Applesauce

April 23: BBQ or Plain Pork on Bun,

French Fries, Baby Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Diced Peaches

April 24: Shrimp Poppers,

Macaroni & Cheese, Peas, Broccoli, Diced Peas

April 27: BBQ Rib Patty on Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges

April 28: Nachos Supreme w/Toppings, Golden Corn, Seasoned Rice, Applesauce

April 29: Sub Sandwich w/Toppings, Tortilla Chips w/Salsa, Fresh Veggies, Pineapple

RECIPE CORNER

Fun Taco Cups

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 (10 oz.) can refrigerated biscuits
- 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

By Rhonda Underdahl

Prepare taco meat; drain. Spray muffin pan with Pam nonstick spray. Press biscuits into bottoms and sides of muffin pan. Fill biscuits 3/4 full with taco meat. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 2 to 3 minutes or until cheese melts. Serve with taco sauce. May garnish with lettuce, tomato and olives.

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14th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie • 583-2046



Mayra Limon (left) and Maribel Gonzalez explain the difference between two types of chilies often used in Mexican dishes, one for color and one to make it spicy.

Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

Lessons in authenticity

Community Education participants learn to cook two Mexican dishes

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Twelve participants “traveled” to Mexico to learn how to cook two authentic Mexcian dishes offered through Medford Community Education last week. The class was put on by Maribel Gonzalez and Mayra Limon. The two wanted to not only share their culture with others, but also wanted to practice their English. “It (the class) is good because they get to come out and practice their newly learned English skills. It is a nice way to bring the Hispanic community as well as the rest of the community together,” said English Language Learner (ELL) teacher Cynthia Welle-Erwin. The two women offered a salsa course last year through community education in which they demonstrated how to make three salsas from different regions of Mexico. Gonzalez and Limon had so much fun at last year’s course that they decided to teach another course.

Gonzalez demonstrated how to make asado de puerco y arroz y tortillas, a spicy pork and rice dish with homemade corn tortillas, and Limon demonstrated how to make arroz, gisado de res y camarán, a rice, beef and shrimp dish. During the two-hour class, participants were able to ask questions, help with steps along the way and at the very end try out the two dishes. Limon is from Jalisco, Mexico, and started learning English around 10 years ago. Last year she started working with Welle-Erwin to better both her English speaking and writing skills.

“I like trying to make this for the American people so they can see that sometimes Mexican food is easy to make and it is good. If you can try different things, that is good,” Limon said. “I want them to learn that they can try different cultures. Now they can go out from here and do it in their house.” Limon says she enjoys teaching the course because she loves cooking, and it gives her a chance to practice her English. The most challenging part of teaching the course for her is battling her nerves and finding a way to explain each step so the participants understand. Participant Diane Watts decided to attend the course after a friend invited her and told her how much fun last year’s salsa class was. “I love Mexican food, and I’ve always wondered what is the secret behind the heat,” Watts said. “I wanted to know what it takes for them to put a meal together, kind of what goes on behind the scenes at a Mexican restaurant.”



Above is a completed plate of both Limon’s dish, arroz, gisado de res y camarán (a rice, beef and shrimp dish), and Gonzalez’s dish, asado de puerco y arroz y tortillas (a spicy pork and rice dish with homemade corn tortillas).



Class participant Diane Watts helps Gonzalez and Limon by chopping up some peppers for each of the dishes.

Watts thought the class was fantastic and that both Limon and Gonzalez were good teachers. She also thought both of the dishes were delicious. She was very surprised by the chilies that were used in the two dishes, because she thought they were going to be much hotter. “You get to meet new people, have fantastic preparation of food, the cost is reasonable and I didn’t have to lift a finger. They did all the work,” she said. Watts says she will definitely attempt both of the recipes again on her own.

Participant Robin Spande decided to take the class because she also heard that last year’s salsa class was a lot of fun. “I thought it was great. I really enjoyed it. I just thought it was presented well and I thought they did a nice job,” Spande said. Spande was surprised by the number of ingredients and steps that were involved in making both dishes. She says she might try to make the pork dish on her own in the future, but would not bother making homemade tortillas because they are too easy to buy from a store.

New science credit: Food chemistry

Educators tout need to offer more variety

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

As of the 2015-16 school year, students at Medford High School will have the option to take either food chemistry or regular chemistry to meet the science graduation requirements. The change in graduation requirements was brought to the school board’s attention at its March meeting, and the board approved the change at its April meeting. “It is important for us to offer students different opportunities to demonstrate learning. If they would like to learn chemistry through food chemistry, we would like to offer them that opportunity; if they’d like to learn it in a more traditional class, we want that to be available as well,” said Secondary Principal Chris Ovrebo. To graduate, students need to take three credits of science, one credit of physical science their freshman year, one credit of chemistry their sophomore year and one credit of biology their junior year. Students have the option to take a College Now biology course to receive college credit through Southwest Minnesota State University, and physics is offered as an elective credit.

Next year Medford will offer one section of food chemistry for 10th and 11th graders. The yearlong course will be held two consecutive hours each day and meets the one-credit chemistry graduation requirement. The state allows high schools to offer a science course through its agricultural education department as long as it meets the same standards as a traditional course.

“At the end of the course, they should be learning exactly the same things. The standards and materials are the same. It is just a matter of delivering that content in a different way, a more hands-on and problem-solving sort of approach,” Ovrebo said.

Ovrebo stressed that this course will not be any easier than traditional chemistry.

The course is designed to help students learn about the relationships among science, food and nutrition. During the 12-unit course, students will explore topics such as how water, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, vitamins and minerals react in foods, biochemical and functional properties, enzymes, food additives and texture as related to properties in food systems and during processing.

The course will be taught by one of the agriculture education teachers, Lisa Hoefs or Tim Larson. Hoefs says she is excited to offer another course option. “It is a chemistry course where we can use food as a medium to talk about chemical processes and concepts that students learn in chemistry class. It is all the same standards that are all addressed; we just use a few different kinds of experiments to get the same message across,” Hoefs said. “Sometimes you just cook and you don’t really think about what is really happening to the food, and the chemistry behind that can be really neat and really fun.”

Hoefs says the food-chemistry course is beneficial because students learn in different ways, and it might make chemistry a little less scary. “It allows students to apply chemistry concepts to something that they eat every day,” she said. “It is neat when you can take something that might seem kind of scary to students and give it to them in a way that it might make more sense because it is something they see every day.” Ovrebo says they will start with only one section of the course next year to see how it goes and, depending on demand, possibly add sections in future years.

Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu
April 21: WG French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 22: Breakfast Fruit Crisp OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 23: Yogurt w/ Fruit and

Homemade Granola OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 24: Breakfast Burrito OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 27: Bacon Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

April 28: Blueberry Loaf W/ Hard Boiled Egg OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
April 29: WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk
Medford School Lunch Menu
April 21: Breakfast Bake,

Cinnamon Roll, Yogurt Pak, Taco Salad, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Florets, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
April 22: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Bread, Deli Sub, Chicken Caesar Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
April 23: Medford Oles, Sour Cream, Salsa, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Cravin Craisin

Salad, Broccoli, Celery Sticks, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
April 24: Homemade Cheesebread, Marinara, Pasta Salad, Turkey Sub, Harvest Chicken Salad, Baked Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
April 27: Cheeseburger on WG Bun, Combo Sliders, Chef Salad, French Fries, Cherry Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Choice of

Fruit
April 28: NEW Chicken Taco “Boat” Toppings and Salsa, Turkey Flatbread, 7 Layer Salad, Spicy Pinto Beans, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit
April 29: Chicken Legs & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Crispy Chicken Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Green Pepper Strips, Choice of Fruit

OwatonnaLiving

Dog lovers converge for second Bark & Rec event

Dogs showed off their skills, scruffy faces at Four Seasons Centre

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

It still felt very much like spring on a chilly Saturday at Owatonna’s Four Seasons Centre, but many of the attendees at the second Bark & Rec event didn’t seem to mind. Nor should they; most of the stars of the event were protected by a healthy layer of fur. An estimated 150 dogs and their owners and friends converged on the center between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to watch demonstrations, show their skills in two K-9 Frisbee competitions, visit with veterinarians and groomers, and check out vendors’ wares. Seventeen humans found a different way to stay warm, participating in a 5-kilometer, non-competitive walk/run outside the center. The public came up with the idea for Bark & Rec, said Owatonna Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant Mary Jo Knutsen. Knutsen and Parks and Recreation Supervisor Brad Dushaw helped organize the event. “We’ve heard a lot of positive comments” this year and last, Knutsen said, adding that last year’s attendance and temperature both were a bit higher. Adoptive homes were found for a couple of dogs Saturday, Knutsen said, adding that potential changes in coming years include adding more vendors and including more participatory events.



Staff photos by Brian Sandford
Above, Jade Hanson, 13, goes barking up the wrong side of the tube as dog Presley exits on the other side. The tube was in the Paws 4 Fun dog-agility area in the Four Seasons Centre, where the second Bark & Rec event was held. At right, Brian Bruzek, a member of The Far-Out K9 Flying Disc Experience, performs tricks with his dog Dougal. **More photos, Page 6D.**

Outside the center, members of a Twin Cities-based group billing itself The Far-Out K9 Flying Disc Experience tossed Frisbees to their K9 companions amid a backdrop of psychedelic music while Mickey Bruzek emceed. First up in the noon show were Eva Muenker of Stillwater and her dog Gusto. Gusto proved to be an appropriate name, given the windy conditions. It was “not as good as I wanted it to be, but for the conditions today, it was good,” Muenker said.

Next up was Terry Kennedy-Lares of Hastings and his dog Dougal, a border collie mix. He said he got into organized Frisbee events after neighbors saw him playing with his dog and thought they both were naturals. Bruzek said her group began just a few months ago, and that its members have met numerous people through their sport. “It’s a riot,” she said. “Our dogs are the greatest things ever.”



Munchkin Market features younger crowd

Event involves sellers ages 6-15, entertainment

By BRIAN SANDFORD
News Editor

After the friendly and freewheeling Bark & Rec show dissipated across the atrium at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna, Steele County-area youths got down to business. Students and their family members staffed 40 tables in the center’s second-largest room for the second Munchkin Market sale, which once again was timed to coincide with its canine-focused cousin. Bark & Rec ran from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the sale was set to run from 1-4. Last year, the two events ran on consecutive days, said Owatonna Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant Nikki Callahan. The event, which featured sellers ages 6-15 began with storytelling in front of the room featuring Owatonna Public Library children’s librarian Darla Lager. Lager’s expressive yarn-spinning echoed through the room, making an audience both of youths sitting near her and those playing their goods farther away. Her appearance was followed by a performance by girls with the Owatonna-based Jill Hoggard Academy of Dance, each of whom was introduced individually. Camp Pillsbury and the Tadpole Parade Band were set to be featured later during the sale. At one of the booths, Willow Creek Elementary School student Talus Meyer, 12, stood ready to make a sale. The Monopoly fan has enough versions of the game to spare a couple, and he was selling them for \$5 each.



Staff photo by Brian Sandford
Talus Meyer, 12, sold board games at Saturday’s Munchkin Market sale.

McKinley Elementary School student Isabella Kautin, 10, said puppets were her favorite item she was selling. Her grandmother, Shirley Smith, said the two also participated in the Munchkin Market last year. Callahan said the sale was her idea. She said she’d like to add more local entertainment to the sale in coming years, and perhaps include adult vendors. Why have a sale featuring young people? “I’ve seen kids out there wanting to earn money, and they like to buy their own things,” she said. “The whole thing was to get kids out here who are obviously young enough that they can’t get a real job, so they can sell their stuff and learn customer service.”

Weekly crossword on Page 7D

	P	R	O	M	P	T			A	A	R	E
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J	A	M	E	S	C	A	M	E	R	O	N	R
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Steele historical society’s plant sale set for May 16

The Steele County Historical Society will host a vintage and perennial plant sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Village of Yesteryear Carriage House, 1448 Austin Road, Owatonna. SCHS director Laura Resler stated in a news release, “After taking last year off, we’re looking forward to having the sale this year. It is a great time to be planning

for your yard and garden, and also looking for some new treasures to enjoy.” Any item except clothing and books will be accepted. It is asked that donated items are priced before being brought to the historical society. Those donating are asked to call 507-451-1420 before coming so that arrangements can be made to help unload donations.

“If you are bringing plants, please wait until a couple of days before the sale so that they remain in good condition,” Resler said. The sale will be set up on the south side of the village between the Carriage House and print shop. To make a donation or for more information, call the SCHS office at 507-451-1420.

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.

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OwatonnaLiving

Students do their part on Earth Day

PHOTOS BY SHANNON KINLEY | COUNTY STAFF WRITER

Lincoln Elementary



Second-graders at Lincoln Elementary School teamed with volunteers from Kohl's on Earth Day to clean up the school grounds and spruce up the garden and landscaped areas to open the gardens for the season.

Medford Elementary



In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, sixth-graders at Medford Elementary prepared 600 trees for students in preschool through sixth grade to take home and plant in a spot of their choosing. The trees were courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit conservation and education organization that aims to inspire people to plant, celebrate and nurture trees.



Washington Elementary



Green Team members at Washington Elementary Josaphine Nguyen (left), Hailey Kjersten, Cassie Emmons and Jewell Nichols film a video for their classmates to watch on Earth Day about the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle. The video is about Scroogella, who hates Earth Day and doesn't want a Green Team until she realizes how important it is.

Wilson Elementary



First-grader Laraya Born finds a piece of Styrofoam to throw away during her search. Students at Wilson Elementary School picked up trash around the school and Leo Rudolph Park on Earth Day.

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Medford



Kindergartener James Wegner and first-grader Avery Breyen slide a rug around the circle five times as fast as they can, then calculate their pulse.



Fifth-graders Elizabeth Peterson and Piper Hill play a card game while trying to solve math terms, such as determining means and medians and finding which numbers are greater than others.



Speech/language pathologist Ruth Verschaetse helps fourth-grader Andrea Bock calculate how far she jumped to compare it with her prediction.

PHOTOS BY SHANNON KINLEY | STAFF WRITER



Fourth-grader Reagan Sutherland rolled a die to see what jump-rope trick she would have to do and how many times she would have to do it.

MATH

NIGHT

Students and their parents got a chance to participate in the fourth annual Math Night put on at Medford School on Monday, April 13. At the one-hour event parents were strongly encouraged to participate with their children in the 21 activities set up around the school, including block tower racing, word problems, dice roll, decimal derby, battleship, a jumping contest, pulse measurements and card masters.



Kindergartener Quinn Gare dribbles the ball through cones while adding up the numbers on the cones as he passes.



Above left, fourth-grader Tyler Steffen (left) and fifth-grader Jackson Hemann play a round of “Battleship” using numbers and letters. Below left, 4-year-old Grace McAdams (left), preschooler Hailey McAdams and second-grader Emma McAdams play a dice game. Right, third-grader Hunter Perdue and his mother, Erin, practice counting by twos, threes and fours while passing the basketball back and forth.



What are rules for small farm trailers having to register?

Question: What is the law with small farm trailers being exempt from registration? I heard something about a 10,000-pound limit when being pulled by a regular motor vehicle (not a farm tractor), but I want to know the facts. A neighbor-friend of mine got ticketed for no Minnesota registration for hauling a lot less weight than that on his farm trailer being pulled with a pickup truck, but he thought he was exempt. He was helping me haul some large, old household items to the dump with it, so I kind of feel partially responsible. Thanks for whatever information you can provide.

Answer: Many types of trailers are exempt from registration, but I am sure that what you are referring to is found in M.S.S. 168.012, Subdivision 2a: "Farm trailers with a gross weight of less than 10,000 pounds, drawn by a passenger automobile or farm truck and used exclusively for transporting agricultural products from farm to farm and to and from the usual marketplace of the owner, shall not be taxed as motor vehicles using the public streets and highways and shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter."

The reason your neighbor was cited for not having registration is because of the part of the law that says: "...and used exclusively for transporting agricultural products from farm to farm and to and from the usual marketplace

ASK A TROOPER



Troy Christianson

of the owner..." Because he was hauling something other than that, he was no longer exempt and had to comply with normal trailer requirements, including registration. The officer probably mentioned this to your friend, who also could have possibly received other violation charges related to the trailer as well.

I hope this information clears it up for you. If anyone is getting cited by an officer for something and you don't understand something about the violation, just ask the officer to clarify the situation for you. A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th St. NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. Or reach him at Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us via email and MSPPIO_SOUTH on Twitter.



Chris Wacek, a Blooming Prairie High School junior, and senior Amy Bullion provide students tips about dealing with a grain wagon last year. Many types of trailers are exempt from having to be registered in Minnesota.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Most Minnesota crops conditions showed improvement during the past week. The US Department of Agriculture says that only potato and hay conditions showed a slight decline. Corn conditions are 64% good to excellent while soybeans are 62% good to excellent. Fifty percent of the spring wheat crop is in good to excellent condition. Oat conditions are 66% good to excellent while sugar beets are 21% good to excellent. There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork, giving farmers time to apply herbicides and harvest the second cutting of alfalfa hay. Soil moisture continues to be high after all the rain. Topsoil moisture is rated 78% adequate and 21% surplus statewide, while subsoil moisture is rated 75% adequate and 23% surplus.



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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Brian Sandford

Munchkin Market

Owatonna's Munchkin Market is the first of many events that will be held on weekend's throughout Steele County during the summer

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MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.

-BEAN BAG LEAGUE:
MAY - AUG. THUR. NIGHTS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

April 28:

Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. P&Z Brd Mtg

April 29:

10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

May 4:

7 p.m. BPWT General Mtg, Lutheran Church

May 5:

7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star

May 6:

10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club

Servicemen's Club

210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

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

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS

#1 CHICKEN BACON SWISS
SANDWICH WITH SIDE SALAD
#2 CHEESY POTATO SOUP

LUNCH SPECIAL (4/30 & 5/1):

CHICKEN SALAD CROISSANT
WITH CHIPS

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

April 28:

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

April 29:

NRHEG Parent Teacher Conference

April 30:

5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

May 2:

Ellendale City-Wide Clean-Up Day

May 4:

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

May 5:

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



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IN BRIEF

Improvisational comedy at OAC

The Owatonna Arts Center will host an evening of Improvisational comedy with "Spontaneous Productions," 7:30 p.m., May 2 in the Performing Arts Hall.

The comedic company consists of Buddy Ricker, David Langer, Jon Langer and Alex Adamson.

Tickets are \$10 dollars for Arts Center Members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at the Arts Center, Kottke's and at the door.

OWATONNA

April 28:

Wilson Spring Concert

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

4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office

5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall

6 p.m. Steele Co Commission

7 p.m. Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR

April 30:

6 p.m. Willow Creek Inter School Family Festival

6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time

7 p.m. Owa Washington Spring Concert

May 1:

Big 9 Music Festival, OHS

May 2:

Steele County Humane Society Spay & Neuter Clinic

May 4:

OHS Conferences

12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club

1 p.m. Owatonna, Woman's Club bridge group, SeniorPlace

7 p.m. OJHS Instrumental Concert

May 5:

ALC Conferences

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

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MEDFORD

April 30:

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

May 4:

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

May 5:

7 p.m. Medford Park Brd

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IN BRIEF

Engaged 4 Life

Engaged 4 Life, formerly the Senior and Caregiver Expo, will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

The keynote speaker is Jennifer West from Family Means. She will be presenting on "As you age - what should you be telling your family - so they get it right"!

A new location, new time, a great keynote, and a variety of vendor booths that will provide helpful information, health screenings and demonstrations.



SPOT LIGHT

Litomysl's final picnic

St. Isidore's School- Holy Trinity in Litomysl will have its final farewell to honor all the memories and people who have been a part of St. Isidore School's history on May 17.

It will start with a mass celebration by Bishop Quinn and includes a social hour, bounce house and school tours, lunch and a final spring concert and play.

For more information contact Monica Anderson at 507-363-01809.

OTHER COUNTIES

April 28:

LeRoy-Ostrander State FFA Convention

Adams SD 7th Grd Eagle Bluff Trip

9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg

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

April 29:

Adams SD 7th Grd Eagle Bluff Trip

11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library

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

12 p.m. 2015 Ladies' Floral Club Book Luncheon, Hormel Historic Home

2 p.m. Minnesota Soldiers in the Spanish

American War/Philippine Insurrection, Mower

County Senior Center

6:30 p.m. GMHS Adult Volleyball, Gym

April 30:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

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

5:30 p.m. Watercolor Journaling, Austin ArtWorks Center

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

7:30 p.m. Legally Blonde - The Musical, Riverland Community College

May 1:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

MN Junior Spring Classic Beef Show, Mower County Fairgrounds

10 a.m. Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library

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

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

5 p.m. 3rd Annual Power of the Palate, Austin Country Club

7:30 p.m. Legally Blonde - The Musical, Riverland Community College

May 2:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

MN Junior Spring Classic Beef Show, Mower County Fairgrounds

LeRoy-Ostrander Prom

8 a.m. Austin City-Wide Rummage Sale

9 a.m. 16th Annual Women's Health Care Symposium, Hormel Historic Home

9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market

9 a.m. Masonic Pancake Feed, Austin Masonic Lodge

9 a.m. Salvation Army Multi-Sale, Austin Salvation Army

9 a.m. YMCA Annual 5K Run/Walk, Austin

10 a.m. 3D Archery Shoots, Cedar River Archery Club, Austin

10 a.m. Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library

1 p.m. Farmers Market, Brownsdale

6 p.m. Driller MMA Cage Fights, Austin Holiday Inn

7:30 p.m. AHS Prom

7:30 p.m. Legally Blonde - The Musical, Riverland Community College

May 3:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

MN Junior Spring Classic Beef Show, Mower County Fairgrounds

12 p.m. 3D Archery Shoot, Cedar River Archery Club, Austin

1 p.m. Friends-Only "Tree and Spring Ephemeral Plant Hike", Jay C Hormel Nature Center

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

2 p.m. Legally Blonde - The Musical, Riverland Community College

May 4:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

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

4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market

7 p.m. Brownsdale City Council Mtg

May 5:

Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

LeRoy-Ostrander FFA Adopt-A-Hwy



Blooming Prairie

800-248-3855

www.minimizer.com

NRHEG Honor Roll



9th Grade



Photos by Alan Van Ormer
10th Grade



11th Grade



12th Grade

A Honor Roll

Grade 9

Brianna Anderson
Randall Anhalt
Samiha Blowers
Evan Dobberstein
Michelle Katzung
Benjamin Lundberg
Payton Misgen
Justin Mortensen
Carma Pederson
Kyra Possin
Emily Prigge
Makenzi Rhoades
Betsy Schoenrock
Solveig Stafford
Christopher Stenzel
Nathaniel Techau
Emma Tollefson
Tali Wayne

Grade 10

Chad Agrimson
Oakley Baker
Rachel Collins
Grace Johns
Maurya Johnson
Jennifer McKay

Lacey Nelson
Samuel Prigge
Cynthia Quezada
Nora Retallick
Jack Schultz
Kallie Spooner
Maci Surat

Grade 11

Anna Bailey
Abby Christopherson
Nicole Eden
Lizzy Hagen
Cole Ignaszewski
Katharine Lewer
Anna Lundberg
Whitney McCarmish
Marissa Mortenson
Jessica Nafe
Clayton Nelson
Corrie Powell
Tyler Schlaak
Hailey Schuller
Torrie Stencil
Taylor Tieskotter
Nicole Wallin

Grade 12

Dylan Arnold
Nicholas Bartness
Brady Beenken
Brittany Blaschko
Lydia Culver
Alyssa Esplan
Karina Gaona
Colton Hagen
Ryann Hagen
Kaylee Hanson
Jade Hill
Kevin Kalis
Logan Knutson
Grant Kylo
Jake Langlie
Melissa Malakowsy
Samuel Morgan
Jordan Mueller
Andrew O'Brien
Sandra Quezada
Shanna Stecel
Anna Stork
Aurora Strom
Kelson Titus
Trevor Tracy

B Honor Roll

Grade 9

Lillian Bell
Cole Broitzman
Emily Crabtree
Katelyn Crabtree
Christian Ferris
Natalia Galindo
Kelly Harden
Caleb Harpel
Lauren Herrman
Kaleb Johnson
Landon Johnson
Brett Kubiawicz
Kylie Lembke
Benjamin Lewer
Jason Malakowsky
Renee McNett
Sadie Mortenson
Jokoby Mulder
Noah Nielson
Aaron Olson
Chancellor Olson
Nikita Peterson
Kollin Reese
Cole Staloch
Brendon Strand

Cole Thompson
Jarret Utpadel
Erin Wilgen

Grade 10

Natalie Aaseth
Kayley Camerer
Mercedes Dickerson
Joshua Fleming
Luis Gaona
Jacob Holz
Jillian Jongbloedt
Madison Martin
Elizabeth Nelson
Tyler Raimann
Gretchen Ramaker
Jordan Rogne
Cecelia Torp
Madison Wagner
Marnie Wagner
Mitchell Westrum
Benjamin Witikko

Grade 11

Trevor Beckstand
Bailey Burg
Emily Eder
Zeke Erickson
Jorey Fischer
Lucas Herrman
Destiny Hill
Garrett Kylo
Grace Logan
Elijah Lutgens
Luke Overgaard
Marshall Pederson
Cordall Peterson
Christian Schiltz
Nicholas Schultz
Kayanna Wibben

Grade 12

Annaliese Barry
Amy Beckstrand
Jamie Beckstrand
Angela Galindo
Brittanie Helton
Kyle Holz
Matthew Jenson

Blanca Kohnert
Kameron Kozirolek
Kasandra Kozirolek
Cole Lenort
Anita Maloney
Keith Maxon
Alex Merritt
Haylie Mosher
Hudson Mrotz
Keely Mulder
Brandon Nicholson
Kristen Pagni
Kristina Palmer
Jade Peterson
Mikayla Pope
Macy Schwierjohann
Andrew Shutrop
Cassidy Sletten
Kiel Sletten
Dustin Sonnek
Zachary Stenzel
Dakota Thiele
Spencer Tollefson
Jet Wayne
Remi Wayne

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Legal Notices

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/31,4/7,4/14
4/21,4/28,5/5

Foreclosure

15-099605

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 13, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$139,500.00

Foreclosure

15-099605

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: June 12, 2003
MORTGAGOR: Nathaniel D. Kilwine, a single man.
MORTGAGEE: American Residential Mortgage, LP.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 17, 2003 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A 311767.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
successor by merger Chase Home Finance, LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation.
Dated June 12, 2003 Recorded June 17, 2003, as Document No. A 311768.
TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Residential Mortgage, LP
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

Foreclosure

15-099605

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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MORTGAGOR: Nathaniel D. Kilwine, a single man.
MORTGAGEE: American Residential Mortgage, LP.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 17, 2003 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A 311767.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
successor by merger Chase Home Finance, LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation.
Dated June 12, 2003 Recorded June 17, 2003, as Document No. A 311768.
TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Residential Mortgage, LP
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

Foreclosure

15-099605

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 17, 2003 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A 311767.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
successor by merger Chase Home Finance, LLC successor by merger to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation.
Dated June 12, 2003 Recorded June 17, 2003, as Document No. A 311768.
TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Residential Mortgage, LP
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

Estate

4/28,5/5

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

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Co-Personal Representatives 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 Co-Personal Representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 2015.04.09

BY THE COURT
Joseph A Bueltel

Judge of District Court
Dated: Apr 10 2015

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

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

4/21,4/28

Estate

4/28,5/5

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

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 26, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, February 2, 1989, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Kimberly A. Busho and Diane M. Bohlman, whose addresses are 3100 SE 168th St., Ellendale, MN, 56026 and 2200 NE 3rd Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060, respectively, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Co-Personal Representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 04.17.2015

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

4/28, 5/5

Estate

4/28, 5/5

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

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 12, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, September 13, 2012, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Lee Roy Resler and Kathleen M. Shaw, whose addresses are 700 Willow Brooke Drive, Owatonna, MN 55060 and 1998 Woodcrest Drive NE, Owatonna, MN 55060, respectively, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!

STEELE COUNTY Times

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Vietnam vets to get a hero’s welcome, 40 years later

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

They may have never received a hero’s welcome back home after fighting, but it’s never too late to spread some honor. That’s how the American Legion and VFW clubs of Blooming Prairie feel about Vietnam veterans as the groups plan a 40th anniversary observance of the end of the Vietnam War. The program will take place Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the BP Servicemen’s Club in

Blooming Prairie. A free meal will be offered to all Vietnam vets and their wives. Kenny Trom, one of the organizers of the event, feels bad for the Vietnam vets because “they never got treated as well as the other wars.” He said the Vietnam War was one of the most unpopular and misunderstood wars in American history. Trom said what led to the misunderstanding is that nobody ever really knew why America got involved in the battle in the first place. “It was a jumbled up deal,”

IF YOU GO

What: Vietnam War observance, with a free meal for Vietnam-era veterans
When: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29
Where: BP Servicemen’s Club

he added. The Vietnam battle was fought from

1961 to 1975 and more than 58,000 troops were killed. Trom recalls hearing stories about how the Vietnam vets were mistreated were when they came home from the war. “People spit on their uniforms and cursed at them,” he said. Said Trom: “They are just as much veterans as the rest of us. They answered the call.” At Wednesday night’s observance, Vietnam vets will be allowed to share their war stories. “It’s a good opportunity for these guys to talk about it,” said

Trom, who served in the Korean War in the 1950s. Trom said it’s important to honor all veterans no matter what battle they fought in. “It’s just good to remind society that it was a hell of a fight to keep what we have here,” he said, noting all Americans should be concerned about any threat to their freedom. A similar observance is planned for World War II veterans marking the 70th anniversary on Aug. 14.

Volunteers save state more than \$7 million

Even through Earth Day has passed, there are many opportunities for southeastern Minnesota residents to do their part to keep their communities clean. On state highways, there are open segments available for volunteers to clean up trash. Statewide volunteers helping with the Adopt a Highway program picked up 970,000 pounds — more than 100 dump truck loads — of litter in 2014, saving the state an estimated \$7 million, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. In southeastern Minnesota there are 663 volunteer groups who help clean the highways. But there are still opportunities to adopt a highway. There are 61 segments available in southeastern Minnesota. The Adopt a Highway program is staffed by more than 48,000 volunteers representing schools, businesses, non-profits, families and individuals who are helping to clean up more than 10,000 linear miles of Minnesota’s highways.

Many of the volunteer groups have been picking up trash since the program began in 1990. In 2014, volunteers spent more than 190,000 hours cleaning up Minnesota’s roadways. “They volunteer to pick up for many reasons, most take great pride in keeping our highways clean and beautiful,” said Ernest Lloyd, Adopt a Highway program administrator. “Because of volunteers’ contributions, our crews can spend more time on crucial elements of highway safety. They can fix potholes and work on guardrail repair.”

Even with these great efforts, MnDOT is looking for more volunteers to help with this public service campaign, Lloyd said. To become part of the program, the volunteer groups agree to:

- Select a segment of highway approximately two miles in length
 - Pick up litter on both sides of the highway
 - Pick up litter as often as needed from spring through fall, usually two to three times
- MnDOT provides a safety video, trash bags for cleanup and safety vests for each volunteer. The high-visibility color and reflective tape make litter crews more visible to passing motorists.

After the group completes its cleanup, MnDOT crews pick up the filled bags and large, heavy or hazardous items from the roadside. State workers, not volunteers, are responsible for litter pickup along the interstate.

Another Adopt a Highway option is “Pick A Highway,” which allows an individual, family, business or group the option of trying out the program with a one-time pickup of litter along an unadopted section of state highway.

Those interested in participating in the program can visit www.mndot.gov/adopt/contacts.html for local contact information.

In southeastern Minnesota, interested volunteers can contact MnDOT’s offices in Owatonna or Rochester to learn which segments are available. Call 507-446-5500 in Owatonna and 507-286-7500 in Rochester.



Eva Muenker of Stillwater plays Frisbee with her dog Gusto at Saturday’s Bark & Rec event at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna.

Staff photos by Brian Sandford



Straw bale gardening session May 5 at BP Council Chambers

Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

Please join us on Tuesday, May 5 at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to learn about straw bale gardening. Joel Karsten, author of the book Straw Bale Gardens, will be here to explain this new type of gardening that requires no soil and no weeding. Born and raised on a tree nursery and crop farm in Southwestern Minnesota, Joel has been planting and harvesting every season he

remembers being alive! He

holds a Bachelor of Science from the U of MN in Horticulture Science and is also a Certified Nursery Professional through the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association. Growing a successful vegetable garden is difficult enough if you have terrific soil to plant your garden into, but with poor soils it can be virtually impossible. Straw Bale Gardening allows anyone, even those with the worst soil

conditions, to grow a terrific garden that is productive and much less labor intensive. For anyone with difficulties bending over or doing the heavy work that is usually involved in turning the soil and digging to plant and harvest crops, the raised height of the Straw Bale Garden makes those chores obsolete. Weeding will also become a thing of the past, there are no weeds in a Straw Bale Garden.

If you cannot attend during the day, Joel will also be presenting this program at the Owatonna Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5. Also, don’t forget to peruse our other books on gardening, both vegetables and flowers. In addition, we have magazines such as Mother Earth News, Birds & Blooms, Organic Gardening, and Hobby Farms that will give you even more ideas. See you at the library!

Employment CONNECTION

60-Second Guide to Hiring the Right People

0:60 Define the Duties.
To find promising employees, you must first determine what you want them to do. Carefully consider all direct and associated responsibilities and incorporate them into a written job description. Be careful with general titles such as typist or sales clerk, as they have different meanings to different people.

0:49 .and What it Takes to do Them
Fulfilling these responsibilities will require some level of skill and experience, even if it is an entry-level position. Be reasonable about your expectations. Setting the bar too high may limit your available talent pool; setting it too low risks a flood of applications from those unqualified for the job.

0:37 Make it Worth their While
Likewise, you don't want to be overly generous or restrictive about compensation. State and local chambers of commerce, employment bureaus and professional associations can help you determine appropriate wages and benefits. Scanning descriptions of comparable jobs in the classified ads and other employment publications

will also provide clues about prevailing wage rates.

0:38 Spread the Word
How you advertise your job opening depends on who you want to attract. Some positions are as easy to promote as posting a "help wanted" sign in your store window or placing an ad in your local newspaper. For jobs requiring more specialized skills, consider targeted channels such as trade magazines, on-line job banks and employment

agencies (though these may require a fee). And don't overlook sources such as friends, neighbors, suppliers customers and present employees.

0:25 Talk it Over
Because you have clearly defined the role and requirements, you should have little difficulty identifying candidates for interviews. Make sure you schedule them when you have ample time

to review the resume, prepare your questions and give the candidate your undivided attention. After the interview, jot down any impressions or key points while they're still fresh in your mind. This will be a valuable reference when it's time to make a decision.

0:12 Follow-up on Interviews
You want to believe your candidates are being honest, but never assume. Contact references to make sure you're getting the facts or to clear up any uncertainties. Professional background checks are a wise investment for highly sensitive positions, or those that involve handling substantial amounts of money and valuables.

0:03 You've Found Them; Now Keep Them
Now that you've hired ideal employees, make sure they stay with you by providing training and professional development opportunities. The small business experts at SCORE can help you craft human resource policies and incentive plans that will ensure your company remains the small business employer of choice.

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Central Valley Co-op in Owatonna, MN currently has a full-time IT Support Specialist position available. This individual will provide technical support and guidance to all system users while driving continuous improvement of the company IT infrastructure.

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Contact 507-451-1296 x11 for more information



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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: November 30, 2009 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$170,176.95 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 175940313 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover

the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 16, 2015 at 10:00 am PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 23, 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 (14-1898-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2

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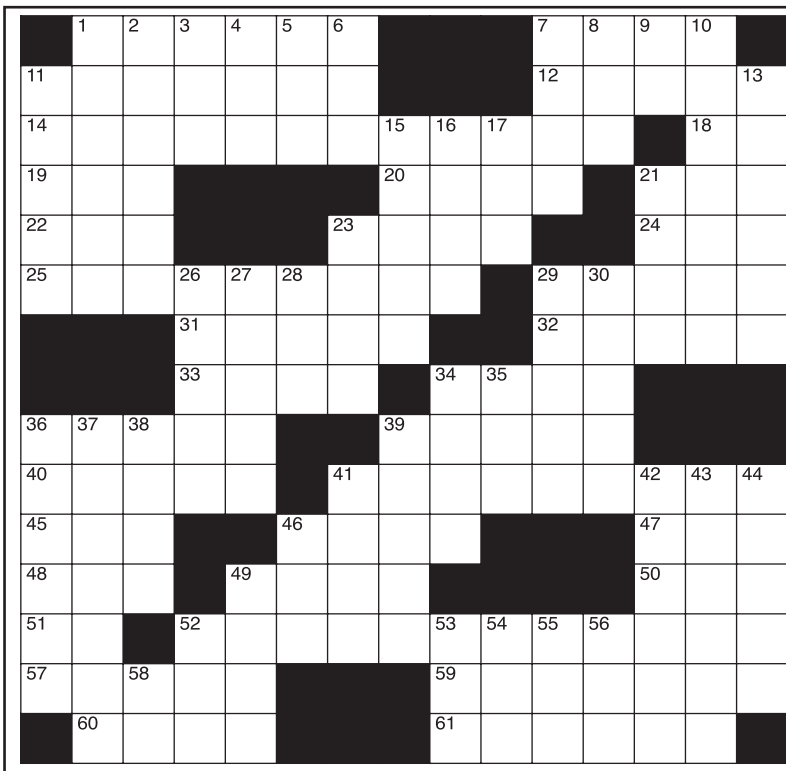
Answers on Page 6C

CLUES ACROSS

- On time
- Swiss river
- Maine river herring
- In a way, waits
- "Titanic" director
- The Ocean State
- Black tropical Am. cuckoo
- Macaws
- A transgression of God's will
- Belonging to a thing
- Mures River city
- Electroencephalography
- Puts together
- Sound practical judgment
- Pops
- In a way, assists
- One and only
- Prong
- More wise

CLUES DOWN

- Sows a crop
- Derelect
- Be indebted
- Prefix meaning wrong
- Beginning military rank
- Afternoon meal
- American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
- Own (Scottish)
- Rural delivery
- Most supernatural
- Roseate spoonbill genus
- One who propagates
- Got up
- Writers of news stories
- Pianist Cliburn
- Hindu mother goddess
- Insures residential mortgages
- Non-human primate
- Of sound mind
- Ficus fruit
- Sodium
- BOGO
- Pulsating ache
- Short open jackets
- Genus Quercus trees
- N.O. football team



- Jima, WW II battlefield
- Learned person or scholar
- East Colorado Native Americans
- No longer here
- 1995 Brad Pitt movie
- Gambling town
- An earnest attempt
- Odd-toed ungulates
- Profoundly wise persons

- Sunrise to sunset
- Poor boys
- Chinese cabbage, ___ choy
- Point that is one point S of due E
- Tibetan gazelle
- Lilly, drug company
- Hamilton appears on it
- Egyptian sun god

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Pillows cleaner than a whistle

More than 30 people brought pillows to First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. Mike Carlson of Carlson Pillow Service in Willmar, at right, takes an order from First Lutheran parishioner Tom Peterson. Funds are used to buy kitchen wares.



Want to learn more about your bike and safe bicycling? Attend Traffic Skills 101

This traffic skills course gives cyclists the confidence they need to ride safe and legally in traffic or on the trail. The course covers bicycle safety checks, fixing a flat, on-bike skills and crash avoidance techniques and includes a student manual. Recommended for adults and children above age fourteen, this fast-paced course prepares cyclists for a full understanding of vehicular cycling. Traffic Skills 101 is a nine-hour multi-day course and is a prerequisite to becoming a Licensed Cycling Instructor (LCI).

Cost is \$10 for Saturday's lunch. You may bring your own meal on Friday night. The class itself is FREE (\$50 regularly) thanks to SHIP - the Statewide Health Improvement Program through Steele County Public Health. Dress comfortably and be prepared for two 4-6 mile rides on Saturday. Bicycle may be securely stored overnight at the Chalet.

Must attend both dates
A bicycle helmet is required.

City Hall
138 Hwy. Ave S., Blooming Prairie
Friday, May 8 • 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,
Saturday, May 9 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Morehouse Park Chalet
350 School Street, Owatonna
Friday, May 15 • 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Registration Link
bikemn.org/education/courses/traffic-skills-101

Class is taught by Licensed Cycling Instructors (LCI)
Registration closes one week before the class starts



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