



# Ellendale council keeps sheriff's contract

By BRIAN SANDFORD  
News Editor

Ellendale will maintain its contract for daily coverage with the Steele County Sheriff's Office, and the City Council's vote on the issue wasn't close.

Mayor Mark Skroch voted Thursday night in favor of his own proposal to cancel the 35-year-old pact for 2.7 hours of dedicated coverage a day, which cost the city \$41,000 last year. The other four council members all voted against, with Scott Groth and Stephanie Lageson Kibler saying their votes reflected at least some of the feedback they'd re-

ceived.

"I've heard quite a bit both ways myself," Groth said in comments before the vote. "I guess the one that really sticks with me is that people at the school would really like to see (the contract) kept. Of course, \$41,000 could never replace a kid."

Groth added that he'd heard from a few people who wanted to cancel the service because they'd like to drive home



Skroch



Thiele

from the liquor store without concern about being pulled over on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Kibler had missed the previous council meeting, prompting Skroch to delay a vote until all five members were present.

"I was at a conference in the Cities and talked to county commissioners in several rural counties who felt this was a necessity for any small city, to have a police presence," she said, adding that

she'd heard an analogy there suggesting that having police presence is like being vaccinated against unwanted intrusions.

Council members Dick Lassahn and Duane Goebel didn't offer comments before the vote, which came near the end of the meeting. Skroch began the meeting with comments echoing those he'd made at previous meetings about the lack of similar law enforcement agreements in neighboring counties; rising taxes; and other areas in which the money could be spent, such as on the community building and park.

## ELLENDALE VOTE

Continued on Page 6A

**WARNING:  
ROAD WORK  
AHEAD**

## Flagging set countywide, and Blooming Prairie Main Street work is near

By BRIAN SANDFORD  
News Editor

Work on Blooming Prairie's Main Street this summer is estimated to cost the city \$1,068,254 and Steele County \$2,736,980, but business owners and residents might end up paying a different kind of price.

Work is set to begin May 4 on the street east of U.S. Highway 218, which won't affect businesses. That will change after July 4, when crews will begin work on a stretch of the road in and near downtown. The second phase of work starts later to accommodate community events, said Steele County Administrator Anita Benson.



Jones

Work is estimated to last three months, depending heavily on how well the weather cooperates, City Administrator Mike Jones said. Steele County is paying to replace driving lanes, curbs, gutters and the sidewalk; the city is required to pay to replace parking lanes. Jones said he isn't sure yet how much of the city's cost will be mitigated by the 0.5 percent sales-tax increase that took effect April 1.

The project is the first large-scale construction on the stretch of road since the 1930s, Jones said. It's the largest such project since 2005, when the city rebuilt Third Street North following a major flood the previous summer, prompting a federal disaster declaration.

The Third Street project included work on a stormwater-retention pond, new water mains, a new sewer line and new black-top, curbs and gutters.

"Third Street was our first major reconstruction, so this will be our second large reconstruction project," Jones said.

## MAIN STREET

Continued on Page 3A



Cars line both sides of Main Street in Blooming Prairie recently. Construction is set to begin after July 4 on this stretch of road, disrupting traffic and potentially affecting businesses.

Staff photo by Brian Sandford

## WHAT'S NEXT IN BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Main Street construction is set to begin May 4 with work east of U.S. Highway 218. The city awarded the winning bid to Elcor Construction at Monday's City Council meeting. A public hearing about the project is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. May 11 at City Hall. Now that the contract has been awarded, Steele County representatives will meet with the contractor, said Administrator Anita Benson. "At that point they will be submitting their schedules, (which) will better inform the community on what to expect," she said.

By ALAN VAN ORMER

Managing Editor

## Work could begin at Owatonna next week

If warm and dry weather continues, traffic will be switching along Interstate 35 in Owatonna next week. This signals the start of another construction season in Steele County and across the state.

Several road projects will be completed this year including along I-35 and Highway 14, as well as the rest of the Medford project. In addition, construction season will include a major Blooming Prairie Main Street project that starts in July.

There is a list of 290 transportation construction projects that will be completed. They include preserving and maintaining state highways, bridges and other transportation infrastructure.

When the construction season is completed this year in Steele County, there will be a smoother and better traffic flow on state highways, Minnesota Department of Transporta-

tion (MnDOT) District public affairs/community relations manager Mike Dougherty said.

"We always warn folks to look for delays, especially on weekends," he said.

The time frame is between Friday afternoon and Friday evening, when traffic is heavy for the weekend, and between Sunday afternoon and Sunday evening, when it is coming back from the weekend.

"It has such a high traffic hauling for our area," he said. "People need to be prepared to slow down and look for delays."

The I-35 traffic switch will start April 20, weather permitting. Construction crews will move northbound traffic into the southbound lane. Each direction has a single lane, which will be a mirror image of last year but in the opposite direction, Dougherty said.

In mid-May, Dougherty said, the demolition of the bridge over County Road 2 (Hoff-

## STEELE COUNTY

Continued on Page 6A



## Board lashes back

Members say it's time to tell their side of the story

By RICK BUSSLER

Publisher

*Editor's note: Last week the editorial staff of the Times met with several representatives of Westfield Township to get a deeper understanding of the issue facing them regarding the drive by a special interest group to create planning and zoning in the township.*

After months of silence, board members and others representing Westfield Township have had enough and say it's time the public hears the other side of the brewing controversy regarding planning and zoning for the Dodge County township.

The township claims that

## TOWNSHIP

Continued on Page 3A

## Troms amend lawsuit motion

By KAREN JORGENSEN

Staff Writer

An attorney has asked the District Court to let his clients amend their initial complaint in the ongoing lawsuit over feedlots.

James Peters, the attorney for Lowell and Evelyn Trom, asked the court to allow his clients to add a review of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners' amendment of the ordinance dealing with conditional use permits for feedlots.

Peters said the Troms want the court to review the ordinance change, in addition to the already-requested review of the board's granting a conditional use permit to Nick Masching for operation of a feedlot adjacent to the Troms' property.

Peters said his clients maintain that the board's decision

## FEEDLOT LAWSUIT

Continued on Page 3A



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INSIDE

A: 2A ..... OPINIONS  
7A ..... CHURCH PAGE

B: 1B ..... SPORTS

C: 1C ..... HOMETOWN  
6-7C ...OWATONNA

D: 1D ..... FARM LIVING  
5D .... CLASSIFIEDS



# Opinion

### Our view

## Drug, alcohol use can ruin your life

If Doug Hoverkamp screws up just one more time, there is a good chance the 53-year-old will be heading to prison for almost four years. But because of Steele-Waseca Drug Court, he and others are getting a second chance to straighten out their lives.

He has been battling a life of using drugs and alcohol and flatly says he “needs to grow up pretty soon.” And that pretty soon is now.

On the other end of the spectrum, a group of Owatonna High School students involved with a program called Students Helping Others Choose (SHOC) has chosen not to become involved with drinking and drugging. Its mission is to make young students aware of the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol.

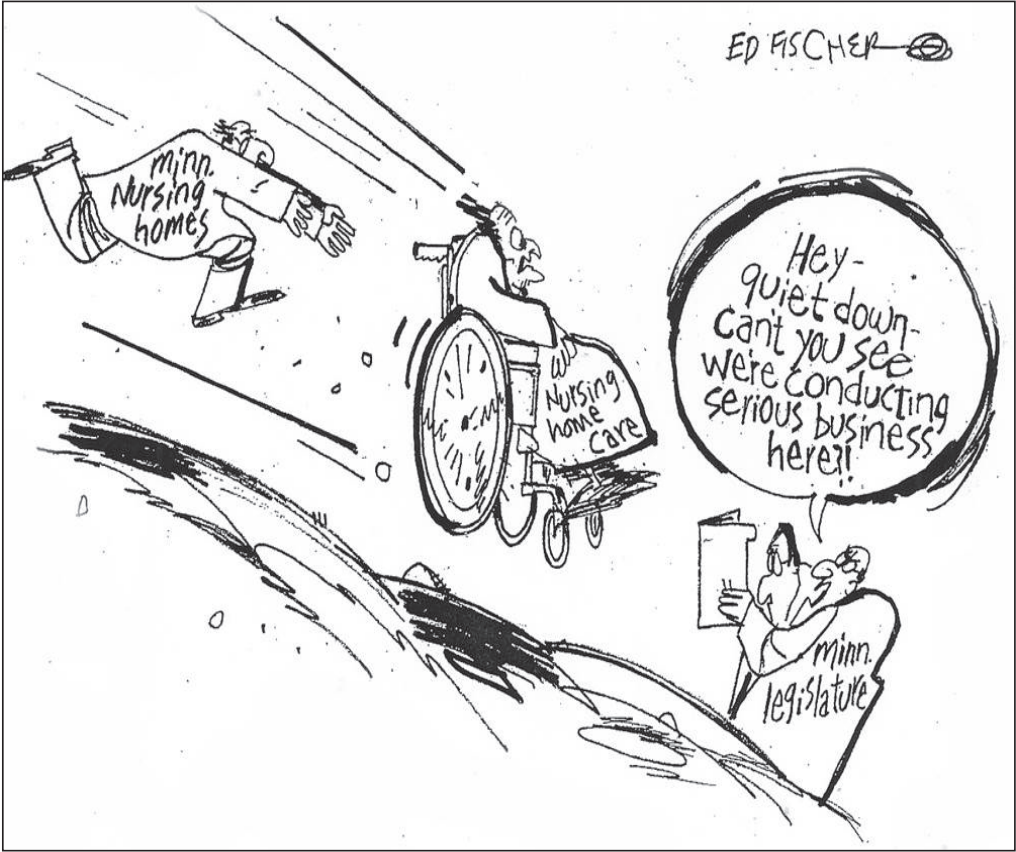
While these two incidents are separate, both tell the ugly story that drugs and alcohol will ruin a person’s life. No question that drugs and alcohol can become an addiction.

Steele-Waseca Drug Court officially started July 1, and now group members are battling their demons each day trying to make a better life for themselves and their loved ones. The program is not easy. It features a four-phase, step-down, progress-based program. They are not getting a pass.

There is no guarantee that any of these people would have gone down a straight path if there were SHOC students talking to them as they were growing up. But there is also a good chance that many would have chosen a different path.

You can find statistics about drugs and alcohol many places. But Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition project coordinator Darren Reed puts it point-blank. If you do drugs or alcohol under the age of 14, there is a 40 percent chance you will become an addict. And Reed should know; he was one of those young people who started drinking at a young age and messed up his life.

Reed was able to straighten his out and make a difference through the Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition. And the hope is organizations such as that, as well as SHOC and Steele-Waseca Drug Court, can continue to make a difference and slow down or even halt the devastating impact of drugs and alcohol in our communities.



## Nothing runs like a Deere

It’s been an icon of American agriculture for decades.

I remember when my eyes lit up when as a toddler I played with toy John Deere tractors and combines. And then in later years I found myself operating real John Deeres on our family farm. I thought I was the coolest kid tooling around in a John Deere.

During his 50-plus years of farming, my dad always operated John Deeres. And even today as I drive around, there is something to be said about those large, green tractors and other equipment rolling along the countryside.

Last week I had the opportunity to tour a John Deere factory in Waterloo, Iowa. There are six Deere factories scattered around Waterloo, and I took in the Engine Works Division. While more than 6,000 people are employed at Deere in Waterloo, the company base is actually in Moline, Illinois.

When the engine factory was built in the mid-1970s, there were 1,500 employees just in that part of the company in Waterloo. Today there are only 500 workers due, in large part, to automation and robots.

During my two-hour tour, I got to see the complete assembly of an engine, which starts out as a 750-pound chunk of metal. It was fascinating to see how few workers are actually involved in the process of

HOT

PURSUIT

Rick Bussler

making engines and how robots work in tandem to create engines to power the largest tractors used by farmers.

After seeing how the engines are built, it’s no wonder John Deere has the slogan of “Nothing Runs Like a Deere.”

Another neat aspect to the John Deere experience is a new museum, which just opened four months ago by downtown Waterloo. The museum showcases John Deere’s rich history, dating to 1837.

The company was founded when John Deere, a blacksmith and inventor, fashioned a polished-steel plow that let pioneer farmers cut clean furrows through sticky Midwest prairie soil. By 1874, more than 50,000 plows were sold.

By 1918, production began on tractors. Deere bought the maker of Waterloo Boy, known as the one-man tractor and the company’s basic product. The first two-cylinder

Waterloo-built tractor, the Model D, came rolling off the factory lines in 1923.

Now, 175 years later, the company that grew out of the success of the innovative plow continues to manufacture advanced equipment to help those who work with the land accomplish their tasks better and more efficiently.

It has become clear to me that John Deere is one of the greatest American success stories of all time. Deere has been willing to embrace many changes over the years. The company has also survived many economic scares, including the Great Depression in the 1930s.

What is especially great to see is how Deere is committed to those who are linked to the land, mostly farmers and ranchers. Deere is dedicated to those who cultivate and harvest the land and for those who transform and enrich the land.

Agriculture is what keeps the world going, and it’s great to see how companies like Deere are doing their part to making that happen.

If you ever get a chance, I encourage you to take a trip to Waterloo to see how Deere continues to play a key role in the world’s future growth. You’ll also get to see how the company goes in hot pursuit of keeping up with its “Nothing Runs Like a Deere” image.

A GLIMPSE OF

STEELE COUNTY

Alan Van Ormer

## Busy road work season is arriving

The bright orange cones along Interstate 35 in Owatonna signify one thing: the start of the summer road construction season in Minnesota and around the country.

And it is going to be a busy road construction season in Steele County. Medford will be completing its work, while Blooming Prairie will be starting a massive main street project after its annual Fourth of July celebration.

Along with that there are five projects involving I-35 and Highway 14. Steele County also has various work of its own going on around the area. At least an estimated \$65 million is being spent on state projects in the area. That doesn’t include the amount being spent on county projects.

Across the state there will be 290 transportation construction projects that Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle and Minnesota Department of Transportation engineers believe will help preserve and maintain state highways, bridges and other transportation infrastructure.

I, for one, am glad to see the road construction starting in order to fix the many rough roads around the area. Many roads need a lot of work, but like anything else it costs money to fix up these roads. The hope is that the state, the county and others will devise a plan to fix more of these roads in the future. The bottom line is that Minnesota roads need improvement.

The construction season also brings headaches for many of the impatient drivers who travel on our roads. Fair warning to travelers: there will be delays around Steele County and across the state, so be prepared and make the necessary arrangements.

Granted, it will be a busy road-construction season, but let’s also make it a safe season for travelers and especially be aware of those who are working on the side of the road.

### Guest column

## Buffer plan must incorporate farmer feedback

By REP. PEGGY BENNETT

Buffer strips have been a hot topic of conversation over the past several weeks at the legislature and in farming community here in Southern Minnesota and across the state. As you may know, buffer strips are patches of land situated between farmland and lakes, rivers, streams, and any other bodies of water. Buffer strips are intended to help prevent runoff to protect water quality.

I’m proud to say that in our district, Freeborn County farmers and the Soil and Water District have done a tremendous job with adding buffer strips and have some of the highest sign-up rates for buffer strips in the nation.

Earlier this year, Governor Dayton surprised many in the farming community by announcing a buffer proposal that would institute a 50 foot buffer around every waterway in the state, a significant expansion over the 16.5 foot buffer required under current law. Many of the farmers and agri-

culture groups I spoke to were disappointed that this plan was announced without any input or discussion from farmers and the larger agriculture community.

Since the proposal was announced, I’ve had conversations and email exchanges with hundreds of farmers who are concerned about this proposal, and held a listening session in Blooming Prairie to hear more feedback.

Farmers share Governor Dayton’s concerns about water quality, and want to be partners in addressing this issue in a sensible way that protects their rights as landowners and improves water quality for our beautiful lakes, rivers, and streams.

It was encouraging to see Governor Dayton come to Austin and Worthington to gather additional feedback. Now that he’s heard from farmers in Southern Minnesota and other parts of the state, it’s my hope he will take what he’s heard and revisit his original proposal.



Bennett

Some of the questions and suggestions that I heard from those who attend my listening session include flexibility and differentiating between buffers for drainage ditches and buffers for lakes, rivers, and streams, as well as ensuring that any change to the buffer law is supported by research, and not an arbitrary number picked out of mid-air.

Farmers also have a right to be concerned about the potential loss of hundreds of acres of good farmland, and they deserve to be compensated in some way to make up for that loss. I hope this issue is addressed as any buffer plan moves forward.

Many farmers and citizens are concerned about adding bureaucracy at the DNR to help enforce any new buffer laws, and the potential added cost to taxpayers. They hope that existing and future

**BENNETT COLUMN**  
Continued on Page 3A

Weigh in with our online poll at [www.steeledodgenews.com](http://www.steeledodgenews.com)

This week’s question:

Have you or someone you know been affected adversely by drugs or alcohol?

Yes, I’ve had struggles now or in the past. 50%

Yes, I know someone who’s had issues. 13%

No, I haven’t seen the effects up close. 38%

Last week’s question:

Will you visit the Vikings’ new stadium and view its Viracon-made glass?

\* Yes, I’m looking forward to seeing the design. 50%

\* No, I’m not a fan. 13%

\* No, tickets are too expensive. 38%

*Readers are encouraged to vote at [steeledodgenews.com](http://steeledodgenews.com). This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers’ views, but rather, is intended to create community discussion of issues.*

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.

USPS 058-340

Published weekly on Tuesdays

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Steele County Times

P.O. Box 247

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Phone: (507) 583-4431

Fax: (507) 583-4445

bptimes@frontiernet.net

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# News

## First Lutheran Church’s quilts go to needy around the world

Church pews at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie had a different appearance on Palm Sunday, March 29. Homemade quilts, crafted by women of First Lutheran, were draped over all the pews as a symbol of involvement in a Lutheran World Relief mission to send quilts to those needy in countries around the world. They may go to refugee camps or to small villages in Africa. Kaye Toquam led the project this year at First Lutheran and reports that 180 quilts were made by 25 women of the church. There were no male quilters, but there were men

helping behind the scenes by boxing and shipping the quilts. A quilt dedication service was held on Palm Sunday, led by the Rev. Charlie Leonard. Toquam said the quilts spread across the pews served as a visual example for church members to understand and know “that they, too, are involved in this outreach and mission to people they do not even know.” All congregation members touched a quilt in front of them during the service. By placing the quilts in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, volunteers accomplished their objective of making parishioners more aware of the work involved and the impact in sending these warm

quilts to those in far-off countries, Toquam said. Church members provided many of the fabric pieces and other supplies, she said. Church women began their project in January, meeting every Monday until the Sunday before Palm Sunday. Toquam said the Blooming Prairie quilters have been active in this project since 1985, when they made 67. First Lutheran quilters, one year in the 1990s, made 302 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, a record number for the church. Each of the quilts must measure 60 by 80 inches. Fabric squares brought to the church by the quilters are part of the process, which

Reflections. . . and How



Howard Lestrud

may include a dozen 21-inch squares or 48, 11-inch squares. Some of the fabric brought for the project may be fabric from a quilter’s mother or grandmother, Toquam said.

No pattern is used during the work project. “We use whatever fabrics and colors that are available,” Toquam commented. Toquam, herself long a quilter, said the project provides fellowship of 25 women talking about family members and friends and working at the same time. “Making a quilt gives quilters a sense of worth, and they know they are making something for the comfort of others.” Rick Hansen, a Blooming Prairie trucker, has agreed at no charge to once again transport the quilts in 14 large boxes to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul. Only one

other such warehouse exists in the United States, in Maryland. Not all of the quilts made by First Lutheran quilters are being distributed for Lutheran World Relief purposes. Toquam said 12 are kept behind for the annual lute-fisk dinner, four are labeled for local needs, eight are sent to the Lily Sparrow House in Owatonna (a temporary home for homeless women and children) and four are sent to the Hospitality House in Owatonna for homeless men. Toquam has been active in the First Lutheran quilting project since she joined the church in 2011. Prior to that she quilted while a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Kasson.

## Body found near I-90 at Albert Lea; foul play suspected

By BRIAN SANDFORD  
News Editor

A body was found last Monday afternoon near interstates 35 and 90 just northwest of Albert Lea, and authorities say foul play might be involved. The body is thought to be that of a man and likely had been there about two years, said Freeborn County Sheriff Kurt Freitag. The death is considered suspicious because the body was found against a fence about 50 feet south of Interstate 90 and not far from a convenience store on Highway 13, Freitag said. The man likely would have sought help from passersby or at the store had he been alive where he was found, the sheriff added. On a stormy Tuesday afternoon, Freitag showed news



Submitted photo  
Authorities found this ring along with remains last week along Interstate 90. The image was released by the Freeborn County Sheriff’s Office.

media members the freshly dug area where the body had been found about 6 p.m. a day earlier. The property owner was removing garbage when he saw what he thought was a skull, explored further and found bones sunken into the soil, Freitag said.

Authorities think the body is that of a male because of a ring they found; they also found clothing. The ring is described as 10-carat gold with a large, red stone. The body was taken to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner’s Office, and the first phase of an autopsy is complete. More information will be released once a second, more detailed phase is conducted, a news release states. Freitag said he couldn’t recall remains being found in Freeborn County previously, and a news release states that the county has no missing-person cases that could be linked with the body. The Freeborn County Sheriff’s Office is investigating, with help from the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.



Freeborn County Sheriff Kurt Freitag talks about how a property owner discovered a skull, then bones, at this location south of Interstate 35 near Highway 13 just northwest of Albert Lea.

Staff photo by Brian Sandford

### TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page 1A

while the Dodge County Concerned Citizens (DCCC) group has been the most vocal about planning and zoning to this point, it is in the minority and more residents don’t want it. Supervisor Larry Schmeling has made it clear that the township wants nothing to do with planning and zoning. Westfield farmer Roger Toquam said to have local planning and zoning on the township level would divide neighborhoods. He said his biggest fear is having one neighbor forced to make up rules for another neighbor. “Let it up to a higher authority,” Toquam said, referring to having planning and zoning handled at the county level. Toquam knows all too well the politics involved when it comes to feedlot controversies. A few years back he was voted off the Ripley Township Board during a controversy, only to be later brought back once the feedlot issues subsided. Feedlot operator Mark Manning



**“We have a good ordinance now. We did a lot of work to get it in place.”**

~ Mark Manning  
Feedlot operator

pointed out that Dodge County has had a feedlot advisory committee since 1995 to weed through feedlot issues. Manning has been a member of the committee for about seven years. Manning said the committee does not let just anybody do whatever they want when it comes to feedlots. He added that there are stringent rules in place that the committee follows before making recommendations to the county. “We have a good ordinance now,” Manning said, adding, “We did a lot of work to get it in place.” People who are concerned about odor make Manning and others bristle. “People associate odor with pollution, and it’s not a pollut-

ant,” Manning said. “They think if it smells, it’s bad. Livestock gets thrown under the bus because of the odors,” he added. Said Manning: “It doesn’t bode well where we have to work off of mistruths. It’s a nuisance to us. We’re here to bring some truth to this.” Hog producer Todd Hoebing agrees that livestock producers are getting hammered down with mistruths. “We’re proud of what we do,” he said. “We can be beaten down, but we will never quit.” He is especially happy about the value livestock producers bring to society. “It’s an economic engine for this area,” Hoebing said. “How else are we going to feed the population?” Hoebing is frustrated that the person leading the charge to bring in local planning and zoning does not live in the area. Sonja Trom Eayrs lives and works in the Twin Cities. Her father, Lowell Trom, lives in Westfield Township.



**“We are the ones who have to live out here. We’re not going to intentionally harm ourselves.”**

~ Todd Hoebing  
Hog producer

“We are the ones who have to live out here,” Hoebing said. “We’re not going to intentionally harm ourselves. We are the ones who have to be in it.” Frustration for the group has also centered on the petition itself circulated by the DCCC. Of the 260 registered voters in the township, 69 signed the petition. Schmeling said there has been intimidation tactics used by members of the DCCC to get others to sign their petition. “They are telling them that their wells will dry up,” he said. Said Hoebing of DCCC’s leader, Trom Eayrs: “Sonja is here to create an ordinance and doesn’t have to live by it. This is our livelihood, and this is what we have to live by.”

### MAIN STREET

Continued from Page 1A

The Main Street work is set to begin between Central Park and Fifth Avenue. Workers then will remove the curb and gutters, add “bump-outs” near business district intersections that shorten the distance from one side of the street to the other, and add diagonal parking on the north side of the road. “If it doesn’t work, we can easily go back to parallel parking,” Jones said. “If you talk to the older people in town, they would say there used to be diagonal parking on both sides of the street.” He acknowledged that business owners will be affected. “This project, we understand it’s going to have a major effect in our community for about three months,” Jones said. “Steps have been taken to try to relieve that as much as possible, but as I explain to people when they ask me, the concept is that we’re going to do this in a way it’s inconvenient in as short a period as possible. It’s all based on weather.” Jones said he hopes sidewalk reconstruction on Main Street will take a few days. County crew members will remove the sidewalk on one side of the street and replace it, then work on the sidewalk on the opposite side, he said. City crew members will remove light fixtures on Main Street, sandblast them and have them powder-coated by Blooming Prairie business Extreme Custom Powder Coating. Also, a section of the road just west of the business district will get more decorative poles. The county is handling the bulk of the work because Main Street is a county road, Jones said. The city maintains it as part of an agreement with the county. Jones wrote to the county recently stating the need for road work. The county agreed. The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce was involved in initial discussions about the work, Benson said. “That’s key for a project like this to be successful, because they’re the ones who are there every day and know how the city operates,” she said. Blooming Prairie Area Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble said she hopes businesses aren’t affected, adding that most businesses have backdoor access. Bakery owner Greg Friestad said his business is an exception. He isn’t sure how his business will be affected, describing it as “wait-and-see.” “My understanding is that they’ll tear up the sidewalk, and the next day a new sidewalk will be in place,” he said. “I don’t have an entrance to the building that’s suitable for customers (in the back). The concern I have is the parking. I hope all of the customers are willing to walk two or three blocks to have a cup of coffee.” B to Z Hardware owner Greg Johnson isn’t as concerned. The impact will be “pretty minimal, because we’ve got a backdoor and a parking lot,” he said. “Right now it’s probably 60-40, people coming in the back instead of the front.”

### FEEDLOT LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1A

circumvents state statute and prevents citizens from having access to all information. The motion will be heard in District Court this Friday. The case arises from a decision last summer to grant a conditional use permit to Masching for a feedlot on 6 acres he purchased adjacent to the Trom farm. The Troms sued in District Court to stop that action, saying Masching had not provided all the information needed by county ordinance before the permit was issued. The county argued that the conditional use permit related only to the land-use issues and that final approval of the feedlot operation

rested with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which issues the final permits. Because Dodge is a designated county, county officials act on behalf of the MPCA. It was the county’s position that the additional information such as detailed site and manure-management plans needed to be provided before the final permits were issued, but not necessarily before the conditional use permit was granted. District Court Judge Jodi Williamson sided with the plaintiffs in ruling that the county’s rules had not been followed. She said, however, that Masching could apply for the permit again when all

conditions were met. Masching did reapply with the required information and was granted another conditional use permit. After taking that action, however, the board amended the county ordinance. There now are no specific requirements as to what information needs to be submitted before a conditional use permit is approved — only that all information required by the state needs to be in place before a final permit is granted. The plaintiffs originally filed an appeal on the county’s approval of the second use permit and are now asking that their appeal to the

county’s changing the ordinance be allowed as an addition to the original complaint. When the appeal was filed, Dodge County officials asked that Williamson remove herself from the case. She did, and the appeal is now being heard by District Court Judge Joseph Chase in Olmsted County. The motion to allow the additions to the complaint will be heard by Chase at 11 a.m. Friday in the courthouse in Rochester. Chase will have 90 days to rule on the motion. After that decision is made, the court will hear a motion for summary judgment of the case based on the administrative records, Peters said.

### BENNETT COLUMN

Continued from Page 2A

buffer laws can be enforced at the local level, or with existing resources. The NRCS and Soil & Water Districts already have programs on the books that help farmers put in buffer strips. They are the professionals and we should help them to have more flexibility to make their current programs work better. Farmers and Greater Minnesota legislators are ready and willing to work with the Governor on ways to improve upon his buffer proposal, and have a productive conversation about how best to preserve water quality. Nearly all agriculture stakeholders be-

lieve that the existing one-size-fits-all 50-foot proposal is unworkable, but are not necessarily opposed to changes to help further protect our state waters. I hope Governor Dayton will listen to the concerns expressed from our state’s farmers, local residents, and water quality professionals and be willing to make changes to address their concerns. Farmers are such a fundamental part of our local economy, and help put food on our tables, fuel in our cars, and provide thousands of jobs and opportunities for families in Minnesota. They are good stewards of the

land, and want to be partners in this discussion. Water quality is important. The best solutions are those that are reached collaboratively, and include the local stakeholders. I will continue to listen and work with all involved to find a solution that balances the concerns of all stakeholders, and helps protects our state’s treasured waters for future generations.

*Rep. Peggy Bennett represents District 27A that includes Blooming Prairie, portions of Dodge County and Mower County and Freeborn County.*

### EDITOR’S NOTE

To read letters to the editor, turn to page 4D.



# Public Safety

## Blotter Spotlight:

On April 8, Blooming Prairie police began two burglary investigations throughout the day — in the 100 block of 18th St. NE in Blooming Prairie at 12:04 a.m. and in the 600 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 8:47 p.m.

# High-speed chase around county ends in rollover, arrest

**By RICK BUSSLER**  
Publisher

A 20-year-old man is facing a felony charge after allegedly leading sheriff's deputies on a high-speed chase Easter Sunday and crashing his vehicle.

Joshua Patrick Kempe of Owatonna has been charged with fleeing police in a motor vehicle. In addition, he faces a

lesser count of reckless driving.

According to court documents:

On April 5, the State Patrol received a report of a black Monte Carlo driving at a high speed near Dodge Center. A Steele County sheriff's sergeant overheard the radio traffic and spotted the vehicle on Highway 14 near 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The sergeant clocked the vehicle going 104 mph.

When the sergeant attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver attempted to turn onto 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue but carried too much speed into the turn and went into the ditch.

As the sergeant approached the vehicle, it was driven out of the ditch and continued south on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue at a high speed, the complaint said. When the vehicle came to another intersection, it once again carried too much speed and

went into the ditch. The driver stared at the deputy, then drove out of the ditch again.

The chase continued on several roads around the county. In the area of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, the vehicle slid sideways on the gravel road and rolled once before coming to rest on the roof.

The deputy noticed Kempe slurred his speech and had poor balance. Kem-

pe told officers he had used controlled substances in the last several days.

A blood test was taken from Kempe at the hospital and later submitted to the BCA for analysis. He has not been charged with impaired driving pending the results of the blood test.

The felony fleeing charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

## POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

**Blooming Prairie Police**

**April 3**  
**Child Protection.** Officer took a child protection report at 4 p.m.

**April 4**  
**Fight.** Officers responded to a fight at 1:45 a.m. A citation was issued.

**April 6**  
**Crash.** At 10:08 a.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident in the city.

**April 9**  
**Criminal Sex.** Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the city at 6:46 p.m.

**Owatonna Police**

**April 3**  
**Suspicion.** Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW at 2:39 p.m.

**Arrest.** Officers arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 26th St. NE and 3rd Ave. NE at 5:31 p.m.

**April 4**  
**Assault.** Police arrested a subject following an assault in the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 1:46 a.m.

**Burglary.** At 10:37 a.m., police responded to a burglary in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S.

**Suspicion.** At 10:04 p.m., officers responded to Churchill Dr. SE and Truman Ave. SE for a suspicious activity report. They arrested a subject at the scene.

**Domestic.** A domestic disturbance occurred in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 10:12 p.m. Police took a subject into custody.

**Trespassing.** Trespassing occurred in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 11:28 p.m.

**April 5**  
**Arrest.** A motorist was arrested at Oak Ave. S. and Rice St. W. at 4:47 a.m.

**Arrest.** Police took a motorist into custody following a traffic stop at 18th St. SW and Linn Ave. SW at 11:58 p.m.

**April 6**  
**Death.** Police began a death investigation in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 4:01 a.m.

**Fraud.** An incident of fraud was reported in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 10:33 a.m.

**Theft.** At 12:13 p.m., officer took theft report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

**Burglary.** Police responded to a burglary in the 800 block of 22nd St. NE at 7:06 p.m.

**Domestic.** At 11:50 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of 18th St. SW for a domestic disturbance. They made an arrest at the scene.

**April 7**  
**Theft.** A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 1900 block of Greenwood Dr. NE at 7:53 a.m.

**Domestic.** A domestic disturbance occurred in the 800 block of School St. E. at 12:37 p.m.

**Vandalism.** At 2:38 p.m., officer received a report of property damage in the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW.

**Shoplifting.** Police responded to a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:01 p.m.

**April 8**  
**Burglaries.** Police began two burglary investigations throughout the day — in the 100 block of 18th St. NE at 12:04 a.m. and in the 600 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 8:47 p.m.

**Robberies.** Two robberies occurred in the early morning — at 3:28 a.m. in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S.

and at 3:39 a.m. in the 600 block of Broadway St. E.

**Theft.** At 11:24 a.m., identity theft was reported in the 3700 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

**Drugs.** Drug activity was reported in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 1:36 p.m.

**Domestic.** A subject was taken into custody following a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:06 p.m.

**Property Damage.** A vandalism report was taken in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:15 p.m.

**Shoplifting.** Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:28 p.m.

**April 9**  
**Child Protection.** Police took four child protection reports throughout the day — at 8:02 a.m. in the 100 block of Pearl St. E., at 8:03 a.m. in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE, at 8:04 a.m. in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. and at 10:16 a.m. in the 1000 block of Johnson Place SE.

**Identity Theft.** At 10:45 a.m., officer took a report of identity theft in the 1000 block of Greenleaf Rd. SE.

**Burglary.** Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 10:31 a.m.

**Trespassing.** Officers received information regarding trespassing in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 11:20 a.m.

**Warrant.** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Mill St. E. at 11:20 a.m.

**Shoplifting.** At 2:51 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

**Assault.** Police responded to an assault at Grove Ave. S. and Prospect St. E. at 3:32 p.m.

**Steele County Sheriff**

**April 3**  
**Theft.** Deputy took theft report in the 5100 block of Kenyon Rd. at 1:42 p.m.

**Trespassing.** At 2:24 p.m., deputy responded to a trespassing incident in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W.

**Arrest.** Deputy arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 21st Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 11:50 p.m.

**April 5**  
**Domestic.** At 1:55 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of 3rd Ave. W. A subject was taken into custody.

**Arrest.** A motorist was taken into custody following a traffic stop in the 3500 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 7:19 a.m.

**Vehicle Pursuit.** Deputies were involved with a vehicle pursuit at 44th Ave. SE and Hwy. 14 E. at 2 p.m. It resulted in a subject being arrested.

**April 7**  
**Crash.** Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:17 p.m.

**Restraining Order.** At 9:17 p.m., deputy took report of an order for protection violation in the 500 block of Commercial St.

**April 8**  
**Theft.** A citizen reported that his or her identity had been stolen in the 9000 block of 82nd Ave. SW at 4:46 p.m.

**Warrant.** Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 9:32 p.m.

## COURT NEWS Steele County

*The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 30, with Judge Gerald Wolf presiding:*

Rocky Padilla, 41, Austin, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. Padilla was sentenced to \$81 and 28 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 30-April 3:

**Blooming Prairie Police Department**

Amy M. Gomez, 24, Albert Lea, cancelled license and no insurance, \$481.

**MN State Patrol Rochester**

Mohamed I. Ahmed, 28, Faribault, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Mohammed A. Almatarr, 27, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Julie A. Back, 47, Ostrander, speeding, \$281; Taylor M. Bosch, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Victor Charbel, 60, Eagan, speeding, \$131; Edgar Contreras-Zaragoza, 33, St. Paul, invalid license, \$181; Georgina C. de Lara, 43, Des Moines, IA, invalid license and speeding, \$241; Nicholas R. Dodd, 31, Brooklyn, NY, speeding, \$141; Karl D. Duncanson, 57, Mapleton, speeding, \$121; Debra J. Eineke, 56, Madelia, backing upon roadway, \$181; Rodney N. Garness, 48, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Brayton C. Johnson, 30, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Kyle A. Johnson, 55, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Nathaniel D. Kilvine, 37, Ellendale, speeding, \$141; Haneer R. King, 34, Fertile, IA, suspended license and speeding, \$331; Michael E. Krantz, 60, Coralville, IA, speeding, \$131; Nathan S. Magnuson, 83, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Mark T. Meier, 35, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Marit L. Plowman, 22, Eagan, speeding, \$141; Randy D. Search, 41, Chicago City, speeding, \$121; Calli J. Walstad, 36, Buffalo, speeding, \$221; Thomas A. Wetzel, 52, Spring Valley, CA, invalid license, \$181.

**Owatonna Police Department**

Jared L. Aas, 40, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$281; Sarah B. Archer, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Ross E. Barrett, 43, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Brett M. Baumgartner, 24, Owatonna, muffler violation, \$131; Chaz M. Burgdorf, 21, Owatonna, DWI, \$706, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Dora M. Calacia Solano, 40, Minneapolis, no MN license, \$181; Melissa L. Daniels-Hondl, 41, Owatonna, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Colton J. Downing, 19, Owatonna, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Desirae D. Farr, 31, Fridley, shoplifting, 16 days in county jail; Conrad L. Francisco, 30, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Noel Garcia-Soto, 27, Medford, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Brandon A. Goff, 29, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Macario R. Guzman, 18, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia, \$131; Berit P. Halvorson, 40, Owatonna, assault, 4 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 1 year of supervised probation; Abigail M. Hansen, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Bridget C. Johnson, 50, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$81 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Otto I. Martin Chilel, 33, Faribault, no MN license, \$181; Gary L. Messer, 60, Northfield, stop sign, \$131; Jeremy A. Miller, 28, Blooming Prairie, invalid license, \$131, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Dawn

K. Naber, 54, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Emily A. Nelson, 30, Stillwater, suspended license, \$281; Darrell R. Oleson, 83, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; David Ortiz, 36, Faribault, shoplifting, \$181; Anaira N. Rios-Flores, 20, Medford, invalid license, \$181; Gregory E. Rostvit, 42, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Stacy L. Skolte, 33, no insurance, \$281; Denasha R. Sutton, 18, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Katelyn D. Sylvara, 21, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Katie L. Thomas, 28, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Richard M. White, 36, Faribault, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Randy J. Wolke Jr., 37, Owatonna, DWI, \$1,106, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Kari M. Wright, 24, New Richland, no insurance and suspended license, \$481.

**Steele County Sheriff's Office**

Jared L. Aas, 40, Owatonna, failure to signal, \$131; Mary R. Ahrens, 54, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$131; Chad A. Christensen, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Lay M. Daing, 23, St. Paul, permit violation, \$131; Antonio C. Dvorak, 29, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$141; Suzann L. Halla, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; McKenzie M. Jansen, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Lora B. Jenkins, 53, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Kylie R. Kath, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Steven R. Martin, 60, Claremont, speeding, \$131; Lamar McCain, 32, revoked license, \$281; Mohamed A. Mohamed, 25, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Chad A. Olson, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Kelsey J. Schultz, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Alex M. Seeger, 19, Kenyon, speeding, \$141; Christopher W. Spence, 21, Kingston, OK, speeding, \$121; Bennett N. Stadheim, 20, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Shonda J. Warner, 44, Kenyon, speeding, \$131; Drew T. Wondra, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Salvador P. Ybarra, 33, Hartland, improper information on license, \$101.

## POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

*The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 205 complaints for the week of April 1-7. They include:*

**April 1**  
**Assault.** Deputies received a report that a Dodge Center man was assaulted at a Kwik Trip at 12:20 p.m.

**Animal.** A Claremont woman made an animal complaint that a Pit Bull was attacking her Chihuahuas in the 400 block of 2nd St. at 1:46 p.m.

**Trespassing.** Deputies received a report that a woman's neighbor came into her yard and checked all around and the doors in the 12500 block of 595th St. in Claremont at 6:50 p.m.

**April 2**  
**Vandalism.** Deputy took report of a mailbox being removed from the post in the 61000 block of 205th Ave. in Dodge Center at 8:53 a.m.

**April 3**  
**Disturbance.** At 4:01 p.m., deputies responded to an assault in the 20900 block of 600th St. in Dodge Center where an adult assaulted another male. Deputies arrested one subject and transported him to the Steele County Jail.

**Larceny.** Deputy took report of a theft of jewelry in the 1200 block of 6th St. NW in Dodge Center at 4:26 p.m.

**April 4**  
**Burglary.** At 8:08 a.m., a West Concord woman reported a burglary the previous night in the 20000 block of County Hwy. 24. A TV and VCR were removed from her house.

**Disturbance.** At 4:39 p.m., a verbal domestic disturbance occurred in the 73400 block of State Hwy. 30 in Blooming Prairie.

**Suspicious Activity.** Deputies received a report that a custodian found a student inside Triton High School in Dodge Center while he was doing a building check at 8:20 p.m.

**April 5**  
**Domestic.** Deputies responded to a physical domestic in the 25600 block of 750th St. in Hayfield at 12:19 a.m.

**Found Property.** At 9:06 p.m., a Hayfield Casey's employee found a small baggie laying on the floor that has white powder in it. She wanted to turn it over to the deputies.

**April 6**  
**Domestic.** At 6:12 a.m., a Dodge Center resident wanted assistance with removing a female from a residence in the 100 block of 4th Ave. SE following a domestic disturbance.

**Domestic.** Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 23300 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 6:43 p.m.

**April 7**  
**Environment.** At 1:30 a.m., a barrel and garbage was thrown in the ditch at 740th St. and 160th Ave. in Hayfield.

**Fraud.** Deputies received a report of tax fraud in the 75200 block of 115th Ave. in Blooming Prairie at 4:14 p.m.

**Child Abuse.** At 9:26 p.m., deputies began an investigation of child abuse in the 800 block of 5th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

**Animal Complaint.** A Dodge Center resident reported that his neighbor's dogs chewed a hole in his fence in the 500 block of Central Ave. S. When he went to his neighbor's house to talk about it, they slammed the door in his face. Deputies mediated the problem at the scene.

**Burglary.** At 11:23 p.m., deputies began a burglary investigation after the back door had been kicked in in the 300 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

## COURT NEWS Dodge County

*The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 30, with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:*

Kevin J. Tucker, 46, of Faribault previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of a controlled substance and gross misdemeanor theft. Tucker was sentenced to 24 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

*The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 30-April 6:*

**Dodge County Sheriff's Office**

Roger R. Johnson, 44, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Connor R. Kispert, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Richard W. Linskey, 18, Hayfield, possession of Marijuana, \$130; Jacqueline V. Lively, 60, Stewartville, parking violation, \$32; Marya B. Lundquist, 38, West St. Paul, speeding, \$130; Joseph J. Meyer, 35, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$220; Leaann B. Midtovne, 31, Kasson, theft, \$75, diversion program, write letter of apology and 30 hours of commu-

nity service; Christopher L. Pugh, 54, Stewartville, speeding, \$140; Osvaldo Ruvalcaba, 42, Brick, NJ, stop sign and suspended license, \$330; Tyler J. Vangrinsven, 18, Claremont, speeding, \$280; Dylan W. Wutschke, 19, Dodge Center, possession of Marijuana, \$130.

**Kasson Police Department**

Donna M. Amundson, 66, Edina, parking violation, \$32; Holly E. Fritz, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Louise B. Heim, 66, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Tera L. Johnson, 22, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Jacob T. Nelson, 24, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Jon P. Wintheiser, 33, Kasson, assault, \$300, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation.

**MN State Patrol Rochester**

Gunar D. Gossard, 41, Minneapolis, speeding, \$140; Aric A. Holmen, 24, Claremont, speeding, \$130; Randy J. Juell, 20, Redwood Falls, overdimensional load escort driver, \$180; Atzin Perez, 18, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Richard D. Walker Jr., 41, Faribault, speeding, \$120; Thomas J. Weber, 20, Stewartville, speeding, \$140.

**West Concord Police Department**

David J. Skandera, 22, Northfield, passing parked emergency vehicle and speeding, \$180.

## Owatonna Police

Lorenzo Markey Cook, 24, arrested at 5:38 p.m. April 3, felony drugs, held for court.

Kimberly Kay Hanson, 37, arrested at 11:09 p.m. April 4, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Chris Anthony Vruno, 28, arrested April 5, giving false name to peace officer, held for court.

Nicholas Shane Osterhus, 25, arrested at 1:20 a.m. April 6, felony possession of a controlled substance, held for court.

Lamario Jaquan Sanders, 29, arrested at 12:03 a.m. April 7, domestic assault, held for court.

Lina Garza, 44, arrested at 3:30 p.m. April 8, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Dana Marie Oldeen, 45, arrested at 4:34 p.m. April 8, felony theft and possession of a controlled substance, held for court.

Ronald James Dean Heard Jr., 22, arrested at 9:45 p.m. April 8, 5 warrants arrest — revoked licenses and possession of Marijuana, \$1,000 bail.

## Steele Arrests

**Steele County Sheriff**

Douglas Michael Blouin, 55, arrested at 7:22 p.m. April 3, DWI-refusal, littering, open bottle, possession of Paraphernalia and seat belt, held for court.

Amanda Marie Buzzard, 27, arrested at 8:50 a.m. April 5, domestic abuse, held for court.

Scott Norman Hunter, 57, arrested at 10:54 a.m. April 5, cancelled license, held for court.

Joshua Patrick Kempe, 20, arrested at 2:15 p.m. April 5, felony fleeing a peace officer and DWI, held for court.

Nathan Todd Holland, 30, arrested at 3:57 p.m. April 7, warrant arrest, \$80,000 bail.

# Alleged shoplifter charged with drug possession, theft

A suspected shoplifter is facing felony charges in connection with a theft at a retail store in Owatonna.

Dana M. Oldeen, 45, has been charged with felony possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.

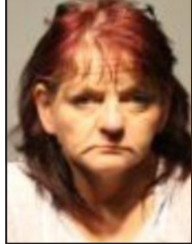
Police responded to Kohl's de-

partment store on a report of a shoplifting-in-progress April 8. Security reported two women had loaded a cart with products and one had allegedly concealed sunglasses in her purse.

The women left the cart in the entryway, but left without paying for the sunglasses, police said.

The women left the area in a vehicle and were later found at another store.

Police found Oldeen had an outstanding warrant for shoplifting. When officers arrested her, they found her to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.



Oldeen

## 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 Klostriechn- 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.

## SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

# 866-878-7964

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

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

## ACTIVE WARRANTS





# THE SAVVY SENIOR

**Brought to you by:**

**Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus**

**220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie**

**583-4434**

**Dear Savvy Senior,**  
I’ve heard that Social Security offers a lump-sum payment to retirees who need some extra cash. I have not yet started drawing my benefits and would like to investigate this option. What can you tell me?

**Almost Retired**

**Dear Almost,**  
There are actually two different kinds of Social Security claiming strategies that can provide retirees a big

lump-sum benefit, but you need to be past full retirement age to be eligible, and there are financial drawbacks you need to be aware of too.

First, let’s review the basics. Remember that while workers can begin drawing their Social Security retirement benefits anytime between ages 62 and 70, full retirement age is currently 66 for those born between 1943 and 1954, but it rises in two-month increments to 67 for those born in

1960 and later. You can find your full retirement age at [ssa.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm](http://ssa.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm).

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

**Lump-sum options**

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

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

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

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

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

Here’s how this strategy works. Let’s say you’re 66, and you decide to delay your benefits. You could file for your benefit and then immediately suspend it. This gives you the ability to collect a lump sum going back to the date you filed. So if you need money at age 69 for example, and your full retirement age benefit was

\$2,000, you could get a three-year lump sum of \$72,000.

**Drawbacks**

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

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

You also need to consider Uncle Sam. Depending

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

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

*Send your senior questions to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://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 12, 2005**

Brian Hoveland is a 1991 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. He joined the National Guard the summer before his senior year. Brian later joined the Army and served for eight years being stationed in Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Carson, Colorado.

He also had tours in Korea and Bosnia.

Blooming Prairie has spoken and the Boys and Girls Clubs are listening. Recently, dozens of people from the community came to speak to the executive director and board members from the Boys and Girls Club in Rochester, to describe to them the need for a Boys and Girls Club here at the Center, and to assure them that such a

project would be sustainable.

In their first outdoor meet of the season, both the boys and girls’ track teams finished sixth in the 8-team Kasson-Mantorville Invitational meet on Monday, April 4. The boys trailed Lyle-Pacelli for fifth by just one point as Pine Island piled up 148.5 in taking the team title. Host Byron was second and Kasson-Mantorville came in third.

**20 Years Ago**  
**Elsie Slinger, Editor**  
**April 11, 1995**

It’s been a lot of work, but Chad and Julie Eischens feel it will be worth it down the line. What they’ve been working on the past eight weeks is complete renovation of the old Bloomin’ Bakery Building which will now be their Prairie

Family and Sports Chiropractic office on Main Street. With a lot of help from friends and family the Eischens were glad construction was almost over and the doors would be opening for business Monday, April 10.

Imagine this, a high school gym transformed into a malt shop. This might include bright colors, balloons, streamers, double scoop ice cream cones, pennants, 57 Chevys and juke boxes. Along with the malt shop you may find music casino games played for hours, minnow races, bubble gum blowing contest, limbo contest and Sumo wrestling suits. You could add some food and some great prizes in this picture also. Does this sound like a place you might like to be? The 1995 After Prom committee hopes so.

Greg and Laura Seward of Champlin, happily announce the birth of their son, Michael John, born March 25, 1995, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. Grandparents are Russ and Dorothy Kruger of Blooming Prairie and Mrs. Eleanor Seward of Roseville.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Victor, Vernon, and Vyrle Krejci, Editors**  
**April 15, 1965**

Richard Ilk, Blooming Prairie Boy Scout leader, was recipient of the “Scouter of the Year” award presented at the Wasioja District Scout banquet held on Tuesday night, April 6th, in Owatonna.

Eight teachers in the Blooming Prairie school system have presented their resignations to Supt.

Maurice McFarlin, it was announced today. Formal acceptance of the resignations will be made at the next regular meeting of the school board on April 13.

Clifford Yule, Owatonna, was appointed as Steele County Civil Defense Director March 1st, replacing James E. Kidd who will serve with him as deputy director. Mr. Yule is familiar with the Steele County Civil Defense organization, having served as deputy director for many years.

**75 Years Ago**  
**Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher**  
**April 11, 1940**

P.C. Agre, aged 58 years, passed away at his home in Minneapolis Saturday morning, April 6th, following a

five weeks’ illness with cancer of the throat. Mr. Agre was a brother of Martin Agre of Blooming Prairie, and Mr. and Mrs. Agre drove to Minneapolis Tuesday to attend the funeral services.

George Day, accompanied by Mrs. Wesley Derby and Mrs. Kenneth Benson motored to St. Paul Monday morning, summoned there to serve on the federal grand jury during the April term. Miss Dorthy Derby also accompanied them to the Cities.

Mr. and Mrs. George Reed of Los Angeles, spent Friday and Saturday in the Martin Agre home. Mrs. Reed is a niece of Martin’s. Mr. Reed is head of the insurance department of the Lockheed Aeroplane factory and was called to the Cities on important business for his firm.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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# Community

## Menus

**Seniors Menu**  
**April 14:** Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Cranberry Mold  
**April 15:** Ham/Scalloped Potatoes, ALT: Ground Beef Patty, Dilled Carrots, Mixed Greens Salad, Moon Cake  
**April 16:** Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Fruited Coleslaw, Wheat Dinner Roll, Peach Crisp  
**April 17:** Grilled Chicken, Romaine Salad, Melon Wedge, Batter Bun, Dutch Cookie  
**April 20:** Green Pepper Steak, Rice, Parslied Cauliflower, Tossed Salad, Citrus Fruit Cup  
**April 21:** Baked Chicken, Baked Dumpling/Gravy, Asparagus, Coleslaw, Vanilla Ice Cream  
**April 22:** Wild Rice Soup, BBQ on Bun, 3 Bean Salad, Refrigerator Dessert

**BP Elementary School Breakfast Menu**  
**April 14:** Fruit Yogurt w/ Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 15:** WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 16:** WG Cinnamon Dipper w/Icing Cup, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 17:** WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 20:** Banana Chocolate Chip, Bread (or Blueberry Loaf), Hard Boiled Egg, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 21:** Bacon Breakfast

Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 22:** WG Pop-Tart, Cheese Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

**BP Elementary School Lunch Menu**  
**April 14:** Chicken Alfredo Pizza, Pulled Pork on WG Bun, BBQ Sauce, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit  
**April 15:** Popcorn Chicken Bowl-, Salisbury Steak Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Cherry Tomatoes, Radishes, Choice of Fruit  
**April 16:** Italian Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Hot Ham on WG Bun, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Pepper Medley, Choice of Fruit  
**April 17:** Stromboli w/Marinara Sauce, Crispy Chicken Sub, Glazed Carrots, Baby Spinach, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit  
**April 20:** Chicken Alfredo, Garlic Breadstick, Hot Turkey on a WG Bun, Roasted Asparagus (HOM), Cucumber Slices, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit  
**April 21:** Hamburger on WG Bun, Breakfast Bake, Biscuit, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Florets, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit  
**April 22:** Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Meatballs & Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

**BP Middle School Lunch Menu**  
**April 14:** Stromboli with Marinara Sauce, Roasted Broccoli, Garbanzo Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Green Beans, Choice of Fruit  
**April 15:** Meatballs & Gravy with Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Steamed Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit  
**April 16:** Italian Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Cauliflower, Broccoli Florets, Pinto Beans, Choice of Fruit  
**April 17:** Popcorn Chicken Bowl- chicken, corn, potatoes, gravy, roll, Steamed Carrots, Baby Spinach, Sliced Radishes, Choice of Fruit  
**April 20:** Chicken Alfredo, Roasted Asparagus, Garlic Breadstick, Spring Mix, Garbanzo Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Choice of Fruit  
**April 21:** Breakfast Bake, Glazed Carrots, Cinnamon Roll, Steamed Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit  
**April 22:** Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Green Peas, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

**BP High School Breakfast Menu**  
**April 14:** Fruit Yogurt with Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 15:** WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 16:** WG Cinnamon Dipper w/Icing Cup, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk  
**April 17:** Ham and Cheese Bagel, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

## ELLENDALE VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

After the vote, he said, “Our contract will stay as is. I wanted everyone to think about it.” Skroch also said he wouldn’t bring the issue up again.

Sheriff Lon Thiele, who’d argued at previous meetings for keeping the contract, said near the end of the meeting that the pact is “beneficial to all concerned for not only Ellendale residents, but for those who travel or stop by this wonderful community.” He added, “It should be a relief to a lot of people, knowing ... our community-policing

style will continue.”

## In other business

Also Thursday night, the City Council:

- Agreed to move forward with making the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Third Street a four-way stop, in response to a resident’s concern about speeders endangering children in the area.
- Agreed not to give money to an NRHEG prom after-party fund, as city rules prohibit

such donations. The city had received a letter requesting a donation.

- Heard from a resident in attendance about a neighbor’s burning of yard waste. Thiele looked up language for the city’s burn regulations and reported that such fires must be no more than 3 feet wide or 2 feet high, and must be at least 25 feet from a building. Also, a fire extinguisher must be available. He invited the resident to call the Sheriff’s Office next time his neighbor appears to be violating the regulations.

## STEELE COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Avenue) will take place. The road will be closed down for that weekend but open by Monday, he added.

The I-35 carryover project in Steele County costs \$19.2 million. It started last May and is scheduled to be completed in November. It includes replacing bridges and reconstructing pavement on northbound lanes in Owatonna.

A smaller, two-month construction project will be done between Ellendale and Albert Lea. The cost is \$16.9 million and will include concrete overlay on southbound lanes between the two communities.

This summer is also the continuation of a Highway 14 expansion project from Highway 218 to County Road 180. The \$12 million project will expand the highway from two lanes to four lanes. The project starts this month or early May and wraps later this year. It focuses on the new eastbound lane and tearing apart all the pavement, as well as reconstruction.

In July and August, the state will be doing some resurfacing, grading and lighting on a 13-mile stretch between Dodge

Center and Owatonna.

“People will encounter delays with this project,” Dougherty said. “We will be using flaggers and pilot cars.”

A third Highway 14 project will provide concrete pavement repair and shoulder replacement east and west of I-35 in Owatonna on old Highway 14. The cost is \$3.1 million, and the work is set to be completed in August.

On the county level, the main project is Blooming Prairie’s Main Street (see accompanying story). However, there will be several other projects started and completed this year.

This week the completion of CSAH 12 in Medford will begin. It will consist of placing lights on the bridge, bituminous patching and pavement striping. Lane closures will start this week. The project is expected to be completed by May 15, depending on weather.

Steele County has also received \$500,000 in state and local road-improvement program funds. Depending on bids, the county is looking at doing two pavement-rehabilitation projects — one involving CSAH 10-CSAH 12 to the north county

line and CSAH 31-CSAH 30 to CSAH 45.

Steele County Highway Engineer Anita Benson said that if only one project can be completed, it will be the CSAH 31-CSAH 30 to CSAH 45 project.

This year Steele County will be doing 61 miles of seal coating. “Typically, we do 30 miles each year,” Benson said. “Last year we made the decision to not do seal coating with our own crews but defer work this year to contract.”

The county took its engineer’s estimates from its history of doing its own work. Benson said there have been five bidders, and all are very competitive. Benson said the bids for 60 miles are 32 percent below engineer’s estimations.

“We prepared, budget-wise,

to spend \$1.2 million,” she said. The estimates come in at more than \$830,000.

In general, the difference in county road construction over the past two years involves major reconstruction projects — last year in Medford and this year in Blooming Prairie.

“It is a little different this year (with) Blooming Prairie’s Main Street. They’re going to be challenged during construction,” Benson said. “We are doing our best to have the least impact possible.”

Benson said it is important with all of the construction going on in the Owatonna area and in Steele County for drivers to be patient and build extra time into their schedules to handle traffic detours and construction.

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## Milestones

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**April 14**  
Lynn Borchert, Linda Wolf, Jayden Schewe, Jaqueline Werks Luke and Teresa Swenson  
Joe and Kaylee Farr

**April 15**  
Pat Ingvalson, Asher Miller, Karson Vigeland, Anna Thorson

**April 16**  
Clinton Christianson, Richard Schwartz

**April 17**  
Jesse Christiansen, Kathryn Piller, Timothy Adam Greene, Matt Braaten, Angie Avery, Mary Beth Swenson

**April 18**  
Marc Braaten, Rachel Pirkil, Dale Underwood. Bernice Nelson, Tyler

**April 19**  
Forystek, Scott Verley, Brian Wencil

**April 19**  
Grady Steckelberg, Rachel Winzenburg, Donald L. Bakke, Pam Doerhoefer

**April 20**  
Rosa Rivera-Escondon, J. J. Stenzel

**Anniversaries**  
**April 14**  
Luke and Teresa Swenson  
Joe and Kaylee Farr

**April 17**  
Jamesa and Alysa Alwes

**April 18**  
Kurt and Terri Underwood

**April 20**  
Paul and Jennifer Wayne

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Blooming Prairie has always been supportive of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. This support comes from both individuals and businesses.

One business that has assisted the library for more years than I have been here is Worlein Funeral Home. Each year the funeral home has purchased magazine subscriptions for the library so many can enjoy them. Thanks to Mary Kittelson for being our local contact in obtaining the magazines.

One of the new magazines is American Angler, obviously a fishing magazine. It features fishing areas throughout the United States, including many in Minnesota. Instead of

purchasing your own copies, come in and check them out with your library card. The funeral home has also subscribed to Car & Driver, Conde Nast Traveler, Dirt Rider, Family Fun, Family Handyman, Girls' Life, Reader's Digest Large Print and Taste of Home. Thank you, Worlein Funeral Home, for your generosity! And thanks to all who support the library through gifts, kind words and your use of the library.



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## Pastor's Corner

Thinking about 'Pick Up Sticks' and the resurrection

When I was young, I used to play a game called, "Pick Up Sticks." Some of you may remember it. It is a game where, "A bundle of 'sticks', between 8 and 20 centimeters long, are held in a loose bunch and released on a table top, falling in random disarray. Each player, in turn, must remove a stick from the pile without disturbing the remaining ones."

The challenge is knowing what stick you can remove without disturbing the whole pile of sticks.

Makes me think of what we just got through celebrating in our churches, the Gospel and the Resurrection. One "stick" you cannot remove from the Gospel without the whole thing collapsing is the Resurrection of our Lord. That's how crucial the Resurrection is to the Gospel. I Corinthians 15: 13,14 says, "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; And if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without a foundation, and so is your faith".



This is why the Church makes a big deal about the resurrection of our Lord. Without it, everything collapses. This is why I am so glad there is so much historical support for the resurrection, including Jesus predicting it numerous times, 500 witnesses of the resurrected Christ including many still living when the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, and Jesus rising from the dead despite the Roman soldiers that guarded the tomb so the body could not be stolen.

I hope you all had a great Easter weekend a couple weeks ago, fun with family and a delicious feast. But don't forget the title of a famous hymn: "Christ the Lord is risen today". We can celebrate his Resurrection every day, not just on Easter. And without it, the whole Gospel collapses!

**The Rev. Aaron deNeui**  
**Cedar Creek 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  
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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**  
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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.

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The Rev. Ronald Prigge  
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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA**  
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield  
The Rev. Paul Hauschild  
(507) 477-2248  
www.trinityhayfield.org  
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS**  
57403 300th St., Waltham  
Pastor Jesse Krusemark  
(507) 567-2272  
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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# MINNESOTA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 13 – 17, 2015

**ARE YOU READY FOR SEVERE WEATHER?**

Each year, HSEM in collaboration with the National Weather Service and 16 State and local agencies and organizations sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Two of the most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the annual statewide tornado drills when sirens across the state will sound off. These drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

**WHY SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK?**

According to the National Weather Service, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year. In 2012, 37 twisters touched down. A record was set in 2010 with 104 tornadoes across the state.

Understanding this threat and knowing what to do when a tornado is approaching can save lives.

Take advantage of Severe Weather Awareness Week to review your own and your family's emergency procedures and prepare for weather-related hazards. Each day of the week will focus on a different topic:

- MONDAY** - Alerts and Warnings
- TUESDAY** - Severe Weather, Lightning and Hail
- WEDNESDAY** - Floods
- THURSDAY** - Tornadoes (with statewide drills)
- FRIDAY** - Extreme Heat

Go to [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov) for specific information about these topics, including factsheets, checklists, data and other resources.

**DON'T FORGET! THE STATEWIDE  
TORNADO DRILLS ARE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015 AT  
1:45 P.M. AND 6:55 P.M.**

- Source: [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)

## WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO EVENT

**IN A HOUSE WITH A BASEMENT**

Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table or work bench), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above (pianos, refrigerators, waterbeds, etc.) and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened floor and crush you.

**IN A HOUSE WITH NO BASEMENT**

Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. A bath tub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fail.

**IN AN APARTMENT, DORM OR CONDO**

Get to the lowest level of the building that you can immediately. This could be an underground parking garage or a neighbor's first floor apartment. Then move to the most interior area possible, away from windows.

**IN AN OFFICE BUILDING, HOSPITAL OR STORE**

Follow instructions from facility managers. Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building - away from glass and on the lowest floor possible. Then, crouch

down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them if the power is lost.

**IN A MOBILE HOME**

Get out! Even if your home is tied down, you are probably safer outside, even if the only alternative is to seek shelter out in the open. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes; and it is best not to play the low odds that yours will make it. If your community has a tornado shelter, go there fast. If there is a sturdy permanent building within easy running distance, seek shelter there. Otherwise, lie flat on low ground away from your home, protecting your head. If possible, use open ground away from trees and cars, which can be blown onto you.

**AT A SCHOOL**

Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

**IN A CAR OR TRUCK**

Vehicles are extremely dangerous in a tornado. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive away from its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Otherwise, park the car as quickly and safely as

possible - out of the traffic lanes. Get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If in the open country, run to low ground away from any cars (which may roll over on you). Lie flat and face-down, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can accelerate the wind while offering little protection against flying debris.

**IN THE OPEN OUTDOORS**

If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

**IN A SHOPPING MALL, LARGE STORE OR STADIUM**

Listen for instructions from building security. Watch for others. Move as quickly as possible to an interior bathroom, storage room or other small enclosed area, away from windows. Move away from any glass.

**IN A CHURCH OR THEATER**

If possible, move quickly but orderly to an interior bathroom or hallway, away from windows. Crouch face-down and protect your head with your arms. If there is no time to do that, get under the seats or pews, protecting your head with your arms or hands.

- Source: [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)

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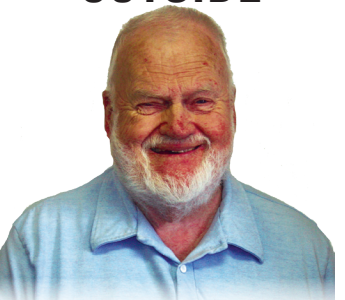
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

**Weather or not**

The rains that scattered the area last Tuesday probably didn't do much to alleviate the dry spring that we have encountered, but they certainly did a lot for the lawns. The grass has greened up considerably over the past few days, and I noticed that my pussy willow in the southwest corner of my house is now in full bloom. Fortunately, the only events scheduled last Tuesday were a girls golf meet and a track invitational, which had to be postponed.

Then we got another good shot of rain last Thursday that was really measurable (1.6 inches), but put the sports activities out of kilter again. All the Thursday contests had to be pushed aside until a later date. We certainly could use the moisture, but it also played havoc with sports. Hopefully, all of the dates can still be made up, as long as these rains came so early in the season.

**A little trivia**

Although no one thought it possible in January, the Wild hockey team has rewarded all their loyal fans by advancing to the playoffs for the third year in a row. Last year they lost in the second round, but this year, they feel they have as much of a chance as any other team to advance all the way to the Stanley Cup. Let's hope that will come true in the next few weeks. The poor Twins, on the other hand, can't seem to start much better this year than last. It will be amazing if they can turn their fortunes around, or if the team is doomed to another 90 plus loss season again.

The team did win a game last Friday, but then lost again on

**OUTSIDE THE LINES**  
Continued on Page 2B

OWATONNA SPORTS

# A new sports tradition



Freshman Owatonna lacrosse players Tyler Wencil (left) and Owen Koslosky work on their offensive and defensive skills during practice Wednesday, April 8. Boys and girls lacrosse began in Owatonna in the spring of 2004 and has since become a part of the Minnesota State High School Association. Coach Scott Seykora headed up the program and still serves as head coach for the boys team.

Owatonna among Minnesota schools where lacrosse thrives

By **JAMES KNOOP**  
County Sports Editor

The history of high school lacrosse in Minnesota is not very long. Its history in Owatonna is even shorter.

Yet, what ten years ago was largely an unknown sport has turned into one of the fastest growing sports in Minnesota. In 2004, there were only about 500 high school lacrosse players in the state. Today, there are over 5000.

**Beginning**

When Owatonna lacrosse Coach Scott Seykora came to teach at his alma mater in 2003, he had no intention of heading up the fastest growing sport Owatonna had seen in years.

"I played lacrosse in college over at Mankato (Mankato State University)," said Seykora. "I started teaching here in 2003, and a couple of guys who knew I played were like, 'This is something we're interested in. Would you think about coaching us and see if we can get this going?'" It started with 20 kids that first year in 2004. We had 18 boys and two girls."

Sitting shy of the 40-plus athletes needed for a full team in the Minnesota State High School League, Seykora's team found JV teams in the state for his small club team to play. Since Owatonna is one of the

**LACROSSE**  
Continued on Page 3B

# April showers wreak havoc on spring sports schedules



The New Richland home plate and pitching mound were covered by tarps during hard rain on Thursday, April 9. The Panthers had two games canceled last week, including an away game against United South Central and a home game against Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

# Seniors lead team under new coach

By **JAMES KNOOP**  
County Sports Editor

Entering the baseball season in his first year at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Coach Drew Paukert is excited with the talent on his team, singling out three individuals as players to watch this season - Dakota Thiele, Matt Jensen and Trevor Tracy.

All three athletes are seniors with a record of excellence on the Panthers' baseball team. Second baseman Thiele tied for the highest hitting percentage on the team last season with a .341 average. Pitcher and shortstop Trevor Tracy served as the ace of the staff last season, leading the team in wins, ERA, strikeouts and innings pitched. Pitcher and third baseman Jensen led the team last season in RBIs, hit .302 with two homeruns and finished second in strikeouts and innings pitched.

Thiele, though tied for first in hitting, is probably more well known for what he does after he gets on base.

"Dakota has phenomenal speed," said Paukert. "He had three steals (last game). He stole home without really a play being made. You don't see that often. Being as quick as he is, he's able to get those jumps."

"He's a natural on the bases,"

added Jensen.

Tracy's steady pitching has earned him respect and trust from coaches and players alike.

"He does a lot of things to make the team better," said Paukert. "He's the ace on the mound - someone we really rely on."

"The key is to limit walks," said Tracy of his pitching, "and knowing what part of the lineup you're pitching against. If it's early in the lineup, you want more off-speed. Once you get toward the end, you want to make sure you're getting those strikeouts."

Paukert added that both Tracy and Jensen are team captains.

"As our shortstop, (Tracy) makes sure people are where they need to be. Trevor is really our lead by example guy," said Paukert.

Fellow captain, Jensen, is better known as the vocal leader of the team.

"I lean on him quite a bit to get after the guys," said Paukert. "(Jensen) makes sure we're always staying focused and staying positive at the plate."

"Confidence is a big thing," said Jensen. "A lot of us worry too much. When you are up at the plate, you just have to ex-

**SENIORS**  
Continued on Page 2B



MEDFORD BASEBALL

# Defense paves way for Tigers' 2-0 start



Wyatt Volkmann pitches early in the game against United South Central on Monday, April 6. The Tigers allowed only two runs in the game and defeated the Rebels 5-2.

Staff photo by James Knoop

By JAMES KNOOP  
County Sports Editor

Underneath heavy clouds and rain April 6, the Tigers allowed only two runs to the United South Central Rebels, finishing with a 5-2 win and lifting them to a 2-0 record, ranked 17 among 1A teams in Minnesota. The Tigers began last season 0-3 before going on a four-game winning streak. Both the Tigers wins this season have come against teams they lost to last season - USC and Maple River. Winning both their season and home-openers is a step in the right direction this season, and Medford Coach Jon Chappuis said it's all about defense. "The keys to our first two wins have been our pitching and defense," said Chappuis. "We feel that if we can throw strikes and play clean baseball in the field, we will be in any of the games." In their season opener, the Tigers held Maple River to a single run in a 2-1 victory on the road. Chappuis added that the key to offense is not necessarily loads of hits or power hitting, but well-timed hits with runners in scoring position. Chappuis is also thrilled with the way his team is coming together off the field. "I like the way our upper classmen are building team chemistry

with the younger players," said Chappuis. "Medford baseball's philosophy focuses as much on the things we do off the field as we do on the field." Moving forward, Chappuis wants to see player's develop individually during practice. "We are working on building the player as a person and player," said Chappuis. "We focus on doing things right in practice, and then letting the games just happen. We can only control a couple things as players and coaches, so we need to focus on those things and let the rest of the game fall in place." Players were given a little extra longer to prepare for their next game as a week of rain delays rocked Gopher and Big 9 conference schedules. The Monday game proved to be one of the only games for Medford, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Blooming Prairie or Owatonna all week, the rest being either postponed or canceled. Medford was scheduled to take the field at Blooming Prairie on Monday, April 13, at 5 p.m. The Blossoms defeated Faribault Academies 5-1 in their home opener, not committing an error in the game.

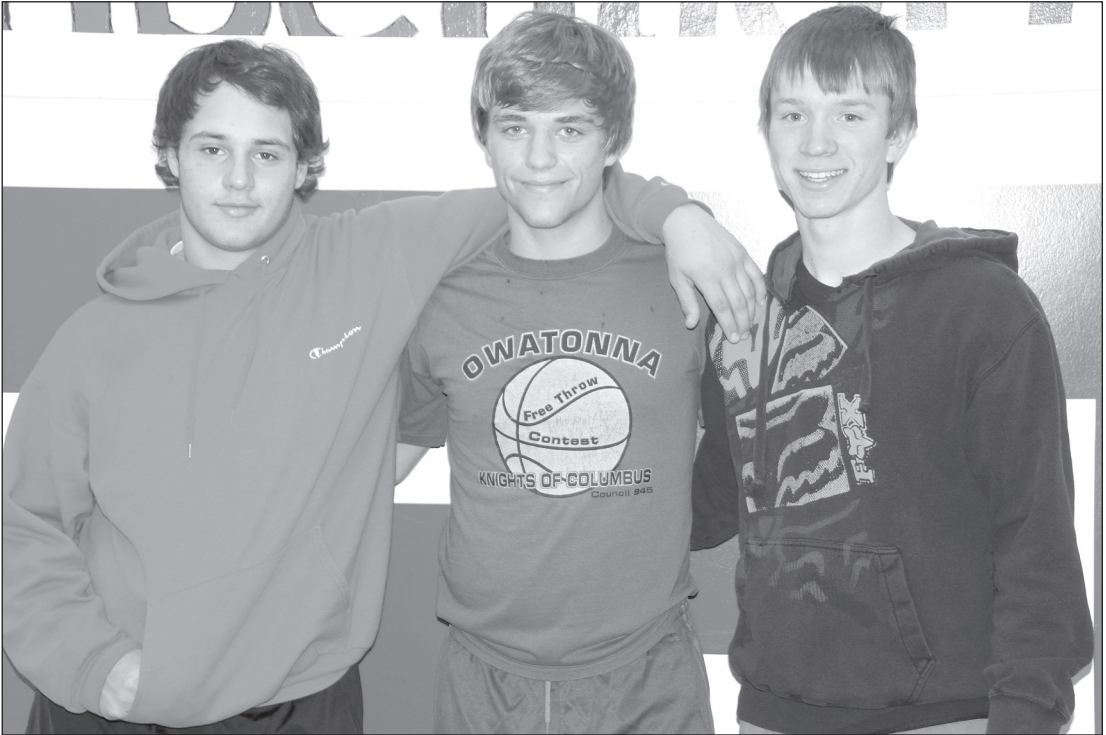
## SENIORS

Continued from Page 1B

pect to get a hit. Confidence is key." Jensen said one way he embraces confidence and expectation is by swinging at the first strike he sees. "I'm a big first-pitch hitter. I'm not letting that first strike go by, because I might not get it again." According to Paukert, the team also relies on Jensen for his hitting percentage and power at the plate. At third base Jensen plays next to Tracy. "Having both captains in the infield is nice. They can communicate where people need to be during specific situations." In their senior year, the three are pleased with the outlook on the season and the new look of the Paukert's team. "It's just a lot better feeling

this year," said Jensen. "We've got a new coach - someone that can back us up and give us positive feedback. I feel like we're a much more solid team, and we're taking it a bit more seriously than in previous years." Players added that Paukert is not shy to give instruction and keep practices and games serious. Though taking it more seriously, the seniors said the entire team is having fun and looking forward to conference rivalries and more wins than last year. "I'm liking the way we're coming together," agreed Paukert. "We're taking practice a lot more seriously and focusing on hitting a ton. In the last few years we struggled with getting runs across the board. Hopefully that is picking up here." Paukert added that besides Thiele, Jensen and Tracy, the

team has three additional seniors, including Dempsey Tucker, a pitcher out last season with a broken arm. "I'm excited," said Paukert. "It's going to be a competitive Gopher Conference this year, but the way we're looking, the way we're wanting to look, and the way we're working. I think we'll be right in the mix of things." The Panthers began the season with a 5-4 win against Faribault Academies. After two straight postponed games, the Panthers were scheduled to play at home on Monday, April 13, against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown at 5 p.m. They will play at home again on Thursday, April 16, against Maple River at 5 p.m.



Left to right: Matt Jensen, Trevor Tracy and Dakota Thiele have shown excellent talent and leadership on the Panthers baseball team.

Staff photo by James Knoop

## OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

Saturday. The victory came from the pitcher who was slated to be No. 5 on the list, but already the frontline pitchers have been banged around pretty good. I am one of the many diehard fans in this community, and I will keep cheering for them as the season rolls along. But it surely would be a lot more fun if they could win as many or more than they lose. Hope springs eternal, I guess. I mentioned my family attending "Mary Poppins," and that we thoroughly enjoyed the performance. My daughter Teri and I saw "Annie" at the Orpheum Theater the day before Easter, and that was also a very good production. It brought back many memories of one of my few occasions to act on stage. It was 32 years ago since I boldly shaved my head to play Daddy Warbucks in the Blooming Prairie High School production of that same play, and it remains one of the most enjoyable experiences of my entire teaching career. I really had a great time. A tip of the hat this week goes to Chad and Julie Eischens for their 20 years in business here in Blooming Prairie. In this day and age, back problems crop up pretty regularly in people to cause discomfort and pain. I can attest through personal experience that it has been beneficial for me to have the good doctor available. Let's hope that business can operate for another 20

years. If the weather straightens out this week, all the teams will be frantically trying to get caught up with contests. In fact, from now until school is out, activities of all sorts will take center stage. Besides sports, concerts, prom and conventions will keep students busy. The last push is on, and the rest of April and the month of May will whiz by for all the school personnel. We hope that sports success, especially, is in the cards. Among upcoming events are the canvas painting sessions at the Cue Company Thursday, April 16, and Sunday, April 19. Profits will go to the Boys and Girls Club, as will the wine tasting event at J & H Liquors on Tuesday, May 5. Both of these occasions go to a good cause and offer a lot of fun. Remembering Aunt Rosie I would guess that every person, no matter the age, has or had a favorite relative. For me, it was Aunt Rosie, my mother's sister. Aunt Rosie died last week, and we mourned, and at the same time, celebrated her life last Saturday. Rosie would have been 94 next November (her birthday is just one day earlier than my own) and she lived a full and sometimes turbulent life. At an

early age, she was my baby sitter, as she lived just two blocks from my home. Eventually, she and her parents made an unexpected move to the west coast, where both she and my grandfather worked in defense plants during World War II. After the war the fam-

ily moved back to Minneapolis, where she lived the rest of her life. She married, had three children, two of whom died of kidney disease, lost her husband and married again to a widower with two children of his own. Their combined family now numbered four children, but

tragedy struck again, when a daughter also died of cancer, and a son had to have a kidney transplant and is still on dialysis today, after a second transplant became necessary several years ago. They had one daughter born into the combined family unit. Rosie was an accomplished musician, playing piano for several groups in her lifetime and also singing as part of various groups from her high school days on. Part of my interest in music stems from her encouragement and support, and I thank her for that. Now she is no

longer with us, and she has left a little bit of sadness as a result. But I will never forget her. Let's close with a couple of church bloopers. I hope this never happens. From a church bulletin: The correspondence committee will assist with the mailing of the newsletter and stapling the annual report to the congregational members. And this Sunday school student is a little mixed up with his answer on a test: The Israelites made a golden calf, because they didn't have enough gold to make a cow. I doubt that, but we'll talk again.

## Ladies Bowling League

| TEAM STANDINGS (as of April 8) |      |        |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|
|                                | Wins | Losses |
| 1. Epic Contracting            | 32   | 16     |
| 2. F & M Bank                  | 31.5 | 16.5   |
| 3. Kosters Car Korner          | 18.5 | 29.5   |
| 4. J&H Liquors/DQ              | 14   | 34     |

### TEAM STATS

High team (Scratch) F & M Bank, 1,981  
High team (handicap) Eipc Contracting, 1,951

### INDIVIDUAL STATS

High Game  
1. Tammy Wolf, 175  
2. Jeri Alwes Nielsen, 164

High Series  
1. Joann Nielsen, 449  
2. Tammy Wolf, 444

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# BPRA hands out registration forms this week

Sign-ups start for Blooming Prairie Recreational Association events, as the group hands out registration forms to students this week.

Following is a list of BPRA events with the deadlines for registration.

### Elementary Boys Basketball Camp

Start date: June 1.  
End date: June 5.  
Time: 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Three-five (2014-15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### Elementary Girls Basketball Camp

Start date: June 1.  
End date: June 5.

Time: Noon–1:30 p.m.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Four-six (2014-15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### Grades 6-8 Boys Basketball Camp

Start date: June 1.  
End date: June 5.  
Time: 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Seven-nine (2014-15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$20.

### Grades 7-9 Girls Basketball Camp

Start date: June 1.  
End date: June 5.  
Time: 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of

April 13.  
Grades: Seven-nine (2014-15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$20.

### Junior High Girls Volleyball Camp

Start date: June 15.  
End date: June 19.  
Time: 10:30 a.m.–Noon  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grade: Seven-nine (2014-15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$20.

### Elementary Girls Volleyball Camp

Start date: June 15.  
End date: June 19.  
Time: 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m..  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Four-six. (2014-15.)

Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### K-4 Summer Softball/Baseball

Start Date: June 6.  
End Date: July 28.  
Time: Mondays through Thursday evenings.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: K-four (2014–15.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### Youth Golf Clinic

Start date: June 15.  
End date: June 26.  
Time: 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grade: Two-six (2014-2015.)  
Deadline: May 15.

Fee: Covered by the JR Foundation.

### Fall Elementary Girls Volleyball

Start date: Aug. 17.  
End date: Aug. 28.  
Time: 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Five-six (2015–16.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### Fall Elementary Flag Football

Start date: Sept. 3.  
End date: Oct. 8.  
Time: 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Three-four (2015–16.)

Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$15.

### Fall Elementary Tackle Football

Equipment will be handed out at the football camp in early August.  
Start date: Aug. 17.  
End date: TBA.  
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
Sign-up: Forms given week of April 13.  
Grades: Five-six (2015–16.)  
Deadline: May 15.  
Fee: \$35.

For more information about these events, contact John Worke, 583-4426, ext. 234.

## LACROSSE

Continued from Page 1B

only schools in the area with a lacrosse team, they often have to travel across some distance to find competition.

“We go all over,” said Seykora, adding that the map of games stretches from St. Cloud to Duluth.

“I think we maybe played seven games that year,” said Seykora.

Seven games were enough. The sport took off instantly, and now the school has over 250 participants, and is offering the sport to students as young as first grade.

“We kind of started from the top down,” said Seykora. “We just started adding teams to younger levels.”

### Attraction

According to Seykora and la-

crosse players, there are many things that have made the sport so attractive to Owatonna students.

“It’s very fast-paced,” said Seykora. “You can either run with the ball or you can pass it 50 yards downfield. It’s very quick transition.”

Players also added the fact that it has the feel of hockey, soccer and football combined, taking the best parts from each of them. Seykora added that, unlike soccer, there is usually lots of scoring, something that deters many from the former sport.

Also unlike soccer, is the physicality.

“For the most part, it’s kids that like the physicality,” said Seykora. “You run around with sticks and helmets (throwing) a hard ball. You have to have a little different mentality.”

Captain Austin Abbass agreed, saying that a good portion of

his love for the sport is that he gets to “hit people.” Abbass also wrestles and plays football for Owatonna.

However, the sport also involves agility, hand-eye coordination and lots of running. Seykora pointed out that many of his mid-fielders, those who have to run the entire length of the field, are cross-country runners.

“Cross-country helps me stay conditioned for mid-field,” said Seth Huseby. Huseby quit lacrosse in seventh grade to run track, but missing lacrosse, came back to the sport.

“It’s just really fun,” said Huseby. “Even if we lose, it’s fun no matter what.”

One of Seykora’s only concerns when establishing the new sport was competition between Owatonna sports.

“I was a big baseball guy,” said Seykora. “So I got con-

cerned about that. I don’t want to draw from other sports. I want to see everyone succeed here in Owatonna. For the most part, not a lot of them did play baseball. We get some kids that maybe did junior high baseball, but its not a lot. Talking with the baseball coach, the numbers there are good too. We have enough athletes in Owatonna to go around, so we’re not too worried about that.”

Both the boys and girls teams have seen improvement on the field over the past five years. Though the boys have mostly fought to reach a .500 record, the girls have successfully stayed above .500, and last year boasted a 10-3 record.

For those who have yet to see a lacrosse game, the boys will next host Hastings on Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. The girls will host Northfield the same day at 3 p.m.



Photo by James Knoop  
Coach Scott Seykora (left) watches his players during a practice Wednesday, April 8.



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# News

## Steele County’s Skywarn volunteers help Weather Service

By KAREN JORGENSEN  
Staff Writer

Ever wonder where the National Weather Service gets the information that a tornado has been spotted on the ground?

If you think they get that from weather satellites and radar images, you are likely wrong. In fact, the radar at the National Weather Service office in Chanhassen can only detect activity down to 6,000 feet above the ground. The Weather Service gets the information from trained weather spotters, some of whom belong to organized groups such as Steele County Skywarn. Many counties in Minnesota, including Dodge and Steele, have spotters who do not belong to a specific local group but still report their observations to the Weather Service.

The meeting room upstairs at the Owatonna Fire Department was filled on a mild spring night in March as current spotters, would-be spotters and those interested in weather gathered for a three-hour class. This class was taught by Jerry Ibberson, a Steele County Skywarn member and certified Skywarn trainer. A class a couple of weeks later in Dodge Center was taught by a trainer for the NWS.

In both cases, the purpose was to teach regular folks how to spot severe weather and help get the word out.

The NWS office in Chanhassen issues weather information for south central Minnesota, including Steele County, while Dodge County is served by the NWS office in LaCrosse.

This is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota, sponsored by Homeland Security and Emergency Management of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Weather Service and other state and local agencies.

The purpose is to educate Minnesotans about the seasonal threats of severe weather and how to deal with them.

It is a great time to make and practice emergency plans, and build or refresh your emergency-preparedness kits, say officials from the Homeland Security office.

Skywarn was developed nationally in the early 1970s as a cooperative effort between the NWS and communities.

Even in this age of technology, all the satellites and radar of the NWS have limitations, and that is where spotters step in to provide the Weather Service with a first-hand, on-the-ground view.

Dave Purscell is the coordinator of the Steele County Skywarn group. A member of Skywarn since 1992, Purscell said the number of participants has varied over the years. There now are about 65 active volunteers.

The group meets monthly, he said, and “activates whenever weather threatens the county.” The activation comes from the Steele County Emergency Management office. Although much of the focus is on tornadoes, activation can come from other weather events such as flooding, thunderstorms or hail.

There are no requirements for being a spotter, other than an interest in weather and helping inform the NWS and community in the case of severe weather.

Although Skywarn has often been associated with amateur radio because that is the primary method of communicating with surrounding counties and the Weather Service, Purscell said, it is not required that a Steele County spotter have an amateur radio license. In some other counties, a radio license is required. Communication is also done through cellphones and computers, Purscell said, although cellphone reporting is discouraged because in the case of severe weather, cellphone towers can go down.

What the Steele County group has found, he added, is that many people get interested in weather spotting and though they begin by using a



Submitted photo  
Jerry Ibberson works the radio for the Steele County Skywarn group during a weather activation. Ibberson is a longtime member of the local Skywarn group and was the instructor for the most recent training session in March.



Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen  
Dave Purscell, coordinator for the Steele County Skywarn group, introduces the Skywarn program to those attending a recent training session in Owatonna.

cellphone they soon decide to get their amateur radio license.

“Steele County, I know as having one of the top emergency organizations,” Ibberson said.

Purscell added that the county group has helped other counties organize their Skywarn groups.

The information that spotters get is not just reported to the NWS, Purscell said, but to media outlets and other emergency-management and Skywarn organizations.

Being a weather spotter, Purscell said, is not being a storm chaser. Storm spotting has a specific plan of action and requires training, he said.

Because storm spotters are volunteers with jobs and other obligations, not all spotters can respond to every emergency. When the storm spotters are activated, Purscell said, those who can respond call in to the Emergency Management center.

The county has been divided into specific areas with specific locations in each area designated for storm spotting. Spotters go to these designated “sweet spots” in the county, and when they call in after activation, they report to a spot that is known to emergency-management staff. For additional safety, Purscell said, spotters are sent to locations in pairs so no one is in an area alone. Also, the

more inexperienced spotters are paired with those who have more experience. From their designated locations, spotters observe the weather patterns including wind gusts, hail size, rainfall and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado or an actual tornado.

This information is relayed to emergency management by

radio, cellphone or Internet.

The first step in becoming a weather spotter is attending one of the many classes offered by the NWS. In Minnesota, numerous classes are offered in the spring in preparation for tornado season.

The class in Owatonna began with an explanation of what Skywarn is, how it operates and what the spotters do. Then it moved into the basics of weather spotting.

Storm spotters classes cover the basics of thunderstorm developments, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, what information to report and how to report it, and basic severe weather safety.

Two hours later, terms such as shelf cloud, wall cloud, downdraft, updraft, rotation, supercell and microburst took on a new meaning.

Steele County Skywarn has grown, from the six people involved when Purscell started in 1992.

Locally, spotters are generally activated during March to October, with June and July the high points, although there can be activations into November.

Severe weather can occur at any time of the day or night. Nighttime, Ibberson said, can be the most difficult time for the spotters.

Safety is always the primary concern and if a spotter does not feel comfortable with nighttime

spotting, that is not required.

A spotter needs to always be aware of his or her surroundings and where the nearest safe location is, he said.

“If you don’t feel safe about a situation, change it,” he said. “You control your own safety.”

Whether a storm spotter or not, he said, everyone should have a NOAA weather radio. Ninety-eight percent of Minnesota is covered by NOAA weather radio broadcasts. Everyone can also receive official emergency alerts, including weather, on smartphones and alerts from various weather organizations apps on cellphones and tablets.

### TORNADO DRILLS

**What:** Two statewide tornado drills.  
**When:** Warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will sound in simulated drills at 1:45 and 5:55 p.m. Thursday, April 16. In the case of actual tornado warnings, much of the information would come from the group of dedicated weather watchers who have had Skywarn training.

### VOLUNTEERING

For those interested in becoming a weather spotter in Steele County, Steele County Skywarn meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Owatonna Fire Station. For other areas, information on Skywarn groups can be obtained by contacting the National Weather Service.

### STEELE WINNER

The Steele County Skywarn program was recognized at the 2014 Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Award Banquet in Breezy Point on Sept. 16. Skywarn received the Joe Strub Memorial Award in recognition of its weather radio program, as well as for their efforts June, 17, 2010, when five tornadoes entered Steele County.

### TORNADO SAFETY

The safest place to be during a tornado is in an underground shelter, basement or sale room. If none is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a study building is the safest option. Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.



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2014 Dodge County Dairy Princesses Taylor Reber, left, and McCayla Thoe posed with their successor, Morgan O'Brien, center, after officially crowning her Dodge County Dairy Princess for 2015. O'Brien is a freshman at RCTC in Rochester, where she is studying to be a veterinary tech.

Staff photos by Karen Jorgensen

# ALL HAIL THE PRINCESS

*Kasson teen is named the 2015 Dodge County dairy princess*

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**  
Staff Writer

Morgan O'Brien, daughter of Patrick and Emma O'Brien of Kasson, was crowned the 2015 Dodge County dairy princess last Friday night at the annual Dairy Princess banquet at the Milton Township Hall.

She was crowned by the 2014 dairy princesses, Taylor Reber and McCayla Thoe.

Before relinquishing their duties to O'Brien, Reber and Thoe gave a review of the many activities they participated in during their year representing Dodge County dairy farmers.

During the past year, Reber said, they visited schools to talk with children about dairy and farming; participated in the Dodge County Expo and the Dodge and Olmsted County Fairs; worked at the malt stand; and participated in a school visit at the Albert family's dairy farm.

"They (the kids) come in to get a hands-on experience," Reber said.

"It was a great experience for me to run as dairy princess, and I'm glad to hand it over to my cousin, Morgan," Reber said.

Reber said that with her year as dairy princess concluded, she intends to attend college in Iowa, majoring in dairy science.

Thoe added that they participated in a Honkers game in Rochester that included a milking contest and bale throw.



Members and friends of the Dodge County American Dairy Association lined up at the buffet dinner catered by Omar Feyen of Omar's Kitchen Catering in West Concord.

"The Honkers game was so much fun," she said.

For Thoe, there was the added experience of participating in the Princess Kay of the Milky Way competition. Thoe was chosen as one of 12 finalists for the title, which is awarded the night before the beginning of the Minnesota State Fair.

Although she did not win the Princess Kay title, as a finalist Thoe still had the experience of having her likeness carved in butter during the fair by Linda Christianson and participating in numerous fair events.

Now attending college at the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac, Thoe was recently named Miss Fond du Lac.

The new dairy princess grew up on a dairy farm outside Kasson. She has two older sisters, an older brother and two younger brothers. In addition to her parents, she was joined at the banquet by her grandparents, Francis and Eileen O'Brien. Her maternal grandmother, Nanda Reber, lives in West Concord.

"We have a ton of cats," she said, "and my dog, Katie, is like my little sister."

The family has 110 milking cows and 300 head total, she said. Her job, she added, is to take care of the calves.

O'Brien was sponsored by the Carriage House Animal Hospital, Dr. Ross Bailey, in Kasson. She is a freshman at RCTC in Rochester, where she is studying to become a veterinary tech.

The banquet is held annually by the Dodge County American Dairy Association and was catered by Omar's Kitchen Catering of West Concord.

ADA officers include Chairperson Susie Thoe, Vice

Chair Paul Daley, Secretary Madge Alberts, Treasurer Angie Alberts and Princess Coordinator Karen Naatz.

Bulk Tank Sponsors of the dairy princess program in Dodge County include 1 Stop Realty, AgStar, Paul J. Kiltinen, Attorney at Law, Hyland Systems, Leth Electric, Inc., Minnesota Ag Group, Kasson Northland Farm Systems, R&M Steel, AMPI, Central Valley Cooperative-Hayfield, Dodge Center Chiropractic Daley Farms-Pine Island, Reber Dairy-Mantorville, Stevenson Insurance Inc., Alberts Pine-Shelter Farms-Pine Island, Naatz Dairy-Mantorville and Owen Locker Plant.

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News briefs

Prescribed burns set near highways

Several prescribed burns are set this spring in southeastern Minnesota as weather conditions allow, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The areas will begin in the next few weeks, weather-permitting. Areas scheduled for burns this spring are:

- Interstate 35 near Clarks Grove and near the Iowa border.
- Highway 52 near Harmony and Canton.
- Highway 56 by and near Rose Creek and Le Roy.
- Interstate 90 near Eyota.
- Highway 218 by and near Austin and Owatonna.

Trained prescribed burn crews monitor these efforts. They are done to promote native prairie vegetation growth and control weeds and brush.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org), call 5-1-1 or go to [www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov).

Ribbons raise assault awareness

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Crisis Resource Center of Steele County (CRC) has partnered with the Owatonna Police Department and Steele County Sheriff’s Department to help raise awareness and recognize this cause by attaching teal ribbons to their squad car antennas throughout April.

Last year, the CRC of Steele County served 66 victims of sexual violence. In addition, 457 services were provided to those 66 victims of sexual violence.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, one in four girls and one in six boys is sexually assaulted before the age of 18. A vast majority of victims know their offenders, whether it is an intimate partner, family member or acquaintance. Sexual violence affects not only the people directly involved, but also the family and friends sup-

porting the victim as well, according to the CRC.

The CRC of Steele County offers free and confidential services. If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, you may call 507-451-1202 or go to 125 W. Front St., Owatonna. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Mission of the Crisis Resource Center is to provide support and confidential services to people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Historical Society lecture is May 5

The Steele County Historical Society will welcome Leanne Cragun of Rochester on Tuesday, May 5, at 10 a.m. in the Wenger Room of the History Center at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

The subject will be “using Family Search,” a genealogy research tool that adds 1 million records online each day. Cra-

gun will be joining the regularly scheduled SCHS Genealogy Group that meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The public is invited.

Cragun has been interested in genealogical research since she was 14. She and her mother began working together to collect family records, pictures and stories. That collection laid the groundwork for two family history books. She has been a volunteer at the Rochester Family History Center for about eight years.

For three of those years, she served as the director of the Family History Center. She has taught many classes on family history research. Cragun is a graduate of Utah State University with a degree in early-childhood education.

Admission to the lecture is free, but donations are appreciated. The History Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. un-

til 3 p.m. For more information, call 507-451-1420 and ask for Laura.

Spring Spree set at Owatonna Hospital

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Sewing Group, Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe and Books Are Fun are hosting their second annual Spring Spree event at Owatonna Hospital, 2250 NW 26th St., Thursday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Books and gifts for all ages will be available for purchase in Vision Conference Room 1489, and sewing items including adult bibs, walker bags, dish towels, table runners, kitchen accessories and baby items will be sold in Excellence Conference Room 1487. The Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe will be featuring spring and Mother’s Day items as well as new special tea items from Serenity Leaf, based out

of Owatonna. A portion of the sales from this event helps support Owatonna Hospital unbudgeted items and scholarships for students in nursing and health-related fields.

For more information about this or other volunteer opportunities with the Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary, go to [allinahealth.org/owatonna](http://allinahealth.org/owatonna) and select Volunteer Opportunities under the Quick Links section or call 507-977-2778.



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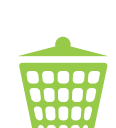
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Each year, Earth Day — April 22 — marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

The height of hippie and flower-child culture in the United States, 1970 brought the death of Jimi Hendrix, the last Beatles album, and Simon & Garfunkel’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water”. Protest was the order of the day, but saving the planet was not the cause. War raged in Vietnam, and students nationwide increasingly opposed it.

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. “Environment” was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson’s New York Times best-seller Silent Spring in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up until that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for

living organisms, the environment and public health.

Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center.

THE IDEA

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a “national teach-in on the environment” to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land.

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment

in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. “It was a gamble,” Gaylord recalled, “but it worked.”

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator

Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995) — the highest honor given to civilians in the United States — for his role as Earth Day founder.

EARTH DAY TODAY

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. With 5,000 environmental groups in a record 184 countries reaching out to hundreds of millions of people, Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. It used the Internet to organize activists, but also featured a talking drum chain that traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, and hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Earth Day 2000 sent world leaders the loud and clear message that citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy.

Much like 1970, Earth Day 2010 came at a time of great challenge for the environmental community. Climate change deniers, well-funded oil lobbyists, reticent politicians, a disinterested public, and a divided environmental

community all contributed to a strong narrative that overshadowed the cause of progress and change. In spite of the challenge, for its 40th anniversary, Earth Day Network reestablished Earth Day as a powerful focal point around which people could demonstrate their commitment. Earth Day Network brought 225,000 people to the National Mall for a Climate Rally, amassed 40 million environmental service actions toward its 2012 goal of A Billion Acts of Green®, launched an international, 1-million tree planting initiative with Avatar director James Cameron and tripled its online base to over 900,000 community members.

The fight for a clean environment continues in a climate of increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day. We invite you to be a part of Earth Day and help write many more victories and successes into our history. Discover energy you didn’t even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grassroots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

Source: Earthday.org



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## Bennett addresses issues during, after BP visit

*Albert Lea lawmaker talks transportation, education, funding*

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**  
Managing Editor

Republican Rep. Peggy Bennett's recent stop in Blooming Prairie brought a discussion on several issues, including education, transportation and long-term care.

"It has been exhilarating," Bennett

said about her first year in the Minnesota Legislature during an interview at the Steele County Times office. "I'm enjoying learning so much. My favorite part is talking to local people."

And that is what Bennett was doing during the Legislature's Easter recess. The Albert Lea representative stopped in Blooming Prairie, as well as other communities in District 27A.

"As a legislator I want to be as well-



**Bennett**

informed as I can be," she said. "I want to know how this is going to affect you (citizens), what do you see it doing, is there a better way we can do it? I believe the answers are here at this level more than any other level."

This year the Legislature created a long-term care committee, which Bennett said is important.

"At this point, monetary targets have been made. We have to determine how to spend the money allocated," she said.

"I have talked to so many nursing home and assisted-living directors. It (money) is a big issue. We have a problem where we are underfunding things."

Bennett has submitted a bill that would provide grant funding to provide assisted-living and nursing homes with much-needed equipment. That bill was introduced, but Bennett said it won't be brought to the floor until next year.

She said a major challenge for long-term care involves the state.

"The state sets the amount of money nursing homes can charge, but they underfund it for each person," she said. "It

adds up and is not getting any better."

In addition, nursing homes' and assisted-living facilities' ability to retain employees is a challenge.

"There is a definite manpower issue there," she said.

A bill has been introduced that would fund nursing homes according to what it costs to operate them.

"It is a matter of, Do we have enough money to do that?" Bennett said. "I found as a new person going into it, it is

**BENNETT VISIT**  
Continued on Page 2C



Owatonna High School junior Kayla Gryniowski and senior Michala White speak to St. Mary's School eighth-graders about the benefits of joining Students Helping Others Choose when entering high school. The pair also assisted in a presentation about staying away from drugs and alcohol.

## Stopping drug abuse before it starts

*Students aim to help younger peers*

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**  
Managing Editor

Staying away from drugs and alcohol can be tough for young students. But a group of Owatonna High School students is joining the Safe and Drug Free Coalition to open new doors for younger students as they go through high school and beyond.

"We're hoping to open a new door of drug-free life and what other things you can do besides drugs," said OHS junior Kayla Gryniowski, moments before entering a St. Mary's School eighth-grade classroom April 8.

She and senior Michala White are members of Students Helping Others Choose (SHOC). They, along with SHOC coordinator Shannon Karsten and project coordinator for the Safe and

Drug Free Coalition Darren Reed, provided a presentation to more than 40 students.

Gryniowski said she has been involved for two years with SHOC and has remained drug-free.

"There is more to life than doing drugs," she said.

White added that she hoped they would be able to empower the younger students to make good decisions. April is Drug Awareness Month, and White stated that drugs and drinking have become a bigger problem in society.

"I feel if we take a stand and use our voice, we can have a positive impact," she said.

In past visits to schools, White said, some youths have not wanted to participate.

"But there are some who actually do appreciate that we come in," she said. "They ask some serious questions, and I feel that we can help them answer

**"We're hoping to open a new door of drug-free life and what other things you can do besides drugs."**

~ Kayla Gryniowski  
Owatonna High School junior

those questions because they are afraid to ask themselves."

The two high school students answered anonymous questions after Reed provided a Substance

Abuse Prevention Education program. He discussed four stages: experimentation, regular use, risky use and abuse and addiction.

"This is a very important time for you in your life," Reed told the eighth-graders. "The earlier you try it, the more likely you will have problems in later life."

He shared some myths with the students. Reed said there is no such thing as responsible drinking at their age. He told the students that there are more alcohol-related deaths than from all other drugs combined.

"There is no safe dose of marijuana or alcohol," he said. "The vast majority of heroin users say

marijuana was their first drug."

Reed provided a few statistics to the class. Forty percent of teens who start drinking at 14 or younger are more likely to become addicts, he said. Ten percent who wait until age 20 are likely to become addicts.

"There is no guarantee you will live through any of it," he said, adding later that addiction is not a moral failing.

Eighth-grade student Mario Kelsay, 14, said he wasn't surprised that young people could be doing drinking and drugging at his age.

"But I was surprised when he said he started at 11," Kelsay said. "I think the impact on an eighth-grade student would be that they would think wiser and not try because they know the dangers of addiction."

Classmate Mary Sager, 13, agreed it was not surprising that kids her age or younger are doing it.

"This shows the true dangers and not to do it," she said, adding that social media does influence others to do drugs or drink.

## Drug court gets lives back on track

*Program a last chance for some to avoid lengthy prison terms*

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**  
Managing Editor

Doug Hoverkamp has 42 months over his head, meaning that the next time he screws up there is a good chance he will head to prison.

"I'm an alcoholic and an addict," he said. "I was blessed to get into this program. This is pretty much it for me. I have to make this work."

Hoverkamp is one of at least 25 people who are getting another chance through Steele-Waseca County Drug Court. Drug court officially began July 1 and features a four-phase, step-down, progress-based program.

District Court Judge Joseph Buel-tel, who oversees drug court, said people come with multiple issues.

"Obviously, they have chemical dependency and criminal issues. There are other issues that need addressing also: mental health, psychological trauma, physical health, dental care, housing, past-due fines and child-support issues, employment, lack of driver's licenses and family issues," he said. "As best we can, we try to get people set up for successful crime-free, clean and sober, and independent living. By the end of the program we want people to be law-abiding, clean and sober, working and supporting themselves and others."

Each week those involved with drug court meet in the judge's chambers to go over the past week. Sometimes positive items occur in the person's life. Other times those trying to be rehabilitated face frustrations. But on all occasions those in drug court and the drug court team provide support for those trying to change their lives around.

"Having support is really important because you have other people that are in the same position with alcohol and drug addiction," Hoverkamp said. "With me I dealt with everything with drugs and alcohol. I didn't deal with life on

**DRUG COURT**  
Continued on Page 2C

## Clothesline's executive director departs

*Long tenure ends; group officials mum*

By **SHANNON KINLEY**  
County Staff Writer

After 17 years of being involved with the Steele County Clothesline, Mary Fink has resigned as executive director.

Fink started as a volunteer for the organization in 1997, helping to distribute winter coats, hats and mittens to children living in poverty. Three years later she became the executive director, a position she held until her resignation.

"In 2013, I set goals for myself when we were forced to reorganize our funding plan. Today the Clothesline is in its strongest financial position ever thanks to grants awarded by the Otto Bremer Foundation and South Country Health

Alliance. I have achieved my goals and felt it was a good time to leave the agency on a high note. Change is good for any organization," Fink said in an emailed statement to the Steele County Times.

During Fink's time at the Clothesline she brought about two initiatives, the Career Wear Fair and Outfitting the Future, and played a role in getting the new computerized tracking system.

"Helping families and individuals meet their basic need of clothing was what kept me going for so many years. Coming from a single-parent home with five siblings, I saw the value in this organization," Fink said. "For nearly 20 years, I have had a passion for the work the Clothesline does and it has been a great experience. I will miss the daily interaction with many



**Fink**

people, but I look forward to spending more time with my family and friends, enjoying more time at my cabin and being able to sit down to read a book without dozing off."

Pam Bangston, board president, refused to comment on the resignation but told the Times that Fink resigned April 1.

Bangston also refused to comment on the next steps for the organization. "We have several options we are looking at, and we are really are not going to comment at this time what the next steps are," she said.

The Steele County Clothesline provides free clothing, shoes and outerwear to needy people in southern Minnesota. The nonprofit organization serves more than 1,300 children and adults each year.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

### Welcoming Laura Elvebak

Steele County Soil and Water District Manager Dan Arndt and newly hired Steele County Administrator Laura Elvebak chat Tuesday, April 7. An open house was held at the Steele County Administration building from 3 to 6 p.m. to welcome Elvebak.



# CountyLiving

## DRUG COURT

Continued from Page 1C

life’s terms. There is support through peers and also through the drug court team. It is very uplifting when I come on Wednesday. I look forward to it.”

The drug court team meets with participants each week to ensure that they are making progress in the program. If they are doing well, they are recognized for their progress. If they are not meeting the standards of the program, an immediate sanction can be imposed.

Sanctions include developing a weekly schedule, writing an essay, an extra support meeting, community work service, electronic home monitoring and a jail sanction, Bueltel said.

“When participants are faltering, we look to see if they are getting an appropriate level of treatment,” he said. “We also ask the participant if they are identifying and avoiding risky people, places and things.”

Hoverkamp said he looks forward to the whole process, even when people are messing up.

“Drug court will work with you,” he said.

“You have to be honest. You have to do what is required of you and hold yourself accountable. To me, it is all fair.”

It wasn’t always like that for Hoverkamp.

“I’m 53 now, and I need to grow up pretty soon,” he said.

He had a lot of anxiety with the drugs and addiction.

“I’m an alcoholic and an addict, but I have a lot of issues dealing with life and my character defects and how my anger comes out,” he said. “But I am learning that the drug court team is not out to get me. They have expectations of me which I have for myself. Today, I can be thankful for that. I’m blessed for that.”

In the past, Hoverkamp would have confrontations with law officials.

“I did not like cops,” he said. “It was typical for me, as an alcoholic and addict, to tell them to leave me alone and you are following me.”

Now, Hoverkamp has a few law enforcement officials who stops by to ask him about drug court.

“Officers that have come to my house have been polite, and I share with them,” he said. “One thing Nicole (Grans) told me in the beginning if I had problems

with any police officer to call and let her know. That made me feel good.”

Hoverkamp said drinking and drugging is only 5 percent of the problem.

“It is learning how to live life, your life skills and character defects,” he said. “You can share your strength, your hope and feelings in a group session.”

He also has a sponsor he believes has been a big part of his recovery. Hoverkamp talks to his sponsor each day, sometimes twice a day. They go to meetings together.

“The sponsor has been a big part of my life,” Hoverkamp stated. “He is almost like a father figure.”

Hoverkamp also has respect for Judge Bueltel and other members of the drug court.

“He’s not out to get us,” he said. “He’s a big part of the program. If you keep screwing up, you’re going to get it. If you do what you’re supposed to do, and it’s not much, you’re going to be OK.”

He added that the whole drug court program is about staying clean and sober, being honest and being held accountable.

“That is all the stuff I like about it,” Hoverkamp said. “I didn’t used to like the judge because he was doing his job. But now I have a lot of respect for him because like the rest of the team, he has a concern for the people.”

Judge Bueltel said drug court has a demanding regimen.

“It is not a pass. Most participants are avoiding long prison or jail sentences,” he said. “There are program expectations of a certain amount of hours of programing, curfew, at least twice-weekly drug testing, etc. Many of our participants want to make changes in their lives, but getting into and completing drug court is not easy.”

Overall, Judge Bueltel believes drug court is working and all team members are cooperative.

“Drug court is not for everyone,” he said. “We know that some people are not ready to make changes for the better. But ultimately, that is the participant’s choice. If someone fails in drug court, he or she will face a probation violation and the potential for an execution of their sentence.”

## BENNETT VISIT

Continued from Page 1C

not always as black and white as a person thinks.”

Another issue involves roads and bridges. Bennett said she’s excited about a plan the Republican Party has put together.

“From what I’ve heard from people, the plan fits perfectly,” she said. “I’ve heard, ‘Don’t raise the gas tax, don’t raise our taxes.’ This does not raise taxes.

“I’ve also heard, ‘Let’s not do a Band-Aid and let’s have some long-term built-in things,’” she said. “I have also heard from smaller communities like Blooming Prairie, Hayfield, Wells, that they have been shorted or have not gotten funding for roads for a long time.”

Bennett said there is a long-term component in the bill.

“It is a 10-year plan that takes the tax and moves it into a special designated fund only for roads and bridges that would create some long-term money.”

Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton has introduced a transportation plan as well. The major difference is that the governor’s plan includes a gas tax. Bennett said the gas tax would increase costs about 16 cents per gallon.

The Republican’s plan uses the current taxes on hand.

“It includes shifting some money from the general fund

permanently,” Bennett said. “Both (parties) are trying to address short-term and long-term needs. His (the governor’s) way to address long term is raising the gas tax.”

Bennett said she does not know how everything will turn out.

“I don’t think the gas tax will be able to come on the table,” she stated. “Some say yes, but the vast majority say no.”

A hot topic for education is early childhood, universal pre-kindergarten. A bill has been introduced that would spend part of the surplus on this program. Under this plan, all 4-year-olds would receive a free half-day of school.

The purpose is to make sure every child is ready for kindergarten.

“My thought is, ‘Why not use our resources to target those high-risk kids that aren’t ready,’” she said. “Make it so parents can choose where they want their child to go.

“We only have a certain amount of money. If we keep expanding and watering it down for everybody for this, I think we short the high-risk kids that really need it,” Bennett said. “Schools don’t have the space right now.”

Bennett added that day cares and private preschools would be hurt.

“(It may) put many of them out of business,” she said.



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley  
Pirates Curt Jorgensen (left), Mark Zollner, Becca Zollner and Blind Pew, played by Ron Conn, attack the inn to search for the treasure map as part of Little Theatre of Owatonna’s “Treasure Island.”

# Little Theatre to perform ‘Treasure Island’

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

Those watching Little Theatre of Owatonna’s “Treasure Island” are sure to hear some gunshots and see numerous sword fights in the action-packed show about pirates.

“Treasure Island” is characterized as a dramatic comedy that’s based on an adventure novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The play, adapted by Ken Ludwig, won a Distinguished Play Award for Best Adaptation from the American Alliance for Theater & Education (AATE) in 2009.

“My pirates are not Disney pirates; we have sword fights on stage and two people die in the first 15 minutes,” said Director Jon Terrill. “It is about a boy named Jim Hawkins who gets caught up in this search for buried treasure. A pirate has stolen a map from other pirates and they want it back, so he gets involved in that and then it is a search for the treasure that is on Treasure Island. Him and his friends are trying to beat the pirates, find the treasure and also stay alive.”

Terrill likes the show because of its action and adventure, but that is also what makes it different from shows he has directed in the past.

“This is more action-oriented. Most plays are drama or comedies, but this is really, truly action-adventure. We probably have six different sword fights, and we go from different locations — a ship, to an inn, to the island,” he said.

There are 17 cast members as well as 10 to 12 crew members. This show is a bit different in that the actors and actresses have to move all the props around in between scenes instead of a stage crew.

Cast members have been rehearsing Monday through Friday, typically two and a half to three hours each night, since March 5.

Terrill’s favorite part of the show is anytime the prop gun is fired or a sword fight breaks out on stage.

The two main challenges of the production were time and space; they lost a week of rehearsals due to the facility being used for the Hometown Sampler, and the show has many props that have to be stored backstage.



Dominic Nelson, 12, plays one of the main characters, Jim Hawkins, in Little Theatre of Owatonna’s “Treasure Island.” This is his third production with LTO.

## Ron Hager

Ron Hager has been involved with LTO since 2011 and plays one of the main characters, Long John Silver.

“He is a villain-type person, but he is also a hero. He befriends Jim Hawkins and doesn’t let anything happen to him, so therefore, he is a hero. At the same time he is a villain because he schemes and actually kills someone on stage,” he said.

Hager enjoys playing Silver because “I get to be a villain and use my pirate voice, and it will actually make sense.”

His favorite scene is when he gets into a sword fight, because “I get to raise my voice as loud as I want and yell at the other pirates.”

The main challenge for Hager has been memorizing all his lines, as Silver has many more than characters he has played in the past.

## Dominic Nelson

Dominic Nelson, 12, has done three productions with LTO and plays one of the main characters, Jim Hawkins. He tried out for the part after being encouraged by Technical Director Mary Butler Fraser, who happens to be his former day care provider.

“He (Hawkins) is a 14-year-old who grew up in England and lost his father. I

## IF YOU GO

Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, through Saturday, April 25. Tickets can be purchase at the LTO box office or online.

get all excited because we go on a cruise to go get treasure, but I soon realize that it is not what I thought it was going to turn out to be,” Nelson said. “He is wise beyond his age. He sounds like he is somehow 32, but he is 14. He knows a lot of Shakespeare, so it makes him sound more complicated, but he is also a kid who loves to look for adventure.”

Nelson enjoys playing Hawkins because he is very similar to the character off stage.

“He is kind of like me outside of the play. If you start to getting into a conversation with me, I don’t sound 12 because I make a lot of references that you wouldn’t hear most 12-year-olds say, so I am kind of able to play myself,” he said.

Nelson’s toughest challenge was tackling all of his lines, as he has many lengthy monologues during scene changes.

Terrill recommends people come see the show because “They will have a good time laughing at the pirates and cheering on Jim Hawkins as he tries to beat them, and hopefully they like the sword fights.”



## On with the show

The stars of the NRHEG performance of Roald Dahl’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” are, from left, Lizzy Hagen, Bailey Burg, Justin Mortensen, Solveig Stafford and Katherine Lewer. The play will be presented Friday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., and at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday in New Richland.

Submitted photo



# Blooming Prairie Living



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

### Snacking and smiling

Above, April and Logan Konz found these minion cupcakes to their liking at the annual St. Columbanus Catholic Church Spring Fair Brunch and Bake Sale on Sunday, April 12, in Blooming Prairie. April, 8, and Logan are the children of James and Amber Konz of Blooming Prairie. Left, Avry Hoffman picks up a plate of breakfast goodies. Avry is the daughter of Dave and Becky Hoffman of Blooming Prairie.

Did you know?

The editors of the 1998 yearbook decided to make the theme of the book revolve around a puzzle in which students, staff, sports and activities would all be part of a puzzle. When the pieces came together, the puzzle would be finished, and it pretty much worked out ideally. It was an example of a theme that really worked.

The 1997-98 school year kicked off with Josh Johnson and Betsy Campbell reigning over homecoming festivities. The week had the usual prank of stringing toilet paper on the trees of football players and coaches, and special activity days during the week proved quite popular, all in a week of almost perfect weather.

“The Sound of Music” entertained large audiences for three performances. Betsy Campbell and Jason Harber starred as Maria and Captain Von Trapp, but Katie Nelson, Anna Keefe, Kristin Olson, Jon Is-



### Did You Know? A moment in Blossoms history

enor, Jenny Esplan and Andrea Wonderlich all had speaking roles in the production.

The “Competition Piece,” the contest one-act play, won the subsection drama title, with Laurel Knutson, Kathy Bonnema, Jenny Jacobusse, Angie Jones and Ryan Ashton in some of the roles.

Stephen Herron and Laurel Knutson were the Snow Week royalty, and a carnival and semi-formal dance highlighted the week. The spring prom dance took place at the Ramada Inn in Owatonna, with the after-prom party in the high school gym keeping everyone entertained until early morning. Speech students had a good year, with seven students competing at the section. Jason Harber placed second in the section.

FLA capped a great year with seven students earning gold in the state with their star events, and Lisa Meske even got a callback for the national convention. Three judging teams competed for the local chapter at the state FFA convention. Five foreign exchange students spent the school year learning American views and teaching Blooming Prairie students their country’s customs.

The band and chorus both had scrambled years and director changes, but both groups earned superior ratings at the district large group contest. Graduation finally arrived for the 68 seniors, and they marched proudly across the stage one last time to receive diplomas. Valedictorian and Salutatorian Ian Rausch and Houdy Kazemi gave advice to their fellow classmates with short speeches.

Next week we will record athletic accomplishments from the 1997-98 school year at BPHS.

— Compiled by LeMar Nelson



Submitted photo  
Blooming Prairie High School band members take part in a clinic at DePaul University last month.

### 39 Blooming students see sights in Chicago

By BRIAN SANDFORD  
News Editor

Thirty-nine Blooming Prairie High School band and choir students got a shot of culture on the shores of Lake Michigan late last month.

According to band director Ross Reishus:

The “learning” portion of the trip — which began after an eight-hour overnight bus ride — began the morning of Friday, March 27, at DePaul University. There, band and choir members took part in separate clinics in which they performed music, then listened to a college band director’s feedback.

“About an hour and a half, they got to go to school and college,” Reishus said. He added that in his 20 years of teaching, the DePaul clinic was the best he’d seen.

Students later saw a dolphin show, then went to the top of the city’s iconic Willis (formerly Sears) Tower. That was followed by dinner and a show at Medieval Times in suburban Schaumburg.

The next day began with a “gangster tour” in which a guide pointed out locations of shootings and secret breweries, and offered lessons about Prohibition. That was followed by a visit to the Field Museum

of Natural History and a drive-by look at Millennium Park.

Dinner was at a pizzeria — featuring Chicago-style deep-dish pizza, of course — followed by a Blue Man Group concert.

“Sunday, we went to the Museum of Science and Industry, and you could spend a whole day at that,” Reishus said. The group headed home after lunch.

Blooming Prairie High has been sending band and choir students on arts-related trips every other year since 2005. The journeys began when the school saw a dip in enrollment, prompting worries that the numbers of students enrolled in the performing arts would similarly drop. The trips were seen as an added way to drum up interest.

“It was suggested we do a short trip to Chicago, then two years later do a little-further trip,” Reishus said. Since, Reishus and choir director Kari Bottin have been part of trips to Chicago in 2007; Nashville, Tennessee, in 2009; Chicago in 2011; and Washington, D.C., in 2013.

Since the trip, band members have taken part in a large-group festival in Stewartville, Minnesota. They garnered three “excellent” ratings, with “superior” being the top score, Reishus said.

## CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT Rachel’s puts focus on up top

By HOWARD LESTRUD  
Staff Writer

Life is about attitudes, and one’s attitude might improve after one spends some time at Rachel’s Hair Salon, 110 Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie.

Rachel’s Hair Salon is owned and operated by Rachel Hansen, Blooming Prairie High School graduate. She and husband Steve are the parents of three daughters.

Rachel’s salon provides an art to hair care mastered by her and by fellow stylist Lachelle Wondra, also a Blooming Prairie native. The two offer 18 years of experience between them, 13 for Rachel and five for Lachelle.

“We do it all here,” Rachel says. The salon draws a mixture of clients — women, men and children. Visit the salon for these needs: cuts, highlights, colors, perms, shampoo styling, up-do’s, hair extensions and facial waxing.

Rachel and Lachelle keep up with the trends in hairstyling by going to hair shows and following online instruction of new hairstyling techniques.

Rachel began her career interest at age 5, when she styled and cut Barbie’s hair.

“I told my mom I wanted to be a stylist,” Rachel said. While in high school, she cut hair for girls going to dances. She attended Riverland Community College in Austin, graduated and began work at a salon in Owatonna. She then obtained her manager’s license and began searching for a salon in Blooming Prairie.

Lachelle graduated in cosmetology at the Nova Academy in Rochester. She then worked in Austin as a stylist before joining Rachel three years ago.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud  
Rachel Hansen, left, and Lachelle Wondra.

### IF YOU GO

Rachel’s Hair Salon is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays; 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays; noon to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and by appointment only on Saturdays.

Rachel’s features a variety of hair care products including Kenra, Redken and Joico shampoos, conditioners and styling aids. New skin treatment is available with the Jeunesse product called Instantly Ageless. Rachel’s also has liquid Botox. It serves as a moisturizer and facial cleanser.

Rachel and Lachelle say the most satisfying part of the hair business is getting referrals and repeat visits.

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## RECIPE CORNER

### Orange-Cranberry Salad

- 1 pkg. raspberry jello
- 2 c. hot water
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 orange, unpeeled
- 2 c. cranberries
- 1 can crushed pineapple

By Mrs. Ruben Carlson

Dissolve Jello in hot water, stir in sugar. Cool. Put orange, including peeling, and cranberries through a food chopper. Add the fruit, including all the juices. Put in a mold and let set.



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# Ellendale-GenevaLiving

## Greenhouse near Hollandale overcomes a major obstacle

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

June 17, 2010, is a day that Gretchen Boldt remembers all too well. That is the day her family lost not only its business but also its home after the home was destroyed by an EF4 tornado.

Fast-forward five years and the family is still trying to put all the pieces back together.

“It has been a long road. It is like you lost that life totally; it was unbelievable. We are still trying to recover,” Boldt said.

Boldt and her husband, Glenn, own Hilltop Greenhouse and Farm about two miles north of Hollandale and three miles east of Geneva.

It took family members half a year just to clean up the rubble, and during the rebuild, they had to live in a camper for over a year on the property to ensure that none of the contractor’s equipment or materials was stolen from the property.

“It took us from employees to no employees, because insurance did not help us out at regaining totally. They have been really great at finding new work or hanging on to be able to help again,” Boldt said.

Today during the offseason it is just Gretchen, Glenn and their oldest daughter, Julie Otto, who run the operation, but during retail season they will add two to three more employees to help out.

Gretchen and Glenn started the operation in 1989 after moving from New York, where Glenn’s parents, along with his siblings, started up a greenhouse. One of Glenn’s brothers continues the operation in New York and another brother has an operation in Florida.

Gretchen’s family had a dairy farm in New York, a processing plant and store and sold their locally grown farm products to their neighbors.

Today the Hilltop offers a variety of annuals, fruit and vegetables, herbs, perennials, water plants, shrubs and trees. They supply all of Austin’s hanging baskets and provide planting materials for their gardens and big pots. They also work with Albert Lea, Blooming Prairie, New Richland and Hollandale, to some capacity.

Boldt says their mission is community.

“We love what we do and we have a great relationship with our customers. We want to educate our customers on the value of healthy food, wonderful plants and gardening ... not only the exercise you get from gardening but the beauty and relaxation you get from it.”

The interaction with her customers is what she enjoys the most. She believes the one thing that sets her family’s operation apart from



Staff photo by James Knoop

People line up during an open house at Hilltop Greenhouse and Farm near Hollandale and Geneva.

others is their patience to develop the perfect plant.

“We don’t want to hurry and get a plant in and out; we want to grow it so that the roots are strong. We take a lot of time deciding what we are going to grow them in because we want that plant and soil to last the whole season,” she said. “We want to be proud of what we do. At the end of the day when we are all done we want to have that pride and know that we have done the best we can.”

### Planting parties

For four years now, Hilltop has been offering its customers opportunities to learn more about what goes into making successful arrangements through a variety of classes.

Boldt said they decided to offer the classes because they wanted more time with the customers.

“Generally most of us, even if you go into a grocery store and shop, tend to always pick the same things. So it gives me a little bit of time to explain the benefits of each plant. It just gives us all time to have a little party and get that jump start on spring,” she said.

Boldt recommends attending a planting party because you “get to learn the tips of the trade.”

“It gives me more time with my customers, answer questions, tell them all the tips we know, advice and why our plants grow like they do. Just answering questions is huge and very help-

ful,” Boldt said of classes.

At the end of the class customers leave their creation with Hilltop so they can help it grow successfully and customers pick it up sometime in May.

### Veggie Club

Hilltop started their Veggie Club three years ago after its operators decided it would make their vegetables more accessible to customers.

“It seemed like it was harder for customers to shop at farmer’s markets. I think we are getting busier. We would come home from markets with produce and we were never a family who liked to reuse our produce. We would bring it home and compost it and pick fresh for the next market, so there was a waste going on there that we didn’t appreciate,” she said.

Boldt added, “When you are a member of the Veggie Club you are a member of the farm. We want you to feel like you have just become part of it. You may not be here doing the work, but you are actually supporting us through your dollars.”

Members of the club get a box of freshly picked produce once a week for 18 weeks (June through October). Members pay a one-time fee of \$300 or \$350, depending on where they pick up their produce. The pickup locations include Hilltop, Bookkeeping Cents in Albert Lea, New York Life in Blooming Prairie, Johnson & Doerhoefer in Austin and Farmers Feed & Pet Supply in Owatonna.

“We raise them from start to finish. Our family starts them, plants them, weeds them, harvests, cleans and delivers them so you know what has gone into them,” she said. “You will never taste anything as wonderful. Everything is picked pretty much within a day of when you get it, and you know who has grown it.”

In the future, Boldt hopes to extend the vegetable season a bit by adding high tunnels, also known as cold frames, to protect the vegetables from weather extremities such as wind.

### Challenges

Besides the major challenge of recuperating from a tornado, Boldt said, the weather has thrown Hilltop some other curveballs.

“It can either be really good to us or really awful. Two springs ago we had 18 inches of snow on May 2. Last year it didn’t want to warm up; it took until the middle of May until it warmed up. Then it got to June and we had so much rain in one spot so we had drowned out what we had planted already so we had to start over,” she said.

### Customer comments

Laurie Sistek of Albert Lea has been a customer of Hilltop’s for at least 10 years, and this is her third year attending the planting parties.

“I am really bad with plants. I purchased a new house and knew I needed to have some

plants around there, so I decided it would be a great way to learn more and have beautiful looking plants,” she said.

Sistek attends both the hanging basket and container classes because she enjoys learning more about the different types of plants.

“I used to put all the same things in a pot and now I’m learning to put a variety of plants in the pot, and which ones look the best in the middle or on the outer edges,” Sistek said. “It is so much

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Classes at Hilltop Greenhouse and Farm, covering topics including designing a hanging basket or a mixed container.

**When:** Classes began March 28 and run every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m. through May 2. All materials are provided by Hilltop with the exception of the last two classes, which are designed for participants who want to use their own container.

fun to go in May and pick it up and have it all ready for you. To me, that is the hard part, making the flowers grow, so they make them grow and it looks beautiful. I hang it up and all the neighbors ‘ooh’ and ‘aah’ over it.”

Sistek has also been a member of the Veggie Club since it started because eating healthy is important to her.

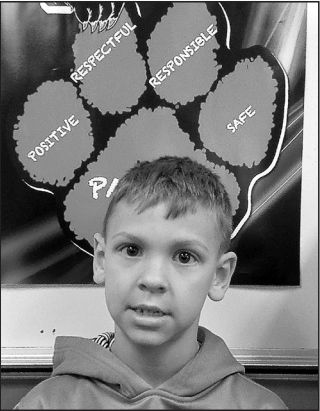
“I hate to garden, but I love fresh vegetables. Their stuff is fresh out of the garden and they really clean it up,” she said.

In the end, Sistek chooses Hilltop because she likes to support local businesses.

“They just seem to have the knowledge and friendliness. They are so helpful compared to some of the other ones (greenhouses),” she said. “After they had their tornado it was wiped to the ground, they had nothing. I give them so much credit for not hanging it up at that point. They are the hardest working people I know. I respect them so much.”

## Student of the Week

Aidan Schlaak is in Mrs. Ihrke’s second grade class. He is the son of Nathan and Lindsey Schlaak, and they reside in the country outside of New Richland. Aidan enjoys playing football with his cousins, reading chapter books, and jumping on the trampoline. Aidan is a hard working student who puts 100 percent into everything he does. He is motivated and always strives to do



his best. Aidan is a positive role model in our classroom because he is responsible, kind to others and helpful. He is a great example of what we want Panther Pride to look like in our school.

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### Menus

#### NRHEG Breakfast Menu

**April 14:** Mini Waffles  
**April 15:** Muffins, Yogurt  
**April 16:** Breakfast Pizza  
**April 17:** Cinnamon Roll  
**April 20:** French Toast Sticks  
**April 21:** Banana Bread  
**April 22:** Pancakes, Sausage

#### NRHEG Lunch Menu

**April 14:** Turkey Gravy, Biscuits, Cranberries, Peas, Cooked Carrots, Diced Peaches, Cottage Cheese

**April 15:** Hamburger on Bun, Chips, Baked Beans, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges, Rice Crispy Bar

**April 16:** Pasta Bar w/Meat or Alfredo Sauce, Romaine Salad, Baby Carrots, Bread Stick, Pineapple

**April 17:** Hot Dog or Brat on Bun, Tater Tots, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Fruit, Diced Pears

**April 20:** Pizza Sticks w/Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Seasoned Noodles, Fresh Veggies, Pineapple

**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

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# MedfordLiving

## Medford Student Council gets national recognition

Members had to meet 49 out of 56 criteria

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

The Medford Student Council has been awarded a National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) for its “leadership, service and activities that serve to improve the school and community.”

A student council can achieve two levels of recognition: the National Council of Excellence Award, for meeting all NASC requirements, or the National Gold Council of Excellence Award, for meeting the highest levels of leadership plus additional NASC standards.

The student council had to meet 49 out of a total of 56 criteria, said student council adviser Jerome Johannes.

“It just shows how much work that our student council has done over the last couple of years. It is good to be noticed on a national level of all the work we have done, especially for as small of a school as we are,” Johannes said. “We are going up against every size school and knowing that what we are doing is just as good as at some of the other schools across the nation.”

In addition to basic requirements such as a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process and a membership in NASC, councils must demonstrate things such as leadership training for members, teacher and staff appreciation activities, student recognition programs, school and community service projects, spirit activities,



The Medford Student Council has been awarded a 2015 National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC). Back row (left to right): Lucas Cronin, Matthew Swanson, Quinn O'Connor, Nick VonRuden, AJ Chappuis, Brody Berg, Trevor Grems, Josh Schauer, Tye Devoe, Bo Noble and adviser Jerome Johannes. Middle row: Sydney Langeslag, Michelle Honsey, Emily Steffens, Payton Powers, Morgan Langeslag, Kiley Nihart, Callie Nage, Meredith Gillis, Amanda Honsey and Cassie Larson. Front row: Bailey Duchene, CJ Duchene, Jessi Deering, Aly Noble, Brittney Lemke, Madi Krenske, Kelcey Gerlach and Alyssa Butterfield.

goal setting, financial planning and active participation in state and national student council associations.

Johannes says that after attending two national conventions, senior Aly Noble, student council president, took it upon herself to get the student council recognized for its efforts.

“Since I was elected as president, I wanted to find a way to leave my mark here on the school and as a member of the student council, I felt like completing this application and getting awarded the Gold Council of Excellence Award would be a great way to do

this,” Noble said, adding, “I thought it would be amazing to see Medford High School up on that screen at nationals.”

Noble spent two months gathering several things for a portfolio to submit to the NASC, such as a recommendation letter from the principal, their constitution, their voting procedures along with materials demonstrating the projects the council has done for homecoming, volunteering, teacher appreciation, community service and many other activities.

“The most challenging part of completing the application was finding the time to do it amongst planning Homecom-

ing, snow week and prom. We were super-busy; however, I’m glad that I decided to do it because it is a huge accomplishment,” Noble said. “It stands out because we won it as an entire council, not just individuals. We worked together to receive this award and together we are recognized for it.”

The student council hosted a state convention in Owatonna in 2013 and has attended numerous state and national conventions over the years. Last year Johannes was recognized as state advisor of the year.

Noble also is one of two students out of about 60 applicants to receive the Min-

nesota Association of Student Councils (MASC) state scholarship for \$500. The scholarship is given out to two council members each year who have shown leadership in their school and community, and been active members in MASC and in their council.

Noble has attended more than 20 leadership conventions, including two national conventions and three state conventions, and has been a member of the council for six years. She has also served as an executive board member for two years as well as a division officer of the southeast division this year.

### Menus

#### Medford School Breakfast Menu

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

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

**April 16:** Pop Tart, Cheese Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

**April 17:** Apple Bosco Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

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

**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

#### Medford School Lunch Menu

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

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

**April 16:** Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Popeye Salad, Green Beans, Broccoli Florets, Pepper Medley, Choice of Fruit

**April 17:** Stromboli w/ Marinara Sauce, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Glazed Carrots, Baby Spinach, Radishes, Choice of Fruit

**April 20:** Chicken & Penne, Garlic Breadstick, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Turkey BLT Salad, Roasted Asparagus (HOM), Cucumber Slices, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

**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



### Next step for memorial: Concrete

Veterans Committee members Butch Schultz (from left), Vern Jenö, Steve Clark and Larry Houghlum stand on the future Medford Veterans Memorial Site. Site work is being done to level the ground in preparation for concrete pouring. The two stones with names will come in July and they are waiting to install the main center stone, as they need to raise roughly \$30,000. Schultz says he hopes to have the concrete poured and stones installed by early May.

Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

### Historical society to meet in Medford

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) will hold its May board meeting at the Whistle Stop Cafe, 108 3rd St., New, Medford on Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

“As a county-wide organization we want to visit all areas of

the county, and we encourage local residents to join us and share ideas of their local history with our Board,” said SCHS Director Laura Resler.

For more information, call 507-451-1420 and ask for Historical society Director Laura Resler.



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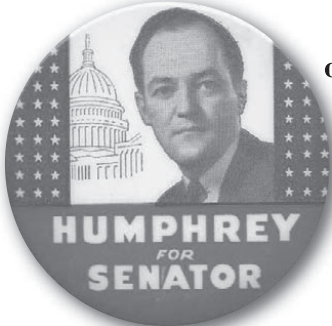
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# OwatonnaLiving

## ABC 6 meteorologist to address safety council April 15

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

ABC 6 Meteorologist Cindy Morgan will be at the Steele County Safety Council meeting Wednesday, April 15, just in time for Severe Weather Awareness Week.

During the presentation, Morgan will give audience members a better understanding of what meteorologists look at when putting together a forecast.

“I will show a behind-the-scenes look of what doing a forecast entails. We will take a look at some models, what exactly they mean and actually look at what the forecast for that day is,” she said.

Morgan says Severe Weather Awareness Week is important because it acts as a refresher.

“It is always good to have refreshers. I can say from my own professional experience once you are away from something for a while, you kind of forget about things and then once it happens it is like, ‘Oh yeah, I remember,’” she said. “It is good to have it in the forefront of our mind so that if something does happen, you know how to take action, you know how to do something right away and

there is no time wasted.”

Morgan is from the Minneapolis area but has since lived in Iowa, Michigan, Texas and currently Rochester. She has forecasted for every continent except Antarctica. Morgan says there was never an “aha” moment in which she realized she wanted to pursue a career in meteorology.

“Honestly, it has just been a general fascination with weather that I’ve had since when I was young, and just realizing how well of a fit it is for me. I like weather, I like science, I like talking about it and sharing it with people,” she said.

Morgan graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in meteorology. Two months after graduation she landed her first job at KIMT in Mason City, Iowa. In 2007 she started working for WNEM in Saginaw, Michigan, and in 2010 she relocated to Houston for her husband’s job.

Shortly after the move she got a job at the John C. Freeman Weather Museum.

“It was a really unique experience. I forecasted for oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean and the Bay of Bengal and forecasted for



Morgan

hurricanes. In the morning and afternoon and in the daytime I would give tours of the museum, give weather talks to people in the community and think of ways to get people to come to the museum,” she said.

Morgan said she really enjoyed being able to talk to visitors of the museum and liked

the challenge of keeping up with the constantly changing weather for the oil rigs, but after about a year, the 16-hour days had burned her out and she decided to try something new once again.

In 2011, Morgan became an aviation meteorologist at Universal Weather and Aviation, where she forecasted for private airplanes and commercial airlines on six continents.

“It was a very unique experience. I truly loved, had a great time and excelled at it,” she said. “It was so different everywhere. There are some portions of the world where the weather is fairly similar — like Texas, it is always hot and humid — but there are other places where things always change, like Russia.”

Forecasting for Russia was challenging because there was less weather information available, and South

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Presentation by ABC 6 meteorologist Cindy Morgan.  
**When:** Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to noon lunch buffet and noon to 1 p.m. presentation.  
**Where:** Owatonna Elks Club  
**Cost:** \$7 for lunch.

America posed a challenge because its weather systems were backward compared with the northern hemisphere.

In 2012 Morgan and her husband returned to Minneapolis for his job and to start a family. Morgan took a two-year break to spend more time with her newborn son, Grant, and during that time would fill in for Weather Nation.

Morgan started her current position with KAAL/ABC 6 based in Austin and Rochester this past October and is loving being back in the TV industry.

“I enjoy storytelling the weather again. That is something I missed and didn’t really get a chance to do when I was in aviation,” she said. “I’ve always just kind of taken pride trying to simply explain what the weather is. It doesn’t need to be complicated,

and coming back to a TV format really allows me to do that because it is so visual, I can use graphics.”

An experience that sticks out to her as funny happened while she was in Michigan.

“We changed to a different camera system and so I got up to the weather wall to do my weather segment, and I stepped in front of the shot like you normally do and you could only see my waist down,” Morgan said. “I kept on talking and they couldn’t fix it, so I came up with a solution: I took off my shoes and crouched down so that it looked right.”

Morgan says her main challenge is time. She arrives at work anywhere from 12:30 to 3 a.m. and stays until all of her responsibilities are complete, typically around 9:30 or 10 a.m. Whenever there is severe weather, she has to be on site.

“I literally have something like 26 weather segments that I do in a four-hour span, which is a massive amount. It is almost every 10 to 15 minutes I have to go back on air and tell people about the weather,” Morgan said. “That is really difficult sometimes to manage that. Sometimes a forecast doesn’t just take a half-hour to do; if I really had enough time I could spend two hours doing it.”

## Washington Elementary School’s Fun Club keeps students in motion

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

*Editors note: Washington Elementary School has created four leadership teams to replace the traditional student council so more students get the chance to be leaders. This is the third in a series of stories featuring each of the leadership teams.*

What started as strictly a running club at Washington Elementary has expanded to include various physical activities. It’s now known as the Fun Club.

Fun Club adviser and Principal Beth Svenby says the idea came about last year after a lot of Washington students participated in the Kids Fun Run through the From the Heart Run/Walk and wanted to run more often.

The club had between 60 and 75 students who would run with Svenby after school around town and use some of the trails, but the numbers got to be too difficult to manage with just herself. She wanted to include other students who might not enjoy the running part as much.

“It was a little bit difficult. Everyone runs at different paces, so it was hard for me to monitor the beginning and the end of the pack,” Svenby said. “We wanted to be able to involve as many kids as possible.”

The Fun Club devised a plan under which more students could participate, but the numbers could remain manageable. One Wednesday each month in October through March, as many as 25 students could participate. Students were allowed to sign up for more than one session.

“It is just important that we have as many kids involved in something outside of the classroom as we can. It creates more of a family structure to a building, and it helps that cultured climate of everyone being a part of something that we are trying to establish at Washington,” she said.

Svenby added, “We know from all the brain research that physical activity and movement has a direct impact on students’ abilities to learn and retain information, and so anything that encourages our kids to be physically fit and active, we want to be able to engage in.”

Another major benefit of the club is that students get to interact with those from other grade levels.

“They socially get to know each other, and you enhance their ability to get along with others of different ages,” she said. “I think that is one of the greatest things that you can create in a school is kids working with each other, cross-grade level and building relationships. It really



Students at Washington Elementary School keep active in the Fun Club by participating in activities they also do in their physical education classes, such as kickball, dodgeball and relay races.

impacts the climate and culture of the school as a whole.”

Students not only got to run, but got to do various activities such as kickball, dodgeball, relay races and football.

“Depending on the kids that were in each session, we would problem-solve some activities that would work and take their lead because that is what is important — doing physical activities that they enjoy because those are the ones they are going to do outside of school to stay physically fit,” Svenby said. “On the flip side, we wanted to expose them to things they have never done before because maybe they end up really liking something that they didn’t even know about.”

At the end of each session students also got to fill out a health-and-fitness questionnaire to help them monitor their progress and give them suggestions on what they can do to improve their fitness.

Svenby enjoys getting to interact with the students outside the classroom.

“You build different relationships with kids when you have a chance to play, run around and have fun with them,” she said. “They get to see you in a different light, too. When you put your T-shirt and shorts on and actually play and have fun, they get to see you in a more human light as well.”

Third-grader Brandon Schulz has been in the club for two years. He joined “because it seemed fun” and especially enjoys running, as well as any other sports-related activities.

Schulz says his favorite part about the club is running, and would he recom-

mend the club because “You can try it and learn some stuff. If you don’t like it, you don’t have to do it again.”

He says the biggest challenge was last year when the group ran to Owatonna High School and did laps around the track.

Fourth-grader Emily Schmidt took part in the club last year but wasn’t able to participate this year because she had too many other after-

school activities going on. She joined because she “thought it would be kind of fun.” While she was in the club she enjoyed playing games and hanging out with friends.

She says the club is important because “We can interact with other kids and our principal a little bit more.”

The most challenging part for her was running, because she says she is not very good at it.



Third-grader Brandon Schulz and fourth-grader Emily Schmidt have participated in the Fun Club at Washington Elementary.

## 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

## Owatonna Arts Center expansion work awaits city’s OK

Additions include display area, elevator

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

After nearly five years and various changes in board leadership, the Owatonna Arts Center is much closer to starting its expansion project.

Board President Arlan Burmeister says the project has been in the works since late 2010, and the primary focus of the project was to add an elevator to make it more handicapped-accessible.

“There is no elevator in this section; there is an elevator in the administrative building, so a handicapped person effectively has to come in our back door. It is just not the way we want to treat citizens who want to be here just because they have some disability,” Burmeister said. “Number one, number two and number three, so the top three priorities, were the elevator. All the other things that are on are just to dress it up a bit.”

The “other things” include a front desk and welcoming area, an expanded entrance, an additional display area and a door to the lower level. Bob Seykora is the project manager from Owatonna-based Rocon Construction and the architecture firm is BKV (Boarman Kroos Vogel) Group based out of Minneapolis.

“We are trying to make it so it has an entrance. It has been this way for 40 years,” Burmeister said.

Because the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a city building, the OAC had

to get approval from both the city and the National Historic Preservation Office. Before the bids were requested, the project was estimated to cost \$1.4 million for a 2,100-square-foot facility. Because the OAC is a nonprofit organization, the city requires it to have all the money up front before construction begins. In December the OAC finally got all the money together, then got approval for the project at the January city council meeting.

Burmeister says the city was a major contributor of the funds. About six years ago the city decided to collect a special sales tax and the money that was collected was given out to different areas of the city. The arts received \$500,000. Some individuals also left generous legacy gifts to the OAC after they passed away amounting to more than \$100,000. Lastly, the Owatonna Foundation and at least five other major individual donations were made.

Both Burmeister and board member Doug Ruth think the expansion means great things for the OAC.

“I think it is going to be really positive. We have had groups, for example weddings, reunions and so on, that would’ve chosen this place, but because of family members it didn’t work. It is a great place for rentals and performances,” Burmeister said.

Ruth added, “It is going to be incredibly positive. I think it is going to rejuvenate the OAC and get people excited about it.”

Two of the main challenges of the project were generating the funds and board turnover.

“It seems like when you are in a nonprofit organization, the board members



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley  
This is what the new Owatonna Arts Center entrance should look like after it is completed. The entrance, designed by BKV (Boarman Kroos Vogel) Group out of Minneapolis, will feature a front desk and welcoming area, an expanded entrance, an additional display area, a door to the lower level and an elevator.

change and so the continuity of boards is a challenge. It is like when you leave your job and come into a new one, it is kind of like starting over,” Burmeister said.

In March, Board President April Paxton resigned along with Board Treasurer Pam Mikeworth, Board Secretary Diane Racek and board members Heidi Lyman and Mary Butler-Fraser. Last August Executive Director Megan Profit resigned, followed by Board President Megan Kruggel in September.

“It hasn’t affected (the project). We have been able to generate the \$1.4 million and turnover is sort of a natural thing that happens in nonprofits,” Burmeister said. “The project manager was here, the architect was here and Doug Ruth has been the board contact for the building project and he has been here from the beginning, so he has maintained the continuity of the project from a board point of view.”

Burmeister says they have not received any word on the final bids yet

and that once those numbers come in, the city council will have to approve the project one more time at its April meeting.

“As I understand it, he has that all put together now and we are right there at figuring out where the number is, and the only thing that they are telling us is that it looks good,” Burmeister said. “I am hopeful that once the city council agrees to go forward with it, it is ready to go. Optimistically, I’d like to see it done by the end of the year.”

## District’s facilities task force takes on deferred maintenance

By SHANNON KINLEY  
County Staff Writer

With six meetings under its belt and about two more to go, the Owatonna School District’s facilities task force is one step closer to coming up with a long-range solution for filling some of the district’s needs.

The task force’s purpose is to involve residents in decision-making about district facilities both now and in the next 10-15 years, said Director of Facilities and Operations Tom Sager.

The task force is made up of 37 people, five of whom are district staffers who reside within the district’s limits. The task force was developed in fall 2014, and its first meeting was Jan. 29. Typically the group meets every first and third Thursdays of each month at the Roosevelt Community Education Center.

### Background

Before the task force met, the district held both an internal and an external assessment looking at its buildings and determining how they are used, what is good about them and not so good about them, what problems there are and what improvements could be made.

Last summer the district held its own internal evaluation by talking with district staffers about how the spaces were working for them and what needed to be fixed.

“It was everything from class-

room space, to gym space, to mechanical systems, to boiler operations, to parking lots ... the whole gamut,” Sager said.

The district also has been working with Wold Architects and Engineers out of St. Paul to conduct an assessment of how the Owatonna School District uses its space compared with other school districts and the Minnesota Department of Education’s recommendations.

“They have gone inside really the guts of our school structures to find out what needs to be fixed, repaired and replaced,” Sager said of Wold.

The goal of the task force is to provide the school board with some recommendations and direction at its May 11 meeting. Sager says it may have to push it back to a later meeting, depending on how the last couple of meetings go.

No recommendations or solutions have been made or reached, as each meeting has delved into one of four core areas: safety and security, space and capacity, educational adequacy and deferred maintenance.

### April 9 meeting

Last week’s meeting was a bit different from the rest in that the group met at Owatonna High School. Members saw the difference between a more traditional classroom versus the newer concept of a common area surrounded by classrooms equipped with technology and

### IF YOU GO

The next facilities task force meetings are set for 5-8 p.m. Thursday, April 16, and Thursday, April 30, at the Roosevelt Community Education Center.

space known as Plaza A.

After the tour the lead architect, Paul Aplikowski, presented Wold’s findings on how the district uses its athletic fields and facilities as well as the deferred-maintenance assessment.

Key findings from the activities and athletic study included:

- \* 750 out of 1,500 high school students are involved in at least one sport.

- \* The district has a robust youth program that feeds into district programs.

- \* The district has a unique relationship with Parks in Recreation in which Parks and Rec uses the schools indoor facilities and the district uses Parks and Rec’s outdoor facilities.

- \* Field quality is poor due to drainage problems and overuse, leading to rescheduling of games.

- \* Many gymnasiums are too small and require spectators to walk on the court.

- \* Late practices affect students. District practices are over about 6:30 p.m., while game nights and youth and community programs continue until about

10 p.m.

The deferred-maintenance study judged the district’s buildings based on many categories, including site, exterior, interior, accessibility, life safety, hazardous materials, mechanical systems, electrical systems, program, technology and expandability.

If all the improvements for all of the district buildings were completed, it would be a price tag of around \$78,857,800, although Aplikowski says it is extremely rare for a district to do all of the recommended improvements.

According to the study, the building with the highest cost of needs would be the junior high, followed by the high school 1959 building and the high school 1921 building.

At the end of the meeting, members of the task force formed small groups and came up with their own options on how to best fix some of the district’s needs or how to alter some of the potential options that Wold came up with.

One option calls for building an addition at Willow Creek Intermediate to house fifth-graders from the elementary schools for the 2017-18 school year. This option included renovating the

high school and removing the portable classrooms.

The second option calls converting the high school into an elementary school and district office. This option would involve divesting in Washington Elementary School and the District Office, building a new high school in 2017-18 school year

and removing portable classrooms.

The third option calls for building an addition at Willow Creek Intermediate to house fifth-graders, building a new high school and relocating ALC, Rose Street and the district office to make a district center in the existing high school.

### Weekly crossword on Page 5D

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Staff photo by Shannon Kinley  
A crowd listens during a recent Owatonna School District facilities task force meeting.



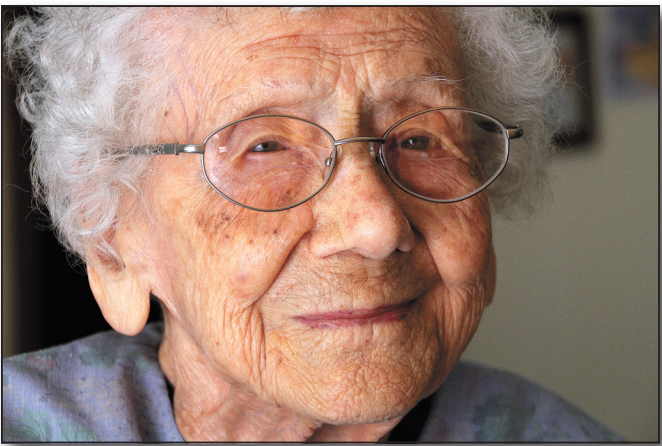
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HOMETOWNEXTRA

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Blooming Prairie

# ENJOYING LIFE’S LATEST CHAPTER



STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER | PUBLISHER

*Ex-Blooming Prairie-area resident turns 105 this week*

It was the year the Boy Scouts of America was founded, America began tourism at Glacier National Park and the population of the United States swelled to 92 million. It was still a few years before World War I. This captures a timeline of 1910 — the year Blooming Prairie’s most likely oldest member of the centenarian club was born.

Otila Anderson, now living near both her daughters in North Mankato, turned the ripe age of 105 on April 13. She still lives in an independent apartment and makes some meals through a primary source and innovation created well into her lifetime — a microwave.

“They won’t let me use a stove,” Anderson said recently as she recounted the past century. She said she has found not using a stove to be quite a switch from the days when the aroma of her cooking and baking filled the house. Her prized baking item was cinnamon rolls.

“That was a big loss for our family, because I don’t do those (cinnamon rolls),” her daughter Margo Brudwick commented.

While Anderson prepares her own breakfast and lunch, she takes advantage of prepared meals for dinner Monday through Friday in her apartment building. She often grabs leftovers from the dinners.

“The meals are so large that I can’t eat it all,” she said, adding she often reheats leftovers the next day.

Anderson lived most of her life a few miles outside Blooming Prairie along Highway 30, where her late husband, Ormond, operated a service station for many years. They built a new house in 1935 for \$1,400. He died in 1983.

She remained active in the Blooming Prairie area for years until 2000, when she moved to North Mankato to be closer to family. At the same time, at 90, she stopped driving a car. She has lived in the same apartment for 15 years.

The 105-year-old laughs at the notion that she moved at 90 because, “I didn’t think I would live very long anymore.” She added, “I thought it was time to die.”

Fifteen years later, Anderson shows few signs of being done.

Understandably, life has slowed for Anderson as she moves well past a century of living.

She said her only regret right now is that she wishes she could see and hear better. But she’s quick to point out with a chuckle, “Sometimes it’s all right to not be able to hear.”

What Anderson lacks in hearing and seeing, she more than makes up for with her mind.

“Her memory is sharp,” Brudwick said of her mother. She still remembers family birthdays days before the actual date and sends out greeting cards. She used to make the greeting cards herself but gave that up a few years back.

“There are things I remember that I wish I could forget,” Anderson admitted.

One way she keeps her mind sharp is through reading. Even though her eyesight is failing, Anderson is able to read large-print books. She loves to read novels, especially mysteries.



Otila Anderson, who now lives in North Mankato, enjoys reading and remains able to read large-print books.



Above, Otila Anderson still cooks for herself — with a microwave now, rather than a stove. Above right, Anderson uses a walker to get her mail and head to the location of her nightly meal.



“I like good ones,” she said. “I used to read them faster than I do now,” she added.

She also enjoys playing Rummy with her son-in-law. She keeps a scorebook with the results of every game the two play together.

“She is mentally very, very sharp,” said Zenobia Haberman, Anderson’s sister-in-law. “She is the Energizer bunny. She just keeps going and going.”

Anderson made decorative eggs for a long time.

“She has terrific artistic ability,” Haberman said. “The eggs were treasures to get.”

Anderson has developed toughness, as she is a cancer survivor of more than 30 years. Shortly after her husband died, she came down with colon cancer. She beat it and outside of a little slip-up in which she broke her hip and had a hip replacement in the late 1980s, she has been as healthy as can be.

“It’s still going,” Anderson said as she wiggled her hip. “They

say it only lasts so long, but it’s been nearly 30 years already.”

Just how healthy Anderson has been can be measured by trips to the doctor — or lack of trips, in her case. Anderson hasn’t made a single trip to the doctor in recent years. When she got a flu shot, she went to Walgreens.

“She doesn’t want to go to a place where others are sick,” Brudwick said. “When you’re her age, you don’t want to get sick.”

Asked what her secret to longevity has been, Anderson replied: “I never smoked, I never drank, and I ate whatever I wanted whenever I wanted.”

Longevity appears to be in the family genes. Her sister, Elsie, lived to be 104. Anderson has outlived 16 nieces and nephews and one grandchild. She has six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Anderson said she has never had a special diet. In the earlier years, she would eat lots of fresh vegetables grown in her own

garden. She has relied on home-cooked meals for most of her life.

She keeps active by walking, with the assistance of a walker, every day to get her mail and for the nightly meal. Anderson also takes care of herself, including dressing and taking sponge baths.

Another important aspect to her living long has been her sense of humor, according to Haberman.

“She has never been one to be sour about anything,” Haberman said. “She has a terrific sense of humor. She is one of a kind.”

Religion has been an important part of Anderson’s life. She remains a member of Community Lutheran Church in Geneva, though she’s unable to attend. She makes sure she is up by 10 a.m. Sundays to listen to Peace and Power on the radio.

“She’s the only person I know who can go to church in her pajamas,” Brudwick said.

She has lived through many technological advances, but Anderson hasn’t always been there

to embrace them. She has never used a computer or smartphone. She relishes the simple life.

As Anderson celebrates her birthday, she is ready to reveal a deep family secret. She vividly remembers the moonshine days during the 1930s, when families around Blooming Prairie illegally made booze. Her mother stored some of the brew on their home place for \$50 per month.

“The Feds got a little nosy. We didn’t want Mom to go to jail, so we had to quit,” Anderson said, adding that her mother stored the moonshine so she could afford to buy things for a family of eight children.

Anderson plans to keep living on her own as long as she can. She says she takes things one day at a time. Asked how many more years she hopes to be around, she replied, “I’m ready whenever.”

She has a few years to go to catch the oldest person in the world, who recently died at 116. But Anderson was quick to point out, “I don’t want to be the oldest person in the world.”

**“I don’t want to be the oldest person in the world.”**  
**Otila Anderson, who’s turning 105 this week**





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Tuesday, April 14, 2015

## Extension: Dairy prices slip because of demand changes

*Milk prices in 2015 are much lower than in '14*

By ALAN VAN ORMER  
Managing Editor

Changes in demand from countries such as China are causing milk prices to dip in Minnesota and across the United States.

"In southern Minnesota, as well as the rest of Minnesota and the upper Midwest, producers are facing lower prices," said University of Minnesota Extension Educator Betty Berning. "The cost of inputs for producers has not decreased, so this makes margins (profits) smaller."

She added that feed prices, corn and soybeans, have declined, so this will help dairy-men manage margins.

"While milk prices are lower this year, they are coming off record highs," she said.

Berning is the regional extension educator on the agricultural business management team. Her focus is on livestock, particularly dairy, in Minnesota.

Berning said that what is causing the price fluctuation is simple: supply and demand.

"If there is more milk available than what is needed (or demanded), prices fall," she said. "If there is more milk than what is supplied, prices increase."

So far, milk prices in 2015 are significantly lower than in 2014.

"The All-Milk Price in Minnesota is lower than produc-

**"While milk prices are lower this year, they are coming off record highs."**

~ Betty Berning  
University of Minnesota  
Extension educator

ers have seen for the past few years," Berning said.

While the prices are changing, Berning said that milk supply across the globe has not declined enough in response to changes in demand.

"World milk supply is largely unchanged from 2014," she said.

One way dairy farmers can deal with the issue is to understand their cost and make a plan to break even, Berning said.

"It may be too late to do anything about the quarter-one or quarter-two 2015 prices, but farmers can work on creating a risk-management plan for quarter-four 2015 and 2016."

In addition, many Minnesota farmers are enrolled in the Farm Bill's Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP).

"This will protect farmers at certain price points," Berning stated. "It is contingent on the coverage and margin level they selected, as well as the prices that are used to calculate margins (All-Milk Price and milk feed costs calculated by USDA)."

She added that producers that selected a higher margin level are the ones that would most likely receive a payment from this program.

"As it sits today, MPP won't make a payment in 2015; however, that's subject to change,"



A cow at Schmitz Holsteins mugs for the camera last year.

File photo by Anna Segner

she said. "Futures prices for milk are higher in the back half of 2015, but they could decline and that could trigger a payment. We'll know more as time progresses."

As for how dairy farmers are

dealing with the situation, Berning's instinct tells her they are managing rations and expenses. This could mean not buying a new piece of equipment, watching labor costs or making decisions about crop inputs.

## Ag department: Use pesticides with care

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture sent out a news release recently urging the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers by following all label directions.

Pesticide and fertilizer labels specify how to use products safely and effectively. In Minnesota, it is unlawful to apply products without following label instructions.

State law requires applicators to be licensed by the MDA to commercially apply weed and feed products, plant nutrient fertilizers, or use pesticides to control weeds, insects or fungi.

Following are tips for a safe spring gar-

dening season:

- Licensed professionals must carry a valid ID card, so ask to see it before they start work.
- Be wary of people who claim their products are completely safe, or pressure you to sign a service contract.
- Recognize posted warning flags in areas that have been chemically treated.
- Review written records provided by applicators to document their work, including products used and amounts applied.
- If you do it yourself, do not apply products in windy or adverse weather conditions.

High wind can cause products to drift and potentially harm people or plants.

- Sweep sidewalks and hard surfaces of unused product and reapply to their intended site.
- Buy only what you need and store unused product safely.

Consumers can call the Better Business Bureau at 800-646-6222 and check customer-satisfaction history about lawn-care companies. For information about applicator licenses, call the MDA at 651-201-6615. To report unlicensed applicators, file a complaint on the MDA website (www.mda.state.mn.us) or call 651-201-6333.

## USDA seeks farm labor housing loan applications

USDA Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer announced that USDA's Rural Housing Service (RHS) is soliciting pre-applications for Farm Labor Housing loans and grants to construct off-farm units and related facilities for domestic farm laborers, or to purchase and substantially rehabilitate non-farm labor housing properties.

According to a news release:

The program helps applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit on terms that will allow them to charge rents that are affordable to low-income tenants. Qualified applicants include:

\* Farmers, associations of farmers and family farm corporations

\* Associations of farmworkers and nonprofit organizations

\* Most state and local governmental entities

\* Federally recognized tribes

Primarily, funding may be used for construction, improvement, repair and purchase of housing for domestic farm laborers.

The two-phase application process starts with pre-applications. This year, RHS will assign additional points to pre-applications for projects based in or serving Census tracts with poverty rates greater than or equal to 20 per-

cent over the past 30 years. Selected pre-applications are invited to then submit final applications.

Pre-applications are due June 23.

For more information, contact Linda Swanson at 763-689-3354, ext. 125.



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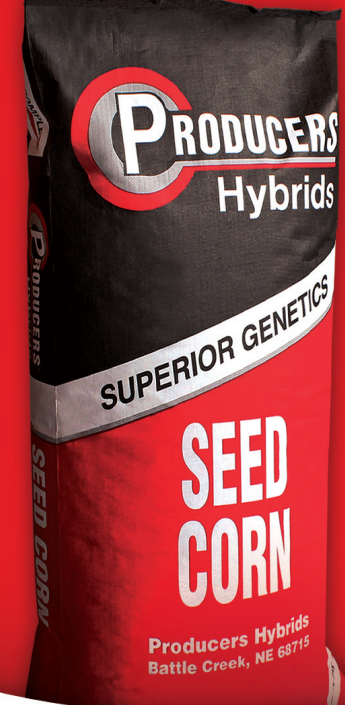
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# HometownLiving

## Community Calendar



Staff file photo

### Waiting for work

Tractors stand at the ready to start on the upcoming growing season.

**J&H LIQUORS**  
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**- WINE TASTING "GALA"**  
MAY 5TH, 2015 7-9 P.M. @ J & H  
BENEFITS THE BOYS AND  
GIRLS CLUB TICKETS: \$12.00 IN  
ADVANCE OR \$18.00 AT THE DOOR  
(PURCHASE TICKET BY APRIL  
18TH RECIEVE AN ENTRY INTO A  
DRAWING)

**- RIDE FOR A CAUSE:**  
JUNE 27: CRUISE FOR CANCER  
(CAR & CYCLE)  
JULY 25: B.O.B. RIDE  
**- BAR BINGO:**  
MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.  
**-BEAN BAG LEAGUE:**  
MAY - AUG. THUR. NIGHTS

### BLOOMING PRAIRIE

**April 14:**  
BP Card Club & Luncheon  
2:30 p.m. BPPU Comm. Mtg  
3 p.m. BPES Book Fair  
7 p.m. BP VFW  
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary  
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, First Degree &  
Regular Mtg, St Columbanus, BP  
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons  
**April 15:**  
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time  
12 p.m. BP Chamber of Commerce  
**April 16:**  
6 a.m. BP School Brd Work Sssn, BPHS Brd  
Rm  
6:30 p.m. BP Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser,  
Uniquely Yours Canvas: Flight of the Dragonfly,  
Pizza Cellar  
**April 19:**  
1:30 p.m. BP Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser,  
Uniquely Yours Canvas: Blue Moon, Pizza  
Cellar  
**April 20:**  
6 p.m. Minnesota Highway Safety and Research  
Center 55+ Driver Improvement Program, BPHS  
Comm Ed

**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.

Starting Friday 4/17/15 we will also be having Supper Specials

**- MEATBALLS, GRAVY &  
POTATOES WITH A ROLL  
- CHICKEN DUMPLING SOUP**

**LUNCH SPECIAL (4/16 & 4/17):  
CHILI AND CORNBREAD**

### ELLENDALE/GENEVA

**April 14:**  
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl  
**April 16:**  
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm  
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm  
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm  
**April 17:**  
7:30 p.m. NRHEG Willy Wonka Musical  
**April 18:**  
7:30 p.m. NRHEG Willy Wonka Musical  
**April 20:**  
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

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### OWATONNA

**April 14:**  
Steele Co Commission  
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
1 p.m. Steele Co SDA Mtg  
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center,  
BR  
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, American  
Prison Camps in Owa & Upper Midwest, Good  
Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owa  
**April 15:**  
4 p.m. EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall  
**April 16:**  
6 p.m. Lincoln PTO Mtg  
6 p.m. McKinley STEM Family Night  
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time  
**April 17:**  
7:30 p.m. Little Theatre of Owatonna, Treasure  
Island  
**April 18:**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake,  
Spare Time  
10 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Family Video,  
11 a.m. Young Life Cake Auction, OHS  
12 p.m. Pet Adoption Day, Old Walmart, Owa  
4 p.m. Night of Knights Auction, St Mary's  
School, Owa

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### MEDFORD

**April 16:**  
Medford Solo/Ensemble Contest  
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior  
Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner  
**April 18:**  
9 a.m. Medford ECFE Celebrate Mom Class,  
Rm 403  
**April 20:**  
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior  
Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner  
7 p.m. Medford Brd of Education Mtg, Rm 103

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### IN BRIEF

**May Day Tea set in Owatonna**

An event featuring a cup of tea, finger sandwiches and “sweet May Day delights” is set for 4 p.m. May 1 at the Owatonna Arts Center.  
Advance tickets only are available at the Owatonna Arts Center. The \$8 tickets must be purchased by April 28.

## SPOT LIGHT

### Traffic-safety classes set in BP and Owatonna

Blooming Prairie and Owatonna will host Traffic Safety 101 classes in May.  
Classes will be held at Blooming Prairie City Hall. On May 8, the classes will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes will also be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 15 at Morehouse Park Chalet in Owatonna. The same classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 16.

### OTHER COUNTIES

**Mower**  
**April 14:**  
Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center  
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting  
8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College  
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg  
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym  
6 p.m. AHS Poetry Contest Reception  
6 p.m. Eberhart Night of Poetry, Hormel Historic Home  
7 p.m. GM Firearms Safety Certification, Rm A119  
**April 15:**  
Calico Hutch Quilters' Retreat, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center  
8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College  
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library  
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle  
12 p.m. Lunch and Learn - Mastering Busy: Work Life Balance, Hormel Historic Home  
6:30 p.m. GMHS Adult Volleyball, Gym  
**April 16:**  
LeRoy-Ostrander FFA Banquet  
8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College  
11:30 a.m. Philomathian Salad Luncheon, St. Augustine Catholic Church, Austin  
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym  
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market - Canceled  
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)  
6:45 p.m. Woodcock “Sky Dance” Walk, Jay C Hormel Nature Center  
7 p.m. Farmland, Historic Paramount Theatre  
7 p.m. GM Firearms Safety Certification, Rm A119  
**April 17:**  
8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College  
10 a.m. StoryTime! :, GMPL  
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle  
12 p.m. Comedy Show Punchline Chuckles, Mower County Senior Center  
5 p.m. Brew-Beard-Bull, Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center  
5 p.m. Open Studio at the Austin ArtWorks Center, Austin ArtWorks Center  
5 p.m. Taste of Wine and Beer, Austin Eagles Club  
6 p.m. Found Poetry, Austin ArtWorks Center  
7 p.m. GM Spring Musical Performances, Cafetorium  
7:30 p.m. Comedy Night, Historic Paramount Theatre  
**April 18:**  
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market - Canceled  
10 a.m. Stepping Out For Autism Walk, Hormel Historic Home  
2 p.m. Family Paint: Owl Always Love You, Austin ArtWorks Center  
7 p.m. GM Spring Musical Performances, Cafetorium  
9 p.m. Sola Fide Viewing, Sola Fide Observatory, Austin  
**April 19:**  
1 p.m. GMHS Open Gym  
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room  
2 p.m. Adams SD Open Gym, M/HS Gym  
2 p.m. GM Spring Musical Performances, Cafetorium  
3 p.m. Forte Milers Barbershop Chorus, Historic Paramount Theatre  
**April 20:**  
Lyle EDA Meeting  
8 a.m. The Water Up North: Marine Landscapes by Cheryl LeClair Sommer and Michele Wegler, Riverland Community College

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# Legal Notices

## Foreclosure

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2003  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$227,778.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin P. Rosell and Patsy B. Rosell, husband and wife  
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.

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

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

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

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 837 MINNESOTA AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$219,050.13

TRANSACTION AGENT: None  
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., a California Corporation n/k/a Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.188.0706

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: April 28, 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 date of sale.

Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 28, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

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

Dated: March 5, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

## Foreclosure

15-099350

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 22, 2006  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$60,000.00  
MORTGAGOR(S): Michelle M. Walburn and Guy M. Walburn, wife and husband  
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1002839-0060802028-2

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Premier Bank

SERVICER: CitiMortgage, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 9, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000344875

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 2, Block 1, Willow Creek Addition #2

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1460 Sage Ln NE, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-488-0102

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$62,001.76

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 5, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise

provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 5, 2015, or the next business day if November 5, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 6, 2015

CitiMortgage, Inc.  
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

## Foreclosure

15-099161

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 23, 2009  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$225,000.00  
MORTGAGOR(S): Stanley G. Ennis, An Unmarried Man  
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

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

SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 4, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000363759

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

All that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 3-107-20 described by: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4); thence North 88 degrees 57 minutes West, assumed bearing, 163.02 feet along the North line of said Southeast Quarter (SE1/4); thence South 0 degrees East 196.24 feet parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) to the true point of beginning; thence South 0 degrees East 99 feet parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4); thence North 90 degrees West 128.65 feet to the East line of Bigelow Avenue; thence North 0 degrees 3.5 feet West 99 feet along the East line of said Bigelow Avenue; thence North 90 degrees East 128.75 feet to said true point of beginning.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1735 Bigelow Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060  
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-003-2104

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$140,383.78

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 5, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal

representatives or assigns.  
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on May 5, 2016, or the next business day if May 5, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 9, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank,  
N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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

## Foreclosure

13-093361

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 6, 2009  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$136,774.00  
MORTGAGOR(S): Dustin L. Stewart and Alicia L. Stewart, Husband and Wife  
MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed November 10, 2009, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000065185

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot Seven and the West 24 feet of Lot Six, all in Block Eight in Kuether's Addition to the City of Owatonna  
REGISTERED PROPERTY  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 721 School St E, Owatonna, MN 55060  
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-143-0807 COT# 17647

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$132,631.79

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 12, 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 12, 2015, or the next business day if November 12, 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 18, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank,  
National Association Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/24,3/31,4/7  
4/14,4/21,4/28

## 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  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1065 Barney Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-334-0120 COT# 14595

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$115,849.24

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale

contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 19, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2015, or the next business day if November 19, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 26, 2015  
Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.  
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

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3/31,4/7,4/14  
4/21,4/28,5/5

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**NOTICE**

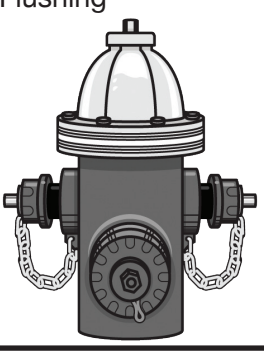
**City Hydrant Flushing**

**APRIL 28, 29, 30 and May 1**

All city fire hydrants in Blooming Prairie will be flushed on Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Fri., April 28-30 and May 1st, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m., weather permitting. Flushing of hydrants can cause some rust to come out of pipes in areas; particularly where the water system is not looped.

Thank you for your cooperation

**Blooming Prairie Public Utilities**





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  
MORTGAGOR(S): Alvin J. Vierling and Sylvia L. Vierling, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.  
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.  
SERVICER: OneWest Bank N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 27, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000340742

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; thereafter assigned to OneWest Bank N.A.  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Beginning at a point on the Northerly line of Lot 3 in Block 9 of Riverside Addition to the City of Owatonna, 8 rods Westerly from the NE corner of said Lot 3, running thence Westerly on said Northerly line 59 feet to the NW corner of said Lot 3; thence Southerly along the West line of said Lot 3 to the SW corner of said Lot 3, thence East 32 feet along the South line of said Lot 3; thence Northerly to point of beginning.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 427 Glendale Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-119-0907  
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,258.42  
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: June 5, 2015, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2016, or the next business day if June 5, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: April 2, 2015

OneWest Bank N.A.  
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

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4/14,4/21,4/28  
5/5,5/12,5/19

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: \$169,827.38  
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 2, 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 date of sale.

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 2, 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 ABANDONED."

Dated: April 7, 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.

4/14,4/21,4/28  
5/5,5/12,5/19

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that

default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 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  
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 702 South 6th Street, Ellendale, MN 56026  
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 151090109 and 151110004  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The South Half of Lot 4 and the North Half of Lot 5, Block 1, Norby Addition to the City of Ellendale, Minnesota and Outlot D, Norby Second Addition  
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$135,072.00  
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$112,533.59

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;  
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 5, 2015 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.  
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on December 7, 2015, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None

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

Dated: April 1, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association  
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee  
4500 Park Glen Road #300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
(952) 925-6888  
30 - 15-003028 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/14,4/21,4/28  
5/5,5/12,5/19

Letters

Concerned Citizens pick wrong fight

It is time for the Concerned Residents of Dodge County to reevaluate what they are fighting against. I agree that water is a valuable resource, but livestock facilities are regulated heavily by state and federal governments in regards to the amount of manure that is applied per acre of farmland. This amount allowed is determined by soil tests and manure analyses yearly so that no more nutrients are applied than are needed by the next year's crop. Larger facilities carry a federal EPA permit, also called a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This is a similar permit that a city holds for testing and processing their wastewater. Keep in mind, our families drink the same water that you do, and I want my family safe as well as you do.

It concerns me that citizens who raised their families and put their kids through college to become lawyers and newspaper editors are fighting the very thing that made their operations profitable. In 2011, according to the National Ag Statistics Service, 37 percent of the U.S. corn production was used for livestock production. Another 40 percent was used for ethanol production, of which, 25 percent of the ethanol byproduct is fed back to livestock. This puts the total U.S. corn used for livestock at 47 percent or 5.8 billion bushels of corn. So if you cut corn use in half, wouldn't you expect the price to do the same? Soybeans are also used in livestock production, and it plays

out as a similar scenario to corn.

It is time to stop the "Not in my back yard approach" and look at the benefits that these local businesses are providing our local economy. The world population grows 200,000 people per day! Do we want to remain a leader in feeding this growing population and the revenue stream it brings with it? Or should we become dependent on another country, which we cannot regulate, control our food supply?

I would be happy to sit down with anyone who has questions regarding the safety of our farming practices. It is up to us as farmers to educate the other 99 percent of the population.

Mike Ingvalson  
Blooming Prairie

Law would prevent nuisance claims

Current Minnesota law exempts the vast majority of livestock farms from being subject to a nuisance claim related to, for example, odor or air pollution. The largest factory farms over 1,000 animal units in size (2,400 sows, for example) are not exempt from being sued for nuisance violations.

House File 582 and Senate File 482 would make it possible for the state's largest factory farms to be shielded from nuisance laws, even preventing state agencies and local government from pursuing action to abate a CAFO (Confined Animal Feedlot Operation) that is a public nuisance. This law, which is authored by Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck) in the House and Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin) in the Senate,

would undermine the rights of citizens and governments to hold factory farms accountable.

Contact your State Representative and State Senator today - Tell them you oppose H.F. 582 and S.F. 482 legislation that puts factory farms before people and the land. Call your State Legislators at the MN Capitol Switchboard: 651-296-2146 (House) and 651-296-0504 (Senate). Take action NOW!

Brad Trom  
Blooming Prairie

Dodge dealings a rough experience

I've been reading in your paper about all the controversy in Dodge County. I would like to tell you my story. I lived in Dodge County, specifically Westfield Township, for 25 years, I owned 30 acres and had my business on my farm.

When my neighbor decided to sell his land next to me off in lots for new homes, I went to the Westfield Township board to voice my concern over so many homes on agricultural land and so close to the Cedar River. I was told by board member Lowell Trom, "If you don't like it, either you own the land or you move."

Then when Dodge County raised my property taxes by 300 percent, because I owned a business, I went to the special tax assessor meeting to complain. I was told by the Dodge County Assessor that if "you don't like it, we can raise your taxes more next year." That is how Dodge County worked for me.

Happily Living in  
Steele County,  
Dave Kahnke

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THANK YOU!

We would like to take this time to thank our neighbor, Dean Williamson, for all of the assistance this past winter with our snow removal. It is so greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Dave & Donna Maixner

Thank You

Thank You!

We want to thank our family, friends and community members for their continued support and generosity following the loss of our home in November. God bless you all.

The Standke Family  
Jacob, Jenna & Paige



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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

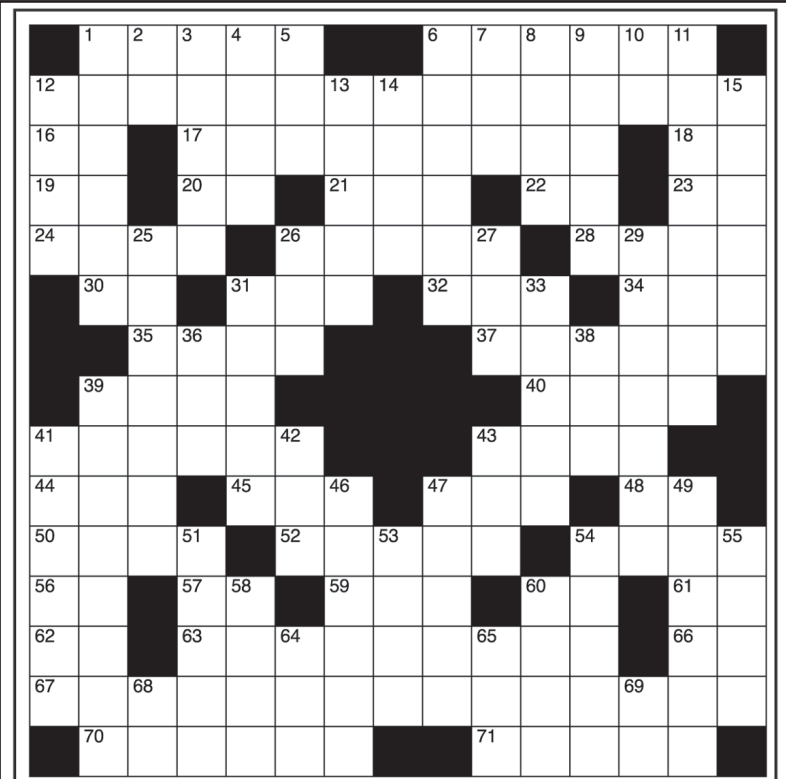
Answers on Page 7C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Hindu social class
6. Hassles
12. Pillsbury best seller
16. Midway between S and E
17. A President's 1st address
18. The 24th state
19. Atomic #18
20. Most abundant mineral in the body
21. Golf score
22. 14th Greek letter
23. 12th Greek letter
24. 4-stringed Chinese instrument
26. Order of the British Empire women
28. Watering places
30. Atomic #58
31. '\_\_\_ death do us part
32. Radioactivity unit
34. Consumed food
35. Six (Spanish)
37. Hosts film festival
39. S.W. plateau
40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Et-\_\_\_
43. College army
44. Flower petals
45. Assist
47. An open metal dish
48. And, Latin
50. Supreme singer Diana
52. Gaelic name (morning)
54. Expresses pleasure
56. Overdose
57. Spanish be
59. A border for a picture
60. Doctor
61. Ancient Egyptian sun god
62. Lansing is the capital
63. Clothed
66. In contact with the surface
67. 70 year olds
70. Wall bracket for candles
71. Metrical romance (archaic)

CLUES DOWN

1. A member of the clergy
2. Gangster Capone
3. The brightest star in Virgo
4. Starkist's Charlie
5. Amount of time
6. Loaner
7. Prefix denoting "in a"
8. 2nd largest Tunisian city
9. Schenectady Hospital
10. Toward
11. Totaled
12. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
13. Nonfeeding stage for insects
14. Old Irish alphabet
15. Brings out of sleep
25. Old Spanish monetary units
26. Roman God of the underworld
27. Pouch
29. For all ills or diseases
31. Jewelled headdress
33. Hostage for Pythias
36. Midway between E and SE
38. Financial gain over time
39. Tunes
41. In a way, ricochets
42. Direct a weapon
43. Stood for election
46. Harm to property
47. Plate for Eucharist
49. Monarch's ceremonial seat
51. Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
53. A nostril
54. \_\_\_ Adaba
55. Without (French)
58. Wound fibers to make yarn
60. Nothing more than
64. Political action committee
65. Fail to keep pace
68. Personal computer
69. Indicates position



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Staff photo by Brian Sandford

Marking two decades

Prairie Family Sports & Chiropractic owner Chad Eischens stands near a table covered in sweet treats last Friday as part of an open house marking his business' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Eischens said he opened his business in Steele County because he'd heard good things about Blooming Prairie while in college. "Blooming Prairie for us has been the right fit from day one," he said of his family and him. "A phenomenal city to raise kids in." The business is at 344 E. Main St.; call 507-583-2271 or go to drchad.org.

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*Welcomes new associate attorney*  
Jason Iacovino



*Pictured: Frank Henefield, Jason Iacovino,*

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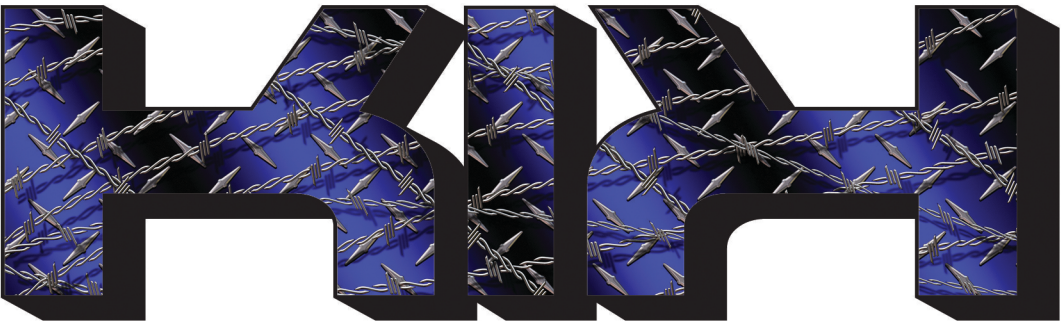
News brief

Minimizer joins  
ChampTruck series

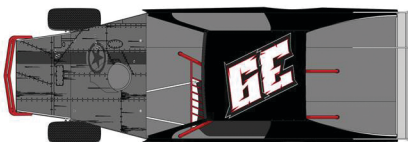
Minimizer's Tested & Tortured fenders are set to feel the heat from the racetrack. The truck brand, known for putting new products through its Proving Grounds, will sponsor a pair of race teams during the inaugural Meritor ChampTruck World Series schedule. "The heavy-truck industry is our world, so it's a no-brainer for

us to be involved in the return of big-rig racing to North America," Minimizer CEO/Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg said. ChampTruck World Series racing is putting 18 Class 8 trucks on 10 of the nation's race venues, including Charlotte Motor Speedway, Texas Motor Speedway and Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Team Tested — driven by Trevor Kruckeberg — and Team Tortured — driven by Brad Klemmensen — enter a new Proving Ground, joined by

16 other truck race teams competing for the 2015 title. "Even though Brad and I have known each other a long time, we won't be friends once we step in those cabs," Trevor Kruckeberg said. "People might think we'll take it easy on each other since we're both sponsored by Minimizer, but nothing could be farther from the truth," Klemmensen said. "Trevor and I are very competitive, and we'll do anything it takes to win."



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