



STEELE COUNTY Times



State takes control of nursing homes

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

The Owatonna Care Center is one of two nursing homes now under control of the Minnesota Department of Health.

According to a press release, the MDH assumed control of the Owatonna Care Center and Faribault Care Center to protect residents' health and safety and ensure continued care as out-of-state operators face financial difficulties.

MDH took over management under a receivership order granted Thursday by a Ramsey County judge.

In a statement, Sen. Vicki Jensen thanked the Department of Health for wasting no time step-

ping in to protect the residents, families and employees affected by this.

"This is an anxious time for all of the Faribault and Owatonna residents, but everyone affected can be comforted by the actions of MDH," Jensen said in the press release. "If anyone has further questions about what this may mean for their families or jobs, I encourage them to contact my office."

MDH used its emergency powers to assume control of the nursing home after learning that the owner of the property, a Maryland-based real estate investment trust called Omega Health Care Investors, and Utah-based Deseret Health Group, the operator and manager of the facilities, were facing

financial challenges and were no longer going to be operating the nursing homes.

"We took this step as a last resort once it became clear the nursing home licensee was no longer going to be able to care for residents and provide the basic necessities," said Minnesota Health Commissioner Dr. Edward Ehlinger in the press release. "We are assuring family members and residents that they can safely stay at the facilities while the situation is being resolved."

Volunteers of America - National Services, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, will serve as the facility's managing agent during the receivership. The change was made on May 8.

Faribault Care Center cur-

rently has 52 residents and Owatonna Care Center has 36 residents. About 130 employees work at the two facilities. MDH and the temporary management team will stabilize the facilities' operations to make sure that employees are paid and patients receive quality care.

Nursing home receiverships are authorized by state law and used only in emergency situations. The department's goal in a receivership is to protect the health and safety of residents. By law, the receivership cannot exceed 18 months. In a receivership, MDH becomes responsible for operations and finances of the nursing home. It typically appoints a managing agent to conduct the daily work of managing the home

Supervisors reject township zoning

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
News Editor

Westfield Township supervisors voted last week not to pursue local zoning ordinances in the township but proponents of local zoning ordinances said after the meeting they were considering their options.

After months of often heated discussion, township supervisors voted 3-0 not to enact local regulations and instead continue to rely on Dodge County for its zoning. They also voted to immediately terminate a temporary ordinance adopted March 31 that placed a moratorium on all zoning decisions in the township.

The issue may still not be resolved as supporters of the local ordinance said after the meeting they were going to consult with legal counsel and review their options.

The question of local zoning arose late last year as some township residents objected to Dodge County granting a conditional use permit for a 3,200 head hog feedlot in the township. Under Minnesota law, a township has the right to establish zoning regulations stricter than the county.

The regular monthly township meeting last week drew a large crowd but there was relatively little public comment.

The main issue before the supervisors was to make a decision regarding the temporary ordinance and to decide whether or not they wanted to establish a local zoning ordinance.

Attorney Jack Perry, who has been advising the board on the legal issues, presented a proposed resolution to the supervisors.



The resolution basically stated the town board had reviewed the comments made at the March 31 meeting and the written comments they received after the meeting and they determined that the "vast majority" of residents were against a local zoning ordinance because of an ordinance's financial and administrative costs, legal liabilities, a perception that an ordinance is not needed and that the proposed ordinance was being used as a way to restrict, if not eliminate, medium and large animal production feedlots.

Those feedlots, the resolution continued, are necessary for the long-term economic vitality of the township and also the long-term retention of its youth.

The citizens also, the resolution continued, voted for the Township Board to represent and look out for their interests in all matters including zoning and that the board had proven itself to be "capable of and willing to fairly and neutrally assess the best interests of the townships and township citizens in all matters, including zoning."

Based on these findings, the resolution concluded the board

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Students in Sheila Sawyer's 3rd through 5th grade class at St. Isidore School feed the fish in the classroom. Pictured are Levi Kubicek, Ethan Ehlers, Laura Deml, Olivia Anderson and Sawyer.

BELOW: Zoe Ehlers and Alia Kubicek are reading in Erin Olson's K-2 classroom.

St. Isidore School finishing its last days

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

In the next couple of weeks, students at St. Isidore School of Litomysl will be attending their last classes. The school is closing May 29.

When Rose Ann Kubicek heard about the decision to close the school, she said she grieved because the school has been part of her life for many years. All six of her children attended and now her grandchildren are there. "It is a big loss for the community; a big loss for the families," she said. "But I also can see the reason to because we are not in a location that we can attract a lot of students anymore."

Monica Anderson and her husband are involved in both the school and the church that sits right next door. "It has been a hard road trying to go through the process gathering and hearing feedback," she said. "It is a lot

of disbelief. Litomysl isn't closing because Litomysl is still here. It is the school part of our community that will be no longer."

The last day of Litomysl School is officially May 29. There will be a mass at 11 a.m., followed by a potluck and picnic. On May 17 there will be an appreciation and celebration dinner starting at 11:30 a.m.

St. Isidore opened its doors in September 1958. At the time there were three classrooms: first and second grade, third, fourth and fifth grade, and seventh and eighth grade. There were three teachers. Ninety students attended and there were eight students in the first graduating class.

In 1960, the large classroom was divided into two classrooms and then each classroom had two grades, first through eighth, with four different teachers.

When St. Isidore School started all students attending were of the Catholic faith and were from Holy Trinity Parish. In past



years, students have come from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie and Ellendale and have been of various faiths.

Anderson, who went to school in Blooming Prairie, said she always remembers hearing the teachers talk about how great St. Isidore School was. She remembers hearing from teachers that the students were always great listeners and a great start and foundation. "I think it is a great credit to the teach-

ERA ENDS
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Bussler Publishing to acquire DCI

A big change is looming on the horizon for Dodge County residents with the sale of the county's largest newspaper.

Bussler Publishing, the parent company of Steele County Times in Blooming Prairie and the News Enterprise in West Concord, announced last week that it plans to take over the Dodge County Independent, commonly referred to as the DCI, in Kasson beginning July 1. Bussler is purchasing the newspaper from Randy and Lisa Carlsen.

The Independent has been in the Carlsen family for more than a half century. Randy's father, Folmer Carlsen, bought the paper in July 1963. Randy has been operating the paper for the past 20 years.

Publisher Rick Bussler said the DCI has a solid reputation in Dodge County because of the Carlsen family and he plans to continue that tradition for years to come. "They have done a great job with the newspaper, so there won't need to be any major changes," Bussler said.

He is excited about adding the Independent and its related weekly shopper to his portfolio of newspapers.

"I've been looking to pick up a paper that mirrors the values I have in my other papers," he said. "We're community focused and pride ourselves on delivering solid, award-winning hometown news. I think the DCI will really enhance our operations, especially in Dodge County."

Bussler has owned the News Enterprise covering Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord for nearly three years. With the addition of the DCI and its shopper, Bussler will be able to expand coverage throughout all of Dodge County.

More details about the transition will be announced in the coming weeks as the sale gets closer, Bussler said.

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Opinion

Our view

Hearing and seeing the Arts

Starting today, the Steele County Times will be running a series of stories leading up to the June 9 referendum in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District. If passed, it will mean around \$14 million to spend to upgrade the facilities in the New Richland and Ellendale buildings.

Now, We have no say in if this vote passes or fails, but We have had firsthand experience in what the teachers are saying in this first article about improving the arts program facility. Our staff has been to several events in gyms in both schools over the past couple of years.

We have covered a graduation, K-6 events at the Ellendale Gym and most recently the Prom in New Richland. Even from where we were sitting in almost a front row view at the Prom, it was hard to hear the emcees announce who was escorting who during the Grand March. At other events, even my tape recorder does not pick up what is being said. And that is difficult to do because this tape recorder has picked up interviews in the weirdest settings and craziest places.

Maybe the most difficult thing is seeing the elderly trying to get in and out of seats, be they in the bleachers or folding chairs. They want to be there and be part of the NRHEG atmosphere to see their grandchildren play and perform.

So for today, maybe this vote is not about money, but about hearing and seeing the Arts for some of us that are getting up there in age.

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

This week's question:
Is it important to bring new ideas to a community?

Yes; it keeps a community vibrant.
No; we have enough already.
I don't care.

Last week's question:
Is enough being done to help youth understand dangers of drinking and driving?

* Yes, members know landscape. 75%
* No; difficult to decide against neighbor. 25%
* I don't care. 0 %

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



Blooming signs of spring

Though the ups and downs of the weather make us wonder at times, there is a definite sign that spring is in full bloom at Frank & Tom's Greenhouse in Blooming Prairie.

For the 25th season, owner Frank Vorlicek is once again dazzling the area with a wide assortment of fresh flowers waiting for green thumbs to latch onto them. He has a mixture of perennials and annuals flowers as well as vegetable plants.

Vorlicek nearly got blasted right out of business two years ago when a record-breaking 18-inch snowfall in early May caused the roof to collapse on all of his flowers just a day before he was set to open. He had just loaded the greenhouse with about \$6,000 of fresh flowers at the time the storm hit.

He didn't know at the time if he would bounce back. But that spring he set up what he was able to salvage outside the wreckage and continued on as if nothing happened.

Asked what it was like to



experience Mother Nature's wrath, Vorlicek replied: "Oh my God if you have the roof fall in on you. The day it went down, it was a bitch. Then I got to the point where I laughed about it. It was so dismal I had to laugh about it."

But with a little perseverance and hard work mixed in, the retired Blooming Prairie school-teacher is back just as strong as ever with his flower business.

With the help of the property owner, Kyle Johnson, Vorlicek stayed almost in the same spot

where residents have been accustomed to finding spring beauties for their yards. Johnson constructed a 90-foot outdoor greenhouse with metal poles.

"He has bent over backwards for us," Vorlicek said of Johnson.

Vorlicek says he has enjoyed flowers for his entire life. He began developing a special interest in flowers from his grandmother while growing up as a youngster near Silver Lake, Minn. "I was close to my grandmother and she shared flowers with me," he said. "All of her extra money, which wasn't much, went to flowers," he added.

"I love the beauty and playing with the dirt," he said. "They just fascinate me."

As Vorlicek approaches the 70-year mark, he still thinks he has a few years left in him to continue pedaling flowers. "It becomes such a part of me," he said in between helping customers one day last week. "When I stop liking people and liking flowers, I'll quit."

After he thought about it a little more, Vorlicek said he'd probably keep going until he dies. "It's work, but it's interesting and fun," he added.

Frank & Tom's will be open daily until the end of June. The hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

If you're looking for something to bring a little extra bloom into your life, I'd suggest you go in hot pursuit of getting down to Frank & Tom's before everything gets picked over.



CHAMBER PRESIDENT



Luke Swenson

BP Chamber holding sand volleyball tournament

Help support our local Chamber of Commerce and have fun doing it! Bump the competition, set yourselves up for a fun day and put a spike in the ground to claim your spot as the best sand volleyball team in the area.

On June 13, the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its first co-ed volleyball tournament. Hurry and get signed up as registration closes on June 1. Serious bragging rights will be on the line as the six-person, co-ed teams compete to see who the best in the area is in this inaugural event. Competitors must be 16 or older and three ladies must be on the court at all times.

Concessions featuring Skin on Wieners from Dean's Smoke Shop of Geneva, fresh cookies from The Bakery of Blooming Prairie along with chips, candy, pop, water and Gatorade will be available. Bring the whole family for a day of fun in the sun and enjoy some great food from local establishments.

Start time will be 8:30 a.m., June 13 at the sand volleyball courts located behind the tennis courts at Victory Field in Blooming Prairie. Cost is only \$50 per team so sign up quick to reserve your team's place in the tournament. Registration can be submitted at the Chamber office located at the Blooming Prairie City Center. Registration forms can also be found on Facebook if you search Blooming Prairie Co-ed Volleyball Tournament. For questions feel free to call the Chamber office at (507) 583-4472.

Proceeds from this event will help The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce continue to organize events such as The Old Fashioned Fourth of July among many other activities and support community and business in our area. Thank you for your support. I hope to see you there!

Mailbag

Ellendale mayor explains

Dear Editor:

It is with heavy heart I sit down to write this letter to the Ellendale Legion, the general public and most of all Veterans about the charges that have been brought against me regarding the Veteran's Memorial Fund. I, myself, am a Veteran of over 20 years of service in the military and the last thing I desire is to dishonor any Veteran by causing memorial funds to be a subject of dispute.

Working with other interested people, I created the memorial over five years ago to show honor and respect for those from and around the City of Ellendale, who proudly served, are serving, or died for our country. I dedicated many months to researching ideas for a Veterans Memorial for the Ellendale Veterans. I was happy to have used my time, tools and equipment to assist in building and maintaining the memorial. I was also involved in selling bricks and arranging the financial management of the memorial.

Unfortunately, I did not apply the same dili-

gence to how I accounted for reimbursement of expenses and payment for my time spent on the memorial. Then when questioned about disbursement, I responded inappropriately rather than acknowledging that I had not done the bookkeeping, which should be expected when using public funds. That brought an investigation and an obligation on my part to publicly justify my conduct. I take full responsibility for the negative consequences, which resulted.

Rather than disputing any of the amounts for which there is no supporting documents, I am reimbursing the Memorial Fund for the full amount called into question. I am hopeful that this action will encourage both past donors and future supporters. There should be no question that their support of the Veteran's Memorial will be honored by integrity in fiscal management consistent with the sacrifices of the Veterans and their families.

I am very sorry that this has been an issue and apologize to all affected. Please join me and the Ellendale Legion in continuing to support

and sustain the Ellendale Veteran's Memorial.

*Sincerely,
Roger Swearingen*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Swearingen was the mayor of Ellendale until this year after being defeated in last fall's election. He was charged with theft in July 2014 and reached a settlement earlier this month in which the charges will eventually be dropped if he meets certain conditions.

Supervisors put Big Ag before people

Dear Editor:

Congratulations, Westfield Township Supervisors in Dodge County, Minnesota.

Although you expressed concern regarding the cost to adopt local planning and zoning, you have incurred thousands of dollars in professional fees by engaging Minneapolis attorney Jack Perry –

considerably more than the township would have incurred to adopt local planning and zoning.

Mr. Perry is not a township attorney – he is an attorney for Big Ag. Mr. Perry is a lobbyist and testified earlier this legislative session in defense of changes to Minnesota's nuisance laws – changes that benefit Big Ag and make it more difficult for neighboring farm families to fight installation of factory farms.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Perry also represents a number of large hog producers, including the Masching family – the largest hog producers in Dodge County and Westfield Township.

One thing is clear in Dodge County and Westfield Township - pigs and profit are more important than people.

*Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie*

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015
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2014
Three state awards.

2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.



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

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DEADLINES

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower\$38
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Second Front Page

Steele, Rice counties celebrate 911 center

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

It's time to celebrate what became the first of its kind in the nation many years ago. Steele and Rice counties have the distinction of forming the first joint dispatch center in Minnesota and one of the first in the country for 911 emergency communications. And this week the counties are throwing a party to mark the 15th anniversary of the Rice-Steele 911 Center in Owatonna.

"There is no doubt it has enhanced public safety in this area," said Tom Shea, Steele County's former county administrator and who served as a county commissioner when the center was formed in 2000. "We have a state-of-the-art center at a cost we can afford," he added.

Shea recalls the idea of a consolidated center came about with discussions between Steele, Rice and LeSueur counties who all at the time had aging radio equipment and most of the police agencies had to share radio frequencies. The agencies often talked over each other on the radio, creating potential safety concerns for officers. LeSueur eventually dropped out of the project.

The remaining counties combined three dispatch centers, one for each county and the other for the City of Northfield, into one joint center located in Owatonna where all 911 calls are now routed for both counties.

When the center opened 15

911 Public Open House

Wednesday
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Rice Steele Dispatch Center
204 East Pearl St.
Owatonna

years ago, other agencies from around the state and nation either called or stopped in to see how the concept was developed and implemented.

The biggest problem facing the counties had nothing to do with technology or the inner workings of the center itself. "We anticipated a lot of political challenges to overcome. There was some push back amongst the agencies involved as they had trouble with change," Shea said, adding as those challenges were eventually overcome.

"Everyone saw the merit of having a consolidated dispatch center," Shea said.

Citizens often have a hard time grasping the importance of a 911 center, according to Shea. "They have to be the beneficiary of it to see the value of the center," he said.

In the future, Shea expects even larger conglomerates of agencies sharing centers for 911 services. He thinks there will be more regional centers around the state handling emergency communications for many agencies in different counties. The State Patrol, for example, has already combined many of its dispatch centers into only a few around the state.



CORRECTION:

Paulson photo courtesy of Stephen Katz/The Virginian-Pilot. The Steele County Times inadvertently wrongly credited a photograph of Blooming Prairie native Gordon Paulson, a 30-year U.S. Navy veteran in a story featured on Page 5A of the May 5, 2015 edition of The Times.

Accompanying the photo of Paulson shown in front of a photo of him praying over a critically injured soldier at the Da Nang, Vietnam Hospital in 1966, it should have read Photo, courtesy of Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot.

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100 and counting for Owatonna resident

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Not many people can say they have made it to 100 and still enjoy life, but that is not the case for Merle Wood of Owatonna.

Wood, who turns 100 on May 13, is the first person in her family to make it to 100. What keeps her going is that she wants to keep up with what is going on in the world and still truly enjoys life.

"I just love life that is all. I don't want to die because I want to know what is happening in the world both overseas and here... I want to know everything but I can't do anything about it," Wood said.

Wood's advice to people is "to be calm and don't argue." Wood has never smoked, drank a drop of alcohol or cursed in her lifetime and she says that is the key to making it to 100.

"The key is perseverance and just plain instinct. Knowing what to do and what not to do," she said.

Flora Clarke, Wood's daughter, takes care of her and aid the reason her mother has made it so long is her stubbornness and love of life.

"She is very friendly, but she can be stubborn. I guess when you are 100 years old that is okay, that is probably how you



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Merle Wood and her daughter Flora Clarke reminisce about old times. Wood turns 100 on May 13 and she hopes she can make it to 103.

got to that age," Clarke said. "She enjoys life and is interested in what is going on in the world. It keeps her interest and she has got to be there to find out what happens tomorrow."

Clarke described her mother as "friendly and easygoing."

Wood grew up in Sheldon, Iowa and graduated from Sheldon High School in 1933.

Shortly after that she met the love of her life, Tom Wood, after she moved to Clear Lake to

spend some time with her sister. She attended Clear Lake High School's play "That Ferguson Family" that Tom was acting in, which ironically happens to be her maiden name.

Some of Wood's fondest memories are of Tom, who passed away in 1983. "He was a really really nice guy and knew what he was talking about," she said. The two had five children together, four girls and one boy.

For many years Wood was a

stay at home mother, but after her children got older she held numerous jobs over the years, as Tom's job as an engineer made them relocate frequently. Wood has now lived in 17 states.

Wood was involved with numerous organizations including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Republican National Convention Steele County Republican Party and Healthy Seniors of Steele County.

Wood described herself as a "political bag" who loves politics and history. In her younger days she also enjoyed all kinds of sports, dancing, fishing and reading.

"It is a little hard for me to get around and do anything anymore so I am kind of doing nothing," she said.

Nowadays Wood has limited mobility due to Gout in her feet, her hearing has deteriorated immensely and she has lost many teeth. These days she sits in her recliner and watches TV trying to keep up with current events as much as she can, but she still enjoys her life and hopes to make it a few more years.

"There is so much of my life that I have enjoyed. I've had a good time and my kids have been pretty good kids," Wood said. "I have had lots and lots of fun and my life has been a good life."

ERA ENDS

Continued from Page 1A

teaching and the community that we have here at the school," Anderson said.

In September 1975, kindergarten was added to the first and second grade. Then in 2000, pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds was added.

Kubicek believed both additions helped with enrollment in the other grades because students stayed. "That helped increase some of our enrollment," she said.

But in the end it was the lack of enrollment that doomed the school causing it to close.

Kristin Ehlers, who has been on the school board for six years, said the board has done a lot of advertising, trying to get its name out and encouraging people to bring their children to St. Isidore. "That was the biggest struggle; where do we get more kids," she said.

The Rev. John Sauer, who provides mass each week, said from his outside view the

amount of work that the families have done is above and beyond just sending their children to school. "The cleaning, the fundraising, field trips, volunteering, teaching; all of those things that really went above and beyond what you might think," he said. "That helped save us money and helped us bring in money. I am in awe of what they have done."

Sauer added that St. Isidore has had an impact on the children. "Just as I watch the kids take care of each other, I just find that really beautiful," he said. "Sometimes in a small place it is hard for children to find their place. I have never seen that as a problem. The kids really welcome each other. They care for each other."

As a secretary at the school, Kubicek said she has seen students being educated that couldn't survive in a different environment. "They just thrived here because they got the attention they needed, the caring they needed," she said. "In the nine years I have been

secretary here, there have been lots of kids we have helped move on."

Ehlers said what she will remember most is the family atmosphere. "The family is amazing," she said. "When we found this school we were very fortunate. We have been blessed to have been here."

Sauer agrees there is a sense of family and community that he will remember. "The kids really take care of one another very well," he said.

Now that the final days are drawing near, Ehlers said what she will most is the closeness. "It is home," she said. "We live over by Bixby and are not Catholic. Coming here has opened so many doors for my kids to ask questions."

Sauer said each of the children have been able to find their own niche. "Because it is so small they don't get lost," he said. "Each has found a way to develop some special unique part of themselves."

DECISION

Continued from Page 1A

terminated the interim ordinance and declined to adopt township zoning.

The only person to speak against the resolution to not establish local zoning was Sonja Trom Eayres. Eayres, an attorney who grew up in Westfield Township, is one of the organizers of Dodge County Concerned Citizens and one of the leaders of those opposed to additional feedlots in the township.

During the meeting Eayres directed her comments at the legality of the March 31 meeting and subsequent ordinance.

She told township officials that there are two types of township meetings, regular board meetings and special meetings. As a special meeting requested through petition by residents, she said the board was obligated to allow the citizens to vote at that meeting on whether they wanted local zoning or not.

That resolution said the town board had received and reviewed citizen comments made orally at a March 31 meeting and received and reviewed comments made in writing by an April 14 deadline set by the board.

She also said proper notice of the meeting was not given.

The March 31 meeting, she said, was "nothing more than a procedural stunt. You've stripped the citizens of Westfield Township of their right to vote."

The township board and several other residents took issue with Eayres comments on the earlier meeting with supervisors saying they had listened to the citizens and the responses they received were overwhelmingly in favor of no local ordinance.

Of the written comments received after the March 31 meeting, 59 of 59 letters said no to a local ordinance, supervisors said. In reviewing the public



Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen
Residents of Westfield Township attended the May Town Board meeting to express their opinions on a local township zoning ordinance. Most of those attending expressed their support for a board decision to continue to let Dodge County decide zoning issues in the township.

comments made at that meeting, board members said, it was also apparent that most residents did not want an ordinance.

"We listened to the people and got a unanimous vote of the people," said Supervisor Bruce Wolf. "The people basically voted with their letters."

Supervisors also said they had consulted with the Minnesota Association of Townships and with Perry and they were told the conduct of the March 31 meeting was legal.

Although there were no extended comments from other people in attendance, all who spoke supported the board.

Residents pointed out that everyone had an additional two weeks to give written comments if they felt uncomfortable speaking at the meeting and residents also had a chance to vote on the issue in the general township election in early March.

At that election Supervisor Paul Fiebiger defeated Lowell Trom, one of the local zoning supporters, by a 117 to 34 margin.

Another resident also commented that although he was one of the 69 people who signed the petition requesting the March 31 meeting, he did so believing the meeting was simply to get information and not to vote on whether or not there should be a local ordinance.

Whether or not the supervisors' votes ends the discussion remains to be seen.

After the meeting Eayres said that the next step for those supporting a local ordinance would be to consult with legal counsel and see what options are available.

She reiterated her earlier statements that the March 31 meeting was intended to be a meeting of the citizenry of Westfield

Township where there would be an open discussion on local zoning ordinances and at the conclusion the citizens would have an opportunity to vote yes or no on the issue.

It was called because of a petition signed by at least 20 percent of the township voters, she said, for a specific purpose. She also maintained proper notice of the meeting was given.

Supervisors took issue with the idea that the meeting required a vote by township residents. They maintained the meeting was for the supervisors to get input from the residents and then to make a decision based on what they heard.

Perry agreed with the supervisors and said the meeting had been properly advertised and conducted and the issue was settled.

Public Safety

Ellendale crash sends man to hospital

One man had to be extricated from his car in a two-vehicle crash May 6 just outside of Ellendale.

Gilberto Sanchez, 69, of Albert Lea, was taken to Owatonna hospital with non-life threatening injuries after being freed from the wreckage on Highway 30 at Interstate 35. He was trapped inside the vehicle for about a half hour and could be heard moaning loudly while rescuers used the Jaws of Life to get him out.

The driver of the other vehicle, Anika Nowlan, 19, of Ellendale, was not injured in the crash. A passenger in Sanchez's vehicle also escaped with no injuries.

The State Patrol determined Sanchez's vehicle was on the exit ramp coming off of northbound Interstate 35 when it collided with a vehicle traveling eastbound on Highway 30. The crash happened around 9:30 a.m.

Both drivers were wearing their seat belts, according to the



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Rescuers from Ellendale Fire and Ambulance spent around a half hour cutting Gilberto Sanchez, 69, of Albert Lea, out of his vehicle last Wednesday morning on Highway 30 at Interstate 35 just outside of Ellendale. The State Patrol reported Sanchez was coming off the ramp from I-35 when he collided with an eastbound vehicle on Highway 30. Sanchez was taken to the Owatonna hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The other driver and a passenger in Sanchez's vehicle were uninjured.

patrol. The airbag in Nowlan's vehicle deployed during the crash. Alcohol was not believed to be a factor in the crash, the patrol said.

Ellendale Fire, Ellendale Ambulance and Steele County Sheriff's Office assisted the State Patrol at the crash.

Owatonna man faces drug charges in 2 counties

By RICK BUSSLER

Publisher

An Owatonna man faces a variety of charges after incidents in two counties over the past couple weeks.

Kylen Gordon Engbard, 31, faces a felony fleeing police in a motor vehicle and felony fifth-degree controlled substance charges in Steele County. In addition, he faces another felony drug charge in Olmsted County.

While investigating a suspicious activity complaint on April 23, Owatonna Police came across Engbard driving a vehicle in the area of 26th Street and Interstate 35. Police tried to stop the vehicle, but the driver refused to pull over, according to the criminal complaint. The

pursuit went to 671 Mound St. where Engbard lives.

When the vehicle pulled into the residence, Engbard exited the car and was very loud and yelling at officers, court documents said. At one point, the complaint said, Engbard threw his hands into the air and told officers to shoot him. Engbard continued to not listen to police commands. Officers finally got him into custody without any further incident.

During an inventory search, police found a baggie with white powder and glass smoking pipe with residue and two hypodermic needles, the complaint alleges. The white powder tested positive for methamphetamine.

Police also found Engbard's driver's license to be cancelled

inimical to public safety.

Engbard faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for the felony charges in Steele County.

On May 6, Engbard was arrested by members of the Rochester Street Crimes Unit at a hotel in Rochester. Officers had a brief struggle with him before he was handcuffed. During a search of his vehicle, officers found 27 grams of meth, according to police.

Officers went into the room where Engbard was staying and found another 238 grams of meth in a refrigerator. The estimated street value of the drugs is \$29,000, police said.

He faces a new drug charge in Olmsted County.

Blotter Spotlight: The Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force came to Owatonna May 5. A search warrant was executed in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. Agents arrested John Bulver, 27, for possession of a handgun in a motor vehicle. In a search of the garage, agents found methamphetamine and two more guns. Bulver has been charged with second-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Stepping up illegal narcotics enforcement in Dodge County

EDITOR'S NOTE: Beginning this week, Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose will write a monthly column on our public safety pages. Rose was elected as sheriff last fall and took office in January.

Illegal narcotics are an ever-increasing threat to the safety of our community and our youth here in Dodge County and throughout the region. We have, unfortunately, seen an alarming increase of narcotics use and distribution in our communities, especially with methamphetamine and the resurgence of heroin.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office intends to step up narcotics enforcement and be as aggressive as legally appropriate to help keep our community as drug free and "unfriendly" to drug dealing as possible. If our deputies and/or our investigators have information indicating the likelihood of illegal narcotics activities by you or on your property, if we have information that persons are leaving your property with narcotics, or if you are on conditions

SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

or on probation for narcotics violations and are suspected of violating those conditions -- we will aggressively monitor and investigate any and all information we receive regarding possible narcotics activity.

In addition to enforcement, we also believe that we have a responsibility to assist in finding help for those that want it -- we have several options for juveniles, adults, and families to get the help they need to become drug free with a variety of treatment options, human service programs, and Drug Court.

I make no apologies for our deputies being aggressive against narcotics distribution and use in our county -- in fact, I encourage it and ap-

plaud their efforts. It's our responsibility to monitor, investigate, pursue, and assist in the prosecution of those who participate, protect, and promote narcotics use and/or distribution in our community.

This may be unpleasant to some, even perceived as harassment by a few, but this conforms to what we feel is in the best interests of all the residents of Dodge County.

If you believe narcotics activity is happening in your neighborhood, if you've observed suspicious behavior you believe is narcotics related, or you have information you believe will help any of our narcotics investigations in Dodge County, we encourage you to contact the Sheriff's Office. Remember, you can always remain anonymous.

Together we can take a strong stand against drug abuse and help Dodge County continue to be a great place to live and raise our families. Together we can make a difference!

Your Sheriff, Scott Rose.w

Stabbing results in charges against man

A stabbing in Owatonna has resulted in a 26-year-old man facing felony assault charges.

Andrew Kramer faces one count of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and could end up in prison for seven years if convicted.

Police responded to an assault in the 200 block of Spruce Avenue on April 30. When officers arrived, they found a 23-year-old victim face down on a bed surrounded by a large pool of blood. The victim suffered



Kramer

a 4-inch wound on his back. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital and later airlifted to Rochester.

Witnesses told police Kramer came to the residence and was yelling for the victim to come outside. Kramer allegedly threw a rock through a

window, prompting the victim to come outside and confront Kramer. The victim was wrestling with Kramer when he realized he had been stabbed.

Kramer took off on foot and was captured later in the day at his residence. When he was arrested, he had a fresh cut on his right hand and two large apparent blood drops on his undershirt, police said.

He is due back in court Thursday.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Bloomington Police

No incidents to report.

Owatonna Police

May 1

Vandalism. At 7:36 a.m., officer took a property damage report in the 100 block of Main St. E.

Fight. Officers responded to a fight call in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 10:04 a.m.

Shoplifter. Police handled a shoplifting complaint in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:23 p.m.

Probation. At 9:01 p.m., officers arrested an adult for a probation violation in the 300 block of 18th St. SE.

DWI. Officer stopped a vehicle at Bridge St. W. and Riverside Ave. NW at 10:03 p.m. The adult driver was taken into custody for drunken driving.

May 2

Drunk Driving. Police made two arrests for DWI. The first one took place in the 700 block of Oak Ave. S. at 1:06 a.m. and the second one at Grove Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at 1:28 a.m.

Party. Officers went to a loud party call at 3:36 a.m. in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Drunkenness. At 8:22 p.m., police responded to a public drunkenness call in the 1700 block of Cedar Ave. S. An adult was arrested.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of fraud at 10:53 p.m. in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W.

May 3

DWI. At 3:11 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle in the 1000 block of Rolling Green Dr. SE. The adult driver was arrested for drunken driving.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance at 5:23 a.m. in the 200 block of Rose St. E.

Assault. At 9:15 a.m., officer took an assault report in the 1900 block of Hartle Ave. SE.

Vandalism. A citizen reported property damage at 2:44 p.m. in the 1800 block of Hartle Ave. SE.

May 4

Disturbance. At 11:11 a.m., police responded to a noise complaint in the 100 block of Pearl St. W.

Shoplifter. Police responded to a shoplifting complaint in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:50 p.m. A citation was issued.

Theft. A citizen reported a theft from a vehicle in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 7 p.m.

Medical. Police assisted Gold Cross Ambulance with a medical emergency in the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 8:24 p.m.

Traffic. Officer stopped a vehicle at

26th St. NW and Harvest Lane NW at 10:08 p.m. A juvenile was arrested.

Attempted Suicide. Police responded to an attempted suicide call on School St. E. at 10:21 p.m.

May 5

Property Damage. Officer took a vandalism report in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:36 a.m.

Probation. Police handled a probation violation report in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 10:07 a.m.

Burglary. At 1:30 p.m., officer took a burglary report in the 1300 block of Cottage Lane SE.

Traffic. An adult driver was arrested following a traffic stop in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:12 p.m.

Restraining Order. A victim came to the police station to report a restraining order violation at 4:50 p.m.

Theft. Officer responded to the 200 block of 13th St. SW at 10:56 p.m. A citation was issued for theft.

May 6

Child Protection. At 8:11 a.m., officer took a child protection report in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW.

Death. Officers conducted a death investigation in the 700 block of Oak Ave. N. at 8:58 a.m.

Drug Activity. Police received a report of drug activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:44 a.m.

Runaways. Officers took two reports of runaways. The first one was in the 600 block of 17th St. SE at 1:22 p.m. and the second one in the 400 block of Sylvan St. NW at 1:26 p.m.

Theft. A citizen reported a theft in the 300 block of School St. E. at 2:57 p.m.

Suicide Threats. Police responded to an attempted suicide in the 900 block of Vine St. E. at 6:35 p.m.

May 7

Assault. Officers responded to an assault at Elm Ave. N. and North St. E. at 1:49 a.m.

Death. Police conducted a death investigation in the 900 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 9:25 a.m.

Warrant Arrests. At 9:18 a.m., officers arrested an adult in the 300 block of Prospect St. E. on an outstanding warrant. Another warrant arrest was made in the 2200 block of Condor Place NE at 10:21 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 11:26 a.m.

Steele County Sheriff

May 2

DWI. Deputy stopped a vehicle at 10:28 p.m. in the 8000 block of 21st Ave. NW. The adult driver was arrested for drunken driving.

May 4

Burglary. At 3:49 a.m., deputy responded to the 100 block of 3rd St. NE for a burglary report.

Child Protection. Deputy took a child protection report at 10:45 a.m. in

the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Vandalism. A citizen reported vandalism in the 400 block of 16th St. NE at 3:11 p.m.

May 5

Drunk Driving. Deputy stopped a vehicle on 18th St. SE and Bixby Road at 2:40 a.m. The adult driver was arrested for DWI.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 7400 block of Highway 14 E. at 7:24 p.m.

May 6

DWI. Deputy stopped a vehicle in the 2200 block of 46th St. SW at 1:13 a.m. The adult driver was arrested for DWI.

Crash. The sheriff's office responded to a motor vehicle crash in the 6700 block of Frontage Road W. at 11:16 a.m.

Suspicion. At 6:19 p.m., deputy took a report of suspicious activity in the 2400 block of 18th St. SE.

May 7

Warrant. The sheriff's office served a warrant at the jail at 12:58 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 27 with Judge Joseph A. Buettel presiding:

Ernesto Guerrero, 22, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. He was sentenced to \$581, 8 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 50 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Kevin P. Kurz, 42, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft of motor vehicle. Kurz was sentenced to \$131, and 27 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Shawn M. Williams, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of controlled substance. Williams was sentenced to \$131 and 49 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 27 -- May 1:

Bloomington Police Department

Darren E. Motl, 42, Bloomington, assault, \$381, 2 days in county jail, anger management, no contact with victim and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Georgyann P. Brookins, 67, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Christina Ceridwen, 45, So. St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Leonard F. Grimm, 55, Owatonna, cancelled license and possession of Marijuana, \$181, 3 days in county jail, and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

James D. Hoggard, 23, Owatonna, window tint violation and possession of Marijuana, \$181; Erin L. Hurley, 29, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$121; Isack H. Hussein, 29, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Kristi L. Nassif, 27, Independence, MO, possession of Marijuana, \$231; Jared E. Olson, 34, Forest Lake, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency treatment, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation;

Scott D. Ringold, 19, Ham Lake, speeding, \$141; Jorge Sanchez, 29, Albert Lea, window tint violation, \$131; Doh Soe, 22, Albert Lea, invalid license, \$181; Matthew D. Swehla, 38, Palo, IA, seat belt, \$106; Jared M. Talamantes, 24, Albert Lea, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Jean F. Thorton, 48, DeLeon Springs, FL, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Gennis C. Adams, 32, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$281, 11 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Aden M. Ali, 27, Owatonna, failure to drive in single lane and permit violation, \$131; Jay D. Anderson, 62, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Joseph D. Aul, 41, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Kyle A. Barefoot, 27, Owatonna, unsafe passing on left, \$131; Wayne D. Blanks, 43, Brooklyn Park, stop sign, \$131;

Lenard D. Booth, 23, Rochester, shoplifting, \$181 and 38 days in county jail; Amanda R. Brink, 28, San Antonio, TX, suspended license, and registration violation, \$581; Dustin D. Craft, 23, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Jamie M. Crews, 31, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Anthony L. Evans, 18, Owatonna, underage drinking and driving, \$231, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation;

Sasha D. Garces, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Michael P. Garrity, 54, Owatonna, DWI, \$306, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation; Timothy D. Gasner, 31, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Cody D. Guimond, 24, Medford, expired tabs, \$111; Payton F. Hinchley, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption and open bottle, \$281;

Harold D. Jensen, 53, Foley, cancelled license, \$181, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised

probation; Timothy E. Johnson, 49, Owatonna, collision with unattended vehicle, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Mindy A. Kaiser, 46, Kenyon, stop sign, \$131; Mark L. Kilgore, 42, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$181; Willard F. Klinger, 58, Waseca, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation;

Victor H. Martinez Villalobos, 33, Owatonna, interference with 911 call, \$581, 39 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, and 2 years of supervised probation; Jon-Erik R. Meier, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Emilio D. Mendoza, 18, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181;

Shyane M. Mensing, 27, Owatonna, theft, \$766, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rodney D. Neitzel, 53, Ellendale, seat belt, \$131; Trevor R. Nelson, 35, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Terriann Powell, 32, Owatonna, theft, \$181; Christopher M. Powers, 39, Owatonna, domestic abuse, \$181, 62 days in county jail; Sunday P. Puot, 19, disorderly conduct, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Kathy J. Quam, 36, Owatonna, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, \$181; Jesus R. Ramirez, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Ana C. Reimer, 62, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Kent L. Ross, 54, Faribault, stop sign, \$131;

Juan M. Ruiz Acevedo, 22, Owatonna, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$181; Zackary S. Ruzska, 26, Owatonna, hit and run, \$381, and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Andrea M. Sellner, 23, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation; Michael R. Sirek, 32, Owatonna, careless driving, \$381, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Maria E. Solis, 44, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131;

Deng G. Tang, 42, Austin, no insurance, \$281; Scott R. Thorpe, 35, Ellendale, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Ruach P. Thuok, 27, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; William R. Veach, 17, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Jared O. Weese, 32, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Joshua F. Weller, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; William I. Wilson, 31, Northfield, revoked license, \$281; Maria L. Zavala Regaldo, 31, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, \$281 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Nyikango O. Abella, 40, Farmington, speeding, \$221; Nathan E. Bain, 34, Owatonna, no MN li-

cense, \$181; Joshua K. Carlson, 24, Bloomington, speeding, \$141; Nathaniel D. Chinn, 23, Colorado Springs, CO, speeding, \$121; Cory R. Dotson, 55, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Tyler R. Fallon, 25, Waterville, expired tabs and speeding, \$171; Richard Gonzales, 21, Bloomington, revoked license, \$281; Cory J. Hackett, 33, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Benjamin M. Heath, 32, Northfield, speeding, \$141; Charles B. Hessel, 17, Wausau, WI, speeding, \$121;

Lee T. Huston, 24, Kiester, invalid license and stop sign, \$281; Carol M. Johnson, 48, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; Lucas L. Johnson, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Renae C. Keppers, 39, Medford, speeding, \$221; Gerald P. Kolb, 46, Bloomington, stop sign, \$131; Amanda M. Lisowski, 23, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Jake R. Livingston, 29, Morristown, speeding, \$131; Sonya M. Matter, 31, Austin, expired license, \$181; Muna A. Mohamed, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Stuart T. Morsching, 57, Madison Lake, speeding, \$121;

Lindsay R. Odom, 27, Manly, IA, speeding, \$221; Jimmy O. Ogutu, 32, Plymouth, speeding, \$131; Emmanuel O. Oman, 20, Austin, speeding, \$141; Brody J. Opat, 31, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$131; Kelly M. Paul, 29, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Vanessa L. Pettitt, 21, Austin, speeding, \$131; Stanley L. Prins, 60, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Cassandra L. Roehrick, 30, Owatonna, obstruction of legal process, \$381, and 1 year of supervised probation; Kenneth W. Schuler, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Cody A. Schwering, 20, Claremont, speeding, \$281; Yee Sheh, 20, St. Paul, speeding, \$141;

Robert P. Spencer, 16, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Frank E. Spillers, 42, Portland, OR, speeding, \$221; Justin S. Steinberg, 24, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Daniel K. Strand, 52, Mapleton, speeding, \$121; Eric J. Thoreson, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Amy L. Unklesbay, 35, Maplewood, speeding, \$141;

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 233 complaints for the week of April 29-May 5. Some of them included:

April 29

Medical. Hayfield Ambulance responded to Crestview Nursing Home in Hayfield for a woman possibly having a heart attack at 6:51 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY Continued on Page 6A



THE SAVVY SENIOR



Brought to you by:

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the symptoms of a stroke? My 66-year-old aunt had a stroke a few months ago and neither she nor my uncle had a clue it was happening.

Concerned Relative

Dear Concerned,

Unfortunately, most Americans don't know the signs of a stroke, but they need to. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and the No. 1 cause of disability.

Being able to recognize a stroke and getting to the hospital quickly can make a huge difference in reducing its potentially devastating effects. Here are some tips that help you recognize a stroke, and what you should do if it happens to you or your loved one.

Types of Stroke

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every year more than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke – three-quarters

of which are over the age of 65. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries blood to the brain is suddenly blocked by a clot (ischemic stroke), or burst (hemorrhagic stroke), causing parts of the brain to become damaged or die. About 87 percent of all strokes are ischemic. Depending on the severity of the brain damage, strokes can cause mild to severe disabilities including paralysis, loss of speech, vision and memory, along with other health and emotional issues, and death.

Stroke Signs

Because stroke injures the brain, the person having a stroke may not realize it. Stroke victims have the best chance if someone around them recognizes the symptoms and acts quickly. The five most common symptoms include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.

- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

The easiest way to identify a stroke is to use the F.A.S.T. test to identify the symptoms.

F (Face): Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A (Arm): Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S (Speech): Ask the person to say a simple sentence. Is their speech slurred?

T (Time): If you observe any of these signs of stroke, call 911.

To help you remember the signs, the American Stroke Association has a free "Spot a Stroke FAST" app (see stroke-association.org) that you can

download on your smartphone or mobile device. Or, visit the National Stroke Association at stroke.org and print their "Act FAST" wallet card to keep as a reminder.

Act Quickly

Remember that stroke is a medical emergency and every minute counts. Even if you're not sure a stroke is happening, call 911 anyway. The longer blood flow is cut off to the brain, the greater the damage. Immediate treatment can save a person's life and improve their chances for a successful recovery.

Ischemic strokes are treated with a drug called t-PA that dissolves the blood clots that block the blood flow to the brain. The window of opportunity to start treating a stroke is three hours. But to be evaluated and receive treatment, patients need to get to the hospital within 60 minutes.

If you have a choice, wait for the paramedics rather than driving the patient yourself. Patients who are transported by EMS are evaluated and treated much quicker than people who are driven in. And, of course, don't drive if you are the one having a stroke.

It's also very important that you call 911 even if symptoms go away. When symptoms of stroke disappear on their own after a few minutes, a "mini-stroke" or transient ischemic attack (TIA) may have occurred which is a warning that a major stroke may be coming. That's why mini-strokes need to be treated like emergencies too.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 10, 2005

Olyvia Thoen, along with her parents, Derek and Angela Thoen, would like to announce the arrival of her little brother Colin Robert. He was born April 28, 2005 and weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Linn and Shirley Thoen of Blooming Prairie and Kim and Deb Wilson of Dexter, Minnesota.

On Saturday, April 30, 2005, St. Isidore's School at Lito-mysl held their annual Pic-A-Thon. This is a fundraiser, as well as a community service project. The students and their parents picked up debris in the area ditches. Blake Nel-

son, Peggy Rysavy and Albert Rysavy are picking up the ditch southwest of the school. Over \$4,000 was raised and Catholic Aid Association will match funds up to \$1,000.

The boys track team finished third of five teams entered in the annual Panther Relays at New Richland on Thursday, May 5, and the Blossom boys earned three firsts in the meet. Scott Verley won both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes and Zach Fogarty high jumped 5-4 in that event.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 9, 1995

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wrase and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Krampitz, Sr. announce the

engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children Robyn Ann Wrase and Martin Haven Krampitz, Jr. Both Marty and Robyn are employed at Krampitz True Value in Blooming Prairie. The wedding will be June 3, 1995, at the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

The funeral service for Margaret Eva Langlie of Ellendale was 2 p.m. Monday, May 8, 1995 at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale. The Rev. Richard Ewing officiated. Burial was in the First Lutheran Cemetery, Ellendale. Mrs. Langlie died Thursday, May 4, 1995 at University of Minnesota Medical Center, Minneapolis. She was 72 years old.

The Blossom girls improved their season dual meet mark to

5-1 with victories over Rochester Lourdes and Glenville-Emmons on the home course Tuesday, May 2, and the boys upped their mark to 4-2 with a win over the Wolverines.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, and
Vyrle Krejci, Editors
May 13, 1965

Lloyd E. Odoms, Wayzata, appeared in Steele County District Court Friday, May 7, to answer charges of bribery in a recent case involving Reynolds Stoltz, former superintendent of Blooming Prairie Municipal Utilities. Odoms, a salesman for Richards Oil Company, was fined \$3,000 or in default of payment sentenced to three year imprisonment by Judge F. Cahill, presiding judge in the case.

A display of musical instruments has been scheduled at the Blooming Prairie High School band room at 8 p.m., Friday May 14, it was announced this week by Clifford Jones, band director. Students eligible for beginner's music are those who will have completed fourth grade this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Plunkett, Blooming Prairie, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Dorothy Jean, to Mr. Richard Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Green, Geneva.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson,
Editor and Publisher
May 9, 1940

Many were saddened to

learn of the sudden death of Lawrence Alfred Seavey, one-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Seavey, of Westfield Township, who died Tuesday morning after a short illness. Funeral services were held at 3:00 o'clock p.m., Wednesday.

Jack Carr, of Austin, was arrested by the highway patrol for operating his automobile without a 1940 license plate. He appeared in Justice Carman's court Monday where he pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$2.00 and costs.

Mary Ellen Johnson, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson of Blooming Prairie, died early this morning in a Rochester hospital. Her death was attributed to heart disease from which she has been suffering for several months.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



Johnson & Doerhoefer P.A.

Certified Public Accountants

Tamzen R. Johnson

Certified Public Accountant

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Community

Obituary

Loren Rasmussen, 79, Blooming Prairie

Loren Dale Rasmussen, age 79 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Thursday, May 7, 2015 at his home.

He was born at home in Blooming Prairie on Oct. 12, 1935, the son of Louis and Amanda (Miller) Rasmussen.

A 1954 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School, Loren served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1957 until 1963. On July 9, 1960, he married Doris Engler in Blooming Prairie. Loren and Doris raised three children. He made his living doing plaster and stucco work.

He began work with his dad, Louis Rasmussen, and his brother, Darrell Rasmussen to learn the trade before he was 18. In the 1970's, he worked



with Kern Plastering in Owatonna. During that time he worked with them in Colorado on very prestigious homes including former President Gerald Ford's.

For 25 years, he was a partner with Herman Beede (Beede and Rasmussen Plastering) in Blooming Prairie. Many homes in neighboring towns were plastered and/or stuccoed by Loren, or had repairs including Permatone touched by his craftsmanship.

A lifelong resident of Blooming Prairie, Loren was a member of the Ellendale United Methodist Church and the Blooming Prairie American Legion, where he served as past commander. He enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, bowling, and woodcarving.

Loren is survived by his wife Doris Rasmussen of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, his children Jay (Felecia) Rasmussen of Ottawa, Illinois, Lana (Scott) Grunklee of Claremont, Minnesota, Karen (James) Huff of Austin, Minnesota; 8 grandchildren Maverick, Ashlee, and Madison Rasmussen, Corey, Lauren, and Megan Grunklee, Marlena and Elizabeth Huff; his sister Donna Rice of Albert Lea, Minnesota.

His parents Louis and Amanda Rasmussen, his sister Dorothy Preston, his brothers Robert, Darrell, and Paul Rasmussen, brothers-in-law E.C. Preston and Ronald Rice, and his nephew Danny Rasmussen preceded him in death.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 10, 2015 at Ellendale United Meth-

odist Church, with Pastor Randy Cirksema officiating. Visitation was held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at Worleim Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Interment was in the Blooming Prairie City Cemetery, with military rites by American Legion Post 52 and V.F.W. Post 878. Memorials can be directed to the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, Ellendale United Methodist Church, Homestead Hospice Patient Care Fund, or recipient of donor's choice. Services prearranged and performed by Worleim Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worleim.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

Harassment. A woman in Hayfield reported harassment at 5:41 p.m.

Disturbance. At 8:43 p.m., a woman reported a domestic disturbance over a dog with her ex-husband in Hayfield. The man was arrested on April 30 for fifth-degree domestic assault and theft.

April 30
Traffic Hazard. The sheriff's office responded to a powerline down on 6th Avenue NE in Hayfield at 8:37 a.m.

May 1
Drunk Driving. Deputy responded to a driving complaint on Highway 56 between Dodge Center and Hayfield at 11:04 p.m. The driver was located and arrested for third-degree DWI.

May 2
Loose Pig. A citizen reported a pig wandering around on 530th Street by West Concord at 9:16 p.m.

May 3
Suspicious Activity. Deputy responded to a report of a vehicle at a vacant farm site on 120th Avenue near Claremont at 2:34 p.m.

Hazard. A large tree was reportedly over the road on 210th Ave. by West Concord at 6:19 p.m.

DWI. Deputy arrested a motorist for second-degree DWI on Second St. NW in Hayfield at 9:50 p.m.

May 4
Trespassing. Deputy took a trespassing complaint on 740th St. by Blooming Prairie at 6:38 p.m. The caller reported a maroon Dodge Durango was driving in a planted field and may be scrapping in the woods.

Civil. A woman contacted the sheriff's office to have a man removed from her property on 725th St. by Blooming Prairie at 7:19 p.m.

May 5
Medical. Circle Drive Manor in West Concord requested an ambulance for a medical at 11:16 a.m.

Ambulance. A woman on 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield needed an ambulance for severe pain and trouble breathing at 12:34 p.m. She was transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Sex Offense. The sheriff's office took a report of a sex offense on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 8:02 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the

week of April 27 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Richard Victor Dessner, 26, Dodge Center, previously pleaded guilty and was convicted of felony first-degree controlled substance. He was sentenced to 74 months in the St. Cloud Prison. In addition, he must supply a DNA sample and pay \$130 in fines. A second felony charge and a gross misdemeanor were dismissed.

Beth Hansen, 29, Dodge Center, previously pleaded guilty to a felony fifth-degree possession of drug charge. The judge imposed 10 years of supervised probation and a \$1,075 fine. As part of probation, Hansen must follow all instructions of probation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter bars or liquor stores, remain law abiding, no contact with persons associated with illegal drugs and undergo a chemical dependency evaluation.

Kevin Paul Kurz, 42, Lino Lakes Prison, previously pleaded guilty and was convicted of felony first-degree burglary. The judge sentenced him to 52 months in St. Cloud Prison. He must supply a DNA sample and pay restitution, which will be taken out of his prison wages. He is required to pay fees totaling \$2,854. Two other felonies and a gross misdemeanor were dropped.

Emmanuel Mata, 21, Claremont, previously pleaded guilty to felony second-degree burglary. The judge has sentenced him to 10 years probation and follow all conditions of probation. He must give a DNA sample when directed, do not use or possess firearms, do not register to vote until discharged from probation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain employment, write a letter of apology, do not enter bars or liquor stores and submit to random testing. The sentence also included penalty for two gross misdemeanors of receiving stolen property.

Hector Rocha, 23, Claremont, previously pleaded guilty to felony second-degree burglary and two related gross misdemeanors. He was sentenced to 10 years of supervised probation. As part of his conditions, he must stay in contact with probation, no alcohol or controlled substance use or possession, random testing, do not enter bars or liquor stores, remain law abiding, give a DNA sample, obtain a GED, obtain and maintain employment, do not use or possess firearms and do not register to vote until discharged from probation. He must also pay a fine of \$205. A gross misdemeanor and a misdemeanor were dismissed as part of

the plea agreement.

Robyn Elizabeth Ryan, 38, Claremont, previously pleaded guilty to a felony of mistreatment of animals. The judge ordered her to two years of supervised probation with the conditions of remaining law abiding, mental health screening, take medications in prescribed dosage and frequency and no new ownership of mammals. Ryan must also pay a fine of \$130.

Jeremy John Schandorff, 38, currently in Steele County Jail, was sentenced for felony non-support of spouse or child support and gross misdemeanor theft. The judge ordered him to two years of supervised probation. He must not be involved in any disorderly conduct, no threats of violence and no assault. Schandorff can not reside with anyone unless approved by probation and be current with child support. He also must complete treatment, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation and treatment, no alcohol or controlled substance use or possession and do not enter bars or liquor stores. He must pay a fine of \$125. A felony controlled substance charge was dismissed.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 27-May 4.

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Phillip Michael Adams, 33, Hayfield, snow removal parking violation, \$32; Avory James Arndt, 23, Kasson, possession small amount of marijuana, \$130; Steven Michael Broin, 20, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Hilda Falla, 46, Dodge Center, failure to yield, conditions met and dismissed; Christina Flores, 30, North Mankato, speeding, \$220; Kyle James Funk, 25, Byron, snow removal parking violation, \$32;

Jeffrey James Hass, 28, Eyota, snow removal parking violation, \$32; Vanity Seville Hutton, 27, Veroqua, Wis., possession small amount of marijuana, \$130; Ashley Nicolle Kangas, 28, Faribault, receiving stolen property, dismissed; Landon Robert Koss, 28, Dodge Center, solid waste facility delivery violation, \$580; Rigo Eleazar Macias, 22, failure to stop for school bus, \$380; Crystal Gail Massey, 35, Dodge Center, snow removal parking violation, \$32;

Aaron Michael Mealy, 27, Dodge Center, snow removal parking violation, \$32; Paul David Moe, 26, Lake City, driving after cancellation, \$205; Kimberly Kay Polluck, 50, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Jessie Dee Tolzman, 31, Claremont, domestic assault, \$455 fine, 1 year supervised probation, no possession of alcohol or drugs, do not enter bars, complete chemical assess-

ment and remain law abiding; Marilyn Wigfall, 50, Minneapolis, snow removal parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police

Drew Michael Dawley, 33, Kasson, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Kimberly Jean Edgar, 45, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Nicholas Howard Greenwood, 33, Rochester, fleeing police not in a motor vehicle and driving after cancellation, 1 year in jail with work release;

Donald Lee Huntington, 80, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Douglas Lee Ims, 38, Northfield, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Anderson Arnold Kelley, 74, Kasson, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Dean Cecil Kinyon Jr., 79, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Shawn Marie Littlefield, 50, Clear Lake, Iowa, parking during snow emergency, \$32; John Lee Omalley, 58, Utica, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Matthew Lee Peck, 29, Chatfield, parking during snow emergency, \$32;

William Ray Runge, 44, Rochester, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Kimberly Kaye Schellhammer, 49, Kasson, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Courtney Sherell Anitre Slack, 24, Rochester, parking during snow removal, \$32; Christina Marie Smith, 33, Kasson, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Pauline Louise Sorensen, 53, parking during snow emergency, \$32; Jessica Lynn Trelstad, 22, parking during snow emergency, \$32; James Joseph Waltz, 60, Austin, parking during snow emergency, \$32.

MN State Patrol- Rochester

Anthony Joseph Paulson, 45, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Jeffrey Donald Wood, 58, St. Louis, Missouri, speeding, \$120.

West Concord Police

Thaddeus Griffith Reniker, 34, Dodge Center, driving after suspension, \$280.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Joshua Nathan Temple, 32, arrested at 9:24 p.m. May 1, probation violation, held for court.

Joseph Maurice Davis, 30, arrested at 2:50 p.m. May 2, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Jessie Lee Lundquist, 33, arrested

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued on Page 6D

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 12
Doug Hillson, Alexandria Thompson, Barb Brewington, Kristen Paulson

May 13
Greg Johnson, Cody Schmeling, Randy Lea

May 14
Jolie Loiselle, Alex Lea, Ron Schmeling

May 15
Tamzen Johnson, Kay Zellmer, Angela Carlson

May 16
Erin Johnson, Holly Ille, Chad Smith, Linda Hansen, Mitchell Fiebigger, Gavin Esplan, Dave Pfeifer

May 17
Michelle Vigeland, Christopher Bartlett, Ashley Schmel-

ing, Nicholas Hanson, Thomas Shawback, Tami Korpi

May 18
Bryan Fristedt, Cade Christianson, David Farr, Chris Staloch

Anniversaries:
May 12
Rick and Linda Kittelson

May 13
Bob and Mary Hueman Harvey and Nancy Farr Dave and Cheri Klug

May 16
Dave and Jan Vaith

May 17
Jason and Kaylene Jensen

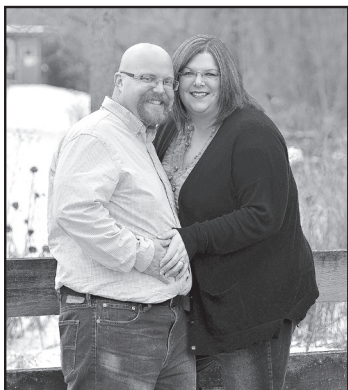
May 18
Matt and Ranell Kittelson Brian and Sue Bowman

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Engagement

Olson/Johnson



Darwin and Becky Johnson of Blooming Prairie are thrilled to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Amanda Johnson to Shaun Olson.

Amanda is a 2001 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School and a 2007 graduate of Riverland Community College and Dakota County Technical College. She is currently employed with Federated Insurance in Owatonna.

Pat and Deb Jones are the proud parents of Shaun Olson. Shaun is a 2000 graduate of Apple Valley High School. He currently works for Eventis in Mankato. The wedding will take place on Aug. 1, 2015, in Waseca where the couple resides.

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Area Church Spotlight



Community Lutheran, Geneva

Pastor's Corner

A gathering to celebrate love

Last month I was honored to be a part of my niece's wedding. As I generally do I opened the ceremony by stating that we gather to celebrate love: Katie and Michael's love for each other, the love of their family and friends who had come together to celebrate, and most especially God's love which called them into life, nurtured and sustained them, drew them together and now united them in marriage. As I watched Katie and her new husband, Michael, you could see how just being in each other's presence was a wonder for them. I looked at the pride and love that shone in the eyes of their parents as they watched the happy couple. And then there was the love of the family and friends who had gathered. All wrapped up in the love of God.

In the late sixties, the Beatles recorded their hit song, "All You Need is Love." The song starts out with the simple repetition of the word, "love." Then, as the verses are sung, the same word is sung as a backdrop for the other lyrics. In much the same way the word "love" sings

out over and over in the Gospel and Epistles of John. The love that John calls us to is not a feeling but a radical way of relating to God and our neighbor. Jesus, himself, lived this love and wanted those who follow Him to do the same.

"Love" is a common word in our everyday speech. We "love" pizza, we make "love" (sometimes with total strangers), we might even tune into "I Love Lucy" on TV. More often than not, we use the word to mean the narcissistic and self-indulgent state of mind that often passes for love in contemporary society.

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Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 676-5696

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie

Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 633-9331

10:30 a.m. Sundays

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie

Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor

Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com

Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Broadcast 8:30 KOWZ, 100.9FM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope

Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,

Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS

2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna

The Rev. Mark Rosenau,

the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

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

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(507) 465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15

Sunday School/Adult Education 9:15

Sunday, Worship 10:15

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham

Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin

Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000

www.roglutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna

Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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The Rev. Ronald Prigge

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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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104 First St. S.E., Hayfield

The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org

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



Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS

57403 300th St., Waltham

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale

Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

106 Third St. S.E., Geneva

Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale

Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

9 a.m. worship

10 a.m. Sunday school

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

108 Third Ave S.W., Medford

Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden

Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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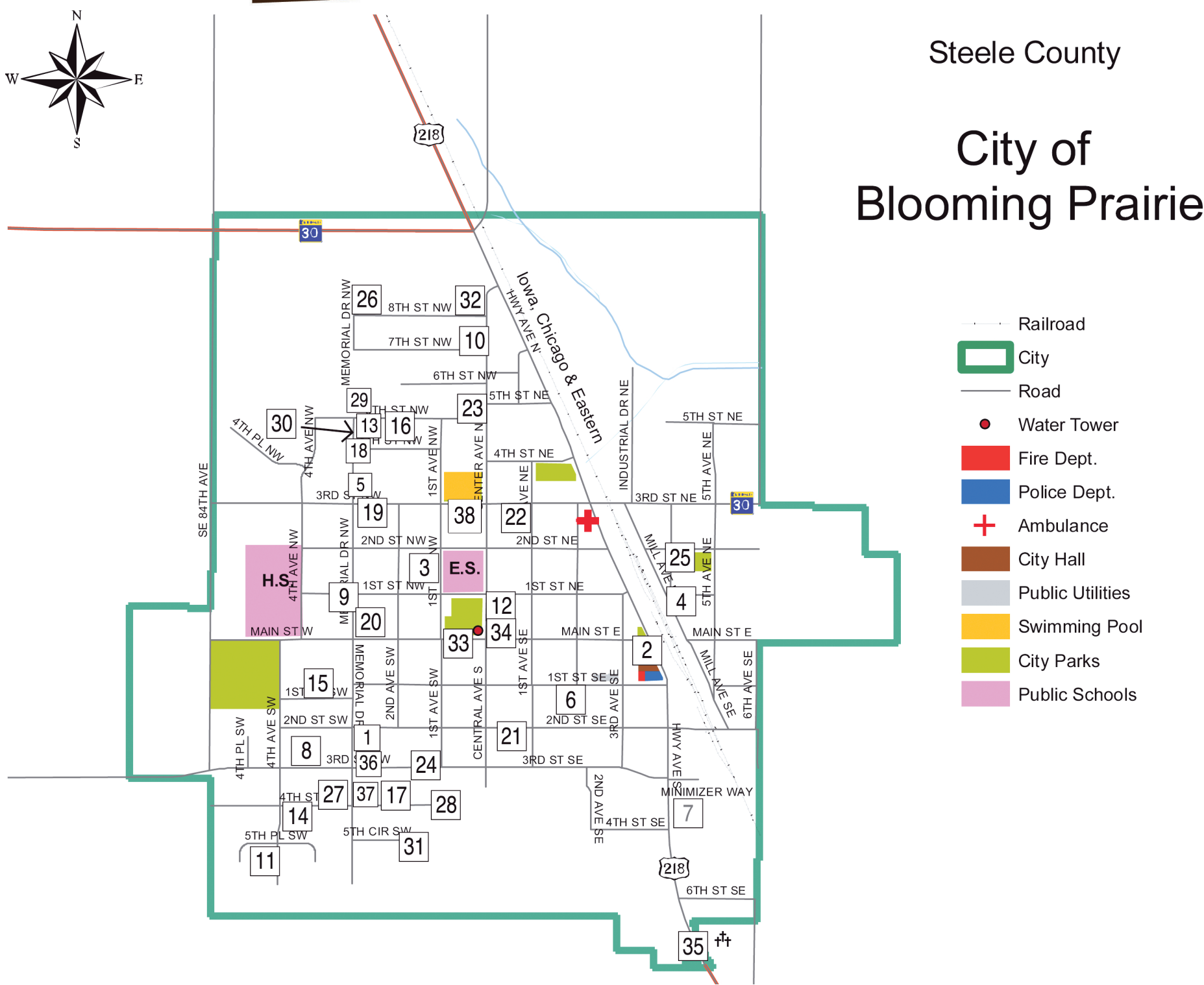
www.ellendaleumc.org

Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Non-Denominational

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4. Holtberg-519 1st St. NE- Newborn to 6 months Boys, Baby Items, Women’s Clothing L-XXL, Books

5. Motl-451 Memorial Dr. NW-Clothes, Clothes and More Clothes!. Mostly Kids’

6. Spinler/Wencl-250 2nd St SE in alley-Kid’s Toys, Baby Stuff, Sand Box With Cover, Car Ramps

7. 218 Off Sale-415 Hwy Ave. S.-Clothes, Books, Furniture, Miscellaneous

8. Stacy Magnus-424 3rd St. SW.-4 Families! Garage full of clean, quality items.
- 9. Lorraine Ferguson**-140 NW Memorial Ave.-Furniture-Miscellaneous

10. Angela Bergeron-738 Center Ave. N.

11. Cindi Hansen-520 4th Ave. SW. 5 Family-Friday and Saturday

12. Conklin, Multi Family - 228 East Main St. (Alley by bank)-Hs hld,Outdoor,Seasonal,Sports,Toys ,Crafts,Clothes,Furn.misc.

13. Farr, Hocking-522 Memorial Dr. SW-New Shwr Stall,T-Shirts,Fooseball Table,”31” Bags, StampSets,PhotoPrinter,Misc.

14. Owen/Krejci-459 4th St SW- Lots of Miscellaneous

15. BP Cancer Group-First Lutheran Church-Sloppy Joes, Chicken Salad, Croissants and more (take-out available)

16. Lisa Toms-308 4th St NW- Clothes, Household Items

17. Carol Colee-312 4th St SW-Area Rugs, Standing Fan, Dehumidifier and Humidifier
- 18. Dave + Cheri Klug**-470 Memorial Dr. NW- Clothing and Household

19. Darwin R. Johnson-321 3rd St. NW-Golf, Lawn Mowers, Chairs, Lamp, Exercise Bike

20. Ashley Johnson + Amanda Sayles-334 W. Main St.-Baby + Toddler Clothes, Hshld Décor. Women+Maternity Clothes

21. Sunde Family-310 1st Ave. SE.-Lots of Miscellaneous Items

22. Crystal Nelson- 342 1st Ave NE-2 Toddler beds, Girls 0-3T Clothes, Household, etc.

23. Johnson/Romeo-606 Center Ave. N-Childrens’ Clothes and Home Décor

24. A.Valek,M. Doocy,NaomiSmith-416-3rd St. SW-Baby Items, Boy Clths 0-4T, Inf. Girl Clths, Hshld, KnickKnacks,Décor,Misc

25. Johnson/Peterson-418 2nd St. NE-Dishes, Childrens’, Décor, Lots of Stuff
- 26. Mortensen**-346 8th St NW.- Moving--Furniture,Antiques,KitchenTable,Dishes,PictureFrames,Small Appliances

27. Ashton-456 4th St SW- Entertainment Center, Electric Stove, Tent, Miscellaneous

28. Reinke-206 4th St SW- Snowblower, Washer+Dryer, Boys+Girls clothes, Antique High Chair and Bassinet

29. Heidi Thompson-500 Memorial Dr. NW-Baby Clothes, Baby Furniture, Miscellaneous

30. Gillette, Klocke, Prihoda-514 Memorial Dr. SW- Girls Baby-2T,Boys 4-6T, Toys, Raggedy Ann, Kitchen items, etc.

31. Roger Amundson-317 5th Circle SW-Lots of glass ware, S-M Clothes, Miscellaneous

32. Fishers-145 8th St NW-Girls + Boys Clothes, Toys, Shoes, Adult Clothes, Household

33. Schumacher-211 Main St E-Baby Stuff, Kid’s Clothes, Toys, Household Items, Welder, Snowblower + More
- 34. Lembke/Wiese** - 131 East Main Street - Harley Davidson Clothing & Accessories, Lawn & Garden Items, Electronics, 10 ft. Fiberglass Ladder, Futon Frame, Picnic Table/Patio Chairs, 6 Bar Stools, Name Brand Clothing & Shoes, Household & Miscellaneous Items.

35. Driessen - 52196 320th Street - Electric Stove, Furniture, Household Items

36. Multi-family - 433 3rd St SW - Kids/Adult Clothing, Toys, Furniture (also baby), Mini Fridge, Tools, Jewelry, Vintage Items, Wild Life Prints

37. Krejci/Owen - 459 4th St. SW, Friday, 4:00, Saturday 8:00 - Lots of Miscellaneous!

38. Holmes/Multi-family - 141 Center Avenue North - Kitchen Chairs, Pet Supplies, Miscellaneous Clothing, Corelle Dishes, Misc. Kitchen & Household Items.

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

The week in sports

Softball coach Ali Mach is dealing with a situation she is not accustomed to this season, and that is a losing record. A third loss in a row over the last week marked the first time in a dozen years the team has struggled to that record. The team did break the losing streak with a convincing win over USC, but then lost a tough one-run non-conference contest to Mankato Loyola last Friday.

The team may have pulled out of its funk, however, by downing Waseca in a double header at home on Saturday. In that pair of games they got good pitching from three different hurlers and had plenty of bat power to take down the Bluejays and climb with one game of .500

It is not a bad team, but they lack some of the big hitters of previous years, and sophomore Elly Strunk is still maturing in the circle. The team will still win games, but Coach Mach and the players realize that other teams in the conference are improving, and the victories will be hard-earned. I just hope they can keep the positive attitude going that they have had so far and continue to have fun playing the game. There is value in other aspects besides winning.

The baseball team continues to struggle also, but Coach Matt Kittelson has instilled a positive attitude in his players. Except for a very few seniors, the team is quite young, and maturity will bring more success. They have already bettered last year's record, and the team is showing snapshots of improvement. That is good.

Their losing streak reached five in a row, after games through the end of last week. The youth and inconsistent play will eventually lead to a better record and a more mature team. In the meantime, the team is still learning and maturing, and winning games is still in the future.

The track leaders of whom I spoke last week — Cole Sunder, Alec Ille and Taylor Hagen- all had good results at the true-team invitational meet last week. Now they, along with the rest of the track athletes, look forward to the conference meet, and we will be hoping for some good individual performances. I am sure that some times and distances will spike up and leave the athletes with possible big

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 2B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Athletic director takes principal position

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Occasionally a headline in a newspaper proclaims “Local boy makes good.” Add Blooming Prairie High School educator John Dale Worke to that distinguished list.

This summer, Worke will drop his title of athletic director and girls basketball coach and assume the high school principal position. It is a place for which Worke has been striving in his long tenure at the school

in which he attended all 12 years of his school career.

A standout athlete in his high school days, his senior basketball team compiled a 17-5 record and lost to Southland in the district finals. After high school, he attended Winona State and earned his degree in elementary education in 1989. He began his career at Bloom-



John Worke

ing Prairie Elementary, teaching third grade for four years and fifth grade for three years. After being laid off from teaching for a year, he returned to BP, this time in junior high Science, as well as other classroom situations.

Worke assumed the Athletic Director's job in 1999, earned his Masters at Mankato Univer-

sity in 2006 and his Principal's certificate in 2008. He became facility director in 2009 and Assistant Principal in 2011. His latest position will make him accountable for several high-profile duties.

Some of those duties include student scheduling, curriculum and instruction, overseeing of improving test scores, teacher evaluation and staff development. Student discipline and programming are also part of his responsibilities.

Worke is married to Mary, (a

Hall of Fame volleyball player in her alma mater), and the couple have three children, Matthew is a freshman at Winona State, Madison is graduating this year and will attend Winona State on a basketball scholarship and Julia is a seventh-grader at BPHS. Worke's dad died when Worke was just 12 years old, and he has a brother and a half brother and sister.

Worke served as Athletic Di-

WORKE

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STEELE COUNTY SPORTS

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford, BP and NRHEG baseball teams are a combined 2-11 in the month of May, with both NRHEG and BP winless this month.

Gopher Conference baseball teams struggle in May competition

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The month of May has not been kind to the three Steele County teams in the Gopher Conference. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Blooming Prairie and Medford are a collective 2-11 in May baseball. Both of those two wins belong to Medford.

“It’s been a tough month,” said NRHEG Coach Drew Paukert after the teams’ sev-

enth straight loss, four of which came this month. “May hasn’t been good to the Panthers baseball team. The stretch that we’ve been in, losing seven in a row, has been tough.”

Unlike NRHEG and Blooming Prairie, Medford has maintained a winning record, but the 4-5 stretch over the last nine games comes in stark contrast to the 7-0 start to the season.

Medford Coach Jon Chapuis said his team remains optimistic, but they are definitely

dealing with fatigue.

“Our key is to get some rest,” said Chappuis. “We have played every game during (last) week with the same nine players. We only have 18 (players) total in 9-12 grade, so the players have not gotten any rest.”

Chappuis said the team has started getting creative in how they can rest up before the postseason, including pulling players from JV to give varsity members a much-needed break.

Blooming Prairie has lost

nine of their last 10, after beginning the season 3-3.

Coach Matt Kittelson pointed out that although the wins haven’t quite been there, his team has shown quality.

“We have played right with a lot of good teams this year, and we are going to look at those games as motivation to hopefully pull an upset over a higher seed that first round of sub-sections,” said Kittelson.

Early this season, the Blossoms showed signs of life early

on, winning back-to-back away games against Lyle/Austin Pacelli and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown. Since that win on April 20, the boys have defeated Maple River and have been outscored 95-29 in their last 10 games.

“We are just trying to be better each day as we get ready for the playoffs,” said Kittelson.

MAY BASEBALL

Continued on Page 2B

Blossoms get back on track after three-game losing streak



Staff photo by James Knoop

Bria Baldwin advances to second on a fielding error by Waseca on May 9. The Blossoms swept the double-header, winning 4-3 and 13-4.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A pair of walks in the sixth inning led to two runs, and visiting Mankato Loyola edged the Blossom softball team 5-4 Friday, May 8. The locals plated one run in the seventh and had the tying run on base when a groundout ended the non-conference contest.

Experts have determined that a leadoff walk in an inning will score 75 percent of the time, and two straight passes to open the seventh inning both came home and gave the Crusaders just enough to hold off the Blossoms. The big blow came off the bat of pinch-hitter Kennedy Benning on a double to left field with two outs.

Loyola scored three unearned runs in the third inning, after BP led 1-0 on a first inning run. A dropped fly ball, a scratch hit that fell between two players

and two straight singles counted the three Crusader runs. Tessa Ivers singled, was sacrificed to second, and scored on the first of Bria Baldwin's two hits in the game. After the two runs in the sixth for Loyola, Baldwin gave the blossoms life with a lead-off double in the seventh. She scored on a sharp singe from McKenna Hein, but a strikeout and the grounder to first base snuffed out the Blossom hopes.

“I thought we played a good game,” remarked Coach Ali Mach. “The girls played hard and stood in strong against the excellent pitching of Kayla Gross. We just weren’t able to get a big hit when we needed it.”

Loyola had five runs, six hits, one error; BP had four runs, 10 hits, and two errors. Gross walked none, hit a batter and struck out six, while Elly Strunk walked three and struck out two. Ivers and Baldwin both had two hits for the Blossoms. The team

record dropped to 5-8 for the season.

Locals 10-run USC

A five-run first inning got the Blossom softball team off and running in an eventual 13-3 six-inning conference win on the home diamond Thursday, May 7. A four-run sixth inning ended the game on the 10-run rule.

“We played a pretty complete game this time,” commented Coach Mach, “and we pounded out 19 hits in the game. That was more like the way we can play when the team keeps its focus. A rain delay didn’t seem to bother us, either.”

Six straight hits, including doubles by Bria Baldwin and Elly Strunk, led to the five first inning runs. Single runs scored in the second, third and fourth, and the locals exploded for the last five in the bottom of the sixth. Abby Wayne had four hits

in the game, Strunk had three, including three doubles, and Ivers, Madison Worke, Jessica Ferguson and Emma Christian-son all added two hits in the offensive display.

Losing streak at 3

For the first time in a dozen years, the Blossom softball team lost three straight games. The latest defeat came at the hands of a heavy-hitting Pine Island team that routed the locals 17-5 Tuesday, May 5. The non-conference tilt went just five innings, as the Panthers took a 6-0 lead after two innings and were never threatened.

Both teams counted a pair of runs in the third inning, but the home team exploded for nine runs in the fourth for an insurmountable lead. BP scored its

BP SOFTBALL

Continued on Page 5B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS



Staff photo by James Knoop
Sam Swenson catches the throw from catcher, Scott Romeo, on a steal by Triton's Michael Thomas on May 1. The Blossoms lost 22-8.

Boys lose five straight

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

No timely hits hurt the Blooming Prairie baseball team again, as USC defeated BP 6-1 on Thursday, May 7.

It marked the fourth loss in a row for the locals and dropped them to a 4-11 record for the season.

BP stranded runners on second and third in both the second and third innings, and, as Coach Matt Kittelson lamented, “We just couldn’t get a hit when we needed it and that was the story of the game. The Rebels got those timely hits when needed. We couldn’t.”

USC pushed across four runs in the bottom of the first, and that was more than enough. The

Rebels used two doubles, a single, an error and a hit batter to plate the four runs. The winners added a single run in the fourth on a walk, stolen base and base hit and counted the last run in the sixth on a single and a double.

BP’s lone run came in the fourth on consecutive hits from Scott Romeo, Seth Peterson and Riley Olson. Sam Swenson took the loss for BP, giving up five earned runs on 10 hits and one walk, and he struck out four batters. Peterson and Lucas Noble each had two hits for the Blossoms.

A third loss in a row befell the Blossom baseball team when Hayfield defeated the locals 4-2 at Hayfield in a non-conference tilt Tuesday, May 5. The Vikings scored three runs in the second

inning, and that margin held up for the whole game.

The second inning runs for the Vikings came on two walks, a wild pitch and two singles. They added the last run in the sixth on a base hit and a Blossom error.

BP counted a single run in the third on two walks, an error and John Rumpza’s single, and the last run scored in the fifth on a walk, Swenson’s base hit and another Rumpza single.

Hayfield had four runs, three hits, one error; BP had two runs, five hits and two errors. Rumpza had two hits in the game but took the loss on the mound.

BP also lost their next game against Mankato Loyola 10-5, dropping them to 4-12. They next host WEM on Tuesday, May 12 at 5 p.m.

JV loses double-header; beats Triton 10-9

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

In earlier games a week ago, the Blooming Prairie junior varsity baseball team defeated Triton 10-9 on Friday, May 1, but lost a doubleheader to Maple River the day before. The Eagles won game one 8-5 and then took the second game 11-6. The BP record is 2-8-1.

Triton counted three runs in the first against the Blossoms and led 5-1, with single runs in the fourth and fifth. BP closed the gap in the fifth with three runs, thanks to three straight singles by Dylan Nirk, Payton Simon and Jack Abbe, a bases loaded walk, two fielders choic-

es and Mitchell Oswald’s single.

Triton went ahead 9-4 with three additional runs, but the locals fought back again in the bottom of the seventh. Five consecutive walks brought home a run, and Abbe drove in the tying runs with a sharp single. Another walk and a fielder’s choice forced in the winning run. BP had 10 runs, eight hits and two errors: Triton had nine runs, nine hits and one error. Abbe led the hitters with a three for five day, and Oswald added two hits.

In the first game against Maple River, the Blossoms had an early 2-1 lead, but the Eagles eventually increased the margin to 6-3 in the fifth. The locals got two runs back in the bottom of the fifth on Staska’s single, Nick

Thompson’s double and a base hit from Max Romeo. Two runs for Maple River in the sixth put the visitors back on top, and neither team could score again.

BP made it close in the second game with four runs in the fifth, after the Eagles took a 7-0 margin. Simon started the rally with a leadoff triple, and Staska doubled, Thompson lined a triple, and a sacrifice scored the fourth run. Maple River came right back, however, with four runs, and added another in the sixth to end the game. Maple River had 11 runs, nine hits and two errors: BP had 16 runs, nine hits and two errors. Staska and Nirk each had two hits to lead the offense.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

memorable occasions.

And the golfers may not have enough players to make a team. But BP’s Taylor Christianson is shining brightly as an individual in almost almost every match. Last week she carded a sizzling 39 for nine holes, 13 whole strokes better than the runner-up player in a five-team conference invitational. She has been the medalist or in the top echelon of golfers at every match.

Weather on the menu

I don’t now if our area is blessed or just lucky, but this little part of Minnesota seems to be one of the very few places in the state and the entire western part of the country. With the rains of late last week, our area has been able to get crops in the ground (three weeks earlier than last year), and forecasters are now predicting some cooler weather for a few days. We will see, I guess.

Special days

The past weekend offered a double bonus for residents, in that Saturday marked the opening fishing season, and Sunday offered everyone a chance to give thanks to moms on the annual Mothers Day celebration. I recall in my younger days that fellow teacher John Whiting and I would trek up north for the opener of the season.

It wasn’t unusual for the temps to be near freezing and a cold drizzle trickling down my neck as we sat through many hours of less than ideal condi-

tions. It wasn’t until a few years later that we finally figured out that maybe the opening week-end should be ignored, and the second one more conducive to fishing. I really am not sure if that was any better, but we fooled ourselves into thinking it was, anyway.

As far as Mother’s Day was concerned, my wife was not very big on those types of occasions, but a card and sometimes an original little poem could be counted upon to be part of the ritual. I miss that day, if for no other reason than it gave family a chance to congregate at times and get caught up on the latest family gossip. I hope everyone had a great day for moms everywhere.

And one last special day for me came with the opportunity to see my granddaughter graduate from college. The four years have literally flown by for her, her parents and for me, and she is now accepted into the engineering program at the University of Minnesota. That means many more hours of hard work, but she is a bright girl, and I am confident that she will handle the opportunity with success.

Just ahead

Two events are on tap in the next few days, both of them next Saturday, May 16. As the saying goes, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, and that will be the case at the annual City-wide garage sale next Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Over a dozen residences will be host-

ing the sale, and many people from the area make this event an annual outing.

Also in connection with the sale, the local cancer group will be serving lunch at First Lutheran Church. People can tire themselves out hunting for bargains and then stop at First Lutheran for a delicious lunch.

Then, after shopping at the city-wide garage sale, residents

MAY BASEBALL

Continued from Page 1B

With the final week of regular baseball here, all three teams have big matchups.

Blooming Prairie was scheduled to host WEM on Tuesday, May 12, followed by a game Thursday in New Richland at 5 p.m.

Medford was scheduled to play at NRHEG on Monday, May 11. They will host WEM on Thursday, May 14, at 5 p.m.

“The game against WEM is big,” said Chappuis, “but the game against NRHEG is the bigger game. That game will determine how the conference will shake out.”

Medford defeated NRHEG 4-3 at home in April, but will

be facing a Panthers team hungry to get back on track on their home field.

“The boys are confident and ready to get these games in and move on to sections,” said Chappuis.

Kittelson stated that the Blossoms need to capitalize with runners in scoring position, as well as not allowing two-out rallies on defense.

“We need to put a complete game together offensively and defensively,” said Kittelson.

Paukert is searching for consistency in closing out games and eliminating errors.

“This has been a trend over the last seven games,” said

Paukert. “In five of those games, we have either had the lead or been tied in the sixth or seventh inning and just haven’t been able to come out on the right side of things.”

Paukert added that pitching, defense and mental focus are the three keys his team is focusing on in the last weeks of play.

“Our seniors and catcher need to do a much better job of communicating where people need to be in different situations, which will put us in a better place to execute,” said Paukert. “I still have a lot of confidence in the team and players we have here.”

Blooming Prairie golfer medalist

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

BPHS golfer Taylor Christianson ran away from the pack at the BP invitational meet Friday, May 8, to earn medalist honors at the five-team meet. Playing an outstanding round of golf, Christianson finished 13 strokes better than the runner-up girl with a sparkling 39 score.

United South Central won the team title in this girls’ meet, with a 217, followed by NRHEG at 236 and Maple River at 279. Neither BP nor Faribault Academy had enough girls to record a team score. The Blossoms had just three girls to compete in the meet.

Following Christianson’s fine round, three USC girls — Catelyn Loegering, Kyley Bullerman and Isabel Sevchindler,

claimed second, third and fourth individually with scores of 52 and 53 and 54. Alexa Rudlong also carded a 54 to tie for fourth, and BP’s Sabrina Stanley shot a 55, good for fifth place. Jessica Nafe (NRHEG), Cate Koestler (USC) and Kyra Possin (NRHEG) shot 55, 58 and 59 respectively, and Morgan Pyzick (USC) rounded out the top ten with a 59.

Blossoms competes at True Team

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie’s boys track team finished 10th of 18 teams at the Section 1A true-team track meet at Triton Tuesday, May 5, and the girls were two places behind in 12th in their division.

BP boys had 611 points in the meet, and the girls totaled 506.5, close behind 11th place Medford with 534. Lake City won the boys’ division while Pine Island took first for the girls.

Alec Ille took the only first for the locals when he ran the 3,200-meter course in 10:07. Cole Sunde took second in the 200-meter dash at 22.9 and in the long jump with a leap of 20-9 3/4. He placed third in the triple jump at 39-9 3/4. The 4x100-meter relay team finished third in a 46.4 time.

For the girls, Taylor Hagen took the runner-up spot in the shot put with a toss of 38-7 ½ and placed fifth in the discus at 100-9. Alison Pryor, Asia Thostenson and Leah Schefert all finished ninth in the 3,200-meter run, the 300-meter hurdles and the pole vault respectively. Pryor timed a 12:53.2 in the 3,200 run, Thostenson ran the hurdles in .53 and Schiefert vaulted 7-0 in that event.

The next action for BP will be today (May12) at the conference meet on the NRHEG track.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie's Asia Thostenson competes in the 110-meter hurdles in Triton on May 5.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

SCOTT ROMEO

In the demanding position of catcher, senior Scott Romeo has been one of the most consistent players for the Blossom baseball team and also one of the better hitters. Romeo does not go many games without at least one hit, and he has had multiple hit games on a couple of occasions. His task of handling several pitchers over the season keeps him busy, but he does a good job in doing so.

ELLY STRUNK

The sophomore hurler has not only been in the circle all but a few times for the BP softball team, but she’s also one of the leading hitters on the team. In one win last week, she had three doubles to her credit. Although the team has been on the losing end several times lately, Strunk has kept an even demeanor in the circle and at bat. She is one of the team leaders, despite her relative youth.

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Gopher Conference

Softball		
Faribault B.A.	Conf.	Overall
NRHEG	6-2	9-5
Maple River	6-2	10-3
Blooming Prairie	4-1	10-6
USC	3-2	7-8
WEM	3-5	4-11
Medford	3-6	5-12
	0-7	2-12

Baseball		
WEM	Conf.	Overall
Medford	7-2	8-5
USC	7-3	11-5
Faribault B.A.	5-4	8-6
NRHEG	5-5	4-8
Maple River	4-4	5-8
Blooming Prairie	3-8	4-11
	3-8	4-12

Big 9 Conference

Softball		
Mankato West	Conf.	Overall
Mankato East	13-1	16-2
Rochester Mayo	9-3	10-4
Winona	8-3	9-5
Rochester Century	9-4	10-7
Albert Lea	8-4	9-5
Owatonna	5-6	7-4
Northfield	4-6	4-7
Rochester JM	5-9	6-11
Austin	4-9	6-11
Red Wing	3-9	4-10
Faribault	3-9	5-11
	1-9	3-10

Baseball		
Northfield	Conf.	Overall
Mankato West	8-2	10-3
Rochester JM	8-2	11-2
Rochester Mayo	7-3	8-4
Owatonna	7-5	8-6
Red Wing	5-4	6-7
Albert Lea	5-5	9-5
Rochester Century	5-5	8-7
Mankato East	4-4	9-4
Winona	3-6	8-8
Faribault	3-8	3-10
Austin	2-7	3-10
	3-9	3-10

Boys Lacrosse		
Rochester Mayo	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Century	1-0	2-4
Northfield	1-0	3-3
Rochester JM	1-1	2-4
Owatonna	1-1	2-3
	0-3	0-9

Girls Lacrosse		
Owatonna	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Century	5-0	6-2
Northfield	3-1	3-5
Rochester JM	1-3	2-7
Rochester Mayo	1-3	3-5
	1-4	2-5

BASEBALL

Blooming Prairie	
April 20...	at WEM W 15-14 (9 innings)
April 23...	vs. NRHEG L 10-3
April 27...	at Faribault B.A. L 8-2
April 28...	vs Randolph L 8-0
April 30...	at Maple River L 15-0
April 30...	at Maple River W 7-4
May 1...	vs. Triton L 22-8
May 4...	at Medford L 10-1
May 5...	at Hayfield L 4-2
May 7...	at USC L 6-1
May 8...	at Mankato Loyola
May 12...	vs. WEM
May 14...	at NRHEG
May 15...	vs. Alden-Conger

Medford	
April 20...	vs. NRHEG W 4-3
April 23...	at WEM L 6-3
April 24...	vs. Maple River W 13-3
April 28...	at USC L 5-2
April 30...	at Faribault B.A. W 6-5
April 30...	at Faribault B.A. L 16-12 (8 innings)
May 4...	vs. Blooming Prairie W 10-1
May 5...	vs. Triton L 6-2
May 7...	vs. Randolph POSTPONED
May 9...	vs. Schaeffer Academy L 5-4
May 9...	vs. Bethany Academy W 3-2
May 11...	at NRHEG
May 14...	vs. WEM
May 15...	at Cleveland

NRHEG	
April 20...	at. Medford L 4-3
April 21...	vs. Zumbrota-Mazeppa W 13-3
April 23...	at Blooming Prairie W 10-3
April 28...	vs. Faribault B.A. L 10-6
April 30...	vs. Triton L 5-3
April 30...	at USC L 6-7
May 4...	at WEM L 9-0
May 5...	vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo 11-1
May 7...	at Maple River L 10-9
May 9...	vs. PACT Charter School L 8-4
May 11...	vs. Medford
May 14...	vs. Blooming Prairie
May 16...	vs. Albert Lea
May 19...	vs. Blue Earth Area

Owatonna	
April 23...	vs. Rochester Mayo W 3-2 (8 innings)
April 27...	vs. Rochester JM L 7-5
April 28...	at Northfield L 12-2
April 29...	at Rochester JM L 6-5
April 30...	vs. Faribault W 10-0
May 5...	at Mankato West L 5-1
May 8...	vs. Mankato West L 12-0
May 8...	vs. St. Cloud Apollo W 9-4
May 12...	vs. Austin
May 14...	at Winona
May 15...	vs. Ricori
May 18...	at Red Wing

SOFTBALL

Blooming Prairie	
April 20...	at WEM W 12-7
April 23...	at Byron L 6-5
April 25...	vs. Pine Island L 10-0
April 25...	at Austin L 15-4
April 28...	at Randolph W 11-9
April 30...	at Maple Rlver L 14-1
May 4...	vs. Triton L 3-2
May 5...	at Pine Island L 17-5
May 7...	vs. USC W 13-3
May 8...	vs. Mankato Loyola L 5-4
May 9...	vs. Waseca DH W 4-3, W 13-4
May 12...	at Kenyon-Wanamingo
May 14...	vs. NRHEG

Medford	
April 20...	vs. NRHEG L 32-0
April 23...	vs. WEM L 14-5
April 27...	at St. Clair L 20-6
April 28...	at Lyle/Austin Pacelli L 8-4
April 30...	vs. Faribault B.A. L 22-6
May 1...	vs. Glenville-Emmons W 8-6
May 4...	at JWP L 18-8
May 5...	at USC L 26-5
May 7...	vs. Randolph CANCELLED
May 9...	at Plainview-Elgin-Millville L 35-3
May 11...	at NRHEG
May 14...	at WEM

NRHEG	
April 20...	at. Medford W 32-0
April 28...	vs. Faribault B.A. W 7-5
April 30...	at USC W 4-1
April 30...	at USC W 24-7
May 5...	AT WEM L 8-7
May 7...	vs. Maple River W 7-2
May 7...	at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 6-0
...	vs. New York Mills W 9-2
May 11...	vs. Medford
May 14...	at Blooming Prairie
May 15...	vs. Belle Plaine

Owatonna	
April 20...	vs. Mankato East L 16-5
April 21...	vs. Red Wing W 11-0
April 23...	at Rochester Mayo L 5-3
April 24...	at Austin W 17-5
April 25...	at Esko W 5-0
April 28...	vs. Northfield L 7-5
May 5...	vs. Albert Lea W 7-5
May 7...	at Mankato West L 6-0
May 7...	at Mankato West W 5-4
May 8...	vs. Farmington
May 12...	at Austin
May 14...	vs. Winona
May 15...	at Rochester Century

TRACK AND FIELD

Blooming Prairie	
May 5...	at Triton
May 12...	at NRHEG
May 21...	at Grand Meadow

May 26...	at Triton (Sections)
May 28...	at Triton (Sections)

Medford	
April 28...	at Blooming Prairie
April 30...	at Byron
May 5...	at Triton
May 7...	Home Invitational
May 12...	at NRHEG
May 19...	at Byron
May 26...	at Triton (Sections)
May 28...	at Triton (Sections)

NRHEG	
April 23...	at Maple River
April 24...	at Blue Earth Area
April 28...	at Blooming Prairie
May 5...	at Maple River
May 12...	Home Invitational
May 21...	at USC
May 30...	at Mankato West (Sections)

Owatonna	
April 23...	at Lakeville South (Boys)
April 28...	Home Invitational (Boys)
April 28...	at Rochester JM (Girls)
May 2...	at Rochester Mayo (Boys)
May 5...	at Lakeville North (Boys and girls)
May 12...	at Faribault (Boys)
May 12...	Home Invitational (Girls)
May 15...	at Sillwater (Girls True Tream)
May 22...	at Mankato East (Boys and girls)
May 28...	at Lakeville South (Sections)
May 30...	at Lakeville South (Sections)

OWATONNA GIRLS LACROSSE

April 14...	at Hastings W 14-2
April 16...	at Rochester Mayo W 15-4
April 18...	vs. Northfield W 13-0
April 24...	at Rochester Century W 11-1
April 25...	at Bloomington Kennedy L 12-6
April 30...	at Rochester JM W 8-2
May 2...	vs. Farmington L 9-6
May 5...	vs. Rochester Mayo W 15-3
May 12...	at Northfield
May 14...	vs. Rochester Century
May 16...	at Prior Lake
May 18...	vs. Rochester JM
May 21...	vs. Eagan

OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

April 17...	at Chaska L 12-1
April 18...	vs. Hastings L 14-2
April 21...	at Simley L 12-2
April 23...	vs. St. paul L 12-9
April 25...	at Coon Rapids L 9-6
April 28...	at Northfield L 9-6
April 30...	vs. Rochester JM L 6-2
May 5...	vs. Rochester Mayo L 17-9
May 14...	vs. Rochester Century
May 16...	at Robbinsdale Cooper
May 22...	Park (Cottage Grove)

GIRLS GOLF

Blooming Prairie	
April 16...	at USC
April 21...	at Triton
April 28...	at Triton
May 4...	at Triton
May 7...	vs. Faribault B.A.
May 8...	Home Invitational

NRHEG	
April 14...	vs. Triton
April 16...	at USC
April 30...	at USC
May 8...	at Blooming Prairie
May 11...	at Waseca
May 14...	at Waseca
May 26...	at North Links (Sub-Sections)

Owatonna	
May 4...	vs. Faribault
May 5...	Home Invitational
May 6...	at Lake City
May 11...	at Cannon Falls
May 12...	at Austin
May 13...	at Mounds View
May 16...	vs. Marshall
May 18...	at Rochester Mayo

BOYS GOLF

Blooming Prairie	
April 18...	Home Invitational
April 21...	at Triton
April 23...	at USC
April 27...	Home Invitational
April 28...	at Triton
May 7...	at Faribault B.A.

Medford	
May 7...	Home Invitational
May 12...	at NRHEG
May 19...	at Byron
May 26...	at Triton (Sections)
May 28...	at Triton (Sections)

NRHEG	
April 27...	at Blooming Prairie
April 28...	at Triton
May 7...	at Faribault B.A.
May 11...	at Waseca
May 14...	at Wacasa
May 26...	at North Links (Sub-Sections)

Owatonna	
May 2...	at Forest Lake
May 6...	at Lake City
May 8...	at Mankato West
May 12...	vs. Albert Lea
May 16...	Home Invitational
May 18...	at Faribault
May 21...	at Brainerd



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7. Compensation: As the employer, be sure the person hired agrees to a market-based compensation package and is satisfied with what is offered. If not, an employee may feel unappreciated and thereby under perform. Be careful about granting stock in the company; if not handled well, it will create future challenges. Job applicants will give you their answers to the seven categories. They may be modestly presented or exaggerated. You are searching for the truth. To obtain a clearer picture of potential workers, I recommend you talk to former employment associates. The references a job candidate provides will nearly always provide a biased report. Instead, ask the candidate for the names of former bosses, peers and subordinates. I’m here to tell you that good references will share the truth and not mince words. With these names in hand, call former co-workers and ask them if the job applicant fits my seven characteristics. This will give you a full and accurate view, good and bad, that will leave you much better equipped to select the best candidate.

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Classifieds

WORKE

Continued from Page 1B

rector for 16 years and coached the girls' basketball team for 22 seasons. The team advanced to the state basketball tournament in 1999, won the conference 10 times, and played in five section title games. His overall record stands at 377 wins and 174 losses, 248-67 in conference play. He was Section Coach of the Year in the 1986-87 season.

When asked what he would miss about coaching, Worke was quick to comment, "I will miss the practice time with the girls, the rapport that developed with opposing coaches and the close associations with the other coaches here in BPHS. Those are memories one never for-

gets."

In his 16 years as Athletic Director, some experiences there are also fresh in Worke's mind. He was named the Section Athletic Director of the Year in 2012.

"I enjoyed the scheduling and lining up various events," remarked Worke, "and I formed some close friendships with other athletic directors that I recall with great fondness."

As to leisure activities and hobbies, it is evident that Worke has not had a lot of time for those pursuits. He enjoys golfing and recalls a golfing trip to Scotland with his golfing buddies as a high point in his spare time. He

does play fantasy football, attends many sporting events and the one other thing he would like to accomplish is a second trip to Jamaica, the place where he and Mary honeymooned after their marriage — this time with his whole family.

To sum it up, Worke is excited about the new challenge, but is quick to credit his early education at the local school and his fellow teachers for the necessary background needed to become a worthwhile and respected educator. He has some big shoes to fill but is confident that he is up to the task.

BP SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 1B

last three runs in the fifth on a walk and three consecutive singles by Baldwin, Strunk and Anika Nowlan.

Strunk gave up 11 hits, including five doubles, five walks and a hit batter, while the Panthers' Bridget Kennedy allowed only seven hits to the Blossoms. Pine Island had 17 runs, 11 hits, one error; BP had five runs, seven hits, and four errors, three of the errors in the first inning.

BP extra-inning loser

The Blossom team began another hectic week with a tough eight-inning loss to visiting Triton 3-2. The non-conference tilt

on the home diamond Monday, May 4, proved to be a pitcher's duel between Katie Rosenau for the Cobras and BP's Strunk. Triton ultimately won the game with two runs in the extra frame and then held off a Blossom comeback in the bottom of the inning.

A leadoff walk and a stolen base, followed by a single scored the first run in the eighth, and another stolen base and another base hit counted the last run. Worke led off then bottom of the inning with a solid single, but Baldwin fouled out. Strunk followed with a run-scoring double, but a strikeout and a groundout shut off the come-

back and gave Triton the victory.

"Strunk pitched well, and the defense played pretty well," remarked Coach Mach, "but we never found a rhythm at the plate. Our hitters were just under the ball the whole game." Both teams counted a first inning run. A walk, a groundout and a base hit plated Triton's run, and two singles from Ivers and Baldwin got the locals on the board. It stayed that way until the ultimate extra inning.

BP had two runs, seven hits, and two errors. Ivers had two hits for the locals, and Strunk had both RBI's. Strunk walked three and struck out six; Rosenau had two walks and seven strikeouts.



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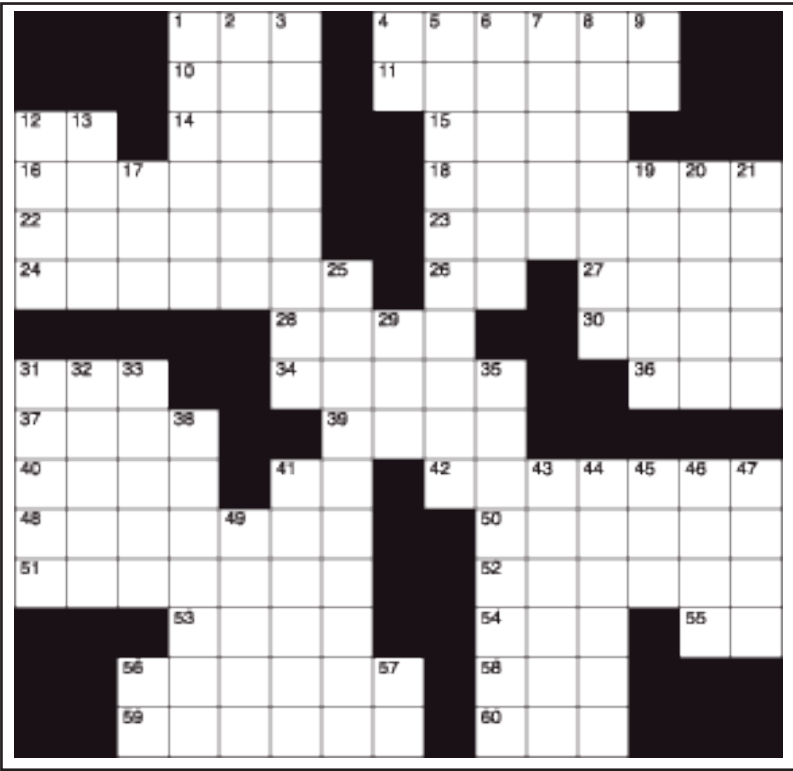
Answers on Page 7C

CLUES ACROSS

- Cleopatra's viper
- Cuneiform writing
- Dekaliter
- Groaned
- For instance
- Wave in spanish
- Arabian gulf
- Written in red
- Denouncements
- Eat one's heart out influences
- Survive longer than
- Take priority over
- Foreign service
- Russian king (alt. sp.)
- Stinkheads
- Old name for Tokyo
- Box (abbr.)
- Red rock in Australia
- Not old
- Enlarge hole
- Difficulty walking
- The high point of something
- 101
- Hunting expeditions
- Unusual appearing ghostly figure
- Without civilizing
- Heartbeat
- Morning juice
- Wicket
- Head louse egg
- 40th state
- Pleasing to the eye (Scot.)
- Nickname for an anorexic
- Engaged in a game
- Household god (Roman)

CLUES DOWN

- Admirer
- Mouth secretion
- Afterbirth
- Initials of "Bullitt" star
- Family crest
- Forearm bone
- Unable to move
- Loss due to a rule infraction
- Touchdown
- Accordingly
- Spiritual teacher
- A bridal mouthpiece
- Dress up garishly
- Cleverly avoid
- S.E. Asia goat antelope
- Fla. state dessert
- Popular legume
- Two-die gambling game
- Easily annoyed (alt. sp.)
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Cyclic
- Flavor of Newport cigarettes
- Jamestown was the 1st English
- Fine meal made from cereal grain
- Incarnation
- Norse goddess of the sea
- Ignores or snubs (slang)
- Tiny glass bubble
- Chinese mahogany genus
- Deepwater Horizon Co.
- ___, denotes past



This Memorial Day, let us pause and reflect.

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

Choose from one of the following styles:

In loving memory of
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March 3, 2004
Sadly missed by
Sally Smith

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

Gone but not forgotten
John Smith
who passed away
March 3, 2004
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Sadly missed by
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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

Owatonna High School Prom

PHOTOS BY SHANNON KINLEY



Kiana Butler and her date Garrett Hemann pose for a picture with Butler's grandmother Clarice Butler.



Ryan Stewart (left), Tanner Nelson and Chris Hartle show off their date's garters after the Grand March.



Elizabeth Louks (left), Megan Andrist and Justine Routhildt show off their intricate dress backs.



Mason Thein and his date Rachel Williamson stop at one of the many stations set up for photos along the grand march path.



A group of friends put their corsages into a circle to show them off after the grand march.

OHS Magnet receives national recognition

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Owatonna High School's newspaper, The Magnet, is one of 14 newspapers in the nation to be recognized as a Distinguished Site out of the 1,656 schools that use School Newspapers Online (SNO).

SNO is a company that was created to make journalism advisers' lives easier by making WordPress websites for scholastic and collegiate journalism programs and gives them tips along the way.

The Distinguished Sites program recognizes those sites that meet all of the standards in each of the six core areas including continuous coverage, site excellence, story page excellence, excellence in writing, multimedia and audience engagement. After each of the standards are met in one area, the site is awarded a badge.

Last year the program had 67 sites achieve nearly 150 badges with seven programs earning Distinguished Sites. This year 128 publications applied for 396 badges.

"Owatonna was one of the only two Minnesota schools to get it. Another impressive element of Owatonna's achievement is that they earned five out of six badges on their first attempt... that is rare!" said SNO Distinguished Sites Committee Chair Kari Koshiol.

Jessica Wagner says The Magnet has been using SNO since she took over as adviser two years ago. Along the way she says they have helped them out with the technical aspects behind the website, tutorials and great customer

service.

Although the publication earned the engagement badge last year, this is the first time they have accomplished all six badges.

"It is a great way to up our ante. Basically they say this is what good journalism is and it gave kids a place to say I belong in this world. It has just upped our level of ability in things we are doing," Wagner said about applying to be a Distinguished Site.

In order to apply for the program Wagner and the students looked at each of the standards that had to be met in each category and figured out which ones they were not currently meeting and how they could fix it.

When Wagner found out The Magnet was a distinguished site she felt pride.

"I am just so proud of my kids. They have worked really hard and not just to jump through these hoops, but to raise the ante," she said.

"They bring awareness and are actually the voice of Owatonna High School. They tackle what kids care about in our building."

Wagner hopes with this recognition,



Submitted photo
Staff of the Owatonna High School Magnet recently received national recognition after accomplishing standards of a Distinguished Site from School Newspapers Online (SNO). The Magnet is one of 14 newspapers to achieve Distinguished Site status.

comes more opportunities for the students.

"The real reason I am on board with this is I am hoping that it provides scholarship opportunities to kids, as many of them are planning on going to college," Wagner said.

"I want to give them the most opportunities I possibly can. With a nationally recognized program, this should open some doors or at least be a resume builder for them."

Senior Tim Flynn has been involved with The Magnet for one semester and played a role in achieving the story page excellence and continuous cover-

age badges.

"It is good knowing that we have one goal. A lot of times in Magnet it is hard for me to really look toward something to do if it is not a story so it was just something to reach and a way to really recognize ourselves for what we've been doing," Flynn said.

"Since we can't win championships or something in sports, this is one way for high school newspapers to show how well they are doing."

Flynn said the two most challenging badges to accomplish were the continuous coverage and multimedia badges.

"It was very challenging. We had to get in so many stories per week and getting everyone on staff to get to those deadlines was tough and sometimes fell through," he said.

Flynn even had to pick up the slack a couple times and write more stories for others that weren't going to happen.

"I was proud that we could band together. It seems like we are really chaotic but we had one goal and finally came together to get that," he said.

Junior Ava Stockwell has been involved with The Magnet for two years and played a role in achieving the story page excellence and excellence in writing badges.

"We have had a lot of rough patches this year with staff members and getting stuff in on time, but in order to become a Distinguished Site we had to come together and people had to get their stuff done," Stockwell said. "Being recognized just makes me so proud of our staff, that we actually did it and followed through."

Stockwell says the overall process was difficult because they had to constantly rely on getting individual stuff in on time and keep good communication between everyone to make sure they were all on the same page.

"I really hope having this recognition gives us more support from the community as well as the school and we will get bigger because of it," she said. "It makes us like top dogs in the United States, so that is pretty cool. Most of the schools who are a Distinguished Site have a staff of 50 to 60 people and we don't even have 30 people on staff."

Senior Karter Kubista has been involved with The Magnet for two years and played a major role in the site design badge, as he oversees the website.

The main challenge he faced was keeping the website new and fresh by constantly changing things such as the theme, the background and the header.

"I've been pushing everyone to make a better website and we've worked really hard on different backgrounds, headers... it is just crazy to think that we actually did this," Kubista said. "It means everything to us. Now we are a nationally ranked site. Just seeing it progress over the years... when we first started our website was a train wreck and now it is really good."



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Dan Peach, 21, is always at the ready as a member of the Blooming Prairie ambulance crew. He often spends the night “on call” at the new ambulance facility located at 501 4th St. SE. Peach recently graduated with a law enforcement degree from Mankato State University.

Not a routine sleepover for EMT

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

As a youngster, Dan Peach stayed with friends on a sleepover.

Now, at age 21, this registered Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) sleeps over at the new Blooming Prairie ambulance garage located at 501 4th St. SE. He does this trick about 10 times a month.

Peach, a busy young man, takes his turn at being on call for the local ambulance service. When he is not at the ambulance garage, Peach is helping customers at B to Z Hardware in Blooming Prairie. He has been working there since ninth grade.

The new ambulance facility will be showcased to the public on May 19 at an open house. Peach and his fellow EMTs were on hand to greet the public, serve some tasty food and give tours. At that time, visitors were able to see Peach’s sleepover quarters. When staying the night, he has his jump suit on the edge of the bed and his radio next to him at all times.

“Dan is a very dedicated young man, is goal driven and has been a welcomed asset to our emergency group,” says Jeremy Halverson, president of the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Association.

Peach is currently the youngest member of the ambulance squad.

Peach actually resides in Owatonna but spends much of his time in Blooming Prairie, either at the ambulance garage or B to Z. He recently graduated from law enforcement school at Mankato State University, Mankato.

Peach is looking for a job as a police officer. He began his sleepovers early in the year, saying that it worked well for him to be on call through the night while he tackled his volumes of homework.

Peach’s time at the garage has enabled him to do regular checks on the ambulances and equipment “to make sure we are ready for the next call,” he said. “Hopefully, more people will become interested in joining the ambulance crews.”

Each of the four ambulance crews is responsible for covering a week for response purposes. Peach is on Crew #3 with Jay Iverson, Jake Peterson and Paula Abbe. Other crews include: Rick Hansen and Jessica Edge on Crew #1; Kathy Piller, Jeremy Halverson and Naomi Smith on Crew #2 and Linda Klemmensen, Nick Nelson, Nola Wradilovsky and Ashley Schmeling on Crew #4.

The trained EMTs, including Peach, are trained in Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support. All sorts of calls are taken including response to persons with chest pains, breathing difficulty, falls, abdominal pain and injuries from a vehicle crash.

Medical techs can administer nitroglycerine, albuterol, epi

pen and junior, glucagon, glucose, aspirin, activated charcoal, Benadryl and oxygen. Blooming Prairie EMTs can set up 12 leads to monitor a patient’s heart activity. Two defibrillators are also available in each ambulance for heart emergencies. Three suction machines are also carried in each ambulance.

The wheel coach ambulances can transport up to three patients at a time. The local service is soon to acquire a new and larger rig, Peach said.

Peach said he has always been around for day calls and many of the present crew members are available for emergency calls most days.

During his commitment to the ambulance garage, Peach said Jake and Nola Peterson have taken him in as part of the family and shared their stories of medical care experience with him. Half of his calls to date have been during the middle of the night, he said.

Response time is quick at all times, Peach said, and especially when someone is at the garage. Dispatch calls set off a loud beeping tone. At least two first responders must answer a call, Peach said.

He hopes to land a job in the area full time as a police officer and said his plan would be to stay on the ambulance squad. His goal, he says, “is to save lives and help those in need.” Nobody wants to be in the back of an ambulance, Peach said, “and we want to transfer people to the hospital successfully in a most professional way.”

He said it is very rewarding to learn that a patient is on the road to recovery.

Monthly training is offered to ambulance personnel with updates in medical care done constantly, Peach said. “Everyone has been willing to show me the ropes in patient care and I appreciate it,” he said.

Dan currently works part time as a reserve police officer in Owatonna and Janesville. He is also a member of Tactical Emergency Services. His interest in law enforcement and being a first responder started with his involvement in the Steele County Explorer Post. He said much of his experience has been fostered by fellow officer Rick Ellingson.

Teaching is another of his favorite activities. He helps teach Explorers police skills, SWAT tactics, EMT updates, firefighter skills and military tactics. The Explorers meet every Sunday during the year in the law enforcement center in Owatonna.

Although he is always plugged in as an EMT volunteer 24-7, Peach logs many hours helping customers at B to Z Hardware. “My goal at the hardware store is the same as being a volunteer responder, be professional and polite. I enjoy helping the public with projects.” He credits store manager Greg Johnson with teaching him “all the skills imaginable.”

Emotionally charged evening

Former deputy has badge retired at benefit

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A dream came true for Richard Wandrey on Saturday night at the Owatonna VFW.

When he found out he was diagnosed with cancer all he wanted was to have his badge retired. Wandrey had worked for 29 years in the Steele County Detention Center; the last four as assistant jail administrator.

Around 6:30 p.m., Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele halted the music of ‘So Big’ for a few moments to honor Wan-

drey and retire badge 7457.

Wandrey said he did not expect anything like this. He was wondering what was going on when he was escorted to the front.

“I had no idea they would do this,” he said. “I was proud that the county thought enough of me to do this.”

His former wife, Sherry MacPherson, was emotional and speechless. “I’m so proud of Dick for his years of service in Steele County,” she said. “For his badge to be retired, I’m in awe and am speechless.” MacPherson has made it a point

to become Wandrey’s caregiver as his life draws to a close.

Wandrey was diagnosed with stage 3 papillary renal cell carcinoma in September 2012. He refers to it in simpler terms as “a very rare form of kidney cancer,” which is non-curable. He had his right kidney, partial adrenal gland and lymph nodes removed.

But on Saturday evening, it wasn’t about Wandrey’s battle with cancer. It was a celebration to help raise money to help him. An estimated 800 people were expected to show up. And there

were at least 200 baskets for a live and silent auction.

The majority of those attending purchased and wore an orange t-shirts. On the front was Wandrey’s badge number. And on the back the t-shirt said, ‘Dick’s Outlaws.’

And his favorite band – ‘So Big’ – performed. He was a good friend of drummer Sean Goettsche. Todd Holzinger and his wife, Nicole, said they wanted to help and it was not a question. They were on board.

“It hit close to home for me,” said Nicole. “It was not a question.”

Other members of the band are Jim White, bass and vocal and Rick Johnson, guitar.

There was even a good friend that traveled from Ridgewood, New Jersey to be part of the fundraiser. Ellen Kimmerle said she and Dick are like brother and sister.

“I think this is absolutely fabulous,” she said. “They are a great group of people who are very close.”

As for Dick, he was excited about the whole evening. “All of these people came for me,” he said. “It almost brings a tear to my eye to have so many people who care for you.”

And several tears flowed down his cheek when Thiele retired his badge.

Earlier in the evening, Thiele had said when he first became sheriff, Wandrey stepped in to help him understand the workings of the detention center. And that was a big help to Thiele.

“You can’t take life for granted,” Thiele said. “You never know what life will give you.”

Nannette Wandrey said the best thing that any of them could do was pray and help Wandrey in any way they could. “Pray to God to steer us in the right direction.”



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer
ABOVE: Richard Wandrey and Sherry MacPherson are emotional after Wandrey was honored by having his badge retired during a fundraiser on Saturday evening at the Owatonna VFW. LEFT: Vicki Peters painted Richard Wandrey’s badge number (7457) on her fingernails.

Inadequate space, sound system impacts arts

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the first in a series of stories leading up to the NRHEG School District June 9 referendum on whether or not to upgrade facilities within the school district.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Practicing in the band room and playing in the gymnasium is a totally different experience for Sam Boerboom’s band members at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School.

“When we play in here (the band room) it is hard to get resonance going,” he said. “It is the complete opposite with the performance space in the gymnasium. It is just a wash of sound.”

And for the band, that is not a good thing. And that is one of the reasons that on June 9, voters will vote on a more than \$14 million referendum that will upgrade school facilities in Ellendale and New Richland. Included in the renovation project is improving band and choir

space acoustics and performance space.

For Boerboom, who teacher’s 6-12 band and introduction to music appreciation, the potential renovation and improvements would allow his students to hear clearer and more accurately when they are performing. “It will allow the students to give each other clear feedback and for me to give them clear feedback,” he said. “It will make our classroom time more efficient. It is better for learning when they can hear things clearly and it is resonating.”

Nate Jensen, who is a sub coordinator and coach, notices the acoustics when he handles the sound system for plays and other events in the gym. He graduated from NRHEG and participated in band and choir.

“The hard part about the gymnasium is the fact sound echoes all the time,” he said, adding that the constant echoing makes it hard to understand the words that the choir or soloist is singing at times. “With the school’s system it is hard to balance the

accompaniment with the vocalist.”

In addition, Jensen said there is an issue the way the sound is set up because all of the sound is controlled from the stage. The analogy he uses would be like trying to adjust the sound on the television in the living room from the bedroom to determine what the right volume is. “You are not in the same space as they are,” he said. “You don’t hear what the audience is hearing.”

Jennifer Frederickson, who teaches K-12 choir, has some of the same issues as Boerboom including dead sound in the choir room. “It is much different when you are rehearsing in there,” she said. “Once we get out to the gym it is a whole different sound. We have to anticipate the audience and how that is going to be once they are there.”

Amanda Inouye, who directs the one-act play and co-directs the musical, said the set up now definitely impacts her students. “Right now we practice our one-act play in the lunchroom,” she said. “Last year we got to the

stage one time before we went to subsections.”

In addition, the students aren’t able to work with a sound or light board. The students see a sound or light board for the first time at subsections and have 10 minutes to practice, Inouye said. “It is very difficult.”

One of the reasons we started the one-act play is because there are students not involved in sports that have art as their passion, Inouye said. “This gives them an opportunity to use some of that,” she said. “In order to be competitive with other schools it would be nice to have the facilities to be able to be competitive.”

English Teacher Deb Bently has been involved in various productions. “When I go see them I can’t hear the words to those songs or the notes to the band piece seem muddled or almost muffled,” she said. “I know that the seating is remarkably uncomfortable. Think of the grandparents who try to sit throughout these things. Right now we use bleachers and folding chairs, both of which are woefully inadequate.”

Bently said the students’ dedication to the arts would be strengthened if their experiences were enhanced. “The entire interrelationship between the community, between the arts performers, between the student body and the school; all of those relationships would be strengthened, improved and heightened by the fact we would be able to see each other, hear each other, sit comfortably while we do it and genuinely pay attention,” she said. “It can make a tremendous amount of difference in how the community sees the school, how other communities see the school and how we see ourselves.”



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
NRHEG band teacher Sam Boerboom works on the sound system in his band room. If a June 9 referendum passes, the Arts program would have updated facilities and equipment.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Annie Anderson

Blooming Prairie's wine tasting event last week is one of many community events that are underway across communities in Steele County.

J&H LIQUORS
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SUMMER EVENTS	JULY 4TH BAR & OFF-SALE WILL BE OPEN
BEAN BAGS: MAY 21 - AUG 13. THUR. @ 7 P.M.	RIDE FOR A CAUSE
STREET DANCE JULY 3RD 8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT THE BLUE RINGERS: 8 P.M. \$5 COVERCHARGE. 21 AND OVER ONLY	JUNE 27 CRUISE FOR CANCER JULY 25 B.O.B. RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" (RIDE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR) BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M. MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

May 12:
Card Club & Luncheon
2:30 p.m. BPPU Mtg
4:30 p.m. Fire Comm
5:30 p.m. Ambulance Comm Mtg
7 p.m. VFW
7 p.m. VFW Auxiliary
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Regular Mtg & Nominations, BPSC
7:30 p.m. Prairie Lodge Masons
May 13:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
May 14:
7 p.m. AAUW, HS GYM
May 15:
5:30 p.m. BP & Owa Hosting Bikes & Safe Bicycling, Morehouse Park Chalet, Owatonna
May 19:
10 a.m. Cancer Group Luncheon, First Lutheran Church
4:45 p.m. Boys N Girls Club Brd
May 20:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

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.

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5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
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7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30 p.m. Ellendale City Council Mtg (2nd & 4th Thurs), Training/Mtg Rm
May 17:
11 a.m. Annual Meatball Dinner @ Community Lutheran Church Geneva

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IN BRIEF

Red Cross seeks blood donors in weeks leading up to summer
The American Red Cross asks eligible donors to help ensure blood is available for patients in need by giving blood in May before the busy summer season kicks in. Blood donors can go to Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 27.

OWATONNA

May 12:
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. Willow Creek Spring Concert
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Flying Jet Aircraft from Aircraft Carrier Vietnam War, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
May 13:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Joseph's Church
4 p.m. McKinley ELL Potluck
May 14:
Wilson PTO Picnic
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Josephs Church,
5:30 p.m. Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. McKinley Spring Concert
May 15:
Wilson Kindergarten Spring Sing & Leadership Day
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Josephs Church,
5:30 p.m. Park & Rec, Bike Safety Course - Traffic Skills 101, Morehouse Park Chalet
May 16:
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, Owatonna Passport program
9 a.m. BP & Owa Hosting Bikes & Safe Bicycling, Morehouse Park Chalet
9 a.m. Park & Rec, Bike Safety Course - Traffic Skills 101, Morehouse Park Chalet
9 a.m. Steele Co Historical Society, Vintage & Perennial Plant Sale Fundraiser, Yesteryear Carriage House

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MEDFORD

May 13:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
May 14:
Medford EDA
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 18:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City

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IN BRIEF

Joint meeting on fairgrounds

A Joint Meeting of Steele County Free Fair Board and the Steele County Board of Commissioners will be held at noon, May 12 at Mother's Rest on the Steele County Fairgrounds.

SPOT LIGHT

Americana Showcase on May 22

The Americana Showcase is slated for May 22 at the Wenger Room at the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna. There are three musicians scheduled to perform: Jeffrey Foucault, John Wheeler and Brandon Sampson.
A social hour will start at 6:30 p.m., with a cash beer and wine bar available. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the History Center Wenger Room. Tickets are required and may be purchased either in advance at the History Center office, from Event Brite, or at the door the evening of the performance. The cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for SCHS members.

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower County

May 12:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
May 13:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
Lyle City Council Meeting
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
May 14:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
9 a.m. MNSNAP Spay/Neutering Clinic, Mower County Humane Society
10:30 a.m. Storytime - CANCELLED UNTIL JUNE 11, Austin Public Library
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
7 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Sr High Pops Concert
May 15:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Austin Neveln Spring Concert, Neveln ES
Walk / Bike to School and Work, Austin
10 a.m. StoryTime! :) Grand Meadow Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
4 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Snr's Last Day
5 p.m. Opening Reception for Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Band Blast, AHS
May 16:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Exploring South Dakota WS140 KM High School / FB Field Parking Lot
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18 Ave NW next to HyVee Gas Station
1 p.m. Farmers Market, Lyle City Park
7 p.m. Music @ the Bank: The Studebaker Brothers, Austin ArtWorks Center
9 p.m. Sola Fide Viewing, Austin
May 17:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
LeRoy-Ostrander Bacculaureate
1 p.m. Bike Safety Bash, East Side Lake Park, Austin
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
May 18:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
EDA Meeting, Lyle
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station
7 p.m. Author Visit: Amanda Hocking, Austin Public Library
7 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander MS Elem Pops Concert
May 19:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
10 a.m. Social Concerns: Nature Center Expansion, Hormel Historic Home
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Uncork and Create: Abstract Flowers, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Spring Choir Festival
May 20:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer

**Minimizer**

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Annie Anderson

Get out your Sombrero....Its time to party

Left to right: Martha Walters and Joanne Sorenson of Blooming Prairie celebrated Cinco De Mayo during J&H Liquors wine tasting event last Tuesday evening. The event was a hit as many people attended.

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The American Red Cross asks eligible donors to help ensure blood is available for patients in need by giving blood in May before the busy summer season kicks in. Blood donors can go to Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 27.

OWATONNA

May 12:
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. Willow Creek Spring Concert
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Flying Jet Aircraft from Aircraft Carrier Vietnam War, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
May 13:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Joseph's Church
4 p.m. McKinley ELL Potluck
May 14:
Wilson PTO Picnic
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Josephs Church,
5:30 p.m. Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. McKinley Spring Concert
May 15:
Wilson Kindergarten Spring Sing & Leadership Day
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Josephs Church,
5:30 p.m. Park & Rec, Bike Safety Course - Traffic Skills 101, Morehouse Park Chalet
May 16:
Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, Owatonna Passport program
9 a.m. BP & Owa Hosting Bikes & Safe Bicycling, Morehouse Park Chalet
9 a.m. Park & Rec, Bike Safety Course - Traffic Skills 101, Morehouse Park Chalet
9 a.m. Steele Co Historical Society, Vintage & Perennial Plant Sale Fundraiser, Yesteryear Carriage House

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MEDFORD

May 13:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
May 14:
Medford EDA
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 18:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City

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RED WING

IN BRIEF

Joint meeting on fairgrounds
A Joint Meeting of Steele County Free Fair Board and the Steele County Board of Commissioners will be held at noon, May 12 at Mother's Rest on the Steele County Fairgrounds.

SPOT LIGHT

Americana Showcase on May 22

The Americana Showcase is slated for May 22 at the Wenger Room at the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna. There are three musicians scheduled to perform: Jeffrey Foucault, John Wheeler and Brandon Sampson.
A social hour will start at 6:30 p.m., with a cash beer and wine bar available. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the History Center Wenger Room. Tickets are required and may be purchased either in advance at the History Center office, from Event Brite, or at the door the evening of the performance. The cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for SCHS members.

OTHER COUNTIES

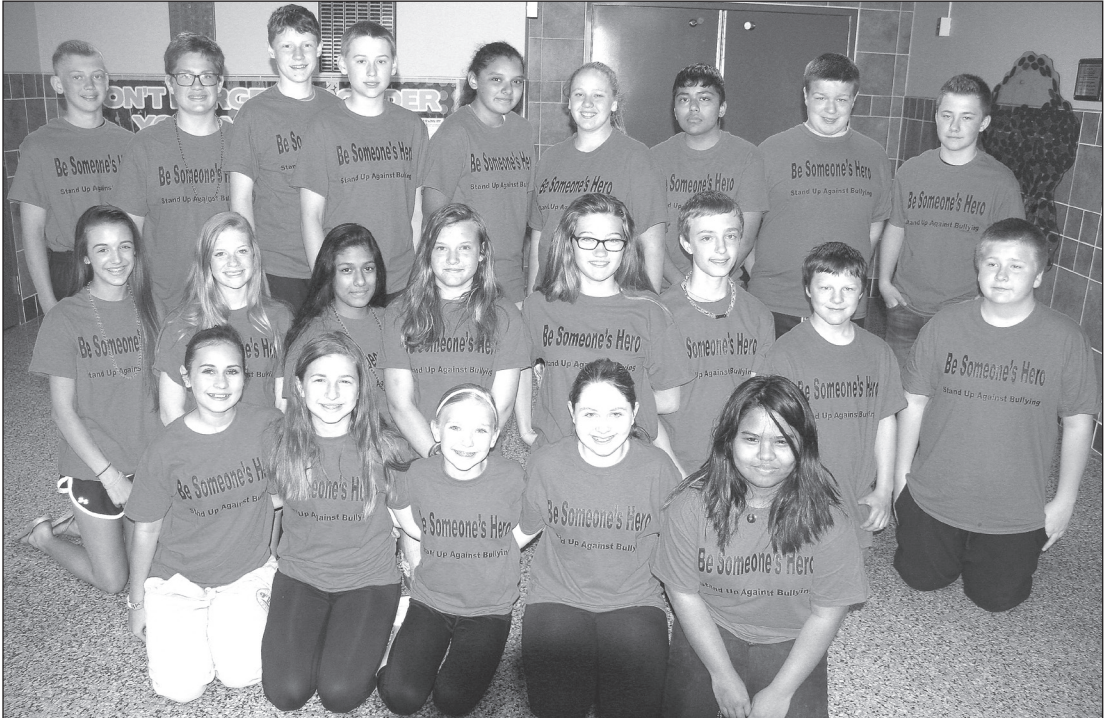
Mower County

May 12:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
May 13:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
Lyle City Council Meeting
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
May 14:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
9 a.m. MNSNAP Spay/Neutering Clinic, Mower County Humane Society
10:30 a.m. Storytime - CANCELLED UNTIL JUNE 11, Austin Public Library
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
7 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Sr High Pops Concert
May 15:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Austin Neveln Spring Concert, Neveln ES
Walk / Bike to School and Work, Austin
10 a.m. StoryTime! :) Grand Meadow Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
4 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander Snr's Last Day
5 p.m. Opening Reception for Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Band Blast, AHS
May 16:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Exploring South Dakota WS140 KM High School / FB Field Parking Lot
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18 Ave NW next to HyVee Gas Station
1 p.m. Farmers Market, Lyle City Park
7 p.m. Music @ the Bank: The Studebaker Brothers, Austin ArtWorks Center
9 p.m. Sola Fide Viewing, Austin
May 17:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
LeRoy-Ostrander Bacculaureate
1 p.m. Bike Safety Bash, East Side Lake Park, Austin
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
May 18:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
EDA Meeting, Lyle
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station
7 p.m. Author Visit: Amanda Hocking, Austin Public Library
7 p.m. LeRoy-Ostrander MS Elem Pops Concert
May 19:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
10 a.m. Social Concerns: Nature Center Expansion, Hormel Historic Home
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Uncork and Create: Abstract Flowers, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Spring Choir Festival
May 20:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer

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Blooming PrairieLiving



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Wearing their bullying t-shirts are Blooming Prairie seventh-graders: front row: Kassidy Borgen, Maya Lembke, Gracie Rudlong, Heather Pirkil, Kisha Aquino; middle row: Jayde Wacek, Lila Carlson, Cristina Ramirez, Elizabeth Bramstedt, Jillian Wigham, Zach Archer, Kaiden Finley, Jack Matson; back row: Jarrett Larson, Ryan Weinberger, Kaden Thomas, Karson Vigeland, Virdiana Villarreal, Lexi Olivo, Isidro Ramirez, Jacob McHenry, Brayton Cisneros.

Stopping bullying at BP



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Blooming Prairie seventh-graders Desirae Huff and Cristina Ramirez are working on bullying posters on Wednesday during the finishing touches of a bullying session.

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A second group of Blooming Prairie seventh-graders is doing their part to assist with stopping bullying.

“Everyone should know about bullying and no one should be bullied,” said Blooming Prairie seventh-grader Zach Archer. Over the past couple of weeks this group of students, like those who participated in the fall se-

mester, the students learned the difference between bullying and drama. In addition, each student made some posters to hang around the school.

Cristina Ramirez said the posters that she saw in the fall were good and were positive. “What I learned from seeing the posters was to stop bullying and stand up for other people,” she said.

As for the posters the students were working with on Wednesday, Maya Lembke’s poster said “if you have enemies, good, that means that you stood up for something, sometime in your life.”

Lembke added that it is good to place the posters around the school because others can see the posters. “It is good to know that other people know that bullying is wrong,” she said.

Kaden Thomas said he learned that people getting bullied should stand of for themselves and tell other people that bullying is wrong.

“We got into good discussions about standing up for other people,” he said.

Blooming Prairie Poppy Day on May 22

American Legion Auxiliary volunteers will distribute the familiar red, hand-crafted poppies honoring America’s veterans and active-duty military on Friday, May 22, in Blooming Prairie. This day has been designated as Poppy Day by Auxiliary Unit #52.

Planned to coincide with the Memorial Day holiday, the annual event pays tribute to the veterans who have died in the last 80 years. It also honors the millions of Americans who have willingly served or are serving their country.

The Poppy Program has been part of Auxiliary programming for more than 80 years. It has been estimated that approximately 25 million Americans wear the poppy to honor America’s war dead, veterans and active-duty military, contributing over \$2 million for rehabilitation and welfare programs. The program serves and honors veterans, active-duty military and their families with all proceeds from the distribution invested in local programs for their benefit.

Each nine-piece poppy is made by veterans for veterans in Auxiliary-sponsored Poppy Shops that supplement physical and psychological therapy needed by hospitalized and disabled veterans. The Auxiliary provides the materials and the volunteers. The veteran makes the poppy and is paid a small amount for each painstakingly-made flower. For some, it is

their only income. No matter what the cost of maintaining and supplying the Poppy Shops, the memorial poppy is never sold, but given in exchange for a contribution.

Remember to wear a poppy to promote awareness of the poppy’s significance as a patriotic symbol of homage to our veterans and active-duty military for their service and our freedom!



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Open House 12-3:00

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Luncheon

B.P. Cancer Group

First Lutheran Church

434 - 1st Street S.W. Blooming Prairie
Sat., May 16th • 10 am - 2 pm

Menu	
Sloppy Joes	Assorted Bars
Chicken Salad Croissants	Lemonade/Coffee
Potato Salad/ Potato Chips	

Take out Available

All Proceeds to the B.P. Cancer Group

Students conducting plant sale

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A group of Blooming Prairie school students are putting the finishing touches on planting work that was started earlier this school year.

“It is very rewarding giving back to the community,” Blooming Prairie eighth-grader Clint Peterson said.

A plant sale is slated from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the plants are sold on May 16 at the Blooming Prairie High School greenhouse.

The sale will include tomato plants, pepper plants, zinnia plants, broccoli, cauliflower, Mexican sunflower and cleome. The students will also

be planting the school garden during the day. Many come in after school to water the plants.

The students have started getting everything ready by putting everything in little packages. In addition, students have been also growing lettuce for school lunches.

“It is interesting,” said sophomore Michael Pape, one of the leaders and organizers of the group. The one thing he is getting out of the exercise is leadership skills. “I’m getting experience in gardening skills,” he said. “It is fun.”

Rose Johnson, another of the leaders, said the project has come together nicely. “I think it is a good activity so people can get that sense of gardening,” she said. “I love being outdoors.”

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Kevin Christianson, general manager of the Blooming Prairie Bus Company, stands by a 77-passenger unit. The company has 13 buses and transports all Blooming Prairie School District students. Eighteen drivers work for the bus company. The garage is located on Highway 218 South.

Blooming Prairie Bus Company hauls precious cargo

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Correspondent

The Blooming Prairie Bus Company has developed an outstanding legacy over the years in hauling some precious cargo without any serious accidents.

The precious cargo refers to the estimated 350 students that are transported from home to school and back home again.

Kevin Christianson, general manager of the bus company, says he “cannot say enough about the quality of drivers” on the roster. “I would put them up against anyone,” he said. “The drivers are experienced, always on time and many have been here for a number of years,” Christianson added.

Some of the long-term drivers for the Blooming Prairie Bus Company include the husband and wife team of Judy Johnson and Maynard Johnson and also include Lucy Post, Butch Boyd, Tim Wurst, Nick Schiefert, Steve Hjelman, Dawn Harshbarger, Dean Peterson and Larry Schmeling.

Buses are stored at the B.P. Bus Company garage located at 528 South Highway 218. Driver Dean Peterson is the first one on the job on a school day. He backs all the buses out of their enclosure and fuels them to be ready for all routes.

Christianson hires all drivers through his administrative channels. The B.P. Bus Company serves as a private contractor. Eighteen drivers, all part-time, are on his driving team. All drivers must have a school bus endorsement with a Class B license and air brake endorsement. “We are always interested in hiring more drivers,” Christianson said. Call 507-456-4132 if interested.

Christianson also drives bus, mainly transporting special needs students.

Route buses log about 120,000 miles a school year. Activity buses total 63,000 miles a month.

The B.P. Bus Company has 13 school buses, holding a capacity from 59 passengers to 77 passengers. Students are transported on 10 different routes. Two buses are used for school activities and one is kept as a spare.

Seven buses were updated this year and one new 77-passenger Bluebird bus was purchased. All are diesel and have automatic transmissions. Major repair work is done at the Owatonna Bus Company garage and minor repairs are done at the Blooming Prairie garage on 218.

All school buses are inspected by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) every April. “We have a clean safety record,” Christianson emphasized. On a rating system, B.P. buses score extremely well, Christianson said.

Christianson once owned the bus company, purchasing it from his father, L. Dean Christianson, in 1998. He sold the operation to Brett King in 2002. King also bought the Trom Bus Company at that time. King sold the company to Bill Reagan in 2011. Reagan also has bus companies in Mason City, Albert Lea, the Twin Cities and Owatonna.

Christianson got back into the bus business in January of 2014 when he joined Reagan’s company as manager.

A bus company has been serving the Blooming Prairie school district since the 1940s and the years of T.S. Morton and Merle Bacon, Christianson said. The current bus garage was built in 1958. Christianson said he may “put up” a new and larger bus garage this summer to replace the old structure.

When not coordinating drivers on school routes, Christianson oversees Smooth Moves, a manufacturer of boat seat suspension systems.

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RECIPE CORNER

Bagel Dip

- 16 oz real mayo
- 16 oz sour cream
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3 tsp. dill weed
- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 pkg. corned beef, chopped
- 1 to 2 pkg. bagels

By **Jennifer Wayne**

Mix all together and refrigerate overnight. Cut up bagels into bite-sized pieces and serve with dip.



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BLOOMING PRAIRIE AMBULANCE SERVICE ON ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS

Emergency medical services is a vital public service...
and we recognize the work of our Blooming Prairie EMS
volunteers during National EMS Week, May 17-23.

AMBULANCE Open House Tuesday, May 19 4-7 p.m.



We support our EMS workers and the work they do in keeping our community safe:

- Darricks Preferred Auto	- Express Pressure Washer	- Easton Products	- Johnson Construction & Tree Service
- Minimizer	- Frontier Communications	- Blooming Prairie Dental	- Sportstitch
- Farmers & Merchants	- First Lutheran Church	- Blooming Prairie Schools	- Nikki's Scrapbook Nook
- Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce	- Blooming Prairie Country Club	- Hometown Insurance	- Jesse's Boots
- Dairy Queen	- Blooming Prairie Library	- Rachel's Hair and Tanning	- The Bakery
- Floor Tech	- A Touch of Charm	- Extreme Custom Powder Coating	- Krejci Ford
- Koster's Car Korn	- Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club		

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We're proud to have had a hand in this exciting endeavor for Blooming Prairie and building a new garage for the ambulances:

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer
TOP PHOTO: Jada Braund and Jason Miller are playing on the slide at Ellendale Elementary playground.
ABOVE: Chase Johannsen is on the hand sliders.
The Ellendale PTO is raising money to purchase new playground equipment for the Ellendale School playground.

PTO hopes to purchase new equipment

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Teachers and members of the Ellendale PTO are raising money to purchase new playground equipment for the Ellendale School playground.

“We need a new structure,” said Katie Knudson, a kindergarten teacher who is also spearheading a June fundraiser. “We’re hopeful we’ll raise enough money in a couple of years to get the equipment.”

Currently, the PTO has raised more than \$20,000. An estimated \$50,000 more is needed to purchase the playground equipment.

A 5K Walk and Run event is slated for June 27. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a t-shirt. Registration is at 8 a.m. and the walk and run event starts at 9 a.m. The event will start and end at Ellendale’s City Park. All proceeds will go to the PTO to pay for the equipment.

“We’re trying to involve the high school and make it sort of a friendly competition to get more people involved,” Knudson said.

Knudson said it is important for safe playground equipment that allows students to do something fun. “Having recess helps them sit through the whole day in school,” she said.

Elementary addressing cyber bullying challenge

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Cyber bullying is becoming part of the national landscape. Teachers and staff at the Ellendale Elementary School are addressing the issue.

During computer classes, teachers and students discuss digital citizenship. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Team (PBIS) provide reinforcement and the PAWSitive Team (Positive Team) supplies educational materials.

Elementary Principal Doug Anderson said NRHEG Elementary recognizes that cyber bullying is a relatively new issue. “Online, bullies have unlimited access to their victims, including when our students are at home. As technology evolves, our school response to cyber bullying will also continue to evolve,” he said in an email to the Steele County Times. “Our goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for our students. Our PBIS Team is looking to add digital citizenship as one of the additional areas on our school matrix and to educate our students on the effects of cyber bullying. We would like to teach our students how to be “upstanders” (someone who stands up for a person being bullied) and provide them with resources and tools to report cyber bullying.”

According to Family Services Coordinator Barb Handahl, the school has obtained two documents from the Federal Trade Commission on cyber bullying. The first entitled, “Heads Up—Stop, Think, and Connect” and the second entitled, “Living Life on Line.”

Teachers in grades 3-5 will be reviewing the documents with their students from May 11-22. Students will also take them home and share with parents.

“As the school year comes to an end, students will be spending more time online and we thought to emphasize cyber bullying at the end of the year

would make sense,” Handahl said.

Under the new state law on school bullying, schools are required to teach students different aspects of bullying and cyber bullying using a research-based curriculum. This includes addressing what cyber bullying is, how to prevent it, what to do if you are a victim, what to do if you are a bystander and lessons about friendship, diversity, feelings, character and self-esteem building.

The PAWSitive Committee decided to focus on a ‘Bully Free’ curriculum created by Dr. Allan L. Beane and his wife, Linda after their son, was bullied for many years, which eventually led to his death as a young adult, Handahl said, adding that the elementary school will be implementing the curriculum during the 2015-2016 school year.

“This curriculum provides teachers with lesson plans that build upon each other starting in pre-kindergarten through grade five,” Handahl said. “Lessons are fun, easy to understand and teach and use many educational strategies to teach the lessons.”

The lessons will be taught weekly as part of each teacher’s weekly plan. The cyber bullying lessons will begin with second-graders and continue throughout the elementary years.

Other tools that the school has developed include a bullying prevention fact sheet, which is a condensed version of basic facts in the new State School Bullying Law 121.A and NRHEG Public Schools Policy #514. Next year, a section of “Digital Citizenship” will be included in the PBIS School expectations.

“We are excited about our new ‘Bully Free’ curriculum,” Handahl said. “We will continue our work to provide a safe environment for our students to learn and develop interpersonal communications and relationships both in and out of school, as they continue their educational journey at NRHEG Elementary.”

Road closures during the week

I-35 Owatonna:

Motorists in Owatonna will find Steele County Road 2/Hoffman Drive closed beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, May 15 through 5 a.m., Monday, May 18. The closure next weekend is necessary for work crews to safely remove the Interstate 35 bridge over the road.

Traffic will re-open through County Road 2/Hoffman Drive at I-35 Monday morning.

Reconstruction of the northbound lanes has begun. Watch for detour signs for northbound traffic seeking to exit I-35 through Owatonna. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays.

The two-year, \$19.1 million project began in 2014 to replace the concrete I-35 roadways through Owatonna, as well as replace bridges and include additional safety features on the corridor such as auxiliary lanes. The project’s prime contractor Mathiowetz Construction expects to complete it in fall 2015.

Highway 14

Motorists driving through the Highway 14 expansion project east of Owatonna will encounter lane changes beginning Monday, May 11 as crews begin reconstructing the eastbound lanes.

Traffic will remain head to

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

I-35 in Steele, Freeborn counties

Lane closures began April 30 as construction crews prepare to complete an unbonded concrete overlay project on I-35 from Highway 30 at Ellendale to Interstate 90 north of Albert Lea.

The southbound lanes are being repaved, so traffic will be switched to head-to-head in the northbound lanes between Ellendale and Albert Lea. The project also includes southbound ramp closures and detours. Watch for detour signs.

Highway 14 in Steele, Dodge counties

A repaving project on Highway 14 on 13 miles between Dodge Center and Owatonna is set to begin July 6 and be completed in September.

Traffic delays are expected with lane closures with flaggers and a 15-day ramp detours for Steele County Road 45.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.

Mike Dougherty is a public affairs coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
May 12: Cheese Omelet (No Salad Bar-Ellendale)
May 13: Breakfast Pizza
May 14: Muffins
May 15: Cinnamon Roll (No Salad Bar-Ellendale)
May 18: French Toast Sticks, Sausage
May 19: Banana Bread
May 20: Mini Waffles

NRHEG Lunch Menu
May 12: Pasta Bar w/Meat or Alfredo Sauce, Romaine Salad, Baby Carrots, Bread Stick, Pineapple
May 13: Chicken Patty on a Bun, Baked Beans, Chips, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit, Applesauce
May 14: Turkey Gravy, Biscuits, Peas, Cooked Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Diced Peaches, Cottage Cheese
May 15: Chicken Strips,

Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges
May 18: Chicken Fajita or Taco w/Toppings, Golden Corn, Baby Carrots, Applesauce
May 19: Sloppy Joes on a Bun, Baked Beans, French Fries, Celery Sticks, Diced Peaches
May 20: Hamburger Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Diced Pears, String Cheese

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Student of the Week

Aaden Hanna is in Mr. Beynon’s second-grade class. He is the son of John and Miriam Hanna and they live in New Richland.

Aaden really enjoys playing with his three brothers and loves football and baseball. He also enjoys being in the boy scouts as well as racing his remote control car.

Aaden always comes to school with a positive attitude and really enjoys trying to make his peers laugh. He shows so much enthusiasm but when it’s time to listen and learn,

Aaden is always contributing to class discussions. He’s the first one to try and

Student of the Week is sponsored by:



help his teacher and his peers. Aaden is the definition of positivity, respect, and responsibility.

Way to show Panther Pride Aaden!

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MedfordLiving

Straight River Days here soon

It won't be long...and Straight River Days Weekend, sponsored by the Medford Civic Club will be here. Please keep the weekend – June 18-21 on your schedule. All communities enjoy their own-home town event to celebrate their community and share with neighbors, family and friends.

Our celebration was originally organized around the completion of the new water/wastewater plan operation in the early 1970's. The weekend has now expanded to the kick-off of Miss Medford on Thursday evening at the school auditorium. Almost every age group of young ladies is involved and the new Miss Medford will be visible throughout the weekend's events. The first clue for the medallion located on city property will be shared that evening.

If you are into garage sales, more than forty are sure to be open through the weekend. Lots of treasures to entice you! Most will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our early Fourth of July Parade is held Friday, June 19, starting at 7 p.m. The parade starts at the old football field and heads down 2nd Ave SE, Main Street, Central Ave and 3rd St NE back to the field.

The Diesel Drive band will be performing at Straight River Park, 8 to 11 p.m. The group has a local Medford connection Great family event at our popular park area.

Saturday morning, the Medford Fire Department is hosting their annual 5K Walk/Run. Even little people can get involved at 7:45 a.m.

Competition continues with the Bean Bag Tournament at the Medford Muni and Sandlot Volley Ball in the park. New this year is the Craft Fair in Straight River Park.

Celebrating 100 years of Medford High School graduates and an All-School Reunion will

MEDFORD MAYOR LINES



Lois Nelson

be held at the school from 2 to 8 p.m. Historical displays; special school history programs presented by local Historian John Gross will be given at 3, 5 and 7 p.m.; designated classrooms for returning alumni and a picnic dinner are all a part of the evening.

HITCHVILLE returns for the Muni street dance starting at 9 p.m. This group has quite a following and is a popular group in the metro area so we are especially proud to have them back for another year.

Sunday, June 21, is designated as Kid's Day with numerous activities scheduled at Straight River Park with the last medallion clue shared if someone hasn't yet found it. Starting at noon: Carnival games, archery demonstrations, fire truck tours, amazing kid's races, and penny dig with the Brodini Comedy Magic Show mean a fun time for all families and winding up the weekend festivities at 3 p.m.

There are more detailed information and registration forms for all the competitive events, parade entries and the All-School Reunion at straightriverdays.com. We'd love to have you or your organization join us for 2015 Straight River Days' Weekend. See you there! Mayor Lois

Lois M. Nelson is completing her third year as Medford's Mayor and is available by calling Medford City Hall, 455-2866

Celebrating 100th graduating class

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

This year's graduating class marks the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class from Medford School. To celebrate, the Medford Education Foundation is sponsoring an all-school reunion on Saturday, June 20.

Long-time Medford historian John Gross taught at Medford School for 29 years and was the head football coach for many years. He has written five books, two of them about Medford.

"Medford has had a school in the community since 1855, but as far as a high school the first graduating class was not until 1915," he said. "The first three classes all had four graduates. There were four girls in the first class in 1915, the next year there were two boys and two girls and in 1917 there were also two girls and two boys."

In the 1850's the school was organized in an upper department for grades four through six and a lower department for grades one through three. If kids wanted to continue their education they would typically go to Owatonna High School or Pillsbury Academy.

During its more than 100 years of history the school has had seven different schools located on four different sites, according to Gross.

"I have been retired 18 years and it is always exciting to look back and have a chance to chat about old times," Gross said

about the all-school reunion. "It is good to see some of the faces and see how everyone is doing."

At the reunion, Gross will give three presentations at 3, 5 and 7 p.m. in the auditorium about the school's history that will primarily consist of photographs. Gross has pictures of all of the schools, with the exception of the very first log cabin school in 1855. He also has pictures of the high school burning down in 1921.

"It is an honor and privilege after 18 years to have the committee ask you to give a historical presentation on the school," he said.

The festivities will go from 2 to 8 p.m. and include school tours, historic displays and artifacts and class gatherings in classrooms. There will also be information booths from the Veterans Committee, the Medford Area Recreation Committee, the Medford Education Foundation and the Medford Historical League.

The school's last all-school reunion was held in 2003 in conjunction with the city's sesquicentennial celebration.

Mayor Lois Nelson felt this was a great year to have another reunion because of Medford School's 100th anniversary and it being over 10 years since the last one. She was happy the planning committee could tie it in with Straight River Days to give attendees more activities to do.

Nelson is excited to show off

Medford and see old classmates.

"It is always exciting to see classmates of the decade that you were in school," she said. "I'm excited to show off our community because since 2003 there has certainly been a lot more development, changes and additions," she said. "It is to really showcase our community and show that continuous pride in the place that we call home."

Nelson hopes to have between 500 and 700 attend the reunion and stressed that more information on the reunion can be found online along with a registration form at the school's website, the city's website or Straight River Days website.

The reunion will also feature a meal from 4 to 7 p.m. that includes a barbecue pork sandwich, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans a beverage and

cake. Cost is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Superintendent Rich Dahman said the school is excited about the upcoming celebration.

"On Friday, May 29, the graduating class of 2015 will be the 100th graduating class in the history of Medford High School. One interesting note about this year's senior class is that three members of the Class of 2015 are all great-grandchildren of Casey Jones, who was a member of the second graduating class at Medford High in 1916, and who was a long-time Medford school bus driver," Dahman said in an email statement.

Dahman added, "We are looking forward to our upcoming graduation ceremony and to seeing many Medford alumni at the all-school reunion on June 20."

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Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

May 12: Ultimate Breakfast Round OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 13: WG Pop Tart Cheese Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 14: Whole Grain Pancakes, Sausage Patty OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 15: Apple Bosco Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 18: Sausage Breakfast Pizza OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 19: WG French Toast Sticks with Syrup, Tri Tator OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 20: Iced WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

May 12: Cheeseburger on WG Bun, Salad Sliders, 7 Layer Salad, French Fries, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 13: Chili W/ Crackers, Cinnamon Roll, Deli Sub, Chef Salad, Green Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit

May 14: Pasta Bar, Garlic Bread Stick, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Taco Salad, Whole Kernel Corn, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

Weekly crossword on Page 5B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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OwatonnaLiving

Old Highway 14 construction starting soon

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

With construction season in full swing in Owatonna, motorists can expect some more delays in their commute.

Construction on the \$3.2 million project is slated to begin Monday, May 18 on Old Highway 14 also known as County Road 2 and Hoffman Drive. Work will begin at the western Owatonna city limits and continue to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Mike Dougherty, MnDOT Public Affairs Coordinator, explained that MnDOT is covering the project cost for the last time for this road, as it is being turned-back to Steele County. “When you hand something over you don’t want it to have



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Old Highway 14 construction will start soon in Owatonna.

any immediate maintenance issues. The work that is being done should carry them a number of years in the future before there is any real significant work that they have to do on it,” Dougherty said.

From I-35 to State Avenue roadway reconstruction will take

place. “They will go through and identify the panels of the concrete that are cracked or if there are joints that are failing so it can withstand continual traffic,” Dougherty said of the project.

From I-35 to the western Owatonna city limits there will be concrete pavement rehabilitation.

The project will also include the construction of a new sidewalk on the south side between State Avenue and I-35 and on the north side between I-35 and the intersection of 21st Avenue. The project will also make American Disabilities Act (ADA) updates to make everything accessible to all pedestrians.

During the construction there will be both lane closures and crossovers. On the east side of the project traffic will be moved head-to-head by using a cross-

used to zipping through an area in five minutes there is a chance depending on the time of day that it could be 10 minutes or longer,” Dougherty said. “We just ask that people really be observant and attentive while they are driving through there for their own safety and the workers safety. Just follow the speed limits and really pay attention to the signs.”

Fortunately the same contractor for the I-35 project through Owatonna, Mathiowetz Construction Company out of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, was awarded the bid on the project so the projects will coordinate to make the least traffic impacts as possible.

The timeline for the project is as follows:

- May 18 begin construction.
- Reconstruct eastbound lanes east of I-35.
- Rehab of road west of I-35 close inside lanes.
- Working on the sidewalk west of I-35.
- June 7 work west of I-35 switches traffic to new inside lanes. Scheduled to be complete by late June.
- June 29 work east of I-35 to begin.
- Traffic switched to newly constructed eastbound Lanes.

The entire project is scheduled to be complete by Aug. 15, just in time for the Steele County Fair.

“We think it will be a good project that is good for Owatonna. There is a lot of work going on in and around Owatonna right now and once it is all done it is going to be a lot of good driving surfaces for people,” he said. “We hope that people give us their patience this summer and hope by the fall we will be out of here and there won’t be that many projects in the coming years that people will have to worry about.”

Smoke-free workshop for property owners

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

On May 19, 4 Corners Partnership will host a free workshop for property owners and managers to learn more about the benefits of adopting a smoke-free policy and enjoy a free lunch.

4 Corners Partnership is a coalition of Public Health Services in Dodge, Goodhue, Rice and Steele counties that works to increase smoke-free, multi-unit housing and increase tobacco free outdoor spaces in the four-county area.

During the workshop attendees will learn about how a policy can save them money, learn about legal issues, health benefits for staff and residents and free resources that are available to them.

“It’s free, lunch is provided and they will learn a wealth of information on why tobacco free policies are good for business and good for health,” said Steele County Public Health Educator Jane Nyquist. “They can ask questions of the experts, both legal and planning implementation questions, and they can network with other owners, managers or landlords.”

4 Corners has hosted a Lunch & Learn workshop once a year in each of the four counties for three years thanks to the Tobacco-Free Communities Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Representatives from Live Smoke Free, a program of the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), along with The Public Health Law Center will explain the legality of smoke-free policies, the science behind smoke filtering through a building, data from tenants to support these policies, ways to implement a policy and discuss



Submitted photo
A free workshop is being held to learn more about benefits of adopting smoke-free policy on May 19.

many free resources available to property managers.

“In 2007 we knew of about 50 smoke-free buildings in Minnesota and in 2015 today we know of 1,700. There has been a huge increase in interest from property managers, owners and renters in smoke-free housing,” said Live Smoke Free Program Director Kara Skahen. “The main reason property owners and managers really like smoke-free policies is because it protects their investment; Smoke-free policies lead to cleaner buildings, safer buildings and healthier buildings for both staff and residents, it is a win-win for everybody.”

Live Smoke Free is a technical assistance program to grant-funded groups including Tobacco-Free Communities. Skahen estimates the organization, in conjunction with many other partners, gives around 15 presentations a year across the state.

“It is a great opportunity to have individuals who work on smoke-free housing full time all year round to answer questions about any concerns they might

have and make them aware of all the free resources that are available to them,” she said.

Skahen added what many people may not realize is how easy smoke can move from unit to unit.

“I think a lot of times people think if I stuff a towel under my door it won’t bother my neighbor,” she said. “Air moves really easily from unit to unit. Everything from tiny cracks in the wall to where the floor and the wall meet, electrical outlets, bathroom ventilation and cracks in the plumbing.”

In 2001, Live Smoke Free partnered with The Center for Energy and Environment to conduct research about second hand smoke in apartment buildings and found:

- 95 percent of building owners were “very likely” to continue offering smoke-free buildings.
- Almost 50 percent of Minnesota renters are “extremely” or “very” interested in living in a smoke-free building and over 33 percent of renters would pay more to live in one.

Wilson Elementary receives BookStart grant

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Wilson Elementary School in Owatonna is one of the 28 organizations that were selected to receive a BookStart Grant from a partnership between the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and Capstone Publishers.

This year the two organizations awarded 10,000 books, a total value of \$163,809, to organizations that provide literacy opportunities for young children and their families.

“One of our major focus areas is early childhood, so this is just another way for us to be putting books into the hands of children and families,” said SMIF Early Childhood Director Teri Steckelberg. “There is a lot of research around how important literacy is for kids. They need to be reading well by third grade in order to be able to read to learn after that. When parents are reading with their kids there is also a bonding piece that happens.”

The partnership between the two organizations originally started 13 years ago when Capstone approached SMIF to help them put together a donation and a grant process that would impact early childhood programs in the region.

Since the program’s inception, it has put around 80,000 books into the homes of

children across southern Minnesota. Other organizations to receive this year’s grant included Kasson-Mantorville Community Education, Rochester Public Schools and Public Library and Triton Public Schools.

“We are looking for programs that have some sort of parent involvement piece. We are also looking for programs that are giving the books to the children to keep,” Steckelberg said.

At the end of the program, grant recipients are required to submit a report to SMIF about how the program went and Steckelberg enjoys hearing the positive feedback.

“I have read several of them over the years and it always amazes me all the comments the teachers will make about how excited the kids are to get a book that they get to take home and keep,” she said. “They might have some books that they have access to at a school library that they get to check out or at a public library, but there is a lot of kids that don’t have any books at home that are theirs to keep.”

Wilson Elementary was the only school in the Owatonna School District to receive a BookStart grant. The school plans to use the books for a program it launched this year called Wildcat Connection. The home visit program is designed for students age three and four along with their families in order to help them prepare for kindergarten.

Every week to every two weeks one of the school’s two AmeriCorps partners visits the participating homes.

“It is really focused on enhancing the parent-child relationship, as parents are the first teachers, by guiding, modeling, how-to’s for parents to encourage pre-kindergarten development,” said School Social Worker Susanne Schroeder.

Schroeder estimates the school will receive around 375 books, meaning they will be able to give out a book to each participant every three to four weeks. “We can put books in those children’s hands regularly that we can leave in the home and not just read and go,” Schroeder said about the BookStart grant.

Since it is the program’s first year, Schroeder is not sure what sort of impact this grant will have on the students, but she knows it will have numerous benefits.

“Why we applied is because we perceive and know that if books are available in the home and families read with their kids it improves literacy, school engagement and positive parent-child interaction...it has all kinds of benefits,” she said. Wildcat Connection currently has around 20 students participating, but the school plans to expand the program by 10 students next year.

Weekend road closure in Owatonna I-35 bridge demolition

Motorists in Owatonna will find Steele County Road 2/Hoffman Drive closed beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, May 15 through 5 a.m., Monday, May 18. The closure next weekend is necessary for work crews to safely remove the Interstate 35 bridge over the road.

Traffic will re-open through County Road 2/Hoffman Drive at I-35 Monday morning. If work is completed earlier, the road will reopen at that time. Motorists traveling west from Owatonna will have access to the northbound I-35 ramp at Hoffman Drive.

A bridge demolition is also taking place during that week

on I-35 over Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, but no detours or road closures are necessary.

Additionally, construction on road repairs for Old Highway 14 will begin on Wednesday, May 13. Motorists will see lane closures begin as work starts.

Currently, motorists will see single-lane, head-to-head traffic on I-35 in Owatonna as well as offramp and onramp closures for northbound traffic, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Northbound traffic is crossed over into the southbound lanes of I-35 south of Bridge Street. Northbound traffic will continue in a single lane, while

southbound uses the other lane. Northbound traffic will cross back over to two lanes north of Steele County Road 2.

The \$19.1 million project is taking place over two years to replace the concrete I-35 roadways through Owatonna, as well as replace bridges and include additional safety features on the corridor. The project with prime contractor Mathiowetz Construction began the second year of construction in April and is expected to be complete in fall 2015.

Because of the traffic volumes on I-35, traffic backups and delays occur during weekend travel periods through this con-

struction workzone, so motorists should adjust their travel plans to account for delays.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org, call 5-1-1 or log on to www.mndot.gov.

For more information about the project, please review MnDOT’s project page at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35bridge-pavement-replacement/index.html or the project’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna.

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Despite last week's cloudy and sometimes stormy days, many farmers and producers were able to get out and get some field work done. This farmer was able to get some disking done on a field west of Ellendale on Friday.

Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Corn row program sign up underway

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is interested in talking with southeastern Minnesota farmers who are willing to leave a minimum of six rows of corn stalks standing through the winter to earn payment and help reduce the amount of snow blowing onto roads.

Springtime is a good time for farmers to connect with MnDOT to learn about the program and determine if it works for them and if they are in a location where MnDOT needs snow protection. Additionally, MnDOT can help coordinate with farmers to look at programs that assist in planting pollinator vegetation, which provides benefits to pollinators and complements the results of standing corn rows.

The standing corn rows are part of a MnDOT program started about 15 years ago that pays farmers to leave corn stalks up in the winter. The corn rows break the wind's force, causing the snow to collect around the corn rows instead of drifting onto the roads. The rows improve driver visibility, road surface conditions and lower costs of road maintenance.

Strategically-placed standing corn rows improve driver visibility during "white out" conditions and improve road surface conditions.

"Standing corn rows help improve driver visibility, reduce accidents and reduce the need for snow plowing," said Shannon Wait, coordinator of MnDOT District 6 program in Rochester. "Snow fences also decrease the potential of ice forming on the pavement."

Effective corn rows need to be about 200 feet from the highway centerline. Agreements generally require that farmers leave from six to 16 rows of corn in various arrangements until the end of March. Farmers may coordinate with nonprofit groups, such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America, to hand pick the corn to salvage the crop as long as the corn stalks are left in good condition.

The standing corn program is a one-year program. Anyone living in Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha or Winona County who is interested in the programs may contact Shannon Wait at MnDOT at 507-286-7681 or visit www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/livingsnowfence for more information.

Creep feeding beef calves

An ultimate goal of beef producers is to get their calves off to a good start. Knowing the strengths and limitation to your feeding programs is essential to achieving this goal.

When evaluating the feeding program, some producers have determined that creep feeding during certain times of the year is beneficial to their overall beef operation.

Creep feeding is a strategy that provides suckling calves with supplemental nutrients during times of rapid growth and development.

This process allows calves to feed or additional high quality forages with fences that exclude the rest of the cow herd. The decision to creep feed along with what nutrient to utilize can vary from year to year.

After approximately three months of age, the nutrient requirements of calves cannot be met by milk alone. Calves will begin grazing to make difference in their requirement needs.

For calves born in late spring, this typically coincides with a seasonal reduction in pasture forage quality. Some producers decide to supplement the nutrition of their calves to help them meet their genetic potential for growth.

Creep feeding can be done in several ways such as providing an energy or high-fiber feeds fed as libitum, limit-fed high protein feeds or high quality pasture that is only available to calves.

Special care must be taken to monitor the calves so they don't become over-conditioned resulting in a discounted market value.

Knowing your operations is essential to determining if creep feeding is right for you. Feed prices, increased labor and equipment requirements need to be accessed to determine if creep feeding is economical for your farm.

Additionally, the time of rapid growth and development requirements of calves need to be access in comparison to the productivity of your pastures and adequate milk production of the cows.

If the pasture is producing enough to maintain both the cow and the calf, then creep feeding will not be economical.

However, if the calves are reaching peak growth during times of decreased milk production and seasonal reduction of forage quality then it may be necessary to provide supplemental nutrients for the calves.

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

Now is the time of year to assess your feeding program and determine if creep feeding calves is right for you.

Please visit the University of Minnesota Beef Extension website at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/beef/> for more information on a variety of topics to help improve your beef operation.

Additional, under the Cow/Calf Management link, you will find an article on Creep Feed Calves that can help you weigh the advantages and disadvantages of creep feeding within a given year.

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.

Farm Family of the Year have been dairy producers since 1965

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Loren Krause has known dairy farming most of his life. And just doing the job he loved the most, Krause didn't even think that he and his family would be honored as Steele County Farm Family of the Year.

"I was surprised," he said. "I thought well there were other people who could have won it. It was a happy thing to happen."

Each year, the University of Minnesota recognizes families from throughout Minnesota for their contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities. The Farm Family Recognition Program has existed for over two decades with the continued support of University of Minnesota Extension, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and Farmfest.

This year Loren and Beverly Krause and Family from Owatonna were honored as the 2015 Steele County Farm Family of the Year. The Krause Family will be honored during the Hall of Fame Ceremony at the Steele County Fair. The official statewide presentation of the 2015 Farm Family Recognition Award will take place at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 at Farmfest.

Loren and Beverly Krause bought their dairy farm in the summer of 1965. Starting out with 20 cows and a job off the farm, the Krauses have developed their business to include 120 dairy cow and 220 acres of land that is used to produce feed for their livestock.

"We raise most feed for the cows. We do buy if we don't have enough," he said. "We try to raise as much as we can."

Currently, Loren and Beverly's son, Scott helps farm the day to day operation. Several other children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can be found helping out around the farm in times of need.

Besides farming, the Krauses are involved with the Steele County Fair, Historical Society of Steele County and the Aurora Lutheran Church. Additionally, the Krauses have hosted farm tours to help teach area elementary kids about the dairy industry.

Krause, 73, said he enjoys dairy farming because it is a good life. "It is all I've ever pretty much done."

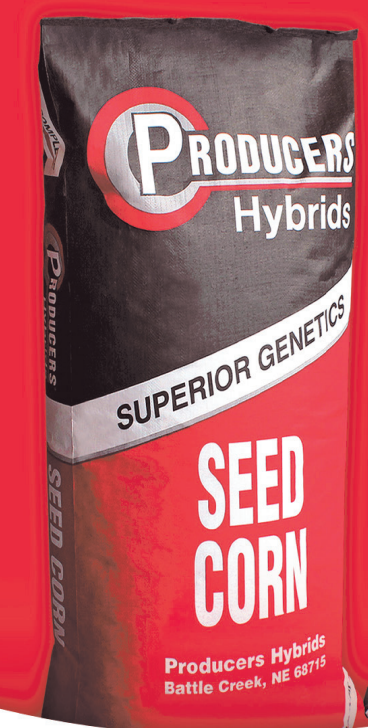
When he started milking he used a milk bucket, then he put in a milking pipeline a few years later and now he has a milking parlor. "It has changed a lot."

He also said the changes in dairy farming have made it easier for him. He has had knees replaced and his hip replaced. "No way I could bend down to milk the other way," Krause said. "Standing up all the time makes it a lot easier."

With the health problems, there are times Krause has had to have someone step in and help. "There are lots of ups and downs with it all," he said. "It isn't all gravy all the time."

To keep up with the changing dairy environment, Krause said the family just goes day-by-day. "We try to improve things if we can."

And he plans to keep doing what he loves as long as he can. "I have no intentions of retiring."



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Farm transition primer for women farmers/landowners

May 14 in Lanesboro

A smooth and informed transition of farmland from one generation to another is the focus of a workshop for women farmers and landowners Thursday, May 14, in Lanesboro.

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and Renewing the Countryside (RTC) are co-organizing the event, which will take place upstairs at Pedal Pushers Café, 121 Parkway Ave. N.

Doors open at 9 a.m.; the program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and includes a light lunch. Please reserve a spot by calling LSP’s Caroline van Schaik at 507-523-3366 or caroline@landstewardshipproject.org.

There is no charge, but free will donations will help defray the cost of the meal and materials.

The need to plan for the future of their family farm might be uppermost in the minds of aging landowners, but worrisome questions often keep them from tackling the matter.

With the help of guest lawyer Greg Schieber, landowner Lynn Susag, and LSP’s new transitions

curriculum, participants will find answers to such queries as, “Will I be on the farm in five years? What is the difference between a land trust and an S Corporation? What’s my style of communicating about this sensitive topic?”

Whether years from needing a plan or needing one yesterday, women farmers and landowners will find support in this informal, woman-to-woman introduction to some of the key issues behind a seamless transition of land from one generation to another.

This gathering is another in a series of workshops in the Driftless Region designed by LSP (www.landstewardshipproject.org) and RTC (<http://www.renewingthecountryside.org>) to empower women farmers and landowners to match their values with their farming and conservation practices.

Funding is provided in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.

Grants enables more Farmers Markets to serve low-income families

SNAP recipients can now purchase fresh fruit, vegetables

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon announced the availability of up to \$3.3 million in competitive funding to support the ability of farmers markets to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a form of payment.

These awards will help expand SNAP participants’ access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious foods found at farmers markets, while supporting our nation’s farmers and producers.

“We have seen an unprecedented growth in the number of farmers markets accepting SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards in the past six years,” said Concannon.

“These awards support the markets that may need administrative help in implementing and managing EBT service and informing customers that they can use their SNAP benefits at farmers markets.”

The Under Secretary also announced that there are now more than 6,200 farmers mar-

kets and direct marketing farmers authorized to accept SNAP nationwide – an eightfold increase since the beginning of this administration.

In fiscal year 2014, approximately \$18.7 million in SNAP benefits were used at farmers markets, an increase of 7.5 percent over 2013. Increasing the number of SNAP authorized farmers markets is part of USDA’s ongoing mission to support recipients in making healthy food choices.

The Farmers Market SNAP Support Grants will range from \$15,000 to \$250,000 and must be designed to increase SNAP client accessibility and participation at farmers markets, and support the establishment, expansion, and promotion of SNAP EBT services at farmers markets.

Eligible applicants include farmer’s market organizations and associations, non-profit entities, state, local and tribal nations and other organizations engaged in farmers market management.

The Request for Applications will be published today. Applications are due June 18, 2015.

Grant funds will be awarded in September.

For further information about the grant application, visit www.grants.gov.

Supporting farmers markets and expanding access to healthy, local food is a key element of USDA’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative which coordinates the Department’s effort on local and regional food systems.

Secretary Vilsack has identified local and regional food systems as one of the four pillars of rural economic development.

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs.

In addition to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, these programs include the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, the National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program, which together comprise America’s nutrition safety net. For more information, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

Blooming Prairie FFA member second at dairy handling event

FFA member Kalyn Naatz from Blooming Prairie and a member of the Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter took second place honors in the Dairy Handling Career Development Event (CDE). This CDE is sponsored by Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Winners of the Minnesota FFA Association Career Development Events were announced at the 86th Minnesota FFA Convention at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Career Development events are one of many activities at the state FFA convention. CDEs allow FFA members to practice what they have learned through agricultural education classes and apply them to real-life scenarios. The winner has earned the opportunity to represent Minnesota at the 88th National Convention and Expo Oct. 28-31 in Louisville, Kentucky.

There are 24 total CDE areas covering job skills in everything from communications to mechanics and allow FFA members to compete as individuals or as teams. For more information on CDEs, visit www.ffa.org/CDE. The National FFA Organization is the largest national youth leadership organization with over 600,000 student members, representing over 7,400 local

FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The 86th Minnesota FFA Convention was held April 26-28 in St. Paul and gathered over 3,000 FFA members, advisors and guests from across the state.

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Minnesota students who have taken three or more classes in career and technical education, including agricultural education have a graduation rate of 98.7 percent. Visit www.mnffa.

\$30 million available to develop new products

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is making \$30 million available to farmers, ranchers and food entrepreneurs to develop new product lines. Funding will be made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program.

“Farmers and ranchers are creative people who, with a little help, can put that creativity to work and improve the bottom line for their operations,” Vilsack said. “Value-Added Producer Grants enable them to develop new product lines to grow their businesses and expand their contributions to our nation’s economy. This support is especially important for beginning farmers, military veterans engaging in farming and smaller farm operations participating in the local and regional food system.”

More information on how to apply is on page 26528 of the May 8 Federal Register. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 7. Electronic applications submitted through grants.gov are due July 2.

VAPG grants can be used to develop new product lines from raw agricultural products or additional uses for already developed product lines. Military veterans, socially disadvantaged, and beginning farmers and ranchers; operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches; farmer and rancher cooperatives; and applicants that propose mid-tier value chain projects are given special priority in applying for VAPGs. Additional priority is given to group applicants who seek funding for projects that “best contribute” to creating or increasing marketing opportunities for these types of operators.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded 853 Value-

Added Producer Grants totaling \$104.5 million. Approximately 19 percent of the grants and 13 percent of total funding has been awarded to beginning farmers and ranchers. During the 2013-2014 funding cycle, nearly half of VAPG awards went to farmers and ranchers developing products for the local food sector. Value-Added Producer Grants are a key element of the USDA’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative, which coordinates the Department’s work on local and regional food systems. Secretary Vilsack has identified local and regional food systems as one of the four pillars of rural economic development.

Congress increased funding for the VAPG program when it passed the 2014 Farm Bill. That law builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since the bill’s enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including expanding access to rural credit, developing new markets for rural-made products, and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

President Obama’s historic investments in rural America have made our rural communities stronger. Under his leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America’s economy, small towns and rural communities.

Minnesota Crop Report

With Minnesota’s corn planting nearing completion, 39 percent of the corn crop had emerged, the second most in 30 years. Over one-third of the soybean acreage was planted during the week ending May 10, tied for the most planted in this week in 30 years. Soybean planting now stands at 70 percent complete, the most planted by this date in 30 years. Small grain seeding was almost complete. Barley was 78 percent emerged, well ahead of last year when none of the crop had emerged by this date and just over 3 weeks ahead of the five-year average. Seventy-seven percent of the oat acreage had emerged, just over 3 weeks ahead of last year. The first oat condition rating of the year was estimated at 0 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Eighty-two percent of the spring wheat acreage was emerged, 31 days ahead of the previous year. The first spring wheat condition was rated at 0 percent very poor, 1 percent fair, 38 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Potato, sunflower, and dry edible bean planting now stand at the highest percent planted for week ending May 10 in 30 years.

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MAY IS BEEF MONTH

Top questions & answers about beef in a healthy diet

Q: Can I enjoy beef regularly as part of a healthy, balanced diet?

A: Absolutely! A 3-ounce serving of beef—about the size of an iPhone or deck of cards—provides more than 10 essential nutrients and about half of your Daily Value for protein in around 170 calories, on average (and 150 calories for a serving of lean beef).

Q: What does lean beef mean?

A: The definition of lean, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, means:
Less than 10 g total fat
Less than or equal to 4.5 g saturated fat
Less than 95 mg cholesterol per 100 grams (3.5 oz)

Q: Is it difficult to find lean cuts of beef at the store?

A: No. Today's beef is leaner than ever, and 67 percent of all beef muscle cuts sold at grocery stores are lean. In fact, many of Americans' favorite cuts such as Top Sirloin, Tenderloin (Filet Mignon), Top Loin (Strip) steak and 93 percent lean or leaner Ground Beef are lean.

Q: How much beef should I eat at a meal to meet my daily protein requirements?

A: Protein needs vary, but research suggests that people may need anywhere from 25-35 grams of protein (the equivalent of 3-4 ounces of beef) per meal. To find out your individual protein needs, check out this handy protein calculator.

Q: Aren't we eating too much meat and beef?

A: Despite other changes in the way we eat, Americans have not increased their percentage of calories from protein in 30 years. Americans consume about 5.1 ounces of protein foods daily which includes 1.7 ounces of beef daily, on average. This level of protein intake and beef consumption is right on track with health recommendations. The fact is, beef is a natural source of essential nutrients, which makes it a great protein option that you can enjoy any day.

Q: What nutritional benefits does beef offer me that other proteins don't?

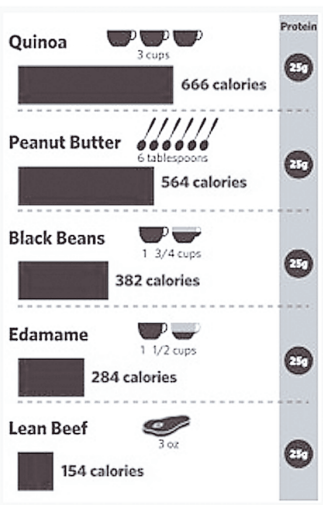
A: Beef is a nutrition powerhouse in many ways. Aside from being a great source of protein, beef provides essential nutrients in a smaller package than some other proteins. For example, you would have to eat at least 8 ounces of cooked chicken breast to get the same amount of iron as 3 ounces of beef, and nearly 7 times (20 ounces) the amount of chicken to get the same amount of zinc as in a serving of beef.

Q: Are all proteins created equal?

A: No. When it comes to choosing high-quality proteins, beef is a nutritious choice with an unbeatable taste. Naturally nutrient-rich lean beef gives you more essential nutrients (10 to be exact!) in fewer calories than many other plant-based proteins. That's a lot of nutrients in such a small package! In fact, it often takes more than twice the calories to get 25 grams of protein from beans, nuts and grains compared to beef. Check out the chart below.

Q: Is beef bad for my heart and my cholesterol?

A: Beef can be good for heart health, as 8



extra-lean beef cuts are certified as heart-healthy by the American Heart Association. Research also shows that a heart-healthy diet and lifestyle that included lean beef, even daily, improved cholesterol levels. In addition, a recently published meta-analysis of eight randomized controlled trials (the gold standard research method) compared cholesterol-lowering effects of a diet including beef versus poultry and fish and found the diets improved cholesterol similarly. In other words, there's no reason to give up

beef when watching your cholesterol as long as your diet is healthful.

Q: Isn't beef the primary source of fat and cholesterol in my diet?

A: No. Most saturated fat in the diet comes from regular cheese, pizza and grain-based desserts, according to the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Beef contributes only 10 percent or less of the saturated fat and total fat in the diet, yet provides more than 10 percent of 10 essential nutrients. Also, more than half of beef's fatty acids are monounsaturated (good) fat – the same kind found in olive oil and avocados.



WWW.FACTSABOUTBEEF.COM/2015/02/19/BEEF-HEALTHY-DIET/



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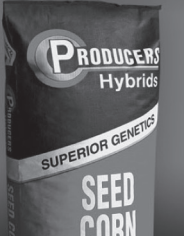


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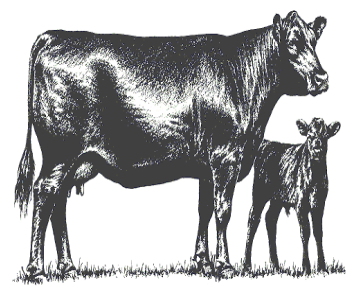
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Legal Notices

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 5 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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/14, 4/21, 4/28
5/5, 5/12, 5/19

Foreclosure

14-097216
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: May 28, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$113,471.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Peggy Wetmore, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100199600012387425
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Advisors Mortgage, LLC
SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 11, 2010, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000371642
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Dated: June 25, 2014 filed: July 10, 2014, recorded as document number A000397770
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: No. 1-Commencing 37.1/2 feet East of the Northwest corner of Lot Six (6) in the Northeast Quarter (1/4) of Section Sixteen (16) Township One Hundred and Seven (107) North, of Range Twenty (20) West, running thence East 123 feet, thence South 58.1/2 feet, thence West 123 feet, thence North 58.1/2 feet to the place of beginning.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 506 Oak Ave S, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-016-1131
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$115,575.08
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 18, 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 December 18, 2015, or the next business day if December 18, 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: April 17, 2015
JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

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Dated: April 2, 2015
OneWest Bank N.A.
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY
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Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
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Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in 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

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4/14, 4/21, 4/28
5/5, 5/12, 5/19

Foreclosure

14-098208

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: September 29, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$142,640.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Curtis J. Van Otterloo, a married person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1000389-0001005736-7
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Voyager Bank
SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 2, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000344700
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6, Block 1, Cedar Cove Townhomes 4th Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 188 Cedar Cove Ln NW, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-561-0106
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$137,070.83
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 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: May 5, 2015
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
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
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee

12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/12, 5/19, 5/26
6/2, 6/9, 6/16

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 30, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF

PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$170,176.95
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 175940313
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 16, 2015 at 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 23, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
MORTGAGEE
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(14-1898-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/28, 5/5, 5/12,
5/19, 5/26, 6/2

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: January 9, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$81,632.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin R. Hanenberger, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361645 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 1/2 of Lot 5, Block 1, Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 317 2ND AVE NE, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917-
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE

NOTICE: \$81,423.66
TRANSACTIONAGENT:None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-0103
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 23, 2015 at 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 23, 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 A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 29, 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

(15-0716-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/5, 5/12, 5/19
5/26, 6/2, 6/9



THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

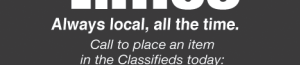
**SITUATIONS WANTED**

**AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE**

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**GARAGE SALES**

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Foreclosure

15-099899

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 1, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$87,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Jacinta Hernandez, a/k/a Jacinta R. Hernandez, a single woman 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 April 6, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000330944 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 12, Original Townsite, Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie PROPERTY ADDRESS: 225 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-1203 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,214.51 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 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: April 29, 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

5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

Foreclosure

10-068716

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 21, 2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$229,050.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Town and Country Credit Corp. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp. SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated December 2, 2005 recorded December 26, 2007 as document number A000354324. Thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6, Block 3, Radel's Francis Addition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 Bellflower Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$354,733.34 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 30, 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 December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 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: April 30, 2015

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 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

5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

It's 60 years of “We Serve” for Blooming Prairie Lions Club

By HOWARD LESTRUD Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Lions Club has turned 60 and will celebrate its years of service with a club dinner Saturday night, May 16 at the J & H Liquor Store in Blooming Prairie. The Blooming Prairie Cue Company will prepare the food.

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No 74-PR-15-814

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

Estate of Elmer E. Mees, Decedent.

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 26th, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, March 20, 2001, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Teresa M. Smith and Charles J. Mees, whose addresses are 8589 Hwy 218, Blooming Prairie, MN, 55917, and 109 East Rice St., Owatonna MN 55060, respectively as Co-Personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Co-Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 2015.04.22 BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan Judge of District Court Court Administrator

Dated: Apr 23 2015 Sonia Kocher

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

5/5, 5/12

Steele County

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 7th day of May 2015, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1, (2009), that all persons in Steele County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2009), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. Weeds noxious to the State of Minnesota are as follows: Prohibited weeds are: Yellow Star Thistle, Grecian Foxglove, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Hops, Dalmatian Toadflax, Common Teasel, Cut-leaved Teasel, Giant Hogweed, Brown Knapweed, Meadow Knapweed, Palmer Amaranth and Black Swallow-wort. Controlled weeds are: Leafy Spurge, Canada thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, Common Tansy, Spotted Knapweed and Narrowleaf Bittercress. Restricted weeds are: Common or European Buckthorn, Glossy Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, Common Reed and Garlic Mustard. Specially regulated weed are: Poison Ivy, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Knotweed. More information about these weeds can be found at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at: www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/badplants/noxiouslist.aspx

Weeds noxious to Steele County are: common cocklebur, black nightshade, wild proso millet and velvet leaf. The Local Weed Inspectors are township supervisors; city mayors or they're appointed assistants.

Dan Vermilyea, Steele County Agricultural Inspector

630 Florence Ave. Owatonna, MN. 55060

5/12

It's been 60 years of “We Serve” for the club that was chartered Nov. 16, 1954. The club motto is “We Serve.”

Harold C. Wells organized the club 60 years ago and gained a membership total of 28. The club met the second and fourth Mondays at The Lark Restaurant. Sam Rask was charter president.

The Blooming Prairie Lions Club currently boasts 56 members, with the membership roster once reaching 72, said Paul Fiebiger, club secretary. Current club president is Erik Vigeland. Harvey Farr will take over the presidency on July 1. The club currently meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Servicemen's Club at 6:30 p.m.

Second vice president is John Fouarge, third vice president is Per D. Kvalsten, membership chair is H. Peterson, tamer duties are handled by Troy Barth and Dean Zilm and tail twister agony is provided by Harlan Hinzmann and Philip Milton.

The Blooming Prairie Lions Club sponsored the Hayfield Lions Club in 1966. The two clubs have often gotten together at a joint meeting to install officers.

Secretary Fiebiger recently scanned club minutes back to 1965 and said the Blooming Prairie Lions have been an active club. He noted that the club built a pavilion in Center Park in 1966 and constructed another pavilion at the Prairie Manor Care Center in 1974. The club also gave \$1,000 for the chapel at Prairie Manor.

“We try to help out the community in any way we can,” said Fiebiger.

Over the years, the club has met at the Lark, the Village Restaurant, Servicemen's Club, Blooming Prairie Gun Club and the Prairie House. The Lions are currently meeting at the Servicemen's Club.

The local Lions have organized many fund-raisers with proceeds then being funneled back into the community.

One of the major fundraisers is the Gopher 50 auto race which is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 of this year at the Deer Creek Race Track.

Jerry Ingvalson is chairman of the racing event at the track located at Racine, just south of Stewartville. The race was inaugurated by the Blooming Prairie Jaycees and turned over to the Lions when the Jaycees disbanded. The Lions sell admission tickets in advance.

Birthday calendars are hanging in many homes and businesses throughout the Blooming Prairie area and feature birthdays of area residents. The calendars are sold by Lions members in the summer and distributed in August.

Another popular club fundraiser with the community is the annual pancake breakfast held on the Fourth of July at the Prairie Manor Care Center. The club typically serves 250 pancake lovers.

The main impetus of the club is to donate monies to worthy causes and also to help those who may need someone to take them to the doctor, to treatment or to the grocery store.

Each year, the Blooming Prairie Lions Club donates monies to the District 5M-2 Parade of Green. The causes are: Leader Dog, Hearing Foundation, Eye Bank and Eye Clinic, Youth Exchange, Hearing and Service Dogs, LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation), Diabetes, Youth Outreach and Lions Quest.

Vision is a top priority of the local Lions since Helen Keller in 1925, challenged the Lions of the world to be knights of the blind. The local Lions often donate glasses and exams to needy students. The club also recently donated an iPad to a first grade student at the local elementary school. The tablet will help with his education outside of the classroom.

Club member Paul Dale is the proud owner of a guide dog he

received in January of this year through Lions Clubs International and Leader Dog. Shadow is Lion Paul's second Leader Dog. Maci Grace was his first sight partner.

Lion treasurer Staloch is often busy signing checks for community donations which include:

- Journey for service
- 4th of July
- Friends of the Library
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Servicemen's Club
- Donations to local schools
- Dugouts for baseball field
- Donation to trap team
- Boys and Girls Club
- Servicemen's Club
- Blooming Prairie Recreation Association

Steele County Food Shelf
Camp Winnebago
Ironwood Springs Ranch
Toys for Tots
Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Scholarships for college students (6)
Blooming Prairie High School track
Blooming Prairie After Prom
Pheasants for Vets
Student dictionaries

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization with 46,000 clubs and 1.4 million members in 185 countries. Lions Clubs International will be celebrating its centennial (100th birthday) in 2017.

Lions began in the United States in 1917 when a group of independent clubs responded to an ideal presented to them by a young Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones.

The Lions emblem consists of a gold letter “L” on a circular purple field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with two conventionalized lion profiles at either side facing away from the center. The Words “Lions” appear at the top and “International” at the bottom. Symbolically, the lions face past and future; proud of the past and confident of the future



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Lions Club member Paul Dale, second from the left in the front row, brings his friend Shadow, a Golden Retriever, to all Lions meetings. Shown with Lion Paul and Shadow are, from left to right: Front Row -- Erik Vigeland, Paul Dale, Shadow, H. Peterson, Ken Behnken and Paul Stender. Standing: Gary Thorsen, Larry Christianson, Laverne Johnson, Jerry Kokoschke, Bob Wolf, David Goodnature, Franke Hennefield, Paul Fiebiger, John Fourage, Jerry Ingvalson and Bob Nahlovsky.

Steele County

Steele County First Half Real Estate Taxes Due May 15, 2015

See payment options at www.co.steele.mn.us

New this year
Payment Drop Box
Located at Administration Building
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued from Page 6A

at 8:45 p.m. May 2, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Roxanne Rochelle Evans, 42, arrested at 6 a.m. May 3, felony assault and domestic assault, held for court.
Donny Zapata, 36, arrested at 3:45 a.m. May 3, felony DWI-test refusal, held for court.
John Robert Bulver, 28, arrested at 3:25 p.m. May 5, carry weapons without permit, held for court.
Tara Marie Saltou-Olson, 18, arrested at 3:45 p.m. May 5, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Jared Lee Aas, 40, arrested at 7:47 p.m. May 5, domestic assault and interference with 911, held for court.
Elizabeth Marie Dwyer, 30, arrested at 8:37 p.m. May 7, felony controlled substance, false information, held for court.
Sabrina Michelle Henry, 35, arrested at 8:38 p.m. May 7, felony controlled substance, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Charity Ann Braulik, 35, arrested at 5:45 p.m. May 1, felony escape from

custody, held for court.
Melissa Anne Pittman, 32, arrested at 2:55 p.m. May 4, probation warrant arrest, held for court.
Marcy Kim Busho, 29, arrested at 2:40 a.m. May 5, DWI, held for court.
Michael Scott Pinsonneault, 57, arrested at 1:30 a.m. May 6, DWI, held for court.
Courtney Diane Jones, 19, arrested at 12:44 p.m. May 7, warrant arrest, body only.
Randal Darrell Jones, 42, arrested at 1 p.m. May 7, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Blooming Prairie Ambulance Open House



Join us at the Grand Opening
Tuesday, May 19th 4 pm to 7 pm • Ribbon cutting at 6 pm
The new garage is located on the south edge of Blooming Prairie on Hwy 218

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‘Under construction’ at the BP library

If you have stopped by the Blooming Prairie Branch Library recently, you noticed our “under construction” signs. Our magazines have been temporarily moved to make room for the Friends of the Library Book Sale that begins Friday, May 15. For the past year books have been donated or have been pulled from our shelves due to age or space. We have a bumper crop of books for you to choose from some that even look like new. There are also CDs and DVDs available.

The sale will be held during regular library hours, which are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On the last two days of the sale, May 19-20, bring a bag and fill it for \$1!

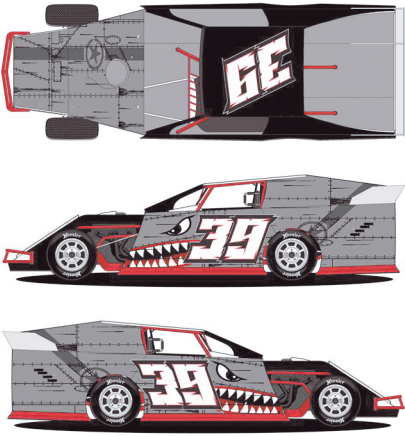
We do not have set prices on the books – donations are requested. The proceeds of the Book Sale go to the Friends of the Library group. The Friends have supported special projects over the years, including the Blossoms Grow Here early literacy learning area. Each year they provide financial support for the Summer Reading Program, which allows us to bring in performers and programs to entertain and educate the young readers.

If you would like to join the Friends group, May is membership month. Individual memberships are \$5; senior citizens are \$3.50; and students are \$2.50. You can be a silent member or as involved as you would like to be. Thanks to all our friends who support the library!

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